

MILPERSMAN 1160-020

REENLISTMENT CEREMONY

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References	(a) 10 U.S.C. (b) OASN(FM&C) memo of 14 Dec 06 (NOTAL)
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1. **Background.** For centuries, Service members have answered the call of duty in national defense. Nothing so solemnly affirms one's commitment to that duty better than the enlistment oath of office. Raising one's right hand, swearing and affirming personal devotion to defending the Constitution of the United States, pledging faith and allegiance to that same document, taking on this incredible burden by sacrificing one's livelihood and potentially one's life freely, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and promising to perform one's duties to the best of one's abilities with one's moral conscience as a guide while under the watchful eye of the deity, means much more than just signing a job employment application. During a reenlistment ceremony, the reenlisting Sailor makes a personal commitment, in a public forum, to wear the cloth of the nation with honor, courage, and commitment.

2. **Policy**

a. Reenlistment is a significant event in the career of an enlisted member. As such, it should be accorded a meaningful ceremony to recognize the member's high-quality performance, as indicated by the recommendation for reenlistment. Therefore, reenlistment ceremonies are to be conducted in a dignified manner that appropriately reflects the importance of the oath the Sailor is taking. This includes the participants wearing the proper uniform and conducting themselves in an appropriate manner.

b. The commanding officer (CO) or, in his or her absence, the executive officer should preside.

c. Per reference (a), section 502, the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary of Defense, any commissioned officer, or any other person designated under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense may administer the reenlistment oath.

d. Per reference (a), section 2261, and reference (b), commands may use appropriated funds to purchase recognition items of nominal or modest value (less than \$50 per item). Such items will be awarded solely to recognize retention of members of the Military Services and is intended to express appreciation for their service. Items should be of sustainable form (i.e., non-perishable). Eligibility includes the reenlistment of a Service member to continue service in the Armed Forces.

3. **Responsibility**. All hands, superiors and subordinates, should ensure reenlistment ceremonies are conducted in a meaningful and professionally appropriate manner. Each reenlistment will be performed in uniform and should be memorable with the right tone and venue to reflect pride, professionalism, respect, and dignity for the oath and the United States Navy. The CO should follow the procedures listed below, as appropriate.

Step	Action
1	Consider the Service member's desires concerning the time and location of the ceremony, and the family members, special guests, and shipmates to be invited
2	Arrange for photographic coverage of the ceremony, with copies of the prints to be presented to the Service member. Forward press releases to the Service member's ship or station, hometown, and local newspapers
3	Organize a brief social gathering for Service members and their guests, to follow the ceremony
4	Provide transportation within the naval installation to and from the ceremony for the Service member's guests
5	Grant special liberty and or reenlistment leave (see MILPERSMAN 1050-010 and 1050-290) as soon as possible following the reenlistment
6	Personalize the occasion with other recognition, as appropriate

Step	Action
7	Since all payments are processed electronically, present, if desired, a ceremonial reenlistment bonus (imitation) check, if one is due