

**Motion for National Administrative Procedures Change**  
**Submitted by: S. C. O'Hara Commandant, John A. Lejeune Det. 332**

6 February 2021

**References:**

2019 National Bylaws as amended through this date.

**2019 National Bylaws Chapter 5 Section 515. Categories of Membership**

**Background for change**

The National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures currently allow for Regular Membership for FMF Corpsmen and Navy Chaplains who meet the service criteria for Regular Membership contained in Bylaws Paragraph 515 a. (2) or (3), and for Associate Membership for those who do not meet these qualifications. While the intent of this is plain, to welcome into our membership those non-Marine personnel who serve alongside us with such dedication, the language used omits some non-Marine personnel who do meet that intent.

**Objective of change**

Remove the restrictions of the original language describing qualified Navy personnel. For example, Medical Officers are not "Corpsmen" and do not strictly fall under the provision of Paragraph 515 a. (2); Religious Program Specialists are not "Chaplains" and so do not fall under the provision of Paragraph 515 a. (3). There are additional Navy and other service personnel which serve in Marine units (for example, Navy Master Divers) who qualify for their Service's FMF Warfare Qualification or equivalent, yet who are blocked from Regular Membership by our current Bylaws language.

**Current Language:**

**2019 National Bylaws Chapter 5 Section 515. Categories of Membership**

**Section 515. Categories of Membership**

a. **Regular Membership.** Only the following may be regular members of the MCL:

(1) **Marines** who are serving or have served honorably\* in the United States Marine Corps or the United States Marine Corps Reserve;

(2) **U.S. Navy Corpsmen** (i) who are serving or have served honorably\* in the United States Navy and who have trained with Marine FMF units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps device (clasp) worn on the Service Ribbon, (ie; Southwest Asia Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, etc) and (ii) who earn the Warfare Device authorized for FMF Corpsmen. U. S. Navy Hospital Corpsman must have satisfactorily completed the Field Medical School (FMSS), have been permanently assigned to an FMF Command and have completed the appreciate sections of the Personnel Qualification Standard, both of which must be noted on the DD Form 214. An award of the Fleet Marine Force Ribbon (FMF Ribbon) (1 Sep 1984-30 Sep 2006) or the Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist Qualification (EFMFWS) Badge (1 Oct 2006-present) may serve as prima facie evidence of eligibility; and

(3) **U.S. Navy Chaplains** who are serving or have served honorably\* in the United States Navy and who have earned the FMF Badge serving with Marines. U. S. Navy Chaplains must have been assigned permanent duty with Marine Corps Operating Forces and have completed the appropriate sections of the Personnel Qualification Standard and both of which must be noted on the DD Form 214. An award of the Fleet Marine Force Ribbon (FMF Ribbon) (1 Sep 1984-31 Dec 2005) or the Fleet Marine Force Qualified Officer (FMFQO) Insignia (1 Jan 2006-present) may serve as prima facie evidence of eligibility.

**Note \*** - **“Served Honorably”** is determined by the last DD Form 214 or certificate of discharge that the applicant received. A General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable.

b. **Associate Member.** Those individuals not qualified for regular membership in the Marine Corps League who espouse the principles and purposes of the Marine Corps League as contained in its Congressional charter and meet the criteria in Section 501(b)(1) below may upon application to a Detachment be accepted for associate membership in the Marine Corps League. Upon acceptance associate members will pay dues in the same amount as prescribed for regular members, including initiation fees.

(1) **Enrollment Criteria**

(a) Individuals must have reached the statutory minimum age for enlistment into the Armed Forces of the United States;

(b) Individuals may join who have never served in a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(c) Individuals who are serving or have served honorably in other branches of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(2) **Join Detachment.** Individuals applying for associate membership must join through a Marine Corps League Detachment only. Associate members can not directly join the Marine Corps League as a “Member at Large.”

(3) **Rights.** Associate members shall be entitled to the rights, privileges, and benefits of a regular member unless otherwise prohibited as listed paragraphs 515(b)(4) and (5) below.

(4) **Voting**

(a) Associate members shall not vote on a regular or associate membership application;

(b) Associate members shall not participate in the nomination process and/or voting for elected officers; and

(c) A Department or Detachment, by provisions in the bylaws and/or administrative procedures, may allow an Associate Member to vote on its internal affairs if such vote does not affect a policy of the Marine Corps League, such as Bylaws or Bylaw changes.

(5) **Elected Office**. Associate members shall not hold an elective office.

c. **Honorary Member**. Detachments, Departments, and the National Headquarters may, at the discretion of the respective commandant, issue honorary membership to those persons who have been of extraordinary service to the Nation, the United States Marine Corps, or the Marine Corps League. The honorary member will not be entitled to the rights, privileges, and benefits available to a regular or associate member. A suitable certificate will be issued to honor the occasion by the organization making the award. Payment of dues or initiation fees is not required; however, an honorary member will not be entitled to the official publication of the Marine Corps League except as directed by the National Board of Trustees or paid subscription. All "Honorary Memberships" are for a one-year period only and must be renewed each year by the Detachment, Department, or National.

### **Proposed Language:**

#### **2019 National Bylaws Chapter 5 Section 515. Categories of Membership**

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a. **Regular Membership**. Only the following may be regular members of the MCL:

(1) **Marines** who are serving or have served honorably\* in the United States Marine Corps or the United States Marine Corps Reserve;

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(3) **U.S. Navy Chaplains and Religious Program Specialists** who are serving or have served honorably\* in the United States Navy and who have earned the FMF Badge serving with Marines. U. S. Navy Chaplains must have been assigned permanent duty with Marine Corps Operating Forces and have completed the appropriate sections of the Personnel Qualification Standard and both of which must be noted on the DD Form 214. An award of the Fleet Marine Force Ribbon (FMF Ribbon) (1 Sep 1984-31 Dec 2005) or the Fleet Marine Force

Qualified Officer (FMFQO) Insignia (1 Jan 2006-present) may serve ~~as ass~~ prima facie evidence of eligibility, ~~and~~

(4) **Other Personnel.** Personnel who do not fall into the categories of Paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) yet who have served in FMF units, filling a T/O line number, and qualifying for their service-specified device, combat patch or badge equivalent to the FMF Warfare Qualification.

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**Discussion / Rationale:**

The variety of operations under GWOT has led to the Marine Corps formalizing on unit T/Os a number of personnel who are in non-Maine/Corpsman/Chaplains support roles. These are relatively few in number, but their service was/is critical to mission success of their FMF units and they should be welcomed as members of the League if they were to apply.

These include but are not limited to Navy Master Divers, EOD specialists, intelligence specialists, Army logistics and veterinary specialists, and Air Force logistics and air mobility specialists serving in the FMF on MEF staffs or with MARSOC Regimental Staff or in Raider Battalions.

Use case #1. US Navy Physician’s Assistant Officers who have earned the FMFQO qualification, are currently stationed with Naval Special Warfare nearby to a local MC League Detachment, and desire to join and support the League.

Use Case #2. US Army personnel who spent a combat deployment under Marine command with an FMF unit, and have met their service requirements to the 2d Marine Division as their “combat patch”.

**Motion:** That proposed change be adopted by delegate vote at the 2021 National Convention.