



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Office of the National Judge Advocate
Bruce R. Rakfeldt

31 March 2026

To: Chief Operating Officer, Marine Corps League

Subject: Proposed National Bylaw Change

In accordance with the National Administrative Procedures, Chapter Ten, Section 10020, the following is submitted for consideration by the body assembled at the 2026 National Convention.

IRT: National Administrative Procedures, Section 5015 – Installation of Department Officers

CURRENT:

Section 5015. Installation of Department Officers

- a. The installing officer must be the National Commandant, an elected National Officer, a Past National Commandant, the outgoing department commandant or a past department commandant. The installing officer shall select the necessary aides. (REV2021)
- b. It shall be the responsibility of the installing officer to sign, date, and forward the installation report, within the time frame as specified in Article VIII of the National Bylaws. (See Enclosure Five (5) for instructions on completing the ROI.

PROPOSED (Changes in RED):

Section 5015. Installation of Department Officers

The installing officer shall be selected by the incoming Department Commandant and must be one of the following, provided the member is in good standing:

- a. the outgoing Department Commandant,
- b. any Past Department Commandant, without regard to Department affiliation;
- c. any current Department Commandant from another Department; or
- d. a Division or National Officer authorized to perform installations.

No provision of this subsection shall be interpreted to require that a Past or current Department Commandant be affiliated with the same Department whose officers are being installed.

The installation of Department officers is a ceremonial function and does not confer command authority over the receiving Department. The installing officer shall select the necessary aides. (REV2026)

b. It shall be the responsibility of the installing officer to sign, date, and forward the installation report, within the time frame as specified in Article VIII of the National Bylaws. (See Enclosure Five (5) for instructions on completing the ROI.)

RATIONALE:

National Administrative Procedure 5015 authorizes a “past Department Commandant” to serve as an Installing Officer but does not specify that such an individual must be affiliated with the same department whose officers are being installed. This lack of clarity has resulted in inconsistent interpretations and the imposition of restrictions not found in the National Bylaws or National Administrative Procedures.

Nothing in the National Bylaws or National Administrative Procedures limits the ceremonial act of installation to officers from the same department.

The installation of officers is a ceremonial function only and does not confer supervisory, operational, or command authority over another department. Restricting Installing Officers based on department affiliation therefore serves no organizational purpose.

Section 5015 assigns selection of the Installing Officer to the incoming Department Commandant. Division level prohibitions that exclude otherwise qualified members improperly remove that choice and impose limitations not adopted by the National Convention.

This amendment does not expand authority; it clarifies existing authority, resolves ambiguity, and ensures uniform application of 5015 across all Departments and Divisions while preserving tradition and member choice.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marine Corps League