



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 6015 – Installation of Detachment Officers

CURRENT:

Section 6015. Installation of Detachment Officers

- a. The detachment commandant elect shall select an installing officer of his/her choice. Such information shall be forwarded to the department commandant.
- b. The installing officer must be the National Commandant, an elected National Officer, a Past National Commandant, the department commandant, an elected department officer, a past department commandant, the outgoing detachment commandant or a past detachment commandant. (REV 2021)
- c. It shall be the responsibility of the installing officer to sign, date and forward the Report of Officer Installation – Detachment Form within fourteen (14) days of the installation and submission within the time frame to their respective department and national offices as specified in NBL Article IX, Section 940. (See Enclosure Six (6) "Report of Officer Installation - Detachment" Form.) (REV 2023)

PROPOSED (Changes in RED):

Section 6015. Installation of Detachment Officers

- a. The detachment commandant elect shall select an installing officer of his/her choice. Such information shall be forwarded to the department commandant.

b. The installing officer shall be one of the following, provided the member is in good standing:

- (1) the outgoing Detachment Commandant;
- (2) any Past Detachment Commandant, without regard to detachment affiliation;
- (3) any current Detachment Commandant from another Detachment; or
- (4) a Department or National Officer authorized to perform installations.

No provision of this Section shall be interpreted to require that a Past Detachment Commandant or current Detachment Commandant be a member, officer, or past officer of the detachment whose officers are being installed.

The installation of officers is a ceremonial function and does not confer command authority over the receiving detachment. (REV 2025)

c. It shall be the responsibility of the installing officer to sign, date and forward the Report of Officer Installation – Detachment Form within fourteen (14) days of the installation and submission within the time frame to their respective department and national offices as specified in NBL Article IX, Section 940. (See Enclosure Six (6) "Report of Officer Installation - Detachment" Form.) (REV 2023)

RATIONALE:

National Administrative Procedure 6015 authorizes a “past Detachment Commandant” to serve as an Installing Officer but does not specify that such an individual must be affiliated with the same detachment 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 detachment.

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

Section 6015 assigns selection of the Installing Officer to the incoming Detachment Commandant. Division or Department 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 6015 across all Departments and Divisions while preserving tradition and member choice.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marine Corps League