



COMMANDING GENERAL'S REQUEST MAST POLICY STATEMENT



U.S. Navy Regulations (Articles 0820c and 1151.1) and the Marine Corps Manual (paragraph 2805) establish the Request Mast (RM) process, which I fully support. RM includes the Service Member's right to communicate directly with their Commander and the requirement for the Commander to consider the matter and personally respond to the petitioner.

The RM program preserves the right of military members of this command to directly communicate grievances to, or seek assistance from, their Commanding Officers, up to and including me as the Commanding General (CG). MCO 1700.23G provides the authority for the RM programs, outlines topics where there are more appropriate methods of redress, and supports the rights and responsibilities of our Marines and Sailors.

This policy statement amplifies the importance of the guidance provided within the references and guides the RM process across Marine Corps Installations West-Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton (MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN). Service Members who, in good faith, wish to appear before the Commander will do so without fear of reprisal or prejudice to their interests.

Once a Marine or Sailor expresses a desire to submit a RM petition, leaders at all levels should direct their efforts to getting the Marine in front of the Commander. Attempts to delay or suppress a RM by any Marine or Sailor are forbidden and may result in administrative or judicial action under UCMJ Article 92.

Individuals may submit an open or sealed RM to me via their chain of command. As my Request Mast Reviewing Authority (RMRA), the Command Inspector General (CIG) will receive, open, and prepare all RM packages for my consideration. O-6 commanders will forward RM packages addressed to the CG through the CIG after attempting to resolve the issue in accordance with MCO 1700.23G.

The desire of some RM petitioners to meet directly with the CG should not obscure the true focus of the process, which is resolution of the grievance. Individuals must consider that submitting a sealed RM precludes the opportunity for subordinate Commanders to address the problem, and therefore should provide a compelling reason to do so. I have the utmost trust and confidence my subordinate Commanders can and will resolve the vast majority of valid grievances if given the opportunity.

I fully support the right and process of RM as a means to resolve grievances and reduce unnecessary stressors within the Chain of Command, thereby increasing overall readiness.

8 Aug 24
Date

N. I. BROWN
Brigadier General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
Marine Corps Installations West-Marine Corps Base,
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