

CHAPTER 20

THE COMMAND WARRANT OFFICER (CWO)

(MOD Sponsor: CWO (Fleet Air Arm))

This Chapter has been diversity and inclusion impact assessed by the sponsor in accordance with Departmental policy. No direct discrimination or adverse impact was identified. This chapter is due for review at the next routine amendment exercise.

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CHAPTER 20

THE COMMAND WARRANT OFFICER

2000. Introduction

1. The Five Command Warrant Officers (CWO) are titled and suffixed in the same manner as the Head of their Fighting Arm.

- a. Surface Ships (SS)
- b. Submarines (SM)
- c. Royal Marines (RM)
- d. Fleet Air Arm (FAA)
- e. Maritime Reserves (MR)

2. CWO act as independent and autonomous command advisors to the Navy Command Headquarters (NCHQ) on any matter affecting Operational Capability (OC). They are specifically responsible for the development of their Fighting Arm (FA) Moral Component of Operational Capability (MCofOC) Barometer data concentrating on emergent areas that may require consideration by the Navy Command Operating Board (NCOB) or Navy Board (NavB). CWO primary responsibility is to act as a conduit between FA personnel and senior officers within the FA and NCHQ. A central point of focus for the Rating and Other Ranks of their FA, they serve to ensure that both Senior Officer Intent is understood and that comprehensive honest feedback is provided upwards. They also promote adherence to FA ethos, core values and standards to ensure the highest standards are maintained amongst their personnel.

2001. CWO Roles

1. Acting in their capacity as independent and autonomous command advisors, the CWO undertake the following roles and are accountable to:

- a. The Head of their Fighting Arm to assess the MCofOC, engaging with and representing the feedback of FA personnel.
- b. The Commodore Naval Personnel Strategy (CNPS) to provide feedback on current pan-Naval Service personnel policy and to advise on future policy development.
- c. The Warrant Officer of the Naval Service (WO (NS)), advising on ratings/other ranks specific matters requiring NavB consideration.

2002. Accountability

1. CWO are accountable to the Head of their Fighting Arm, CNPS, and WO (NS) for the execution of their responsibilities.

2003. Appointment

1. Appointment as CWO is via selection process and personally approved by the Head of their Fighting Arm.

2004. Authority

1. Due to the nature of the appointment CWO SS, SM, FAA and MR are considered the senior serving rating in their FA, as is the Corps RSM for the Royal Marines. CWO RM is subordinate to the Corps RSM. All are authorised to exercise functional authority over all FA ratings in pursuance of their duties. All five CWO are equal in status to each other, but subordinate in status to the WO (NS).

2005. Uniform

1. On taking up the appointment the CWO is awarded the CWO badge and may wear it during the period of the appointment only. The badge is to be worn on the left breast in the same position as a NATO force emblem.

2. A black silver top cane with Royal Arms on the top may be carried by CWO for the period of their appointment only, BR3, Ch39, Para 3916, sub para e refers.