



The Maritime Academy Of Toledo

Rank And Promotion Handbook for Cadet Commander

Rank of Commander		Nautical/Maritime Terms	Nautical/Maritime Definition	Maritime Academy Terminology
1.	Commander	QUARTERMASTER	Eventually, selected sailors who became "masters" of the Quarter-deck area, particularly when it came to navigation. The Quarter-deck area was originally officers' country, and enlisted men were not allowed there unless called for. However, seasoned, trusted seamen were allowed up there as helmsmen. Because they had to know how to steer a given course, they also had to learn how to read a compass and then care for it as well. So too with the ship's chronometer, and then gradually the sextant, charts, and other navigating equipment. Eventually, selected sailors became "masters" of the Quarter-deck area, particularly when it came to navigation.	School Staff / Officer
2.	Commander	RATING BADGES	Also "Distinguishing Marks") In 1841, insignia called "distinguishing marks" were first prescribed as part of the official uniform. An eagle and anchor emblem, forerunner of the rating badge, was the first distinguishing mark. In 1886 rating badges were established, and some 15 specialty marks were also provided to cover the various ratings. On 1 April 1893, Petty Officers were reclassified and the rating of Chief Petty Officer was established. Until 1949 rating badges were worn on the right or left sleeve, depending on whether the person concerned was on the starboard or port watch. Since February 1948, all distinguishing marks have been worn on the left sleeve between the shoulder and elbow.	Cadet Rank Insignia
3.	Commander	REEFER OR REEFER BOX	An insulated shipping container designed to carry cargoes requiring temperature control. It is fitted with a refrigeration unit, which is connected to the ship's electrical power supply.	Refridgerator
4.	Commander	ROUND ROBIN	The custom of rebellious or mutinous sailors of signing their names to a protesting letter or petition by signing their names radiating outward like the spokes of a wheel. This way, there would be no leading names on the list. Some scholars say that this is also the origin of the term, 'ring-leader.	Cadet Suggestion Box /Ideas brought to the Captain without signatures
5.	Commander	RUNNING LIGHTS	Lights required to be shown on boats underway between sundown and sunup.	Building Lights
6.	Commander	SALUTING	Naval etiquette for men or women permits salutes only in uniform and only when covered (i.e., when a hat is worn). When uncovered in uniform or in civilian attire, proper naval etiquette requires coming to attention but no salute. When uncovered in uniform or when in civilian attire, salute the U.S. Flag with hand over heart. There is a strong desire by many to salute the Bridge (or Quarterdeck) Officer. Those who are not comfortable with salutes can show respect by pausing at attention for a moment at the appropriate spot. Never respond with a salute unless one is given to you. Some hold that the salute to the quarterdeck is derived from the very early seagoing custom of the respect paid to the pagan altar on board ship, and later to the crucifix and shrine. Others hold that the custom comes from the early days of the British Navy when all officers who were present on the quarterdeck returned the salute of an individual by uncovering (removing the hat). The original salute consisted of uncovering. The salute, touching the hat, to the seat of authority, the quarterdeck, the place nearest the colors, is an old an tradition.	On Certain Occasions Cadets (Students) Are Required To Salute The Flag And Officers In Uniform

7.	Commander	SALVAGE	The property which has been recovered from a wrecked vessel, or the recovery of the vessel herself.	School's Recycling Program
8.	Commander	SEA LAWYER	Someone who professes to have significant knowledge of the fine points of the rules and regulations. This knowledge is often used for personal gain, or to claim why something cannot be done. An argumentative sailor. Usually one who quotes confusing rules and regulations, and makes accusations against seniors to his advantage.	Dean Of Discipline
9.	Commander	SEA ROOM	A safe distance from the shore or other hazards.	Safe Distances For Passing In Hallways And On Stairs
1.	Commander	SEA TRIAL	A series of trials conducted by the builders during which the owner's representatives on board act in a consulting and checking capacity to determine if the vessel has met the specifications.	Pilot Testing, Conducting Research, Experimenting, On A Discovery Mission
2.	Commander	SEA WORTHINESS	The condition of the ship, based on the sufficiency of a vessel in terms of materials construction, equipment, crew and outfit for the trade in which it is employed. Any sort of disrepair to the vessel by which the cargo may suffer—overloading, untrained officers, etc., may constitute a vessel to be unseaworthy.	The Condition Of The School In Terms Of General Upkeep, Cleanliness, Neatness, Orderly Storage, Safety, And Repair
3.	Commander	SEAMAN	A noncommissioned rank in the U.S. Navy or Coast Guard that is above seaman apprentice and subordinate to petty officer.	Cadet (Student)
4.	Commander	SEAMAN APPRENTICE	A deck crewmember that is above seaman recruit and subordinate to the Able Bodied Seamen.	Cadet (Student) Who Has Completed Basic Training But Has Not Earned Abs Rank
5.	Commander	SEAMAN RECRUIT	A deck crewmember that is subordinate to a seaman apprentice. A new recruit not yet completing basic training..	Cadet (Student) Who Has Not Completed Basic Training
6.	Commander	SEAMANSHIP	All the arts and skills of boat handling, ranging from maintenance and repairs to piloting, sail handling, marlinespike work, and rigging.	Cadet (Student) Competence And Skills In Their Varying Cadet Roles And Responsibilities
7.	Commander	SEAWORTHY	A boat or a boat's gear able to meet the usual sea conditions.	A School That Is Worthy Of High Praise And Recognition
8.	Commander	SECURE	To make fast.	Ensure Safety And Security
9.	Commander	SELF-TRIMMING	A ship that levels itself according to its cargo weight.	Self-Regulating Behaviors
10.	Commander	SET	Direction toward which the current is flowing.	Moving Forward With Support

11.	Commander	SHAKE A LEG	In the British Navy of King George III and earlier, many sailors' wives accompanied them on long voyages. Also, wives were allowed to stay for the night when the ship was in port. This practice could cause some problems, but some ingenious bosun solved the situation which tended to make reveille a hazardous event: The problem of distinguishing which bunks or hammocks held males and which held females. To avoid dragging the wrong "mates" out of their hammocks, the bosun asked all to "shake a leg" or "show a leg." If the leg was shapely and/or adorned with silk, the owner was allowed to continue sleeping. If the leg was obviously male, such as being hairy and/or tattooed, then he was roused out. In today's Navy, showing a leg is a signal to the reveille petty officer that you have heard his call and you are awake.	Wake Up, Pay Attention, Get Moving
12.	Commander	SHANGHAIED	Shanghai was the major seaport in China during the Clipper ship days, and had the worst reputation. It was also a very long journey lasting many weeks and months at sea. Unpopular with sailors, China-bound captains often had to trick or even outright kidnap men aboard ship to make the voyage. Thus the term was used to describe anyone making a voyage or performing a task against his will.	Persons forced to do or attend something against their will.
13.	Commander	SHIP'S ARTICLES	A written agreement between the master of a ship and the crew concerning their employment. It includes rates of pay and capacity of each crewman, the date of commencement of the voyage and its duration.	The School's Policies, Procedures, Codes Of Discipline, Salary Scales, Merit And Demerit Criteria, And Requirements For Ohio Graduation, Proficiency, Achievement, And Diagnostic Tests
14.	Commander	SHIP'S STABILITY	The seaworthiness of a ship regarding the centrifugal force which enables her to remain upright.	Consistency In Programming, Staff, Policies, Procedures, Discipline, Etc
15.	Commander	SHOWS HIS TRUE COLORS	Early warships often carried flags from many nations on board in order to elude or deceive the enemy. The rules of civilized warfare called for all ships to hoist their true national ensigns before firing a shot. Someone who finally "shows his true colors" is acting like a man-of-war which hailed another ship flying one flag, but then hoisted their own when they got in firing range.	Acting With Honesty And Integrity

16.	Commander	SICKBAY	In the days of sailing ships, it was customary to uncover when entering sick bay, out of respect to the dying and dead. Through modern medicine the sickbay has transformed into a place where people are usually healed and cured, so the custom remains. As in any hospital, silence is maintained. Ships hospitals were originally known as "Sick Berths," generally located in the round sterns of the old battle wagons, their contours suggested a "bay," and the latter name was given them. In the early sailing ships, the bow area was the roomiest area below decks available to the crew, taking the shape of a bay when viewed from inside. It was customary for the surgeon to use this area for his work, especially if battle require more room for men to be stretched out at once for his attention. It has now become the term for the ship's medical area on the vessel, regardless of its actual location. Sickbay In the days of sailing ships, it was customary to uncover when entering sick bay, out of respect to the dying and dead. Through modern medicine the sickbay has transformed into a place where people are usually healed and cured, so the custom remains. As in any hospital, silence is maintained.	The School Infirmary
17.	Commander	SIDE BOYS	Side boys are a part of the quarterdeck ceremonies when an important person or Officer comes on board or leaves a ship. Large ships have side boys detailed to the quarterdeck from 0800 to sunset. When the side is piped by the BMOW, from two to eight side boys, depending on the rank of the Officer, will form a passageway at the gangway. They salute on the first note of the pipe and finish together on the last note. In the days of sail, it was not uncommon for the Commanding Officers of ships sailing in convoy to convene aboard the flagship for conferences. It was also not uncommon for COs to invite each other to dine aboard their vessels. Unfortunately, there was no easy way to bring visitors on and off a ship while underway. And there was no dignified way for a high ranking officer to scurry up or down a rope ladder hanging down the side of a ship. Often the boatswain's chair, a rope and wood sling, would be used to hoist the guest onto and off the ship. The Boatswain's Mate would control the heaving by blowing the appropriate commands with a whistle known as a Boatswain's Pipe. The number of "strong backs" needed to bring the visitor aboard depended upon the size of the "load" being hoisted. Somewhere along the line, it was noted that the more senior the visitor's rank, the more Sailors were needed to "man the side." Over time, the need to hoist visitors onto and off of Navy ships went away, but the custom of mustering the Sideboys and piping distinguished visitors aboard ship remains.	Welcoming And Farewell Committees Of Cadet Officers
18.	Commander	SILENT RUNNING	Running in silence	Moving Or Working In Silence
19.	Commander	SISTER SHIPS	Ships built on the same design.	Other Community Schools Other Maritime Schools
20.	Commander	SKEDADDLE	To sneak away from a working party.	Avoid Work By Skipping Out Or Hiding Out
21.	Commander	SKIPPER	Commanding Officer. Apparently from the Dutch "Schipper," which means, essentially, "he who ships." Derived from the Scandinavian word "schiffe," meaning ships, or the Dutch word "schipper," meaning captain.	Nickname For The Ships Commodore , The School Administrator
22.	Commander	SNAFU	Situation Normal, All Fouled Up.	Something That Has Gone Wrong

23.	Commander	SNIPE	Crew members in the engineering; someone who works in the engineering spaces and seldom is seen topside when underway. MM's (Machinist's Mates) and BT's (Boiler Technicians) are ultimate snipes. In today's modern gas turbine fleet, also includes GSM (Gas Turbine Specialist, Mechanic), GSE (Gas Turbine Specialist, Electrician), and EN (Engineman). It is believed that true snipes cannot stand direct sunlight or fresh air, must have machine oil in their coffee in order to survive, and get nosebleeds at altitudes above the waterline.	Maintenance Crew Member
24.	Commander	SQUARED AWAY	1) Originally, to "square away" meant to trim a ship's sails to put her before the wind (i.e. get underway). Today, it means a ship that looks good, maneuvers smartly, etc., or refers to a sailor who is capable and smart in appearance and action. 2) Squared Away - Square-rigged sailing ships would set the backs of their sails directly into the wind for their best speed. A ship standing out smartly from harbor with every sail thus set presented a neat, purposeful appearance. The term soon became applied as a compliment to any competent sailor. In particular one with a neat appearance.	Cadet Seaman With A Neat Appearance, Perfect Wearing Of The Uniform
25.	Commander	STAND-ON VESSEL	That vessel which has right-of-way during a meeting, crossing, or overtaking situation.	Yielding The Right Of Way
26.	Commander	STARBOARD	The right side of a boat when looking forward. The starboard side of a ship during darkness is indicated by a green light.	To The Right Side
27.	Commander	STEM	The forward most part of the bow.	Front
28.	Commander	STERN	The after part of the boat. The bow or rear of the ship; an upright post or bar of the bow of a vessel.	Back
29.	Commander	STOW	To put an item in its proper place.	Put Away Properly And Safely
30.	Commander	STOWAGE	The placing of goods in a ship in such a way as to ensure the safety and stability of the ship not only on a sea or ocean passage but also while in port when parts of the cargo have been loaded or discharged.	The Way To Put Away Properly And Safely
31.	Commander	STRANDED	Strand is used to describe the long, narrow strip of beach that divides the sea from the land, and often is used to describe a long peninsula. Unlucky sailors left on the beach by shipwrecks or by dishonest captains who did not want to pay their wages when the voyage was over were thus 'stranded'	Left Alone Without Proper Supervision
32.	Commander	TAKEN ABACK	One of the hazards faced in days of sailing ships has been incorporated into English to describe someone who has been jolted by unpleasant news. We say that person has been "taken aback." The person is at a momentary loss; unable to act or even to speak. A danger faced by sailing ships was for a sudden shift in wind to come up (from a sudden squall), blowing the sails back against the masts, putting the ship in grave danger of having the masts break off and rendering the ship totally helpless. The ship was taken aback.	Surprised By A Sudden Event

33.	Commander	TAPS	The word "taps" is derived from the Dutch word <i>taptoe</i> , or time to close up all the taps and taverns in the garrisoned towns. In a volume entitled, <i>The Military Guide to Young Officers</i> , by Thomas Simes, reprinted in Philadelphia, in 1776 there are instruction for the officer of the guard. "The tat-too is generally best at nine o'clock at night in the summer and eight in the winter. It is performed by the Drum Major, and all the drummers and fifers of that regiment which gave a captain of the main guard that day. The tat-too is the signal given for the soldiers to retire to their barracks or quarters, to put out their fire and candle and go to bed. The public houses are at the same time, to shut their doors, and sell no more liquor that night."	Sounding Taps To Signal The Close Of Day
34.	Commander	TAR, JACK TAR	A slang term for a Sailor, has been in use since at least 1676. The term "Jack tar" was used by the 1780s. Early Sailors wore overalls and broad-brimmed hats made of tar-impregnated fabric called tarpaulin cloth. The hats, and the Sailors who wore them, were called tarpaulins, which may have been shortened to tars.	Slang For A Cadet Seaman
35.	Commander	TICKLED TO DEATH	Oddly enough, though not specifically a Navy term, this has Chinese Origins. A method of torture and execution in ancient China was to tickle the bare feet of a strapped-down prisoner with a goose feather. This would cause the victim to literally laugh himself to death through exhaustion.	Extremely Happy, Laughing
36.	Commander	TITIVATE	Clean up, or make shipshape.	Clean Up Or Tidy Up Workstations, Offices, And The Building At Large
37.	Commander	TOPSIDES	The sides of a vessel between the waterline and the deck; sometimes referring to onto or above the deck.	Above Deck
38.	Commander	UNDER WAY	Sometimes seen as "under weigh." The term refers to a ship which is not physically connected to solid ground, i.e. neither moored, anchored, nor aground. Often confused with "MAKING WAY (q.v.)," though legally very different. Vessel in motion, i.e., when not moored, at anchor, or aground.	Moving Forward, Progressing Through The Academic Year
39.	Commander	UNIFORM REGULATIONS	The first uniform instruction for the U.S. Navy was issued by the Secretary of War on 24 August 1791. It provided a distinctive dress for the officers who would command the ships of the Federal Navy. The instruction did not include a uniform for the enlisted man, although there was a degree of uniformity. The usual dress of a seaman was made up of a short jacket, shirt, vest, long trousers, and a black low crowned hat.	School Uniform Regulations
40.	Commander	VICE COMMODORE	The officer in the deck department, below Commodore, second in command of a ship	Vice Commodore (Rank Of Assistant Administrator-Curriculum Coordinator)
41.	Commander	WATCH	The day at sea is divided into six four-hour periods. Three groups of watchstanders are on duty for four hours and then off for eight, then back to duty. Seamen often work overtime during their off time.	Inside Observers: Faculty, Staff And Students Assessing The School's Progress
42.	Commander	WAYBILL	A non-negotiable document that acts as a receipt for the goods and evidence of the contract of carriage.	Receipts For Purchases

43.	Commander	XO	Executive Officer. Second-in-command of a vessel.	Administrator In Charge
44.	Commander	ZULU TIME	<p>Zulu time is known as "GMT" (Greenwich Mean Time). The natural concept of time is linked to the earth's rotation and defines a 24 hour day. –the time it takes the earth to spin once on its axis. As time pieces became more accurate and communication more global, there needed to be a basis for establishing world times. Since Great Britain was the world's foremost maritime power when the concept of latitude and longitude came to be, the starting point for designating longitude was the "prime meridian" (zero degrees) and runs through the Royal Greenwich Observatory, in Greenwich, England. Thus, the starting point for calculating the different time zones was at the Royal Greenwich Observatory. Noon at the observatory, is five hours earlier (under Standard Time) in Washington, D.C.; six hours earlier in Chicago; seven hours earlier in Denver; and, eight hours earlier in Los Angeles. Since the Earth does not rotate at exactly a constant rate, a new timescale, called Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), was adopted and replaces GMT. The Navy, as well as civil aviation, use the letter "Z" (phonetically "Zulu") to refer to the time at the prime meridian. The U.S. time zones are Eastern ["R", "Romeo"]; Central ["S", "Sierra"]; Mountain ["T", "Tango"]; Pacific ["U", "Uniform"]; Alaska ["V", "Victor"], and Hawaii ["W", "William"].</p>	