

Apr 05

Information Paper

**Subj: FROCKING OFFICERS**

1. **General**. Promotions to the grades of major and above require: nomination by the President, consent of the Senate, and appointment by the President. Frocking is intended to ameliorate the effects of delay between nomination by the Senate and appointment by the President. An officer is not legally promoted until all three steps have occurred, however, frocking is authorized under the limitations and requirements of Marine Corps Promotions Manual (MARCORPROMAN)(Vol. 1) and DoDD 1334.2, Frocking of Commissioned Officers. Since specific requirements exist on frocking of an officer, based on the "frocked grade," careful consideration is necessary to ensure the frocking is authorized.

2. **DoD Policy**. DoDD 1334.2 establishes policy, standards, and procedures governing the frocking of commissioned officers to the grades O-4 through O-10. Generally:

a. Before an officer can be frocked, the officer must have cleared the first two hurdles for promotion: (1) nomination by the President; and (2) consent of the Senate.

b. Frocking must be essential to the officer's maximum effectiveness in the assigned billet;

c. The officer being considered for frocking must be serving in an authorized billet designated for the higher grade, or must be in the process of being ordered to such a billet.

3. **Marine Corps Policy**. MARCORPROMAN establishes requirements for all frocking requests. A frocked officer is entitled to "wear the insignia" and to "assume the title" of the next higher grade. However, the frocking is not a promotion, and **until the actual promotion the officer does NOT:**

a. Receive any pay allowances, or entitlements of the frocked grade;

b. Accumulate time in grade, gain seniority on the active duty list or gain seniority for any other purpose;

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c. Assume the legal authority of the higher grade.  
(Frocked officers are not authorized increased disciplinary powers under Article 15, UCMJ.)

3. **Frocking Authority**

a. Above the grade of Colonel. The Secretary of Defense is the approval authority for frocking above the grade of colonel.

b. Major through Colonel. The Director, Personnel Management Division, is the approval authority for frocking of field grade officers.

c. 1stLt to Captain. Commanding Generals are authorized to frock first lieutenants to captains based on criteria specified in paragraph 6007 of MARCORPROMAN.

d. 2ndLt to 1stLt. Frocking a second lieutenant to first lieutenant is not authorized.

4. **Fitness Reports**. A grade change (GC) fitness report must be completed on frocked officers.

5. **Defrocking**. Paragraph 6007.6 of MARCORPROMAN (Vol. 1), provides that an officer's frocking may be rescinded prior to the time of actual promotion is effected if it is determined that potential adverse information exists. In such instances, MMPR and CMC (JA) must be notified for further guidance.

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