



GUNNERS MATE FORCE NOTES JULY 2008

Points of Contact:

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GMCM JONES	CG LIAISON- NOLSC CODE 412.1CG	717-605-8598
GMCM MUNOZ	GM RATING FORCE MASTER CHIEF	202-372-2295

Relieving the Watch: “Ding-Ding” GMCM Good Departing, “Ding” GMCM Good Ashore. I had the distinct honor of replacing Bob Good as the GM RFMC. He is now in LANTAREA. The new GM Assignment Officer is CWO2 Winstein.

411 on Force Notes and duties of the Rating Force Master Chief (RFMC): These are my first Force Notes and therefore I have included a little bit more information than usual. The purpose of promulgating Force Notes is to emphasize key information and provide updates related to our work-force. Much of the information contained in these notes may be found in some message, publication or spread sheet. The rating profile information is maintained by a different office and links to that information is provided to us. Contraire to popular believe the RFMCs do not manage Advancement Lists.

The Rating Force Master Chief: The RFMC, formally known as Force Managers, is the principal advocate for their specialty and is responsible for the overall health of the rating. RFMCs will manage the structure of their workforce and ensure that personnel are prepared to meet current and future missions to coincide with Program goals. RFMCs will have a crucial role in unit staffing and communicating Rating and Program issues within the organization.

Requesting School Quotas: Among other things, one of my chief duties is to gather certain school quotas such as SAI and Weapon System Advance Training (e.g. MK-75 IMA) and feed them to TQC. This is mainly to sort out those that apply but do not have an immediate need to attend this training. TQC will turn down any request for these courses without the approval of the RFMC. This process of selection forms a partnership among the School House, MLCs/Areas, TQC and the RFMC. C-Schools are a little different. TQC and EPM2 will normally handle the “pipe-line” training for members that have received orders to a unit requiring a specific qualification.

GM Rating Profile: The GM rating has been one of the fastest growing ratings post 9/11. In the last 5 years, it has grown 26%. This rapid growth has created challenges in both workforce management and training.

	E-4	E-5	E-6	E-7	E-8	E-9	Total
End of FY 2003	194	191	168	65	9	5	632
Year to Date FY 2008	292	288	232	89	14	6	921

GM PAL comparison 2003 to 2008 year to date.

<u>Rating Strength</u> <u>(latest info available)</u>	GM3	GM2	GM1	GMC	GMCS	GMCM	Total
GM Billets	292	288	232	89	14	6	921
PO Billets	1	3	9	10	1	0	24
Total Authorized	293	291	241	99	15	6	945
Actually Onboard	255	262	235	98	16	6	875
Difference (+/-)	-35	-29	-6	-1	+1	0	-70
Difference (%)	88%	90%	98%	99%	107%	100%	93%

The data contained within this profile is based on Monthly Updates, Personnel Strength, Demographics and Losses based on Direct Access Inventory (last run for month). This report should not be used to forecast advancements.

Selective Reenlistment Bonuses

Bonus update:

Zone	Eligible	SRB Multiple
A/B	GM1	1.5
A/B	GM2	2.0

Looking to the Future: The GM Rating faces some significant challenges that will most likely require addition resources to overcome. We are expected to lose some billets due to several Cutters decommissioning or returning to the US Navy but are gaining other ones (See GMs at Stations section below). Having said this, the current GM workforce remains healthy and retention is higher than the pre 9/11 steady state.

Sea Duty Requirement: In FY 2005, an analysis of GM EPQs and advancement requirements led (CG-7D-1) to remove the sea duty requirement for advancement. Rapid growth in shore side positions and in particular, post 9/11 increases in the deployment of crew served weapons on boats, along with pre-arrival training for cutter based systems significantly reduced the necessity for this requirement. This change resulted in a significant increase in GM advancement opportunities.

Advancement Information: This link provides a one stop shop for all advancement announcements, list, SWE statistics and associated quick links to advancement related issues. <http://cgweb.psc.uscg.mil/adv.htm>.

ALCOAST 322/08 announced that the Nov 2008 SWE is waived for GM2/GM1. It also states that members appearing on the May 2008 SWE Advancement Eligibility List, who would normally meet the TIG and Sea Duty Requirements by 1Jan 09, will be granted a waiver of those requirements for the purpose of advancing earlier.

ALCOAST 256/07 announced that Petty Officers competing for advancement after 01Jan 2009 will need to complete CG Leadership and Management School (LAMS). See the ALCOAST for specific details. Submit your STTRs.

ALCOAST 297/08 provides a summary of procedures for the Enlisted Performance Qualifications (EPQS) and Performance Qualification Guide (PQG) rate training courses. It serves to clarify usage of terms and facilitate the non-resident training process.

The LE/S Rating message (MSG DTG R 232106Z JUN 08) was released in late June. It approved the establishment of a Coast Guard enlisted rating involving law enforcement and security (LE/S) duties. All the particulars regarding who is eligible to lateral, PQGs, SWE, etc. are being worked on as we speak. At this point it is unknown how many GM billets will lateral over.

ELC Website: <http://cgweb.elcbalt.uscg.mil/combatsys/combatsys.asp>
ELC has developed a website that is very helpful. The purpose of this site is to provide a single source of information for the ordnance and navy electronic systems community. Here you will find all of the tools you need to perform your duties.

Ammunition Accountability: Lately there have been some "unusual" ATRs with a lot of "J" transactions. I'm not talking about the occasional round that falls over the side at the clearing station. I'm referring to ammunition records not being maintained and causing a lot of discrepancies. These findings are commonly found during Inspections or upon relief by another GM/WPO. COs/OICs will trust in your ability to do YOUR JOB unless you prove otherwise. Stay on top of things...

GMs at Stations: R 122049Z FEB 08 SUBJ: NEW CAPABILITY; BOATS AND PEOPLE: this message announced the addition of GMs at several Stations (Boat Forces), Sectors, Sector Field Offices, and Marine Safety Units. The School House does a good job preparing these individuals for their next assignments but I'd like to take it a step further. Seasoned Gunnersmates located in the vicinity of these units should keep an eye out and help these novice GMs through training, mentorship and in some cases oversight. Their main role is to take care of the ordnance program at these units so the former WPO is free to do their primary duties.

*******MISHAPS*******

There have been an alarming increased number of Ordnance related mishaps and "accidental" firearms discharges. These range from the PDW to the MK-75 GWS. Train, train, train, IAW established instructions/publications. CYOA by scheduling and documenting quarterly non-firing training, misfire procedures, etc. This is the minimum requirement. Remember, if it isn't documented it never took place.

Obligated Service: Pass the word to GM "A" School prospects. The obligated time after successfully completing GM "A" School is 24 months. If you decide to have a change of heart and want to switch rates your request will more than likely be denied until you've met your obligated service. Applicant's not having the necessary active duty obligated

service requirement for "A" school remaining on their present contract, must reenlist or sign an Agreement to Extend Enlistment to cover the required period prior to departing their unit for school. You must have normal color vision.

Security Clearance: An SF-86 (security clearance package) must be mailed to SECCEN prior to attending "A" School.

Miscellaneous: You may have noticed that Fred's Place no longer post general Coast Guard messages. Please go to this link if you want to access them via the Internet: <http://www.uscg.mil/ANNOUNCEMENTS/>.

Speaking of Fred's Place, which is a good source of information and gossip, should be the last place one asks for help. You should request help through a local Sector/Area Armory Detachment first.

CBT/WBT: This website https://www3.dac.army.mil/AS/distance_learning.html contains numerous Ammunition Handling and Explosive Safety courses you can take either on-line or by ordering the CD-ROM. It's free for active duty military but requires registration.

Trivia Question: Born in Youngstown, Pennsylvania, he started playing golf at the age of 3. In 1947 he entered Wake Forest University. He enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1950 as a Yeoman and continued to serve until 1953. Though a Yeoman, he participated in many matches as the Coast Guard allowed him to continue to play golf. He returned to Wake Forest and in 1954 he won the U.S. Amateur Championship. His professional playing garnered him four Master's Championships, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964, also the 1960 U.S. Open and the 1961 and '62 British Open. He is the first golfer to earn over one million dollars in prize tournament money. He also won the 1981 and 1982 U.S. Senior Open.

For the answer go to: <http://www.uscg.mil/history/faqs/celeb.asp>. **NO REPLIES PLEASE**

Famous Quotations: *"A few armed vessels, judiciously stationed at the entrances of our ports, might at a small expense be made useful sentinels of the laws."*
Secretary Of The Treasury Alexander Hamilton, 1790

Disclaimer: Force Notes contain *Opinions and General Guidance* and ARE NOT to be considered official policy or doctrine. Always refer to the appropriate references.

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