



U.S. Coast Guard History Program

The following General Orders are changes to the RCS Regulations of 1894. They were drawn up, for the most part, by 1st Lieutenant Charles F. Shoemaker and 2nd Lieutenant William E. Reynolds.

Transcription by William R. Wells, II, GMCM, USCG (ret) July 28, 2001.

GENERAL ORDERS.

U. S. REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE.

JULY, 1895.

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Treasury Department,
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Office of Secretary,
Division of Revenue Cutter Service.

General Orders Nos. 1 - 8.

Division of Revenue Cutter Service.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., June 27, 1895.

The following orders, are published for the information and government of all officers of the Revenue Cutter Service.

All regulations in conflict with these orders are hereby rescinded.

ORDER NO. 1.

Enlistments.

1. Enlisting officers of the Revenue Cutter Service shall be the commanding officer, or, under his direction, the executive officer of a vessel of the Revenue Cutter Service.

2. All enlistments for the Revenue Cutter Service shall be for a term of three years, and for general service, without reference to particular vessels or stations, and may, if an exigency should require it, be drafted or transferred from one vessel or station to another by order of the Secretary of the Treasury.

3. In all cases where persons are to be enlisted in the Revenue Cutter Service preference will be given to native born or naturalized citizens of the United States, or to those who have declared their intention of becoming such, provided that equally competent men can be thus obtained.

4. No person shall be enlisted in the Revenue Cutter Service who is not pronounced fit by the enlisting officer and the medical officer of the vessel, or by the enlisting officer and an officer of the Marine-Hospital Service, or other competent and reputable physician.

5. Whenever a man is to be enlisted as one skilled in particular labor, such as an oiler, steward, cook, etc., special care shall be exercised by the enlisting officer to ascertain the fitness and general knowledge of the applicant for the rating to be filled.

6. No person under the age of fourteen years, nor over the age of forty years, unless by special permission of the Department, no insane or intoxicated person, no person addicted to the excessive use of alcoholic beverages, no person known to have committed an infamous crime, and no deserter from the Revenue Cutter Service, the Army, or Navy of the United States, shall be enlisted.

Exceptions as to age.--Men who have been in the Service five years and upward.

7. No person between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one shall be enlisted without the consent in writing of the parent or guardian, and no person shall be originally enlisted as a boy if under fourteen years of age, as ordinary seaman if under seventeen, and as seaman if under twenty-one, nor shall anyone be rated as seaman or ordinary seaman unless he shall have reached the stated" for those grades No person shall be originally enlisted as coal passer who is under eighteen years of age, or an fireman if under twenty-one, nor

shall anyone be rated a fireman or coal passer unless he shall have reached the stated ages for said grades.

8. In order to prevent the enlistment of deserters and persons dishonorably discharged, no one who has been in the service of the United States shall be enlisted without producing his honorable discharge therefrom. Should it be claimed that the discharge has been lost, the circumstances shall be reported to the Treasury Department, if the matter can be properly delayed, before the applicant shall be enlisted, but in no case shall a person who has already been in the service of the United States be enlisted unless he shall show the requisite discharge, or the evidence of such honorable discharge is shown from the files of the Department,

9. The holder of a certificate of discharge which is indorsed "Discharged for bad conduct," "Dishonorably discharged," "Not recommended for reenlistment," shall not be reenlisted.

10. In carrying the foregoing orders into effect, the men concerned will be given the option of an honorable discharge, if deserving, or of reenlisting for a full term of three years from July 1, 1895.

Exceptions.--Vessels stationed on the Great lakes will retain the boatswain, gunner, master at arms, one quartermaster, two stewards, two oilers, and one fireman. The remainder of the crew will be enlisted to serve for the season of lake navigation only, and will be discharged at the pleasure of the Department.

Reenlistments

1. All persons reenlisting in the Revenue Cutter Service shall be entitled to receive the following increase of monthly compensation: First reenlistment, 61; second reenlistment, \$2; third reenlistment, \$3; fourth reenlistment, \$4; fifth reenlistment, \$5. But no increase of compensation shall be allowed to any enlisted man over his present rate of pay, save in cases of promotion, until the expiration of a first term of three 3 years' service, dating from the 1st day of July, 1895.

2. A person for reenlistment shall be entitled to a leave of absence for one month with the full pay of his rate or grade, at the expiration of each term of enlistment of three years, but each person shall sign the Shipping Articles before taking each leave, and then, if he shall present himself for duty at the expiration of said leave, his service shall be deemed "continuous service," but if he should fail to so present himself, he shall be deemed a deserter from the service of the United States.

3. A person deemed by the commanding officer as one not fit to be reenlisted shall be informed of the fact by his commanding or executive officer within ten days of the expiration of his term of service.

4. In the case of a vacancy existing in another vessel than the one in which an enlisted man may be serving at the date of the expiration of the term of his enlistment, he may, after his reenlistment, be transferred to said vessel: Provided, his own and the commanding officer of the other vessel shall approve, and submit the request to the Department for action, but in all such cases the applicant shall bear his own expenses from present vessel or station to the one joined.

5. "Continuous service" shall be reckoned from the date of first enlistment, irrespective of rate or grade, and the increase of monthly compensation provided in paragraph 1 (above) shall obtain through all ratings and promotions.

Discharges.

The following conditions will govern the discharge of enlisted men from the Revenge Cutter Service:

1. Expiration of term of enlistment.

2. Upon certificate of physical disability furnished by a medical officer of the Marine-Hospital Service, or by a reputable physician in the active practice of his profession, duly certified to be such by the commanding officer of the vessel to which the man may belong.

3. For incorrigible conduct, habitual drunkenness, or crimes of any kind.

4. No enlisted man shall be recommended to the Department for discharge by anyone save the commanding officer, and by him only after a careful investigation of the case by a board of officers of his command convened by him for the purpose. The proceedings and findings of such board shall be in writing, signed by the members, and approved by the commanding officer and submitted with his recommendation for the consideration of the Department.

5. In view of the term of enlistment having been extended from one year to three years, applications for discharge must be discouraged by all officers having charge of men.

6. No enlisted man shall be discharged without authority of the Department being first obtained, and no application for the discharge of an enlisted man shall be made except in strict accordance with these regulations.

7. The plea of "bettering one's condition," or "at his own request," or other, evincing a disposition to make a convenience of the Service, will not be accepted as a sufficient common for granting discharges to enlisted men or boys. Judicious government of crews, tempered with good care and kind treatment, will make men contented and willing to serve out the term of enlistment, and all commanding officers will govern their commands, and require officers to so conform, as to make it an object to the men to serve continuously.

ORDER NO. 2.

1. Whenever a commanding or other superior officer shall feel it incumbent upon him, in the discharge of his duty, to rebuke an officer, of inferior rank, he shall call the offender to the cabin, or out of hearing of all other persons, and administer the rebuke to an officer-like and gentlemanly manner. Any departure from this regulation will be met with the censure of the Department.

2. Nagging of juniors by seniors, by petty annoyances and fault-finding, while in the performance of duty, or at any time; the employment of uncouth language in giving or enforcing commands, and other such unofficer-like conduct, is hurtful and demoralizing to the morale and discipline of the Service, and strictly prohibited. In this connection, the attention of all officers is directed to the provisions of paragraphs 711, 712, 713, and 714, Regulations Revenue Cutter Service. In making an appeal to the Department for redress, all concerned are admonished that great care must be exercised, first, that the cause is just and clearly stated, and, second, that the appeal is supported by evidence of its truth.

3. Drunkenness on duty, or elsewhere, to the scandal of the Service, whether in the case of a commanding or subordinate officer, will not be tolerated, and proof of such offense will be deemed ample cause for the summary dismissal of the offender.

ORDER NO. 3.

Tale-bearing by subordinates, to commanding and other officers in authority, whether orally or in writing; detrimental criticism of commanding officers by subordinates, or of subordinates by commanding officers, are undignified and unofficer-like and strictly forbidden. Commanding and other officers in authority are admonished that it is their imperative duty to discourage and discountenance these practices whenever and wherever they are found to exist.

ORDER NO. 4.

Whenever it is found necessary to repair, overhaul, or adjust any part of the machinery, boiler, or dependencies of a vessel of the Revenue Cutter Service, the assistant engineers attached will perform such portion of the work involved as may be assigned to them by the Chief Engineer, or Engineer In Charge, and to this end the provisions of paragraph 431, Regulations Revenue Cutter Service, will be suspended until the necessary work is completed.

ORDER NO. 5.

Commanding officers of vessels of the Revenue Cutter Service of the first and second class are hereby authorized to enlist a competent bugler at a monthly compensation of \$25. The bugler shall be a musician, competent to sound all call and play by note. Bugles will be provided by the Department.

ORDER NO. 6.

Commanding officers of cruising vessels of the Revenue Cutter Service are hereby instructed that during stay in port the practice of mooring their vessels to wharves is forbidden, and in future they will not lie at wharves except for the purpose of taking on board fuel and other supplies, or for the purpose of overhauling or making repairs, or to touch at wharves by order. Should stress of weather or a disablement or emergency of any character require that a cruising vessel be moored to a wharf, the attendant circumstances will be fully entered upon the ship's journal and shown in the transcripts. Vessels employed upon harbor service and vessels on the Great Lake, in winter quarters are excepted from the provisions of this order.

ORDER NO. 7.

Officers of the Revenue Cutter Service visiting the District of Columbia, whether on leave of absence or otherwise are required, within twenty-four hours after arrival, to register at the Department (Division of Revenue Cutter Service), stating the object or purpose of visit.

ORDER NO. 8.

1. Hereafter the National Ensign will be displayed at the main peak or flagstaff aft, by all vessels of the Revenue Cutter Service. The revenue ensign prescribed by law will be worn at the foretruck as a distinguishing flag, under the provisions of section 2764, Revised Statutes.

2. Vessels on harbor duty will display the National Ensign from the flagstaff, and the revenue ensign from the pennant staff.

3. The revenue ensign to be worn as above described will be the No. 3 or No. 4, and all quarter boats, when boarding, will display the No. 4 revenue ensign.

CHARLES S. HAMLIN,

Assistant ,Secretary

