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SUBJ/MRS. SYBIL STOCKDALE OMBUDSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD//

REF/A/DOC/OPNAVINST 1750.1H/11DEC2023//

AMPN/REF A is OPNAVINST 1750.1H, (The Navy Family Ombudsman Program)//
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RMKS/1. This NAVADMIN announces the annual Mrs. Sybil Stockdale Ombudsman of the Year Award nomination/selection process and presentation requirements for Calendar Year 2026. Navy Ombudsmen who have served in good standing for at least one year culminating no later than 29 May 2026 are eligible to be nominated for the 2026 award.

2. This award was inspired by Mrs. Sybil Stockdale, who set an unflagging example for her support for families of other prisoners of war during the seven-year internment in Southeast Asia of her husband, Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale. The Ombudsman of the Year Award is presented to four ombudsmen who have served their command and Navy families with selfless dedication and commitment to family readiness in the following categories:

- a. Afloat Command (Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (COMUSFLTFORCOM)).
- b. Afloat Command (Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Command (COMPACFLT)).
- c. Reserve Command (Commander, Navy Reserve Force (COMNAVRESFOR)).
- d. Ashore Command. The following commands are authorized to submit one nomination to Commander, Navy Installations Command (per paragraph 6.a) to compete from their ashore commands.
 - (1) Each Echelon 2 Navy Shore Activity (direct report to OPNAV)
 - (2) COMUSFLTFORCOM
 - (3) COMPACFLT
 - (4) U.S. Naval Forces Europe/U.S. Naval Forces Africa

3. Criteria for Ombudsman of the Year:

- a. Must have demonstrated the ability to effectively communicate between the Navy family and the command.
- b. Must have maintained the highest standards of professionalism and confidentiality while providing a positive example for command members and families.
- c. Must have facilitated and promoted a healthy sense of community among command families by assisting and supporting Navy families to include emergencies, mobilization, or deployment.

d. Must have demonstrated consistent compliance with training, data collection, and required reports per reference (a).

4. Eligibility requirements for Ombudsman of the Year:

a. Award nominees must be registered in the Ombudsman Registry, <https://ombudsmanregistry.cnic.navy.mil/> , and have distinguished themselves in supporting Navy families.

b. Must have served as an Ombudsman in good standing for at least one year and embody the core values of the Ombudsman Program.

5. Submit nomination packages in the following format

a. Cover letter to category sponsors via the chain of command, with the following enclosures.

b. Enclosure (1) Summary of action, not to exceed two pages, addressing each of the criterion set forth in paragraph 3.

c. Enclosure (2) Short biography of the nominee.

d. Enclosure (3) Letter from the Fleet and Family Support Center Director or Navy Reserve Center (NRC) validating involvement in Ombudsman assemblies and advanced training.

e. Enclosure (4), as needed: Additional supporting information (e.g., a letter of support for nomination from former commanding officers, command point of contact, or command support team; letters of appreciation presented by commanding officers or family members).

6. Nomination and selection process.

a. Packages are due no later than 29 May 2026. Submit Afloat and Reserve Command nomination packages to the appropriate organizations in paragraphs 2a through c. Ombudsman of the Year representatives from Echelon 2 Navy Shore Activities (direct report to OPNAV), COMUSFLTFORCOM, COMPACFLT and CNE-CNA Ashore submit nomination packages to Commander, Navy Installations Command to FORCM Andre Brown at [andre.d.brown.mil\(AT\)us.navy.mil](mailto:andre.d.brown.mil(AT)us.navy.mil)

b. COMUSFLTFORCOM and COMPACFLT will select a shore finalist and provide nominees information to Commander, Navy Installations Command, to compete for Ombudsman of the Year (Ashore) no later than 19 June 2026.

c. COMUSFLTFORCOM, COMPACFLT and COMNAVRESFOR will select an awardee for their respective category and provide their information to Commander, Navy Installations Command no later than 26 June 2026 for inclusion in a NAVADMIN announcing all four winners.

7. TYCOMs or designated representative will present awards in September 2026, during an Ombudsman Appreciation event.

8. Additional information is located at <https://ffr.cnic.navy.mil/Family-Readiness/Fleet-And-Family-Support-Program/Work-and-Family-Life/Ombudsman-Program/Mrs-Sybil-Stockdale-Ombudsman-of-the-Year-Award/>.

9. Released by VADM Michael E. Boyle, Director, Navy Staff.//

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