



THE ROLE OF THE COAST GUARD CADRE SPOUSE

The Coast Guard cadre spouse's role varies from command to command. They are an invaluable resource for the ombudsman and together the cadre spouses, who may include the spouse's of the CO/OIC, XO/XPO, and CMC, create an additional system of support for command families. The Coast Guard family is often challenged with living not only in a small, remote, civilian community, but also in a very small Coast Guard community. The climate of support in these situations can create stronger Coast Guard families.

The leadership spouse team serves in their own way to mentor young or less military savvy spouses to navigate their way around the military system. By sharing their experiences and special knowledge they help to create resilient and prepared families.

Once you and your spouse have mutually determined what the cadre spouse role will be, it is important that all those involved sit down together and discuss each other's part in providing for the morale and welfare of the families and personnel in the command.

Cadre spouses do not fall within the official chain of command, however, their involvement and support of the Ombudsman Program can be a valuable asset.

There are many ways a cadre spouse can be involved. Some roles you may consider for cadre spouses include:

- Forming a spouses' club if one does not exist,
- Acting as an advisor to the ombudsman or spouses' club,
- Editing the ombudsman or spouses' club newsletter,
- Conducting or coordinating community service projects, updating relocation packages, providing community support in emergencies, and providing information and resources on unofficial matters,
- Mentoring ombudsmen and other spouses and provide guidance on military lifestyle. This can be in the form of a home gathering or by participation in Work-Life training or other resource-centered activities, or
- Supporting the command, members and families through positive actions, words, and deeds, and keeping rumors under control.