

COVID-19 Major Cutter Resiliency Absence FAQs

1) What is “resiliency absence” and who is it for?

- a. Due to the unique and arduous challenges the cutter community has faced through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, [ACN 025/21](#) authorized the temporary use of administrative absence for members currently assigned to major cutters to promote wellness and rejuvenation of the physical, mental, and spiritual health of members where there were significant restrictions on movement and impact to cutter port calls.

2) Which cutter types are considered “major cutters” authorized for Resiliency Absence?

- a. Level 4 and 5 cutters, as defined in the Career Sea Pay tables in Coast Guard Pay Manual, [COMDTINST M7220.29 \(series\)](#). Level 4 and 5 are shown below:

Level 4 Cutters: Coast Guard Barque Eagle, non-Alaskan medium endurance cutters (WMEC), non-Alaskan high endurance cutters (WHEC), non-Alaskan offshore patrol cutters (WMSM), PATFORSWA, deployed PATFORSWA cutter support teams and permanent duty aboard sea pay-eligible non-Coast Guard vessels.

Level 5 Cutters: Heavy icebreakers (WAGB), national security cutters (WMSL) and Alaska-based medium endurance cutters, high endurance cutters and offshore patrol cutters.

3) I’m executing a PCS transfer this year, can I use these days en route (on the way) to my new unit?

- a. No. Resiliency absence is not authorized for use in conjunction with a PCS transfer. It is not to be used as travel or proceed time and is not entered into Direct Access. Commanding Officers should not withhold normally authorized administrative absence in lieu of approving resiliency absence. For example, it should not be used to conduct house hunting and area familiarization.

4) I’m executing a PCS transfer from one major cutter to another major cutter. What happens to my unused days of Resiliency Absence?

- a. If you have unused days of Resiliency Absence, are immediately assigned to another major cutter, and the policy hasn’t expired, you remain eligible and you are encouraged to engage your new command on using the remainder of your days. You are also encouraged to have your chain of command verify your days via email to your new unit ahead of your departure.

5) Do all members on authorized cutters, receive the full 15 days of absence?

- a. Commanding Officers of eligible cutters are authorized to approve resiliency absence of up to 15 days for permanently assigned members, individually based on the member's particular situation. COs are encouraged to evaluate individual circumstances when assessing how many days to authorize. Consideration should include, but is not limited to, time onboard, restriction of movement periods, missed leave, and operational tempo. Consideration should not include, and is not limited to, rank, marital/dependency status, or performance.

6) Is resiliency absence entered into Direct Access or tracked above the unit level?

- a. No. Commanding Officers will need to ensure a local tracking system is utilized to manage the authorization and usage of resiliency absence for all permanently assigned crewmembers.

7) Do I need to take all the days at once?

- a. No. At the discretion of the Commanding Officer, resiliency absence may be used consecutively or non-consecutively and may be extended by combining with weekends, holidays, leave, liberty, or TDY. Members are encouraged to create a usage plan with their supervisor, based on unit operations and personal desires.

8) I've been authorized 15 days of Resiliency Absence. Do they expire at some point if unused?

- a. Yes. Any unused days expire one year after the release of [ACN 025/21](#) or upon permanent transfer off of the cutter, whichever occurs first.

9) Is resiliency absence going to be a permanent policy that will be included as a revision to Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8 (series)?

- a. No. Resiliency absence is a temporary policy to specifically address the unique and arduous challenges the cutter community has faced through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It will expire one year after the release of the message.

10) What if I was on recently PCS transferred off a major cutter? Am I eligible for resiliency absence?

- a. You must be currently assigned to a major cutter (Level 4 and 5 cutters, as defined in the Career Sea Pay tables in Coast Guard Pay Manual, [COMDTINST M7220.29 \(series\)](#). See question 2 above for a list of cutter types.

11) With the recent authorization of Special Leave Accrual, how does this effect the maximum leave balance carryover for FY20-FY23?

- a. [ALCOAST 187/20](#) announced updated Special Leave Accrual (SLA) policy for all active and qualified reserve military personnel in accordance with REFs (A), (B), and (C) due to Coast Guard response to the National Emergency resulting from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The following chart illustrates the maximum leave balance carryover for FY20–FY23:

End date of FY:	Total Carryover Limit
30SEP20	90 days
30SEP21	80 days
30SEP22	70 days
30SEP23	60 days

The usage of resiliency absence may provide additional challenges to spending down leave accounts for those with elevated balances due to SLA carryover. Members will need to make a concerted effort, working with their commands, to avoid loss of leave. There will not be extensions or waivers granted to carry over leave in excess of published carryover limits.

12) Is ACN 025/21 meant to apply to members permanently assigned to major cutters on the day the message came out or does it apply to those who report into the unit during the 2021 transfer season as well?

- a. [ACN 025/21](#) expires on 03 MAR 22. Any member that is currently or later becomes permanently assigned to a major cutter before that date may be granted resiliency absence. However, they would have to use any days granted them prior to the message expiring.