



**FLAG VOICE #540**  
**Ceremonial Advancements**

**03 March 2021**

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I am pleased to announce the institution of a Ceremonial Advancement policy to allow Coast Guard enlisted members the best opportunity to plan, prepare, and execute meaningful advancement ceremonies that properly recognize the career milestone of advancing to the next pay grade, while also considering unit operations and Service needs. Current policy and procedures only allow for a brief planning window for enlisted advancement ceremonies from the release of the monthly Enlisted Personnel Advancement Authorization (EPAA), on or around the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, and the actual advancement on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the following month. This short planning window is often insufficient to make the logistical arrangements for family members and friends to witness and participate in the advancement ceremony.

Commanding Officers and Officers in Charge will be authorized to conduct Ceremonial Advancements at any point during an active advancement eligibility list. In doing so, commands shall consider a member's relative placement on the list in order to approve a reasonable date that meets member desires and unit need.

Ceremonial Advancements are not the same as frocking and are not intended to change primary duties or privileges. COs/OICs should consider the full implications for the member and crew prior to conducting such advancement ceremonies. Members are authorized to assume the title and wear the insignia of the rate to which ceremoniously advanced, to include participating in CCTI for E7 selects. All other entitlements and protocols remain at the lower permanent rate/grade until the effective date of actual advancement, as listed in the CG PSC advancement announcement.

I greatly appreciate the work of the Chiefs' Mess for their efforts in championing this initiative!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joanna M. Nunan".

Joanna M. Nunan  
Rear Admiral, USCG  
Assistant Commandant for Human Resources