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Self Service Laundries

Purpose

To provide information regarding self-service laundries.

Background

COMNAVAIRLANT / COMNAVAIRPAC conducted a study to determine if self service laundries were desirable, feasible and could be installed on board air craft carriers. Initial results are positive and the location for the first self-service laundries have been determined and laundries installed on all active aircraft carriers. Additional space for additional laundries is being investigated. All locations require supporting systems be designed IAW Navy specification and approved by home planning yard drawings. Self-service laundries are being installed as a quality of life issue; they are not designed to replace the traditional ships laundry. They are provided so E-1 thru O-6 would have a facility to wash PT gear, civilian clothing (required for liberty overseas) and under garments. Outer uniform items, coveralls and organizational items are not to be laundered in self-service facilities.

COMNAVSURFLANT/ COMNAVSURFPAC have approved self-service laundry SHIPALTS for LHA / LHD Class ships. Installation has been completed and a large self-service laundry has been provided. SHIPALTS for DD /CG have been developed and in some cases installed as funds became available. Self service laundries have been designed for new construction DDG's commencing on the hull number DDG-93. Back fitting previous ships of the DDG class, as a class is not being considered to our knowledge.

It is the NEXCOM position that every ship in the Navy should have a self-service laundry installed. However, the self-service laundry must be designed properly and approved by a planning yard. These laundries have been expensive to install as a retrofit operation but very popular with the crew. .

Discussion

Due to security concerns overseas it is now normal procedure for a Sailor to go on liberty with civilian clothing at various seaports. The bulk laundries on the ships are industrial type equipment not designed to process the wash formula specified for various fabrics and finishes found neither on civilian clothing nor to tumble dry them as a home dryer would. The self-service laundry addresses this issue.

Q: How many machines does ship need? Approximately 1 set (washer / dryer) per 150 crewmembers. Initial designs for carriers had 14 washers and 21 dryers in a single location. With the JFK, the ship has authorized two locations with 20 washers and dryers each in each location.

Q: What type of machines should be used? Commercial grade washer extractor and tumbler dryers. NAVSESS provides models authorized for shipboard use. They are more expensive than home type washers but like in a laundry mat are more substantial and last longer.

Q: Can ships force install a self-service laundry to defer cost? Self help programs for self- service laundry installations are not recommended due to the complexity of the laundry system and sub-systems involved. If laundries are not designed by home planning yards and installed properly the opportunity for fire and safety hazards exist.

Q: What role does both bulk and self-service play on ships? Bulk laundries can process very efficiently the organizational clothing, work clothing, sheets, work uniforms and sanitation when required. Self Service provides individuals the opportunity, if they wish to take it, to wash personal clothing items not suitable to industrial washers and dryers. .

Q: Can sanitation be accommodated with self-service laundries? Sanitation for personal clothing can be accommodated with self-service equipment. They could not provide sanitation for health, bio or various other environmental elements