

The Risk Of "No Bid"



JIM
JAKSTAVICH

This article will assist officers in the art of selecting a watch for the 2025 calendar year. The selection process continues to be problematic for some members in understanding the "no bid" selection. There are indeed risks involved in placing a "no bid" on your selection form. **Please read the department notice titled, "Annual Watch, Furlough Selections, Vacation Schedules and 2025 Operational Calendar," prior to completing your watch selection form.**

Over the years, there have been a number of officers who decided to place a "no bid," hoping their commander would take care of them and assign them under the department's percentage to a desirable watch. In some cases, the old saying, "Promises are made to be broken," rang true. Looking forward to the 2025 selection process, all officers should be cautious in placing a "no bid" selection because they will be at the mercy of the department. In essence, you have opted out of the selection process and are telling the department they may place you wherever they choose. There are no guarantees to a "no bid" selection. There is a guarantee when your watch is selected by

seniority. For example, a less senior officer who may have wanted and had been promised 2nd watch thought he/she would be given the 2nd watch assignment if a "no bid" was selected ends up on midnights, but could have achieved a more desirable 3rd watch assignment by seniority if only his / her 2nd choice had not been a "no bid" selection, but rather, 3rd watch.

The department will soon release a list of how many positions will be filled by 80 percent seniority and how many positions will be filled by the 20 percent department's discretionary assignment. This will be posted for each watch. Looking at the number of positions and where you sit on the seniority roster can give you a good idea on what watches you can select by seniority. We caution you that if you place a "no bid" as your second choice, you should have received some prior assurance from the commander that he/she will use his/her 20 percent to place you. You should also understand the risk of the "no bid", and how it will affect you.

If you have any questions regarding the risk of "no bid", please check with your watch or unit representative. If further information is needed, please contact the Lodge at 312-733-7776.

Instruction For Filling Out A Watch Selection Form

On a watch selection form, you have four choices that can be made: 1st watch, 2nd watch, 3rd watch, and no bid. Although there are risks of placing a "no bid" choice, it remains a choice for you to make.

Officers should make their choices by prioritizing the watches, with the most desirable watch being designated as your first choice, followed by your next desirable selection, etc. Officers should complete all four choices but may not select the same watch for all four choices. Submitting a selection form in which all four choices indicate the 2nd watch is not only the wrong way to fill out the form, but if you don't have enough seniority to achieve a 2nd watch seniority assignment, you have just opted out of the selection process and will be placed on a watch designated by the department. Use each selection once and only once. For example: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and no bid.

Here are a few examples and scenarios which I hope will assist you in deciding how to use the "no bid" choice. The Lodge is recommending that you use the slots (which are effectively empty) after your "no bid" choice to indicate to your commander what your least preferred watch is.

EXAMPLE #1: I am an officer who, although I do not have enough seniority to get on the 2nd watch, am confident (really, really confident) that the commander will use the department's 20 percent to place me on the 2nd watch. I made out my form:

1st Choice: 2nd Watch

2nd Choice: No Bid
3rd Choice: 3rd Watch
4th Choice: 1st Watch

EXAMPLE #2: I am an officer who, although I do not have enough seniority to get on the 2nd or 3rd watch, am desperately trying to avoid the midnights and all I can do is hope and pray the commander may use his/her 20 percent on me, but I can at least indicate to him/her my preferences. I made out my form:

1st Choice: 2nd Watch
2nd Choice: 3rd Watch
3rd Choice: No Bid
4th Choice: 1st Watch

EXAMPLE #3: I am an officer who knows positively that the commander is not going to use his/her 20 percent on ME. I made out my form:

1st Choice: 2nd Watch
2nd Choice: 3rd Watch
3rd Choice: 1st Watch
4th Choice: No Bid

Officers, think wisely before submitting your watch selection form. Your decision may be with you for the full year. Also, use each choice selection (1st w, 2nd w, 3rd w, or no bid) only once. Using any of them twice will not get you that selection.