

MILPERSMAN 1212-040

ENGINEERING DUTY (ED) OPTION PROGRAM

Responsible Office	BUPERS-31	Phone:	DSN	882-3473
			COM	(901) 874-3473
			FAX	882-2063
MyNavy Career Center		Phone: Toll Free	1-833-330-MNCC (6622)	
		E-mail:	askmncc@navy.mil	
		MyNavy Portal:	https://my.navy.mil/	

Reference	(a) COMNAVSURFPAC/COMNAVSURFLANDINST 1412.1A
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1. **Policy.** The Engineering Duty (ED) Option Program provides a steady accession source of warfare qualified officers into the ED community. Highly qualified officers are designated as surface warfare or submarine officers upon commissioning and redesignated as ED officers upon completion of specified career milestones, without board action.

2. **Applicability.** This article is applicable to active and reserve officers who have been designated as ED option officers at the time of their commissioning via the:

- a. United States Naval Academy
- b. Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps
- c. Officer Candidate School
- d. Seaman-to-Admiral Program
- e. Merchant Marine Academies

3. **Surface ED Option**

a. At service selection, a limited number of officers who select surface warfare may apply for the ED Option Program. Annual quotas will be determined by Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Manpower, Personnel, Training, Education (DCNO N1). ED option officers are required to qualify as a surface warfare officer and be within 6 months of promotion to O-3 prior to redesignation and transfer. During their initial tour(s),

officers are required to perform the full range of duties and responsibilities as their traditional surface warfare peers. Redesignation to the ED community will occur automatically upon completion of the prerequisites listed in subparagraph 7a below.

b. Officers redesignated to 1460 (ED in training) can expect to be detailed to post-graduate school in one of the approved ED technical curricula listed in exhibit 1, followed by assignment to an ED qualification tour.

c. Midshipmen and officer candidates applying for the Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer (SWO(N)) Program are not eligible for the SWO ED Option Program. SWO(N)s who wish to become ED officers must apply for lateral transfer to ED through the traditional lateral transfer board process.

4. Submarine ED Option

a. At service selection, a limited number of officers who select submarine warfare may apply for the ED Option Program. Annual quotas will be determined by DCNO N1. Submarine ED option officers will complete the same training track as regular submarine officers and will be assigned duties identical to those of regular submarine officers. Redesignation to ED will occur upon completion of the prerequisites listed in paragraph 8 below.

b. Between their division officer and department head tours, submarine ED option officers are required to complete a master's degree in one of the technical majors listed in exhibit 1. Normally, this master's degree will be attained by attending the Naval Postgraduate School, using a submarine officer community quota. If a submarine ED option officer has requested and been approved to attend the Naval Construction/Engineering Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an ED community quota will be used.

c. After redesignation to 146X, submarine ED option officers can expect to be detailed to an ED qualification tour.

5. Qualifications. Eligibility criteria and waiver authority may be found in [Program Authorization \(PA\) 101A](#) and [PA 101F](#).

6. Appointment. Officers are appointed as an ensign with designator 1160 or 1170. Surface and submarine ED options are assigned an additional qualification designator of "LOA."

7. **Surface ED Option Execution**

a. Surface ED option officers will **automatically** be redesignated in the restricted line and designated 1460 upon completion of the following prerequisites:

- (1) Surface warfare qualification, per reference (a),
- (2) Be within at least 6 months of promotion to lieutenant, and
- (3) Have a favorable record review conducted by an administrative screening panel convened by ED community management.

b. Surface ED option officers will not be redesignated if they have submitted their resignations to Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM) Distribution Management and Procedures Branch (PERS-451). Redesignation will occur if they subsequently withdraw their resignation.

c. Surface ED option officers who have an approved resignation may request to be redesignated to 1465 upon resignation to facilitate reserve affiliation. Officers wishing to serve in the Reserve Component as an ED officer should submit a letter to the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) Military Community Management Department (BUPERS-3), requesting redesignation to 1465 upon resignation and include a copy of their approved resignation request. These requests will be reviewed by the BUPERS ED Officer Community Manager (OCM) (BUPERS-314C) and submitted to the Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel (BUPERS-00B) for approval.

d. Officers who desire to terminate their ED option and remain in the surface warfare community must submit a request to the BUPERS Surface/Special Warfare OCM (BUPERS-311) via BUPERS-314C. Both community managers must agree with the request. If the request is approved, officers may remain in the unrestricted line for the remainder of their careers at no penalty.

8. **Submarine ED Option Execution**

a. Submarine ED option officers may execute their option upon completion of the following prerequisites:

(1) Submarine warfare qualification (dolphins) per [MILPERSMAN 1210-100](#)

(2) Completion of a department head tour on a submarine, or when released by OPNAV Nuclear Propulsion Program Management Branch (OPNAV N133) (submarine OCM)

(3) Favorable record review conducted by an administrative screening panel convened by BUPERS-314C.

b. Submarine ED option officers should submit a letter requesting redesignation to BUPERS-314C, via their commanding officer, with a copy to NAVPERSCOM Nuclear Submarine Officer Distribution Division (PERS-42). Letters may be submitted up to 9 months prior to their projected rotation date while serving on their department head tour.

c. Failure to complete an ED graduate education program leading to an approved subspecialty code between division officer and department head tours terminates the submarine ED option.

9. **Active Duty Obligation**. Upon redesignation to 1460, officers incur a minimum service obligation of 2 years from date of designator change, to be served concurrently with any other obligations. Officers who terminate their ED option must still satisfy their initial active duty obligation corresponding to their commissioning source.

Exhibit 1
GRADUATE EDUCATION CURRICULA APPROVED FOR
ENGINEERING DUTY (ED) OFFICERS

MAJOR	SUBSPECIALTY CODE
Naval Construction/Engineering	51XX
Nuclear Engineering (except 5203)	52XX
Electronic Systems Engineering	53XX
Electrical Engineering	53XX
Space Systems Engineering	55XX
Naval/Mechanical Engineering	56XX
Combat Systems Sciences and Technology	57XX
Systems Engineering	58XX
Computer Science	6203