



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

JUN 05 2025

From: Secretary of the Navy
To: President, FY-26 Navy Reserve Chief Warrant Officer
Promotion Selection Boards

Subj: ORDER CONVENING THE FY-26 PROMOTION SELECTION BOARDS TO
CONSIDER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS ON THE RESERVE ACTIVE-
STATUS LIST OF THE NAVY FOR PERMANENT PROMOTION TO THE
GRADES OF W-3, W-4, and W-5

Ref: (a) FY-26 Active-Duty Navy and Reserve Officer and Chief
Warrant Officer Promotion Selection Board Precept

Encl: (1) Board Membership
(2) Recorder and Assistant Recorder
(3) Administrative Support Staff

1. Date and Location

a. The promotion selection boards, consisting of you as president, the officers listed in enclosure (1) as members, the officers listed in enclosure (2) as recorder and assistant recorder, and the personnel listed in enclosure (3) as administrative support staff, are ordered to convene at the Navy Personnel Command, Millington, TN, at 0800, June 5, 2025, or as soon as practicable thereafter.

b. The boards shall proceed in accordance with all guidance in this letter, and the FY-26 Active-Duty Navy and Reserve Officer and Chief Warrant Officer Promotion Selection Board Precept, reference (a).

2. Promotion Board Authorized Selections

a. The total number of officers who may be recommended in each competitive category shall be the number that most closely approximates the percentage set forth below of in-zone eligible officers determined as of the date the boards convene. The Chief of Naval Personnel shall determine the number of in-zone and "above-zone, not previously considered" eligible officers on the convening date, calculate the number that may be recommended for promotion under the percentages set forth in the FY-26 Navy Reserve Officer Promotion Plan, and furnish the number to the boards.

Subj: ORDER CONVENING THE FY-26 PROMOTION SELECTION BOARDS TO
CONSIDER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS ON THE RESERVE ACTIVE-
STATUS LIST OF THE NAVY FOR PERMANENT PROMOTION TO THE
GRADE OF W-3, W-4, AND W-5

b. If the computation results in a fraction of a number of 0.5 or greater, the fraction is rounded up to the nearest whole number. If the computation results in a fraction of a number less than 0.5, that fraction is rounded down to the nearest whole number. The boards may recommend up to the number provided by the Chief of Naval Personnel.

<u>COMPETITIVE</u> <u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>PERCENT</u> <u>TO SELECT</u>
Chief Warrant Officer, W-3	AFQ *
Chief Warrant Officer, W-4	80
Chief Warrant Officer, W-5	25

* All Fully Qualified

3. Equal Consideration of Officers "In-Zone" and "Above-Zone"

As detailed above, the number of in-zone and "above-zone, not previously considered" eligible officers is used only to calculate the total number of selects authorized. There are no individual zone selection limitations or expectations. Accordingly, in determining which officers are best and fully qualified for promotion, you are required to equally consider both above-zone and in-zone officers.

4. Consideration of Chief Warrant Officers "Below-Zone"

Below-zone selections are not authorized for promotion to the grade of chief warrant officer three (CWO3). However, below-zone selections are authorized for promotion to the grades of chief warrant officer four (CWO4) and chief warrant officer five (CWO5). Identifying exceptional officers from below-zone and selecting them for promotion to CWO4 or CWO5 is authorized. A number not to exceed 10 percent of the total selections authorized for each grade and competitive category may be selected from below-zone unless the number calculated is less than 1, in which case the number that may be selected from below-zone is 1. The boards must ensure that below-zone candidates are individually evaluated as a source of best and fully qualified officers. Below-zone selects shall be based on sustained measures of success in their community specialties. Below-zone selections are encouraged to ensure the Navy is best served in filling critical competency requirements.

Subj: ORDER CONVENING THE FY-26 PROMOTION SELECTION BOARDS TO
CONSIDER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS ON THE RESERVE ACTIVE-
STATUS LIST OF THE NAVY FOR PERMANENT PROMOTION TO THE
GRADE OF W-3, W-4, AND W-5

5. Best and Fully Qualified Selection Standard

a. Fully Qualified. All officers recommended for promotion must be fully qualified; that is, each officer recommended must be capable of performing the duties of the next higher pay grade. Officers who do not meet that standard shall not be recommended for promotion. In this era of strategic competition, the Navy needs officers and leaders who are both skilled operators and skilled thinkers who have been exposed to an increasingly complex web of networks, people, and concepts. Our leaders must be evaluated for development of increasing talents in operational employment of naval capabilities, understanding of strategic competition, and exposure to the people, concepts, and educational experiences (including technology) to become transformational in the organization.

(1) Officers fully qualified for promotion demonstrate an appropriate level of both **competence**, as evidenced by a commitment to operational excellence and continual performance improvement, and **character**, as evidenced by the presence of the four core attributes of integrity, accountability, initiative, and toughness. Additionally, officers fully qualified for promotion adhere to Navy and Department of Defense (DOD) ethical standards, are physically fit, and demonstrate loyalty to the Navy Core Values.

(2) Officers fully qualified for promotion should show a readiness for leading and solving problems at larger and larger scales.

(a) Their performance must reflect Navy Core Values: Honor, accountability for behavior, mindful of the privilege to serve our fellow Americans; Courage, the moral and mental strength to do what is right, with confidence and resolution even in the face of temptation or adversity; and Commitment, joining together as a team to improve the quality of our work, our people, and ourselves.

(b) Upon this foundation of Navy Core Values, they must show a mindset of continuous self-improvement, a desire to "Get Real, Get Better" every day. This includes the ability to: self-assess, to be absolutely honest, humble, and transparent in determining the actual performance of themselves and their teams; self-correct, to apply problem solving frameworks to pursue root cause and solve the Navy's hardest problems in a

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CONSIDER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS ON THE RESERVE ACTIVE-
STATUS LIST OF THE NAVY FOR PERMANENT PROMOTION TO THE
GRADE OF W-3, W-4, AND W-5

lasting way; and always learn, to pursue knowledge and apply learning from varied sources in order to make themselves and their teams better.

(c) In modeling this behavior, they must demonstrate an ability to build teams and rapidly collaborate across organizations to solve problems and achieve lasting outcomes. In doing so, they will model the belief that our people and culture are the Navy's asymmetric advantage, showing dignity and respect for everyone, regardless of background or rank. In addition, they will measure themselves by creating opportunities to remove barriers to individual, team, and Navy warfighting excellence.

b. **Best Qualified.** Among the fully qualified officers eligible for promotion to CWO4 and CWO5, you must recommend for promotion the best qualified officers within their respective competitive category. Proven and sustained superior performance in command or other leadership positions in difficult and challenging assignments is a definitive measure of fitness for promotion. Furthermore, contributions to warfighters and warfighting through successful performance and leadership in combat conditions demonstrate exceptional promotion potential and should be given special consideration. Each board member shall apply this guidance when deliberating and voting. Additionally, members will use the considerations below to guide their determination of the best qualified officers.

(1) Command, whether at sea or ashore, is fundamentally about preparing for and leading in combat. You should select those officers who seize absolute ownership of their assigned mission and all that goes into its accomplishment. A command's mission is absolutely essential to the Navy's ability to fight and win. Look for those officers that imbue this belief in their team. Look for those that take fierce pride in this obligation. Select the officers that are the example their team reflects and those that embody humility, selflessness, and complete transparency.

(2) You must seek those officers that have been relentless in building a culture of the highest character and a tough, resilient team that wins. Our nation needs and expects their Navy to remain above reproach, as a force they admire and rely upon.

Subj: ORDER CONVENING THE FY-26 PROMOTION SELECTION BOARDS TO CONSIDER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS ON THE RESERVE ACTIVE-STATUS LIST OF THE NAVY FOR PERMANENT PROMOTION TO THE GRADE OF W-3, W-4, AND W-5

(3) Seek those officers that acknowledge the value of every Sailor and civilian. Consider those that take care of themselves and their teammates. Seek those that always do the right thing, especially when it is hard. Consider those that keep close watch on their own mental, physical, and emotional health, and the health of those they lead.

c. **Skill Requirements.** Give due consideration to demonstrated performance and expertise in the competency/skill listed in order of significance below. For amplifying information, refer to the competency/skill information, reference (b) to reference (a).

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO3) (7XX8):

1. N/A

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO4) (7XX8):

1. N/A

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO5) (7XX8):

1. N/A

d. **Additional Considerations.** The following are additional considerations in determining the best qualified officers:

(1) **Competence.** In addition to proven and sustained superior performance in command or other leadership positions, competence also includes the following attributes:

(a) **Commitment to Operational Excellence.** Because Mission One for every officer is the operational readiness of our Navy, the best qualified officers will demonstrate an unrelenting commitment to operational excellence. This commitment will be evidenced by mastery of the skills critical to naval warfare. The Navy values service and superior performance on operational fleet and subordinate command staffs.

(b) **Continual Performance Improvement.** This attribute includes the ability to self-assess and self-correct, using a "Get Real, Get Better" mindset every day. It also includes the ability to develop a culture of learning in the teams they are called to lead, embracing meaningful feedback as an opportunity to get better.

Subj: ORDER CONVENING THE FY-26 PROMOTION SELECTION BOARDS TO CONSIDER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS ON THE RESERVE ACTIVE-STATUS LIST OF THE NAVY FOR PERMANENT PROMOTION TO THE GRADE OF W-3, W-4, AND W-5

(c) Education and Professional Development

1. In accordance with the Naval Education Strategy 2023 and Secretary of the Navy Memorandum "Continuous Learning for Naval Officers" dated August 26, 2021, the boards shall give favorable consideration to those officers with graduate education relevant to naval warfighting, experience in specialized areas, Navy PME and Joint PME (JPME). In May 2018, the Unrestricted Line (URL) instituted a board selection process for in-residence graduate education programs. That board selection process ensures that URL officers with superior performance records are afforded the opportunity for graduate education. Cultivation of our best and brightest officers through high quality in-residence, low-residence, and hybrid learning enhances critical thinking skills and warfighting expertise. Beginning with officers in year group 2015, graduate education will be required prior to assuming major command. In determining officers who are best and fully qualified for promotion, the board should give favorable consideration to officers who have obtained naval warfighting-relevant graduate education. Degrees earned through Department of the Navy funded Low-residency Graduate Education Program fulfill the graduate education requirement.

2. The Navy values graduate education and development of a subspecialty. Degrees and certificates from the Naval Postgraduate School, the Naval War College or equivalent Service institutions, and civilian education programs that result in assignment of a subspecialty code or award of Additional Qualification Designation (AQD) codes are desirable. Proven expertise from an experience tour utilizing that subspecialty is both valued and fundamental to development of Navy leaders.

3. The Navy values competitive scholarships and fellowships, examples of which include: Olmsted Scholar, Marshall Scholar, Rhodes Scholar, White House Fellowship, Secretary of Defense (SecDef) Corporate Fellowship, Tours with Industry, Legislative Fellowships, and Federal Executive Fellowships (e.g., politico-military and cyber).

4. Best qualified officers seek opportunities to broaden their cultural awareness through experiences and education to enable better communication in a global operating environment.

Subj: ORDER CONVENING THE FY-26 PROMOTION SELECTION BOARDS TO CONSIDER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS ON THE RESERVE ACTIVE-STATUS LIST OF THE NAVY FOR PERMANENT PROMOTION TO THE GRADE OF W-3, W-4, AND W-5

5. The Navy values the importance of Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC), Officer Training Command (OTC), Recruit Training Command (RTC), and U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) duties in building and developing future Navy leaders. When reviewing an officer's qualifications for the next higher grade, you should give favorable consideration to NROTC/OTC/RTC/USNA assignments.

(d) Individual Augmentee (IA)/Global Support Assignment (GSA)/Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)/Irregular Warfare/Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands (APH) Program Assignment

1. The boards may give favorable consideration to those officers who have displayed superior performance while serving in IA/GSA/OCO/APH assignments in direct support of OCO, Irregular Warfare, and the National Defense Strategy and, in particular, those IA/GSA/OCO/APH assignments that are extraordinarily arduous and/or involve significantly heightened personal risk. These individuals are developing valuable combat and nation-building skills under stressful conditions. Such assignments may not be typical of the officer's traditional community career path, and the officer may be rated by a reporting senior unfamiliar with the officer's specialty and the Navy fitness report system.

2. IA/GSA/OCO assignments may take an officer out of the normal community career path for periods up to one and a half years. APH assignments consist of extensive specialized training and multiple, non-standard deployments that may take an officer out of the normal community career path for periods of up to three and a half years.

(e) Ensures adherence to standards while fostering innovation. Every officer must build on an understanding of standards to think creatively, develop new ideas, take prudent risks, and deliver superior outcomes. Innovative officers, who can build great teams that innovate as they manage risk and ensure standards, may come from a variety of backgrounds.

(2) **Character.** In addition to competence, the best qualified officers will demonstrate the following attributes:

(a) Possesses and openly demonstrates the four core attributes. The challenges facing our Navy are growing in

Subj: ORDER CONVENING THE FY-26 PROMOTION SELECTION BOARDS TO
CONSIDER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS ON THE RESERVE ACTIVE-
STATUS LIST OF THE NAVY FOR PERMANENT PROMOTION TO THE
GRADE OF W-3, W-4, AND W-5

scope, scale, and pace. To meet these challenges, the Navy needs leaders who have demonstrated estimable character and are prepared for decentralized operations. You should give careful consideration to officers who demonstrate the four core attributes that guide our decisions and actions: integrity, accountability, initiative, and toughness. Integrity may be demonstrated as an individual or as a team member by displaying conduct that is upright, honorable, and by working to strengthen the resolve of their peers, superiors, and subordinates. Accountability may be demonstrated by achieving and maintaining high standards, honestly assessing progress, and adjusting as required. Officers demonstrate initiative by taking ownership, acting to the limit of their authorities, and looking at new ideas with an open mind. Toughness can mean marshalling all sources of strength and resilience, including rigorous training; encouraging the fighting spirit of our people; and providing steadfast support to our families. Officers who demonstrate these core attributes ensure the Navy remains the world's finest navy and deserve your careful consideration when selecting officers who are best and fully qualified.

(b) Builds strong culture and teams while achieving measurable outcomes. You should give careful consideration to officers who demonstrate the following behaviors:

1. Relentlessly builds a culture of the highest character - a tough, resilient team that wins.

2. Acknowledges and honors the value of every Sailor and civilian.

3. Takes care of themselves and their teammates.

4. Leads with humility, with the ability to self-assess.

5. Always does the right thing, especially when it is hard.

6. Keeps close watch on their own mental, physical, and emotional health, and the health of those they lead.

(c) Demonstrates a commitment to personal and professional growth. You should give careful consideration to

Subj: ORDER CONVENING THE FY-26 PROMOTION SELECTION BOARDS TO
CONSIDER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS ON THE RESERVE ACTIVE-
STATUS LIST OF THE NAVY FOR PERMANENT PROMOTION TO THE
GRADE OF W-3, W-4, AND W-5

officers who build on our Core Values of commitment in how they demonstrate a "Get Real, Get Better" mindset; use data-driven insights; master the skills critical to naval warfare; and act transparently in how they receive feedback from seniors, peers, and subordinates alike.

(d) Is loyal to and behaves consistently with the Navy's Core Values. You should give careful consideration to officers who actively pursue what is right and behave consistently with the Navy's Core Values. While we do not embrace a zero-defect officer corps, the best qualified officers will demonstrate consistency between the Navy's Core Values and their on- and off-duty behavior.

(3) Championing a Culture of Excellence. The boards should give favorable consideration to those officers who are deliberate in how they build great people, leaders, and teams. This is demonstrated through emotional intelligence, self-awareness, and investing in their people's needs.

(4) COVID-19 Vaccine Refusal Adverse Information. Promotion selection boards will not consider any adverse information related solely to COVID-19 vaccine refusal in cases in which an accommodation was requested. Additionally, you shall not consider any other adverse information related solely to COVID-19 vaccine refusal. If adverse information related solely to COVID-19 vaccine refusal is identified in eligible officer's record, you will notify the board administrative support staff.

(5) Indo-Pacific Area Expertise Considerations.

(a) As indicated in the National Defense Strategy, China is leveraging military modernization and predatory economics to coerce neighboring countries to reorder the Indo-Pacific region to their advantage. As the People's Republic of China continues to seek economic and military dominance, it will continue to pursue a military modernization program that tries to displace the United States to achieve global preeminence in the future.

(b) Recognizing this challenge to U.S. national security interests, special consideration shall be given to officers who have excelled in their knowledge of the political-

Subj: ORDER CONVENING THE FY-26 PROMOTION SELECTION BOARDS TO
CONSIDER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS ON THE RESERVE ACTIVE-
STATUS LIST OF THE NAVY FOR PERMANENT PROMOTION TO THE
GRADE OF W-3, W-4, AND W-5

military affairs and U.S. strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region, and operational contingency planning for Indo-Pacific war plans.

e. **Consideration of Reserve Officers.** Within the Reserve Component (RC), a variety of mission integration options are available to support the Navy with flexibility, speed, and agility. In addition to drill periods, operational requirements are met by periods of active duty including mobilization, active-duty for operational support, and active-duty for training. Selected Reserve (SELRES) records may reflect a variation in duration of reporting periods as members execute a variety of orders - this should not be viewed negatively. In determining best and fully qualified, these time periods should be viewed in the context of a continuum of service, integral to delivering strategic depth.

6. **Equal Opportunity**

a. The Department of the Navy is dedicated to equality of treatment and opportunity for all personnel without regard to race, religion, color, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, or national origin. The Navy demands a professional working environment in which any of these bases will not limit a Sailor's professional opportunities. Discrimination on any of these bases is contrary to the Department's Core Values of honor, courage, and commitment. Accordingly, within this board's charter to determine the officers who are "best and fully qualified," or "fully qualified," as applicable, you must ensure that officers of every race, religion, color, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, and national origin are given fair and equitable consideration.

b. Your evaluation of all officers must be fair and equitable. You should evaluate each officer's potential to assume the responsibilities of the next higher grade, with the overriding factor being performance of assigned duties.

c. **Impermissible Considerations.** Promotion boards are prohibited from considering the following:

(1) The marital status, civilian employment, religion, or volunteer service of an officer;

Subj: ORDER CONVENING THE FY-26 PROMOTION SELECTION BOARDS TO
CONSIDER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS ON THE RESERVE ACTIVE-
STATUS LIST OF THE NAVY FOR PERMANENT PROMOTION TO THE
GRADE OF W-3, W-4, AND W-5

(2) Any information regarding an officer's spouse,
including, but not limited to, civilian or military employment,
education, race, religion, color, sex (including pregnancy),
sexual orientation, national origin, and volunteer service;

(3) An officer's previous decision to opt out of a
promotion selection board; and

(4) An officer's previous participation in the Career
Intermission Program.

d. The Navy has assigned some officers outside of
traditional career development patterns (including but not
limited to the following types of assignments: institutional
instructors, recruiting, and equal opportunity billets). These
assignments, though greatly beneficial to the Navy, may have
foreclosed to the officers so assigned opportunities available
to other officers. In addition, other utilization policies or
practices, such as those based on statutory restrictions on the
assignment of women, may have had an effect on career
opportunities previously. Such assignment practices should not
prejudice the selection of these men and women for promotion.
Successful performance of duties assigned is the key in
measuring an officer's potential for promotion; duty performed
well by men and women affected by such utilization policies or
practices should be given weight equal to duty performed well by
an officer not affected by such policies or practices.

e. This guidance shall not be interpreted as requiring or
permitting preferential treatment of any officer or group of
officers on the grounds of race, religion, color, sex (including
pregnancy), sexual orientation, or national origin.

7. **Reserve Component Chief Warrant Officer Considerations**

a. Selection within the aggregate continues for the reserve
component. Consideration for promotion remains fully qualified
officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and
professional acumen commensurate with the opportunities provided
in their designator career path. Best qualified officers will
be top performers who have consistently excelled at leading in
operationally challenging environments and staff assignments
throughout their career. Repeated tours in challenging,
technical jobs are in-line with Navy expectations for CWO and
should be looked at favorably.

Subj: ORDER CONVENING THE FY-26 PROMOTION SELECTION BOARDS TO
CONSIDER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS ON THE RESERVE ACTIVE-
STATUS LIST OF THE NAVY FOR PERMANENT PROMOTION TO THE
GRADE OF W-3, W-4, AND W-5

b. The active component and reserve CW02/CW03 promotion selection boards will apply an all-fully-qualified standard. Accordingly, the CW02/CW03 boards' report shall replace the certification required by reference (a), Appendix B, paragraph 1.c.(6) with the following: The officers recommended for promotion are, in the opinion of the majority of the members of the board, fully qualified to meet the needs of the Navy among those officers whose names were provided to the boards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Phelan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent. The ink is dark and the background is white.

John C. Phelan