**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**1. What Attaché assignments are available to me?**

The Tour Forecast spreadsheet posted to the attaché assignments page contains the application season dates, training start dates, and on station dates for individual assignments. Look for assignments whose “TRAINING START” dates roughly line up with your PRD. If you have found a billet that interests you, next look at the application season dates. This is the window in which we will be accepting applications (not earlier). The OPEN/CLOSED notation in the right column reflects whether we are still accepting applications. Sometimes seasons are extended and in this case the “OPEN” notation may be still there, even though the season dates have past.

**2. Who do I contact about attaché assignments?**

PERS-474B is Navy Attaché Placement. As Placement Officer, PERS-474B recruits candidates for the Navy’s attaché billets and assists applicants with the application process.

**3. What is my Detailer's role in the attaché assignment process?**

Your Detailer is the best person to advise you on solid, career enhancing assignment selection, and is the best person to discuss options and desires with. ***PERS-474B must have the concurrence of your Detailer that you will be available for consideration for an attaché assignment. You must obtain “tour release” from your Detailer prior to beginning the application process***. It is a good idea to talk to your Detailer at about the same time you are talking to Attaché Placement. PERS-474B will be talking with your Detailer about your attaché nomination before sending an application; so don't let your Detailer get surprised.

**4. When should I be talking to the Attaché Placement Officer about opportunities for an attaché assignment?**

Due to the lengthy application and review process, it is normally a good idea to be talking to your Detailer and Attaché Placement not less than 15-18 months prior to your PRD. Unlike other duty assignments, it is possible to project future attaché assignments 2-3 years in advance, so a preliminary call to the Attaché Placement Officer can be made almost any time. Remember that with attaché assignments, ***you must be looking at the training start date for the assignment*** - not the PRD of the current Attaché.

**5. What is an Attaché Candidate?**

An Attaché Candidate is any officer who has begun the application process for an Attaché assignment. The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) can use this designation to identify an officer anywhere in the application and review process prior to final approval as an Attaché Designate.

**6. What is an Attaché Designate?**

An Attaché Designate is any officer that has received final approval from DIA to begin training for an attaché assignment, but has not yet reported for duty at the Embassy. This designation can be used to identify an officer anywhere in the training process, from having received final approval from DIA for attaché assignment up to the point of reporting for attaché duty. There are real world political reasons behind adhering to this designation until the appropriate time after reporting for attaché duty.

**7. How long is the training requirement for an attaché assignment?**

The training track normally varies from between 6 months to 2+ years, prior to the scheduled arrival on-station at the respective Embassy. Each Attaché Training Track is developed by DIA, and is customized for each Attaché Designate. The track is dependent upon the language requirement, regional political situations, needs of the individual attaché designate, USDAO requirements, etc.

**8. Where is attaché training conducted?**

Virtually all attaché training is conducted in the Washington, DC area. Attaché Designates are normally ordered to DIA on PCS orders for Duty Under Instruction (DUINS). Any training that is required outside of the Washington DC area is treated as any other TAD from a normal duty station is treated, to include C-12 training for flying billets. At the completion of all required training, a second set of PCS orders is issued for the Attaché Designate to report to station at the Embassy.

**9. What is a Training Start Date?**

The Training Start Date is exactly what it sounds like – the date the Attaché training track will start at DIA. Ideally, your PRD should be as close as possible to the training start date.

**10. Is my spouse required to attend attaché training? Is there language training provided for an attaché’s spouse?**

While the Navy cannot order a spouse to attend attaché training, the involvement of an attaché spouse in the assignment once on station makes participation of the spouse in attaché training extremely important. Language training for an attaché spouse is normally available on request from the appropriate DIA Reports Officer. DIA coordinates all aspects of an attaché's training track, including any and all training available to an attaché spouse.

**11. My spouse was not born in the United States. Does this disqualify me from consideration for an Attaché assignment?**

The fact that a spouse was not born in the United States is not, in and of itself, a disqualifying factor. ***A foreign born spouse must be a naturalized US citizen*** prior to beginning attaché training and due to the potential for complications, it is preferred that a spouse be a US citizen prior to beginning the approval process. If you or your spouse has ongoing issues with immigrations it will delay, if not stop altogether, your review and approval process for attaché duty. For security and protection reasons, you will not be considered for an attaché assignment in your spouse's native country, nor in any country where you or your spouse have close relatives. Should an attaché applicant have close relatives in the country they are applying to, DIA Special Security Office will make the final determination on this matter.

**12. I have relatives that are citizens of a foreign country. Will this cause me any problems in applying for an attaché assignment?**

This is only a problem if your relatives reside in the country to which you are seeking an attaché assignment. For security and protection reasons, you will not be considered for an attaché assignment in your spouse's native country, nor in any country where you or your spouse have close relatives.

**13. Do I have to be a Foreign Affairs Officer (FAO) before I will be considered for an Attaché assignment?**

No. While it is always a plus to have experience in the area of the world in which you want to be an attaché, currently neither previous experience nor designation as a FAO is required in most cases.

**14. If I am a FAO, will that limit me to consideration for attaché assignments only in the area of the world for which I was selected as a FAO?**

No. While FAO designation can be a plus, there is neither a requirement nor any limitation between FAO designation and attaché assignments. However, as a FAO do not expect to be tour-released for a non-1710 coded attaché assignment.

**15. Do I have to be an Intelligence Officer, have an intelligence subspecialty, or at least have significant experience in intelligence duty to be considered for an Attaché assignment?**

No. There are many opportunities for the URL designators (1000/1050 coded billets). Experience in intelligence can be a plus in the selection process, but is not a requirement.

**16. I am a Staff Corps officer. Can I be considered for an attaché assignment?**

Generally, no. Normally, due to the specialized nature of a Staff Corps officer's duty assignments, there is often not a sufficient operational or operational support background to be a successful Attaché Candidate. However, each officer can be given a review by PERS-474B on a case-by-case basis and if the Staff Corps Detailer will support an attaché assignment.

**17. Do you receive joint duty credit for attaché duty?**

Some attaché billets are JD1 coded, and you will receive joint duty credit for these assignments.

**18. Do I have to speak a foreign language before applying for an Attaché assignment?**

No. In fact some Attaché assignments do not have a language training requirement. If language is required, your aptitude is tested by the Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB), and this test should be ordered from the ESO at your supporting PSD. It may take several weeks to get the DLAB, take it, and get the scores back; taking it before you apply for attaché duty is a good way to expedite the process.

**19. What is the DLAB?**

DLAB is the acronym for Defense Language Aptitude Battery. This test is designed to test your aptitude for learning languages, not your ability in any specific language. Each attaché assignment requisition requiring a language has a minimum DLAB score that must be attained prior to applying for consideration for attaché duty. If you already possess skills in the required language for the assignment, you may take the DLPT instead. Both tests can be order through the ESO at your supporting PSD.

**20. What is the DLPT?**

DLPT is the acronym for Defense Language Proficiency Test. This test is designed to test your capabilities in a specific language. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills are all evaluated as part of the test. Each attaché assignment requisition requiring a language has a minimum DLPT score that must be attained prior to consideration for attaché duty. If you do not have skills in the required language for the assignment, you must take the DLAB instead. Both tests can be order through the ESO at your supporting PSD.

**21. What paperwork is associated with the application process?**

All candidates will receive an attaché application package via e-mail. Please adhere to all noted deadlines. The attaché nomination package is time-consuming and will be difficult to complete from remote areas. Keep in the mind the applicant can contact the Attaché Placement Officer any time during the application process.

**22. What is the application timeline?**

OPNAV N2/N6 Attaché Affairs endeavors to interview all attaché applicants one year prior to the start of training for each specific billet. PERS PERS-474B will send attaché application packages to all qualified applicants once the application season opens as denoted on the tour forecast spreadsheet. Attaché Affairs will notify applicants of their selection immediately at the completion of the interviews of all the applicants.

**23. What happens after selection by Attaché Affairs?**

Attaché Affairs’ selectee is forwarded to the DCNO (N2/N6) and SECNAV for approval. Afterwards, the applicant’s package is forwarded to DIA as the Navy’s nominee.

**24. Tell me more about this interview?**

If married, the attaché applicant and his/her spouse are required to attend the interview at ONI in Washington, DC. Attaché Affairs will schedule the interview and fund the travel. Interview dates and travel arrangements will be coordinated by Attaché Affairs after they receive the attaché application package from PERS-474B. All packages are required to go to PERS-474B for review and forwarding – ***NO EXCEPTIONS***.

**25. Can a person apply for more than one attaché billet at a time?**

***No***. The application is for a specific country and the interview panel Attaché Affairs coordinates is comprised of people who work with that country. Applicants are welcome to apply for other attaché billets if not selected for their first choice.