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SUBJ/ACADEMIC YEAR 2024 AND 2025 FLEET SCHOLAR EDUCATION PROGRAM (FSEP)//

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REF/A/MSG/CNO/NAVADMIN 137-23/071651Z JUN 23//
REF/B/DOC/OPNAVINST 1500.78/15AUG16//
REF/C/DOC/NPSINST 1520.1K//

NARR/REF A IS NAVADMIN 137/23 ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025 FLEET SCHOLAR EDUCATION PROGRAM, ANNOUNCING THE FSEP PROGRAM AND AVAILABLE QUOTAS.

REF B IS OPNAVINST 1500.78 FLEET SCHOLARS EDUCATION PROGRAM (FSEP).

REF C IS NPSINST 1520.1K STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NAVY FULLY-FUNDED GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT CIVILIAN INSTITUTIONS AND THE LAW EDUCATION PROGRAM//

RMKS/1. This All Navy Air Force (ALNAVAIRFOR) message announces eligibility requirements, application procedures, and seeks applications for the Academic Year 2024 and 2025 (AY-24/25) Fleet Scholars Education Program (FSEP). Per reference (a), six quotas are available to Commander, Naval Air Forces (COMNAVAIRFOR) for the AY-24/25 fall and winter start dates. Per reference (a), applicants should pay special attention to policy in paragraph 3 regarding tuition caps.

2. Education is our Navy's strategic investment to enhance the warfighting effectiveness and critical thinking skills of our career officers. FSEP provides a rich and unique opportunity to provide quality, relevant, and diverse education to our most talented naval aviation officers. FSEP allows COMNAVAIRFOR the opportunity to reward and retain top performing career-minded officers. Selectees will attend the school of their choice in residence, for up to 24 months, in one of the following fields of study:

- a. Problem Solving/Decision Science/Data Science
- b. Engineering
- c. Public Policy/Public Administration
- d. Cyber/Computer Science
- e. National Security/Strategy
- f. Regional Studies - China

3. Tuition Cap. Per reference (a), for the focus study areas listed in paragraph 2, FSEP selectees will receive 100% funding for tuition related expenses. For any other degree programs, FSEP selectees will

only receive a maximum of \$40K per year in tuition related expenses for a total of \$80K per capped participant. Selectees may use a combination of scholarships, post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits, and personal resources to cover these additional costs. FSEP selectees should contact the OPNAV N7 POC, LT Matthew Hinkson, (MATTHEW.B.HINKSON.MIL(AT)US.NAVY.MIL, (703) 693-4183) in order to obtain clarification on whether a degree program does/does not fall under a focus study area.

4. Eligibility and program requirements for active duty officers in AY-24/25 per reference (a):
 - a. While the FSEP program is nominally for O-3 and junior O-4 Aviation 1310 and 1320 officers in year groups 2014 and junior who have not yet been selected to serve as an aviation department head, consideration will be given to career minded O-4s who will complete or have completed an operational department head tour. Weapons and Tactics Instructors (WTI) are only eligible for participation if they have completed or will complete their WTI GREMAIN prior to program commencement.
 - b. Aviation Officers who submitted lateral transfer packages are not eligible for participation.
 - c. Aviation Officers selected for FSEP must accept their Department Head screening milestone assignment upon selection.

5. Applicants Must:

- a. Complete an application package containing:
 - (1) Application letter including list of top three desired schools and programs
 - (2) High-water competitive FITREPs from each operational tour
 - (3) Undergraduate and graduate transcripts (if applicable)
 - (4) Commanding Officer endorsement
 - (5) Additional letters of recommendation (desired, not required)
 - (6) GMAT or GRE test scores (desired, not required)
 - (7) Notification letters from schools to which the applicant was already accepted (if applicable)
- b. Submit application package via the Commanding Officer to PERS-43 no later than 17 AUG 2023. A sample application letter can be found in the graduate education section of the PERS-43 website: <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Detailing/Officer/Pers-43-Aviation/Graduate-Education/>.
- c. Upon program selection, the primary selectees have seven working days to accept or decline participation in the program. A non-response will be treated as a decline for participation. Anytime thereafter, selectee-initiated requests to decline an assignment will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- d. Submissions and questions can be made to PERS-432J, LCDR Kira Devers-Jones (KIRA.L.DEVERSJONES.MIL(AT)US.NAVY.MIL, (901) 874-3950).

6. PERS-43 Will:

- a. Serve as fleet POC for collection of aviation program applications.
- b. Screen the officer applicants for strength of record, career impact, and submit the recommended list of primary and alternate candidates to COMNAVAIRFOR for selection and approval.
- c. Ensure officers returning to the fleet following completion of FSEP are detailed to competitive assignments for further career progression.

7. COMNAVAIRFOR Will:

- a. Solicit nominations from subordinate commanders and Commanding Officers.

b. Select one person and at least one alternate to fill each of the six aviation assigned FSEP quotas.

8. Following program selection, FSEP candidates must:

a. Apply to at least three graduate education institutions of their choice. Starting enrollment and permanent change of station orders will be for the fall term start (between July 2024 and January 2025), but no earlier than 1 July 2024.

b. Be responsible for meeting chosen school(s) admission standards, application deadlines, and additional requirements which could vary by department and degree program. Applicants are responsible for notifying FSEP point of contact (POC) LCDR Kira Devers-Jones (KIRA.L.DEVERSJONES.MIL(AT)US.NAVY.MIL, (901) 874-3950) and CIVINS POC LT Siddharth Swaminathan (CIVINS(AT)NPS.EDU, (205) 563-6890) when accepted into desired school.

c. Provide Education Plan (Ed Plan) per references (b) and (c) to NPS CIVINS office for review. Ed Plans will be submitted upon initial notification of acceptance from the school. Selectees must maintain full-time enrollment as defined by the school(s) curriculum. In the case where a graduate program does not provide for summer enrollment, selectees will schedule thesis/capstone, project/research, and internship for the equivalent of full time status for this time.

d. Consult the CIVINS office for any requested changes in approved Ed Plan. Any desired changes to course enrollments, curricula, and degree need prior approval from the CIVINS office. FSEP selectees must immediately report academic probation and failing course work to NPS CIVINS office.

e. Be familiar and follow directions provided in reference (c). FSEP selectees are responsible for following this guidance and where there are questions or conflict, contact the NPS CIVINS office.

f. Maintain the high level of professional performance, bearing, and potential which resulted in their selection. FSEP misconduct, decline in performance, or failure to select for promotion to the next grade shall result in immediate review to determine if termination of the education opportunity is warranted.

g. Remain in good standing with the academic institution.

h. IAW reference (b), be assigned administratively to the appropriate support element nearest to school (ROTC, NOSC, PSD).

9. Timeline:

a. 17 AUG 2023: Application deadline for fleet applicants to submit applications to PERS-43.

b. 15 SEP 2023: Deadline for PERS-43 to submit final list of selectees to CNAF for review and approval.

c. 28 SEP 2022: Deadline for CNAF to announce list of selectees.

d. 29 SEP 2022: Deadline for PERS-43 to submit list of selectees to OPNAV N7.

10. PERS-43 FSEP POC: LCDR Kira Devers-Jones, PERS-432J, (901) 874-3950/DSN 882, or via e-mail at KIRA.L.DEVERSJONES.MIL(AT)US.NAVY.MIL.

11. WE FLY, WE FIGHT, WE LEAD...WE WIN. AIR BOSS SENDS.//

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