



Submarine Officer Basic Course

Congratulations on your orders to the Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) and welcome to Naval Submarine School! Our mission here at Naval Submarine School is to provide realistic, relevant, and challenging training to our submarine sailors in order to prepare them to conduct dynamic operations in dangerous environments all over the globe. SOBC is the first step in your training to become the competent warfighting submarine officer our nation needs! You will learn submarine tactics, weapon system employment, capabilities of our adversaries, and principles of watchstanding which will empower you to make an immediate impact onboard your boat on **DAY ONE!**

Share this document with your shipmates so they too are ready for the challenge!

Building warfighting excellence starts in SOBC!

The Submarine Officer Basic Course lays the foundations on which you will build your tactical and operational proficiency as a leader in the most capable submarine force in the world. At SOBC, you will grow as a leader and as a submarine officer so your future crew can rely on you to make tactically sound decisions and bring everyone home safe.

The curriculum includes classroom lectures and seminars, as well as simulated scenarios in multi-million dollar trainers available here at Naval Submarine School. SOBC begins with a focus on the principles and physical design of the combat systems on US Navy submarines. Over the course of curriculum, this focus builds on these principles through procedure, doctrine, and actual SSN operations. In the final capstone event, your class will act as a watch team to accomplish a dynamic mission typical of our submarines on national tasking.

Here at Naval Submarine School, we have incredible instructors and staff with years of experience in submarine operations to guide you in your studies. Take every opportunity to build your readiness using the resources available to you here, including the knowledgeable instructor staff, the trainers, and the manuals. Your efforts here will help make your Junior Officer tour successful and will prepare you to make an immediate positive impact on your boat starting with your first day onboard!

SOBC Check-in Day:

Time, Location, and Uniform

Report to the Bledsoe Hall Auditorium (Building 499) prior to 0750 in NWUs. Follow instructions provided at the Bledsoe Quarterdeck as well as the NGIS and Groton Chalet for report date as this may change based on holidays. On day 1, bring a pen and the documents listed in the checklist at the end of this letter.

Lodging while attending SOBC

Upon check-in, students will report to the Navy Gateway Inn & Suites (NGIS) where they will stamp your orders. The Navy Lodge does not stamp orders. The NGIS will assign you either the NGIS or Navy Lodge. Those staying out in town still need the NGIS stamp and will need to inform the NGIS so they can cancel your reservation. SOBC is scheduled with one week of overlap between classes. This can result in part of the incoming class staying somewhere other than the NGIS or Navy Lodge in the first week and moving into the NGIS after the graduating class vacates. If there are no availabilities in both on-base hotels, they will give you a Certificate of Non-Availability (CNA) for your first week and you will need to seek accommodations in town. The NGIS staff can advise you on acceptable accommodations in the local area which are not considered "off-limits". If you are given a CNA, make a reservation as soon as possible. Once the NGIS becomes available, those staying at other accommodations will be required to move into the NGIS as directed by NGIS staff and they will issue an end date of your CNA.

*****If you are staying in town, you MUST have a CNA and MUST submit it with your travel claim to receive full reimbursement. Be sure to keep this in a safe place. *****

Contact the NGIS no later than two weeks before reporting to book your reservation and determine if you need to find your own accommodations in town:

(860) 910-0329

Dial "0" to speak with the front desk.

If you are told to find accommodations out in town, be sure to ask for the government/military rate. Hotels are not required to give the government rate but you cannot be advanced above the government rate. Additionally, AirBNBs are not reimbursable and we strongly recommend against booking one while at SOBC.

The Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) is the means of paying for your hotel stay for the entirety of SOBC. See below to learn more about the GTCC requirements. If you do not have a GTCC, you will need to pay out of pocket and will be reimbursed through a travel claim submitted at your ultimate duty station after completing all official travel. Travel claims generally take 30+ days to be processed. Alternatively, if you do not have a GTCC, you may request an advance in order to be partially reimbursed before or during travel.

*****If you are requesting a Travel Advance (including hotel Per Diem for while you are here), you are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to coordinate with your current command's admin department to request it before you leave. You may request it upon arrival here, but this will delay payment. *****

Reimbursement and Expenses

1. Who can request reimbursement

All students are entitled to reimbursement for their hotel stay for the entirety of their time in SOBC with the exception of members with follow-on orders in Groton, CT. For those with follow-on orders to an operational platform in Groton, you are authorized reimbursement until the point you receive your household goods move. For those with orders to a Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) in Groton, you are required to establish permanent residence immediately upon arrival. Those members are only entitled to 10 days of Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE). This is due to the way in which a PCU command is categorized as a shore command, with NAVSUBSCOL considered 'in the vicinity of'. Please refer to the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) or your local household goods office for further details.

*****It is STRONGLY advised that any member with an ultimate duty station in Groton, CT secure housing prior to arrival. Failure to do so may result in heavy out of pocket expenses.*****

2. Hotel Reimbursement while on leave

Your hotel stay is not reimbursable during any time spent on leave. If you take leave, you will be financially responsible for the hotel cost during that time. Alternatively, you may check out of the hotel and check back in upon return from leave. No on base hotel will store your belonging while you are checked out so plan accordingly. The only exception to this is if you are in SOBC during holiday

standdown. In this case, the NGIS will reserve one room for everyone to store personal belongings. Accordingly, do not expect them to store an entire room's worth of your belongings.

3. Arrival from NNPTC

Members detaching from NNPTC with an ultimate duty station of NPTU are executing orders, which start and end at the same Permanent Duty Station (PDS). IAW the [Joint Travel Regulations](#), those members are NOT entitled to PCS reimbursement for travel costs to Groton and back. Those members are still entitled to Per Diem. Your primary means of travel should be by flight, provided by the Navy, unless directed by the NNPTC command. Speak to the ADOD's office about scheduling a flight.

4. Pets and Guests

Your orders do not entitle you to bring any dependents or pets with you to Groton. If you choose to bring a dependent, there will be an additional charge of \$10 added to your daily rate at the NGIS. Pets are not permitted in the NGIS and only a few rooms at the Navy Lodge are reserved to allow pets; call them 2-4 weeks in advance to inquire about availability. Additional pet fees may apply. These fees are not reimbursable based on your orders.

REQUIREMENTS prior to the first day of SOBC:

1. Cyber Awareness Challenge

The most recent Cyber Awareness Challenge certificate is required to obtain access to all SOBC curriculum. It is available on either Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) or Navy eLearning. Once complete, it will appear in your electronic training jacket which will satisfy the requirements to create your network account. You will not have access to testable course material until your entire class completes the Cyber Awareness Challenge. If you do not complete this until less than 1 week from class convene date, print out the certificate and bring it with you the first day; it will not show up in your training jacket in time. **Email this certificate to LT Johnson using the contact email provided in the "Contact Us" section!**

Both JKO and Navy eLearning can be found under "Quick Links" on MyNavy Portal:

<https://my.navy.mil/quick-links.html>

2. Medical and Dental Records

You must bring your medical and dental records to check into the command. This will allow you complete the medical readiness requirements before going to your submarine. If your records are digital only, communicate this to the medical and dental staff during the medical/dental in-brief.

3. Security Requirements

All members that have orders to an Ultimate Duty station of an Operational platform or PCU are required to have an SF-86 submitted for their TS clearance prior to transfer. All members should complete this prior to arrival at SOBC. If you still need your SF-86 submitted, you will be contacted by NAVSUBSCOL security after arrival with instructions on how to complete the SF-86. Ensure you submit it promptly as it will expire 30 days after the request was opened. If it expires, you will have to start over with a new request. Any member who does not have their SF-86 submitted prior to graduation date will be placed on security hold pending its submission.

Any members on orders to a SSBN must complete their initial PRP screening prior to transfer from NAVSUBSCOL. Per your orders, your current duty station should initiate this process upon initial receipt of your orders. If this is not complete prior to arrival to NAVSUBSCOL, it will need to be

completed prior to your transfer from here. See your orders and current command's security office for further details.

***** Any member who does not have their SF-86 submitted prior to graduation date will be placed on security hold pending its submission.*****

4. Military Orders

Prior to arrival on your first day, your orders are required to be stamped by:

1. Your **Separating Command**
2. Any **I-STOP/TDY** prior to arrival at NAVSUBSCOL
3. The **Navy Gateway Inns & Suites (NGIS)**
4. The **Naval Submarine School Quarterdeck** (Building 499, Bledsoe Hall)

You are REQUIRED to have all stamps on your OFFICIAL ORDERS prior to day 1

5. Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC)

Ensure your GTCC is activated **and placed in a Mission Critical status** prior to leaving your previous command. More information can be found on MyNavy HR's "GTCC for PCS" page, particularly under "Helpful Resources": <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/MyNavy-Career-Center/Pers-Pay-Support/Sailor-Self-Service/GTCC-for-PCS/>

The credit limit on a standard GTCC is \$7,500. A stay at the NGIS for the entirety of SOBC should cost ~\$6,500. If you are in jeopardy of going over the credit limit, you should raise the limit by contacting your command's Agency Program Coordinator (APC). The APC is primary liaison between the travel cardholder and the GTCC vendor. This person is designated by the command and your administrative office should be able to direct you to the right person. Only the APC of your detaching command can increase your limit, we cannot do it at NAVSUBSCOL.

The GTCC is your means of paying for your hotel stay for the entirety of SOBC. Mission Critical status ensures you are reimbursed in a timely manner and that you do not accrue interest while PCSing.

Per new rules your GTCC is primary means of paying for PCS expenses

6. Travel Expenses

Keep track of all expenses incurred as a result of traveling. This should include receipts. Receipts are required for all expenses. Examples of accepted expenses would be gas, lodging (with the military/government rate), vehicle rental, transportation to/from airport, etc. (use a taxi and not an uber, ubers cannot be reimbursed).

If you have a GTCC, please see guidance within the Cardholders Reference and JTR for what is authorized to be expensed to the GTCC.

*****Verify what expenses are authorized on the GTCC PRIOR TO commencement of PCS travel.*****

General

1. Required Uniforms

The uniform of the day during normal working days is NWUs. Graduations occur in either Summer Whites or Service Dress Blues, based on the time of year. Ensure you have your full sea bag of uniforms available to you, including official Navy PT Gear. Outside of normal working hours (0730-1600), appropriate civilian attire may be worn.

2. Parking

Students living on base are not permitted to park in Naval Submarine School training facility parking lots. Parking is limited in these locations and must be made available to those commuting to these facilities from off base. Any members living in an on base hotel must keep their vehicles in hotel parking while in class. Those living off base are permitted to park at the parking lot down the hill behind Fluckey hall in a gravel lot and in Bledsoe Hall parking during events scheduled at Bledsoe.

3. Holiday/Leave

Naval Submarine School typically observes all federal holidays as well as a holiday standdown period. Instruction will not occur on such days. Students are permitted to take leave on the basis that it does not interfere with curriculum and is generally not granted during the academic work week. Time spent on leave is not reimbursed in your travel claim. If you take leave you will be financially responsible for the hotel cost in that time. Alternatively, you may check out of the hotel and check back in upon return from leave.

Students are responsible for routing all leave themselves. Instructors will provide chits and routing folders and will tell you who to route your leave to. All leave will be paper leave upon arrival, and will shift to E-Leave once the class is administratively gained to the command (approximately 1 month from arrival). Once the E-Leave routing chain is established, any leave that will not miss curriculum can be routed via E-Leave. Any leave that will miss curriculum must still be hand routed and include a plan to make up missed course material. Leave that results in missed curriculum shall be minimized.

Any life event that arises should be communicated as early as possible to the Naval Submarine School, PERS-42, and your departing command. Examples of these could be an illness, a birth, or pending significant family event. The sooner the chain of command knows, the better equipped you will be to plan for these events. We are here to ensure that you and your family are able to manage your needs while fully completing the SOBC curriculum and ultimately ready for your first sea-going command. Early communication enables us to help you achieve these required objectives.

*****Leave routing and approval is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. Do not expect to take leave during working days unless there is an extenuating circumstance. *****

4. Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs)

PEDs (cellphones, PDAs, smart watches, FITBITS, noise-cancelling headphones, portable radios, radio headphones, Tesla key FOBs, etc.) are not permitted in secure areas and should be left in your vehicle or at your residence. The majority of your time will be spent in entirely secure buildings. All secure buildings will have no PED signs at the entrance.

5. SIPR Tokens

SIPR tokens will be issued in the first week to access the secure network. If you already have a SIPR token, bring it with you to update your certificates.

6. Medical and Dental

Students are required to meet all medical and dental readiness requirements and are responsible for doing so. Before the end of week 2, verify your outstanding requirements with Undersea Medicine Pipeline Division. You can also view some aspects of your medical readiness by checking your IMR status on Bupers Online (BOL), though Undersea Medicine Pipeline Division has the complete report with final say of your medical readiness. Do not go to medical records or IMR for information on medical readiness as they will not have the complete report. The link to BOL can be found under "Quick Links" on MyNavy Portal:

<https://my.navy.mil/quick-links.html>

Make appointments early to avoid being placed in a medical hold status. Additionally, do not plan to make major appointment the week of graduation. If your ultimate duty station is not an operational unit, or you are not a nuclear officer, your medical requirements are different; clarify this when you check with medical. A medical hit-list will be provided on a bi-weekly basis and it is your responsibility to complete all medical requirements and keep your chain of command informed. Failure to do so may result in formal counseling. If the hit-list does not reflect reality, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the hit-list is updated properly; contact Undersea Medicine Pipeline Division for any missing updates.

*****Medical Readiness is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. Failure to complete medical requirements in a timely manner may result in FORMAL COUNSELING AND/OR MEDICAL HOLD.*****

7. Contact Us

Students may contact SOBC Staff through the following:

SOBC Training Pipeline Manager (TPM):

LT Johnson – ryan.c.johnson147.mil@us.navy.mil -

SOBC Director:

LCDR Hard ryan.c.hard.mil@us.navy.mil -

Command Quarterdeck: 860-694-3748

NGIS: 860-694-0329

Medical: 860-694-3743

Dental: 860-694-3736

Checklist:

Requirements Prior to Day 1
Official Orders stamped by:
Departing Command
NGIS
Naval Submarine School Quarterdeck (BLDG 499)
Stamps from any previous TAD/TDY
Medical and Dental Records
SF-86 Submitted
Cyber Security Awareness Training certificate emailed
GTCC received and activated with MISSION CRITICAL status
Initial PRP screening Complete if reporting to SSBN
Required Documentation
Official Orders stamped by:
Departing Command
NGIS
Naval Submarine School Quarterdeck (BLDG 499)
Stamps from any previous TAD/TDY
Medical Records
Dental Records
Common Access Card (CAC)
If not already emailed, Cyber Security Awareness NKO Certificate
If you flew to Groton, a copy of your flight confirmation
If applying for per diem advance, a copy of your zero balance hotel receipt encompassing the dates you will be at SOBC
Medical Requirements Checklist (Complete prior to SOBC detach)
Submarine Physical (SUB PE)
Operational Duty Screening (ODS)
Any Waivers required for Submarine Duty
Physical Health Assessment (PHA)
Dental Class 2,3,4
Audiology
IRME
Optometry
Immunizations
Blood Draw, HIV test
HCG for females

Recommended Self Study Prior to arriving

Many concepts taught in SOBC are based on fundamental principles in math, physics, and seamanship. While not required, the following topics are provided to assist any preparations you choose to do before arriving at Naval Submarine School. Students who arrive with an understanding of these concepts are more empowered for success early in SOBC.

*****SUPPLY CORPS OFFICER STUDENTS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO STUDY THE TOPICS BELOW. PREVIOUS FEEDBACK FROM CHOPS INDICATE THIS CURRICULUM IS ACADEMICALLY CHALLENGING. ADEQUATE PREPARATION IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS*****

Basic Algebra & Trigonometry

A large portion of SOBC will focus on Target Motion Analysis (TMA). TMA uses vectors and their components to describe the relative positions and motion of the submarine and other vessels (targets). Those who struggle with math and science courses should consider reviewing basic algebra, trigonometry, and physics as these principles will play a major role. Some specific subtopics would include:

- Mental Math with Fractions/Decimals
- Use of Sine and Cosine (without Calculator)
- 2D Vector math (without Calculator)
- The Doppler Effect (without Calculator)

Recommend taking the Khan Academy courses for Trigonometry (Right Triangles), Vectors, Dividing Fractions, Multiplying and Dividing Decimals (5th Grade versions), Long Division, Multi-digit multiplication and division, and the Doppler Effect (located in Physics archive, Unit 8 Oscillations and mechanical waves under The Doppler effect)

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/trigonometry/trigonometry-right-triangles>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/precalculus/x9e81a4f98389efdf:vectors>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/6th-grade-illustrative-math/unit-4-dividing-fractions>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/5th-grade-illustrative-mathematics/x7a2395079b692f7:imp-multiplication-and-division-3>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/5th-grade-illustrative-mathematics/x7a2395079b692f7:divide-decimals>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/4th-grade-illustrative-mathematics/xa755074f458c4b7e:division>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-fifth-grade-math/multi-digit-multiplication-and-division>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/science/physics/mechanical-waves-and-sound/doppler-effect>

Use of the SANDBOX

Take the SONAR, Beamforming, TMA, and Doppler Sandbox lectures located at:
<https://aimtc.nuwc.navy.mil/sss/sandbox/?LV=1#/> (this requires use of a CAC/CAC Reader)

Navigation Rules (COLREGS)

These rules apply to all vessels, including submarines, “upon the high seas” and “the inland waters of the United States”. For many of you this is likely to be a review of material you learned at your commissioning source. You will be tested on your ability to follow these Rules of the Nautical Road, as well as some of the nuanced markings and signals contained within. These rules can be found under the following link:

<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/navigation-rules-amalgamated>

<https://www.uscgq.com/uscg-rules-of-the-road-practice-test>

Basic Submarining

There are many unclassified resources about US submarines available to start giving yourself context to your future studies. Some particularly good resources include:

- [Nuclear Submarine Deep Dive](#) on SmarterEveryDay’s YouTube channel
- *Thunder Below!* by Admiral Eugene Fluckey
- *Blind Man’s Bluff* by Sherry Sontag, Christopher Drew, and Annette Laurence Drew

Current Events

A good officer should generally be aware of what is happening in the world. As a submariner, this is particularly important as you may soon be playing a major role in these ‘happenings’. Make an effort to keep up with these world events as well as the motives behind why we and, perhaps more importantly, our adversaries, take the actions they take. This will make us more prepared as warfighters!

The Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) produces reports which give a good high level look at the adversaries we compete against. You can find these reports and other information on their website:

<https://www.oni.navy.mil/ONI-Reports/Foreign-Naval-Capabilities/>

The listed resources are a good starting point to hopefully prepare you for your time in SOBC. Again, it is highly recommended all prospective students take these lectures/lessons, but is especially geared towards the CHOP students. If you struggle with math or fast paced learning, this will be a good opportunity to see the material before it is formally taught and will only help you in excelling through SOBC.