



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 that our nation needs! Here, you will learn submarine tactics, weapon system employment, capabilities of our adversaries, and principles of watchstanding that empower you to make an immediate impact onboard your future boat starting 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 that your future crew can rely on you to make tactically sound decisions to accomplish the mission and bring everyone home safe.

The curriculum includes classroom lectures and seminars, as well as simulated scenarios in the 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 advances from these principles, through procedure and doctrine, and into actual operations. In the final two capstone events, your class will act as a watch team to accomplish two dynamic missions normally expected of our submarines on mission.

Here at Naval Submarine School, we have an incredible cadre of instructors and staff with years of experience in submarine operations to guide you in your studies. Take every opportunity each day 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!

Lodging while attending SOBC

Upon check-in, students will report to the Navy Gateway Inn & Suites (NGIS) where they will get their orders stamped. The Chalet and Lodge do not stamp orders. The NGIS will assign you either the Chalet, NGIS, or Navy Lodge. The NGIS and Navy Lodge will not be utilized unless the Chalet becomes fully booked. If there are no availabilities in all three of the on-base hotels, they will give you a Certificate of Non-Availability (CNA) and you will need to seek accommodations in town. NGIS 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 Chalet becomes available, those staying at other accommodations will be required to move into the Chalet as directed by NGIS staff. SOBC is scheduled with one week of overlap between classes. This can result in part of the incoming class staying somewhere other than the Chalet in the first week, and moving into the Chalet after the graduating class vacates.

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

Contact the NGIS beforehand to 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 get the government/military rate. This is the rate at which you will be reimbursed. AirBNBs are not reimbursable.

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, to be reimbursed through a travel claim submitted after completing all associated travel. Travel claims generally take 30+ days to be processed. Alternatively, you may request an advance in order to be reimbursed before or during travel.

*****If you are requesting Advance Travel, that MUST be submitted at NPTU in order to receive it in time to have it available to use for your hotel stay in Groton.*****

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 to a Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) in Groton, CT. 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 and is not applicable to non-PCUs homeported in Groton.

*****If you are assigned to a PCU in Groton, you ARE NOT AUTHORIZED hotel expenses past 10 days; any stay in the Chalet, NGIS, Navy Lodge, or another hotel will be paid out of pocket after 10 days.*****

Your hotel stay will not be reimbursed 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.

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). Therefore, 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.

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 Chalet. Pets are not permitted in the Chalet 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.

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. Additionally, check in with the Individual Medical Readiness (IMR) Desk to determine what you need to be fully medically ready when you graduate. Make appointments early to avoid being placed on a medical hold status.

3. Military Orders

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

1. Your **Separating Command**
2. **AND** the **Navy Gateway Inns & Suites (NGIS)**
3. **AND** the **Naval Submarine School Quarterdeck** (Building 499, Bledsoe Hall)

4. 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/Pay-Pers-Support/My-Personnel-Info/GTCC-for-PCS/>

The credit limit on a standard GTCC is \$7,500. A stay at the Chalet 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.

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.

5. 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.

If you have a GTCC, these expenses should be charged on that account. Guidance is available within MyNavy HR’s GTCC for PCS Travel page included above.

SOBC Check-in Day:

Time, Location, and Uniform

Report to the Bledsoe Hall Auditorium (Building 499) prior to 0800 in NWUs with a pen and the following documents:

Required Documentation
Official Orders stamped by:
Departing Command
NGIS
Naval Submarine School Quarterdeck (BLDG 499)
Medical Records
Dental Records
Common Access Card (CAC)
Second Form of ID
If you flew to Groton, a copy of your flight confirmation
If applying for per diem, a copy of hotel reservation

General

1. Required Uniforms

The typical uniform of the day is NWUs. Graduations normally 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.

3. Holiday/Leave

Naval Submarine School typically observes all federal holidays as well as a holiday stand-down 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.

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.

4. Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs)

PEDs (cellphones, PDAs, smart watches, FITBITS, noise-cancelling headphones, portable radios, radio headphones, 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.

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. Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA)

Students are required to complete a BCA upon check-in at SOBC. Students may be required to complete a PFA if their class aligns with the normally scheduled PFA cycle.

7. Medical and Dental

Students are required to meet all medical and dental readiness requirements. When you check in to medical, verify your outstanding requirements with the Individual Medical Readiness (IMR) Desk. You can also view some aspects of your medical readiness by checking your IMR status on Bupers Online (BOL), though the IMR Desk has the complete report with final say of your medical readiness. The link to BOL can be found under “Quick Links” on MyNavy Portal:

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

8. Contact Us

Students may contact SOBC Staff at the following email address: SOBC_Contacts@us.navy.mil

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.

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 have been removed from their 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:

- The Order of Operations
- Use of Sine and Cosine
- Vector math
- The Doppler Effect

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>

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/>