

CHAPTER VIII

CAREER PLANNING

801. OVERVIEW

In this final chapter of *The LDO/CWO/WO1 Professional Guidebook*, the general knowledge subjects that all officers should be familiar with are listed, the individual elements of an officer designator are explained, and a brief synopsis of the duties, responsibilities and general career planning for each designator is provided.

It is important to understand that general career planning for particular designators is only a guide, and that there are often many variables affecting the assignment process. The key is to be aware of a reasonable career pattern for your designator and plan accordingly. Be flexible as changes occur and keep in communication with your detailer -- keep your Officer Preference and Personal Information Card (NAVPERS 1301/1) current, and call/write him or her with particular questions affecting your next assignment to determine career options available.

Something that must be kept in mind is that an ideal career pattern will not offset weak performance, or vice-versa. To be successful throughout your career, sustained superior performance, to include lifelong learning, is critical, regardless of the type job to which you are assigned. In an up-or-out, highly competitive professions like ours, nothing less than excellence will suffice.

802. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

All LDOs/CWOs/WO1s, regardless of designator or grade, must be familiar with the organization and functions of the various major components of the Department of Defense, and the assigned missions of the various military services, with specific emphasis on the mission and functions of the Department of the Navy.

You should read every professional publication you can get your hands on, and have a good working knowledge of Navy Regulations, the [Uniform Code of Military Justice](#) and the [Manual for Courts-Martial](#), the Manual of the Judge Advocate General ([JAGINST 5800.7 series](#)), DoD Information Security Program Manuals ([DoD 5200.1 V1-V4 series](#)), and the Office of Chief of Naval Operations Security Regulations Manual ([OPNAVINST 5510.1 series](#)). Review procedures for preparing, revising and applying a Watch, Quarter and Station Bill; know damage control procedures, as well as nuclear, biological and chemical warfare defense; have a good knowledge of emergency first aid procedures; learn more about navy officer and enlisted manpower systems, naval messages, correspondence and directives, and

become an expert in agencies and services available to assist enlisted personnel.

Watchstanding duties and collateral/additional duty assignments, which are a command prerogative, vary according to the specific requirements of individual ships and stations. Although qualifications pertaining to these duties are not included in this manual, LDOs/CWOs/WO1s are responsible for carrying out such assignments as required.

803. ELEMENTS OF THE LDO/CWO/WO1 DESIGNATOR

An officer designator consists of four digits, each successively providing more precise identification of the officer's status. The primary sources of information are the [Manual of Navy Officer Manpower and Personnel Classifications, \(NAVPERS 15839I\)](#).

a. The first digit of an officer designator identifies the officer category. All Navy LDOs and CWOs/WO1s are identified as follows:

<u>First Digit</u>	<u>Officer</u>
6	Limited Duty Officer
7	Chief Warrant Officer

b. The second digit designates the general category within the Limited Duty Officer/Chief Warrant Officer community:

<u>Second Digit</u>	<u>Category</u>
1	Surface
2	Submarine
3	Aviation
4	General Line
5	Staff
8	Information Warfare

c. The third digit designates the LDO or CWO/WO1 technical specialty or occupational field. A complete listing can be found in Chapter II.

d. The fourth digit further describes the officer's status within the Navy or Naval Reserve.

Fourth Digit

Status

0	An officer of the Regular Navy whose permanent grade is ensign or above.
1	An officer of the Regular Navy whose permanent status is warrant officer.
2	A temporary officer of the Regular Navy whose permanent status is enlisted.
3	An officer of the Regular Navy who is on the retired list.
5	An officer of the Naval Reserve, (exceptions: Note 4th digit 7 and 8)
7	An officer of the Naval Reserve on active duty in the TAR Program (Training and Administration of Reserves) [Includes TAR Program officers rotated to other than TAR billets]
8	An officer of the Naval Reserve who was appointed in the Naval Reserve Integration Program from enlisted status or whose permanent status is Warrant Officer or enlisted.
9	An officer of the Naval Reserve who is on the retired list.

804. DESCRIPTION OF DESIGNATOR SERIES

a. Designator series 61XX/71XX are officers designated for duty indicated by their specialty in operation, maintenance, training or support of Naval Surface Warfare.

b. Designator series 62XX/72XX are officers designated for duty indicated by their specialty in the operation, maintenance, training or support of Naval Nuclear/Submarine Warfare.

c. Designator series 63XX/73XX are officers designated for duty indicated by their specialty in the operation, maintenance, training or support of any element of Naval Aviation Warfare.

d. Designator series 64XX/74XX are officers designated for duty indicated by their specialty in the operation, maintenance, training or support of any element of Naval Warfare.

e. Designator series 65XX/75XX are officers designated for duty within the respective staff Corps of the Navy indicated by their specialty.

f. Designator series 68XX/78XX are officers designated for duty indicated by their specialty in the operation, maintenance, training or support of any element of Naval Information Warfare.

805. CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The complexity of LDO/CWO/WO1 programs and the many individual, highly specialized designators make it impractical to provide detailed career planning/guidance in this publication. It is not possible to define "career enhancing billets" or a single career pattern that will fit all LDOs, CWOs, or WO1s. Some designators are sea-intensive, while others have limited or no sea duty billets.

Due to timing and available billets, LDOs and CWOs may not have the opportunity to serve in a pinnacle assignment or reach an OIC, XO or CO tour. In short, the nature/diversity of their duties makes it impossible for LDOs or CWOs to have established career paths.

A young officers best resources will always be the LDO/CWO Community Managers (OCMs), reliable Mustang mentors within their community/designator, their detailer, and understanding the information found on our MyNavyHR webpage. Review the information on the [Career Pattern Sheets](#) of your individual designator and follow the guidance of the [SECNAV Approved Community Briefs](#) to assist you in achieving your career goals.

THE NAVY'S SELECTION PROCESS HAS ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THE SUPERIOR PERFORMER. THE OFFICER WHO CONTINUALLY STRIVES FOR, AND ACHIEVES, OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN ALL ASSIGNMENTS CAN EXPECT TO HAVE A SATISFYING AND REWARDING CAREER