

# OCEANOGRAPHY (DESIGNATOR 1800)

## Community Overview

Oceanography (OCEANO), also called METOC for Meteorology and Oceanography, is an Information Warfare Line community of approximately 390 officers. Oceanographers are the Navy's geophysical experts who understand all facets of meteorology, oceanography, hydrography, bathymetry, geophysics, and precise time & astrometry. In total, the OCEANO community comprises of over 1200 enlisted members, 1200 civilians, and 100 contractors, totaling more than 2900 METOC professionals.

## Mission

The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMOC) mission is to define and apply the physical environment, from the bottom of the ocean to the stars, to ensure that the U.S. Navy has the freedom of action to deter aggression, maintain freedom of the seas and win wars.

## Guiding Principles

(1) *Warfighting:* The OCEANO community's core mission capability and capacity draw on experience and expertise in the fields meteorology, oceanography, precise time and astrometry, bathymetry, geophysics, and hydrography, and is focused on providing timely and relevant support to fleet and joint operations. Expertise in multiple warfighting areas is highly valued. OCEANO provides collection, processing, prediction, exploitation and dissemination of data to ensure:

- Safety of Navigation,
- Access to denied waters
- Freedom to maneuver at will
- Increase lethality of Navy

(2) *Leadership:* Leadership is a core competency for all Navy Officers. Oceanographers are called upon to lead everything from small, 3-4 person deployable teams, to commands of over 400 military and civilian personnel.

## Initial Training Pipeline

New Oceanographers attend Information Warfare Basic Course (IWBC) in Dam Neck, Virginia for 3 weeks followed by Basic Oceanography Accession Training (BOAT) in Gulfport, Mississippi for 7 weeks prior to reporting to their initial oceanography assignments. Officers may be sent to other courses, such as Division

Officer Leadership Course (DIVOLC), as required.

## Special Pay/Bonuses

None.

## Academic/Professional Expertise

(1) *Required:* Baccalaureate degree, preferably in a technical field, with a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or greater, along with completion of a full college calculus series (Calculus I and II) with a minimum of a "C" average, and a college level calculus-based physics series (Physics I and II) with a minimum "B" average.  
(2) *Desired:* Baccalaureate degree in physics, physics-based oceanography, meteorology, hydrography, earth science, engineering, or mathematics.

## Basic Eligibility Requirements

Open to all candidates, who must be qualified for sea duty, world-wide assignable and eligible for a Top-Secret security clearance.

## Career Path

(1) *Assignment:* Oceanographers serve in a variety of challenging operational billets of ever increasing scope and responsibility both at sea and ashore. The oceanographer's career path is designed to develop geophysical expertise as applied to warfare applications by interweaving sea, shore and educational tours. Sea duty assignments may include small team detachments aboard U.S. and foreign navy surface combatants and survey vessels, embarked OCEANO Officer aboard an aircraft carrier or large amphibious ship, Strike Group staff, or deployed Joint Task Force staff at every grade. Shore tours include assignments at major production commands, forecast or reach-back centers, major headquarters and Joint commands, Navy Data Center, Office of Naval Research, Naval Research Labs, and various overseas assignments. OCEANO officers are frequently the one-of-one geophysical expert at an operational command.

(2) *Advanced Education:* Postgraduate education is required of all oceanographers, LCDR and senior. Most naval oceanographers complete the Meteorology and Operational Oceanography curriculum at the Naval Postgraduate School as mid-grade LTs. One or two oceanographers per

year may attend programs at select civilian institutions such as Woods Hole/MIT. Doctoral studies are available as needed averaging two oceanographer quotas per year, in order to meet PhD-coded billet requirements.

(3) *Overseas Duty:* The OCEANO community is represented throughout the world including Europe, Hawaii, Asia, and the Middle East.  
(4) *Promotion Opportunities:* Promotion to LTJG and LT occur at 2 and 4 years of commissioned service respectively. OCEANO promotion opportunities are competitive with LCDR between 9 and 10 years of commissioned service; CDR between 15 and 16 years of commissioned service; and CAPT at approximately 22 years of service. Oceanographers are eligible for promotion to the Flag Officer ranks within the IWC.

## Point of Contact

Oceanography Officer  
Community Manager

LCDR Dave Price  
BUPERS 317E  
DSN 882-2461  
Commercial (901)874-2461

**For More Information on Naval Oceanography, please visit:**

## Naval Oceanography Portal

<http://www.public.navy.mil/fltfor/cn moc/Pages/home.aspx>

## Careers in Meteorology & Oceanography on Navy.com

<https://www.navy.com/careers/meteorology-oceanography>

## Oceanography Assignments & Placement

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Detailing/Officer/Pers-47-IWC/OCEANO/>

## Naval Postgraduate School METOC Curriculum

<https://nps.edu/web/metoc#:~:text=The%20NPS%20METOC%20program%20is,plus%20a%206401P%20subspeci alty%20code.>