SPECIAL DUTY – MARITIME CYBER WARFARE (DESIGNATOR 1880)

Community Overview: Maritime Cyber Warfare Officers (MCWO) lead and execute Cyberspace Operations (CSO) focused on both Offensive Cyberspace Operations (OCO) and Defensive Cyberspace Operations (DCO).

Mission: MCWOs fulfill operational and leadership tours within the Cyber Operation Force (COF) and Cyber Mission Force (CMF), including tours on National Mission Teams (NMTs), Cyber Mission Teams (CMTs), Cyber Protection Teams (CPTs), and Cyber Support Teams (CSTs). Senior Control Grade MCWOs will have opportunities for O5 Command and Major Command, as well as senior staff positions at Fleet Cyber Command (FCC), Joint Force Head Quarters Cyber (JFHQ-C), and US Cyber Command (USCC).

Guiding Principles:

(1) Generate decisive advantage via cyberspace offensive and defensive operations. Attack and defend cyber networks by monitoring, collecting, analyzing, and exploiting threats to Navy and Department of Defense Information Networks (DoDIN).

(2) Conduct network vulnerability assessments, risk mitigation, and incident response/reconstruction . The context, nuance, and insight provided by our deep expertise in cyber and these technical areas is what defends our nation's critical infrastructure.

(3) Provide Navy and Joint Force Commanders operational options via cyberspace. We must demonstrate to commanders a deep and comprehensive understanding of cyber threats facing our Navy and our nation. We must remain abreast of emerging technologies and intentions as well as the most significant security challenges facing our nation.

Training Pipeline: Still under evaluation and construction at this time. Current courses for consideration are Joint Cyber Analysis Course (JCAC) 27 weeks at Pensacola, FL, Cyberspace Operations Planner Course (COPC) 3 weeks, at Pensacola, FL, and Information Warfare Basic Course (IWBC) 3 weeks, Virginia Beach, VA. Following graduation initial assignment will generally be a 36-month cyber tours most likely at Ft. Meade, Maryland or Kunia, HI. While on this initial assignment, officers are required to complete the MCWO Qualification Program within 18 months and the Information Warfare Officer (IWO) Qualification within 24 months.

Special pay/bonuses. None.

Academic/professional expertise.
(1) Required. Baccalaureate degree.

(2) Desired. Preferred fields of study directly related to computer science, computer programing, information security and assurance, network administration, machine learning, cybersecurity law, cloud computing, internet security, data science, information technology, computer/digital forensics, computer engineering, software engineering, systems engineering, network operation, cyber security, software, or information systems is required.

Basic eligibility requirements: MCWO candidates must be a US citizen and have a suitability screening with FCC/C10F SSO prior to final selection and will be submitted for a T5 clearance prior to shipping to OCS. OAR score of 50 (waiverable), GPA 3.0 or higher (waiverable).

Accession Options.
(1) Direct Accession: The MCWO Community has direct accession quotas for NROTC, USNA, OCS, and SSMP programs.

(2) Lateral Gains: The MCWO Community accepts a limited number of officers each year via the semi-annual Lateral Transfer/Re-designation board and the bi-monthly Probationary Officer Continuation and Re-designation (POCR) board.

Web sites:
 MyNavyHR: Maritime Cyber Warfare (navy.mil)
PA 108E: PA_108E_MCWO_Establishment_2023-08.pdf (navy.mil)

Career Path:
(1) Depending on interests, background and performance, MCWO officers have opportunities to serve in a variety of shore assignments with worldwide deployments within a twenty-year career.

Point of Contact:
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