

# INFORMATION WARFARE LINE (IWL): COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS WARFARE (DESIGNATOR 1820)

## Community Overview:

In modern naval warfare, victory is measured in seconds and decided by data. The Communications Systems Warfare Officer (CSWO) community is the premier warfighting cadre responsible for the Navy's most critical weapon system: its global digital network.

**Creed:** Connect the Fleet. Accelerate Decisions. Enable the Kill.

**Vision:** To be the undisputed masters of the Navy's digital environment, guaranteeing the United States holds an unbreakable information advantage from seabed to space.

**Mission:** To design, operate, and defend the Navy's global communication networks, ensuring our leaders have the secure, real-time data required to act decisively in any environment.

As the Navy's experts in Assured Command and Control (AC2), CSWOs build, defend, and operate the resilient, high-speed networks – encompassing voice, video, and data – that form the backbone of joint operations. From the depths of the ocean to space, they ensure that any sensor can seamlessly connect to any shooter, delivering the decisive information advantage required to win.

If you want to be at the center of the Navy's most critical warfighting capability, this is your community. As a CSWO, you will:

- Turn complex data into action, architecting the advanced data ecosystems that allow leaders to make critical decisions in real time, anywhere in the world.
- Build unbreakable global networks, delivering assured, secure communications that allow the Navy to operate seamlessly with international allies.
- Lead frontline cybersecurity and IT operations, directing teams that operate and defend the Navy's vast communication networks against advanced, real-world cyber threats.
- Secure the nation's ultimate no-fail mission, managing and protecting the highly classified, reliable communication networks that connect the President to the nation's nuclear deterrent forces.

## Eligibility Requirements.

**Required:** A baccalaureate degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0, an Officer Aptitude Rating (OAR) minimum score of 50, US citizenship, the ability to obtain and maintain a Top-Secret security clearance, and the physical fitness to deploy worldwide.

**Desired:** A baccalaureate degree in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) – especially artificial intelligence, computer/cybersecurity-related disciplines, data science, and operations research/applied statistics – are strongly preferred. A curriculum including calculus and calculus-based physics (CALC I & II, PHYSICS I & II) is highly desired. Consideration will be given for experience in networks, communications systems, or cybersecurity. Professional certifications such as Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Security+, etc. may also be considered.

## Accession Options.

**Direct Accession:** There are a limited number of USNA and ROTC quotas, as well as a larger number of Officer Candidate School (OCS) quotas available each year to immediately begin as a CSWO.

## Training Pipeline:

New CSWO Officers attend several training courses:

The CSWO Basic course is 20 weeks in Virginia Beach, VA before initial assignment. The course covers fleet communications, network operations, and cybersecurity.

The Information Warfare Basic Course introduces new officers to the range of skills that make up the Information Warfare Community.

The Division Officer Leadership Course helps to prepare new officers for their upcoming leadership roles.

## Qualification:

CSWO officers are required to complete a series of CSWO-specific qualifications and to qualify as Information Warfare Officers (IWOs).

## Career Opportunities:

The CSWO career trajectory extends beyond a traditional tech role. You will command and direct critical network operations across a vast array of global, high-stakes assignments.

- **Lead at the Tactical Edge:** You will be integral to naval forces at every level. From day one, you will lead teams of technicians at sea on warships, ashore at major commands, forward-deployed with expeditionary forces, or embedded with elite Naval Special Warfare units.
- **Strategic Impact Worldwide:** As you advance, you will hold key leadership billets on major Naval, Joint, and Coalition staffs, including assignments at the Pentagon and the White House. Your career will span the globe, with opportunities to serve at major U.S. installations like Pearl Harbor and San Diego, or at vital overseas commands in Bahrain, Italy, and Japan.

To dominate the digital battlespace, we require leaders with advanced technical and strategic expertise.

- Officers may earn a Master's Degree from the Naval Postgraduate School, or other institutions.
- Postgraduate fields of study, which are relevant to modern warfare and highly sought after in the civilian sector, include Information Systems and Technology, Computer Science, Cyber Systems & Operations, Financial Management, Operations Research Analysis, Space Systems Operations, and Systems Engineering.

## Websites:

- More information at Navy.com: <https://www.navy.com/careers/>
- Navy Personnel Command CW site: <https://www.public.navy.mil/bupersync/officer/Detailing/IWC/IW/Pages/default.aspx> **Information Warfare**
- Community on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IWCsync>

## Point of Contact

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