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IP Community Overview

Information Professionals (IPs) are the Navy's Cyberspace Defensive Operations and Communications/C4I Officers with subject matter expertise in networks, computer systems, space, cyber defense, information & knowledge management, and Command and Control.

Initial Lateral Transfer Detailing Info

The IP Basic course is in Virginia Beach and is 20 weeks long. After IP Basic, new IPs go to the IWC Basic course (2-3 weeks) for an overview of all of the IWC designators and how they work together. Following schooling, lateral transfer officers will be sent to a qualifying tour to complete the IP Basic qualification (IP BQ) and the Information Warfare Officer (IWO) qualification. IP BQ and IWO are requirements for promotion to LCDR, so lateral transfer candidates are advised to begin qualifying ASAP.

Qualifying tours may be ashore (ex: NCTAMS/NCTS/NNWC/NAVIFOR) or afloat (ex: CVN/LHD/LHA), depending on detailing availability and candidate background. The detailers will try to find the best fit that ensures you have a good chance to promote without being overly burdensome (ie: trying to avoid back to back sea duty, etc). LCDR candidates can apply to the IP detailers to have prior tours qualify as Milestone (aka Dept Head) tours, which will be adjudicated on a case-by-case basis.

IP Commands and Locations

IP Officers serve everywhere there are communications and networks, including ships at sea and units ashore, special operations and expeditionary forces, Cyber Mission Forces, the White House Communications Agency, and on major Naval and Joint staffs. IP billets span the globe as well. From Norfolk, San Diego, and Pearl Harbor to Bahrain, Italy, and Japan; there are IPs serving at all major Naval installations. There are also IPs in Joint and Coalition commands: Combatant Command staffs, the Joint Staff, the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), NATO, and more.

Graduate Education

Graduate education is very highly encouraged in the IP community. If you become an IP, it is likely you will be either detailed to NPS, a service college, or a location that you can get your Master's in your free time.

Promotion opportunity

Our promotion opportunity is excellent. Opportunity for O4 is 90-95%, O5 is 75-85%, and O6 is 55-65%.