

Maritime Space Officer Frequently Asked Questions

****These questions will be updated often to account for the questions we receive If your concern is not addressed please email the MSO OCM at bupers-31_iwc_fc.fct@navy.mil ****

I applied for the initial MSO Selection Panel in December 2021 and was not selected. How do I reapply?

The MSO community will take part in the lateral transfer and redesignation board process beginning in August 2022. More information on this process is available at the MyNavyHR Transfer/Redesignation page.

Is MSO a path to astronaut?

No. MSOs are focused on delivering effects at the operational level or war, working at major operational centers of combatant commands and Navy Fleets.

What type of billets will MSO fill? How is the community constructed?

Initially MSO billets will primarily be in the U.S. Space Command enterprise and Fleet Maritime Operations Centers. There will also be billets at Naval War College, the different Warfare Development Centers, OPNAV, NAVIFOR, and IC partners (NGA, NRO).

Initial MSO Billets broken down by paygrade:

- 7 x O6
- 30 x O5
- 62 x O4

**** Note: Of these 99 billets, only 72 are funded.**

What duty stations does MSO include? Where might I end up serving?

Initially MSO will include billets in the following locations: Colorado Springs, Norfolk, San Diego, Hawaii, Yokosuka, Newport, Whidbey Island, National Capital Region, Fort Meade, Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, Miami, Naples, Groton, and Fallon.

Are there any financial bonuses for MSO?

No and none are planned.

Will I lose my special pays if I laterally transfer (flight, dive, demo, jump, etc.)?

Yes

Am I too senior to apply for MSO?

Unless you are already a Flag Officer, the answer is likely no. Senior O3 – O6 are the desired paygrades for lateral transfer. We strongly encouraged interested parties to apply as long as they have more than three years before mandatory retirement.

What does the record of a competitive applicant to the MSO community look like?

A competitive MSO applicant has demonstrated superior performance in their losing community. In addition, they possess demonstrated operational experience, education, and/or training in space related fields. This experience can vary, but some examples include (but not limited to) tours as a Space Planner, completing Space100/200 series of training, Master's Degree or Certification in Space Systems from NPS, tours with NRO, tours within an Aerospace Data facility, tours at USSPACECOM, etc.

Do I have to contact my parent community OCM and secure an out quota before applying?

No. However, it is highly recommended to ensure time is not wasted on a package that your parent community will not offer an out quota for.

What are the Commissioned Service Requirements?

MSO is currently accepting applications for warfare qualified unrestricted line and active duty 18XX officers with six or more years of commissioned service, from O3 to O6 paygrades. You must be able to serve three years as an 1870 upon redesignation.

What is the application process?

The first tranche of MSOs were selected via a Selection Panel in December 2021. Future MSO lateral transfers will move through the regular lateral transfer process. More information on this process is available at the MyNavyHR Transfer/Redesignation page.

What designators can apply?

Warfare qualified as an unrestricted active duty line officer (111X, 112X, 113X, 114X, 130X) and active duty Information Warfare officers (18XX).

What are the security clearance requirements?

Eligible for or hold a TS//SCI clearance (letter from SSO required for officers without current TS//SCI clearance).

What if I just arrived at a new duty assignment, can I still apply?

Please review the LOI for the Lateral Transfer and redesignation board to determine required time on station to apply. A waiver request must be submitted and endorsed by your current command if you fall outside this parameter.

What would make my package competitive?

- Sustained, superior performance in your current designator.
- Documented space operations experience and knowledge (space AQDs, etc.).
- Educational experience in a relevant field (aeronautical engineering, space operations, astronomy, astrophysics, etc.). This can include education or training that did not result in a degree (graduate certificates, SPACE 200, SWPC, etc.).

Who is the detailer?

The IP Detailer is dual hatted as the MSO detailer.

MSO Detailer
PERS-471

(901) 874-4208
DSN: (312) 882-4208

Who is the Officer Community Manager (OCM)?

The IP OCM is dual hatted as the MSO OCM.

MSO Officer Community Manager
BUPERS-317S

(901) 874-2846
DSN: (312) 882-2846

What if I am up for promotion in my parent community? Are there opportunities to be promoted if I convert to MSO?

MSOs are not eligible for consideration at the FY23 statutory promotion boards (those taking place in spring 2022). MSO/1870 will participate in statutory promotion boards beginning with the FY24 boards (those taking place in spring 2023). If you have a unique situation reach out to the OCM, IW group email, or your mentor to talk through options.

Are there command opportunities or IWC afloat Opportunities within MSO?

Not at this time.

What is the lateral transfer process for future MSO Boards?

MSO will be included in future NAVADMINS and have an associated LOI. More information on this process is available at the MyNavyHR Transfer/Redesignation page.

What are the degree requirements?

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) technical fields are preferred, but not required.

If I am a reservist may I apply for active duty 187X ?

Not at this time.