

SPECIAL DUTY OFFICER – OCEANOGRAPHY (DESIGNATOR 1800)

Community Overview

Oceanography (OCEANO), also called METOC for Meteorology and Oceanography, is a Restricted Line community of approximately 370 officers that is part of the Information Warfare Community (IWC). Oceanographers are the Navy's geophysical experts who understand all facets of meteorology, oceanography, hydrography, and precise time & astrometry.

Mission

Oceanographers enhance operational commanders' warfare capabilities by understanding and forecasting the environmental conditions likely to impact military operations. They deliver timely and accurate understanding of the battlespace from the bottom of ocean to the outer reaches of space. They also are responsible for charting the ocean floor and maintaining the military's primary master clock, which provides the most precise time interval in the world and drives the Global Positioning System.

Guiding Principles

(1) *Warfare Competency*: Oceanographers develop expertise in the geophysical environment which impacts nine key warfare areas: Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Mine Warfare (MIW), Naval Special Warfare (NSW), Navigation (NAV), Aviation (AVN), Fleet Operations, Precise Time, Expeditionary Warfare (EXW) and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR).

(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 civilians.

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 male and female 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 of excellence, major headquarters and Joint commands, 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 Air/Ocean Science 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. The oceanography community promotion opportunities are competitive with the Unrestricted Line (URL) communities for promotion to LCDR and higher: 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 Flag Officer ranks within the IWC.

Point of Contact

Oceanography Officer
Community Manager
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/cnmoc/Pages/home.aspx>

Careers in Meteorology & Oceanography on Navy.com

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

Oceanography Assignments & Placement

<https://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/officer/Detailing/IWC/oceano/Pages/default2.aspx>

Information Warfare Community Management

https://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/officer/communitymanagers/active/restricted/Pages/Information_Warfare_Community.aspx