

Program Authorization: Officer candidate indoctrination and training for appointment as an ensign, U.S. Navy, nuclear propulsion officer candidate (NUPOC) program, designator 1170 (training-submarines) or 1160 (training-surface), leading to duty on a nuclear-powered submarine or surface ship. The Nuclear Propulsion Program Manager (OPNAV N133) is the community manager.

1. Program Authority: Title 10 U.S. Code sections 531, 532, 647, 2013, 6323, 12102, 12103 and 12201 to 12209.

2. Cancellation: Program Authorization 100A, June 2011.

3. Quota: As prescribed by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education) (DCNO N1).

4. Qualifications

a. Citizenship: Applicants must be citizens of the United States.

b. Age: At least 19 years of age and less than 29 years of age at time of commissioning. Waivers may be considered on a case basis for those who will not exceed 31 years of age at commissioning.

c. Education

(1) All candidates must have completed the requirements for, or be in pursuit of, a bachelor's degree at a regionally accredited college or university in the United States or its territories and fall within one of the following categories:

(a) Graduates. Have completed a bachelor's degree. Graduates who are screened under this paragraph must agree to enlist under paragraph 8, if accepted by the Director, Naval Reactors, unless formally approved by OPNAV N133 prior to participation in the interview process.

(b) Undergraduate Students. Be in pursuit of a bachelor's degree, within 2.5 years of graduation, and be currently enrolled as a full-time student (if applying during a regular academic year). Candidates who will require more than 4 years in a 4-year curriculum or more than 5 years in a 5-year curriculum shall be screened on a case-by-case basis in order to be eligible to enlist for active duty before graduation. Candidates pursuing dual bachelor's degrees may not receive one degree before the other. Applicants not selected at interview under this paragraph may reapply under subparagraphs 4c(1)(a), 4c(1)(b) or 4c(1)(c), following the completion of at least one additional academic year (i.e., two semesters or three quarters) provided they meet the applicable education criteria. Candidates who enter the program under this paragraph will have their transcripts reviewed immediately after the completion of each additional academic semester, quarter or term. Students must earn a "C" or better in all technical/math/science classes. Waivers to this requirement may be recommended by OPNAV N133 and approved by Director, Naval Reactors on an individual case basis. Undergraduate students who do not maintain academic requirements may be disenrolled from the NUPOC

program by OPNAV N133. Undergraduate students who are screened under this paragraph must agree to enlist under subparagraph 8a, if accepted by the Director, Naval Reactors.

(c) Post-Graduates. Have completed a bachelor's degree and are presently enrolled in a master's degree program at a regionally accredited college or university in the United States or its territories, and are within 1 academic year of attaining a master's degree. Candidates pursuing a master's degree must enter officer candidate school (OCS) within 1 calendar year after entering the program. Candidates who are unable to complete the degree within the specified time frame will be required to disenroll from college and attend the first available OCS class. Post-graduate students who are screened under this paragraph must agree to enlist under subparagraph 8a.

(2) For purposes of determining eligibility, "curriculum" is defined as the total time spent as an undergraduate. The month and year of the first bachelor's degree(s) is considered the completion date of that curriculum.

(3) All applicants must provide a degree completion plan to support the advertised graduation date. Candidates will not be allowed to increase their projected time in college or cease attending classes, transfer schools, enter into exchange programs or change majors without the specific permission of OPNAV N133.

(4) All candidates must have successfully completed the following in residency or through extension courses offered by a regionally accredited college or university:

(a) Calculus: One year (i.e., two semesters, two trimesters or three quarters) of college calculus through differential and integral calculus of one real variable with a grade of "C" or better. Waivers to this requirement may be considered on a case-by-case basis. One semester/quarter/term must be taken "in the classroom."

(b) Physics: One year (i.e., two semesters, two trimesters or three quarters) of a college calculus-based physics course covering the classic fundamentals of mechanics, magnetism and electricity with a grade of "C" or better. Waivers to this requirement may be considered on a case-by-case basis. One semester/quarter/term must be taken "in the classroom".

(5) Candidates who have taken the above courses as advanced placement courses in high school, and have been allowed to validate these courses by their college, and have taken an additional course in college beyond these requirements, will be considered to have met eligibility requirements. (Note the "and" conditions.)

(6) Participation in a co-op or work studies program after entry into the NUPOC program will not be authorized if such participation will cause a delay in the graduation date approved at the time of acceptance. Those candidates who choose to participate in a non-mandatory co-op or work studies program during the fall, winter or spring term must attend summer sessions to avoid a delay in graduation and must ensure that the summer course loading and credits obtained will be the equivalent of a normal fall, winter or spring term.

d. Physical: In line with unrestricted line standards listed in the Manual of Medical Department, Chapter 15. Program participants must meet the medical standards for nuclear field duty/ionizing radiation prior to commissioning as a nuclear officer.

e. Duty Preference: All applicants will normally be permitted to volunteer for duty in submarines, to request to serve on nuclear surface ships or to indicate that they have no duty preference. Additionally, the needs of the Navy may require that a small number of candidates be re-interviewed at a later date for duty at Naval Reactors or as Nuclear Power School instructors. If accepted, these individuals will retain their pay and benefits per this Program Authorization. These candidates will be commissioned under Program Authorization 100B.

f. Program Specific Requirements: No additional requirements.

5. Waivers: In cases where the applicant does not meet all of the qualifications, but otherwise has an exceptional record or proven skillset required by the Navy, a waiver may be authorized on a case-by-case basis. If a waiver is requested then follow the steps below, and must be adjudicated prior to the convening of the selection board.

a. Application Contents

(1) Age: A written waiver request may be considered on a case basis for those who would not exceed 31 years of age at commissioning.

(2) Education: A written waiver request may be considered on a case-by-case basis for those candidates who:

(a) Are not able to complete a post-graduate degree (if enrolled) in the allotted time.

(b) Do not meet the requirement of completing 1 year (i.e., two semesters, two trimesters or three quarters) of college calculus through Differential and Integral Calculus of one real variable with a grade of “C” or better.

(c) Do not meet the requirement of completing 1 year (i.e., two semesters, two trimesters or three quarters) of a college calculus-based physics course covering the classic fundamentals of mechanics, magnetism and electricity with a grade of “C” or better.

(d) Do not meet the requirement of taking one semester/quarter/term of physics and calculus “in the classroom.”

b. Routing: Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (CNRC) will forward all waiver requests to OPNAV N133 for adjudication. OPNAV N133 will forward all education waivers to Director, Naval Reactors for concurrence.

c. Approval Authority

(1) Age: OPNAV N133.

(2) Education: Director, Naval Reactors.

d. Notifying the Applicant: CNRC will notify applicants of waiver status.

6. Accession Source

a. Individuals who have completed or are currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at a regionally accredited college or university.

b. Former United States Naval Academy and Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) midshipmen of either the scholarship or college programs who have received pay entitlements, subsistence allowance, tuition or fees under the provisions of these programs are eligible but may not be placed on active duty until graduation.

c. Enlisted personnel of either the regular Navy or the Navy Reserve (active or inactive).

d. Enlisted personnel of other branches of the armed services (active or inactive) with a conditional release from their respective service.

e. A conditional release is required for Army and Air Force ROTC members who are under contract. Conditional releases are not required for ROTC members not under contract or for members of the Marine Corps Platoon Leader's Class.

7. Indoctrination: Completion of OCS followed by nuclear pipeline training for submarine officers. Surface warfare officers will complete surface warfare officer qualifications during their topside tour (non-nuclear combatant) prior to reporting to the nuclear training pipeline.

8. Enlistment

a. If accepted by the Director, Naval Reactors, applicants will attend a period of orientation in the Washington, D. C. area of approximately 1 day. Upon completion of orientation, candidates will exercise one of the following options:

(1) Enlist and be placed in an active-duty status as an officer candidate (E-6) in the Naval Reserve.

(2) Enlist and be placed in an inactive Naval Reserve status as an officer candidate (E-6) if designated as inactive prior to acceptance.

(3) College graduates are expected to enlist and be placed in an active duty status as an officer candidate (E-6) in the Naval Reserve until completion of OCS when they will be commissioned.

Note: With prior approval of OPNAV N133, candidates may choose to delay their option(s) up to 30 days from the date of their interview at Naval Reactors. If, prior to exercising any enlistment option, additional course work is completed, transcripts must be submitted for evaluation prior to enlistment.

b. Active duty members of any service and inactive Navy Reserve enlisted selectees for the NUPOC program will be brought on active duty in their present paygrade, unless below the paygrade of E-6, in which case they will be automatically advanced to the paygrade of E-6. Inactive personnel from another service must be released from that service, be enlisted as an officer candidate (E-6), and placed on active duty. Selectees who have been enlisted will be ordered to the Navy Recruiting District (NRD)/Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) nearest their college for administrative purposes while they complete their college work (or to the NRD/NTAG that processed the application for graduate students awaiting OCS).

c. Any candidate who is enlisted under paragraph 8a(1) will, upon referring a lead which results in an accession to either the NUPOC, Nuclear Power School instructor or to the Naval Reactors engineer programs, be advanced one paygrade to E-7.

9. Constructive Entry Credit: Not Applicable.

10. Appointment: Upon graduation from OCS, candidates will be commissioned in the unrestricted line of the U. S. Navy as an ensign, designator 1170 (training-submarines) or 1160 (training-surface). Should an individual become not physically qualified for submarine duty after commissioning and entry in the program, he shall be assigned designator 1160 and be made available for duty in the nuclear surface warfare program. Individuals found not physically qualified for the nuclear field shall be assigned a designator in accordance with the needs of the Navy and desires of the individual.

11. Service Obligation

a. Five years upon commissioning. Total obligated service is 8 years. The balance of service to complete 8 years may be served in a Ready Reserve status.

b. If disenrolled as a commissioned officer from nuclear propulsion training, the obligation is 3 years from date of disenrollment plus a period of time equal to that spent in nuclear propulsion training. If this period would be less than the obligation of subparagraph 11a above, the 11a obligation shall apply.

c. Candidates who enlisted for active duty under paragraph 8, who are disenrolled from the NUPOC program prior to commissioning for any reason other than physical will, as determined by CNRC and OPNAV N133:

(1) Be commissioned as an ensign, U.S. Navy upon graduation from OCS with a designator which is dependent upon the individual's desires and/or the needs of the Navy and, upon appointment, serve four years from the date of commissioning, or the minimum service requirement associated with training for the new community, whichever is longer. Should an applicant fail to complete OCS for any reason other than physical disqualification, subparagraphs 11c(2), 11c(3) or 11c(4) shall apply.

(2) Serve 2 years active duty in an enlisted status:

(a) Applicants who entered the program under subparagraph 6a, and inactive personnel from another Service who were advanced to the paygrade of E-6 shall be administratively reduced to the paygrade of E-3 as an undesignated seaman and shall be ordered to Navy recruit training. The 2 year active-duty obligation commences on the date of orders. No specialized Navy schooling will be authorized following basic training unless the individual agrees to extend his or her active duty obligation to meet the service obligation requirements of the training program requested.

(b) Inactive Navy Reserve candidates who were placed on active duty at the paygrade of E-6 or E-7 in line with paragraph 8, shall be administratively reduced to the paygrade they held prior to entering the NUPOC program and an availability report will be initiated. The 2 year active duty obligation commences on the date of the availability report.

(3) Continue service under current enlistment contract. Candidates who entered the program under subparagraph 6c shall be administratively reduced to the paygrade they held prior to entering the NUPOC program and returned to their original detailer for further assignment.

(4) Be discharged. The type of discharge and reenlistment code will be determined by OPNAV N133.

d. Candidates enlisted and placed in the inactive Navy Reserve incur no active duty obligation until commissioned, after which point the provisions of subparagraph 11a apply.

e. Personnel who are enlisted and serving in an active-duty status who are disenrolled from the NUPOC program by reason of physical disqualification:


(1) If not physically qualified for duty as a submarine officer or nuclear-trained surface officer, the candidate may be discharged or, if desired, be retained on inactive duty for commissioning as an ensign, U.S. Navy upon graduation from OCS with a designator which is dependent upon the individual's desires and the needs of the Navy.

(2) If not physically qualified for commissioning, but physically qualified for enlistment, the candidate may be made available for recruit training, returned to the original detailer for further assignment (if entering the program under paragraph 6c) or discharged as directed by OPNAV N133. If the candidate has not attended recruit training, and is at a paygrade above E-3, the candidate will be administratively reduced to the paygrade of E-3 prior to transfer to recruit training.

(3) If not physically qualified for commissioning or enlistment, the candidate will be discharged. The type of discharge and reenlistment code will be determined by OPNAV N133.

12. Pay and allowances: Personnel selected, enlisted and placed in an active-duty status under this program authorization are entitled to full pay and allowances (with the exception of a clothing maintenance allowance). NUPOC personnel in this active duty status who are disenrolled from the NUPOC program will be placed in an inactive duty status terminating the full pay and allowances entitlement until enrollment in OCS or commencing the active duty obligation incurred under paragraph 8. NUPOC personnel selected and enlisted under this

program authorization, who were not authorized to be placed on active duty at time of interview, may be enlisted, placed on active duty and receive full pay and allowances (except clothing maintenance allowance) upon graduation from college, or upon direction from OPNAV N133.

Approved: 

J. T. JABLON
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy (N13)

Date: 28 May 19