

SPECIAL DUTY – MARITIME CYBER WARFARE OFFICER (1885)

Community Overview: The Reserve Information Warfare (IW) Programs (Intelligence, Cryptologic Warfare, Information Professional, Oceanography, Maritime Cyber Warfare Officer (MCWO), and Space Cadre)) are established under the cognizance of Commander, Naval Information Force Reserve (CNIFR) as the Type Commander, and Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command. The Navy Reserve Information Warfare Community's mission is to develop, generate, and mobilize combat-credible IW sailors to compete and decisively win during peacetime, contingency, and combat operations through Assured Command and Control, Battlespace Awareness, and Integrated Fires to achieve Freedom of Maneuver across all warfighting domains. The MCWO 1885 designator is a Restricted Line community comprised of approximately 60 Naval Reserve Officers.

Mission: MCWOs deliver warfighting capabilities and non-kinetic effects in and through cyberspace to disrupt, defend against, and if necessary, defeat adversarial threats and actions.

Guiding Principles:

(1) **Warfighting Competency:** MCWOs are skilled leaders and subject matter experts who lead planning, execution and integration of the full continuum of cyberspace activities and capabilities required to ensure freedom of action across all warfighting domains and deny the same to our adversaries. Expertise in Defensive Cyberspace Operations is of critical importance today, more than ever, to counter the increasingly delivery of complex and potentially devastating capabilities from our adversaries.

(2) **Leadership:** Leadership is a core competency for all Naval Officers. MCWOs must be engaged and seize the initiative, motivate people, effectively apply resources and execute missions. As leaders in cyberspace operations, MCWOs plan, coordinate and direct cyberspace operations across the Fleet, and in support of the joint force, remaining postured to deliver non-kinetic effects against adversaries when necessary.

(3) **Professional Expertise:** MCWOs require knowledge of defensive cybersecurity principles, tools and techniques to protect our own capabilities while undermining our adversaries' ability to employ their own.

MCWOs build this expertise through a combination of education, training and experience gained through repeated operational tours within the Navy's Cyber Mission Force.

Basic Eligibility Requirements: All candidates must be worldwide assignable and eligible for a Top Secret/Special Access security clearance and be willing to undergo a Counter-Intelligence Polygraph.

Accession Options:

(1) **Navy Veteran (NAVET):** The NAVET program provides the opportunity for officers leaving active duty and in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) to affiliate and serve as Selected Reserve Maritime Cyber Warfare Officers.

(2) **Direct Commission Officer (DCO):** The Reserve Maritime Cyber Warfare Officer Community has limited annual quotas for the DCO Program.

(3) **Change of Designator:** Reserve MCWO considers re-designation applications via the Change of Designator process available at <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Community-Management/Officer/Reserve-OCM/Selected-Reservists/RC-IWC/>.

(4) **Inter-service Transfer (IST):** Reserve MCWO accepts a limited number of Officers in a reserve status each year from other services.

Academic/Professional Expertise:

(1) **Required:** Baccalaureate degree with a minimum 3.0 or greater GPA.

(2) **Desired:** Major fields of study directly related to computer science, computer programming, information security and assurance, network administration, artificial intelligence/machine learning, cloud computing, internet security, data science, information technology, computer/digital forensics, computer engineering, software engineering, systems engineering, network operations, cyber security, software, or information systems.

Special Pay/Bonuses: None.

Training Pipeline: All newly commissioned Naval Officers must first attend Officer Development School (five weeks). New MCWOs, regardless of accession path, must complete the Cyberspace Operations Planner Course (COPC) and U.S. Cyber Command Personnel Qualification Standard (PQS) within 36 months of commissioning or change of designator. After completing the PQS, these officers shall attend the Information Warfare Basic Course (three weeks) and complete the Information Warfare Officer (IWO) qualification within 60 months.

Billet Assignment: Initial billet assignment will be coordinated through CNIFR. Follow-on billet assignments are made through Junior Officer APPLY (JOAPPLY) or Senior Officer APPLY processes.

Career Path:

(1) Reserve MCWOs have an opportunity to serve in challenging assignments with ever increasing scope and responsibility as watch officers, team leaders, planners, operational officers, and mission commanders. Typical areas of assignment focus include Defensive Cyber Operations, and Cyberspace Operations Planning.

(2) MCWOs conduct repeat operational and leadership tours within the Cyber Operation Force (COF) and Cyber Mission Force (CMF), including tours on Combatant Command, Fleet, and major command staffs and Cyber Protection Teams (CPTs).

(3) Senior MCWOs will have opportunities for major command assignments as commanding officers or executive officers supporting Fleet Cyber Command/ Commander Tenth Fleet (FCC/C10F), US Cyber Command (USCC), Joint Force Headquarters Cyber - Navy (JFHQ-C (N)), Cryptologic Warfare Group 6 (CWG-6), and Navy Cyber Defense Operations Command (NCDOC).



Points of Contact:

Information Warfare Reserve Officer
Community Managers:
(901) 874-4309/2976

Web sites:

COMNAVIFORES

<https://private.navyreserve.navy.mil/cnifr/Pages/default.aspx> (CAC enabled)



Web sites:

More
Information
at navy.com

[Click Here!](#)



Information
Warfare
Community
on Facebook:

[Click Here!](#)



Information
Warfare Reserve
Officer
Community
Manager:
[Click Here!](#)

