

SPECIAL DUTY - MARITIME SPACE OFFICER (1875)

Overview: The Reserve Information Warfare (IW) Programs (Intelligence, Cryptologic Warfare, Information Professional, Oceanography, Maritime Space Officer (MSO), and Space Cadre) are established under the cognizance of Commander, Naval Information Force Reserve (IW Reserve TYCOM) and Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command. MSO is a Line community of approximately 50 Naval Reserve Officers. MSOs are space domain experts, charged with leveraging space to deliver capabilities to the fleet while denying access to our adversaries.

Guiding Principles: The space domain is the area above the altitude where atmospheric effects on airborne objects become negligible. The value of the space domain arises from the ability to conduct activities with unrivaled reach, persistence, endurance, and responsiveness, while affording legal overflight of any location on earth. Because of these attributes, space power is inherently global. Not only are space operations global, but they are also multi-domain. A successful attack against any one segment (or combination of segments), whether terrestrial, link, or space of the space architecture can neutralize a space capability; therefore, space domain access, maneuver, and exploitation require deliberate and synchronized defensive operations across all three segments.

Vision: MSOs understand both the maritime application of space power to further the Navy mission, and the USSPACECOM Commander's role to protect, defend, and project space power. Core emphasis is on lethality, readiness, and capacity to fully exploit space capabilities and prevent adversarial operations aimed at disrupting the Navy's space capabilities across multiple domains.

Mission: MSOs are mission-focused and provide naval-specific support, security, stability, and strategic effects by employing space power in, from, and to the space domain in support of maritime operations at the operational level of war. They recognize the inherent value of the space domain, and the tremendous influence space has on U.S. prosperity and security and are focused on developing and deploying systems to defend capabilities advantageous for U.S. global military operations. Leveraging the relationship with U.S. Space Force and USSPACECOM, the Navy's MSOs are postured to coordinate Navy Space requirements and develop competencies in systems and tactics to fully integrate legacy and emerging space capabilities, while operating in a challenging joint environment.

Eligibility Requirements:

(1) Required: A minimum of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with a major field of study directly related to Space disciplines is required. Applicants must be able to obtain and maintain a Top Secret / SCI security clearance and pass a CI polygraph examination.

(2) Desired: Space-related advanced degrees, including a Masters or PhD, are strongly preferred. Non-STEM candidates must have completed a sequence in Calculus (Calculus I and II) and a calculus-based Physics sequence (Physics I and II). No waivers will be granted unless the applicant has at least two years of experience in a Space-related field.

Accession Options:

(1) Change of Designator: The MSO Community primary access path is through redesignation from other designators. Newly redesignated officers will be afforded the opportunity to complete all necessary requirements to earn their MSO basic and IW qualifications in their new community.

(2) Navy Veteran (NAVET): The NAVET program provides the opportunity for officers leaving active duty and in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) to affiliate in the Navy Reserve as MSOs. NAVETs desiring redesignation to MSO may submit a Change of Designator request as part of the affiliation process.

(3) Direct Commission Officer (DCO): The Reserve MSO Community has a limited number of annual quotas for the DCO Program. Highly competitive candidates will have civilian and educational experience in a space related discipline. Further details can be found in the MSO Program Authorization on MyNavyHR.

Special Pay/Bonuses: None

Training Pipeline: Newly commissioned Naval Officers attend Officer Development School (five weeks). All MSOs complete the initial officer qualification within 36 months from date of Commissioning or Change of Designator, attend the IW Basic Course (three weeks), and the IW Officer (IWO) qualification within 60 months.

-- Initial Officer Basic Qualification involves completion of the Space Officer Basic PQS, passing an oral qualification board and 18 months in a Space Operations billet, or a Master's Degree from Naval Post Graduate School to earn the Basic Space Cadre Qualification (VS5).

-- Additional qualifications for MSOs follow closely with the VS/VR series Additional Qualification Designators (AQDs), beginning with VS5 and progressing to VS8/VR3 as the officer accrues time and experience in space assignments.

-- Advanced MSO qualifications may also be pursued along Operations or Acquisition tracks, with additional academic and experience time requirements as outlined in the NOOCS Manual.

Career Path:

(1) MSOs serve in key billets in fleet Maritime Operations Centers (MOCs), NAVSPACE, SPACECOM, NRO, and other DoD/Joint units. The MSO community does not currently include a path to command.

(2) Initial billet assignment will be coordinated through the Naval Information Force Reserve (NIFR) Regions. Follow-on billet assignments are made via online Junior Officer APPLY (JOAPPLY) process. MSOs maintain a heavy focus on operating in a joint environment, with emphasis on early Joint Qualification due to the collaborative nature of military space operations.

Community Values:

- (1) Sustained superior performance.
- (2) Warfare Competence.
- (3) Professional expertise (e.g., Advanced Space Qualifications, Technical Expertise in operation or acquisition of space systems, Joint Professional Military Education, etc.).
- (4) Master's degrees related to Space (Operations, Engineering), Physics, Aeronautical Engineering and Acquisitions.

Point of Contact:

CAPT Jacob Schmitter, CNIFR N9, MSO Community Lead
jacob.d.schmitter.mil@us.navy.mil

Web sites:

Navy Reserve
Space Cadre
Community

[Click Here!](#)



Information
Warfare
Community
on Facebook:

[Click Here!](#)



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

