FY18 FOREIGN AREA OFFICER REDESIGNATION REQUIREMENTS

**1.** **General Information**. On 30 June 2015, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations approved the establishment of the Reserve Component (RC) Foreign Area Officer (FAO) community, 1715 designator. For initial community establishment, selections panels will be held and coordinated by Assistant Commander, Navy Personnel Command (PERS-9) and Head Reserve Officer Community Manager (BUPERS-351). This document outlines both general and community-specific eligibility requirements and restrictions, and serves to supplement BUPERSINST 1001.39F. Applicants are required to review all eligibility criteria before submitting their application.

1. Selected Reserve (SELRES) officers, including those on temporary recall orders and Canvasser Recruiters (CANRECs), are eligible to apply to the RC FAO designation. Members of the Voluntary Training Units (VTUs) and officers in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) are not eligible for RC FAO redesignation. Applications from enlisted personnel, civilians, or inter-service transfer requests will not be accepted. SELRES officer eligibility when in a failure of selection (FOS) status for promotion to the next higher paygrade is discussed in paragraph (c) below.
2. Command endorsements are required from ALL applicants. Applications received without a command endorsement will not be considered. SELRES applicants must provide a command endorsement with their application from either their Reserve Unit CO or OIC, current AC command (if presently serving on temporary active duty orders), or NOSC Commanding Officer.
3. SELRES officers on the Reserve Active Status List (RASL) who have failed of selection once or twice for promotion to the next higher paygrade (1xFOS or 2xFOS) are eligible to apply. SELRES officers on the RASL who have failed of selection more than twice for promotion to the next higher paygrade are not eligible to apply.
4. Applicants’ global assignability should be verified and documented, per BUMEDINST 1300.2A and OPNAVINST 1300.14D, via successful overseas screening to the highest regional standard to meet type 3 overseas assignment criteria. All applicants shall provide proof of required medical/dental status in their application package by submitting NAVPERS 1300/16, Report of Suitability for Overseas Assignments.
5. Applications will not be accepted from officers in a “legal hold” status or currently being processed for administrative separation.
6. Send the application and supporting documentation to keith.chappell@navy.mil. The subject line must read RC FOREIGN AREA OFFICER REDESIG REQUEST ICO (RANK FIRST NAME LAST NAME, DESIGNATOR)
7. Officers selected to redesignate to RC FAO will receive notification via email and must respond either accepting or declining redesignation.

**2. Foreign Affairs Officer (1715) Community Requirements**:

1. Applicants shall have a record of sustained superior performance in their current designator, preferably with significant operational experience and experience in international engagement.
2. Applicants must speak at least one foreign language as documented by Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) and/or Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) – minimum of 2/2/1+ DLPT/OPI scores taken within three years of board date (February 2014 or later). Requests for waivers of the foreign language requirement will NOT be considered.
3. Applicants should possess a regionally focused international relations and/or strategic studies Master’s Degree, must have a proven understanding of U.S. and foreign military operations, U.S. foreign policy and security cooperation objectives, as well as a deep understanding of interagency and nongovernmental organization capabilities and cultures gained from working and living in a specified region. Waivers to the Master’s degree requirement will be considered on a case-by-case basis for applicants with significant regional expertise from military and/or civilian employment.
4. Applicants should possess in-theater duty experience of 1 year in the region of specialty that produces in-depth understanding of language and culture through significant interaction with host nation nationals and entities.
5. Applicants must be eligible for Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) security clearance
6. Applicants shall submit a resume establishing civilian and/or military employment/tour descriptions.
7. Letters of Recommendation (LOR) are not required, but are encouraged. No more than **FOUR** LORs will be accepted.