



## DMAP Phase IV Rating Knowledge Exam Fact Sheet DC and ABE Sailors

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### BLUF

NAVADMIN 017/24 announces the implementation of DMAP Phase IV, which focuses on the journeyman pay band (E5 and E6) for Damage Controlman (DC) and Aviation Boatswain's Mate – Launching and Recovery Equipment (ABE). As a modification to previous DMAP NAVADMINS, all advancements to E5 and E6 for Active Duty DC and ABE Sailors will be conducted via Advance to Position (A2P) and Command Advance to Position (CA2P) beginning June 1, 2024. These ratings will transition to a pilot to fully implement billet-based advancements and implement the rating knowledge exam (RKE) with DMAP Phase IV.

### Who needs to know?

- Active Component Enlisted Sailors (specifically those in the ABE/DC ratings)
- Navy Career Counselors
- Division Officers, Department Heads
- Triads, Chiefs Mess

### What you need to know – key points

- NAVADMIN 017/24 announces the implementation of DMAP Phase IV focused on the journeyman pay band (E5 and E6) for the DC and ABE ratings and the transition to the Rating Knowledge Exam (RKE).
- DC and ABE Sailors no longer take a rating exam, instead they take the RKE.
- DC and ABE Sailors need an advancement recommendation in the proper paygrade for eligibility to take the RKE. In line with current policies, Commands and Reporting Seniors may complete a special evaluation to allow the Sailor who has not yet received an in-paygrade evaluation to take the Cycle 263 RKE.
- PMK-EE will not be an eligibility requirement for DC and ABE Sailors to participate in Cycle 263. However, PMK-EE remains a requirement for advancement. Further guidance will be provided pertaining to DMAP Phase IV policy.
- Sailors are only required to pass the RKE once per paygrade.
- Successfully passing the RKE is a requirement for Sailors to compete for assignment to billets in the next higher paygrade via A2P and CA2P.

### FAQ

#### Q1. How will RKE exams be ordered?

**A1.** The DC and ABE exams will be referred to as RKEs. The RKEs ordering process is the same as NWAEs (Navy-wide Advancement Exams) via the Navy Enlisted Advancement System (NEAS) Ordering website. To support Cycle 263 ordering timelines, DC and ABE RKEs were sent to commands for current E4 and E5 Sailors with TIR dates outside the normal requirements. ESOs must add Cycle 263 orders for Sailors missing from the mass/Initial TIR exam orders. The last date to order substitute RKEs is March 31, 2024. To add a DC or ABE RKE order outside of the normal TIR requirements, select "TIR Eligible/BBA." The storage, administration, and processing of DC and ABE RKEs are the same as all other NWAEs.

#### Q2. NAVADMIN 017/24 stated to retain RKEs until the completion of the Spring cycle. What needs to happen?

**A2.** Like NWAEs, RKEs can only be destroyed after the completion of the advancement cycle.



**Q3. Who is eligible to take the Cycle 263 DC and ABE RKEs?**

**A3.** All DC and ABE Sailors who were selected for advancement to EX and EX in Cycle 260 or have advanced via a previous cycle or program (MAP, etc.) are eligible to take the RKE.

**Q4. Can the ESOs split the RKE in Cycle 263?**

**A4.** Yes, NWAEE rules apply.

**Q5. Are ESOs generating a separate letter of transmittal for the RKEs?**

**A5.** No, RKEs and NWAEEs will be listed on the same transmittal letter(s).

**Q6. Can ESOs order late RKEs for Sailors that was not on the order list for Cycle 263?**

**A6.** Yes, defer to normal advancement cycle timeframes for deadlines.

**Q7. Who will track if a Sailor needs to do the RKE?**

**A7.** ESOs will track if a Sailor has taken an RKE through NEAS or Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) websites. ESOs will be responsible, using the initial TIR-eligibility list as the starting point, for determining who should be proctored an RKE and ensuring exams are only ordered for those Sailors who eligible.

**Q8. Can Sailors take subsequent RKEs?**

**A8.** Although not required to do so, Sailors who pass the RKE may voluntarily take future RKEs to improve their marketplace score.

**Q9. NAVADMIN 017/24 was released after the PMK-EE deadline. Will commands need to request waivers for DC and ABE Sailors not meeting the deadline?**

**A9.** No, PMK-EE waivers are being centrally transacted for all DMAP Phase IV Sailors taking the March 2024 exam, considering the initial notification was posted the day after the Cycle 263 PMK-EE deadline.

**Q10. Will Enlisted Advancement Worksheets (EAWs) need to be created for DC and ABE for RKE eligibility?**

**A10.** Yes. ESOs will possibly have to override TIR and PMK-EE requirements for DC and ABE EAWs. In the future, DC and ABE EAWs will be labeled BBA. EAWs will not be able to be created for DC and ABE Sailors selected for advancement in Cycle 260 until the effective date of advancement. Answer sheets received without a generated EAW will remain in discrepancy status until NEAS receives the EAW record.

**Q11. What is the scoring process for the RKE?**

**A11.** RKEs are scored and conducted the same as NWAEEs. The only change is that the FMS is translated over to become a weight factored in for Marketplace-based advancement decisions.

**Q12. If an E5 reporting to sea duty is currently eligible for E6 and has taken the E6 exam several times, do they have to wait for an E6 vacancy at their current command or transfer from their current command at their projected rotation date to advance?**

**A12.** The NAVADMIN announced additional flexibility for Sailors who were previously eligible for advancement. If a Sailor has already met (or exceeded) legacy TIR requirements, has more than one year left at the current command and has been onboard for more than one year, they may request to enter the Marketplace and compete for advancement, via 1306, to PERS-40.

**References:**

- DMAP NAVADMIN 017/24