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SUBJ/NAVY FOREIGN AREA OFFICER (FAO) COMMUNITY CALL FOR APPLICATIONS//

REF/A/DOC/CNO WASHINGTON DC/30JUN2016//
REF/B/DOC/OPNAV/17JAN19//
REF/C/DOC/COMNAVPERSCOM/21JUN22//

NARR/REF A IS OPNAVINST 1301.10C, NAVY FOREIGN AREA OFFICER COMMUNITY
REF B IS OPNAVINST 1210.5B, LATERAL TRANSFER AND REDESIGNATION OF ACTIVE
COMPONENT OFFICERS IN THE NAVY
REF C IS MILPERSMAN 1212-010, LATERAL TRANSFER AND CHANGE OF DESIGNATOR CODES
OF REGULAR AND RESERVE OFFICERS

RMKS/1. The Navy Foreign Area Officer (FAO) Community is seeking motivated
waterfront leaders to join the Navy's community of strategic operators via
applications to the Lateral Transfer and Redesignation Board.

2. Background.

a. Foreign Area Officers are a community of all-domain strategic
operators and warfighters whose mission is to deliver a global geo-strategic
advantage for the Navy, the Joint Force, and our Allies & Partners to defend,
deny, disrupt, deter, and defeat threats. FAOs' irreplaceable forward
presence, leadership, and expertise deliver combined lethality, influence
advantage, information advantage, and access advantage to enable joint
functions of warfare.

b. Keeping the fight forward in today's increasingly complex security
environment requires persistent overseas presence, and FAOs provide an
indispensable human element of the Navy's global posture.
FAOs work across all levels of the integrated fleet, the joint force, and the
inter-agency as Naval attaches, as the Navy's certified uniformed security
cooperation professionals, and as the Navy's community of experts in
political-military affairs, strategy, plans, and policy. FAOs focus on
projecting American seapower and increasing deterrence alongside Allies &
Partners and other countries.

c. FAOs orient to the five geographic regions that correspond to the
Geographic Combatant Command (CENTCOM, INDOPACOM, SOUTHCOM, EUCOM, and
AFRICOM) Areas of Responsibility (AOR). The community assigns FAOs to an AOR
after selection for lateral transfer, based on the FAO's preferences, career
timing, qualifications, and community needs, with approximately 2/3 of FAO
billets overseas.

Typical in-region billets include Embassy Security Cooperation Offices and
Defense Attach Offices, and on OCONUS-based Joint and Navy staffs. When not
in region, FAOs serve on staff assignments at CONUS- or OCONUS-headquartered

Geographic Combatant Commands, Navy Component Commands, OPNAV, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Staff, Department of State, and other interagency appointments.

d. Navy FAOs serve in 82 countries around the world and often conduct missions from remote but strategically important nodes. At times FAOs live and work in non-permissive and oppressive environments where the United States needs a footprint on the ground to watch blind spots, to influence regional or global decisions, and to deepen American understanding of the geo-strategic environment. Multiple overseas postings in such settings require individual and family resilience, high states of readiness, iron-clad ethical behavior, and leadership skills well-suited to lead teams of high-impact interagency and multinational partners. The mission is challenging but highly impactful and personally rewarding.

3. Application and Selection Process.

a. Lateral Transfer Board. The FAO Community selects officers applying for lateral transfers semi-annually as part of the regularly scheduled Navy Active Duty Officer Lateral Transfer and Re-designation boards, held in February and August each year.

Officers from all designators may apply for lateral transfer into the FAO Community after a minimum of 4 years of commissioned service (YCS). Most applicants enter prior to 12 YCS, with a smaller number of more senior gains filling targeted requirements. Current minimum eligibility and application requirements can be found at the following 2 websites:

(1) <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Community-Management/Officer/Active-OCM/Restricted-Line/Foreign-Area-Officer/>

(2) <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Boards/Administrative/Transfer-Redesignation/>

b. Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) - FAO Tailored Community Transition (TCT).

The SWO-FAO TCT program provides a pathway for SWOs to lateral transfer to the FAO community, following successful completion of their SWO Department Head (DH) tours. Following the annual SWO Department Head Screening Board, PERS-41 will advertise the opportunity to apply for SWO-FAO TCT to all successfully screened officers. Upon selection for SWO-FAO TCT, officers will be assigned to a region in accordance with reference (a), and detailed to complete FAO training requirements in close coordination with the FAO Junior Detailer during the officer's post Division Officer shore tour. Training requirements include an international security affairs master's degree and language training, and will take between 24-36 months depending on the officer's assigned region.

Following FAO training, SWO-FAO TCT officers will complete SWO Department Head training requirements and be subsequently detailed to a SWO Department Head billet. SWO-FAO TCT officers will be automatically re-designated to 1710 upon successful completion of their SWO Department Head tours and a favorable record review screening by the FAO OCM. They will be assigned by the FAO Detailer to their next assignment at their normal PRD.

4. FAO Qualifications. Once accepted for lateral transfer, new FAOs' initial orders will typically be to Monterey, CA, Newport, RI, or Washington D.C. to commence training requirements leading to full qualification. Full qualification is conferred through the Additional Qualification Designation (AQD) FA1, FA2, FA3, FA4 or FA5, each of which corresponds to one of the five AORs. Full qualification is based on the following three milestones:

a. A Master's degree in International Relations, Strategic Studies, or Regional Studies.

b. Score of 2 in at least two of the three modalities (i.e. listening, reading, and speaking) on the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) or Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) in a foreign language of the FAO's assigned region.

c. One-year experience in a FAO billet in the assigned region.

5. Additional information regarding the FAO community is available at the MyNavyHR FAO Community website at: <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Community-Management/Officer/Active-OCM/Restricted-Line/Foreign-Area-Officer/> and in reference (a).

6. Point of contact is CDR Chris Wallace, FAO Community Manager, (901) 874-3694 or email christopher.l.wallace30.mil(at)us.navy.mil.

7. Released by VADM D. Dwyer, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans, Strategy and Warfighting Development (N3N5N7)//

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