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SUBJ/ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027 WARFIGHTER EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
(WEPS) PROGRAM AND NAVAL WAR COLLEGE FLEET SEMINAR FULL TIME PILOT
OPPORTUNITY//

REF/A/DOC/CNO WASHINGTON DC/07JAN15//
REF/B/DOC/CNO WASHINGTON DC/08JAN15//
REF/C/DOC/NAVPER 15839I//
REF/D/MEMO/SECWAR/22MAY25//
REF/E/RMG 031922ZAPR25//
REF/F/RMG 251459ZMAY25//

NARR/REF A IS OPNAVINST 1520.23C CH-3, GRADUATE EDUCATION.
REF B IS OPNAVINST 1520.24D, OFFICER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.
REF C IS MANUAL OF NAVY OFFICER MANPOWER PERSONNEL CLASSIFICATIONS.
REF D IS OSW MEMORANDUM, PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION TARGETED REDUCTIONS
REVIEW AND PERSONNEL POLICY CHANGES.
REF E IS NAVADMIN 070/25, ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026 NAVAL WAR COLLEGE FLEET
SEMINAR PROGRAM.
REF F IS NAVADMIN 263/18, UPDATE TO NAVY GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM. //

RMKS/1. This NAVADMIN announces the Academic Year (AY) 2026-2027 Warfighter Education and Professional Studies (WEPS) program and Fleet Seminar Full Time (FSFT) pilot program.

2. The Warfighter Education and Professional Studies - Full Time (WEPS-FT) program is a Navy talent and warfighter development initiative that selects highly performing Unrestricted Line (URL) and Information Warfare Line (IWL) Officers to attend in-residence graduate education at civilian institutions (CIVINS). WEPS is the follow-on program to the previous Fleet Scholars Education Program (FSEP).

a. In accordance with reference D, student officers are highly encouraged to select CIVINS within commuting distance of current (or pending) duty stations within the United States. Hybrid programs allowing the student officer to stay at their permanent duty station and travel (self-funded) to the selected civilian institution for in-person cohort time, are acceptable and credit for In Resident Graduate Education (IRGE) requirement (per reference F) will be granted. Selectees for WEPS-FT will be administratively assigned to the closest senior Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) or Navy Support unit.

b. WEPS-FT is available at the Lieutenant (LT) and Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) paygrades. Top performing Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Officers may

be considered if scheduled to be promoted to LT before reporting to their selected school for graduate education.

c. WEPS-FT participants detailed to a self-selected CIVINS will have up to 24 months to complete a graduate degree while in a full-time student status. Participants will be required to complete a degree that will earn a subspecialty code (SSC) indicated by the approved areas of study listed in paragraph 5.

d. WEPS-FT will also select officers for attendance at Purdue Military Research Institute (PMRI) and Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), as part of WEPS-FT. PMRI and GTRI are still available to newly commissioned officers part of the Immediate Graduate Education Program (IGEP).

(1) Officers selected for PMRI will attend Purdue University in-residence and have up to 24 months to complete a master's degree, or up to 36 months to complete a PhD. Details on PMRI can be found at <https://engineering.purdue.edu/PMRI>.

(2) Officers selected for GTRI will attend Georgia Institute of Technology in-residence as a Military Graduate Research Assistant and have up to 24 months to complete a master's degree. Details on GTRI can be found at <https://gtri.gatech.edu/outreach/mgrp>.

e. OPNAV will fund up to \$40,000/yr of tuition and fees. Any graduate education program with tuition and fees that exceed that amount may be covered via a non-Navy funded scholarship in accordance with Officer Scholarship Program (reference B), by the student officer's respective community, or self-funded via Post-9/11 G.I. Bill or other means (Tuition Assistance is prohibited). PRMI and GTRI are fully funded opportunities.

f. Officers who have already received fully funded Navy provided graduate education are not eligible to participate. Graduate degrees obtained through Naval War College, Post 9-11 G.I. Bill, Tuition Assistance, or the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education are not disqualifiers. Selectees will be assigned an Additional Qualification Designation (AQD) for tracking and career management purposes.

g. Final selections will be made via community processes.

h. Community specific quotas allocated in the Strategic Education and Alignment (SEA) Plan are as follows:

		CIVINS	GTRI	PMRI
SURFOR	1110	6	1	1
SUBFOR	1120	5	1	1
NSW	1130	2		1
AIRFOR	13X0	4	1	1
IWL	1810	1		1
	1820	1		1
	1830	1		

i. Upon notification of selection to WEPS-FT, selectees should apply to no more than three accredited graduate education institutions that have an existing Education Services Agreement (ESA). For a list of schools associated with an ESA, please contact OPNAV N711 at OPNAV_N711@us.navy.mil. Participants may be reimbursed for up to those three application and transcript fees after beginning their first semester/quarter. Participants are responsible for researching and completing prerequisites including the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) where applicable (Navy will not reimburse for GRE fees). Enrollment will begin no earlier than 01 July 2026 for the fall or winter term of AY26-27.

3. The Warfighter Education and Professional Studies - Part Time (WEPS-PT) program provides an opportunity for selected Officers and Senior Enlisted

personnel assigned to shore duty to attain Navy relevant graduate education in selected areas of study. WEPS-PT is the follow-on program to the previous Graduate Education Voucher (GEV) and Advanced Education Voucher (AEV) programs. Hybrid graduate education programs are encouraged as completion of the program will grant IRGE credit per reference F.

a. For AY 26-27, WEPS-PT quotas are listed below, subject to funding availability, and all quotas must be allocated by 19 June 2026.

b. Community specific quotas allocated in the SEA Plan are as follows:

	Quotas	
SURFOR	1110	9
SUBFOR	1120	7
NSW	1130	2
AIRFOR	13X0	11
Any URL/RL/IWL		10 (3211 Operations Research or 6XXX Artificial Intelligence)
Senior Enlisted		10 (Selected via board chaired by OPNAV N3N5N7 CMDCM)

4. Areas of Study: WEPS-FT and WEPS-PT participants shall choose from the following areas of study that grant the associated SSC per reference C.

National Security / Strategic / Regional Studies - 2XXX

Public Policy / Public Administration / - 2300

Operations Research /Analysis / Data Science - 3211

Engineering and Technology - 5XXX

Systems Operations / Artificial Intelligence / Computer Science - 6XXX

a. For officer selectees, all Education Plans will be reviewed against the Educational Skill Requirements (ESR) and approved by the respective Subject Matter Expert (SME) listed in reference C.

b. The full list of subspecialty codes' respective ESRs can be found online at <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Education/Subspecialty/>. For Senior Enlisted selectees, all degree programs shall be consistent with the student's rating.

5. Application and Selection Process

a. Community sponsors will develop and implement their own application criteria and selection process to identify their most talented officers with proven past performance and high potential future performance for WEPS-FT participation. Officer community sponsors will determine their nominees for selection no later than 31 January 2026 and submit them to the Director for Warfighter Development (OPNAV N71) via the Civilian Institutions (CIVINS) program office at OPNAV_N71(at)us.navy.mil and CIVINS(at)us.navy.mil. Enlisted personnel interested in WEPS-PT should apply through their detailers.

6. The Naval War College Fleet Seminar - Full Time pilot program builds upon the proven model of the Fleet Seminar Program announced in reference D for LT and senior URL and IWL officers. This is a small pilot program with limited opportunities. This program leads to a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College via the Fleet Seminar Program and College of Distance Education. This pilot program provides officers time to attend the three required core JPME I courses (Strategy and War, Theater Security Decision Making, and Joint Maritime Operations) concurrently for 10 months as a full-time student. Upon completion of JPME I, the student officer will have up to an additional 8 months to complete the electives required to earn a master's in National Security Studies from the U.S. Naval War College's College of Distance Education per NWC program requirements (<https://usnwc.edu/college-of-distance-education/Graduate-Degree->

Program/Electives-and-Area-of-Study). Elective coursework will be completed via NWC program requirements which includes in person and distance learning options. Officers assigned to Fleet Seminar - Full Time will be administratively assigned to the closest senior Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) or Navy Support unit. The JPME Phase I core courses will commence in early September 2026 and conclude in late May 2027.

a. Officers selected for this pilot program must be assigned to one of the Fleet Concentration Areas (FCA) listed below. Enrollment period is 01 April to 31 May 2026. Courses begin in early September 2026.

b. Community specific quotas allocated in the Strategic Education and Alignment (SEA) Plan are as follows:

	NORFOLK	SAN DIEGO	PEARL HARBOR
SURFOR	1110	1	1
SUBFOR	1120	1	
NSW	1130	1	1
EOD	1140		1
AIRFOR	13X0	1	1
IWL	1810		1
	1820	1	
	1830	1	1

7. Service Obligation: In line with reference A, all selectees shall agree in writing to remain on active duty for three times the number of months spent in full-time education up to a total of three years of obligated service time following graduation or withdrawal from the program. A member who voluntarily or through misconduct fails to complete the active-duty time agreed upon shall be required to reimburse the cost of the education received, prorated for the obligated time served.

8. Points of contact.

a. For AY 26/27 WEPS quota and FSFT pilot opportunity availability, contact your detailer.

b. For policy questions, e-mail OPNAV N711 (OPNAV_N711(at)us.navy.mil).

9. This message will remain in effect until superseded or 31 May 2026, whichever occurs first.

10. Released by VADM Y. M. Davids, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans, Strategy and Warfighting Development (N3N5N7). //

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