

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED/
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PASS TO OFFICE CODES:
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NAVADMIN 070/26

MSGID/GENADMIN/CNO WASHINGTON DC/N1/JAN//

SUBJ/MARCH 2026 (CYCLE 271) ACTIVE-DUTY AND TRAINING AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE RESERVE E5 AND E6 NAVY-WIDE ADVANCEMENT EXAMINATIONS AND RATING KNOWLEDGE EXAMS - UPDATED GUIDANCE//

REF/A/MSG/CNO WASHINGTON DC/N1/131839ZJAN26//
REF/B/DOC/BUPERS/21JAN26//

NARR/REF A IS NAVADMIN 008/26, ACTIVE DUTY AND TRAINING AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE RESERVE E5 AND E6 NAVY-WIDE ADVANCEMENT EXAMINATIONS AND RATING KNOWLEDGE EXAMS.

REF B IS BUPERSINST 1430.16H, ADVANCEMENT MANUAL FOR ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE U.S. NAVY AND U.S. NAVY RESERVE.

RMKS/1. This NAVADMIN modifies reference (a), providing updated guidance for the Cycle 271 March 2026 exam cycle. The exam administration window for Cycle 271 has been extended through 30 April 2026 in support of Sailors participating in Operation Epic Fury.

2. Every effort must be made to administer exams during the prescribed window. Extending the deadline will ensure receipt of exams and maximum participation for all eligible Sailors and minimize the administrative burden of a missed exam administration.

Do not administer exams after 30 April 2026. Destroy exams in accordance with reference (b) when exams are received too late or unable to administer due to operations.

3. Guidelines and actions for commands unable to administer exams:

a. Non-Billet Based Advancement (BBA) (legacy) Sailors:

(1) In accordance with reference (a), submit an exception to policy (ETP) requesting a standard score comparison of Cycle 272 (fall exam) against Cycle 271 (spring exam) due to missed exams.

(2) ETP requests must cite the reason for the missed exam (for example: unable to administer exam due to operational constraints, did not receive exams within prescribed window).

b. BBA Sailors

(1) For Sailors who have taken a Rating Knowledge Exam (RKE) during a previous exam cycle and have an active Detailing Market Eligibility Indicator (DMEI), no action is required. For Sailors who previously participated in a Navy Wide Advancement Examination, that exam score will be applied to Cycle 271, no action is required.

(2) For BBA eligible candidates who have not taken an RKE during a previous exam cycle, commands will generate an ETP waiver requesting standard score application for Cycle 271.

(a) The waiver must contain the UIC, full name of candidate, Department of Defense Identification (DoD ID), and exam rate. ETP letter and Candidate Listing by Activity templates are included with NAVADMIN posting.

(b) BBA eligibility requirements in accordance with reference (b) will supersede this waiver. Remove BBA ineligible Sailors from ETP waivers.

(c) Waiver requests must be emailed directly to Naval Education and Training Professional Development Center (NETPDC N321) no later than 30 April 2026, to the following email:
usn.pensacola.netpdc.mbx.netpdc-n321-discrepancies@us.navy.mil.

4. Due to this extended exam cycle administration, advancement results will be significantly delayed. Despite the delay in results, advancements or advancement opportunities will not be compromised.

5. Points of contact for NETPDC and Enlisted Advancement Policy (OPNAV N132C):

a. NETPDC: usn.pensacola.netpdc.mbx.netpdc-n321-discrepancies@us.navy.mil.

b. OPNAV N132C: NXAG_N132C@navy.mil

6. Released by Vice Admiral Jeffrey J. Czerewko, N1.//

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