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SUBJ/ACADEMIC YEAR 2027/28 ENLISTED CYBER MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE
OPPORTUNITY AT NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL//

REF/A/INST/OPNAV/07JAN15//
REF/B/INST/OPNAV/30JAN07//
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NARR/REF A IS OPNAVINST 1520.23C CH-3, GRADUATE EDUCATION.
REF B IS OPNAVINST 1160.8B, SELECTIVE REENLISTMENT BONUS PROGRAM.
REF C IS NAVADMIN 112/25, BILLET BASED ADVANCEMENT 2025 UPDATE.//

RMKS/1. This NAVADMIN solicits enlisted Sailor applications for enrollment in the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) 15-month Master of Science in Applied Cyber Operations (MACO) program. This opportunity is one of many efforts to increase Cyber capabilities towards the Navy building Cyber professionals.

2. The MACO program is available to E-6 and above Active Duty and Training and Administration of the Reserves (TAR) members in the Information Systems Technician (IT) and Cyber Warfare Technician (CWT) ratings. It is designed to provide a deep understanding of the implementation of national and military application of integrated lines of operation, including DoD Information Network Operations (DoDINOps), Defensive Cyberspace Operations (DCO), and Offensive Cyberspace Operations (OCO), cyber security fundamentals and the required technical operations underpinning these. Students will learn to seize and sustain an information advantage through all stages of operations, from compliance and early warning through detection, planning, targeting, cyber fires, assessing effects and resetting for follow-on plans and operations.

3. Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements to apply:

a. Must possess a Bachelor of Science degree in a relevant technical field including, but not limited to, computer science, electrical engineering, and information or engineering technology. The degree must have been awarded by an institution of higher learning, with Institutional Accreditation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. To meet NPS academic requirements, performance in technical courses, including mathematics, must be exemplary.

b. Must be E6 or above to be eligible and within one's 12-month orders negotiation window, commensurate with course start dates of January 2028 or July 2028.

c. Per reference (a), candidates must be eligible to incur a 5-year active-duty service obligation by reenlistment or extension of enlistment prior to NPS enrollment. Selectees will be required to reenlist more than 1-year earlier, if they are unable to satisfy the 5-year obligated service

requirement. Per reference (b), payment of the selective reenlistment bonus is not authorized for selectees who reenlist for the purpose of meeting the obligated service requirement.

d. Must be within Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) standards and must have passed the most recent PFA.

e. Must have no evaluation marks below 3.0 within the last five years.

f. Must hold, or be eligible for, a Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) clearance. Applicants without a current TS/SCI clearance are still encouraged to apply if their clearance can be initiated by their Special Security Office (SSO) and adjudicated before the class convening dates. Orders to NPS will not be issued until TS/SCI clearance is finalized.

g. Must possess a conditional letter of acceptance. To obtain a conditional letter of acceptance, applicants should apply to NPS at <https://nps.edu/web/admissions/apply>. Once registered, select Applied Cyber Operations, curriculum number 336. Upon application submission, applicants must arrange for submission of official transcripts to the NPS admissions office from each institution attended for all undergraduate and graduate education, as well as all Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcripts, or Joint Services Transcripts. NPS applications must be submitted to NPS no later than 31 December 2026. Applicants will be notified by NPS via e-mail regarding their conditional acceptance. Prior application submissions to this program do not disqualify an applicant. However, applicants who did not receive previous conditional acceptance from NPS, and have no additional academic qualifications, should not apply again, as the academic standards have not changed.

4. Application format and submission:

a. Application letter template may be obtained by contacting the NAVIFOR MACO Program Coordinator via email [NAVIFOR_MACO\(AT\)us.navy.mil](mailto:NAVIFOR_MACO(AT)us.navy.mil).

b. Submit Commanding Officer endorsed completed application and all required enclosures in a single Portable Document Format (PDF) file via encrypted email to [NAVIFOR_MACO\(AT\)us.navy.mil](mailto:NAVIFOR_MACO(AT)us.navy.mil) within two weeks of notification of conditional acceptance by NPS and no later than 15 February 2027.

5. Selectees will be assigned to Navy-funded education as full-time students under permanent change of station orders to Monterey, CA, with either a January 2028 or July 2028 start. As full-time students, Sailors will be required to carry a full academic load year-round. Degree requirements shall be completed in 15 months. Per reference (c), E-7/E-8 selectees enrolled in the MACO program are eligible to submit an Exception to Policy for promotion; approval authority resides with Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP).

6. Selection results will be disseminated via official e-mail from a Naval Information Force (NAVIFOR) MACO Program Officer. Due to the highly competitive nature of this program, notification of selection via official email is a binding commitment which selectees must accept or decline within five working days of receipt.

7. Graduates of the MACO program will earn the H07A Navy Enlisted Classification and should expect to serve in a utilization tour immediately following graduation. Graduates will contact their respective Detailer 6 months prior to graduation to negotiate follow-on PCS Orders.

8. The point of contact for this program can be contacted via e-mail at NAVIFOR_MACO(AT)us.navy.mil. This message will remain in effect until superseded, or 1 September 2028, whichever occurs first.

9. This message will remain in effect until superseded, or 1 September 2026, whichever occurs first.

10. Released by RADM Mark Behning, Acting Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting, Requirements, and Capabilities (N6N9)//.

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