



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON TN 38055-0000

BUPERSINST 1500.62E
PERS-434B
6 Jan 2021

BUPERS INSTRUCTION 1500.62E

From: Chief of Naval Personnel

Subj: TEST PILOT SCHOOLS

1. Purpose

a. To publish information concerning courses of instruction offered at the United States Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS), United States Air Force Test Pilot School (USAFTPS), British Empire Test Pilots' School (ETPS), and French Test Pilot School (EPNER).

2. Cancellation. BUPERSINST 1500.62D.

3. Scope and Applicability. This instruction is applicable to designated active-duty naval aviators, naval flight officers (NFOs), and aerospace engineering duty officers (AEDO) through the grade of lieutenant commander.

4. Background

a. Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC), Aircraft and Weapons Divisions, Patuxent River, MD; China Lake, CA; Point Mugu, CA; as well as operational test and evaluation squadrons are responsible for testing and evaluating aircraft systems, components, and related equipment. USNTPS is responsible for training experienced fleet naval aviators, NFOs, and project engineers to conduct these tests.

b. The Navy has test pilot school (TPS) exchange programs with the United States Air Force and the British and French Ministries of Defense. USAFTPS is located at Edwards Air Force Base, CA; ETPS at Boscombe Down, Salisbury, England; and EPNER at Istres, France.

c. Assignment of TPS graduates is based on needs of the Service. Graduates of USNTPS, USAFTPS, ETPS, and EPNER should expect a 36-month follow-on tour at a U.S. Navy activity requiring test pilots or test NFOs.

5. Discussion

a. The duration of courses of instruction is approximately 1 year.

b. Academic study in aerodynamics, stability and control, power plant analysis, airborne systems, and related engineering subjects are included at all four test pilot schools.

c. The flight syllabus at each school is designed to provide actual experience in testing of modern aircraft and airborne systems, as well as reduction, analysis, and reporting of data obtained.

d. USNTPS offers three curricula: fixed-wing, rotary wing, and airborne and unmanned systems. Fixed-wing and rotary wing curricula prepare pilots and engineers to test airborne mission systems, as well as flying qualities and performance. Airborne and unmanned systems curriculum prepares NFOs and engineers to test airborne mission systems. Each syllabus has the option to add additional unmanned systems events for those officers slated to unmanned projects. Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) Integrated Systems Evaluation, Experimentation & Test (AIR 5.1) civilian personnel are also eligible to participate in any curriculum as part of the flight test engineer syllabus offered through NAVAIR.

e. Fixed-wing pilots may expect to depart their current command approximately 4 months prior to their USNTPS class convening date to receive *T-6* and *T-38* preparatory training en route. Rotary-wing pilots may expect to depart their current command approximately 3 months prior to the USNTPS class convening date to receive fixed-wing multi-engine, *UH-60*, and *UH-72* preparatory training en route. NFOs will receive all required preparatory training following check-in at USNTPS. All USNTPS candidates may expect to receive a 3-day water survival course encompassing class 1 through 4 survival training prior to class convening date.

f. Candidates en route to ETPS and EPNER may expect aircraft and systems preparatory training at USNTPS. Additionally, candidates selected for EPNER may expect to attend the Defense Language Institute for 6 months and to complete the 3-month French Technical Language Course in France prior to class convening date.

g. Candidates selected for USAFTPS may expect pre-arrival training to begin approximately 2 months before class start date.

6. Convening Date

a. Classes are convened at USNTPS in the Spring and Fall of each year. Each class mix of aviators and NFOs will be determined by the TPS selection board based on current requirements.

b. USAFTPS convenes classes in January and July.

c. ETPS convenes classes in January of each year.

d. EPNER convenes classes in July. Navy selects a candidate for EPNER every third year.

7. Eligibility. Designated active-duty naval aviators, NFOs, and AEDOs through the grade of lieutenant commander may apply. All applications will be reviewed by Navy Personnel Command, Aerospace Engineering Duty Officers Distribution Branch (PERS-434B), to determine board eligibility. Applicants for TPS must meet following minimum qualifications:

a. Bachelor of Science degree in engineering, physical science, or mathematics (may be waived if requirements dictate and applicant has completed college-level calculus and physics).

b. Recent experience in an operational squadron. It is desirable that applicants have over 1,000 hours of flight time (projected to class convening date).

c. Career progression that allows for the completion of a 36-month tour as a test pilot/NFO following graduation from TPS. Exceptions may be granted by the board, but in no case should officers with less than 24 months available post-graduation be considered, unless no other options exist.

d. Only fixed-wing pilots will be considered for USAFTPS. Only fixed-wing and rotary wing pilots will be considered for ETPS and EPNER.

e. Applicants must be qualified for flight duties and have not been terminated from flying status.

f. Applicants may only apply for the fixed-wing, rotary wing, or airborne systems curriculums as test pilots and test NFOs. The flight test engineer syllabus is for AIR 5.1 civilian personnel and not available for naval officers.

g. Those officers who have previously declined selection to TPS are ineligible for future TPS boards.

8. Selection. Selections will be made by the board approximately 8 months prior to the class convening dates, as follows:

a. The Winter selection board will select students for the Fall USNTPS and July EPNER class. EPNER class selection is every 3 years.

b. The Summer selection board will select students for the Spring USNTPS class, January USAFTPS, and January ETPS class.

9. Enrollment Procedures

a. Applications should be submitted no later than 30 days prior to the board convening. Deadline for receipt of applications is published in a Navy administrative message (NAVADMIN) announcing selection board convening date.

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b. Applicants who are not selected will not automatically be considered by the next selection board. Application for subsequent boards needs only to include a current command endorsement, an updated flight hour report, and any other significant changes since initial submission which would affect selection.

c. Primary submission for applications will be PDF copies via encrypted e-mail: [cscselboard\(at\)navy.mil](mailto:cscselboard(at)navy.mil). Applications may also be submitted via mail addressed to MyNavy Career Center, FY-XX-X Test Pilot School Selection Board (Board ###), 5720 Integrity Drive, Millington, TN 38055-6300, and must include the following information:

(1) Total number of flight hours as of date of application (listed by hours and aircraft). Military and civilian flight hours totaled separately.

(2) Total number of flight hours projected to convening date of the class for which application is made. Military and civilian flight hours totaled separately.

(3) Number of day and night carrier, shipboard, or small deck landings as of date of application.

(4) Number of day and night carrier, shipboard, or small deck landings projected to convening date of the class for which application is made.

(5) Special mission and community qualifications to include total hours and date qualified, if applicable (e.g., *P-3C* PP/400 hrs./JUN 01; *E-2C* CICO/100 hrs./MAY 01; *F/A-18* division leader/300 hrs./DEC 01).

(6) Significant operational deployments (timeframe and duration).

(7) No later than start date for next career milestone tour in YYMM format. (This is usually an individual's projected department head tour and the no later than start date may be obtained from an individual's detailer.)

(8) List of TPS programs for which applicants desire to be considered in ranked order (i.e., USNTPS, USAFTPS, ETPS, or EPNER).

(9) Agreement not to tender resignation while attending training. Agreement to serve on active duty for a period of 4 years after completion of training.

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(10) Preference for test squadron assignment following graduation from TPS as an additional paragraph in application. Preference should be ranked and prioritized and should be specific to type/model/series (T/M/S). The available choices as a function of T/M/S are:

<i>P3/P8/E6/E2/C2/C130/C12/MQ4</i>	VX-20 (Patuxent River)
<i>All Helo/V22</i>	HX-21 (Patuxent River)
<i>FA18/EA18</i>	VX-23 (Patuxent River)
<i>MQ8</i>	UX-24 (Patuxent River)
<i>P3/P8/C130/RQ23/E2</i>	VX-30 (Pt Mugu)
<i>FA18/EA18</i>	VX-31 (China Lake)

(11) Commanding Officer's (CO) contact information, including phone numbers for selection notification.

(12) Any additional information about applicant's background and experience that would be useful to the board in choosing those officers who would be best suited for selection.

(13) Education Background. Transcripts of courses completed, including pertinent postgraduate courses, are essential for selection and must be available to the board. Applicants should provide a copy of transcripts with application if doubt exists that a transcript is in the individual's Service record.

d. CO endorsement of the application must include an evaluation of the applicant's character, airmanship, temperament, and motivation. Only those officers who are truly outstanding and have the ability and desire to progress rapidly in aviation should be recommended. The CO must also review the applicant's projected flight hours; carrier, shipboard, and small deck landings; and special qualifications to ensure they are realistic in terms of projected command employment. The command endorsement must also include a statement that the command will make the applicant available to begin training by the deadline specified in the NAVADMIN. Applicants who are not available to start training by the specified date may have their applications removed from consideration. If a transfer is expected between the application date and the TPS board convening date, an endorsement from the gaining CO discussing availability must be included.

10. Declination. Selectees who elect not to attend TPS must notify PERS-434B by digitally signed e-mail or official letter as soon as possible, but not later than 30 days after selection.

11. Follow-on Duty Assignment. As an outcome of the selection board, tentative squadron assignments are normally issued. Such tentative assignments may change and should not be considered a guarantee of follow-on assignment squadron or location.

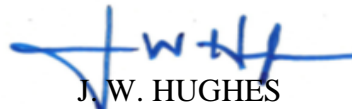
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12. Records Management.

a. Records created as a result of this instruction [notice, change transmittal], regardless of media, must be maintained and dispositioned for the standard subject identification codes (SSIC) 1000, 2000, and 4000 and through 13000 series per the records dispositions schedules located on the Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at <https://portal.secav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx> . For SSIC 3000 series dispositions, please refer to part III, chapter 3, or Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction [notice, change transmittal] or the records disposition schedules, please contact your local records manager or the DON/AA DRMD program office.

13. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, PERS-434B will review this instruction annually on the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, SECNAV, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for five years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the five-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.



J. W. HUGHES

Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel

Releasability and distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via BUPERS Web site, <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/reference/Pages/default.aspx>