

MILPERSMAN 1301-223

OFFICER SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS - NUCLEAR QUALIFIED SURFACE WARFARE OFFICERS (SWO) TO CONVENTIONALLY POWERED SHIPS

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1. Policy

a. The Navy Nuclear Power Program requires the highest quality of officers. With the increasing requirement for nuclear trained surface warfare officers (SWO(N)) aboard aircraft carriers, the continued accession, retention, and development of these officers in surface warfare dictate that they be afforded every opportunity for service in the best surface combatants available.

b. Since SWO(N)s spend nearly all of their subspecialty tours in engineering billets, SWOs selected for nuclear training and nuclear qualified SWOs will be assigned to non-engineering billets on Aegis ships or other conventionally powered combatants on a priority basis.

2. Assignment Procedures. The following policies are established to direct assignment of SWO(N)s, to include SWOs both selected for nuclear training and those nuclear qualified.

a. Division Officer Assignment

(1) SWO(N)s ordered to conventionally powered ships will be assigned for 21 months in available non-engineering billets. SWO(N)s will also serve a nominal 28-month second division officer tour in a nuclear powered ship following initial nuclear training.

(2) Midshipmen selecting a ship for their conventional division officer tour will choose from a subset of available ships based on ship type and operational schedule. This subset of ships is based on the following guidelines:

(a) Pre-commissioned units (PCU) and littoral combat ships (LCS) are not available for SWO(N)s for their first tour on a conventionally powered ship, as SWO(N) division officers have highly pressurized career paths which do not allow for the extended time required to complete their SWO qualifications on a PCU or LCS.

(b) As SWO(N)s spend half of their sea duty time in engineering plants, they should be assigned to ships with operational schedules in order to maximize their opportunity for topside maritime experience. Ships with operational schedules advantageous for gaining such experience are assessed and included in the SWO(N) selection subset by Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM), Surface Junior Officer Distribution Branch (PERS-412) or the Surface Nuclear Placement Officer (PERS-424).

(c) The selection subset will ensure SWO(N) officers are evenly distributed throughout homeports and most ship classes to ensure representation across the fleet.

b. Department Head Assignment

(1) SWO(N)s will normally be assigned to a non-engineering billet on a conventionally powered ship for their first department head tour. SWO(N)s should be assigned to ships with operational schedules in order to maximize their topside maritime experience.

(2) Conventional ship department head tour lengths for SWO(N)s are 18 months, and aircraft carrier (nuclear propulsion) (CVN) principal assistant tour lengths are 24 months. The total tour length for SWO(N) is limited by the requirement to re-establish nuclear proficiency at specified intervals.

c. Commanding officer (CO) and Executive Officer (XO) Assignment

(1) SWO(N)s will be assigned to CO and XO billets at the appropriate time for their seniority and following selection by an administrative screening board.

(2) When required to re-establish nuclear proficiency, SWO(N)s en route to an assignment as CO afloat, CO-special

mission (SM), XO afloat or XO-SM (except CVN damage control assistants or auxiliary officers) must be ordered to a Naval Air Force Atlantic Nuclear Power Mobile Training Team for refresher training.

(3) Assignment of all SWO(N)s must be approved by the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV), Nuclear Propulsion Program Manager (N133) and NAVPERSCOM, Submarine Officer Career Management Division (PERS-42).