

What's new in the Navy App Locker?

A lot of change has occurred over the last year in many aspects of life, and that remains true for the tools within the Navy App Locker located at <https://www.applocker.navy.mil>.

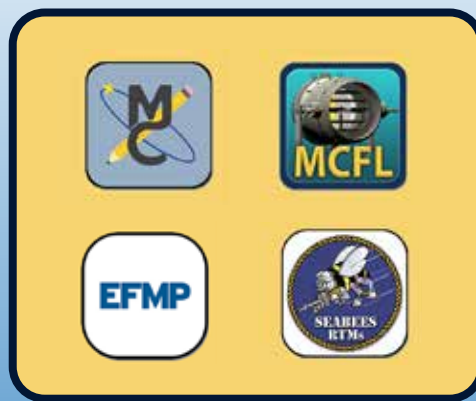
There are 79 mobile applications available to Sailors, their families, and Department of the Navy civilians. Since 2020, a mix of small adjustments, significant updates, and initial releases have launched to improve the user experience. From apps that have everyday usage potential to others providing help with specific periods of a Sailor's career, here are some key changes the fleet should be aware of.

One of the biggest app overhauls this year was to the Official Navy Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) app. This coincides with the Navy's modifications to the Physical Readiness Test that replaced the curl-up with the plank and added the 2000-meter row as a cardio option. The PFA calculator was redesigned with a simpler look and a fresh set of video demonstrations for the new events. Sailors now have access to the Navy Operational Fitness and Fueling System (NOFFS) Virtual Meal Builder.

Many other apps received small changes, such as updates in uniform policies and the Quick Fit Guide for the Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type III uniforms was added to the MyNavy Uniforms app. The PMK-EE app,

designed to assist Sailors in preparing for their Professional Military Knowledge Eligibility Exams now automatically sends certificates for course completion to the Navy Training Management and Planning System (NTMPS) and can be viewed in the Electronic Training Jacket (ETJ).

Service members and their families looking for financial information can download the MyNavy Financial Literacy



app and receive financial readiness training, access the MilSpouse Money Mission website, and estimate the growth of their Thrift Savings Plan thanks to the latest update.

Additionally, five new apps have made their way to the Navy App Locker:

- USN Morse Code Flashing Light –

designed to enhance Morse code learning for Sailors;

- Navy EFMP – Navy EFMP compliments the current Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and supports Sailors with family members who have chronic medical conditions, mental health, and/or special education needs;

- Seabees Rate Training Manual (RTM) - allows Sailors in seven construction-based occupations to handle basic and advanced training requirements from their smart phones;

- Mass Communication Specialist Rate Training Manuals Volume I & II – a mobile study guide for rating exams that can be used off-line without internet connectivity.

- Center for Service Support Non-Resident Training Courses (CSS NRTC) – This brand-new mobile app consists of Rate Training Manuals (RTMs) for 12 ratings and a variety of general Navy manuals used by active-duty and reserve personnel throughout the fleet. See the feature article about this exciting new app on page 5 to learn more.

The MyNavy HR IT Solutions team is continuously working to keep these mobile resources up to date for the benefit of the fleet. All the previously mentioned apps and most of those in the Navy App Locker suite can be found in the Google Play Store for Android as well as Apple's App Store.

Navy Rolls Out New Training to Combat Destructive Behaviors

When a Sailor is arrested for drunk driving or dies as the result of a suicide, it can have a devastating impact on a command. In order to reduce these "destructive behaviors," and promote Signature Behaviors, the Navy has rolled out a new set of online training tools on primary prevention and the human factors process to help leaders identify the warning signs.

While not a crystal ball, these tools can help put Sailors on the right path before making a career or life ending mistake.

The basic version of the training is required for all Command Resiliency Teams (CRT) members. The recently released intermediate training is geared specifically for those serving on the CRT Human Factors Council (CRTHFC). Those on the CRTHFC have 90 days to complete the training once designated as a member of the council. Team members can access

the training at: <https://erau.edu/navy-crt-training>.

While CRTs already have training resources available to them, this training specifically looks at a variety of real world scenarios that today's Sailors could find themselves facing.

The training takes identified leaders through a series of modules that enhances their ability to apply primary prevention

and the human factors process to develop mitigation strategies, so Sailors can more effectively navigate the challenges before them.

This training and the primary prevention and human factors process approach falls under the Culture of Excellence initiative, which leverages toughness, trust, and connectedness to achieve warfighting excellence.



Navy Resumes Regular Urinalysis Operations



The Navy resumed regular urinalysis testing with the release of NAVADMIN 100/21 on May 21. The message cancels the temporary policy that authorized suspension of collection operations during

the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Commands will return to normal testing procedures and requirements," wrote Vice Adm. John B. Nowell, Jr., the chief of naval personnel, in the message.

Commands not able to resume testing must communicate why they cannot to their echelon three commanders. This includes commands in the remaining environments where COVID-19 restrictions limit or prevent testing.

"Commands shall not recall individuals who are restricted in movement (ROM) or quarantined, except in cases of probable cause, or as determined by the commanding officer in consultation with a local Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer," Nowell wrote.

Telework does not excuse an individual from participating in urinalysis, the message said. Also, Sailors assigned to non-Navy activities will follow their current command's policies.

Commands must ensure everyone involved in urinalysis specimen collection observes current CDC COVID-19 recommendations and Deputy Secretary of Defense guidance including washing hands, and wearing masks when social distancing is not possible or for Sailors who have not been vaccinated.

After each collection, Sailors, Urinalysis Program Coordinators (UPCs), and observers gathering specimens must wipe down all surfaces contacted, including tables, faucets and door handles.

COVID Precautions Stay in Place for Fall E-4 through E-6 Advancements

The Navy will keep existing COVID-19 precautions in place for the upcoming fall E-4 through E-6 active and reserve advancement cycles. It's the same method used successfully for the last few advancement cycles.

This means E-4 advancement exams for active duty (AD), full-time support (FTS), and drilling reserve Sailors are cancelled. Instead, qualified E-3s will be identified for advancement using the alternate Final Multiple Score (FMS) process that has been in effect since COVID-19 precautions started in March 2020.

The cancellation was announced in NAVADMINs 104/21 for AD and FTS, and 105/21 for Selected Reserve (SELRES) Sailors, both released on May 25. These cancellations impact all E-4 exams scheduled as part of the AD and FTS Cycle 252, as well as the SELRES Cycle 109.

The only exception will be those drilling reservists taking the exam through the E-4 Prior Service Reenlistment Eligibility - Reserve (PRISE-R) program.

All other eligible E-3 Sailors will instead be ranked for advancement using an alternative FMS rank-order method without inclusion of the exam score, from a proctored exam. Fleet feedback from previous rank-order E-4 advancements has been positive.

The message also outlined the Navy's plans for administering September's E-5 and E-6 exams on a staggered schedule

throughout the month as a further precaution against the virus.

"With uncertainty as to where the COVID-19 situation will be this fall, the Navy's advancement team continues to work to ensure the safety of our Sailors," said Rear Adm. James P. Waters, Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy.

"We are sure this method of advancing Sailors continues to advance qualified Sailors, maintaining the standards and culture of learning that drive our fleet enlisted advancement system."

The Naval Education Training and Professional Development Center (NETPDC) will not receive E-4 exam answer sheets. It is essential commands scrub the records of their advancement eligible E-3 Sailors to ensure all their E-4 Enlisted Advancement Worksheets are uploaded to the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System, and up to date.

For Active Duty and Full Time Support Cycle 252, exams will be executed in two-week windows in September. The E-6 window will run Sept. 1 through 16, while the E-5 exams will follow, Sept. 17 through 30.

The window for the Selected Reserve E-5 and E-6 and E-4 PRISE-R Cycle 109 exams will run from Aug. 1 through Sept. 12.

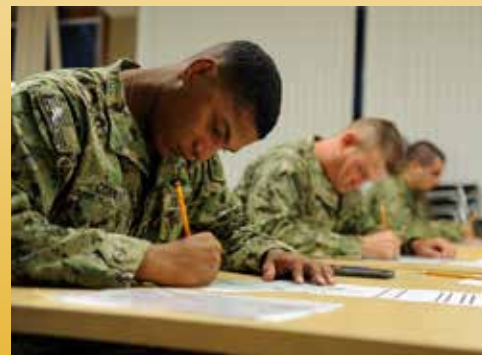
Every effort should be made to spread the administration of exams evenly throughout each window in order to minimize the number of exam takers

at one time, as well as allowing for maximum physical distancing.

Commands are strongly encouraged to test all candidates for a given rating and paygrade at the same time to maintain exam integrity. Once exams are given, Educational Services Officers are encouraged to quickly mail in answer sheet packages to NETPDC. Used exams should not be held until the end of the testing window. This will ensure exams are processed and results are released in a timely manner.

Currently, the anticipated release for the total force results is November 2021. However, release of the results are heavily dependent upon prompt submission of completed answer sheets.

Leadership at all levels should read NAVADMINs 104/21 and 105/21 in their entirety and direct questions to the listed points of contact.





Life Just Got Easier?

MyNavy has an app for that!

New Apps



Mass Communication Specialist Rate Training Manuals Volume I & II

Provides Rate Training Manuals (RTMs) to Mass Communication Specialists.



Morse Code Flashing Light

An innovative and highly effective tool for learning Morse Code Flashing Light, the backbone of the US Navy's communication at sea.



Navy EFMP

Provides Navy Sailors and families in the Exceptional Family Member Program with guidance to support those with chronic medical or mental health and/or special education needs.



Seabees RTM

Gives Seabees access to their specific RTMs, on or offline, so they can train and receive credit in their Electronic Training Jacket (ETJ).

APP IDEA?

Contact MyNavy HR IT Solutions! Many of our best app ideas are from Sailors, for Sailors.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Navy App Locker currently hosts 79 mobile applications designed to improve the lives of today's Sailors and their families.

Download all the APPS at applocker.navy.mil.

UPDATED APPS TRENDING NOW!



PMK-EE 35,883 Downloads

The Professional Military Knowledge Eligibility Exam is the must-have app for Sailors on the go who want to advance their Navy careers. Sailors can conveniently prepare for and take exams and have their certificates transmitted with the click of a button, anytime and anywhere. The app allows Sailors to save their progress so they can return to it anytime their busy schedule allows. "This app was easy to install and use," says Sailor L.B. "Having the PMK-EE at my fingertips was great since I always have my phone handy."



The Official Navy PFA 27,539 Downloads

As the Navy prepares to resume the physical fitness assessments put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Official Navy PFA app is more crucial than ever in our Sailors' efforts to stay in fighting shape. As user L.L. says, "It helped so much when I needed to know where I stood with Navy standards." The app's PFA Calculator helps Sailors measure their physical abilities against Navy standards and provides instructional videos to make sure Sailors are exercising safely and effectively.



NavyCOOL 24,052 Downloads

Thousands of Sailors have discovered there is no better place to find career tools than in Navy COOL. The app provides Sailors and others with a set of credentialing and career tools to help them make informed professional development decisions from enlistment to retirement and beyond. Future Sailors have found Navy COOL particularly useful. "This app is something every young man and woman going into the Navy needs," says user B.H.

Download ALL the APPS at applocker.navy.mil.



FY-22 Seaman to Admiral Applications – What You Should Know



The Navy's annual call for Seaman to Admiral-21 (STA-21) program applications is now on the streets.

This year's board will meet in September, according to NAVADMIN 094/21, released on May 12. To be considered, initial applications must be postmarked on or before July 1.

Navy officials recommend not waiting until the July 1 deadline. Instead, early submission is encouraged as it allows time for feedback to the Sailor; for instance, if their package is missing required documents or if anything is not readable.

The message announced temporary changes to the policy this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, impacts to the availability of college aptitude and fitness testing have resulted in exceptions to policy and alternate ways to fulfill those requirements and documentation.

As a result of COVID-19 restrictions and the cancellation of the last three Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) cycles, requirements for Cycle 1 2020, Cycle 2 2020, and Cycle 1 2021 have been waived. Instead, applicants must secure their commanding officer's endorsement

verifying they are currently within height and weight standards.

Qualifying Scholastic Aptitude or American College tests scores are still required. However, because COVID-19 has limited testing availability in many areas of the country, those unable to complete either exam can apply with a command letter indicating testing was not available to them.

In those cases, Sailors must provide their high school cumulative grade point average. Sailors who graduated more than five years ago, must have a minimum of 12 college credits with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Competition for quotas is keen. Of the 339 applications received for fiscal year 2021, 318 were board eligible and 55 Sailors were selected. This year's panel will offer roughly the same opportunity.

Those selected will attend college full-time while collecting a paycheck at their current pay grade. The Navy covers tuition, books, and fees up to \$10,000 per year. The Sailor is responsible for any costs over that amount. Sailors can use their GI Bill education benefits to cover any difference.

Critical to an applicant's package is a

written, personal statement.

"This is an opportunity for you to 'speak' in front of the selection board without physically being there," said Lt. Cmdr. Edward Kenneweg, who handles commissioning programs on the staff of the Chief of Naval Personnel. "It's also an opportunity to address any sort of adverse info, such as a low high school GPA."

NAVADMIN 094/21 outlines specific items Sailors should address in the statement. For example, telling the board about sports or other high school activities helps paint a complete picture of the applicant. Discussing your motivation for becoming an officer and what you will bring to the wardroom as a prior-enlisted Sailor is also suggested.

Just as crucial to what Sailors choose to say in their statement is how they write it.

"The application is a reflection of the applicant," said Cathy Kempf, a retired Navy commander who heads selection and placement for STA-21 as well as Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC). "Spelling and grammar count, so applicants should review their entire packages before submitting."

One final change mentioned in the message is where Sailors will send their packages.

"Completed applications will no longer be sent to Pensacola, they'll go to Naval Service Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill.," Kempf said.

Details on this year's board are available in NAVADMIN 094/21. This includes where to send completed applications, Sailor application requirements, and command responsibilities in the screening process.

Overall program requirements and application details – as well as program contacts – can be found at <https://www.netc.navy.mil/Commands/Naval-Service-Training-Command/STA-21/>.

MyNavy HR Live Townhall



June 16th 2021 @ 0900 EST

Broadcast Live on Facebook and DTS

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The 2020 COVID-19 Special Leave Accrual – What You Need to Know



The Secretary of Defense authorized special leave accrual in April 2020 for all service members due to the extensive travel restrictions implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic; prevented many members from taking leave.

The accrual authorization was effective between March 11 and Sept. 30, 2020. As a result, service members with accumulated leave over 60 days during that time are allowed to retain up to 120 days accrued leave until Sept. 30, 2023.

Each year, all active-duty service members earn 30 days of leave. Normally at the end of each fiscal year, any unused leave exceeding 60 days is lost. For all service members, 2020 was different.

With the leniency granted due to the pandemic travel restrictions, the authority allows affected service members to carry

leave balances of up to 120 days with a “use or lose” date of Sept. 30, 2023. That means, beyond that date, any days protected under this COVID-19 SLA authorization will be lost and service members will be limited to the 60 days of leave roll-over authorized by law.

Any days earned after Sept. 30, 2020, are not protected by this authority and are subject to the normal 60-day accrual limit.

Service members who had less than 60 days of leave on the books as of Sept. 30, 2020, were not affected by this special accrual. The COVID-19 leave accrual comes in addition to any other special leave accrual authority service members are entitled to under other authorities.

Leave accrual is automatically tracked by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. With this in mind, service

members should be aware that leave accountability operates on a last-in-first-out basis. When leave is taken, service members are charged their most recently earned leave.

Those with extra allowed leave accrued under this policy can find it noted on their Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) in the remarks section as “CZ leave carryover bal” along with the expiration date. “CZ leave carryover bal” will only decrease if a service member takes more leave than has been earned in the year.

For example, as of May 1, 2021, in the case of service members who have earned 20 days of leave; if more than 20 days of leave have been used during the fiscal year, then the “CZ leave carryover bal” will be decreased by the amount of days over 20, permanently lowering the “CZ leave carryover bal”. “CZ leave carryover bal” cannot be re-earned as the Secretary of Defense has not, at this time, authorized special leave accrual for this fiscal year due to COVID-19.

This remark will no longer appear on an LES once an accrued leave balance is reduced to 60 days or less, or when the expiration date is passed.

However, this accrual's effective dates and expiration do not affect leave accrued and are protected under separate authorizations. This includes leave earned by service members during eligible deployments to hostile fire pay (HFP) or imminent danger pay (IDP) zones.

For more information on military pay entitlements, and instructions on how to read an LES go to <https://www.dfas.mil/MilitaryMembers/payentitlements/aboutpay/>.

The Center for Service Support Releases New Mobile App for Training

The Center for Service Support (CSS) has just released a brand-new mobile app consisting of Rate Training Manuals (RTMs) for 12 ratings and a variety of general Navy manuals used by active-duty and reserve personnel throughout the fleet.

The app is the new RTM home for the following ratings:

- Culinary Specialist
- Culinary Specialist Submarine
- Legalman
- Logistics Specialist
- Logistics Specialist Submarine
- Mass Communication Specialist
- Musician
- Personnel Specialist
- Religious Programs Specialist
- Retail Services Specialist
- Yeoman
- Yeoman Submarine

The app allows for studying on the go, without a CAC card or an internet connection.

The app also hosts non-resident training courses including:

- Customer service
- Educational Services Officer
- Enlisted Aide

- Postal Operations
- Navy Official Mail
- Instructional theory

Other features of the app include a resources link in every RTM to their respective rating on the Navy COOL (Credentialing Opportunities On-Line) site, contact information for feedback and emergency support. It also includes the ability to receive credit for the completed course directly into their Electronic Training Jacket by entering their DoDID number rather than completing the course via Navy eLearning.

Another key feature of the app is it serves as the host for up-to-date versions of the RTMs and NRTCs. By moving to a digital format, the app allows CSS to work with type commanders and fleet subject matter experts (SME) to change content as needed and deliver updates to Sailors faster.

“We are continuing positive movement and growth in the 21st century for how our Sailors will be preparing for their advancement exams,” said Capt. Milton W. Troy III, CSS commanding officer.

“Early fleet estimates have us at

more than 32,000 Sailors who will be affected through this new app. This shows how wide a scope we are dealing with. Something this major will have a direct and immediate impact for Sailors throughout the fleet and the knowledge they will have in becoming well-crafted in their respective fields.”

Work began on the app in September 2019. More than five months of testing was conducted by CSS staff and fleet SMEs to help achieve maximum functionality, review the app's content and examine the user interface.

“The effort taken by everyone involved in the creation of this app cannot be measured,” said Ray Paradis, CSS program manager for Non-Resident Training Courses, Personnel Qualification Standards, Occupational Standards, and Learning and Development Roadmaps.

“Countless man-hours have been put in to ensure this contains the best possible material. The Sailor conducting the tasks in these manuals daily is who is going to use this app and each one of them deserves the highest-quality work we can provide.”

SERVICE

DIGNITY

RESPECT

PRIDE IN ALL WHO SERVE

PRIDE MONTH • JUNE

