

Navy Explains That ROM is an Official Duty Status

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the Fleet has experienced some confusion regarding placing Sailors in a Restriction of Movement (ROM) status and how that affects leave.

According to NAVADMIN 295/20, Personnel executing a ROM are considered to be in a duty status and ROM periods will not be charged as leave. Leave is the authorized absence of a Sailor from a place of duty, which is chargeable. Sailors who are on leave are considered to be in a non-duty status as they are away from their place of duty.

Command Pay/Personnel Administrators are advised to read the Pay and Personnel Information Bulletin 20-34, released Nov. 4. This bulletin explains that ROM due to COVID-19 is a mandatory official duty function performed by Sailors with their ROM location considered as the official duty location.

Sailors taking leave outside their designated permanent duty station area and directed to perform a ROM

upon their return should not be charged leave during the ROM period.

Commanders must conduct a risk assessment for service members requesting leave or liberty outside the local area to ensure appropriate force health protection measures are in place. Commanders must also ensure sufficient command readiness and retain the authority to disapprove leave as appropriate.

Hardship Duty Pay-Restriction of Movement (HDP-ROM) is not authorized for Sailors in a leave status, however, a Sailor who is placed in ROM due to COVID-19 exposure during leave may receive HDP-ROM if all eligibility criteria are met.

Members incorrectly charged leave while performing directed or ordered ROM should work with their command to have that leave restored.

For more info read NAVADMIN 295/20 at www.npc.navy.mil, or contact MyNavy Career Center (MNCC) at 1-833-330-6622, email - askmncc@navy.mil.



Navy Announces Initial FY-21 Reenlistment Bonus Levels

The Navy has released the initial fiscal year 2021 (FY-21) Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) offerings and the trend is up.

Eligible Sailors wanting to cash in need to act fast as these days, nothing is guaranteed for long. The Navy is constantly updating its award levels meaning those in eligible skillsets should closely monitor the current offerings to avoid losing out.

Once the FY-21 Budget gets final approval, the Navy plans to spend \$379 million on re-up bonuses, slightly less than what was spent last year.

This latest update includes 78 newly eligible skillsets meaning 5,220 more Sailors are now able to cash in at some level.

In addition, 14 skillsets saw their payouts increase while another 49 were decreased. The remaining 124 skillsets remained unchanged.

The update does not include any changes to nuclear power skillsets, which are currently unchanged from the April update, though they are

expected to be updated in the near future.

The Navy targets re-up bonuses only for critical skillsets. It's a combination of rating and pay grade and in most cases a Navy Enlisted Classification that determines eligibility.

Another factor impacting eligibility is total years of service.

The Navy breaks down a 30-year active-duty career into five retention zones.

SRB is only offered to critical skills in three of those zones – Zone A, which covers zero to six years, Zone B – six to 10 years and Zone C – 10 to 14 years of active service.

Bonuses are offered at five maximum levels – \$30,000, \$45,000, \$60,000, \$75,000 and \$100,000. The level depends on the need in a given skillset.

Half the bonus is paid upfront in a lump sum and the remainder is paid in equal amounts spread out over the remainder of the contract.

Earlier this year, in NAVADMIN 108/20, the Navy opened up the bonus

window to 365 days prior to a Sailor's end of service date, up from the previous max of 270 days. In addition, Sailors who reenlist in a designated combat zone can get their entire bonus – initial and anniversary payments – tax free.

In recent years, the Navy has transitioned away from publishing award levels in periodic naval messages to a more agile model where levels are adjusted real time as community managers respond to retention numbers and the impact on fleet needs.

This allows officials to target the money where it is needed the most though award levels can be reduced or closed without notice.

That's why Sailors wanting to cash in need to closely monitor the current SRB eligibility list, available on the Navy Personnel Command website's SRB page, at <https://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/career/enlistedcareeradmin/Pages/SRB.aspx>.

NP2



Navy Personnel, Pay System Upgrade Provides New Capabilities for Sailors

Sailors will soon see new capabilities in the Navy Personnel and Pay System, according to NAVADMIN 291/20, released Oct. 29.

The MyNavy HR team continues to incrementally deliver upgrades to the NP2 system that provide Sailors with a modern means to address their human resources needs. As noted in NAVADMIN 291/20, the latest capabilities include the following:

- Improvements to Permanent Change of Station (PCS) software tools to make it easier for Active Duty and Reserve Component Sailors to plan and execute the move process.
- Introduction of capabilities to support numerous types of Reserve Orders.
- An expanded view into MySailor Data – a display of personal information needed for personnel and pay transactions.

The improved travel processing capabilities will expedite travel cost reimbursement for PCS travelers who

are Active Duty, Full Time Support, or Reservists on Active Duty for Operational Support (ADOS) and Officer Recall PCS orders. The increased automation provides pre-filled forms and e-signature capability and eliminates the need for documents to be printed and scanned before processing by travel clerks.

Reservists who are mobilizing or demobilizing or who are executing ADOS or Officer Recall orders, will now be able to view their orders in NP2. The upgrade gives Reserve Sailors the same capability as Active Duty Sailors to create tailored checklists to use in preparation for a move, the ability to view and print lean orders, and the ability to file their travel claims electronically.

MySailor Data displays information for all Sailors to include assignments, service data, and biographical information, which is needed to support personnel and pay transactions. In the future, all Electronic Service Record data will be moved into MySailor Data; however, this release is a “read only” display. Sailors in the future will have a

self-service ability to make updates.

“Sailors need to go into MySailor Data and verify their data is accurate,” said Ann Stewart, Navy Personnel Command Assistant Commander for Pay and Personnel. “Our NP2 update planned for January 2022 will include transactions that will use that information, so it’s important that it’s correct. These enhancements are our latest steps in providing a modern pay and personnel process that makes the overall customer experience better for Sailors and their families.”

Sailors who find errors in their personal information should contact their Command Pay and Personnel Administrator, Navy Reserve Activity/ Navy Operational Support Center, or MNCC. The ability to correct information in MySailor Data will be available in a future release.

These services are available 24/7 via computer or mobile devices at <https://prodhr.np2.navy.mil>. CAC-free entry to NP2 can be enabled on MyNavy Portal at <https://my.navy.mil>.

L I V E TOWNHALL



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17th 2020 1300 EST

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Guidance for Sailors and their families

U.S. Transportation Command (TRANSCOM) has implemented rapid, on-site COVID-19 testing at Baltimore and Seattle Patriot Express (PE) Aerial Ports of Embarkation (APOE) operated by Air Mobility Command (AMC).

What does testing positive mean for you?



Be prepared to ROM - TRANSCOM/AMC will take care of medical, lodging, pet services, meals and transportation.

Contact MNCC 24/7 at 1-833-330-MNCC (6622) or askmncc@navy.mil and provide them good contact information.

MNCC will contact the appropriate detailee and the Navy Passenger Transportation Office (NAVPTO) who will contact the Sailor to discuss orders modification (ORDMOD) and rebook future travel.

ROM expenses will be included in the ORDMOD to ensure per diem is available and reimbursable during ROM. Sailors may use their Government Travel Credit Card (GTCC), or request a travel advance by contacting MNCC.

Securing from ROM – Once a Sailor/family member meets the requirements to return to work in accordance with Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) return to work guidance, as reflected in NAVADMIN 266/20, and follow-on versions of Standardized Operational Guidance in conjunction with any medical provider guidance, they may continue execution of their orders.



TASK FORCE ONE NAVY

STORY OF THE MONTH

Honoring American Indian Heroes

Rear Admiral Joseph J. "Jocko" Clark



In World War II, Rear Admiral Joseph J. "Jocko" Clark, an Oklahoman who was one-eighth Cherokee Indian, commanded aircraft carriers and later Task Group 58.1. After graduating from the Naval

Academy in 1917, he was known as an aggressive commander who was always ready for battle. Early in the war, Clark commanded the escort carrier Suwanee in the Atlantic and off the coast of North Africa. He became the first commanding officer of the newly commissioned fleet carrier Yorktown in 1943. In 1944 Vice Admiral Marc Mitscher placed Rear Admiral Clark in command of

Task Group 58.1, flagship USS Hornet. The task group took part in attacks on Truk, the Carolines, New Guinea, Palau, the Marianas, and the Bonins. His air groups attacked the islands of Chichi Jima and Iwo Jima so ferociously that sailors nicknamed the islands the "Jocko Jimas." The Marianas campaign included the one-sided Battle of the Philippine Sea.

Boatswain's Mate 1st Class James E. Williams

Boatswain's Mate 1st Class James E. Williams, a Native American Cherokee from South Carolina, entered the Navy in July 1947 and before retiring in April 1967 gained the distinction of becoming the most decorated enlisted man in Navy history. He demonstrated extraordinary bravery and leadership during the Vietnam War. The petty officer was assigned to the River Patrol Force whose mission was to intercept Viet Cong arms shipments on the waterways of South Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

On 31 October 1966, Williams, patrol commander for his boat, River Patrol Boat 105, and another, was searching for Viet Cong guerrillas operating in an isolated area of the Delta. Suddenly, Communist guerrillas

mannning two sampans opened fire on the Americans. When Williams and his men neutralized one boat crew, the other one escaped into a nearby canal. The Sailors gave chase and soon found themselves in a beehive of enemy activity as Viet Cong guerrillas opened up with rocket propelled grenades and small arms against the Americans from fortified river bank positions. Against overwhelming odds, several times Williams led his Sailors against concentrations of enemy junks and sampans. He also called for support from the heavily armed UH-1B Huey helicopters of Navy Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron 3, the "Seawolves." When that help arrived, he kicked off another attack in the failing light, cleverly turning on his

boats' searchlights to illuminate enemy forces and positions. As a result of the three-hour battle, the American naval force killed numerous Viet Cong guerrillas, destroyed over fifty vessels, and disrupted a major enemy logistic operation. BMT Williams not only displayed great courage under fire, but a keen understanding of how his Sailors, weapons, and equipment could be used to achieve victory.



Commander Ernest E. Evans



At first light on 25 October 1944, huge geysers of water shot up near the destroyer Johnston (DD-557). That ship and half a dozen other American destroyers were escorting half a dozen jeep carriers off Samar. A shaky voice

on Johnston's talk between ships radio reported "a major portion" of the Japanese fleet 15 miles astern. Commander Ernest Evans, the skipper, burst out of his sea cabin, barking out orders: All hands general quarters! Light off all boilers for maximum speed! Make smoke!

Ernest Evans had come up the hard way, harder than most. His white paternal grandfather had married a Creek Indian woman just to gain control of her land allotment. He soon divorced her and disowned their child. That child grew up to be his father; his mother was a full-

blooded Cherokee. Born "into a world of low prospects and ill will," Ernest beat what seemed impossible odds. Amid intense prejudice against Native Americans, he graduated from a nearly all-white high school, joined the National Guard, transferred to the Navy enlisted service, won an appointment to the Naval Academy without political pull, and graduated with the class of 1931.

As the light grew, the pagoda-like superstructures of four Japanese battleships, eight cruisers, and 11 destroyers appeared over the horizon. Johnston's task unit, dubbed Taffy Three, was all that stood between the Japanese force and MacArthur's troops on shore while the rest of Halsey's Third Fleet chased a decoy force of Japanese aircraft carriers.

Without waiting for orders, Evans gave the command to commence a torpedo run against the enemy. Johnston steered

toward her target, an enemy cruiser, veering and fishtailing toward enemy shell splashes in the belief that "lightning doesn't strike twice." Evans closed to less than 10,000 yards before loosing a spread of torpedoes. Several of them blew the bow off the Japanese cruiser.

For more than three hours, Johnston engaged the enemy. Evans' aggressiveness, along with that of other American destroyermen and aviators from Taffy Three, led the Japanese to believe they were facing a much larger force and caused them to turn away.

The price was steep. Evans and many of his shipmates were killed as Japanese fire eventually overwhelmed Johnston, sending her to the bottom. Although severely wounded early in the battle, Evans pressed the attack until he vanished when his ship went down. For his "valiant fighting spirit," he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Get Fit and Healthy with the Navy Operation Fitness and Fueling System

Developed by Commander, Navy Installations Command MWR and Navy physical readiness stakeholders, Navy Operational Fitness and Fueling System, or NOFFS, offers a packaged fitness program that removes the guesswork and helps Sailors progress from any fitness level to operational readiness.

NOFFS was designed with input from Sailors to improve operational performance, support nutritional needs, and decrease the incidence and severity of musculoskeletal physical training-related injuries.

NOFFS includes four pre-designed workouts: Operational Series, Strength Series, Endurance Series, and Sandbag Series. Each series is specifically designed to address issues such as working out in confined spaces, improving your PRT scores, or improving your strength. The workouts instruct you on how to train effectively and safely with an associated meal builder. Apps for each series also can be

downloaded to your mobile device. The Operational Series for confined spaces is really great for working out at home during this time of social distancing.

NOFFS emphasizes how Sailors can improve their functional performance during daily operations or personal activities, while incorporating exercises that focus on lifting, pushing, pulling, carrying, aerobic/anaerobic demands, body movement agility and coordination.

NOFFS instructors are located at Navy installations and specific afloat commands. Instructors are available to help you design a custom NOFFS

workout, deliver NOFFS education or guide you as you complete the exercises in the NOFFS series. To locate a NOFFS instructor near you, visit www.navyfitness.org/fitness, click on "NOFFS Training" on the right-hand side, then "NOFFS Overview" and "Locate Trainer."

To help you meet the Navy's physical readiness requirements and strive for optimal health, consider incorporating NOFFS into your fitness routine. Don't wait. Speak with your local Navy MWR NOFFS instructor or download the app for free today!

NOFFS

Navy Operational Fitness and Fueling System

Navy Recruiting Command Creates Region Central

Navy Recruiting Command (NRC) formally established Region Central Command in a ceremony Oct 1. This new command is a byproduct of the transformation that is fundamentally changing the recruiting command structure and business model.

"When transformation first started, the idea was to flatten NRC and downsize," said Rear Adm. Dennis Velez, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command. "It was quickly realized that in order to be as efficient as possible, and to help our commanding officers we needed to not only maintain Region West and Region East, but to move billets around in order to establish Region Central as well. This vision is being realized today."

During the initial phase of transformation, NRC quickly discovered that Navy Recruiting Districts (NRDs) and Navy Recruiting Talent Acquisition Groups (NTAGs) needed to report to an intermediate regional command, so they were aligned under Recruiting regions, East and West, each overseeing 13 districts. However, as the recruiting enterprise continued to transform, NRC determined that a third recruiting region was essential to maximizing the mission impact of recruiting personnel.

"Standing up a third region means

fewer NRDs and NTAGs per region, which translates to more time to mentor and coach," said Velez, "More time to help with pay and personnel issues, a greater ability to address challenges quicker and in more detail, more time for them to gage the pulse of our people and relay that information to me, more insight into how our programs and policies are working at the field level, more time for questions and concerns. Now more than ever, continuation of care is a priority."

Region Central is now responsible for more than one-third of the Navy's annual recruiting goal, and it will be composed of nine NTAGs, overseeing 350 recruiting stations in 17 states and covering 850,000 square miles. This region will have operational and administrative command over NTAGs Great Lakes, Heartland, Ohio River Valley, Mid-America, Red River, Nashville, Atlanta, New Orleans and Houston.

The regional commands will now each have smaller areas of operation, and therefore the leadership will be able to adapt their specific processes to better suit their specific environments. The creation of Region Central represents just another way NRC is evolving to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

"These are truly challenging times for recruiting," said Capt. Robert "Butch" Smith, Commodore for Navy Recruiting Region Central.

"We are learning and adapting to recruiting in a pandemic. But what a great mission we have! We are hiring our Navy's leaders of tomorrow. We are giving these young men and women the opportunity to change their lives and be a part of something larger than themselves...to serve their country as a Sailor in the United States Navy."

Region Central Command is located at Navy Recruiting Command headquarters at Naval Support Activity Mid-South, along with both Regions East and West. Eighteen military and civilian personnel were redistributed from within the Navy Recruiting enterprise to be assigned to Region Central, so no additional manpower or facility costs were incurred in the creation of this command.

At the end of this year, Navy Recruiting Command will consist of a command headquarters, three Navy Recruiting Regions, 26 NTAGs and 64 Talent Acquisition Onboarding Centers that will serve more than 1,000 recruiting stations around the world. Their mission is to attract the highest quality candidates to assure the ongoing success of America's Navy.

Find out what 283,000 of your shipmates already know!

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