



The CIAC Paddle

Helping You Navigate the IA Continuum



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“Top Ten” Focus Area #6 **Army INDOC 101**

Provides several key differences between the Army and Navy methods, roles, missions, and cultures to assist in managing the IA Sailor’s expectations. Service Cultures Are Very Different!

Man, Train & Equip And Boots On Ground

a) Army and Navy Culture

- Army leans heavily on doctrine and process (according to the book) oriented; whereas Navy tends to focus on integrating adaptive and critical thinking objectives into problem-solving.

b) Rank structure is different

- An Army O-5 CO may not have the same authority/responsibility as Navy O-5 CO.
- Army addressed enlisted members by rank (Specialist, SGT, etc.) vice the Navy structure has more of a focus on rating by specialty (YN1, IT2, etc.).
- Army has unrestricted approach to rank and its Soldiers. Enlisted and officers eat and sleep in common areas. Army has no “demarcation line” as exists in the Navy (enlisted, senior enlisted and officers). No Chief’s mess! Army structure emphasizes First Sergeant and Sergeant Major.

c) Specialists versus support

- Sailors are individual specialists who come together to support a ship or squadron. While deployed the ship’s crew must adapt to any situation and solve the problem/issue. There is no other unit to fix it for them. Army relies on other units to support and does not celebrate individual skills.

d) Weapons proficiency

- Every Soldier is first, a Rifleman. Army is very weapons-centric. Every Soldier, no matter what MOS, is expected to be able to engage the enemy with their assigned weapon at any time.
- Only a few Navy ratings and certain communities, the typical Sailor will very rarely become proficient in small arms. During combat skills training, each IA Sailor is expected to become proficient with their assigned weapon, which can be a stressful event.

e) Army is big and physical

- Army, as a land-based military force, utilizes their logistical support and mobility to support their Combat Arms Units (artillery, mechanized cavalry, etc.).
- Navy, with traditional dispersal and separation of ships, tends to place value on decentralized execution and independence of command.

f) Logistics and gear

- Navy IA Sailors typically serving in Combat Service Support missions and are “geared-up” as an infantryman. Everyone in the Army is “geared-up” to support being a Rifleman (Combat Support) and is quite different in the Navy. See **Focus Area #9 - Gear Issue** for more information.

g) Questions: Email [USFF IA Support](#)