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Preparing Our Sailors for Individual Augmentee Deployments

"I know the Sailors out here are doing good work, but what I like to hear is when a Sergeant Major in the Army tells me that Sailors are doing a tremendous job and earning respect across the entire theatre."

– Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/SW) Rick West

Sailors excel as forward-deployed Individual Augmentees (IA) after being vetted and trained. Parent commands are ultimately responsible for the readiness of their Sailors whether they are deploying as a unit with their ship, squadron or submarine, or as an IA assigned to an Army or Marine Corps battalion. Two key components of the IA Continuum that contribute to the preparation of IA Sailors and their families are the pre-deployment stage and the mission-specific training and equipping of Sailors.

Pre-Deployment

- The [Command IA Coordinator \(CIAC\)](#) is a command's IA subject matter expert, assisting IA Sailors and their families in preparation for deployment. The CIAC maintains communication with the IA Sailor and family throughout the IA experience.
- Prior to departing their parent commands, IA Sailors complete [required checklists](#).
 - Expeditionary Screening Checklist: Verifies readiness regarding pay, security clearance, legal issues, [NKO training coursework](#), family preparation and qualification standards.
 - Expeditionary Medical and Dental Form: Assesses medical and dental readiness. Theater specific medical screening may be required in addition to Navy medical readiness standards.
 - Medical Suitability Certification: Final medical document stating readiness.
- Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC) assign case managers, Individual Deployment Support Specialists (IDSS), to each IA Sailor's family. The IDSS keeps continual contact with IA families, similar to the CIAC maintaining contact with the IA Sailor and family. FFSCs also offer [IA information for spouses and family members](#), covering deployment preparation, financial planning and additional resources.
- [OPNAVINST 1754.6](#) and [MILPERSMAN 1300-318](#) are two key documents that govern IA policy.

Mission-Specific Training and Equipping

- Sailors initially report to a [Navy Mobilization Processing Site \(NMPS\)](#). These sites ensure all Sailors' prerequisite items and checklists are complete and qualifies them to move forward in training. Sailors also receive their mission-specific [uniform issue](#) and additional medical screening or immunizations if required.
- Following initial mobilization, Sailors report to mission-specific training. Forty-nine percent of all IA's report to [Navy Individual Augmentee Combat Training \(NIACT\)](#) at [Ft. Jackson, S.C.](#), where Sailors receive basic combat skills training, with heavy emphasis on [weapons qualification](#). The NIACT course is three weeks long. Others report to one of 22 Army installations throughout the country, depending on the type of mission they are assigned to, for training of approximately four weeks.

Key Messages

- Command leadership involvement in the vetting of potential IA personnel and their families is essential to an IA's success.
- CIACs are a command's IA subject matter experts and are the best contacts for IAs and their families.
- Proper completion of readiness preparation (checklists) is essential to avoid disqualification during the training stage.

Facts & Figures

- The official source for IA information is on the Navy IA website (www.ia.navy.mil).
- Today, 10,504 Sailors are serving in IA assignments, 4,068 Sailors are in Pre-Deployment status and 1,804 are in Man/Train/Equip status.
- The four NMPS locations are Norfolk, Va.; San Diego, Calif.; Gulfport, Miss. and Port Hueneme, Calif.