



CTI CAREER PATH
(IW/SW/AW/SG/EXW/NAC/PJ)



Cryptologic Technicians Interpretive (CTI). CTIs are Professional Cryptologic Language Analyst (CLA), specializing in analysis of foreign military operations, radiotelephone communications, and preparation of statistical studies/technical reports requiring knowledge of a foreign language.

YEARS OF SERVICE	CAREER MILESTONES	AVERAGE TIME TO ADVANCE	COMMISSIONING OR OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS	SEA / SHORE FLOW	TYPICAL CAREER PATH DEVELOPMENT
26-30	CTICM	19.4 Yrs	CSEL	Not Defined	8 th – 9 th Tour Billet: Staff Duty/ECM/CSEL. Duty: CSEL, BUPERS, C10F, CIWT, DLI, NAVIFOR, NIOC, OPNAV
23-26	CTICM CTICS	19.4 Yrs 18.1	CSEL	Not Defined	7 th – 8 th Tour Billet: Staff Duty/ECM/CSEL. Duty: CSEL, BUPERS, C10F, CIWT, DLI, NAVIFOR, NIOC, NCU, NPC, OPNAV. Qualification: CSEL, SEA
20-23	CTICM CTICS CTIC	19.4 Yrs 18.1 14.8	LDO, CWO, CSEL	Not Defined	6 th – 7 th Tour Billet: CSEL, Detailer, Major Staff, Dept/Dir LCPO, Tactical Ops Supervisor. Duty: BUPERS, C10F, CIWT, DLI, NAVIFOR, NIOC, NCU, NPC, OPNAV. Qualification: SEA
16-20	CTICM CTICS CTIC CTI1	19.4 Yrs 18.1 14.8 6.6	CWO, OCS, CSEL, MECP, Recruiting, RDC	Not Defined	5 th - 6 th Tour Billet: CSEL, Detailer, Major Staff, Div/Dept LCPO/LPO, Direct Support LCPO/LPO, Watch Supervisor, Lead Instructor, Instructor, Lead Analyst, Tactical Ops Supervisor. Duty: C10F, CIWT, NAVIFOR, NIOC, NCU, NPC, OPNAV. Qualification: SEA, MCCEP Phase IV, MTS, IW, SW, AW, SG, EXW, NAC
12-16	CTIC CTI1	14.8 Yrs 6.6	LDO, CWO, OCS, MECP, Recruiting, RDC, MLAP	Not Defined	4 th - 5 th Tour Billet: Detailer, Div/Dept LCPO/LPO, Direct Support LCPO/LPO, Watch Supervisor, Lead Instructor, Instructor, Lead Analyst, Tactical IW Op, Cyber Teams. Duty: CIWT, NCU, NIOC, NPC, NSW TIO. Qualification: MCCEP Phase III, MTS, IW, SW, AW, SG, EXW, NAC
8-12	CTIC CTI1 CTI2	14.8 Yrs 6.6 3.7	LDO, OCS, MECP, Recruiting, RDC, MLAP	Not Defined	3 rd – 4 th Tour Billet: Detailer, Div/Dept LCPO/LPO, Direct Support Supervisor, Watch Supervisor, Instructor, Senior Language Analyst, Senior Operator, Tactical IW Op, Special Programs, Cyber Teams. Duty: CIWT, NCU, NIOC, NPC, NSW TIO. Qualification: MCCEP Phase III, MTS, IW, SW, AW, SG, EXW, NAC.
4-8	CTI1 CTI2 CTI3	6.6 Yrs 3.7 1.7	STA-21, OCS, MECP Naval Academy, NROTC, Recruiting, RDC, MLAP	Not Defined	2 nd Tour Billet: Senior Language Analyst, Senior Operator, Direct Support Op, Tactical IW Op, Cyber Teams. Duty: NCU, NIOC, NIOD, NSW TIO. Qualification: MCCEP Phase II, IW, SW, AW, SG, EXW, NAC.



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2-5	CTI2 CTI3	3.7 Yrs 1.7	STA-21, OCS, MECP Naval Academy, NROTC	Not Defined	1 st Tour Billet: Language Analyst, Basic Operator, Direct Support. Duty: NIOC (HI, MD, GA, TX, Korea). Qual: MCCEP Phase I, IW, SW, AW, SG, NAC.
1+	CTI3 CTISN CTISA Accession Training	1.7 Yrs	STA-21, OCS, MECP Naval Academy, NROTC	Not Defined	Recruit Training/Student "A" School, Apprentice CLP.

Notes:

1. "A" School required.
2. The CTI community is organized into five advancement groups which are affiliated to a geographic region or area of interest. CTIs (Groups 1-4) are identified both by the Group affiliation and the primary language(s) to which they are assigned. The primary accession languages are Arabic, Chinese-Mandarin, Hebrew, Korean, Persian-Farsi, Russian, and Spanish. After completing two operational tours, Hebrew accession graduates are encouraged to re-train into another critical language due to billet structure limits. Failure to re-language out of Hebrew, in and of itself, should not be a negative consideration.
 - a. CTI (Group 1) is Middle Eastern/North African languages.
 - b. CTI (Group 2) is East/Far East languages.
 - c. CTI (Group 3) is Latin/South American languages.
 - d. CTI (Group 4) is Eastern Europe languages.
 - e. CTI (Compressed at E9) is comprised of all CTICMs with no language affiliation.
3. All CTIs (Active/SELRES) competing for advancement **MUST** achieve a minimum of L2/R2 on the most recent DLPT in their primary language, as assigned by their CO. CTIs scoring L3/R3 or higher on their DLPT are required to test every two years. CTIs scoring below L3/R3 are required to test every year.
 - a. Acceptable documentation of DLPT scores includes an evaluation with language scores or the official Navy DLPT letter from Center of Information Warfare Training Corry Station, forwarded to the board via the candidate's LTB.
 - b. Any CTI whose primary language DLPT has expired **MUST** possess a valid "Inability to Test" waiver from the Navy Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture Office (OPNAV N13F) in order to participate in the Navy wide advancement examination or to be eligible for selection by SCPO and MCPO boards.
 - c. For advancement and special programs, due consideration should be given to CTIs exceeding minimum language readiness standards (L2/R2); however, this remains only one factor in demonstrating capability to lead and perform cryptologic language operations.
4. Core cryptologic language operations are performed by CTIs both at sea and on shore. The CTI billet base does not support a true Sea-Shore Rotation, however, due consideration should be given to those demonstrating a concerted effort to maintain a healthy balance between sea and shore assignments. CTIs are given few opportunities to serve outside of their Center of Excellence (CoE). Consecutive tours at a CoE should not be a negative consideration.
5. Sea time is accrued through Direct Support missions via Aircrew, Subsurface, or Surface missions and Sea Special Programs. CTIs may accrue extensive sea time, yet not attain a warfare qualification. This is due to augmentation aboard different class platforms during Direct Support tours, which may preclude them from



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qualifying EXW, ESWS, EAWS, or SG. CTIs are expected to be qualified Enlisted Information Warfare Specialists (EIWS) after completing a tour at a CoE or NIOD.

6. A select few CTIs qualify to serve in highly competitive Sea Special Programs that require superior physical fitness and/or exceptional technical expertise. These programs include Support Activities to DEVGRU, Special Reconnaissance Teams (SRTs), the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), and Special Projects Air/Submarines. Though their contributions are often unconventional in comparison to those of a typical cryptolinguist or language analyst, these Sailors contribute to National and Navy missions in their own distinct way. These Sailors are still expected to demonstrate sustained superior performance and technical expertise, while maintaining language readiness standards.

Considerations for advancement from E6 to E7

- Demonstrated Leadership as an LPO, ALPO, Workcenter Supervisor/Mission Supervisor, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC), or Battle Watch Supervisor.
- Demonstrated Technical Expertise with operational impact, preferably developing language analysts and/or new mission sets.
- Personnel assigned to CNRC, MLAP, NPC, RTC, or training command instructors (“A”, “C”, and “F” schools; NCS) are carefully screened and selected for that assignment.
 - Sailors selected to serve on these staffs are considered to be at the top of operational expertise and are highly valued by the CTI community.
 - Those serving in a National Cryptologic School (NCS) billet may not be eligible for MTS, but all should qualify Adjunct Faculty or Faculty Certification.
- Master Training Specialist and Enlisted Warfare Qualifications are expected when available.
- Participate in Rating Leadership through Occupational Standards (OCCSTDS), Training Requirements Review (TRR), Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS) and other community working groups.
- Command Leadership with documented impact (e.g. ACFL, ACLPM, Language Mentor, SAPR, etc.).
- Completion of Military Cryptologic Continuing Education Program (MCCEP) phases.
- Sailor 360 leadership or influential involvement.
- FCPOA leadership or influential involvement

Considerations for advancement from E7 to E8

- Demonstrated Leadership as an LCPO, SEL/NCOIC, Workcenter Supervisor/Mission Supervisor, or Battle Watch Chief/Supervisor.
- Demonstrated Technical Expertise with operational impact, preferably developing language analysts and/or new mission sets.
- Personnel to C10F, CNRC, MLAP, NAVIFOR, NPC, OPNAV, RTC, White House Communications, or training command instructors (“A”, “C”, and “F” schools; NCS) are carefully screened and selected for that assignment.
 - Sailors selected to serve on these staffs are considered to be at the top of operational expertise and are highly valued by the CTI community.
 - Those serving in a National Cryptologic School (NCS) billet may not be eligible for MTS, but all should qualify Adjunct Faculty or Faculty Certification.
- Master Training Specialist and Enlisted Warfare Qualifications are expected when available.
- Participate in Rating Leadership through OCCSTDS, Job Duty Task Analysis (JDTA), TRR, PQS, Advancement Exam Readiness Review (AERR), Human Performance Requirements Review (HPRR), Rating Strategy Council (RSCs), Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) standard setting reviews and other community working groups.
- Command Collateral Duty with documented impact (e.g. CFL, CLPM, Language Mentor, SAPR, etc.).
- Completion of MCCEP phases.
- Sailor 360 and CPO Initiation leadership.
- CPOA and CPO Mess leadership.



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Considerations for advancement from E8 to E9

- Demonstrated Leadership as a CSEL, Department LCPO, Senior Mission Supervisor, or SEL/NCOIC.
- Demonstrated Technical Expertise with operational impact, preferably developing language analysts and/or new mission sets.
- Personnel assigned to C10F, CNRC, NAVIFOR, NPC, OPNAV, TYCOM, or a training command (“A”, “C”, “F” schools; NCS) are carefully screened and selected for that assignment.
 - Sailors selected to serve on one of these staffs are considered to be at the top of operational expertise and are highly valued by the CTI community.
- Master Training Specialist and Enlisted Warfare Qualifications are expected when available at commands.
- Participate in Rating Leadership through OCCSTDS, JDTA, TRR, PQS, AERR, HPRR, RSC, DLPT standard setting reviews and other community working groups.
- Command Collateral Duty with documented impact (e.g. CFL, CLPM, Language Mentor, SAPR, etc.)
- Completion of MCCEP phases.
- Sailor 360 and CPO Initiation leadership.
- CPOA and CPO Mess leadership.