

SOAC DATES AND DEPARTMENT HEAD DETAILING

| CLASS | CONVENE | GRADUATE |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 21010 | 26 Oct 20 | 23 Apr 21 |
| 21020 | 11 Jan 21 | 25 Jun 21 |
| 21030 | 8 Mar 21 | 20 Aug 21 |
| 21040 | 3 May 21 | 15 Oct 21 |
| 21050 | 5 Jul 21 | 17 Dec 21 |
| 21060 | 30 Aug 21 | 25 Feb 22 |
| 22010 | 25 Oct 21 | 22 Apr 22 |
| 22020 | 10 Jan 22 | 24 Jun 22 |
| 22030 | 7 Mar 22 | 19 Aug 22 |
| 22040 | 2 May 22 | 14 Oct 22 |
| 22050 | 27 Jun 22 | 9 Dec 22 |
| 22060 | 29 Aug 22 | 24 Feb 23 |

The basic timeline for SOAC/Department Head detailing is shown below using SOAC class convening date as a reference. Every attempt is made to meet this timeline as close as possible:

3-4 months prior to convening date:

- Orders to SOAC issued
- Request for preferences made

2 months prior to convening date:

- Department Head slate of jobs is sent to students

6 weeks prior to convening date:

- Department Head slate of jobs is returned to detailer

1-2 weeks prior to convening date:

- Verbal orders issued

Arrival at SOAC:

- Department Head orders generated

1 month after arrival at SOAC:

- Orders to ship transmitted (NOTE: the actual order transmission date can vary due to fluctuating financial conditions)

Assignment Methodology

Assignment to a SOAC class is based primarily on PRD. Class sizes are limited by the number of department heads in the fleet who require reliefs and the capacity for Naval Submarine School. This can result in a small number of officers who must be shifted between classes to equalize student loading. However, these shifts normally involve only a 1-2-month delay in detaching from the previous command. Junior Officers on their shore tour should contact their detailer about 9 months prior to their PRD to confirm SOAC class assignments.

About six months prior to a SOAC convening, the Junior Officer Shore Tour Detailer contacts the perspective students for a SOAC class, confirming their assignment. This email serves as the handoff to the Department Head Sea Detailer. Orders to SOAC are issued 3-4 months prior to the convening date. Once orders are issued to the class, the detailer will send a detailed request for preferences to the class. As these preferences are requested via e-mail, ensure that you keep your current e-mail address updated on BUPERS online (BOL). Refer to the Drumbeat for directions on how to update your email address.

Assignments are ultimately dependent on what billets are available. Within these confines, several other factors are considered in determining an individual's assignment. These factors include previous duty history, command employment and schedule, wardroom strengths and weaknesses, individual career needs, and of course individual duty preferences. Each class must be slated as a whole to balance the various factors involved for each student. Unexpected events during the slating process or while at SOAC can lead to assignment changes, but every effort is made to prevent changing homeports during SOAC unless an individual volunteers for the change.

Uncertainty surrounding ship schedules, split tour options, and unscheduled personnel losses in the fleet make it very difficult to determine the availability of ship billet openings more than 6 months in the future. This precludes discussing department head assignments earlier than about 2-3 months prior to the SOAC class convening date.

Please contact LCDR Seth Romo with any further questions. Seth.A.Romo@navy.mil