

Program Authorization: Public Affairs Officer (PAO), Designator 1655, Reserve Component Direct Commissioning Program. Provides an opportunity for exceptional civilians, prior commissioned officers, and prior enlisted personnel the ability to apply for a commission as a Navy Public Affairs officer. BUPERS-318E is the Reserve Public Affairs community manager. Program Manager is PERS-448A.

1. Program Authority: 10 U.S.C. 12201 to 12209.
2. Cancellation: Program Authorization 208 of August 2008.
3. Quota: As prescribed by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education) in the annual accession plan.
4. Qualifications:
  - a. Citizenship: Applicants must be U.S. citizens.
  - b. Gender: Open to men and women.
  - c. Education: Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science from an accredited college or university. Graduate education is preferred but not required.
    - (1) GPA: Cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
    - (2) Major: Degrees must be in Public Relations, Journalism, Advertising, Communications, Mass Communications, Radio-Television-Film, Photo-Journalism, Marketing, or other Communications related courses of study.
    - (3) Applicants with degrees in other fields may be considered if they have suitable experience in Journalism, Advertising, or other Communications related career experience.
    - (4) Upon recommendation from CNRC, educational waiver requests will be reviewed by the Reserve PAO Officer Community Manager (BUPERS-318E) on a case-by-case basis.
  - d. Work Experience: Civilian or previous military work experience must be in Public Relations, Journalism, Advertising and Marketing, Communications, Radio-Television-Film, Photo-Journalism, or other Communications related work experience.

Relevant public affairs experience in International Relations, Business, or Industrial Relations is preferred.

(1) For civilian experience, applicants must include a resume and a minimum of three references. Two of the three references shall be employment related while the third should be a character reference.

(2) Applicants must validate military work experience with submissions from the applicant's service record, including the most recent observed performance evaluations (no less than three and no more than five years), all positions held, and military training and education completed. Provide DD214 documenting any previous discharge from military service.

e. Age: Applicants must be at least 21 years old and of such age that they will not have passed their 42<sup>nd</sup> birthday at time of commissioning. Prior qualifying service (enlisted or commissioned) will be considered for year-for-year credit up to age 50. Non-prior Service personnel over 42 may be considered for a waiver provided:

(1) The Direct Commission Public Affairs Officer professional review board recommends the member.

(2) The applicant understands and acknowledges by signing the Maximum Age Statement of Understanding that he/she may not be able to serve long enough to obtain 20 qualifying years eligibility for a reserve retirement.

f. Physical: Applicants must meet all physical requirements prescribed in Chapter 15 of NAVMED P-177, Manual of the Medical Department, at the time of commissioning. Selectees must maintain eligibility for worldwide assignment.

g. Marital status: No restrictions.

h. Time In Service: No restrictions.

i. Interviews: Applications must include at least two officer interviews. One of these interviews must be conducted by a Reserve Component (Selected Reserve) Public Affairs Officer at the Commander (O-5) or Captain (O-6) rank. The second interview may be conducted by any Public Affairs Officer (165X) at the Lieutenant Commander (O-4), O-5, or O-6 rank.

5. Source:

a. Civilian, male or female.

b. Enlisted personnel in the reserve component of any service of the armed forces (SELRES or IRR). SELRES on extended or recall orders (mobilization, one, two, or three - year recall, ADSW) may apply but must complete their active duty obligation under current orders before being commissioned. Those serving on active duty, including Full Time Support (FTS), are not eligible to apply unless appropriate release is authorized.

c. Personnel of the other armed services with an approved interservice transfer.

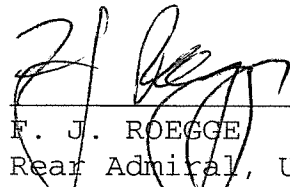
6. Appointment: Direct Commission Officers (DCOs) may be commissioned to the rank of Ensign, USN, Reserve Component Public Affairs Officer, Navy Designator 1655. For officers who previously resigned their commission, they may be commissioned to the rank of Ensign through Lieutenant Commander, USN, Reserve Component Public Affairs Officer in accordance with current regulations allowing for applicants with prior commissioned service to be commissioned at a higher rank.

7. Indoctrination: Selectees must complete the two-week DCO Indoctrination Course (CIN: Q-9B-0024) held at Newport, RI within one year of commissioning. On a case-by-case basis, waivers of the DCOIC may be granted by the Program Manager (PERS-448A) for selectees who held a commission within the previous ten years. New DCOs must complete the Public Affairs Officer Qualification Course (DINFOS-PAOQC-DL), Phases I and II, within two years of commissioning.

8. Service Obligation:

a. Selectees incur an eight-year obligation, the first three of which must be completed as a Selected Reserve (a drilling Reservist) followed by five years Ready Reserve (VTU/IRR). The obligation commences upon commissioning.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
F. J. ROEGGE  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Director, Military Personnel  
Plans and Policy (N13)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2/17/15