

Program Authorization: Special Duty Officer, Strategic Sealift Officer (SSO) Direct Commissioning Officer Program.

Appointments of Ensigns into the restricted line, Strategic Sealift Officer Program designator 1665. SSOs provide the Navy with skilled licensed mariners to support strategic sealift readiness.

1. Program authority: 10 USC 12201 to 12209.
2. Cancellation: Program Authorization 221C 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 citizens of the United States. Waivers will not be granted.
 - b. Gender: Open to men and women.
 - c. Education: Graduates from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY, or one of the State Maritime Academies at Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Texas, California, the regional Great Lakes Maritime Academy, or an accredited Industrial School. The graduation requirements may be waived by the Program Manager (COMNAVRESFORCOM N14), for otherwise qualified applicants.
 - d. U.S. Coast Guard License Requirements: Possess an active U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) unlimited officer license at the minimum level of Chief Mate or First Assistant Engineer with current Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW95) Certifications. The license requirement may be reduced to Second Mate or Second Assistant Engineer for inter-service transfers, or if an applicant possesses a relevant Masters degree, as determined by the Program Manger, (ie: related to transportation, logistics, engineering or military strategy and planning). Licenses renewed for continuity, or for service on domestic, coastwise, or limited tonnages or horsepower, do not qualify.

e. Work Experience: Must be actively sailing in the maritime industry or employed in a position deemed mission useful by the SSO Program Manager.

f. Age: Must be at least 19 years old and of such age that they will not have passed 42nd 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) Community professional review board recommends the member for commissioning and will accept the applicant over the age requirement.

(2) The applicant understands and acknowledges in writing he/she may not be able to serve long enough to obtain a retirement (regular or non-regular).

g. Physical: In accordance with the Manual of the Medical Department, Chapter 15.

h. Marital status: No restrictions.

i. Time In Service: No restrictions.

j. Appeals: Appeals of determination of ineligibility will be adjudicated by the Program Sponsor (CNO (N4)) upon a submission of a written request submitted via the Program Manager.

5. Source:

a. Civilians: (U.S. citizens)

b. Officers: U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, State or regional Maritime Academies, or an accredited Industrial School.

6. Appointment: Ensign, Strategic Sealift Officer, designator 1665.

7. Indoctrination: Selectees must attend the two-week SSO Post-Commissioning Indoctrination within one year of commissioning.

8. Service Obligation:

a. Selectees will incur an eight-year ready reserve obligation.

b. Selectees must maintain eligibility for mobilization and worldwide assignment.


c. Selectees must be eligible to obtain and maintain a security clearance.

d. Selectees must meet program participation requirements outlined in OPNAVINST 1534.1D

e. Selectees must maintain an active USCG License and STCW certifications.

9. Assignment: Newly commissioned SSOs are to be assigned directly to the Strategic Sealift Ready Reserve Group (SSRG - IRR Program UIC 2525M). While assigned to the SSRG, Selectees will complete their first Active Duty Training (ADT) at the SSO Post-Commissioning indoctrination course. After completing the initial ADT with the SSRG, SSOs may apply to affiliate as a drilling member of the Selected Reserve.

Approved: _____


A. M. Kurta, RADM, USN
Director, Military Personnel
Plans & Policy Division (N13)

Date: _____

5/28/2013