

MILPERSMAN 1212-050

INFORMATION WARFARE COMMUNITY (IWC) OPTION PROGRAM

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References	(a) NAVMED P-117, Manual of the Medical Department (b) COMNAVSURFORINST 1412.1C (c) 10 U.S.C., Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)
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1. **Program Policy.** The Information Warfare Community (IWC) Option Program provides a steady accession source of qualified surface warfare officers (SWO) into the IWC. The IWC officer communities that participate in this program are:

- a. 1800 oceanography (OCN);
- b. 1810 cryptologic warfare (CW);
- c. 1820 information professional (IP); and
- d. 1830 intelligence (INTEL).

IWC Option Program accession quotas are limited in number and approved by the Chief of Naval Personnel per the annual fiscal year officer accession plan. Quotas are determined by the needs of the Navy and are allocated to each of the above communities. Under this program, highly qualified officers are initially commissioned into the SWO community. These officers are subsequently redesignated, without board action, to their respective IWC community upon completion of prerequisites outlined in paragraph 3 below.

2. **Applicability of this Article.** This article is applicable to active duty officers who have been selected for and commissioned into the IWC Option Program from the following commissioning sources:

- a. United States Naval Academy (USNA);
- b. Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps;
- c. Officer Candidate School (OCS); or
- d. Seaman-to-Admiral Program (STA-21).

3. **Qualifications.** A limited number of individuals from the above commissioning sources may apply for the IWC Option Program. Candidates selected for this program must meet the eligibility standards outlined below:

- a. **Citizenship:** Must be a United States citizen;
- b. **Gender:** Male and female are eligible;
- c. **Age:** Must meet age limitations specified for commissioning via the accession sources listed in paragraph 2 of this article;

d. **Education:** Minimum requirement is a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. Applicants must have an academic cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.8 or greater on a 4.0 scale. Applicants with a GPA less than 2.8 will be considered for a waiver on condition that positive input has been received from the respective IWC community sponsor or delegated authority. Community specific education requirements are as follows:

(1) **OCN:** A minimum of a baccalaureate degree in meteorology, physical oceanography, or a comparable degree in mathematics, physics, geophysics, or engineering; completion of a calculus series (Calculus 1 & 2) with an average grade of "C" or better and completion of a calculus-based physics series (Physics 1 & 2) with an average grade of "C" or better are required. Completion of at least 30 semester hours of courses in meteorology and or oceanography is preferred. Cumulative grade point average must be 2.8 or greater on a 4.0 scale.

College graduates who do not meet the education requirements, but have civilian or military experience in meteorology, oceanography, or hydrography, will be considered on an individual basis.

(2) **CW:** A minimum of a baccalaureate degree and education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields (e.g., electronics, electrical, computer, systems engineering, computer science, physics, math, etc.) is preferred, though not required. Documented professional experience in signals intelligence, electronic warfare, or cyberspace operations is also desirable, but not required.

(3) **IP:** A minimum of a baccalaureate degree is required. Although a specific academic major is not required, a technical degree in computer science, computer or electrical engineering, mathematics, physics, information systems, or operations is preferred. Academic background and grade point average should meet entry requirements for technical graduate-level education programs. Information technology or communications experience is also preferred.

(4) **INTEL:** A minimum of a baccalaureate degree is required. Preferred fields of study for intelligence officers include international relations with a language/regional focus (e.g., Middle Eastern or Asian studies, political science, history, or Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Program). Certifiable foreign language skills and cultural background and expertise are highly desirable, but not required. Experience in the intelligence discipline is also preferred.

- e. **Physical:** Per chapter 15 of reference (a);
- f. **Marital Status:** No restrictions; and
- g. **Clearance:** IWC communities require all officers to undergo a single-scope background investigation and to be eligible for access to sensitive compartmented information.

4. **Appointment.** Candidates selected for the IWC Option Program are commissioned as ensigns and initially designated as surface warfare officers in training (1160).

a. **IWC Option Program Identification.** Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM), Surface Officer Distribution Division (PERS-41) will assign IWC Option Program officers an additional qualification designator (AQD) identifying them as IWC Option officers, recording their affiliation with a specific IWC community. Community specific AQDs are as follows:

- (1) OCN (1800) - LOD;
- (2) CW (1810) - LOC;
- (3) IP (1820) - LOB; and
- (4) INTEL (1830) - LOE.

b. **IWC Option Program Officer Accounting.** Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS), Information Warfare Community Branch (BUPERS-317) IWC officer community managers (OCMs) will maintain the authoritative roster of all officers commissioned into the IWC Option Program. This listing will be coordinated with and informed by accession planners at USNA, Naval Student Training Command (NSTC), and Navy Recruiting Command (NAVCRUITCOM), as well as with the Surface Warfare OCM (BUPERS-311), NAVPERSCOM (PERS-41), and NAVPERSCOM, IWC Assignments (PERS-47).

5. **Assignments**

a. **First Assignment.** During their initial tour, IWC Option Program officers are required to complete the SWO qualification (as outlined in reference (b)) and perform the full range of duties and responsibilities associated with a traditional SWO assignment. IWC Option Program officers should be assigned by NAVPERSCOM (PERS-41) to shipboard billets, which are conducive to their career progression in the IWC Option Program. These assignments include electronic warfare officers, communications officers, electronic material officers, combat systems officers, information systems officers, navigators, and Electronic Key Management System custodians. Redesignation to their respective IWC community will occur **automatically** upon completion of the prerequisites listed in paragraph 6 of this article.

b. **Subsequent Assignment.** All IWC Option Program officers are required to attend the Information Warfare Basic Course - CIN: J-3A-2301 at the Information Warfare Training Center, Dam Neck, VA.

(1) **OCN.** Officers redesignated to 1800 will be detailed to basic oceanographic accession training followed by an initial oceanography experience tour.

(2) **CW.** Officers redesignated to 1810 will be detailed to the CW basic course followed by a tour at a Navy Information Operations Command, co-located with a national security agency cryptologic center for CW and IWO qualification purposes, followed by a CW operational tour.

(3) **IP.** Officers redesignated to 1820 will be detailed to the IP basic course, followed by an initial IP operational experience tour.

(4) **INTEL.** Officers redesignated to 1830 will be detailed to Navy intelligence officer basic course, followed by an initial INTEL operational experience tour.

6. IWC Option Program Redesignation Execution

a. **Security Clearance Prerequisites.** USNA, NSTC, and NAVCRUITCOM will ensure their respective accessed officers are submitted for single-scope background investigations in order to qualify for required top secret/special compartmentalized information security clearance.

b. **Service Agreement/NAVPERS 1070/613 Administrative Remarks.** NAVCRUITCOM will ensure all service agreements for their OCS accessed IWC Option Program officers reflect the timeline requirements detailed in paragraph 6d below. USNA and NSTC will ensure their respective IWC Option Program officers read and sign NAVPERS 1070/613 Administrative Remarks that reflect the timeline requirements in exhibit 1.

c. **Redesignation Prerequisites.** IWC Option Program officers will be **automatically** redesignated, without board action, into their respective IWC communities upon completion of the following prerequisites: Surface warfare qualification per reference (b) and completion of one SWO division officer tour;

completion of this tour is usually within 2.5 years from date of commission.

d. **Timeline and Follow-On Assignment Availability.** IWC Option Program officers meeting the prerequisites listed above will normally be redesignated within 2.5 years of commissioned service, but **no later than** 3 years of commissioned service.

(1) IWC OCM will notify SWO OCM, NAVPERSCOM (PERS-41) and NAVPERSCOM (PERS-47) of pending resignation.

(2) IWC OCM will submit resignation action to NAVPERSCOM, Career Progression Department (PERS-8), to execute administrative action for designation change.

(3) IWC OCM will notify SWO OCM, NAVPERSCOM (PERS-41), and NAVPERSCOM (PERS-47) when resignation has been completed.

(4) Once redesignated, IWC officers will be made available by the surface warfare community for immediate transfer to their first IWC assignments.

e. **Exceptions**

(1) **Approved Resignation Request.** IWC Option Program officers will not be redesignated if they have submitted an unqualified or contingent resignation request to NAVPERSCOM (PERS-8). If the resignation request is disapproved, the officer will be made immediately available for resignation and transfer to the first IWC assignment.

(2) **Administrative Separation.** IWC Option Program officers will not be redesignated if they are currently under investigation for, or in the process of, administrative separation under reference (c).

(3) **Surface Warfare Career Sustainment.** IWC Option Program officers who desire to remain in the surface warfare community must submit a written statement to their respective IWC OCMs, with a copy to the surface warfare OCM. The decision to allow an IWC Option Program officer to remain in the surface warfare community is at the discretion of the IWC OCM, in consultation with the SWO OCM, and will be made in the best interests of IWC community health. If the request is approved,

the IWC OCM will inform the SWO OCM, NAVPERSCOM (PERS-41), and NAVPERSCOM (PERS-47). NAVPERSCOM (PERS-41) will remove the approved officer's AQD, and the officer will remain in the surface warfare community.

7. **Lateral Transfer Eligibility.** Officers commissioned into the IWC Option Program are not eligible to apply for redesignation via the active duty lateral transfer board prior to their automatic redesignation without board action to the IWC.

8. **Active Duty Obligation.** Upon redesignation to the IWC, IWC Option Program officers incur a minimum service requirement of 2 years from date of designator change to be served concurrently with any other obligations. Officers who remain in the surface warfare community must satisfy the initial active duty service obligation corresponding to their original commissioning source.

Exhibit 1
Service Agreement/NAVPERS 1070/613 Administrative Remarks

DDMMYY: Per MILPERSMAN 1212-050,

I understand that I have been selected for accession into the Information Warfare Community (IWC) Option Program. Per the program, I will be commissioned as an ensign and initially designated as a surface warfare officer (SWO) in training (1160), and will be assigned an additional qualification designator (AQD) of {choose one of the following: "LOB for affiliation with the information professional community" or "LOC for affiliation with the cryptologic warfare community" or "LOD for affiliation with the oceanography community" or "LOE for affiliation with the intelligence community"}.

I understand that I will be automatically redesignated to {choose one of the following: "oceanography officer (1800)" or "cryptologic warfare officer (1810)" or "information professional officer (1820)" or "intelligence officer (1830)"} upon completion of my surface warfare qualification, per COMNAVSURFORINST 1412.1C, and completion of one SWO division officer tour.

I understand that this redesignation and availability to the IWC for assignment will occur no later than 3 years from the date of my commissioning. Upon redesignation, I understand that I will incur a minimum service requirement of 2 years from the date of designator change to be served concurrently with any other obligations.

Member's Signature

Witness: _____
{Name, Rank and Title}