1. **Policy**
   
a. Captains (CAPTs) of several designators are eligible to command major laboratories. The growth of major projects in naval systems commands has required the qualification of CAPTs in weapon systems acquisition techniques to direct them.

   b. Chief of Naval Personnel (CHNAVPERS) takes a direct, personal interest in the selection of commanding officers (COs) for these vital major commands.

2. **Selection Criteria.** The criteria for selection of officers to command naval systems commands’ research and development centers closely resembles those used for selection to a major program manager (MPM).

   a. Unrestricted Line (URL) CAPTs must have screened for either major shore command or as MPM.

   b. Restricted Line (RL) CAPTs must have screened as MPM.

   c. Laboratory COs are

      • proposed by Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM) from major shore commander candidate lists;
      • selected by Chief of Naval Research (CNR); and
      • approved by Assistant Secretary of the Navy Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN (RD&A)).

   d. Placement officers ensure concurrence of ASN (RD&A) prior to issuing orders for COs.