

MILPERSMAN 1212-050

INFORMATION PROFESSIONAL (IP) OPTION PROGRAM

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References	(a) NAVMED P-117, Manual of the Medical Department (b) COMNAVSURFORINST 1412.1
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1. **Policy**. The Information Professional (IP) Option Program provides a steady accession source of warfare qualified officers into the IP community. Highly qualified officers are designated as Surface Warfare Officers upon commissioning, and these officers are redesignated as IP Officers upon completion of specified career milestones without board action.

2. **Applicability of this Article**. This article is applicable to Regular and Reserve officers who have been designated as an IP Option Officer at the time of their commissioning from

- United States Naval Academy (USNA),
- Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC),
- Officer Candidate School (OCS),
- Seaman-to-Admiral (STA-21), or
- Merchant Marine Academies.

3. **IP Option**

a. At service selection a limited number of officers who select Surface Warfare may apply for the IP Option Program. Annual quotas will be determined by Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (OPNAV (N1)). IP Option Officers are required to qualify as a Surface Warfare Officer and be within 6 months of promotion to O-3 prior to redesignation and transfer. IP Option Officers selected for assignment to a Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) must complete one at-sea division officer tour prior to redesignation

and transfer. Redesignation to the IP community will occur automatically upon completion of the prerequisites listed in paragraph 7.

b. Officers redesignated to 1600 can expect to be detailed to the IP basic course of instruction, followed by a challenging IP operational billet.

4. Qualifications

a. Citizenship: Must be a citizen of the United States.

b. Sex: Both male and female officers are eligible for the IP Option Program.

c. Age: Must meet age limitations specified for commissioning via NROTC, USNA, STA-21, OCS, or Merchant Marine Academy programs as applicable per MILPERSMAN 1131-010 or associated program authorization.

d. Education:

(1) Minimum requirement is a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. Evidence of academic excellence is required. In general this shall mean that the applicant should have an academic average of 2.2 or better on a 4.0 scale. Though no specific degree is required, computer science, engineering, mathematics, physics, information systems or information operations are preferred, as is a strong foundation in math (e.g., calculus) regardless of degree.

e. Physical: Per reference (a).

f. Marital Status: No restrictions.

g. Selection Criteria: Candidates must meet all Surface Warfare Officer selection criteria per MILPERSMAN 1131-010 or associated program authorization. Final selection of qualified candidates will be made by the IP officer community manager (OCM) and IP senior detailee. The individual will be screened again prior to changing designator to validate adequate performance. Failure to maintain satisfactory performance is cause for disenrollment from the program and possible separation from the Navy.

5. **Source**. Midshipmen at USNA, NROTC units, STA-21, OCS, and Merchant Marine Academies.

6. **Appointment**. Officers are appointed as an Ensign, with designator 1160. IP Option Officers are assigned an Additional Qualification Designator (AQD) of "LOB".

7. **IP Option Execution**

a. IP Option Officers will **automatically** be redesignated in the Restricted Line (RL) and designated 1600 upon completion of the following prerequisites:

(1) Surface Warfare qualification, per reference (b)

(2) Be within at least 6 months of promotion to Lieutenant, or completion of one at-sea division officer tour if on track for LCS.

(3) Favorable record review conducted by an administrative screening panel convened by IP community management.

b. IP Option Officers will not be redesignated if they have submitted their resignation to Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM), Career Management Department (PERS-8). Redesignation will occur if they subsequently withdraw their resignation.

c. IP Option Officers who have an approved resignation may request to be redesignated to 1605 upon resignation to facilitate reserve affiliation. Officers wishing to serve in the Reserve Component as an IP Officer should submit a letter to Bureau of Naval Personnel, Military Community Management (BUPERS-3) requesting redesignation to 1605 upon resignation, and include a copy of their approved resignation request. These requests will be reviewed by the IP OCM and submitted to Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel (DEPCHNAVPERS) for approval.

8. **Termination of IP Option**. Officers who desire to terminate their IP Option and remain in the Surface Warfare community must submit a request to the Surface Warfare OCM via the IP OCM. Both OCMs must agree with the request. If the request is approved, officers may remain in the Unrestricted Line (URL) for the remainder of their careers at no penalty.

9. **Active Duty (ACDU) Obligation**. Upon redesignation to 1600, officers incur a minimum service obligation of 2 years from date of designator change, to be served concurrently with any other obligations. Officers who terminate their IP Option must still satisfy their initial ACDU obligation corresponding to their commissioning source.