

MILPERSMAN 1212-060

INFORMATION WARFARE (IW) OPTION PROGRAM

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References	(a) NAVMED P-117, Manual of the Medical Department (b) COMNAVSURFORINST 1412.1A
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1. **Policy**. The Information Warfare (IW) Option Program provides a steady accession source of warfare qualified officers into the IW community. Highly qualified officers are designated as Surface Warfare Officers upon commissioning, and these officers are redesignated as IW 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 IW Option Officer at the time of their commissioning from

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

3. **IW Option**

a. At service selection a limited number of officers who select Surface Warfare may apply for the IW Option Program. Annual quotas will be determined by Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (OPNAV (N1)). IW 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. During their initial tour(s), officers are required to perform the full range of duties and responsibilities as their traditional surface warfare peers.

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

b. Officers redesignated to 1640 can expect to be detailed to one of the four Cryptologic Centers where they will complete the IW professional qualification standard and earn the 1610 designator.

4. Qualifications

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

b. Sex: Both male and female officers are eligible for the IW 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, political science, or regional studies is 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 IW officer community manager (OCM). 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 ensigns, with designator 1160. IW Option Officers will be assigned Additional Qualification Designator (AQD) of "LOC".

7. **Surface IW Option Execution**

a. Surface IW Option Officers will **automatically** be redesignated in the Restricted Line (RL) and designated 1640 upon completion of the following prerequisites:

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

(2) Be within at least 6 months of promotion to lieutenant.

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

b. Surface IW 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. Surface IW Option Officers who have an approved resignation may request to be redesignated to 1645 upon resignation to facilitate reserve affiliation. Officers wishing to serve in the Reserve Component as an IW Officer should submit a letter to Bureau of Naval Personnel, Military Community Management (BUPERS-3) requesting redesignation to 1645 upon resignation, and include a copy of their approved resignation request. These requests will be reviewed by the IW OCM and submitted to Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel (DEPCHNAVPERS) for approval.

8. **Termination of IW Option**. Officers who desire to terminate their IW Option and remain in the Surface Warfare community must submit a request to the Surface Warfare OCM via the IW 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 1640, 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 IW option must still satisfy their initial ACDU obligation corresponding to their commissioning source.