

MILPERSMAN 1212-070

OCEANOGRAPHY (OCEAN) OPTION PROGRAM

Responsible Office	BUPERS-31	Phone: DSN	882-2461
		COM	(901) 874-2461
		FAX	882-2063

NAVPERSCOM CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER	Phone:	Toll Free	1-866-U ASK NPC
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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 Oceanography (OCEAN) Option Program provides an accession source of warfare qualified officers into the OCEAN community. Highly qualified officers are designated as OCEAN Options upon commissioning, and these officers are redesignated as OCEAN 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 OCEAN 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. **OCEAN Option**

a. At service selection a limited number of officers who select Surface Warfare may apply for the OCEAN Option Program. Annual quotas will be determined by the Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (OPNAV (N1)). OCEAN Option Officers are required 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 Oceanography community will occur

automatically upon completion of the prerequisites listed in paragraph 7.

b. Officers redesignated to 1800 may expect to be detailed to either post-graduate studies at Naval Postgraduate School in the Meteorology-Operational Sciences curriculum (6401 Subspecialty) or to their first Oceanography experience tour.

4. Qualifications

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

b. Sex: Both male and female officers are eligible for the OCEAN 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) Required: A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, preferably in a technical field. Completion of a full college level series of Calculus (Calculus I and II) and a college level, calculus based Physics series (Physics I and II) with a minimum C+ average is also required.

(2) Desired: Baccalaureate degree in meteorology, physical oceanography, hydrography, earth science, or engineering.

e. Physical: Per reference (a).

f. Martial 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 Oceanography officer community manager (OCM) and senior Oceanography detailer. 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. OCEAN Options are assigned Additional Qualification Designator (AQD) of "LOD".

7. **OCEAN Option Execution**

a. OCEAN Option Officers will **automatically** be redesignated in the Restricted Line (RL) and designated 1800 upon completion of the following prerequisites:

(1) Surface Warfare qualification, per MILPERSMAN 1131-010.

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

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

b. OCEAN 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. OCEAN Option Officers who have an approved resignation may request to be redesignated to 1805 upon resignation to facilitate reserve affiliation. Officers wishing to serve in the Reserve Component as an Oceanography Officer should submit a letter to Bureau of Naval Personnel, Military Community Management (BUPERS-3) requesting redesignation to 1805 upon resignation, and include a copy of their approved resignation request. These requests will be reviewed by the Oceanography OCM and submitted to Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel (DEPCHNAVPERS) for approval.

8. **Termination of OCEAN Option**. Officers who desire to terminate their OCEAN option and remain in the Surface Warfare

community must submit a request to the Surface Warfare OCM via the Oceanography 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 1800, 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 OCEAN Option must still satisfy their initial ACDU obligation corresponding to their commissioning source.