

Navy Intelligence Community Overview

Community Overview

A dynamic and demanding field, Naval Intelligence serves across today's challenges to our national security—from terrorism to threats to our maritime interests. Intelligence—the knowledge based on collection and analysis of an adversary's strengths, weaknesses, capabilities and intentions—is a key to conducting successful US military operations. Subsequently, the community expects the highest level of performance and dedication from our officers. Naval Intelligence Officers provide tactical, operational, and strategic intelligence support to US naval forces, joint and multi-national military forces, and executive-level decision-makers in our national government. We work with professionals who steadfastly protect our nation.

Specific job elements for first tour: Upon graduation from basic intelligence training, initial assignments will generally be to a 24-month milestone operational tour. This initial assignment may be with an aviation squadron, air wing staff, onboard an aircraft carrier or amphibious command ship, or with an expeditionary or special warfare unit. You will lead sailors, and supervise the collection, analysis and dissemination of intelligence critical to carrying out your command's mission, all the while developing skills in leadership, management, analysis and communication. For those officers transferring laterally in conjunction with the SWO (INTEL) option, initial assignment may be to O-3/O-4 milestone duty at a joint intelligence center, OPNAV staff, or other large intelligence command, with some officers going directly to operational units based on their operational experiences.

Follow on assignments: Depending on your interests, background and performance, you will have opportunities to serve in a variety of sea and shore assignments worldwide. While career paths vary widely, our officers typically serve three "sea" duty assignments within a twenty-year career. Promotion opportunities are comparable with other Navy warfare communities and the single factor is sustained superior performance.

Typical areas of assignment focus include:

- Tactical Support to Naval Strike Forces: Provide intelligence that drives operations at the tactical level.
- Operational Intelligence: Deliver near-real-time intelligence assessments to decision makers
- Targeting: Identify and appropriately prosecute enemy targets (find-fix-kill).
- Intelligence Support to Special Operations: Support Navy and Joint special warfare efforts across the globe
- Human Intelligence: Face-to-face interaction in a challenging collection discipline.
- Collection Management: Manage the prioritization of requirements and the tasking of intelligence resources.
- Civil Maritime Intelligence: Monitor and analyze maritime activities that threaten national security.
- Combatant Command Staff Officer: Develop plans, manage programs, produce supporting documents, or become regional experts for major commands.
- Naval Attaché: Support theater engagement and cultivate regional and language expertise in select foreign countries.
- Scientific and Technical: Participate in analysis of foreign weapons systems.
- Information Systems: Lead the planning, development, testing, and deployment of info systems crucial to the intelligence process.

Training pipeline following commission

After commissioning, your career as a Naval Intelligence Officer begins at the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center in Dam Neck, VA where you will attend a five-month basic course of instruction. Other training may be offered depending upon initial assignment (e.g., Special Warfare Intelligence Course, Collection Manager School, HUMINT, Targeting School)

Selection Process:

Individuals desiring the SWO-(INTEL) option will be screened using a whole person approach that takes into account QPR/Order of Merit, diversity of experience, extracurricular activity involvement, academic program, and performance in an interview with intelligence officers assigned to USNA. As in the fleet, we look for sustained superior performance. Individuals who are not physically qualified (NPQ) for unrestricted line will be screened in a separate but similar process, but are only evaluated against other NPQ midshipmen.