1. **Policy.** The Intelligence (INTEL) Option Program provides a steady accession source of warfare qualified officers into the INTEL community. Highly qualified officers are designated as INTEL Options upon commissioning, and these officers are re-designated as INTEL Officers upon completion of specified career milestones without board action.

2. **Applicability of this Article.** This article is applicable to officers who have been designated as INTEL Option Officers 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. **Surface INTEL Option**

   a. A limited number of USNA, NROTC, OCS, STA–21, and Merchant Marine Academies may apply for the INTEL Option Program. Annual quotas will be determined by Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education (OPNAV (N1)). INTEL Option Officers are required to complete two at-sea division officer tours and be within 6 months of promotion to O-3 prior to re-designation and transfer. During these first two tours, officers are required to complete surface warfare qualifications and perform the full range of duties and responsibilities associated with traditional surface warfare.
Re-designation to the INTEL community will occur automatically upon completion of the prerequisites listed in paragraph 4g.

b. Officers redesignated to 1630 can expect to be detailed to Navy Intelligence Officer Basic Course with follow-on assignment to the fleet where they will complete the basic INTEL Professional Qualification Program.

4. **Qualifications**

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

   b. Sex: Both male and female officers are eligible for the Surface Warfare INTEL Option Program.

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

   d. Education: Minimum requirement is a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. Applicant should have an academic average of 2.2 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Though no specific degree is required, political science, language, international relations, or regional studies are preferred. Waivers for GPA will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with focus on total officer qualities.

   e. Physical: Per reference (a).

   f. Marital Status: No restrictions.

   g. Selection Criteria: Candidates must meet all Surface Warfare Officer selection criteria per reference (b). Final selection of qualified candidates will be made by the INTEL 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. **Appointment.** Officers are appointed as an Ensign, with designator 1160. Surface Warfare INTEL Options are assigned an Additional Qualification Designator (AQD) of “LOE”.
6. **Surface INTEL Option Execution**

   a. Surface INTEL Option Officers will **automatically** be re-designated in the Restricted Line (RL) and designated 1630 upon completion of the following prerequisites:

      (1) Must meet surface warfare qualifications per MILPERSMAN 1131-010.

      (2) Must be within 6 months of promotion to Lieutenant.

      (3) Must have a favorable record review conducted by INTEL community management.

   b. Surface INTEL Option Officers will not be re-designated if they have submitted their resignation to Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM), Career Management Department (PERS-8). Re-designation will occur if they subsequently withdraw their resignation and it is approved by NAVPERSCOM (PERS-8).

7. **Termination of INTEL Option.** Officers who desire to terminate their INTEL Option and remain in the surface warfare community must submit a request to the INTEL OCM with copy to the Surface Warfare community manager. Both community managers 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.

8. **Active Duty Obligation.** Upon redesignation to 1630, officers incur a minimum service obligation of 3 years from date of designator change to be served concurrently with any other obligations. Officers who terminate their RL option must still satisfy their initial active duty obligation corresponding to their commissioning source.