Navy Information Professional
Connecting the Global Force
Information is the fuel for the modern age

U.S. Navy’s mission accomplishment is increasingly reliant upon assured, accurate and timely information flow. To guarantee success across the range of naval operations, Navy’s Information Professional Community provides the Nation and the Navy a preeminent cadre of operationally and technically savvy Cyber leaders and experts.

The Information Professional Community is a critical leader in Navy’s operations in the Cyber Domain and across the spectrum of naval warfare.

**Information is power.** In modern military operations, getting the right information, at the right time in the right context to the decision-maker is crucial to success of the operation and to mitigate any risks in the operation. *Commanders demand timely, assured and relevant information* across the spectrum of naval, Joint and coalition operations.

*Naval operations* in the Information Age, whether on air, sea, land or space, *utilize a vast array of technologies* to support persistent sensing, operational planning, command and control, intelligence, logistics, and other combat support functions.

Not only is information vital to every warfare area, but also the very fabric this information travels upon, otherwise known as cyberspace, has also rapidly become a domain of potential conflict and influence. Dominance of cyberspace and assurance of militarily relevant information is vital to meeting mission objectives in 21st Century operations and to homeland defense.

To lead Navy’s competencies in space operations, information superiority, command & control, Navy established the Information Professional (IP) Community in 2001. *The IP Community serves across the military today ensuring the power of information is at the ready for the Commander.*
Who We Are

The IP Community is the premier cadre of operationally savvy technology leaders in space, information and command & control. Grounded in understanding of Naval operations, we bring innovative solutions to warfare in the Information Age.

IPs work within the planning, programming, acquisition, operations and maintenance dimensions to support Navy operational and business processes.

The IP Community is a key component of Navy’s Information Dominance Corps.

What We Believe

We believe operations in the Information Age demands in-depth expertise not only in understanding information technology, but also the understanding of net-centric techniques, tactics and procedures to apply these technologies and skills to gain a competitive advantage over any adversary. This advantage may be through faster decision cycles, greater situational awareness of the battlespace, or more resilient command and control in a contested environment.

Where We Operate

The IP Community is a sea going community, providing net-centric expertise from littoral combat ships to aircraft carriers. We are deployed overseas and on the front lines globally to provide essential space, telecommunications and information management capabilities. We support a wide range of missions from Strike Group operations to Maritime Operations Centers, from ground elements in country to Special Warfare operations.

What We Provide the Navy and the Nation

Rooted in the traditional warfare communities, the community fosters competencies in network and computer system technologies, cyber security and information assurance, information management, information operations, information technology architecture, space systems engineering and operations, systems engineering, telecommunications, intelligence systems and combat systems integration and interoperability.

- Flexible leaders who understand the implications of emerging technologies
- Extensive Cyber skills—top-tier Computer Network Defense
- Skilled Knowledge and Information Managers
- Seasoned communicators and spectrum managers
- Space and C2 practitioners
“We’re about creating a whole-warfighting capability based on seamless networks, integrated sensors and data and analysis delivered to the warfighter.”
– Admiral Roughhead, Chief of Naval Operations, July 17, 2009.

Innovation Professional
Problem-solving and “out of the box” thinking are fostered traits within Navy’s IP Community. IP’s were instrumental in solving unique info sharing challenges in operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and several humanitarian relief operations. Whether leading Trident Warrior experimentation or finding safer ways to transit roadways in Afghanistan, Navy’s IP’s bring a mission focused innovative approach to the Fleet.

What We’ve Accomplished
The IP Community was established shortly after 9/11 and since then has remained a “high demand, high tempo” asset involved in every subsequent Naval operation.

- Led restoration of Navy C2 infrastructure following the 9/11 attacks
- Provided C2 and communications planning and operations for Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Odyssey Dawn
- Deployed expertise forward to establish command & control and communications networks for coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Oversaw Navy-Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) operations; the world’s largest single intranet
- Provided ad hoc C2, communications and info sharing capabilities to support humanitarian assistance and relief operations for the Indonesia Tsunami, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Typhoon Fengshen, Pakistan earthquake, Haiti earthquake, and Japan tsunami and earthquake relief
- Maintained 24/7/365 Fleet secure communications, telecommunications operations and network defense
- Improved the security of naval networks making them more resistant to external and internal threats while simultaneously developing Navy’s Information Assurance Workforce
- Aided Navy’s development of new satellite communications, afloat networks and enterprise services, and Next Generation enterprise network ashore
- Continued to raise the bar and increase mutual trust via Coalition info sharing through multiple exercises such as RIMPAC, Majestic Eagle, Malabar, Ulchi Focus Lens, and Terminal Fury
- Fostered career development initiatives including senior leader symposia, a basic school, qualifications from basic to advanced, a robust mentoring program and creative enlisted education and training

Integration Professional
U.S. Naval Forces seldom operate without our Allies and Coalition Partners. The disparate nature of the multi-national Command & Control and info sharing systems require broad expertise in Information Management skills, Navy’s IP Community are Navy’s experts to facilitate robust exchange with our Allies and Partners.
Information Professionals are “warriors who employ information to aid decision-making and power projection and warriors they truly are.”

- Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, July 31, 2009

**What Does Our Community Culture Promote**

- An understanding of traditional Naval Warfare concepts and culture
- Active mentoring – Officer to Enlisted
- Tight integration with Reserve Component
- Continuous learning
- Technical graduate and Joint Education
- Cost effective and disciplined application of new technology
- Power of social networking across the community and the Navy
- Leadership in the Cyber domain
- Agile and collaborative problem solving
- Innovation

**Interoperability Professional**

Resilient Command & Control, mission planning and intelligence systems are essential to today’s Naval and Joint missions, but they are also extremely complex. Navy’s IP Community serves as the Fleet’s experts who are proficient at identifying and resolving interoperability issues to maximize the effectiveness of a network-centric Navy.

**In Synch with Fleet Operations**

The IP Community is founded upon warfare qualified Officers from the traditional Aviation, Submarine Warfare, and Surface Warfare communities. The IP Community from Enlisted to Officer is a sea going community and one with a large experience base of operations in country in Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti and elsewhere.

**What Are Our Objectives**

- Deliver Cyber ready systems and capabilities to the Fleet
- Expertly operate the Navy networks 24/7 to support all missions
- Provision Navy command & control and communications capabilities to support Navy, Joint and National requirements
- Work with Navy stakeholders to ensure the Naval Networking Environment is aligned to mission needs
- Develop a world-class, superior workforce
- Identify efficiencies while improving effectiveness
IP Competencies: Staying Current with the Pace of Technology

The IP Community built a culture of continuous learning within its ranks. Regardless of how senior, it is expected to stay current with the world of technology and every member of the community is encouraged to find new ways these technologies and information disciplines can be used for military benefit.

IP leaders must be well versed in many competency areas such as those listed above. The Naval environment is a complex, large-scale system of systems, and it is only expected to become more complex as new technologies emerge and more and more devices are connected to the Internet.

Information Pioneer

Recognized for their technical expertise and experience rooted in Fleet operations, the IP Community leads the development and deployment of advanced command & control, space, cyber, and information technology capabilities within the Navy. Understanding Naval operational needs, the IP Community is key component to Navy’s C4I agility.

Navy’s decision-making, intelligence, understanding of the maritime environment, and shipboard operations all depend upon the knowledge, skills and abilities of Navy’s IP Community each and every day.
Information Professional Community serves in many critical jobs both at sea and ashore. Emphasis is placed on maintaining relevancy to the operational mission, demonstrating world-class technical knowledge, developing agile thinking and innovative problem-solving skills, and staying current in this rapidly changing field via continuous education and qualifications.

**Serving at the helm of Navy Information Dominance efforts and leading Cyber and Net-Centric Warfare Commands.**

Navy IP’s serve as Commanding Officers of Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Stations, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Stations, and network operations centers. IP Officers also serve in key positions on the Navy Staff, Joint Staff, Combatant Commander staffs, major Fleet Commander staffs, Fleet Cyber Command, Naval Network Warfare Command, and Fleet Cyber Forces Command. IP’s serve as Chief Information Officers in many commands.

**On scene afloat providing critical Information Dominance capabilities to the Fleet.**

Navy IP’s serve as Information Warfare Commanders, aircraft carrier Combat Systems Officers, Carrier Strike Group C4I Directors, amphibious C5I Officers, staff Knowledge Managers, Communicators, Electronics Material Officers, and Information Systems Officers. IP’s at sea lead enlisted Information System Technicians, Cryptologic Technician Networks, Electronics Technicians, Interior Communications Electricians and Fire Controlman ratings, and are responsible for vital shipboard functions that support everything from air operations to ship machinery control, logistics to intelligence systems, medical to quality of life systems. IP’s at sea serve as Battle Watch Captains, Tactical Action Officers, Officers of the Deck, CIC Watch Officers, and many also qualify as Surface Warfare Officers.

**On point supporting Joint and Combined operations.**

Navy IP’s serve today in Afghanistan, Iraq, Horn of Africa and in other hazardous duty areas supporting Joint and Combined operations. IP’s serve as J6 Directors, Knowledge Managers, Network Systems Engineers, and other communications positions. The IP Community also serve in Special Warfare and Navy Expeditionary Combat assignments to provide essential C2, communications, and networking capabilities.

**In times of crisis, providing ad hoc C4I capabilities in innovative ways.**

The IP Community is a vital element of Navy’s ability to respond to Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Navy IP’s are often called upon in times of crisis like disaster relief in Japan, Haiti, the Gulf Coast, the Philippines or Indonesia. IP’s serve both ashore and afloat providing Joint Task Force and Joint Force Maritime Component Commanders flexible options to provide C2 and info sharing infrastructure to support relief and recovery operations that include multi-national, other Federal Agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations.

**Finding ways to keep Navy’s competitive advantage.**

Navy IP’s understand the perishable nature of information technology and the importance of keeping the Fleet’s capabilities at their peak readiness. Navy IP’s are expected to attain Master’s level education in a technical field and fulfill continuous education requirements throughout their career. IP’s participate in several programs within the Naval Postgraduate School, serve in unique Fellowships, are growing specialties in systems acquisition within the PEOs and SPAWAR, and gain Joint experience tours in the Joint Staff, Combatant Commanders, DIA, DISA, DTRA, NSA, NRO, and WHCA. IP’s are key members of Navy’s Space Cadre and space acquisition programs.
To start your career as an IP Officer:

- **Lateral transfer from another community** (O3-O6 opportunity). Submit competitive lateral transfer packages for June or November boards annually. See NPC website for package requirements.
- **Choose SWO – IP Option** via USNA or NROTC commissioning programs. Serve initial tour as a SWO and upon warfare qualification, designated as an IP Officer.
- **Qualify for IP Direct Accession** via OCS, STA21, USNA, and NROTC commissioning programs.

Growth and educational opportunities:

- **Graduate Education.** Earn a Master’s degree in an information technology or space systems field at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), or earn a technical graduate certificate at National Defense University or NPS.
- **Continuing Education.** Earn highly valued commercial and DoD certifications and maintain currency in IP core competencies through continuous training and education.
- **Federal Executive Fellowships.** Serve as a Cyber research Fellow at prestigious institutions like Carnegie Mellon University or the Potomac Institute.
- **Information Assurance Scholarships.** Earn advanced education degrees in computer security and information assurance in the Nation’s top tier universities.
- **Internships.** Experience operations in a leading commercial, academic or government environment.

To learn more about the IP Community:

IP Community Manager: 901-874-2846

IP News: http://www.facebook.com/usnavyip

Officer Community: http://www.public.navy.mil/BUPERS-NPC/OFFICER/DETAILING/IDC_FAO/Pages/default2.aspx