

MILPERSMAN 1520-050

NUCLEAR PROPULSION TRAINING (SURFACE AND SUBMARINE)

Responsible Office	OPNAV (N133)	Phone:	DSN COM FAX	664-5091 (703) 604-5091 (703) 604-6972
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References	(a) NAVMED P-117, Manual of the Medical Department (b) NAVMED P-5055, Radiation Health Protection Manual (c) 5 U.S.C. §301 (d) BUPERSINST 1540.41E
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1. Eligibility

a. Officers and prospective officers in the following categories are eligible to apply for nuclear propulsion training:

(1) unrestricted line officers on active duty in the grade of lieutenant, lieutenant junior grade, or ensign;

(2) Reserve officers in the above grades whose active duty has been delayed for pursuit of postgraduate studies;

(3) midshipmen first class;

(4) midshipmen second class with outstanding academic and military performance may apply if endorsed by their professor of naval science or the United States Naval Academy, Senior Community Representative for Nuclear Propulsion; and

(5) officer candidates attending officer candidate school.

b. Applicants must be college graduates or prospective college graduates with credits in at least 1 year of college

calculus-based physics and 1 year of college calculus through differential and integral calculus of one real variable. Credit is defined as completion of a course, including an extension course, offered by an accredited college or university.

c. Applicants must satisfy the physical requirements per reference (a), articles 15-13 through 16 - commissioning, 15-103 - nuclear field duty, and 15-106 - submarine duty. In addition, [NAVMED 6470/13](#) Medical Record - Ionizing Radiation Medical Examination should be performed per reference (b).

2. Applicant Counseling

a. Prior to the submission of an application for nuclear propulsion training, the Service member must be advised of the Privacy Act statement relative to the information provided per reference (c).

b. Commanding officers must ensure prospective applicants for nuclear propulsion training are counseled concerning the career opportunities afforded by this program and encouraged to apply for such training. Prospective unrestricted line officer applicants must also be advised that upon completion of nuclear propulsion training, they will retain the unrestricted line designator for which they were selected (117X/116X), their sea duty requirement for promotion will be safeguarded, and their command opportunity will be enhanced. Navy's plans and policies pertaining to the personnel aspects of nuclear propulsion utilization are contained in reference (d).

3. Contents of Letter Request

a. Applications for nuclear propulsion training must contain the following information in proper standard naval letter format (see exhibit 1):

(1) an original [DD 2807-1](#) Report of Medical History, [DD 2808](#) Report of Medical Examination, and [NAVMED 6470/13](#) must be submitted to Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), Undersea Medicine and Radiation Health (M95) through the U.S. Navy WebWave II Integrated Case Management and Waivers Workflow process. A copy of all required medical exams must be included with the application,

(2) academic transcripts from all colleges and universities attended (including SAT and ACT scores), and

(3) a complete summary of military service, including prior enlisted service (if any) and any service schools attended.

4. Review of Applications

a. The records of applicants meeting basic eligibility requirements will be screened by a board of officers from Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM) and Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV), Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (N133). Those officers or prospective officers considered to have requisite qualifications will be ordered to Washington, DC to be interviewed by OPNAV (N133). Submarine selectees for nuclear propulsion training will then be ordered, at the earliest practical date, to Nuclear Power School, Charleston, SC for a 6-month course of academic instruction, followed by a 6-month operational course at one of the prototype sites located at West Milton, New York, or Charleston, South Carolina. Surface warfare officers (SWO) selected for nuclear propulsion training will be assigned a KD6 additional qualification designator (AQD) upon selection and will receive orders to commence nuclear propulsion training following completion of their conventional division officer tour. Successful completion of the 12 months of nuclear instruction will result in the assignment of the "SNO" AQD for submarine officers or "KD1" AQD for surface officers.

b. Applicants desiring nuclear submarine duty must qualify for officer submarine training per this article. Volunteers selected for nuclear submarine duty will be ordered to Naval Submarine School, Groton, CT for temporary duty under instruction, unless they have previously completed the course or have qualified in submarines as an officer. Assignment to Naval Submarine School, Groton, CT will not be made until satisfactory completion of nuclear power school. Assignment may be made either before or after nuclear propulsion prototype training depending on class schedule and capacity.

c. Unrestricted line officers accepted into the Navy Nuclear Propulsion Program will be redesignated 116X or 117X without board action.

5. Service Obligation

a. For officers selected from the fleet or shore establishment:

(1) Officers selected to nuclear propulsion training who have a prescribed minimum service requirement (MSR) of less than 5 years are required to serve 1 year in addition to the minimum required service previously incurred.

(2) Submarine officers are required to serve on active duty for a minimum of 24 months as a submarine division officer upon completion of nuclear propulsion training or 1 year in addition to any MSR previously incurred, whichever is longer.

(3) Surface nuclear officers already qualified as SWOs are required to serve on active duty for 28 months as a surface ship nuclear division officer upon completion of nuclear propulsion training. All others are required to serve on active duty for a minimum of 36 months as a surface ship nuclear division officer upon completion of nuclear propulsion training, unless their career timing permits completion of a normal conventional surface ship division officer tour before nuclear propulsion training. In that case, officers are required to serve for 28 months as a surface ship nuclear division officer upon completion of nuclear propulsion training.

b. For newly commissioned officers, service obligation is the longer of the following:

(1) MSR. Newly commissioned officers from any source whose prescribed MSR is less than 5 years are required to serve 1 year, in addition to the MSR previously incurred.

(2) Division Officer Tour. Submarine officers are required to serve a minimum of 24 months, and nuclear-trained SWOs as a division officer following nuclear propulsion training are required to serve 28 months.

c. Officers selected to nuclear propulsion training who are commissioned from any source, whose prescribed minimum required service is less than 5 years, are required to serve 1 year in addition to the minimum required service previously incurred.

d. Newly commissioned officers entering nuclear propulsion training following assignment to any postgraduate program must have their postgraduate performance reviewed by OPNAV (N133) prior to receiving final orders to training. They are required to serve for the longer of the following:

(1) 5 years from the date of completion of graduate education, and

(2) a minimum of 24 months for submarine officers or 28 months for nuclear-trained SWOs as a division officer following nuclear propulsion training.

e. Officers who do not successfully complete nuclear propulsion training, provided the assignment to such course of instruction was at the officer's own request, must be required to serve on active duty for a period equal to the officer's MSR, plus the time spent under instruction, unless released sooner to inactive duty or discharged by NAVPERSCOM.