



## Rules for Extensions to Change This Fall

The Navy will change the Short Term Extension (STE) policy Oct. 1, affecting obligated service (OBLISERV) rules for enlisted personnel.

According to NAVADMIN 242/09, the reason for the change is that the Navy has noticed during the past several years the number of STEs has risen substantially.

Currently, a Sailor has to obligate for 12 months when they receive orders to sea duty, unless DoD area requirements are greater. The new policy will require 24 months of obligated service, with these exceptions:

- Sailors with less than 24 months until their high year tenure date must only obligate for the amount of time needed to reach that date.
- Sailors will obligate for the requisite time-on-station requirements for permanent change of station (PCS) orders to places that require less than 24 months, such as Diego Garcia and unaccompanied tours.
- All other obligated-service requirements will remain the same.

The maximum number of short-term extensions that a Sailor may now use will be two per contract. The length of an extension will be limited to 23 months, and the total of all extensions cannot exceed 24 months. Other rules include:

- Extensions counting against the Sailor's two-extension limit are those that help manage their careers or if they benefit to the Sailor. For example, instead of reenlisting, a Sailor uses an extension to obtain OBLISERV so he/she can execute PCS orders.
- Extensions not counted are Navy-required ones, such as the PCS delay this past summer. Navy Personnel Command (NPC) can answer specific questions on what category an extension falls into. NPC also has procedures in place to handle unique situations that might require more than two extensions per contract.
- Extension policy for Sailors taking individual augmentee/global war on terrorism support assignments (IA/GSA) orders remains the same. Once they have completed the IA/GSA assignment, they will fall under current detailing and extension policies

Sailors choosing not to obligate for the required 24 months but have more than 12 months of contract time left will be assigned based on the "needs of the Navy" or, if eligible, will be encouraged to voluntarily separate at end of obligated service or projected rotation date, whichever is closer. Those assigned "needs of the Navy" orders will not necessarily stay at their present command.

