



@USNPEOPLE WEEKLY WIRE

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NAVY TIMES, Mark D. Faram

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From Department of the Navy Innovation, Public Affairs

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or find it online at www.navy.mil/cnp

1.) Spring advancements down slightly, up in FTS and Reserve/ 18 MAY 15

NAVY TIMES, Mark D. Faram

Nearly a quarter of sailors passing their tests this spring will move up across the total force.

By the end of this week, 24,033 active-duty, full-time support and drilling reservists will get the news they've made petty officer — or that they're getting another stripe on their crow.

In February and March, 102,030 sailors across the force — active and Reserve — sat for their petty officer exams. Of those, 97,134, 95.20 percent passed, becoming eligible to compete for 24,033 quotas across the three components — a 24.74 percent chance at moving up.

This also means that 4,898 sailors, or 4.8 percent, failed their tests.

This cycle — number 227 for active and FTS, and 096 in the Reserve — officials engineered a simultaneous release of active-duty, full-time support and selected Reserve quotas and names this year in an effort to standardize the release and expect to release results the same way in the future.

With the release of the quotas today commands are set to start notifying selectees on May 20.

Active

Overall, officials say advancement opportunity will drop slightly across all three active petty officer grades, down 2.34 percentage points to from 27.6 percent chance last fall to 25.26 percent this spring. In spite of the slip, it's still a higher shot than the 23.4 percent chance last spring.

The reason for the drop is high retention across the active Navy, but even with that bit of bad news, they say advancements have stabilized and are near the 10-year average in all three grades.

Officials point out that for the first time in years, there are opportunities to advance in every rating and paygrade. That means fewer ratings will see zero advancement opportunity and even fewer will have all eligible sailors advance, too.

Vice Adm. Bill Moran, chief of naval personnel, sought to equalize the wide swings in advancement that became regular during the latest drawdown when he took over the job nearly two years ago.

At E-6, opportunity dropped from 19.3 percent in the fall to 17.69 percent, a decrease of 1.61 percent. This spring, 23,452 sailors took their exams with 22,257 passing and competing for the 3,938 quotas.

At E-5, the drop was 1.43 percent from 25.1 percent last fall to 23.87 percent this cycle. A total of 35,702 sailors sat for the exam and 34,380 passed and are competing for 8,206 quotas.

Seeking entry into the petty officer ranks are the 27,093 E-3s who sat for the E-4 exam — of which 26,899 passed and became eligible for one of the 8,957 chances to sew on their first crow.

2.) The Department of the Navy Launches the "Hatch"/ 20 MAY 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

From Department of the Navy Innovation, Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Department of the Navy (DON) launched its crowdsourced ideation platform, the "Hatch," May 20.

The launch of the Hatch is part of the initiative to build a DON Naval Innovation Network (NIN).

The Hatch is an accessible, virtual collaboration forum where innovators can submit their creative ideas for improving the DON. In the Hatch, ideas can be refined through crowdsourcing and further developed by local innovators and subject matter experts.

"The Hatch enables us to connect innovators locally," said Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. "We have the opportunity to receive and share innovative ideas at the right level to get solutions to problems people encounter every day. I look forward to seeing how the Hatch will allow us to share these solutions across our workforce."

The Hatch is a continuation of the CNO's highly successful initiative to reduce administrative distractions (RAD). The RAD ideas and user profiles are fully integrated into the Hatch.

The DON workforce can establish an account using their .mil, .gov, and military .edu email addresses. Once an account is created, the innovator will be able to submit and monitor ideas through their work or personal desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone.

The NIN working group is currently developing an efficient, yet collaborative and transparent, process to ensure all ideas are evaluated fairly.

An incentive/rewards structure will be developed to recognize those who submit ideas, actively collaborate and advance ideas through development and implementation. One of the first "challenges" within the Hatch will be focused on the incentive/rewards program, and we need your input to ensure success.

Whether you have an innovative idea, a solution to reducing administrative distractions, or a creative proposal for how we can recognize top contributors, enter the Hatch and start participating.

Additional information about DoN Innovation and accessing the Hatch may be found by visiting:
<http://www.secnav.navy.mil/innovation/Pages/Home.aspx>

3.) Early Application is Key for Tuition Assistance Approval/ 20 MAY 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs, Ed Barker

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- Sailors applying for Tuition Assistance (TA) are reminded that their chances of success are increased substantially by submitting requests early; helping to avoid delays in their college plans.

According to Ernest D'Antonio, the Naval Education and Training Professional Development Technology Center's Voluntary Education (VOLED) program director, the number one reason for TA request disapproval is late applications.

"No one wants to deny a request, but service members must obtain approval for TA funding before the official start of a course," said D'Antonio. "It's a multi-step process, and if we find a problem, the request gets held up

until we can fix it. It's crucial for commands to make sure that their Sailors know to start the process early - so that TA applications can be completed by the VEC in advance of the deadline."

D'Antonio suggests that 30 days prior to the course start date is not too soon for members to start their TA requests.

"Applications are funded on a first-come, first-served basis," he added. "There's no risk to applying early; we can modify or cancel the TA voucher after the fact with no harm to the Sailor, but if you submit the TA request after classes have started, there's nothing we can do."

Supervisor for the VEC, Susan Sutter, detailed the required steps that must be taken before a TA request can be approved. Sailors must: 1) Be counseled by their local Navy College Office (NCO) or the VEC, 2) WebTA training must be completed, 3) An education/degree plan must be on file (with the course that the Sailor is requesting TA for included in the plan), and 4) The Sailor's command must approve the TA request.

"Additionally, Sailors must have completed at least 12 months onboard their first permanent duty station, have no missing grades, not owe the Navy any funds for incomplete or failed courses, and have an end-of-obligated service date after the course ends," Sutter said.

Both D'Antonio and Sutter also stressed that Sailors should monitor their account through the MyEducation portal on the Navy College website to ensure their accounts are posted and accurate and that their degree plans are current.

If a Sailor or his/her command have any questions or experience any problems, they should contact their servicing NCO or the VEC for assistance. The VEC is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time Monday - Friday and may be reached by calling: 1-(877) 838-1659.

For more information on the Navy College Program and the Virtual Education Center visit <https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/>.

Additional information about the Naval Education and Training Command can be found via <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

For more news from Naval Education and Training Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnet/.

4.) Registration is being accepted for 28th Annual Women's Leadership Symposium/ 20 MAY 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Registration is now open for the Sea Services Leadership Association's (SSLA) 28th annual Joint Women's Leadership Symposium (JWLS) which is scheduled to be held in San Diego, June 11-12.

This year's symposium theme is "Progress and Possibilities: Embrace our Future Now!" which will focus on opportunities for women in the military while exploring options for the future.

The Navy will sponsor 400 San Diego based Sailors. All Navy-funded registrations will be coordinated through the Navy Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and Women's Policy (OPNAV N134W). While all service members are eligible, ideal candidates for the symposium include outstanding officers and enlisted, men and women, who are at a career decision point.

Registration forms and more information on how to apply can be found at and can be obtained via:

<http://www.sealeader.org/events/>, under "For Navy Only: To request a free Navy registration click [HERE](#)." One you have your selected symposium candidates and obtained the registration forms; submit your registration via email to Chief Cryptological Technician (Collection) Erin Piazza erin.piazza@navy.mil.

Each year, SSLA hosts a Joint Women's Leadership Symposium that brings together service members, decision makers, policy influencers and thought leaders to address global challenges to encourage and strengthen the leadership development within the services - we boast the largest gathering worldwide of service women in the U.S.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.

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