



@USNPEOPLE WEEKLY WIRE

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

1.) Free Graduate School for Navy's Top Junior Officers / 3 NOV 15

NAVY TIMES, Meghann Myers

If you're a star lieutenant, brace yourself. You might be getting tapped for free graduate school soon.

The first round of selectees for the new Fleet Scholars Education Program will be notified in the coming weeks, according to officials, with an offer to earn a Navy-funded master's degree in-residence as part of a permanent change-of-station move.

The program allows up to 30 lieutenants to attend graduate school for up to two years, in exchange for adding three years to their service obligations as part of Navy Secretary Ray Mabus' push to keep the best officers.

Unlike several of the Navy's other opportunities to further training and education, you don't apply for this one.

Instead, community managers at Navy Personnel Command identify their best lieutenants and send a list to each type commander — aviation, surface, submarines, special warfare, expeditionary and information dominance — to hand-pick their selectees.

"Most of our processes like these, members go before a board to be selected," said Fred Drummond, Navy education strategy and policy branch head for the chief of naval personnel. "In this case, these are the communities themselves looking at their top talent."

Each community is responsible for their own selection criteria.

"Our biggest direction — this comes from CNP — is that the selection process for each community has to be fair, equitable and defensible," he said in an Oct. 19 phone interview.

The program is aimed at O-3s, he added, but the guidelines allow lieutenant-selects or top-notch lieutenant commanders to take advantage.

It's a talent management initiative, Drummond said, so it's aimed at a stage where junior officers consider leaving to pursue other opportunities, including a graduate degree.

There are seven spots open each for the aviation, surface and sub communities, plus four for special warfare, three for Naval Expeditionary Combat Command and six for Information Dominance Forces Command.

The numbers were decided by size of community, except for IDFC.

"It's those folks that this is specifically targeted at," Drummond said, which is why it has more billets than the other smaller type commands.

However, type commanders do not have to offer all of their spots to their top performers, and if someone declines their selection, they don't have to be replaced.

"There are a lot of opportunities for each community, but if in their mind they don't have enough viable candidates — or they have enough viable candidates but there other reasons preclude them taking this opportunity — then no, they don't have to take them," Drummond said.

It's not available to those who have already completed Navy-funded graduate degrees, but that doesn't include funding through the GI Bill, tuition assistance or Navy College Program for Afloat College Education.

Getting picked

Notifications are behind schedule, Drummond said, but he could not give a definite timeline.

Those who get the call in the coming weeks and want to take the opportunity should apply to at least three graduate programs of their choosing, according to NAVADMIN 254/15 message released Thursday.

The Navy will reimburse selectees for up to three application and transcript fees. The service will also cover the entire cost of the two-year program and moving expenses, if necessary.

That could mean up to \$125,000 for a married officer living off campus while attending Stanford University's business school, according to their financial aid office.

However, those who take the offer but haven't done any legwork yet could be in a bind.

For instance, the fall 2016 admissions deadline to the Harvard University Kennedy School of Management is Dec. 1. On the other hand, many of San Diego State University's graduate programs accept applications until April.

However, for a lieutenant who hadn't been contemplating graduate school, it's only a few months to research programs, take admissions tests, write essays and gather letters of recommendation.

"We would have preferred to give people time enough to be selected and then apply for graduate programs," Drummond said.

For those that take the offer, the program will cover admission for the winter 2017 term as well.

Drummond acknowledged it could still be tricky to turn the process around on short notice, but said that the type commanders can be flexible.

"We understand the time constraint as we implement this program," he said. "We have the latitude in there, depending on what each individual circumstance might end up being."

FSEP only covers two-year degrees, though, so officers are not able to earn doctorates or some professional degrees like law or medical school. The service offers separate programs for those looking to become judge advocates or join Navy medicine.

2.) New Enlisted Women in Subs Website / 30 OCT 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

Enlisted Women in Submarines Task Force

The application window for the second round of female enlisted applicants for submarine service is in full swing. I cannot emphasize enough how exciting a time this is for the Submarine Force. I have been a submariner for more than thirty years, and I am honored to be a part of this important milestone in our Navy's history.

I am proud to say that my mother was a Navy WAVE, meaning she was one of the first enlisted women in the Navy. I view the opening of the submarine service to women as a tribute to the courageous women of her generation who chose to serve despite the obstacles. They were pioneers, and a new generation of Sailors can now carry on their legacy as the first female enlisted submariners in the U.S. Navy.

We have launched a website that will serve as a consolidated source of information for new applicants, Sailors who have already applied, and any future applicants. Here is the link:

<http://www.public.navy.mil/subfor/ewis/>

In support of this second application window, the Enlisted Women in Submarines Task Force is conducting a road show, where teams of submariners and knowledgeable senior leadership will visit fleet concentration areas to give interested Sailors the opportunity to ask questions in an open, informative forum. The dates and times of the road show can be found at the above website.

We are doing everything we can to make sure information is readily accessible to interested Sailors, and will be adding resources to the website as they become available. Be sure to check it regularly and share any questions or feedback you have.

I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity if you are interested in joining the submarine community!

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The five short videos will highlight female officers in all three major warfare specialties: aviation, surface and submarine.

The videos are designed to show the diversity of the Navy and to shine a light on many of the career opportunities available to female Future Sailors.

"It is important to celebrate all the accomplishments that our female Sailors and officers have already achieved and to show the exciting possibilities available to women who are interested in a life in the Navy," said Rear Adm. Jeffrey W. Hughes, commander, Navy Recruiting Command.

The videos will be released individually on YouTube and multiple social media channels between Oct. 24 and Nov. 28 to gain maximum reach and exposure.

To see the videos as they roll out, visit the America's Navy YouTube Playlist 'Women in Leadership': <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQuxdMZFa513K88M36p5VmpRy68JrUPrD>

For more information about opportunities for women in the Navy, visit Navy Recruiting's webpage, www.navy.com/navy-life/winr.html, and the Women Redefined Facebook page at www.facebook.com/womenredefinednavy/.

For more news from Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, visit them on the web, www.navy.mil/local/cnrc/; on their YouTube channel, U.S. Navy Recruiter; on Facebook, www.facebook.com/NavyRecruiting and on Twitter, @usnavyrecruiter.

4.) Are You Willing to ASIST? / 2 NOV 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

Defense Media Activity

On the outside, it looked like any other Navy vessel moored to a pier; haze gray and resting on crystal blue waters. Though a light shower poured out of a bright blue sky, and Sailors didn't seem to mind.

However, inside the ship, a whole other storm was brewing.

Just a few hours earlier, a Sailor and shipmate at my command in Guam died by suicide. At first, that day seemed like any other to all those who knew him. Sailors were focused on their jobs as this Sailor made his way to the armory to arm up for his watch. Everything seemed to be going like clockwork. And just like that, the clock stopped.

Growing up as a kid, suicide was the furthest thing from my mind. If at any time it did cross my mind, I knew for certain I could never go through with it. I knew even during the toughest of times, there were options for me beyond death. As a religious man, my faith has always served as a strong protective factor for me.

At the same time, I didn't want any family member, friend or Sailor around me to feel like suicide was an option, so I chose to assist with suicide prevention at my command.

The first step was to attend the applied suicide intervention skills training or ASIST, a two-day LivingWorks education course for anyone 16 or older, regardless of prior experience, who wants to be able to provide suicide first aid.

I had no idea what to expect from the class. As I approached the chapel doors my mind drifted back to my second duty station in San Diego. I was TAD to an auxiliary security force in Point Loma. I met a girl who regularly harmed herself. I was unsure what to do, so I told the command and asked her to pray to stay alive. The command and chaplain were aware and were handling the situation.

Last year, while at my current command, I was on my first barrack's watch when a young man asked me for the chaplain's number. I gave it to him and asked if everything was alright. He said yes, so I gave him the number and went back to my duties. Several hours later two different Sailors came up to me and said they thought the young male from earlier was thinking about suicide. I brought him into the room and sat down with him to ask what was wrong. He was going to be transferred to his first station soon and he wasn't handling the news too well.

And just last month, I was overseas for an assignment with two Sailors from my command to interview a chaplain for a story we were covering. We were delayed in interviewing the chaplain who was responding to the loss of a Sailor who had died by suicide the night before.

These scenarios weren't isolated to one duty station or one type of person. They expanded my entire career from east to west coasts and overseas. I know suicide affects many people. I met 27 of those people when I entered into the classroom.

The class offered all of the things we have all come to love from these types of trainings; surveys, statistics and videos. However, when we broke up into smaller groups to discuss questions and emotions related to suicide, people began to open up and share their experiences.

We learned that often the most important question you can ask is the one people avoid the most: Are you thinking about killing yourself or have you ever thought about it?

The course is just what it sounds like, CPR for suicide. Our focus was on one thing: life support. We are one available avenue that people have before seeking professional help and our job is to keep the person alive.

If you want to find more information on ASIST click [here](#).

If you're a Service member in crisis or know a Service member who is, confidential support is only a phone call, click, or text away - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Call the Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-TALK (Option 1), text 838255 from a mobile device or visit www.militarycrisisline.net for confidential chat.

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