



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 1520.18H  
N13  
4 Mar 07

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1520.18H

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: JUNIOR LINE OFFICER ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM  
(NAVY BURKE PROGRAM)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 1520.23B

1. Purpose. To establish policy and assign responsibilities for the Junior Line Officer Advanced Educational Program, hereafter referred to as the Navy Burke Program. This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1520.18G

3. Background. The Navy Burke Program was implemented in 1959 to supplement the Navy's graduate education efforts. It provides a group of carefully selected unrestricted line officers the opportunity for graduate education in scientific and engineering disciplines early in their careers to enable their assignment to validated subspecialty billets under reference (a). Upon completion of graduate education, Navy Burke Program graduates receive duty assignments compatible with their respective career paths.

4. Scope and Applicability. The Navy Burke Program includes aviation, subsurface, surface and special operations/warfare oriented midshipmen and officer candidates enrolled in the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NROTC), and Seaman to Admiral 21 (STA-21) programs.

5. Policy

a. Under the Navy Burke Program, the Navy will identify highly potential leaders with proven academic performance as USNA and NROTC midshipmen and STA-21 officer candidates. Upon undergraduate or officer accession program graduation and commissioning, Navy Burke Program officers will be assigned to post-accession training followed by a normal operational assignment for qualification in their warfare specialties before commencing graduate studies. While attaining warfare specialty, these officers shall communicate with their detailers to

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concurrently plan for their advanced education assignment and to select a curricula consistent with community and Navy needs.

b. Upon completion of the initial operational tour, Navy Burke Program officers who have continued to demonstrate high potential and outstanding performance will be assigned to duty under instruction at Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in technical disciplines. Officers will be assigned to civilian institutions only when the required curricula are not available at NPS. This first shore tour will normally conclude upon achievement of a master's degree and is limited to two years.

c. After a follow-on tour in their warfare specialties or subspecialty utilization tour, Navy Burke Program officers who demonstrated superior academic capability and potential while completing a master's degree and continued outstanding professional performance may be permitted to resume studies for a Ph.D. degree, consistent with meeting the Navy's specified requirements. A letter application for a Navy Burke Program educational assignment should be submitted under reference (a). Tour length for Ph.D. studies will be determined on a case-by-case basis commensurate with Navy needs and the individual's career, but will not exceed three years.

d. Upon completion or termination of graduate education under the Navy Burke Program, officers will serve on active duty for a period of three times the number of months of education up to a maximum of three years. This obligation will be served in accordance with reference (a).

e. The Navy Burke Program is not intended to educate officers for service in the restricted line or staff corps; however, Navy Burke Program graduates will not be precluded from requesting transfer to restricted line or staff corps after at least one warfare development tour following the education tour.

f. Officers participating in graduate education programs on a full-time basis immediately following commissioning are not eligible for the Navy Burke Program.

## 6. Action

a. Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel (DCNP) shall:

(1) Ensure Navy Burke Program officers are notified of selection.

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(2) Ensure officers are counseled on curricula that are compatible with career and Navy requirements.

(3) Track officers to enable timely assignment to advanced education and ensure sub-specialty utilization following education.

(4) Assign officers to advanced education to meet requirements in accordance with the annual Graduate Education

b. Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) shall monitor program performance.

c. United States Naval Academy (USNA) shall:

(1) Select 15 midshipmen first class who are academically qualified and highly motivated toward a Navy career.

(2) Forward names of selected candidates to the DCNP (PERS 00) by 15 June each year, with a copy to the President, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) (Code 03).

d. Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) shall:

(1) Select a combined total of 15 NROTC midshipmen first class and STA-21 senior officer candidates who are academically qualified and highly motivated toward a Navy career.

(2) Forward names of selected candidates to the DCNP (PERS 00) by 15 June each year, with a copy to the President, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) (Code 03).

e. Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) shall:

(1) Counsel officers planning their initial educational tour on selection of a curriculum and curriculum requirements, and refresher and preparatory study requirements.

(2) Use standard fiscal procedures to pay tuition costs for officers enrolled at institutions other than NPS.

f. Burke Program selectees shall:

(1) Prior to assignment to an educational tour, consult with their respective detailers to identify curricula that are consistent with community and Navy needs.

(2) Address academic inquiries to the President, Naval Postgraduate School (Code 03), Monterey, CA 93943-5000, or telephone (831) 656-2291, DSN 756-2291, or email grad\_ed@nps.edu.

  
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