OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1301.10C

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: NAVY FOREIGN AREA OFFICER COMMUNITY

Ref: (a) Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower of March 2015
(b) SECNAV Memo to CNO of 28 Oct 2013, Secretary of the Navy Instruction 1300.16, Department of the Navy Support to the Defense Attaché System (NOTAL)
(c) CNO WASHINGTON DC 131210Z Aug 15 (NAVADMIN 188/15)
(d) DoD Directive 1315.17 of 28 April 2005
(e) DoD Instruction 1315.20 of 28 September 2007
(f) SECNAVINST 1301.7
(g) DoD Instruction 5160.70 of 12 June 2007
(h) CJCSI 3126.01A
(i) NAVPERS 15560D
(j) OPNAVINST 1210.5
(k) BUMEDINST 1300.2A
(l) OPNAVINST 1300.14D
(m) BUPERSINST 1001.39F
(n) NAVPERS 15839I, Volume I, April 2016
(o) OPNAVINST 3710.7U
(p) OPNAVINST 7220.18
(q) DoD Instruction 1340.27 of 21 May 2013
(r) OPNAVINST 7220.7G
(s) OPNAVINST 1520.23C

Encl: (1) AC FAO Career Path
(2) RC FAO Career Path

1. Purpose

   a. To publish policies, procedures, roles, and responsibilities for sustaining a permanent and robust foreign area officer (FAO) community.
b. This is the first major revision of this instruction since the community establishment in 2006, and should be reviewed in its entirety. Major changes to this instruction are summarized in subparagraphs 1b(1) through 1b(7).

   (1) Adoption of new maritime strategy as published by reference (a).

   (2) Establishment of Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy (CNO N3/N5) as FAO enterprise lead.

   (3) Maturation of the FAO qualification procedures and career path, and the establishment of additional qualification designator (AQD) codes to track qualification and career progression.

   (4) Per reference (b), implementation of an “Aviation Qualified FAO” AQD to leverage the unique skills of former aviators currently designated as FAOs in attaché billets requiring operational flying duties.

   (5) Establishment of Reserve Component (RC) FAO community in August 2015, per reference (c).

   (6) Migration of FAO community manager responsibilities from Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV), Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy (OPNAV N13), to Bureau of Naval Personnel, Officer Community Manager (BUPERS-31).

   (7) Establishment of United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM) as a fifth geographic region of specialization.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1301.10B.

3. Background

   a. Mission Needs Statement. Substantial budgetary pressures, the rapidly rising cost of weapon systems, and increasing global demand for maritime security place unprecedented pressures on fleet resources. The Navy must address these challenges in innovative ways by leveraging the
capabilities of partner and allied nations and providing better perspective on regional issues that affect strategic decisions or could develop into threats. FAOs act as force multipliers by offering a small footprint, low-cost means of enhancing fleet engagement through advanced language, regional expertise, and cultural (LREC) skills.

b. Mission. Per references (d), (e), and (f), the Navy will gain, train, and educate FAOs to exercise a combination of warfighting and LREC capabilities in support of U.S. maritime interests. Per reference (f), when available, FAOs serve as the primary nominees from within the Department of the Navy to serve in Service, joint, and interagency assignments that involve significant interactions with foreign governments, their militaries and international organizations. In these assignments, FAOs exercise the competencies listed in subparagraphs 3b(1) through 3b(6).

1. Advise senior leaders on political-military matters with other nations.

2. Provide cultural – both regional and interagency – expertise to deployed commanders throughout military operations.

3. Build and maintain long term United States Government relationships with foreign governments and military leaders.

4. Coordinate and implement security cooperation programs to ensure the highest level of interoperability is achieved and maintained with United States allies.

5. Advocate building partner nation capacity to meet the Navy’s strategic goals.

6. Facilitate efficient and effective information exchange with foreign militaries.

4. Roles

a. FAOs are globally deployed to perform three primary strategic lines of work.
(1) Security assistance and cooperation.

(2) Political-military expertise on joint, fleet and interagency staffs, and perform as liaison officers to foreign militaries.

(3) Defense attaché service assignments.

b. Each FAO specializes in one of five geographic combatant command areas of responsibility (AOR): USAFRICOM, United States Central Command (USCENTCOM), United States European Command (USEUCOM), United States Pacific Command (USPACOM), or United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM). FAOs generally serve in billets located in, or with duties that relate to, their assigned AORs. FAOs may serve outside of their AORs in key community billets, or to meet emergent needs of the Navy on a case-by-case basis as determined by the community sponsor.

5. Required Knowledge and Skills. Per reference (e), in order to fulfill the roles outlined in paragraph 4, FAOs must possess and maintain unique professional skills, to include the skills delineated in subparagraphs 5a through 5d.

a. In-depth knowledge of political-military, economic, and social issues gained from a regionally focused graduate degree.

b. Regional proficiency progression from skill level 2 through skill level 5 as defined in references (g) and (h).

c. Expert understanding of military forces, U.S. foreign policy and security cooperation initiatives, as well as knowledge of interagency and nongovernmental organization capabilities and cultures gained from sustained and immersed experience working and living in a specified region.

d. Proficiency in a major language of their assigned region at a minimum level of 2, in 2 of 3 Interagency Language Roundtable modalities (L-listening, R-reading, and S-speaking), with a goal of attaining L3, R3, and S3. FAOs attending Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center for language training will be expected to meet the graduation requirements of that institution.
6. Policy
   a. Eligibility
      (1) Active Component (AC) FAO Community. Officers from all designators may apply for lateral transfer into the AC community after a minimum of 5 years of commissioned service. Most applicants enter between 8 and 12 years of commissioned service, with a smaller number of more senior gains filling targeted requirements. The officer community manager, in consultation with the community sponsor, will consider strong applicants with fewer than 8 years of commissioned service, provided they have satisfied source community minimum service requirements. The community will also consider non-traditional career options (e.g., career intermission programs, breaks in service, educational sabbaticals, indefinite reserve recalls) as issued by Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education (CNO N1) to lateral transfer officers with the requisite skills and backgrounds as outlined in subparagraphs 6a(1)(a) through 6a(1)(h).

         (a) Applicants must be fully qualified and meet the timelines for completion of obligatory service to their source communities as outlined in reference (i), article 1212-010, and reference (j).

         (b) Although the community primarily accepts lateral transfers from officers with warfare skills gained in the unrestricted line communities, the officer community manager, in consultation with the community sponsor, also considers strong applicants from all other communities.

         (c) The AC community emphasizes strong operational expertise and bases selection, first and foremost, on an applicant’s overall professional sustained superior performance.

         (d) In addition to having competitive records within their source communities, AC applicants must be able to complete the significant training requirements necessary to become fully qualified as a FAO while remaining “due course” (in or below zone and on track for promotion) after re-designation.

         (e) AC applicants should have a minimum Defense Language Aptitude Battery score of 110. The officer community
manager, in consultation with the community sponsor, may grant waivers to otherwise highly qualified applicants with Defense Language Aptitude Battery scores below 110, and applicants who can document inability to take the test due to operational commitments. Documented Defense Language Proficiency Test and Oral Proficiency Interview scores within the past 3 years of at least 2 on the Interagency Language Roundtable scale in 2 of the 3 modalities (L, R, and S) are viewed favorably in combination with qualifying Defense Language Aptitude Battery scores.

(f) Applicants and applicable dependents global assignability should be verified and documented, per references (k) and (l), via successful overseas screening to the highest regional standard to meet type 3 overseas assignment criteria.

(g) Additional desired qualities include education in national security affairs; international affairs or foreign area studies; regional or in-country experience (e.g., Olmsted Scholarship scholars, personnel exchange program officers, foreign war college graduates); and duty involving international engagement or political-military policy development. Applicants are highly encouraged to document such experience regardless of whether they hold attendant subspecialty code 2000, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, or 2300.

(h) Applicants must be eligible for top secret sensitive compartmented information (TS/SCI) security clearance.

(2) RC FAO Community. Selected Reserve (SELRES) officers from all designators are eligible for re-designation into the RC community. Per reference (c), requirements for SELRES applicants are listed in subparagraphs 6a(2)(a) through 6a(2)(f).

(a) Applicants must have a record of sustained superior performance in their current designator, preferably with significant operational experience and experience in international engagement.

(b) Applicants must speak at least one foreign language as documented by either the Defense Language Proficiency Test or the Oral Proficiency Interview – minimum scores of 2, 2, 1+ for L, R, and S, respectively, within the last 3 years.
(c) Applicants must possess a regionally-focused international relations or strategic studies master’s degree; must have a proven understanding of U.S. and foreign military operations, U.S. foreign policy, and security cooperation objectives; as well as a deep understanding of interagency and nongovernmental organization capabilities and cultures gained from working and living in a specified region. Waivers to the master’s degree requirement will be considered on a case-by-case basis for applicants with significant regional expertise from military or civilian employment.

(d) Applicants’ global assignability should be verified and documented, per references (k) and (l), via successful overseas screening to the highest regional standard to meet type 3 overseas assignment criteria.

(e) Applicants must possess in-theater duty experience of 1 year in the region of specialty that produces in-depth understanding of language and culture through significant interaction with host nation nationals and entities.

(f) Applicants must be eligible for TS/SCI security clearance.

b. Selection Procedures

(1) The community sponsor will sponsor lateral transfers semi-annually as part of the regularly scheduled active duty lateral transfer and re-designation board outlined in reference (i), article 1212-010, and reference (j).

(2) Applicants will submit applications via their commanding officer or reporting senior to Commander, Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM) under applicable semi-annual naval administrative messages announcing the boards.

(3) Board members will review all applications forwarded for consideration and will select officers for re-designation by CNO N1 approved board precepts.

(4) RC selection procedures will be under reference (m).
c. AC FAO Assignment and Career Progression

(1) Following notification of selection for lateral transfer and prior to re-designation, the community sponsor assigns an AOR of specialization to each officer selected.

(2) Upon re-designation to the community, the officer community manager assigns each officer an AQD “FT(x)” or “FA(x)” indicating qualification status and AORs of specialization. The “x” in FT(x)/FA(x) refers to the numerical designation of AOR specialization per reference (n).

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(a) FT(x), represented by “FAO T” with the corresponding regional abbreviation in the officer service record, indicates a FAO in training who has not yet completed all of the requirements for designation as fully qualified.

(b) FA(x), represented by “FAO Q” with the corresponding regional abbreviation in the officer service record, indicates a fully qualified FAO. The officer community manager awards FA(x) upon verification of the criteria in subparagraphs 6c(2)(b)1 through 6c(2)(b)4.

1. Completion of a regionally-focused master's degree or constructive credit waiver per references (d) and (e).

2. Completion of an initial orientation course (e.g., Joint FAO Phase I Course) that introduces newly-designated officers to community-specific functional areas, such as family considerations and personal security, as well as the community’s region-specific architecture, mentorship and professional development resources. Based on their pre-existing knowledge and in-region experience, officers laterally transferred into the community as "fully qualified" are not required to complete the class, but may do so on a space-available basis.
3. Documentation of language skills in a major language of their assigned region at a minimum level of 2 in 2 of 3 Interagency Language Roundtable modalities (L, R, and S).

4. In-theater duty experience of 1 year (with waiver from the community sponsor, no less than 6 months) in the region of specialty that produces in-depth understanding of language and culture through significant interaction with host nation nationals and entities. FAOs with previous equivalent experience may be awarded credit for this requirement following officer community manager’s recommendation to the community sponsor.

(3) Per reference (i), article 1213-020, suspension or removal of an FA(x) or FT(x) AQD will be considered only by a duly appointed FAO qualification review panel initiated at the recommendation of the officer community manager or direction of a higher authority to address circumstances that adversely impact an officer’s assignability. A FAO qualification review panel will not be initiated until completion of any applicable administrative proceedings required by reference (i), article 1611-010 or article 1611-020. In cases where a board of inquiry is convened under SECNAVINST 1920.6C for an officer to show cause for retention, a FAO qualification review panel will not be initiated unless the officer has been recommended for retention in the Naval Service.

(a) FAO qualification review panel recommendations will be sent by the convening authority to the community sponsor for final determination. Officers that have their FA(x) or FT(x) AQD suspended or removed may request reinstatement by notifying the officer community manager of actions that have been taken to correct deficiencies identified by the review panel. The officer community manager will forward the request with endorsement to the community sponsor.

(b) Officers with requests approved by the community sponsor will have their AQD restored.

(4) Per references (n) and (o), FAOs previously designated as naval aviators (1310) who laterally transferred from the aviation community in good standing (physically qualified, aeronautically adapted for flying, and aviation
qualified with no mishaps or adverse notes in their aviation record) are designated as aviation qualified FAOs and awarded the AQD “FFQ” in addition to an FT(x) or FA(x) AQD.

(a) The AQD “FFQ” designates FAOs as aeronautically designated personnel, enabling them to maintain readiness for, compete for assignment to, train for, and serve in flying assignments (1302, 1312 or 1712 coded) within the defense attaché system (DAS) using the same qualification parameters as naval aviators established in reference (o). Per reference (p), aviation qualified FAOs are not eligible for aviation career incentive pay but may be entitled to hazardous duty incentive pay.

(b) The “FFQ” AQD only supports aeronautical designation for the purposes of serving in flying assignments within the DAS (1302, 1312, or 1712 coded), to include required flight training. When not training for or assigned to a flying assignment, officer with the AQD “FFQ” will serve in regular FAO assignments that do not involve flying.

(c) Upon lateral transfer from the aviation community (1310), officer records will be screened by the FAO and aviation community leadership for eligibility. Upon positive adjudication of aviation qualified FAO eligibility, the FAO community leadership will award the AQD “FFQ” to qualified officers’ service records.

(d) In order to mitigate the risks associated with extended time periods out of the cockpit, officers who exceed 10 years since their last period in an operational flying status will have the AQD "FFQ" removed, unless in exceptional circumstances in which both the FAO and aviation community leadership approve an individual’s continued aeronautical designation. The AQD “FFQ” will immediately be removed following a field naval aviator evaluation board determination of unsuitability to fly naval aircraft by Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA); medical screening as “Not Physically Qualified” for duties involving flying; unsatisfactory performance while operating DAS aircraft; or request for its removal by the individual.
(5) Senior lieutenant commanders (O-4) and commanders (O-5) will be screened by a milestone administrative board per reference (i), article 1301-809, for assignment to an O-5 "milestone" or captain (O-6) "major milestone" billet, respectively. The community sponsor will approve the list of milestone and major milestone billets periodically.

(a) Officers selected by the milestone administrative board receive the AQD "FM1" upon selection for promotion to O-5.

(b) Officers receive the AQD "FM2" upon successful completion of an O-5 milestone assignment.

(c) Officers selected by the major milestone administrative board receive the AQD "FM3" upon selection for promotion to O-6.

(d) Officers receive the AQD "FM4" upon successful completion of an O-6 major milestone assignment and a senior FAO professional development course (e.g., Joint FAO Phase II Course).

(6) Officers continue to develop their skills and knowledge through a breadth and depth of regional assignments and participation in formal and informal sustainment training.

(a) The career path depicted in enclosure (1) uniquely enables FAOs to generate, sustain, and utilize regional proficiency as defined in references (g) and (h) in support of Department of Defense and Department of the Navy objectives.

(b) Within constraints of test availability and accessibility, at a minimum, officers will maintain current scores (as defined by reference (f)) in both the Defense Language Proficiency Test and Oral Proficiency Interview of their primary target language. As designated career linguists, FAOs are expected to sustain their language skills and actively pursue an Interagency Language Roundtable proficiency level of 3 in all modalities (L, R, and S). To this end, OPNAV Navy Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture Office (OPNAV N13F) coordinates individual language training plans that combine independent study and remediation, sustainment, and enhancement training funded by the Navy Center for Language, Regional
Expertise, and Culture (CLREC). All officers are required to file an individual language training plan with OPNAV N13F and the officer community manager biennially.

(c) All senior O-4 to junior O-6 FAOs are required to participate in at least one senior FAO professional development course (e.g., Joint FAO Phase II Course). These courses are considered essential for the transition from action officer duties to supervisorial roles.

(d) Due to the high proportion of joint assignments filled by FAOs, it is important that officers complete Joint Professional Military Education Phases I and II as early in their careers as possible.

(e) Due to the uniqueness of their skill sets, as well as diversity and geographic dispersal of community assignments, participation in community-specific mentoring relationships throughout their careers is particularly essential to professional development.

d. RC FAO Assignment and Career Progression

(1) Following re-designation, the community sponsor assigns an AOR of specialization to each officer selected to the RC community. The RC officer community manager assigns each officer an AQD “FA(x)” indicating AOR of specialization. The “x” in FA(x) refers to the numerical designation of AOR specialization per reference (n).

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(2) RC FAOs will be assigned by current officer assignment policy as published by Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command. In general, RC FAOs in pay grades O-6 and O-5 will be assigned via the annual Navy Reserve National Command and Senior
Officer (O-5 and O-6) Non-command Billet Screening and Assignment Board. RC FAOs in pay grades O-4 and junior will be assigned via the “JO APPLY” process.

(3) RC FAOs are expected to continue to develop their skills and knowledge through breadth and depth of regional assignments and participation in formal and informal sustainment training. The career path depicted in enclosure (2) uniquely enables FAOs to generate, sustain, and utilize regional proficiency. RC officers are also expected to participate in at least one senior FAO professional development course as an O-5 or junior O-6 (e.g., Joint FAO Phase II Course).

e. Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus. As career linguists, FAOs are eligible to receive continuous foreign language proficiency bonus within parameters defined by references (q) and (r) and the current Navy foreign language proficiency bonus list.

f. Service Obligation

(1) AC officers selected to the community will incur service obligation per reference (s), commensurate with graduate education benefits received. This may run concurrently with obligation to complete an overseas assignment incurred for receipt of Navy-funded language training and does not obligate the Navy to retain the member on active duty.

(2) RC officers will incur a 3-year drilling obligation in the SELRES upon transfer into the RC community.

7. Responsibilities

a. CNO N3/N5 (as the FAO enterprise lead)

(1) In conjunction with CNO N1, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare (CNO N2N6), and other FAO resource sponsors, determines all FAO manpower, personnel, training, and education policy and directives. The enterprise lead will integrate the resulting FAO capabilities into execution of the maritime strategy at joint, Navy, and interagency commands.
(2) As regional security subspecialty major area sponsor, review and approve regional curricula offered at the Naval Postgraduate School of International Studies, Department of National Security Affairs, and equivalent curricula at accredited institutions during the biennial curriculum review, in conjunction with the President, Naval Postgraduate School.

(3) Designate a FAO flag officer as the AC and RC FAO community sponsor. The community sponsor should be assigned in the National Capital Region (e.g., OPNAV Director, International Engagement (OPNAV N52)) and will be assigned the responsibilities delineated in subparagraphs 7a(3)(a) through 7a(3)(j).

(a) Issue community policy and directives pertaining to the management of billets, promotion rates, and qualifications required to accomplish international engagement and related elements of the maritime strategy as part of the joint force.

(b) Maintain oversight of the community lateral transfer or re-designation selection board process.

(c) Maintain oversight of the community milestone administrative board process.

(d) Approve all O-6 and O-5 milestone detailing decisions.

(e) Review and endorse all applications by FAOs to serve in assignments within the DAS.

(f) Mentor O-6 senior defense and naval attachés on fitness reports.

(g) Ensure all junior officers have access to more senior officers for mentorship opportunities.

(h) Strongly encourage senior officers to exercise their mentoring roles within the community.

(i) Coordinate FAO manpower requirements with AC and RC FAO officer community managers; OPNAV N13; OPNAV Director,
Total Force Manpower, Training, Education and Requirements Division (OPNAV N12); and Navy budget submission offices.

(j) Review AC and RC requests for graduate education constructive credit waivers.

b. **CNO N1**

(1) As program administrator for LREC programs resourced by CNO N2N6 via the Navy CLREC, budget for all FAO training, education, sustainment and professional development requirements.

(2) Assign AC FAOs a detailer and placement officer within NAVPERSCOM Information Warfare Community Assignments (PERS-47), and an officer community manager within BUPERS-31.

c. **CNO N2N6**

(1) As resource sponsor for CLREC, ensure continuity of effort between FAO training and professional development requirements defined by the enterprise lead and CNO N1 LREC program budgeting and administration.

(2) Nominate Navy officers, including FAOs, to serve in naval and defense attaché billets by billet coding, selection panel recommendations, and FAO detailer and officer community manager coordination.

d. **OPNAV N52.** Assign a FAO policy advisor with responsibilities delineated in subparagraphs 7d(1) through 7d(7).

(1) Support the community sponsor as a liaison with AC and RC FAO resource sponsors, officer community managers, placement and assignment officers, Naval Postgraduate School, and DAS stakeholders.

(2) Manage the community sponsor’s strategic communications to the community and Navy leadership.

(3) Establish and review criteria for the assignment of FAO designator and AQD codes, and request for graduate education waivers.
(4) Maintain FAO educational skill requirements and career milestones, with revisions as necessary.

(5) Coordinate with the OPNAV staff and President, Naval Postgraduate School to review curriculum requirements for regional studies programs at that institution, as well as plan, program, and fund postgraduate level studies (master’s and doctorate) at civilian universities.

(6) Plan and coordinate programming inputs with OPNAV N13 to fund initial language instruction, in-region training, professional development training, and sustainment training, per reference (e).

(7) Compile the annual report on the FAO community mandated by reference (d).

e. OPNAV Director, Air Warfare (OPNAV N98). Provide “Non-Aviation Training Rate” operations and maintenance Navy (O&MN) funding via the annual training requirements letter for initial flight refresher, as well as follow-on training requirements for officers with the AQD “FFQ” who receive orders to flying assignments within the DAS (1302, 1312, or 1712 coded).

f. OPNAV N13

(1) Establish eligibility requirements and administer certification procedures for FAOs to qualify for the foreign language proficiency bonus. Maintain an accurate database of officer foreign language skills.

(2) Manage initial and sustainment training programs as a component of the routine CLREC planning, programming budgeting and execution process within parameters governed by the enterprise lead stated requirements, to include graduate studies, entry level and senior FAO professional development courses, and language training funding per reference (r), to fully support LREC skill development, sustainment and enhancement.
g. Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

(1) Ensure availability of resources to complete worldwide assignability and overseas suitability screenings on FAO applicants and the families of community selectees.

(2) Ensure availability of resources for officers with the AQD “FFQ” to receive flight physicals per reference (o) requirements while assigned to refresher training provided by CNATRA.

h. BUPERS-31

(1) Manage AC and RC FAO career and community planning on behalf of the community sponsor.

(2) Develop, monitor, and manage community career path, inventory levels, billet requirements (to include strength planning, subspecialty, and joint requirements), promotion and screening opportunity, lateral transfer and re-designation, and retention and incentives.

(3) Identify operational and training billets and, with the concurrence of cognizant joint and Navy commands, assign each billet FAO designator coding.

(4) Conduct analysis of requirements versus inventory for all FAOs as a basis for educational programs and selection board requirements.

(5) Review AC and RC community lateral transfer applications, and establish internal procedures to conduct initial screening of applications for completeness and minimum qualifications for entrance into the community. Forward approval of AC applications to NAVPERSCOM Active Component Personnel Management (PERS-8) and RC applications to NAVPERSCOM Reserve Component Personnel Management (PERS-9) for selection board action.

(6) Maintain administrative responsibility for the AC and RC community selection process as part of the lateral transfer and re-designation board. Maintain records of selection board actions and provide notification of selectees.
(7) Following lateral transfer and re-designation board action, and with the consent of the community sponsor, assign appropriate AQD codes to officers selected for the AC FAO community based on the needs of the community and unique qualifications and professional experiences of each selectee, to include “FT(x),” “FA(x),” and “FFQ.” The RC officer community manager will assign the appropriate “FA(x)” AQDs for each SELRES selectee.

(8) Maintain current inventory database of all aviation qualified FAOs (AQD “FFQ”).

(9) Prepare requests for graduate education constructive credit waivers and route for approval through community sponsor and Chief of Naval Personnel prior to final adjudication by Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

   i. Dean, Naval Postgraduate School, School of International Graduate Studies

   (1) In conjunction with CNO N3/N5, conduct biennial review of Naval Postgraduate School area studies curricula to ensure compliance with educational skill requirements.

   (2) Coordinate with community sponsor, officer community manager, and OPNAV N13 to support Navy equities within Defense Language and National Security Education Office inter-Service FAO initiatives.

j. Commander, Naval Air Forces. Ensure all officers with the AQD “FFQ” maintain aeronautically designated personnel status, to comprise of subparagraphs 7j(1) and 7j(2).

   (1) Inclusion of list of aeronautically designated personnel in reference (o).

   (2) Waiving reference (o) requirements (to include Naval Aviation Survival Training Program, flight time, etc.) when assigned to CNATRA units. Upon reporting to operational flying billets in the DAS, all aeronautically designated Navy personnel, including FAOs with the AQD “FFQ,” fall under Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) administrative control and Commander, Naval Air Forces aviation standards, thus reference (o) requirements do not apply.
k. Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command. Issue officer assignment policy for all RC officers.

l. NAVPERSCOM (PERS-47)

(1) Coordinate AC distribution functions and closely monitor the professional development and assignment of officers.

(2) Provide, on a continual basis, the personnel data needed for the community sponsor to monitor assignments and for CNO N2N6 to make attaché nominations.

(3) Liaise with AC community personnel and commands and organizations that have AC FAO-coded billets.

(4) Determine annual requirements for aviation qualified FAOs to be trained for and serve in flying assignments within the DAS (1302, 1312, or 1712 coded), and inform OPNAV N98 for inclusion in the annual training requirements letter.

m. CNATRA. Provide training for officers with the AQD “FFQ” executing orders to flying assignments within the DAS (1302, 1312, or 1712 coded) to include subparagraphs 7m(1) through 7m(3).

(1) Request O&MN funding from OPNAV N98 to conduct required training.

(2) Initial flight refresher training sufficient to generate a current instrument rating; a CNATRA and operating procedures standardization qualification in fixed wing aircraft (multi-engine whenever possible); valid Naval Aviation Survival Training Program qualification; and a flight physical.

(3) Annual refresher training and instrument check-rides while in an operational flying status as attachés will be funded by DIA under applicable U.S. Air Force directives.

8 Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, must be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.
9. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, CNO N3/N5 will review this instruction annually on the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, DoD, SECNAV, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will automatically expire 5 years after its issuance date unless reissued or canceled prior to the 5-year anniversary date, or an extension has been granted.

10. Information Management Control. OPNAV RCS 1301-15 has been assigned to the FAO community annual report contained in subparagraph 7d(7).

Releasability and distribution:
This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via Department of the Navy Issuances Web site, http://doni.documentservices.dla.mil/
AC FAO Career Path

Initial FAO Training Module
Graduate Education, Defense Language Institute, or In-Region Training, Joint FAO Phase I, JPME I

Alternate FAO Training Module
Graduate Education, Defense Language Institute, or In-Region Training

Advanced FAO Training Module
Joint FAO Phase II, JPME II

Source Community Qualification/MSR

Accession/Initial FAO tour

FAO LC/DR tour(s)

FAO CDR Milestone / CDR tour(s)

FAO CAPT tour(s)

Flag tour

Primary On-Ramp
Broader Lateral Transfer Window

FAO CDR Milestone Screen Board
Major Milestone Board

Typical Billets / Qualifications:

1. Source / FAO tour
2. Joint FAO Phase I
3. FAO Q (Region) AGQ
4. CDR Milestone Screen
5. JPME I

1. CDR / Milestone tour
2. JQO Progress
3. Major Milestone Screen
4. FAO Q (Region) AGQ
5. Joint FAO Phase 1/II
6. Language proficiency

In-Country: 800, DAO, LNO
Staff: CCMDs, NCC/fleets, DC, Interagency

*Assignments are not all-inclusive

Milestone Screen Rates:
CUR = 50%
CAPT = 40%

First Major (6-8) Milestone Board Nov 2014

Unclassified

CAPT = captain
CCMD = combatant command
CDR = commander
DAO = defense attaché office
DC = Washington, D.C.
JPME = joint military education
JQO = joint qualified officer
LC/DR = lieutenant commander
LNO = liaison officer
MSR = minimum service requirement
NCC = naval component command
RDML = rear admiral
SAO = security assistance office
RC FAO Career Path

CONUS = continental United States
NATO = North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OCONUS = outside the continental United States
UN = United Nations