



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 1520.18J
N153
7 Oct 2013

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1520.18J

From: Chief of Naval Operations

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

1. Purpose. To establish policy and assign responsibilities for the Junior Line Officer Advanced Educational Program, hereafter referred to as the Navy Burke Program.
2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1520.18H.
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. 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, special operations and 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 junior officers with high potential for future leadership positions and 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 an operational assignment for qualification in their warfare specialties before commencing graduate studies. While attaining a warfare specialty, these officers shall

communicate with their detailers to concurrently plan for their advanced education assignment and to select a curriculum 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 in technical disciplines. Officers will be assigned to civilian institutions only when the required curricula are not available at Naval Postgraduate School. This first shore tour will normally conclude upon achievement of a master's degree and is limited to 2 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 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, consistent with meeting the Navy's specified requirements. A letter application for a Navy Burke Program educational assignment should be submitted per the annual Doctoral Studies naval administrative message. 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 shall not exceed 3 years.

d. Upon completion or termination of master's level graduate education under the Navy Burke Program, officers shall serve on active duty for a period of three times the number of months of Navy-funded education up to a maximum of 3 years. For doctoral programs, officers shall serve on active duty for a period of three times the number of months of Navy-funded education up to a maximum of 5 years.

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 shall not be precluded from requesting transfer to the restricted line or staff corps after at least one warfare development tour following the education tour.

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

6. Action

a. Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM) shall:

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

(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 subspecialty utilization following education.

(4) Assign officers to advanced education to meet requirements per the annual Advanced Education Quota Plan.

b. 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 NAVPERSCOM Graduate Education and Training (PERS-440) by 15 June each year.

c. Naval Service Training Command 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 NAVPERSCOM (PERS-440) by 15 June each year.

d. 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.

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(2) Address academic inquiries to the appropriate program point of contact identified on the Naval Postgraduate School Web site, <http://nps.edu>.

7. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.



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