The Department of Naval Science provides the professional military and naval education to all Midshipmen to allow them to successfully fulfill their commitment to the United States Navy Reserve.

We develop future officers, emphasizing integrity and ethics, teaching Midshipmen about the mission and role of the Strategic Sealift Officer (SSO) program within the Navy Reserve, and their obligation of service to the SSO.

Midshipmen candidates must:
- Be a US Citizen;
- Complete the required course of study;
- Comply with the prescribed midshipman disciplinary and honor systems;
- Fulfill the requirements for a USCG license;
- Meet the requirements for a Secret Security Clearance;
- Meet and maintain Physical Standards;
- Accept a commission in the SSO, USNR or active duty or reserve component in one of the armed services.

Upon graduation, midshipmen are commissioned as officers, Ensigns, in the Strategic Sealift Officer (SSO) Program, U.S. Navy Reserve (USNR) or another reserve component of the U.S. Armed Services, unless they apply for and are accepted for active duty service in the Navy or in one of the other U.S. Armed Services.

In accordance with OPNAVINST 1000.26, all officers in the Navy shall serve a period of eight years. Any portion of the Military Service Obligation (MSO) that is not active duty or active duty for training shall be performed in a reserve component.

Your service obligation (Maritime and Military) covers four elements: employment (a maritime-related position that serves national interest), maintaining your U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) license, a commission in a reserve component in one of the U.S. Armed Services or as a commissioned officer on active duty in one of the U.S. Armed Services, and reporting your compliance to both the Maritime Administration and the Navy for your Military Service Obligation.

Naval history – answering the call to serve for 237 years and counting

Mission & History

America's Navy is a force as relevant today as it’s been historically significant for the last 237 years. The times may change. The threats may become more obscure. The complex nature of 21st century life may make the demand for such a presence less obvious. But now more than ever, the Navy is something to be aware of.

Something to be thankful for.

Something to be proud of.

navy.com
navyreserve.com

Honor
Courage
Commitment
Acta Non Verba
Ready Now, Anytime, Anywhere

DEPARTMENT OF NAVAL SCIENCE
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

The Navy can shape your future through outstanding financial benefits, unparalleled career potential, and personal growth.
Active Duty Navy Officer Commission and Career Opportunities

Aviation

Among the world’s flying forces, Naval Aviation has a reputation for excellence that is second to none. Here you can pilot some of the world’s most cutting-edge aircraft. Oversee the intricate communications, navigation and weapons systems they carry. Or help ensure the safety and success of the people and equipment involved—from takeoff to landing.

Within the aviation community, there are Naval Pilots and Naval Flight Officers (NFOs). They are members of Flight Operations who work on board and help land the various aircraft and helicopter platforms utilized. In addition, there are skilled Officers involved in every aspect of Flight Support—from maintenance and storage to launch and recovery. These men and women take on some of the most challenging and dynamic jobs in America’s Navy today. They are physically and mentally fit professionals who contribute to critical missions across the globe.

Submarine Officer (Nuclear Submarines)

The Navy submarine force is powered by nuclear energy—and represents some of the most modern, efficient and effective weapons in the military arsenal. Imagine being in your early to mid-twenties and assuming control of a $1.5 billion nuclear-powered submarine. This is a reality for the Submarine Officers in charge of all that goes into driving, powering, arming and operating the Navy’s Fleet of attack, ballistic missile and guided missile submarines.

The stealth technology and advanced warfare capabilities of these vessels, magnified by the sheer aptitude of those at the helm, has led to years of successful conflict engagement and deterrence. If you have the educational background, the ambition and the mind-set to be part of one the most tight-knit groups within America’s Navy, think about the exciting and demanding career of a Nuclear Submarine Officer.

U.S. Navy Officers are some of the most well-respected men and women serving our country, with the opportunity to serve among peers who share your commitment to excellence, and to bear the honor of performing a greater good in the world at large.

“We have a mandate to recruit and train the most qualified and capable Sailors. Our Navy will continue to be made up of the most sophisticated, professional, and disciplined Sailors in the history of our great nation. The knowledge, high standards and productivity that are required of them, in some of the most challenging environments, prove how truly exceptional our people are.”

Adm. Jonathan Greenert
Chief of Naval Operations

Special Warfare/Special Operations

Neutralizing threats. Defusing bombs. Doing anything from rescuing people in distress to salvaging vital equipment from treacherous depths. Whatever the specifics, members of the Naval Special Warfare/Naval Special Operations (NSW/NSO) communities take on the most impossible missions and the most elusive targets.

This is the territory of Navy SEALs (Sea, Air & Land), Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewmen (SWCCs), Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technicians, Navy Divers and Aviation Rescue Swimmers (ARRs) — real-life heroes who are pushed and defined by the lives they serve. Demanding a state of mind fueled by intelligence, dedication and extreme mental and physical fitness. One marked by extreme courage and capability under fire.

Surface Warfare Officer

America’s Navy has the most modern, advanced fleet of ships in the entire world. The Surface Warfare Officers (SWOs) who control them are trained extensively to maintain and operate these ships, their crews and their systems. Providing direction. Leading by example.

Involve yourself in everything from anti-submarine warfare to missile defense. Provide support for Navy Special Warfare missions. Engage in damage control training and routine shipboard management. As a SWO, you may be in charge of any number of shipboard operations and activities while at sea, working with or within such specialized forces as:

Aircraft Carrier Forces: Provide and coordinate air, submarine and surface ship defense for aircraft carriers
Cruiser-Destroyer Forces: Provide ship attack and defensive measures with a wide array of missile and fire power capabilities, providing anti-air, submarine and surface warfare support
Amphibious Forces: Embark and transport vehicles, equipment and personnel for amphibious assault operations
Combat-Logistics Forces: Provide combatant ships with fuel, ammunition, food and supplies, and provide repair, maintenance and rescue capabilities through Fleet Support Ships
Mine Warfare Forces: Detect, identify and neutralize threats from hostile use of maritime mines

For complete listings and descriptions of Officer roles in the Navy, see one of our Active Duty Officers in Naval Science, located in Furuseth Hall or visit navy.com or navyreserve.com.