

# SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER

"Leading America's finest."



A M E R I C A ' S  
**NAVY**



# INITIAL SEA TOUR

Graduates of OCS, U.S. Naval Academy and NROTC are stationed aboard an operating ship for six to fifteen months to gain on-the-job experience and complete initial shipboard qualifications. In order to better prepare officers for their shipboard job, individuals will receive specialty schools for more advanced training en route to the ship or shortly after reporting aboard. Following initial qualifications, including Basic Division Officer Course (BDOC) for a five-week, facilitated seminar-based course. During this crucial phase of training, officers gain invaluable experience with ship handling simulators, interactive computer-based warfare operations scenarios, engineering principles and programs, and damage control trainers. After successful completion of BDOC, officers report back to their ship to earn their Surface Warfare Officer qualification and complete their initial sea tour.

## ELIGIBILITY

### A Surface Warfare Officer candidate must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be at least 19 and under 29 when commissioned (maximum age limit may be adjusted up to two years for prior active duty service).
- Have a B.S. or B.A. degree from an accredited college or university.
- Have a qualifying score on the Officer Aptitude Rating Exam.
- Be physically qualified by Navy standards.



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# SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER

On the latest Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyers and the newest nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, Surface Warfare Officers learn and apply the critical leadership and technical skills of junior executives and professional naval officers.

You will lead some of America's finest men and women, taking charge of highly skilled professionals and millions of dollars worth of high-tech equipment. You will be responsible for challenging and inspiring your team to excel – learning flexibility, self-discipline, problem solving and analysis while developing total confidence in your own abilities. These skills prepare you for the ultimate challenge – command of ships at sea.

## SHIP ASSIGNMENTS

**Surface Warfare Officers are assigned to ships in one of five groups:**

**Aircraft Carrier Forces:** Provide air defense and shore bombardment from conventional and nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

**Cruiser-Destroyer Forces:** Combat ships with a wide array of missile and fire power capabilities providing anti-air, anti-submarine and surface warfare support, escort and shore bombardment.

**Amphibious Forces:** Embark and transport vehicles, cargo and troops for amphibious assault operations.

**Combat-Logistics Forces:** Provide combatant ships with fuel, ammunition, food and spare parts through underway replenishment ships and repair, maintenance and rescue capabilities through fleet support ships.

**Mine Warfare Forces:** Detect, identify and neutralize threats to maritime forces from hostile use of mines.



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# SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER TRAINING OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL (OCS)

Prospective officers attend approximately 12 weeks of Navy orientation courses in Newport, RI. OCS develops your professional knowledge of the Navy and helps you make the transition from civilian life to the Navy. Apply as early as one year before you graduate from college, as openings are limited and fill quickly.

Academic courses, military training and physical fitness training at OCS are difficult and intense. You will work hard, so self-discipline, physical conditioning, and good study habits are required. Course subjects include naval operations, orientation and administration. Other study areas are Navy history and the roles of strategic deterrence, sea control, power projection and presence in controlling the seas during conflicts and maintaining freedom of the seas during peace.

Before OCS graduation and commissioning as a Navy officer, you will receive a ship assignment. This assignment begins after Phase II training.



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