

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Washington, D.C. 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 1211.4F
OP-981N
24 June 1985

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1211.4F

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: All Ships and Stations (less Marine Corps field addressees not having Navy personnel attached)

Subj: POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR U.S. NAVY RESEARCH ASSOCIATE BILLETS

Ref: (a) NAVPERS 15839E (NOBC Manual)

R) 1. Purpose. To issue policy and procedures for selection and assignment of naval officers as Research Associates with the Department of Energy (DoE) at: the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Livermore, CA; the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Los Alamos, NM; and the Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM (SNLA), and Livermore, CA (SNLL).

2. Cancellation. OPNAV Instruction 1211.4E.

3. Billets

a. Navy has a combined total of 12 officer Research Associate billets established at LLNL, LANL, SNLL, and SNLA. These laboratories are operated under the auspices of the DoE. The laboratories conduct research and development in the areas of nuclear weapons and effects, conventional explosives and munitions technology, and in related technologies having direct Navy interest. Officers selected are provided with scientific laboratory or engineering experience in nuclear or conventional weapons development, nuclear weapons effects, conventional explosives or munitions technology, or related technologies, depending upon their scientific or engineering background and interest. This program is beneficial to both the DoE and the Navy, in that the DoE laboratories are provided with military insight and experience of the selectees, and the Navy is provided with technically qualified officers for development programs. The unique experience and training gained from these assignments prepare officers for the following types of billets:

R) (1) Navy headquarters and fleet staff billets in nuclear or conventional weapon requirements, development, and effects.

R) (2) Naval Systems Command billets involved with the development and testing of nuclear and conventional weapons systems.

(3) Navy billets in the DoE Office of Military Application, Defense Nuclear Agency, Office of Secretary of Defense, and on the staffs of the unified CINCs.

b. Officers assigned to Research Associate billets should have sufficient graduate education to meet the criteria for a physical science or engineering P-code designation (sub-specialty codes within the xx50 and xx60 fields) as established in reference (a). Any waiver to this requirement must be approved by the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-098), by the Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command (NMPC-4), and by the designated representative of the laboratory concerned.

4. Administration. The above billets are administratively assigned to the Commander, Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, CA.

a. **Sponsor.** The Director, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (OP-098) is the Navy Sponsor for the billets at the DoE laboratories. He will effect liaison between the laboratories and the Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command in matters concerning the assignment of naval officers in LLNL, LANL, SNLL, and SNLA.

b. **Application.** Applicants should submit requests for assignment as a Research Associate to the appropriate detailee, with a copy of the request letter to COMNAVMILPERSCOM (NMPC-4418). Requests are desired no earlier than 12 months before normal completion of current assignment, and should include any information qualifying the applicant for a Research Associate assignment.

c. **Nominations.** The Chief of Naval Operations (OP-098) will keep the laboratories advised of the scheduled dates of detachment of officers assigned to duty at the laboratories. Nominations will be made by COMNAVMILPERSCOM (NMPC-4418) to the CNO (OP-098), who will forward names of selected officers to the laboratory concerned for concurrence. Letters of nomination to the laboratories will contain military background, educational and technical training, transcripts, prospective reporting dates, and other pertinent information available at the time of the nomination.

d. **Interviews.** After each officer has been nominated and found initially acceptable, the officer will (if at all possible) be personally interviewed by a representative of the laboratory concerned. The time and place of each interview will be as mutually agreed upon by the laboratory

concerned and the officer. Arrangements for, and scheduling of, such interviews are the primary responsibility of the laboratory.

- R) e. Acceptance of Nominees.** After a nominee has been interviewed, the laboratory concerned will advise the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-098) whether the nominee is acceptable for assignment. No officer may be assigned to a Research Associate billet without the concurrence of the laboratory concerned.
- R) f. Tour Length.** A normal Research Associate tour is 2 years, extendable to 3 years at the member's request, subject to the needs of the service. A request for tour extension will be originated at least 6 months prior to the individual's projected rotation date. Extension requests will be forwarded via the laboratory concerned and via the administrative command to the Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command (attn: individual's detailer) for approval, with copy to CNO (OP-098) and COMNAV-MILPERSCOM (NMPC-4418).
- R) g. Obligated Service.** Since Research Associates receives significant training and experience in weapons engineering and development, officers accepting assignment as Navy Research Associates will be required to remain on active duty for 1 year for each year of assignment or fraction thereof, subsequent to completion of the Research Associate assignment. However, such obligation will in no case exceed 2 years and will be served concurrently with any other service obligation.
- R) h. Naval Weapons Center Responsibility.** For officers occupying Research Associate billets, the Commanding Officer, Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, is the assigned

reporting senior for administrative purposes and military support. Fitness reports on each officer will be submitted by the Commanding Officer, Naval Weapons Center, based on performance data provided by the laboratories. Other military responsibilities include maintaining the officer's service records and giving assistance in the preparation of necessary Navy documents. Except for the foregoing area of responsibility, the laboratory will keep the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-098) notified as to the specific assignment of these officers.

i. Laboratory Requirements. In the event a laboratory (R) has a requirement for a naval officer with a professional background in another technical field of military significance not noted herein, it shall state such requirement to the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-098), who, in coordination with the Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command, will determine whether or not a naval officer with appropriate background is available and whether or not it is in the best interest of the Navy to assign such an officer.

5. General. The Navy has derived considerable benefit (R) from the uniquely intensive research and development experience gained by Research Associates assigned to the DoE laboratories. It continues to be in the Navy's best interest to maintain the Naval Research Associate Program on a basis mutually beneficial to the Navy and DoE through assignment of highly qualified personnel.

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