Securing that critical edge in the information age

INFORMATION DOMINANCE CORPS
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Monitoring chatter. Analyzing data. Protecting networks. Breaking codes. In the Navy, the offensive and defensive use of information is the ongoing, critical responsibility of the Information Dominance Corps (IDC) – a dedicated team of problem solvers who help secure America’s freedom by giving our Sailors the edge they need to make every mission a success.

THE MISSION OF THE IDC
In a highly networked world, information is everywhere – easier to access and increasingly exploitable. Today’s technological advancements make information both a formidable weapon and a constant threat – to the point that it has evolved into a type of warfare all its own.

With this in mind, America’s Navy has the Information Dominance Corps – a community of skilled specialists charged with mastering the capabilities, tools and techniques required to effectively collect, process, analyze and apply information. Operating independently or collaboratively, this community works to enable the Navy to effectively conduct all manner of operations – helping to ensure America’s national and economic security.

America’s Navy defines Information Dominance as the operational advantage gained from fully integrating our information functions, capabilities and resources to optimize decision making and maximizing warfighting effects. In other words, information dominance means maximizing America’s Navy’s operational employment of cyber, cryptologic and space forces working hand-in-hand with its intelligence, meteorological and oceanographic experts. The corps is the sum total of the team who leads the information dominance effort.

THE MAKEUP OF THE IDC
Made up of both Enlisted Sailors and Officers (and augmented by experienced professionals from the civilian sector), the IDC is centered around information-intensive fields and high-tech areas of focus that include everything from Cryptology to Intelligence, Information Warfare to Cyber Warfare, Information Technology to Information Management, Meteorology and Oceanography to the Space Cadre.

Whatever their individual focus areas, IDC members together:
• Develop and defend vital intelligence, networks and systems
• Manage the critical information that supports U.S. Navy, joint and national warfighting requirements
• Provide command and control capabilities, battle management and knowledge of the maritime environment
• Maintain that essential technological edge across the physical and cyber domains – undersea, over the sea, on land, in the air, into space and within cyberspace

UNIQUE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
What you do specifically in the IDC is dependent upon a variety of factors, including the field you specialize in, your job specialty, your classification as an Enlisted Sailor or a Commissioned Officer, whether you serve full-time on Active Duty or part-time as a Reservist, the location of your command, and many other factors.

Now, learn about some of the main focus areas within the IDC, available career opportunities, and the basic differences between associated Enlisted and Officer roles.

SERVICE OPTIONS
Active Duty Sailors serve full-time. This allows you to take full advantage of the available career and leadership opportunities. Enjoy the broad range of benefits. And experience incredible possibilities for travel and adventure.

Reserve Sailors serve part-time. This way you can maintain a civilian career while serving as few as two days a month and two weeks a year. With opportunities for additional service and pay. Additionally, you’ll have the possibility of flexible drilling options to better meet service requirements. While enjoying many of the same advantages and benefits of full-time service.

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**OPPORTUNITIES IN INTELLIGENCE**

**Intelligence Specialist (IS)** – Tracking targets in real time. Defending ships against inbound threats. Operating state-of-the-art computer and communications equipment. The development of useful intelligence starts with the diligent efforts of Navy Intelligence Specialists who break down seemingly limitless raw data into relevant and manageable pieces. Those in the IS rating work under the oversight of Intelligence (INTEL) Officers.

**Intelligence (INTEL) Officer** – Direct the analysis of satellite imagery. Be the first to ascertain the implications of the latest intelligence information. Use keen analytical abilities to detect existing or emerging patterns of communication. Intelligence Officers serve at the forefront of national security as they supervise the collection, analysis, production and dissemination of critical information and intelligence; provide intelligence support to U.S. Naval forces and multinational military forces; and advise executive-level decision makers in the U.S. government. INTEL Officers oversee the work of Enlisted Sailors in the Intelligence Specialist (IS) rating.

**OPPORTUNITIES IN INFORMATION WARFARE**

**Cryptologic Technician (CT)** – Analyzing encrypted electronic communications. Jamming enemy radar signals. Deciphering information in foreign languages. Maintaining the state-of-the-art equipment and networks used to generate classified intel. This is the highly specialized work of the Enlisted Sailors in the Navy Cryptology community. Within Cryptology, there are opportunities to focus on specializations that include Interpretive (CTI), Technical (CTT), Networks (CTN), Maintenance (CTM) or Collection (CTR). Those in the CT ratings work under the oversight of Information Warfare Officers (IW) or Cyber Warfare Engineers (CWE) – or possibly both.

**Information Warfare Officer (IWO)** – Conducting psychological operations. Managing the application of cryptography and cryptanalysis. Advising decision makers at all levels. Information Warfare Officers help ensure that America’s Navy capitalizes on the information vulnerabilities of our enemies – maximizing the use of sensors, weapons, network communications and control systems. IW Officers oversee the work of Enlisted Sailors in the CT ratings.

**Cyber Warfare Engineer (CWE) Officer** – Complex computer networks. The tactical systems they control. The vital infrastructures they support. All are under siege by enemies seeking to steal information or sabotage capabilities. Cyber Warfare Engineering (CWE) Officers are the highly technical computer scientists and computer engineers who provide defense against attacks and deliver tactical advantages while developing tools and techniques in the information environment that ensure situational awareness. CWE Officers oversee the work of Enlisted Sailors in the CT ratings.

**OPPORTUNITIES IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**Information Systems Technician (IT)** – In the Navy, information technology plays an important role in everything from electronic mail systems to shipboard control systems to Special Intelligence (SI) systems. Navy Information Systems Technicians (essentially IT specialists) are Enlisted Sailors who engage in a broad range of responsibilities, including network administration, database management, and computer hardware and software implementation. Those in the IT rating work under the oversight of Information Professionals (IP).

**Information Professional (IP) Officer** – Effective, secure communication in the cyber domain is essential to the everyday operations of military intelligence in America’s Navy. Information Professionals who oversee the seamless operation of the global Naval network environment are key to these efforts – mapping out the network platforms of the future; ensuring the effectiveness of Navy technologies; and helping to develop and deploy information systems, command and control systems, and space systems. IP Officers oversee the work of Enlisted Sailors in the IT rating.

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**ENLISTED AND OFFICER ROLES**

Enlisted Sailors can be thought of as the hands-on workforce. These are members of the Navy or Navy Reserve who serve in an occupational specialty that requires a high school diploma (or GED) as a minimum educational requirement. Generally speaking, Enlisted responsibilities range from entry-level to Enlisted supervisory, advisory and managerial roles.

Commissioned Officers can be thought of as the management. These are generally members of the Navy or Navy Reserve who have a degree from a four-year college or university as a minimum educational requirement and have gone through Officer Training (there are exceptions to the degree requirement based on extensive service experience). Officer responsibilities range from low-level management to middle management to the highest levels of leadership and command.

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**NOTES**
If you have a college degree, attend NAVY.COM INFORMATION DOMINANCE CORPS

The specific working environment will vary depending upon specialization area, job, role and any of the locations discussed above during periods of Annual Training.

For Reservists serving part-time, duties are generally carried out during scheduled drilling and training periods – usually at a location close to home during monthly drilling and potentially at any of the locations discussed above during periods of Annual Training.

The specific working environment will vary depending upon specialization area, job, role and whether you are serving on Active Duty or as a Reservist. A recruiter can provide more details.

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TRAINING AND ADVANCEMENT

The specific training and advancement opportunities for members of the IDC are driven by your professional specialty and whether you serve in an Enlisted or Officer role – among other things.

Enlisted Training – For aspiring Enlisted Sailors, the initial step is the 7- to 9-week Recruit Training (often referred to as Boot Camp) in Great Lakes, Illinois. Upon completion, it’s typically off to “A” School, where the technical basics of the job are taught over the course of several weeks at one of a handful of training locations across the country (length of training and location differs by specialty). From there, most can also expect to attend a field-related “C” School – which involves even more in-depth, specialized training for several weeks (length of training and location also differ by specialty). It is through this schooling that IDC members develop the working knowledge it takes to be qualified for their job and ready for whatever assignment they receive.

Officer Training – For aspiring Officers, the initial step is to attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Newport, R.I. (if serving full-time Active Duty), or Direct Commission Officer (DCO) School in Newport, R.I. (if serving part-time in the Navy Reserve). From there, it’s typical to complete a “basic course” in your respective specialty area for a period of several weeks – though in some specialties you may be assigned to an initial command where you’ll complete training courses and receive intensive on-the-job training (path, training and location differ by specialty). For many Officer roles in the IDC, you’ll need to pass specific qualifications as part of training during operational tours, and the pursuit of advanced education is often an opportunity that’s available and expected.

For all positions, skills continue to be enhanced through on-the-job training and experience. Continuing and advanced training go along with career progression. Promotion opportunities are regularly available but competitive and based on performance. It’s also important to note that specialized training received and work experience gained in the course of service can lead to valuable credentialing and occupational opportunities in related fields.

To learn more about the specific training path for any of the focus areas within the IDC, contact a recruiter for details.

BENEFITS

When it comes to financial and professional advantages, the Navy amounts to much more than a competitive paycheck. Some of the outstanding benefits that you can look forward to as an Enlisted Sailor or Officer serving in the IDC include:*  
- Supplemental/bonus pay  
- Scheduled pay raises and regular promotions  
- Postgraduate education, fully funded by the Navy  
- Post-9/11 GI Bill – funding for you or your family to use for school  
- 30 days’ vacation with pay earned every year  
- Outstanding retirement benefits, plus a 401(k)-like thrift savings plan  
- Comprehensive medical and dental coverage  
- Tax-free allowances for housing and meals  
- Tax-free shopping privileges at military stores  
- Free or low-cost travel opportunities  
- Access to military bases, clubs and recreational facilities all over the world  
- 100% tuition assistance while serving  
- Credentials/certifications through Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (Navy COOL)

*Though many of the above benefits are also available to those who serve in the Navy Reserve, the complete benefits package does vary for those serving part-time. A recruiter can provide more specific details.
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
Beyond offering access to professional credentials and certifications, Navy technical and operational training in fields associated with the IDC can translate to credit hours toward a bachelor’s or associate degree through the American Council on Education. You may also continue your education through opportunities and programs that include:

- Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Navy (SOCNAV) Degree Program
- Navy College Program and Tuition Assistance
- Post-9/11 GI Bill

For many of those serving in Officer roles, postgraduate education is important and expected – with access provided through additional programs and institutions, including:

- Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)
- Navy War College (NWC)
- National Defense University
- Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) – offered at any one of the various service colleges

Specific opportunities vary depending upon specialization area. A recruiter can provide further details.

QUALIFICATIONS
Enlisted Requirements – A high school diploma or equivalent is required to become an Enlisted Sailor in a specialty area of the IDC. Candidates must also be U.S. citizens who can meet eligibility requirements for a Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) security clearance. Other typical requirements include having a good working aptitude of math; an understanding of modern computing devices; the capability to do highly detail-oriented work; an interest in advanced electronics and technology; exceptionally good character; and good speaking, writing and record-keeping skills.

Officer Requirements – A four-year degree is required to become an Officer in a specialty area of the IDC. Candidates seeking an Officer position in this community must have a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution, preferably in a technical field related to the specific area of interest. Candidates must also be U.S. citizens and eligible for a TS/SCI security clearance.

Some Enlisted and Officer positions also require that candidates be willing to serve worldwide and be qualified for sea duty. Specific qualifications vary depending upon specialization area within the IDC. A recruiter can provide further details.