



Serving on board the ultimate tool of diplomacy
**SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER
(NUCLEAR)**



AMERICA'S
NAVY
FORGED BY THE SEA

SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER



The Navy operates some of the world's most technologically advanced ships and equipment – and nothing projects naval power and capability more dramatically and instantaneously than its fleet of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. Surface Warfare Officers (SWOs) with advanced nuclear training oversee the propulsion systems and personnel aboard these multibillion-dollar, megaton cities at sea.

Managing the operational intricacies that allow these marvels of technology to steam millions of miles incident-free. Offering critical support to the missions and tactics that so often depend on them. If you want to combine technical know-how with a desire to lead, consider taking command of your future as an Officer in the Surface Warfare (Nuclear) community of America's Navy. Being a Surface Warfare Officer armed with additional training in the fundamentals of Navy Nuclear Propulsion equates to being one of the most sought after professionals in today's Navy – and an extension of our nation's greatest tool of diplomacy.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Because of their potential to carry so much of the Navy's capabilities forward, aircraft carriers are at the core of ongoing missions – as are the Officers who head up the various departments on board. The extensive training process in place prepares a select group of Officers to harness the power of these icons of the Navy Fleet.

Initial time down this career path is spent gaining the background to earn qualification as a Surface Warfare Officer on conventionally powered ships. Then comes the advanced nuclear training. After mastering the engineering spaces and the theories behind nuclear power, Nuclear Surface Warfare Officers begin overseeing the day-to-day operations of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, managing everything from communications and navigation to armament capabilities and the tactical deployment of these massive vessels.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Nuclear Surface Warfare Officers are in charge of numerous shipboard operations and activities, from the engineering plant to the bridge. They have the responsibility of ensuring that Sailors in their division maintain and operate the ship's complex systems – safely and efficiently.

As a Surface Warfare Officer aboard nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, you'll find yourself among a core group of intelligent, goal-driven men and women – doing important and challenging work that leads to a lifelong sense of responsibility. Being highly competitive and comprehensive, it's no coincidence that the valuable nuclear training received here often directly transfers to civilian careers in executive-level management as well as many technological and high-tech specialty systems.

THE NAVY NUCLEAR PROPULSION COMMUNITY

They operate and maintain the most formidable fleet of nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers on the planet. They pursue the highest degree of intellectual and personal challenges in the nuclear field. They apply nuclear energy and fundamentals of engineering in ways that not only help to defend our national security but also serve to better our world.

These are the men and women of the Navy Nuclear Propulsion community within America's Navy. Submarine Officers (Nuclear). Surface Warfare Officers (Nuclear). Naval Reactors Engineers. Naval Nuclear Power School Instructors. And Nuclear Operations personnel. Every day, advancing their science through application, collaboration and research. These personnel assume the kind of responsibilities and leadership roles that even their most talented peers wait years to take on.

Think you're up to the challenge of becoming a "Navy Nuke"? Be sure to visit [facebook.com/NavyNuclear](https://www.facebook.com/NavyNuclear) to ask questions. Get answers. And connect with others just like you.

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TRAINING AND ADVANCEMENT

Upon graduation from college, the formal training process of becoming an Officer in the Naval Nuclear Propulsion program is officially underway. For those going the Surface Warfare Officer (Nuclear) route, the first step is Officer Candidate School (OCS) – a 12-week course in Newport, RI, that is tailored to train and prepare college graduates to become commissioned as Navy Line Officers.

Upon completion of OCS, newly commissioned Officers move on to receive the advanced training that is at the core of Navy Nuclear Propulsion. This includes an academic curriculum that is recognized as one of the most difficult in the world – rivaling the top-notch nuclear programs at universities such as Harvard and MIT. And experientially, the hands-on application of what is learned – in settings at sea and ashore – is in a class by itself.

First Sea Tour

Next comes assignment as a Division Officer on a conventional surface ship, commanding a team of Sailors responsible for a certain component of the ship – anything from electronics to weapons to engineering systems. Here, Officers are working toward Surface Warfare qualification – earning the right to wear the coveted Surface Warfare Officer insignia and taking on all the responsibilities that go with it. This tour alternates between deployments, patrols, days in port, maintenance, local operations and leave.

Naval Nuclear Power School (NNPS)

Through Naval Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC), Officers will attend Naval Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC. This 24-week graduate-level course of intensive study covers a variety of science and technology-based subjects: from ordinary and partial differential equations to thermodynamics to reactor dynamics. NNPS provides the foundation of knowledge necessary for a theoretical understanding of nuclear propulsion.

Nuclear Power Training Unit (NPTU)

Often referred to as Prototype, this 26-week phase of the learning process involves hands-on training at one of two NPTUs – in either Charleston, SC, or Ballston Spa, NY – where there are several reactor prototypes in operation. Here, Officers apply the concepts learned at Naval Nuclear Power School – studying systems and components of a nuclear propulsion plant and working with all the associated systems of a full-scale operating plant. The training culminates with qualification as Engineering Officer of the Watch.

Second Sea Tour

With proven abilities as a Surface Warfare Officer on a conventional ship and nuclear training, the next assignment is as a division Officer in the engineering plant of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. This tour alternates between deployments, patrols, days in port, maintenance, local operations and leave.

Shore Assignment

After completing their sea tours, Surface Warfare Officers may fill positions anywhere from Nuclear Power School to Prototype to other jobs ashore. They may be selected to serve on high-level staffs, commands and strategic projects, or they may elect to work in recruitment positions or further their education at Naval Postgraduate School (NPGS). The ultimate goal for many: to one day command their own surface ship.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Nuclear Surface Warfare Officers are exposed to a variety of different work environments – from academic settings to training on prototype units to eventual sea tours and shore assignments. The time spent on conventional ships and nuclear-powered aircraft carriers involves deployments of a few to several months at a time. Here, however, you will find exposure to the broadest representation of people and capabilities in any one place in the Navy.

Once fully qualified, Nuclear Surface Warfare Officers may go on to hold positions that involve instructing, advising, consulting, recruiting or even commanding surface ships.

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QUALIFICATIONS (CONT.)

NUPOC Interview

All students who apply to the NUPOC program go through a rigorous screening process and are then selected for a personal interview with the Director of Naval Reactors in Washington, D.C.

The first part of the interview process focuses on technical questions from calculus, physics and other technical courses. The majority of the questions are from calculus and physics, and you may be asked questions from other topics in your major. This part of the interview process typically lasts 30–40 minutes and contains two to four major questions per interview.

The second part of the interview process involves meeting with the Admiral who serves as the Director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion program. During this interview, the Admiral will review your transcripts and the evaluations from your technical interviews and assess your communication skills, interests and motivation for the program. The Admiral personally selects all prospective Nuclear Officers.

VIP Tour

If you're a qualified Nuclear Propulsion Officer candidate, the Navy offers a two-day VIP trip that allows you to immerse yourself in this world. Tour the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, or walk through the torpedo room of a submarine. Interact with current and prospective Officers and ask questions. Learn about the rich history of the Navy and its nuclear program. This is a chance to learn firsthand what it may be like to launch your future as a Nuclear Officer in the Navy.

READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEPS?

Once you're inspired, better informed and seriously interested, here's how to proceed:

1. TALK TO YOUR RECRUITER

- Ask questions and review your qualifications
- Talk about the Surface Warfare Officer (Nuclear) position and any other focus areas available within Navy Nuclear Propulsion that you may be interested in
- **If you're a student:** Discuss the generous financial support available through the NUPOC program – or through other potential education programs such as NROTC
- **If you're a college graduate/professional:** Discuss how to become a Nuclear Officer by way of Direct Appointment

2. APPLY FOR THE POSITION

- Download the **NUPOC Officer Application Checklist** from navy.com to learn all about the forms, information and documents you will need to apply
- Get yourself prepared by downloading **Navy Recruiting Command's NUPOC Study Guide** from navy.com – where you can also link to other relevant study materials
- Be prepared to provide personal information that includes birth certificate, social security card, academic transcripts, professional references (if applicable) and medical history
- Be prepared to undergo a rigorous screening and interview process

3. BEGIN YOUR TRAINING

- **Students:** Finish your college degree before beginning the training path that leads to becoming a Nuclear Officer
- **Graduates/Professionals:** Begin your formal nuclear training process, starting with leadership training through Officer Candidate School (OCS) or Officer Development School (ODS) – depending upon your nuclear focus area

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