Program Authorization: Seaman to Admiral-21 (STA-21) Special Operations (Designator 1190)/Special Warfare (Designator 1180)Option commissioning programs. **STA-21 Special Warfare Option provides an upward mobility opportunity for active duty enlisted members of the Naval Special Warfare Community (NECs 5323, 5326, 8492 or 8491) by providing them an opportunity to obtain a commission and Special Warfare designation 1180. Special Operations Option provides an upward mobility opportunity for active duty enlisted members of the EOD and Diving Communities (NECs 5332, 5333, 5334, 5335, 5336, 5337, 5342, 5343, 8493 or 8494) by providing them an opportunity to obtain a commission and Special Operations designation 1190.** N131H is the Special Warfare community manager. PERS 416M is the Special Operations officer community manager. Program manager: Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) Officer Development (OD) (Code OD2), DSN 922-9437. Resource Sponsor is N00T.

1. Program Authority: 10 USC 532, 2013, 6323 and 12201 to 12209.

2. Quota: As prescribed by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower and Personnel).

3. Qualifications:

a. Citizenship: Applicants must be citizens of the United States. Waivers will not be granted.

b. Gender: Special Warfare is open to males only. Special Operations is open to males and females.

c. Education:

(1) Applicants are strongly encouraged to pursue technical degrees (i.e., Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Oceanography, Operations Analysis, Physical Sciences, or Engineering).

(a) STA-21 selectees must take a minimum of two semesters/three quarters of Calculus and Calculus-based Physics receiving a passing grade of "C" or better. Calculus and Physics taken at other than the host institution must be transferable to the host institution to satisfy the STA-21 requirement.

(b) All STA-21 participants must complete requirements for a baccalaureate degree in 36 months. No waivers over 36 months will be approved.

(2) Participants must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

(3) Applicants must provide SAT or ACT scores. Minimum SAT or ACT score is 1000 SAT (500 Math and 500 Verbal) or 42 ACT combined Math/English (not less than 21 Math and 21 English).

(4) Enrollees will attend NROTC affiliated colleges or universities and be full-time students throughout the year (including summer sessions). Enrollees must remain at the university in which they initially enrolled and will not be permitted to transfer to another university while participating in STA-21.

(5) Waivers of these educational requirements may be granted by N13 with recommendation provided by NSTC OD on a case-by-case basis.

(6) In addition to disenrollment for academic reasons, candidates may be disenrolled because of discipline / moral problems (drug usage, civil convictions, etc.) by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (N13) as recommended by NSTC OD.

d. Age: Applicants must be at least 19 years old and of such age that they will not have passed the 29th birthday at time of commissioning. Maximum age limit may be adjusted upward for active service on a month-for-month basis. Waivers beyond twenty-four (24) months will be considered for enlisted personnel who possess particularly exceptional qualifications, provided they can be commissioned prior to the 35th birthday.

e. Physical: In accordance with the Manual of the Medical Department, Chapter 15, BUMED 21 must review Report of Physical Exam (SF 88). During this review, BUMED 21 will indicate in block 77 qualifications for diving duty and/or combat swimmer and stamp the package that the individual is Physically Qualified (PQ) for diving and/or combat swimmer.

f. Marital status: No restrictions.

g. Time in service: No restrictions.

4. Source:

a. Applicants must be serving on active duty in the U.S. Navy or Naval Reserve including Full Time Support (FTS), or Selected Reserve (SELRES), or Navy Reservists on active duty except for those on active duty for training (ACDUTRA) to include annual training (AT) and initial active duty for training (I-ACDUTRA).

b. **Disciplinary Actions**. Applicants must have no record of courts-martial convictions or civilian felony convictions, disciplinary action under Article 15 (Uniform Code of Military Justice), or conviction by civil court for misdemeanors (except minor traffic violations) during the three years preceding the date of application to STA-21. Any substantiated drug abuse while in an enlisted status is disqualifying.

5. Funding:

a. Selectees will continue to receive their full enlisted pay and allowances, and remain eligible for promotion while participating. An annual $10,000 education voucher will be provided to benefit each participant and paid to the educational institution attended. This voucher will be used to pay tuition, fees, and book costs only. Excess funding for vouchers will be remitted by the educational institution to NSTC as program manager. Students may not use Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP), Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB), or Tuition Assistance (TA).

b. Special Warfare and Special Operations Option selectees should contact their respective Officer Community Manager regarding eligibility for Special Pays. Maintenance of certain Naval Special Warfare, EOD and diving skills enhances safety and is more cost-effective than periodic retraining that is required when such skills lapse.

6. Indoctrination:

a. Participants identified by the STA-21 selection board who would likely benefit from participation in a three to six month program of college preparation studies and remediation will attend the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) course at OTC Newport, RI before attending Naval Science Institute (NSI).

b. Before beginning full time college studies, STA-21 participants must attend the eight-week NSI at OTC Newport, RI to complete all required Officer professional core competencies. While attending their selected NROTC affiliated college or university, STA-21 Officer candidates will become members of the NROTC unit and drill, but are only required to take two Naval Science leadership courses since coverage of most material is provided during NSI. Upon completion of their baccalaureate degree program, STA-21 participants will be commissioned as regular Officers in the U.S. Navy.

7. Appointment: Ensign, USN, Special Warfare, Designator 1180, or Special Operations, Designator 1190 upon graduation from college/university.

8. Active duty obligation:

a. Selectees must volunteer to enlist for six years from the date of enrollment.

b. Selectees will incur a five year active duty obligation upon commissioning.

c. Those disenrollees that drop on request prior to commissioning will be obligated for five years of enlisted service from the date of program disenrollment, or the remainder of their current enlistment, whichever is longer.

d. Those who complete degree requirements, but fail to be commissioned will be obligated for five years enlisted service from date of program disenrollment.

e. STA-21 Special Operations Officer candidates who fail to meet program requirements, but desire consideration for other Unrestricted Line Officer opportunities may contact the Special Operations Officer Community Manager for information regarding conversion to the STA-21 Core program subject to the requirements of the SPECOPS Option Program. All degree requirements must be complete within 36 months. No waivers over 36 months will be approved.

f. Additional obligated service may be incurred as a result of special training or graduate education received following commissioning.

g. An Officer of the Navy may apply for retirement after completing more than 20 years of active service, of which at

least 10 years was service as a commissioned officer in accordance with Section 6323 of Title 10.

Approved: _____
Director, Military Personnel Plans
and Policy Division (N13)

Date: 23 FEB 07