



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 1550.11 CH-1
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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1550.11 CHANGE TRANSMITTAL 1

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: NAVY RESERVE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PILOT PROGRAM

Encl: (1) Revised Page 2

1. Purpose. To transmit new page 2, which revises the eligibility requirements to participate in the pilot program.
2. Action. Remove page 2 of the basic instruction and replace with enclosure (1).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Debbink", is positioned above the typed name.

D. J. DEBBINK
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Chief of Navy Reserve

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Ref: (a) 37 U.S.C. 353(b)
(b) Public Law 110-181, Section 619, of Jan 08
(c) USD (P&R) Memorandum of 28 Apr 09, Pilot Program for Foreign Language Proficiency Training for Reserve Members
(d) A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower of Oct 07
(e) U.S. Navy Language Skills, Regional Expertise, and Cultural Awareness Strategy of Jan 08
(f) SECNAV M-5210.1

1. Purpose. To establish policy, responsibilities, and authority to implement and execute a Navy Reserve Language and Culture Pilot Program, per the authority and requirements of references (a) through (c).

2. Background. The Navy Reserve Language and Culture Pilot Program was established to provide a monetary award to eligible members of the Navy Selected Reserve (SELRES) who complete accredited academic courses in critical foreign languages and cultural studies. The Navy Reserve Language and Culture Pilot Program is designed to incentivize targeted SELRES, based on rating or designator, to expand linguistic skills, regional knowledge, and cultural awareness to improve effective interaction with foreign nationals. Critical languages and related cultural studies included in the Navy Reserve Language and Culture Pilot Program are aligned with guidance provided in references (d) and (e). Upon successful completion of language studies, members may be eligible for Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) if they achieve qualifying scores on a Defense Language Proficiency Test.

3. Eligibility

a. All SELRES officer designators and enlisted ratings are eligible to participate in the Navy Reserve Language and Culture Pilot Program.

b. Enlisted members must have at least 24 months remaining on their service contract at course completion date. Officers must sign a Page 13 and agree to continue serving as a SELRES for 24 months from the completion of the last course approved for the program.

c. All SELRES members must maintain satisfactory participation during course of study.

d. This bonus will not be offered to SELRES taking classes in a language for which they are already receiving the FLPB. This does not prohibit them, however, from receiving the bonus for a course in another language or a relevant culture course.

4. Approved Courses. A course of study in critical languages and regional areas/cultural disciplines must meet the following criteria to be approved:

a. Course must be completed at an educational institution accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

b. Course must be no less than 3 credit hours in length.

c. Course must be successfully completed with a grade of "C" or better.

d. Course must focus on one of the following languages or cultural disciplines within one of the regional areas:

(1) Foreign Languages

- (a) Modern Standard Arabic and Arabic dialects
- (b) Cambodian/Khmer
- (c) Chinese - Mandarin
- (d) Hausa
- (e) Hindi
- (f) Ibo/Igbo
- (g) Indonesian
- (h) Japanese
- (i) Kurdish
- (j) Malay
- (k) Pashto/Pashtu
- (l) Persian - Dari
- (m) Persian - Farsi
- (n) Philippine languages other than Tagalog
- (o) Serbo-Croatian
- (p) Somali
- (q) Swahili
- (r) Thai
- (s) Turkish
- (t) Urdu

- (u) Vietnamese
- (v) Yoruba
- (2) Regional Areas
 - (a) Caribbean
 - (b) Central America
 - (c) Central Asia
 - (d) East Asia
 - (e) Eastern Europe
 - (f) Middle East North Africa
 - (g) South America
 - (h) South Asia
 - (i) Southeast Asia
 - (j) Sub-Saharan Africa
 - (k) West Africa
- (3) Disciplines
 - (a) Economics
 - (b) Foreign Language
 - (c) Geography
 - (d) History
 - (e) Political Science
 - (f) Religion
 - (g) Sociology/Anthropology

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5. Award Levels and Computation

a. Total bonus amount paid to an individual participant shall not exceed \$5,000 in the fiscal year in which course is completed.

b. Upon successful completion of an approved course of study, the following award levels are authorized:

Bonus Amount:	Course Level and Discipline:
\$1,250	100-200 (or equivalent) level culture
\$1,500	300 and higher (or equivalent) level culture
\$2,000	100-200 (or equivalent) level language
\$2,500	300 and higher (or equivalent) level language

6. Responsibilities

a. The Office of the Chief of Navy Reserve (OCNR) shall establish the overarching strategy and policy for the Navy Reserve Language and Culture Pilot Program.

b. Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC) shall provide plans supporting the implementation, execution, and maintenance of the Navy Reserve Language and Culture Pilot Program.

c. Chief of Navy Operations, Navy Deputy Senior Language Authority (OPNAV (N13F)), shall collaborate with OCNR to review and recommend appropriate modifications of overarching strategy and policy for the Navy Reserve Language and Culture Pilot Program.

7. Action

a. CNRFC, Deputy Chief of Staff for Training (N7) shall:

(1) Act as the program manager and approval authority.

(2) Aggregate OPNAV 1500/55 Language Culture Bonus Applications forwarded by educational services officers (ESOs) and compile all data related to program participation.

(3) Analyze participation data to provide metrics on program success and recommendations for updating pilot program parameters.

(4) Provide analysis of pilot program metrics in periodic reports to OCNR.

b. CNRFC, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower (N1) shall:

(1) Process completed OPNAV 1500/55s forwarded by the Navy Reserve Activity (NRA) ESO.

(2) Request Defense Finance and Accounting Service bonus payments.

(3) Provide bonus payment data to CNRFC N7 program manager.

(4) Coordinate program funding.

c. NRA ESO, or designated representative, shall:

(1) Collect before-course OPNAV 1500/55 and verify participant's end of obligated service and program eligibility.

(2) Review copy of course description to verify the proposed course applicability.

(3) Validate and endorse before-course OPNAV 1500/55s.

(4) Submit endorsed before-course OPNAV 1500/55s to CNRFC N7.

(5) Collect completed OPNAV 1500/55s and final grade report/transcripts to verify successful course completion.

(6) Validate, endorse, sign (Educational Services Officer and Navy Reserve Activity Commanding Officer), and submit OPNAV 1500/55s to CNRFC N7.

d. Program participants shall:

(1) Submit to NRA ESO, or designated representative, the before-course OPNAV 1500/55 and copy of course description from

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the school's course catalog no later than 60 days after registering for a course.

(2) Successfully complete the approved course with a grade of "C" or better.

(3) No later than 60 days after successful course completion, submit completed OPNAV 1500/55 and official grade report/transcript to NRA ESO.

(4) Ensure their educational and training data are properly recorded and kept up to date in their Sailor-Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART).

8. Records Management. Records created by this instruction, regardless of media and format, will be managed in accordance with reference (f).

9. Forms. OPNAV 1500/55 Language Culture Bonus Application is available for download from Naval Forms OnLine at <https://navalforms.daps.dla.mil/web/public/home>.



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