



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1301.7

From: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY FOREIGN AREA OFFICER PROGRAMS

Ref: See Enclosure (1)

Encl: (1) References
(2) Responsibilities

1. Purpose

a. To prescribe policy and promulgate guidance governing Department of the Navy (DON) Foreign Area Officer (FAO) Programs.

b. To achieve national security objectives and continued success in current and future operations (including Overseas Contingency Operations), the DON must be prepared to conduct and support military operations with an expanding number of coalition partners in a diverse set of geopolitical conditions around the world. Success in these operations, and on the asymmetric battlefields of the future, requires specialized officers with a sophisticated understanding of the international security environment. Navy and Marine Corps FAOs provide critical war fighting capabilities, including professional military skills, and proficiency and understanding of language, regional expertise and culture (LREC), to influence plans and operations, build and strengthen international partnerships, and serve as key enablers for joint, maritime, and expeditionary forces.

2. Applicability. The provisions of this instruction are applicable to the Navy and Marine Corps.

3. Policy. It is DON policy pursuant to references (a) and (b) that:

a. The Navy and Marine Corps will develop, resource and sustain FAO programs designed to access, train, motivate, promote and retain communities of highly qualified LREC professionals to support the Department of Defense (DoD) global

mission and to meet the operational and human resourcing commitments of the DON. The DON shall ensure that sufficient resources are allocated (funding, personnel, etc.) to comply with this instruction.

b. When available, FAOs shall be the primary nominees from within the DON to serve in Service, Joint, and Interagency assignments that involve significant interaction with foreign governments and their militaries, foreign nationals, foreign entities, and or international organizations; provide regional expertise from the political-military and strategic perspectives for planning and executing operations; observe and report on international military issues; serve in liaison, attaché and or military-diplomat, and representational roles to other nations; and oversee security assistance. FAOs can expect to serve in a wide range of assignments on Joint, Interagency, and Service Staffs, Combatant Command Staffs, Defense Agencies, other DoD Component Staffs, combined headquarters or standing Joint Task Forces, and at DoD regional centers for security studies and other partner nation capacity building programs.

c. FAOs shall be competitively selected from within the Navy and Marine Corps. Candidates shall be fully qualified in a designator or primary military occupational specialty and be pre-screened by the Services to ensure competitiveness on future promotion boards and milestone screening.

d. Training milestones (paragraphs 3e(1) through (4)) are critical to the development and certification of a corps of credible FAO professionals. Waivers or departure from the prescribed training pipeline shall thus be granted by exception on a case-by-case basis. As such, pre-screening of perspective FAOs shall include an estimate of the ability of candidates (within FAO Community timelines), to meet the significant training requirements necessary to become fully qualified FAOs (awarding of an additional qualification designator (AQD), or a military occupational specialty (MOS)), while remaining competitive with their peers.

e. FAOs shall be qualified according to the following standards:

(1) FAOs shall complete a graduate-level degree program at the Naval Postgraduate School or an accredited civilian institution, focused on, but not limited to the historical, political, military and or security, cultural, sociological, economic, scientific and or technical, and geographic factors of specific foreign countries and regions. Officers who have an equivalent level of regional expertise may apply for a constructive credit waiver of this requirement. Approval authority rests with the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (ASN M&RA).

(2) In-theater duty experience of not less than 6 months (preferably 1 year) in the country and or region of specialty, involving significant interaction with host-nation nationals and/or entities. Duty experience shall be included in the requirements of awarding of a FAO AQD or MOS. Navy FAOs who have completed equivalent duty experience prior to designation as a FAO may receive constructive credit from their service to satisfy this requirement. Marine Corps Experience-track FAOs, by virtue of their previous duty experience are considered to have already satisfied this requirement.

(3) DON FAOs are a critical component of the DoD corps of language professionals. Foreign language skills will be developed in one or more of the predominant languages in a FAO's region of specialization. In accordance with references (c) and (d), the DON goal is to attain and maintain FAO language proficiency at the professional level, measured by Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) standard level 3 in listening, reading, and speaking modalities. FAOs will certify their language proficiency annually through the Defense Language Proficiency Test and Oral Proficiency Interviews. The Services shall ensure that adequate funding exists to provide continuous LREC sustainment, maintenance, and improvement training to FAOs throughout their careers. A summary of FAO participation in these sustainment programs will be included in the DON's Annual FAO Report to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

(4) FAOs shall complete a FAO Orientation Course as part of their initial training following accession. Services shall ensure that funding exists to support this requirement. FAOs

unable to complete the course in residence shall satisfy this requirement online.

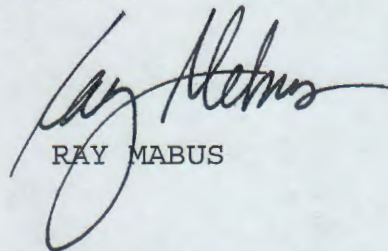
f. FAOs are worldwide assignable and must maintain eligibility for a Top Secret and or Sensitive Compartmentalized Information security clearance and an up-to-date medical screening for overseas assignments. Services shall ensure that adequate funding and resources are available to maintain eligibility for current FAOs and their families to complete the required background investigations and medical screening.

g. FAOs shall be educated, trained, and have their careers managed to ensure competitive career advancement and opportunities for service at the General/Flag Officer (GO/FO) rank. To provide community expertise and leadership, the Services will screen GO/FO billets to identify those billets that could be appropriate for possible coding and assignment of FAOs, or senior leaders with FAO-relevant skills.

4. Responsibilities. See Enclosure (2).

5. Action. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps shall develop and issue specific directives for the management of their respective FAO programs. Full compliance with both the letter and spirit of the guidelines delineated herein is imperative.

6. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed in accordance with SECNAV Manual 5210.1.



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REFERENCES

- (a) DoD Instruction 1315.20 of 28 September 2007
- (b) DoD Directive 1315.17 of 28 April 2005
- (c) DoD Directive 5160.41E of 21 October 2005
- (d) DoD Instruction 5160.70 of 12 June 2007

RESPONSIBILITIES

a. The Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) shall build and maintain DON FAO management programs to meet the needs of the DoD pursuant to references (a) and (d) and the authorities outlined therein, including, but not limited to approving the precepts and criteria used by the annual statutory boards to select FAOs for promotion.

b. Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy for Plans, Policy, Oversight and Integration shall:

(1) Serve as the principal advisor to the SECNAV for DON FAO programs.

(2) Ensure FAO policies and programs result in the accession, training, utilization, and retention of FAOs to support DoD-wide missions.

(3) Supervise the annual review of DON FAO programs. Consolidate annual FAO Reports from the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) for submission to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

(4) Provide policy recommendations resultant from this review to the SECNAV for approval.

c. The ASN M&RA shall:

(1) Manage the development of plans, and guidelines for Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Component (RC) participation in the FAO Program.

(2) Assess the requirements for, and the viability of, developing Service policy and programs for RC FAOs, which result in the accession, training, utilization, and retention of RC FAOs sufficient to support DoD missions.

(3) Monitor and review the RC FAO programs through the Annual Report process.

(4) Ensure in coordination with the CNO and the CMC that a process is established for identifying and tracking RC FAOs to

be contacted for voluntary service to support DoD missions after separation following completion of their mandatory service obligation or immediately upon retirement.

(5) Serve as the adjudication authority for constructive credit for graduate degree programs.

d. The CNO and the CMC shall perform the day-to-day management and administration of FAO Programs for their respective services.