

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20350

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SECNAVINST 1400.1A  
OP-130F  
26 July 1990

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1400.1A

**From:** Secretary of the Navy  
**To:** All Ships and Stations

**Subj:** OFFICER COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES FOR THE ACTIVE-DUTY LISTS OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

**Ref:** (a) Title 10, United States Code  
(b) DOD Directive 1320.9 of 18 Sep 81 (NOTAL)  
(c) SECNAVINST 1420.1  
(d) SECNAVINST 1210.5A  
(e) SECNAVINST 1210.6A (NOTAL)

**Encl:** (1) Navy Active-Duty List Competitive Categories  
(2) Marine Active-Duty List Competitive Categories

**1. Purpose.** To establish the officer competitive categories within the Navy and Marine Corps for officers on the active-duty list under references (a) and (b) and criteria to assess the need for new competitive categories. This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

**2. Cancellation.** SECNAVINST 1400.1.

**3. Policy.** Department of the Navy policy is to establish officer competitive categories to provide for separate promotion consideration and career development of groups of officers with related education, training, skills and experience needed to meet mission objectives of the Navy or Marine Corps which make separate career management desirable. Each officer on the active-duty list within the Navy and the Marine Corps will be appointed to a competitive category for these purposes. New competitive categories will be established when clearly needed to meet the mission objectives of the services. It is therefore intended that periodic review of existing

competitive categories will be made. Changes to the categories will be made, based on the criteria in this instruction, only after careful consideration of the long-term management needs of the service.

**4. Criteria for New Competitive Categories.** A separate competitive category for promotion will be considered only when the following criteria are met:

a. The specialized education, training, or experience and often relatively narrow utilization of a group of officers makes it impossible for them to compete for promotion on an equitable basis with other officers having more generalized experience.

b. It is necessary to protect a substantial investment in education, training, or experience by ensuring equitable promotion opportunity when that education, training, or experience will be utilized within a relatively narrow career field.

c. The specialized community can be managed as a separate career field in such a manner as to ensure the most efficient use of unique resources in the various officer grades.

d. The specialized community will be large enough to sustain a career force in the grades, 04 through 06, generally within the promotion guidelines of reference (c).

**5. Competitive Categories.** The competitive categories for active-duty list officers are established in enclosures (1) and (2). The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) shall initially assign each officer on the active-duty list within their respective services to the competitive category for which recruited. Changes of an officer's competitive category and specialty shall be made under references (d) and (e).

**6. Requests to Establish/Disestablish a Competitive Category.** The CNO and CMC may

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request establishment or disestablishment of a competitive category when the guidelines in paragraphs 3 and 4 are met. The request must include:

a. Description of career area or career fields to be established or disestablished as a separate category.

b. Discussion of the unique utilization of the proposed competitive category compared with other fields not established as separate competitive categories.

c. Projection of promotion outlook (promotion opportunity and timing) for grades 04 through 06 for 5 years. If the requested category will take time to increase to proposed full strength, an estimate of the ability to attain and sustain the promotion guidelines in reference (c) is required.

d. Complete justification for establishing or disestablishing the category. Include an evaluation of the proposal and how it will enhance the management of the resource. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages in terms of procurement and retention for the proposed category and on the category(ies) from which separated or into which merged.

e. Request for concurrence to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel).

## 7. Responsibility

a. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) is responsible for overall supervision of the competitive category designation system under this instruction.

b. The CNO and CMC shall periodically review and update the competitive categories in their respective services.

BARBARA SPYRIDON POPE  
Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
(Manpower and Reserve Affairs)

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ACTIVE-DUTY LIST COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES  
FOR THE NAVY

COMPETITIVE CATEGORY AND SPECIALTY DESIGNATOR

Unrestricted Line

Unrestricted Line Officer

Line officer not currently qualified or in training for any warfare area	110X	(R)
Line officer qualified in Surface Warfare	111X	
Line officer qualified in Submarine Warfare	112X	
Line officer qualified in Special Warfare	113X	
Line officer qualified in Special Operations	114X	
Line officer in training for Surface Warfare qualification	116X	
Line officer in training for Submarine Warfare qualification	117X	
Line officer in training for Special Warfare qualification	118X	
Line officer in training for Special Operations qualification	119X	(D)
Line officer in the aviation community whose rating as a Naval Aviator or Naval Flight Officer has been terminated	130X	
Line officer qualified for duty involving flying as a pilot (Naval Aviator)	131X	(R)
Line officer qualified for duty involving flying as a Naval Flight Officer	132X	
Line officer in training for Naval Flight Officer qualification	137X	
Line officer in training for pilot (Naval Aviator) qualification	139X	(R)
Line officer under instruction as a prospective Medical Corps officer (Senior Medical Student)	191X	
Line officer under instruction as a prospective Dental Corps officer	192X	
Line officer under instruction as a prospective Medical Service Corps officer (Optometry)	193X	

Restricted Line

Engineering Duty Officer

Engineering Duty officer qualified as a Ship Engineering specialist	144X	(D)
Engineering Duty officer in a prescribed program for designator 144X	146X	

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**Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer**

Officers in the grade of captain and above (note 1)	150X
Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer (Engineering) (through grade of captain until designated 150X)	151X
Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer (Maintenance) (through grade of captain until designated 150X)	152X

**Aviation Duty Officer** 154X

**Special Duty Officer**

Special Duty officer (Cryptology)	161X
Special Duty officer (Intelligence)	163X
Special Duty officer (Public Affairs)	165X
A) Special Duty officer (Fleet Support)	170X
Special Duty officer (Oceanography)	180X

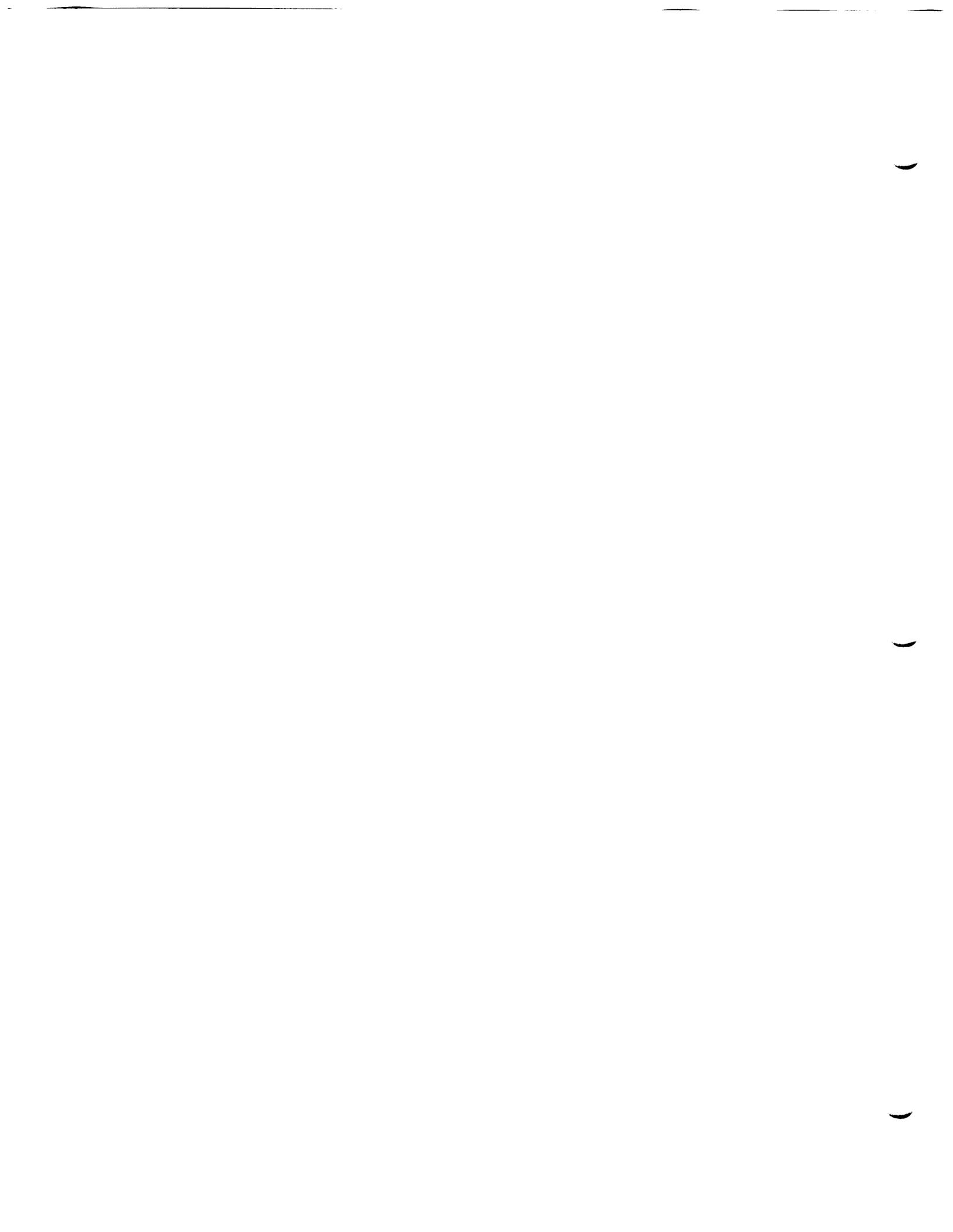
**Limited Duty Officer (Line)**

Surface Deck	611X
Surface Operations	612X
Surface Engineering/Repair	613X
Surface Ordnance	616X
Surface Electronics	618X
Surface Communications	619X
Submarine Deck	621X
Submarine Engineering/Repair	623X
Submarine Ordnance	626X
Submarine Electronics	628X
Submarine Communications	629X
Naval Aviator (closed designator, expires when last officer leaves)	630X
Aviation Deck	631X
Aviation Operations	632X
Aviation Maintenance	633X
Aviation Ordnance	636X
Avionics	638X
Air Traffic Control	639X
Nuclear Power	640X
Administration	641X
Data Processing	642X
Bandmaster	643X
Cryptology	644X
Intelligence	645X
Meteorology/Oceanography	646X
Photography	647X
Explosive Ordnance Disposal	648X
Security	649X

Staff Corps

Medical Corps officer	210X
Dental Corps officer	220X
Medical Service Corps officer	230X
Judge Advocate General's Corps officer	250X
Nurse Corps officer	290X
Supply Corps officer	310X
Chaplain Corps officer	410X
Civil Engineer Corps officer	510X
Limited Duty Officer (Staff)	
Supply	651X
Civil Engineer Corps	653X
Law	655X

Note 1: All Aerospace Engineering Duty Officers (Engineering and Maintenance) designators 151X and 152X in the grade of captain will be redesignated to competitive category Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer designator 150X unless the officers specifically decline such redesignation. The Chief of Naval Personnel (CHNAVPERS) will make this redesignation when they are considered qualified in both Aerospace Engineering, designator 151X and Aerospace Maintenance, designator 152X. CHNAVPERS will normally make this redesignation to designator 150X approximately 2 years from the officers' date of rank as captain, but may change the timing of this action at his discretion. The redesignation must be made, however, to occur not later than 1 month prior to the convening date for the selection board which will first consider those redesignated officers for promotion to rear admiral (lower half). For the purpose of membership on other selection boards, officers assigned the Aerospace Engineering Duty officer 150X designator will be considered as being in the same competitive category as officers assigned designators 151X or 152X.



ACTIVE-DUTY LIST COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES  
FOR THE MARINE CORPS

Unrestricted Officer Competitive Category

<u>Description</u>	<u>MOS*</u>
Adjutant	0180
Intelligence	0202
Infantry	0302
Logistics	0402
Field Artillery	0802
Engineer	1302
Tank	1802
Assault Amphibious Vehicle	1803
Communication	2502
Signals Intelligence/Electronic Warfare	2602
Ground Supply	3002
Financial Management	3404
Motor Transport	3502
Data Systems	4002
Public Affairs	4302
Judge Advocate	4402
Military Police	5803
Aircraft Maintenance	6002
Aviation Supply	6602
Air Command and Control	7202
Surface-To-Air Weapons	7204
Air Support Control	7208
Air Defense Control	7210
Air Traffic Control	7220
Pilot VMA	7500/01/07/08/09
Pilot VMA (AW)	7510/11
Pilot VMFA	7520/21/22/23/27
Pilot VMAQ/VMFP	7540/41/42/43/45
Pilot VMGR	7550/56/57
Pilot HMM/M/L/A	7558/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68
Pilot VMO	7575/76
Naval Flight	7524/25/73/74/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/87/88
Basic Pilot	7597/98
Flight Student	7599
Mission Commander	9807
Ground Control Station Internal Pilot	9808
Basic Officer	9901
General Officer	9903
Colonel, Logistician	9904
Colonel, Ground	9906
Colonel, Naval Aviator/Naval Flight Officer	9907
Colonel, Judge Advocate	9914

Enclosure (2)

Restricted Officer Competitive Categories

Limited Duty Officer Competitive Categories

<u>Description</u>	<u>MOS*</u>
Counterintelligence	0210
Embarkation	0430
Ordnance	2102
Ordnance Disposal	2305
Ammunition	2340
Electronics Maintenance - Ground	2802
Traffic Management	3102
Food Service	3302
Auditing	3410
Data Systems Software	4010
Training and Visual Information Support	4602
Electronics Maintenance - Aviation	5902
Aircraft Maintenance Engineer	6004
Avionics	6302
Aviation Ordnance	6502
Aviation Supply Operations	6604
Weather Service	6802
Staff Officer, U.S. Marine Band	9803
U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps	9805

Warrant Officer Competitive Categories

<u>Description</u>	<u>MOS*</u>
Postal	0160

Enclosure (2)

Personnel	0170
Tactical Intelligence	0205
Counterintelligence	0210
Geographic Intelligence	0260
Infantry Weapons (Marine Gunner)	0306
Embarkation	0430
Survey and Meteorological	0803
Utilities	1120
Engineer Equipment	1310
Construction	1360
Bulk Fuel	1390
Reproduction	1502
Ordnance Vehicle Maintenance	2110
Weapons Repair	2120
Electro-Optic Instrument Repair	2125
Explosive Ordnance Disposal	2305
Ammunition	2340
Telecommunications Operations	2503
Signals Intelligence/Electronic Warfare	2602
Data/Communications Maintenance	2805
Telephone Systems	2810
Ground Radar Maintenance	2830
Ground Supply Operations	3010
Traffic Management	3102
Food Services	3302

Enclosure (2)

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Disbursing	3402
Financial Accounting	3406
Auditing	3410
Motor Transport	3510
Data Systems Operations	4006
Data Systems Software	4010
Marine Corps Exchange	4130
Public Affairs	4302
Legal Administrative	4430
Training and Visual Information Support	4602
Music	5502
Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC)	5702
Military Police	5803
Corrections	5804
Criminal Investigations	5805
Ground Launched Missile System Maintenance	5907
Aviation Systems Maintenance	5910
Air Traffic Control Systems Maintenance	5950
Data Systems Maintenance	5970
Aircraft Maintenance Engineer	6004
Avionics	6302
Aviation Ordnance	6502
Aviation Supply Operations	6604
Weather Service	6802
Aircraft Fire Protection and Recovery	7002

Enclosure (2)

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Surface-to-Air Weapons	7204
Air Support Control	7208
Air Defense Control	7210
Air Traffic Control	7220
Aerial Navagation	7380
Staff Officer, U.S. Marine Band	9803
U.S. Drum and Bugle Corps	9805
Range	9925

\* Military Occupational Specialty