

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Washington, DC 20350-2000

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22 February 1990

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1412.7

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: All Ships and Stations (less Marine Corps field addressees not having Navy personnel attached)
Subj: NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE (NSW) OFFICER QUALIFICATION AND DESIGNATION

Ref: (a) MILPERSMAN, Article 1420160

1. Purpose. To issue the requirements for qualification and designation as a Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Officer (Designator 113X).

2. Discussion. Designation as an NSW Officer signifies that an individual has attained the professional skills, knowledge, and experience required for a career in Naval Special Warfare. Designation is earned in the operational forces, usually within the first year of the first operational tour. The prerequisite to assignment at an operational NSW command is the successful completion of Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training. NSW officer qualification (113X) is the responsibility of the NSW Trainee (118X designated officers) and is a fundamental milestone in the training and qualification process for a career in NSW.

3. Eligibility

a. To be eligible, a commissioned officer must have graduated from Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training, be assigned to a commissioned NSW command, and hold the NSW training designator (118X).

b. Officers who have previously held the Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) 532X are authorized to wear the NSW insignia, but they must meet all the eligibility requirements stated in paragraph 3a to be considered for the designator 113X.

4. Qualification Requirements. An active duty officer pursuing qualification as an NSW officer must:

a. Satisfactorily complete Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training and be assigned to an active duty NSW command for a minimum of six months.

b. Attain designation as a Naval Parachutist.

c. Satisfactorily complete Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS) for SEAL combat swimmers (NAVEDTRA 43498).

d. Demonstrate effective leadership and management skills.

e. After satisfying the requirements of subparagraphs 4a through 4d, the officer will display a general professional knowledge of all aspects of NSW during an oral examination. The commanding officer will conduct the oral examination while chairing a multi-member board composed of at least two and not more than four, other qualified NSW officers.

f. Officers designated 118X should attain NSW qualification within the first 12 months after reporting to the active duty NSW command. Commanding officers may grant qualification time extensions if extenuating circumstances preclude an officer's qualifying in the aforementioned period.

5. Qualification

a. Only the commanding officer of an NSW command may certify candidates as qualified NSW officers.

b. To maintain consistent standards of qualification, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command will direct the officer qualification program.

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c. Once an officer has been awarded his Naval Special Warfare qualification, transfer from one NSW command to another will not require requalification. However, requalification in specific positions, such as dive supervisor, jumpmaster, range safety officer, at the new command may be required by the new commanding officer.

6. Designation and Authority to Wear the Insignia

a. The commanding officer is authorized to present the Naval Special Warfare insignia to an officer upon qualification. This achievement should be recognized at an appropriate ceremony, and relevant comments should be included in the officer's next regular Report of Fitness.

b. The commanding officer will forward notification of all NSW qualifications to Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command (COMNAVMILPERSCOM (NMPC-413D)), copy to Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command (COMNAVSPECWARCOM) and appropriate group commander. Upon receipt, COMNAVMILPERSCOM will change the designator of 118X officers to 113X.

7. **Revocation of Qualification.** Revoking the NSW Officer qualification is a most serious matter which should be undertaken carefully as required by reference (a).

8. **Non-Attainment of Qualification.** As soon as the commanding officer recognizes that an 118X designated officer either lacks potential to qualify or requires more than 18 months to complete qualification, he will pursue one of the following courses of action:

a. If non-attainment is due to extenuating circumstances, notify COMNAVMILPERSCOM (NMPC-413D), copy to appropriate group commander and COMNAVSPECWARCOM, of the reason for delayed qualification, estimate how much additional time will be required, and

comment on the officer's potential for qualification.

b. If non-attainment is due to lack of motivation, interest, aptitude, or application, a report containing the circumstances, an assessment of the officer's potential, and an appropriate recommendation concerning retention in the naval service will be submitted by the commanding officer, via the appropriate group commander and COMNAVSPECWARCOM, to COMNAVMILPERSCOM (NMPC-413D). Officer Fitness Reports should also reflect unsatisfactory progress toward NSW qualification. The officer concerned will be afforded the opportunity to comment on the commanding officer's report. Such comments will be appended as an enclosure to the report. Forwarded correspondence should include as enclosures, copies of official counseling sessions or letters to the officer advising/informing him that he was not adequately progressing toward attainment of the 113X designator.

9. **Action.** As principal advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations on NSW matters, COMNAVSPECWARCOM is charged with periodic review and update of this instruction.

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