NROTCU SUNY MARITIME INSTRUCTION 1534

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From: Commanding Officer, Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit, State University of New York, Maritime College

Subj: STRATEGIC SEALIFT OFFICER PROGRAM INSTRUCTION AND REQUIREMENTS

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 1534.1D
(b) NSTC M-1533.2
(c) OPNAVINST 6110.1J
(d) CFR 46 310.7
(e) NAVADMIN 183/11
(f) COMSCINST 1534.1

1. Purpose. To educate and graduate professional license holding maritime officers into the Strategic Sealift Readiness Group (SSRG), who are dedicated to supporting the mission of the SSRG and serving in the United States Navy and Maritime industry.

2. Action. The Naval Science Department of the State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Unit will facilitate the Strategic Sealift Officer Program (SSOP) by providing leadership training and instruction to participating midshipmen. The Department of Naval Science will have a Strategic Sealift Officer (SSO) on staff, as available, to serve as a liaison between the SSOP and the NROTC. The liaison will assist the Department of Naval Science with course instruction, leadership labs, mentoring and advising sessions for SSOP midshipmen, and guide midshipmen with career advice pertaining to the SSOP and the maritime industry. In addition, the SSO liaison will provide the NROTC staff with assistance and information regarding the SSRG and SSOP. The NROTC unit will assign each midshipman to an academic advisor from the NROTC unit based on class year. In addition, the Naval Science Department will perform the following tasks outlined in reference (a):

Encl: (4)
a. Align the SSOP with the NROTC program for completing annual reports, general military training, and conducting leadership labs.

b. Exercise administrative control of all SSOP midshipmen and process midshipmen applications and appointments to the SSOP.

c. Process commission applications for the SSOP and assist with medical qualification and security clearances.

d. Manage the Student Incentive Payment program (SIP). Refer to reference (b).

3. Requirements for midshipmen in the Strategic Sealift Officer Program (SSOP) are designed to ensure their medical readiness, enhance their physical fitness, expand their professional knowledge, and build their leadership skills. While participating in the SSOP, midshipmen will be under the direction of the NROTC in accordance with reference (b).

a. Medical - Prior to entering the SSOP, all potential midshipmen must be medically cleared by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board DODMERB. To be medically cleared for participation in the program, candidates will complete a physical with their civilian doctor and submit Department of Defense (DOD) 2807-1 and 2808 physical forms to DODMERB for evaluation. Refer to reference (b).

b. Physical Readiness Test (PRT) - While participating in the SSOP, midshipmen will complete the Navy PRT every cycle. To encourage midshipmen to maintain satisfactory PRT performance throughout their future career, the SSOP will require midshipmen to score a "Good" or better in all categories per reference (c). According to reference (b), 1st class midshipmen must score a "Good" in all categories to be commissionable. Navy PRT standards vary according to age and gender.

c. Grade Point Average (GPA) - Midshipmen graduating through the SSOP will be commissioned as Naval Reserve Officers as well as serve shipboard in the maritime industry. These future officers will not only be expected to lead in the Navy, but be experts in their field in the maritime industry as well. To maintain a level of expertise in the community the SSOP requires Midshipmen to earn a 2.0 GPA or higher with no two consecutive semesters being below 2.5. Refer to reference (a). Practical experience pertaining to the maritime field is highly
valued by the SSOP. Sea term grades will carry the same weight as semester grades.

d. SSRO officers often fill the role of liaison between the United States Navy and the Merchant Fleet. SSOP midshipmen will be required to take Naval Science courses to familiarize their understanding of the Navy's mission, structure, and operation and to build leadership and decision making skills. In accordance with reference (b), the Naval Science classes required of the SSOP midshipmen include but are not limited to: Introduction to Naval Science (NVSC 101), Naval Science for the Strategic Sealift Officer (NVSC 204), and Leadership and Ethics (NBSC 402). In addition, the Naval Science Department will require participation in physical training (PT) and Leadership Lab 150/151, 250/251, 350/351, 450/451. The more knowledgeable a Strategic Sealift Officer (SSO) is on Naval Operations, the greater asset he or she will be to the SSRO and Military Sealift Command (MSC).

4. Student Incentive Pay (SIP) is available for midshipmen participating in the SSOP program. SIP is paid on a semester basis and is intended to help with education costs. To qualify for SIP midshipmen must apply and be accepted to a limited number of billets. Midshipmen must satisfy the requirements listed in paragraph "2." of this instruction to remain eligible for SIP. Specifically, they must remain medically qualified and maintain NROTC physical fitness and academic standards. SIP is funded by the Maritime Administration (MARAD). After their sophomore year of study, midshipmen and commissioned officers can be held financially responsible to MARAD for received SIP funds if they fail to satisfy minimum SSOP requirements and obligations. For more detailed information on the SIP refer to reference (d).

5. The SSOP seeks to facilitate a smooth transition from the NROTC to the United States Naval Reserve (USNR) Strategic Sealift Readiness Group (SSRG) upon graduation and commissioning.

a. To be commissioned into the USNR midshipmen must complete the NROTC program, as well as test and pass for a United States Coast Guard (USCG) unlimited deck or engine maritime officer license. Refer to reference (a).

b. Prior to commencement, the SSOP will prepare graduating midshipmen for transition into the USNR. Graduating midshipmen will be briefed on filing the MARAD Annual Obligation Report.
Midshipmen will also receive guidance on how to set up their first Active Duty for Training (ADT), the required Post Commissioning Indoctration (PCI) course.

6. Upon graduation, midshipmen will be commissioned as officers in the United States Navy Reserve (USNR), SSRG. According to reference (e), all commissioned officers in the SSOP will be assigned the 1665 designator and placed in the SSRG. Commissioned officers will be assigned to a Strategic Sealift Unit (SSU) based on their residence location. Refer to reference (f). If members wish to affiliate with the SSOP Selective Reserve (SELRES), they must work with a Navy Recruiter to find an available billet. Requirements to be compliant in the SSOP and remain active in the SSRG are discussed in detail in OPNAVINST 1534.1D. The outline below provides a summary of the requirements to be satisfied in order to remain compliant. Strategic Sealift Officers (SSO’s) are required to remain compliant in the program for a minimum of eight years; however, a retirement plan is optional for those willing and able to serve up to or beyond 20 years depending on the needs of the SSRG.

a. Five year commitment - SSO’s are expected to remain employed in the maritime industry for a period of five years. Preference of employment is shipboard; however, SSO’s may apply to the Maritime Administration (MARAD) for a waiver. MARAD will grant waivers based on the crewing demands of U.S. flag vessels and the applicability of the requested shore-side employment with the maritime industry. Satisfactory employment will be verified with the filing of the MARAD Annual Report completed between January 1st and March 1st. This report can be filed electronically on the Maritime Service Compliance System (MSCS) website. https://mcs.marcad.dot.gov/

b. Six year commitment - SSOP members must maintain an unlimited USCG license, Standards of Training, Certificate, and Watch keeping (STCW), and Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) for a period of six years. These documents are issued with a five year expiration which requires the officer to renew them at least once in their career. For officers wishing to stay active in the SSRG program for more than eight years, these documents are required to be program compliant. The SSRG supports the Navy and Military Sealift Command by providing licensed officers for shipboard operations. Maintaining licenses and supporting documentation is critical to fulfilling the mission of the SSRG.
c. Eight year commitment - SSO's must satisfy the following requirements for a minimum of eight years as part of their obligation to the United States Navy. Refer to reference (a). To be a valuable asset to the Navy, SSO's must maintain their physical condition, continue training, and update the Navy on career changes, job promotions, and the acquisition of additional professional skills. To be compliant in the SSOP, officers must complete the following:

(1) The PRT is required of all SSOP members once per cycle, twice per calendar year.

(2) A physical Health Assessment (PHA) is required once per calendar year.

(3) A minimum of 12 days of ADT is required every anniversary year from date of commissioning. ADT is designed to refresh and build on leadership and professional skills of the member as well as use the skill set of the member to support the ADT command. Priority will be given to ADT's supporting Military Sealift Command (MSC) and the MARAD.

(4) Members are required to update their personal and professional information regularly through the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS).

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