



# Establishment of Maritime Cyber Warfare Officer (MCWO) Fact Sheet

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## BLUF

NAVADMIN 143/23 announces the establishment of the Maritime Cyber Warfare Officer (MCWO) designator (188X). Officers from the Information Warfare Community will be the first group eligible for redesignation into the new designator. The February 2024 Lateral Transfer/Redesignation Board and future Lateral Transfer/Redesignation Boards will consider qualified officers from all communities.

## Who needs to know?

- Active Duty Officers
- Reserve Officers

## What you need to know – key points

- MCWO is a major milestone in expanding the Navy Cyber Community.
- MCWOs are experts in cyberspace operations and will focus on both Offensive and Defensive Cyberspace Operations.
- MCWOs will serve in operational and leadership tours across the cyber domain.
- Control Grade MCWOs will have the opportunity for O5 Command and Major Command in addition to senior staff positions across the Navy and Department of Defense.
- The Active Component will conduct an initial selection panel separate from the Lateral Transfer/Redesignation board process. **During the initial selection, only IW qualified Officers will be eligible.** Applications are due 90 days after the date of the NAVADMIN.
- Following the initial selection panel, the active MCWO community will accept lateral transfer/redesignation applications from all communities beginning with the February 2024 Lateral Transfer and Redesignation Board.
- MCWO will consider officers who have been referred to a Probationary Officer Continuation and Redesignation Board.
- MCWO will be a direct accession community. Officers will commission as MCWO through OCS, ROTC, and USNA.
- The Reserve Component MCWO community will be conducting redesignation panels in FY24 for conversion to MCWO.

## Sample POD/POW Notes

None

## FAQ

### Q. Why establish MCWO/1880?

A. MCWO/1880 was established in direct response to the NDAA 23, which directed the Navy to establish a cyber-warfare operations designator for officers and the recognized critical need for cyber specialization among Navy officer line community in order to allow officers to support the national cyber mission force.

### Q. How many MCWO will the Navy have?

A. The Navy anticipates having approximately 300 MCWOs.



**Q. Will officers outside of the Information Warfare Community be considered for the initial selection panel?**

**A.** No, only qualified officers currently in the IW community will be considered for the initial selection panel. All other qualified officers will be eligible to apply for the February Lateral Transfer and Redesignation Board.

**Q. Will MCWO consider officers who have been referred to a POCR board?**

**A.** Yes, officers who have been referred to a POCR board may be considered for MCWO. The MCWO community will utilize POCR as a source for new accession officers.

**Q. How will MCWO selected new accession officers?**

**A.** In FY24, MCWO will be a direct accession community. Officers will commission as MCWO through OCS, ROTC, and the USNA.

**Q. Will enlisted Sailors have the opportunity to apply for a commission as a MCWO?**

**A.** Yes, eligible enlisted Sailors can apply to commission as MCWO through OCS or USNA.

**Q. Will being redesignated as a MCWO affect personnel records?**

**A.** 1880 selects will be redesignated to the new designator. There will be no impact to existing Additional Qualifications Designation (AQD) in an officer's record.

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