



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL SERVICE TRAINING COMMAND  
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NSTCINST 1550.1E  
N3  
27 Jun 16

NSTC INSTRUCTION 1550.1E

From: Commander, Naval Service Training Command

Subj: LANGUAGE SKILLS, REGIONAL EXPERTISE, AND CULTURE ACADEMIC  
MAJOR POLICY FOR NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS  
NAVY OPTION MIDSHIPMEN

Ref: (a) U.S. Navy Language Skills, Regional Expertise, and  
Cultural Awareness Strategy of Jan 08  
(b) SECNAV Memo of 30 June 15  
(c) NSTCINST 1533.3A CH-1  
(d) 10 U.S.C. 2101, note P.L. 163  
(e) DoDI 1215.08  
(f) SECDEF Memo of 13 Aug 07  
(g) NSTCNOTE 1533 of 20 Jan 16  
(h) NSTCINST 1533.10  
(i) NSTC M-1533.2A  
(j) ASN (M&RA) Memo of 21 Apr 15  
(k) SLA Memo 5300, Ser N13/N127 of 27 Sep 13

Encl: (1) [NROTC Regional/Cultural Areas and Foreign Languages](#)

1. Purpose. To prescribe a Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NROTC) Language Skills, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) academic major policy for select midshipmen and ensure as commissioned officers, they possess LREC attributes desired by the Navy. Per reference (a), the Navy acknowledges the importance of LREC skills and seeks to enhance its LREC capability and capacity by encouraging undergraduate education in LREC studies. Per reference (b), the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) establishes the NROTC academic major policy for NROTC Navy Option Scholarship midshipmen. Until SECNAV provides further guidance, Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) shall use reference (c) for its academic major policy for NROTC scholarship midshipmen. NSTC incorporates its NROTC LREC academic major policy into reference (c) and assigns LREC program students as Tier 3 academic majors.

2. Cancellation. NSTCINST 1550.1D.

3. Background. In accordance with reference (d), the Secretary of Defense required all military branches develop and implement scholarship programs to increase enrollment in regional studies and language training per references (e) and (f).

#### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

a. SECNAV establishes policy regarding selection of academic majors by NROTC scholarship midshipman participating in their respective Service options.

b. Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education (DCNO MPT&E) (OPNAV N1), provides production guidance, establishes requirements for NROTC commissioned officers, and provides necessary resources.

c. Commander, Naval Education and Training Command supports NROTC production requirements through establishing policy and oversight of execution.

d. Commander, Naval Service Training Command (CNSTC) executes and achieves the requirements by implementing and sustaining an NROTC LREC program. NSTC updates strategic foreign language and cultural/regional listings; monitors program progress; directs student selection and placement; reviews/approves academic major changes; directs and manages program attrition and side-loads; enforces midshipmen contract agreements to include recoupment and service obligations; prescribes LREC policy and procedures to NROTC units; and monitors LREC midshipmen trends and overall applicant metrics. The NSTC Candidate Guidance Office publicizes the LREC program to NROTC applicants and assists applicants with selecting LREC academic programs.

e. NROTC units maintain a current NSTC listing of approved LREC academic majors; update NSTC on changes to LREC academic major curricula; counsel and mentor midshipmen about LREC applicable academic major requirements and policies; evaluate and recommend LREC academic major change requests; maintain accurate records regarding student academic majors; and establish and maintain student support programs.

#### 5. Requirements

a. NSTC will track NROTC LREC program information and report data to the Navy Foreign Language Office (OPNAV N13F) as required.

b. NSTC Officer Development (OD) will annually review NROTC academic institution course catalogs to ensure academic requirements support the NROTC LREC program. LREC academic

major list modifications and NROTC institution curricular modifications shall not cause midshipmen previously enrolled in an LREC academic major to forfeit their NROTC scholarship.

c. Specific requirements

(1) Total production requirements. The goal of the LREC program is to produce no fewer than 20 commissioned officers possessing LREC academic majors annually.

(2) Categorical production requirements. The NROTC LREC program does not have a goal for the allocation of regions, cultures, or languages; however, NSTC will promote variance in scholarship offers to encompass the regions, cultures, and languages of strategic interest to the Navy.

(3) LREC program requirements. NROTC LREC program applicants will major in Navy-approved regions, cultures and/or languages as listed in enclosure (1). Midshipmen who major in a region/culture will pass a minimum of four academic courses equaling a minimum of twelve credit hours in a single specific foreign language associated with the selected region/culture. Similarly, midshipmen who major in a foreign language will pass a minimum of four academic courses equaling a minimum of twelve credit hours in a region/culture associated with the selected language. Midshipmen will enroll in progressively more difficult courses until they meet the requirement.

(4) LREC program completion. Completion of the NROTC LREC program is based on fulfilling the college's/university's academic major requirements for the respective LREC program. Attainment of a specific level of language proficiency is not required by the NROTC LREC program. NSTC will not link Defense Language Proficiency Test scores to the LREC program degree requirements.

6. Applicability

a. Four-Year Scholarship Program. Per reference (c), NSTC will ensure a minimum of 85% of the incoming Navy Option Scholarship freshmen enroll as technical academic majors and approximately 15% as non-technical academic majors. NROTC LREC program midshipmen will be part of the approximately 15% non-technical academic majors.

b. College (Non-Scholarship) Program. NSTC will also include NROTC Navy Option, Advanced Standing College Program

midshipmen majoring in Navy approved regions, cultures, and languages.

7. Scholarship Recruiting and Application

a. NSTC N4/6 will ensure NROTC Program websites and publications include statements promoting the LREC program and display program requirements for participation. Statements will indicate that:

(1) NSTC OD will activate the scholarship only when the student satisfactorily develops a degree plan with the host NROTC unit and university and upon enrollment in the assigned academic major. NROTC units will document the approved degree plan in the automated record (Officer Program Management Information System (OPMIS)), the midshipman student file and the scholarship service agreement.

(2) The NROTC application will list the applicant as a Tier 3 academic major and specify the applicant's selected regional/cultural program of study and language of interest.

b. The web-based NROTC four-year national scholarship application will require applicants to identify their desired academic major. NSTC OD will use this information in selection and placement of those applying to academic majors in selected LREC programs.

c. NSTC will coordinate with the staffs of the Commander, Navy Recruiting Command and Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command to provide information and guidance related to this policy.

8. Scholarship Selection and Class Progression. To facilitate achieving the annual requirement of commissioning no fewer than 20 NROTC LREC program officers:

a. NSTC OD will ensure the NSTC draft of the precept and guidance for the NROTC Continuous National Selection Board supports the LREC production goal.

b. NSTC will ensure the selection board choices for incoming Navy Option Scholarship freshmen meet the annual CNSTC selection target.

c. Selection notifications will include LREC academic major requirements and an explanation of academic majors available

within the LREC program. Notifications will state that scholarship activation is contingent upon selectee's enrollment in the assigned academic major.

d. Throughout the academic year, NSTC OD will award side-load scholarships, per reference (g) or versions applicable at the time, to achieve required production of no fewer than 20 LREC commissioned officers annually.

9. Academic Major Transfer Requests. The academic major tier transfer policy for NROTC is set forth in reference (c). Further guidance for specific LREC academic program transfer requests during the freshman, sophomore or junior year (program policy defines these college years as a midshipman's first through third years of Naval Science) are provided below:

a. For LREC Tier 3 to Tier 1 or 2 transfer requests and Non-LREC Tier 3 to LREC Tier 3 transfer requests

(1) If the LREC or academic major list changes, the most recent approved list will apply to academic major transfers.

(2) If a midshipman adds terms (semester or quarter as appropriate) beyond four years by transferring academic majors, the midshipman will incur the additional costs or gain additional financial assistance per reference (h).

(3) The PNS may approve a transfer request if that request is in the best interest of the Navy.

(4) Process:

(a) The midshipman submits an academic major change request to the PNS a minimum of one term in advance of the desired change to facilitate its approval before the midshipman executes a new degree plan.

(b) The PNS reviews submission and either approves or disapproves the request and notifies NSTC OD of the final decision.

b. For LREC Tier 3 to non-LREC Tier 3 transfer requests and Tier 1 or 2 to LREC Tier 3 transfer requests

(1) If the LREC or academic major list changes, the most recent approved list will apply to academic major transfers.

(2) If a midshipman adds terms beyond four years by transferring academic majors, the midshipman will incur the additional costs or gain additional financial assistance per reference (h).

(3) As required, NSTC OD will convene a panel from a slate approved by CNSTC to review midshipmen requests to transfer to Tier 3 academic majors. Panels will consist of no fewer than three officers or federal civilians and will include representation from three of the following NSTC departments: Nuclear Programs, Professional Development, Selection and Placement, Unit Operations, and Student Operations. NSTC OD Professional Development will chair the panel. Midshipmen not recommended for a tier change may still be eligible for other scholarship options such as College Program, Nurse Corps Program, or Marine Corps Program.

(4) Process:

(a) The midshipman submits an academic major change request package a minimum of one term in advance of the desired change for initial evaluation by the NROTC unit staff and final review by an academic major change panel. The midshipman package must include reasons for the desired change, copies of transcripts, additional information as articulated in the implementing OPMIS Official Mail Message, and existing and proposed degree plans.

(b) NROTC unit staff reviews change request package and PNS forwards with endorsement to the academic major change panel for evaluation. Endorsement must include comments related to the reasons for the academic major change and applicant performance (e.g., character, academic performance and course load, aptitude, etc.).

(c) NSTC OD will forward the panel results to CNSTC or a designee for review. Once approved/disapproved, CNSTC or the designee will return the results to the PNS for appropriate action.

c. Failure to enroll in specified courses

(1) If a midshipman fails to enroll in courses appropriate to the LREC academic major to which assigned, NSTC will consider the midshipman not in compliance with program requirements and the NROTC unit will take appropriate, immediate action per reference (i).

(2) NROTC units will offer three options to freshmen NROTC Navy Option Scholarship midshipmen who depart their respective LREC academic major and are not placed into another academic major tier: College Program option, transfer to the Marine Corps or Nurse Corps option, or NROTC Program disenrollment.

(3) NROTC units will offer the College Program option as a first choice to NROTC Navy Option Scholarship midshipmen who have started their sophomore year, signed the NROTC Scholarship Service Agreement, but then depart their respective LREC program and academic major tier and do not follow the required process for placement into another academic major tier. NROTC units may also consider the midshipman for transfer to the Marine Corps and Nurse Corps. If the midshipman declines the College Program option and is not approved for transfer to the Marine Corps or Nurse Corps programs, the NROTC unit will recommend the midshipman for disenrollment, and the midshipman will either incur an obligation for active enlisted service or reimburse the United States for educational costs expended on the student's behalf, unless waived by the Secretary of the Navy as outlined in reference (j).



S. C. EVANS

Distribution:  
List 3 & 4

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**NROTC REGIONAL/CULTURAL AREAS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

1. Navy Approved Regional/Cultural Courses for NROTC LREC Program. NSTC will direct midshipmen to focus on one of the regional/cultural areas listed below when selecting an LREC academic major.

a. Regional/Cultural Areas:

(1) Middle East, Africa, and South Asia

(a) Middle East

(b) Africa

1. Sub-Saharan

2. North Africa

(c) South Asia

(2) Far East and Pacific

(a) East Asia/China

(b) Southeast Asia

(c) Southwest Asia

(3) Western Hemisphere

(a) Central America

(b) South America

(c) Latin America

(4) Europe, Russia and Associated States

(a) Russia/Eastern Europe

(b) Central Asia

2. Navy Approved Language Courses for NROTC LREC Program. NSTC will direct midshipmen to focus on one of the languages listed in the applicable version of reference (k), the Navy Strategic Language List, or in languages otherwise approved by CNSTC.

Enclosure (1)