



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 1412.8A

N86

09 March 1998

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1412.8A

**From:** Chief of Naval Operations  
**To:** All Ships and Stations (less Marine Corps field addressees not having Navy personnel attached)  
**Subj:** SURFACE WARFARE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OFFICER (SWMDO) QUALIFICATION AND DESIGNATION

1. **Purpose.** To revise and reissue the requirement for qualification and designation as a Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer (SWMDO). This is a significant revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.
2. **Cancellation.** OPNAVINST 1412.8.
3. **Background.** This instruction contains the standards and procedures that an officer must achieve and follow to qualify as a Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer.
4. **Discussion.** Qualification and designation as a Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer (SWMDO) recognizes the significant contributions made by officers of the medical department while serving aboard surface ships. SWMDO qualification represents a level of shipboard knowledge and experience that distinguishes an officer or warrant officer of the medical department from his or her peers. The SWMDO qualification program is not mandatory for all afloat medical department officers and, therefore, not all officers are expected to participate. Progress toward SWMDO qualification, if pursued, should be in conjunction with, but should not interfere with, the primary duties of a medical department officer.

09 MAR 1998

**5. Eligibility.** The following are eligible to attain designation as "Surface Warfare Medical Department Officers":

a. Commissioned medical department officers assigned permanent change of station (PCS) or temporary additional duty (TAD) to a commissioned U.S. Navy or Military Sealift Command (MSC) surface ship or afloat staff are eligible to attain SWMDO designation.

b. Ready Reserve Officers (Inactive Duty) meeting the following criteria:

(1) Assigned to afloat reserve unit for a minimum of 96 drill periods within a 3-year period, of which at least 40 must be performed on board ship.

(2) Pursue qualification over minimum of three 2-week Annual Training (AT) periods.

**6. Standards.** The intent of this instruction is that all officers seeking SWMDO qualification meet the same requirements and high standards of performance. An officer pursuing qualification as a SWMDO must:

a. Be a graduate of at least one of the following courses of instruction:

(1) Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer Indoctrination Course.

(2) Dental Officers' Operational Forces Management Seminar.

(3) Commander Amphibious Task Force (CATF) Surgeon Course.

(4) Landing Force Medical Staff Planning Course.

(5) A formal course of operational medical training certified as equivalent to the above by the force medical officer of the applicable type commander (TYCOM).

09 MAR 1998

b. Be assigned in a commissioned U.S. Navy or MSC surface ship as a commissioned officer for a minimum of 6 months cumulative duty. This duty need not be continuous.

c. Complete Shipboard Fire Fighting School.

d. Complete the following professional qualification standard (PQS):

(1) Damage Control (NAVEDTRA 43119-G) watchstations:

301 Damage Control Communications

302 Basic First Aid

303 Basic Damage Control

304 Basic Fire Fighting

305 Fire Watch

306 Basic Chemical, Biological, and Radiological  
(CBR) Defense

(2) Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) CICWO/OOD (U/W)  
(NAVEDTRA 43101-4E), fundamentals and systems:

101 Safety Precautions

104 Combat Information Center (CIC)  
Mission/Functions

106 Combat Information Center (CIC) Watch  
Organization and Personnel

108 Radar

111 Naval Radio Communications

112 Maneuvering Board

115 U.S. Naval Assets

116 Naval Gun and Ammunition

OPNAVINST 1412.8A

**09 MAR 1998**

- (ASMD)
- 119 Air Warfare (AW)/Antiship Missile Defense
  - 120 Surface Warfare (SUW)
  - 121 Propagation of Sound
  - 122 Sonar
  - 124 Undersea Warfare (USW) Organization
  - 127 Electronic Warfare (EW)
  - 128 Electronic Support (ES)
  - 129 Electronic Attack (EA)
  - 130 Electronic Protection (EP)
  - 132 Mine Warfare Operations
  - 134 Amphibious Task Force/Task Group Organization
  - 135 Amphibious Warfare Operations
  - 136 Amphibious Landing Craft
  - 137 Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS)
  - 138 Naval Threat
  - 139 Bridge Equipment
  - 140 Underway Bridge Watch
  - 141 Deck Seamanship
  - 143 Anchoring
  - 145 Connected Underway Replenishment (CONREP)
  - 146 Aviation Operations On Surface Ships
  - 147 Towing
  - 148 Shiphandling

**09 MAR 1998**

- 149 Special/Emergency Evolutions
- 150 Weather
- 155 Navigation
- 157 Visual Communications
- 203 Naval Radio Communications
- 204 Naval Gun
- 206 Naval Missile
- 207 Surface Ship Sonar
- 208 Surface Ship Undersea Warfare (USW) Weapons
- 210 Ship Control
- 211 Anchor Windlass
- 212 Anchor
- 213 Connected Underway Replenishment (CONREP)

(3) SWO Engineering (NAVEDTRA 43101-3 Series),  
fundamentals and systems:

- 101 Engineering Safety Precautions Fundamentals
- 102 Hearing Conservation Program
- 103 Shipboard Heat Stress Control Program
- 104 Sight Conservation Program
- 105 Mechanical Fundamentals
- 113 Electrical Fundamentals
- 118 Distilling Plant Fundamentals
- 122 Hazardous Material Control and Management  
(HMC&M) Program
- 219 Distilling Plant Systems

OPNAVINST 1412.8A

**09 MAR 1998**

- 220 Fresh Water Service and Transfer Systems
- 222 Compressed Air
- 223 Ship's Service 60/400 Hz Electrical  
Distribution
- 230 Sound-Powered Telephone Communication
- 246 Steering System

(a) Officers serving aboard ships with steam or nuclear propulsion complete the following additional sections:

- 106 Boiler
- 111 Steam Turbine
- 201 Basic Steam Cycle
- 202 Propulsion and Auxiliary Boilers
- 204 Main Steam System
- 206 150 psi Auxiliary Steam System
- 210 Propulsion Turbine and Reduction Gear
- 211 Main Condenser/Main Condenser Seawater  
Circulating
- 212 Main Condensate System

(b) Officers serving aboard ships with gas turbine propulsion complete the following additional sections:

- 116 Gas Turbine Fundamentals
- 240 Gas Turbine Module System
- 244 Main Propulsion Clutch/Brake System

(c) Officers serving aboard ships with diesel propulsion complete the following additional sections:

- 115 Diesel Engine Fundamentals

09 MAR 1998

234 Diesel Engine System

238 Diesel Propulsion System

e. Complete 3-M Operations and Administration Course (J-500-0025) available on STEP or Ship's Maintenance and Material Management (3M) PQS (NAVEDTRA 43241-G), watchstation 304, Division Officer.

f. Demonstrate a working knowledge of shipboard organization and chain of command; ship workup and deployment cycles; naval correspondence, including message traffic; afloat medical supply operations; shipboard preventative medicine, occupational health, safety, and sanitation requirements and programs; shipboard wellness and health promotion programs; medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) procedures; medical aspects of nuclear, biological, and chemical defense; and the specific responsibilities of medical department officers at sea, including the management of combat casualties and medical aspects of operations other than war.

g. Demonstrate effective medical/clinical performance in direct patient care at sea or in support of direct patient care at sea.

h. Demonstrate effective leadership and management skills while performing duties as a medical department officer afloat by receiving no unsatisfactory grade on a medical or dental inspection or evaluation, including an medical readiness assessment (MRA) or dental readiness assessment (DRA), as applicable, in any area for which the officer is directly responsible or accountable. Any such area receiving an unsatisfactory grade must be documented as satisfactory during a subsequent reinspection in order for the officer to be recommended by his or her commanding officer for SWMDO designation. In the case of a medical or dental department head, this includes all areas of medical or dental, as applicable. Since a medical department officer's service afloat may not coincide with a formal MRA or DRA, personal participation in an MRA or DRA, while desirable, is not required for SWMDO designation.

i. After satisfying the requirements in paragraphs 6a through 6h, display a general professional knowledge of all aspects of own ship's systems, interrelations, capabilities, and mission in terms of above PQS requirements before a multi-member board. This board will be chaired by the commanding officer,

09 MAR 1998

surface warfare qualified MSC area, sub-area, or afloat staff commander (as appropriate) or a designated Surface Warfare Officer, lieutenant commander or senior, and comprised of Surface Warfare officers and the ship's senior SWMDO (if the ship has a SWMDO assigned).

j. Medical department officers previously designated as Surface Warfare officers or Surface Warfare Officer qualified may request designation as SWMDO upon completion of the requirements listed in paragraphs 6a, 6b, and 6f through 6h from a qualifying officer.

## **7. Approval of Qualification**

a. The commanding officers may qualify an officer as a SWMDO upon completion of all requirements listed in paragraph 6.

b. Medical department officers assigned to afloat MSC units may be qualified by the MSC area, sub-area, or afloat staff commander, as appropriate.

c. Once qualification is achieved, transfer from one ship to another shall not require requalification as a SWMDO.

d. If qualification has not been achieved upon transfer to another ship, the commanding officer of the ship receiving the officer will recognize recorded attainment to date but may require a demonstration of knowledge in any or all areas as deemed appropriate.

e. In the interest of maintaining consistent standards of qualification, TYCOMs (including Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic/Pacific and Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic/Pacific for surface ships in their command) and immediate superiors in command (ISIC) are directed to ensure the spirit and intent of this instruction are followed by units in their command. That should be accomplished by monitoring and evaluating qualifiers and qualification programs.

## **8. Designation and Authority to Wear the Insignia**

a. The qualifying officer is authorized to present the SWMDO Insignia to an officer upon qualification. The achievement should be recognized at an appropriate ceremony and relevant comments should be included in the officer's next regular fitness report.



09 MAR 1998

b. The qualifying officer shall forward notification of all SWO qualifications via TYCOM to the Bureau of Personnel (Pers-44) for all active duty officers. A copy shall be sent to the Bureau of Medicine (BUMED-53). Upon receipt, Pers-44 shall assign the Additional Qualification Designator (AQD) of LA7.

**9. Revocation of Qualification**

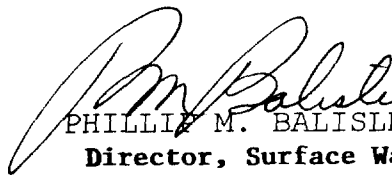
a. A SWMDO shall retain such designation until it is revoked by the Bureau of Personnel.

b. A commanding officer, or any ISIC in the individual's chain of command, may recommend revocation of SWMDO designation when an officer's performance of medical duties afloat or in support of afloat forces is unsatisfactory.

c. A recommendation for revocation shall not be made in lieu of detachment for cause, nor shall recommendations automatically be included in cases of detachment for cause. Revocation may be considered and recommended coincident with a detachment for cause but shall be handled administratively as a separate action by the Bureau of Personnel.

d. Upon approval of revocation, the SWMDO AQD will be removed.

**10. Review.** As principal advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations on surface warfare matters, the Director, Surface Warfare Division (N86) is charged with periodic review and update of this instruction.

  
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**Director, Surface Warfare Division  
(Acting)**

Distribution:  
SNDL Parts 1 and 2