

**BRIEF CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF TRAINING OF JUNIOR OFFICERS,
WITH AN EMPHASIS ON OCS AT NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND**

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October 1775 the Continental Congress created a regular Continental Navy with four grades of officer: Captain, Lieutenant, Masters (professional navigators), and Midshipman.

In the period from 1812 to the Civil War there was a mad scramble for politically appointed officer commissions. Generally, a Captain could always readily find a crew for a newly commissioned vessel.

The Naval Regulations of 1802 prescribed schoolmasters to train young officers in the important subjects of arithmetic and writing. Young Midshipmen (the most junior officers) got most of their training on board the ships.

In 1814 the initial proposal for a naval academy to rival West Point was discussed in Washington. Nothing came of this early plan.

1821 saw two government sponsored schools for Midshipmen at Norfolk and New York. The Norfolk school was aboard the frigate JAVA.

In 1833 three naval schools functioned under government control in Boston, New York and Norfolk. Exams for Midshipmen were not held at these small schools. The Board of Naval Officers, meeting at the Barnum Hotel (Baltimore) determined the promotions.

In 1838 a school to teach navigation and seamanship was started on the grounds of the Philadelphia Naval Asylum.

10 October 1845 George Bancroft, Secretary of the Navy, decreed that the Naval Academy be founded in Annapolis, Md. There would be a later move to create a new category (rank) for forthcoming Naval Academy graduates.

In the 1821-1845 period Midshipmen were trained ashore at the small naval schools started in 1821 and 1833. When they commenced their training they were promoted to the rank of Passed Midshipmen.

Prior to the Civil War there was a move to standardize the Army and Navy ranks. The Naval Reorganization Act of 1862 introduced the rank of Ensign. The lowest commissioned officers in the Navy were given that rank. This new grade was filled by Passed Midshipmen of the Naval Academy. (The grade was really created to be in line with the Army grade of Second Lieutenant).

The Civil War saw the government enlarge the regular Navy with thousands of volunteer officers commissioned from the Merchant Marine and commercial steamer ranks. This was, in effect, the first step toward a regular system of naval reserves. These volunteers showed their courage in battle in a more than satisfactory manner.

An Act of 5 August 1882 provided that undergraduates of the Naval Academy be called Naval Cadets. For two years a new grade, Ensign J.G. was developed. This new grade temporarily discontinued the old, traditional rank of Midshipmen.

Two years later, in 1884, the 1882 Act was revised to allow a Naval Academy graduate to be commissioned as an Ensign. The Ensign J.G. grade was discontinued.

In 1914 Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels prescribed a certain number of promotions from the enlisted to officer rank. Enlisted men could get appointments to Annapolis by way of a competitive examination. With the onset of the U.S. involvement in World War I these promotions from the enlisted ranks were an important source of officer material.

In 1926 the Navy began its Reserve Officer Training Corps program on six college campuses: California, Georgia Tech, Harvard, Northwestern, Washington and Yale. By 1941 there were twenty seven ROTC units; by 1956 fifty two units.

After World War II, 1945, the Navy faced a manpower problem that the Naval Academy alone could not handle. Rear Admiral James L. Holloway wanted the NROTC to produce career officers. In 1946 the Holloway Plan was augmented by Public Law 729 (August 1946) -- this law held the NROTC program to 7,000 students who would be obligated to a service contract of four years. A number of distinguished people emerged from this program: John W. Young, Charles Conrad, Eugene A. Cernan and Alan L. Beam, all astronauts. A later NROTC Vitalization Act (1964) would push the student limit back to 5,500.

The U.S. Naval School, Officer, Women was established as part of the General Line School (established in Newport in July of 1946) following passage of the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act of 1948.

The first class of Ensigns convened on 3 January 1949. This school was initiated to provide General Line women officers as well as officers for the Nurse and Medical Service Corps.

In March 1951 the Navy Department announced that an Officers' Candidate School would be established at the U.S. Naval Training Station, Newport, R.I.

13 April 1951 marked the establishment of the U.S. Naval School, Officer Candidate, U.S. Naval Training Station, Newport. The new school's mission was to "Instruct and indoctrinate enlisted candidates for commission." The first commanding officer was Captain Ralph C. Johnson.

On 4 June 1951 the first OCS class of 287 convened. At that time the successful completion of a four month course led to commissioning as a Naval Reserve Ensign.

21 September 1951 noted the first OCS graduation. The school's quota was more than doubled, approximately 800 candidates were to be appointed every two months. The OCS accelerated program offered a limited number of openings in two programs that had been previously closed: Supply Corps and Civil Engineering.

SecNav Notice 5450, effective 1 October 1952 merged the Naval School, General Line, and Naval School, Officer Candidate. All three schools became the Naval Schools Command under Captain Ralph C. Johnson.

On 23 December 1960 OCS separated from the Naval Schools Command to become a separate command. Captain Robert W. Clark was the Commanding Officer.

The Women's Officer's School, established in 1948, in 1952 became part of the U.S. Naval Schools Command, Newport, R.I. This school primarily trained women Officer Candidates for Line and Supply Corps, Officer Indoctrinees for Line and Supply Corps; and for Officer Indoctrinees for Nurse and Medical Corps. The source of these women officers was from college graduates, college juniors or selected enlisted women who had attended a college under the NESEP program. The initial Officer Candidate Course for women was 16½ weeks; the Nurse Corps Indoctrination Course ran 4½ weeks. In 1970 the Officer Candidate Course was cut back to 8 weeks.

In October of 1972 there was an intensive study geared to combining the men and women's officer candidate programs. A proposal for a new curriculum was presented to CNET on 9 February 1973. CNO 041934Z, dated May 1973, approved a pilot program for the new OCS curriculum.

23 June 1973 the first consolidated class of men and women to convene together began. In that class were 100 men and 52 women.

2 November 1973 marked the first co-educational graduation and commissioning at the Officer Candidate School. The Candidate School Guest Speaker was Captain Fran McKee (later to be named as the Navy's first female line Rear Admiral).

1 April 1974 as a result of the Shore Establishment Realignment Act of 1973 the Naval Officer Training Center, Naval Station, Naval Base, Public Works Center, and Naval Supply Center were disestablished.

The new command was called the Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, R.I. The first Commanding Officer was Captain Howard N. Kay.

15 September 1974 the first woman regimental commander was selected; her name was Diana E. Huntress.

1 November 1974, on the first anniversary of co-educational graduation, the Guest Speaker was the senior woman line officer in the Navy, Captain Janet Lewis, Deputy Chief of Naval Material for Management and Organization.

On 27 June 1975 there was a historic speaker-- Rear Admiral Robert E. Morris, the first Officer Candidate School graduate to be selected for flag rank from the unrestricted line.

1 July 1975 Captain Lucille R. Kuhn, the first female director of OCS, assumed command and directorship of the Officer Candidate School.

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