

EDUCATIONAL SKILL REQUIREMENTS (ESRs)
ACADEMIC SUPPORT – HISTORY
Subspecialty Code: 4302P

Historians analyze human and societal actions over time. With a longitudinal orientation, they explain the origins of contemporary world circumstances. Officers with this training help America's maritime services develop a fuller and deeper understanding of the fundamental traditions, attitudes, and world-views of the regions in which they are called to operate. Given the proper training in methodological approaches to analyzing historical events, officers can provide objective and analytical historical explanations to contemporary problems that the Navy identifies as important to U.S. national security or to the service itself.

1. **FUNDAMENTAL AREAS:** The officer will satisfactorily complete requirements and be awarded a Master's Degree in History at an accredited university or college, subject to the approval of the History SME. The officer will also develop sufficient mastery to qualify for teaching History at the undergraduate level. During the course of study, officers shall become well-versed in the following fundamental tenets of the discipline:
 - a. **Historical Awareness.** Historians will have an understanding and appreciation of the importance of past experiences in shaping social structures, ideas, perceptions, and events. They will recognize the antecedents of contemporary global, regional and military developments. Historians should be able to describe a person, idea, or event as representative or variant of its historical circumstances, and to explain the roots of a global, regional or military situation.
 - b. **Complexity of Humans' Decision-Making.** Historians understand that different historical circumstances pose different leadership challenges. With historical understanding and knowledge they illuminate the orientations that other peoples bring to decision-making in modern military and civilian life. Historians can present the perspective, mindset or orientation of a person from a difference culture or epoch, explaining the arguments of others and analyzing their strength and coherence.
 - c. **Geo-political Understanding and Cultural Awareness.** Historians must develop an expanded familiarity with global physical and political geography and historical relationships among regions and countries; awareness of global ecological and material interactions. Historians must also recognize that politics is an aspect of culture. They should be able to understand the importance of culture, past and contemporary, outside of their own. Historians can objectively analyze and describe a nation or culture whose traditions, social and political structures, and values differ from those of their own.

- d. **Lateral Thinking.** Historians develop the ability to examine the inter-relationships of social, economic, political, cultural and intellectual factors that give rise to phenomena or situations. They see the world as a web of contemporaneous influences. Trained to recognize that events always have multiple, complex causes, they weigh and order the various and contemporary causal factors behind circumstances, and recognize relationships between cultural, economic, social and political factors in a particular situation.
 - e. **Solving Open-ended Problems.** Historians develop the skill to work with partial, incomplete and imperfect evidence. They attack problems that seldom have a single correct solution, and they recognize that the imperfect analyses or solutions which they do reach give rise to yet additional problems or issues. They must develop strategies for approaching new problems, finding and assessing evidence and relevant historiography, determining relevant variables and defensible conclusions. Their projects require narrative ability, as well as higher level skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.
2. **APPLICATIONS:** While study in any field of history will satisfy the requirements of Paragraph 1, officers should, when offered, choose courses of study that can be directly utilized by the Navy and Marine Corps. Applicable fields are not limited to, but include:
- a. Military History (includes naval, air power, counterinsurgency, etc.)
 - b. Diplomatic/Foreign Policy
 - c. Regional (Mideast, Asia, Latin America, etc.)
 - d. Historical Geography
 - e. Environmental
3. **COMMUNICATION AND RESEARCH SKILLS:** Historians must present their analyses with sensitivity to language and audience, and they must work with an appreciation of the differences between information and argument, and when each is appropriate. They must develop the ability to research and convey information, to articulate views orally and in writing, and to construct cogent arguments. The officer will perform independent research and complete a thesis, while also developing the necessary skills to lecture/teach at the undergraduate level.

Navy Subspecialty Code Subject Matter Expert:

Craig C. Felker, Capt., USN

(name)



(signature)

Chair, Department of History, U.S. Naval
Academy
(title, organization)

13 JUL 14

(date)