

Opportunities in Uniform

NAVY

- **What do psychologists do in the Navy?** The Navy employs psychologists in 3 major specialties: Clinical/Counseling Psychology; Research Psychology, and Aerospace Experimental Psychology. The information in the following sections pertains specifically to Clinical/Counseling Psychology. Additional information about Research Psychology and Aerospace Experimental Psychology can be obtained from the following points-of-contact: Research Psychology: CAPT David F. Neri (202) 762-3508; dfneri@US.MED.NAVY.MIL, Aerospace Experimental Psychology: CAPT J. K. Schmidt
- **What do Clinical and Counseling psychologists do in the Navy?** Navy Clinical and Counseling psychologists work with service members, their families, and retirees throughout the world in a wide variety of settings (inpatient, outpatient, substance abuse programs, etc.). They also have the opportunity to work in unique jobs that are not typically available to civilian psychologists such as special operations units (e.g., Navy SEALs), operational platforms (e.g., hospital ships, aircraft carriers), on the faculty at the Naval Academy, and at the White House. There are also opportunities to teach and supervise training in the Navy's APA-approved Clinical Psychology Internship Programs at Naval Medical Center, San Diego and National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. Assignments are based on professional development as a psychologist and naval officer as well as the needs of the Navy. The scope of responsibility enjoyed by Navy psychologists increases with years of experience in the Navy. At the most senior levels, psychologists have served as Executive Directors in major medical treatment facilities, heads of multidisciplinary mental health departments at large teaching and non-teaching hospitals, heads of large substance abuse treatment programs, and as developers of mental health policy at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.
- **What kinds of training does the Navy offer for psychologists?** The Navy offers training for psychologists at three levels. Doctoral training (Ph.D. in clinical psychology) is offered through the Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), Bethesda, MD. (Additional information about the USUHS program can be found at www.usuhs.mil). Doctoral students are commissioned as naval officers and receive tuition-free education as well as full pay and benefits. Psychologists who complete the USUHS program are required to serve on active duty for seven years. APA-approved internship training is offered at Naval Medical Center, San Diego and National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. Candidates for Navy

internships are selected from civilian university doctoral programs in Clinical or Counseling Psychology that have been accredited by the American Psychological Association. Interns are commissioned as Lieutenants prior to beginning internship and incur a three-year service obligation following internship. Post-doctoral fellowship opportunities include pediatric psychology, neuropsychology, and health/psychopharmacology. Fellowships are limited and are reserved for psychologists already on active duty.

- **Other than the USUHS doctoral program and internships, how can psychologists enter the Navy?** The Navy accepts applications from licensed Clinical and Counseling Psychologists who meet the following criteria:
 1. U. S. citizenship
 2. APA-accredited doctoral program and internship
 3. Meet Navy physical health standards
 4. Current state licensure
 5. Age 42 or under at the time of commissioning

- **What is included in the Navy benefits package?** The Navy benefits package includes:
 1. A salary, including tax-free housing and subsistence allowances, superior to the civilian sector, with pay increases per military rank.
 2. Full health/pharmacy/dental coverage for the psychologist and family.
 3. 30 days vacation with pay every year.
 4. Annual bonus for ABPP Diplomate status and financial support to pursue ABPP status.
 5. Retirement eligible starting at 20 years of service with lifelong health coverage and pension.
 6. Possibility for student loan repayment and advanced fellowship training.

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