

**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON TN 38055-0000**

IN REPLY REFER TO
BUPERSINST 1500.62A
PERS-446
20 Mar 2002

BUPERS INSTRUCTION 1500.62A

From: Chief of Naval Personnel
To: All Ships and Stations (less Marine Corps field
addresses not having personnel attached)

Subj: TEST PILOT SCHOOLS (TPS)

1. Purpose. To publish information concerning courses of instruction offered at the United States Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS), United States Air Force Test Pilot School (USAFTPS), British Empire Test Pilot School (ETPS), and the French Test Pilot School (EPNER). This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. BUPERSINST 1500.62.

3. Background

a. Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC), Aircraft and Weapons Divisions, Patuxent River, MD, China Lake, CA, Pt. Mugu, CA as well as Operational Test and Evaluation Squadrons are responsible for testing and evaluating aircraft systems, components, and related equipment. USNTPS is responsible for training experienced Fleet naval aviators, naval flight officers (NFOs), and project engineers to conduct these tests.

b. Navy has TPS exchange programs with the United States Air Force, Royal Air Force, and the French Navy. USAFTPS is located at Edwards Air Force Base, CA; ETPS at Boscombe Down, Salisbury, England; and EPNER at Istres, France.

c. Assignment of TPS graduates is based on needs of the service. USNTPS graduates can normally expect to complete a 36 to 42-month tour, including TPS, at NAWC. Graduates of USAFTPS, ETPS, and EPNER may normally expect a 24- to 30-month follow-on tour at a Navy activity requiring test pilots.

4. Scope

a. Duration of courses of instruction is approximately 1 year.

b. Academic study in aerodynamics, stability and control, power plant analysis, airborne systems, and related engineering subjects are included in all four courses of instruction.

c. Flight syllabus at each school is designed to provide actual experience in testing of modern aircraft and airborne systems, as well as reduction analysis and reporting of data obtained.

d. USNTPS offers three curricula: fixed wing, rotary wing, and airborne systems. Fixed wing and rotary wing curricula prepare pilots and engineers to test airborne mission systems as well as flying qualities and performance. Airborne systems curriculum prepares NFOs and engineers to test airborne mission systems.

e. Multi-engine candidates can expect jet transition training and rotary wing candidates can expect multi-engine training en route to USNTPS. Candidates enroute to ETPS and EPNER can expect aircraft/systems preparatory training at USNTPS. Additionally, candidates selected for EPNER will attend Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA for 6 months and complete the 3-month French technical language course in France prior to class convening date.

5. Convening Dates. Classes are convened at USNTPS in January and July of each year. Each class mix of aviators and NFOs will be determined by the Test Pilot School Selection Board based on current requirements. USAFTPS convenes classes in January and July, ETPS and EPNER convenes classes in January of each year. Navy selects a candidate for EPNER every third class.

6. Eligibility. Designated naval aviators and NFOs through grade of lieutenant commander may apply. All applications will be reviewed by Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM) (PERS-446) to determine board eligibility. Applicants for TPS must meet following minimum qualifications:

a. Bachelor of Science degree in engineering, physical science, or mathematics (may be waived if requirements dictate and applicant has completed college-level calculus and physics). For those interested in Navy Cooperative Program, see special academic requirements listed in paragraph 7 of this instruction.

b. Recent experience in an operational squadron. While it is highly desirable applicants shall have acquired over 1,000 hours of flight time (projected to class convening date); waivers may be granted in special cases where unique individual qualifications exist.

c. Only fixed wing pilots will be considered for USAFTPS. Only fixed wing and rotary wing pilots will be considered for ETPS and EPNER.

7. NPSTPS Cooperative Program

a. Naval Postgraduate School - Naval Test Pilot School (NPSTPS) Cooperative Program provides an opportunity for all communities to enter the test pilot program. A concentrated five-quarter Aeronautical Engineering curriculum is offered. In addition, NFOs may choose a six-quarter Aeronautical Engineering/Avionics curriculum. Successful graduates of Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) and follow-on TPS curricula are awarded a Master's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering (subspecialty code XX71P or XX72P), designation as a test pilot school graduate, and are subsequently assigned to the NAWC for approximately 24-30 months. Candidates must be volunteers (specify in paragraph 9, of TPS application), and have less than 7 years commissioned service.

b. Due to accelerated nature of NPS portion of the program, candidates must have an exceptional academic background. It is desired applicants have a Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a "B" average or better, although consideration may be given to those with a physical science or mathematics major. Specific background is desired in math through ordinary differential equations, statistics, dynamics, strength of materials, thermodynamics, and fluid dynamics. Background in one of these areas may be waived for highly qualified applicants, provided they are able to report to NPS one quarter early for refresher training.

8. Selection. Selections will be made by the board approximately 6 months prior to the class convening dates, as follows:

a. February selection board will select students for the July USNTPS, USAFTPS, and NPSTPS classes.

b. July selection board will select students for January USNTPS class, January ETPS class, September EPNER class, and NPSTPS. EPNER class selection is every 3 years.

9. Enrollment Procedures

a. Applications should be submitted no earlier than 9 months prior to desired class. Deadline for receipt of applications is 60 days prior to published selection board convening month.

b. Applicants who are not selected will not automatically be considered by the next selection board. Application for subsequent boards needs only to include a current command endorsement, an updated flight hour report/any other significant changes since initial submission which would affect selection.

c. Applications will be addressed to NAVPERSCOM (PERS-446B), 5720 Integrity Drive, Millington, TN 38055-4460, and shall include the following information:

(1) Total number of flight hours as of date of application (listed by hours and aircraft).

(2) Total number of flight hours projected to convening date of the class for which application is made.

(3) Number of day and night carrier/shipboard/small deck landings as of date of application.

(4) Number of day and night carrier/shipboard/small deck landings projected to convening date of the class for which application is made.

(5) Special mission/community qualifications to include total hours and date qualified, if applicable (e.g., P-3C PP/400 hrs/JUN 01, E-2C CECO/100 hrs/MAY 01, F-14A Division Leader/300 hrs/DEC 01).

(6) Significant operational deployments (timeframe/duration).

(7) List of TPS programs for which applicants desire to be considered (i.e., USNTPS, USAFTPS, ETPS, EPNER, NPSTPS Cooperative Program).

(8) Agreement not to tender resignation or request inactive duty (if United States Naval Reserve (USNR)) while attending training. Agreement to serve on active duty for a period of 4 years after completion of training.

(9) A completed NAVPERS 1301/1, Officer Preference and Personnel Information Card.

(10) Education Background. Transcripts of courses completed, including pertinent postgraduate courses, are essential for selection and must be available to the board. Applicants should provide a copy of transcripts with application if doubt exists that a transcript is in the individual's service record.

(11) Any additional information about applicant's background and experience which would be useful to the board in choosing those officers who would be best suited for selection.

d. Commanding Officer's (CO's) endorsement of the application shall include an evaluation of applicant's airmanship, temperament, and motivation. Only those officers who are truly outstanding and have the ability and desire to progress rapidly in aviation should be recommended. The CO shall also review applicant's projected flight hours and carrier/shipboard/small deck landings, and special qualifications to ensure they are realistic in terms of projected command employment.

10. Declination. Selectees who elect not to attend TPS shall notify NAVPERSCOM (PERS-446) by official letter, as soon as possible but not later than 30 days after selection.

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11. Form. NAVPERS 1301/1, (Rev. 10-83), Officer Preference and Personal Information Card, S/N 0106-LF-013-0109, is available in the Naval Inventory Control Point using requisitioning procedures contained in CD-ROM NAVSUP PUB 600(NLL), Navy Stock List of Publications and Forms.

G. L. HOEWING
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel

Distribution:
SNDL Parts 1 and 2