

# THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PILOT PROGRAM

A new program for the Navy Reserve is giving selected Reservists another area in which Reserve Force expertise adds to the strategic depth of the Navy.

The Foreign Language and Culture Pilot Program that allows Reservists, in specific designators and ratings (see sidebar), to receive bonuses for completing certain language and culture studies programs at accredited colleges and universities. Eligibility for this program is established by OPNAVINST 1550.11.

Bonuses potentially could be as high as \$5,000 during a fiscal year.

To be eligible for the program enlisted members must have at least 24 months remaining on their service contract at completion of the last approved course.

Officers must agree, by signing a page 13, to continue serving as a selected Reservist for 24 continuous months following the end of the last approved course.

A course of study in critical languages and regional areas or cultural disciplines must meet the certain criteria to be approved.

The course must be three or more credit hours and completed at an institution of higher learning which is accredited and recognized by the Department of Education (DOE). A database of accredited institutions can be found at the DOE Web site at <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation>.

To apply for bonuses eligible members should submit the course application, the Language Culture Bonus application (OPNAV 1500/55) and a copy of the course description from the school's course catalog within 60 days of registering for the course.

To receive the bonus submit the course application, a completed Language Culture Bonus application with course grade and a course transcript with a grade of "C" or higher within 60 days of course completion.

If there are any questions members should contact their local Navy Reserve Activity, education service officer or the program point of contact Lisa Wade COMNAVRESFOR N73,(757) 322-6607/ DSN: 262 Fax: (757) 444-1061, [cnrfc\\_ciso@navy.mil](mailto:cnrfc_ciso@navy.mil). Additional information can be found at [www.navyreserve.navy.mil](http://www.navyreserve.navy.mil) under N7 Training Department (by clicking the CISO link).

Courses must focus on the following languages or one of the disciplines for a designated cultural regional area:

Foreign Languages:  
 Modern standard Arabic and Arabic dialects  
 Cambodian/Khmer  
 Chinese – Mandarin  
 Hausa  
 Hindi  
 Ibo/Igbo  
 Indonesian  
 Japanese  
 Kurdish  
 Malay  
 Pashto/Pashtu  
 Persian – Dari/Farsi  
 Philippine languages (excluding Tagalog)  
 Serbo-croatian  
 Somali  
 Swahili  
 Thai  
 Turkish  
 Urdu  
 Vietnamese  
 Yoruba

Regional Areas:  
 Caribbean  
 Central America  
 Central Asia  
 East Asia  
 Eastern Europe  
 Middle East North Africa  
 South America  
 South Asia  
 Southeast Asia  
 Sub-Saharan Africa  
 West Africa

Disciplines:  
 Economics  
 Foreign Language  
 Geography  
 History  
 Political Science  
 Religion  
 Sociology/Anthropology



The following officer and enlisted communities are eligible for the program:

1655 Public Affairs	Builder (BU)
2105 Medical Corps	Construction Electrician (CE)
2205 Dental Corps	Construction Mechanic (CM)
2505 JAG Corps	Engineering Aide (EA)
2905 Nurse Corps	Equipment Operator (EA)
3105 Supply Corps	Hospital Corpsman (HM)
4105 Chaplain Corps	Master-at-Arms (MA)
5105 Civil Engineering Corps	Mass Communication Specialist (MC)
	Steelworker (SW)
	Utilitiesman (UT)

Applications from other designators and ratings will be considered on a case by case basis.

The total bonus amount paid to an individual participant shall not exceed \$5,000 in the fiscal year the course is completed. The following award levels are authorized:

Bonus Amount	Course Level and Discipline
\$1,250	100-200 (or equivalent) level culture
\$1,500	300 and higher (or equivalent) level culture
\$2,000	100-200 (or equivalent) level language
\$2,500	300 and higher (or equivalent) level language

