

NAVADMIN 188/15

MSGID/GENADMIN/CNO WASHINGTON DC/DNS/AUG//

SUBJ/ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RESERVE COMPONENT FOREIGN AREA OFFICER  
COMMUNITY//

REF/A/DOC/BUPERS/17SEP07//

REF/B/DOC/SECNAV/23JAN13//

REF/C/DOC/OPNAV/04MAY06//

REF/D/DOC/DOD/28APR05//

REF/E/DOC/DOD/28SEP07//

AMPN/REF A IS BUPERSINST 1001.39F, ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR  
NAVY RESERVISTS. REF B IS SECNAVINST 1301.7, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY FOREIGN AREA OFFICER  
(FAO) PROGRAMS. REF C IS OPNAVINST 1301.10 (series), NAVY FAO PROGRAM. REF D IS DOD  
DIRECTIVE 1315.17, MILITARY DEPARTMENT FAO PROGRAMS. REF E IS DOD INSTRUCTION 1315.20,  
MANAGEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) FAO PROGRAMS.//

RMKS/ 1. The Foreign Area Officer (FAO) Community directly supports the Chief of Naval Operations'  
(CNO) tenets of "warfighting first, operate forward, and be ready," actively building and strengthening  
international partnerships and forging global relationships. FAOs serve as key enablers for joint,  
maritime, and coalition operations.

2. On 30 June 2015, in accordance with the Navy's Total Force Vision, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations  
(VCNO) approved the establishment of the Reserve Component (RC) FAO Community – 1715 designator.  
The RC FAO Community will provide a cadre of international engagement professionals for operational  
support on major staffs, numbered Fleets, and to Combatant Commanders, serving in Security  
Cooperation Offices around the globe, and support Senior Defense Officials and Defense Attaches. The  
RC FAO Community will also provide a flexible strategic Reserve for future mobilization requirements.

3. Due to the unique nature of their work, FAOs must possess a combination of operational experience,  
cultural knowledge, and language expertise. As such, the RC FAO Community will leverage its members'  
military experiences and civilian skillsets to provide operational support for ongoing international  
engagement missions and maintain mobilization readiness for emergent overseas requirements.

4. Selected Reserve (SELRES) applicants with a record of sustained superior performance, who are  
interested in becoming a RC FAO may apply to change their designator to 1715 in accordance with  
reference (a).

5. Minimum requirements for RC FAO applicants are:

- a. Security clearance - TS/SCI eligible.
- b. World-wide assignable, meeting Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT)  
overseas screening standards.
- c. Language proficiency - Speak at least one foreign language as documented by Defense Language  
Proficiency Test (DLPT) and Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) - minimum of 2/2/1+ DLPT/OPI scores taken  
within the last three years.
- d. Masters degree - Possess a regionally-focused international relations and/or strategic studies  
degree.
- e. Regional experience - proven understanding of U.S. and foreign military operations, U.S. foreign  
policy and security cooperation objectives, as well as a deep understanding of interagency and  
nongovernmental organization capabilities and cultures gained from working and living in a specified  
region.

NOTE: Waivers to the Masters Degree requirement will be considered on a case-by-case basis for  
applicants with significant regional expertise from military and/or civilian employment.

6. For initial community establishment, selection panels shall be held and coordinated by Assistant Commander, Navy Personnel Command (PERS-9) and Head Reserve Officer Community Manager (BUPERS-318).

Further application guidance, to include deadlines and required documentation, will be promulgated to the Reserve Force via GovDelivery announcements. Questions regarding RC FAO eligibility and career management should be directed to the POCs in paragraph 8 of this NAVADMIN.

7. Director, International Engagement (OPNAV N52) will serve as the Total Force (AC and RC) FAO Community Flag Sponsor.

8. Points of contact:

a. RC FAO Community Manager (BUPERS-318F), (901) 874-3291/DSN 882, ryan.mudd(at)navy.mil.

b. AC FAO Community Manager (BUPERS-314G), (901) 874-3694/DSN 882, william.whitsitt(at)navy.mil.

c. Total Force FAO Deputy Officer Community Manager, (901) 874-3102/DSN 882, christopher.leigh(at)navy.mil.

9. Released by Vice Admiral R. R. Braun, USN.//

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