

RTTUZYUW RHOIAAA0015 1250030-UUUU--RHSSUU.
ZNR UUUUU
R xxxxxxZ XXX 26
FM COMNAVRESFOR NORFOLK VA
TO NAVRESFOR
INFO ASSTSECNAV MRA WASHINGTON DC
CNO WASHINGTON DC
COMNAVPERSCOM MILLINGTON TN
BT
UNCLAS
ALNAVRESFOR 015/26
MSGID/GENADMIN/COMNAVRESFOR NORFOLK VA/-/JUN//
SUBJ/SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE INAUGURAL NAVY INNOVATION UNIT
(NIU) //
REF/A/NAVY INNOVATION UNIT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN//

RMKS/1. This message announces the solicitation for applications to join the inaugural Navy Innovation Unit (NIU). Operating directly under the Department of the Navy's Rapid Capabilities Office (DON RCO), this highly selective Navy Reserve unit is a strategic initiative designed to rapidly bridge the gap between the speed of commercial technology and the Fleet's evolving operational needs. To tackle these complex challenges, NIU is designed to recruit top talent, connect this unique pool of experts directly to the Fleet, and deploy agile teams to build and deliver innovative solutions from concept, to prototype, to final deployment. To execute this high-impact mission and maintain its standard of excellence, the unit seeks to onboard industry leaders and an exceptionally qualified cadre of recognized experts in Technical/Engineering domains (AI, Machine Learning, Robotics, Quantum Science, Software Engineering, and Cybersecurity) or Business/Investment domains. Upon selection, the NIU will become your drilling reserve unit (UMUIC).

2. GigEagle Platform Overview and Registration.

a. To identify the highly specialized talent required for these high-impact initiatives, NIU is leveraging the GigEagle platform to match qualified personnel with active project requirements. GigEagle is a Department of War (DoW) talent-matching platform powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI). It functions as an internal gig economy marketplace designed to match the unique civilian and military skills of service members with short-term, mission-critical projects across the joint force. GigEagle allows the Navy to tap into civilian skills that are not always captured in standard military records. This unique unit assignment allows you to leverage both your civilian and military skill sets, foster operational agility, and deliver game-changing, data-driven solutions directly to the warfighter. Ensure your skills are visible to NIU leadership by creating or updating your GigEagle profile to apply for these critical opportunities. Participation is voluntary and intended to allow Sailors to contribute their specialized skills directly to warfighting problems.

b. How to Sign Up for GigEagle.

(1) Navigate to
<https://af.okta.mil/home/bookmark/0oap1gz7lIctoMPSq0k6/2557>

for initial login; personnel must use a CAC-enabled computer.

(2) Navigate to the "Select your Identity Provider" drop-down and select "sign in with NIS-IdP (Navy)" and click the "Go" button.

(3) Authenticate using CAC credentials.

(4) Accept the DoW Warning Banner by clicking the "Ok" button.

(5) On the Okta verification page authenticate using your CAC credentials.

(6) Once you have logged in you will be able to manually complete your profile or upload your resume.

(7) Once the account is created, personnel can access GigEagle via mobile device. For mobile access, use the GigEagle website after you have completed your first login on a desktop.

3. Applying to the NIU: To apply for current NIU opportunities, personnel must utilize the GigEagle platform. First, log into GigEagle and ensure your profile accurately reflects your comprehensive military and civilian skill sets. Once your profile is up to date, in the search bar, search for "Navy Innovation Unit" to review the specific unit requirements or navigate to <https://gigeagle.eightfold.ai/careerhub/explore/jobs/844459421510243> to apply. Finally, submit your application directly through the platform by 10 July 2026 to be considered for the NIU.

4. Eligibility: Selected Reserve (SELRES) Officers and Enlisted (E-4 to O-6).

5. Additional Information. For further details regarding NIU and the GigEagle platform, please refer to the NIU Fact Sheet. Frequently asked questions about GigEagle can be located on the GigEagle home page www.gigeagle.mil.

6. Points of contact: For questions regarding registration or the application process for the NIU, please contact LCDR Kristi Esco at kristi.m.esco.mil@us.navy.mil.

7. Released by RDML Richard Lofgren, Acting Chief of Navy Reserve.//
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