



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

BUPERSINST 1500.62B
PERS-434B
5 OCT 2010

BUPERS INSTRUCTION 1500.62B

From: Chief of Naval Personnel

Subj: TEST PILOT SCHOOLS

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 Pilots' School (ETPS), and the French Test Pilot School (EPNER).

2. Cancellation. BUPERSINST 1500.62A.

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 Test Pilot School (TPS) exchange programs with the United States Air Force, and British and French Ministries of Defense. 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. Graduates of USNTPS, USAFTPS, ETPS, and EPNER may normally expect a 24- to 36-month follow-on tour at a U.S. Navy activity requiring test pilots or test NFOs.

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. Fixed-wing pilots can expect to depart their current command approximately 3 months prior to their USNTPS class convening date to receive T-6 and T-38 preparatory training en route. Rotary-wing pilots and NFOs will receive all required preparatory training following check-in at USNTPS. Candidates en route 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 TPS Selection Board based on current requirements. USAFTPS convenes classes in January and July. ETPS convenes classes in January of each year. EPNER convenes classes in July. Navy selects a candidate for EPNER every 3rd year.

6. Eligibility. Designated naval aviators and NFOs through grade of lieutenant commander may apply. All applications will be reviewed by Navy Personnel Command, AED Assignment/Placement Branch (PERS-434B) 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

5 OCT 2010

and applicant has completed college-level calculus and physics). For those interested in Naval Postgraduate School - Naval Test Pilot School 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 attend Naval Postgraduate School (NAVPGSCOL) with follow-on orders to a pre-determined USNTPS class. A concentrated five-quarter NAVPGSCOL Systems Engineering curriculum (580) is offered. Successful graduates of NAVPGSCOL and follow-on USNTPS curricula are awarded a Master's Degree in Systems Engineering (subspecialty code 5800P), designation as a TPS graduate, and subsequently assigned to a 24- to 30-month follow-on tour at a Navy activity requiring test pilots. Candidates must specifically request NPSTPS in paragraph 7 of the TPS application, and have the career timing necessary to complete the follow-on test tour and still meet subsequent career milestones.

b. Due to accelerated nature of NAVPGSCOL 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.

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

5 OCT 2010

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, July 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 published in a naval administrative (NAVADMIN) message announcing selection board convening date.

b. Applicants who are not selected, however, will not automatically be considered by the next selection board. Application for subsequent boards need 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 Navy Personnel Command, FYXX-0X Test Pilot School Selection Board (Board ###), Customer Service Center, 5720 Integrity Drive, Millington, TN 38055-6300, 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 Navy Reserve) while attending training. Agreement to serve on active duty for a period of 4 years after completion of training.

(9) Preference for test squadron assignment following graduation from TPS as an additional paragraph in application. Preference should be ranked/prioritized, and should be specific to your type/model/series (T/M/S). The available choices as a function of T/M/S are:

All Helo/V22:	HX-21 (Pax)
P3/E6/E2/C2/S3/C130/C12:	VX-20 (Pax); VX-30 (Point Mugu)
F18/F14/EA6B	VX-23 (Pax); VX-31 (China Lake)

(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. The command endorsement shall

5 OCT 2010

also include a statement that the command will make the applicant available to begin training by the deadline specified in the NAVADMIN.

10. Records Management. Records created by this instruction, regardless of media, will be managed per SECNAV Manual 5210.1 of November 2007.

11. Declination. Selectees who elect not to attend TPS shall notify NAVPERSCOM (PERS-434B) by official letter, as soon as possible but not later than 30 days after selection.



D. P. QUINN
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel

Distribution:
Electronic only, via BUPERS Web site
<http://www.npc.navy.mil/>