

# RECRUITING ARCHITECTURE MAJORS AS CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS OFFICERS

## ACRONYMS TO KNOW:

- **CEC:** Civil Engineer Corps
- **ARE:** Architectural Registration Exam (exams to become a licensed Architect)
- **NCARB:** National Council of Architectural Registration Boards
- **AXP:** Architectural Experience Program (sponsored by NCARB)
- **IADP:** Intern-Architect Development Program (The CEC's program for helping its architecture majors complete the NCARB's AXP)
- **NAAB:** National Architectural Accrediting Board
- **RA:** Registered Architect (completed all AXP requirements, passed all AREs, and has obtained a license to practice architecture)
- **AIA:** American Institute of Architects

## WHAT THE CEC DOES AND WHAT ARCHITECTS DO IN THE CEC

The CEC is a specialized group of officers that are the Navy's construction and facilities managers. There are about 1250 CEC officers around the world, who represent a mix of engineering disciplines and architecture. Of these 1250, about 75 have architecture degrees and about 36 are RAs; so you can see that it is very unique opportunity and a selective process.

CEC officers plan, design, build, contract for, operate and maintain the Navy's infrastructure – buildings, roads, piers, runways, housing, and many other projects. You name it, and the Navy's probably got it – and the CEC probably had it built. We sometimes do our construction/facilities jobs overseas or in expeditionary conditions, at which time we are part of a Construction Battalion called the Seabees. ("Seabee" is short for Construction Battalions).

In the CEC, we do a lot of management – project management, facilities management and construction contract management. It's what an architecture graduate spends a long time slaving over construction documents waiting for – a chance to manage something more than material takeoffs and AutoCAD files. So the CEC is looking for architecture students and graduates who know how to put a building together and who also have leadership potential.

The architectural profession refers to our “branch” of the business as “Corporate Architecture”, “Facilities Management” or “Construction Management”. In a nutshell, we are the owner’s representative, ensuring that the architectural firms and construction contractors that the Navy hires give us the best design and product. To do this effectively we want you to eventually become a registered architect because as a senior officer you could be coordinating and negotiating design and construction contracts with the principal of an Architectural/ Engineering/ Construction Firm.

## **LICENSING: THE PATH TO BECOMING A REGISTERED ARCHITECT**

### **Basic Requirements**

Most architecture majors want to start their careers in a job that will allow them to get the right kind of experience to qualify to take the Architectural Registration Exams (ARE). When you complete all the experience requirements and pass all the exams you can obtain a license and are considered a Registered Architect. In general, it requires a NAAB-accredited architecture degree, plus the requisite number of AXP hours in specific categories to be eligible to take the AREs. To start logging hours for the AXP, you must go on NCARB’s website to begin a NCARB record. This will allow you and NCARB to keep track of all the AXP hours that you complete. The categories and hours required are:

-Practice Management:	160 hours
-Project Management:	360 hours
-Programming and Analysis:	260 hours
-Project Planning and Design:	1,080 hours
-Project Development & Documentation:	1,520 hours
-Construction & Evaluation:	360 hours
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Total Required Hours:	3,740 hours

The CEC is interested in their junior officers becoming Registered Architects and has had an active Intern-Architect Development Program (IADP) for more than 30 years in order to help them gain the right kind of experience.

### **Gaining Experience and Registration as a Licensed Architect**

Architectural registration is acquired through the 50 states and our territories. For example, if someone is registered with NCARB in the state of Ohio, once they pass all the AREs, and fill out the required paperwork for the state, they will be a Registered Architect in the State of Ohio. Most states require a future architect to follow the guidelines set by NCARB. NCARB can and has made changes to the regulations, amount of AXP hours required, and amount of AREs periodically, so it is highly recommended that you look at the NCARB website and read the guidelines.  
<http://www.ncarb.org/>

The Navy CEC considers professional registration a very important step toward promotion. It's in the Navy's best interest to help you get registered. Typical CEC jobs fall under AXP Experience Setting O, which means they can be used to gain up to 1,860 hours of experience (just shy of half the total requirement). To ensure that CEC architecture majors are able to gain the requisite hours of experience in AXP Experience Setting A, the CEC has developed the IADP (Intern-Architect Development Program) which sends a CEC junior officer architecture major to a 12-18 month internship under the direct supervision of a registered architect working under NAVFAC. As a newly commissioned officer, you will most likely be sent to work with NAVFAC or the Seabees in order to get a basic understanding of how we do business in both organizations. After completing these two types of tours (usually within the first 4 years of your Navy career), CEC architecture majors can apply for the IADP in order to complete the AXP.

When selected for the IADP, you would most likely go to one of our big Facilities Engineering Commands that have in-house architectural staffs; either in Washington, D.C., San Diego, Pearl Harbor, Jacksonville, or Norfolk. That's where the architect intern works under the direct supervision of a registered architect and earns the remainder of their AXP hours and can take the AREs.

Because the IADP allows you to get the AXP hours and time needed to study and take the AREs, you will have time added to your active duty contract (for every month spent in an internship you will have two months of additional service added).

## **DEGREE REQUIRMENTS TO BE RECRUIT-ABLE**

There are several different types of architectural degrees that an individual can earn these days. To be "recruit-able", you have to earn a degree that fulfills the NCARB education requirement. That could be a 5-year professional degree; a "Bachelor of Architecture". Some schools have a 5-year or longer graduate degree; a "Master of Architecture". Either degree, as long as it is NAAB- accredited, fulfills your education requirements to take the ARE. Degrees that are not NAAB accredited are the "Bachelor of Architectural Studies" or the "Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts in Architecture" and are not eligible for the CEC. To see if your program is accredited, click the following link: <https://www.naab.org/accredited-programs/school-search>

## **GRADUATE SCHOOL**

One of the career benefits of the CEC, in addition to the IADP, is the CEC's paid graduate school program. The Navy will pay to send every CEC officer to civilian graduate school around their 6 to 10 year mark. For architects, this typically is a master's degree in financial management, urban planning/design, or construction management. All tuition and fees are paid for and you will continue to earn your salary from the Navy during your time in graduate school.

## **NAVY ARCHITECTS COMPARED TO PRIVATE SECTOR ARCHITECTS**

Again, CEC officers are the owner's representative, rather than a hired design agent. We hire the architectural firms and oversee the construction contractors.

Job security is among the most differentiating aspects of the CEC. In the private sector, you are at the mercy of the construction market, and can often live from project to project depending on the state of the economy. In the Navy, you'll start out with a four-year commitment on your part, but also on the Navy's.

Rarely do you find a private sector firm willing to guarantee four years of employment with regular promotions.

The Navy is a BIG corporation with about 90 "offices" around the world. This is exactly the opposite of the design profession, where the typical office size is about 30-40 employees. There are small groups of CEC officers at each of our bases, so your talents can stand-out, but we still have the bigger backdrop of a multi-national business with 90 different locations you could be stationed at to gain more experience in diverse environments and project types.

In the Navy you'll relocate every two or three years as the Navy moves you to positions of greater responsibility. The Navy pays moving expenses and provides a housing allowance that is tied to local housing costs wherever you are assigned. It's a great way to see the world – to actually live and work in exotic places like Hawaii, Spain, Germany, and Japan – and not just a few days sight-seeing on a tour bus.

Corporate Culture is something that a lot of architectural firms are rightfully proud of and the Navy is too. In a Naval career, you'll follow in the footsteps of driven and brave young men and women who have protected our Nation's interests around the world. With more than 200 years of corporate culture the Navy lives by three profound core values: Honor, Courage, and Commitment. This may seem like an unusual corporate slogan. The web link to the Navy's Core Values will help you understand a Naval Officer's deep sense of duty and service to our country.

## **RELATED LINKS**

**US Navy:** <http://www.navy.mil>

**US Navy Recruiting:** <http://www.navy.com>

**US Navy Core Values:** <https://www.navy.mil/about/our-core-values>

### **Navy Civil Engineer Corps Recruiting and Collegiate Program**

- [http://www.navfac.navy.mil/jobs/students\\_and\\_grads/CEC\\_Collegiate\\_Program.html](http://www.navfac.navy.mil/jobs/students_and_grads/CEC_Collegiate_Program.html)
- <http://www.navy.com/careers/engineering-applied-science/civil-engineering.html>
- <https://www.facebook.com/#!/navycivilengineer>

**Naval Facilities Engineering Command (Composed of CEC Officers and civilians who manage the Navy's facilities):** <http://www.navfac.navy.mil>

**CEC Accessions Officers (they work with your recruiter and can answer your CEC questions):**

- North: LT Andrea Gal – [andrea.h.gal@us.navy.mil](mailto:andrea.h.gal@us.navy.mil)
- South: LT Viaronic Snow-Hill – [viaronic.i.snowhill@us.navy.mil](mailto:viaronic.i.snowhill@us.navy.mil)
- West: LT Eric Fallon – [eric.t.fallon@us.navy.mil](mailto:eric.t.fallon@us.navy.mil)

**NCARB:** <http://www.ncarb.org>

**NAAB:** <http://www.naab.org>

**AIA:** <http://www.aia.org>



## ARCHITECTURE IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS

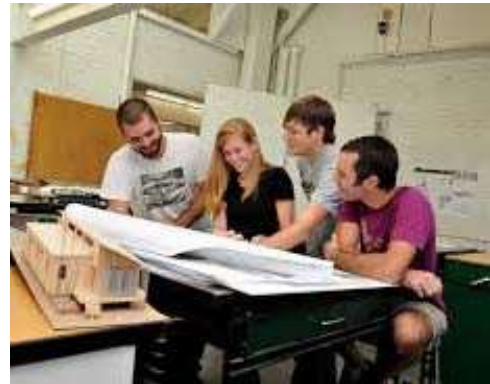


The Navy's Civil Engineer Corps offers architect-specific programs leading to professional licensing and fully-funded graduate education.

The Navy's Civil Engineer Corps also offers a Collegiate Program so you can start getting paid while you're still in school.

### COLLEGIATE PROGRAM:

- \$~4,300 per month while completing your Architecture degree and enjoying the full college experience.
- Full medical and dental coverage for students and their family while completing degree.
- No uniforms, haircuts, drills, boot camp, summer camp or extra classes while in college. \*\*This Program is not ROTC.\*\*



### CAREER BENEFITS FOR ARCHITECTS:

- Higher salary with retirement, housing benefits, and medical compared to the private sector.
- Graduate School paid for by the Navy at the top schools in the Nation.
- Project management. Get away from AutoCAD and actually manage projects & people immediately.
- Work with civilian contractors to ensure construction is on time, on budget, and satisfies the Navy's requirements.
- Architectural Internships available to help complete NCARB AXP requirements and licensing.
- Live, Work and Travel to places like Hawaii, the South Pacific, Europe, the Far East and the Caribbean.



Civil Engineer Corps officers are the Navy's facilities and construction specialists. We plan, design, construct, operate and maintain buildings and utilities around the globe. More than 90 Navy bases, with facilities valued at \$146 billion and a construction and maintenance budget of \$8 billion per year.