



US Navy Civil Engineer Corps Collegiate Corner



January 2016

Welcome back!

We hope everyone's holidays were peaceful, joyful, and relaxing. It's good to take a pause between semesters, recharge the batteries, and get ready for (if you're soon to graduate) your last semester push, or (if you still have more time in school) a successful spring. With the New Year often come new resolutions, plans, and goals. We wish that you are able to reach these goals and continue to grow, both personally and professionally. Best of luck in school and all of us on the CEC Accessions Team standby to support you with any questions or comments you may have along the way.

We look forward to you joining the ranks!

- CEC Accessions Team

LEADERSHIP TRAITS

The Marine Corps uses fourteen traits in defining what qualities all leaders embody and aspire to. In addition to the core Navy values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, each month we will briefly discuss one of the leadership traits.

Courage: Pushing through fear. Courage takes many forms, from the physical courage to face the unknown to the moral courage to do the right thing. Courage travels with you wherever you go, from the naval service to your community, and gives you the ability to take on every challenge life presents.

According to Dictionary.com, courage is further defined as:

1. The quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc., without fear; bravery.
2. Have the courage of one's convictions, to act in accordance with one's beliefs, especially in spite of criticism.

(courage. (n.d.). *The American Heritage® Dictionary of Idioms by Christine Ammer*. Retrieved January 11, 2016 from Dictionary.com website

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/courage>)



US Navy Civil Engineer Corps Collegiate Corner



CAREER FOCUS

This week's career focus will shine a spotlight on one of the sometimes lesser known communities with our Corps that you can become a part of during your CEC career: the Naval Construction Force Underwater Construction Team (UCT).



What are UCTs?

Underwater Construction Teams provide a capability for construction, inspection, repair, and maintenance of ocean facilities in support of Navy and Marine Corps operations including the repair of battle damage. The teams have the ability to support a Fleet Marine Force (FMF) amphibious assault, subsequent combat service support ashore, self-defense for their camp and facilities under construction, and conduct emergency/disaster control and recovery operations.

UCTs maintain the skill to dive SCUBA and/or Surface Supplied diving in nearly all environmental conditions: zero visibility, contamination, day or night operations, under-ice diving, rivers, harbors, or open ocean.

The duties performed by UCTs include underwater construction and expedient repair using cutting, welding, grinding, concrete placement, component assembly, system installation, underwater material inspection, and precision explosive demolition. They complete seafloor excavation, hydrographic surveys, object search and recovery, and engineering reconnaissance support to amphibious operations. UCTs also participate in research and development of new diving techniques/procedures, and are hyperbaric chamber operators and supervisors inside tenders. Projects may include piers, piles, wharves, quay walls, causeways, bridges, boat ramps, moored systems, pipelines, cables, ranges, and magnetic silencing facilities.

What are a UCT diver's qualifications?

UCT Divers are qualified to dive using Navy-approved SCUBA and Surface-Supplied air diving apparatus in both permissive and non-permissive environments. Qualified Seabees will also learn to test, repair, and adjust Navy-approved diving equipment. They will learn the laws of diving



US Navy Civil Engineer Corps Collegiate Corner



physics and be able to recognize symptoms of decompression sickness and diving accidents, as well as assist in their treatment.

Where are the UCTs located?

- UCT ONE: Virginia Beach, VA
- UCT TWO: Port Hueneme, CA

What training is involved to become a UCT Officer?

Prospective CEC dive officers are required to report to the Naval Dive and Salvage Training Center in Panama City, FL to undergo a six-month Marine Engineering and Diving Officer (MEDO) course. Upon completion of this course, officers will earn the designation as a Navy Dive Officer. There are two (2) programs available for prospective CEC dive officers:

- 1) Program 1: Junior Officer Pilot Program. In this program, ENSs and LTJGs can apply to the CEC dive program. Upon acceptance, they will report to and complete the MEDO Course in Panama City, FL and then will be assigned to a UCT as a dive officer-in-charge (OIC). Upon successful completion of the UCT tour during which they will be expected to earn their Seabee Combat Warfare (SCW) device, followed by additional NAVFAC and/or Naval Construction Force (NCF) tours, the officer will be offered a quota to pursue graduate education and earn his Masters in Ocean Engineering at a CEC-approved graduate school. The officer will then be expected to balance CEC/UCT Dive Program jobs/billets with other standard NAVFAC and NCF jobs throughout the remainder of his career.
- 2) Program 2: Standard Officer Program. In this program, LTJGs and LTs can apply to the dive program upon completion of a SCW qualified tour/once they have earned their SCW warfare device. Upon acceptance, they will be offered a quota to pursue graduate education and earn their Masters in Ocean Engineering at a CEC-approved graduate school. Upon completion of graduate school, they will report to and complete the MEDO in Panama City, FL. After successful completion of dive school, they will undertake a follow-on dive program tour, either in the UCTs, or at other dive program related facilities billets across the U.S. The officer will then be expected to balance CEC/UCT Dive Program jobs/billets with other standard NAVFAC and NCF jobs throughout the remainder of his career.

What are the program requirements to apply to become a UCT officer?

The CEC/UCT diver program requires top physical condition and mental attitude that is found in only a small percentage of military men and women. Officers applying to the program are expected to be in peak physical condition along with the following application package requirements:



US Navy Civil Engineer Corps Collegiate Corner



- 1) Pass a diving physical exam
- 2) Successfully complete a Physical Screening Test (PST) with the following MINIMUM requirements (competitive candidates will want to exceed the MIN standards):

<u>Physical evolution</u>	<u>Time limit/Min.</u>
a. Swim continuously, 500 yds utilizing sidestroke and/or breaststroke.	14 MIN
b. Perform as many push-ups in 2 min or less.	42
c. Perform as many sit-ups in 2 min or less.	50
d. Perform as many pull-ups, no time limit.	6
e. Run 1.5 miles	12 MIN 45 SEC

- 3) Have a clear record (no NJP or Court Martial)
- 4) Complete a personal interview with a Diving Officer
- 5) Pass a hyperbaric pressure tolerance test

What do I do if I am interested in the CEC/UCT dive program?

Contact your detailer to indicate your interest in the program. He will discuss how this opportunity will work into your planned career progression in the CEC.

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