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FM COGARD RECRUITING COMMAND WASHINGTON DC

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SUBJ: PY26 COAST GUARD RECRUITING COMMAND OFFICER ACCESSION PROGRAMS,
PROCEDURES, AND SELECTION PANEL SCHEDULE

- A. Coast Guard Recruiting, COMDTINST 1100.2 (series)
- B. www.GoCoastGuard.com
- C. Officer Application Guide
- D. CG RC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
- E. Officer Accessions, Evaluations, and Promotions, COMDTINST M1000.3 (series)
- F. Military Separations, COMDTINST M1000.4 (series)

1. Coast Guard Recruiting Command's (CG RC) Panel Year 2026 (PY26) officer selection panel schedule and application submission procedures are provided for applicants, commands, mentors, education services officers (ESOs), and recruiters. PY26 begins 01JUL2025 and ends 30JUN2026. All applicants must contact their local recruiter prior to beginning their application process. The recruiter will confirm deadlines, provide required forms and checklists, and confirm program eligibility. All applicants are encouraged to review REFs A, B, and C prior to contacting a recruiter. REFs B and C are consolidated guides to eligibility criteria and application resources. All interested parties must read this message in its entirety to successfully meet all application requirements. Program eligibility and application requirements will be verified by the recruiter, Recruiter-in-Charge (RIC), and CG RC.

2. Programs Covered.

- a. College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI) Scholarship
- b. CSPI Executive Champion (CSPI-EXEC) Program
- c. CSPI Student Loan Repayment Program (CSPI-SLRP)
- d. CSPI Wilks Flight Initiative (WiFi)
- e. Direct Commission Aviator (DCA)
- f. Direct Commission Cyber Officer (DCCO)
- g. Direct Commission Engineer (DCE)
- h. Direct Commission Environmental Manager (DCEM)
- i. Direct Commission Health Service Officer (DCHSO)
- j. Direct Commission Intelligence Officer (DCIO)
- k. Direct Commission Lawyer (DCL)
- l. Direct Commission Lawyer Second-Year Law Student (DCL-2L)
- m. Direct Commission Lawyer Selected Reserve (DCL-SELRES)
- n. Direct Commission Licensed Officer of the Merchant Marine (LOMM)
- o. Direct Commission Maritime Academy Graduate (MARGRAD)
- p. Direct Commission Physician Assistant (DCPA)

- q. Direct Commission Physician Assistant Selected Reserve (DCPA-SELRES)
- r. Direct Commission Prior Trained Military Officer (PTMO)
- s. Direct Commission Selected School (DCSS)
- t. Officer Candidate School Reserve Commission (OCS-R)
- u. Officer Candidate School Temporary Commission (OCS-T)
- v. Selected Reserve Direct Commission (SRDC)

3. Panels and Application Deadlines. All application documents are due to the recruiting office (RO) by the corresponding application deadline. CG RC recommends that applicants contact their local RO at least two months prior to the application deadline. Early communication is essential to applicant success in meeting and adhering to the application deadlines. Expected training convening dates and commissioning dates are listed for the corresponding panel. All OCS and Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination (ROCI) attendees will commission upon graduation from their applicable course.

CG RC Panel	Application Deadline	Panel Start Date	Expected Commission/Officer Course/Boot Camp Date (OOA)
01-26 OCS-R	14 Apr 2025	14 Jul 2025	OCS: Jan/Apr 2026
02-26 SRDC/DCL-S	02 Jun 2025	25 Aug 2025	ROCI: Jul 2026
03-26 DCHSO/DCPA	23 Jun 2025	10 Sep 2025	DCO: Jan/Mar 2026
04-26 OCS-T	30 Jun 2025	22 Sep 2025	OCS: Jan/Apr 2026
05-26 DCO	21 Jul 2025	27 Oct 2025	Comm: Feb/May 2026 DCO: Mar/Jun 2026
06-26 OCS-R	01 Sep 2025	01 Dec 2025	OCS: Apr/Sep 2026
07-26 DCHSO/DCPA	20 Oct 2025	08 Jan 2026	DCO: Mar/Jun 2026
08-26 CSPI-EXEC	03 Nov 2025	20 Jan 2026	Basic Training: Jun 2026
09-26 CSPI	08 Dec 2025	23 Feb 2026	Basic Training: Jun 2026
10-26 OCS-T	29 Dec 2025	23 Mar 2026	OCS: Sep 2026/Jan 2027
11-26 DCHSO/DCPA	26 Jan 2026	08 Apr 2026	DCO: Aug 2026/Jan 2027
12-26 DCO	27 Jan 2026	04 May 2026	Comm: Jun/Dec 2026 DCO: Aug 2026/Jan 2027

4. Panel Focus. The following programs will be considered for each panel provided vacancies exist.

- a. 01-26 OCS-R
- b. 02-26 SRDC, DCL-SELRES
- c. 03-26 DCHSO, DCPA, DCPA-SELRES
- d. 04-26 OCS-T
- e. 05-26 DCA, DCCO, DCE, DCEM, DCIO, DCL, DCL-2L, DCSS, LOMM, MARGRAD, PTMO
- f. 06-26 OCS-R
- g. 07-26 DCHSO, DCPA, DCPA-SELRES
- h. 08-26 CSPI-EXEC
- i. 09-26 CSPI-Scholarship, CSPI-SLRP, WiFi
- j. 10-26 OCS-T
- k. 11-26 DCA, DCCO, DCE, DCEM, DCIO, DCL, DCL-2L, DCSS, LOMM, MARGRAD, PTMO
- l. 12-26 DCHSO, DCPA, DCPA-SELRES

5. Officer Accession Programs.

- a. Recruiters: All applicants must apply through an RO. Applicants can find the nearest RO using REF B. Recruiters shall provide all officer applicants a copy of REF C.
- b. Process and Contents: The application process and detailed information on the contents of an application are explained in REFs B and C.
- c. Officer Program Application: The most recent version of the Officer Program Application must be used and completely filled in for each application package. Applications are available from a recruiter.
- d. Interviews: Extensive guidance on the interview process, board composition, interview questions, and completing the interview board report is contained in REF A. All interview board members, coordinators, ESOs, recruiters, and applicants should read this information prior to convening an interview board.
 - (1) Coordination: Interviews are coordinated between the RO and local Coast Guard units. Local commanding officers (COs) are obligated to provide support for interview boards. To streamline this process, CG RC requests that local commands establish a point of contact (POC) to work with ROs to facilitate interview scheduling. Early coordination and communication will ensure each applicant is afforded an unbiased and timely interview, free from logistical hindrances.
 - (2) Board Composition: An interview board member for the CSPI, OCS, and SRDC programs must hold a rank from O-1/O-1E through O-6, with the senior member of the interview board holding a rank of at least O-4. All Direct Commission Officer (DCO) interview board members must hold a rank from O-3 through O-6, with the senior member holding a rank of at least O-4. Unit interview board coordinators and recruiters must verify the board's composition and ensure that it meets the requirements in REF A. Failure to adhere to board composition requirements may result in the applicant's inability to compete for selection.
 - (3) Documents: Interview boards may only view and consider the documents listed on the applicable Officer Program Application checklist. Documents not listed on the applicable checklist are not authorized for the interview board's review or consideration.
 - (4) Interview Results: Interview board results shall not be shared with applicants. Feedback from selection panels indicates that interview results often vary in usefulness due to vague write-ups. Interview boards must give a direct and honest assessment of the applicant in their reports. Explicit guidance in REF A is available to assist interview boards with this critically important task.
- e. CO's endorsement: Coast Guard members (Active Duty and Selected Reserve) must receive an endorsement from their current CO. REF A contains specific instructions for the CO endorsement. The CO endorsement must be from the first commissioned CO in the applicant's chain of command. Officers with delegated authority, including CO Military/Enlisted Personnel or Officers-In-Charge, are not unit COs, and are not considered sufficient for these purposes unless they are the "Acting CO." The current CO is the CO of the permanently assigned unit of the applicant, i.e., the unit the applicant has executed permanent change of station orders to, as of the application deadline. At Coast Guard Headquarters Directorates, Districts, or Area Commands, the first O-6/CAPT in the member's chain of command is

authorized to sign the CO endorsement. CO endorsements should be formatted as a "new page" first endorsement to the applicant's memorandum.

(1) If the endorsement is rescinded, or the applicant's eligibility status changes at any time prior to appointment, the command shall promptly notify CG RC and the applicant will be disqualified for that selection cycle.

(2) The endorsement must include:

(A) An evaluation of the applicant's potential value to the Coast Guard as a commissioned officer.

(B) Any outstanding professional or other qualifications the applicant may possess.

(C) An evaluation of the applicant compared to others the CO has personally known who have completed the specific officer program.

(D) A statement certifying that the command conducted a review of the member's Personnel Data Record and that the applicant meets the character standards for eligibility in REF A.

(E) A statement about the applicant's ability and willingness to meet their financial obligations.

f. Medical: Only recruiters shall submit physicals to CG RC. Medical screenings must be completed prior to application submission to CG RC and include completion of a qualifying commissioning physical exam at a military entrance processing station (MEPS) for civilian applicants or with a military treatment facility for Coast Guard and other service applicants. DCA and WiFi applicants must complete aviation physicals in Aeromedical Electronic Resource Office (AERO). Flight physicals may be completed by other services and must be initiated as a full A1 or 1A flight physical initiated under the "Coast Guard" service category within the AERO database. AERO physicals must be released for review to CG PSC-MED.

g. Disqualification: RICs have the authority to disqualify an applicant who does not meet program or accession eligibility requirements. The reason for disqualification must be submitted along with any completed application materials to CG RC at CGR-SMB-PARTS@uscg.mil.

h. Deadlines: Completed applications must be submitted by the applicant to the local RO no later than the Application Deadline listed in paragraph 3.

6. Waivers.

a. The following waivers may be considered for PY26. Submission of a waiver does not guarantee approval.

(1) Medical waivers may be considered for all programs on a case-by-case basis.

(2) Age waivers may be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the following program-specific parameters:

(A) For prior service DCCO, DCE, DCHSO, DCIO, DCL, DCL-2L, LOMM, MARGRAD, DCPA, DCSS, and PTMO applicants, a maximum of 72 months of Active Duty previously served. In all cases, applicants must be able to attain 20 qualifying years of Active Duty towards retirement prior to their 62nd birthday.

(B) For DCA applicants, all age waivers may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(C) For prior service DCL-SELRES, DCPA-SELRES, and SRDC applicants,

up to five years of constructed service will be considered for prior service applicants. In all cases, applicants must be able to attain 20 qualifying years of military service credible towards retirement prior to their 60th birthday. To ensure eligibility for retirement by an applicant's 60th birthday, they should not have reached their 41st birthday by 30 September of the fiscal year in which they applied.

(3) Dependent waivers for excess dependents may be considered for all programs on a case-by-case basis.

(4) Time in Service Waivers: Waivers for excess Active Duty time in service requirements may be considered for DCA, DCCO, DCE, DCEM, DCHSO, DCIO, DCL, DCL-2L, DCL-SELRES, DCPA, DCPA-SELRES, DCSS, LOMM, MARGRAD, PTMO, and SRDC on a case-by-case basis, up to a maximum 14 years at time of commissioning.

(5) Military Service Waivers: Waivers for military commissioned service may be considered for applicants with prior service for the PTMO program on a case-by-case basis.

(6) Color vision waivers for inactive duty promotion list programs may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Color vision waivers for Active Duty Promotion List (ADPL) programs will not normally be considered.

(7) Additional waivers may be considered for DCHSO, DCL, DCL-2L, DCL-SELRES, DCPA, and DCPA-SELRES on a case-by-case basis.

(8) Proof of Prior Service and Source Documentation. Documents considered acceptable for proof of credible time in service earned towards retirement include a DD Form 214 Certificate of Discharge, Statement of Credible Service, Reserve Retirement Point Statement, or other official service-specific documentation. Coast Guard members may submit a Member Info Report and/or Reserve Point Statement.

b. For CSPI applicants, the 30-credit minority serving institution (MSI) requirement is NOT waivable. MSI's are verified on collegescorecard.ed.gov. CSPI applicants not meeting the 30-credit MSI requirement will not be considered.

c. Submission: All waiver requests must be submitted by recruiters no later than the CG RC application deadline.

d. Procedure: Recruiters are responsible for submitting waivers and shall follow the procedures in the CG RC Waiver Job Aid in REF D.

e. Approval: Submission of a waiver request does not guarantee approval. Applicants and recruiters shall proceed with the submission of the application while awaiting the waiver decision.

7. Applicant Responsibility. All applicants are encouraged to consider the entire officer program application process as a job interview. Your character, diligence, interpersonal skills, and attributes are being constantly evaluated. Begin by starting early, reviewing the guidance provided to you, and understanding that ultimately you are the gatekeeper of your own future.

8. Reserve and temporary regular officers appointed from OCS and direct commissioned reserves officer, who have been selected by a best-qualified ADPL promotion board, must integrate as permanent regular officers. Temporary regular officers who receive their commission through a DCO program may have

the option to integrate upon selection by a best qualified ADPL promotion board in their temporary status. Upon integration, regular officers are required to attain 10 years of active commissioned service to be eligible for a voluntary retirement following 20 years of service. Therefore, applicants with prior military service in the Coast Guard or other service may be required to exceed 20 years of active service prior to retirement in order to attain the 10 years of commissioned service required for a voluntary 20-year retirement as a commissioned officer. Applicants are advised to reference integration and retirement requirements outlined in REFs E and F.

9. Inquiries. Applicants should work directly with their recruiter to address any program and pre-panel questions. Recruiters shall contact Regional Leadership or Officer Programs at CGR-DG-CGRC-OfficerPrograms@uscg.mil for any program or pre-application submission guidance.

10. CG RC POCs. All panel and accessions questions should be directed to the Officer Accessions and Analysis Branch Chief, Mr. Miguel Lumbag, at Miguel.A.Lumbag@uscg.mil.

11. CAPT Benjamin R. Keffer, Commanding Officer, CG RC, sends.

12. Internet release is authorized.