

## 2023 Residency Selection Following an Operational Tour Pilot

**Background:** Prior to this pilot program, medical students and incumbent interns who desired early operational experience as a General Medical Officer (GMO), Flight Surgeon, or Undersea Medical Officer had to opt out of straight-through training and apply for a categorical residency during the last year of their operational tour. In this new pilot program, medical students and incumbent interns who want early operational experience can opt-out of straight-through training and request consideration for a categorical residency spot following a three-year operational tour.

**Q1: What specialties are included in the pilot program?**

A: The 2023 BUMEDNOTE 1524, enclosure (4), lists the specialties participating in the pilot program. These specialties include Anesthesiology, Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Radiology.

**Q2: What locations are included in the pilot program?**

A: The pilot program includes all locations with Navy training programs for the ten specialties listed in the 2023 BUMEDNOTE 1524, enclosure (4).

**Q3: How many applicants will be selected for each residency participating in the pilot?**

A: There is no set goal for each specialty. However, up to ten total applicants will be selected for the pilot program's initial year.

**Q4: Who can be considered for the pilot program?**

A: Medical Students and incumbent interns are eligible for the pilot.

**Q5: How do I apply?**

A: Medical Students (PGY-1 applicants) who desire consideration for the pilot would follow the application process listed in the 2023 BUMEDNOTE 1524. In MODS or the PDF application, select one of the ten participating specialties as a first choice selection, select a second choice specialty, then click the box "Check here to opt-out of consideration for straight-through in-service training in your first choice specialty," select a desired training locations for both specialties, and notify the Navy Graduate Medical Education (GME) office via email at [usn.bethesda.navmedleadprodevcmd.mbx.gme-sb@health.mil](mailto:usn.bethesda.navmedleadprodevcmd.mbx.gme-sb@health.mil), by October 15, 2023.

Incumbent interns who desire consideration for the pilot would follow the application process listed in the 2023 BUMEDNOTE 1524, select one of the ten participating specialties, select their desired training locations, and notify the Navy GME office via email at [usn.bethesda.navmedleadprodevcmd.mbx.gme-sb@health.mil](mailto:usn.bethesda.navmedleadprodevcmd.mbx.gme-sb@health.mil), by October 15, 2023.

*Note that the MODS electronic application will not list the start year of 2027 or 2028 in the drop-down list of selections. Applicants should leave the start year as 2024. The GME Office will modify the start date on the application upon receipt of your request for participation in the pilot program.*

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### **Q6: What if I participate in the pilot and am not selected for a categorical residency starting in 2027 or 2028?**

A. Medical students who requested participation in the pilot and were not selected for a categorical residency in 2028 will be selected for a preliminary year only (PGY1 only) in a full time in-service (FTIS) program or a one-year delayed deferment in the Navy Active Duty Delay for Specialists (NADDS) program. Those applicants can apply in 2024 for an operational assignment, straight-through training to residency, or the pilot program again if offered. Incumbent interns who are not selected would apply for residency training when eligible during their operational tour.

### **Q7: If I am selected for a categorical residency starting in 2027 or 2028, can I decline it later?**

A: Applicants can decline their selections in writing to the GME Office at any time prior to the start of their training program. Also, applicants selected for a GME program by a previous GME Selection Board (GMESB) will forfeit their selection from the previous board upon applying to any future selection boards.

### **Q8: If I am selected for a categorical residency starting in 2027 or 2028, can I change my mind and apply for a different residency?**

A. Yes. GME selection is a competitive process. You would have to compete for the new residency spot. Your application to a future GMESB would forfeit your prior selection.

### **Q9: Can I be considered for straight-through training and this pilot program?**

A: No. The pilot program is limited to applicants who desire early operational experience and want to opt-out of consideration for straight-through training.