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As Navy leaders, we have important responsibilities toward our enlisted Sailors. One of the most valuable opportunities we can provide our Sailors is the chance to lead. They earn that privilege by demonstrating competency in mission accomplishment and expand that trust by learning how to develop others themselves. Ours is a hierarchical organization, and advancement in rank is most often associated with progressively increasing leadership responsibilities. One of our most important obligations to our Sailors is to provide them with every opportunity for advancement.

Performance on advancement exams is a key component of career progression. Although no multiple-choice examination can fully and completely test the skills and knowledge required of a profession, it does provide a fair and unbiased mechanism for simultaneously evaluating Sailors relative to their peers in the same rating. Thus, our semiannual (annual for CPOs) exam cycle provides the gateway through which those who wish to advance must pass.

Common to all advancement examinations are questions on professional military knowledge (PMK). PMK is traditionally associated with the Basic Military Requirements (BMR) series of courses, but also includes elements such as anti-terrorism, sexual harassment policy, and equal opportunity. The most recent exam cycle contained six, twelve, seventeen, and four separate references for E-4, E-5, E-6, and E-7 exams respectively. A complete listing of PMK references are contained in each exam's bibliography, which is available at <<http://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil>>. Links to references are available at <<http://www.navyadvancement.com/navy-bibs.php>>.

Why pay particular attention to PMK?

Who Wants to be a Master Chief?

Because the same questions are on ALL exams of the same paygrade. Further, the number of PMK questions increases with paygrade from 50, 65, 85, and 100 of the 200 questions on the E-4 through E-7 exams, respectively. The advancement exam counts for a significant portion of a Sailor's final multiple: 34 percent for E-4 and E-5, 30 percent for E-6, and 60 percent for E-7. This means that 30 percent of the overall computation for E-7 is based on PMK alone. Regardless of the number of ratings in a command, all Sailors can benefit from a common study of PMK.



One of the most popular tools available today is an advancement preparation game called "Who Wants to be a Master Chief?" Styled after the hit TV series "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," the game contains a database of thousands of questions from PMK reference sources in an entertaining and engaging format that has created contagious excitement among many groups of Sailors who have played it. Originally developed within the Navy Reserve, it is in use throughout the fleet today, but remains somewhat of a well-known secret because it isn't well advertised.

Designed for individual study or team play, contestants progress through a series of progressively harder questions based on the questions from the BMR series of courses. A Sailor who gets an answer right is awarded with advancement or a medal, with the end goal to reach Master Chief with two rows of ribbons. Wrong answers result in a "bust," and players may pass on up to three questions per game using the "PNA" (pass but not advanced) option.

Surprising for modern software, the entire application can still fit on a single floppy disk! The software developer who donated countless hours of his time to build this application is EMC(SS) Thomas Dickson, who drills in Pensacola, FL. Early contributors from Erie, PA, were MR2 Richards who researched the questions and answers and YN1 Trimble who did the initial data entry.

A number of people have sent in e-mails, saying "thank you" for the boost that helped get them over the top on their last advancement exam. This "fan mail" has come from reserve centers around the country, as well as ships in the Persian Gulf and shore stations in Asia. There are even rate-specific (YN, SK, EM) versions of the software that draw questions from rating manuals. See what all the excitement is about, and download a copy for yourself. Work it into your training schedule, and provide copies (or Web links) to your Sailors to help them study for the next exam cycle. This is one of those few tools where "one size fits all." Put it to good use!

To download the software, go to <<http://www.navy-reserve.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1988>>. Log in. When the file download window appears, select SAVE and designate the location. Go to the saved location on your computer and click on the SetupMC Folder. Then click on the SetupMC application to install the program on your computer.

For NMCI machines that do not permit installation of executables, an online version is available at <www.nko.navy.mil>. On left menu, "get started" "launch Navy e-learning." From the Navy E-Learning Site: On left menu, "content" "browse categories" "US Department of the Navy (DON)" "Navy Advancement" "Who Wants to be a Master Chief CNET 12448" "enroll now" "launch!" (make sure pop-up block is not enabled). If so, click on yellow bar and "temporarily allow pop-ups" "WHO WANTS TO BE A MASTER CHIEF" "Yes" in response to "Do you want to display the nonsecure items?" "OK" in response to "Do you want to run the following Authorware file?" Then the game starts. 🖱️