The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Naval Research Program (NRP) is funded by the Chief of Naval Operations and supports research projects for the Navy and Marine Corps. The organization of the NPS NRP is based upon an annual research topic solicitation process that merges Department of Navy research, analysis, and studies requirements with NPS faculty and students who have unique expertise and experience.

The NRP Topic Portal facilitates a collaborative workflow environment for NPS Students, NPS Faculty and Fleet Research Topic Sponsors to review, submit, discuss and sponsor research topics for potential NRP funding and thesis consideration.

The Initial Research Estimate Form (IREF) is used by NPS Faculty to submit an official preliminary proposed research Statement of Work (SOW) for NRP Research Topics. Throughout the year and during the Naval Research Working Group (NRWG), researchers work with Topic Sponsors to scope proposed projects, and then submit an IREF for topics they wish to research. Discussion with the Topic Sponsor POC prior to IREF submission is strongly encouraged. IREFs are submitted via the NRP’s Topic Portal by NPS faculty. Only the faculty member intended to be the qualified Principal Investigator (PI) should submit the IREF. Initial IREF submission and approval generally occurs in April/May.

IREF Submission - If you are a faculty member interested in working on a specific NRP research project, you must submit an IREF for review/approval. Both your immediate supervisor at NPS and a Topic Sponsor must approve the IREF for it to be considered by the Navy and Marine Corps Topics Review Board (TRB) for potential funding. Once approved, the information contained in the IREF will be used by the TRB to select and fund research requirements. Funding selection generally occurs in July/August.

SUBMIT AN IREF

2. Select NPS Login and enter your NPS UserID and Password.
3. Select the Topic List tab.
4. Search for the desired topic.
5. Select Submit IREF.
6. Complete the displayed IREF fields. THIS IS AN UNCLASSIFIED FORM. DO NOT ENTER CLASSIFIED INFORMATION HERE.

- This IREF also addresses TID(s): If this IREF addresses more than one topic, list all additional TIDs separating each with a comma. You must still submit an IREF for each topic that you are interested in researching.
- Title (limited to 200 characters): This is the header entry and the first impression of your IREF to the approval chain. This will be used as the official title of your project if funded.
- Research Summary (limited to 2000 characters): VERY IMPORTANT - Clearly and concisely summarize your Research Objectives/Questions, Research Methodology/Plan, and Research Deliverables. You will be required to elaborate on your summary in the following three sections but the Research Summary specific section must stand-alone.
- Research Objectives/Questions (limited to 1500 characters): Describe, in lay terms, what you expect to achieve in the proposed research. The aim of the work, i.e. the overall purpose of the study, should be clearly and concisely defined.
- Research Methodology/Plan (limited to 1500 characters): Describe the specific procedures or techniques that will be used to identify, select, and analyze information applied to understanding the research problem. How will the research data be collected or generated? How will it be analyzed?

View & Search Topics - Current and past topics can be reviewed in the “Topic List” tab by students, faculty, or Topic Sponsors. Topics can be reordered by Topic ID (TID), Topic Title, Topic Sponsor Organization, Topic Type or Create Date.

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE: SUBMIT A NEW INITIAL RESEARCH ESTIMATE FORM (IREF) IN THE NRP RESEARCH TOPIC PORTAL v5.1 – APR 2020

NAVAL RESEARCH PROGRAM | NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL
https://my.nps.edu/nrp/|NPS_NRP_POC@nps.edu
IREF Approval Workflow:

1. When an IREF is submitted successfully:
   - The researcher will:
     - be presented with a read only display of the IREF.
     - receive an immediate “IREF Submitted Successfully” confirmation displayed on the Topic Portal Page.
     - receive an IREF received email confirmation from NPS_NRP_POC@nps.edu.

2. When the NRP Topic Portal Administrator receives an email notification that a new IREF has been submitted. The NRP team will conduct an editorial review of the “draft” submission and may contact you if any clarification is required.

3. The researcher’s self-designated Supervisor/Chair/Dean will receive an email with a link to approve or deny the IREF.

4. When the researcher’s self-designated Supervisor/Chair/Dean approves the IREF, the Topic Sponsor will receive an email with a link to approve or deny the IREF created for their topic. The Topic Sponsor follows the link (CAC required) to review the IREF. The Topic Sponsor then approves or denies the IREF.

5. When the IREF is approved/denied by the Topic Sponsor, the researcher will receive an email notification.

IREF Status: View your current and previous IREFs at any time by logging into the Topic Portal and selecting the “MyIREFS” tab.

Topic Funding Approval - The Topic review Board (TRB) selects those IREFs deemed to be requirements and allocates funds under the fiscal year budget. If your proposed IREF is selected, you will then be asked to prepare a detailed research proposal and budget package. The final research proposal is the culmination of iterative discussions with the Topic Sponsor. It provides a definitive agreement of the proposed work between the Topic Sponsor and the research PI. Once a researcher has developed the formal research and budget proposal package, an immediate supervisor at NPS and the Topic Sponsor POC must approve and sign the research proposal before funds are released by the NRP to begin work.