

# How Navy Use COOL to Earn SANS GIAC Certifications

## A Practical Guide for Cyber Warfare Technicians (CWT), Information Warfare, and Cyber-Related Sailors

### What Is Navy COOL?

Navy COOL (Credentialing Opportunities On-Line) helps Sailors earn industry-recognized certifications that align with their rating or officer designator. In many cases, Navy COOL can fund certification exam vouchers.

For Sailors in cyber, information warfare, and network-focused billets, this means the opportunity to pursue GIAC certifications that directly strengthen operational readiness and mission capability.

### Why GIAC Certifications?

GIAC certifications validate real-world cybersecurity skills in:

- Defensive Cyber Operations (DCO)
- Offensive Cyber Operations (OCO)
- Incident Response & Threat Hunting
- Network Monitoring & Detection
- Enterprise Security & Architecture
- Cyber Leadership

For Navy cyber professionals, GIAC certifications:

- Demonstrate measurable technical competence
- Support Cyber Mission Force readiness
- Strengthen Information Warfare capability
- Provide industry-recognized credentials for long-term career growth

### How the Process Works (5 Steps)

1. **Identify the GIAC credential aligned to your rating, designator, and current billet.**
2. **Confirm eligibility in the Navy COOL portal.**
3. **Submit a funding request for the certification exam voucher.**
4. **Complete SANS training to prepare for the certification.**
5. **Sit for and pass the GIAC certification exam.**



***“Great course and a lot of great content discussion with tons of applicable, real-life thoughts, processes, examples, and in-depth descriptions.”***

**—Jake K., U.S. Government**

## Recommended SANS → GIAC Pathways by Navy Community

### Cyber Warfare Technician (CWT) – Offensive / Defensive Cyber:

- SEC503 → GCIA (Intrusion Detection)
- SEC504 → GCIH (Incident Handling)
- SEC560 → GPEN (Penetration Testing)
- SEC660 → GXPN (Advanced Exploitation)
- FOR610 → GREM (Reverse Engineering)

### Cryptologic Warfare (1810) – Operational Cyber & Intelligence:

- SEC503 → GCIA
- FOR578 → GCTI (Threat Intelligence)
- SEC599 → GPYC (Purple Team Tactics)

### Information Professional (1820) – Enterprise & Network Defense:

- SEC511 → GCED (Enterprise Defender)
- SEC530 → GDSA (Defensible Security Architecture)
- SEC566 → GCSA (Security Controls & Governance)

### Cyber Warfare Engineer (1840) – Advanced Technical / Engineering:

- SEC660 → GXPN
- SEC760 → GWEB (Advanced Exploit Development)
- FOR610 → GREM

## Why This Matters to Your Command

GIAC certifications provide:

- Measurable readiness indicators
- Alignment to DoD cyber workforce roles (DoD 8140 framework)
- Demonstrated technical depth beyond basic compliance
- Increased operational credibility within Fleet Cyber and USCYBERCOM environments

This is not just professional development — it directly supports mission effectiveness.

## Call to Action

If you are serving in a cyber, information warfare, or network defense billet:

1. Identify one GIAC certification aligned to your current mission set.
2. Log into Navy COOL and confirm eligibility.
3. Submit your funding request for the exam voucher.
4. Schedule SANS training to prepare.
5. Commit to earning the certification and strengthening your operational capability.

The funding exists. The mission requires it. Take action.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Q: Does Navy COOL pay for SANS training?

A: Navy COOL typically funds certification exam vouchers. Training funding may require command approval or alternate funding sources.

### Q: Do I have to take SANS to earn GIAC?

A: No. GIAC certifications are independent. However, SANS training is specifically designed to prepare you to pass the exam and apply the skills operationally.

### Q: Are GIAC certifications recognized outside the Navy?

A: Yes. GIAC credentials are widely recognized across DoD, federal agencies, and private industry.

### Q: Do GIAC certifications align with DoD 8140 requirements?

A: Many GIAC certifications map to DoD cyber workforce roles under the 8140 framework.

### Q: Can Sailors use COOL close to separation?

A: Eligibility policies vary. Sailors should review current Navy COOL guidance and confirm requirements in the portal.

**Navy COOL reduces financial barriers.  
SANS builds operational capability.  
GIAC validates mission-ready skill.**