



ABE, ABF, ABH-Aviation Boatswain Mate

Aviation Boatswain's Mate Sailors play a major part in launching and recovering naval aircraft quickly and safely from land or ships. This includes preparing and fueling planes prior to take-off and after landing.

They may specialize in launching and recovering aircraft on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, ABE; aircraft fueling and fuel systems, ABF; or aircraft handling, fire fighting and salvage and rescue operations, ABH. Later in their careers ABs can earn the advanced AB rating that requires supervision of all these individual specialties.

What They Do

ABE (AVIATION BOATWAIN'S MATE - LAUNCH/RECOVERY)

The duties performed by ABEs include:

- maintaining and performing organizational maintenance on hydraulic and steam catapults, barricades, arresting gear and arresting gear engines;
- operating catapult launch and arresting consoles, firing panels, water brakes, blast deflectors and cooling panels;

ABF (AVIATION BOATWAIN'S MATE - FUELS)

The duties performed by ABFs include:

- operating, maintaining and performing organizational maintenance on aviation fueling and lubricating oil systems on CVs, CVNs, LPHS and LPDS;
- observe and enforce safety handling precautions and maintain fuel quality surveillance and control in aviation fuel systems;
- supervise the operation and service of fuel farms and equipment associated with the fueling and defueling of aircraft ashore and afloat;
- train, direct and supervise fire fighting crews, fire rescue teams, and damage control parties in assigned fuel and lubricating oil spaces.

ABH (AVIATION BOATWAIN'S MATE - AIRCRAFT HANDLER)

The duties performed by ABHs include:

- supervise the movement, spotting and securing of aircraft and equipment ashore and afloat;
- performs crash rescue, fire fighting, crash removal and damage control duties in connection with launch and recovery of aircraft.

Working Environment

Most of the work in this rating is performed outdoors on the deck of aircraft carriers, in all climatic conditions, in fast-paced and often potentially hazardous environments. ABs work closely with others in most aviation ratings.

Opportunities

Opportunities in this rating are good. At present, about 11,000 men and women work in the three AB specialties.

Qualifications and Interests

To qualify for placement in the AB rating, individuals should relate well with other people, be physically fit and have manual dexterity. They should have a keen awareness of the need for required details to safely complete a job, the ability to do repetitive tasks and be good team workers.

Other helpful traits include curiosity and competence with tools, equipment and machines. **Normal hearing and color and depth perception are required for all three ratings.**

Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through on-the-job training or formal Navy schooling. Advanced technical and operational training is available in this rating during later stages of career development.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Class "A" Technical School	Pensacola, FL.	5 weeks (ABE) 6 weeks (ABF) 6 weeks (ABH)	Aviation basic theory and basic skills required for rating	Group instruction and practical application

After "A" school, aviation boatswain's mates may be assigned to aircraft carriers, LHDs, LHAs, LPHs, LPDs or Naval Air Stations in the United States or overseas. They may also be assigned to other types of ships with airplanes or helicopters. If they re-enlist, they may go to "C" school for further training. During a 20-year period in the Navy, ABs spend about 60 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 40 percent to shore stations.



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Earn College Credit



The American Council on Education recommends that semester hour credits be awarded in the vocational certificate and lower-division bachelor's/associate's degree categories for courses taken in this rating on office machines and general clerical procedures. To see the college credits available via a **Joint Service Transcript** for this rating:

ABE- https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/jst/abe_jst.pdf

ABF- https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/jst/abf_jst.pdf

ABH- https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/jst/abh_jst.pdf

Earn Department of Labor (DOL) Nationally Recognized Apprenticeships



USMAP

The United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) is a formal military training program that provides active duty and Full Time Support (FTS) Service members the opportunity to improve their job skills and to complete their civilian apprenticeship requirements while they are on active duty. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) provides the nationally recognized "Certificate of Completion" upon program completion. Visit United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) for LS apprenticeships.

ABE- <https://usmap.netc.navy.mil/usmapss/static/navyRates.htm>

ABF- <https://usmap.netc.navy.mil/usmapss/static/navyRates.htm>

ABH- <https://usmap.netc.navy.mil/usmapss/static/navyRates.htm>

Earn Industry Recognized Credentials



Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (Navy COOL)

Navy COOL catalogs and defines comprehensive information on occupational credentials - including certifications, licenses, and apprenticeships - correlating with every Navy rating and some collateral duties. It provides "how to" instructions for pursuing these credentials, links to credentialing organizations, and cross-references to programs that help Sailors pay for credentialing fees. Shortly following the initial rating technical training (Class "A" technical school), Sailors may be able to take advantage of earning civilian/industry

certifications & licenses (credentials), funded through Navy COOL. Visit the Navy COOL website to view these opportunities. See the link below.

ABE- <https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/abe.htm>

ABF- <https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/abf.htm>

ABH- <https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/abh.htm>

Manage a Navy Career with Navy LaDR (Learning and Development Roadmap)



To see the Navy LaDR (Learning and Development Roadmap) for this rating:

ABE- https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/LaDR/abe_e1_e9.pdf

ABF- https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/LaDR/abf_e1_e9.pdf

ABH- https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/LaDR/abh_e1_e9.pdf

Earn Skill Sets Towards Civilian Related Occupations



The skill sets for this rating crosswalk to civilian related occupations listed by the U.S. Department of Labor. To see Related Civilian, Federal, and Military Sealift Command Occupations for this rating, see the link below.

ABE- <https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/abe.htm>

ABF- <https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/abf.htm>

ABH- <https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/abh.htm>

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