



AO – Aviation Ordnanceman

Aviation Ordnanceman are aircraft armament (weapons) specialists in charge of storing, servicing, inspecting and handling of all types of weapons and ammunition carried on Navy aircraft.

What They Do

- Inspect, maintains and repair aircraft mechanical and electrical armament/ordnance systems;
- Service aircraft guns and accessories;
- Stow, assembles and load aviation ammunition including aerial mines, torpedoes, missiles and rockets;
- Service bomb, missile and rocket releasing and launching devices;
- Load supplemental munitions;
- Assemble, tests and maintain air-launched guided missiles;
- Supervise operation of aviation ordnance shops, armories and stowage facilities.

Working Environment

AOs perform their duties at sea on flight decks and ashore in hangars, on flight lines at air stations, or in shops under various environmental conditions. They work closely with others, do mostly physical work and require little supervision.

Opportunities

Approximately 8,300 men and women now work in the AO rating. Opportunities for placement are good.

Qualifications and Interests

People in this rating should have above average competence with tools, equipment and machinery, possess manual dexterity and be physically fit, have skills in math and the ability to work well with others and function successfully as team members. Record keeping is also very important. Other helpful qualities include the ability to do detailed work and perform repetitive tasks.

AOs must be U.S. citizens eligible for a security clearance. Normal hearing and color and depth perception are required for this rating.

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:

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https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/jst/ao_jst.pdf

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	Approximately 9 Weeks	Aviation basic theory and basic skills required for rating and electronics troubleshooting	Group instruction, classroom and shop After completion of Core "A" school, AOs attend either a two-week ship's company strand course or a three-week airwing strand course depending on the type duty assigned.

AOs may be assigned to aviation squadrons, aircraft carriers or to other Navy ships carrying aircraft, to naval air stations or other aviation shore facilities in the United States or overseas. During a 20-year period in the Navy, AOs spend about 60 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 40 percent to shore stations.



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Earn Department of Labor (DOL) Nationally Recognized Apprenticeships



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.

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<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.

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<https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/ao.htm>

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



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

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https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/LaDR/ao_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.

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<https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/ao.htm>

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