



Naval Aircrewman (Helicopter) (AWS) are members of multi-mission helicopter integrated tactical crews; perform Search And Rescue (SAR) operations, Airborne Mine Countermeasure (AMCM) operations utilizing sonar, magnetic, mechanical, and acoustic mine sweeping systems and logistics support

### What They Do

- perform aircrew operations administration, flight and ground training
- internal and external cargo movement
- Medical Evacuations (MEDEVAC)
- passenger transport, aerial gunnery,
- small arms handling
- Naval Special Warfare (NSW) insertion and extraction operations
- Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP)
- Night Vision Device (NVD) operations
- Conduct observer duties for safety of flight

### Qualifications and Interests

All aircrew candidates should possess the ability to swim prior to entering the program. In addition, they should possess manual dexterity, physical strength and be oriented toward working with tools and machinery. They must be self-motivated, as well as be able to work as part of a team and perform repetitive tasks.

Other helpful attributes include maturity, a good memory, and knowledge of arithmetic. Applicants must be U. S. citizens eligible for a secret security clearance. Aircrewmen must have no speech impediments and be able to speak and understand English fluently. Normal hearing and normal color perception is required. Aircrew should be in excellent physical condition and motivated toward physical and mental challenges. **Candidates must pass a class II swim test, an aviation flight physical, and the Navy Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) prior to reporting for aircrew training.**

The second-class swim test consists of entering the water feet first from a minimum

### Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through formal Navy schooling. Operational training is available in this rating during later stages of career development.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Aircrew Candidate School	Pensacola, FL	Approximately 11 weeks	Water and Land Survival and Flight Safety	Group instruction, classroom
Aircrew Rescue Swimmer School	Pensacola, FL	Approximately 7 weeks	Search and Rescue (SAR) swimming skills	Group instruction, classroom
AWS Class "A" Technical School/	Pensacola, FL	Approximately 16 weeks	Basic aviation theory course and skills required for specialized the AWS rating	Group instruction, classroom and shop
SERE School	San Diego, CA and Brunswick, ME	Approximately 2 weeks	Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Techniques	Group instruction, classroom
Fleet Replacement Squadrons	Various Naval Air Stations	2 to 18 weeks depending on the type of aircraft	Aircraft Systems	Group instruction, classroom and shop

After completion of the training pipelines, most students are sent to squadrons and air stations around the world to fly in their type of aircraft. During a 20-year period, AWSs spend about 60 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 40 percent to shore stations

height of 10 feet and remaining afloat for 10 minutes. During this time, applicants must swim 100 yards and use the three basic survival strokes (sidestroke, breaststroke, and backstroke) and American crawl for at least 25 yards each.

The applicant must pass the Navy Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) with a "satisfactory- medium" in all categories for their sex and age prior to enrollment at NACCS. Applicants should be provided a copy of the current PFA standards.

If the applicant voluntarily terminates training as an aircrew student or otherwise fails to meet the prerequisites of the aircrew program, the applicant will no longer be eligible for the guarantees of the program. The applicant must also understand that follow-on training will be determined by the needs of the Navy, performance, and qualifications as well as the applicant's personal desires.

### Graduation

The applicant must meet the following minimum physical fitness requirements to graduate from NACCS:

- Intense daily calisthenics.
- Pass the PRT with a "good-medium" for their sex and age in all categories to include sit-ups, push-ups and 1.5 mile run. Proper Navy form is stressed.
- Swim one mile in flight suit in 80 minutes or less.
- Swim 75 yards in full flight gear (backstroke, sidestroke and breaststroke for 25 yards each).
- In full flight gear, tread water for two minutes, followed immediately by three minutes of drown-proofing, followed by five minutes of floating with a life preserver.
- Jump from a 12 foot tower and swim 15 yards underwater wearing flight suit and boots.

**AND THEN**

To graduate from Aviation Rescue Swimmer School, applicants must:

- Be comfortable in a water and underwater environment.
- Quickly adapt to the use of mask, fins and snorkel.
- Be comfortable and proficient in administering medical and lifesaving procedures.
- Complete the Rescue Swimmer Fitness out Test:
  - 4 pull-ups in a flight suit and boots within 2 minutes
  - Carry two 50-pound dumbbell

Perform 42 push-ups in 2 minutes:

Perform 50 sit-ups in 2 minutes;

Swim a 400-meter buddy tow in 18 minutes.

- Complete all in-course testable evolutions:
  - 90 minutes of extensive calisthenics and 30 to 35 minute runs daily;
  - Swim 800 meters within 20 minutes;
  - Swim 1500 meters within 35 minutes;
  - Swim 2000 meters within 55 minutes;
  - Swim 400 meters buddy tow within 16 minutes;
  - Swim 800 meters buddy tow within 35 minutes

Applicants must understand the details and benefits of volunteering for training as a rescue swimmer. If they voluntarily terminate training as a rescue swimmer or otherwise fail to meet the requirements of the program, they will not be eligible for automatic advancement to E4 and may become ineligible to continue in the Aircrew Program. Follow-on training will be determined by needs of the Navy, performance at ARSS, qualifications for training, and the applicant's personal desires.

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### **Working Environment**

Aircrewmembers may be assigned to sea or shore squadrons in any part of the world. They work in airborne aircraft, hangars, hangar decks, on flight decks, or on flight lines at air stations, usually around a high level of noise.

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### **Opportunities**

Excellent opportunities exist for qualified applicants to enter this rating. About 1,600 men and women currently work in this rating.

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### **Civilian, Federal, and Military Sealift Command Related Occupations**

To see Related Civilian, Federal, and Military Sealift Command Occupations for this rating:

**AWS**

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

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### **Navy LaDR (Learning and Development Roadmap)**



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

**AWS**

[https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/LaDR/aws\\_e2\\_e9.pdf](https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/LaDR/aws_e2_e9.pdf)

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### **College Credits for this Rating**

To see the college credits available via a Joint Service Transcript for this rating

**AWS**

[https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/jst/aws\\_jst.pdf](https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/jst/aws_jst.pdf)

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### **Additional Information**

For more information on opportunities available for this rating, please visit Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL)

**AWS**

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

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Since Navy programs and courses are revised at times, the information contained on this rating card is subject to change.

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