



MA – Master at Arms

Master at Arms are security specialists who perform antiterrorism, force protection, physical security, and law enforcement duties on land and at sea. They may operate a force protection watercraft, direct an investigation, control a base access point, or supervise a K-9 asset. Due to the unique functions of the MA, strict adherence to eligibility criteria must be maintained.

What They Do

- Conduct waterborne security patrol and interdiction operations.
- Conduct U. S. Customs inspections.
- Conduct base security patrols.
- Conduct base access and entry control operations.
- Implement aircraft and flightline security standards.
- Conduct law enforcement operations.
- Provide Oil Platform protection.
- Conduct river security operations.
- Provide protective service to high ranking dignitaries and government officials.
- Supervise K-9 explosive and narcotics detection operations/missions.
- Perform physical security inspections.
- Conduct preliminary investigations into UCMJ violations.
- Organize and train security force personnel.
- Conduct crime prevention programs.
- Operate brigs (jails).
- Perform weapons and funds escorts.

Working Environment

MA's may expect to be assigned to duty at shore stations in the United States and overseas; aboard ships as either ship's company or embarked security team; or as part of a maritime expeditionary security squadron. The work environment varies widely with individual assignments. MAs are currently serving in expeditionary security locations worldwide and providing landward and seaward security in support of Joint Service operations.

Opportunities

Opportunities for placement are excellent for qualified personnel. Individual motivation, ability, and work ethic will determine how far an MA can advance in the enlisted or officer ranks during a 20- to 30-year career. An MA who has attained the rank of E-6 may be eligible to apply for the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) Program. An MA who has achieved the rank of E-7 may be eligible to apply for the Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Program. Both of these programs enable an MA to become a Security Specialist in the officer ranks. now work in this rating.

Qualifications and Interests

Those personnel who want to qualify for the MA rating should be people oriented, dedicated, resourceful, and versatile. They should possess strong writing and speaking skills, a good memory, and the ability to conduct detailed work while maintaining accurate records. Prospective MA's should possess physical strength, manual dexterity, and competence with tools, equipment and machines.

Career Outlook

In the Navy Security Field, the MA will find a varied and challenging field of work with unmatched potential for personal growth and professional development. He or she will have opportunity to develop problem solving, critical thinking, leadership, and organizational skills. The MA will develop practical knowledge and experience unmatched in the civilian world. Should the MA decide to separate, all training and experience can directly transfer to homeland security or law enforcement agencies. These training and development factors, along with a fantastic opportunity for travel, make any decision to leave the Navy a very difficult one.

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	San Antonio, TX.	Approximately 9 Weeks	Aniterrorism techniques, Armed Sentry/Post Standing techniques, crime prevention, military and civil law, physical fitness, communications, first aid, firearms deployment and physical restraint techniques.	Group instruction in classroom and shop

Current career path training is under review and expected to expand in the near future.



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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:

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https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/jst/ma_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.

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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/ma.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/ma_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/ma.htm>

Revised: 1/17