



Naval Aircrewmembers (Operator) (AWO) produce intelligence products for aircrews in support of operations and tactical missions worldwide; detect, analyze, classify, and track surface and subsurface contacts; operate an advanced sonar system utilizing sonobuoys, radar, Electronic Support Measures (ESM), Magnetic Anomaly Detector (MAD), Identification Friend or Foe/Selective Identification Feature (IFF/SIF), and Infrared Detector (IR).

### What They Do

- perform aircrew duties that support mission planning, classified material handling, and training
- and handle ordnance, inspect acoustic station equipment
- operate mission equipment such as: advanced imaging multi-spectral sensors, radar for safety of flight, and hand-held cameras
- Aircrew administration, Flight/Ground training
- Joint Special Warfare operations
- contribute directly to operations for the purposes of attaining and maintaining the squadron's aircrew qualifications and certifications
- demonstrate knowledge of all aircraft systems, safety procedures and equipment, federal and military regulations for passenger transport, emergency procedures, and aircraft equipment.

### 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. Aircrewmembers 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

### 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
AWO Class "A" Technical School	Pensacola, FL	Approximately 18 weeks	Basic aviation theory course and skills required for specialized the AWO rating	Group instruction, classroom and shop
SERE School	San Diego, CA and Twenty-Nine Palms	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, AWOs spend about 50 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 50 percent to shore stations

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 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.

### 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 1,100 men and women currently work in this rating.

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### **Civilian Occupational Equivalents**

**To see Related Civilian Occupations for this rating:**

#### **AWO**

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

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

<https://www.cool.navy.mil/index.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.

**(Revised 10/12)**

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