AWS - Naval Aircrewmen Helicopter

Naval Aircrewmen Helicopter (AWS) are members of multimission 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.

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
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 6 weeks	Basic aviation theory course and skills required for the specialized 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.

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, pushups 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 dumbbells,
  - 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.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Aircrewmen 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.

OPPORTUNITIES

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

QUALIFICATIONS & 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 are 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 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.

Helpful attributes are an interest in ideas and information, resourcefulness, curiosity, competence with tools, equipment and machines, manual dexterity and teamwork.

Normal hearing and color perception are required for this rating.

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MANAGE A NAVY CAREER WITH NAVY LADR
See the Navy LaDR (**Learning and Development Roadmap**) for this rating:
AWS https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/LaDR/aws_e2_e9.pdf

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 word processing or data entry applications and office management procedures. See the college credits available via a **Joint Services Transcript** for this rating:
AWS https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/jst/aws_jst.pdf

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 apprenticeships:
https://usmap.netc.navy.mil/usmapss/static/navyRates.htm

EARN INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS
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.

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. See Related Civilian, Federal and Military Sealift Command Occupations for this rating on Navy COOL.

Visit the Navy COOL website:
AWS https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/aws.htm

EMPOWER YOUR CAREER PLANNING, DECISION MAKING, AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH
MilGears is an online, self-assessment tool that guides users through a series of questions and selections regarding their military training, duty assignments, off-duty education, credentialing, and in-Service and post-Service goals. The resultant output of the tool provides users a personalized assessment of what civilian credentials and career pathways that may be immediately attainable and nearly attainable, how to fill any gaps, and next steps to accomplish their civilian credentialing and career pathways programs goals. The tool also shows users "best-fit" post-Service occupations and resources to explore those post-Service occupations.

For more information about MilGears – Powered by COOL, visit https://milgears.osd.mil

DOWNLOAD THE NAVY COOL APP
Navy COOL App (iOS):

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/navycool/id1053982994?ls=1&mt=8

Navy COOL App (Android):

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tracen.navycool

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