AWS – Naval Aircrewmen Helicopter

Naval Aircrewmen Tactical Helicopter (AWR) 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

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.

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.

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.

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

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.
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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 is required for this rating.

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.

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.
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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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**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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**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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**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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**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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