

JOB DESCRIPTION: Naval Aviator

A Career as a Naval Aviator:

Pursue enemy submarines. Search for underwater mines. Execute strategic aerial maneuvers anywhere from the stratosphere to just hundreds of feet above the sea.

Whether it's flying a strike fighter or tracking adversaries, Navy Pilots and Naval Flight Officers (NFOs) play a crucial role. Piloting some of the world's most sophisticated aircraft and helicopters. You could take part in important missions ranging from intelligence collection to combat operations. Earning coveted wings that put them among the most skilled and accomplished men and [women in the Navy](#) today.



Job Description

Navy Pilots and NFOs are important components in an exclusive, world-class group of Officers. To hold either of these prestigious positions, a bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university is required.

Beyond that, you will undergo some of the most intense and comprehensive aviation training in the world. You may do anything from performing precision maneuvers in strike fighters to operating the communications systems aboard a helicopter.

As a Pilot or NFO, you may:

- Fly some of the most innovative and high-tech aircraft in the world
- Provide vital attack, defense and logistic support to the Fleet
- Take part in antisubmarine warfare and mine countermeasures, as well as search and rescue operations and vertical replenishment missions
- Receive specialized training on the advanced tactical systems found on Navy aircraft
- Conduct enemy surveillance by collecting photographic intelligence
- Control and maintain all internal and external aircraft systems
- Study aerodynamics, aircraft engine systems, meteorology, navigation, flight planning and flight safety
- Train and specialize in EA-6B Prowler electronic countermeasures aircraft, F/A-18 Hornet and Super Hornet jet fighters, E-2C Hawkeye early warning and control aircraft and P-3C antisubmarine aircraft
- Electronically detect and track ships, submarines, aircraft and missiles



Your ability to lead and excel under pressure will make you an essential member of this prominent unit. You will always be functioning at top speed and charged with adrenaline.

At Civil Air Patrol, the volunteer auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, we're helping develop tomorrow's aerospace workforce.

Specific Responsibilities

Fly a SH-60 Seahawk helicopter or F/A-18 Super Hornet jet. Track enemy submarines from above the ocean's surface. Control the onboard communications system on any of over 6,000 state-of-the-art aircraft. Whether as a Navy Pilot or NFO, your job will require you to perform at the best of your ability at all times. You will make use of your advanced training and unparalleled knowledge to provide the utmost safety and security in the world's skies.

Steps to become a Naval Pilot

Overview

It takes years of training and dedication to become a Navy pilot. Here are the benchmarks you'll need to meet if you plan to pursue this coveted and highly demanding career.

Education

You will need at least a bachelor's degree, earned at a civilian college or university or from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Commissioning

You must be an officer, commissioned at the rank of ensign. There are a few ways to accomplish this. One is to enroll in a Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program at a civilian college, which will allow you to attend military classes and drills in addition to a regular college curriculum and requires you to report for midshipman cruises during the summer.



If you already have a bachelor's degree, you can go to Officer Candidate School, an intensive 12-week crash course in military studies held at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla. You'll become familiar with the basic rules and regulations of the U.S. Navy, swim a great deal as part of an intensive physical conditioning program, and learn the basics of naval propulsion.

The U.S. Naval Academy is the third -- and most rigorous -- route. Only about 1,300 would-be officers (about 10 percent of applicants) are accepted every year. Aspiring students typically have stellar academic records, a history of leadership and often a varsity sports background.

Age Requirements

There are cutoff ages. You need to be at least 18 years old when you enlist in the Navy and be commissioned as an officer before turning 28. Age waivers might be available.

Citizenship

You must be a citizen of the United States. If you're not a citizen yet, you can [apply to become one](#) as soon as you enlist, no matter how long you've lived in the U.S.

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Testing

To become a Navy aviator, you will have to pass the Aviation Selection Test Battery (ASTB), a test that has not changed much since its inception during World War II. It consists of five timed subsets: mathematics and verbal, mechanical comprehension, aviation and nautical, spatial perception, and a survey gauging interest in aviation. About 10,000 candidates sit for the exam each year.

Physical Condition

You'll have to take a battery of physical, psychological and background tests. You'll take a flight physical to prove that you're medically qualified to fly. Your vision can be no worse than 20/40, correctable to 20/20, to become a pilot. You can't be colorblind or have problems with depth perception. The Navy does accept applicants who have had laser eye surgery, however.

Flight School

Unless you hold a recreational or private pilot certificate (or higher) or have completed a solo cross-country flight in a civilian aircraft, you must undergo introductory flight screening. As part of this screening, you are required to take 25 hours of instruction at a certified flight school, completing at least three solo flights, one of them cross-country. Once you've accomplished this, you can enroll in the Navy's program for aviators, initially in Florida.

Specialization

At the end of primary flight training, you'll specialize in a particular aircraft. If you're selected to fly helicopters, you'll stay at Whiting for six months of training in the Bell TH-57 Sea Ranger. If you're chosen to fly tactical jet aircraft, you'll go either to the Naval Air Station in Kingsville, Texas, or Meridian, Miss. Training begins with ground school, including meteorology and more aerodynamics. Then, you'll progress to the T-45 Goshawk for hands-on training. If you're assigned to fly the P-3C Orion four-engine maritime patrol aircraft, you'll train on the T-44A or the TC-12B at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas. Or you'll go the Naval Air Station in Kingsville, Texas, to learn how to fly one of two turboprop planes that operate from aircraft carriers: either the E-2C Hawkeye or the C-2A Greyhound. The actual flight time required varies depending on the aircraft, but is more than 100 hours in all cases.

Aviation pre-indoctrination: For six weeks, you'll study aerodynamics, aviation physiology, engines and navigation in a classroom setting at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola. You'll proceed to training that includes learning how to use special devices to cope and survive if an aircraft mishap casts you into the water.

Primary flight training: At Whiting Field in the Florida Panhandle, you'll start your hands-on instruction with a T-34C, a turboprop painted orange and white that is the Navy's main trainer. By the end, you'll have spent more than 100 hours aloft in the T-34 or in flight simulators, learning night flying, flying in formation, aerobatics and basic flight skills



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Work Environment

As a Navy Pilot or NFO, your missions will take you anywhere and everywhere across the globe. You may be prowling for enemy submarines hundreds of feet above the Atlantic Ocean. You could be piloting an E-2C Hawkeye on a radar-surveillance warfare mission. No matter where your assignment may lead, expect an exciting and adrenaline-charged environment to surround you.



Training and Advancement

America's Navy offers the world's most advanced and comprehensive aviation training in the world. Officers who demonstrate academic and physical aptitude and a potential for leadership and responsibility are considered ideal candidates for this highly select, prestigious community of Pilots and NFOs.

Those entering aviation programs must first attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Newport, Rhode Island, and then complete a six-week air indoctrination course at Naval Aviation Schools Command, in Pensacola, Florida. From there, prospective Pilots and NFOs attend primary flight training.

Upon completion of primary flight training, Pilots and NFOs request an aircraft pipeline and enter the intermediate phase of flight training. This phase builds upon the prerequisites of basic flight and navigation training. The next step, advanced naval flight training, focuses on mission specifics. Upon its completion, Pilots and NFOs are awarded their "wings of gold" and report to their respective Fleet Replacement Squadrons (FRSs) for further training specific to their aircraft.

Qualifications

To be a Navy Pilot or NFO candidate, you must have a bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university.

After the Navy

Whether a Pilot or NFO, being a member of the world's most respected aviation force will lead to exceptional career opportunities after your service. The flight hours and expertise you receive could lead to work for a major airline, as a private aircraft operator or as a pilot or aircraft maintainer for corporations or government agencies

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Links to more Navy Pilot Information click below:

<http://www.navy.com/careers/aviation.html>

http://www.ehow.com/how_2043533_become-navy-pilot.html

http://navypilotsecrets.com/your_navy_pilot_career.html



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