

Aerospace Careers:

Enlisted Air Force Weather Observer

A career as an Air Force Weather Technician/Observer

Space Weather Operations

Looking toward the sun, Air Force weather technicians are leading the way in space weather forecasting. They provide space weather analyses, forecasts and alert notification for all Department of Defense agencies and government systems. With observatories in Australia, Italy, Massachusetts, New Mexico and Hawaii, Air Force space weather technicians never let the sun slip from view. The sun, emitting continuous electromagnetic energy and electrically charged particles, can cause disturbances in the near-Earth environment and disrupt satellite communications.



The mission of the Air Force Weather solar observatories is to monitor solar flares, noise storms and other releases of energy from the sun, and when necessary, notify military and civilian concerned with space, weather, power and communications in countries throughout the world.

Introduction to the career field

Specialty Summary. Performs and manages the collection, analysis, and forecast of atmospheric and space weather conditions, and the tailoring and communication of weather information. Related DoD Occupational Subgroup: 420.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Observes, records, and disseminates weather data and information. Uses fixed and deployable meteorological sensors to measure and evaluate atmospheric and space weather conditions.

Uses satellite and radar imagery, computer generated graphics, and weather communication equipment and instruments to analyze atmospheric and space data and information.

Forecasts atmospheric and space weather conditions. Issues warnings and advisories to alert users to mission critical weather. Exploits weather analysis and data to enhance combat operations and training.

Tailors and communicates weather information to meet operational requirements.

Manages weather operations. Adapts weather resources to meet mission requirements. Ensures standardization and quality weather products, operations, and activities.

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Specialty Qualifications:

Knowledge: Knowledge is mandatory of: combat weather skills; characteristics and principles of atmospheric and space weather; observation, analysis, prediction, and dissemination of weather information; operation of fixed and deployable meteorological or space weather systems; weather communications systems; use of weather products; and operator maintenance of weather equipment and instruments.

For entry into this specialty:

1. Normal color vision as defined in [AFI 48-123](#), *Medical Examination and Standards*.
2. Ability to speak distinctly.

For entry, award, and retention of these AFSCs:

Visual acuity correctable to 20/20.

Eligibility for a Secret [security clearance](#), according to [AFI 31-501](#), *Personnel Security Management Program*, is mandatory.



Education: For entry into this specialty, completion of high school with courses in physics, chemistry, earth sciences, geography, computer sciences, and mathematics is desirable.

Technical Training: Length: Approximately 8 months and award of AFSC 1W031 – Weather Observer (-3 Level apprentice)

After Technical training progression within the AFSC (5, 7, and 9 Levels):

1W051. Qualification in and possession of AFSC 1W031. Also, experience performing functions such as observing, analyzing, and disseminating atmospheric or space weather data and information; or performing meteorological watch.

1W051A. Qualification in and possession of AFSC 1W031A. Also, experience performing functions such as observing, forecasting, analyzing, and disseminating atmospheric or space weather data and information; or performing meteorological watch.

1W071A. Qualification in and possession of AFSC 1W051A. Also, experience performing functions such as forecasting or supervising space or atmospheric weather operations.

1W091. Qualification in and possession of AFSC 1W071A. Also, experience performing functions such as directing or managing atmospheric or space weather operations.

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Links to Meteorology Job Information click below:

<http://www.af.mil/information/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=4493>

<http://www.afweather.af.mil/library/factsheets/index.asp>

[1W0X1 ANG job description](#)

Links to more Information click below:

<http://www2.sunysuffolk.edu/mandias/careers.html>



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