



**AC CAREER PATH  
(AW)**



Air Traffic Controllers (AC). ACs are responsible for the safe, orderly, and expeditious flow of aircraft. They perform their duties in control towers, radar facilities, and air operations facilities ashore and afloat. Deployable on carriers (CVN), amphibious assault ships (LHD/LHA), tactical air control squadrons (TACRON), and as Army/Marine Corps augmentees (OSA/IA).					
<b>YEARS OF SERVICE</b>	<b>CAREER MILESTONES</b>	<b>AVERAGE TIME TO ADVANCE</b>	<b>COMMISSIONING OR OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>SEA/SHORE FLOW</b>	<b>TYPICAL CAREER PATH DEVELOPMENT</b>
27-30	ACCM	22 Yrs	Rating Detailer	Not Defined	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Shore Tour (36 months) Duty: NAS/Training and Readiness/Fleet Liaison/NATTC/Staff Billet: LCPO/TYCOM/Liaison
24-26	ACCM ACCS	22 Yrs 20.7	CMC, Rating Detailer	Not Defined	4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Shore Tour (36 months) Duty: NAS/Training and Readiness/Fleet Liaison/NATTC/Staff. Billet: LCPO/TYCOM/Liaison
21-24	ACCM ACCS ACC	22 Yrs 20.7 17.1	CMC, Command SCPO, Rating Detailer/Rating Specialist, ECM	Not Defined	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Shore Tour (36 months) Duty: NAS/FACSFAC/NATTC/ NAVREP/Training and Readiness. Billet: ATS/LCPO/NATOPS Evaluator/NATOPS Instructor Qualification: NEC F09A/F13A/F14A/ F15A/805A
					2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Sea Tour (36 months) Duty: CVN/LHA/LHD/TACRON Billet: CATCC Sup/AATCC Sup/TACC Sup Qualification: NEC F10A/ F11A/ F12A
18-21	ACCS ACC AC1	20.7 Yrs 17.1 7.4	LDO, OCS, MECP, Command SCPO, ECM, RDC, Recruiter	Not Defined	3 <sup>rd</sup> Shore Tour (36-60 months) Duty: NAS/ FACSFAC/NATTC/ NAVREP/Training and Readiness Billet: FWS/ATS/LCPO/NATOPS Evaluator/ NATOPS Instructor/TYCOM/Liaison. Qualification: NEC F09A/F13A/F14A/ F15A/805A
					2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Sea Tour Duty: CVN/LHA/LHD/TACRON Billet: CATCC Sup/AATCC Sup/TACC Sup Qualification: NEC F10A/ F11A/ F12A
13-18	ACCS ACC AC1	20.7 Yrs 17.1 7.4		Not Defined	2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Shore Tour (36-60 months) Duty: NAS/FACSFAC/NATTC Billet: FWS/ATS/NATOPS Evaluator/ NATOPS Instructor Qualification: NEC F09A/F13A/F14A/ F15A/805A
					2 <sup>nd</sup> Sea Tour (36 months) Duty: CVN/LHA/LHD/TACRON. Billet: CATCC Sup/AATCC Sup/ TACC Sup Qualification: NEC F10A/ F11A/ F12A
8-13	ACC AC1 AC2	17.1 Yrs 7.4 3.5		Not Defined	2 <sup>nd</sup> Shore Tour (36-60 months) Duty: NAS/FACSFAC/NATTC. Billet: FWS/ATS/NATOPS Instructor Qualification: NEC F09A/F13A/F14A/ F15A/805A.
					1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Sea Tour (36 months) Duty: CVN/LHA/LHD/TACRON Billet: Case III Marshal/Approach CATCC Sup/AATCC Sup/TACC Sup Qualification: F10A/ F11A/ F12A



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YEARS OF SERVICE	CAREER MILESTONES	AVERAGE TIME TO ADVANCE	COMMISSIONING OR OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS	SEA/ SHORE FLOW	TYPICAL CAREER PATH DEVELOPMENT
5-8	AC1 AC2	7.4 Yrs 3.5	STA-21, OCS, MECP, RDC, Recruiter	Not Defined	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Shore Tour (36-60 months) Duty: NAS/FACSFAC. Billet: Radar Supervisor/Tower Supervisor Qualification: NEC F09A/F13A/F14A/F15A
					1 <sup>st</sup> Sea Tour (36 months) Duty: CVN/LHA/ LHD/TACRON Billet: Air Ops Sup/Case I/III Marshal/Departure/Case III Final/TACC SUP. Qualification: F05A/F06A/F08A/F12A
1-5	AC2 AC3	3.5 Yrs 2.3	STA-21, Naval Academy	Not Defined	1 <sup>st</sup> Shore Tour (36-48 months) Duty: NAS/FACSFAC Billet: NAS: FP/FD/GC/CD/FC/LC or AR FACSFAC: SC/CD/RC Qualification: NEC F04A/F14A/F15A
					1 <sup>st</sup> Sea Tour (36 months) Duty: CVN/ LHA/ LHD/ TACRON. Billet: Air Ops Sup/Case I/III Marshal/Departure/Case III Final/TACC SUP. Qualification: F05A/F06A/F08A/F12A
1+/-	ACAN ACAA Accession Training	1.2 Yrs .8		Not Defined	Recruit Training and A School. A School required rating; must pass the FAA Credentialing test to graduate

Notes:

1. A” School is required
2. Career Path not defined by Sea/Shore Flow; Shore Intensive Community. Limited sea duty billets for E6 and above; back-to-back shore duty is common. Very few requirements for special programs (RDC, Recruiter), ACs generally not released for special assignments.
3. FWS – Facility Watch Supervisor (Shore Duty) - Qualified on all operating positions in the facility and designated in writing by the Commanding Officer. Complexity dependent on the classification of facility (As stated in note 5), Class IV Approach Control Facilities are the most challenging shore duty stations
4. ATS – Air Traffic Control Training Supervisor (NATTC) – Awarded NEC 805A; Certified to instruct any (3) Phases of instruction and/or CATCC, AATCC, or ARATC; designated as MTS – Master Training Specialist.
5. Approach Control Facilities/CVNs – More challenging duty stations and most difficult NECs to obtain in rating as noted below (\*\*).
6. The following NEC’s are awarded upon attaining actual qualification/proof of competency in the Fleet. Sailors with these NEC’s and documentation of superior performance utilizing qualifications should be highly considered for advancement: NEC’s (F09A/F10A/F11A/F12A/F13A/F14A/F15A/805A). The following NECs are awarded at the completion of C-School and do not require OJT to be awarded. These NEC’s should be considered “basic” and do not necessarily merit advancement for their attainment: (F04A/F05A/F06A/F07A/F08A)

F04A – Advanced Radar Traffic Controller  
F05A – Carrier Air Traffic Control Center Controller



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F06A – Amphibious Air Traffic Control Center Controller  
 F07A – Air Traffic Control Manager  
 F08A – Carrier Air Traffic Control Center (CATCC) Operator  
 F09A – Facility Rated Terminal Radar Approach (RAPCON) Controller \*\*  
 F10A – Rated Carrier Air Traffic Control Center (CATCC) Controller \*\*  
 F11A – Rated Amphibious Air Traffic Control Center (AATCC) Controller  
 F12A – Rated Tactical Air Control Center (TACC) Controller  
 F13A – Facility Rated Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility (FACSFAC) Controller  
 F14A – Facility Rated RADAR Air Traffic Control Facility (RATCF) Controller  
 F15A – Control Tower Operator  
 805A – Instructor

### 7. List of common acronyms applicable to this career path:

ALPO	Assistant Leading Petty Officer
AR	Arrival Controller
ATTWO	Antiterrorism Tactical Watch Officer
BUPERS	Bureau of Naval Personnel
CD	Clearance Delivery
CMEQ	Command Managed Equal Opportunity
CPOA	Chief Petty Officer's Association
CSEL	Command Senior Enlisted Leader
CSTT	Combat Systems Training Team
DCTT	Damage Control Training Team
EAWS	Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist
ECM	Enlisted Community Manager
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FC	Final Controller
FCPOA	First Class Petty Officer's Association
FP	Flight Planning
GC	Ground Controller
LC	Local Controller
LCPO	Leading Chief Petty Officer
LDO	Limited Duty Officer
LPO	Leading Petty Officer
MECP	Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program
MTS	Master Training Specialist
NAS	Naval Air Station
NATOPS	Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization
NATTC	Naval Air Technical Training Center
NAVREP	US Navy Air Traffic Control FAA Representative
NPC	Navy Personnel Command
NRD	Navy Recruiting District
NROTC	Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps
OCS	Officer Candidate School
OOD	Officer of the Deck
PERS	Personnel
RC	Radar Coordinator
RDC	Recruit Division Commander
RTC	Recruit Training Command
SC	Sector Controller
SEA	Senior Enlisted Academy
STA-21	Seaman To Admiral
TYCOM	Type Commander
WCS	Work Center Supervisor



## AC CAREER PATH (AW)



### **Considerations for advancement from E6 to E7**

- Should have earned a minimum of one of the following NECs: F09A, F10A, F11A, F12A, F13A, F14A, or F15A

#### 1. Sea Assignments

- Should be qualified OOD(I/P)
- At least one warfare pin
- Assistant Command Collateral (ie: ACFL)
- FCPOA involvement
- Sailor 360 involvement and leading a committee
- Should have served as LPO, Assistant LPO, or Departmental/Divisional Work Center Supervisor
- CVN (CATCC)
- LHA/LHD (AATCC)
- TACRON (TACC)

#### 2. Shore Assignments

- Assistant Command Collateral (i.e. ACFL)
- FCPOA involvement
- Sailor 360 involvement and leading a committee.
- Should have served as NATOPS Evaluator, NATOPS Instructor, or Assistant NATOPS Instructor
- Class IV Facility (Approach Control)
- Class III Facility (Combined Control Tower and RATCF)
- NATTC Pensacola (Instructor Duty)
- Class VI Facility (FACSFAC)
- Class II Facility (Control Tower Facility)
- RDC or Recruiter Duty

### **Considerations for advancement from E7 to E8**

- Should have earned a minimum of two of the following NECs: F09A, F10A, F11A, F12A, F13A, F14A, or F15A

#### 1. Sea Assignments

- Should be qualified OOD(I/P), Section Leader, and other outside the normal scope (ie: ATTWO).
- At least one warfare pin
- Training Team member (i.e.: DCTT, CSTT) or Repair Locker Leader or other Damage Control organization involvement
- Command Collateral with documented impact
- CPOA involvement
- CPO initiation involvement or leading a committee
- Should have served as AATCC/TACC Training and Readiness or CATCC/AATCC/TACC Branch Chief/NATOPS Instructor/NATOPS Evaluator
- CVN (CATCC)
- LHA/LHD (AATCC)
- TACRON (TACC)

#### 2. Shore Assignments

- Command Collateral (i.e. CFL)
- CPOA Involvement
- CPO initiation involvement or leading a committee
- Served as NATOPS Evaluator, NATOPS Instructor, or LCPO
- Class IV Facility (Approach Control)
- Class III Facility (Combined Control Tower and RATCF)



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- NATTC Pensacola (Instructor Duty)
- Fleet Liaison/TYCOM/NAVREP/Staff Duty
- Class VI Facility (FACSFAC)
- Class II Facility (Control Tower Facility)

### **Considerations for advancement from E8 to E9**

- Should have earned a minimum of three of the following NECs: F09A, F10A, F11A, F12A, F13A, F14A, or F15A

#### 1. Sea Assignments

- Should be qualified OOD(I/P), Senior Section Leader, and other outside the normal scope (ie: ATTWO).
- At least one warfare pin
- Training Team member (i.e.: DCTT, CSTT) or Repair Locker Leader or other Damage Control organization involvement.
- Command Collateral with documented impact
- CPOA involvement
- CPO initiation involvement or leading a committee
- Should have served as CATCC Training and Readiness or LCPO
- CVN (CATCC)
- LHA/LHD (AATCC)
- TACRON (TACC)

#### 2. Shore Assignments

- Command Collateral with documented impact
- CPOA Involvement
- CPO initiation involvement or leading a committee
- Served as NATOPS Evaluator, LCPO, or Fleet Liaison/TYCOM
- Class IV Facility (Approach Control)
- Class III Facility (Combined Control Tower and RATCF)
- NATTC Pensacola (Instructor Duty)
- Fleet Liaison/TYCOM/ECM/Staff Duty
- Class VI Facility (FACSFAC)
- Class II Facility (Control Tower Facility)