



AWF CAREER PATH (NAC/AW/EXW)



Naval Aircrewman Mechanical (AWF). AWFs belong to a diverse community that is highly specialized to the platform they are assigned. AWFs serve as Flight Engineers on P-3, C-130 and E-6 aircraft. In addition, they serve as loadmasters and/or Crew Chiefs on C-2 and C-130 and Reel Operators on E-6 aircraft. While assigned to Naval Special Warfare (NSW) units, they serve as Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Mission Commander, pilot, payload operator and technical surveillance operator on various platforms.

YEARS OF SERVICE	CAREER MILESTONES	AVERAGE TIME TO ADVANCE	COMMISSIONING OR OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS	SEA/SHORE FLOW	TYPICAL CAREER PATH DEVELOPMENT
26-30	AWFCM	23.2	CSEL, ECM, Lead Detailer, Wing/TG AMCPO	36	Follow-on Shore Tours
23-26	AWFCM AWFCS	23.2 Yrs 21.1	CSEL, ECM, Lead Detailer, NSWDG, NSW UAS, Wing/TG, AMCPO	36	4 th Shore Tour Billet: TYCOM / NAVAIR / FRS / NSW Group / Type Wings AMCPO
20-23	AWFCM AWFCS	23.2 Yrs 22.1	CMDCM, CSEL, CMDCS, AMCPO, NSWDG, NSW UAS	36	4 th Sea Tour Billet: AMCPO, DET LCPO / DET SEL, Department / Division / Branch LCPO / NSW LCPO / Manpower Manager, Senior Aircrewman Duty: VP/VQ/VPU/ VRC/NSWDG/ NSW SRT/NSW ATC. Qualification: NATOPS Instructor/ NATOPS Evaluator / FIUTI / CRMI / SFF/Quality Assurance Supervisor, NSW UAS Mission Commander, NSW UAS Operator, NSW UAS Instructor
17-20	AWFCM AWFCS AWFC	23.2 Yrs 21.1 18.3	CWO, CSEL, AMCPO, Instructor Duty, ECM, Detailer, Placement Coordinator, Rating Specialist, OCS Leadership, NSWDG, NSW UAS, Instructor. SEA FA	36	3 rd Shore Tour Billets: AMCPO, DET LCPO / DET SEL / CTF (Bahrain/Misawa)/ Wing AMCPO / FRS Instructor/ NATOPS Evaluator / Operations/Training LCPO/ "A" School/ CNATTU/NACCS/Water Survival Instructor/MPRWS/NSW UAS Operator. Duty: VP/VQ/VX/VXS/NSWDG/ NSW SRT/NSW ATC/NSW Group Qualifications: ACTC 400 / ACTC 500 / WTI / Fleet NATOPS Evaluator/MTS/SIUTI/FIUTI/ CRMI/*SFF/*QAR/*Quality Assurance Supervisor, NSW UAS Mission Commander, NSW UAS Operator, NSW UAS Instructor



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14-17	AWFCS AWFC AWF1	22.1 Yrs 18.3 8.2	CWO, OCS, MECP, CSEL, Special Projects, NSWDG, NSW UAS	36	<p>3rd Sea Tour Billets: NATOPS LPO/LCPO/Training LPO/LCPO/Operations LPO/LCPO/LCPO/ *Maintenance Control/*Quality Assurance Supervisor/Division/Branch LCPO/LPO</p> <p>Duty: VP/VQ/VPU/ VRC/OPNAV SDC/NSWDG /NSW SRT/NSW ATC/NSW Group Qualification: NATOPS Evaluator/SFF/SIUTI*/QAR</p> <p>Qualifications: ACTC 400 / ACTC 500 / WTI / Fleet NATOPS Evaluator/MTS/SIUTI/FIUTI/ CRMI/*QAR/*Quality Assurance Supervisor, NSW UAS Mission Commander, NSW UAS Operator, NSW UAS Instructor</p>
11-14	AWFCS AWFC AWF1	22.1 Yrs 18.3 8.2	LDO, CWO, STA-21, NSWDG, NSW UAS, Embassy Duty, Naval War College, OCS Leadership Instructor, Instructor Duty	36	<p>2nd Shore Tour Billets: NATOPS LPO/LCPO/ Training LPO/LCPO/ Operations LPO/LCPO/Division/Branch LCPO/LPO/ Classroom Instructor/Schedules Petty Officer / NATOPS Instructor/NATOPS Evaluator/FIUTI/RDC/Recruiting</p> <p>Duty: VQ/VX/VXS/VRC/CTF (Bahrain, Misawa)/FRS Instructor/ "A" School/NSWDG/NSW SRT/ NSW ATC/CNATTU/NACCS/Water Survival Instructor</p> <p>Qualification: MTS/Fleet NATOPS Evaluator/NATOPS Instructor / CRMI/ACTC 400/ACTC 500 WTI/SIUTI/FIUTI/ *SFF*/QAR/*CDQAR/*CDI, NSW UAS Mission Commander, NSW UAS Operator, NSW UAS Instructor</p>



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9-12	AWFC AWF1 AWF2	18.3 Yrs 8.2 3.2	LDO, CWO, OCS, STA-21, NSWDG, NSW UAS, MECP.	36	2 nd Sea Tour Billets: NATOPS LPO/LCPO/ Training LPO/LCPO/Operations LPO/LCPO/ *Maintenance Control Duty: VP/VQ/VPU/ VRC/OPNAV SDC/NSWDG/NSW SRT/ Qualification: NATOPS Instructor Evaluator/ACTC 400/ IUTI/ CRMI/*SFF/*QAR/*CDQAR/*C DI, NSW UAS Mission Commander, NSW UAS Operator, NSW UAS Instructor
1-6	AWF2 AWF3	3.2 Yrs 1.6	STA-21, OCS, MECP, Naval Academy, NROTC	54	1 st Sea Tour Billets: Aircrewman Duty: VP/VQ/VRC Qualification: NATOPS Instructor/Positional Instructor/ Plane Captain/NAWS/ EAWS/*CDI/*CDQAR
1+/-	AWFAN AWFAA Accession Training	9 Months			Recruit Training/NACCS/FRS and all schools or training events required to be completed prior to reporting to their first operational command

Notes:

1. A” School is required.
2. This rating is not a compression rating. The following service ratings were effective on 1 Oct 2008: AWR, AWS, AWO, AWF, AWV, which fall under the general rating AW. Effective 28 Oct 2016, Senior Chief Petty Officers no longer compress to AWCM.
3. Upon completion of initial training pipelines, AWFs are typically closed-loop detailed by their NEC/platform to meet crew seat ratio until there is no longer a need for that particular NEC. In this regard, Sailors may not be afforded the opportunity to serve in the same competitive Shore Duty assignments outside of their communities as are afforded to other ratings. IE: RDC/Recruiting. Similarly, not all AWFs may have the opportunity to attain the ACTC level 500 designation within their community as a small number are selected for that duty.
4. Member must volunteer for duty involving flying.
5. Members must be fully qualified and maintain all requirements to perform flight duties IAW OPNAVINST 3710.
6. In addition to the above career path, an AWF is advanced due to proven leadership, performance and qualifications. In order to serve as an AWF, the Sailor must volunteer for duty involving flying and hold a SECRET security clearance.
7. Must attend refresher training at a Fleet Replacement Squadron if member was distributed to a billet not requiring regular flight duties exceeding 18 months for designated Type/Model/Series.



AWF CAREER PATH (NAC/AW/EXW)



8. Career enhancing billets or tours and special qualifications include: Wing/TG AMCPO, Squadron AMCPO, FRS Instructor, MPRWS, Instructor Duty, RDC, OPNAV SDC, NSWDG, NSW Group, NSW SRT, NSW ATC, ECM/TECHAD, Detailer, Rating Specialist, Placement Coordinator, Overseas duty.

9. Candidates going up for AWFCM should have at least one successful sea-duty tour with break-outs.

10. Due consideration should be given to those individuals who serve on Navy-wide / Task Force level boards and committees like the AERR, PQS/NATOPS Conference, AW Task Force, Navy Advancement Selection Boards, and future rated committees as these efforts contribute significantly to the enhancement of the Navy and the Naval Aircrewman ratings' combat effectiveness. (**taken directly from AWV Notes**)

11. Personnel assigned to Naval Special Warfare (NSW) commands must qualify as Combat Service Support or Combat Support in order to support combat and contingency operations. Additionally, they must qualify as an Expeditionary Warfare Specialist (EXW). All Naval Aircrewman supporting NSW provide a critical link with the NAVAIR community to NSW by bringing best practices from Aircrew training and evaluation, NATOPS and NAMP procedures, and tactical system/sensor employment .

12. Maintenance qualifications indicated by asterisk "*" are qualifications that may be attained if attached to a maintenance department and the individual platform determines degree of requirement.

13. In addition to operational duties, all AWs are required to maintain minimum Naval Aircrew physical fitness standards.

14. Acronyms specific to the AWF rate include:

AAS	Advanced Airborne Sensor
ACTC	Aircrew Training Continuum
AVO	Air Vehicle Operator
AVO-I	Air Vehicle Operator Instructor
CDI	Collateral Duty Inspector
CDQAR	Collateral Duty Quality Assurance Representative
CNATTU	Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit
CRMI	Crew Resource Management Instructor
CSS	Combat Service Support
CS	Combat Support
CTF	Commander Task Force
EAWS	Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist
ECM	Enlisted Community Manager
EXW	Expeditionary Warfare Specialist
FIUTI	Fleet Instructor Under Training Instructor
FRS	Fleet Replacement Squadron
LSRS	Littoral Surveillance Radar System
MTS	Master Training Specialist
MPO	Mission Payload Operator
MPRWS	P-3 and/or P-8 Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School
NACCS	Naval Aircrew Candidate School
NAPP	Naval Aviation Production Process
NATOPS	Naval Aviation Training Operations Procedures and Standardization
NATTC	Naval Aviation Technical Training Center
NAWS	Naval Aircrew Warfare Specialist
NSW	Naval Special Warfare
NSWDG	Naval Special Warfare Development Group
NSWG	Naval Special Warfare Group
NSW SRT	Naval Special Warfare Special Reconnaissance Team
NSW ATC	Naval Special Warfare Advance Training Command
QAR	Quality Assurance Representative
SFF	Safe for Flight



AWF CAREER PATH (NAC/AW/EXW)



SIUTI	FRS Staff Instructor Under Training Instructor
SRT	Special Reconnaissance Team
STRATCOM	Strategic Command
UAS	Unmanned Aerial System
WTI	Weapons Tactic Instructor
VRC	Fleet Logistics Support Squadron
VP	Patrol Squadron
VPU	Patrol Squadron Special Projects
VQ	Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron
VX	Air Test and Evaluation Squadron
VXS	Scientific Development Squadron

Considerations for advancement from E6 to E7

1. Sea Assignments

- Documentation of utilizing in-rate qualifications
 - Positional Qualification / 300 Level ACTC for Fleet Sea Duty assignments
 - For NSW assigned personnel:
 - NSW JTAC
 - NSW UAS Operator
 - NSW UAS Instructor
- At least two warfare pins (NAWS primary)
- Completion of PPME
- At least one command collateral duty (Primary or Alternate)
- FCPOA active involvement
- Sailor 360 involvement
- Should have served as LPO or Assistant LPO in one of the following:
 - Operations (Operations LPO at sea is the pinnacle assignment for a Naval Aircrewman)
 - Training
 - NATOPS
 - NSW
 - NSW Division/Department
 - Maintenance Work Center (if assigned to the Maintenance Department)
- Upper-level qualifications
 - NATOPS Instructor or Assistant NATOPS Instructor/ 400 Level ACTC
 - Not required but a good indicator of superior performance, considered to be the pinnacle of Aircrew qualifications.
- Safe-For-Flight (SFF) Qualification
 - SFF qualification is not required for advancement to E-7 and does not fall into the normal job scope of a Naval Aircrewman, but is considered to be the pinnacle of aviation maintenance qualifications. E-6's attached to the Maintenance Department holding the SFF qualification should be given the same consideration for advancement as those holding the 400 level ACTC qualification.
- Sea Duty Special Programs (NSWDG/NSW UAS)
 - UAS Mission Commander Qualification is not required for advancement to E-7 but is the pinnacle of unmanned aviation flight/tactical qualifications. E-6's holding this qualification should be given appropriate consideration for advancement due to the nature of the specialized qualification.
 - UAS Instructor qualification is not required for advancement to E-7 but is an advanced unmanned aviation flight/tactical qualification. E-6's holding this qualification should be given appropriate consideration for advancement due to the nature of the specialized qualification.



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2. Shore Assignments

- FRS Instructor, MPRWS, Instructor Duty, RDC, NSWDG, NSW Group, NSW SRT, NSW ATC, ECM/TECHAD, Detailer, Rating Specialist, Placement Coordinator, Overseas duty.
- Strong consideration for certain successful tours that demonstrate leadership, character, and ability to communicate effectively.
 - Attainment of Master Training Specialist (MTS) qualification if eligible
 - Attainment of 500 Level ACTC Weapons Tactics Instructor (WTI) if eligible
 - RDC / Instructor / Recruiter / PERS / BUPERS / NSW
- At least one command collateral duty (Primary or Alternate)
- FCPOA active involvement
- Sailor 360 involvement
- Should have served as LPO or Assistant LPO in one of the following
 - Operations
 - Training
 - NATOPS
 - Student Control
 - NSW
- Attainment and utilization of Instructor Qualifications
- NSW Shore Duty Special Program (NSW UAS)
 - NSW SRT Shore UIC instructor is not required for advancement to E-7 but is an advanced unmanned aviation flight/tactical qualifications. E-6's holding this qualification should be given appropriate consideration for advancement due to the nature of the specialized qualification.
 - NSW ATC instructor duty is not required for advancement to E-7 but is an advanced unmanned aviation flight/tactical qualifications. E-6's holding this qualification should be given appropriate consideration for advancement due to the nature of the specialized qualification.

Considerations for advancement from E7 to E8

1. Sea Assignments

- At least two warfare pin (NAWS primary)
- Completion of PPME and Senior Enlisted JPME
- NATOPS Instructor or Assistant NATOPS Instructor/ 400 Level ACTC position held
 - At least 12 months in a command role / billet Division LCPO
 - Department LCPO (Ops and Training DEPT LCPO Billets traditionally a E8 Billet)
 - Division LCPO
 - Maintenance Control CPO if attached to Maintenance Department
 - NSW LCPO
- Safe for Flight (SFF) Qualification attained at some point if attached to the Maintenance Department
- Command Collateral Duty with documented impact
- CPOA involvement
- Sailor 360 Phase I/II involvement (committee lead or alternate / selectee sponsor)
- For NSW assignments:
 - NSW UAS Operator
 - NSW UAS Instructor
 - NSW UAS Mission Commander



AWF CAREER PATH (NAC/AW/EXW)



2. Shore Assignments

- FRS Instructor, MPRWS, Instructor Duty, Special Projects, RDC, NSW Group, NSW ATC, NSW SRT, ECM/TECHAD, Detailer, Rating Specialist, Placement Coordinator, Overseas duty.
- Strong consideration for certain successful tours that demonstrate leadership, character, and ability to communicate effectively.
 - Attainment of Master Training Specialist (MTS) qualification if eligible
 - Attainment of 500 Level ACTC Weapons Tactics Instructor (WTI) if eligible
 - RDC / Instructor / Recruiter / PERS / BUPERS / NSW
- At least one command collateral duty (Primary or Alternate)
- CPOA active involvement
- Sailor 360 Phase I involvement
- Should have served as LCPO in one of the following:
 - Operations
 - Training or Tactics
 - NATOPS
 - NSW
- Attainment and utilization of Instructor Qualifications

Considerations for advancement from E8 to E9

1. Sea Assignments

- Senior Enlisted Academy (required)
- Completion of SEJPME and favorable consideration for completion of SEJPME II
- At least two warfare pins (NAWS primary)
- At least 12 months in a command role / billet any of the following:
 - Aircrew Master Chief Petty Officer (Pinnacle E9 Billet)
 - Aircrew Readiness Manager (Traditional E9 Billet)
 - Senior Enlisted Aircrewman
 - Operations DEPT LCPO (Pinnacle assignment for a Naval Aircrewman at sea)
 - Training DEPT LCPO
 - NATOPS DEPT LCPO
 - NSW LCPO
- Senior Enlisted Leader during absence of incumbent CMC/SEL
 - Not required for advancement however a positive indicator of responsibility, character, and integrity
- Command Collateral with documented impact
- CPOA involvement and holding a position
- Sailor 360 Phase I/II involvement (Committee Lead or Alternate)

2. Shore Assignments

- ECM, Lead Detailer, TYCOM, NAVAIR, FRS, STRATCOM, Schools Command, NSWDG, NSW Group
- At least 12 months in a command role / billet any of the following:
 - Wing/TF Aircrew Master Chief Petty Officer
 - Aircrew Readiness Manager
 - Senior Enlisted Aircrewman
 - SEL
- Command Collateral with documented impact
- CPOA active involvement
- Sailor 360 Phase I/II involvement (Committee Lead or Alternate)



AWF CAREER PATH (NAC/AW/EXW)



- Should have served as LCPO in one of the following:
 - Operations
 - Training
 - NATOPS
 - NSW
- Leadership impact across total force