ABH CAREER PATH
(AW)

Aviation Boatswain's Mates – (Handler) (ABH). ABHs play a major role in launching and recovering naval aircraft from land (Naval Air Stations) or ships (CVN/LHA/LHD/LPD). Duties include: supervising the movement, spotting and securing of aircraft and equipment ashore and afloat; performing crash rescue, fire fighting, crash removal, and damage control duties in connection with launching and recovery of aircraft.

YEARS OF SERVICE	CAREER MILESTONES	AVERAGE TIME TO ADVANCE	COMMISSIONING OR OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS	SEA/SHORE FLOW	TYPICAL CAREER PATH DEVELOPMENT
27-30	ABCM	23.1 Yrs	CSEL, ECM, AB Detailer/Rating Specialist	36	4th Shore Tour Billet: LCPO/CSEL/ Dept LCPO Duty: Staff/School Qualification: SEA
23-27	ABCM ABHCS	23.1 Yrs 18.4	CSEL	48	4th Sea Tour Billet: Air Dept LCPO/Flight Deck/Hangar LCPO/Crash LCPO Duty: CVN/LHA/LHD/LPD Qualification: SEA, Afloat Training Specialists
20-23	ABCM ABHCS	23.1 Yrs 19.6	CSEL, CWO, ECM, Rating Detailer, Rating Specialist/Evaluator, Placement Coordinator, Naval Air Station	36	3rd Shore Tour Billet: Instructor/Operations LCPO/Terminal LCPO/Field Support LCPO Duty: Staff/School/NAS Qualification: Local JQR/PQS/MTS
16-20	ABHCS ABHC	19.6 Yrs 14.8	MECP, STA-21, OCS, LDO,CWO, Recruiter, RDC, Drug and Alcohol Counselor, Brig Duty, TPU, NAVLEAD Instructor, AFLOATRAGRU, COMNAVAIRPAC, COMNAVAIRLANT, NATTC Pensacola, Rating Detailer, Rating Specialist/Evaluator, Placement Coordinator	48	3rd Sea Tour Billet: Flight/Hangar/LCPO/CPO/ LPO/Crash CPO/LPO Duty: CVN/LHA/LHD/LPD/ESB Qualification: Local JQR/PQS, Afloat Training Specialist
13-16	ABHC ABH1	14.8 Yrs 10		36	2nd Shore Tour Billet: Instructor/ Crash (OLF) Site CPO/ LPO/ Transient Line CPO/LPO/ Terminal CPO/LPO Duty: Staff/School/NAS Qualification: Local JQR/PQS/MTS
8-13	ABH1 ABH2	10 Yrs 5.2		60	2nd Sea Tour Billet: Flight Deck Chief /Flight Deck LPO/FLY PO/Bay PO/Crash ALPO/WCS/A/C Director/Deck PO/Amphib Shooter/LSE Amphib Duty: CVN/LHA/LHD/LPD/ESB Qualification: Local JQR/PQS

Revised: September 2022

ABH CAREER PATH
(AW)

YEARS OF SERVICE	CAREER MILESTONES	AVERAGE TIME TO ADVANCE	COMMISSIONING OR OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS	SEA/SHORE FLOW	TYPICAL CAREER PATH DEVELOPMENT
5-8	ABH2 ABH3	5.2Yrs 2.4	MECP, STA-21, Naval Academy, NROTC, Recruiter, RDC, USS CONSTITUTION, Brig Duty, NATTC Pensacola	36	1st Shore Tour Billet: Recruiting/Instructor/ RDC/General Duty Crash Crewman (OLF)/Shore Based A/G/ Transient Line/Air Terminal Duty: Staff/School/NAS Qualification: local JQR/PQS/MTS
1-5	ABH2 ABH3	5.2 Yrs 2.4		56	1st Sea Tour Billet: Flight Deck LPO/FLY PO/Bay PO/Crash ALPO/WCS/ A/C Director/Deck PO/Amphib Shooter/LSE Amphib Duty: CVN/LHA/LHD/LPD/ESB Qualification: Local JQR/PQS
1+/-	ABHAN ABHAA Accession Training	9 Months			Recruit Training and all schools or training events required to be completed prior to reporting to their first operational command

Notes:

1. "A" School is not required.

2. This is a compression rating – ABE/ABH/ABF compress to AB at Master Chief.

3. Common acronyms associated to the career path:

ABH	Aviation Boatswains Mate (Handler)
ADTT	AIR Department Training Team (CVN)
ATT	Aviation Training Team (LHA/LHD/ESB)
ATG	Afloat Training Group
BUPERS	Bureau of Naval Personnel
CDQAR	Collateral Duty Quality Assurance Rep.
CMEO	Command Managed Equal Opportunity
CNAF	Commander Naval Air Forces
CNAL	Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic
CNAP	Commander, Naval Air Forces Pacific
CNATT	Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training
COMFRC	Commander Fleet Readiness Center
CORR CTRL	Corrosion Control
CPOA	Chief Petty Officer's Association
CSEL	Command Senior Enlisted Leader
CWO	Chief Warrant Officer
DCTT	Damage Control Training Team
DET	Detachment
EAWS	Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist
ECM	Enlisted Community Manager
ESB	Expeditionary Sea Base
FCPOA	First Class Petty Officer's Association

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FRC	Fleet Readiness Center
FRS	Fleet Readiness Squadron
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
NATTC	Naval Air Technical Training Center
NPC	Navy Personnel Command
NROTC	Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps
OCS	Officer Candidate School
OOD	Officer of the Deck
PERS	Personnel
PO	Petty Officer
QA	Quality Assurance
QAR	Quality Assurance Representative
QAS	Quality Assurance Supervisor
RDC	Recruit Division Commander
SEA	Senior Enlisted Academy
STA-21	Seaman To Admiral

Considerations for advancement from E6 to E7

1. Sea Assignments (all)
   - Should have served as DIV LPO/ALPO/FLY PO/BAY PO/CRASH LPO
   - Should be qualified JOOD/OOD(I/P) for CVN. OOD(I/P) for L-Class and ESB platforms
   - Should have earned at least two warfare pins
   - Special consideration should be given to those serving as the Air Dept LPO
   - Special consideration should be given to those with Afloat Training Specialist if ATS program is available.
   - ADTT/ATT is expected. Special considerations should be given for DCTT team or other Training Team member. Repair Locker Leader or other Damage Control organization involvement
   - Should have CVN qualifications (i.e. Flight/Hanger/Crash CPO, Deck Caller, Hanger Deck LPO/Crash LPO, Fly PO/Hanger Bay PO if member has served on or is currently serving on a CVN.
   - Aircraft Handling Officer is an advanced qualification on a CVN.
   - Should have LHA/LHD qualifications (i.e. Flight Deck/Hanger Deck/Crash CPO, Flight Deck/Hanger Deck/Crash LPO, Fly PO) if member has served on or is currently serving on an LHA/LHD.
   - Should have LPD/LSD qualifications (i.e. Flight Deck Aircraft Director) if member has served on or is currently serving on a LPD/LSD
   - Should have ESB qualifications (i.e. Flight Deck Aircraft Director) if member has served on or is currently serving on an ESB.
   - Command Collateral Duty with documented impact
   - FCPOA involvement. Elected position is highly favorable
   - Sailor 360 active participation/involvement
   - If selected as the AIRLANT or AIRPAC Aviation Boatswain's Mate of the Year (ABOY), they are the best and fully qualified on their respective coast

2. Shore Assignments (all)
   - Personnel assigned to ABH "A" School or "C" school instructors with 805ANEC are carefully screened and selected to that assignment and are highly valued by the ABH community. It is highly recommended that those serving as an instructor in any capacity obtain their Master Training Specialist Certification
   - Personnel Assigned to RTC as a Recruit Division Commander are carefully screened and selected for this high priority assignment
   - Personnel assigned to COMNAVPERSCOM (NPC) as a Detailer, Rating Evaluator/Specialist, or Placement Coordinator are carefully screened and selected for this high priority assignment

- FCPOA involvement; FCPOA elected position is highly favorable
- Sailor 360 active involvement
- Command Collateral with documented impact
  If selected as the AIRLANT or AIRPAC Aviation Boatswain's Mate of the Year (ABOY), they are the best and fully qualified on their respective coast

Considerations for advancement from E7 to E8

1. Sea Assignments (all)
   - Successfully served as the DIV, or DEPT LCPO
   - Should be qualified JOOD/OOD(I/P) for CVN. OOD(I/P) for L-Class and ESB platforms
   - Primary or Assistant Section Leader, and other outside the normal scope (ie: ATTWO)
   - Should have earned at least two warfare pins
   - ADTT/ATT member. DCTT, Repair locker leader or other Damage Control organization involvement is highly favorable
   - Special consideration should be given to those with Afloat Training Specialist if ATS program is available.
   - Should have CVN qualifications (i.e. Flight/Hanger/Crash CPO, Deck Caller) if member has served on or is currently serving on a CVN.
   - Aircraft Handling Officer is an advanced qualification on a CVN.
   - Should have LHA/LHD qualifications (i.e. Flight Deck/Hanger Deck/Crash CPO) if member has served on or is currently serving on an LHA/LHD.
   - Should have LPD/LSD qualifications (i.e. Flight Deck Aircraft Director) if member has served on or is currently serving on a LPD/LSD
   - Should have ESB qualifications (i.e. Flight Deck Aircraft Director) if member has served on or is currently serving on an ESB.
   - Command Collateral with documented impact
   - CPOA involvement. Elected position is highly favorable
   - Sailor 360 active involvement and Initiation Committee lead

2. Shore Assignments (all)
   - Personnel assigned to TYCOM Staff, ATG, ABH "A" School or "C" School Instructors with 805A NEC are carefully screened and selected to that assignment and are highly valued by the ABH community. It is highly recommended that those serving as an instructor in any capacity obtain their Master Training Specialist Certification
   - Personnel Assigned to RTC as a Recruit Division Commander are carefully screened and selected for this high priority assignment
   - Personnel assigned to COMNAVPERSCOM (NPC) as a Detailer, Rating Evaluator/Specialist, or Placement Coordinator are carefully screened and selected for this high priority assignment
   - Command Collateral with documented impact
   - CPOA involvement. Elected position is highly favorable
   - Sailor 360 active involvement and Initiation Committee lead

Considerations for advancement from E8 to E9

1. Sea Assignments (all)
   - Successfully served as the DIV, or DEPT LCPO
   - Should be qualified OOD(I/P) for CVN. OOD(I/P) for L-Class and ESB platforms
   - Should have served as a Senior Section Leader
   - Should have earned at least two warfare pins
   - ADTT/ATT member. DCTT, Repair locker leader or other Damage Control organization involvement is highly favorable
   - Special consideration should be given to those serving as the Air Dept LCPO (filling a MCPO billet)
   - Special consideration should be given to those with Afloat Training Specialist if ATS program is available.
   - Should have CVN qualifications (i.e. Flight/Hanger/Crash CPO, Deck Caller) if member has served on or is currently serving on a CVN.

- Aircraft Handling Officer is an advanced qualification on a CVN.
- Should have LHA/LHD qualifications (i.e. Flight Deck/Hanger Deck/Crash CPO) if member has served on or is currently serving on an LHA/LHD.
- Should have LPD/LSD qualifications (i.e. Flight Deck Aircraft Director) if member has served on or is currently serving on a LPD/LSD
- Should have ESB qualifications (i.e. Flight Deck Aircraft Director) if member has served on or is currently serving on an ESB.
- Command Collateral with documented impact
- CPOA involvement. Elected position is highly favorable
- Sailor 360 active involvement and Initiation Committee lead

2. Shore Assignments (all)
    - Personnel assigned to TYCOM Staff, ATG, ABH "A" School or "C" school instructors with 805A NEC are carefully screened and selected to that assignment and are highly valued by the ABH community. It is highly recommended that those serving as an instructor in any capacity obtain their Master Training Specialist Certification
    - Personnel Assigned to RTC as a Recruit Division Commander are carefully screened and selected for this high priority assignment
    - Personnel assigned to COMNAVPERSCOM (NPC) as a Detailer, Rating Evaluator/Specialist, or Placement Coordinator are carefully screened and selected for this high priority assignment
    - Command Collateral with documented impact
    - CPOA involvement. Elected position is highly favorable
    - Sailor 360 active involvement and Initiation Committee lead