



AME CAREER PATH  
(AW)



Aviation Structural Mechanic – (Safety Equipment) (AME). AMEs maintains and repairs utility systems throughout the aircraft. They work on systems such as air conditioning, heating, pressurization and oxygen, plus multiple safety devices.

YEARS OF SERVICE	CAREER MILESTONES	AVERAGE TIME TO ADVANCE	COMMISSIONING OR OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS	SEA/SHORE FLOW	TYPICAL CAREER PATH DEVELOPMENT
26-30	AFCM	22.35 Yrs	CSEL	36	Follow on Shore/Sea Tours
23-26	AFCM AMCS	22.35 Yrs 18.2	CSEL, CWO, Detailer, Rating Specialist, Spec Recon Team (SRT), Blue Angels, LCAC	36	4 <sup>th</sup> Sea Tour Billet: Div CPO/Supervisor, Maint/Prod Ctrl Sup/Coord, QA Sup. MMCPO (724B) Duty: Squadron, AIMD, CVW/WING
20-23	AFCM AMCS AMEC	22.35Yrs 18.2 15.4	CWO, CSEL, Rating Detailer/Rating Specialist, ECM, Placement, Brig Duty, Naval Academy Company Advisor, LCAC	36	3 <sup>rd</sup> Shore Tour Billet: Staff LCPO/Prod LCPO/CSEL Duty: TYCOM/AIMD/NAR. Qualification: SEA / GGR
17-20	AMCS AMEC AME1	18.2 Yrs 15.4 9.0	MECP, OCS, LDO, CWO, CSEL, RDC, Equal Opportunity Advisor, Brig Duty, Recruiter, Instructor Duty, LCAC	36	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sea Tour Billet: Maint Sup, AV/WEP Div CPO, Maint/Prod Ctrl Coord/Sup, Sqdrn Trng, Aviation Safety, QA Sup, AMMT Duty: Squadron, Wing Staff, CNAP, CNAL, CVN/L-CLASS, Safety Technician Qualification: SEA, Supervisor, Prod/Maint Ctrl Safe For Flight qualified/GGR
14-17	AMCS AMEC AME1	18.2 Yrs 15.4 9.0		36	2 <sup>nd</sup> Shore Tour Billet: Maint Tech, Maint Sup, RDC, Instructor, Supervisor, Maint/Prod Ctrl Coord, QAR. Duty: FRS, FRC, NATTC, CNATT, Wing, PERS, Safety Technician Qualification: QAR, LPO, Supervisor, Prod/Maint Ctrl, Master Training Specialist if assigned as instructor, SFF, EAWS, LPO, PC, CDI/CDQAR
9-14	AMEC AME1 AME2	15.4 Yrs 9.0 3.7		54	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sea Tour Billet: Maint Tech, IMA Tech, Maint Team, Safety PO, QAR, Supervisor, Maint Liaison Duty: Squadron, FRC, AIMD, SEAOPP DET, DEVGRU, Safety Technician Qualification: EAWS, W/C Sup, CDI, QAR, Advanced NEC Training, LPO



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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
6-9	AME1 AME2 AME3	9.0 Yrs 3.7 2.2	MECP, STA-21, Naval Academy, NROTC, LDO, RDC, Recruiter, Brig Duty, Instructor Duty	36	1 <sup>st</sup> Shore Tour Billet: Maint Tech/WC Sup/LPO/Instructor/QA / Safety Technician Qualification: CDI/CDQAR Duty: NAS/AIMD/NAR
1-6	AME2 AME3	3.7 Yrs 1.5		54	1 <sup>st</sup> Sea Tour Billet: Maint Tech/Plane Captain/ CDI/Maint Turn Qual Duty: Squadron / Safety PO Qualification: EAWS
1+/-	AMEAN AMEAA Accession Training	9 Months			Recruit Training (8 weeks)/ 'A' School (9 weeks) (Required for AME) / 'C' School for aircraft platform or AIMD billet

Notes:

1. "A" School is required.
2. This is a compression rating – AME/AM ratings compress to AM rating at Senior Chief. AM/AD ratings compress to AF rating at Master Chief.
3. List of common acronyms applicable to this career path.

ACL	Aircraft Crew Lead
AIMD	Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Dept.
AME	Aviation Structural Mechanic – Safety Equipment
AMI	Aviation Maintenance Inspection
AMMT	Aviation Maintenance Management Team
APT	Aviation Program Team
APU	Auxiliary Power Unit
AV/WEP	Avionics / Weapons
BUPERS	Bureau of Naval Personnel
CAL Tech	Calibration Technician
CDI	Collateral Duty Inspector
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
COR	Contractor Officer Representative



## AME CAREER PATH (AW)



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
DEVGRU	Development Group
EAWS	Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist
ECM	Enlisted Community Manager
FDNF	Forward Deployed Naval Forces
FCPOA	First Class Petty Officer's Association
FRC	Fleet Readiness Center
FRS	Fleet Readiness Squadron
GFR	Government Flight Representative
GFRC	Ground and Flight Risk Clause
GGFR	Government Ground Flight Representative
GGR	Government Ground Representative
I-Level	Intermediate Level
IMA	Intermediate Maintenance Activity
LCAC	Landing Craft Air Cushion
LCPO	Leading Chief Petty Officer
LDO	Limited Duty Officer
LPO	Leading Petty Officer
MCI	Material Condition Inspection
MECP	Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program
MPA	Maintenance Program Assist
MTS	Master Training Specialist
NAS	Naval Air Station
NATEC	Naval Air Technical Data and Engineering Service Command
NATTC	Naval Air Technical Training Center
NPC	Navy Personnel Command
NROTC	Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps
OCS	Officer Candidate School
O-Level	Organizational Level
OOD	Officer of the Deck
PERS	Personnel
PMA	Program Management Activity
PO	Petty Officer
QA	Quality Assurance
QAR	Quality Assurance Representative
QAS	Quality Assurance Supervisor
RDC	Recruit Division Commander
SEA	Senior Enlisted Academy



## AME CAREER PATH (AW)



SEAOPPDET	Sea Operational Detachment
SFF	Safe For Flight
SRT	Special Reconnaissance Team
STA-21	Seaman To Admiral
VX	Air Test and Evaluation Squadron

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

#### **1. Sea Assignments**

- Utilizing/documentation of usage of advanced qualifications
  - APU / High-Power / Low-Power Turn Qualification / Yellow/Green/Black Belt certifications
  - Documentation of usage/impact of basic and advanced qualifications is essential
  - Out-of-rate qualifications (multi-workcenter/full systems CDI/CDQAR/QAR, etc.) are indicative of character and ability to lead and communicate at the department level
- At least one warfare pin (AW primary). Shall be qualified in current platform.
- Shall have served as LPO of production OR staff division for a minimum of 12 months
  - Production Control/ Maintenance Control
  - Quality Assurance
  - Production Division/Work Center
- Phase Supervisor/Coordinator (typically required prior to SFF qualification)
- Safe-For-Flight (SFF) Qualification (O-Level) / Production Control (I-Level)
  - SFF / Production Control qualification is not required for advancement to E-7 but is an advanced qualification for an E-6. E-6's holding the SFF / Production Control qualification WITH documentation of experience utilizing the qualification at sea OR shore should be given high consideration for advancement
- Production Control qualified (if assigned to CVN/LHA/LHD AIMD)
- If billeted to a ship, attainment of minimum shipboard quals is prudent. At a minimum, the following qualifications should be achieved and kept current: 3M (301-306), DC(301-313)
- Watch qualifications onboard: Petty Officer of the Watch, Junior Officer of the Deck (JOOD)
- Safety Petty Officer
  - Safety Petty Officer billets are highly valued in operational commands. Qualification with the 825A NEC (Safety Technician) or as a graduate of the Naval Safety and Environmental Training Center's Aviation Safety Specialist course with documentation of command-wide, CVN/CAG level impact indicates a best and most fully qualified candidate while serving in the Safety PO billet.
- At least one command collateral duty (Primary or Alternate) with documented impact.
- Mess Involvement
  - FCPOA position (president/secretary/treasurer/etc.)
  - Sailor 360 involvement
  - Documentation of performance and impact from command involvement/command collateral duty performance
- Notes regarding Special Reconnaissance Teams (SRT/NSWDG):
  - Enlisted members operate in small detachments maintaining and flying Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Requires special screening and extensive training
  - "Ranked" evaluations or documentation utilizing the following qualifications is indicative of excellence and ability to lead, and qualify in other platforms of aircraft
  - Basic qualifications
    - Combat Support
    - UAS Operator
    - UAS Maintenance
    - Expeditionary Warfare Specialist
  - Advanced qualifications
    - Mission Commander (Pinnacle UAS qualification)
    - SFF



## AME CAREER PATH (AW)



- Instructor
- Information Warfare Specialist

### 2. Shore Assignments

- Strong consideration for certain successful tours which demonstrate leadership, character, and ability to communicate effectively at the department OR command level
  - RDC / Instructor / Recruiter / PERS / BUPERS
  - NAWDC is considered an arduous shore duty and should be viewed favorably for advancement.
  - Personnel assigned to RTC, OTC and Naval Academy as a Recruit Division Commander, are carefully screened and selected for this high priority assignment.
  - Shall attain Master Training Specialist (MTS) qualification if eligible
- Attainment and utilization of advanced qualifications at the journeyman level
- Safe-For-Flight (SFF) Qualification (O-Level) / Production Control (I-Level)
  - SFF / Production Control qualification is not required for advancement to E-7 but is an advanced qualification for a E-6. E-6's holding the SFF / Production Control qualification WITH documentation of experience utilizing the qualification at sea OR shore should be given high consideration for advancement
- Phase Supervisor/Coordinator (typically required prior to SFF qualification)
- Utilizing/documentation of usage of advanced qualifications
  - APU / High-Power / Low-Power Turn Qualification
  - Documentation of usage/impact of basic and advanced qualifications is essential
  - Out-of-rate qualifications (multi-workcenter/full systems CDI/CDQAR/QAR, etc.) are indicative of character and ability to lead and communicate at the department level
  - Aviation Program Team (APT)
    - APT provides oversight of contract requirements in support of the GFR, GGFR, and COR in areas to include maintenance management, safety, QA, and property control
    - GGR's are responsible for surveillance and oversight of contractor aircraft ground operations as part of an Aviation Program Team. Designation as a GGR is considered an advanced qualification for E-6's and may only be granted to top-performing E-6's in a program team
- Safety Petty Officer
  - Safety Petty Officer billets are highly valued in operational commands. Qualification with the 825A NEC (Safety Technician) or as a graduate of the Naval Safety and Environmental Training Center's Aviation Safety Specialist course with documentation of command-wide impact indicates a best and most fully qualified candidate while serving in the Safety PO billet.
- At least one command collateral duty (Primary or Alternate) with documented impact.
- Mess Involvement
  - FCPOA position (president/secretary/treasurer/etc.)
  - Sailor 360 involvement
  - Documentation of performance and impact from command involvement/command collateral duty performance
- Notes regarding Naval Special Warfare UAS (SRT/ATC)
  - NSW UAS Instructors work in UIC's that are designed to retain select, experienced NSW UAS personnel to train incoming UAS operators in special warfare and UAS maintenance/flight operations. Designation as a NSW UAS Instructor is indicative of excellence and ability to lead at the department/command level

### Considerations for advancement from E7 to E8

#### 1. Sea Assignments

- At least one warfare pin (AW primary) Shall be qualified in current platform.
- Staff Duty
  - Wing Advisor / CNAF Inspection Team



## AME CAREER PATH (AW)



- Successful tour is indicated by documented superior performance since teams are comprised of subject matter experts
- Safe for Flight (SFF) Qualification if stationed at the O-Level (Squadron)
  - SFF Qualified on at least one aircraft platform if stationed at VX Squadron
- Shall have at least 12 months in a command role / billet
  - Maintenance / Production Control (Desk Chief)
  - Division LCPO
  - Detachment LCPO
  - Documentation of superior performance in a primary duty
    - Evidenced by inspection results such as AMI/MPA/MCI/etc. where aviation-type inspections are performed
- Strong consideration for designation and documentation as a Detachment (DET) LCPO
  - Rescue DETs and DETs for new delivery aircraft do NOT qualify as Detachment LCPO
- If assigned to a sea-going vessel, attainment of minimum shipboard quals is prudent. At a minimum, the following qualifications should be achieved and kept current: 3M (304) and DCCT
- Watch qualifications onboard: Enlisted Section Leader, Officer of the Deck (OOD)
- Major command collateral duty with documented impact
- Collateral duties / Mess Involvement
  - CPOA involvement and collateral duties should be subordinate to primary duties
  - Sailor 360 involvement, leading, mentoring Sailors with results
  - Documentation of performance and impact from command involvement/command collateral duty performance
- Notes regarding Special Reconnaissance Teams (SRT):
  - Requires special screening and extensive training
  - Enlisted members operate in small detachments maintaining and flying UAV's
  - Maintenance qualifications unique to UAV's are similar to typical maintenance qualifications (CDI/CDQAR)
  - "Ranked" evaluations or documentation of successful tour is indicative of excellence and ability to lead and qualify in other platforms of aircraft

### 2. Shore Assignments

- At least one warfare pin (AW primary)
- Strong consideration for certain successful tours which demonstrate leadership, character, and ability to communicate effectively in and out of community
  - RDC / Instructor / Recruiter / PERS / BUPERS
  - NAWDC is considered an arduous shore duty and should be viewed favorably for advancement.
  - Personnel assigned to RTC, OTC and Naval Academy as a Recruit Division Commander, are carefully screened and selected for this high priority assignment.
  - Attainment of Master Training Specialist (MTS) qualification if eligible
- Staff Duty
  - Wing Advisor / CNAF Inspection Team / Ground Government Representative
  - Successful tour is indicated by documented superior performance since teams are comprised of subject matter experts
  - Aviation Program Team (APT)
    - APT provides oversight of contract requirements in support of the GFR, GGFR, and COR in areas to include maintenance management, safety, QA, and property control
- At least 12 months in a command role / billet
  - Maintenance / Production Control (Desk Chief)
  - Division LCPO
  - Detachment LCPO
  - Documentation of superior performance in a primary duty
    - Evidenced by inspection results such as AMI/MPA/MCI/etc. where aviation-type inspections are performed
- Collateral duties / Mess Involvement
  - CPOA involvement and collateral duties should be subordinate to primary duties



## AME CAREER PATH (AW)



- Sailor 360 involvement, leading, mentoring Sailors with results
- Documentation of performance and impact from command involvement/command collateral duty performance

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

**See considerations for advancement for AFCM in the AM ECP**