AWS CAREER PATH
(NAC/AW)

Naval Aircrewman Helicopter (AWS). AWSs belongs to a diverse advanced technical community that is highly specialized to the platform they are assigned. AWS's operate various aircraft systems to support Surface Warfare (SUW), Search and Rescue (SAR), Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), Naval Special Warfare (NSW), Airborne Mine Countermeasure (AMCM), and Logistic missions onboard H-60S and H-53 aircraft. Members also serve as Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) pilots and payload operators.

YEARS OF SERVICE	CAREER MILESTONES	AVERAGE TIME TO ADVANCE	COMMISSIONING OR OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS	SEA/SHORE FLOW	TYPICAL CAREER PATH DEVELOPMENT
27-30	AWSCM	23.6 Yrs	CSEL	36	4th Shore Tour Duty: FRS, WING, NASC, SARMM, NPC SEL, WS
24-27	AWSCM AWSCS	23.6 Yrs 18.7	CMC/CSEL	36	4th Sea Tour Billet: LCPO Duty: HSC, HM, SRT Qualification: SWTI, NATOPS Instructor/Evaluator
21-24	AWSCM AWSCS AWSC	23.6 Yrs 18.7 16	CWO, CMC/CSEL, ECM, Detailer/Placement Coordinator/Rating Specialist	36	3rd Shore Tour Billet: SARMM, NAVAIR, FRS Instructor / Evaluator, Weapons School, SAR Evaluator, NAWDC, NSO/NSW/AIRR Program Manager/Coordinator, Water Survival Instructor, SAR School, NACCS, Station SAR, HX, VX, HT, ATG, NSWG Ten, Qualification: MTS/ATS
17-21	AWSCS AWSC AWS1	18.7 Yrs 16 9.0	LDO, CWO, OCS, MECP, CSEL	42	3rd Sea Tour Billet: Operations LPO/LCPO Duty: HSC, HM, SRT Qualification: SWTI, MC, NATOPS, Instructor/Evaluator
14-17	AWSCS AWSC AWS1	18.7 Yrs 16.0 9.0	LDO, CWO, OCS, MECP, CSEL	36	2nd Shore Tour Billet: NAVAIR, FRS Instructor/Evaluator, Weapons School, SAR Evaluator, Joint Service Training Program Instructor, NAWDC, NSO/NSW/AIRR Program Manager/Coordinator, Water Survival Instructor, SAR School, NACCS, Station SAR, HX, VX, HT, ATG, SRT Qualification: MTS/ATS
10-14	AWSC AWS1 AWS2	16.0 Yrs 9.0 3.8	LDO, CWO, OCS, MECP	42	2nd Sea Tour Billet: Operations LPO/LCPO Duty: HSC, HM, SRT Qualification: SWTI, MPO, MC, NATOPS/Training, WTI-MH53

Revised: December 2019

YEARS OF SERVICE	CAREER MILESTONES	AVERAGE TIME TO ADVANCE	COMMISSIONING OR OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS	SEA/SHORE FLOW	TYPICAL CAREER PATH DEVELOPMENT
7-10	AWS1 AWS2 AWS3	9.0 Yrs 3.8 2.0	STA-21,OCS, MECP	36	1st Shore Tour Billet: NAWDC, FRS Instructor/Evaluator, Weapons School, SAR Evaluator, Joint Service Training Program Instructor, NAVAIR, Water Survival Instructor, SAR School, NACCS, Station SAR, HX, VX, HT, ATG Qualification: MTS/ATS
2-7	AWS2 AWS3	3.8 Yrs 2.0	STA-21,OCS, MECP, Naval Academy, NROTC	54	1st Sea Tour Billet: Aircrewman Duty: HSC, HM Qualification: NAWS, EAWS, MPO NATOPS Instructor, SAR PO., ACTC Level III
1-2+/-	AWS3 AWSAN AWSAA Accession Training,	24 Months			Recruit Training, NACCS, RSS, CNATT, FRS and all schools or training events required to be completed prior to reporting to their first operational command

Notes:

1. 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.

2. Upon completion of initial training pipelines, AWSs are typically closed-loop detailed by NEC/platform until there is no longer a need for that NEC.

3. Member must volunteer for duty involving flying.

4. Must attend refresher training at a Fleet Replacement Squadron if member was distributed to a billet not requiring regular flight. Annual NATOPS evaluations. Annual Search and Rescue evaluations (Rescue Swimmers Only).

5. Career enhancing billets or tours and special qualifications include: FRS Instructor, NAWDC Instructor, Weapons School, Overseas Sea duty (FDNF), ECM/Detailer/Placement Coordinator/Rating Specialist, NACCS, SAR School, "A" School, NSO/NSW/AIRR Program Manager/Coordinator, and Joint Service Training.

6. Due to Fleet manning priorities, AWSs are not typically provided the opportunity to pursue shore duty outside of their respective community such as RDC and Navy Recruiting.

7. Consecutive Non-Flying tours is not desirable.

8. In addition to operational duties, all AWs are required to maintain minimum Naval Aircrew standards as well as maintain a SECRET or higher security clearance.

Revised: December 2019

9. HSC Qualification Levels:

Level I	FRS Graduate - Warfare Qualification
Level II	Position Qualification - Utility Crewman - Assistant SAR / NATOPS PO
Level III	1st tour expectation - PQS Qualifier/Instructor - SAR / NATOPS PO
AGI	1st tour possible - Standardization - SAR / NATOPS PO
Level IV	Instructor screen - NEC awarded school required 777A (8210) - expected SME for Mission Planning.
Level V	Instructor screen - NEC awarded school required 777A (8210) - expected SME for Mission Planning.
FRS Instructor	Instructor screen - NEC awarded school required 805A (9502) - initial accession management.

10. HM Qualification Levels:

Level I	FRS Graduate - Warfare Qualification
Level II	Position Qualification - Utility Crewman - OPS/ NATOPS/Training PO
Level III	PQS Qualifier- Tactics/OPS/NATOPS/Training PO, AMNS Instructor, AN-AQS 24B/C Instructor and AGI
Level IV	Instructor screen - SME for Mission Planning. FRS Instructor -- NEC awarded school required 805A (9502) - initial accession management. MAWTS-1 NITE Lab Instructor
Level V	Instructor screen - SME for Mission Planning. FRS Instructor -- Instructor screen - NEC awarded school required 805A (9502) - initial accession management. AMCM WTI (SWTI equivalent), MAWTS course.

11. UAS Specific:

Combat Service Support	NEC required 854A (5306) - Entry level qualification to provide NSW support.
Combat Support	NEC required 837A (5307) - Reserved for mature personnel integrating with SEAL combat elements.
Mission Commander	NEC required 838A (5308) - Expected SME for Mission Planning and UAS operations, Pinnacle qualification.

EXW qualified, should be a detractor if not obtained later within the NSW tour.

12. Acronyms specific to the AW rate include:

ACTC	Air Combat Training Continuum
AERR	Advancement Exam Readiness Review
AIRR	Aviation Rescue Swimmer
ALSS	Aviation Life Support Systems
AGI	Aerial Gunner Instructor
AMNS	Airborne Mine Neutralization System
ATG	Afloat Training Group
ATS	Afloat Training Specialist
AVO	Air Vehicle Operator
CNATT	Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training
CNRC	Commander, Navy Recruiting Command
CSS	Combat Service Support
CS	Combat Support
DRRS-N	Defense Readiness Reporting System-Navy
ECM	Enlisted Community Manager
ENARG	Enablers Naval Aviation Requirements Group
EXW	Expeditionary Warfare Specialist
FRR	Fleet Readiness Review
FRS	Fleet Replacement Squadron

Revised: December 2019

HARP	Helicopter Advanced Readiness
HSC	Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron
HPRR	Human Performance Readiness Review
HM	Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron
HT	Helicopter Training Squadron (Pilot Initial)
HX	Air Test and Evaluation Squadron
JTAC	Joint Terminal Attack Controller
ILSMT	Integrated Logistics Support Management Team
IPT	Integrated Product Team
MAWTS-1	Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One
MC	Mission Commander
MPO	Mission Payload Operator
MTS	Master Training Specialist
NACCS	Naval Aircrew Candidate School
NAPP	Naval Aviation Production Process
NASC	Naval Aviation Schools Command
NATOPS	Naval Aviation Training Operations Procedures and Standardization
NAVAIR	Naval Air Systems Command
NAWDC	Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center
NAWS	Naval Aircrew Warfare Specialist
NITE	Night Imaging and Threat Evaluation
NPC	Navy Personnel Command
NSO	Naval Special Operations
NSW	Naval Special Warfare
NSWG	Naval Special Warfare Group
PAC/PARG	Production Alignment Conference/Production Alignment Requirements Group
RSS	Rescue Swimmer School
SAR	Search and Rescue
SARMM	Search and Rescue Model Manager
SRT	Special Reconnaissance Team
SWTI	Squadron Weapons Tactics Instructor
TRR	Training Readiness Review
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft Systems
VX	Air Test and Evaluation Squadron
VXS	Scientific Development Squadron
WS	Weapons School

Considerations for advancement from E6 to E7

1. Sea Assignments(all)
   - Minimum ACTC LVL III
   - Serving as LPO (Ops/Train/Safety/Detachment)
   - At least two warfare pins, NAWS (NAC) is mandatory
   - Major command impact/leadership/collaterals/FCPOA/Sailor 360
   - Leading command inspections (NATOPS/SAR/HARP)

2. Shore Assignments (all)
   - Initial entry training pipeline (FRS/HT/NACCS/RSS/NETC) or community training site (WS/NAWDC). If outside community Joint Service Command, NPC/RTC/ATG or NSO/NSW recruiting preferred.
   - MTS qualified, should be a detractor if not obtained later within the tour awarding 805A NEC.
   - LPO, major command impact leadership/collaterals/FCPOA/ Sailor 360
   - Leading command inspections (NATOPS/SAR/HARP)

4

Considerations for advancement from E7 to E8

1. Sea Assignments(all)
   - Minimum ACTC LVL III
   - Serving as DLCPO (Ops/Train/Detachment)
   - Leading in the Mess/command/CPOA/ Sailor 360
   - SEA/SEL roles, noting time served and impact
   - Major command impact/leadership
   - Major community impact/leadership (Selection Board Member or Recorder, TRR/HPRR, ENARG, FRR, AERR, ALSS IMP, NATOPS Conference, SARMM Symposium, NAWDC Reblue, FRS Curriculum IPT, NAPP PAC, ILSMT and Tactics Continuum)
   - SRT specific, Mission Commander Designation
   - Managing ACTC qualifications, DRRS-N requirements and AWS manning levels

2. Shore Assignments(all)
   - Initial entry training pipeline (FRS/HT/NACCS/RSS/NETC) or community training site (WS/NAWDC). If outside community Joint Service Command, NPC/CNRC/RTC/ATG or NSO/NSW recruiting preferred.
   - Serving as DLCPO
   - Inspector/Evaluator
   - Leading in the Mess/command/CPOA/ Sailor 360
   - SEA/SEL roles, noting time served and impact
   - Major community impact/leadership (Selection Board Member or Recorder, TRR/HPRR, ENARG, FRR, AERR, ALSS IMP, NATOPS Conference, SARMM Symposium, NAWDC Reblue, FRS Curriculum IPT, NAPP PAC, ILSMT and Tactics Continuum)
   - Managing ACTC qualifications, DRRS-N requirements and AWS manning levels

Considerations for advancement from E8 to E9

1. Sea Assignments(all)
   - Minimum ACTC LVL III
   - Serving as DLCPO (Ops/Train/Detachment)
   - Leading in the Mess/command/CPOA/Sailor 360
   - SEA/SEL roles, noting time served and impact
   - Major command impact/leadership
   - Major community impact/leadership (Selection Board Member or Recorder, TRR/HPRR, ENARG, FRR, AERR, ALSS IMP, NATOPS Conference, SARMM Symposium, NAWDC Reblue, FRS Curriculum IPT, NAPP PAC, ILSMT and Tactics Continuum)
   - Managing ACTC qualifications, DRRS-N requirements and AWS manning levels

2. Shore Assignments(all)
   - Initial entry training pipeline (FRS/NACCS/RSS/NETC) or community training site (WS/NAWDC). If outside community NPC/CNRC/RTC/ATG or NSO/NSW recruiting preferred.
   - Serving as DLCPO
   - Inspector/Evaluator
   - Leading in the Mess/command/CPOA/ Sailor 360
   - SEA/SEL roles, noting time served and impact
   - Community management
   - Major community impact/leadership (Selection Board Member or Recorder, TRR/HPRR, ENARG, FRR, AERR, ALSS IMP, NATOPS Conference, SARMM Symposium, NAWDC Reblue, FRS Curriculum IPT, NAPP PAC, ILSMT and Tactics Continuum)
   - Managing ACTC qualifications, DRRS-N requirements and AWS manning levels

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