



NAVAL AEROSPACE/ OPERATIONAL PHYSIOLOGISTS (NAOP)

Since World War II, Naval Aerospace/Operational Physiologists (NAOPs) have supported operational readiness of the Navy's war fighters through education, training, aeromedical and human performance support, acquisitions, and research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E). NAOPs prepare all prospective and designated aviators, aircrew and other fliers in the physiological aspects of flight and survival. NAOPs are subject matter experts in human factors and physiological threats related to the flight environment, physiological elements which enhance mission performance, mitigation factors that prevent mishaps, procedures for surviving mishaps and hostilities, application of aircrew systems, and procedures for emergency egress and rescue. NAOPs perform duties that involve flying as aircrew.

APPLYING

Active duty Naval Officers desiring transfer/re-designation should contact the NAOP Specialty Leaders at the contact information below.

Civilians, enlisted personnel and reserve personnel should contact their local Navy Recruiting Office. The NAOP Specialty Leaders are available to answer your questions and provide career guidance.

SPECIALTY LEADERS

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NAVAL AEROSPACE OPERATIONAL PHYSIOLOGY PROGRAM





PREREQUISITES

Applicants must have either a Master's or Doctoral Degree in Physiology (e.g. cardiovascular, pulmonary, neuro, exercise or occupational). Applicants with related degrees (biology, biomedical engineering, kinesiology, zoology or other biological based sciences) will be considered if they have completed the following courses:

- Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Physics
- College mathematics (algebra, pre-calculus)
- Statistics
- Biology/Physiology

Applicants with significant military aviation experience who have completed a Bachelors Degree with the above listed required courses will be considered. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale in each of their degrees. Experience as an instructor/teacher, is highly desirable. Mandatory interview with two NAOPs based at Naval Air Station Pensacola to provide a short presentation on the Naval Aerospace/Operational Physiology (NAOP) Program, personal history and motives for seeking a commission as a NAOP.

Strong personal endorsements in the areas of initiative, teamwork and leadership are highly desirable. All applicants must be in excellent physical condition, physically qualified for U. S. Navy flight duties and able to pass a Navy Class 3 swim test. Some age restrictions apply.

TRAINING

The Navy provides specialized training to prepare personnel for a career as an NAOP. Initial training will introduce new Naval Officers to the military structure of the United States Navy, the rich history of traditions and customs, our legal system, and military etiquette. Training progresses to functioning in the Naval Aviation environment with emphasis in aerospace/operational medicine, specialty qualifications and basic survival training. NAOPs must complete Aviation Preflight Indoctrination, including challenging aviation water survival training and a modified basic flight school syllabus. This phase of training culminates with NAOPs receiving aeronautical designation and "Wings of Gold". Formal training concludes with an Internship Program to develop skills as a U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps Officer and to hone skills in teaching Naval Aviators and Aircrew aviation physiology, life support equipment operation, and survival skills. Board certification and Associate Fellow/Fellow status is available through the Aerospace Medical Association.

TRAINING SEQUENCE

1. Officer Development School, Newport, Rhode Island (5 weeks)
2. Naval Aerospace/Operational Physiologist Training, Pensacola, Florida (6 months – includes flight training)
3. Internship at one of 8 Aviation Survival Training Centers (2 years)
4. Follow on tours with Aviation units throughout the Navy and Marine Corps, aviation RDT&E commands, life support equipment and training device program management, physical readiness and academic program management.



Internship Locations

- NAS Patuxent River, Maryland
- NS Norfolk, Virginia
- MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina
- NAS Jacksonville, Florida
- NAS Pensacola, Florida
- NAS Lemoore, California
- MCAS Miramar, California
- NAS Whidbey Island, Washington