

Securing that critical edge in the information age  
**INFORMATION DOMINANCE CORPS**



AMERICA'S  
**NAVY**  
FORGED BY THE SEA





## OPPORTUNITIES IN METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY

**Aerographer's Mate (AG)** – Monitoring sea conditions. Analyzing meteorological data. Developing accurate forecasts for virtually any locale in the world. Aerographer's Mates are Enlisted Sailors who do hands-on work that helps Navy Meteorologists and Oceanographers prepare Navy forces to succeed in any physical environment. Those in the AG rating work under the oversight of Meteorology and Oceanography (METOC) Officers.

**Meteorology and Oceanography (METOC) Officer** – Planning an air strike. Charting the best course for a deployed ship. Identifying currents that affect a submarine underway. Whatever the scenario, meteorology and oceanography are factors that inevitably come into play. And Officers in this field help lead efforts to ensure safe and successful operations as they deliver a timely and accurate understanding of operational conditions from sea to space and manage those who monitor the surrounding physical environment. METOC Officers oversee the work of Enlisted Sailors in the AG rating.

## OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SPACE CADRE

**Space Cadre** – Space plays an important role in the information environment, in the operation of cyber systems and, ultimately, in protecting national security. With that in mind, the IDC also has what is known as its Space Cadre – a distinct cross-functional community of servicemembers and civilian professionals whose core space competencies uniquely position them to manage space resources while concurrently protecting Navy space equities. Responsibilities include space acquisition, launch, control, and/or space operations and range from controlling communications satellites to providing technical direction for space-related systems to advising commands on how to use information acquired from space-based assets. There are even astronauts who are among the members of the Space Cadre. The Space Cadre servicemember workforce is comprised primarily of Officers from various designators who possess significant and substantive space-oriented education and/or experience. Most of these Officers serve in a Reserve capacity, and Space Cadre membership is only achieved through attainment of an Additional Qualification Designator (AQD) that signifies a level of space competence based upon a combination of education and experience. Enlisted roles and opportunities for those serving on Active Duty are also available.

## WORK ENVIRONMENT

Those serving full-time as members of the IDC perform a variety of duties worldwide – encompassing the full-spectrum of Navy operations. Therefore, duty stations could be wherever the Navy has a presence ashore or afloat: at any one of many overseas and stateside shore commands, aboard surface ships or submarines, or with aircraft squadrons. Assignments could be anywhere from shore-based communication and surveillance facilities to ship-based combat information centers or from joint intelligence centers to the Pentagon. And these could involve anything from working with Naval Research Labs to supporting Naval Special Warfare to collaborating with the National Security Agency to studying at the Naval Postgraduate School.

Typical environments range from air-conditioned electronic equipment spaces or computer rooms to office settings or lab settings, to maintenance shops or highly classified secure spaces. And those serving can expect to perform duties both independently and as part of small, coordinated teams.

For Reservists serving part-time, duties are generally carried out during scheduled drilling and training periods – usually at a location close to home during monthly drilling and potentially at any of the locations discussed above during periods of Annual Training.

The specific working environment will vary depending upon specialization area, job, role and whether you are serving on Active Duty or as a Reservist. A recruiter can provide more details.

## READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEPS?

Once you're inspired, better informed and seriously interested, here's how to proceed:

### 1. TALK TO YOUR RECRUITER

- Ask questions
- Discuss your long-term goals
- Review your qualifications
- Go over relevant financial incentives and bonuses

### 2. APPLY FOR THE POSITION

- Provide personal information that includes your birth certificate, Social Security card and professional details (if applicable)
- Take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) to help assess your skills and interests
- Pass a full medical examination
- Participate in a precommitment interview
- Take and pass any preliminary tests that may be required to qualify for the position you seek (a recruiter can tell you if the position you seek requires this)

### 3. BEGIN YOUR TRAINING

#### If pursuing an Enlisted role:

- Attend Boot Camp in Great Lakes, Illinois (7–9 weeks)
- Get advanced skills training at a Navy "A" School (time varies depending on specialty)
- From there, you're ready to start serving as a Sailor and respected professional

#### If pursuing an Officer role:

- If you have a college degree, attend Officer Candidate School (OCS)
- If you have a college degree and you're joining the Navy Reserve, attend the Direct Commission Officer Development Course in Newport, R.I., where you'll learn the history, traditions and structure of the Navy and Navy Reserve
- For certain roles, get advanced training to gain the skills and knowledge specific to your designator and duty
- From there, you're ready to start serving as a respected Navy Officer and leader

## NOTES

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