

Aviation Boatswain's Mates play a major part in launching and recovering naval aircraft quickly and safely from land or ships. This includes preparing and fueling planes prior to take-off and after landing.

They may specialize in launching and recovering aircraft on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, ABE; aircraft fueling and fuel systems, ABF; or aircraft handling, fire fighting and salvage and rescue operations, ABH. Later in their careers ABs can earn the advanced AB rating that requires supervision of all these individual specialties.

In addition AB's may also volunteer for programs such as SEAL Team or EOD. See (See the Special Warfare Program for details.)

## What They Do

### **ABE (AVIATION BOATWAIN'S MATE - LAUNCH/RECOVERY)**

The duties performed by ABEs include:

- Maintain and perform organizational maintenance on hydraulic and steam catapults, barricades, arresting gear and arresting gear engines;
- operate catapult launch and arresting consoles, firing panels, water brakes, blast deflectors and cooling panels;

### **ABF (AVIATION BOATWAIN'S MATE - FUELS)**

The duties performed by ABFs include:

- operate, maintain and performing organizational maintenance on aviation fueling and lubricating oil systems on CVs, CVNs, LPHS and LPDS;
- observing and enforcing handling safety precautions and maintaining fuel quality surveillance and control in aviation fuel systems;
- supervising the operation and servicing of fuel farms and equipment associated with the fueling and defueling of aircraft ashore and afloat;
- training, directing and supervising fire fighting crews, fire rescue teams, and damage control parties in assigned fuel and lubricating oil spaces.

### **ABH (AVIATION BOATWAIN'S MATE - AIRCRAFT HANDLER)**

The duties performed by ABHs include:

#### **Career Path After Recruit Training**

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through on-the-job training or formal Navy schooling. Advanced technical and operational training is available in this rating during later stages of career development.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Class "A" Technical School	NTTC Pensacola, FL.	5 weeks (ABE) 6 weeks (ABF) 6 weeks (ABH)	Aviation basic theory and basic skills required for rating	Group instruction and practical application

After "A" school, aviation boatswain's mates may be assigned to aircraft carriers, LHDs, LHAs, LPDs or Naval Air Stations in the United States or overseas. They may also be assigned to other types of ships with airplanes or helicopters. If they re-enlist, they may go to "C" school for further training. During a 20-year period in the Navy, ABs spends about 60 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 40 percent to shore stations.

- 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.
- performing aircraft-handling duties related to the operation of launching and recovery of naval aircraft.

#### **Credit Recommendations**

Depending on which "A" school you attend, the American Council on Education recommends that you will have earned the following possible credits hours in the vocational certificate category and lower

Division bachelor's/associates degree category: (ABE) 1 semester hour in industrial equipment maintenance; (ABF) 1 semester hour in aircraft ground operations and 1 in industrial maintenance practices; and, (ABH) 1 semester hour in heavy equipment operation (fire fighting), 2 hours in aircraft ground handling, 1 in fire fighting principals and 1 hour in industrial safety. Throughout your career, you may have an opportunity to attend advanced technical training ("C" schools) which may be eligible for additional college credits.

#### **Qualifications and Interests**

To qualify for placement in the AB rating, individuals should relate well with other people, be physically fit and have manual dexterity. They should have a keen awareness of the need for required details to safely complete a job, the ability to do repetitive tasks and be good team workers.

Other helpful traits include curiosity and competence with tools, equipment and machines. **Normal hearing and color and**

**depth perception are required for all three ratings.**

#### **Working Environment**

Most of the work in this rating is performed outdoors on the deck of aircraft carriers, in all climatic conditions, in fast-paced and often potentially hazardous environments. ABs work closely with others in aviation ratings.

#### **Opportunities**

Opportunities in this rating are good. At present, about 12,000 men and women work in the three AB specialties.

#### **Related Civilian Job--Dept. of Labor Dictionary of Occupational Titles, No.**

##### **ABE**

Inspector, Aircraft Launching and Arresting Systems 806.264-014

##### **ABF**

Supervisor, maintenance, petrol refine. 899.137-018

##### **ABH**

Firefighter - Crash, Fire and Rescue 373-663-010

Since Navy programs and courses are revised at times, the information contained on this rating card is subject to change.

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