

Master-At-Arms (MA)



The MA rating provides the Navy with security specialists who perform antiterrorism, force protection, physical security, and law enforcement duties on land and at sea. Due to the unique functions of the MA, strict adherence to eligibility criteria must be maintained.

What They Do

MA's are the Navy's security and force protection professionals. An MA may operate a force protection watercraft, direct an investigation, control a base access point, or supervise a K-9 asset. Some specific MA duties are listed below:

- Conduct waterborne security patrol and interdiction operations.
- Conduct U. S. Customs inspections.
- Conduct base security patrols.
- Conduct base access and entry control operations.
- Implement aircraft and flightline security standards.
- Conduct law enforcement operations.
- Provide Oil Platform protection.
- Conduct river security operations.
- Provide protective service to high ranking dignitaries and government officials.
- Supervise K-9 explosive and narcotics detection operations/missions.
- Perform physical security inspections.
- Conduct preliminary investigations into UCMJ violations.
- Organize and train security force personnel.
- Conduct crime prevention programs.
- Operate briggs (jails).
- Perform weapons and funds escorts.

Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education recommends that semester hour credits be awarded in the vocational certificate and lower-division bachelor/associate degree categories for courses taken in this rating on criminal investigation, criminal law, report writing, human relations/applied psychology, corrections procedures and instructor training techniques

Qualifications and Interests

Those personnel who want to qualify for the MA rating should be people oriented, dedicated, resourceful, and versatile. They should possess strong writing and speaking skills, a good memory, and the ability to conduct detailed work while maintaining accurate records.

Prospective MA's should possess physical strength, manual dexterity, and competence with tools, equipment and machines.

Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through formal Navy schooling. Advanced technical and operational training in these ratings are available during later stages of career development

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Class "A" Technical School	San Antonio, TX.	Approximately 7 Weeks	Aniterrorism techniques, Armed Sentry/Post Standing techniques, crime prevention, military and civil law, physical fitness, communications, first aid, firearms deployment and physical restraint techniques.	Group and individual instruction with practical applications and computer simulated scenarios.

Current career path training is under review and expected to expand in the near future.

Working Environment

MA's may expect to be assigned to duty at shore stations in the United States and overseas; aboard ships as either ship's company or embarked security team; or as part of a maritime expeditionary security squadron. The work environment varies widely with individual assignments. MAs are currently serving in expeditionary security locations worldwide and providing landward and seaward security in support of Joint Service operations.

Opportunities

Opportunities for placement are excellent for qualified personnel. Individual motivation, ability, and work ethic will determine how far an MA can advance in the enlisted or officer ranks during a 20- to 30-year career. An MA who has attained the rank of E-6 may be eligible to apply for the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) Program. An MA who has achieved the rank of E-7 may be eligible to apply for the Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Program. Both of these programs enable an MA to become a Security Specialist in the officer ranks.

Career Outlook

In the Navy Security Field, the MA will find a varied and challenging field of work with unmatched potential for personal growth and professional development. He or she will have opportunity to develop problem solving, critical thinking, leadership, and organizational skills. The MA will develop practical knowledge and experience unmatched in the civilian world. Should the MA decide to separate, all training and experience can directly transfer to homeland security or law enforcement agencies. These training and development factors, along with a fantastic opportunity for travel, make any decision to leave the Navy a very difficult one.

Related Civilian Jobs – O*Net SOC Code

O*Net SOC Title

11-3011.00 Administrative Services Managers

11-3042.00 Training and Development Managers
 13-1061.00 Emergency Management Specialists
 13-1073.00 Training and Development Specialists
 19-4092.00 Forensic Science Technicians
 21-1011.00 Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorders Counselors
 21-1092.00 Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists
 25-1111.00 Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Teachers, Postsecondary
 33-1011.00 First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Correctional Officers
 33-1012.00 First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Police and Detectives
 33-3012.00 Correctional Officers and Jailers
 33-3021.00 Detectives and Criminal Investigators
 33-3021.01 Police Detectives
 33-3021.02 Police Identification and Records Officers
 33-3021.03 Criminal Investigators and Special Agents
 33-3051.00 Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers
 33-3051.01 Police Patrol Officers
 33-9021.00 Private Detectives and Investigators
 33-9032.00 Security Guards
 43-1011.00 First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Office and Administrative Support Workers
 43-4111.00 Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan
 51-1011.00 First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers

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

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