

Operations Specialist (OS)

NAVY

Function as plotters, radio-telephone and Command and Control sound-powered telephone talkers and maintain Combat Information Center (CIC) displays of strategic and tactical information. Operate surveillance and altitude radars' Identification Friend or Foe (IFF), and associated equipment. Serve as Air Traffic Controllers for helicopters and fixed-wing supersonic jet aircraft. Serve as watch supervisors and section leaders; interpret and evaluate presentations and tactical situations and make recommendations to supervisors during watch conditions. Apply a thorough knowledge of doctrine and procedures applicable to CIC operations contained in U. S. Navy Instructions and Allied or U.S. Navy Publications and procedures necessary for radar navigation contained in Naval Oceanographic Office publications. Provide to the command technical information and assistance related to Anti-Surface Warfare, Anti-Air Warfare, Anti-Submarine Warfare, Amphibious Warfare, Mine Warfare, Naval Gunfire Support, and search and rescue operations, and other matters pertaining to the Operations Specialist's area.

Qualifications

Operations Specialists must be U.S. citizens and be able to meet all security clearance requirements. A good working knowledge of arithmetic, the capability for understanding modern computing devices, the ability to speak and write well and function as a member of an integrated team, do detailed work and keep accurate records, some physical strength and good manual dexterity are important qualifications.

Advancement

Enlistees enter the Navy as E-1s (seaman recruits). Advancement to E-2 (seaman apprentice) may be achieved after nine months of successful naval service, with advancement to E-3 (seaman) after an additional nine months.

Career Path Following 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 including air traffic controller positions controlling helicopters and fixed wing supersonic jet aircraft.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Class "A" Technical School	Great Lakes Chicago ILL.	12 Weeks	Tactical publications; charts and course plotting; radar operation, detection, tracking and interpretation; air and surface status board keeping; radiotelephone coding; anti-warfare plotting, vector analysis and naval tactical data systems basic procedures	Group instruction, classroom .

Operations specialist who graduate from "A" school may be assigned to any type of ship or to shore stations throughout the world. During a 20 year period in the Navy, OSs spend about 60 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 40 percent to shore stations.

Re-enlistment bonuses for eligible personnel are paid at the time of re-enlistment. All bonuses are in addition to Navy salary and allowances for food and housing.

Credit Recommendations

American Council on Education recommends 5 semester hours credit in the lower division baccalaureate/Associate degree category: 3 semester hours in Marine Navigation and 2 semester hours in marine navigation laboratory.

Related Civilian Jobs--O*Net

SOC Code O*Net SOC Title
 27-4013.00 Radio Operators
 43-9011.00 Computer Operators
 53-2021.00 Air Traffic Controllers
 53-2022.00 Airfield Operations Specialists
 53-5021.02 Mates- Ship, Boat, and Barge

Opportunities

Because of the skills and expertise needed by the Operations Specialist, acceptance is limited to highly motivated and qualified applicants. About 8,000 men and women work in the OS rating. Graduates of OS "A" School will be assigned to ships in the United States or overseas.

Working Environment

Operations Specialists usually work in a clean, air-conditioned electronic equipment space or computer room, and frequently perform their work as part of a team, but may work on individual projects. Their work is mostly mental analysis and problem solving. USN OSs are stationed primarily aboard USN deploying ships, FTS OSs are stationed aboard Naval Reserve Force (NRF) ships that deploy or conduct local operations. Upon completion of the course, OSs will be able to plot a ship's position, heading, and speed; operate common marine electronic navigation instruments including radar systems; and provide target plotting data to the combat information center based on information received from target tracking devices.

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

(Revised 01/08)