

Aviation Ratings

Enlisted men have served in Naval Aviation since its inception. The first men reported for duty with Lieutenant Theodore G. Ellyson and Lieutenant John Rodgers when they began flight training in 1911. Their numbers increased as the number of aviators and aircraft on hand increased. Despite the specialties involved in aviation it was a number of years before these men were required to meet special qualifications beyond those of their basic rating. Such special courses as enlisted men received in the 1916–17 period gave them a certificate to prove satisfactory completion and made them better qualified to carry out aviation duty. However, it had no effect on their basic ratings, the qualifications for which were still based on the requirements of the regular naval service.

Greater emphasis on aviation requirements accompanied the expansion for World War I and with it the basic requirements of the pre-war period were somewhat relaxed but not completely forgotten. One indication of change was a parenthetical addition to the rating to indicate aviation duty, as for example, Machinist's Mate (Aviation) or MM (A). But it was not until 1921 that aviation ratings received recognition as a special branch and the first strictly aviation ratings were established. Since then adjustments to the rating structure have been frequent. These produced a number of changes and additions to the original basic ratings as well as a great variety of subdivisions within them, some representing a mere change in title, others reflecting changing technology.

The following list covers only the basic ratings, shown in alphabetical order.

AEROGRAPHER

Rating (Aerog) established effective 1 Jul 1924 by CL 99–23 of Dec 1923; distinguishing mark approved by CL 62–26 of 29 Oct 1926*; see Aerographer's Mate.

AEROGRAPHER'S MATE

Aerographer rating (Aerog) redesignated Aerographer's Mate (AerM) by CL 113–42 of 8 Aug 1942, abbreviation changed to (AG) by CL 106–48 of 9 Jun 1948.

AIR CONTROLMAN

Rating (SP) established effective 2 Apr 1948 by CL

40–47 of 21 Feb 1947; abbreviation changed to (AC) by CL 106–48 of 9 Jun 1948; see Air Traffic Controller

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCEMAN

A Master Chief's rating (AF) establishment approved by SecNav, 5 Nov 1963.

AIRCREW SURVIVAL EQUIPMENTMAN

Parachute Rigger rating (PR) redesignated Aircrew Survival Equipmentman effective 7 Dec 1965 by BuPers Note 1440 of 2 Feb 1966, without change of abbreviation.

AIRSHIP RIGGER

Rating (AR) established by CL 205–43 of 12 Oct 1943; distinguishing mark approved by CL 58–44 of 29 Feb 1944*; abolished effective 2 Apr 1948 by CL 246–47 of 15 Dec 1947.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

Air Controlman rating (AC) redesignated Air Traffic Controller by BuPers Note 1220 of 10 December 1977, without change in abbreviation.

AVIATION ANTISUBMARINE WARFARE TECHNICIAN

Rating (AX) established effective 1 Dec 1962 by BuPers Note 1440 of 29 Jun 1962; see Aviation Electronics Technician

AVIATION ANTISUBMARINE WARFARE OPERATOR

Rating (AW) established effective 1 Sep 1968 by BuPers Note 1440 of 29 Feb 1968; see Aviation Warfare Systems Operator

AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATE

Rating (ABM) established by CL 268–44 of 14 Sep 1944; distinguishing mark approved CL 363–44 of 30 Nov 1944*; abbreviation changed to (AB) by CL 106–48 of 9 Jun 1948.

AVIATION BOMBSIGHT MECHANIC

Rating (AOMB) established as a subrating of Aviation Ordnanceman by CL 205–43 of 12 Oct 1943; see Aviation Bombsight and Fire Control Mechanic.

AVIATION BOMBSIGHT AND FIRE CONTROL MECHANIC

Aviation Bombsight Mechanic rating (AOMB) re-named Aviation Bombsight and Fire Control Mechanic by CL 355-44 of 27 Nov 1944, without change in abbreviation; see Aviation Fire Controlman

AVIATION CARPENTER'S MATE

Rating (ACM) established effective 1 Jul 1921 by CL 9-21 of 24 Mar 1921; distinguishing mark approved by CL 62-26 of 29 Oct 1926*; abolished effective 30 Jun 1940 by CL 36-40 of 21 May 1940; see Aviation Metalsmith

AVIATION ELECTRICIAN'S MATE

Rating (AEM) established by CL 129-42 of 4 Sep 1942; abbreviation changed to (AE) by CL 106-48 of 9 Jun 1948.

AVIATION ELECTRONICSMAN

Aviation Radioman rating (ARM) redesignated Aviation Electronicsman effective 2 Apr 1948 by CL 40-47 of 21 Feb 1947, without change in abbreviation; abbreviation changed to (AL) by CL 106-48 of 9 Jun 1948; abolished by BuPers Instruction 1440.10B of 18 Dec 1959.

AVIATION ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN

Aviation Electronics Technician's Mate rating (AETM) redesignated Aviation Electronics Technician (AET) effective 2 Apr 1948 by CL 40-47 of 21 Feb 1947; abbreviation changed to (AT) by CL 106-48 of 9 Jun 1948; Ratings AQ, AX, and AV to be merged and redesignated (AT) by NAVOP 075/89 of 27 Jun 1989; (AV) rating removed so only ratings (AQ) and (AX) were absorbed into already existing rate of (AT) by amendments to NAVOP 075/89 of 23 Aug 1990, effective 1 Jan 1991.

AVIATION ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN'S MATE

Aviation Radio Technician rating (ART) redesignated Aviation Electronics Technician's Mate (AETM) by CL 325-45 of 31 Oct 1945; see Aviation Electronics Technician.

AVIATION FIRE CONTROLMAN

Aviation Bombsight and Fire Control Mechanic (AOMB) redesignated Aviation Fire Controlman (AFC) to become basic rate by CL 39-45 of 15 Feb 1945; abolished effective 2 Apr 1948 by CL 40-47 of 21 Feb 1947; see Aviation Fire Control Technician.

AVIATION FIRE CONTROL TECHNICIAN

Rating (AQ) established in 1954 from subratings of the former Aviation Fire Controlman and in a sense a revival of that rating; see Aviation Electronics Technician

AVIATION GUIDED MISSILEMAN

Rating (GF) establishment approved by SecNav on 23 Jan 1953; abolished by BuPers Instruction 1440.25 of 10 Jun 1960.

AVIATION MACHINIST'S MATE

Rating (AMM) established effective 1 July 1921 by CL 9-21 of 24 Mar 1921; distinguishing mark approved by CL 17-41 of 11 Feb 1941*; abbreviation changed to (AD) by CL 106-48 of 9 Jun 1948.

AVIATION MAINTENANCE ADMINISTRATIONMAN

Rating (AZ) established effective 1 Jan 1964 by BuPers Note 1440 of 22 Jan 1963.

AVIATION METALSMITH

Rating (AM) established effective 1 Jul 1921 by CL 921 of 24 Mar 1921; Aviation Carpenter's Mate rating (ACM) abolished and redesignated Aviation Metalsmith (AM) by CL 36-40 of 21 May 1940; see Aviation Structural Mechanic.

AVIATION ORDNANCEMAN

Rating (AOM) established by CL 14-26 of 2 Mar 1926; abbreviation changed to (AO) by CL 106-48 of 9 Jun 1948.

AVIATION PHOTOGRAPHER'S MATES

See Photographer's Mate.

AVIATION PILOT

Rating (AP) established by CL 18-24 of 13 Mar 1924, changed to Chief Aviation Pilot and Aviation Pilot First Class by CL 66-27 of 21 Sep 1927, and abolished by a change from a rating to a designation by CL 10-33 of 28 Mar 1933; distinguishing mark approved by CL 24-33 of 30 June 1933*; reestablished as a rating by CL 43-42 of 17 Mar 1942, and again abolished by a change to a designation, effective 2 Apr 1948 by CL 40-47 of 21 Feb 1947.

AVIATION QUARTERMASTER

Rating (AR) established by BuNav Ltr N5H of 21 Mar 1917; see Aviation Rigger

AVIATION RADIOMAN

Rating (ARM) established by CL 5-42 of 13 Jan 1942; see Aviation Electronicsman.

AVIATION RADIO TECHNICIAN

Rating (ART) established by CL 169–42 of 11 Dec 1942; see Aviation Electronics Technician's Mate.

AVIATION RIGGER

Aviation Quartermaster rating (AR) redesignated Aviation Rigger effective 1 Jul 1921 by CL 9–21 of 24 Mar 1921, without a change in abbreviation; abolished effective 30 Jun 1927 by CL 13–26 of 25 Feb 1926.

AVIATION STOREKEEPER

Rating (SKV) establishment approved by SecNav on 28 Sep 1943; distinguishing mark approved by CL 65–45 of 15 Mar 1945*; abbreviation changed to (AK) by CL 106–48 of 9 Jun 1948.

AVIATION STRUCTURAL MECHANIC

Aviation Metalsmith rating (AM) redesignated Aviation Structural Mechanic effective 2 Apr 1948 by CL 40–47 of 21 Feb 1947, without change in abbreviation.

AVIATION SUPPORT EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN

Rating (AS) established effective 1 Sep 1966 by BuPers Note 1440 of 24 Feb 1966.

AVIATION WARFARE SYSTEMS OPERATOR

Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Operator rating (AW) redesignated Aviation Warfare Systems Operator by BuPers Note 1440 of 16 Nov 1993, without change of abbreviation.

AVIONICS TECHNICIAN

A Master Chief's rating (AV) establishment approved by SecNav, 5 Nov 1963; see Aviation Electronics Technician.

PARACHUTE RIGGER

Rating (PR) established by CL 33–42 of 24 Feb 1942; see Aircrew Survival Equipmentman.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Rating (P) established in the Aviation Branch effective 1 Jul 1921 by CL 9–21 of 24 Mar 1921, apparently later transferred to Special Branch, but returned to the Aviation Branch by CL 14–26 of 2 Mar 1926; see Photographer's Mate.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S MATE

Photographer's rating (P) redesignated Photographer's Mate (PhoM) by CL 113–42 of 8 Aug 1942 and again removed from the Aviation Branch; rating split into Photographer's Mate and Aviation Photographer's Mate (both PhoM) effective 2 Apr 1948 by CL 40–47 of 21 Feb 1947; abbreviation changed to (AF) by CL 106–48 of 9 Jun 1948; ratings combined to become Photographer's Mate (PH) of the Aviation Group by CL 116–50 of 31 Jul 1950.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCEMAN

Rating (PT) established by BuPers Note 1223 of 2 Oct 1957. Merged with YN NEC 2005 to form Intelligence Specialist (IS) (not an aviation rating) by BuPers Note 1440 of 6 Dec 1974.

TRADESMAN (*Training Devices Repairman and Instructor*)

Rating (TD) established by CL 106–48 of 9 Jun 1948; rate slated for disestablishment by BuPers Note 1440 of 22 Jul 1982 beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 1984 with all conversions of personnel in this rate to be completed by the end of FY 1988.

*Distinguishing marks are for non-rated qualified as striker in a particular aviation rating (e.g. Aviation Machinist's Mate). The mark is worn mid-way between the wrist and elbow of the left sleeve. Distinguishing marks were superseded by the introduction of group rates used with striker marks by non-rated men in 1948.



The F3H Demon being refueled in the foreground has double 00s on the nose of the aircraft. Aircraft with double 00s indicates they are assigned to an Air Group Commander (CAG). The other F3H Demons in the formation are from one of the fighter squadrons assigned to the Carrier Air Group. The refueling aircraft is an AJ tanker from VAH-15. NAH 000211