

**QUESTION:** How do I apply to become a NOAA Aviator?

**Background:** The NOAA Corps aviator application process is for NOAA Corps officers who have an interest in becoming NOAA Aviators. Typically, requests for applications occur when there is a Service need, normally every two years. Additional requests may be sent out when there is a need due to unscheduled vacancies. Officers selected to be aviators should expect to attend training in Vero Beach Florida for up to nine months, followed by five years of operational flight assignments to any of the following locations MacDill AFB (Tampa), FL, Monterey, CA, Eden Prairie, MN. All officers selected for aviation will be assigned to a light aircraft (Twin Otter, Shrike, Turbo Commander) regardless of experience. NOAA Corps officers are not eligible to be selected directly into the P-3 or G-IV aircraft ("heavy aircraft"). Selection to "heavy aircraft" is a separate process after an officer has served in a light aircraft.

## References:

[Decision Memorandum 13 April 2007](#) The Decision Memorandum issued by the Director, NOAA Corps on 13 April 2007, provides the requirements for the NOAA Corps Aviator Selection Process. For those officers interested in the program, flight experience is encouraged, but is not required. Candidates must have less than 6 years of commissioned service prior to the start of flight training.

## Summary of the Flight Selection Process:

1. Director, Commissioned Personnel Center (CPC) sends out a call for applications.
2. Interested applicants prepare and submit Application Package.
3. Completed Application Packages must arrive at CPC the by close of business on the date listed in the announcement.
4. The Aircraft Operations Center (AOC) is responsible for conducting interviews for all applicants who meet the basic requirements. Once the interview process is complete, AOC forwards the interview results to CPC.
5. An Officer Personnel Board (OPB) is convened to select the best qualified officers for initial flight training.
6. Start dates for flight training are then determined based on the needs of the Service.

## Application Package Requirements:

1. Complete all sections of [NOAA Form 56-43: Application for NOAA Corps Aviation Program](#)
2. Complete a United States Coast Guard (USCG) Class I Flight Physical  
NOAA Corps pilots follow the same medical requirements as the USCG. The USCG Class I Flight Physical must be conducted and signed by a military flight surgeon.

**How to Schedule:** Call your nearest Military Treatment Facility (MTF) and/or your Primary Care Manager (PCM). Ask if they have the ability to perform Class 1 Flight Physicals, or if they know where to locate the nearest MTF with a flight surgeon. You may need a referral from your PCM to receive services at another facility. Class I Flight Physicals can typically be performed at any USCG Air Station Medical Clinic, or any Air Force Medical Center.

3. Complete the Aviation Selection Test Battery (ASTB) exam through a Department of Defense recruiting center

The ASTB is used by the Department of Defense and Coast Guard as one criterion in the selection process for officer aviation program applicants. An overview of the test can be found on the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute web page.

Recruiting Center Locators: [Air Force](#) [Marines](#) [Navy](#)

**4. A recommendation for aviation selection must be included in Section 10 (Potential) of the applicant's Officer Evaluation Report ([NOAA Form 56-6A](#))**

Discuss with your interest and potential for becoming a NOAA Corps Aviator with your current command. If they agree and see the potential, your supervisor or reporting officer must make note of it in your OER. A Special OER is not recommended to fill this need. Therefore, while preparing accomplishments for your supervisor to prepare your OER, remind your chain of command, that you are interested in becoming a NOAA Corps Aviator.

**Aviation Package Checklist:**

- ☐ *NOAA Form 56-43: Application for NOAA Corps Aviation Program* – completed and signed
- ☐ Class I flight physical – completed with form signed by a military flight surgeon
- ☐ *Aviation Selection Test Battery (ASTB) exam*- completed with results
- ☐ Recommendation for flight program in OER from current CO/reporting officer.

**CPC Point of Contact:**

Chief, Officer Personnel Management Division - 301-713-7732, or [Katherine.Raymond@noaa.gov](mailto:Katherine.Raymond@noaa.gov).