

## US Navy Enlisted Ratings

The enlisted rating badge for Petty Officer Third Class and above consists of two parts. The chevrons indicate pay grade (rate). Between the chevrons and the eagle is an insignia indicating the Sailor's job speciality (rating). Insignia are white on blue uniforms and Navy blue on white uniforms. Sailors in pay grades E-4 through E-6 can be addressed as "Petty Officer (name)" or [as example] "Boatswain's Mate Third Class (name)". The latter would be written as **BM3**.

Chief Petty Officers are always referred to as "Chief", "Senior Chief", or "Master Chief" as appropriate. As example: "Chief Jones" or in subsequent references, just "Chief". (Chiefs' ratings can also be abbreviated; e.g. **BMCS** is a Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate.)

Grade	Rating	Abbreviation
E-4	Master-at-arms Third Class	MA3
E-5	Master-at-arms Second Class	MA2
E-6	Master-at-arms First Class	MA1
E-7	Chief Petty Officer	MAC
E-8	Senior Chief Petty Officer	MACS
E-9	Master Chief Petty Officer	MACM

### Administration, Deck, Medical, and Weapons Specialties



#### BM - Boatswain's Mate

BMs train and supervise personnel in all activities relating to marlinspike, deck and boat seamanship, and the maintenance of the ship's external structure and deck equipment. They act as petty officers in charge of small craft and may perform duties as master-at-arms, serve in or take charge of gun crews and damage control parties.



#### CT - Cryptologic Technician

CTs control the flow of messages and information. Their work depends on their special career area: administration (CTA) - administrative and clerical duties that control access to classified material; interpretive (CTI) - radiotelephone communications and foreign language translation; maintenance (CTM) - the installation, servicing and repair of electronic and electromechanical equipment; communication (CTO) - operation of telecommunications systems, and AIS networking and information management; collection (CTR) - Morse code communications and operation of radio direction-finding equipment; and technical (CTT) - communications by means other than Morse code and electronic countermeasures



#### DK - Disbursing Clerk

DKs maintain the financial records of Navy personnel. They prepare payrolls, determine transportation entitlements, compute travel allowances and process claims for reimbursement of travel expenses. DKs also process vouchers for receiving and spending public money and ensure accounting data is accurate. They maintain fiscal records and prepare financial reports and returns.



#### DM - Illustrator/ Draftsman

DMs prepare mechanical drawings, blueprints, charts and illustrations needed for construction projects and other naval activities. They specialize in a number of areas, among them graphics, structural drafting, electrical drafting, graphic arts mechanics and illustrating.



#### DT - Dental Technician

Navy dentists, like many civilian ones, are assisted by dental technicians. DTs have a variety of "chairside," laboratory and administrative duties. Some are qualified in making and fitting artificial teeth; dental X-ray techniques; clinical laboratory

procedures; pharmacy and chemistry or maintenance and repair of dental equipment. A five-year enlistment is required.



#### ET - Electronics Technician

ETs are responsible for electronic equipment used to send and receive messages, detect enemy planes and ships, and determine target distances. They must maintain, repair, calibrate, tune and adjust all electronic equipment used for communications, detection and tracking, recognition and identification, navigation and electronic countermeasures.



#### EW - Electronics Warfare Technician

EWs operate and maintain electronic equipment used in navigation, target detection and location and for preventing electronic spying by enemies. They interpret incoming electronic signals to determine their source. EWs are advanced electronic technicians who do wiring, circuit testing and repair. They determine performance levels of electronic equipment, install new components, modify existing equipment and test, adjust and repair equipment cooling systems.



#### FC - Fire Controlman

FCs maintain the control mechanism used in weapons systems on combat ships. Complex electronic, electrical and hydraulic equipment is required to ensure the accuracy of Navy guided-missile and surface gunfire-control systems. FCs are responsible for the operation, routine care and repair of this equipment, which includes radars, computers, weapons direction equipment, target designation systems, gyroscopes and range finders. It is in the advanced electronics field and requires a six-year enlistment.



#### FT - Fire Control Technician

FTs maintain the electronic equipment used in submarine weapons systems. FTs are responsible for the operation, routine care and repair of the complex electronic, electrical and mechanical equipment required to ensure the accuracy of Navy guided-missile systems and underwater weapons. A six-year enlistment is required.



#### GM - Gunner's Mate

Navy GMs operate, maintain and repair all gunnery equipment, guided-missile launching systems, rocket launchers, guns, gun mounts, turrets, projectors and associated equipment. They make detailed casualty analyses and repairs of electrical, electronic, hydraulic and mechanical systems. They also test and inspect ammunition, missiles and their ordnance components. GMs train and supervise personnel in the handling and stowage of ammunition, missiles and assigned ordnance equipment.



#### HM - Hospital Corpsman

HMs assist medical professionals in providing health care to service people and their families. They serve as pharmacists, medical technicians, food service personnel, nurse's aids, physician's or dentist's assistants, battlefield medics, X-ray technicians and more. An HM's work falls into several categories: first aid and minor surgery, patient transportation, patient care, prescriptions and laboratory work, food service inspections and clerical duties.



#### IS - Intelligence Specialist

Military information, especially secret information about enemies or potential enemies, is called "intelligence." An IS is involved in collecting and interpreting intelligence data; analyzing photographs; and prepares ing charts, maps and reports; that describe in detail the strategic situation all over the world.



#### IT - Information Systems Technician

Formerly known as Radioman (RM). Naval activities often involve people working at many different locations on land and at sea. ITs operate the radio communications systems that make such complex teamwork possible. ITs operate radio-telephones and radio-teletypes, prepare messages for international and domestic commercial telegraph, and send and receive messages via the Navy system, including satellites and antennas. ITs also are responsible for all computer systems, network administration (including LAN hardware), peripheral operations and systems modifications. Data Processing Technician (DP) rating merged into the RM field in 1997. The merged rating was known as RM until November 1999, when the rating changed its name to IT.



#### JO - Journalist

JOs are the Navy's information specialists. They write press releases, news stories, and features for Navy newspapers, bulletins and magazines. They perform a variety of public relations jobs. Some write scripts and announcements for radio and TV; others are photographers or radio and television broadcasters and producers. A JO's photo work ranges from administrative and clerical to film processing. A five-year enlistment is required.



#### LI - Lithographer

LIs run the Navy print shops and produce the printed material used in naval activities. LIs print service magazines, newspapers and bulletins, training materials, official policy manuals, etc. They operate printing presses, do layout and design and collate and bind printed pages. The usual specialties are cameraman, pressman and binderyman.



#### LN - Legalman

LNs are trained legal aides who assist professionals in the field of law. They work in Navy legal offices, performing administrative and clerical tasks necessary to process claims, conduct court and administrative hearings and maintain records, documents and legal reference libraries. They may give advice on tax returns, voter registration procedures, immigration and customs regulations, regulations governing Social Security and veterans' benefits and perform many duties related to courts-martial and nonjudicial hearings.



#### MA - Master-at-Arms

MAs uphold law and order aboard ships and shore stations. They report to the executive officer, help maintain discipline and assist in security matters. They ensure regulations are enforced, conduct investigations, take part in correctional and rehabilitative programs and organize and train Sailors assigned to police duty. Their equivalent in the civilian world is detectives and policemen.



#### MN - Mineman

MNs test, maintain, repair and overhaul mines and their components. They are responsible for assembling, testing, handling, issuing and delivering mines to the planting agent and for maintaining minehandling and minelaying equipment.



#### MS - Mess Management Specialist

MSs operate and manage Navy dining facilities and bachelor enlisted quarters. They cook, bake, order, inspect and stow food in Navy dining facilities ashore and afloat. They maintain food service; prepare spaces and equipment; and keep records of transactions and budgets for food service in living quarters ashore.



#### MT - Missile Technician

MTs assemble, maintain and repair missiles carried by submarines. They maintain the specialized equipment used in these functions. Although missile components and related testing and handling equipment are primarily electrical and electronic, MTs must also work with the mechanical, hydraulic and pneumatic units in the launcher systems, fire control systems and missile flight control systems.



#### MU - Musician

MUs play in official Navy bands and special groups such as jazz bands, dance bands and small ensembles. They give concerts and provide music for military ceremonies, religious services, parades, receptions and dances. Official unit bands usually do not include stringed instruments, but each MU must be able to play at least one brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. Sailors are selected for this rating through auditions.



#### NC - Navy Counselor

NCs offer vocational guidance on an individual and group basis to Navy personnel aboard ships and at shore facilities. They assess

the interests, aptitudes, abilities and personalities of individuals. This rate is not available to the incoming recruit.



#### OS - Operations Specialist

OSs operate radar, navigation and communications equipment in shipboard combat information centers (CICs) or bridges. They detect and track ships, planes and missiles. They also operate and maintain identification friend or foe (IFF) systems, electronic countermeasures (ECM) equipment and radio-telephones.



#### OT - Ocean Systems Technician

OTs operate special electronic equipment used to interpret and document oceanographic data, such as the depth and composition of the ocean floor and how sound travels through water. They operate tape recorders and related equipment, prepare reports and visual displays and convert analyzed data to be used in statistical studies.



#### PC - Postal Clerk

The Navy operates a large postal system manned by Navy PCs, who have similar duties to their civilian counterparts in the U.S. Postal Service. PCs send mail on its way; collect postage-due mail; prepare customs declarations; collect outgoing mail; cancel stamps. They also perform a variety of record-keeping and reporting duties, which include maintaining an up-to-date directory service and locator file.



#### PN - Personnelman

PNs provide enlisted personnel with information and counseling about Navy jobs, opportunities for general education and training, promotion requirements and rights and benefits. They also assist enlisted members' families with legal aid or reassignments in hardship situations. PNs keep records up to date, prepare reports, type letters and maintain files.



#### QM - Quartermaster

QMs assist the navigator and officer of the deck (OOD), steer the ship, take radar bearings and ranges, make depth soundings and celestial observations, plot courses and command small craft. Additionally, they maintain charts, navigational aids and oceanographic publications and records for the ship's log.



#### RP - Religious Programs Specialist

RPs assist Navy chaplains with administrative and budgetary tasks. They serve as custodians of chapel funds, keep religious documents and stay in contact with religious and community agencies. They also prepare devotional and religious educational materials, set up volunteer programs, operate shipboard libraries, supervise chaplains' offices and perform administrative, clerical and secretarial duties. They train personnel in religious programs and publicize religious activities.



#### SH - Ship's Serviceman

Serving afloat, SHs manage barber shops, tailor shops, ships' uniform stores, laundries, and dry cleaning plants.



#### SK - Storekeeper

SKs are the Navy's supply clerks. They see that needed supplies are available including everything from clothing and machine parts to forms and food. SKs have duties as civilian warehousemen, purchasing agents, stock clerks and supervisors, retail sales clerks, store managers, inventory clerks, buyers, parts clerks, bookkeepers and even fork lift operators.



#### SM - Signalman

SMs send and receive various visual messages, handle and route message traffic, operate voice radio and repair visual signaling devices. They also render honors to ships and boats and serve as navigators.



#### ST - Sonar Technician

STs are responsible for underwater surveillance. They assist in safe navigation and aid in search, rescue and attack operations. They operate and repair sonar equipment and jam enemy sonars. STs track underwater objects and repair antisubmarine warfare fire control equipment and underwater radiotelephones.



#### TM - Torpedoman's Mate

TMs maintain underwater explosive missiles, such as torpedoes and rockets, that are launched from surface ships, submarines and aircraft. They also maintain launching systems for underwater explosives, and are responsible for shipping and storage of torpedoes and rockets.



#### YN - Yeoman

YNs perform secretarial and clerical work. They deal with visitors, telephone calls and incoming mail. YNs organize files and operate copy machines and order and distribute supplies. They write and type business and social letters, notices, directives, forms and reports. They maintain files and service records.

### Hull & Maintenance Specialties



#### DC - Damage Controlman

DCs perform the work necessary for damage control, ship stability, fire-fighting and chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) warfare defense. They instruct personnel in damage control and CBR defense and repair damage-control equipment and systems.



#### EM - Electrician's Mate

The operation and repair of a ship's or station's electrical power plant and electrical equipment is the responsibility of EMs. They also maintain and repair power and lighting circuits, distribution switchboards, generators, motors and other electrical equipment.



#### EN - Engineman

Internal combustion engines, diesel or gasoline, must be kept in good order. This is the responsibility of ENs. They also maintain refrigeration, air-conditioning, distilling-plant engines and compressors.



### GS - Gas Turbine System Technician

GSs operate, repair and maintain gas turbine engines; main propulsion machinery, including gears; shafting and controllable pitch propellers; assigned auxiliary equipment propulsion control systems; electrical and electronic circuitry up to the printed circuit module; and alarm and warning circuitry. They also perform administrative tasks related to gas turbine propulsion system operation and maintenance, (GSE: Electrical) (GSM: Mechanical)



### HT - Hull Maintenance Technician

HTs are responsible for maintaining ships' hulls, fittings, piping systems and machinery. They install and maintain shipboard and shore based plumbing and piping systems. They also look after a vessel's safety and survival equipment and perform many tasks related to damage control.



### IC - Interior Communications Electrician

ICs operate and repair electronic devices used in the ship's interior communications systems, SITE TV systems, public address systems, electronic megaphones and other announcing equipment. They are also responsible for the gyrocompass systems.



### MM - Machinist's Mate

Continuous operation of the many engines, compressors and gears, refrigeration, air-conditioning, gas-operated equipment and other types of machinery afloat and ashore is the MM's job. They are also responsible for the ship's steam propulsion and auxiliary equipment and the outside (deck) machinery. MMs also may perform duties involving some industrial gases.



### MR - Machinery Repairman

MRs are skilled machine tool operators. They make replacement parts and repair or overhaul a ship's engine auxiliary equipment, such as evaporators, air compressors and pumps. They repair deck equipment, including winches and hoists, condensers and heat exchange devices. Shipboard MRs frequently operate main propulsion machinery, besides performing machine shop and repair duties.

## Aviation Specialties



### AB - Aviation Boatswain's Mate

ABs operate, maintain and repair aircraft catapults, arresting gear and barricades. They operate and maintain fuel and lube oil transfer systems. ABs direct aircraft on the flight deck and in hanger bays before launch and after recovery. They use tow tractors to position planes and operate support equipment used to start aircraft.



### AC - Air Traffic Controller

ACs assist in the essential safe, orderly and speedy flow of air traffic by directing and controlling aircraft. They operate field lighting systems, communicate with aircraft, furnish pilots with information regarding traffic, navigation and weather conditions, as well as operate and adjust ground-controlled approach (GCA) systems and

interpret targets on radar screens and plot aircraft positions. A five-year enlistment is required to become an AC.



### AD - Aviation Machinist's Mate

Usually, ADs are assigned to billets concerned with maintaining turbo-jet aircraft engines and associated equipment or to any one of several types of aircraft maintenance activities. ADs maintain, service, adjust and replace aircraft engines and accessories, as well as perform the duties of flight engineers.



### AE - Aviation Electronics Mate

AEs maintain, adjust and repair aircraft electrical power generating and converting systems; lighting, control and indicating systems; and can install and maintain wiring and flight and engine instrument systems.



### AG - Aerographer's Mate

AGs are the Navy's weather forecasters. They are trained in meteorology and the use of aerological instruments that monitor air pressure, temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction. They also prepare weather maps and forecasts and analyze atmospheric conditions to determine the best flight levels for aircraft. An AG may also measure wind and air density to aid the accuracy of anti-aircraft firing, shore bombardment and delivery of weapons by aircraft.



### AK - Aviation Storekeeper

AKs ensure that materials and equipment needed by naval aviation activities are available and in good order. They take inventories, estimate future needs and make purchases. AKs store and issue flight clothing; aeronautical materials and spare parts; ordnance; electronic; and structural and engineering equipment. Between 2000 and 2003, the AK rating will be merged into the SK rating.



### AM - Aviation Structural Mechanic

AMs maintain and repair aircraft parts(wings, fuselage, tail, control surfaces, landing gear and attending mechanisms) working with metals, alloys and plastics. They also maintain and repair safety equipment and hydraulic systems.



### AO - Aviation Ordnanceman

Navy planes carry guns, bombs, torpedoes, rockets and missiles to attack the enemy on the sea, under the sea, in the air and on land. AOs maintain, repair, install, operate and handle aviation ordnance equipment. Their duties also include the handling, stowing, issuing and loading of munitions and small arms.



### AS - Aviation Support Equipment Technician

ASs perform intermediate maintenance on aviation accessory equipment -"yellow gear" - at naval air stations and aboard carriers. They maintain gasoline and diesel engines; hydraulic and pneumatic systems; liquid, gaseous oxygen and nitrogen systems; gas turbine compressor units; and electrical systems.



### AT - Aviation Electronics Technician

Modern aircraft depend on radio, radar and other electronic devices for rapid communications, effective navigation, controlled landing approaches and neutralizing enemy equipment and tactics. ATs are responsible for the test, maintenance and repair of this equipment.



#### AW - Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Operator

AWs operate airborne radar and electronic equipment used in detecting, locating and tracking submarines. AWs also operate radars to provide information for aircraft and surface navigation and act as helicopter-rescue crewmen, as well as part of the flight crew on long-range and intermediate-range aircraft. A five-year enlistment is required.



#### AZ - Aviation Maintenance Administration

The many clerical, administrative and managerial duties necessary to keep aircraft maintenance activities running smoothly are handled by the AZs. They plan, schedule and coordinate the maintenance workload, including inspections and modifications to aircraft and equipment.



#### PH - Photographer's Mate

PHs photograph actual and simulated battle operations and make photo records of historic and newsworthy events for the Navy. They expose and process light-sensitive negatives and positives, maintain cameras, related equipment, photo files and records and perform other photographic services for the Navy. A five-year enlistment is required.



#### PR - Aircrew Survival Equipmentman

Parachutes are the lifesaving equipment of aircrewmembers when they have to bail out. In time of disaster, a parachute may also be the only means of delivering badly needed medicines, goods and other supplies to isolated victims. PRs must pack and care for parachutes, as well as service, maintain and repair flight clothing, rubber life rafts, life jackets, oxygen-breathing apparatus, protective clothing and air-sea rescue equipment.

### Construction Specialties



#### BU - Builder

Navy builders are like civilian construction workers. They are skilled carpenters, plasterers, roofers, cement finishers, asphalt workers, masons, painters, bricklayers, sawmill operators or cabinetmakers. BUs build and repair all types of structures including: piers, bridges, towers, underwater installations, schools, offices, houses and other buildings. A five-year enlistment is required.



#### CE - Construction Electrician

CEs are responsible for the power production and electrical work required to build and operate airfields, roads, barracks, hospitals, shops and warehouses. The work of a Navy CE is equivalent to

civilian construction electricians, powerhouse electricians, telephone and electrical repairmen, substation operators, linemen and others. A five-year enlistment is required.



#### CM - Construction Mechanic

CMs maintain heavy construction and automotive equipment - buses, dump trucks, bulldozers, rollers, cranes, backhoes, pile drivers - other construction equipment and service vehicles. They work on gasoline and diesel engines, ignition and fuel systems, transmissions, electrical systems and hydraulic, pneumatic and steering systems. A five-year enlistment is required.



#### EA - Engineering Aide

EAs provide construction engineers with information needed to develop final construction plans. EAs conduct surveys for roads, airfields, buildings, waterfront structures, pipelines, ditches and drainage systems. They perform soil tests; prepare topographic and hydrographic maps and survey for sewers, water lines, drainage systems and underwater excavations. A five-year enlistment is required.



#### EO - Equipment Operator

EOs work with heavy machinery such as bulldozers, power shovels, pile drivers, rollers and graders. EO use this machinery to dig ditches; excavate for building foundations; break up old concrete or asphalt paving and pour new paving; loosen soil and grade it; dig out tree trunks and rocks; remove debris from construction sites; raise girders; and move and set in place other pieces of equipment or materials needed for the job. A five-year enlistment is required.



#### SW - Steelworker

SWs rig and operate all special equipment used to move or hoist structural steel, structural shapes and similar material. They erect or dismantle steel bridges, piers, buildings, tanks, towers and other structures. They place, fit, weld, cut, bolt and rivet steel shapes, plates and built-up sections used in the construction of overseas facilities. A five-year enlistment is required.



#### UT - Utilitiesman

UTs plan, supervise and perform tasks involved in the installation, operation, maintenance and repair of plumbing, heating, steam, compressed air and fuel storage and distribution systems, air conditioning and refrigerator equipment and sewage collecting and disposal facilities.

Information taken from <http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/ratings/navrate.html> and <http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/allhands/ranks/ratings/ratings.html>

Pictures of rating badges are at <http://www.mediacen.navy.mil/pubs/allhands/jan01/rates.htm> and <http://www.mediacen.navy.mil/pubs/allhands/jan98/janpg32.htm>

Historical information at <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq78-1.htm>