CAREER PATHS

No two career paths look the same, but oceanography officers could expect a progression similar to the following:

- **Operational tour**
  - Initial Navy experience in a non-oceanography role, either on a ship or other deployable unit.
- **Initial Naval Oceanography tour**
  - Oceanography tour within a warfighting directorate or production center.
- **Education tour**
  - Formal education in the officer’s preferred discipline.
- **Operational tour**
  - Sea tour either on a carrier, big deck amphibious ship or strike group staff, in preparation for promotion to Commander.

- **Discipline tour**
  - A second (or third) oceanography tour at a mid-grade level, ideally in preferred discipline and/or directorate.
- **Education tour**
  - Informal education in the business of the Navy, centered on a particular focus area such as budget, manpower, etc.
- **Milestone tour**
  - This is a capstone tour using the previous 15 years or so of your Navy experience to fill a leadership role.

YOUR COMMISSION

There are a few ways to become a Navy Officer. Enrolling in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) or the U.S. Naval Academy are two paths toward gaining a commission.

Other prospective officers attend Officer Candidate School (OCS), a 12-week Navy orientation school in Newport, Rhode Island. OCS prepares you for the roles and responsibilities expected of and afforded to U.S. Navy officers through academic and military courses and physical fitness training.

LEARN MORE

For more information, contact:

Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command
Public Affairs Office
228-688-4384
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The Navy performs missions across the globe to protect national security. The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command enables the safety, speed and operational effectiveness of the Fleet by illuminating the risks and opportunities for Naval and Joint forces posed by the present and future natural environment.

As an oceanography officer, you may find yourself advising the warfighter about ocean tides and currents during military operations, relaying violent weather warnings to military and civilian authorities, or directing the preparation of ocean, sea and waterway charts and maps.
Oceanography incorporates many scientific fields applied to the marine environment. Specialty areas within Naval Oceanography fall into three main categories with several sub-disciplines:

- **Physical Oceanographers**
  - Acoustics
  - Near shore (currents, tides, flow, beach surf, water clarity, bottom composition & type)
  - Boundary layer (sea temperature, waves, etc.)
  - Hydrography (data collection)
  - Ocean policy
  - Polar (ice flow, thickness, type, etc.)
- **Meteorologists**
  - Synoptic (large scale) weather
  - Hazardous weather (resource protection)
  - Tropical weather
  - Space weather
  - Tactical impacts on radars, communications and bombs
- **Generalists**
  - Oceanography and meteorology, but no emphasis in any one area

### What You Will Do

The oceanography community is a sea-going community with oceanographers and meteorologists on ships and assigned to sea-going detachments that deploy on ships and overseas. Staff tours could include time spent at headquarters, the Naval Oceanographic Office, Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center, Naval Observatory or other shore-based command.

In addition to the oceanography specialties, officers may develop skills in a focus area such as budget/finance, manpower, training and education, computers and networks, or research and development.

### Earn While You Learn

Oceanography officers can take advantage of the Navy’s elite educational institutions and the programs they offer. The career path of a Naval Oceanographer includes a tour at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., earning a dual masters degree in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography. Additional opportunity exists for some to earn a doctoral degree while being paid full-time as a Navy officer.

Our officers attend Basic Oceanography Accession Training (BOAT) in Gulfport, Miss., for six weeks prior to their first duty station. They also receive specialized training, including methods of analyzing weather conditions, identification of common weather patterns, and techniques and procedures of forecasting.

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**Battlespace On Demand**

* naval meteorology and oceanography