



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
CHIEF OF NAVAL AIR TRAINING  
250 LEXINGTON BLVD SUITE 102  
CORPUS CHRISTI TX 78419-5041

CNATRAINST 1301.4M  
N11  
7 Feb 17

CNATRA INSTRUCTION 1301.4M

Subj: APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICERS  
OF THE NAVY FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION SQUADRON (BLUE ANGELS)

Encl: (1) Application Procedures  
(2) Sample Application Letter  
(3) Sample Endorsement Letter  
(4) Sample Summary List of Professional Experience and  
Qualifications

1. Purpose. To provide the basic requirements and application procedures for officers seeking selection to the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron (NAVFLIGHTDEMRO).

2. Cancellation. CNATRAINST 1301.4L

3. Background. Each year several officers complete their tours with the Blue Angels. Replacements are selected through an application and screening process conducted by the current team, with outside screenings by BUPERS (PERS-43) and final approval of all selections by the Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA).

4. Action. Enclosure (1) sets forth the requirements and application procedures which will be used by the Commanding Officer, NAVFLIGHTDEMRO to select team members. Enclosures (2) and (3) provide samples of application content for all applicants. Enclosure (4) provides a sample of application content for applicants for the position of Commanding Officer, NAVFLIGHTDEMRO.

5. CNATRA 1331/1 may be obtained from CNATRA's website or NAVFLIGHTDEMRO's website at [www.blueangels.navy.mil](http://www.blueangels.navy.mil).

  
DELL D. BULL

Distribution:  
CNATRA Website, CNATRA SharePoint

Copy to: CNO; COMNAVPERSCOM (PERS 4,433B); COMNAVAIRFOR;  
COMNAVAIRSYSCOM

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. Requirements for officer applicants

a. Demonstration pilots must be carrier qualified, have approximately 1,250 tactical jet flight hours by 30 September of the year applying, and have completed an operational fleet tour.

b. Events Coordinator applicants must be a Naval Flight Officer or a pilot from any warfare community that has completed an operational fleet tour.

c. U.S. Marine Corps C-130 pilot applicants must be Transport Plane Commander qualified and have 1,200 total flight hours.

d. Flight Surgeon applicants must be qualified Naval Flight Surgeons and be on, or have completed, a tour as a Naval Flight Surgeon.

e. Maintenance Officer applicants must be designated Aviation Maintenance Officers (152X/633X/734X) (LCDR/LT/CWO3/4) and be on, or have completed, an operational fleet tour.

f. Administrative Officer applicants must be qualified LDO/CWO Administrative Officers (641X/741X) (LT/LTJG/CWO3/4) and be on, or have completed, an operational fleet tour.

g. Supply Officer applicants must be designated Naval Aviation Supply Officers (651X/751X/310X) (LT/LTJG/CWO3/4) and be on, or have completed, an operational fleet tour.

h. Public Affairs Officer applicants must be designated Navy or Marine Corps Public Affairs Officers (165X/USMC MOS 4302) (LT/LCDR, Capt/Maj).

i. Be a career-oriented Navy or Marine Corps officer.

2. Selection Process. No later than 31 October, NAVFLIGHTDEMRON will submit a NAVADMIN up the chain of command indicating the number of openings available for the following season. This NAVADMIN will be released by early January.

a. **ALL APPLICANTS SHALL CONTACT THEIR DETAILER OR MONITOR** prior to applying to discuss their intent to apply to the Blue Angels, and must submit copies of their application to their detailer or monitor at Commander, Navy Personnel Command (N433B) or Headquarters Marine Corps (MMOA-2).

b. Individuals applying must indicate their intentions by:

(1) Sending an email to the Applicants Officer (the email address is found on the NAVADMIN) or;

(2) Calling the Applicants Officer at 760-339-2658/DSN 658 while the team is in El Centro from January to mid-March or after the team's return to Pensacola from mid-March until the deadline at 850-452-2583 ext. 3116/DSN 922 and;

(3) Submitting an Application for consideration with their Commanding Officer's endorsement to the Applicants Officer, Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron. Sample application request and first endorsement letters are listed as enclosures (2) and (3) of this instruction.

c. Initial documentation required for an applicant is the individual's Request for Consideration and Commanding Officer's endorsement. To complete the application, an official 4" x 5" full-length photograph, CNATRA Form 1331/1, and Fact Sheet should be sent to the Applicants Officer no later than 30 April. The CNATRA Form 1331/1 and Fact Sheet are found on the Blue Angels' website, [www.blueangels.navy.mil](http://www.blueangels.navy.mil), under the "How to Apply" tab. Letters of recommendation from persons other than the Commanding Officer are encouraged and will be made a part of the applicant's file.

d. An individual is considered an active applicant once his/her initial Request for Consideration and Commanding Officer's endorsement are received by the NAVFLIGHTDEMROB Applicants Officer. At this point, all active applicants are cordially invited to attend any pre-show briefing during the normal season and attend official functions sponsored by air show sponsors. This will give prospective members a better insight into the overall routine of the Blue Angels and allow team members to meet the applicants.

Enclosure (1)

e. It is the responsibility of the NAVFLIGHTDEMRON Applicants Officer to gather all information on applicants, which should include the following as a minimum:

- (1) Request for consideration;
- (2) Commanding Officer's endorsement;
- (3) CNATRA 1331/1 (with 4" x 5" full-length official photograph);
- (4) Review by COMNAVPERSCOM to approve eligibility;
- (5) CNATRA Readout (CNATRA 1542/95) ATJ Summary.
- (6) For demonstration pilots, Navy Standard Scores (NSS) from flight training along with fleet summary of carrier landing performance grades and rating amongst Air Wing peers.

f. Once the information has been compiled on all active applicants, the Applicants Officer shall establish a schedule for developing finalist recommendations. Finalist recommendations will be determined by a selection board comprised of current Blue Angel officers. This will be completed no later than 30 June.

g. CO NFDS will recommend finalists to CNATRA for approval. CNATRA will forward finalists' names to PERS-43 for additional review and concurrence on suitability. Following PERS-43 concurrence, CNATRA will be the final approval authority of finalists.

h. Upon CNATRA approval of finalist list, all applicants will be notified of their selection as a finalist. TAD orders will be issued by NAVFLIGHTDEMRON for applicant finalists to travel to Pensacola for approximately three days of formal interviews by the Commanding Officer and current team officers. This interview process will occur in July, to be completed by 31 July. Following the interview process, selectee recommendations will be determined by a selection board comprised of current Blue Angel officers. Every effort should be made to complete the selection process no later than 15 August.

Enclosure (1)

i. Criteria for Selection. Criteria for selection include demonstrated professional performance and professional reputation, ability to serve as an ambassador of the Navy and Marine Corps to public and international audiences, and cohesiveness with other team members who travel 300 days per year. Criteria for Naval Aviators include all of the above, with additional heavy emphasis on pilot skill. These criteria for selection specifically DO NOT include gender or any other demographic characteristics.

j. CO NFDS will recommend selectees to CNATRA for approval. CNATRA will be the final approval authority of selectees.

k. Selectees for Demonstration Pilots and the Events Coordinator will, when notified of selection, be required to remain on active duty for a period of two years following their tour with NAVFLIGHTDEMROK. Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders will contain this requirement.

l. PCS orders will be issued by Navy Personnel Command (NPC) or Headquarters Marine Corps to selectees with a detaching date from their present command of August/September. New team members will report to Pensacola, FL in earlySeptember on a date provided to them by NAVFLIGHTDEMROK to travel with the team during the remainder of the air show season. Flight qualifications should be current prior to detaching from the present command. If not F/A-18 NATOPS qualified, PCS orders will be written to include TAD en route for transition training at the nearest FRS. This training will be approximately five weeks long, beginning in early August.

3. Executive Officer Selection. Officers interested in the position of Executive Officer (XO) must submit requests for consideration via their immediate reporting senior to the Commanding Officer, Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, with information copies to CNATRA and the Commander, Navy Personnel Command (N433B). Applications should be received no later than 28/29 February, with interviews being held in May. XO applicants must be Naval Aviators or Naval Flight Officers with the rank of Commander. They should have 1,750 flight hours with a background in carrier aviation.

Enclosure (1)

a. Selection Process. No later than 31 October, NAVFLIGHTDEMRON will submit a NAVADMIN up the chain of command indicating an opening available for the following season. This NAVADMIN will be released by early January. The XO position will normally be filled every other year, in years where a Blue Angel change of command does not occur.

b. **ALL APPLICANTS SHALL CONTACT THEIR DETAILER** prior to applying to discuss their intent to apply to the Blue Angels, and must submit copies of their application to their detailer at Commander, Navy Personnel Command (N433B).

c. Individuals are considered an active applicant once their application has been received by CO NFDS, with a copy to CNATRA. A high quality electronic copy is acceptable, as is a mailed-in original.

(1) Initial documentation required for an XO applicant is the individual's Request for Consideration and Commanding Officer's endorsement. To complete the application, an official 4" x 5" full-length photograph, CNATRA Form 1331/1, and Summary list of Professional Experience and Qualifications should be sent to CO NFDS no later than 28/29 February. The CNATRA Form 1331/1 is found on the Blue Angels' website, [www.blueangels.navy.mil](http://www.blueangels.navy.mil), under the "How To Apply" tab.

(2) Letters of recommendation from persons other than the Commanding Officer are encouraged and will be made a part of the applicant's file. Sample application request, first endorsement letters and Summary list of Professional Experience and Qualifications are listed as enclosures (2), (3), and (4) of this instruction.

d. It is the responsibility of Commanding Officer, NAVFLIGHTDEMRON to gather all information on XO applicants, which should include the following as a minimum:

(1) Request for consideration;

(2) Commanding Officer's endorsement;

(3) CNATRA 1331/1 (with 4" x 5" full-length official photograph);

Enclosure (1)

(4) Review by COMNAVPERSCOM to approve eligibility and suitability;

(5) Summary List of Professional Experience and Qualifications;

(6) Biography

e. Once the information has been compiled on all active XO applicants, Commanding Officer, NAVFLIGHTDEMRON will select and recommend the list of finalists to CNATRA for approval. This will be completed no later than 31 May.

f. CNATRA will forward XO finalists' names to PERS-43 for additional review and concurrence on suitability. Following PERS-43 concurrence, CNATRA will be the final approval authority of finalists.

g. Upon CNATRA approval, all XO applicants will be notified of their selection as a finalist. Video teleconference format interviews will be conducted by the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer and Operations Officer, NAVFLIGHTDEMRON, , which will also include telephone interviews with CNATRA. This interview process will occur in May. Every effort should be made to complete the selection process no later than 31 May.

h. Criteria for Selection. Criteria for selection include demonstrated professional performance and professional reputation, ability to serve as an ambassador of the Navy and Marine Corps to public and international audiences, and cohesiveness with other team members who travel 300 days per year. Criteria for the Executive Officer include all of the above, with additional heavy emphasis on leadership, judgment, moral character, experience, and confidence. These criteria for selection specifically DO NOT include gender or any other demographic characteristics.

i. CO NFDS will recommend the XO selectee to CNATRA for approval. CNATRA will be the final approval authority of the XO selectee.

Enclosure (1)

j. PCS orders will be issued by Navy Personnel Command (NPC) to selectees with a detaching date from their present command of July/August. New team members will report to Pensacola, FL in early September on a date provided to them by NAVFLIGHTDEMROn to travel with the team during the remainder of the air show season. Flight qualifications should be current prior to detaching from the present command. If not F/A-18 NATOPS qualified, PCS orders should be written to include TAD en route for transition training at the nearest FRS. This training will be approximately five weeks long, beginning in early to mid-July. XO selectees shall attend the PXO course at the Naval Leadership and Ethics Center in Newport, RI in August.

4. Commanding Officer/Flight Leader Selection. Officers interested in the position of Commanding Officer/Flight Leader must submit requests for consideration via their immediate reporting senior to CNATRA with information copies to the Commanding Officer, NAVFLIGHTDEMROn, and the Commander, Navy Personnel Command (N433B). Applications should be received no later than 31 January, with interviews being held in early April.. Flight leader applicants should have 3,000 flight hours and be in command or have had command of a tactical jet squadron. CNATRA shall recommend a prospective CO, with final approval by the Commander, Naval Air Forces.

a. Selection Process. No later than 31 October, NAVFLIGHTDEMROn will submit a NAVADMIN up the chain of command indicating an opening available for the following season. This NAVADMIN will be released by early December.

b. **ALL APPLICANTS SHALL CONTACT THEIR DETAILER** prior to applying to discuss their intent to apply to the Blue Angels, and must submit copies of their application to their detailer at Commander, Navy Personnel Command (N433B).

c. Individuals are considered an active applicant once their application has been received by the CNATRA Flag Aide, with a copy to the NAVFLIGHTDEMROn Commanding Officer. A high quality electronic copy is acceptable, as is a mailed-in original.

Enclosure (1)



(1) Initial documentation required for an applicant is the individual's Request for Consideration and reporting senior's endorsement. To complete the application, an official 4" x 5" full-length photograph, CNATRA Form 1331/1, and Summary list of Professional Experience and Qualifications should be sent to the CNATRA Flag Aide no later than 31 January. The CNATRA Form 1331/1 is found on the Blue Angels' website, [www.blueangels.navy.mil](http://www.blueangels.navy.mil), under the "How To Apply" tab.

(2) Letters of recommendation from persons other than their reporting senior are encouraged and will be made a part of the applicant's file. Sample application request, first endorsement letters and Summary list of Professional Experience and Qualifications are listed as enclosures (2), (3), and (4) of this instruction.

d. It is the responsibility of the CNATRA Flag Aide to gather all information on applicants, which should include the following as a minimum:

- (1) Request for consideration;
- (2) Reporting Senior's endorsement;
- (3) CNATRA 1331/1 (with 4" x 5" full-length official photograph);
- (4) Review by COMNAVPERSCOM to approve eligibility;
- (5) Summary List of Professional Experience and Qualifications;
- (6) Biography

e. Once the information has been compiled on all active applicants, CNATRA will determine finalist selection. All applicants will be notified of their selection as a finalist. TAD orders will be issued by CNATRA for applicant finalists to travel to Pensacola for approximately three days for a Selection Board composed of CNATRA, PERS-43, former Blue Angels Commanding Officers, and others. This interview process will occur in early April. CNATRA shall submit the name of the recommended CO to CNAF for final approval prior to public notification.

Enclosure (1)

f. Selectees for Commanding Officer will, when notified of selection, be required to remain on active duty for a period of two years following their tour with NAVFLIGHTDEMRON. Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders will contain this requirement.

g. PCS orders will be issued by Navy Personnel Command (NPC) for the Prospective Commanding Officer (PCO) in order to accommodate the requisite training track. Refresher training at the FRS and NLEC will be scheduled as required. Additionally, the PCO will spend 4 weeks in Pensacola for PCO Indoctrination. The intent is for the PCO to observe the selection process in early July if possible. Additionally, time will be scheduled for the PCO to receive program briefs and be allotted dedicated time for immersive study of NFDS specific policy and procedures. The indoctrination period may be executed in conjunction with the PCS move, or executed as TAD if required, however PCO Indoc should be executed unaccompanied until complete. Following PCO Indoc, the August time-frame is ideal for the PCO to complete the PCS move for family members, and in order to begin the Khaki Newbie process in early September with the rest of the incoming Team Officers.

h. Flight qualifications should be current prior to detaching from the present command. If not F/A-18 NATOPS qualified, PCS orders will be written to include TAD en route for transition training at the nearest FRS. This training will be approximately five weeks long, beginning in early August.

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SAMPLE APPLICATION LETTER

(Date)

From: Applicant's Rank, Name, Branch of Service  
To: Commanding Officer, Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron  
Via: Current Commanding Officer

Subj: APPLICATION FOR NAVY FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION SQUADRON

Ref: (a) CNATRAINST 1301.4K

Encl: (1) CNATRA 1331/1  
(2) 4x5" Full-length Official Photograph  
(3) Biography  
(4) Summary List of Professional Experience and  
Qualifications

1. I respectfully request to be considered as an applicant for selection for the 20 Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron.
2. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.

Applicant's signature

Enclosure (2)

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SAMPLE ENDORSEMENT LETTER

(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on Rank First M. Last, USN, 131X ltr of date

From: Commanding Officer, (Current Command)

To: Commanding Officer, Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron

Subj: APPLICATION FOR NAVY FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION SQUADRON

1. Forwarded with my strongest possible recommendation for selection...

Commanding Officer's signature

Sample

SAMPLE SUMMARY LIST OF PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications held:

General:

DU1 Aviation Commander Command  
JS7/JS8 JPME Phase I/II  
LB3/LB4 CDO Underway / Conning Alongside  
CDO Inport  
DAB Strike Lead  
DB1 Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor  
EAY/EBY/ECY Landing Signals Officer Field/Squadron/Wing

F/A-18:

SFWT Level 2/3/3IP/4/4IP  
SFWT Level 4 Adversary  
ATTP Instructor  
PMFCF Pilot  
Tanker Pilot  
NATOPS Instructor  
Instrument Instructor  
NVG Instructor  
JHMCS Instructor

Schools / Courses attended:

Degrees:

U.S. Naval War College, MA, 20XX, National Security  
Strategic Studies (Subspecialty 2000P)  
University of XXXXX, MS, 199X, Aeronautical Engineering  
(Subspecialty 5402P)  
U.S. Naval Academy, BS, 199X, Aerospace Engineering

Service Schools & Courses:

Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) Green Belt Course,  
20XX  
CPI Champion Course, 20XX  
Aviation Safety Command Course, 20XX  
NSAWC Senior Officers Course, 20XX  
Command Leadership School, 20XX  
Strike Leader Attack Training Syllabus (SLATS), 20XX  
Operational Risk Management Applications and Integration,  
20XX  
Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO), 20XX

U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), Class XX-XX,  
20XX  
Landing Signals Officer School, 199X  
Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape (SERE) School, 199X

Operational Experience:

199X	CVN XX/CVW-XX/VFA-XX	Operation DELIBERATE FORGE Operation SOUTHERN WATCH
20XX	CVN XX/CVW-XX/VFA-XX	Operation IRAQI FREEDOM
20XX	CVN XX/CVW-XX/VFA-XX	Operation IRAQI FREEDOM Operation ENDURING FREEDOM
20XX	CVN XX/CVW-XX/VFA-XX	Operation ENDURING FREEDOM Operation NEW DAWN