

## MILPERSMAN 1210-260

### AVIATION OPERATIONS OFFICERS AND NON-AERONAUTICALLY DESIGNATED OFFICERS AND ENLISTED ASSIGNED DUTY INVOLVING FLYING

<b>Responsible Office</b>	OPNAV (N13)	Phone:	DSN	223-2306
			COM	(703) 693-2306
			FAX	224-1189
NAVPERSCOM CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER		Phone: Toll Free	1-866-U ASK NPC	

1. **Background.** The Naval Aviation Observer (NAO) Program provides an opportunity for limited duty officers, warrant officers, and fleet personnel to become career observers. The NAO Program for limited duty officers and warrant officers is a continuation of their prior enlisted service flying in either fixed-wing aircraft or helicopters. However, as a continuation of prior enlisted service, the skill set needed for the NAO qualification increases in scope and becomes more technically demanding. Therefore, further training is required to adequately fulfill this new skill set. For non-aeronautically designated officers and enlisted, this program is for special assignment flying in either fixed-wing or helicopter aircraft not covered under the Naval Aircrew Program.

2. **Eligibility:**

a. Aviation Operations limited duty officers designated 632X, assigned duty involving flying operations (DIFOPS) orders and are logged into DIFOPS billets (XXX1 or XXX2);

b. Aviation Operations Technician warrant officers designated 732X, assigned DIFOPS orders and are logged into DIFOPS billets (XXX1 or XXX2);

c. Non-aeronautically designated officers and enlisted with distributable Navy enlisted classifications 776A, A18A, C06A, and L00A, who are assigned to billets requiring duty involving flying, will be eligible to be designated as NAOs. Enlisted will be eligible under duty involving flying/temporary (DIFTEM) orders and officers will be eligible under duty involving flying

as a technical advisor (DIFTECH) orders, approved by type commander, and issued by Commander, Navy Personnel Command.

3. **Revocation.** The right to wear the NAO insignia continues through subsequent tours, unless revoked by Head, Aviation LDO/CWO Assignments Branch (PERS-434D), and as long as the individual remains a volunteer for flight duty. Enlisted personnel are authorized to wear the NAO insignia as long as they maintain eligibility.

4. **Requirements.** An officer or enlisted assigned to a billet requiring flying, crewmember, or technical observer must meet the following requirements to qualify for the NAO insignia:

a. Maintain a current flight physical and must have volunteered for duty involving flying.

b. Qualified under Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization or other service standard of knowledge of aircraft systems and safety procedures.

c. Successfully completed a course of instruction associated with their flying mission as prescribed by the appropriate type commander. The course of instruction can be based on experience and or a personnel qualification standard developed by the concerned command.

d. Accumulated 200 flight hours in fixed-wing aircraft, or 150 flight hours in rotary-wing aircraft to ensure a complete understanding and proficiency in the specific operational mission which must be directly related to the purpose of their assignment to duty involving flying.

5. **Restrictions to the Award of the NAO Designation:**

a. Award of the NAO insignia retroactively is not authorized. Qualifications earned in the past shall not count toward award of a current NAO request. No request shall be approved with previous naval service qualifications.

b. Qualifications earned when previously designated as aircrew or an aeronautically designated (officer or enlisted) cannot be used to qualify for a current NAO request. All submissions must contain only current qualifications.

6. The NAO, DIFTECH, and DIFTEM request template is attached as Enclosure (1).

Exhibit 1

**NAO, DIFTECH, and DIFTEM REQUEST**

(Use proper letter format containing the following)

(Date)

From: (Rank/Name), USN(R), (DESIG/NEC)  
To: Commander, Navy Personnel Command (PERS-4320)  
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Type Wing Commander

Subj: REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION AS A NAVAL AVIATION OBSERVER  
(NAO) or REQUEST FOR DUTY INVOLVING FLYING AS A  
TECHNICAL  
OBSERVER (DIFTECH/DIFTEM) ORDERS

Ref: (a) MILPERSMAN 1210-260

1. Respectfully request NAO designation per (a).

or

1. Respectfully request DIFTECH/DIFTEM orders per reference  
(a).

2. My duties in the (aircraft designation/s) include: (List  
the specific duties in bullet format using the requirements and  
guidelines shown below)

a. Duties must be necessary for the completion of the  
squadron's mission.

b. Duties must require regular and frequent flights.

3. My commercial number is (XXX) XXX-XXXX or DSN XXX-XXXX. My  
e-mail contact information is \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature

Exhibit 1

**NAO, DIFTECH, and DIFTEM REQUEST  
(Continued)**

(Use proper letter format containing the following)

1200  
Ser  
(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on (Rank/Name, USN(R), DESIG/NEC ltr of Date))

From: Commanding Officer, \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Commander, Navy Personnel Command (PERS-4320)  
Via: Type Wing Commander

Subj: REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION AS A NAVAL AVIATION OBSERVER  
(NAO) or REQUEST FOR DUTY INVOLVING FLYING AS A TECHNICAL  
OBSERVER (DIFTECH/DIFTEM) ORDERS

1. Forwarded, recommending approval.
2. I certify that the duties performed by the Service member are required and necessary for the completion of the command's/squadron's mission.

(SIGNATURE)

Copy to:  
Service member

1200  
Ser  
(Date)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT on (Rank/Name, USN(R), DESIG/NEC ltr of  
Date))

From: Type Wing Commander

To: Commander, Navy Personnel Command (PERS-4320)

Subj: REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION AS A NAVAL AVIATION OBSERVER  
(NAO) or REQUEST FOR DUTY INVOLVING FLYING AS A TECHNICAL  
OBSERVER (DIFTECH/DIFTEM) ORDERS

1. Forwarded, recommending approval, concurring with the  
Commanding Officer's certification that the duties performed by  
the Service member are required and necessary for the completion  
of the command's/squadron's mission.

(SIGNATURE)

Copy to:  
Command  
Service member