



Weather (1W0X1)

Performs and manages the collection, analysis, and forecast of atmospheric and space weather conditions, and the tailoring and communication of weather information.

Alternate Titles:

WEATHER OBSERVERS; WEATHER CLERKS; OCEANOGRAPHER ASSISTANTS

Duties and Responsibilities:

BACKGROUND

Weather information is important for planning military operations. Accurate weather forecasts are needed to plan troop movements, airplane flights, and ship traffic. Meteorological specialists collect information about weather and sea conditions for use by meteorologists. They make visual observations and take readings from weather equipment, radar scans, and satellite photographs.

WHAT THEY DO

Meteorological specialists in the military perform some or all of the following duties:

Launch weather balloons to record wind speed and direction

Identify the types of clouds present and estimate cloud height and amount of cloud cover

Take readings of barometric pressure, temperature, humidity, and sea conditions

Operate radio equipment to receive information from satellites

Plot weather information on maps and charts

Forecast weather based on readings and observations

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Normal color vision is required to use color-coded maps and weather charts.

Some specialties may involve heavy lifting.

HELPFUL ATTRIBUTES

Helpful school subjects include geography, mathematics, and physical science. Helpful attributes include:

Interest in working with formulas, tables, and graphs

Ability to communicate effectively

Interest in learning how weather changes

Interest in gathering and organizing information

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Meteorological specialists usually work in offices. They work outdoors when making visual weather observations and launching weather balloons.

TRAINING PROVIDED

Job training consists of 7 to 18 weeks of classroom instruction. Training length varies depending on specialty. Course content typically includes:

Basic meteorology (study of weather) and oceanography (study of the ocean)

Methods for plotting weather data

Analyzing radar and satellite weather information

Preparation of weather reports

Advanced training in weather forecasting is available for some specialties.

CIVILIAN COUNTERPARTS

Civilian meteorological specialists work for government agencies (such as the U.S. Weather Service), commercial airlines, radio and television stations, and private weather forecasting firms. They perform duties similar to military meteorological specialists. Civilian meteorological specialists may also be called oceanographer assistants and weather clerks.