



# Blue Angels Application Guide

Applying to the Blue Angels is an experience like none other in the Navy or Marine Corps. The team strives to make this process as enjoyable and professional as possible for all applicants. We want to get to know you on a personal level, not simply as an applicant on his/her best behavior who turns out to be someone else once selected. The bottom line is: if you are not having fun and being yourself, you are probably not doing it right.

We are looking for well-rounded, motivated officers to represent the United States Navy and Marine Corps 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our jobs do not end when we take off the blue suit. As a Blue Angel, everything you say and do is under public scrutiny. Any incident, however minor, can blemish the reputation of the Blue Angels, the Navy, and the Marine Corps. If you are not up for that kind of high-profile environment, this may not be the job for you.

## The Application Package

Applicant requirements are listed in CNATRAINST 1301.4P, which is located on our website [blueangels.navy.mil](http://blueangels.navy.mil) under the “Join the Team” tab. Embedded in this instruction is the format for your “Request for Consideration” letter, which can also provide the template for your Commanding Officer’s (CO) endorsement. This instruction details flight time minimums, qualifications, and designator requirements. You will also find the NAVADMIN “Officer Application Message” and CNATRA Form 1331/1 “Officer Applicant Information Sheet.”

Prior to attending your first brief, you must have already submitted or brought with you items 1, 2, and 7 (7 - aviators only) listed below. When your package is complete, please email me a single pdf scanned version of your application. Your completed application (hard copy) must be received NLT April 30, 2024, to include:

- 1) “Request for Consideration” letter – **This is required to be in my possession before you can attend your first brief.** As previously mentioned, a sample letter is provided within the CNATRA instruction on the website.
- 2) Commanding Officer’s Endorsement – **This document is also required before attending your first brief.** Essentially, your current CO must provide written approval stating that, if selected, they will allow you to detach early from his/her command. Additionally, you should contact your detailer/monitor to ensure you can leave your billet early so it will not be gapped.
- 3) CNATRA form 1331/1 – This can be downloaded from the website. The form has three pages and should be filled out completely.
- 4) Official full-length photograph (khakis/charlies) – Any base photoshop or photograph studio should be able to take this picture. Please use OMPF’s digital officer photo upload form and remove the PII prior to sending the photograph.

- 5) Summary List of Professional Experience and Qualifications – This format can be found in the enclosures of the CNATRAINST 1301.4P.
- 6) Biography – This is a standard Navy biography – one page or less.
- 7) For aircrew applicants, a medical record review will be performed by the Blue Angels Flight Surgeon. You are no longer required to bring your physical record with you to the first show. You must now send an email to the Blue Angels Flight Surgeon, LCDR Phillippe Warren, at philippe.a.warren@navy.mil with your DoD ID number and full name.

\* The mailing address to send your application package can be found in the “Officer Application Message.”

## **Air Shows**

Air shows are the forum in which we execute our mission of showcasing Naval Aviation to people around the world. In order to understand how we execute our mission, it is important for applicants to attend air shows and see the briefing process as well as how we interact with the local community. Additionally, team interaction after the show is important for us to get to know you and for you to determine if the team would be a good fit for you.

The first rush show site you may attend as an applicant is Friday, March 15, at the Wings Over Solano Air Show at Travis Air Force Base. The last rush show site you may attend as an applicant is the Terre Haute Air Show at Terre Haute, IN, starting Friday, May 31. The U.S. Naval Academy Air Show in Annapolis, MD, will **not** be open to applicants as a rush air show in 2024. We recommend you attend two or three shows during the application season. On Monday or Tuesday prior to a show, I will send a mass message to all of the applicants detailing where we are staying and briefing, along with the brief and mandatory commit times. You are by no means required to stay in the same hotel as the team; however, our hotel bar (“the motor bar”) is usually where we will start the evening and meet up with applicants or push to other social activities.

You are on your own when coming to an air show and should not expect any special consideration from show sites because you are an applicant. **Do not** book a hotel room under the auspices that you are with the Blue Angels. When it comes to attending shows, remember you are not a member of the Blue Angels and thus should not present yourself that way. People will often ask specifically if you are a member of the team. When you are trying to get into a commit or get to the briefing room, simply tell them you are an applicant and if they have concerns or issues, please direct them to me.

A good rule of thumb is to attend at least two briefs from Friday to Sunday. At the beginning of each brief, one of the applicants, at Boss’ request, will tell a joke to start things off and break the ice. At most show sites, the Blue Angels have one mandatory event that the team will attend after the debrief on either Friday or Saturday evening. Applicants are highly encouraged to attend the mandatory function to socialize with the team **and** to meet other military and civilian

members in the air show industry.

Recommended attire for all events is business casual. If you are not sure what that means, talk to some people who have applied before. Bottom line: If you are unsure, dress up, not down. If you are overdressed, at least you can remove a layer or two rather than being the one person who wore jeans and sneakers.

In an effort to get to know you better, please attend the show site alone. Do not bring family or significant others unless there is a special circumstance, i.e., leaving on deployment, Individual Augmentee (IA), etc. If this is the case, please let me know beforehand to discuss. We are all about family, but we want to get to know you in our environment without the comfort of having someone along with you. These events are also a great opportunity to get to know all of the other applicants who may end up being your teammates.

## Conclusion

This entire process is a chance for us to get to know you, and for you to get to know the people you could potentially be spending 300-plus days with per year. We encourage you to make an effort to get to know everyone on the team, not just the position to which you are applying. We are expecting you to come out of your comfort zone and interact. **The bottom line is to relax, have fun, be yourself, and enjoy the application process!** Remember, we are all fleet personnel and this is just as much an interview of us as it is of you. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me via phone or email. Thank you again for your interest in the Blue Angels! We look forward to seeing you on the road!

CDR Thomas Zimmerman  
#6 | Opposing Solo | Applicants Officer  
U.S. Navy Blue Angels  
NIPR: [thomas.w.zimmerman.mil@us.navy.mil](mailto:thomas.w.zimmerman.mil@us.navy.mil)  
COMM: [blueangels.applicantso@gmail.com](mailto:blueangels.applicantso@gmail.com)  
(850) 452-4650 – DSN 922 – NAS Pensacola  
(760) 339-2509 – DSN 658 – NAF El Centro (Jan 4 – Mar 12)

**Please email all applicant documents to both emails listed above.**

## **Typical Air Show Weekend for Applicants**

### **Thursday**

There are no applicant functions on this day. The team will arrive Thursday and fly three times (transit flight, circles, and a practice flight demonstration). This is an extremely busy day for us and by the end we are all very worn out and tired. Please do not think we are ignoring you; we just need some time to recuperate on Thursday evening.

### **Friday – Sunday**

The brief normally begins at 1400. Applicants are expected to be at the briefing spaces an hour prior to the brief's start (typically at 1300) when the team arrives. Socializing outside of the briefing space for an hour is an informal meet/greet/mingle process. We will cycle in and out of the briefing room to visit with applicants during this time. Ten minutes prior to the brief's start (typically at 1350) the team will enter the briefing room.

Shortly after the brief's start, I will come out and grab all of the applicants and bring them into the briefing room to shake everyone's hand. Once everyone is seated, Boss will begin the brief and ask if anyone has a joke to tell to the ready room. Please keep it clean as we often have outsiders in the brief as well. Once the joke is over, Boss will conduct the brief which lasts about 10 minutes. Make sure phones are either silenced or off (I recommend not even bringing them in, but that is up to you). During the brief, Boss will go over the exact sequence of the show and the pilots will chair-fly at least one maneuver. When the brief is complete, Boss will say, "Diamond, Solos, Comm Cart, Tower, Bert, and Narrator, let's have a good one." At this point all the support officers will stand up and shake the pilots' hands, and they will exit the room and conduct the support officer brief.

After the main brief, applicants can either leave the room for the support officer brief or stay in the briefing room for a short delta specific brief. Boss will then ask each pilot for their specific goals and the training officer and operations officer will add any additional pertinent information before we break. The solos will depart to their separate brief, which applicants may also attend, and the diamond will conduct their own brief. When the solos depart the room, applicants may also stay to observe the diamond specific brief, and chat with the diamond pilots post-brief. After a few minutes of chatting post diamond or solo brief respectively, the remaining applicants should politely excuse themselves to provide the pilots with some alone time to get mentally prepared for the demo.

The next function for applicants is the commit; this either happens on Friday or Saturday. This is our opportunity to meet the local public and interact on a more personal level than at the crowd line. You are invited to come to most of these events (I will update you each week if that changes). We may, on a limited basis, socialize with you at the commit. However, do not expect it, since our priority is the local community interaction. Once the commit is over, we will meet up for a social hour at a local establishment. I will text all applicants in attendance with the location details and times that day. How long you wish to stay is up to you, and if you have a flight or reason to depart early – no harm, no foul. On Sunday there is only the brief to attend as we depart immediately after the show.

The time outside these windows is your time. You will not receive any special passes, so if you decide to watch the show, you are on your own with regard to getting into the airshow. There is no requirement for you to watch the show so feel free to depart after the brief. There are always questions about the weekend and process, and that is why I am here. Below is a list of the 2024 “rushable” air show sites (the dates are specific to the Saturday and Sunday shows), as well as a rough itinerary based on a normal weekend. Expect updates to the itinerary to be sent out each week.

## 2024 “Rushable” Air Shows

### MARCH

16 - 17 | Travis AFB, CA | Wings Over Solano  
 23 - 24 | NAS JRB New Orleans, LA | New Orleans Air Show

### APRIL

6 - 7 | Maxwell AFB, AL | Beyond the Horizon Air and Space Show  
 13 - 14 | NAS JRB Fort Worth, TX | Fort Worth Air Power Expo  
 20 - 21 | Sanford, FL | Orlando Air Show  
 27 - 28 | Vidalia, GA | Vidalia Onion Festival Air Show

### MAY

4 - 5 | Vero Beach, FL | Vero Beach Air Show  
 11 - 12 | MCAS Cherry Point, NC | MCAS Cherry Point Air Show  
 25 - 26 | Jones Beach, NY | Bethpage Air Show

### JUNE

1- 2 | Terre Haute, IN | Terre Haute Air Show

## Rough Itinerary

FRI	SAT	SUN
Arrive at Briefing Spaces/ Socialize 1 – 2pm	Arrive at Briefing Spaces/ Socialize 1 – 2pm	Arrive at Briefing Spaces/ Socialize 1 – 2pm
Brief, 2pm	Brief, 2pm	Brief, 2pm
Applicants Cleared Off 2:15 – 7pm	Applicants Cleared Off 2:15 – 7pm	
Possible Commit 7 – 8pm	Possible Commit 7 – 8pm	
Social 8 – 9pm	Social 8 – 9pm	