



## Blue Angels Guide to “Rushing”

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 an “applicant” on his/her best behavior that 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 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps 24 hours a day, 7 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 1301.4N, which is located on our website [www.blueangels.navy.mil](http://www.blueangels.navy.mil) under the “Join the Team” tab. Imbedded in this instruction is the format for your “Request for Consideration” letter, which can also provide the template for your CO’s 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.

Prior to attending your first brief, you must have already submitted or brought with you items 1, 2, and 5 (5-aviators only) listed below. Your completed application package must be received NLT April 30<sup>th</sup> to include:

- 1) A “Request for Consideration” letter – **This is required to be in my possession before you can attend your first brief.** As mentioned, a sample letter is attached as an enclosure to 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 agree, in writing, to let you apply to the team, telling us, if selected, he/she will detach you early from his/her command. Additionally, you should contact your detailer/monitor to ensure you can leave your billet early so it won’t be gapped.
- 3) CNATRA form 1331/1 – This can be downloaded from the website. The form has three pages and must be filled out completely. Please ensure you have the new form (says REV 1-15 at the bottom). The form includes several questions with plenty of space to write, so don’t feel bad about leaving blank space if you have nothing else left to say.
- 4) An official full-length photograph (khakis/charlies) – Any base photo-shop or photograph studio should be able to take this picture. Get this done early and ensure it is in the proper military format.
- 5) For aircrew applicants, a medical record review will be performed by the Blue Angels’ Flight Surgeon **the day you attend your first brief. Don’t come unless you have it with you!**

\* Mailing addresses to send your application packages are found in the “Officer Application Message”.

## The Air Shows

Air Shows are the forum in which we execute our mission of showcasing Naval Aviation to people all around the country. In order to understand how we execute our mission it is important for applicants to attend air shows, and see the brief process as well as how we interact with the 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 brief you may attend is Friday, March 9th at the El Centro air show. The last show you may attend as an applicant is in Patuxent River, MD from 1-3 June. We recommend you attend two to three shows during the application season. On Monday or Tuesday prior to a show, I will send a mass email to all of the applicants detailing where we are staying and briefing along with the brief times and any mandatory commits. 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 shouldn't 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 if you are a member of the team; specifically 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 pass them along to me.

A good rule of thumb is to attend at least two briefs from Friday-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 that have rushed before. Bottom line is if you are unsure, dress up not down. If you are over dressed, 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, 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.

## 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+ days a year with. Don't just get to know the person in the position for which you are applying. Make sure you meet each and every officer on the team. Don't be shy! We are expecting you to come out of your comfort zone and interact. **The bottom line is relax, have fun, be yourself, and enjoy the application process!** Remember, we are all fleet personnel and this is just as much of 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!

LT Damon Kroes  
U.S. Navy Blue Angels  
#2, Right Wingman  
(850) 452-2585 – DSN 922 – NAS Pensacola  
(760) 339-2509 – DSN 658 – NAF El Centro (Jan 3-Mar 15)  
(619) 322-1196 (c)

[Blueangels.applicantso@gmail.com](mailto:Blueangels.applicantso@gmail.com)  
[www.blueangels.navy.mil](http://www.blueangels.navy.mil)

## Typical Air Show Weekend for Applicants

**Thursday** - There are no applicant functions this day.

The team will arrive Thursday and fly three times (flight from Pensacola, Circles, and a practice demonstration). This is an extremely busy day for us and by the end we are all very worn out and tired. Please don't think we are ignoring you, we just need some time to recoup on Thursday evening.

### Friday-Sunday

The brief normally begins at 1400. Applicants are expected to be at the briefing spaces at 1300 when the team arrives. Socializing outside the briefing space for an hour is informal. We will cycle in and out of the briefing room to visit with applicants during this time. At 1350 the team will enter the briefing room. The brief will begin at 1400. I will come out shortly after 1400 and grab all the applicants and bring them into the 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's up to you). During the brief he will go over the exact sequence of the show and the pilots will chair fly at least one maneuver. When the brief is complete he will say "Diamond, Solos, Comm Cart, Tower, Bert, Narrator let's have a good one." At this point all the support officers will stand up and shake the pilots hand and they will exit the room and conduct the support officer brief. Applicants can either leave the room for the support officer brief or stay in the brief 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 a separate brief and the diamond will conduct their own brief. When the solos depart the room all applicants may stay to observe the diamond specific brief and chat with the diamond pilots post brief. After a few minutes of chatting post diamond brief, the applicants should politely excuse themselves so as 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 crowd line. You are invited to come to most of these events (I will update each week if that changes). While we are here this is our chance to execute our mission and give you an opportunity to what it's like for us to interact with the community and represent the Navy and Marine Corps. We may, on a limited basis socialize with you, however, do not expect it since we are working. Once the commit is over we will meet up for drinks. I'll text you all with that information that day. How long 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 just 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're on your own with regards to getting in to the airshow. There is no requirement for you to watch the show so feel free to depart back to the hotel or wherever after the brief. There are always questions about the weekend and process and that's what I'm here for. Here is a rough itinerary based on a normal weekend. Expect this to be sent out each week with specific times and locations.

## **Rough Itinerary**

Friday –

1300 arrive at briefing spaces

1400 brief begins

1415 applicants depart

1900 possible commit

2000 drinks and socializing

Saturday –

1300 arrive at briefing spaces

1400 brief begins

1415 applicants depart

1900 possible commit

2000 drinks and socializing

Sunday –

1300 arrive at briefing spaces

1400 brief begins

1415 applicants depart