



DACOWITS RFI 5b

Women in Space

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Women in Space (1 of 3)

a. Explain how members of your Service become astronauts or part of the space program (to include support positions).

The Army selects qualified candidates to compete with other military and civilian applicants for selection to the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) astronaut candidate program, a rigorous 2-year program to train astronauts for spaceflight.

The application process consists of two parts that occur in parallel: 1) an electronic submission directly to NASA through the USAJOBS.GOV site and 2) a paper application mailed to the Army Astronaut Candidate Screening Board.

Soldiers of any rank that meet the following criteria are eligible for consideration for selection:

- a. Must be a United States Citizen
- b. Must have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution in engineering, biological science, physical science, computer science, or mathematics. The following degree fields, while related to engineering and the sciences, are not considered qualifying:
 - (1) degrees in technology (engineering technology, aviation technology, medical technology, etc.)
 - (2) degrees in psychology (except for clinical psychology, physiological psychology, or experimental psychology which are qualifying).
 - (3) degrees in nursing.
 - (4) degrees in exercise physiology or similar fields.
 - (5) degrees in social science (geography, anthropology, archaeology, etc).
 - (6) degrees in aviation, aviation management, or similar fields.
- c. Must have at least three years of related, progressively responsible professional experience following degree completion, or at least 1,000 hours pilot-in-command time in jet aircraft. An advanced degree is desirable and may be substituted for part of or the entire experience requirement (masters degree = 1 year of experience, doctoral degree = 3 years of experience).
- d. Must pass the NASA long-duration astronaut space flight physical (similar to an army class ii flight physical), which includes the following specific requirements (these prerequisites are not waiverable):
 - (1) Distant and near visual acuity must be correctable to 20/20, each eye.
 - (2) Hearing loss not to exceed International Organization of Standardization (ISO) standards.
 - (3) Blood pressure not to exceed 140/90.
 - (4) Height between 62 and 75 inches tall.



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b. Provide total number of women by astronaut designation. Provide whole numbers, percent of total community, and breakdown by rank.

The Army has had 18 astronauts selected by NASA since 1978. Of that selection, two have been women. Women make up 11% of the total number of Army astronauts.

**COL Nancy Currie, Aviator – Selected in 1990
Retired from the Army in 2005**

**LTC Anne McClain, Aviator (Experimental Test Pilot and Flew 216
Combat Missions) Selected in 2013 – Current Astronaut**

c. What is the percentage of women in space support fields by rank/MOS (i.e., maintenance, flight equipment, intelligence, supply, etc.)?

Currently, the Army has three program manager positions within the NASA detachment, one of which is a woman (33%).

d. What barriers have you identified that may hinder women's ascension into space specialties (e.g., equipment, anthropomorphic measures, etc.)?

NASA qualifications to apply for the astronaut program are discussed in slide 1.

NASA is committed to a diverse astronaut candidate class and encourages qualified women and minority Soldiers to apply.



Women in Space (3 of 3)

e. What barriers have you identified that may limit women's promotion potential once in space specialties (i.e., berthing limitations, facilities, deployment time, etc.)?

We are not aware of any barriers that limit women's promotion potential as astronauts. Astronauts are boarded for promotion using the same fair and equitable promotion board process as all other Army officers.

f. What initiatives (current or planned) are being pursued to increase women in the space community?

The Army has no specific initiatives focused on recruitment of women applying for astronaut candidate screening; however, in 2019, the Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC), parent organization of the Army NASA detachment, began participating in Branch Orientation during Cadet Summer Training.