



A Career as a Non-Commissioned Member Naval Communicator

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PROUD**
TODAY'S Canadian Forces

WHAT THEY DO Naval Communicators (NAV COMMs) are trained in all areas of naval communications, including radio teletype, computer networking, satellite, tactical voice and visual communications. On board ship, they provide real-time tactical information by voice radio, inter-ship radio teletype and visual signalling. They also operate and manage a variety of sophisticated systems including classified and unclassified computer networks, a computer-based message processing network, radio communication control systems, as well as cryptographic and satellite equipment.

- Operate on board communications systems including shipboard radio/satellite equipment, message processing systems, and cryptographic equipment
- Administer Local Area Networks (LANs), including basic PC maintenance, network troubleshooting, assigning user profiles, configuring network protocols, configuring networks, and performing system/file back-up and restore

be able to work independently and function both as a leader and a team member.

You must meet Canadian Forces medical standards and successfully complete a selection process that includes interviews and a wide range of examinations including tests of physical fitness.

Training

Basic Military Qualification

The first stage of training for everyone is the 10-week Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) course at the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que. This training provides the basic core skills and knowledge common to all trades. A goal of this course is to ensure that all recruits maintain the CF physical fitness standard; as a result, the training is physically demanding. BMQ covers the following topics:

- Policies and regulations of the Canadian Forces;
- CF drill, dress and deportment (the "three D's");
- Basic safety;
- First aid;
- Personal survival in nuclear, biological and chemical conditions;
- Handling and firing personal weapons;
- Cross-country navigation; and
- Personal survival in field conditions.

Basic Military Occupational Training

On completion of the BMQ, Naval Communicators attend Naval Environmental Training (NETP) at the Canadian Forces Fleet School (CFFS) in



- Communicate inter-ship by ship/shore radio teletype, ship/shore satellite, voice and radio teletype, video conferencing, chat, facsimile, email, tactical international and administrative voice radio, flashing light (Morse code), flag signalling and semaphore
- Advise Command on tactical signalling and ship manoeuvring, and encode/decode and disseminate tactical and manoeuvring signals

- Perform and advise on shipboard flag ceremonial procedures

Qualification Requirements

Naval Communicators must be able to concentrate under stressful conditions and possess good reasoning ability as well as a good memory for detail. Adaptability, accuracy and most importantly, dependability and discretion are essential due to exposure to classified and personnel information. Naval Communicators must be willing to accept responsibility and

Esquimalt, B.C. or Halifax, N.S. Training takes approximately 5 weeks and includes:

- Naval history and organization
- Shipboard firefighting and damage control
- Watchkeeping duties
- Seamanship

The second phase of training is the NAV COMM Course offered at the Canadian Forces Fleet School (CFFS) in Esquimalt, BC. Training takes approximately 29 weeks and includes the following:

- Basic communication procedures
- Basic radio theory
- Basic computer skills
- A Plus Curriculum
- Network Plus Curriculum
- Typing/keyboarding
- Message processing
- Voice radio communications
- Flashing light – Morse code
- Communications using flags, pyrotechnics and sound signals
- Flag ceremonies
- Aircraft/Ship recognition
- Communications security
- Network (ITSEC) Security

Career Development

Naval Communicators usually serve at sea until they reach the rank of Leading Seaman. They then divide their service career between sea positions and employment ashore in radio stations and fleet training schools, and in various staff positions at Headquarters and Naval Reserve Divisions. Opportunities for career progression, promotion and advanced training are good for those who demonstrate ability and potential. Advanced training in radio/telecommunications, computer networking, cryptographic equipment, management and leadership are available.

Advanced Military Occupation Training and Specialty Training

Individuals who demonstrate the required ability and ambition may have the opportunity to undertake advanced Military Occupational Training (MOC) through formal courses or on-the-job training as they progress in their career. Specialty training may also be available. Below are examples of training related to this MOC.

Advanced Training Courses

- Computer Operation (message handling)
- Local Area Network Operation
- Advanced Cryptography
- Communications Policy Directive Planning and Implementation
- Tactical Communication Plan Preparation and Execution
- Communication Equipment Set Up and System Checks
- Communications Security
- Frequency Management
- Advanced Fleet Tactical Manoeuvring
- Leadership and Management Courses

Specialty Training Courses

- Submarines
- Ship's Diver
- Instructional Techniques
- Ship's Coxswain

Working Environment

Upon completion of their occupation training, Naval Communicators are posted to their first ship. Approximately 60% of their career is spent assigned to ships where they are employed in the Communications Control room or the Operations room, on the bridge and the flag deck. NAV COMMs perform seamanship duties that may require spending considerable time on upper decks while subject to extremes of temperature, and to wet and slippery conditions. They are subject to high levels of noise and must wear headphones from time to time. Compounding these conditions is the limited living space, lack of privacy, and irregular meals and rest periods associated with duties at sea. Given that a high degree of concentration and attention to detail is essential in this military occupation, mental stress can be significant. Employment is normally limited to Halifax, N.S. or Esquimalt, B.C.

Appropriate training, environmental clothing and equipment are provided, and Naval Communicators' health, safety and morale are closely monitored.

Related Civilian Occupations

- Computer Operator
- LAN Administrator
- Computer Systems Administrator
- Cryptographer
- Radio Operator
- Office Clerk/Supervisor/Administrator
- Marine Traffic Controller

For more information, please call the Canadian Forces Recruiting at **1-800-856-8488**, or visit our Web site: www.forces.gc.ca

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