



A Career as a Non-Commissioned Member Naval Electronics Technician (Communications)

WHAT THEY DO Naval Electronics Technician (Communications) [NE TECH (C)] personnel are responsible for the maintenance of all shipboard internal and external communications equipment and systems, including radio navigation aids and beacons. They are technicians and perform no operator functions whatsoever.

NE TECH (C) personnel receive academic and equipment training leading to employment at sea as Apprentice Technicians. This Apprentice Developmental Period, lasting approximately 24 months, provides Naval Electronics Technicians (Communications) with experience on the equipment that they are responsible for and will subsequently maintain. On completion of this developmental period, NE TECH (C) personnel will commence their Journeyman Technician training. As an Apprentice, they will perform maintenance and repair on the following types of equipment:

- Internal Communication System
- Ship's Electric Clock System
- Ship's Entertainment Broadcast System
- Magnetic Tape Units
- High Speed Printers
- Maritime Mobile Radio System

Qualification Requirements

Personnel in this military occupation must, as a minimum, have obtained a passing mark in Grade 10 academic Mathematics in Ontario, or the equivalent in other provinces, and demonstrate a high level of aptitude for electronics. All NE TECH (C) personnel, when qualified as Journeyman technicians, must be able to work under emergency conditions, adapt quickly to cope with unfamiliar problems, endure occasional periods of extended work hours in order to achieve objectives, and diagnose and correct equipment faults in minimum time. They must function as members and leaders of a technical team, understand directions quickly, and improvise where necessary to achieve objectives.

Personnel must be dependable and discreet because of exposure to classified service matters.

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, Quebec. 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 Electronics Technicians (Communications) attend Naval Environmental Training (NETP) at the Canadian Forces Fleet School (CFFS) in Esquimalt, British Columbia or Halifax, Nova Scotia. Training takes approximately 5 weeks and includes:

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



The second portion is the NE TECH (C) Apprentice Course which takes place at the Canadian Forces Naval Engineering School (CFNES) in Halifax. Training takes approximately 63 weeks and includes:

- Academics
- Electronics
- Basic radio propagation theory
- Internal communication groups
- Electric cook system
- Ship's entertainment broadcast system
- Maritime mobile radio system
- Magnetic tape units
- High speed printers

Career Development

Opportunities for career progression, promotion and advanced training are good for those who demonstrate ability and potential. Technical Supervisor training in administration and Ship Systems is provided, as well as personnel management and leadership training. NE TECH (C) personnel who are selected based on their superior leadership ability and management potential will be promoted to assume the duties of a supervisor. At this level, they will supervise the work of all Naval Electronics Technician (Acoustic), (Communications) and (Tactical) personnel onboard. They will be involved with the maintenance of the ship's combat systems as a whole, rather than with the individual acoustics, communications and tactical sub-systems. Individuals at this level will have completed over 140 weeks of occupation training over the course of their career. Personnel with proven outstanding leadership ability and management skills will be promoted to assume the duties of a manager and transferred to the Naval Electronics Technician (Manager) [NE TECH (M)] occupation. As the Chief of the Combat Systems Engineering (CSE) Department on ship, the NE TECH (M) is responsible for the management of approximately 30 personnel and the safe, efficient operation of the CSE Department.

Journeyman Occupation Training and Specialty Training

Personnel who have completed the Apprentice Developmental Period and are recommended for a further Term of Service (TOS) will undertake Journeyman Occupation Training through a formal course. Specialty training may also be available as they progress in their careers. Below are examples of training related to this occupation.

Journeyman Occupation Training Courses

- Physics and Advanced Mathematics
- Advanced Electrical, Electronic, Solid State, Pulse, Syncro-servo, Communication, Demodulation, Computer, and Fibre Optic Theory

- Performance Testing, Preventive Maintenance, First Line Corrective Maintenance and Emergency Second Line Maintenance on:
 - Remote Communication Distribution System
 - LF/MF/HF Receive System
 - MF/HF Transmit-Receive System
 - VHF/UHF Radio System
 - Satellite Communication System
 - Meteorological System
 - Tactical Air Navigation System
 - Data Terminal Equipment

Specialty Training Courses

- Submarines
- Ship's Diver
- Instructional Techniques

Working Environment

NE TECH (C) personnel are trained for service on ships and submarines stationed at Halifax, N.S., or Esquimalt, B.C. They are employed in occupation-related duties at sea, in harbour and at shore establishments, including naval radio stations. Duties at sea are performed in exposed, as well as enclosed and confined spaces above and below the water-line, under all climatic and environmental conditions. Personnel are subject to watchkeeping duties for extended periods of time, which results in irregular meal hours and rest periods. As well, they are subject to limited working and living space, lack of privacy, and discomfort caused by the motion of the ship at sea. As with all sea-going personnel, NE TECH (C) personnel are sailors first, technicians second. In addition to their occupation-related duties, junior technicians are employed in out-of-occupation duties such as cleaning and painting the ship, working in the cafeteria, performing engineering watchkeeper's duties in harbour, and loading supplies.

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

Related Civilian Occupations

- Radio and Television Receiver Aligner
- Electronic Equipment Repair Person
- Audio Visual Equipment Installer and Repairer
- Radio Communications Equipment Repair Person
- Public Address System Installer and Repair Person
- Automated Processing Equipment Repair Person
- Production Repair Person
- Systems Tester
- Radio Service Person
- Oil Exploration Test Equipment Repair Person

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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