



A Career as a Non-Commissioned Member

Boatswain

**STRONG
PROUD**
TODAY'S Canadian Forces

WHAT THEY DO Boatswains (BOSNs) in the Canadian Forces are the seamanship specialists. The range of their activities and supervisory responsibilities is wider than in most other sea occupations. Their duties are to:

- Operate and maintain shipboard equipment associated with cargo handling and intership transfer of personnel, fuel and materiel at sea

Adaptability, accuracy and most importantly, dependability are essential. Boatswains must be willing to accept responsibility and 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:

- Operate and maintain a ship's anchor and cable equipment for such tasks as towing, the launch and recovery of a ship's boats, and rescue operations
- Operate and navigate small craft in enclosed waters, including a ship's boats, auxiliary vessels and tenders
- Perform tasks associated with a ship's rigging, rope work and lifesaving equipment

- Organize and conduct activities associated with the storage, training and use of small arms, demolitions and ammunition
- Plan, organize and conduct drill and ceremonies such as ceremonial salutes, honour guards and burials at sea
- Assist and supervise deck crews in cleaning, preserving and painting the ship and its equipment
- Operate equipment such as outboard motors, industrial sewing machines, forklifts and cranes on replenishment ships
- Coordinate watchkeeping duties at sea and in harbour

- 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
- Personal survival in field conditions

Qualification Requirements

Boatswains must be able to concentrate under stressful conditions and possess good reasoning ability as well as a good memory for detail.



Basic Military Occupational Training

On completion of the BMQ, Boatswains 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
- Shipboard Safety
- Ship's Security

The second phase of training is occupation specific and lasts approximately 12 weeks. It includes the following:

- Jackstay transfer of materiel and personnel between ships at sea
- Procedures for ship refuelling at sea
- Working of anchors, cables and lines, and tasks associated with mooring, anchoring, slipping and towing
- Boatwork, including high-speed small boat operation, boat maintenance and navigation
- Rescue operations
- Handling, preparation and detonation of demolition charges
- Rigging tasks including brows, ladders and buoys
- Maintenance of the upper deck and its equipment
- Maintenance of small arms
- Operation and maintenance of a .50 calibre heavy machine-gun

Career Development

Individuals who demonstrate leadership have excellent prospects for career progression in this occupation. Their employment is varied and service aboard ship provides travel opportunities throughout Canada and abroad.

Advanced Military Occupation Training and Specialty Training

Those who demonstrate the required ability and ambition may undertake advanced occupational training 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 occupation.

Specialty Training Courses

- Naval Boarding Party
- Command of Tender Vessels
- Navigator's Yeoman
- Instructional Techniques
- Ship's Diver
- Demolition



Working Environment

The Boatswain is truly "The Professional Sailor". Boatswains spend most of their career at sea where they are exposed to such environmental conditions as high noise levels, limited living and working space, lack of privacy, and a rotating shift or watch system resulting in irregular meal hours and rest periods. They continuously work on open deck surfaces where they are exposed to hot and cold temperatures, wind, rain, snow, and heavy sea conditions. Ashore, Boatswains normally work as instructors in training establishments and in some cases, perform duties not related to their trade. Most naval tradespersons are sailors first and tradespersons second. Junior Boatswains spend time working outside their occupation performing general duties such as cleaning, painting, working in the cafeteria, standing sentry duty, storing the ship, and acting as members of the Naval Boarding Party.

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

Related Civilian Occupations

- Tugboat Captain
- Deck Hand – Fishing Vessel
- Ship's Boatswain
- Small Boat Operator
- Sewing Machine Operator
- Rigger
- Crane Operator
- Fork Lift Operator
- Winch Operator
- Demolition Blasting
- Merchant Marine Sailor

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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