



# A Career as a Non-Commissioned Member Naval Combat Information Operator

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PROUD**  
TODAY'S Canadian Forces

**WHAT THEY DO** Naval Combat Information Operators (NCI OPs) are responsible for the operation of all shipboard surveillance radars and associated equipment. NCIOPs will operate the Command Control Communications Computers and Intelligence systems, known as (C4I). As NCI OPs progress through the occupation they are given greater responsibility, for example, being accountable for the compilation of the tactical Air, Surface and Underwater pictures, which are provided to Command for tactical decisions. NCI Ops are highly versatile operators who are integral members of the Ship's Combat Team.

- As members of the ship's Combat Information Organization, Naval Combat Information Operators assist and advise the ship's Command in Navigation (Anti-Collision), Anti-Air Warfare (AAW), Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW) and Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), utilizing data derived from passive and active systems during operational deployments, taskings and local area exercises
- Configure and operate the Combat Control System (CCS), ships Radars, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Feature, C4I Systems, Multi data Links, Global Command and Control System, information processing systems, Shipborne Integrated Communication (SHINCOM) equipment and related sub-systems
- Analyse equipment and system performance, conductivity and faults on all associated Combat Information (CI) equipment using Built-In, Integrated Test Equipment (BITE) and perform basic on-line fault diagnostic procedures
- Collect, correlate, record, analyse, display, and disseminate all tactical information utilizing military databases, e-mail and intelligence in the Operations Room. This information is provided from local, national and international sources

## Qualification Requirements

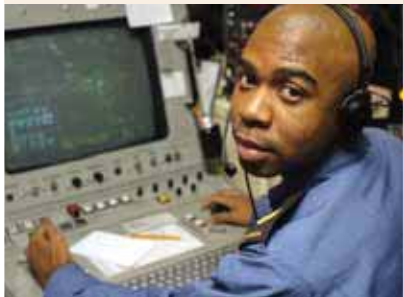
The Naval Combat Information Operators must have the ability to concentrate under trying conditions, have good logical reasoning ability, a good memory for details, a respect for accuracy in their work and good visual acuity. They must have good eye-hand co-ordination, acute hearing and a well-developed sense of touch. NCI OPs must be able to function as leaders and as members of a team, understand directions quickly and improvise when necessary to achieve objectives. Due to exposure to classified service matters, personnel must be dependable and discreet during daily operation at sea or in Harbour.

## 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, Québec. 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 Combat Information Operators attend Basic Military Occupation (MOC) Training. The first portion of this training course is the 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 Naval Combat Information Operator course held at the Canadian Forces Fleet School (CFFSE) in Esquimalt, BC. Training takes approximately 26 weeks, and prepares students as the shipborne Anti-Submarine Plotting Operator (ASPO). Training includes the following:

- Operate personal computers
- Basic radar and radio theory
- Radar systems operation/check
- Internal and external communications techniques
- Tactical display preparation set up and update
- Tactical information correlation
- Use of publications, ship's logs, files and stateboards
- Evidence and intelligence gathering
- Basic relative velocity

## Career Development

Opportunities for career progression, promotion and advanced training are excellent for personnel who demonstrate the ability, dedication and ambition. As NCI OPs progress in their careers, many opportunities for employment at various shore establishments exist in addition to employment on board ship. Service onboard ships provide worldwide travel opportunities.

### *Advanced Military Occupation Training and Specialty Training*

Advanced training in tactical procedures, sensor and intelligence information correlation as well as personnel management and leadership are available. Those who demonstrate the aptitude may have the opportunity of becoming a Shipborne Air Controller. Shipborne Air Controllers are responsible to command for the tactical employment and flight safety of both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft operating with the force. Specialty training may also be available. Below are examples of training related to this occupation.

### *Advanced Military Occupation Courses*

- Operations and Exercise Planning -Tactical Procedures
- Sensor and Intelligence Information Interpretation

### *Specialty Training Courses*

- Instructional Techniques
- Ship's Diver
- Naval Boarding Party
- Shipborne Air Controller (SAC)
- Shipborne Advance Air Controller (SAAC)
- NCI OP Iroquois Class Classification
- Basic Submarine Qualification
- NCI OP Submarine Qualification
- NCI OP Submarine Above Water Sensor Operator

## Working Environment

Initially, Naval Combat Information Operators are required to perform their duties at sea in Frigates or Destroyers based in Halifax, N.S. or Esquimalt, B.C. At sea, NCI OPs work mostly within the ship's Operations Room where they operate some of the most modern and sophisticated equipment at sea today. NCI OPs are subject to limited living space. They typically perform watchkeeping duties with ample time between watches for meals and rest/exercise periods.

As with all Naval personnel, NCI OPs are sailors first and operators second. In addition to their occupational duties, junior operators in particular perform other duties related to seamanship. They occasionally work on the upper deck of their ship as sentries or lookouts, act as line handler for replenishment at sea (RAS) and as ship hand for entering and leaving harbour. They participate in Search and Rescue events and man-overboard emergencies, act as a member of the ship's emergency response team for both Home and Foreign Port security watches, and routinely perform ship's husbandry.

Naval Combat Information Operators also fight fires acting as members of a Fire Attack Team, and provide damage control should the ship encounter a breach to the hull. During Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO), an NCI OP may serve as a member of the Naval Boarding Party (NBP) in order to inspect the cargo of suspect vessels and detain the vessel's crew during inspections, if necessary.

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

## Related Civilian Occupations

Although this occupation has no direct corresponding civilian job, the experience, management, leadership and instructing skills acquired are applicable to a variety of fields, and are highly regarded by civilian employers. Examples of some civilian jobs that may apply include:

- Maritime Traffic Controller
- Air Traffic Controller
- Dispatchers and Radiotelephone Operator
- General Office Clerks, Supervisors
- Management positions

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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