



# A Career as a Non-Commissioned Member Naval Electronic Sensor Operator

**STRONG  
PROUD**  
TODAY'S Canadian Forces

**WHAT THEY DO** Naval Electronic Sensor Operators (NES OPs) are responsible for the operation of Radar & Radio detection devices, Radar Jamming Systems and Decoys, and gun/missile-firing equipment carried on major naval warships. As members of the ship's Combat Team, they aid in detecting, locating and identifying friendly and enemy submarines, ships and aircraft. They also aid in the engagement of the enemy and in the defence of their own ship from all threats. As NES OPs progress in skill and rank, they begin to supervise various occupational functions and may advance to supervisory positions where they will direct the Above Water Warfare Team in defence of the ship. Specific duties of the NES OP include:

- Operate radar detection equipment to detect, locate and identify unknown, friendly and enemy radars at sea and those located ashore on coastlines. NES OPs who have received specialized training in the analysis of radar signals also analyze and provide intelligence information on radars identified
- Operate radio detection equipment to detect and listen to communications from other submarines, ships, aircraft and shore bases
- Operate gun/missile-firing equipment used to defend the ship against various threats such as missiles and bombs. The NES OP is involved in firing and controlling the ship's main gun systems, all close-in weapon systems and the launching of anti-air and anti-surface missiles

reasoning ability, good visual and aural acuity, and good eye-hand coordination. They must be thorough and able to function as a member/leader of a team, understand and react to directions quickly, and improvise where necessary to achieve objectives. Given their exposure to classified service matters, NES OPs must be dependable and discreet.

## 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.



• Conduct intelligence and evidence gathering using the equipment listed above as well as specialized photographic equipment. While performing these duties, NES OPs work with highly classified material and sometimes assist other government agencies such as the federal Fisheries Department or the RCMP

## Qualification Requirements

Naval Electronic Sensor Operators must have the ability to concentrate under trying conditions, a good memory for detail, sound

## Basic Military Occupational Training

On completion of the BMQ, Naval Electronic Sensor Operators attend Naval Environmental Training (NETP) at the Canadian Forces Fleet School (CFFS) in 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 portion is the Naval Electronic Sensor Operator Qualification 3 course held at the Canadian Forces Fleet School (CFFS) in Esquimalt, B.C. Training takes approximately 20 weeks and includes the following:

- Introduction to word processing, database and presentation programs
- Procedures for maintaining classified material
- Procedures for conducting intelligence and evidence gathering, including still, digital and moving photography
- Basic radar and radio theory
- Electronic warfare equipment operation and checks
- Electronic emission classification
- Internal and external radio communications procedures

## Career Development

Opportunities for career progression, promotion and advanced training are good for personnel who demonstrate the ability, dedication and ambition. As NES OPs progress in their careers, many opportunities for employment at various shore establishments exist in addition to employment on board ship. Service onboard ships also 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. Specialty training may also be available. Below are examples of training related to this military occupation.

### Advanced Military Occupation Courses

- NATO Maritime Advanced Electronic Warfare Course
- Operational Signal Intelligence Analysis
- Technical Electronic Intelligence/Radar Analyst
- Intermediate Technical Electronic Intelligence/Radar Analyst

- Advanced Electronic Intelligence Collection Analyst
- Intermediate and Advanced Database, Word Processing and Presentation Courses

### Specialty Training Courses

- Ship's Team Diver
- Instructional Techniques

## Working Environment

Initially, Naval Electronic Sensor Operators are required to perform their duties at sea in Frigates or Destroyers based in Halifax, N.S. or Esquimalt, B.C. At sea, NES OPs work mostly within the ship's Operations Room where they operate some of the most modern and sophisticated warfare equipment at sea today. NES 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, NES 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 a 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 Electronic Sensor 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), a NES 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 Electronic Sensor 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 through normal occupational progression are applicable to a variety of fields, and are highly regarded by civilian employers.



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

RIA 276E-0604