



A Career as a Non-Commissioned Member in the Naval Reserve Boatswain

STRONG
PROUD
TODAY'S Canadian Forces

WHAT THEY DO Boatswains (BOSNs) in the Naval Reserve are professionally trained sailors. The range of their activities and supervisory responsibilities is wider than in most other sea occupations. Complex seamanship evolutions requiring heavy equipment and well-controlled groups of personnel are a major part of the Boatswain's work.

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



- Operate and maintain ships' anchor and cable equipment including that used in towing, launch and recovery of ships' boats, and rescue operations
- Operate and navigate small crafts, including ships' boats, auxiliary vessels and tenders, in enclosed waters
- Perform tasks associated with ships' rigging, ropework and lifesaving equipment
- Organize and conduct activities associated with storage, Training and use of small arms, demolitions and ammunition
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- 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 a variety of the occupation-associated equipment such as outboard motors and sewing machines (to repair canvas)
- Co-ordinate watchkeeping duties at sea and in harbour
- Organize internal security and boarding parties as required

Training

Boatswain training starts in the first summer with the Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) course at Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in Borden, Ontario. BMQ is ten weeks long, (two in unit) and, if time allows, is followed by the Sea Environmental Course for four weeks in either the Canadian Forces Fleet School Halifax (N.S.) or Esquimalt (B.C.). During your BMQ course you will learn the rank structure of the Canadian Forces, the pay and benefits, the obligations of CF members, the roles and responsibilities of the CF, the history of the Canadian Navy, as well as basic first aid and CPR, drill, weapons handling, field craft and dress and deportment.

The Sea Environmental Course is an introduction to shipboard life and duties. This includes fire fighting, damage control and watchkeeping. The Boatswain entrance level training is as above.

Basic Military Qualification

SCHOOL: Canadian Forces Fleet School

LOCATION: Esquimalt (BC), Halifax (NS), or Québec (PQ)

SUBJECTS: Qualification Level 1 Course (QL1)

- * Workings of anchors, cables and lines, and tasks associated with mooring, anchoring, slipping and towing
- * Boatwork including small boat operation, maintenance and navigation
- * Rescue operations
- * Rigging tasks including brows, ladders and buoys
- * Maintenance of small arms, the upper deck and upper deck equipment

TRAINING TIME (Approx.): 4 weeks

Advanced Military Occupation Training and Specialty Training

Personnel who demonstrate the required ability and ambition will undertake advanced occupation training through formal course or on-job training as they progress in their careers. Specialty training may also be available. Below are examples of training related to this occupation.

Specialty Training Courses

- Naval Boarding Party Instructor
- Naval Boarding Party
- Command of Tender Vessels
- Sweep Deck Crew
- Sweep Deck Director
- 40 mm MK NCI Bofors Gun
- Route Survey Course

Career Opportunities

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 world-wide.



Working Environment

Boatswains spend the majority of their careers at sea where they are exposed to sea environment conditions such as high noise levels, limited living and working space, lack of privacy, and a rotating shift or watch system which results in irregular meal hours and rest periods. They continuously work on open deck surfaces exposed to wind, rain, heavy sea conditions and very cold weather.

Ashore, Boatswains normally work in training establishments, as instructors for various trade-related tasks, and in some short duties with various tasks non-related to the trade. Most naval tradespersons are sailors first and tradespersons second; however, the Boatswain is "The Professional Sailor". Junior Boatswains spend time working outside their occupation performing generic duties such as cleaning, painting, working in the cafeteria, standing sentry duties, storing ship and acting as members of the Naval Boarding Party. These duties are required in order to operate and maintain a ship.

Related Civilian Occupations

- Deck Hand Fishing Vessel
- Ship's Boatswain
- Motor Boat Operator
- Sewing Machine Operator
- Rigger
- Crane Operator
- Winch Operator
- 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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