NAVY

Aviation Technician Avionics

If training to maintain some of the most sophisticated helicopters in Australia sounds exciting, then this position with an Australian leader is for you.

Job Details

Other Ranks (Technical)

The Aviation Technician Avionics (ATV) sailor is responsible for the maintenance and repair of aircraft (mainly helicopter) systems and components, such as:

- Aircraft electrical systems, DC/AC power operation and distribution;
- Anti submarine systems (ASW), flight director and systems;
- Flight instruments, systems integration, navigational systems;
- Ground support equipment, radar/sonar/ Doppler systems;
- Automatic flight control systems, communication systems;
- Environmental systems, air weapon systems;
- Aircraft weapons/armament;
- Aviation safety equipment; and
- Aviation survival equipment.

The Royal Australian Navy operates some of the most sophisticated helicopters produced overseas for both civil and military purposes. The safe and efficient operation of these aircraft requires the skills of aviation technicians trained in the application of the most up-to-date technology.

You may at times during your career, also work on aircraft belonging to the Army and Air Force.

Entry

Other Ranks (Technical)

General Entry (Technical Trades) is the term used to describe the technical jobs available to people entering the Navy as Sailors (non-Officer entry) and for which trade training is provided. Each Sailor job in the Navy is referred to as a category; for example, Aviation Technician Aircraft is a category.

Technical Sailors perform a wide range of maintenance tasks on very sophisticated electronic and mechanical systems.

General Entry (Technical Trades) Sailors graduate from recruit training with the rank of Seaman and generally progress to Able Seaman after 12 months of effective service following completion of trade training. Further promotion to Leading Seaman, Petty Officer, Chief Petty Officer and Warrant Officer is based on merit and takes into consideration performance, time in rank and vacancies. There is considerable variation between categories. However, as a guide, the following minimum times are spent in each rank:

- Recruit to Seaman (Unqualified) - 11 weeks (length of Military Training course);
- Seaman (Unqualified) to Seaman - Length of Employment Training course;
- Seaman to Able Seaman - 12 months after completion of employment training course;
- Able Seaman to Leading Seaman - minimum of 2 years;
- Leading Seaman to Petty Officer - minimum of 4 years;
- Petty Officer to Chief Petty Officer - minimum of 4 years; and
- Chief Petty Officer to Warrant Officer - minimum of 4 years.

Leading Seamen are referred to as Junior Non-Commissioned Officers. Leading Seamen are the first line of supervisors in the chain of command and as such have an important role in the maintenance of good order and discipline among their subordinates. They are expected to provide an important role model for subordinates.

Petty Officers are members of the company of senior sailors. Petty Officers perform management and technical specialist duties within their category. Their positions will involve personal accountability.

Chief Petty Officers are also members of the company of senior sailors and are required to demonstrate a well developed capacity for self directed work and a high degree of applied professional theoretical knowledge and well developed supervisory competence.

Warrant Officer is the most senior Sailor rank. They are required to possess superior leadership and professional qualities. Warrant Officers may undertake planning, creative research and problem solving activities. Their positions often involve a significant degree of personal accountability.

The opportunity to transfer to commissioned officer is open to all sailors of Able Seaman rank and above who possess the necessary educational qualifications and personal attributes.

Irrespective of category, sailors' duties are just as important as specialist duties. Therefore on a ship, all sailors will perform such activities as:

- Fire Fighting - containment and extinguishing of all types of fires;
- First Aid - knowledge and application of basic first-aid medical skills;
- Duty Watch - member of the overnight security, fire fighting and emergency party;
- Communal Duties - working in teams to help clean and maintain all work and living areas;
- Damage Control - assisting with ship damage emergency repairs;
- Ship Husbandry - maintenance and upkeep of ships' surfaces, fittings and equipment; and
- Physical Fitness - All members of the Navy are required to maintain an appropriate level of physical fitness. Physical fitness is tested on an annual basis.

While in a shore establishment, in addition to normal day to day employment all sailors will perform:

- Duty Watch - member of the overnight security, fire fighting and emergency party (including first aid) on a roster basis.

Pay & Allowances

Other Ranks (Technical)

Salary while undertaking Military (Recruit) Training: $1,321 per fortnight ($34,459.48 per year).*

Salary while undertaking Employment Training commences at $1,511 per fortnight ($39,383 per year) and increases to $1,699 per fortnight ($44,305 per year) after 12 months of training.*

While under training, you will also receive $366 per fortnight ($9,552 per year pro rata) Trainee Allowance.

To assist you in maintaining your uniforms in good order and condition, you will receive a Uniform Allowance of $16 per fortnight ($419 per year).

Salary (excluding allowances) on completion of Initial Employment Training: $2,015 per fortnight ($52,542 per year).*

In addition to your salary, you will receive Service Allowance of $497 per fortnight ($12,924 per year) except while undertaking Military (Initial) or Employment training. This allowance compensates a

member for the unique requirements that service life may impose on an individual and his or her family.

Each General Entry job in the Australian Defence Force is classified into a pay grade. This particular job is classified as a Pay Grade 4 occupation.

Salary will continue to increase based on rank and the number of years of service completed in that rank. Pay Grade may also increase following the acquisition of additional skills and completion of advanced courses.

Refer to the **Salary Scales** for further details.

* Please note that these figures do not include compulsory deductions for taxation; meals, accommodation and utilities (as applicable); and superannuation.

General Requirements

Age Requirement

Applicants must be aged between 17 and 53 years of age inclusive on entry.

Applicants will not be allowed to enter the ADF until they achieve a minimum of 17 years of age, however they may be able to initiate the application process from 16 years and six months of age, depending upon the capacity of their local recruiting centre.

Citizenship Requirement

Only Australian citizens are permitted to serve in the ADF.

If you are a Permanent Resident of Australia, the ADF may consider a temporary waiver of the citizenship requirement if the position for which you are applying cannot be filled by an applicant who meets all the citizenship requirements, and then only in exceptional circumstances. You will be required to obtain Australian citizenship as early as possible following enlistment or appointment.

More information on citizenship requirements and the citizenship waiver process is available from the **Recruitment Centre** and your local Defence Force Recruiting Centre.

Security Requirement

The Department of Defence requires ADF entrants to obtain a security clearance appropriate to their avenue of entry.

A process of background checks, collection of relevant information and, as required, interviews enables the Regional Security Office to make an informed assessment of an applicant's suitability for a security clearance.

Current policy requires applicants for this particular avenue of entry to have lived in Australia for the preceding 10 years, or have a checkable background for this period.

Aptitude Requirement

The application process to join the Australian Defence Force requires you to complete a series of aptitude tests including verbal, spatial and numerical ability and a general maths test. Some jobs may also require you to complete additional testing at a later date.

Psychology support staff will explain what is involved with each test.

The aptitude tests provide information about your suitability for the Defence Force and for particular jobs. Defence Force Recruiting can then help you identify jobs that best match your abilities.

Further information on the aptitude testing requirements can be found **here.**

Education & Experience

Other Ranks (Technical)

For the General Entry Aviation Technician Avionics Sailor Category, the minimum educational standard to be eligible to apply for entry is the completion of study at Year 10 level, with passes in English, Mathematics and Science.

Note: Consumer Maths, Maths in Society and similarly 'modified' maths are not suitable for this job,

• Full Time

or

If you do not satisfy the education requirements for this trade or do not possess evidence of your educational attainment there is an alternative pathway available to you.

You may be eligible to sit an Alternative Education Equivalency (AEE) assessment to ascertain your ability at the required educational level for this trade.

Further information is available **here.**

Medical & Fitness Requirements

Other Ranks (Technical)

To be appointed, you must be medically and physically fit for entry into the ADF. This is partially assessed from the completion of an extensive questionnaire covering your medical history, followed by a physical examination.

You must also pass the swim test and physical fitness test to graduate from your Navy Training and to proceed to the Safety of Life at Sea Training that is a requirement for Recruit School and Officer training.

Navy Swim Test

The Navy Swim test consists of:

• a safety jump off a 3m tower in overalls;

• a 10m underwater swim in overalls;

• a 50m swim using three safety strokes; and

• the ability to tread water or float for 15 mins (removal of overalls optional).

Note: You will find it much easier to pass the swimming test if you undertake swimming training before

you join.

Further information on the swimming test is displayed in the Additional Requirements section.

For more details on medical and physical standards refer to **'Physical Fitness Standards for Entry into the ADF'** and **'Medical Process for Entry into the ADF'.**

Period of Service

Other Ranks (Technical)

You will be enlisted for an Initial Minimum Period of Service (IMPS) of six years. Subsequent periods of service may be offered subject to the requirements of the ADF and your suitability for further service. You may request discharge at any time provided you do not have an outstanding IMPS obligation.

Your Careers Counsellor can advise on how IMPS will relate to your chosen occupation.

Additional Requirements

Other Ranks (Technical)

Royal Australian Navy Swim Test (RANST)

The RANST is conducted to ensure the Navy's duty of care to all serving personnel, with respect to rudimentary swimming skills. The purpose of the RANST is to ensure fundamental water survival skills as a prerequisite to training such as survival at sea training.

Individual components of the RANST are fundamentally related to the survival at sea scenario.

Competency in the RANST is achieved through successful completion of each component comprising: safety jump, underwater front scull swim of 10 metres, continuous swim for 50 metres, and treading water to remain afloat for 15 minutes.

All personnel will undertake the RANST upon entry and competency is to be achieved within 15 weeks from commencement of initial training. Failure of any one component will constitute failure of the entire RANST and no waivers will be granted.

It is therefore strongly advised that all candidates considering entry to the Royal Australian Navy are either proficient with or are working towards gaining swimming skills.

Military Training

Other Ranks (Technical)

Duration: 11 weeks

Location: Crib Point, Victoria

The Recruit School at HMAS CERBERUS is situated on Western Port Bay, Victoria about 70 kilometres south east of Melbourne. The school has its own administration building, accommodation blocks and classrooms and operates as an independent unit within the greater training environment of HMAS CERBERUS.

The eleven week Recruit Course is designed to give you sufficient knowledge and skills on which to base your navy career. The course includes both classroom and practical activities. Most subjects are

individually tested. Examinations are set to ensure Recruits are sufficiently prepared to undertake further specialist training at category schools. Private study areas are available in the school and a Duty Instructor is available for assistance during non-instructional hours.

When you are offered a General Entry job in the Navy, you will receive **Joining Instructions** for the Recruit Training Course. These instructions will provide you with a good indication of the daily routine while at the Recruit School and what will be expected of you during your training. This information is also available by accessing the **Navy Recruit School web site.**

Recruits who successfully complete the course, including the **Navy Swimming Test**, participate in a Graduation Parade, which is normally held on the Friday of the last week of training. Recruits will have the opportunity to invite family and friends to view the parade.

After Graduation personnel will be posted to category schools at HMAS CERBERUS or at other training establishments throughout Australia.

During Military (Initial Recruit) Training and (Initial) Employment Training, members may be required to pay a contribution towards meals, accommodation and utilities, depending on a number of factors.

Employment Training

Other Ranks (Technical)

Duration: 63 Weeks

Following completion of Military (Recruit) Training and a Sea Survival and Ship Safety Course of one week you will complete Aviation Technician Avionics training.

The Aviation Technician Avionics training component of the apprenticeship is conducted at the Royal Australian Air Force's Technical Training Facility (RAAF Base Wagga Wagga , NSW) and consists of theory and practical instruction in workshops and laboratories.

The course content has been designed to meet the Naval requirements for an Aviation Technician sailor, who is capable of immediate employment in an operational squadron at the Naval Air Station at HMAS ALBATROSS (Nowra, NSW).

Naval training fully embraces the National Aerospace curriculum and includes some Navy specific modules where appropriate. Graduating students will have received academic training encompassing:

- the full civilian requirement for Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) Avionics;
- a number of competencies (not the full range) from Avionics 'workshop' stream; and
- a number of competencies (not the full range) from the 'Mechanical' stream as cross trade training.

Sub Specialist Option

Other Ranks (Technical)

Submarine Service

Application to transfer to submarines is open to all sailors and some officers, male and female. Volunteers may apply for Acoustic Warfare Analyst (AWA SM) whilst in Recruit School and to other submariner categories as early in their careers as during initial sailor trade and officer primary qualification training.

Although not all sailor categories are employed in submarines, Acoustic Warfare Analysts (AWA) and Electronic Warfare Submariners (EWSM) are drawn from any category. Transfer into one of these may be necessary for some personnel to serve in submarines. (See the individual category sections to find out if the trade of your choice has a submarine component. If not, you may volunteer to transfer to

AWA or EWSM).

If Submarine Service interests YOU let the Interviewing Officer know at your Recruiting Centre.

Service in submarines is extremely demanding, both emotionally and physically.

Submariners work and live in very close proximity to each other and personal privacy is extremely limited, except when ashore. Submarine personnel work long hours and are constantly subjected to emotional and physical pressures not found in surface ships.

Many a new recruit to the Submarine Arm of the Royal Australian Navy believes that he/she has what it takes to become a good Submariner. However, until you have been tested and have experienced the arduous conditions and life inside a submarine, you won't fully appreciate the difficulties.

Today's Submariner is a unique breed of sailor/officer. They have met the challenges, been tested to the limits of their endurance and abilities and found to have what it takes to be members of a very demanding arm of the Royal Australian Navy.

If you think you have what it takes, then you must be prepared for some very demanding personal challenges throughout your training and employment. If you come through these you will be willingly accepted into the Submarine Arm of the Royal Australian Navy and welcome to wear 'The Dolphins' (the submariner's badge of distinction).

Note: Submarine Service is not a sub-specialisation of this category. Transfer of category is necessary to become a submariner.

Further information is available on the **Submariner pages.**

National Qualifications

Other Ranks (Technical)

On completion of the associated Competency Log (completed at the Nowra squadrons) all eligible personnel will receive a 'Certificate IV in Aeroskills (Aircraft Maintenance Engineering-Avionics)' which is a nationally recognised qualification.

Personnel are required to have completed four years from commencement of Employment training to be eligible.

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