QMs stand watch as assistants to officers of the deck and the navigator; serve as helmsman and perform ship control, navigation and bridge watch duties. QMs procure, correct, use and stow navigational and oceanographic publications and oceanographic charts. They maintain navigational instruments and keep correct navigational time; render "honors and ceremonies" in accordance with national observance and foreign customs; send and receive visual messages; and serve as petty officers in charge of tugs, self-propelled barges and other yard and district craft.

Qualifications

Quartermasters must be U.S. citizens and be able to meet all security clearance requirements. A good working knowledge of arithmetic, the capability for understanding modern computing devices, the ability to speak and write well and function as a member of an integrated team, do detailed work and keep accurate records, some physical strength and good manual dexterity are important qualifications.

Advancement

Enlistees enter the Navy as E-1s (seaman recruits). Advancement to E-2 (seaman apprentice) may be achieved after nine months of successful naval service, with advancement to E-3 (seaman) after an additional nine months. Re-enlistment bonuses for eligible personnel are paid at the time of re-enlistment. All bonuses are in addition to Navy salary and allowances for food and housing.

Credit Recommendations

American Council on Education recommends 5 semester hours credit in the lower division baccalaureate/Associate degree category: 3 semester hours in Marine Navigation and 2 semester hours in marine navigation laboratory.

Related Civilian Jobs

O Net SOC Code O Net SOC Title
11-1021.00 General and Operations Managers
11-3040.00 Human Resources Managers
11-3042.00 Training and Development Managers
13-1061.00 Emergency Management Specialists
13-1073.00 Training and Development Specialists
13-1111.00 Management Analysts
15-1061.00 Database Administrators
15-1071.00 Network and Computer Systems Administrators
15-1081.00 Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts
15-2031.00 Operations Research Analysts
15-2091.00 Mathematical Technicians
27-3041.00 Editors
27-3042.00 Technical Writers
27-4013.00 Radio Operators
43-9021.00 Data Entry Keyers
43-9022.00 Word Processors and Typists
53-5011.00 Sailors and Marine Oilers
53-5021.00 Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels
55-3017.00 Radar and Sonar Technicians

Opportunities

Because of the skills and expertise needed by the Quartermaster as well as the level of trust and responsibility given them early on, acceptance is limited to highly motivated and qualified applicants. About 2,000 men and women work in the QM rating. Graduates of QM "A" School will be assigned to ships in the United States or overseas.

Working Environment

Quartermasters usually work in a clean, air-conditioned electronic equipment space or the ship’s bridge/pilot house, and frequently perform their work as part of a team, but may work on individual projects. Their work is mostly mental analysis and problem solving. USN QMs are stationed primarily aboard USN deploying ships, FTS QMs are stationed aboard Naval Reserve Force (NRF) ships that deploy or conduct local operations.

Since Navy programs and courses are revised at times, the information contained on this rating card is subject to change.

(Revised 01/08)