

Sonar Technician - Surface (STG) AEF



These technicians are responsible for operating sonar systems, underwater fire control systems, and supporting equipment on surface ships such as frigates, destroyers and cruisers. STGs are also responsible for undersea surveillance, and aid in safe navigation and search-and-rescue operations. They use equipment to detect, analyze and locate targets of interest.

What They Do

The duties performed by STGs include:

- identify sounds produced by surface ships, torpedoes, submarines, evasion devices, sonar transmissions, marine life and natural phenomena;
- operate sonar sensors for detection and classification of contacts;
- identify the characteristics, functions and effects of controlled jamming and evasive devices on sonar operations;
- prepare and interpret sonar messages;
- operate underwater fire control systems for firing of torpedoes ;
- recognize major equipment malfunctions during sensor operations;
- operate bathythermographs, fathometers, and torpedo countermeasures;
- use and maintain hand tools and portable power tools;
- operate underwater communications equipment.

Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education recommends that semester hour credits be awarded in the vocational certificate or lower-division bachelor's/associate's degree categories for courses taken in this rating on electricity and electronics, applied mathematics and blueprint reading.

Qualifications and Interests

STGs should have excellent hearing; an aptitude for electricity and electronics; skills in arithmetic, speaking and writing; the ability to do detailed work, keep records, perform as a team member; curiosity; resourcefulness; a good memory; and manual dexterity with tools, equipment and machines. The ability to do repetitive tasks and get along well with people is helpful. STGs must be U.S. citizens eligible for security clearances.

Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through formal Navy schooling. Advanced technical equipment maintenance and operational training on several sonar systems and underwater fire control is available in this rating during later stages of career development.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Apprentice Technical Training	Great Lakes, IL	6 weeks	Basic electronics and electronic circuitry, safety, digital theory, microcomputers, fiber optics, test equipment and trouble-shooting techniques	Self Paced Computer Based Training and laboratory application with written tests and practical laboratory performance tests.
Class "A" Technical School	San Diego, CA	9 weeks	Sonar fundamentals, basic operator and analyst skills	Group instruction
Class "C" Technical School	San Diego, CA	27-58 weeks	Advanced troubleshooting on specific sonar systems and related auxiliary equipment	Group instruction with laboratory application

After "C" school and a sonar operator course (6-8 weeks), STGs are assigned to surface ships as sonar equipment operators. During a 20-year period in the Navy, STGs spend about 60 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 40 percent to shore stations in the United States or IUSS commands throughout the world..

Normal hearing and normal color perception are required. STGs must have no speech impediments.

Working Environment

STGs usually work indoors in a clean, comfortable shop-like environment and computer equipment rooms. They work closely with others and require little supervision.

Opportunities

Placement opportunities are good for qualified applicants. About 2,900 men and women work in the STG rating.

Related Civilian Jobs--O*Net SOC Code O*Net SOC Title

- 11-3011.00 Administrative Services Managers
- 11-3042.00 Training and Development Managers
- 15-1032.00 Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software
- 15-1051.00 Computer Systems Analysts
- 15-1081.00 Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts
- 27-3011.00 Radio and Television Announcers
- 27-4013.00 Radio Operators
- 29-9011.00 Occupational Health and Safety Specialists
- 29-9012.00 Occupational Health and Safety Technicians
- 47-4041.00 Hazardous Materials Removal Workers

- 47-5031.00 Explosives Workers, Ordnance Handling Experts, and Blasters
- 49-1011.00 First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers
- 49-2011.00 Computer, Automated Teller, and Office Machine Repairers
- 49-2021.00 Radio Mechanics
- 49-2092.00 Electric Motor, Power Tool, and Related Repairers
- 49-2093.00 Electrical and Electronics Installers and Repairers, Transportation Equipment

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

(Revised 01/08)