



Steelworkers rig and operate special equipment used to build metal structures. They lay out and fabricate structural steel and sheet metal and work with concrete-reinforcing steel bars. They perform welding and cutting operations, read blueprints and use special tools.

This is a 5 year enlistment program.

**What they do**

The duties performed by SWs include:

- erecting steel bridges, tanks, buildings, towers and pre-engineered structures;
- fabricating, erecting, installing, fitting, welding and bolting structural steel shapes, plates and the built-up sections used in heavy construction;
- laying out, fabricating and installing sheet metal assemblies and systems;
- performing welding and metal cutting operations;
- installing and reinforcing steel in concrete structures.
- Reading and interpreting blueprints and preparing sketches for projects;
- making estimates of materials, labor, and equipment requirements.

**Credit Recommendations**

The American Council on Education recommends the following semester hour credits in the associate and vocational degree programs, 6 semester hours in welding, 3 semester hours in sheet metal design and fabrication, and 2 semester hours in blueprint reading. An AA of Construction Technology can be earned from Coastline Community College.

**Career Path After Recruit Training**

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through formal Navy schooling. Advanced technical and operational training in these ratings are available during later stages of career development.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Class "A" Technical School	Gulfport, MS	Approximately 11 Weeks	Basic construction skills and theories required in the SW rating and basic combat skills.	Group and individual instruction.

Following completion of basic technical training, graduates can expect assignments to a Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) in Port Hueneme, CA or Gulfport, MS, or to an Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) in San Diego, CA or Little Creek, VA. NMCB's operate on a rotating basis between homeport and overseas locations such as Spain, Okinawa or Guam. Seabees receive additional specialized combat and construction skills training during home port duty. Seabees construct buildings, roadways, utility systems and other shore facilities to support the Navy and Marine Corps operational and expeditionary forces worldwide.

**Qualifications and Interests**

Steelworkers must be able to work with tools, equipment and machines that require manual dexterity and close teamwork. It is important they be resourceful, capable of doing detailed work and repetitive tasks and knowledge of algebra. Other helpful characteristics are curiosity and a good memory, writing and speaking skills, record keeping ability, good physical condition and stamina. Normal hearing is required.

**Working Environment.**

SWs may work in a variety of conditions, independently or as members of a large team. Their many different duties may be performed in climates ranging from tropical to arctic.

**Opportunities**

Opportunities to enter the SW rating are excellent for qualified applicants. About 850 men and women work as Steelworkers in the Navy.

**Civilian Occupational Equivalents**

To see Related Civilian Occupations for this rating:

SW - <https://www.cool.navy.mil/enlisted/sw.htm>

For more information on opportunities available for this rating, please visit Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) at <https://www.cool.navy.mil/index.htm>

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

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