



STG – Sonar Technician, Surface

Sonar Technician Surface 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

- 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.

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.

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

Earn College Credit



The American Council on Education recommends that semester hour credits be awarded in the vocational certificate and lower-division bachelor's/associate's degree categories for courses taken in this rating on office machines and general clerical procedures. To see the college credits available via a **Joint Service Transcript** for this rating:

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https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/jst/stg_jst.pdf

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
Class "A" Technical School	San Diego, CA	10 weeks	Sonar fundamentals, basic operator and analyst skills	Group instruction

After "A" 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.



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Earn Department of Labor (DOL) Nationally Recognized Apprenticeships



The United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) is a formal military training program that provides active duty and Full Time Support (FTS) Service members the opportunity to improve their job skills and to complete their civilian apprenticeship requirements while they are on active duty. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) provides the nationally recognized "Certificate of Completion" upon program completion. Visit United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) for LS apprenticeships.

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<https://usmap.netc.navy.mil/usmapss/static/navyRates.htm>

Earn Industry Recognized Credentials



Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (Navy COOL) catalogs and defines comprehensive information on occupational credentials - including certifications, licenses, and apprenticeships - correlating with every Navy rating and some collateral duties. It provides "how to" instructions for pursuing these credentials, links to credentialing organizations, and cross-references to programs that help Sailors pay for credentialing fees. Shortly following the initial rating technical training (Class "A" technical school), Sailors may be able to take advantage of earning civilian/industry certifications & licenses (credentials), funded through Navy COOL. Visit the Navy COOL website to view these opportunities. See the link below.

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<https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/stg.htm>

Manage a Navy Career with Navy LaDR (Learning and Development Roadmap)



To see the Navy LaDR (Learning and Development Roadmap) for this rating:

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https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/LaDR/stg_e1_e9.pdf

Earn Skill Sets Towards Civilian Related Occupations



The skill sets for this rating crosswalk to civilian related occupations listed by the U.S. Department of Labor. To see Related Civilian, Federal, and Military Sealift Command Occupations for this rating, see the link below.

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<https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/stg.htm>

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