



DC's do the work necessary for damage control, ship stability, firefighting, fire prevention, and chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) warfare defense. They also instruct personnel in the methods of damage control and CBR defense, and repair damage control equipment and systems.

What they do

The duties performed by DCs include:

- operating, repairing and maintaining installed firefighting systems and equipment, damage control equipment, and chemical, biological and radiological defense equipment;
- training shipboard personnel in the operation, maintenance and repair of damage control systems and equipment, life saving devices, and various firefighting methods;
- performing emergency repairs to decks, structures and hulls by emergency pipe patching, plugging, and shoring;
- performing maintenance and repair of watertight closures and assorted fittings;
- performing emergency repairs to piping fittings and fixtures;
- acting as the ships Fire Marshal and fire fighting leaders;
- training ship's company in chemical, biological and radiological defense

Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education recommends that semester hour credits in the associate/bachelor degree programs and vocational certificate categories for courses completed.

Qualifications and Interests

An important qualification for people interested in the DC rating is the ability to use portable tools, equipment and machines. They also need good vision and normal color perception, manual dexterity, a good memory and resourcefulness. The ability to do detailed work and to work successfully in a team operation is essential. They should feel comfortable in front of small groups. Prior experience in leading others is a valuable asset. Writing, speaking and arithmetic skills, curiosity, physical strength, the ability to keep records and do repetitive tasks is also helpful. Normal color perception is required.

Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through on-the-job training or formal Navy schooling. Advanced training in this rating is available during later stages of career development.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Basic Engineering Common Core and "A" School	Great Lakes, IL	10 Weeks	Introduction to technical documentation and basic mechanical theory. Indoctrination on installed firefighting systems and equipment, shipboard damage control, shipboard ventilation systems, fundamentals of ship stability, firemain and drainage systems, communication, and emergency breathing devices, desmoking and gas analyzing equipment.	Self paced and group instruction with practical application

After completion of BECC school, USN DC's are assigned to ships of all types in the U.S. or overseas. In a typical 20-year period in the Navy, they spend about 65% of their time on sea duty and about 35% on shore duty. Upon completing sea tours, USN DC's will be assigned to shore duty in fleet concentration areas.

Working Environment

Damage Controlmen work in a variety of climates at sea and ashore. They normally perform their work at sea in a controlled climate, but are often called upon, to work in machinery spaces and flight decks in various sea states and weather conditions. DC's are stationed primarily aboard ships. They may work in noisy environments on machinery spaces and flight decks in various sea states and weather conditions. DC's are stationed primarily aboard ships. They may work in noisy environments on some assignments. People in this rating work closely with others, usually supervise and teach others and often do physical work.

Opportunities

Entry opportunities are limited. Only highly qualified applicants have an opportunity for placement in this rating. Advancement opportunities are fair in the DC rating. About 3,300 men and women work in the DC rating.

Civilian Occupational Equivalents

To see Related Civilian Occupations for this rating:

DC - <https://www.cool.navy.mil/enlisted/dc.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.

(Revised 10/12)