

# Sonar Technician Submarines (STS)



# NAVY

Sonar Technician (STS) Submarines serve on board multiple classes of submarines and specialize in combat systems. They are responsible for all operational and administrative aspects of the submarine's computer and control mechanisms used for underwater surveillance and scientific data collection.

## What They Do

The duties performed by STS's include:

- maintain, repair, calibrate, tune, and adjust all electronic equipment used for underwater surveillance and scientific data collection;
- support operation and basic maintenance of underwater surveillance and scientific data collection systems
- perform organizational and intermediate level maintenance on underwater surveillance and scientific data collection systems, equipment, and associated combat control systems test equipment;
- operate underwater surveillance and scientific data collection systems;
- test underwater surveillance and scientific data collection systems;
- operate and maintain combat control systems associated systems;
- use and maintain hand tools and portable power tools.

## Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education (ACE) guide 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 computer science, marine systems management, computer and information science, and applied electronics, applied mathematics, circuit theory, systems maintenance, and communications.

## Qualifications and Interests

Sonar Technician Submarines (STS's) must be U.S. citizens eligible to meet security clearance requirements. Important qualifications include knowledge of arithmetic, capability to understand modern computing devices, the ability to speak and write well, function as a member of a team, do detailed work and keep accurate records. Additionally they must possess some physical strength and good manual dexterity.

## Career Path After Recruit Training

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

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Basic Enlisted Submarine School	Groton, CT	4 weeks	Indoctrination in basic submarine systems.	Group instruction and practical application
Class "A" Technical School and Specialty Pipeline School	Groton, CT	37 weeks	Basic electricity, electronics and computer technical knowledge and skills. Preparation for underwater surveillance and scientific data collection specialties and assignment on a fast attack or ballistic missile submarine.	Group instruction, practical application and equipment labs.

After "A" school and Basic Enlisted Submarine School, Electronics Technicians (STS)'s are assigned to serve on all types of submarines and at shore facilities in the United States and overseas. During a 20 year period in the Navy, STS's spend about 60 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 40 percent to shore stations.

*Note:* All applicants must read and understand the Submarine Volunteer Statement of Understanding.

**Obligation.** Active duty obligation is five years. Applicants will enlist for four years and concurrently execute an agreement to extend their enlistment for one year.

**Advancement.** Enlistees enlist as E-1s (seaman recruits). Completion of all advancement-in-rate requirements (including minimum time-in-rate) must be completed prior to advancement to E-2, E-3 and E-4. Top graduates of initial "pipeline" training may elect accelerated advancement to E-4 if they execute an agreement to extend their enlistment one additional year (six years total obligation). Advancement in this field to E-4 (Petty Officer Third Class) is excellent.

## Working Environment

STS's duties are usually performed aboard submarines and usually work indoors in a clean, controlled environment with comfortable temperatures. However, some work is required in a clean or dirty environment of a shop-like nature. Their work may be independent in nature, but they usually work closely with others under direct supervision.

## Opportunities

Placement opportunities are good for qualified applicants. About 1,100 Sailors work in the STS rating.

## Civilian Occupational Equivalents

**To see Related Civilian Occupations for this rating:**

**STS -**

<https://www.cool.navy.mil/enlisted/sts.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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