

CHAPTER 84

WARFARE BRANCH – COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

POINT OF CONTACT - PART 8

CONTENTS

Para

- 8401. General
- 8402. Security Clearances
- 8403. Special Nationality Considerations
- 8404. Loss of DV and/or Special Clearances
- 8405. Direct Entry Requirements
- 8406. Sideways Entry Requirements
- 8407. Manning Clearance
- 8408. CT Specialisation Selection Boards for Sideways Entry Candidates
- 8409. Source Branch Matters
- 8410. Language Training – Aptitude Test
- 8411. Signal Development Training
- 8412. Withdrawal from Phase I or II training

ANNEXES

- Annex 84A** CT Specialisation Promotion Flowchart - Entry prior to 1/11/06 (DE) - 1/9/07 (SE)
- Annex 84B** CT Specialisation Promotion Flowchart - Entry after 1/11/06 (DE) - 1/9/07 (SE)

CHAPTER 84

WARFARE BRANCH – COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

8401. General

a. This Chapter covers the entry and career regulations for the Communications Technician (CT) specialisation. Changes have been introduced to the CT career structure as part of the Naval Personnel Change Programme. Direct Entrants (DEs) joining the Naval Service after 1 Nov 06 and Sideways Entrants (SEs) who commence CT training after 1 Sep 07 will come under the revised structure. The pre-BR 1066 Change 18 structure will run in parallel with the new one and will continue to apply to those who commenced CT training on or before 31 Oct 06 (DEs) or 31 Aug 07 (SEs).

b. There are reserved rights for advancement to CPO for POCTs who joined prior to 1 Nov 06 (DE) or 1 Sep 07 (SE). Exceptionally, they will be allowed to attempt the PQE for time-based advancement to the CPO rate until the cut-off dates detailed in [Table 84-1](#). Individuals, who fail to successfully complete the PQE by the eligibility closure date, will adopt the career path notated in [Annex 84B](#) and will be considered by merit-based selection for CPO thereon. If the failure to complete the PQE is due to service reasons, the Branch Manager will consider exemptions on an individual basis.

Table 84-1.

Situation	CPO PQE Eligibility Closure Date
PO – eligible for advancement to CPO prior to 31 Mar 10	31 Mar 12
PO – not yet eligible for advancement to CPO by 31 Mar 10	2 years from CPO eligibility date
Not yet advanced to POCT by 31 Mar 10	2 years from CPO eligibility date

c. The detailed career paths, with explanatory notes, for the old and new structures are shown at the Annexes. Information and regulations common to both paths is at [Para 8402](#) to [Para 8412](#).

d. Divisional Officers should ensure that a copy of the relevant structure is placed in the Personal Development Record of each CT.

8402. Security Clearances

a. The minimum security requirement for employment in the CT specialisation is to hold the Developed Vetting (DV) clearance which requires the individual to have had ten years' residency in the UK. However, in certain circumstances, particularly where the individual is of UK origin, a shorter period may be acceptable. In such cases, an application is to be made to RN PSyA for a waiver of the residency requirement.

b. Depending upon their area of employment, CTs will also need to hold various other clearances throughout their career. For many of these clearances, nationality restrictions are applied (see [Para 8403](#)).

8403. Special Nationality Considerations

It is important to recognise that the nature and sensitivity of the work on which CTs are engaged necessitates certain specific nationality criteria being imposed. These are:

- a. CTs must be British for entry to the specialisation and should have held British citizenship for ten years.
- b. CTs should not have held any other nationality in the last five years.
- c. CTs surviving parents should be solely British.
- d. Any spouse/partner should be solely British.
- e. Surviving parents of the spouse/partner should be solely British.

8404. Loss of DV and/or Special Clearances

a. Withdrawal of DV and/or the suspension/removal of Special Clearances will severely restrict an individual's employment/assignment options as a CT by rendering him/her unemployable in designated specialisation positions. This could adversely impact his/her Naval career. The decision to remove or suspend DVs or Special Clearances rests with RN PSyA and the relevant controlling authorities respectively. Such decisions are made on a case by case basis and the impact on the individual will generally depend on the reason for suspension/withdrawal. A range of options for future employment will be considered, involving a degree of personal preference where possible. These are:

- (1) Transfer to another branch or specialisation in their substantive rate, within the constraints of branch transfer regulations ([Chapter 51](#)).
- (2) For those within their final two years' service or who elect to submit 12 months' notice following the removal of the DV, employment in existing rate in an 'out of specialisation' position, if a suitable one is available, until completion of career or engagement or period of notice.
- (3) For SEs, reversion to source specialisation at the rate held before transfer to the CT specialisation.
- (4) Discharge SHORE, in accordance with [Chapter 54](#).

b. Prospective CTs who have not been granted DV status cannot complete the SCU module of Phase IIa training or begin Phase IIb (Initial Sea Training). Where this is as a result of refusal, rather than administrative delays, SEs will be returned to their source specialisation. DEs can either:

- (1) Transfer to another specialisation in accordance with [Chapter 51](#).
- (2) Discharge SHORE in accordance with [Chapter 54](#).

8405. Direct Entry Requirements

In addition to the Nationality and Special Nationality requirements above, the following criteria apply for direct entry to the CT specialisation:

BR 3
PART 8

- a. Able to achieve fitness to Royal Naval Fitness Test (RNFT) standard during Phase I training and remain in date for RNFT thereafter.
- b. Volunteer for service in submarines (although submarine service is currently only open to males, this criterion applies to all prospective CTs).
- c. Volunteer for language/signal development training, where required, to satisfy the Service need.

8406. Sideways Entry Requirements

In addition to the DE criteria above, SE ratings require the following:

- a. Have a minimum of ten years to serve.
- b. Be an AB1 who has completed the CBRNDC Task Book or be a LH.
- c. Hold a recommendation by the Divisional Officer.
- d. A successful acquaint interview with a Warrant Officer 1 CT or Officer who is an ex-CT (copies of the last three Appraisal Reports should be forwarded to the interviewing officer prior to this event). A subsequent letter of recommendation, by the interviewer, should be enclosed within the ratings' Service Documents and a copy forwarded to ACESMO at SCU¹.
- e. Have a transfer request to the CT specialisation approved by the Commanding Officer.
- f. Have manning clearance from the relevant Branch Manager in accordance with current regulations.
- g. Passed the CT Specialisation Selection Board.
- h. Be in date RNFT.
- i. GCSE passes in English Language and Maths (Grades A-C).

8407. Manning Clearance

When manning clearance has been approved, Divisional Officers should send applications to attend the CT specialisation Selection Board to ACESMO, SCU, Leydene Building, HMS COLLINGWOOD, Fareham, Hants, PO14 1AS. Copies of the candidate's History Sheet, Appraisal Reports and Insert Slips covering the last three years and, where applicable, Leadership Course results, are to be forwarded to SCU (attention: CTBPO) with each application.

NB: Manning clearance is valid for two years from date of approval.

8408. CT Specialisation Selection Boards for Sideways Entry Candidates

- a. Dates of CT specialisation Selection Boards will be made available to candidates by the SCU. Upon completion of each Board, candidates and their Commanding Officers will be informed of the results. Successful candidates will be placed in a pool to await assignment by the Navy Command/Commodore Naval Personnel but must continue to meet all criteria required for CT training.

1. For administrative purposes, SCU should also be advised of unsuccessful interview results.

b. The Board is of two days' duration and consists of a number of elements to assess a candidate's suitability for transferring to the CT specialisation; this includes formal interviews with an assessment by a PSO. Among the qualities sought are:

- (1) Aptitude for employment in all relevant CT Unit Establishment positions.
- (2) Commitment to the Service.
- (3) Capability to meet the standards required of CT training.
- (4) Good personal qualities, particularly integrity, stability of performance and no obvious security risks.
- (5) Leadership potential.

8409. Source Branch Matters

a. Prior to commencement of CT training, ratings who have been selected for promotion in their source branches may take the requisite professional and leadership courses and, therefore, obtain promotion. However, if on the day that an individual commences CT training, he/she has not obtained the necessary qualifications for promotion; their selection will be held in abeyance.

b. Those personnel who are promoted in their source branch between passing the CT specialisation Selection Board and commencing CT training can either:

- (1) Refuse promotion and commence CT training as planned.
- (2) Accept promotion and remain in their source branch.

c. Once CT training has commenced, SEs will remain in their source branch but will be ineligible for promotion until completion of their basic CT training when subsequent promotion to LS CT will be dependant on fulfilment of all criteria within the relevant CT specialist career profile.

d. Submariners will automatically lose Special Service pay (SM) effective from the first day of basic CT training.

8410. Language Training – Aptitude Test

Ratings selected for CT training will undergo the Modern Languages Aptitude Test (MLAT) during basic training - results will be recorded and held within Bletchley Training Delivery Wing (TDW) at DISC Chicksands and the SCU. Language training will only be given to satisfy a Service need. When such a need is identified, CTs with an appropriate MLAT score will undergo further assessment of their commitment, attitude and suitability - success at which is a prerequisite for a language training assignment.

8411. Signal Development Training

Signal Development (SD) is an advanced, intensive, non-language, communications signals analysis skill. SD training will only be given to satisfy a Service need and after passing an aptitude assessment process.

8412. Withdrawal from Phase I or II training

a. Initial failure to complete any phase of training may result in back classing at the discretion of the relevant Head of Training. However, if it is judged that a trainee will be unable to complete any phase or module, they may, in consultation with the Commanding Officer SCU, be withdrawn from training with the following options:

- (1) SEs may return to their source branch at their substantive rate.
- (2) DEs will be given career counselling and a suitable branch transfer proposed after consultation with the Warfare Branch Manager.
- (3) Discharge SHORE in accordance with [Chapter 54](#).

b. CTs who wish to voluntarily resign from basic CT training may be permitted to do so only after full consultation with SCU, the Warfare Branch Manager and, in the case of SEs, with the relevant Source Branch Manager.