

THE EVOLUTION OF ENGINEERING TRAINING

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NORFOLK, Va. – In a continuing effort to develop the most appropriate training for entry-level engineers, as well as providing surface commands with the most prepared Sailors, the Center for Naval Engineering (CNE) will begin testing a new initial training program for Firemen.

The Basic Engineering Common Core (BECC) program, gleaned from existing Programs of Record and Fleet Requirements including Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS), focuses on future engineering preparedness. It will accelerate the ability of Sailors to report aboard and qualify in both Cold Iron and Sounding and Security watches.

Streamlining the initial training phase at Naval Training Command (NTC) Great Lakes, Ill., will allow Sailors a more targeted curriculum, designed to teach only those skills required of junior engineers when first checking aboard. Future training for engineers will include advanced PQS, as well as training within their specialized career path.

“We must set our Sailors up for success on the deckplates,” said CNE Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Butler. “To do that, we must ensure they arrive at their first duty station with the appropriate skill sets to perform their jobs.”

Beginning in August the current eight engineering A schools located at NTC Great Lakes (damage controlmen, electrician's mates, enginemen, gas turbine systems technicians [electrical and mechanical], hull technicians, machinist's mates and machinery repairmen) will close, sending all future engineers to the BECC course with each departing as a designated Fireman in one of three engineering ratings. Those ratings are electrical engineer (electrician's mates and gas turbine systems technicians electrical), mechanical engineer (machinist's mates, enginemen and gas turbine systems technicians mechanical), or hull repair engineer (hull technicians, damage controlmen and machinery repairmen). Electrical engineers will receive follow on electrical theory training through the Apprentice Technical Training (ATT) pipeline. Hull repair engineers

will also receive follow on training in a fleet concentration area Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA).

Upon successful completion of the BECC program, these designated Firemen will report to their initial commands prepared to immediately commence required shipboard qualifications. As individuals continue their careers, training will be provided through the advanced Engineer Plant Operator's Course (EPOC), which will migrate to a track option concept that assigns each engineer to a specific track depending on assignment and assessed training needs.

To prepare for entry into a track, Sailors will be required to complete various computer based training events designed to provide them with advanced engineering theory. While the track concept is currently under development, it will likely be provided in fleet concentration areas.

“This is going to give the Navy a cadre of better trained, more appropriately prepared Sailors that can walk up the brow and go to work,” said Butler. “And when this concept of development is factored into the 5 Vector Model, it is going to give Sailors a training program throughout their career, and a better idea of where they can go, what they need to do to get there, and what options will be afforded them along the way.”

CNE is responsible for managing the professional development of all surface Sailors in conventional engineering ratings and is currently building professional development continuums infused with the track option concept.

“When the CNO (Adm. Vern Clark) first introduced the Revolution in Training idea, he said we had to challenge assumptions and be willing to change,” said Butler. “The process we have engaged in is revolutionary, and the Navy must constantly reevaluate where it is going and how it is going to get there to ensure we are the best Navy in the world.”

The BECC program received official type commander support with the joint Commander, Naval Surface Force and Commander, Naval Air Force message announcing the start of the BECC 2 pilot. To learn more about the Basic Engineering Core Course and the Navy's Revolution in

Training, log onto Navy Knowledge Online at www.nko.navy.mil and visit the Center for Naval Engineering page.