

What is an Underwater Construction Technician?

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An Underwater Construction Technician is a Sailor, a Seabee, and a Diver.

As a Sailor, an Underwater Construction Technician must feel comfortable at sea. He must know basic Seamanship and be able to operate in, on, and around vessels. A Sailor knows Navy policies, Navy Core Values, Navy customs, and Navy traditions.

As a Seabee, an Underwater Construction Technician must feel comfortable in the field. He must be knowledgeable of defensive tactics and be able to operate proficiently in an expeditionary environment. This includes the ability to shoot, move, and communicate in the battle space. The mission of a Seabee is not to kill, maim, or destroy, but to create, repair, and construct. If left alone, a Seabee will work diligently until his mission is complete. However, if threatened or provoked that same Seabee will fight tenaciously to defend himself, his shipmates, and his work. A single Seabee may not be deadly, but acting together they can exact a terrible price from their enemies, and even go on the offense to repel their attackers.

As a Navy Diver, an Underwater Construction Technician must feel comfortable in any ocean environment, from deep clear open water to muddy shallow congested harbors. He must be knowledgeable of safe diving practices, Divers Life Support Equipment, and advanced underwater construction and demolition techniques. Some Seabees drive a truck to the jobsite, others dive a Mark 21. Diving requires knowledge, abilities, and toughness beyond what is expected from most Sailors and from most Seabees. This is what sets the Underwater Construction Technician apart from his peers.

As an Underwater Construction Technician, your primary mission is to provide underwater construction, inspection, and demolition services to Combatant Commanders in support of military operations. Our Nation requires you to be highly skilled and highly trained technical experts. You are our Nation's first choice when these services are required. You are **NOT** our Nation's first choice when it comes to the execution of tactical combat operations. There are other units that constantly train for combat related missions. However, history shows that Seabees cannot execute construction tasking, be it on land or underwater, if they are lost, wounded, killed, or captured en route to the jobsite. This is even more true for Seabee Divers. Our limited numbers, critical skills, and specialized equipment require that each person and each piece of gear arrive at the jobsite in one piece. We will never be experts in tactical combat operations, but we must have the ability and confidence to survive the unthinkable and continue our mission.

Always remember this: in order to be where you are today, whether it be a Basic UCT, Advanced UCT or a Master UCT, you proved yourself through the crucibles of U.S. Navy Boot Camp, Seabee training and Dive School. You are one of a very few that can call themselves a UCT. The UCTs are unique, not only within the U.S. Navy and the Department of Defense, but across our Nation, and our Nation's Allies. And though your accomplishments might not be as recognized, as understood, or as well funded as other diving units, your mission and capabilities are absolutely critical in the execution of our Nation's strategic objectives. You are one of our Nation's greatest assets; you are an Underwater Construction Technician.