

## Life of a Junior Marine Engineer

The life of a naval officer as a marine engineer is invigorating and adventurous. A marine engineer's life revolves around highly technical machines whether in a ship or on shore. They get to travel on board ships on the sea, every now and then from land to land as well. A junior marine engineer, who first steps on board, is not only excited of his new wonderful world called "ship" but is also equally naive, both professionally and personally.

A marine engineer performs diverse tasks and functions related to the design, construction, development and maintenance of marine vessels from submarines to sailboats, their operational systems and machineries. They are also responsible for selecting equipment like engines, electrical systems and reactors for vessels.

Apart from the above mentioned duties, a marine engineer is also required to be proficient in starting procedures of almost all the machinery and operation of **main engines, diesel alternators, generator synchronization, fuel oil purifiers, fresh water generators, pumps, compressors, sewage treatment plant, boilers, air conditioning and refrigeration systems**. Job of a marine engineer also extends towards evaluating existing machinery and supervision of the operation. Having mere engineering skills is not adequate to serve as a marine engineer. One should also possess interest in boats, ships and the open ocean.

A junior marine engineer's work is primarily engrossed in dismantling, assessing, repairing, and reassembling faulty or stand-by machinery. They work day and night, emergency hours and extra hours. Simply, what they have got to do is all work and there is no time to play.

Junior marine engineers spend the toughest nonetheless the most interesting life of all engineers on board a ship. Their job is often rewarding and intellectually stimulating. However, it is not as picturesque as it sounds. Just as everything about life, life as a marine engineer has desirable and undesirable attributes allied to it, there is no shortage of disappointments and anguish.

Every junior marine engineer's wish is to become a first engineer someday; yet life is not going to be easy even as a first engineer. The following verses quoted from a poem by Robert Goodwin, the first engineer of ship SS Georgia, illustrate the heavy work associated with a first engineer.

***Now son, if you have love for the sea  
and think you should sailing go.  
One little gem of advice take from me,  
Because from experience I know.***

***My advice to you is to become a mate  
of the wheelhouse and bridge have no fear.  
But let me warn you before it's too late,  
Don't study to be a first engineer.***

***The engineer's work in the grease and the heat  
Boy, take it from me, it's no fun,  
Sweating and swearing, trying the job to complete,  
While out on deck the mate suns.***

Most dream to become engineers. However, not everyone can become a good marine engineer. The process requires education, thorough practice and painstaking perseverance. Hence, marine engineers are "Jack of all trades".

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