

# DECK FORCE



*Boatswain's Mate (BM).* The boatswain's mate serves aboard all types of ships and at most shore stations. In battle, he or she acts as gun captain, a member of a damage control party, or is stationed on the bridge; he or she must have a thorough knowledge of seamanship, and understand all deck work connected with boatswain's mate and anchor watches, as well as be familiar with rigging, hawsers, winches, hoists, tackles, lines, and cargo nets. He or she may take a turn at the wheel, sew canvas, or double as gun captain; he or she must know signal flags, lights, and navigation instruments. He or she directs handling and stowage of cargo, maintains and operates hoisting gear, must know how to handle small boats, and directs boat crews in landing or rescue operations.

