

# Careers in the defence industry – Army Veteran – Boilermaker

Boilermakers read drawings and use multiple tools to fabricate structures and components out of steel. They mark out, cut, grind, shape, fit and tack components together ready for welding. A Boilermaker fits the plates and shapes that make up the ship's structure.



**DEFENCE  
INDUSTRY**   
THE OTHER FORCE

## Are you a veteran looking for an exciting and rewarding long term career?

Join the thousands of people using a different set of skills to supply and support our defence forces. WA's defence industry provides stable and local employment in defence related activities such as **ship and submarine building, maintenance and sustainment**.

To become a boilermaker you usually need to undertake an engineering tradesperson fabrication apprenticeship, which takes 42 to 48 months to complete and is available as a school-based apprenticeship.

### CAREER SWITCHER...

## NICHOLAAS MANN

Army Veteran – Apprentice Boilermaker (2nd year)

PATHWAY: Army > Mining > Apprenticeship

“ I joined the Army at 19 as an infantry soldier and spent five years as a paratrooper in NSW and then became a Commando doing two tours of East Timor and two tours of Afghanistan. I left the military after 10 years of service and moved to WA to pursue mining.

I found mining quite challenging, as the long stints away from my family were quite draining. As I really like working with metal, I decided to pursue an apprenticeship at the age of 34.

I am in now in my second year of my boilermaking apprenticeship at a shipbuilding company who build and upgrade ships for the Australian Defence Force. It's been a learning curve but I am thoroughly enjoying learning again.

Army experience gives you a strong work ethic and the ability to strategically use your time.

The major benefit of working in the defence industry is being able to **work locally** and go home every day to see my family.

I'm so happy to be able to use my hands and head, and I am doing a job that I enjoy. ”



**Boilermakers read drawings and use multiple tools to fabricate structures and components out of steel. They mark out, cut, grind, shape, fit and tack components together ready for welding. A Boilermaker fits the plates and shapes that make up the ship's structure.**

**MEM30305 Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade**



**KEY**

**LEVEL 01** – All job titles in Operations that require a skill level of year 10, a senior secondary certification of education, Certificate I or II. Australian apprenticeships may be offered at this level.

**LEVEL 02** – All job titles in Operations that require a Certificate III or IV, or at least three years relevant experience. Australian apprenticeships may be offered at this level.

**LEVEL 03** – All job titles in Operations that require a Diploma or Advanced Diploma. Study is often undertaken through TAFEs or Registered Training Organisations. Some universities offer studies at this level.

**LEVEL 04** – All job titles in Operations that require a Bachelor Degree or higher qualification. Study is often undertaken at a university.