

Jaime-Lee Digby, Weapons Specialist, Royal Australian Navy

What was your employment training qualification?

My initial training was composed of an 11 week recruit school course which was comprised of intense physical fitness, fire fighting training, OHS, flood training, survival at sea and many more amazing short courses all while building a solid team. My employment training for my job (boatswains mate- firearm and weapon specialist and boarding party combat operations) included a 4 week seamanship course and an intense 6 week weapon course.

How did you find out about the gap year program and what was the application process like?

Unfortunately at this stage they no longer run the gap year role with the Navy, however when Defence came to the school I took particular interest in the physical fitness, the pay and the amazing travel opportunities available to me with no commitment. At the end of the year, I decided to go back because it really is a lifestyle that is hard to say goodbye to. In my short one year experience I was able to fly simulated

helicopters, fix and do maintenance on naval helicopters and fighter jets, spend 3 months at sea surveying the pristine oceans of Papua New Guinea and Northern Territory and made amazing friends along the way. On completion of my weapons training there are opportunities for me to travel to Singapore, Japan, Hawaii, Russia, Thailand, Fiji and many more countries.

What do you do on a day to day basis?

I wake up at 0530 every morning, go to physical training, have breakfast, and my day continues with a march down to my Boatswain Faculty where I shoot and maintain a variety of firearms, torpedoes, missiles and mines. I finish the working day at 1610 and the afternoon is mine to do as I wish.

What are the great things about your traineeship?

The best things for me are definitely the use of a different weapon every day! No day is ever the same! And in the end I have a rotating sea going roster to look forward to.... 3 months at sea, 2 weeks on land, 3 months at sea etc. It is an amazing job.

What are the not so great things?

To be honest, I have enjoyed absolutely every second. I think you have to be able to be incredibly independent as well as a team player to really get most out of the career.

What are your plans for once you have completed your traineeship?

My plans are to finish my minimum period of service of 4 years as a weapons specialist then sign on for another 4! It is one amazing job that could be somebody's perfect career

Why should students consider the Navy?

I think the Navy is an amazing opportunity for students that want to travel and get paid good money to travel. The Navy pays incredibly good money to travel the world doing something you love with your best mates. There is a fair bit of discipline involved in the first 11 weeks as a recruit but after graduation it's awesome. I highly recommend it as not only a job but as an eye opener to the real world. I have been places no one in the public can ever go and I think that is pretty cool.

