AIR FORCE
TE TAUAARANGI O AOTEAROA
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AIRCRAFT TECHNICIAN

THE ROLE

Do you think you could strip down an aircraft and rebuild it? With this job you'll find out how – servicing, overhauling and maintaining all our aircraft systems and components.

As an Aircraft Technician you'll be a member of the ground crew, jointly responsible for maintaining all aircraft mechanical systems used on the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) aircraft. These systems include aircraft structures, flight controls, engines, propellers, helicopter rotors, hydraulics, pneumatics, landing gear and fuel. Your duties will range from day-to-day servicing of aircraft on the flight line to scheduled maintenance to maintaining the aircraft as it travels overseas.

JOB ON BASE

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE

It is your job to keep all our aircraft and associated components in optimum condition for the conduct of military operations. As the RNZAF fleet of aircraft and helicopters are upgraded or replaced, you will be required to work with the latest technology. Also, with the advancement of technology there will be a greater integration with avionic trades, especially in the way aircraft systems are operated and maintained. Fault diagnosis and general maintenance activities will involve a greater emphasis on the use of specialist electronic equipment and onboard computer systems.

SQUADRONS DUTIES

RNZAF flying squadrons are the focus of aircraft operations and, as part of a ground crew, you will be responsible for maintaining aircraft, conducting fault finding, and receiving and despatching aircraft for flying tasks. You will perform systems-based operational level maintenance, including the installation and removal of components, and conducting the operational checks to ensure that aircraft systems are fully serviceable. The technology used in the aviation industry is ever changing, and as such you'll be required to operate a wide range of test equipment, including computer applications software to assist with maintenance checks, ground running of aircraft engines and aircraft systems and also the rectification of faults. Squadron based Aircraft Technicians also perform intermediate level maintenance when an aircraft reaches a prescribed number of flying hours. Before the aircraft can fly again it must be stripped down, inspected, repaired, rebuilt and tested.

MAINTENANCE BAY DUTIES

Where aircraft component faults cannot be fixed during operational level maintenance on the squadrons, you will remove the components from the aircraft and send them to specialised maintenance bays for repair. These bays are manned by your fellow Aircraft Technicians who are responsible for the maintenance of all uninstalled aircraft components, ensuring all spares can be fitted immediately upon request. Within the bay maintenance area aircraft components are dismantled, tested, repaired and returned to service to meet flying squadron demands. This also includes the repair of aircraft structure and the outer aircraft 'skin', which can also include the

fabrication of aluminium parts.

JOB ON DEPLOYMENT

When squadron aircraft deploy overseas for routine flights, peacekeeping, disaster relief or military operations they take Aircraft Technicians with them to service and repair the aircraft. These personnel are required to operate without the broader support provided from their home base. When selected to complete this role you can expect the unexpected. You will be living in an environment that is likely to be very different from home, interacting with supporting personnel that are likely to speak in a different language. You will also quickly grasp the way in which New Zealand contributes to a very wide range of international events. You will feel the exhilaration of having a direct impact on air operations, as you and your team will be pivotal to maintaining the aircraft in a state where it is capable of meeting all mission demands.

CAREER PROGRESSION

As you gain experience and progress within your trade, you will be appointed to positions where you are responsible for the supervision of squadron or bay level maintenance. Aircraft Technicians are also required to work in technical administration sections to ensure that airworthiness standards are maintained on the squadrons and in the RNZAF as a whole.

Personnel who have completed their trade training may also have the opportunity to apply for the specialist role of Non Destructive Testing (NDT). NDT is the ability to test aircraft structures for defects without dismantling the structure. This skill involves the employment of X-ray technology and specialist electronic test equipment to look ‘inside’ aircraft structure. This skill is becoming more and more important as aircraft structure involves greater use of composite structure (think plastic, glass fibre and Kevlar) rather than the traditional aluminium structure.

The opportunity also exists for Aircraft Technicians to deploy on Royal New Zealand Navy ships in support of seaborne helicopter operations.

PAY & BENEFIT DETAILS

Careers in the Air Force are well-rewarded, as well as being diverse and exciting. As you become more experienced and move up through the ranks, gaining additional skills and qualifications, you will see your salary rise accordingly.

While undertaking initial Recruit Course you will be paid as a Recruit (see attached pay table). On completion of your Recruit Course you will be paid as an Aircraftsman and your pay will continue to increase as your career progresses.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- You must be at least 17 years of age.
- Meet the citizenship & security requirements to gain **CV security clearance** for this trade.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

You must have achieved NCEA level 2 with a minimum of 12 credits in level 2 Science.

Find out more about the NCEA levels and certificate requirements

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

- You must be medically fit for service.
- Colour perception restrictions may apply.

PERIOD OF SERVICE

Your RNZAF training is some of the most thorough and advanced in the world.

On graduation as an Aircraft Technician, you'll be obliged to spend another 24 months in the Air Force.

TRAINING

BASIC TRAINING

Upon successful enlistment into the Air Force you will be posted to RNZAF Base Woodbourne (near Blenheim) for your Recruit Course. Here you will do 12 weeks of basic military training to find out if you've got what it takes to be in the Air Force, and learn various subjects including:

- Organisation and Administration
- RNZAF Customs and Protocol
- Drill and Parades
- Military Field Skills and Weapon Training
- First Aid, and Search and Rescue Techniques
- Physical Fitness
- Teamwork and Self Discipline

JOB TRAINING

AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING FUNDAMENTALS COURSE

After your Recruit Course you will complete a full-time 17 week Aeronautical Engineering Fundamentals Course. This course covers:

- Personal Qualities and Attitudinal Expectations in the Aviation Workplace,
- Aviation Workplace Safety,
- Aeronautical Engineering Trade Science and Administration,
- Aeronautical Engineering Tooling and Processes,
- Aeronautical Components/Systems, and
- Maintenance Practices.

This course is a requirement for all technical trades within the RNZAF and sets you up well for your career as an aviation technician.

PRIMARY TRADE TRAINING

On completion of the Aeronautical Engineering Course you start primary trade training, which involves a 35-week RNZAF Aircraft Maintenance Technicians Course. During this course you will receive theoretical and practical training on the principles of operation, as well as theory of construction and maintenance of fixed and rotary wing aircraft and their components and systems.

Subjects covered include the inspection, fitting and removal and maintenance of aircraft components, and an overview of aircraft structures, flight controls, undercarriages and brake systems, hydraulic systems, environmental control systems, fuel systems, gas turbine engines, propellers, ignition and lubrication systems, accessory gearboxes and transmissions. Instruction is also given in the use of maintenance documents and engineering publications.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

After graduating from the RNZAF Aircraft Maintenance Technician Course (ACFTMTC) as a junior Aircraft Technician, you will be posted to a technical unit for a period of approximately 18 months. During this time you will work towards completing the majority of on-aircraft work-experience required to consolidate the skills and knowledge learned during the Aircraft Maintenance Technician Course under the control of your Training Support Manager.

Your workbook will then be completed while working in a variety of maintenance bays where you will gain experience working on a variety of aeronautical components and structures.

ONGOING TRAINING

Once you have finished your OJT, you will be posted back to Woodbourne to complete a 6 week Aircraft Technician Consolidation Course (ATCC), which includes new material such as fault finding. After this you will be a qualified Aircraft Technician. As you complete your training, you'll be eligible to apply for a National Certificate in Aircraft Servicing Level 2 (after around two years) and a National Certificate in Aeronautical Engineering (Maintenance) after around four years.

LOCATION DETAILS

Woodbourne, near Blenheim.

Upcoming intakes
Apply now