

Operating Room Technician Opportunities in the Canadian Armed Forces



WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Immediate Benefits:

Applicants possessing a current licence to practice as a Licenced Practical Nurse/Registered Practical Nurse (LPN/RPN) from a provincial or territorial regulatory authority (Direct Entry – DE)

- Enrolment into a perioperative nursing course for LPN/RPNs following basic training.
- 1500 hrs on-the-job training program at a local civilian hospital to increase your operating room knowledge and skills
- Participate in a Field Surgical Service Orientation Course
- Operating Room Technicians may be offered the opportunity to develop specialized skills through formal courses and on-the-job training, including: Medical Device Reprocessing Course.
- Annual Salary Range: \$63,840 to \$67,512 depending on rank

Applicants possessing a current licence to practice as a Licenced Practical Nurse/Registered Practical Nurse (LPN/RPN) from a provincial or territorial regulatory authority and possessing a certification as Perioperative LPN/RPN (Direct Entry – DE)

- Annual Salary Range: \$63,840 to \$67,512 depending on rank.
- Up to 1500 hrs on-the-job training program at a local civilian hospital to increase your operating room knowledge and skills, depending on a prior learning assessment (PLAR)
- Participate in a Field Surgical Service Orientation Course
- Operating Room Technicians may be offered the opportunity to develop specialized skills through formal courses and on-the-job training, including: Medical Device Reprocessing Course.

For future Operating Room Technician (OR Tech) enrolled as students in the Non-Commissioned Member Subsidized Training and Education Program (NCM-STEP)

- Full 100% tuition & textbook subsidization throughout the entire program
- Obtain a OR Tech certification
- Annual Salary starting at: \$38,016
- Excellent opportunity to graduate debt-free

Qualified Operating Room Technician

- Annual Salary Range: \$71,508 to \$79,296 depending on rank.
- Opportunity to work along some of the finest health care professionals and specialists in Canada
- Responsibilities that go beyond LPN/RPN duties
- Operating Room Technicians may be offered the opportunity to develop specialized skills through formal courses and on-the-job training, including: Medical Device Reprocessing Course.

Other Key Benefits

- Pride of wearing a military uniform and representing your Country.
- Paid Annual Leave (20 days/year for the first 5 years -25 working days/year after 5 full years of service).
- Excellent Parental Leave Benefits - up to 18 months of leave with a very generous salary top-up to 93% of full salary.
- Comprehensive Medical & Dental coverage.
- Excellent pension plan.

ELIGIBILITY

- **Direct Entry:** Applicants must hold a Practical Nursing diploma, have a current license to practice as an LPN/RPN from a provincial or territorial regulatory authority, a letter of good standing from the applicant's professional regulatory authority. It is an asset for applicants with a certification as an Operating Room Technician (LPN/RPN with perioperative specialty).

LIFE AS AN OPERATING ROOM TECHNICIAN

Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Operating Room Technicians (OR Tech), spend a lot of their careers working in civilian hospitals in order to maintain their high acuity operating room skills. They usually work a regular Monday to Friday schedule but may also work in shifts or on call depending on the circumstances. They perform all the duties that are associated with the perioperative environment, assisting the surgeon during surgery, assisting the anesthesiologist, working with registered nurses, sterilizing surgical instruments and maintaining operating room equipment. These tasks are performed in Canada or while deployed with the Canadian Field Hospital on international or domestic operations.

ANNUAL SALARY

During Basic Training

Private (Pte) - \$38,016

During Operating Room Technician (OR Tech) Training

Corporal (Cpl Basic) - \$63,840 to \$67,512

Qualified OR Tech

Master Corporal appointment (MCpl): up to \$79,296 (Trade Group Specialist 1)

Sergeant (Sgt): \$82,236 to \$85,380 (Trade Group Specialist 1)

The above pay scale increases annually.

THE THREE BEST THINGS ABOUT BEING AN OPERATING ROOM TECHNICIAN IN THE CAF

1. Proud history and heritage: The Royal Canadian Medical Service (RCMS) will continue to be recognized as a premier military service capable of providing high quality care at home and abroad that is consistent with the scope of practice available to the Canadian population and appropriate to the needs of the member.

2. Enhanced Opportunities: As an Operating Room Technician in the CAF you will be given the opportunity to take a Medical Device Reprocessing Course. Also Operating Room Technicians may be offered the opportunity to develop specialized skills through a variety of Continuing Education courses.

3. Other Roles:

Deployed Operations: Various roles across Canada and abroad (support to ROLE 2 and ROLE 3 Multinational Medical Unit Overseas).

Medical Surgical Resuscitation Team (MSRT): Be part of a medical team that can deploy rapidly around the world.

SO WHAT'S THE CATCH?

Obligatory Service: After completing your Perioperative LPN/RPN course you must complete obligatory service in the CAF based on two months of service for each month of subsidized education, beginning after having met the prerequisites of practice applicable to the Operating Room Technician occupation.

Basic Training: Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) is mandatory for every one joining the CAF. It is not as scary or difficult as it seems in movies; nevertheless, you should be physically fit prior to attending.

Posting to a Base: Although we try our very best to post you to a Base where you'd like to go, CAF requirements take precedence and so you may not be posted to your desired location.

Deployments: It's extremely likely that you will be deployed at least once on some type of a mission during your initial period of service. You don't always get to pick your deployment, and sometimes deployments happen on short notice. However, while deployed, you may have a chance to work with allied nations or with local health care establishments. The duration of overseas deployments could last from 2 weeks to 9 months.

TRAINING

Basic Military Qualification (BMQ):

After accepting a job offer with the Forces, all new recruits, regardless of their trade, are required to complete basic training called the Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) which is conducted over the course of 10 weeks in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec. The BMQ focuses on teaching the necessary skills to succeed in a military environment and ensures that each recruit has the potential, motivation and ability to work as an effective team member. The training consists of a variety of military topics and includes physical training, parade drill, obstacle course and military field exercises where recruits will acquire skills such as weapons handling, map-reading and compass use and maintenance of their equipment.

Basic Military Qualification – Land Course

After Basic Training, Army recruits go to a Military Training centre for the Basic Military Qualification - Land Course for approximately one month, which covers the following topics:

- Army Physical Fitness
- Dismounted Offensive and Defensive Operations
- Reconnaissance Patrolling
- Individual Field Craft

Basic Occupational Qualification Training

There are four modules that need to be completed before being fully qualified as an Operating Room Technician. Module 1 LPN/RPN qualification, Module 2 Perioperative qualification, Module 3 consolidation/ on the job training and Module 4 Field Surgical Service Orientation Course. If you hold a valid LPN/RPN licence Module 1 will be granted. If you hold a valid perioperative certificate you will be granted Module 2.

Operating Room Technicians who are only LPN/RPN qualified will attend a recognized perioperative program at a Canadian college/university approved by the CAF. Length of courses vary between institutions. After obtaining your perioperative certification you will complete a 1500 hr consolidation in a local civilian hospital in order to gain valuable experience in a high acuity hospital setting. It usually takes approximately one year to complete module 3. The Field Surgical Service Orientation Course is the final module and is a 2 week course that will take place at 1 Canadian Field Hospital in Petawawa Ontario. After successfully completing all required modules in OR Tech Training you will be ready to work as an Operating Room Technician in the CAF and ready to deploy, if required.

Operating Room Technicians who are LPN/RPN qualified and possess a valid perioperative course certificate, will have a PLAR completed before enrolling into the CAF. The PLAR will outline how many hours and what operating room experiences is required in order to complete the consolidation/ on the job training module. Length of module will vary depending on your PLAR. The Field Surgical Service Orientation Course is the final module and is a 2 week course that will take place at 1 Canadian Field Hospital in Petawawa Ontario. After successfully completing all required modules in OR Tech Training you will be ready to work as an Operating Room Technician in the CAF and ready to deploy, if required.

OPERATING ROOM TECHNICIAN POSTING LOCATIONS WITHIN CANADA

- Alberta: Edmonton
- Ontario: Ottawa, Petawawa (Pembroke)

Great Operating Room Technicians . . . and so much more!

Contact us:

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