



Special Vehicle Maintenance, Refueling Vehicles (2T3X2B)

Performs vehicle maintenance activities on military and commercial design refueling and firefighting vehicles and equipment. Activities include inspection, diagnostics, repair, and rebuild of components and assemblies.

Alternate Titles:

AUTOMOBILE MECHANICS; GARAGE MECHANICS; CARBURETOR MECHANICS; TRANSMISSIONS MECHANICS; RADIATOR MECHANICS; AUTOMOTIVE BODY REPAIRERS; ENGINE MECHANICS; ENDLESS TRACK VEHICLE MECHANICS; CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT MECHANICS; TANK REPAIRERS

Duties and Responsibilities:

BACKGROUND

Keeping automotive and heavy equipment in good working condition is vital to the success of military missions. Automotive and heavy equipment mechanics maintain and repair vehicles such as jeeps, cars, trucks, tanks, self-propelled missile launchers, and other combat vehicles. They also repair bulldozers, power shovels, and other construction equipment.

WHAT THEY DO

Automotive and heavy equipment mechanics in the military perform some or all of the following duties:

Troubleshoot problems in vehicle engines, electrical systems, steering, brakes, and suspensions

Tune and repair engines

Replace or repair damaged body parts, hydraulic arms or shovels, and grader blades

Establish and follow schedules for maintaining vehicles

TRAINING PROVIDED

Job training consists of 8 to 29 weeks of classroom instruction. Training length varies depending on specialty. Course content typically includes:

Engine repair and tune-up

Troubleshooting mechanical and electrical problems

Repairing and replacing body panels, fenders, and radiators

Further training occurs on the job and through advanced courses. The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps offer certified apprenticeship programs for some specialties in this occupation.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Although some women are automotive and heavy equipment mechanics, some specialties in this occupation are open only to men.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Automotive and heavy equipment mechanics usually work inside large repair garages. They work outdoors when making emergency repairs in the field.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Automotive and heavy equipment mechanics may have to lift heavy parts and tools. They sometimes have to work in cramped positions. Normal color vision is required for some specialties to work with color-coded wiring and to read diagrams.

HELPFUL ATTRIBUTES

Helpful school subjects include auto mechanics and industrial arts. Helpful attributes include:

Preference for physical work

Interest in troubleshooting and repairing mechanical problems

Interest in automotive engines and how they work

CIVILIAN COUNTERPARTS

Civilian automotive and heavy equipment mechanics may work for service stations, auto and construction equipment dealers, farm equipment companies, and state highway agencies. They perform duties similar to military automotive and heavy equipment mechanics. They may also be called garage mechanics, carburetor mechanics, transmission mechanics, radiator mechanics, construction equipment mechanics, or endless track vehicle mechanics.

OPPORTUNITIES

The services have about 45,800 automotive and heavy equipment mechanics. On average, they need about 5,950 new mechanics each year. After job training, mechanics begin repairing equipment under the direction of a supervisor. In time, they have the opportunity to supervise other workers and possibly manage repair shops, motor pools, or maintenance