



## Cargo Specialist (88H)

The Army forces need supplies, weapons, equipment and mail delivered on a daily basis, all over the world. This cargo, which travels by land, sea and air, has to be handled carefully. Ensuring the safe arrival at the correct destinations of any and all Army cargo is the responsibility of the Cargo Specialist. Cargo Specialists load and unload supplies and materials using equipment such as forklifts and cranes, as well as plan and organize loading schedules.

Cargo Specialists are primarily responsible for transferring or supervising the transfer of passengers and cargo to and from air, land and water transport by manual and mechanical methods. Some of your duties as a Cargo Specialist may include:

- Checking, tallying and documenting cargo using manual and automated data processing systems

- Loading and unloading supplies and equipment from watercraft, docks, beaches, railheads, boxcars, warehouses, motor vehicles and aircraft

- Operating and maintaining all types and sizes of winches, cranes and forklifts

- Loading supplies into trucks, transport planes, and railroad cars using forklifts

- Loading equipment such as jeeps, trucks and weapons aboard watercraft, using dockyard cranes

- Packing and crating boxes of supplies for shipping

- Inspecting cargo for damage

- Planning and inspecting loads for balance and safety

- Checking cargo against invoices to make sure the amount and destination of material are correct

### **TRAINING**

Job training for a Cargo Specialist consists of nine weeks of Basic Training, where you'll learn basic Soldiering skills, and eight weeks of Advanced Individual Training, including practice in testing different products. Part of this time is spent in the classroom and part in the field. You'll learn:

- Operation and care of forklifts, power winches, and cranes

- Techniques for loading and storing cargo

Techniques for planning and scheduling cargo shipments

Safety procedures for handling potentially dangerous cargo

The Army offers certified apprenticeship programs for some specialties in this occupation.

### **HELPFUL SKILLS**

Helpful attributes include:

An interest in working with forklifts and cranes

A preference for physical work

An interest in general office and business mathematics

### **ADVANCED RESPONSIBILITIES**

Advanced level Cargo Specialists supervise and train the other Soldiers within the same discipline. As an advanced level Cargo Specialist, you may be involved in:

Assigning cargo handlers, signal and winch operators to duty stations

Providing technical guidance to subordinates

Inspecting cargo, supervising cargo checking and hatch operations and controlling aircraft loading and unloading

Overseeing railhead tie-down crews

Directing container stuffing and unstuffing

Planning warehouse storage

Managing crane operations

Supervising operator maintenance for cargo handling equipment such as cranes and forklifts

Enforcing safety practices and documentation procedures

### **RELATED CIVILIAN JOBS**

The skills you learn as a Cargo Specialist will help prepare you for a civilian career with trucking firms, air cargo companies and shipping lines. You'll be able to consider a future as an industrial truck operator, a stevedore, a longshoreman, a material handler or a cargo checker.

### **RELATED ARMY POSITIONS**

Crane Operator (21F)

Motor Transport Operator (88M)

Watercraft Operator (88K)

Information about this MOS provided by: [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com)

For further information visit: [www.minnesotanationalguard.org](http://www.minnesotanationalguard.org)