

INTELLIGENCE, IT & COMMS

The Army's intelligence and communications experts use cutting-edge technology to gather information about the enemy and pass it on securely to make sure the Army is always one step ahead.



INTELLIGENCE, IT & COMMS > COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS ENGINEER

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS ENGINEER ROYAL SIGNALS

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Responsible for maintaining the Army's battlefield communication networks and information systems.

AT A GLANCE

ROLE Regular Soldier
TERRITORIAL ARMY OPTION Yes
SEX Male/Female
AGE RANGE 17–33 yrs
MIN SERVICE 4 yrs
QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED GCSEs or Level 2 equivalent
MIN GRADE C in English Language, Mathematics and Science/ICT

The job

The Communication Systems Engineer is the technical expert in the challenging and rewarding environment of Army communication technology. You will be responsible for the engineering, management and maintenance of a wide range of information and communication systems at the leading edge of military communications. The Communication Systems Engineer will deal with different forms of digital and satellite communications, wireless and internet based systems, while also working hand in hand with hardware and software from industry leaders such as Microsoft and Cisco.

The right job for me?

Communication Systems Engineers are highly motivated soldiers with an ability to deal with technical, sometimes complex information. They must have real interest in the maintenance and repair of communications equipment and for IT knowledge. This role requires soldiers to be able to work as an individual or as part of a team. The vital role this job undertakes means you should be prepared to accept responsibility early in your career.

What skills will I learn?

- The principles, techniques and operations of Information Communications Systems (ICS).
- How to deploy, maintain and sustain static and tactical ICS equipment.

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- Engineering, monitoring and configuring Information Systems (IS) networks.
- Computer skills and knowledge of IT systems.
- How to drive Category B+E vehicles (car/trailer).

What training will I do?

■ Initial training

Every Royal Signals recruit is firstly trained to become a soldier and then a tradesman. Recruits will begin their military career at Army Training Regiment (ATR) Pirbright in Surrey. Recruits will complete a 14-week course which teaches key military skills such as foot drill, how to handle and fire a weapon, how to live and work in the open and how to tackle an assault course as well as developing your stamina and fitness. When you have completed the course, you will take your place in the Passing Out parade in front of an invited audience of parents, relatives and friends.

■ Further training

On completion of basic training, you will move to Blandford Forum in Dorset to commence trade training (Phase 2) at the Royal School of Signals. This next phase of your training consists of 36 weeks of trade training and includes:

- **Basic Computer Software Systems**
How to install computer workstations into a systems network and then maintain, engineer and control these systems.
- **IS Systems**
Computer systems training and other Information Systems skills to complete elements of the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) to Level 2 Standard.
- **Specialist**
You will work on High to Ultra High Frequency and Bowman radio equipment, satellite and theatre-wide area network Information Systems.
- **Teleconferencing.**
Operate In-Service Video Teleconferencing (VTC) Equipment and Digital Exchanges.
- **Resource Management**
Provide help-desk support to Information Systems (IS) users, including the setting

up and closing down of IS applications; monitoring and configuring IS networks.

■ Driving

You will learn to drive cars with or without trailers.

What qualifications can I get?

You can achieve your category B+E (car/trailer) driving licence. You can attain qualifications such as European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) Level 2, Units 1 to 7; Key Skills in Application of Numbers, Information and Communication Technology at Level 2; City and Guilds Level 2 Diploma for IT Practitioners (ICT Systems Support) and City and Guilds Level 3 Advanced Diploma for IT Practitioners (ICT Systems Support); the Advanced Apprenticeship Communication Technologies Professional (ICTP). (All qualifications are subject to successful passes in exams and the level of practical experience required).

What future prospects and transferable skills will I have?

After trade training you will be posted to your unit as a Class 3 trained soldier and could be promoted to Lance Corporal. With a year's experience, you will become eligible for upgrading to Class 2 and a pay rise. As you progress, you will be rewarded with promotions and pay rises. If you become a Warrant Officer, you may apply to be a Royal Signals Officer and, if accepted, will be granted a Late Entry Commission as a Captain. Your training and experience will help you become the technical expert on the communications battlefield of the future. You can also volunteer to serve as a Parachutist, Royal Marine Commando or with Special Forces. It's also possible to join the famous White Helmets Motorcycle Display Team.

Find out more

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