

ARMY JOBS

INTELLIGENCE, IT & COMMS | ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEMS OPERATOR

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.



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ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEMS OPERATOR ROYAL SIGNALS

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Responsible for intercepting and disrupting enemy radio transmissions to give the Army a vital tactical edge

AT A GLANCE

ROLE Regular Soldier
TERRITORIAL ARMY OPTION No
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, Science/ICT or a foreign language

The job

Electronic Warfare Systems Operators have the responsibility for using sophisticated equipment to eavesdrop on enemy communications – and taking counter measures to disrupt them. When carrying out this classified work, you may find yourself deployed alongside Intelligence Corps Linguists on the electronic battlefield. You can also work as an Electronic Counter Measures Operator to support bomb disposal teams during their missions.

The right job for me?

These are highly motivated soldiers with an ability to deal with technical information and a logical approach to problem-solving. It certainly helps to have an inquisitive mind and a thirst to learn, and to be able to work as an individual or

as part of a team. You should be prepared to face challenging tasks on operations.

What skills will I learn?

- You will learn the theory behind radio waves and how to use various antennae, as well as how to intercept enemy communications with them.
- IT and computing skills are the cornerstones of your trade training.
- Driving military vehicles with and without trailers is essential to your role, and you will qualify for Category B+E (car/trailer) and C (LGV) driving licences.

What training will I do?

■ Initial training

Every Royal Signals recruit is firstly trained to become a soldier and then a tradesman. Recruits

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will begin their military career at Army Training Regiment (ATR) Pirbright in Surrey. Recruits will complete a 14-week training 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 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 travel to Blandford Forum, Dorset, to start your trade training (Phase 2) at the Royal School of Signals with a 23-week Communication Systems Operator course, followed by a five-week aptitude course. You then attend a 17-week Communications Exploitation course at the Defence College of Intelligence at Chicksands, Bedfordshire.

■ Operating comms equipment

Learning to use a range of communications equipment in the Ultra-High, High, Very High and Super-High frequency (UHF, HF, VHF and SHF) bands.

■ Computer skills

Working towards excellent keyboard technique and other computer skills to complete parts of the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL).

■ Special message skills

The techniques needed to intercept messages and special message-handling procedures.

■ Driving

You will be taught to drive cars with and without trailers, and LGVs.

What qualifications can I get?

You can achieve your Category B+E (car/trailer) and C (LGV) driving licences at Phase 2 training or in the Field Army. During trade training, you can gain elements of European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) at Level 1 Units 1, 2, 3 and 7 plus Key Skills in Application of Number, Information and Communication Technology at Level 3. Later, you can study for an NVQ Level 2 as a Communication Technology Practitioner. You may be able to apply for a

Foundation Apprenticeship in Engineering, or the Advanced Apprenticeship Scheme, which includes a Technical Certificate and Key Skills. (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 finishing trade training, you will be posted to the Field Army as a Class 3 trained soldier and usually promoted to Lance Corporal. You become eligible for upgrading to Class 2 and a pay rise after 12 months. You can work up through the ranks according to merit, and each upgrading and promotion is accompanied by a pay rise, up to Warrant Officer Class 1. You can then apply to be a Royal Signals Officer with a Late Entry Commission as a Captain. Throughout your career you will learn world-class leadership skills and excellent communications and IT skills, which will have a direct fit for the civilian telecommunications and information technology industries. You can also volunteer to serve as a Parachutist or Royal Marine Commando, or with the Special Forces. It's also possible to join the famous Royal Signals White Helmets Motorcycle Display Team. Throughout your career you will enhance and develop many skills and gain qualifications which are accredited and recognised outside of the Army.

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