

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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DRIVER LINEMAN ROYAL SIGNALS

SIG550/559 JE Updated December 2008

Provides communication connections between installations and users, and repairs and maintains all cables

AT A GLANCE

ROLE Regular Soldier
TERRITORIAL ARMY OPTION No
SEX Male/Female
AGE RANGE 16 yrs 6m – 17 yrs 1m
MIN SERVICE 4 yrs
QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED None

The job

Royal Signals Driver Linemen drive, maintain and service a wide variety of vehicles from cars to Large Goods Vehicles. Your role includes movement of hazardous materials, constructing field cable routes and laying fibre-optic cabling to support the Army's Information Systems. The role is challenging, but there is plenty of opportunity to have fun.

The right job for me?

Driver Linemen enjoy an active, outdoor working environment (including driving) and should be of robust character with a sense of humour. Overhead cable work is part of the job, so it is not for people with a fear of heights. Soldiers may be employed in signal units around the world, so love of travelling is a bonus.

What skills will I learn?

- The construction, testing and maintaining of field cable systems, including planning and surveying field cable routes.
- Drive a large goods all-terrain vehicle requiring the ability to drive cross-country in adverse conditions.
- Service and documentation of vehicles, and the repair and maintenance of field cables, which involves testing cables, locating faults and implementing repair procedures.
- Liaise with the customer to establish their requirements, and brief and advise senior managers.

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What training will I do?

■ Initial training

Your military career will start on the Army Development Course at ATR (Army Training Regiment) Winchester in Hampshire. During your 20-week basic training course you will learn 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. You will be stretched further than you thought possible and toughen up both physically and mentally. Having successfully mastered these basic military skills, you will take your place in the Passing Out parade in front of an invited audience of parents, relatives and friends before moving on to your specialist trade training.

■ 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 six weeks of trade training and involves:

■ Theory and Practice

Installing and testing different types of field communication cables and telephones.

■ Antenna Rigging Skills

Working on high masts in difficult conditions. There will be instruction to give you the confidence to work at height.

■ First Aid and Safety Procedures

The correct and safe way to harness and climb large communication poles.

■ Computer Skills

Achieve elements of the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL).

In conclusion, we provide 14 weeks' training at the Defence School of Transport at Leconfield, East Yorkshire, learning how to drive cars and Large Goods Vehicles with and without trailers. Training time does not include rest and recovery, recess duties, or adventure training. Every graduation of Class comes with a rise in both pay and responsibility.

What qualifications can I get?

There are opportunities to achieve your Category B+E (car/trailer), C+E (LGV/trailer)

and Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) licences. 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 1. At a later stage of your career, you may have the opportunity to qualify as a driving instructor. The Apprenticeship in Carrying and Delivering Goods at Level 2 is also on offer. As a Class 1 tradesman and in the rank of Sergeant, you can become a Qualified Testing Officer, responsible for conducting driver testing and issuing civilian pass certificates. (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 the Field Army as a Class 3 trained soldier, and after a year's experience you will become eligible for upgrading to Class 2 and a pay rise. Promotion is earned and based upon experience, ability and merit. You may, if selected, be promoted through every rank to Warrant Officer 1 during your career. Once you have become a Warrant Officer, you may then apply to be a Royal Signals Officer and, if accepted, be granted a Late Entry Commission as a Captain. Should you decide to leave the Army, at any stage, you will have learnt excellent skills for working in the 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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