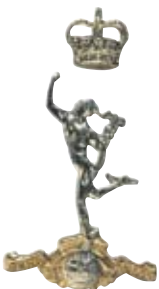


INTELLIGENCE, IT & COMMS

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 OPERATOR

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS OPERATOR ROYAL SIGNALS

SIG740/749 JE Updated May 2008

Provides and maintains the Army's radio and Information Systems out in the field, as well as its mobile communication networks

AT A GLANCE

ROLE Regular Soldier
TERRITORIAL ARMY OPTION No
SEX Male/Female
AGE RANGE 16 yrs – 17 yrs 1m
MIN SERVICE 4 yrs
QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED GCSEs or equivalent
MIN GRADE D in English Language plus Mathematics or a Science-based subject

The job

The Communication Systems Operator is the lynchpin to ensuring that the communications infrastructure, on which battle-winning information is passed, is provided for commanders, officers and troops. They are trained to engineer and operate secure digital radio systems, satellite communications and wide-area Information Systems networks. All the training is accredited, providing a fantastic portfolio of skills that are recognised outside of the Army. Simply, Communication Systems Operators are the most highly trained skilled operators in the British Army and their role offers huge variety of employment opportunities.

The right job for me?

Communication Systems Operators require an inquisitive mind with a flair for improvisation and an interest in Information Systems. They must be well motivated and willing to work as an individual or as part of a team. They also require determination to overcome unforeseen problems. They must have no speech defect or ear/hearing trouble.

What skills will I learn?

- You will be taught how to engineer and operate various communication systems, including analogue and secure digital radio, satellite equipment and Information Systems.
- You will also receive extensive computer systems training, procedures training, learn

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keyboard skills and complete elements of the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL).

- You will be taught how to drive a car and may learn to drive an LGV, both with and without trailers.

What training will I do?

■ Initial training

Your military career will start with 42 weeks at the Army Foundation College (AFC) Harrogate in North Yorkshire. 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. In addition to your military training you will take part in an education and leadership training package which includes adventurous training (climbing, abseiling and similar activities) and sport. The additional education offered at the AFC covers several Key Skills, including Level 2 in IT. All education is based on military topics and delivered by military and civilian staff. Although the training at AFC is hard work, you will remember it for the rest of your career as a soldier and at the end of it all 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 11 Signal Regiment Blandford Forum in Dorset, to commence trade training (Phase 2) at the Royal School of Signals for a 28-week course. You will be given a sound foundation in area communication systems and be taught how to use mobile multi-channel microwave radio relay, civilian and military satellite, and public switched telephone networks. You will also receive extensive Information Systems and procedures training, learn keyboard skills and complete elements of the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL).

What qualifications can I get?

You can achieve your Category B+E (car/trailer) driving licence at Phase 2 training. There are also opportunities to gain your Category C+E

(LGV/trailer) at Phase 2 training or in the Field Army. During trade training you can achieve elements of the ECDL at Level 1, Units 1, 2, 3 and 7. On completion of your trade training you will be eligible for Key Skills in Application of Number, Information and Communication Technology at Level 2 and a Technical Certificate in Telecommunications (AES). At a later stage you will be eligible for an NVQ Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship Communication Technologies Professional (ICTP) and if you are selected to become Yeoman of Signals you will undertake an EDEXCEL HND in Communications Systems Management. (All qualifications are subject to exam passes and practical experience.)

What future prospects and transferable skills will I have?

After basic and 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. Throughout your career you will be sent on further training courses to improve all aspects of your work. Promotion is earned and based upon experience, ability and merit. Upon reaching the rank of Sergeant, you may apply to become a Yeoman of Signals, which brings extra responsibility and qualifications. At the rank of Warrant Officer, you may 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 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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