

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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INSTALLATION TECHNICIAN (V) ROYAL SIGNALS

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Installs and maintains the Army's telephone systems and fibre-optic networks

AT A GLANCE

ROLE Territorial Soldier
SEX Male/Female
AGE RANGE 17–43 yrs
MIN SERVICE Initial 12-year contract with ability to leave at any time
QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED None

The job

Installation Technicians serve only in 81 Signal Squadron based in Corsham, Wiltshire, which employs technicians and IT engineers with directly transferable trade skills from across industry. They operate at the forefront of military communications technology, installing and repairing telephone systems and fibre-optic networks.

The right job for me?

You do not need to be super-fit to join the Territorials but the training can sometimes be physically challenging so you need a good standard of health and stamina. As part of a larger unit, an ability to take orders is essential, but you must also be able to act on your own initiative if the situation calls for it. To be an

Installation Technician, you will need to have at least some experience of installing cable infrastructures, local area networks (LANs), closed-circuit television (CCTV) and video-conferencing systems. You will also need IT and computing skills.

What skills will I learn?

As well as the opportunity to extend your existing trade skills, you can also opt to train as an Aerial Rigger, installing antenna systems on communication masts and towers. Later in your career, you may also be able to attend other trade courses in order to fill specific skill shortages and to develop project management skills.

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What training will I do?

■ Initial training

Recruits carry out a number of training weekends with their new unit and the nearest Regional Recruiting Team. After completing this series of weekend courses, you then attend a two-week residential course at an Army Training Regiment, where you complete your initial training. The whole process takes around 12 months and will equip you with the skills needed to fight and survive in the field, as well as boosting your fitness.

■ Further training

Any trade training you undertake will take place in unit and will be specific to future projects.

Your minimum annual training commitment is 19 days. This is broken down into 15 days of continuous training with your unit, either on exercises or on a course, and four days made up of weekend training and other activities. You might at first have to exceed the minimum requirement so you can get your qualifications.

What qualifications can I get?

You will have access to a Continuous Professional Development Plan and Personal Development Record. Together, these will help you identify and develop your skills, which may be of help to you in your civilian career and may lead to recognised civilian qualifications.

What future prospects and transferable skills will I have?

You will have opportunities to deploy with Regular units to places such as Cyprus, Brunei and the Falkland Islands, and undertake sporting and adventurous training activities in various parts of the world.

As well as keeping you fit and helping you make friends for life, being in the Army gives you a major advantage in the increasingly competitive job market. Employers recognise Territorial soldiers as committed individuals who work well in a team and who are always looking for challenges and opportunities to extend their skills. They will know you are flexible, self-motivated, dependable, confident

and responsible. Above all, being a Territorial soldier demonstrates that you can handle pressure, and have professional expertise backed up by solid experience.

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