



THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY

For three centuries the Household Cavalry, comprising of the two most senior Regiments of the British Army, The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals, have been the Monarch's trusted guardians. The sight of armoured soldiers riding through London is one of Britain's most iconic images. But they are also so much more. These troops are often Gunners, Signallers, Snipers, Paras, Forward Air Controllers and Surveillance Experts. Since 1660 Household Cavalry soldiers have ridden, operated and fought on battlefields from Waterloo to Afghanistan. Today, whether they are riding a horse or operating an Armoured Fighting Vehicle, they have one thing in common – excellence!

Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment

Once soldiers have completed Basic Training and Royal Armoured Corps training in Bovington they are posted to Windsor, where over 20 weeks they are taught the essential skills to become a Mounted Dutymen. These skills include how to ride, how to care for their horse and the art of riding whilst wearing Full State kit. Upon successful completion of the course they move to Knightsbridge and assume their place within the two squadrons in the Mounted Regiment. They will spend the next 18 – 24 months conducting State Ceremonies and Public Duties including The Queen's Birthday Parade, State Opening of Parliament and the Garter Service.



Household Cavalry Regiment

The Armoured Cavalry Regiment sees the Troopers swap their swords for a rifle as they take their place in one of three Sabre Squadrons. Whilst there they will operate the newest and most advanced Armoured Fighting Vehicle the British Army has to offer, the AJAX, within the new STRIKE Brigade. As the Brigade Commander's 'eyes and ears' the Regiment conducts reconnaissance tasks to fight for information. The Regiment also has their own organic specialist assets including Snipers, Javelin Anti-Tank operators, Assault Troopers and Forward Air Controllers.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can women serve in the Household Cavalry?

Yes, since the announcement by the Defence Secretary in July 2018 women have been allowed to serve in the Household Cavalry. The Regiment has taken the lead in integrating women into the Royal Armoured Corps.



How do I become a farrier?

All our soldiers are Mounted Dutymen first, you can only apply to become a farrier once you have completed a minimum of two years in the Troops at the Mounted Regiment. You will be assessed to ensure you have not only the physical strength to a farrier, but also the mental aptitude to learn the complex mechanics of a horse.



Where is the Household Cavalry based?

The Mounted Regiment is in the centre of London in Knightsbridge, with great access to the major attractions of London. The Armoured Regiment is currently located Bulford, Wiltshire. The move to Bulford saw the Regiment move into a brand-new camp with new technical accommodation and direct access onto the training area. This will allow them to make the most of the new AJAX vehicle as it comes into service.

Do I have to go to the Mounted Regiment?

Currently all Troopers are sent to the Mounted Regiment after completion of riding school. This provides them experience of the truly unique dual operational roles of the Household Cavalry. They will spend 18 - 24 months there before moving to the Armoured Regiment.

Do I have to be able to ride a horse?

No, all Household Cavalry soldiers attend the Mounted Dutymen course in the Household Cavalry Training Wing. The 20-week course is designed to take someone who has never seen a horse and provide them the skills needed to ride one-handed in 20kg of state kit in front of Her Majesty.

What is AJAX?

AJAX is the future of Armoured Fighting Vehicles in the British Army. It is a multi-role, fully-digitised armoured fighting vehicle which is a step-change in versatility and agility. The 40mm stabilised cannon can be fired on the move and the state-of-the-art optics enable the commander to see a kneeling soldier over 2kms away. The Regiment will be the first unit in the Army to receive AJAX and will be the first to use it operationally.

Can I be a sniper?

The Regiment has lots of specialist roles including Sniper, Joint Terminal Attack Controller, UAV operator and Anti-Tanks Operator. These roles are available to all soldiers, normally once they have gained their Royal Armoured Corps qualifications of Driver, Gunner and Signaller.

Below is a picture of LCpl Simon Maloney CGC (Sniper) awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross for his actions in combat in Afghanistan.



Will I deploy on tour?

The Household Cavalry is one of the most operationally deployed units in the army and has been involved in every major conflict since 1660. The Regiment currently has soldiers deployed in numerous countries around the world including Cyprus, Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Belize, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine.



Any further questions regarding service within the Household Cavalry or to arrange a visit, please contact the HCR Recruitment and Engagement Officer at HCR-Recruiting@mod.gov.uk



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT VIA:

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