Royal Signals
Leaders in a Digital Age
Who will you lead?
2 Brigades, 11 Regiments
53 Squadrons, 9000 Soldiers
One you
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By turning the page you’ve shown an interest. It’s a great start. Now why read on? This short booklet is designed to give you a feel for what it is like to lead soldiers in a digital age. It talks about our soldiers; fit, self-motivated, intelligent and capable. It provides a sense of their span of responsibilities: electronic warfare and cyber operations; digital and radio networks; computer application specialists; installation engineers and airborne and special forces soldiers. To lead this broad family of regular and reserve soldiers requires a special type of officer –
• dynamic
• team player
• adaptable and agile
• someone who cares

Think this could be you…then read on!
Leading the Highest Calibre

The Royal Signals is a family – working together to provide the best possible service for the rest of the Army. We select officers from across the country to fit into this family, encouraging each man and woman to use their talent, enthusiasm and experience in the on-going pursuit of excellence.

The soldiers we command are intelligent, innovative and specialists in their areas. They are experts in the equipment they use and can be relied upon to establish communications in the most challenging of environments. To lead such a high calibre of soldier we need officers who will always be a step ahead. Our officers are technically aware and intelligent – but it’s also about more than just technology. Our soldiers look up to their commanders and expect loyalty, integrity and determination. They need leaders who will bring out the best in them, encourage them to better themselves and who will create a close knit team who can achieve their goal on operations, when training and on the sports fields.

“Organising an expedition to take 12 soldiers trekking in Peru was an unbelievable opportunity. Seeing one of the wonders of the world with them was amazing”

Capt Samantha Miskelly
Leadership: a View From Our Soldiers

“Royal Signals officers must be robust, physically and emotionally. The junior soldiers want a role model – an officer who sets a high standard for physical and mental strength will get the best out of his troop”

Sergeant Michael Arnold

“The best officers I’ve seen are the ones who care about their soldiers. They care about the personal circumstances and always do what they can to help”

Signaller Reese Hutchinson

“I respect troop commanders who put their soldiers before themselves. They shouldn’t just look after their own careers or try to be the ‘big man’ – they should do the best by their soldiers”

Lance Corporal Rob Hitchmough

“The officers don’t always need to be the technical experts, but it’s great when they take an interest and trust the soldiers to give them the right advice”

Corporal Charlie Edwards
Before the First World War there were approximately 6000 signallers; by the end of World War Two there were over 150,000.
Leadership Variety: a Huge Range of Opportunities

Enabling the Highest Army Echelons
- Multi-role Signal Regiments, supporting Divisional Headquarters and Armoured Infantry Brigades, as well as the Strike Brigades of the future.
- Operating the Corps’ principle equipment – modern and advanced technology to provide information across the entire battlefield.

Rapid Reaction Units
- Regiments and Squadrons providing rapidly deployable capabilities anywhere in the world using cutting edge communications systems.
- Air Assault, Ground-to-Air communications for military aviation and working with our multi-national and tri-service allies

Specialist Capabilities
- Direct support to the Special Forces, deploying worldwide at short notice with specialist, highly technical equipment.
- Electronic Warfare, preventing our enemies from using electronic equipment and engaging in electronic attack to keep us a step ahead of our adversaries.
- Support across a wide range of Governmental organisations, providing covert communications in diverse locations.
- A fast-growing Cyber capability, taking the lead throughout the Army across the spectrum of information assurance and cyber defence and security.
Despatch riders became prominent at the retreat from Mons in 1914, proving themselves ideal for getting messages through roads congested with refugees and retreating troops. Their legacy lives on through the Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team – ‘The White Helmets’.
Qualifying You to Lead

Don’t be daunted, we will give you the skills to do your job. You can gain qualifications to Degree and Masters level or become a Chartered Engineer or Information Technology Professional:

• Communications Management
• Information Capability Management
• Cyberspace Operations
• Cyber Defence
• Systems Engineering
• ITIL

Not All Technical:
• Prince 2 Project Management
• MBA
• Programme Management

Over 50,000 miles of cable were laid before the Battle of the Somme in 1918, to enable commanders to control the battle via field telephones.
There are so many opportunities to gain good qualifications in the Royal Signals. I’ve just started an MSc in Cyber Defence which will open the door for some incredibly interesting roles, as well as prepare me well for future jobs outside of the Army.”

Captain James Smith
Leading in Combat and in Peace

The Royal Signals has deployed on every operation the Army has been involved in – reliable, innovative communications are a vital requirement in every possible situation.

From peace enforcement in Palestine in the 1940s and fighting alongside the Gloucesters at Imjin River in Korea in 1952 to taking the first prisoner of war in the first Gulf War and providing 3G networks for multinational forces in Sierra Leone in 2015, the Corps has always been in the thick of the action.

Whether fighting to set up complex computer and radio networks under fire or enabling communications for humanitarian missions, our officers have shown the versatility, strength of character and innovation to lead their soldiers to success.

Officers and soldiers of the Royal Signals deploy to an average of 65 countries annually. In recent years this has included continuing operations in Afghanistan, humanitarian assistance in Nepal and Sierra Leone and training allies in Nigeria, Mali and the Middle East. On every one of these operations the strong leadership skills, technical enterprise and relentless pursuit of excellence has been seen in our officers and our soldiers.

Royal Signals soldiers have been in the thick of the action in every conflict. Corporal Thomas Waters, of 5th Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron, was awarded the Military Medal for laying and maintaining the field telephone line across the Caen Canal Bridge under heavy fire during the Allied invasion of Normandy in 1944.
“Deploying to Sierra Leone with 48hrs notice put me on a steep learning curve. It was a privilege to have contributed to the recovery that the country has made and the experience I gained from this deployment has made me a much better Troop Commander.”

Lieutenant Joe Willden
Leading in Adventure and Competition

The Royal Signals has maintained a spirit of competition and adventure throughout years of operations and training. Our officers are expected to be at the forefront of this, using their leadership to develop initiative, team work and robustness amongst their soldiers. Opportunities for high level competitive sport and expeditions in far flung locations are boundless and junior officers are key to making them happen.
“The opportunities for sport in the Corps are tremendous – My favourites have been swimming across the Bosphorus, sailing across the Mediterranean and hiking the Drakensburg mountains. All have allowed me to develop my leadership skills in different and challenging environments as well as gain many different adventurous training qualifications”.

Captain Alice Thewlis

Recent Expeditions:
• High altitude trekking to Annapurna Base Camp, Nepal.
• 110km trek across the Costa Blanca Mountain Way, Spain.
• Alpine and Nordic Skiing in France, Italy and Austria.
• Trekking the Lares Trail to Macchu Pichu, Peru.
• Kayaking in the Norwegian fjords.

Royal Signals Sporting Achievements & Tours:
• Netball tour to Malta.
• Badminton tour to Hong Kong.
• Orienteering training camp in Scotland.
• Swimming training camp in Cyprus.

Soldiers and Officers excelling in a huge variety of sports:
• GB parachuting team.
• Army Rugby team for the Army vs Navy match at Twickenham.
• Inter-Corps Orienteering champions.
• Inter-Corps Dinghy Sailing champions.
• Representation in Army-level numerous sports, including rugby, athletics, sailing, skiing, snowboarding, squash, cycling and orienteering.
Leaders Under the Spotlight

Lieutenant Lyndsey Wood
I’ve had such a varied and exciting start to my life as an Officer within the Royal Signals. I consider myself to be extremely fortunate and privileged to hold the position I do.

I initially commanded a troop of 40 soldiers, during the introduction of Falcon to my Regiment. I had to learn my role quickly and no two days were the same. I have always been interested in the technical side of my role and was lucky enough to be selected to complete a Cyber Security internship with the US Air Force in America. I spent three hard but incredibly rewarding months alongside 34 other ‘cyber geeks’ honing my technical skills and delivering real-life solutions to cyber scenarios for military and commercial companies. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn from the very best; whilst there I learnt about a wide range of topics, from building a network through to mathematics and its application to cyber. The opportunity to work with both nations, and also different services and branches has been fantastic. I have learnt a huge range of skills that I can apply to my future jobs where I’ll be able to share my technical knowledge with the intelligent soldiers that I’ll be commanding.

I have been fortunate to run the Regimental Alpine Ski Team. This has seen me leading my soldiers in the Corps Ski Championships, taking part in Alpine Ski Racing for three years running. I have also had the opportunity to represent the Corps at rugby and football on many occasions. I’ve really enjoyed these opportunities to get to know more about the soldiers and to be able to see them enjoy the range of things available within the Royal Signals.
Captain Chris Darling
One of my first postings was to 22 Signal Regiment to provide close Communications and Information Systems (CIS) support to the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) Headquarters. The two years spent there seemed to fly by, as troop commander of both a technical network systems troop and training delivery troop interspersed with battle camps, adventurous training and charity events. Two months spent working at Greenwich Park during the 2012 London Olympics was also an unexpected bonus.

I am currently serving as a Squadron Operations Officer and have been lucky enough to deploy to Sierra Leone for six months on Op GRITROCK. A resurgence in Ebola cases saw me deployed to Kambia district on the Sierra Leone-Guinea border. There, I worked with the Department for International Development (DFID), the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) and numerous partner agencies including the WHO, UNICEF and the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The time spent there was undoubtedly the highlight of my Army career to date. I had the opportunity to visit remote communities and work with a wide range of nationalities and personalities in delivering a humanitarian response that was truly making a difference.

My first five years in the Royal Corps of Signals have been more varied than I could expect from almost any other career. I have met interesting people, seen unexpected places and had a chance to develop myself personally; I am soon to finish a distance learning BSc – an opportunity made available through the Corps – and have a number of Masters opportunities available in the future.
Become Part of the Family

To provide the vast and varied range of capabilities that we operate, Royal Signals officers are the best, the brightest and the most technically adaptable. They must be able to meet the challenges of command in the digital age of information warfare.

The Royal Signals family is one that cares for every soldier and officer. Our soldiers are our greatest asset and we need leaders who will nurture, develop and look after them.

Will you be part of this family?

Let your curiosity take you further…