



A COMMISSION IN THE ROYAL SIGNALS




ARMY
OFFICER

COMMAND AND CONTROL

36 soldiers, 15 armoured vehicles and millions of pounds worth of equipment. This could be you. A young Royal Signals officer with your first command. Each of these soldiers is a specialist skilled tradesman; each of these vehicles contains valuable communications equipment. It is your responsibility to lead those men and organise and manage your communications resources.

Their training, welfare and career development depend on you. They are already trained soldiers, but you will be responsible for keeping them up to standard and getting the best out of them in all the military skills necessary for success on the modern battlefield.

It takes 4 months of specialised training to become a fully fledged Royal Signals officer after completing your training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. You will have been trained in basic military and leadership skills at Sandhurst, but after your specialised Royal

Signals training you will become an officer with a difference, one with an understanding of communications, IT and electronic warfare — a real challenge.

The Royal Corps of Signals provides the combat specialists in command and control communications, and Electronic Warfare (EW). We are the sinews of command, without which a General cannot control his army. We serve all three services: Navy, Army and Air Force, in support of the land battle. Ever since 1920, when the Corps was formed to be responsible solely for communications, our importance in modern warfare has been unquestionable.

Life in the Royal Corps of Signals is demanding and rewarding. It will take every ounce of energy, initiative and ingenuity that you possess. It is never dull. There will always be new

techniques to learn and new situations with which to deal. For those who can rise to the challenge, the rewards are many.



THE ELECTRONIC BATTLE

The British Army, together with the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and our Allies, has the dual role of keeping the peace, whilst remaining fully prepared for the defence of Western Europe. It is a thoroughly professional force; highly mobile in the most up-to-date vehicles, and better equipped, with more complex weapons systems, than ever before.

However, no matter how well an Army is equipped, it can only be as good as its command and control communications systems. The speedy and accurate passage of information and intelligence, together with rapid dissemination of orders and instructions are vital to effective command and control.

The need to exploit EW as a weapons system in its own right is also of paramount importance. EW is a vital wartime operation. Its aims are to disrupt enemy combat radio communications by jamming or interception, and to derive intelligence on hostile movements and intentions. Whoever succeeds in exploiting the potential of EW gains a decisive advantage. It is the task of Royal Signals to fight and win the electronic battle.



The expertise we have gained in providing such diverse communications skills is second to none. This knowledge is also tapped by industry in the design philosophy and development of military communications systems. The Royal Corps of Signals assists in the assessment and trial of such systems to be sold worldwide.



THE ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICER



As a Royal Signals officer, male or female, you are first and foremost a soldier and a leader. Given a military task, men and equipment, you must be able to carry out that task with speed in any situation. As a communicator you must provide, operate and maintain essential and sophisticated communications links for commanders in the field.

change in the battle situation, and you will be depended upon to ensure that your Commander always has the communications necessary to fight his battle. This close cooperation with senior officers early in your career, gives you a valuable insight into the workings of higher command and an overall appreciation of how Army formations actually operate in the field.

You will be faced with numerous different tasks. In the early part of your career the Corps will aim to give you the maximum variety of postings so that you will gain the wide experience necessary to become a competent Royal Signals officer. You could command a troop in an Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, an Air Support Signal Squadron, a SAS Signal Squadron... the list goes on and on.



The soldiers you will command are of a particularly high calibre, skilled in electronic warfare and communications engineering trades. Sometimes you may be commanding soldiers whose general standard of education is very close to your own, and you will certainly be kept on your toes!

The Corps is always active whether in peace or war. As a Signals officer you will always be in the centre of the action. As a famous American General once said, "Congress can make a general, but only communications can make a Commander." Your importance in the scheme of military affairs is therefore quite unique, you will be in close and continuous contact with the Commander — unusual for your age and experience. You will be among the first to know of any

You will find that a close relationship of mutual respect and trust will grow between you and your soldiers. They will depend on you for guidance, advice and encouragement. They will look to you for help with any problems they may have in their Army or family life. You will need to become a good listener and to develop sympathy and understanding for people. The importance of this cannot be overestimated... it is the very essence of being an Army officer.

Even as a junior officer you could have equipment under your charge worth millions of pounds: radio transmitters and receivers, satellite terminals, computers, generators and vehicles. You will be responsible for ensuring that this equipment is ready for use at all times.

Royal Signals officers serve wherever the British Army is deployed. Recently, this has included the Falklands, Namibia, Iraq, Turkey, Cyprus, Belize and so on. The opportunities for travel are endless.

Life in the Corps is great fun. As a single officer you will live in the Mess with your colleagues and you will enjoy a very active social life. There is also time to relax in the

comfortable surroundings of the Mess.

Sport and adventurous training play an important part in Army life. Royal Signals are proud of having recently been Army Champions in most major sports including football, hockey and rugby. But all standards of participants are catered for. Units provide facilities for most sports such as cricket, tennis, golf, squash, fencing, volleyball and so on.

Adventurous training is well supported throughout the Corps and we have our own sea-going yachts. Financial support is offered for canoeing, sailing, skiing, subaqua, rockclimbing and other adventurous pursuits. All young officers are encouraged to lead an expedition during their first tour of duty.



RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

The Royal Signals needs officers who are bright, articulate and highly motivated. If you have the potential, we will train you thoroughly, but first you must prove that you have the qualities we are looking for. Short Service and Regular Commissions are available; and you may apply for the Army Scholarship and University Bursar and Cadetship schemes.

Recruitment

We will invite you to The Royal School of Signals at Blandford for a two day visit during which you will be briefed on the role of the Corps, and meet young officers with whom you can talk freely about a commission in the Royal Signals.

You then attend a Regular Commissions Board (RCB) Briefing to familiarise you with the procedures at RCB before returning to Blandford for a Selection Board to confirm your suitability for the Corps. Your next step is to pass the RCB and enter the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Throughout this chain of events you could, if you wished, be attached to a Royal Signals unit to gain greater knowledge of the Corps. Attachments are normally in holiday periods.

Entry Qualifications

For a Short Service or a regular Commission you need 5 GCSE passes (C or above) and 2 A Levels in academic subjects which include English, mathematics and a science or a foreign language. We do need graduates in Electrical Engineering, IT and related subjects, but we are also looking for high achievers in all disciplines, including the Arts. The training we give you is designed to cope with a variety of entry standards, providing you have the basic academic grounding.

Training

The Commissioning Course at Sandhurst lasts 44 weeks. On leaving Sandhurst, you will be attached to a Royal Signals unit to familiarise yourself with the Corps and with soldiers before attending the Troop Commanders' Course. This Course lasts 4 months and covers everything from basic technology and communications techniques to

detailed military and administrative skills. Instruction is both practical and intensive, but there will be time to enjoy the superb sports and leisure facilities.



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

After your Troop Commander's Course, you will be posted to command a troop, putting into practice all you have learned and getting to know the soldiers under your command. In other words, applying your professional knowledge to actual situations, and establishing your own personal pattern of leadership.



From here you could take various career paths. Whether you are a graduate or not, you will, as a captain, attend a junior Staff Officers Course and will have the opportunity to study for Staff Course selection. Attendance on the Staff Course leads to a MSc, MA or Diploma in Defence Technology depending on the

level of your achievement.

During your first appointment, if you are a non-graduate or a graduate with a non-technical degree, you will attend a 3 week Technical Module at the Royal School of Signals. This is to give you sufficient technical background to meet your future challenges. There are perfectly good and rewarding careers in the Royal Signals for non-graduates and non-technical officers.

Non-graduates may also be selected for an 'in-service degree' course at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. If you have appropriate 'A' levels you could be selected for an Engineering course, which has degree status, at the Royal School of Signals.

There are also opportunities to study for Defence Fellowships leading to Masters Degrees in a range of subjects including Electronic Systems Engineering, Defence Administration and Information Systems. Your employment and qualifications may carry with them eligibility for entrance to membership of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

As you can see, a wide range of career paths is available to you. Whatever your academic qualifications may be, there is the opportunity to make the best of yourself in the Royal Signals.



YOUR NEXT STEP

We hope that we have answered some of your questions about the Royal Signals and demonstrated the diverse range of opportunities available to you. If you are interested in a commission with us, whether short service or regular, you must come to visit us at Blandford. It gives you a chance to meet and talk to young officers already training and see some of our equipment; and gives us a chance to interview you with a view to sponsoring you for a commission.



As a first step, either make contact with your Army Schools or University Liaison Officer through your Careers Staff, or with us:

**Officer Recruiting
SORLS**

**Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals
Blandford Camp
BLANDFORD FORUM
Dorset DT11 8RH**

Telephone: 01 258 482382



The contents of this leaflet are intended as a guide and cannot be quoted as an authority.

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The Army welcomes applications from eligible candidates no matter what their marital status, race, ethnic origin or religious belief. The Army is committed to being an Equal Opportunities Employer and has a strict code of conduct covering racial or sexual discrimination and harassment.

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