

Armed forces officer



<p>James Corporal, Commando Recruitment Team</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Show transcript</p>	<p>Corporal Pete Dobson Network Engineer</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Show transcript</p>	<p>James Corporal, Cor</p>
<p>CREATED WITH Royal Navy ></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Connect</p>	<p>CREATED WITH The British Army ></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Connect</p>	<p>CREATED WITH Royal Navy ></p>

What you'll do

Officers work as part of a country's army, air force or navy to protect its civilians. They hold a position of authority and are responsible for a team of soldiers. Within a country's armed forces, there are usually many specialist roles to choose from, including:

Army

- household cavalry officer (lead a troop of armoured cavalry vehicles and soldiers in combat)
- officer pilot (fly and command military helicopters)
- infantry officer (command frontline soldiers)

Air Force

- weapon systems officer (manage a mission crew of weapon systems operators)
- air operations systems officer (run airfield operations and monitor suspicious air activity)
- regiment officer (lead a flight of gunners to protect aircraft, people, and bases)

Navy

- warfare intelligence officer (deliver intelligence to commanders on operations)
- submarine officer (be responsible for sonar, tactical kit and communication systems)
- logistics officer (manage equipment and supplies for humanitarian aid and combat missions)

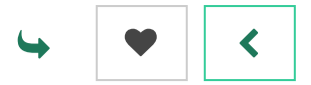
N.B. the name of a role can differ from country to country. For full details on the range of roles available to you, take a look at the websites for your country's army, air force, or navy.

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool >](#)

Working hours and environment

Depending on your role and regiment, you may be based in an office, engineering workshop, or field hospital.

Armed forces officer



You could be posted overseas, and may be away from your family for long periods of time. Your work could be physically tiring and could involve dangerous situations. You'll have a high level of responsibility for the safety of yourself and others.

Career path and progression

With experience, you could be promoted to a higher rank (such as a lieutenant). If you're a graduate, you may be able to get a faster promotion through the ranks.

When you leave the armed forces, you could move into a wide range of careers, including management or teaching.

The type of career open to you will depend on the skills, training and qualifications you gained whilst serving.

The [Officer's Association](#) gives advice and support to officers on finding a career outside the armed forces. [The Career Transition Partnership](#) and [Quest](#) also have information on careers outside the armed forces.

Skills required

You'll need:

- leadership skills, including the ability to assess those under your command. You'll need to inspire your team to get the job done, and to trust in your decisions.
- accountability: you have a team who look up to you and trust you, so if you've done something wrong, you need to be able to hold your hand up and say, 'sorry, that's my fault.' It'll help keep them safe, and it'll encourage them to do the same.
- confidence, so you can communicate clearly and make important decisions to protect others.
- good physical fitness levels and stamina.
- working under pressure: you'll need to be able to work calmly in high-pressure situations where people's safety is at stake.
- balance: you need to know when to switch that mindset from having fun, to doing a job to the best of your ability when things get serious.

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

Entry requirements

Entry requirements for this role vary around the world, but typically you'll need:

- to meet a minimum age requirement (usually 17 years old)
- proof of your high school/sixth form grades
- to be in good health and physically fit
- evidence of extracurricular activities like sports
- evidence of leadership or volunteering experience
- a letter of recommendation

You'll then usually need to undergo training. For example, you can become a British Army officer by training at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst following secondary education, higher education, or employment. Or to become a US Army officer you'll need to complete four years of military training, e.g. through the Army Reserves Officers Training Corps.

Some specialist roles (e.g. surgeon or engineer) and some countries also ask for a degree, and you can often apply for a bursary towards the cost of studying or complete your study whilst training.

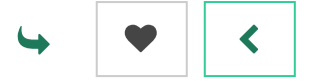
In the US, you can also get into the army by direct appointment. So you could be working in another field, like medicine or engineering, and be appointed to a military role based on your experience.

Related know-how guides

Explore know-how guides related to this career:

- [Employer profile: British Army, the land branch of the British Armed Forces](#) >

Armed forces officer



- Employer profile: Royal Navy, the maritime branch of the British military

Related courses

Explore courses related to this career:

- Find where you belong: your guide to British Army careers and rewards
- Virtual work experience with the British Army

Related university subjects

These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the Subjects library:

- Politics and International relations
- Sport science
- Logistics and Industrial engineering

Related careers

You may also be interested in:

- Armed forces personnel
- Police officer

Explore

Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

Politics and International relations at uni:



Sport science at uni:



Logistics and Industrial engineering at uni:



Apprenticeships:



College / Sixth Form:



Labour Market Information (LMI)

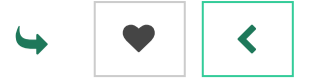
Median averages relating to the Armed forces officer profession.



Jobs

Senior officers in protective services

Armed forces officer



168 in your local area of Liverpool

Top 5 local areas

1	Hampshire	3,031
2	Wiltshire	2,467
3	Lincolnshire	1,891
4	Oxfordshire	1,506
5	Suffolk	1,373

Salaries

Armed forces officers

£44,840

(Not enough data for this region) in your region of North West

Hours/week

Armed forces officers

Growth

2020-2035

Corporate managers and directors

-1% ↓ 25,076 jobs

-2.2% in your region of North West, an decrease of 5,063 jobs

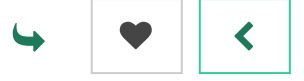
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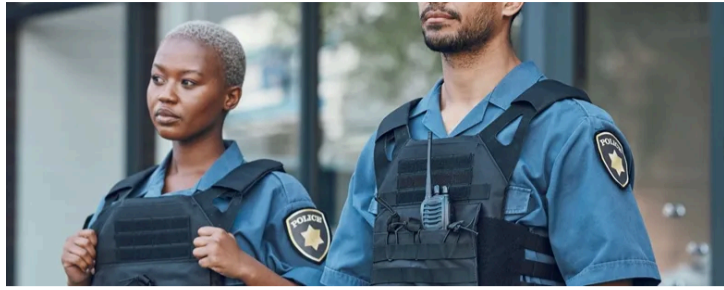
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Tyrone
Lance Corporal - RAF Regiment



Armed forces personnel



Armed forces personnel defend the interests of a country by taking part in peacekeeping missions, supporting humanitarian efforts, or fighting in combat zones.

[Read the profile >](#)

Police officer



A police officer keeps law and order, investigates crime, and supports crime prevention

[Read the profile >](#)

Sports professional

Sports professionals are paid to train and compete in their chosen sport

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