

Armed Forces & Security

The UK Armed Forces are made up of three specialist branches:

- The Royal Navy and Royal Marines
- The British Army
- The Royal Air Force

Their role is to protect and defend the United Kingdom and its overseas territories by land, sea and air. Within each branch of the Armed Forces, there are many different jobs which can be performed, some which are based here in the UK, and others which involve traveling and you have the opportunity to travel and experience other areas in the world!

There are currently around 153,000 employed in the British armed forces. 56% of this figure is in the Army with the remainder split between the Royal Navy and RAF.

Army

The Army is the main land-based fighting force of the United Kingdom.

There are many different roles within the army. However, no matter what position you take, you will need to have certain qualities. These include discipline, stamina and a sense of responsibility. If you want to advance to a high rank, having strong leadership skills is also essential.

If you join the army, you must be prepared to work anywhere in the UK or abroad.

Navy

The Navy is the UK's sea-based fighting force.

Servicemen and women in the Navy are called Ratings. Ratings can work in a variety of fields, including weapons, engineering and aircraft handling.

There are many opportunities to progress and become an Officer and for this you need strong leadership skills. In this role you will manage a team of servicemen and women.

Serving in the Navy can mean you are away at sea for long periods of time.

RAF

The RAF are the armed force who protect the skies for the United Kingdom and also work with international partners to watch the skies, respond to threats, prevent conflict, and provide assistance in an uncertain world.

All of the Armed Forces have to be ready at a moment's notice, night or day, 365 days a year and 24 hours a day.

For all of the Armed Forces there are a variety of different opportunities and the entry criteria varies from one job to another.

When applying to join the Armed Forces you have to:

- Pass an interview
- Pass Maths / English psychometric tests
- Pass a medical
- Pass a fitness test - this varies depending on the role you are applying for and the age at which you are looking to enter at. Details of the exact requirements for the various roles are on the Armed Forces web-page.

All of the Armed Forces have opportunities for young people to join from 16. If you are looking to apply once you have completed Year 11 please be aware you need to be 15 and 7 months to start the application process.

If you are applying and under the age of 18 you will need parental consent to enable you to apply.

Security

Working in security can offer a variety of different opportunities. These can include:

- Private security guard
- Security Officer

- Cyber Security
- Prison Officer

As a Security Officer, you are responsible for protecting individuals, property, cash and valuable products. You could be based at one place, such as a factory, shopping center or office block. You might, for example:

- check cars in and out
- patrol the site
- check that windows and doors are locked at night
- prevent people from stealing goods
- use closed-circuit television

Some Security Officers drive around to several sites. Others patrol with dogs. Security Van Drivers make sure that money and valuable items are collected and taken safely from one place to another.

To become a Security Officer, you will need:

- to be honest, responsible and alert
- common sense and a practical approach
- good communication skills
- to be fit and active

Contracted Security Officers must be at least 18 years of age to hold a Security Industry Authority (SIA) license. Training is on- and off-the-job.

Links to find out more about careers in the Armed Forces and Security:

Careers in the RAF Careers and benefits of joining the RAF Understanding the 63 different job roles in the RAF	Life in the RAF Royal Air Force RAF Recruitment Career and Benefits Royal Air Force RAF Roles Royal Air Force
RAF Intelligence role	https://recruitment.raf.mod.uk/intelligence?utm_source&utm_medium=Video&utm_campaign=PP10&fbclid=IwAR19H1KkYimTpPBF8SRPAwLpVc36ZxLrABCcGZnVI3vjha-rj3xFncyLGlg_aem_ATq543jSsXgkNfoteTKCAITwOaMDpfjbckFk4sLVIVD0W0C0YrboTcHvua3XNwOxO8BcfpXh2iOgHV0NkSXI8sQc
Careers in the Royal Navy Specialisms within the Royal Navy Role finder with over 100 jobs to choose from Entry Criteria and am I eligible to join the Royal Navy	Royal Navy Jobs Careers in the Navy & Royal Marines Roles and specialisations Role Finder Search Jobs in the Royal Navy Royal Navy Ratings Eligibility and Entry Requirements

Fitness test information / criteria Aptitude test	Royal Navy Fitness Test Stages and Standards of Fitness Defence Aptitude Assessment Practice Tests Royal Navy (mod.uk)
Careers in the Royal Marines Aptitude test information	Royal Navy Jobs Who are the Marines? Defence Aptitude Assessment Practice Tests Royal Navy (mod.uk)
Careers in the Army Army Life Initial Army Training Apprenticeships in the Army	How to Join & Start Your Army Career Join as a Regular Soldier British Army Initial Training The British Army (mod.uk) Apprenticeships & skills (mod.uk)
Listen to Naomi's story on being a soldier in the Army	How to become a soldier - BBC Bitesize
Listen to Caitlyn's story on being a Junior Soldier	How to become a junior soldier: Caitlyn's story - BBC Bitesize
Workplace Wednesday - RAF	https://youtu.be/8MyB6m0gcZU

How to become a Security Officer	https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/security-officer
MI5 - various areas	Careers MI5 - The Security Service

Videos

HD & Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses	HD & Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses British Army Pirbright
Army jobs	Army Jobs - YouTube
How to pass the RAF fitness test	HOW TO PASS the RAF Fitness Test