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One of your most important decisions ever starts here...

This brochure is for you if you want to know more about life in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines. It gives you an idea of the opportunities on offer.

Read it to help you decide whether the challenges and rewards of a career in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines are for you.

Take the first step in what could be one of the best decisions you ever make.

...this is what you need to do to make it happen.

Then, read one of these

There are seven brochures that tell you about the different groups in the Royal Navy you could work in. We call them branches, but in a civilian company they might call them departments. For example, if you are interested in mechanics, electronics and how things work, you can read about all the opportunities in the

Engineering Branch.
There are special brochures about the Fleet Air
Arm, the Royal Marines and the Royal Marines Band Service, too.



Last, read one of these

When you know which branch would suit you, there is a factsheet about every job you can apply for in the Royal Navy. There are 36 of these. They will help you make your final decision. All Royal Marines recruits are required to successfully complete their Commando training before specialising, so all the information about Royal Marines careers is in one brochure called *The*

Royal Marines Commandos: A guide to careers.



When you have read them, you will have all the information you need to begin your application to join.



The Royal at work

Join the Royal Navy or Royal Marines and you will be part of a team that does not stand still.

As the world changes with ever increasing speed, we have a very important role to play and many duties to perform.



>Navy slang

Wet

Any drink, but usually a cup of tea or coffee, or a pint of beer.

Above all else, the Royal Navy is a highly flexible fighting force whose duty it is to protect the people and the interests of the UK. Since the end of the Cold War we have been called on to help resolve many conflicts around the world.

To be sure that we remain one of the most highly respected fighting forces in the world, the Royal Navy has to be constantly prepared for whatever situation we might have to face. For our personnel, this means training throughout their careers so they are able to use the latest equipment and systems. It also means taking part in exercises (sometimes called 'war games')

tasks to perform, including:

- helping to police the world's oceans to prevent international smuggling, illegal trade, terrorism and pollution;
- helping deliver humanitarian relief when natural or manmade disasters happen around the world;
- protecting the UK's ports and merchant ships;
- monitoring the weather and ocean conditions and surveying coastlines and oceanbeds to refine and update the navigational charts in use by sailors worldwide; and
- promoting international goodwill by co-operating with armed forces of other governments.



At the sharp end

In recent years, personnel of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines have seen active service in the Gulf region, the Balkans, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone, to name just a few.

Active duty in UK waters

The Royal Navy protects UK ports and shipping from the threats of terrorism, drug smuggling, illegal fishing and pollution. To do this our ships, submarines and aircraft patrol an area of sea that covers over 80,000 square miles around our coastline.

Policing the world's oceans

Ships of the Royal Navy regularly patrol waters around the Caribbean, Cyprus, Gibraltar, the Gulf and the Falkland Islands to provide defence or act as a deterrent against terrorism, illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

Royal Marines Commandos also regularly work alongside their counterparts in the Surface Fleet as members of the Fleet Standby Rifle Troop – a rapid-response Task Group, which has the specialist skills to board and search ships quickly and effectively, if required.

Nuclear deterrent

Trident is the weapon system that provides the UK's nuclear deterrent. The Submariners of the Royal Navv's ballistic submarines are the sole custodians of this system. They operate out of a Naval Base in Faslane, Scotland.

Humanitarian relief

Following recent catastrophes, Royal Navy personnel have helped restore power to hospitals, assisted hard-pressed medical teams and cleared runways so that emergency relief flights could land. In addition to helping with these relief efforts, the Royal Marines also act to secure disaster-hit areas so that aid teams can operate safely and efficiently.



to attack ships and other submarines. With their sophisticated weaponry, they can also strike targets on land up to 1,000 miles away, with pinpoint accuracy. Their stealth abilities make them ideal for surveillance - able to monitor surface ships closely, while remaining undetected. The Royal Navy has two main types of submarine: Vanguard Class ballistic submarines and Fleet submarines, also known as attack submarines.



The Fleet Air Arm

The helicopters, jets and other aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm – the Royal Navy's air force – add to the Royal Navy's effectiveness in combat, by allowing targeted attacks from ships that can remain at a safe distance from hostile shores. However, combat is by no means the only role that they play – anti-smuggling and anti-terrorism missions are all within the capability of the Fleet Air Arm. Its aircraft can transport troops and equipment, undertake reconnaissance, assist in medical evacuations and provide crucial aid in humanitarian relief efforts.

Poyal Navy

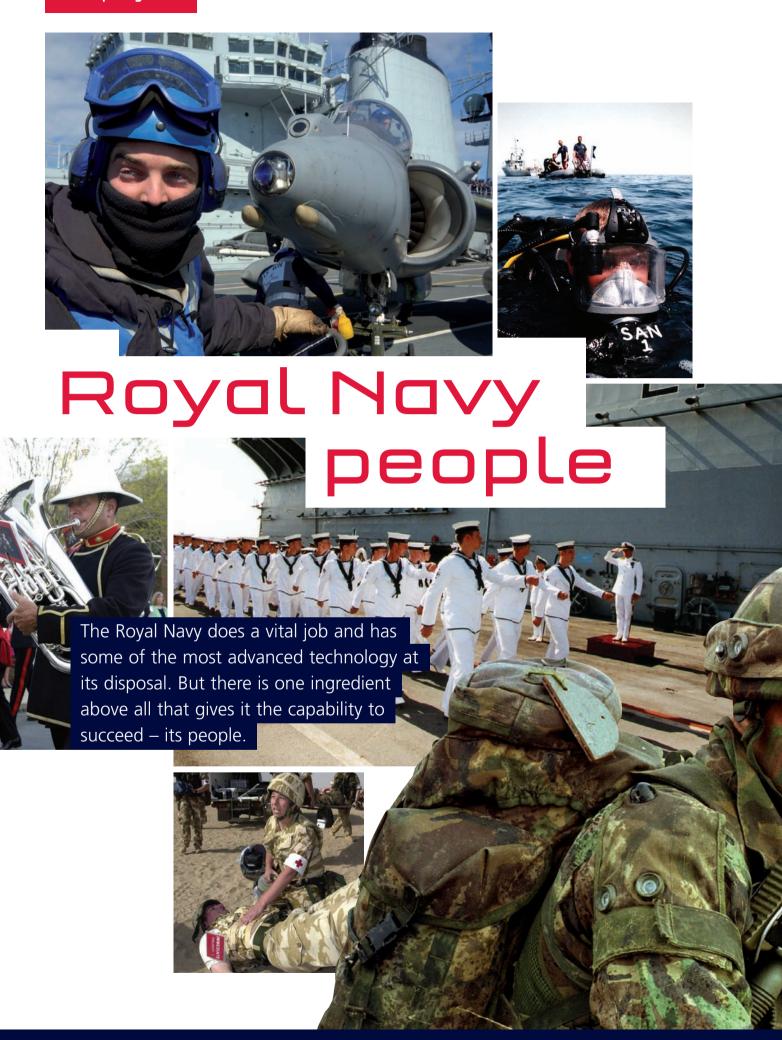
The Surface Fleet

The warships of the Royal Navy make up the Surface Fleet. Aircraft carriers provide a platform for Royal Navy helicopters and fixed-wing fighter aircraft wherever they are needed in the world. Destroyers and frigates provide the backbone of the Fleet. Destroyers are best equipped to defend against attacks from the air; frigates to fight other ships and submarines. They are able to operate efficiently both in large Task Groups or patrolling on their own. Besides these, there are many other kinds of ships in the Fleet, from the amphibious ships used to transport and deploy the Royal Marines, to mine countermeasures vessels, offshore patrol vessels and survey ships.



The Royal Marines The Royal Marines are the amphibious

Commandos of the Royal Navy. Commando units can, and often do, deploy anywhere in the world at short notice and are equally at home in mountains, desert, jungle or the Arctic. They are equipped with a wide variety of specialised weapons and equipment. These combined with their unique training and determination to succeed, enable the Royal Navy and Royal Marines team to launch hard-hitting assaults by land, sea or air.



Combat-capable

We have some of the world's most sophisticated naval weapons and defensive systems at our disposal. But all that firepower would be useless without the knowledge and skills of our people. It is they who know how to handle our ships and submarines in the most challenging conditions – they who can work as a team to identify and, if necessary, destroy military threats.

It is the people of the Warfare Branch who are directly responsible for navigating the ships and submarines, and operating weapons and defensive systems. For more about what they do, see page 24.

Commando spirit

Royal Marines of all ranks undergo the same Commando training – one of the world's longest and toughest military courses. The values of the Royal Marines – courage, determination, cheerfulness and unselfishness – are instilled during this time, together with the necessary professionalism. Only



All Royal Marines begin their career as a General Duties
Commando. Most go on to take a Specialist or Technical qualification, for example as a Heavy Weapons Specialist, a Mountain Leader or Assault Engineer, but first and

foremost they remain Royal Marines Commandos. For more information, see page 26.



Like a well-oiled machine

The Royal Navy relies heavily on equipment, from the engines that power our ships to the computer systems that control our sensors and weapons. The same equipment and systems that provide our firepower and enable us to operate in harsh conditions at sea have to be kept constantly in peak condition. But it is our people who understand how they work, know how to fix them if they wear out or get damaged, and know how to keep them working efficiently.

People in the Engineering Branch ensure that all the vital systems are ready for use whenever they are needed. For more about what they do, see page 28.

In the right place at the right time

Thousands of spare parts and supplies are needed to maintain the systems that the Royal Navy relies on, and the people who operate them must be fed, paid and given the support they need. Thanks to the skills of Royal Navy people, all this happens 24 hours a day, 365 days a year throughout the world. They are the ones who make sure that every operation and exercise runs like clockwork.

People of the Logistics Branch have the skills and systems to supply and store spare parts, feed everyone on board and carry out vital administrative tasks. For more about what they do, see page 30.

High-flying

The Royal Navy is just as capable in the air as it is on the sea. Our aircraft perform many roles, including combat, submarine hunting, anti-smuggling and anti-terrorism missions. They are used to transport troops and equipment, undertake reconnaissance, assist in medical evacuations and provide crucial aid in humanitarian relief efforts. But it's thanks to the skills of the people who fly or maintain our helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft that we have an airborne capability which can operate at short notice, in all conditions.

For more about jobs in the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm, see page 32.

Life-savers

Health and medical services are vital to the Royal Navy. Without healthy people, we simply cannot operate effectively. Royal Navy people provide the skills to prevent illness and disease in times of peace, as well as tending to the sick or injured during conflict. Whether at sea or on land, the Royal Navy regards its highly skilled medical personnel as an indispensable part of the team.

People of the Medical Branch provide the full range of healthcare and dental services. For more about what they do, see page 34.

Masters of military presentation

The Royal Marines Band Service (RMBS) prides itself on the standards of military musical talent that it displays. It is thanks to the skills and discipline of the Musicians and Buglers that the Bands communicate the excellence of the Service at a huge range of events, and represent the UK and its proud traditions through their public appearances. RMBS members are also casualty handlers in the Medical Branch during wartime or humanitarian relief operations.

For more about the Royal Marines Band Service, see page 36.



Pay

Pay in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines compares well with civilian life. As well as basic pay, we offer extra money for special skills, specialist service (in submarines and aircraft for example) and for qualifications and skills gained. Ask at your local Armed Forces Careers Office to see our latest rates of pay.

As well as the pay, there are many other attractive benefits.

Job security

The Royal Navy and Royal Marines offer a very stable and secure career. Ratings and other ranks are employed on a Full Career, which is 18 years or to age 40, whichever is later. Most can submit 12 months' notice to leave when they have completed at least two-and-a-half years' service after their initial training. Some shorter careers may be offered, depending on the needs of the Service. For full details, contact your local AFCO. Officers join on an Initial Commission of up to 12 years.

>Navy slang

Bootneck

A Royal Marines Commando. The name comes from the piece of leather that they used to have on the collar of their uniform.

Training

The Royal Navy is one of the largest training organisations in the UK, with a range of professional training courses which last anything from a few days to several years. Most of the courses lead to qualifications that are recognised outside the Royal Navy, which means you can easily transfer your skills if you decide to leave.

Sport and fitness

You will have free access to highquality sports facilities in every shore establishment and in most ships. There are also many established sporting events and leagues in which you can take part, including football and rugby. The Service also offers 'adventurous training', which is designed to build your character. It includes activities like skiing, mountaineering, parachuting or jungle expeditions.

Medical and dental benefits

You will have free access to full medical and dental care.

Accommodation

Your accommodation at sea is free, and the Royal Navy and Royal Marines also offer heavily subsidised accommodation when you are working and living ashore. You will be able to take advantage of single accommodation in shore establishments or within a Royal Marines barracks, or rented family housing for married personnel and those with children.

Leave

The Service offers six weeks' paid leave each year, plus public holidays.

If you leave

There is a generous resettlement package for anyone who chooses to leave and take up a job in the civilian world. It currently includes up to 11 weeks' paid leave and financial grants to help you find a new job and settle back in to civilian life.

Pension

Retirement may seem like a long way off, but the Royal Navy likes to invest in the long-term future of its people. The pension package that the Royal Navy offers is one of the most generous available. It is non-contributory, which means you do not have to pay anything towards it out of your salary. The amount you receive when you retire is based on the salary you are paid at the time you leave, and time served.

Lifelong learning

Everyone in the Royal Navy has the opportunity to study for extra qualifications regardless of their rank. Many training courses lead, either wholly or in part, to civilian-recognised qualifications. Alternatively, you can study towards academic, practical or recreational awards within the Royal Navy itself. Many people who join the Service with no formal qualifications gain GCSEs, A-levels or even degrees while serving.



Generous levels of financial support are available for external training, whether directly relevant to the Royal Navy or not, mainly under two different schemes. As part of the Standard Learning Credit Scheme, we will give you up to £175 every year for all kinds of training courses. The other is called the Enhanced Learning Credits Scheme, which is available to people who have completed a minimum period of service. Under this you qualify for awards of up to £6,000 over three years, which you can use for training as much as ten years after you leave the Royal Navy.





pay at royalnavy.mod.uk/careers or by calling our helpline on 08456 07 55 55.

With the combination of highly competitive pay, a host of attractive benefits and the sort of job security that is almost unheard of these days, the Royal Navy offers a package that is hard to beat.

The Royal Navy and Royal Marines offer so much more than just a job. How do you like the idea of skiing in the Alps or taking up skydiving? Or how about just hanging out with a great group of people and watching your favourite film?

...and it's not all work

>Navy slang

Speed march

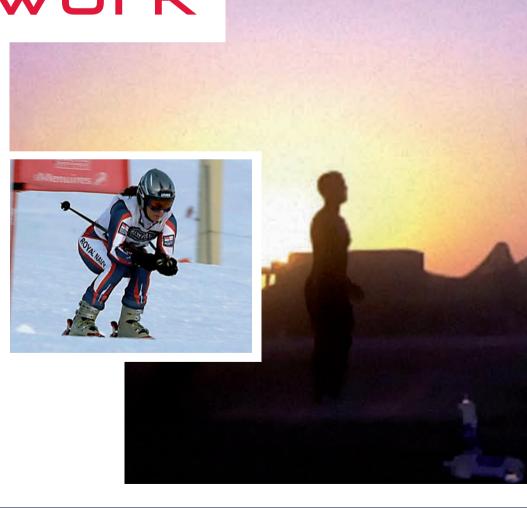
Royal Marines term for running in formation, at an average speed of 6mph, while carrying your weapon, webbing and survival equipment, at the end of which you will have to be fit to fight.

Yomp

Marching quickly over long distances while carrying full kit and weapon – everything you need.

Bimble

Anything slower than a 'yomp'!



See the world

As part of the Royal Navy you will see some amazing places – and not just from aboard a ship. Once you complete your duties in port you will get the chance to explore, which means you could experience the nightlife in Hong Kong or the laidback surf lifestyle of the Californian coast. If you join the Royal Marines, you will be travelling a lot too – not only on operations but also for training and carrying out exercises with other forces. You will certainly get to see a whole lot more of the world.

Be adventurous

Step out of your comfort zone and experience an adrenaline rush. Our 'adventurous training' courses could find you sub-aqua diving in the Red Sea, snowboarding in the Alps or taking part in African expeditions. From learning to cave in North Yorkshire to hang-gliding in alpine conditions at heights greater than 10,000ft, we know you will find something that will appeal to you – whether you are a complete novice or already have some experience.



2003 TO 2005 – THE ROYAL
NAVY HELP TO ESTABLISH
A NEW IRAQI NAVY,
COASTGUARD AND INTERNAL
WATERWAY FORCE.

Sporting chances

The Royal Navy provides free access to high-quality sports facilities in every shore establishment and aboard most ships. If you like team sports, you could end up representing the Royal Navy or even the UK in rugby, football or cricket. We have clubs for judo, cycling, archery, rowing, badminton and much more. Whatever sport you are into, the Royal Navy will offer you the opportunity to follow your passion – we even own a string of six polo ponies, stabled at Tidworth polo club!



And relax...

In all accomodation areas there are TV and stereo systems, so that you can take time to wind down and chill out as you watch DVDs or listen to CDs. You can also bring your own laptops and MP3 players loaded with films and music. We also provide quiet places where you can study for qualifications and many of our ships have gym facilities on board so you can get your exercise fix.







Teamworker

Everyone in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines works as part of a team. Your colleagues – known as 'opposite numbers' or 'oppos' when using the Royal Navy's jargon – will rely on you to help get the job done.

Sociable and outgoing

At sea, or on exercises and operations, you will live and work in close quarters with your colleagues. In these conditions, you have to be able to get on well with people.

Proud and determined

You will be expected to uphold the Service's proud traditions and help maintain its high standards in everything you do.

Think of all the work that goes into putting a submarine or warship to sea, a naval aircraft into the air, or a Commando Unit into action. The Royal Navy devotes a great deal of time and resources to training, but it needs people with the right qualities and potential to join the team.

Hardworking

Whether you are an Officer or non-commissioned Rating or Royal Marine there are some mundane or difficult jobs to be done in addition to your usual duties.

Self-reliant

You will be given all the training you need to do your job, but no one is going to be looking over your shoulder 24 hours a day telling you what to do.



2005 - FOLLOWING
THE TSUNAMI IN SOUTH EAST
ASIA, A TEAM FROM THE
ROYAL NAVY'S FORWARD
SUPPORT UNIT (FSU)
CLEARED TONS OF DEBRIS,
REPAIRED FISHING BOATS
AND RESTORED POWER TO
OUTLYING ISLANDS.

>Navy slang

Bogey

Unidentified aircraft; becomes a bandit if it is identified as an enemy aircraft.

Main drag

Nickname for the main passageway running the whole length of a warship.

Stamina

The Royal Navy and Royal Marines often operate in extremely harsh conditions. At times you will be expected to keep going for many hours with very little rest.

Brave and willing to serve

As a member of the British Armed Forces, you may be asked to put your life on the line and carry out your duty with dedication and professionalism.

Adventurous

You will travel the world and face challenges that many of your civilian friends can hardly imagine.



Fit and active

Whatever branch or specialisation you choose to follow, life in the Royal Navy can be physically demanding – this is especially true of the Royal Marines.

Leader

If you have the right qualifications and would like to try for a Commission as a Royal Navy or Royal Marines Officer, you will need all these qualities, plus the potential to lead and take responsibility for others.





Are you ready?



Yes. We try to give those who wish to practise their religion the opportunity to do so, although there may be some restrictions for operational reasons. For more information, please speak to a Careers Adviser at your local Armed Forces Careers Office, who will be able to provide more detailed advice.

Will I have the same opportunities as everyone else?

The Royal Navy believes that ability is the only limit to progress, so promotion is based solely on experience and talent. Gender, sexual orientation and ethnic background are no barrier to advancement, which can be extremely rapid in some branches.

What is the policy on bullying?

The Royal Navy and Royal Marines are committed to creating a culture where everyone is free from bullying, intimidation and harassment. Every individual will be treated fairly, with dignity and respect, and disciplinary action will be taken against anyone found to have broken these rules.

Can I further my education and get more qualifications?

The Royal Navy encourages all its personnel to develop themselves and their talents. There are opportunities for everyone to study for GCSEs, A-levels and beyond regardless of their position. We even offer various financial schemes to support further training and education, whether academic and vocational. For more details, see page 10.

Where will I go?

You will have the chance to travel all over the world and see places that most of your civilian friends only dream about – and you will get paid for it too. Personnel of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines regularly find themselves deployed to the Far East, the Caribbean, the South Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Gulf region to name a few.

How long will I be away for?

Of course, you could be away for weeks or even months at a time. But on most deployments in the Royal Navy it is easy to stay in touch with family and friends by phone and e-mail while you are away. You will also become very close to the people you work with. Living and working so closely together, you will make friendships that will last all your life.



Where will I live?

At sea, you will sleep and relax in shared quarters with the other members of your ship's company. Ashore, the Royal Navy will be able to offer you subsidised accommodation within your base, dockyard or Royal Marines barracks. If you are married, you can get subsidised housing. Many people choose to buy or rent their own private house or flat, often within commuting distance from their place of work.

How much spare time will I have?

The standard working day in the Royal Navy is 8am to 4pm if you are not in a 24-hour shift pattern at sea or on duty in port. So, from 4pm each day most people are free to go out, whether in the UK or abroad, allowing plenty of time to visit the local area, go home or socialise with friends. Sometimes a day's holiday is given while the ship is at sea, to give everyone time to relax and unwind when they have been out of port for a long period of time.





How often will I see my family?

When your ship, submarine or Unit is at home, or alongside in its base port and not deployed on exercises or operations, you will be able to spend most weekends at home with your family and friends. If you choose to live close enough, you may even be able to go home every evening like anyone in civilian life. Many Servicemen and women whose families live in other parts of the UK regularly travel home at weekends, and the Royal Navy has various allowances to help with the cost of this travel.



Alongside

In a port in the UK or overseas. The Royal Marines equivalent is a land-based Royal Marines Unit location, or 'camp'.

Battleships

The classic game of strategy using pencil and paper. In the Royal Navy, we call our ships 'warships'.

Beards

Only Sikhs are automatically allowed beards. The traditional wording for asking your managers (senior Officers) if you can grow one is: 'Permission to stop shaving, sir?'

Berth

Either: enough space to manoeuvre a ship in (as in 'give it a wide berth'); a space in dock for a ship to anchor; or a built-in bed or bunk on a ship. Sorry, we hope the rest of the sentence helps you know which sort it is.

Bilge

Bilge water is the sea water (and other waste liquids) that collects in the bottom of a ship's hull. If left, it soon smells bad. Royal Navy ships now include biological recycling plants to make sure the water pumped back into the sea is as environmentally safe as possible. 'Bilge' is also slang for rubbish or nonsense.

Bivvy

Also known as a 'Basher', a waterproof sheet that can be made into a shelter for one or two men. Usually suspended from two trees.

Blueys

Bridge

The navigating section on a Royal Navy ship, where the wheelhouse (steering) and chart (map) room are housed.

BZ

'Well done', usually in messages sent by senior Officers. Originates from Royal Navy signals, the traditional form of communication between ships.

Clear Lower deck

The command for evevone to gather in one place, either for a specific job, so that everyone can help in an emergency situation or to allow the Captain to speak to the whole ship's company.

Commander

Royal Navy Officer rank between Lieutenant Commander and Captain. Does not necessarily command a ship - James Bond (007) holds the rank, for example.

Company

All the personnel on one of HM Ships, or a fighting sub-unit within a Royal Marines Commando Unit.

Royal



Commando

All Royal Marines, except those in the Royal Marines Band

Crash move

For Royal Marines, the command given to leave a location at short notice. You are required to grab only essential equipment and make for the emergency rendezvous point.

Crossing the line

Traditional ceremonies are performed when a Royal Navy ship crosses the equator – usually involving ducking in a bath anyone in the ship's company who has not crossed the line before.



Dolphins

The gold Submarine Service badge

Destroyer

In addition to their air defence role, destroyers carry out patrol and boarding operations. They are equally capable in large Task Groups or on independent operations such as humanitarian relief or anti-drug patrols.

Draft

The amount of time you spend in one ship's company, or at one shore base. A draft is usually between two and four years in length.

Frigate

The frigate is the mainstay of the Surface Fleet. Modern frigates have a crew of almost 200 and are heavily armed.



Galley

Kitchen on board a ship at or at Royal Navy shore base.

Green beret

Awarded to those who successfully pass the gruelling Royal Marines Commando Course. In addition, other Royal Navy personnel who work with the Royal Marines, such as doctors, Medical Assistants and Engineer (Training Management) Officers are awarded the green beret after they have passed the All Arms Commando Course.

Hands

Sailors are often called 'Hands' – believed to come from climbing the rigging in sailing ships. Naval Ratings' first promotion is to 'Leading Hand'.

Knots

One sea mile per hour. A knot is a ship's speed, not a distance, so you cannot have 'knots per hour'.

Leave

Royal Navy word for 'holiday' or 'time off' – six weeks' paid leave a year plus some public holidays (see also Shore leave).

Men and women

Some Royal Navy jobs are open to men only, for operational and/or medical reasons.

Heads

Royal Navy slang for the toilets on board ship. It comes from the days of sail when the toilets were literally located at the 'head', or front, of the ship

Mess

Where Ratings and Royal Marines live and eat; so 'where do we mess?' means 'where are we accommodated?' and might be referring to eating or sleeping.

Nationality

To join the Royal Navy, you need to be a British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen, or hold dual nationality from Britain and another country. Some jobs are only open to British nationals.



Nelson



Nuclear submarines

All Royal Navy submarines are 'nuclear' and have nuclearpowered engines; ballistic submarines also carry Trident nuclear missiles.

Phoning home

If you are on a ship outside the UK for longer than a month, you get a phone card for a weekly 20-minute satellite call. Many ships let you send e-mail every day. Your mobile phone might work overseas, but will cost a fortune - and could be a security risk. Submarines spend a lot of time underwater and have to remain undetected, so they do not always offer these facilities.

Rat pack

The pack containing nutritious meals with enough calories to sustain even a hard-working Royal Marine Commando for 24 hours. Can be eaten as a one-off banquet, or as three square meals. Dining location may vary!

Return of service

The length of time you are expected to spend in the Royal Navy after completing your initial training varies from job to job. It usually depends on how long and expensive your training period is.

Run ashore

The term used by Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel to describe a night out 'ashore'.

Saluting

Mark of recognition and respect between any two people in Royal Navy uniform. You will quickly find out how (and who) to salute in your first weeks of training.

Schools

If you are based overseas, your children can go to school on the base in your ship's home port. Or you can ask for a grant towards the cost of sending them to boarding school.



Passing-out parade

On completion of basic training, all new recruits whether Ratings (HMS Raleigh), Officers (Britannia Royal Naval College) or Royal Marines (Commando Training Centre Royal Marines Lympstone) invite family and friends to witness the ceremony marking their 'passing out' of training and formally into the Service.

Padre

Means 'father' in Italian. How everyone refers to the Chaplain in the Royal Navy. Not all padres are Italians, Roman Catholics or indeed men.

Seasickness

Lots of Royal Navy personnel get seasick. You may not even know until you first serve on board a ship. Every ship has a medical expert or team who can help. Nelson was seasick for his whole career!

Ships and boats

Submarines or any vessels that can be carried on a ship are called boats. Everything else – frigates, destroyers, minesweepers, aircraft carriers or anything with more than one deck above the waterline – is a ship.

Shore leave

When you travel to an overseas port, you will have work to do – but you should get time to see the city or country too. Known as 'R&R' in America. For the Royal Marines, any time off-duty and out of base camp is regarded as shore leave.

Sonar and radar

Systems that find or track a moving object from the time taken for a 'ping' or ultrasonic wave to 'bounce back' from a surface. Sonar is used for underwater target finding and navigation; radar is used above sea, on land and in the air.

Territorial waters

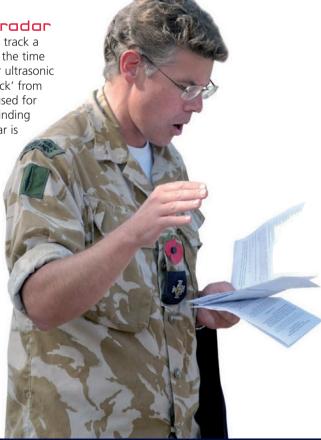
The sea out to several miles from the shore of any country, which is internationally agreed to be part of that country and subject to its laws.

Viking

A light, fast-moving, multi-role armoured vehicle that can offer fire support using a number of weapons systems. It offers all-terrain mobility and protection for up to 12 Royal Marines Commandos.

Wardroom

The area on board ship where Officers have their meals and socialise. Known as the 'Officers' mess' in the other Armed Services – this area is still called the wardroom on shore bases too.



Find out more

Choosing which job in the Royal Navy you would like to apply for is an important decision. Once you have joined, it is often not possible to move to a different role, so it is vital that you think carefully about your options before you apply (see pages 24 to 37 for more about the range of opportunities).

If you are interested in the Royal Navy, and have decided which part of the Service most appeals to you – we call them branches – you can ask for more information to help you make your decision.

If you wish to apply for the Royal Marines, you should spend some time considering which specialisation you would prefer to follow, but you must be aware that all recruits are required to complete basic training and at least one job as a General Duties Marine before specialising.

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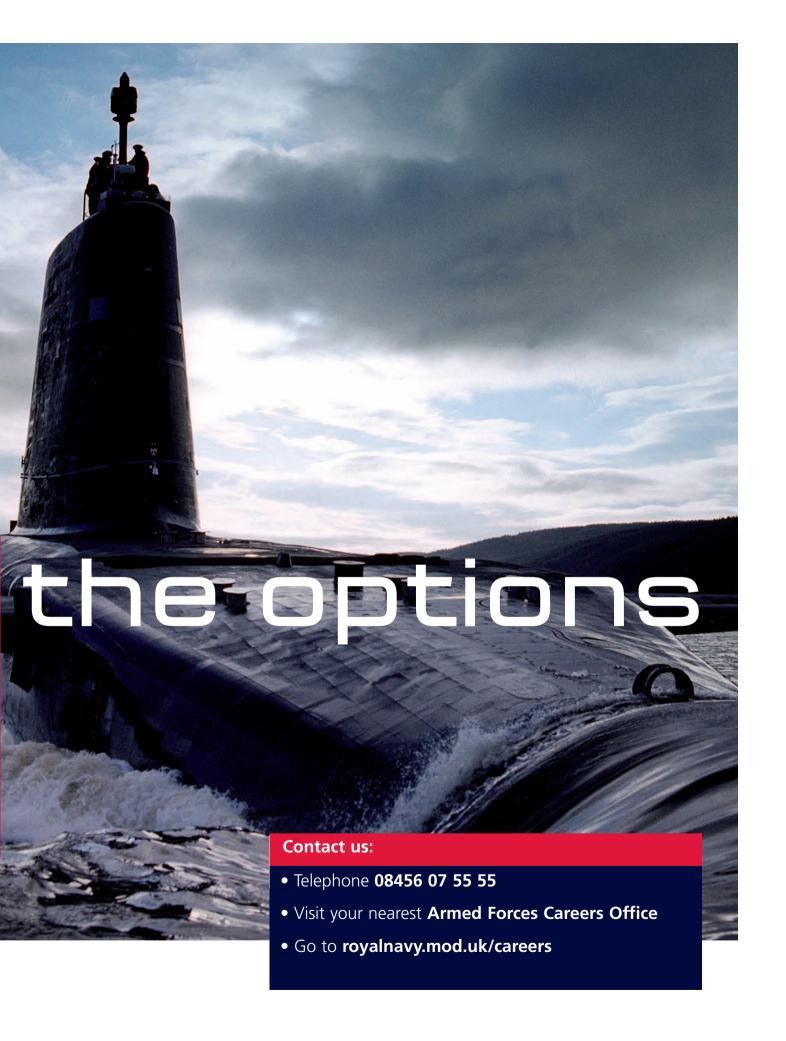
Check out

Before you can apply you will have to decide which part of the Royal Navy or Royal Marines you are interested in, or where you think you will best fit in.

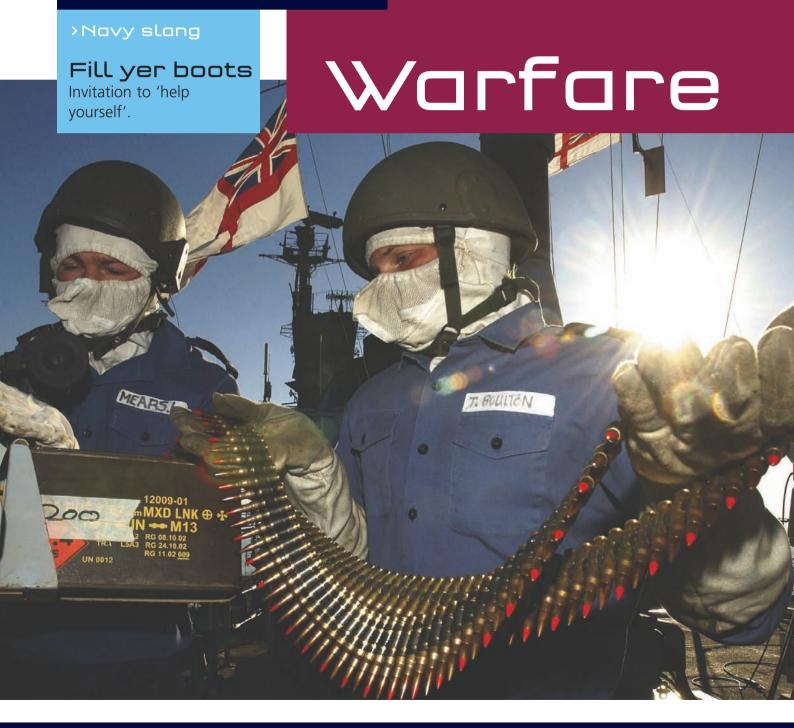


2004 - FOLLOWING A SERIES OF
DEVASTATING HURRICANES, ROYAL NAVY
FRIGATE HMS RICHMOND PROVIDES
HURRICANE RELIEF IN THE CARIBBEAN.





Warfare Branch personnel are responsible for manoeuvring and navigating ships, submarines and aircraft. You will be part of the team directly responsible for operating weapons, defensive and communications systems in ships, submarines and aircraft.





2005 - A TASK GROUP OF ROYAL NAVY WARSHIPS INCLUDING THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER HMS INVINCIBLE LEAVES THE UK FOR THREE MONTHS IN THE GULF OF ADEN TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN IRAQ AND TO CARRY OUT SEVERAL TRAINING EXERCISES.

SEAMAN SPECIALIST

The ships of the Royal Navy are complex machines. Skilled people are required to operate them effectively in challenging conditions, both at war and in peacetime. You will steer the ships, operate as lookout and carry out seamanship tasks like anchoring the ship, attaching to a buoy or dockside with ropes, and taking another ship in tow. You will also learn to communicate clearly with other people on your ship, to make sure that all these tasks are carried out safely and efficiently. You will crew the fast rigid inflatable boats and operate the ship's smaller, close-range weapons.

WARFARE SPECIALIST

A key member of your ship's company, you will specialise in running the computers and systems that build up a picture of what is happening around your ship. You will plot positions of importance such as land masses and flight paths. The vital information you gather is handed on to the Captain and Warfare Officers so that they can make the key tactical decisions.

HYDROGRAPHIC, METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEANOGRAPHIC SPECIALIST

Your skills give the Royal Navy's ships and submarines a tactical advantage by supplying a range of useful information about the environment, including how the



weather and ocean conditions might impact on your ship's operations. You will monitor conditions that affect all the places the Royal Navy operates – on land, on or below the sea and in the air.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS SPECIALIST

A huge range of information comes in to – and goes out of – a ship, 24 hours a day. You will be compiling and transferring data and signal information via satellite, radio and terrestrial links.

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

Your job is to intercept and analyse signals from communications systems around the world. You will be trained to have excellent IT skills and operate a range of sophisticated recording, receiving and analysis equipment.

MINE WARFARE SPECIALIST

As a top-level boat handler and seaman, you will serve on a mine countermeasures vessel and operate a wide range of the specialist equipment that finds and destroys mines on the seabed, or mines that are moored just below the sea's surface.

WARFARE RATING (SUBMARINER)

You will be part of an elite submarine team. Depending on your specialist area, you could be responsible for looking after the submarine's weapons; operating the computer systems or communications equipment on board; or tracking and locating other ships, submarines and potential targets using radar and electronic listening equipment.

MINE CLEARANCE DIVER

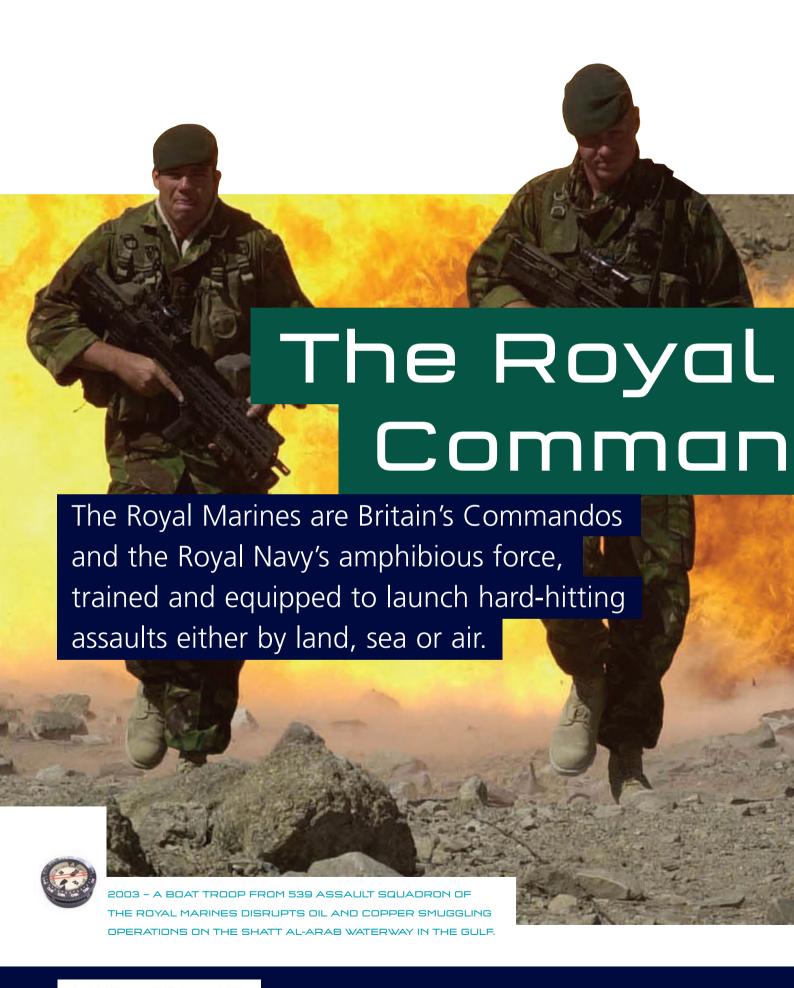
After a challenging training period, you will be using state-of-the-art diving equipment, working in a small team in some of the most advanced mine countermeasures vessels in the world to find and destroy mines. Other diving assignments could take you all over the world as you dispose of old Second World War mines or carry out vital repairs to a ship's hull or propeller.

WARFARE OFFICER

You are a major player in the front line of the Royal Navy. You will be trained to the highest standards and become a skilled seaman, navigator and leader, taking charge of complex manoeuvres and being responsible for conducting warfare operations.

WARFARE OFFICER (SUBMARINER)

You will be part of an elite team of highly trained and skilled experts, working in the front line of our operations. You will play a key role on board as you advise the Commanding Officer, operate periscopes and know how to use a variety of state-of-the-art equipment, computers and sonar systems.



GENERAL DUTIES

All Royal Marines begin their career as a General Duties
Commando. As a Rifleman in the General Duties specialisation, your first job will probably be with a Commando Unit, on standby to deploy to any emergency around the world as part of the first wave of the UK's joint rapid reaction force.

Whichever direction your career takes, you will build up your Commando skills and have the chance to test them on exercises everywhere from the jungle to the desert, the mountains to the sea.



After about a year and a half, you will probably move on to another of the specialisations open to you, where you will be able to learn new skills, gain recognised qualifications and enjoy new experiences:

COMMANDO OFFICER

Officers are the leaders of the Royal Marines, making up just over 10 per cent of all our personnel. To join this elite group, you will need excellent leadership potential and have at least 140 UCAS points and the equivalent of five GCSEs (A*–C), including English and maths. If you are a graduate you can apply for Direct Graduate Entry.

You will enjoy a varied career – normally you will change appointments every two years, gaining experience in many different areas of work.

As well as leading Commandos, you could work in the following areas:

Commando Officer Specialisations

Air Defence Officer
Anti-tank Officer
Commando Training Instructor
Forward Air Controller
Helicopter or Fast Jet Pilot
Intelligence Officer
Landing and Raiding Craft Officer
Mortars Officer
Mountain Leader Officer
Physical Training and Sports Officer
Signals (Communications) Officer
Special Boat Services Officer
Staff Officer
Weapons Training Officer



Marines

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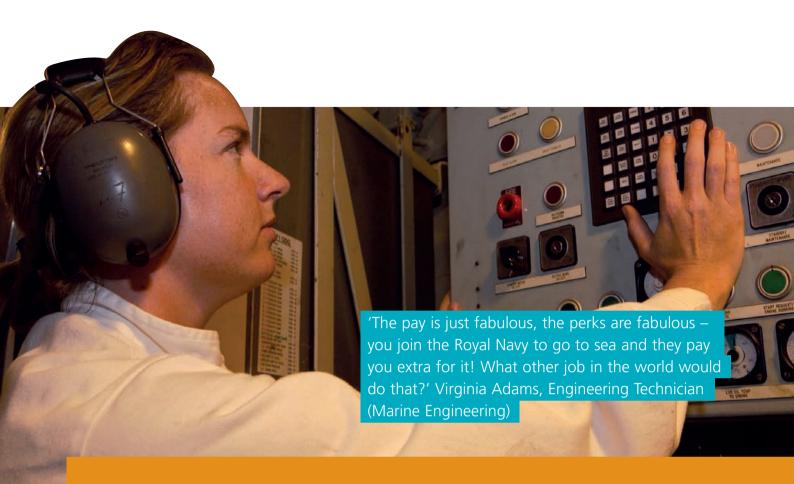
>Navy slang

Bergen or 'small child'

The Royal Marines name for their largest pack or rucksack. The pack can weigh in excess of 100lb fully loaded, depending on your task or role.

Commando Specialisations

Aircrewman Assault Engineer Air Defence Weapons Anti-Tank Weapons Mortarman Landing Craft Reconnaissance Operator Mountain Leader Swimmer Canoeist Combat Intelligence Communications Technician Information Systems Signals Telecommunications Technician Armoured Support (Viking) Driver Medical Assistant Military Police Chef Clerk Armourer Vehicle Mechanic Metalsmith Stores Accountant Weapons and Tactics Instructor **Drill Instructor** Physical Training Instructor



Engineering

As a Royal Navy Engineer, you take charge of some of the most advanced technology in the world. You can specialise in weapon systems, IT, communications and sensor networks, or in the physical structure of ships, submarines and aircraft.



2005 - ROYAL NAVY SEA KING HELICOPTERS SEARCH AROUND 20,000 SQUARE MILES OF SEA IN THE GULF OF ADEN TO LOCATE A STRICKEN VESSEL THAT HAS BEEN SEIZED ILLEGALLY BY SOMALI GUNMAN.

LAND SEA AIR

ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN (MARINE ENGINEERING)

As highly trained engineering specialists, Engineering Technicians (Marine Engineering) form the backbone of any ship's crew. You will look after the mechanical systems, the engines, our life-support systems like air conditioning and fresh water, and even the structure of the ship itself. If something goes wrong, we will call on your skills to fix it as fast as possible so your ship can continue its mission.

ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN (WEAPON ENGINEERING)

Engineering Technicians (Weapon Engineering) look after the missiles, guns and torpedoes on a ship, as well as the high-tech surveillance, communications,

radar and sonar systems. You will be trained in specialist engineering techniques to check and maintain all these systems, and to repair them if you find any faults.

ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN (MARINE ENGINEERING SUBMARINER)

Engineering Technicians (Marine Engineering Submariner) are part of the team that looks after everything from the nuclear power and propulsion systems which keep our vessels working, to the water and purification equipment critical to the safety of the crew. You will play a crucial role in the elite team of Royal Navy Submariners.

ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN (WEAPON ENGINEERING SUBMARINER)

To stay on top, the Royal Navy's sophisticated communications, sensor and weapon systems have to be maintained to the highest standard. As an Engineering Technician (Weapon Engineering Submariner) that will be your job.

MARINE ENGINEER OFFICER

Marine Engineer Officers keep the vital systems of the Royal Navy's ships and submarines running – everything from fuel, power, hydraulics and propulsion, to the water purification and airconditioning systems critical to the well-being of the crew. You will manage a team of highly trained Technicians to make sure that the equipment you are responsible for is fully maintained and always ready to use.

WEAPON ENGINEER OFFICER

All the weapons, sensors and communications equipment on board our modern warships and submarines are the responsibility of Weapon Engineer Officers. You will manage the teams of Technicians that keep your ship in peak fighting condition.



Serving on board a ballistic submarine, you could also bear responsibility for the UK's Trident nuclear missiles.

ENGINEER (TRAINING MANAGEMENT) OFFICER

In the Royal Navy, people are our most valuable asset, and their training and development is crucial. Engineer (Training Management) Officers deliver, manage and plan that training, both on shore and at sea.

ENGINEER (INFORMATION SYSTEMS) OFFICER

Information is critical to the effective operation of the Royal Navy, enabling us to carry out our missions at sea, and to run our organisation efficiently ashore. As an Engineer (Information Systems) Officer, your career could take you from managing and maintaining the command and control systems on board an aircraft carrier, to working with commercial suppliers on a multi-million pound project developing human resources systems.

>Navy slang

Beer locker

An ordinary household fridge which is fitted with a padlock and contains the beer rations.

Air Engineering Technician Air Engineer Officer see page 33 Leading-edge technology and systems make the Royal Navy a 21st-century fighting force. Thousands of spare parts and supplies are needed to help maintain those systems, and the people that operate them must be fed, paid and given the support they deserve. That is where Logistics comes in.

Logistics

>Navy slang

All clips on

An expression to mean you are not joking, derived from the catches (clips) on watertight doors within a ship. Most of the time doors are closed with two clips; all six or ten clips are only used in action or other serious situations.





>Navy slang

Dhoby

To wash, either yourself or your clothes. Also, dhoby dust - washing powder.

STORES ACCOUNTANT

Being a Stores Accountant with the Royal Navy is like running a busy warehouse ashore – but with a key difference. Your warehouse will be located on board a ship or submarine, whose operational efficiency will depend on you.

CHEF

Well-cooked, nutritious food is essential to the well-being and morale of every ship's company. That is why highly professional Chefs and Caterers are essential to the operational effectiveness of all the Royal Navy's ships, submarines and shore-based establishments.

LOGISTICS OFFICER

First-rate logistical support is vital to the operational effectiveness of the Royal Navy, whether in conflict, enforcing international law or responding to a humanitarian disaster. As a Logistics Officer, it will be your task to ensure that everything the Royal Navy needs to do its job is there when it is needed - whether that be food, supplies or administrative support. And in the challenging conditions and unpredictable environment that the Royal Navy operates that requires extraordinary skills.

2005 – 167 WARSHIPS, TALL SHIPS AND MERCHANT SHIPS FROM 36 COUNTRIES ARE ANCHORED IN THE SOLENT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FLEET REVIEW BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN TO MARK THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR.



The Fleet Air Arm is the Royal Navy's air force. It includes more than 6,000 people operating 200 front-line aircraft and over 50 support and training aircraft on ships and bases all over the world.



2004 - PATROL VESSELS OF THE ROYAL NAVY GIBRALTAR
SQUADRON SEIZE QUANTITIES OF COCAINE AND MARIJUANA
BEING SMUGGLED FROM NORTH AFRICA.



AIR ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN

You will maintain high-tech aircraft. Your expertise travels everywhere in the world the Fleet Air Arm goes. You will specialise in mechanical (servicing, maintenance or deep repair of aircraft) or avionics (operating systems, such as radio, radar, navigation or weapons).

NAVAL AIRMAN **IAIRCRAFT** HANDLER)

Before the Pilots start their engines, Aircraft Handlers prepare the flight deck and move the aircraft into position. You will work wherever and whenever the Royal Navy flies single or multiple aircraft. You will also specialise in advanced firefighting and rescue work.

NAVAL AIRMAN (SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT)

You will provide aircrew with survival equipment: life-jackets, parachutes, life-rafts, radio beacons, distress flares and protective clothing, including flying helmets and emergency breathing apparatus. You will also train aircrew in survival techniques.

AIR ENGINEER OFFICER

You will lead a team of technicians that maintain and repair the complex mechanical, electronic and weapon systems of Naval Aircraft to meet mission requirements, either ashore or afloat, anywhere in the world.

your missions and aircraft demand, and the personnel responsibilities that are part of being an Officer.

AIRCREW OFFICER (OBSERVER)

Your primary role is to 'fight' the aircraft. You will make the decisions that get the aircraft to the scene of action. Then you decide how to use your aircraft's sensors and weapon systems to detect and prosecute your target.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICER

Fleet Air Arm jets and helicopters share crowded airspace with passenger jets and other air users. You will keep them clear of risk using sophisticated radar and communications equipment. You may work at an airfield or on the command vessel in a sea-going Royal Navy operation.

As a member of the Medical Branch – Royal Navy Medical Services (RNMS) – you will be part of a team that plays a crucial role at the heart of the Royal Navy's work, ensuring that the health, fitness and well-being of its personnel are maintained.

Medical

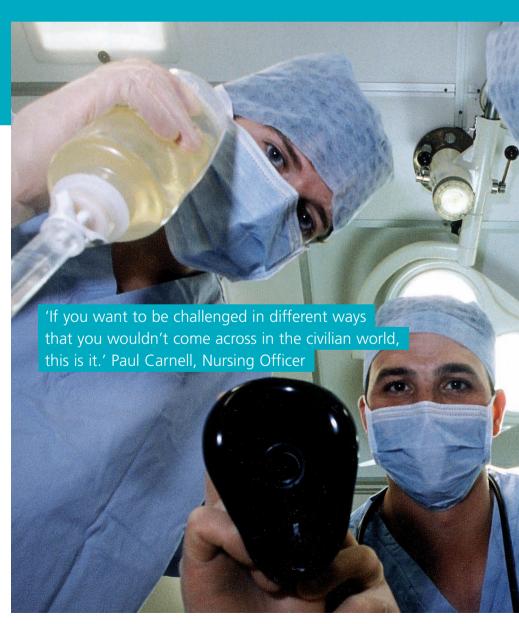
>Navy slang

Jack

The general name for all Royal Navy sailors to this day. The name comes from 'Jack Tar', the nickname for sailors from the time of Admiral Lord Nelson who put highgrade tar in their hair.

Julie Andrews

Tea or coffee with milk and without sugar (ie white, nun); as opposed to NATO standard (milk, two sugars).



DENTAL SURGERY ASSISTANT

Being a Dental Surgery Assistant with the Royal Navy is like working in any other well-equipped, highly professional dental practice – with the added variety and interest of doing a vital job in the Royal Navy, where you could serve at sea or on deployment with the Royal Marines.

DENTAL OFFICER

Trained Dental Officers are recruited to provide primary dental healthcare. You may later train as a specialist, such as a maxillofacial surgeon or enhanced practitioner in gum disease or endodontics. The main focus of primary care is preventive – maintaining the high standard of dental health for service at sea and in the Royal Marines. Wherever you work,



you have the latest equipment and materials, and fully trained support staff.

Occasional opportunities exist for entry as a Medical Technician (Biomedical Scientist or Radiographer), a Dental Hygienist or an Environmental Health Officer. For more details, please visit your local Armed Forces Careers Office.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT (GENERAL SERVICE)

Medical Assistants provide essential medical care in highly demanding situations. You will be an expert in advanced first aid and life saving as well as providing regular medical care and administration. You could be called on to work in any type of ship or ashore in a sick bay, hospital or other establishment.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT (SUBMARINER)

As a Medical Assistant in the Submarine Service, you will be an expert in environmental safety on board nuclear submarines, and a vital member of the Royal Navy's healthcare team. You will be responsible for carrying out vital health and environmental safety checks, as well as providing day-to-day medical services and health education.

MEDICAL OFFICER

As a Medical Officer you are a doctor leading a medical team, but you also develop management skills as a Naval Officer in your ship, submarine, shore base or Commando Unit. All Medical Officers spend two and a half years working in primary care. Then you may specialise in areas including surgery, anaesthetics, orthopaedics, occupational medicine and general practice. There are also opportunities for specialist research and work in submarine, diving, aviation and radiation medicine.

NAVAL NURSE

As a Naval Nurse, you will do everything that a civilian nurse might do – but you have an opportunity to gain nursing



experience in challenging situations as part of a Royal Navy team. Whether in peacetime or conflict, Naval Nurses make a vital contribution to the health and fitness of everyone in the Royal Navy.

NURSING OFFICER

Being a Nursing Officer in the Royal Navy is one of the most challenging and rewarding opportunities in the profession. You will have opportunities to gain further specialist qualifications as your career progresses. Nursing Officers can also work in a primary care environment.

CHAPLAIN

As a Chaplain in the Royal Navy, you are first and foremost a priest or minister of the church that has sent you and into whose ministry you were ordained. Your 'parishioners' will be men and women of the Royal Navy, the majority of whom will be 18 to 40-year-olds, in a variety of situations and environments. During your career you can expect to hold several appointments, each normally lasting about two years. You could be ministering at sea in a major warship or be responsible for several smaller ships as you exercise an itinerant ministry. You could serve in one of the three naval bases with a large number of families' quarters, ministering to civilians as well as serving personnel. Or you could be appointed to a training establishment, working with young people at the beginning of their naval careers or as they return to enhance their professional skills. Male Chaplains may also serve with the Royal Marines or in the Submarine Service.

BUGLER

The playing skills and glittering presence of the Buglers in the Corps of Drums when leading a parade or at the climax of a concert gives the Royal Marines a visual and musical impact that is second to none. It is a demanding role and, as a Bugler, you will be professionally qualified on the bugle, the snare drum and E flat herald trumpet.

MUSICIAN

As a Musician in the Royal Marines Bands Service, you will be part of an organisation universally recognised as one of the finest musical bodies in the world. You can keep studying and gain a BMus (Hons) degree while getting more playing experience than many professional musicians.

The Royal Marines Band Service represents the Royal Navy and Royal Marines around the world. The musical skill and professionalism of the Band sends a clear message – we are a superbly trained, highly disciplined, flexible and hardworking unit.

The Roya Band >Navy slang

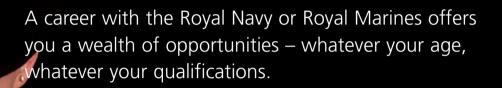


Muster

Formal inspection of issued kit. If it's up to standard, it passes muster. Also an order for all members of the crew to group together in a given location, ie 'All hands muster on deck."

LAND SEA AIR





Routes into the Royal Navy and Royal Marines

Leaving school and looking for your first job Everyone is probably telling you

to think about your career and make decisions about your future. With so many options out there it can all be a bit overwhelming. We can help and maybe suggest routes for sponsorship or training. You will be with plenty of people of roughly the same age and for many of the jobs you do not even need specific qualifications because we will provide all the training you need.

Looking for a new

Not getting much job satisfaction? Why not give up the day job and pursue a career that means more. You do not need any specific qualifications but if you have ambition and talent you will quickly be promoted. It could also lead to bigger and better things when you return to civilian life.

University graduate or

Become a 21st century Royal Navy or Royal Marines leader. If you are studying for a degree or have specialist professional qualifications, then you could be just what we are looking for. We want the best candidates and if you are ambitious we will offer you a career that gives you responsibility early on and challenges you to take it to the next level.





MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

THE ROLE

DEGREE OR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

Engineer (Information Systems) Officer	Page 28/29
Engineer (Training Management) Officer	Page 28/29
Marine Engineer Officer	Page 28/29
Weapon Engineer Officer	Page 28/29
Air Engineer Officer	Page 32/33
Dental Officer	Page 34/35
Medical Officer	Page 34/35
Naval Nurse	Page 34/35
Nursing Officer	Page 34/35
Chaplain	Page 34/35

A-LEVELS/SCOTTISH HIGHERS (AT LEAST 140 UCAS POINTS)

Warfare Officer	Page 24/25
Warfare Officer (Submariner)	Page 24/25
Logistics Officer	Page 30/31
Aircrew Officer (Pilot/Observer)	Page 32/33
Air Traffic Control Officer	Page 32/33
Royal Marines Officer	Page 26/27

GCSES/SCOTTISH STANDARD GRADES

Communications Technician	Page 24/25
Dental Surgery Assistant	Page 34/35
Naval Nurse (Student Nurse)	Page 34/35

NO SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED

Communications and Information Systems Specialist	Page 24/25
Hydrographic, Meteorological and Oceanographic Specialist	Page 24/25
Mine Clearance Diver	Page 24/25
Mine Warfare Specialist	Page 24/25
Seaman Specialist	Page 24/25
Warfare Rating (Submariner)	Page 24/25
Warfare Specialist	Page 24/25
Engineering Technician (Marine Engineering)	Page 28/29
Engineering Technician (Marine Engineering Submariner)	Page 28/29
Engineering Technician (Weapon Engineering)	Page 28/29
Engineering Technician (Weapon Engineering Submariner)	Page 28/29
Chef	Page 30/31
Steward	Page 30/31
Stores Accountant	Page 30/31
Writer	Page 30/31
Air Engineering Technician	Page 32/33
Naval Airman (Aircraft Handler)	Page 32/33
Naval Airman (Survival Equipment)	Page 32/33
Medical Assistant (General Service)	Page 34/35
Medical Assistant (Submariner)	Page 34/35
Royal Marines Commando	Page 26/27
Bugler (Royal Marines Band Service)	Page 36/37
Musician (Royal Marines Band Service)	Page 36/37



The Royal Navy and Royal Marines

A guide to careers

Find out more

Contact us:

If you want help to make your decision or more information and advice, you can contact us at any time and talk to one of our experienced Careers Advisers:

- Telephone **08456 07 55 55**
- Visit your nearest Armed Forces Careers Office
- Go to royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

Equal Opportunities

The Royal Navy is an equal opportunities employer. We seek to provide workplace conditions that are comfortable and non-threatening for all our people, whatever their gender, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

Our aim is the total elimination of sexual and racial harassment, and all forms of bullying. These issues need close attention and proactive management. Victims of any form of abuse are encouraged to report their difficulties and can be confident of sensitive treatment by those responsible for their care.

The Armed Forces (with the exception of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary) have a complete exemption, in terms of maintaining operational (combat) effectiveness, from the provisions of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006.

This publication is for guidance only. The facts in it may be changed without notice and must not be taken to imply any contract. Details of length of service will be explained in the Armed Forces Careers Office and will be contained in the contract.

Any bursary or sponsorship money may need to be repaid if you do not enter service, or if you fail or withdraw from training. L1/V3

