



Communication Systems Operator

When you're trying to get any job done in a team it all comes down to good communication. As a trained Communication Systems Operator you will use your knowledge of radio and satellite communications to provide vital communications for the Commander.

Additional Information

IN BRIEF

Army operations rely on good communication, so leading edge technology is used to give commanders the information they need to control the battle. In this important role you'll learn to set up and operate the high-tech radio systems that share essential information and give the Army its tactical edge. Your workplace could be an Army base one day, and the next day on a foot patrol, aboard a Navy vessel, or under canvas supporting a combat operation or disaster-relief mission.

LIFESTYLE

Life in the Army is rich and rewarding. Your work could take you across Australia and even overseas. You'll have memorable experiences such as joining disaster-relief missions and participating in combat operations. You will gain skills and confidence in a supportive team environment and make friends for life. You'll also have access to extensive sport and leisure facilities ensuring a good work/life balance.

TRAINING

You don't need any previous experience to apply for this job, as full training is provided. In the Army you'll acquire the technical skills needed to communicate information and intelligence, and the military skills required to participate in exercises and operations. Fitness training will also be an important part of your job, as you'll need to be in excellent physical shape to carry out your duties safely and effectively. Click on the Training links below for more detailed information.

WHAT YOU COULD EARN

In the Army you'll receive a competitive salary, generous Superannuation and an excellent range of benefits. You get paid from the day you start training and your salary will increase with rank and experience.

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS OPERATORS

can earn over
\$65,000 p.a.

on completion of initial employment training. This salary includes Uniform and Service allowances and applies to full time general entry.

Job Details

Other Ranks (Non Technical), Other Ranks (Non Technical) (Reserve)

On the battlefield, the Royal Australian Corps of Signals (RA Sigs) provides commanders with the means of controlling the battle using a number of methods including radio, fibre optic, microwave, information systems and satellite links. By planning, deploying and maintaining robust, scalable, secure local and wide area networks, RA Sigs ensures the Army's information services are available 24/7 anywhere in the world.

The Communication Systems Operator is responsible for the operation of communications equipment at a number of different levels; whether it is within a Special Forces patrol or within a large headquarters, the men and women of the Communications Systems employment category are there.

Communication Systems Operators ensure commanders can communicate with their units using satellite terminals, radios, hand held and desk-top data terminals and security equipment. Additionally, Communications Systems Operators conduct Battlespace Spectrum Management (BSM) and Force Protection Electronic Counter Measures (FP ECM). Whatever the location, deployment or task, Communication Systems Operators provide the appropriate communications systems for the Army whether it is on land, in the air or at sea.

The work environment of the Communication Systems Operator offers great variety and offers the opportunity to operate from 4 x 4 vehicles, armoured vehicles, communication centres in air conditioned offices, foot patrols in support of small teams, field command posts, airfields or large Navy vessels.

Entry

Other Ranks (Non Technical)

General Entry (Non-Technical Trainee) is the term used to describe the large number of non-technical jobs available to people entering the Army as soldiers (non-officer entry). The Army is made up of different specialist branches, called Corps, which perform various different functions such as Administration, Catering, Communications, Health, Armoured, Artillery, Engineering, Infantry and Transport.

General Entry (Non-Technical Trainee) soldiers graduate from recruit training with the rank of private and generally progress to private proficient after 12 months effective service following completion of initial employment training. Further promotion to corporal, sergeant and warrant officer is based on performance, the length of time spent in a particular rank and vacancies and will normally require the successful completion of trade and promotion courses.

Corporals (Bombardiers in Artillery) are referred to as Junior Non-Commissioned Officers, or JNCOs, while sergeants are referred to as Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (SNCOs). Warrant Officer Class One is the most senior soldier rank. A corporal will normally have some responsibility for the supervision of junior staff and this progressively increases on promotion to sergeant. A warrant officer normally has a substantial personnel management role.

Other Ranks (Non Technical) (Reserve)

In today's Army, you can choose either to work full-time or part-time. It all depends on what you would like to do. If you prefer full-time work there is the Regular Army, and if you're after part-time work there's the Army Reserve. Whether you choose full-time or part-time work, you'll become part of one of the largest and most professional organisations in Australia. An organisation with a strong team spirit, and one that offers you a very high standard of training and an opportunity to work with the latest technology.

The Army Reserve has always been about challenge and reward. As a member of the Army Reserve, you'll gain new skills and experiences as well as improving your overall level of fitness. The best part is, as a member of the Army Reserve, you'll receive tax-free pay. This means you'll have the cash to do whatever you want, whether it's study, work or securing a new job.

The Army Reserve has long been a part of Australia's proud military tradition, a tradition of determination, honour and courage. For years, part-time soldiers have played a vital role in protecting the security of Australia. On the battlefields since Gallipoli the Australian Army has forged a reputation of being a strong, well-trained and dedicated team. It is a reputation you'll be expected to uphold as we face the challenges of the 21st century.

The Army is made up of specialised branches called corps such as the Infantry, Artillery, Engineers and Transport Corps. Within each corps, there are a variety of jobs or trades available. Before you join, you should find out what jobs are available in your local area and choose the one that appeals to you most. For example, you could choose to be an Administration Assistant in a Transport or Infantry Corps unit near your home.

Even though you are an Army Reservist, for the majority of your time in the Army, you'll be trained along side full-time soldiers. The purpose of this training is to create a more capable part-time Army that is capable of taking a more active role

in the security of our country and region.

All soldiers, full-time or Army Reserve, commence their career in the Army with Recruit Training at the Army Recruit Training Centre (ARTC) near Wagga Wagga in New South

Wales. ARTC is the home of all recruit training and is where. During the course, you'll receive expert training from some of the Army's best instructors. No one is saying this training will be easy, but when you complete it, you'll be proud of what you've accomplished.

So, what sort of training will you be doing during Recruit Training? You'll be trained in all the skills a soldier needs. In other words, you'll learn how to work effectively and efficiently as a member of the Australian Army.

You need to be fit to join the Army Reserve. Prior to your enlistment, you must pass a fitness assessment called the Pre-Entry Fitness Assessment (PFA). This is a combination of push-ups, sit ups and a "shuttle run".

During Recruit Training you will be required to participate in additional fitness tests. The major one is the Basic Fitness Assessment (BFA). The BFA is the minimum physical fitness standard required for all members of the Army, both full-time and Army Reserve. It is also one of the major components of the Army Individual Readiness Notice (AIRN). The BFA is harder than the PFA, as you are required to perform additional push-ups, sit ups and a 2.4 km run.

Where possible, Recruit Training will be arranged to fit in with any other commitments you may have. If you're studying or just finished school, then this is a great way to develop new skills and earn cash.

The Army Reserve recruit course comprises 35 days of continuous training. All Army recruits train at the Army Recruit Training Centre at Wagga Wagga.

After recruit and initial employment training is completed Army Reserve members are required to complete a minimum of 20 days training per financial year to be considered effective. This service can be any combination of a two-week exercise, weekends or training nights. You can continue in your civilian studies or job while you are a member of the Army Reserve.

Further information on part-time ADF careers can be found by accessing the [Defence Reserves Support Council website](#).

The Council promotes the benefits of Reserve service by establishing partnerships with the community and employers.

Pay & Allowances

Other Ranks (Non Technical)

Salary while undertaking Military (Recruit) Training: \$1,406 per fortnight (\$36,571 per year).*

Salary while undertaking Initial Employment Training: \$1,607 per fortnight (\$41,795 per year).*

While under training, you will also receive \$395 per fortnight (\$10,288 per year pro rata) Trainee Allowance.

Salary (excluding allowances) on completion of Initial Employment Training: \$2,009 per fortnight (\$52,244 per year).*

In addition to your salary, you will also receive Service Allowance of \$527 per fortnight (\$13,717 per year) except while undertaking Military (Initial) or Employment training. This allowance compensates a member for the unique requirements that service life may impose on an individual and his or her family.

To assist you in maintaining your uniforms in good order and condition, you will also receive a Uniform Allowance of \$16 per fortnight (\$419 per year).

Each General Entry job in the Australian Defence Force is classified into a pay grade. This particular job is classified as a Pay Grade 3 occupation.

Salary will continue to increase based on rank and the number of years of service completed in that rank. Pay grade may also increase following the acquisition of additional skills and completion of advanced courses.

Refer to the [Salary Scales](#) for further details.

* Please note that these figures do not include compulsory deductions for taxation; meals, accommodation and utilities (as applicable); and superannuation.

Other Ranks (Non Technical) (Reserve)

Salary while undertaking Military (Recruit) Training: \$100.19 per day tax free.

Salary while undertaking or waiting to complete Employment Training: \$114.51 per day tax free.

Each General Entry job in the Australian Defence Force is classified into a pay grade. This particular job is classified as a Pay Grade 2 occupation on IET Module 1 graduation. Members of the Reserve on part-time service are paid at a daily rate of pay and on completion of training, this occupation attracts a starting rate of \$134.22 per day. Your pay grade will normally increase following the acquisition of additional skills and completion of advanced courses.

Refer to the [Salary Scales](#) for further details.

In addition to your salary, a Reserve Allowance of \$28.19 per day is payable to compensate for the unique demands of Reserve Service.

General Requirements

Age Requirement

Other Ranks (Non Technical)

Applicants must be aged between 17 and 54 years of age inclusive on day of entry.

Applicants will not be allowed to enter the ADF until they achieve a minimum of 17 years of age, however they may be able to initiate the application process from 16 years and six months of age, depending upon the capacity of their local recruiting centre.

Other Ranks (Non Technical) (Reserve)

Applicants must be aged between 17 and 54 years of age inclusive on entry.

Applicants will not be allowed to enter the ADF until they achieve a minimum of 17 years of age, however they may be able to initiate the application process from 16 years and six months of age, depending upon the capacity of their local recruiting centre.

Citizenship Requirement

Only Australian Citizens are permitted to serve in the ADF.

If you are a permanent resident of Australia, the ADF may consider a temporary waiver of the citizenship requirement if the position for which you are applying cannot be filled by an applicant who meets all the citizenship requirements, and then only in exceptional circumstances. You will be required to obtain Australian Citizenship as early as possible following enlistment or appointment.

Find out more in our [Recruitment Centre](#) or ask your local Defence Force Recruiting Centre.

Security Requirement

The Department of Defence requires ADF employees to have security clearances appropriate to their employment.

A process of background checks, collection of relevant information and, as required, interviews, enables the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency to make an informed assessment of an applicant's suitability for a security clearance.

The minimum security clearance level required is Negative Vetting Level 1, and current policy requires applicants to have a checkable background for the previous 10 years. Required information includes:

- Residence
- Employment
- Education
- Credit

Australian Citizenship is a requirement for a security clearance and a clearance will only be granted to a non-citizen in exceptional circumstances.

NOTE: The security clearance is critical to an applicants successful progression through the Army training system. If an applicant is unable to obtain the required security clearance in time, they will not be allowed to continue their training and may need to be re-allocated to another employment category. As such, it is strongly recommended that all applicants obtain the required documentation as soon as possible to provide the best opportunity to be employed in their preferred employment category.

Aptitude Requirement

The application process to join the Australian Defence Force requires you to complete a series of aptitude tests which may include verbal, spatial and numerical ability and a general maths test. Some jobs may also require you to complete additional testing at a later date.

Psychology support staff will explain what is involved with each test.

The aptitude tests provide information about your suitability for the Defence Force and for particular jobs. Defence Force Recruiting can then help you identify jobs that best match your abilities.

Further information on the aptitude testing requirements can be found [here](#).

Education & Experience

Other Ranks (Non Technical), Other Ranks (Non Technical) (Reserve)

Completion of Australian Year 10 education (or equivalent) with passes in English and Mathematics,

or

If you do not satisfy the education requirements for this trade or do not possess evidence of your educational attainment there is an alternative pathway available to you.

You may be eligible to sit an Alternative Education Equivalency (AEE) assessment to ascertain your ability at the required educational level for this trade.

Further information is available [here](#).

Medical & Fitness Requirements

Other Ranks (Non Technical), Other Ranks (Non Technical) (Reserve)

To be enlisted or appointed, you must be medically and physically fit for entry to your chosen occupation. This is partially assessed from the completion of an extensive questionnaire covering your medical history, followed by a physical examination.

You will also be required to successfully pass a physical fitness test before appointment.

For further details on medical and physical fitness standards refer to [Physical Fitness Standards for Entry into the ADF](#) and [Medical Process for Entry into the ADF](#).

Period of Service

Other Ranks (Non Technical)

You will be enlisted for an Initial Minimum Period of Service (IMPS) of four years. Subsequent periods of service may be offered subject to the requirements of the ADF and your suitability for further service. You may request discharge at any time provided you do not have an outstanding IMPS obligation.

Other Ranks (Non Technical) (Reserve)

All candidates who are appointed or enlisted into the Army Reserve may undertake volunteer service until the age of 65 (Compulsory Retiring Age) subject to the requirements of the Army and suitability for further service. Members may transfer out of the active Army Reserve at any time.

Additional Requirements

Other Ranks (Non Technical), Other Ranks (Non Technical) (Reserve)

It is highly desirable that all applicants for Communication Systems Operator hold at a minimum a Provisional Drivers Licence for a manual vehicle, in their state or territory.

Military Training

Other Ranks (Non Technical)

All General Entry recruits into the Australian Regular Army are required to complete the Recruit Course.

Total Duration: 80 days.

Location: Kapooka, Wagga Wagga, NSW.

Recruit training is the same for male and female entrants. During the 80 day Army Recruit Course you will be required to take part in physical training, weapon handling and shooting, first aid, drill and field craft. The training is deliberately challenging and has been designed to prepare you to be a soldier in today's Army. Recruits gain a sense of achievement, purpose and confidence during basic training, and on completion of the course feel justifiably proud of what they have achieved.

For more details on recruit training, refer to the Joining instructions. These instructions will provide you and your family with enough information to arrange your personal affairs before enlistment in the Army, and give you an idea of what you will be doing on the recruit course.

Further information is also available at the Army Recruit Training Centre website.

During Military (Initial Recruit) Training and (Initial) Employment Training, members may be required to pay a contribution towards meals, accommodation and utilities.

Other Ranks (Non Technical) (Reserve)

All General Entry recruits into the Australian Army Reserve are required to complete the Recruit Course.

Duration: 35 days continuous

Location: Kapooka, Wagga Wagga, NSW

Recruit training is the same for male and female entrants. During the Reserve Recruit Training Course you will be required to take part in physical training, weapon handling and shooting, drill, first aid, navigation and field craft. The training is deliberately challenging and has been designed to prepare you to be a soldier in today's Army. Recruits gain a sense of achievement, purpose and confidence during basic training, and on completion of the course feel justifiably proud of what they have achieved.

For more information on the content of Recruit Training refer to the [Joining Instructions](#).

Further information is also available at the [Army Recruit Training Centre website](#).

Note: You must be aware that you must commence recruit training within 6 months of enlistment.

Employment Training

Other Ranks (Non Technical)

The majority of Army communications personnel receive their communications training at the Defence Force School of Signals (DFSS) at Simpson Barracks Macleod, Victoria. You won't find technical and communication schools with a better teacher/student ratio or better equipment and facilities. DFSS is dedicated to giving you the best technical and communications qualification possible.

So you'll have a real edge in life and be assured of success in whatever employment category you choose. Unlike any other school of its kind, you will be paid while you learn and guaranteed a job when you graduate. The Australian Army is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), therefore, you may be accredited with nationally recognised civilian and military qualifications.

And because you'll learn to be a soldier as well as a qualified Communication Systems Operator, you'll also develop a wide range of additional skills including self-discipline, confidence and a real sense of leadership.

Communication Systems Operator (ECN 662) RA Sigs

Duration: approx 34 weeks.

Note: Course duration may vary depending on public holidays and other Army requirements.

Location of Training: Defence Force School of Signals, Simpson Barracks, Macleod, Victoria.

Trainees will be instructed in seven modules including the operation and maintenance of military High Frequency (HF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) radios, portable Ultra High Frequency (UHF) satellite terminals, using contemporary waveforms and cryptographic equipment. Communication Systems Operators will be trained to deploy computer networks and to operate computer based communications applications. This training will be conducted in a range of simulated environments based upon vehicle and Command Post operations.

It should be noted that there might be periods of time between courses conducted at DFSS. Should this occur, soldiers will be provided with both meaningful employment and refresher training.

Other Ranks (Non Technical) (Reserve)

Communication Systems Operator

Duration: 2 x 16 day modules.

Location of Training: Defence Force School of Signals, Simpson Barracks Macleod, Victoria and at your local Reserve unit.

Training incorporates all aspects of communications used in RA Sigs units. Subjects include operation and maintenance of digital radio equipment, cryptographic equipment and field antennas.

Further Training

Other Ranks (Non Technical)

Communication Systems Operators can progress to Warrant Officer Class One, Communications Systems Engineer on Pay Grade 7.

Employment Location

Other Ranks (Non Technical)

The Communication Systems Operator is employed in RA Sigs tactical and base support units that operate throughout

Australia. Major RA Sigs units are located in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Darwin, Perth and Townsville.

National Qualifications

Other Ranks (Non Technical), Other Ranks (Non Technical) (Reserve)

Army is currently undertaking a review of civil accreditation gained through Army training.

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