

Survival Equipment Specialist

Engineering specialists for aircraft and aircrew Survival Equipment; designed to save and preserve life in flight as well as during emergency ejection and escape situations.

KEY POINTS

- Maintain, test and repair cutting-edge aircrew equipment used in flight and during aircraft emergencies.
- Pack, maintain and repair the parachutes used in ejection seats and by airborne forces.
- Provide a key role aiding aircrew and aircraft passenger survival; both in the UK and deployed overseas.

TRADE OVERVIEW

RAF Survival Equipment Specialists - known as Survival Equipment Technician (often abbreviated to SE Tech) - are experts in the modification, maintenance, diagnostics and repair of the Survival Equipment (SE) and Aircrew Equipment Assemblies (AEA) fitted to aircraft and crew members. As an SE Tech, you will perform a key role supporting the operation of frontline RAF aircraft, such as Typhoon, Lightning II, Atlas, Sentry and Chinook, as well as Army Air Corps aircraft like Apache helicopters.

A core team member, carrying out safety-critical engineering at a variety of locations in the UK or overseas, you may be responsible for the maintenance of aircrew Vision Enhancement Devices, mission-integrated protective helmets and oxygen masks, emergency location beacons, life preservers and anti-G protection; emergency escape parachutes designed to save the lives of aircrew on ejection; or restraint systems, life rafts & survival packs to help ensure survival in aircraft accidents or emergencies. SE Tech also maintain man-carrying parachuting equipment used by UK Special Forces, Army & Royal Marine units. You will have the opportunity to deploy worldwide, supporting air operations and training in areas as diverse as the USA, Middle East and Europe. Like most people in the RAF, you may move locations every few years as part of your career development (each job is known as an *assignment* or *tour*); with further opportunities to diversify into a wide range of roles both within and outside of your trade.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

The qualifications, experience and skill sets that you develop as an SE specialist, engineer and manager are recognised and highly regarded in civilian industry which mean that, should you ever decide to pursue a career outside the RAF, you will be well placed to find employment.

RECRUIT TRAINING

Your career will start with a 10-week Basic Recruit Training Course at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire. The course is designed to help you adjust to a military environment. As well as fitness and military training, you will also learn about the RAF lifestyle.

SPECIALIST TRAINING

The next step is Phase 2 Specialist Training at the Defence School of Aeronautical Engineering Cosford, near Wolverhampton, lasting 29 weeks. You will be taught the basic skills of mechanical and electrical engineering and learn the principles of engineering and maintenance of parachutes, life rafts, and AEA; including night vision devices, helmet mounted displays and oxygen systems. On successful completion, you will be promoted to Leading Aircraftman and posted to your first tour.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

During Recruit Training you will gain Functional Skills Level 2 in Maths and English, if required. During Specialist Training you will gain a Level 2 Diploma in Aerospace & Aviation Engineering (Survival Equipment Maintenance) and a Level 3 Diploma in Aircraft Maintenance (Survival Equipment). During your first tour you will complete the portfolio element of the Level 3 Diploma in Aviation Maintenance (Development Competence) and, following an End Point Assessment, you will be awarded your Level 3 Survival Equipment Fitter Apprenticeship. As new equipment and aircraft enter Service, the aim is to accredit specialist training, to ensure that you hold recognised civilian qualifications as part of your career development.

REWARDS FROM RAF LIFE

- Competitive pay and pension
- Training and lifelong learning
- Six weeks paid leave and public holidays
- Free medical and dental care
- Subsidised food and accommodation
- Free gym and sports facilities
- Adventurous training opportunities

REGULAR ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Survival Equipment Specialist

Age: 16–47*

*Must attest before 48th birthday. (If you are under 18 years of age, you will need consent from a parent or guardian before you apply however you may commence your application from 15 years and 9 months).

Qualifications:

GCSEs at Grade C (Grade 4 to 5 with effect from Aug 17) or above in English Language and Mathematics or SCE Standard Grades at Grade 2/ Scottish National 5 (Grade A – C) or above in English and Mathematics.

Selection: You will be assessed on physical fitness and medical eligibility. Additionally, you will also be required to complete the Airmen's Selection Test at your local Armed Forces Careers Office to the standard appropriate to your choice of trade. If you are colour blind, or have a history of asthma or skin sensitivity, you will not be able to join the RAF as a Survival Equipment Specialist.

ONGOING TRAINING / DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout your career we will continue to train you and provide you with through-Service career development. There are opportunities to undertake the management and leadership training required for promotion and to join relevant civilian professional associations and bodies; as an SAC holding the Level 3 qualifications as part of your training you meet the UK Engineering Council standard as an Engineering Technician and are able to apply for registration as such. Furthermore, you will be able to employ your new-found military and leadership skills on adventure training expeditions in the UK and around the world.

YOUR FIRST TOUR AS A SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT SPECIALIST

After your initial Recruit and Specialist Training, you will be assigned to a UK unit where, under supervision, you will apply your newly-gained skills in a live environment; adding immediate value to RAF and UK air operations. You may work on a Royal Air Force flying station providing direct support to the operation of fast jets, multi-engined aircraft or helicopters. Alternatively, you may work within the Airborne Forces environment, maintaining parachute equipment for UK military parachutists; this could involve working on active parachute drop zones both in the UK and overseas. You may support the delivery of Survival, Evasion, Resistance & Extraction (SERE) training, providing assistance in the instruction of aircrew practicing survival drills on land, in pools, or at sea. For this role, SE specialists are trained to pass the RAF Swimming Competency Test and are then required to pass the RAF Role Related Swim Test on an annual basis. Once your experience builds, and you demonstrate the required competence levels, supervision will be reduced. After completing one year's total service, providing you have passed Specialist Training and a Trade Ability Test, you will be eligible for promotion to Senior Aircraftman.

YOUR FUTURE CAREER PROSPECTS AND PROGRESSION

As a Senior Aircraftman, you may be able to undertake a tour at an overseas location, such as RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus. As your skill levels and leadership potential develop further, promotion to the rank of Corporal and beyond is judged on merit and by competitive selection.

As you gain more experience you may be offered employment in areas such as:

Aircrew Equipment Fitting and Integration and Aircraft Accident Investigation: Undertaking the development, trials, testing and aircraft integration of new, often technologically advanced, SE and AEA entering Service; or providing expert advice in support of aircraft accident investigations and determining causes of equipment failure. As a Corporal, you will be trained in the fitting and function of AEA from an Aviation Medicine perspective.

Instructional Posts: On promotion to Corporal or above, and on completing instructional techniques courses, you may train recruits during specialist training, provide trade-related management training to other SE Tech tradesmen or teach SERE techniques. You may also be able to undertake further training such as Jungle, Desert, and Extreme Cold Weather environmental survival courses to enhance your abilities as an instructor.

There may well be opportunities to work outside the trade. As you advance through the ranks on merit, you will have an increased opportunity to lead and direct; managing resources and manpower within your work to deliver the required outputs whilst instilling the high standards expected within the RAF, maintaining excellence both within and outside your chosen trade of Survival Equipment Technician.

Pay: Visit

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/technical-and-engineering/survival-equipment-specialist>

Residency: Whether or not you were born in the United Kingdom, you should have resided there for the 5 years immediately preceding your application but candidates with a minimum of 3 years will be considered.

Nationality: You must be a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, holder of dual UK/other nationality or have been a Commonwealth citizen since birth.

A Modern Force: The RAF recognises the value of a person's ability no matter their ethnicity, social background, religion or belief, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status/civil partnership.



Register your interest in this role:

Online:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/technical-and-engineering/survival-equipment-specialist>

or

Telephone: 0345 605 5555

This information was last updated on 03 Aug 21, but may have changed since. If you have any queries, please check with RAF Staff at any Armed Forces Careers Office.

Search online for other trades both Regular and Reserve

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>



**NO
ORDINARY
JOB**