

Air Operations (Control) Officer

Guardians of the Skies: Safely controlling and protecting military and civil aircraft within the dynamic airspace across the UK and Overseas Territories.

Air Operations (Control) is a diverse, exciting and complex role which directs and supports operations both in the UK and around the world. The three key employment areas are Terminal Air Traffic Control (ATC) (providing an ATC service at an airfield), Area Control (working alongside civilian air traffic controllers at the UK's Air Traffic Control Centre at Swanwick) and finally as a Weapons Controller (directing fast jet aircraft to intercept potentially hostile aircraft that threaten the integrity of the UK's Airspace).

Using state of the art radar and communications technology you will be trained to:

- Safely integrate military and civilian aircraft departing from and arriving at military airfields.
- Become part of the team that order Typhoon fast-jets to scramble and intercept suspect aircraft.
- Control fighter, bomber, surveillance, refuelling and even unmanned aircraft as they support a number of different training and operational tasks.
- Work alongside civilian controllers as an Area Radar Controller ensuring military aircraft operate safely amongst civilian airliners in the UK's congested airspace.
- Provide specialist battlespace management support to both UK and multi-national exercises and operations around the world.
- Deploy on military operations as part of the Tactical Air Traffic Control team that establishes temporary runways in austere locations in support of a number of agencies including UK Special Forces.

As an Air Operations (Control) officer you could be working from a field, a bunker, a building, a tent, an E-7 aircraft or even an aircraft carrier. Regardless, you will be part of a varied and stimulating organisation which offers an excellent career and worldwide employment opportunities that is at the heart of the RAF's flying output.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Initial Officer Training

RAF officers begin their career by completing Modular Initial Officer Training Course (M)IOT at the RAF College Cranwell in Lincolnshire. You will complete a challenging modular 24-week course, split into 4 distinct terms designed to develop your robustness, fitness, leadership and academic skills through a number of indoor and outdoor exercises across the UK.

Specialist Training

Specialist training is delivered at the Defence College of Air and Space Operations at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire and subsequently for Weapons Controllers at RAF Boulmer in Northumberland. This training starts with a Foundation Module and is completed alongside Air Operations (Systems) officer and Non-Commissioned Controller (NCC) students. Following successful completion, you will be assigned to a specialist module in one of the core specialisations: Terminal (Airfield) ATC or Weapons Control. You could return at a later date to complete a conversion course to allow you to undertake roles in any of the other core areas including Area Radar control.

Foundation Tour

Following successful completion of your specialist training, your first tour will last approximately 24-36 months and will be at one of the RAF's airfields around the UK or in Cyprus, at our Control and Reporting Centre at RAF Boulmer or at the Air Traffic Control Radar Unit at RAF(U) Swanwick. You will then consolidate your specialist training and develop post-graduate skills allowing you to achieve 'Combat Ready' status and become available to deploy on military operations anywhere in the world.

Air Operations (Control) Officer

Age: 17½ - 38*

*Must have entered IOT before 39th birthday.

Qualifications:

You will need a minimum of 5 GCSEs (or acceptable equivalents) at a minimum of Grade C (Grade 4 to 5 with effect from Aug 17), including English Language and Mathematics or Scottish National 5 (Grade A - C) in 5 subjects including English Language and Mathematics.

In addition, two A2 Levels / three Highers at grade C or above (excluding General Studies, Critical thinking and Citizenship Studies), which must total a minimum of 64 UCAS points.

Alternatively, you hold a UK degree at Grade 2:2 or higher (or acceptable alternative), you only need Mathematics and English Language GCSEs at a minimum of Grade C (Grade 4 to 5 with effect from Aug 17) or Scottish National 5 (Grade A - C) in English Language and Mathematics.

Your Career Prospects

You will join the RAF on an initial commission of 12 years and may be selected to continue your service on a pension earning commission of 20 years' service or to age 40, whichever is the later. Promotion to the rank of Flight Lieutenant is on a time served/satisfactory service basis after 3½ years from completing IOT. Further promotion to Squadron Leader and above is by competitive selection.

On-going Development

Subsequent tours of duty may see you being employed in a wide variety of areas, including:

- One of the other areas of the Air Operations (Control) officer specialisations.
- As 'Mission Crew' on the E-7 Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning aircraft based at RAF Lossiemouth.
- Part of the UK's deployable, ground based, command and control unit 'Number 1 Air Control Centre' located at RAF Boulmer.
- Tactical ATC – high readiness small teams who deploy ahead of the main force to set up landing zones and airfields worldwide.
- Instructing ab-initio and postgraduate students.

You may also be selected for advancement to higher management roles, responsible for leading large teams of fellow officers and airmen. Throughout your career, you should expect operational deployments (generally of up to but not limited to 6 months duration) to a range of locations worldwide, together with ad-hoc shorter detachments to such locations as Cyprus, Lithuania, Gibraltar, Canada, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and the US. The RAF also has a variety of exchange opportunities which include instructing the US Marine Corps in Arizona; the US Air Force Space Command in Colorado and the Royal Norwegian Air Force.

Transferable Skills

As an Air Operations (Control) Officer, you will obtain numerous transferable skills including advanced leadership (CMI accredited), change and project management and the opportunity for further academic development.

Visit to an RAF Unit

Opportunities exist to visit an RAF unit where you will be able to meet serving Air Operations (Control) Officers and learn more about the branch and the various roles you could find yourself employed in. These visits are called **Realistic Job Previews**, for which on-site accommodation and meals are provided. These visits will be offered to you by Armed Forces careers staff as you progress through the application process.

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 holder of dual UK/other nationality.

Pay:

For current information visit: <https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/air-operations-support/air-operations-control>

Selection:

Initially, you must pass the aptitude tests at the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) at RAF College Cranwell. If you pass the aptitude tests, you will be invited to return to the OASC for the one-day selection process where we will assess your potential for training. If you are deemed competitive for selection, you will be invited back to the OASC for a final time for a specialist medical.

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.

To register your interest in this role online:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/air-operations-support/air-operations-control>

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 branches both Regular and Reserve
<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>



**NO
ORDINARY
JOB**