

Air Operations (Systems) Officer

Guardians of the Skies and Space: Enhancing military situational awareness and airfield operations in support of the UK and Overseas Territories.

Air Operations (Systems) is a diverse, exciting and complex role which directs and supports operations both in the UK and around the world. The three key areas of employment are within the Flight Operations, Aerospace Surveillance and Space Operations/Control domains. Officers within this specialisation will use sophisticated radar and communications technology to provide organisations with the information they need to make time-critical decisions that underpin the operational support functions of the RAF. Roles include:

- Generating and maintaining military flying programmes and overseeing airfield operations.
- Processing flight data information and monitoring the flight progress of all military flying across the globe.
- Forming part of the tactical Mobile Air Operations Team which supports deployed helicopter operations globally.
- Being the UK's representative in a multi-national Combined Air Operations Centre.
- Using ground-based military and civilian radars to monitor, detect and identify all aircraft in and around UK airspace – 24/7, 365 days a year.
- Forming part of the team that provides the Army and other Services with air situational awareness.
- Monitoring foreign surveillance satellites and notifying friendly forces of potential hostile action and espionage.
- Maintaining space situational awareness tracking everything from space debris to the International Space Station and providing vital information to a number of civilian and military organisations that rely on space surveillance.
- Forming part of the team that operates the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System, detecting and reporting any object that could threaten the UK or our allies.

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

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 Aerospace Surveillance at RAF Boulmer in Northumberland. This training starts with a Foundation Module and is completed alongside Air Operations (Control) officer and Non-Commissioned Controller students. After this you will be assigned to one of the two core specialisations, Aerospace Surveillance or Flight Operations and you will complete the appropriate training module for your first role. You may also return at a later date to complete a conversion course to allow you to undertake roles in any of the other core areas.

Foundation Tour

Your first tour will last approximately 24 months and could be at our Control and Reporting Centre at RAF Boulmer, or at one of the many RAF airfields around the UK. You will consolidate your specialist training and develop post-graduate skills allowing you to achieve 'Combat Ready' status and deploy on operations.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Air Operations (Systems) Officer

Age: 17½ - 47*

*Must have entered IOT before 48th 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, if 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, during this time. 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 (Systems) specialisation.
- Planning missions for the RAF's varied aircraft and systems
- Co-ordinating and managing transport aircraft schedules
- Form part of the Mobile Air Ops Team (MAOT) providing radio communications and Support Helicopter support to forward Battle Groups and other agencies.
- 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.
- Instructing ab initio and postgraduate students
- As a *Ballistic Missile Early Warning* Space Operator at RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire or the UK Space Operations Centre at RAF High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire.

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 USA. 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 (Systems) Officer, you will obtain numerous transferable skills including advanced leadership (CMI Accredited), change and project management and the opportunity for further academic development. Opportunities for closer alignment to the civilian equivalent of airfield operations are being continually assessed.

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-systems>

Selection:

Initially, you must undertake the aptitude tests at the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) at RAF College Cranwell to inform your future allocation within the Branch although this is not a pass/fail element. Once this is complete you will be invited to return to OASC for the one-day selection process where we will assess your potential for training.

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-systems>

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**