

# MSO (Environmental Health)

***Support the delivery of an environmental and occupational health and medical force protection capability to minimise the incidence of disease and non-battle injury and to maintain the operational capability of the UK Armed Forces.***

Medical Support Officers (Environmental Health) (MSO (EH)) provide specialist advice and support in all aspects of environmental health for the RAF and Defence Medical Services. All RAF MSO (EH) are recruited from the RAF Environmental Health Practitioner (EHP) Trade. As such, all the military environmental health knowledge and experience gained as a RAF EHP will provide a sound foundation to your role as a RAF MSO (EH).

You will be employed within a wide range of roles, all of which require an understanding of how an environmental health service is planned and delivered within the military and civilian contexts. You will be required to interpret civilian environmental health legislation, Service policies and guidance to provide advice and instruction at all levels to minimise the incidence of disease and non-battle injuries. You will be required to manage manpower and materiel and will become involved in the recruitment, management and development of the Trade Training Strategy for the RAF EHP Trade.

Like most people in the RAF, you will probably move jobs every few years; each job is known as a *tour*. As a junior officer, your tours will be predominantly at the RAF Centre of Aviation Medicine at RAF Henlow and Tactical Medical Wing, RAF Brize Norton; as a senior officer these could be expanded to Air Command, tri-Service environmental health roles and a number of mainstream Medical Support Officer roles.

Medical force protection is critical on deployed operations and it is likely that you will be deployed overseas within your first few years. Deployments can range from several weeks for exercises to several months for operations.

## 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

All MSO (EH) are required to be registered with the Environmental Health Registration Board (EHRB) or be a Chartered Practitioner with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH); if you are not, you will be required to become a Chartered Practitioner as soon as possible after completion of MIOTC. This requires successful completion of the 2-year practice-based CIEH chartered practitioner programme.

## MSO (Environmental Health)

**Minimum Age:** When completed professional/education qualifications.

**Maximum Age:** Must have entered IOT by 48<sup>th</sup> birthday.

You will need to be a serving RAF Environmental Health Practitioner, at a minimum rank of SAC(T).

### Qualifications:

Qualifications required depend on time served - see AP3393 Vol 1 Chap 2 Section 2 for details.

You must hold a BSc (Hons) Environmental Health or MSc Environmental Health. Ideally you will be registered with the EHRB/Chartered Practitioner with CIEH

### 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.

### Foundation Tour

As a MSO (EH), your first tour is likely to be at the Centre of Aviation Medicine at RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire. Here you will be a Flight Commander in one of the Flights in the Environmental and Occupational Health Squadron. During this tour you will have the opportunity to develop your competencies as a manager of personnel, materiel and tasks; this will assist you in the transition from EHP to MSO(EH).

### Your Career Prospects

After successful completion of MIOTC/SOITC training you will be offered a pension-earning commission appropriate to your age and time served. During your career further opportunities may be presented that could allow you to serve up to a maximum of 35 years or to age 60 (whichever is less). You will commission as a Flying Officer and you will be promoted to Flight Lieutenant on a time and satisfactory service basis; further promotion to the rank of Squadron Leader and beyond is by competitive selection. You will be expected to complete at least 2 tours in your specialisation, after which you may have the opportunity to undertake a mainstream MSO role to further broaden your competencies as an officer. You may be employed in the strategic and tactical planning and delivery of health support to deployed operations, medical logistics, healthcare quality assessment, budgets, personnel management, estates management and the design, delivery and audit of medical training for both medical and non-medical personnel.

### Ongoing Development

As a MSO (EH) you will have extensive opportunities for professional development throughout your career which will include a minimum of 20 hours Continuing Professional Development per year and opportunities for further education and training. You will be required to complete, as appropriate, Professional Military Development Training (intermediate-level Officer Development Programme). This development will be incremental in nature and compatible with your performance, experience and aspirations. As a SME you will also have the opportunity to test your skills and broaden your experience in more challenging environments when undertaking operational tours or whilst carrying out On-Site Reviews for operations and exercises.

### Transferable skills

The skills and experience you gain throughout your career as a MSO (EH) could equip you for a wide range of civilian jobs in areas such as local government, private sector environmental health management, health and safety, disaster and humanitarian relief, environmental protection, occupational health and public health.

#### 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.

**Pay:** For current information visit:

[www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment](http://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment)

#### Selection:

You will be invited to the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) at RAF College Cranwell 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>

or

**Telephone:**

0345 605 5555

This information was last updated in 12 Jul 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**