



**Provide air power on behalf of your country, operating state-of-the-art Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) world-wide.**

The role of the Pilot (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) Remotely Piloted Air System (Pilot (ISR) RPAS) is to operate the MQ-9B Protector RG1, a medium altitude long endurance (MALE) Remotely Piloted aircraft designed for persistent Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) and, if required, ground-attack missions.

Like most people in the RAF you will probably move jobs every few years, with each job is known as a *tour*. You will move around RAF bases in the UK and overseas to carry out your operational and training role. As your career develops, you could also take on mission planning and ground based staff duties.

## 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

Your specialist training begins with Elementary Flying Training (EFT), including ground school and then flying the Tutor or Prefect aircraft. You will then go to either Grand Forks, North Dakota or RAF Waddington to learn to fly the Protector aircraft, before being awarded your flying badge, or 'wings' at the end of the Operational Conversion Unit (OCU). You will spend 6 months completing the training elements and learning how to operate the aircraft and employ weapons.

## Foundation Tour

During your first tour, you will be posted to 31 Squadron at RAF Waddington, although it is likely that exchanges and flights will be set up with NATO and UK Allies. You will fly an aircraft on operations over hostile territory, providing persistent ISTAR, and if required, kinetic strike capability.

## Your Career Prospects

You will join the RAF on an Initial Commission of 12 years and, following training, transfer to 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 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years from completing IOT. Further promotion to Squadron Leader and above is by competitive selection.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

### RPAS Pilot

**Age:** 17½ - 32\*

\*Civilian Candidates must enter IOT before their 33<sup>rd</sup> 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 (Grades 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 Mathematics and English Language Scottish National 5 (Grades A-C).

#### Residency:

Whether or not you were born in the United Kingdom, you should have resided there for the 10 years immediately preceding your application but candidates with a minimum of 7 years will be considered.

#### Fitness:

As well as the RAF Fitness Test, you must pass the Aircrew Swim Test prior to starting flying training. Applicants must be able to swim.

## Ongoing Development

As a Pilot (ISR) RPAS, you will have opportunities for further professional development throughout your career. As well as training personnel on the OCU or joining our Coalition Partners on other RPAS schemes, there are opportunities for structured command and staff training as your career progresses through to Flight Commander, Squadron Commander or beyond. Some Pilot (ISR) RPAS may also be offered a cross-over to crewed multi-engined aircraft types should their performance warrant that after the first 6 years on RPAS.

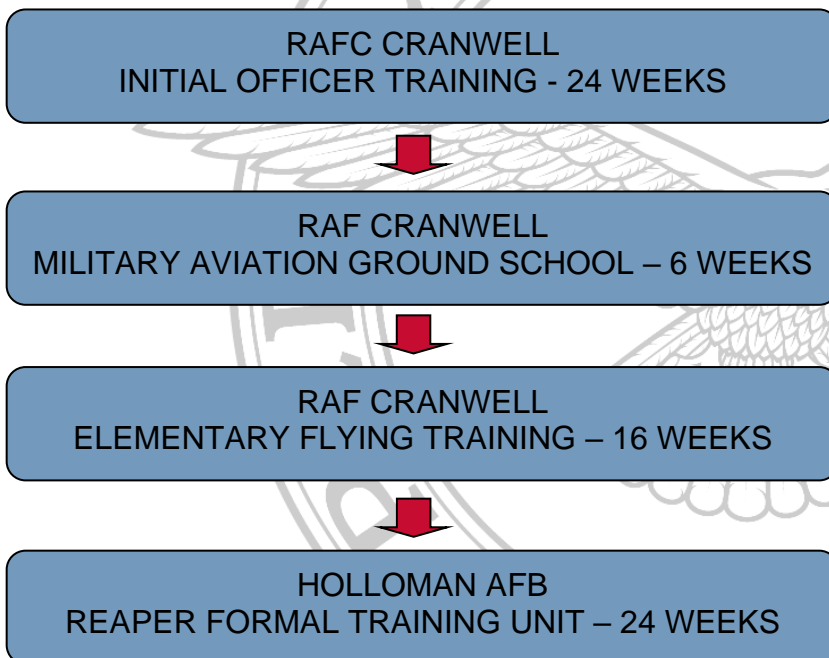
## In-Service Degree

An In-Service degree for Flying Branch personnel on completion of their flying training is currently being implemented with a separate information sheet due soon for publication.

## Transferable Skills

The skills and experience you gain throughout your career as a RPAS pilot in the RAF will equip you for a number of civilian jobs upon completion of service, including: civilian UAV pilot operator and instructor, systems specialist; simulator coordinator and management posts.

## **TRAINING PIPELINE (COURSE LENGTH APPROXIMATE)**



### **Nationality:**

You must be a citizen of the United Kingdom since birth and must not hold (and must never have held) any other nationality or citizenship (including joint nationality) with the exception of dual British Irish citizens.

### **Security:**

All RPAS Pilots will be required to achieve Developed Vetting Security Clearance. For further information visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/security-vetting-and-clearance>

### **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.

**Pay:** For current information visit:

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

### **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.

### **University Bursary:**

We could provide a bursary of up to £3000 a year during your 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years of your studies plus approximately £1200 for 30 days of training, if you, gain entry to a UK university for an acceptable degree and aim to join the RAF. See the Sponsorship page on the RAF website for more detail.

**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 05 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**