



Communication Systems Operator

- Full Time As a trained Communication Systems Operator you will use your knowledge of radio and satellite communications to provide essential communications for the Commander.

Job Details

On the battlefield, the Royal Australian Corps of Signals (RA Sigs) provides commanders with the means of controlling the battle using a number of methods including radio, fibre optic, microwave, information systems and satellite links. By planning, deploying and maintaining robust, scalable, secure local and wide area networks, RA Sigs ensures the Army's information services are available 24/7 anywhere in the world.

The Communication Systems Operator is responsible for the operation of communications equipment at a number of different levels; whether it is within a Special Forces patrol or within a large headquarters, the men and women of the Communications Systems category are there.

Communication Systems Operators ensure commanders can communicate with their units using satellite terminals, radios, hand held and desk-top data terminals and security equipment. Whatever the location, deployment or task, Communication Systems Operators provide the appropriate communications systems for the Army whether it is on land, in the air or at sea.

The work environment of the Communication Systems Operator offers great variety and offers the opportunity to operate from 4 x 4 vehicles, armoured vehicles, communication centres in air conditioned offices, foot patrols in support of small teams, field command posts or large Navy vessels.

Entry

General Entry (Non-Technical Trainee) is the term used to describe the large number of non-technical jobs available to people entering the Army as soldiers (non-officer entry). The Army is made up of different specialist branches, called Corps, which perform various different functions such as Administration, Catering, Communications, Health, Armoured, Artillery, Engineering, Infantry and Transport.

General Entry (Non-Technical Trainee) soldiers graduate from recruit training with the rank of private and generally progress to private proficient after 12 months effective service following completion of initial employment training. Further promotion to corporal, sergeant and warrant officer is based on performance, the length of time spent in a particular rank and vacancies and will normally require the successful

completion of trade and promotion courses.

Corporals (Bombardiers in Artillery) are referred to as Junior Non-Commissioned Officers, or JNCOs, while sergeants are referred to as Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (SNCOs). Warrant Officer Class 1 is the most senior soldier rank. A corporal will normally have some responsibility for the supervision of junior staff and this progressively increases on promotion to sergeant. A warrant officer normally has a substantial personnel management role.

Pay & Allowances

Salary while undertaking Military (Recruit) Training: \$1,210 per fortnight (\$31,538 per year).*

Salary while undertaking Initial Employment Training: \$1,382 per fortnight (\$36,043 per year).*

While under training, you will receive \$335 per fortnight (\$8,742 per year) pro rata Trainee Allowance.

To assist you in maintaining your uniforms in good order and condition, you will also receive a Uniform Allowance of \$16 per fortnight (\$419 per year).

Salary (excluding allowances) on completion of Initial Employment Training: \$1,728 per fortnight (\$45,054 per year).*

In addition to your salary, you will also receive Service Allowance of \$447 per fortnight (\$11,662 per year) except while undertaking Military (Initial) or Employment training. This allowance compensates a member for the unique requirements that service life may impose on an individual and his or her family.

Each General Entry job in the Australian Defence Force is classified into a pay grade. This particular job is classified as a Pay Grade 3 occupation.

Salary will continue to increase based on rank and the number of years of service completed in that rank. Pay grade may also increase following the acquisition of additional skills and completion of advanced courses.

Refer to the [Salary Scales](#) for further details.

* Please note that these figures do not include compulsory deductions for taxation; meals, accommodation and utilities (as applicable); and superannuation.

General Requirements

Age Requirement

Must be aged between 17 and 55 years inclusive on day of entry.

Applicants will not be allowed to enter the ADF until they achieve a minimum of 17 years of age, however they may be able to initiate the application process from 16 years and six months of age, depending upon the capacity of their local recruiting centre.

Citizenship Requirement

Only Australian citizens are permitted to serve in the ADF.

If you are a Permanent Resident of Australia, the ADF may consider a temporary waiver of the citizenship requirement if the position for which you are applying cannot be filled by an applicant who meets all the citizenship requirements, and then only in exceptional circumstances. You will be required to obtain Australian citizenship as early as possible following enlistment or appointment.

More information on citizenship requirements and the citizenship waiver process is available from the [Recruitment Centre](#) and your local Defence Force Recruiting Centre.

Security Requirement

A process of background checks, collection of relevant information and, as required, interviews enables the Regional Security Office to make an informed assessment of an applicant's suitability for a security clearance. Current policy requires applicants for this particular avenue of entry to have lived in Australia for the preceding 10 years, or have a background for this period, which can be verified.

The Department of Defence requires ADF entrants to attain a security clearance appropriate to their avenue of entry. RA Sigs requires the applicant to be security cleared to SECRET within 6 months of enlistment. Should a clearance not be able to be secured within this timeframe the employment within RA Sigs will be reconsidered and the soldier may be given the opportunity to transfer to another Corps within Army. A further security clearance to TOP SECRET will be required during your career.

Aptitude Requirement

The application process to join the Australian Defence Force requires you to complete a series of aptitude tests including verbal, spatial and numerical ability and a general maths test. Some jobs may also need additional testing at a later date.

Psychology support staff will explain what is involved with each test.

The aptitude tests provide information about your suitability for the Defence Force and for particular jobs. Defence Force Recruiting can then help you identify jobs that match your abilities.

Further information on the aptitude testing requirements can be found [here](#).

Gender Restriction

Employment available for males and females.

Education Requirements

Completion of Australian Year 10 education (or equivalent) with passes in English and Mathematics,

or

If you do not satisfy the education requirements for this trade or do not possess evidence of your educational attainment there is an alternative pathway available to you.

You may be eligible to sit an Alternative Education Equivalency (AEE) assessment to ascertain your ability at the required educational level for this trade.

Further information is available [here](#).

Medical & Fitness Requirements

To be enlisted or appointed, you must be medically and physically fit for entry to your chosen occupation. This is partially assessed from the completion of an extensive questionnaire covering your medical history, followed by a physical examination.

You will also be required to successfully pass a physical fitness test before enlistment.

For further details on medical and physical fitness standards refer to [Physical Fitness Standards for Entry into the ADF](#) and [Medical Process for Entry into the ADF](#).

Period of Service

You will be enlisted for an Initial Minimum Period of Service (IMPS) of four years. Subsequent periods of service may be offered subject to the requirements of the ADF and your suitability for further service. You may request discharge at any time provided you do not have an outstanding IMPS obligation.

Your Careers Counsellor can advise on how IMPS will relate to your chosen occupation.

Additional Requirements

It is highly desirable that all applicants for Communication Systems Operator hold at a minimum a Provisional Drivers Licence for a manual vehicle, in their state or territory.

Military Training

All General Entry recruits into the Australian Regular Army are required to complete the **Recruit Course**.

Total Duration: 80 days.

Location: Kapooka, Wagga Wagga, NSW.

Recruit training is the same for male and female entrants. During the 80 day Army Recruit Course you will be required to take part in physical training, weapon handling and shooting, first aid, drill and field craft.

The training is deliberately challenging and has been designed to prepare you to be a soldier in today's Army. Recruits gain a sense of achievement, purpose and confidence during basic training, and on completion of the course feel justifiably proud of what they have achieved.

For more details on recruit training, refer to the [Joining instructions](#). These instructions will provide you and your family with enough information to arrange your personal affairs before enlistment in the Army, and give you an idea of what you will be doing on the recruit course.

Further information is also available at the [Army Recruit Training Centre website](#).

During Military (Initial Recruit) Training and (Initial) Employment Training, members may be required to pay a contribution towards meals, accommodation and utilities.

Employment Training

The majority of Army communications personnel receive their communications training at the Defence Force School of Signals (DFSS) at Macleod, VIC. You won't find technical and communication schools with a better teacher/student ratio or better equipment and facilities. DFSS is dedicated to giving you the best technical and communications qualification possible.

So you'll have a real edge in life and be assured of success in whatever employment category you choose. Unlike any other school of its kind, you will be paid while you learn and guaranteed a job when you graduate. The Australian Army is a Registered Training Authority, therefore, you'll be accredited with nationally recognised civilian and military qualifications.

And because you'll learn to be a soldier as well as a qualified Communication Systems Operator, you'll also develop a wide range of additional skills including self-discipline, confidence and a real sense of leadership.

Common Corps Training

Duration: 20 Days.

Location of Training: Defence Force School of Signals, Simpson Barracks Macleod, Victoria.

This course provides basic Royal Australian Corps of Signals skills in radio, line laying and computing and is a prerequisite for all Australian Regular Army RA Sigs trade courses.

Communication Systems Operator (ECN 662) RA Sigs

Duration: 25 weeks.

Location of Training: Defence Force School of Signals, Simpson Barracks, Macleod, Victoria.

Trainees will be instructed in the operation and maintenance of military High Frequency (HF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) radios, portable satellite terminals, frequency hopping and cryptographic equipment. Communication Systems Operators will be trained to deploy computer networks and to operate computer based communications applications. This training will be conducted in a range of simulated environments based upon vehicle and Command Post operations.

On the successful completion of this course you will be entitled to Pay Grade 3. After posting to your first unit and upon successful completion of your Advanced Operator Training (after approximately 18 months) you will advance to Pay Grade 4.

It should be noted that there might be periods of time between courses conducted at DFSS. Should this occur, soldiers will be provided with both meaningful employment and refresher training.

Further Training

Communication Systems Operators can progress to Warrant Officer Class One, Communications Systems Engineer on Pay Grade 6.

Employment Location

The Communication Systems Operator is employed in RA Sigs tactical and base support units that operate throughout Australia. Major RA Sigs units are located in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Darwin, Perth and Townsville.

Civil Accreditation

The training undertaken by soldiers employed as Communication Systems Operators results in the following civil accreditation:

Certificate II in Government PSP20104; and
Certificate II in Public Safety (Communications Operations) PUA20902.

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