How to become a soldier in five easy steps.
STEP ONE.
IS THE ARMY RIGHT FOR YOU?
If you become a soldier in the Australian Army you’ll be part of a long and proud heritage. The Army has always been about teamwork, tradition, pride, courage and commitment to excellence.

Today, the Army is a dynamic, modern and sophisticated organisation that offers all sorts of opportunities. Throughout this brochure you’ll discover what life is really like as a soldier in the Army. Have a read and you’ll start to discover why a job in the Army really can challenge you.

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**WHY JOIN THE ARMY?**

As a soldier in the Army you’ll enjoy lots of great benefits, like world-class training, recognised qualifications, great pay, ongoing job security and the opportunity for career advancement. You don’t need any experience to apply, however you may receive recognition for any prior studies or qualifications.

Most importantly, we’ll help you to get the best out of yourself. You’ll develop personal qualities and professional skills that will stay with you for the rest of your life.

Up to the challenge?
Your job as a soldier begins with Recruit Training. Recruit Training is conducted over 12 weeks at the Army Recruit Training Centre, Kapooka (near Wagga Wagga in NSW). Make no mistake, the training at Kapooka is both physically and mentally demanding. That’s because the Army expects the very best from its soldiers. But as long as you work hard and apply yourself, you should get through it with no worries at all.

The Recruit Training course consists of physical training, drill, first aid and personal organisation. There’s also combat training which involves basic military tactics and weapons training. Throughout your Recruit Training there’ll be a strong emphasis on teamwork, self-organisation and self-discipline.

The Army is structured into a number of different functional groups, called corps. For example, the Transport Corps is responsible for the movement of personnel and equipment. When you complete your Recruit Training, you’ll move to your corps school for Initial Employment Training (IET). The length and location of this training will depend on the job you’ve chosen. Once you’ve finished your IET, you’ll be sent to an Army unit and your career as a soldier will be up and running.

Compared to many employers the Army pays very well and provides its employees with great benefits. From the moment you commence Recruit Training, your salary will continue to increase based on your rank and the number of years of service completed in that rank.

Once you’ve completed your training you’ll have the opportunity to attend courses to progress your personal and professional development. These could include secondary schooling, university and trade courses. We’ll often provide funding and time off to help you balance your workload whilst you’re studying.

You’ll also receive other benefits when you join the Army such as four weeks annual leave, excellent superannuation and free dental and medical care.

New soldiers are often pleasantly surprised when they see their accommodation for the first time. The layout of rooms can vary from base to base, but you’ll always find your accommodation comfortable and practical.

During Recruit Training you’ll be required to live on base. Once training is completed, single soldiers will have the option to live on or off the base (depending on the location). Married soldiers can live in subsidised rental accommodation with their families.

Generally, whenever you live on base you’ll be required to pay living-in accommodation and food charges which are subsidised by the Army. These charges cover all rent, utilities and food costs.
FOOD AND MEALS.

There’s a saying that an Army marches on its stomach. So if soldiers are fed well, they’ll perform well. That’s why the food you’ll enjoy as a soldier is varied, nutritious and tasty. And what’s more, there’ll be plenty of it.

When you’re working at an Army base, you’ll eat in what’s called a Mess – which is like a cafeteria. Don’t be fooled by the name though. Every Army Mess boasts a modern kitchen overseen by a Catering Officer and staffed by a dedicated team of cooks and catering staff. They prepare a constant supply of hot and cold breakfasts, meat dishes, vegies, salads, desserts and drinks. Where possible, the Army also caters for vegetarians.
SPORT AND TRAINING.

If you’re into sport, you’ve come to the right place. Sport promotes teamwork and fitness, so not surprisingly it plays a big role in Army life. The Army has a long list of sporting clubs, with just about every sport you could think of. They cater for both social and competitive sports. As well as all the usual team sports, there are special interest clubs like rock climbing, golf, water skiing, scuba diving and sailing. Adventure training is also on offer to help build your confidence. You could find yourself doing various activities like skiing, canoeing or abseiling.

Most Army units have excellent sporting facilities. These can include football, cricket and hockey fields, a gymnasium, basketball and tennis courts, a swimming pool, and often squash courts and a golf course.

In addition to your own sporting pursuits, the Army requires you to take part in organised Physical Training. Most Army units will begin each day with a one-hour workout. But it’s not all running and push-ups. You’ll do activities such as aerobics, sports training, circuits and endurance training. Most soldiers agree it’s a great way to start the day.

SOCIAL LIFE.

In many ways working in the Army is just like a normal job. Once you’ve knocked off for the day you can take off and do whatever you like. You’re free to catch up with your family and friends whenever you’re not required for work.

While you’re free to leave your Army unit and head out, you’ll find plenty of things to keep you entertained right on base. Social life on an Army base usually centres around the Soldiers’ Club, where there’s a bar area and the chance to watch television, play table tennis, darts and billiards. It’s a great place to kick back, unwind and have a laugh with your mates.

Making friends.

All kinds of people join the Army. Your fellow soldiers will be from all over the country and from all sorts of different backgrounds. Many will have joined straight from school, but others will have had jobs out in the civilian workforce.

All new recruits have some things in common. They like a challenge and they like to work hard. They enjoy physical tasks and working in a team. And they don’t mind having a bit of fun.

Ask any soldier what they like about the Army and they’re bound to say the mateship. You’ll go through a lot with your fellow soldiers. You’ll often eat, sleep, work, train and socialise pretty much right alongside them. So it’s no wonder you make strong friendships. In fact, some of the friends you make in the Army will be your mates for life.
STEP TWO. CHOOSE A JOB.
There are over fifty different jobs you can do as a soldier in the Army so there’s bound to be one that interests you. You’ll receive all the necessary training required for your chosen position and you’ll usually receive civilian recognition for it. The variety of roles available covers a wide range of areas including:

AVIATION

TRADES AND APPRENTICESHIPS

HEALTHCARE AND SCIENCE

COMMUNICATIONS, IT AND EDUCATION

LOGISTICS, HOSPITALITY AND SUPPORT

BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION

COMBAT AND SECURITY

Have a read through the following pages and see which jobs interest you.
AIR DISPATCHER.

As an Air Dispatcher you’ll be responsible for packing, loading and unloading stores and equipment for air movement. You’ll learn to operate various vehicles and mechanical-handling equipment for loading and unloading of stores and prepare items for air drop from Air Force and Army aircraft.

GROUNDCREWMAN MISSION SUPPORT.

As a Groundcrewman Mission Support soldier you’ll be supporting the actual mission that the aircraft is undertaking. Communication will be your main role as you’ll be the vital link between the ground and the aircraft crew. You’ll learn to pass plain voice or coded messages and establish data-link and satellite communications.

GROUNDCREWMAN AIRCRAFT SUPPORT.

If you choose a career as a Groundcrewman Aircraft Support soldier, you’ll be involved in the preparation and support of the Army’s fleet of aircraft including the Black Hawk, Chinook and the Army’s new armed reconnaissance helicopter – the Tiger. You’ll learn to load and refuel aircraft, and also marshal aircraft into and from landing points.

AVIATION TRADES.

If you’re interested in aviation and want to learn a trade, check out the Trades and Apprenticeships section for a range of aviation related career options.
"I get to work on multi-million dollar aircraft all the time."
Q: What did you do before joining the Army?
A: I was actually a greenkeeper and used to mow lawns every day.

Q: What’s work like now?
A: Great. I work on Black Hawk helicopters and you’re mates with everyone, so you get to have a good time at work.

Q: What training do you get?
A: After initial training, I did 18 months of learning all about electronics, then a 12-week course learning every system on the Black Hawk.

Q: What’s the best part?
A: The aircraft can be in a million pieces one day, and then you get in and do your work and two days later, you’ll see it fly off.

Q: What else do you enjoy about being in the Army?
A: Getting to hang with mates all day. You get paid to keep fit, do sport everyday and meet a lot of people. You also get some pretty good trips away.
**CARPENTER.**

People are often surprised that the Army needs Carpenters. Your role will be similar to that of a civilian carpenter. You’ll read and interpret building plans, estimate quantities of construction materials, erect timber frames, scaffolding and roofing, and carry out joinery tasks. However, what sets this job apart is that you could find yourself working on a wide range of exciting projects both here and across the world.

**ELECTRICIAN.**

Electricians play an important part in the day-to-day running of the Australian Army. In addition to carrying out advanced electrical maintenance and repairs, Electricians assist in building activities, ordering and purchasing supplies, maintaining tools and equipment and providing electrical support during military exercises. This involves providing field power generation services – something most civilian Electricians wouldn’t get the chance to experience.

**ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN.**

If maintaining the incredibly sophisticated electronic systems on an Abrams Main Battle Tank sounds exciting, then a job as an Electronics Technician could be for you. Not only will you be inspecting, diagnosing and repairing electronic vehicle control systems, you could also find yourself working with laser range-finding equipment and navigational aids, as well as a variety of state-of-the-art medical and dental equipment.

**FITTER ARMAMENT (FITTER & TURNER).**

A Fitter and Turner in the Army is called a Fitter Armament. Your job will involve general machining and fitting, welding, and sheet metal and metal fabrication. You’ll learn to inspect, repair, modify and recondition a variety of military armaments. You’ll also work on small engines, pumps and hydraulic systems, as well as perform general engineering tasks.

**METALSMITH.**

As a qualified Metalsmith you’ll have a ‘hands-on’ role in the shaping, joining and treating of metals (aluminium, alloy, steel, copper and zinc). These materials are used widely throughout the Army which makes the job of a Metalsmith very important. Part of the job involves the heat treatment of metals, as well as cutting and welding. To be eligible, you must hold a Certificate III in Engineering/Fabrication in one of the following qualifications: Trade Certificate as Welder 1st Class, Boilermaker Marker Off, Boilermaker Welder or Certificate III Sheet Metal Worker.

**PLUMBER.**

As a Plumber in the Army you’ll carry out the same sort of tasks that you would in civilian life including drainage, roofing, water supply, waste disposal, gas fitting and mechanical services. Except, what makes being a Plumber in the Army stand apart, is the range of unique and interesting projects you’ll work on, in a variety of environments.
“I have met some of the best blokes I know in the Army.”
TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN.

Q: What did you do before joining the Army?
A: I was a waiter and a dishwasher at my local pub back home in South Australia.

Q: What’s work like now?
A: I work in a team that handles the telecommunications systems for the Army. I’ve been on four overseas deployments plus three months patrolling the northern waters off Christmas Island. It’s pretty different.

Q: What training do you get?
A: After initial training, I went to Albury Wodonga to the Army Logistics Training Centre. I did an accelerated TAFE course, which gave me my Certificate III in Electrical and my Certificate IV in Electronic Engineering.

Q: What’s the best part?
A: Definitely running encrypted networks across from the other side of the world back here to Australia. My favourite memories from being in the Army have always been the deployments. The Solomon Islands in 2003 was fantastic.

Q: What else do you enjoy about being in the Army?
A: I have met some of the best blokes I know in the Army. I now know people all across Australia. I’ve lost count of how many weddings I’ve been to.

TECHNICIAN ELECTRICAL.

As a Technician Electrical in the Army you could be employed in either a workshop or a field environment. Your job will be to assemble and repair electrical machinery and apparatus using hand, portable and machine tools. You’ll also diagnose and repair everything from commercial and domestic refrigeration equipment, low and medium capacity field generators and automotive electrical systems.

VEHICLE MECHANIC.

Working as a Vehicle Mechanic in the Army is a world away from servicing cars in your local garage. You’ll spend time working in permanent workshops and mobile workshops in the field. You’ll get your hands on sophisticated machinery and a huge range of motor vehicles including 4WDs, trucks, prime-movers and trailers. You’ll even repair and maintain tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TRADES

To learn more about trade apprenticeships in the Army, check out our Trades and Apprenticeships brochure with detail on all of the trade jobs available as well as the benefits, qualifications and salaries. You’ll also get inside information on the tools, equipment and hardware that you could be working with. To pick up a copy of the Army Trades and Apprenticeships brochure visit your nearest Defence Force Recruiting Centre or download one online from www.defencejobs.gov.au
HEALTHCARE & SCIENCE.
DENTAL ASSISTANT.

As a Dental Assistant in the Army you’ll have a broad range of duties. Apart from general chair-side assistance and sterilisation of instruments, you’ll prepare dental restorative and therapeutic materials, operate and maintain dental surgical equipment, organise x-rays, maintain patient records, and coordinate patient appointments. You’ll also assist with accounting procedures for dental stores, equipment and materials.

PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINER.

As a Psychological Examiner you’ll provide vital technical and administrative support to Defence Psychologists (both uniformed and civilian). You’ll assist in administering various psychological tests, manage applicant groups, participate in mental health promotion and screening procedures, and use various statistical techniques to help evaluate test data. You’ll also play an important role in the selection, classification and placement of key Defence Force personnel.

MEDICAL OPERATOR/TECHNICIAN.

The role of a Medical Operator/Technician is to provide basic medical and nursing care in Army units and hospitals, as well as in the field. Your job will involve duties from emergency care and treatment of casualties, to the maintenance of medical records and administrative documentation. You’ll also be called upon to use a wide range of specialised medical equipment and to assist in the ongoing promotion of health to all Army personnel.

TECHNICIAN PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE.

Preventative Medicine is something the Army takes very seriously. You’ll work with commanders assessing potential threats, disease and non-battle injuries of soldiers in the barracks and on operations. You’ll develop strategies to gather and evaluate information in a variety of environments, and make recommendations to medical and non-medical personnel to minimise occupational health threats and prevent non-battle injuries.
“I’m always surprised when I get back from an exercise to see what I’ve accomplished.”
COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS OPERATOR.

As a Communication Systems Operator you’ll become skilled in operating a variety of communications equipment in a number of environments. Your job will involve the use of satellite terminals, global positioning systems (GPS), hand-held and desktop data terminals, radios operating on different frequencies and other specialised communications equipment.

ELECTRONIC WARFARE OPERATOR SPECIALIST.

Electronic Warfare involves listening to and interfering with enemy electronic transmissions, which can provide a decisive advantage on today’s battlefield. As an Electronic Warfare Operator Specialist you’ll learn to use a large range of complex and state-of-the-art electronic and monitoring equipment in both field and strategic environments. You could be operating from various locations including vehicles and small aircraft.

MULTIMEDIA TECHNICIAN.

When it comes to briefing personnel it’s handy to have the right visual aids. As a Multimedia Technician you’ll be responsible for layout and design of presentations to support operations and training. You’ll work individually, or as part of a small team, producing briefings, presentations, web pages, artwork for publications and animation for CD ROM and DVD. You’ll be trained in video production and stills photography and in the planning, managing and production of all multimedia tasks.

ALEX ASHBY
COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS OPERATOR.

Q: What do you do in the Army?
A: In addition to radios, we also employ satellites and secure messaging services on computers. We’re responsible for defence-wide top-secret messages. It’s a considerable responsibility and getting it right brings a great sense of pride.

Q: What training do you get?
A: The technology we use is always evolving, so we have to keep up. The Army provides us with the courses we need so we can take the latest technology and adapt it for our requirements.

Q: What’s the best part?
A: The Army has taught me to keep challenging myself mentally and physically. I’m always surprised when I get back from an exercise to see what I’ve accomplished.

Q: What else do you enjoy about being in the Army?
A: I’ve travelled extensively with the Army. I’ve toured Timor, been posted to Kalumbaroo, and moved up from Toowoomba. Before that I was in Melbourne.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN.

As an Information Systems Technician you’ll be a member of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals providing communications, information systems and electronic warfare support to commanders. This support allows commanders to make important strategic decisions, and your role will be to install, configure and maintain these secure local and wide area networks (LAN & WAN). You’ll also be responsible for implementing and analysing software, hardware and network technology solutions.
CARGO SPECIALIST.

The Army is a huge organisation and the distribution of supplies and equipment is a very important job. As a Cargo Specialist you’ll have an active role in the distribution and transport of Army goods such as petrol, oils, food and ammunition. Your specific role will be to load and unload cargo to and from all modes of air, sea and land transport, using a variety of equipment such as forklifts and cranes.

DRIVER TRANSPORT.

When the Army needs petrol, ammunition, food and equipment, it’s the Driver Transport soldiers who deliver it. You’ll operate and help service the Army’s fleet of road vehicles which includes 4x4s, 6x6s and prime-movers. Other duties include loading and securing stores for safe movement and perfecting special skills, such as camouflaging vehicles and convoy operations required for the tactical deployment of vehicles in combat.

COOK.

How would you like to have a few hundred mates around for dinner? As an Army Cook you’ll prepare, cook and serve meals at Army units and high-capacity field kitchens. You’ll develop the flexibility to handle any sized function, from large crowds to smaller formal occasions. Your qualifications will be recognised throughout Australia and you’ll have the chance to progress to a catering supervisor role.

MARINE SPECIALIST.

Contrary to what you might think, the Army doesn’t always operate on land. As a Marine Specialist you’ll be involved in operating the Army’s watercraft in a variety of activities including transporting personnel and cargo. You’ll operate and maintain watercraft, including its associated weaponry, communication and electronic navigation equipment.

FUEL SPECIALIST.

It’s a big job keeping all of the Army’s equipment running, which is why the position of Fuel Specialist is so critical. As a Fuel Specialist it will be your job to manage, distribute and safely store various fuels, oils and lubricants. You’ll assist in managing an Army fuel facility, as well as carrying out the regular refuelling of aircraft and Army vehicles. Due to the mobile nature of the job, you will be required to operate forklifts and drive fuel trucks.

MUSICIAN.

With a tradition of performance at parades and celebrations, music is a vital part of Army life. As a Musician in the Australian Army Band Corps you’ll not only play an instrument, you’ll play a key role in Army public relations and help entertain deployed troops. As part of the job you’ll play while performing intricate drill movements, sing in vocal groups and maintain band equipment. The minimum entry standard is a musical ability equivalent to the Australian Music Examination Board – level 7, which will be assessed at an audition.
VANESSA PERICICH
SUPPLY COORDINATOR.

Q: What did you do before joining the Army?
A: I was working at a bank and I was at a stage of my life where I didn’t know what I wanted. I was first going to join the Army Reserves and then thought why not join full time.

Q: What’s work like now?
A: We basically ship and move tonnes of stores and equipment around Australia and overseas. Food, fuel, weapons, ammunitions and explosives.

Q: What training do you get?
A: In the Army you’ve got lots of opportunities to do lots of courses. I’ve got my Forklift licence, Warehousing Operator licence and Medium Rigid licence.

Q: What’s the best part?
A: Probably being part of the largest logistics organisation within Australia. You get a sense of satisfaction at the end of the day knowing you have made a difference in the Australian Army.

Q: What else do you enjoy about being in the Army?
A: Meeting tonnes of people. I’ve lived in different parts of Australia and travelled to different parts of the world.

“I have travelled to different parts of the world and I have seen and done some things that none of my friends and family will ever do.”
OPERATOR MOVEMENT.

As an Operator Movement your job will be to arrange and coordinate the movement of personnel and equipment. Your main responsibility will be to prepare the movement of individuals and Army units. You’ll also liaise with other military and civilian transport agencies and prepare customs documentation.

RECOVERY MECHANIC.

There’s no job like this in the civilian world. As a Recovery Mechanic you’ll work as part of a small, independent team that provides a crucial role in field and combat situations. Your main duties will include operating a variety of specialist wheeled and tracked recovery vehicles and assisting in the salvage, towing and transportation of a wide range of Army vehicles.

SUPPLY COORDINATOR.

As a Supply Coordinator you’ll look after everything from medical supplies to radars. You’ll be involved in a wide range of clerical, warehousing, workshop planning and supply duties. You’ll play a crucial role by providing everything the Army needs during training and combat. Your responsibilities will be many and varied, and will include packaging dangerous goods and using material handling equipment such as forklifts.

PARACHUTE RIGGER.

As a Parachute Rigger you’ll inspect, pack, issue, recover and repair parachutes and Air Delivery Equipment. You’ll hold static line qualifications, and can gain free fall parachute qualifications. You can also become a static line and free fall parachute instructor. You’ll work closely with the Air Force, Special Forces and other tactical parachute elements.

STEWARD.

The efficiency of Army catering can directly influence the morale and well-being of our soldiers. As a Steward it’ll be your job to serve food, liquor and beverages. You’ll prepare light breakfast and supper meals, as well as maintain bar, dining room and kitchen equipment. Your daily duties will also include stocktaking, coordinating VIP guests and, when in the field, assisting the cook on duty.
“The Army teach you everything and if you want to do extra courses, they can help you out with the costs.”
ALICE LENICKA
ADMINISTRATION CLERK.

Q: What did you do before joining the Army?
A: I was doing part-time waitressing after school and I didn’t want to go to uni. I was sick of books. My family is in the Army, so I saw a lot of benefits and that’s why I joined.

Q: What’s work like now?
A: I’m really happy. I help look after finance and administration, so attention to detail is really important. I’ve got a Certificate II in Business Management and I’m looking to get some finance certificates as well.

Q: What training do you get?
A: Along with my basic soldier training, I did six weeks of IT. I learnt everything about finance and administration programs and processes.

Q: What’s the best part?
A: My big pro for the Army is that they teach you everything and you’re very well looked after. If you want to do extra schooling you can, and you still get paid. They even help you out with the school costs and that sort of thing.

Q: What else do you enjoy about being in the Army?
A: There’s always someone there to help you out and everybody knows everybody else through some sort of way, so it’s fairly easy to get things done. Being in the Army also gave me the confidence boost that I needed.

ADMINISTRATION CLERK.

As an Administration Clerk you’ll provide support to one of Australia’s largest organisations. As the title suggests, your job will be largely administrative. You’ll be responsible for Army unit correspondence and maintaining unit records and files. In addition, you’ll provide other soldiers and officers with timely and accurate information about travel issues, entitlements and leave. As part of your role, you’ll also maintain your general soldier skills through continuous training.

FINANCE CLERK.

As a Finance Clerk it’ll be your job to prepare and process claims and organise pay for your Army unit. You’ll be responsible for a variety of administrative duties and advice relating to pay entitlements. On pay day everyone agrees that a Finance Clerk probably has the most important job in the Army. Along with your day-to-day duties, you’ll also keep your soldier skills up-to-date and participate in adventure training.
ANALYST INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS.

As an Analyst Intelligence Operations you’ll play a key role in military operations providing intelligence support to commanders and staff at all levels. It will be your job to gather knowledge of the enemy in the area of operations and prevent the enemy gathering intelligence about our friendly forces and their intentions. As well as analysing intelligence gathered, you’ll need to acquire combat, security, human and imagery intelligence and be involved in psychological operations.

ARTILLERY – AIR DEFENDER.

Air defence plays a crucial role on the battlefield. As an Artillery – Air Defender you’ll protect against enemy air strikes by shooting down hostile aircraft. Your job will consist of searching for, identifying and engaging enemy aircraft using surface-to-air missiles. You’ll also drive and service light cross-country vehicles and help to prepare weapons systems for firing.

COMBAT ENGINEER.

Soldiers who specialise in military field engineering are called Combat Engineers. Your job will be to assist the Army’s forces to move. You could be building a bridge and then destroying it to prevent enemy access. You’ll learn a wide range of technical and trade skills and carry out tasks like constructing roads, building airfields, erecting bridges, operating boats and ferries, clearing minefields and disarming booby traps.

ARMY EMERGENCY RESPONDER (FIRE FIGHTER).

As an Army Emergency Responder you will be responding to aviation rescue, fire fighting and personnel rescue. You’ll learn to use fire fighting appliances, rescue and first-aid equipment. You’ll also be involved in crash rescues, fire prevention advice and assistance, fire safety training, hazardous material response and decontamination operations.

ARTILLERYMAN.

Your role as an Artilleryman will be to operate the guns of field and medium artillery units. Often the target will be several kilometres away so accuracy is paramount. You’ll learn to calculate the target based on weather conditions and range, and of course you’ll load and fire the weapon. You’ll also prepare the guns for deployment and be responsible for servicing and maintenance, and the safe storage of ammunition.

COMMANDO.

Commandos are highly skilled Special Forces soldiers. As a Commando you will be mentally tough, quick thinking, innovative and you’ll keep a cool head in difficult situations. You will be trained and qualified in a range of advanced specialist weapons and equipment, and will operate in a variety of complex situations conducted in demanding terrain. The selection process is rigorous. For more information on the entry requirements visit www.defencejobs.gov.au
CREWMAN AUSTRALIAN LIGHT ARMoured VEHICLE.

As an Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) Crewman you’ll learn to drive ASLAVs. The ASLAVs are essential to the Army as they perform medium reconnaissance and surveillance as well as aid missions to provide security and conduct offensive and defensive operations. You’ll also learn to perform minor engine and suspension servicing, operate and maintain communications and weapons systems, and undertake tactical driving in daylight and at night.

CREWMAN MAIN BATTLE TANK.

The Abrams Main Battle Tank is used to provide mobility, communications, endurance and firepower in tactical combat situations. As an Abrams Main Battle Tank Crewman your job will be to drive and maintain the tank and to operate the tank’s communication and weapons systems during combat. You’ll learn how to drive, by day and night, in a variety of environments.

MILITARY POLICE.

As a Military Police soldier you’ll help uphold the reputation of Army. You’ll support commanders, ensuring the military adhere to defence and civilian laws, conventions, policies and directives. Your duties may include detection and investigation of offences; physical and personal security; crime prevention; patrolling; escorting vehicle convoys; and traffic control. After a period of time you may specialise in Investigations, Dog Handling or Close Personal Security for VIPs.

RIFLEMAN.

A Rifleman is a skilled soldier who specialises in aggressive patrolling and close-quarter fighting. You’ll learn to use a variety of weapons ranging from rifles to heavy weapons like mortars, anti-armour weapons, grenades and other Anti-Personnel devices. Your main responsibilities will be maintaining weapons, patrolling, assaulting enemy positions and constructing field defences.

OPERATOR WEAPON LOCATING RADAR.

As an Operator Weapon Locating Radar you’ll use radar equipment to determine accurate locations and directions for artillery units. Your duties will include locating and tracking targets using radar in both friendly and hostile modes. You’ll test, adjust, service and maintain radar equipment. You’ll also operate survey equipment to assist in the orientation of the radar.

SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT OPERATOR.

As a Surveillance Aircraft Operator your job is to operate the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to gather crucial land survey information. The UAV allows the Army to access remote or hostile terrain where you’re able to observe battlefield activity in areas inaccessible to troops. This job also includes meteorology and survey responsibilities, where you’ll monitor and record weather conditions and liaise with the Bureau of Meteorology.
TECHNICIAN GEOMATIC.

Technician Geomatic soldiers help give the Army a real sense of direction. It’s their job to collect, reproduce and distribute all kinds of geographical information which could be of use to the Army. This may include preparing maps, collecting topographic information, conducting terrain analysis or even capturing airborne imagery to provide support for military operations. You’ll be working with the most sophisticated, state-of-the-art equipment in all sorts of challenging and exciting environments.

“THE EXPERIENCE THAT I HAVE GAINED FROM THE ARMY WILL HELP ME GET THROUGH ANYTHING FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.”

KIRSTOHER WILLIAMS
ARTILLERYMAN.

Q: What do you do in the Army?
A: I am in the Royal Australian Artillery as an Artilleryman. I’m in charge of admin of the gun, sorting out ammunitions and preparing the gun ready for missions.

Q: What training do you get?
A: You do recruit training for 12-weeks at Kapooka, which puts you in good stead for the Artilleryman training. But the training never stops really; there are lots of courses you can take throughout your time including leadership training.

Q: What’s the best part?
A: A highlight for me would be being deployed overseas. You receive incredible training and the experiences are something I’ll never forget. I was liaising with the Japanese when they were over in Iraq.

Q: What else do you enjoy about being in the Army?
A: The ANZAC Day and ceremonial parades give you a deep sense of pride. And you find you form closer bonds with your mates – they rely on you and you rely on them in situations you would never imagine.
STEP THREE.
ENTRY OPTIONS.
If a full-time position doesn’t suit you right now, you can do most of the soldier positions listed in this brochure, and a few others, part-time in the Army Reserve. Or you could experience a one-year trial through the Army’s Gap Year program.
Reservists train and work right alongside the full-time Army. You can also choose to become involved in overseas service.

**FLEXIBILITY.**

It’s a part-time job. You can work as few as 14 days, or as many as 150 days per year. Most people attend one night a week (usually Tuesday) and one weekend a month. They also attend a two-week training exercise once a year.

We realise there will be times when your Reserve activities will clash with other commitments. The Army Reserve will try to work with you so you can continue to enjoy the life you lead now, as well as enjoy the opportunities and benefits the Army Reserve has to offer.

**TRAINING.**

You’ll begin by completing a 28-day Army recruit training course at Kapooka, near Wagga Wagga in NSW. It’s difficult and challenging but the course is designed to see you succeed not fail.

You’ll develop skills and knowledge of how today’s Army operates and you’ll learn weapons handling, first aid, navigation, communications and field survival techniques.

**DEPLOYMENTS.**

Deployments of Australian Defence Force personnel within Australia and overseas occur on a regular basis in response to events such as peacekeeping missions, planned exercises and natural disasters. In many cases, members are required to move at short notice to areas providing only basic amenities. Such deployments will result in separation of members from their families for the period concerned. Reservists are only deployed on a voluntary basis unless called-out by the Government.

**TRAVEL.**

In the Army Reserve there’s often the chance to travel within Australia or overseas for training or operational service. The amount you travel really depends on the opportunities that arise and your availability. Some of our reservists have travelled to places like Asia and Hawaii.

**SOCIAL LIFE.**

Another major benefit with the Army Reserve is that you still have your current social life, plus you get to meet new people and make new friends.

**OTHER BENEFITS.**

You’ll get free accommodation and food whenever you’re out training or on exercise. Your uniform and equipment are free and any travel you need to do during your training is paid for.

**EMPLOYER SUPPORT PAYMENT SCHEME.**

There is a range of different benefits that will help your employer during anytime spent away from your work for Reservist duties.

For more information on Army Reserves, visit www.defencejobs.gov.au/army/reserve

**TAX-FREE PAY.**

Army Reserve salaries (and allowances) are tax-free.
ADF GAP YEAR.
Not sure what to do after school? Then an Australian Defence Force (ADF) Gap Year with the Army could be for you. The ADF Gap Year gives young Australians the opportunity to experience the Army without further commitment past 12 months. If you decide to take part in the ADF Gap Year you’ll be integrated within the Army like any other member. You get to choose which job you’d like to experience and we’ll provide you with the training required to fulfil that job.

**WHAT JOB COULD I DO?**

Given the complexity of some jobs and the level of training required, we’ve limited the positions to those where you’ll get the best experience in your 12 months. There are over ten different jobs available to choose from in the areas of healthcare, combat and security, communications and logistics.

**THE TRAINING.**

You’ll spend 80 days doing recruit training at Kapooka, near Wagga Wagga in NSW – just like full-time soldiers. You’ll then receive Initial Employment Training (IET) by your Corps School and learn the skills to do that job. Depending on which job you select, the IET can take up to three months. Upon completion of your IET, you’ll be posted to one of many units located in Australia where you’ll start doing the job you’ve trained for, alongside full-time members.

**THE BENEFITS.**

During your 12 months, you’ll earn a salary package of over $36,500p.a. You’ll live on base and receive subsidised accommodation and meals. You’ll also receive superannuation and free medical and dental care.

**WHY CONSIDER JOINING?**

You’ll be putting your time to good use in a challenging 12 months, learning and developing a wide range of skills which will get you ahead of other people your age, and look good on your CV to future employers. You’ll gain opportunities to travel and experience the Army’s hardware, meet people from all walks of life and develop friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

There is no obligation to join the Army after your Gap Year but if you do sign on to become a full-time soldier after your 12 months, you’ll be eligible for a $10,000 payment.

For more information on ADF GAP Year visit [www.defencejobs.gov.au/gapyear](http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/gapyear)

**CAN ANYONE DO A GAP YEAR?**

Gap Year is limited to 500 positions each year and is only available to people aged between 17 and 24 who have completed Year 12 in the last two years.
STEP FOUR.
READ THE FINE PRINT.
If you’re still reading you’ve obviously spotted a job that interests you. That’s great. But before you apply, there are a few things you should make sure you’re clear on, so you can make the right decision about the job you choose.
THE JOB INTERVIEW.

Everyone interviews people before they employ them and the Army is no exception. As part of your application process you will first take part in one of our information sessions, known as a Your Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) Session.

The YOU Sessions are designed to make sure you’re suited to Army life and to the job which you are applying for. During the YOU Session you’ll have the opportunity to talk to a Careers Counsellor and sit an aptitude test to see which jobs you are eligible for.

Following the YOU Session, if you wish to continue with your application, you’ll undergo a psychological interview, medical assessment and Defence interview which all take place at the Interview and Assessment Day. During your interviews you’ll be asked questions about your education, employment experience, family life, current lifestyle, motivation for joining the Army, as well as your hobbies, sports and interests.

AGE LIMITS.

To join the Army as a soldier, you’ll need to be between 17 and 53 years of age for Trade and Apprenticeship positions and between 17 and 55 for Non-Trade jobs. You’ll need to produce your birth certificate as evidence of your date of birth. In special circumstances, proof by Statutory Declaration may also be acceptable, however photocopies or reproductions of birth certificates (unless officially issued or certified) or District Registrar receipts are not acceptable. If you’re under 18 you’ll need to have the written consent of your parents or legal guardian.

To apply for all Trade and Apprenticeship jobs you must have completed Year 10 (or equivalent) with passes in English, Mathematics, Science and one other subject. Some Trade jobs may also require passes in Science subjects with an emphasis on Physics. A ‘Pass’ or ‘Sound Achievement’ is defined as a result that places you in the top 70% of students.

Some jobs have additional educational requirements. For more information call 13 19 01 or visit www.defencejobs.gov.au

NATIONALITY.

You’ll need to be an Australian citizen or hold permanent residency status.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

To apply for most Non-Trade jobs you must have completed Year 9 (or equivalent) with passes in English and Mathematics. A ‘Pass’ or ‘Sound Achievement’ is defined as a result that places you in the top 70% of students.

PERIOD OF ENLISTMENT.

The period of enlistment ranges from 3–6 years for full-time soldiers (excluding ADF GAP Year) depending on the length of training required for each job. If you choose to exit from the Army you will be required to serve in the Standby Reserve for the Army for a minimum period of five years.

For exact enlistment requirements of a particular job call 13 19 01 or visit www.defencejobs.gov.au
DISCHARGE.

If during Recruit Training you decide that the Army isn’t for you, you may apply for a discharge. However, you will still be required to remain at your Recruit Training until your application for discharge is approved. Once you’ve started your Initial Employment Training, applications for discharge will not be approved until you have completed your period of enlistment.

PHYSICAL FITNESS.

All candidates recommended for enlistment have to complete a pre-enlistment fitness assessment. It isn’t incredibly demanding, but to pass you’ll need a reasonable level of general fitness. The fitness assessment is conducted no more than two weeks prior to your enlistment day and you must pass to be enlisted. For more details on the assessment visit www.defencejobs.gov.au

DISCIPLINE.

Of course, when you’re doing a job where people’s lives can be on the line, you need a certain amount of discipline. Soldiers have to be able to give and take orders. Army discipline is based on reason and cooperation between those giving instructions and those receiving them.
STEP FIVE.
APPLY NOW.
Well, that’s just about it. Hopefully, this brochure has given you a good understanding of today’s Army and the variety of roles available. If you’d like to apply to become a full-time or part-time soldier, join the ADF Gap Year, or you would just like more information, call 13 19 01 or visit www.defencejobs.gov.au

Good luck. We wish you well in your career as a soldier in the Army.
Call 13 19 01
www.defencejobs.gov.au