

# ARMED FORCES INFORMATION



**We understand that many people are unfamiliar with the day to day details of military life, such as the roles of the single Services. To enhance your understanding of the Armed Forces, we have highlighted some key points that may be of interest to you as you develop your Corporate Covenant.**

**The purpose of the Ministry of Defence and our Armed Forces is to defend the United Kingdom, and Overseas Territories, our people and interests; and act as a force for good by strengthening international peace and security.**

## **The Naval Service**

- The Naval Service consists of the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines.
- There are currently 30,200 serving members of the Naval Service and also 2,600 serving members of the Maritime Reserves (Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Marines Reserve).
- The Naval Service has 5 components: Surface Ships; the Submarine Service; the Fleet Air Arm; the Royal Marines; and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.
- 45% of the Naval Service is actively deployed globally at any time. It protects the flow of international trade on which our nation depends (95% of UK economic activity relies on secure oceans). Roles include: preventing conflict, counter-piracy, counter-drugs, humanitarian missions, stabilising hot-spots and building international partnerships.
- The Naval Service is the most separated of the 3 Armed Forces. Personnel can expect to be away from home for 660 days over a 3 year period.
- Communication can be challenging. For example, the families of submariners are only allowed to send one 60 word message, twice a week, to their serving family member when they are deployed. The Serviceperson is not able to make contact with them.
- Only 5,000 families live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA). The majority of Naval Service families live in their own homes, in civilian communities, around the UK.
- There are Naval families living in nearly every county in the UK – they are not just on the south coast of England or the west coast of Scotland! The Naval Families Federation supports all members of the Serviceperson's family.
- To hear some individual stories - visit [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/madeintheroyalnavy](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/madeintheroyalnavy)

## The Army

- The British Army consists of Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves. There are currently over 89,000 Full-time Serving Personnel and over 24,000 Volunteer Reserves.
- When Soldiers are deployed (for example to Iraq or Afghanistan) they are generally away from home for 6-9 months.
- Around 37,000 Serving personnel are married or in Civil Partnerships.
- 10% of Army personnel live overseas with their families.
- There are families living all over the world including Northern Ireland, Germany, Cyprus, Canada, Kenya, Brunei, France, Australia, Italy, the United States, Oman, South Africa, and the Falkland Islands. The Army Families Federation represents them all.
- On average an Officer will move every 2 years (often less) and Other Ranks every three years (again, often less).
- 24,113 Army Families live in SFA, with another 30% living in private accommodation.
- Army families are based throughout the UK, with some living in remote locations, away from their immediate family. There may be poor transport links which can impact greatly on spouse employment and this can also cause issues with childcare or feelings of isolation.

## The Royal Air Force

- In 2015, the RAF will consist of around 33,000 full time regular RAF personnel and 1800 part time reserve personnel.
- The RAF's Mission is to: "Produce a battle-winning, agile air force: fit for the challenges of today; ready for the tasks of tomorrow; capable of building for the future; working within Defence to achieve shared purpose".
- The roles of the RAF include delivering control of the air through offensive and defensive operations, and providing other supporting air operations, such as reconnaissance and surveillance, air transport and air-to-air refuelling. Our people lie at the heart of this capability.
- RAF Families are widely dispersed across the UK and around 65% of them own their own home. Others live in SFA on, or near to, RAF bases.
- Nearly half of RAF spouses/civil partners are in full time employment but, in 2014, more than half of them also reported that they found it difficult to find civilian employment after moving to a new duty station.
- It's a complex, technical and varied business: Our people are highly qualified, motivated and committed, and have a huge range of transferable skills. The RAF Families Federation is here to represent the concerns of all RAF personnel and their families.

For further information, please visit our websites or contact us directly: -

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