



Ministry
of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref: FOI2019/00773

████████████████████
████████████████████

11 February 2019

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your e-mail of 17 January 2019, which has been considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In your e-mail you requested the following:

Please could you provide me with pertinent statistics in this matter by way of a Career Projection for a new entrant in the trade of Aircraft Technician (Mechanical), using the latest available data covering a 7-year span. I am interested in figures regarding:

- *Average and median length of service.*
- *Average time taken and percentage chance to progress to each rank.*
- *Percentage chance of reaching length of service for each year, 0 to 40 years.*
- *Average length of reckonable service on outflow for each rank.*
- *Are any promotions in the Aircraft Technician (Mechanical trade time based or automatic after certain qualifications are achieved?*

A search for the information has now been completed and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

In answer to the first four questions of your request, please find at Annex A a career projection for a new entrant into the trade of Aircraft Technician (Mechanical) (A Tech M).

In response to Question 4, please be advised that we are unable to provide data by reckonable service and, therefore, total length of service is based on entry date.

In response to Question 5, the only time promotion in the A Tech M trade is from LAC to SAC, which is on completion of Trade Ability Test and conduct dependant. Promotion to SAC is normally at the 12 month point following an individual's attestation.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you are not satisfied with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance Team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Air Command Secretariat

Enc:

Annex A – Career Projection for a New Entrant into the Aircraft Technician (Mechanical) trade.

Career Projection for a New Entrant in the Aircraft Technician (Mechanical)

LoS ¹	% chance of reaching LoS
0	96%
1	95%
2	94%
3	91%
4	90%
5	88%
6	85%
7	76%
8	68%
9	59%
10	55%
11	52%
12	43%
13	38%
14	35%
15	33%
16	31%
17	30%
18	29%
19	29%
20	29%
21	28%
22	20%
23	14%
24	11%
25	10%
26	8%
27	7%
28	6%
29	5%
30	4%
31	3%
32	3%
33	2%
34	2%
35	2%
36	1%
37	1%
38	0%
39	0%
40	0%

	% chance of being promoted to subsequent ranks	Average total length of service on promotion
AC/LAC	100%	
SAC	94%	1 years 1 month
SAC(T)	89%	3 years 8 months
CPL	48%	9 years 5 months
SGT	27%	15 years 6 months
CHF TECH	15%	20 years 6 months
FS	4%	25 years 9 months
WO	2%	31 years 1 month

Average length of service²

14 years 0 months

Median length of service²

12 years

	Average return of service ³
AC/LAC	1 year 0 months
SAC	3 years 2 months
SAC(T)	9 years 7 months
CPL	15 years 8 months
SGT	22 years 11 months
CHF TECH	27 years 2 months
FS	32 years 10 months
WO	36 years 6 months

¹ LoS 'x' means 'LoS greater than or equal to x but less than x+1'. So 'LoS21', for example, is the chance of personnel serving more than or equal to 21 years but less than 22 years.

² Average/Median Length of Service is the average length of service of personnel on strength. It considers all trained & untrained personnel within the trade and is not specific to rank or LoS.

³ Average Return of Service is the average length of service on outflow. It considers all trained & untrained personnel within the trade.

Notes:

- a. These data are based on the seven year span of actual data 2011/12 – 2017/18. By considering a cohort of individuals with the similar characteristics - **New Entrants** in the **A Tech(M)** trade - average career projections have been calculated.
- b. On promotion to FS, A Tech M and A Tech Av personnel join the A Eng Tech trade. These figures include projections for all A Eng Tech Personnel.
- c. Defence Statistics' career forecasts are not based on the actual experience of any one individual, but rather are based on the historical behaviour of individuals with similar characteristics.