



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 01 August in which you requested the following information:

"As part of research for a dissertation, for a history degree, I am writing on conflicts involving reservists as well as regulars I called asking for a little assistance and guidance as to where I would find accurate and authentic information. Someone has told me he bypassed medicals by conning the medical officer. Then went on to say he took a Chieftain tank for a spin but was not authorised but he did it anyway. I don't believe it and care about writing such propaganda to build self-esteem. So I felt the best way was to ask by FOI for some facts

I have some points I would like clarification on if anyone can help

1. The medical aspects of joining the Regular army and the reservists is it the same? What would happen if hearing and eyesight were not in keeping with minimum standards would acceptance be rejected? Are there strict standards?

2. From 1974 onwards were Prince of Yorkshire Regiment T/A or reservists ever deployed to Derry with Regular troops in the battles against IRA? If so how many and what would a percentage ratio be between regular and reservists. I always understood the very best paratroopers dealt with the conflict, not cadet officers or reservists.

3. What is the difference in ranks obtained in the Regular Army and the reservists as Major when considering time served and achievements for promotion is it easier to reach major in the reservists?

Any help would be greatly appreciated as I wish to win my degree but also any open library editions that would hold this information."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some the information in scope of your request is held and is below.

In response to first part of your request, the Medical employment Standards for entry into service are set by the Defence Medical services and sponsored by the Surgeon General. JSP 950 Leaflet 6-7-7 hold the Tri-Service agreed minimum standards for entry into service. This entry standard is aligned across Regular and Reserve. The JSP is brought into Army Policy through AGAI 78 – Army Medical Employment Policy, this policy is informed by the Joint Service Policy.

Routinely eyesight and hearing that are not at the minimum standard would result in rejection to application.

There may be circumstances where individuals hold specialist skills, knowledge or expertise that could cater to a waiver to the medical standards. This requires a review by Occupational Medical Clinicians to understand where the minimum medical standards are not being met, a sponsoring organisation and approval from Personnel Policy (Army).

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to note that JSP 950 is accessible on the below link:

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0604/Joint_Service_Manual_of_Medical_Fitness.pdf

Please note that information for second part of your request is not held. However, under s.16 (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to contact the National Archives who might hold this information.

In response to third part as your request has been raised in the form of questions and I should advise that the Act gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. Information requests framed as questions pose particular processing difficulties under the Act. This is because the scope of the Act is limited to an entitlement to recorded information held by a public authority at the time of the receipt of the request. Although the Act does not specifically state that the "held" information will be restricted to "recorded" information, the Information Commissioner has confirmed that the information "held at the time the request is made" will be limited to "recorded information". The MOD is also not obliged to create or compile information in the form of a list to answer your questions or give a judgement or opinion in response to a hypothetical question.

However, under s.16 you may wish to note that the key difference between Regular and Reserve service is that for Regulars it is years of service that drives eligibility while in Reserve service it is the number of annual reports. This means that for a reservist failure to secure an annual report not only means that they would not get their training bounty, it would also delay eligibility to promote. That said it is also important to recognise for Reservists it's not just selection for promotion that counts, but the availability of a role in the rank of major for which they can apply. There are generally sufficient roles up to the rank of captain in units, but having been selected for promotion to major (and indeed thereafter) competition for majors' appointments can be fierce given the geographical spread of suitable appointments. This may add to the time taken to promote. Bottom line, promotion to major is more challenging in the Army Reserve, especially for those living in areas where the Reserve footprint is small and their mobility is limited.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly 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 review 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,

Workforce 2
Army Policy & Secretariat