



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI 2023/09983

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

11 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 August 2023 requesting the following information:

*I would be grateful if you could provide the following information in respect of RAF Weapons Systems Operators:*

- 1. The percentage chance of reaching a Length of Service up to 40 years for a new entrant in the Weapons Systems Operator trade.*
- 2. The average length of service in this trade.*
- 3. The percentage chance of promotion to each rank and the average Length of Service on promotion to these ranks.*

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

Please find attached at Annex A "Career Projection for a New Entrant into the Weapons Systems Operators/Non-Commissioned Aircrew trade."

Please note that the abbreviations AC, SGT, FS, and M ACR relate to Aircraftman, Sergeant Aircrew, Flight Sergeant Aircrew, and Master Aircrew respectively. Furthermore, you may find it useful to know that since July 2022 the rank Aircraftman (AC) has been replaced with Air Recruit (AR).

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](mailto: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,

[Original signed]

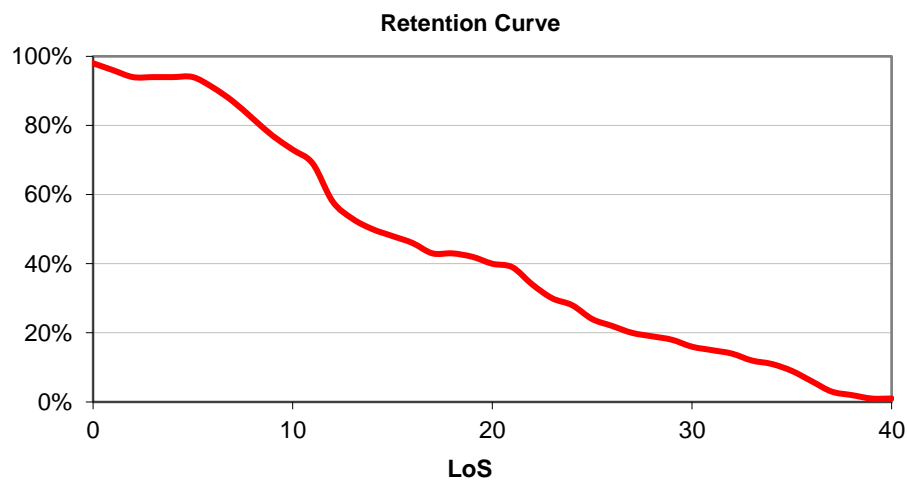
Air Command Secretariat

Enc: Annex A

## Career Projection for a New Entrant into the Weapons Systems Operators/Non-Commissioned Aircrew trade.

LoS <sup>1</sup>	% chance of reaching LoS		% chance of a New Entrant being promoted into rank	Average (mean) total length of service on promotion into rank
0	98%			
1	96%			
2	94%			
3	94%	AC	100%	
4	94%	SGT	94%	2 years 5 months
5	94%	FS	55%	10 years 7 months
6	91%	M ACR	27%	20 years 1 months
7	87%			
8	82%			
9	77%			
10	73%			
11	69%			
12	58%			
13	53%			
14	50%			
15	48%			
16	46%			
17	43%			
18	43%			
19	42%			
20	40%			
21	39%			
22	34%			
23	30%			
24	28%			
25	24%			
26	22%			
27	20%			
28	19%			
29	18%			
30	16%			
31	15%			
32	14%			
33	12%			
34	11%			
35	9%			
36	6%			
37	3%			
38	2%			
39	1%			
40	1%			

Average (mean) Length of Service<sup>2</sup> 17 years



<sup>1</sup> '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.

<sup>2</sup> Average (mean) Length of Service are the average length of service of personnel on strength. It considers trained and untrained personnel within the branch and is not specific to rank or LoS.

**Notes:**

- a. These data are based on the seven year span of actual data **2014/15 – 2020/21**. By considering a cohort of individuals with the similar characteristics - **New Entrants** into the **Weapons Systems Operator/Non Commissioned Aircrew** trade - average career projections have been calculated.
- b. Analysis Air's 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.