

# Armed Forces & Emergency Services



**262,124**  
PEOPLE WORK  
IN THE POLICE  
SERVICE

**74,228**  
PEOPLE WORK IN FIRE  
& RESCUE SERVICES

THE ARMED FORCES  
AIM TO RECRUIT  
**24,000**  
PEOPLE PER YEAR

**Attention! The UK prides itself on its military and ability to provide rapid response to emergencies. Whichever path you choose to take, you can take heart in the knowledge that your work is helping to protect and serve the people you love most. It's a rewarding, progressive career which will give you a varied working day.**

## You ask us...

### WHAT'S THE ARMED FORCES & EMERGENCY SERVICES SECTOR ALL ABOUT?

At its most basic, this sector is all about saving lives. It's a huge sector that is often misjudged; it's not just about marching, shooting and being yelled at by an officer. You can join the Forces as a chef or a medic, or if you fancy going into the emergency services, you can work out on the streets or at a desk, helping interview people and sorting evidence.

### WHAT KIND OF SALARY CAN I EXPECT TO EARN?

With regards to the Armed Forces, you will be paid a salary as soon as you begin training and it starts between **£13,000** and **£14,000** depending on which Force you go into. In the Emergency Services, you will have to undertake training before you begin earning, but your starting salary is very reasonable; Police Officers earn around **£23,000**, Fire-fighters earn **£20,500** and Paramedics can make up to **£21,000**. This sector is big on advancement, especially the Armed Forces where hard work is rewarded with respect (and more money).

### WHAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENT WOULD I BE WORKING IN?

Well, in the Armed Forces, it depends on which Force you go into and which role you wish to undertake. In the Army, you'll be based at a barracks in England when you are assigned to a regiment and then you could go anywhere from Northern Ireland to Germany, the Middle East or America. In the Air Force, you'll be installed at an Air Base but again you'll have to ship out to one of the many bases around the world. In the Navy, you'll be on a ship so make sure you have the stomach for the seas! You'll be a little closer to home in the Emergency Services; Police Officers and

Fire-fighters tend to work in the local community, whereas Paramedics will be working out of ambulances and hospitals.

### WHERE IS THE WORK MOST CONCENTRATED?

In the Armed Forces, it's at military bases and ports (obviously the Naval bases are situated near the sea; it's no good having them in the East Midlands!), whereas Emergency Services are located all over the country. Each region has its own authority and is responsible for recruitment to the respective service, but don't be afraid to move away from your local community if required. The bigger cities obviously have larger areas of influence, so you are more likely to find work there, but it is worth checking online to see where current vacancies are located.

### HOW DOES THIS SECTOR COMPARE TO OTHERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

Aside from the Travel and Hospitality sector, there isn't a better chance for you to travel abroad in your work! There are over **140,000** people serving in the Army alone and the UK is the third highest in the world for military expenditure, with over **£39bn** spent on keeping our country safe. Around **20,000** people were recruited last year and **25%** of those were under 18, so it's easier to get into this sector from a young age.

## Careers Choices

So what kind of career can you make out of this sector? The Armed Forces carries an honour like no other; you are responsible for the safety of the country and are our first line of defence against possible threats. The Emergency Services are there to help us on a local level, helping prevent crime and saving lives. So no matter which role you take in this sector, you can go to bed at night knowing you've made a difference. Here are the roles you can take to start your career off:

### ROYAL ARMY

The Army is split into two forces; the Royal Army and the Territorial Army (a reserve force). The latter can be done part time and suits people who want to train and work at the same time. Whoever you serve with, you could be based at home or abroad, or working with other countries' forces in international emergencies. Starting salaries are between **£13,000** and **£14,000**, plus a tax free lump sum called a 'bounty' for people serving in the TA. Your pay starts as soon as you begin training.

### ROYAL AIR FORCE

The Air Force guards our country from the sky, but as they say "You don't have to be a pilot to fly in the RAF". You could work as a navigator or a gunner on the larger aircraft, or if you prefer to stay on the ground, you could work alongside the Navy on an Aircraft Carrier or at a base maintaining grounded aircraft. Starting salaries are around **£13,700** and you are paid while you train.

### ROYAL NAVY

Protectors of our oceans, the Navy are experts at marine based combat. Whether it's as a shipman working out at sea or as a highly trained, super-elite Royal Marine infiltrating enemy bases, you'll be trained in one of the most prestigious military organisations in the world. Salaries start at around **£13,500** and like the others; you are paid while you train.

### POLICE FORCE

The police look after our safety in the local community. There are plenty of areas to specialise in, such as dog handling, riot response, traffic and highway patrol and undercover (CID) and your work will vary massively from day to day. You can expect to start on around **£23,000** after you complete your training.

### FIRE BRIGADE

Fires can occur anywhere, from the home and the office to factories and motorways. Each situation requires a different solution. Simple house fires risk family's lives whereas chemical fires can lead to explosions and endanger



a wider area. You'll have to be brave and understanding health and safety is part and parcel of this rewarding career. Expect to start off on around **£20,500**.

### PARAMEDICS

Paramedics are part of the response units to medical emergencies. Most paramedics ride in Ambulances, but there are specialised roles such as air support (riding in a helicopter) and rapid response (who use super quick cars). It's a great way to work in the medical sector if you don't fancy being confined to a hospital, but be prepared to learn a lot of medical terminology so that you can diagnose somebody as quickly as possible. Paramedics earn around **£21,000** when they first start out and earn more as they gain more experience.

## Where to begin

### TRAINING

In all the Armed Forces, you will be given basic training including such things as a combat mindset, weapons training and military etiquette. Then, your training will diversify depending on what your job role is within that force. You don't actually need any academic qualifications to be recruited and qualifications can be gained while you serve. However, if you wish to enter into Officer training, recruiters often look for solid academic achievements but you can apply for Officer training if you have been serving as a regular soldier.

### INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships are a great way to get into the Armed Forces and Emergency Services and allow you to gain the relevant skills you need for your field. Apprenticeships will result in a Level 2 qualification for Intermediate Level and Level 3 for an Advanced Apprenticeship. The award will take the form of a BTEC, Diploma or NVQ. Here are the frameworks for the Apprenticeships available:

**Emergency Fire Operations**  
• Policing • Health  
(Emergency Care Assistant)  
• HM Forces (Army, Navy and Air Force)

### COLLEGE COURSES

Some colleges do courses which act as a medium between education and work such as **Police Studies**. Paramedics and Fire Services have their own colleges you can attend to begin your career. **CW**