



Elements of the British Army

This booklet is intended for use by recruits prior to them beginning their Phase 1 Initial Training with the British Army.

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Badges of Rank

Introduction

- 1 The Army operates a system of rank. To enable everyone to be aware of an individual's rank, it is worn as a badge whenever an individual is in uniform.
2. This handout will provide a graphic representation of the badges of rank. It will inform you of what rank each badge represents and some of the jobs or appointments the wearer may hold.
3. The handout will only deal with ranks between Private and Lieutenant Colonel, as these are the ranks that you are most likely to experience in your unit and during Phase 1 Training.
4. The rank structure within the Army is split into two categories; Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers, both will be depicted within this handout.

The Badges of Rank

5. Commissioned Officers

Badge of Rank	Rank (Abbreviation)	Appointments (Abbreviation)
	Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col)	Commanding Officer (CO)
	Major (Maj)	
	Captain (Capt)	Company, Squadron or Battery Second in Command (Coy 2IC, Sqn 2IC), Operations Officer (Ops)
		Platoon or Troop Commander (Pl Comd, Tp Comd)
	Second Lieutenant (2Lt)	Platoon or Troop Commander (Pl Comd, Tp Comd) Platoon or Troop Officer (Pl Offr, Tp Offr)

6. Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs). Within the ranks of the Non-Commissioned Officers, there are 3 sub-categories; Warrant Officers (WOs), Senior NCOs (SNCOs) and Junior NCOs (JNCOs).

a. Warrant Officers (WOs):

Badge of Rank	Rank (Abbreviation)	Appointments (Abbreviation)
	Warrant Officer Class 1 (WO1)	Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) Sergeant Major Instructor (SMI)
	Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2)	Quarter Master Sergeant Instructor (QMSI), Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant (RQMS)
	Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2)	

b. Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (SNCOs):

		Platoon or Troop Staff/Colour Sergeant (SSgt/CSgt) Coy QMS (CQMS) Company Quarter Master Sergeant
	Sergeant (Sgt)	Platoon or Troop Sergeant (Sgt) Pay Sergeant (Sgt)

c. Junior Non-Commissioned Officers (JNCOs):

	Corporal (Cpl) Bombardier (Bdr)	Section Commander (Sec Comd)
	Lance Corporal (LCpl) Lance Bombardier (LBdr)	Section Second in Command (Sec 2IC)

Task: Complete the gaps in the table, by visiting the following websites:

<http://www.army.mod.uk/>

<http://www.armyjobs.mod.uk/howdoijoin/rolesranks/Pages/SoldierRanks.aspx>

The Arms and Services

Introduction

1. The British Army is a huge organisation comprising of many individual and separate branches. Each branch is crucial to the others to ensure that each task is carried out to the maximum capability. In joining your particular cap badge you form a part of the overall mechanism, it is essential that you know the other parts of the mechanism so you have an understanding of their role and task.

The Arms & Services

2. The Army can be split down into 3 main component parts, these are:

Combat Forces. Combat Forces are those forces which use fire and manoeuvre to engage the enemy with direct fire weapon systems.

Combat Support Forces. Combat Support Forces are those forces which provide fire support and operational assistance to combat forces.

Combat Service Support. Combat Service Support are those services which provide support to Combat Forces primarily in the fields of administration and logistics.

Combat Forces

3. Combat Forces are easily remembered as those services that engage the enemy as part of their normal job. They are made up of the Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps and the Army Air Corps.

a. **The Infantry.** The Infantry comprises of 37 regular battalions and 14 Territorial battalions. These units are deployed throughout the world in a number of different roles:

(1) **Light Role.** Light battalions are ideal for operating in special terrain, such as towns, cities and forests. Each of the Infantry's UK-based light battalions has an environmental specialisation that is the focus for its overseas exercises.

(2) **Mechanised.** Mechanised battalions utilise the Armoured Personnel Carrier as a battlefield taxi. It provides them with strategic mobility and delivers the Mechanised Infantry safely to the battlefield. Once delivered these troops dismount to close with and defeat the enemy.

(3) **Air Assault.** As part of [16 Air Assault Brigade](#). Air Assault battalions operate together with the Apache Attack Helicopters of the Army Air Corps to destroy vital components of an enemy fighting force. This formation will also provide the Lead Parachute Battle Group.

(4) **Armoured.** Armoured battalions are equipped with the world beating Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle and are in role as Armoured Infantry. They work in tandem with the tanks of the Royal Armoured Corps and guns of the Royal Artillery to provide a decisive force on the modern battlefield. For more information go to:

<http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/infantry.aspx>

b. **The Royal Armoured Corps (RAC).** Although today's Regiments might deploy on operations with a wide variety of roles and vehicular platforms, they have 4 core specialist roles:

- Armoured
- Formation Reconnaissance
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
- Ceremonial

Together with the infantry, the RAC's role is to seek and close with the enemy and defeat him using Firepower, Mobility and Protection.



For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/armoured/armoured.aspx>

c. **The Army Air Corps (AAC).** The Army Air Corps has 6 regular and 2 TA regiments. In addition, there are independent flights deployed in support of the Army worldwide. In a combat role, they possess the formidable fire power of the Apache Attack Helicopter. However, they also support the Army with observation, reconnaissance, direction of fire and the movement of men & material.



For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/aviation/air.aspx>

4. The Army is also supported by the UK's Special Forces amongst which can be found the Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) and the Special Reconnaissance Regiment (SRR). Cannot be joined directly. For more information go to:

<http://www.army.mod.uk/rolefinder/role/197/a.tab>

Combat Support Forces

5. Combat Support Forces do exactly as their name suggests, they support the Combat Forces in the task or mission they are engaged in at the time. They are made up of the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Intelligence Corps and the Royal Signals.

a. **The Royal Artillery (RA).** The Royal Regiment of Artillery is made up of 15 regular and 6 TA regiments who, along with the Honourable Artillery Company provide a wide range of tasks and have many varied duties. They are organised into a variety of roles including air defence, close support, general support, surveillance & target acquisition and ceremonial. For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/artillery/artillery.aspx>

b. **The Royal Engineers (RE).** The Royal Engineers comprises of 19 regular and 8 TA regiments. The primary role of the Royal Engineers is combat engineering, which is the provision of engineering solutions on the battlefield. The tasks of Combat Engineers fall into one of 3 main areas, mobility, counter-mobility and survival. In addition to its purely military responsibilities, the Royal Engineers also fulfil a wide range of civilian and humanitarian duties including relieving flood and storm damage and improving conditions for people displaced by war. For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/royalengineers/engineers.aspx>

c. **The Intelligence Corps (INT CORPS).** The Intelligence Corps comprises 3 regular and 2 TA battalions. Intelligence Corps soldiers and officers collect and analyse information through the mediums of photographic interpretation, signal intelligence, intelligence derived from human sources and open source material. They are also the analysts who pull all of this information together as fused intelligence. Additionally, they are also the British Army's counter-intelligence capability. For more information go to:

<http://www.army.mod.uk/intelligence/intelligence.aspx>

d. **The Royal Signals (R SIGNALS).** The Royal Signals comprises 13 regular and 11 TA regiments. From small tactical radio communications equipment, to large satellite dishes linking continents and passing vast amounts of information - the Royal Signals delivers the solutions. They work at all levels ensuring communications are maintained between all formational levels. For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/signals/signals.aspx>

Combat Service Support

6. Combat Service Support are those organisations which provide support to the Army to enable it to function. Your clothes, food, pay, petrol and the repair of whatever item of equipment you are using are examples of the services provided by the likes of the Royal Logistics Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

a. **The Royal Logistic Corps (RLC).** The Royal Logistic Corps comprises 23 regular and 16 TA regiments as well as some smaller assets. The RLC is responsible for the provision of transport and movement control facilities. It supplies the army with all of its materiel (less engineer and special medical stores). It provides experts in Bomb Disposal and along with this it repairs and inspects ammunition and other general equipment. The RLC also provides the Army's chefs and postal personnel. For more information go to:

<http://www.army.mod.uk/rlc/logistic.aspx>

b. **The Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC).** The Royal Army Medical Corps supports 5 regular medical regiments and 3 field hospitals, with the TA providing a further 4 medical regiments and 10 field hospitals. As its composition suggests, the RAMC provides the medical support to battlefield casualties, from both friendly and opposition forces. It also helps to provide medical support to non-deployed personnel around the world. For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/army-medical-services/5319.aspx>

c. **The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME).** This diverse Corps works at the cutting edge of technology and embraces a wide range of specialist skills. Every fighting, support or logistic unit, wherever it goes, has its own REME unit attached to it to inspect, recover and repair its equipment. The size of the unit depends on the size and the role of the parent unit it supports.

The REME's 9 regular and 2 TA battalions operate from well-equipped workshops but they are capable of deploying into the field with their equipment and operating as self-contained units. The flexible organisation of a REME battalion enables it to deploy detachments specially tailored to support out-of-area operations. For more information go to:

<http://www.army.mod.uk/remere/remere.aspx>

Other Services

7. There are other services in the Army that ensure that the Army can function. These are often out of the limelight but without their service the army would fail to function as an efficient organisation, they include the following:

- a. **The Royal Army Chaplains' Department (RACHD).** The Royal Army Chaplains' Department was founded in 1796. Chaplains of all denominations share a ministry to soldiers and their families wherever they may serve. Chaplains are involved with units from basic training to operational tours. The Church may be a handsome building or the back of a Landrover. For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/chaplains/chaplains.aspx>
- b. **The Adjutant Generals Corps (AGC).** The AGC is one of the largest Corps in the British Army and deals with its most vital resource - its people. The Corps is responsible for the administration, policing, education and law. Within its composition are the Staff & Personnel Support (SPS), Provost, Educational & Training Service (ETS) and Army Legal Service (ALS) Branches. For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/agc/4911.aspx>
- c. **The Royal Army Veterinary Corps (RAVC).** At the end of the 18th century, it was decided that graduates of the new Veterinary College in London would be appointed to cavalry regiments, thus the RAVC was formed. Initially it was responsible for the care of the Army's horses and it continues to do so to this day, but Service dogs are now the species of greatest military importance providing a vital role in the detection of EOD and the search function. For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/army-medical-services/5320.aspx>
- d. **The Small Arms School Corps (SASC).** The SASC is a small corps, its role is to assist regular and TA Infantry training units and battalions to achieve and maintain training standards for small arms and support weapons as decided by the Director of Infantry. In addition they are also responsible for small arms and support weapons training and development, small arms range courses, range safety and support weapons concentrations. Cannot be joined directly. For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/sasc%5Cdefault.aspx>
- e. **The Royal Army Dental Corps (RADC).** As early as 1660 regimental surgeons were required to preserve the soldier's teeth so that he could bite through the paper cartridge when loading. But it wasn't until the early 19th century that the soldiers' need for regular treatment was recognised and in World War I dental surgeons served in the medical service. Today, members of the RADC serve in dental centres or military hospitals where they carry out their normal day-to-day work. But they are soldiers too and have a war role within a Field Ambulance or Field Hospital. For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/army-medical-services/5321.aspx>
- f. **The Royal Army Physical Training Corps (RAPTC).** The RAPTC are responsible for the physical training of the Army. They ensure that fitness is performed correctly to prevent injury and advise the Army on the standards that should be maintained. Members of the Corps can specialise in physical training, adventurous training and rehabilitation. Cannot be joined directly. For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/raptc/default.aspx>
- g. **Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC).** Like the RAMC provides medical care, the QARANC provides nursing care to the British Army. QARANC personnel can be found in base and field hospitals, casualty clearing stations, ambulance trains, hospital ships, mobile surgical teams, and refugee camps. QAs have made an outstanding contribution to the health of the British Army. For more information go to: <http://www.army.mod.uk/army-medical-services/9869.aspx>

h. **The Corps of Army Music (CAMus)**. Formed in 1994, the Corps of Army Music is one of the youngest Army Corps, but it is one of the largest single employers of musicians in the world, over 1100 musicians. Bands perform at indoor and outdoor concerts, social engagements and on tour anywhere in the world. The musicians are trained to be soldiers in addition to their specialist skills; they have a mobilisation role as a medical orderly in case of a national emergency or war. For more information go to:

<http://www.army.mod.uk/music/music.aspx>

TASK

Place the following units under the correct heading:

- a. 10 Signal Regiment
- b. 26 Engineer Regiment
- c. 1 Royal Horse Artillery
- d. 2 Army Air Corps
- e. 27 Royal Logistic Regiment
- f. 2 Field Hospital

Combat Forces

Combat Support Forces

Combat Service Support

Summary

8. This handout has only provided a brief insight into the Arms and Services of the British Army. They all play essential parts in the myriad of tasks that befall us, without each one the British Army would not be the successful, world renowned organisation that it is.

British Troop Deployments

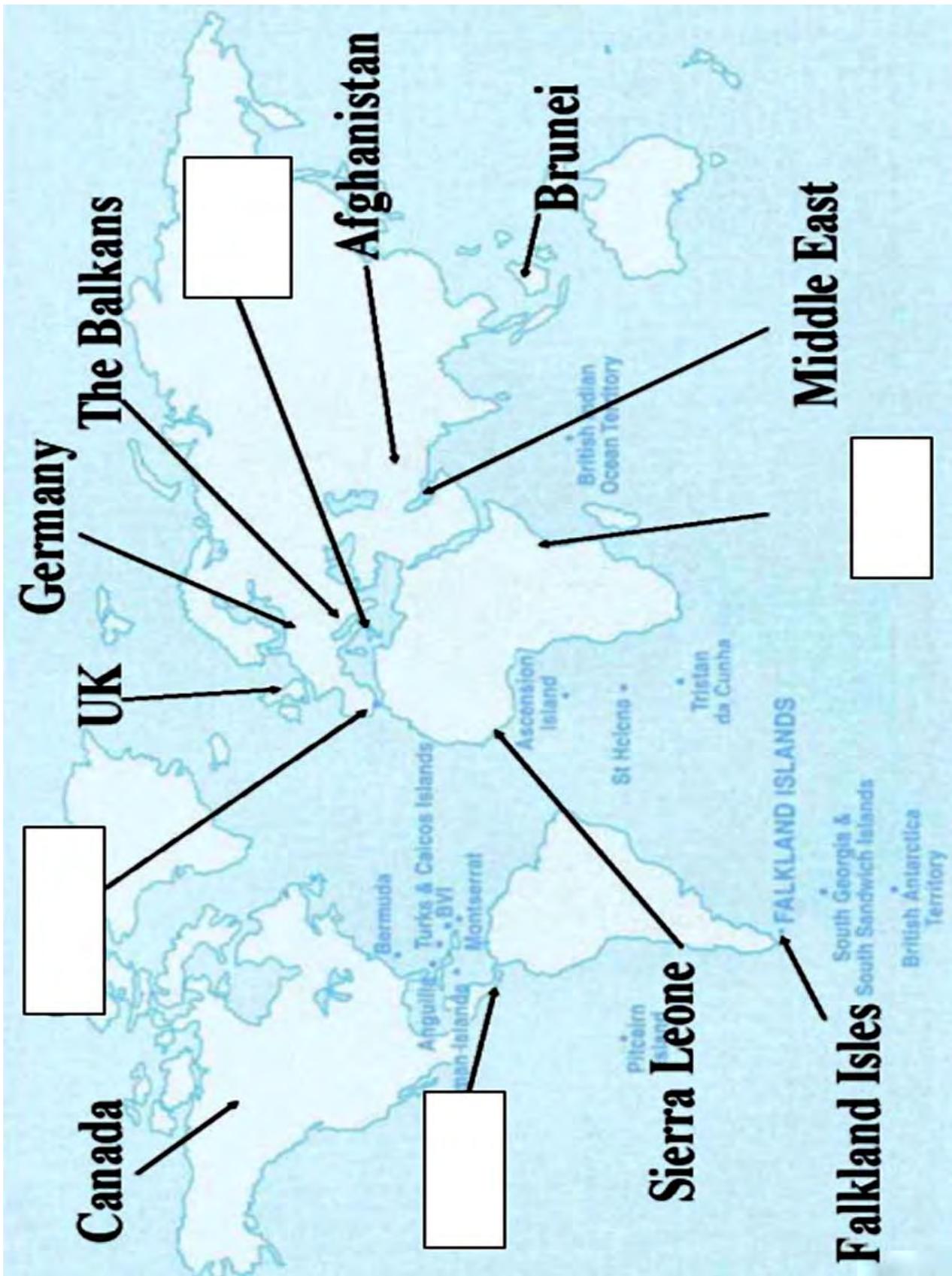
Introduction

1. The British Army has commitments all over the world, not just on operations, but in overseas Garrisons and on major training exercises. The aim of this handout is to help you understand where the British Army is currently serving and what we are doing there.

Current Deployments

2. The following table lists the major areas in which the British Army is currently deployed and the map at the bottom of the page helps depict this graphically.

Operations	Garrisons	Exercises
Afghanistan	Ascension	Canada
Balkans	Brunei	Kenya
Middle East	Cyprus	Belize
Various UN Missions	Falkland Islands	
	Germany	
	Gibraltar	
	UK	



Task Complete the blanks on the above map.