



Royal Corps of Signals Update

RSA ROADSHOW 2024

Corps UPDATE

Size of the Corps:

Regular	5514
Reserve	1672
QG SIGNALS	758
Total	7944

1 x Sig Bde

2 x Gp Comds - 7 Sig Gp & CEMA Gp – more of which in a minute!

17 x Regts (including 4 Reserve Regt and 8 Nationally-recruited Reserve Sub-Units)

4 x Independent sub-units – no more Bde Sig Sqns.

7 x Gurkha squadrons embedded within Sig Regts – just under 10% of the whole Corps!

Gen Nesmith – the Master of Signals – is Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (in effect 2IC of the British Armed Forces) and **Maj Gen Griffiths** is the Assistant Chief of the General Staff and **Maj Gen Purves** as the Army's CIO . And, for the first time ever, we will have the Army Sergeant Major, **WO1 Miller** who will move from being the Comd Sergeant Major of the Field Army role in 2025!

The Corps is facing significant challenges when it comes to recruitment. Last year, we managed to meet 83% of our target for new soldiers. This year, however, the forecast is more concerning, with predictions suggesting we may only reach 60%. Yet, there is one bright spot: we are on track to comfortably recruit 100% of the officers we need.

The root of this issue, we believe, stems from our own success. The sheer diversity of roles within the Royal Signals makes it increasingly difficult to convey to potential recruits what exactly their future might look like. We do so much, across so many critical areas, that giving a clear picture in just a short amount of time is a challenge. That said, we're taking steps to address this, particularly with our online recruiting foot print, where both soldiers and officers can gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities and responsibilities within the Corps. But we must acknowledge the broader environment we're operating in. In this Information Age, the UK's IT and tech sectors are booming—growing faster than any other profession. The Army, and indeed our Corps, finds itself competing directly with this growth, as civilian roles in IT often pull potential candidates away from military service.

And it doesn't stop there: sectors such as electricity supply and transport, which overlap with some of our other trades, are also expanding rapidly. Simply put, we're recruiting in one of the toughest markets we've seen in recent years.

Yet, in the face of these challenges, I am confident in our ability to adapt, persevere, and continue attracting the talent that makes the Royal Signals the proud, capable Corps it has always been

Ops/Ex - Overseas -

The Corps has continued to be in high demand operationally and continues to support every Army deployment around the globe, be that at home, in Europe or further afield. We have had elements of **10, 16, and 22 Signal Regiments** deployed constantly in support of the war in Ukraine.

Other overseas operations continue, punctuated with humanitarian and Foreign & Commonwealth Office support. This has been principally through **30 Sig Regt** and **16 Sig Regt**, supporting operations in Sudan and most recently support to the crisis in Israel. There have been multiple discreet Army Special Operations deployments supported by **255 Sig Sqn**, with Electronic Warfare and Signals Intelligence operations continuing throughout the year involving both **14 and 21 Sig Regts**.

Enduring operations and R SIGNALS support continues across Somalia, Nigeria, Kenya, Iraq and Kuwait.

Concurrently, a challenging exercise programme has continued and this has seen our Reservists deploy alongside their Regular counterparts on numerous occasions.

2 Sig Regt, through **214 Sig Sqn** have been supporting the 7th Light Manoeuvre Brigade Combat Team as part of the Very High Joint Readiness Task Force (VJTF) for NATO, deploying as part of the 3rd Div on Op LYNOTYPER at the beginning of the year.

1, 15, 2 Regts and 216 Sig Sqn have deployed on Ex CERBERUS in Germany for Brigade validation.

216 (Para) Sig Sqn continue to support the 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team in Oman with their French counterparts, while continuing to prepare for crisis escalation in the Middle East.

At Home.

UK Operations have increased in scope and scale over the last year, particularly with the wide-ranging and ongoing industrial action, largely in generalist roles, with almost **every Fd Army R SIGNALS regiment** contributing to some degree across Military Aid to Civil Authority.

Reserve Forces

It's probably worth pointing out that, as alluded to earlier, our R SIGNALS Reserve regiments **and specialist sub-units** are continuing to integrate with our Regulars at the point of effect during operations and exercises and developing their capacity for formed elements (Det / Tp / Sqn) commitments as part of both the 'Warfighting' 3rd (UK) Division and the wider roles of 1st (UK) Division. **As part of this Integration effort, HQ R SIGNALS has integrated all of its Reservists into hitherto all Regular/Civil Servant staff branches which is a positive step forward to achieving the One Army Concept.**

The **Future Soldier** structure of the Army is absolutely reliant on these tasks being delivered by the Reserves. It's a worthwhile and focussed set of commitments that has improved the 'sense of purpose' for many of our Reserve soldiers – they are getting stuck in and it is another reason why **R SIGNALS Reserve recruiting and retention** remains strong!

Now The New Bit!!!

Cyber and Electromagnetic Activity (CEMA):

The G6 CEMA Effects Gp, commanded by a Royal Signals full Colonel, now command **13 Signal Regiment, 14 Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare)** and **21 Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare)**, which itself has grown to include **225 Signal Squadron (Electronic Countermeasures)** and has **resubordinated 237 Signal Squadron** from its sister EW Regiment in Brawdy.

13 Signal Regiment continues to develop their internal Defensive Cyber processes with their responsibilities increasing as the Army increasingly focuses on cyber risk and effects.

The Royal Signals Specialist Reserve sub-units of the Cyber Reserve Force Joint Cyber Units (Reserve), the Land Information Assurance Group and 254 (Specialist Group Information Services) Signal Squadron are coming into their stride providing the Army and Defence with undirect Cyber, Information Assurance, Computer Defence and Counter Disruption capabilities.

Association Stuff

The bottom line is that every military association continues to reduce in size as the number of veterans within the UK reduces. Our Association is no different!

It is for that reason that we have started doing an RSA Roadshow annually to get out and talk to Branches to see what works and what doesn't. The Roadshow in 2023 was a great success again and we gained a lot from it. During Roadshow 2024 we are hoping to bring the 3Rs Community together by using our serving Corps locations to host our briefs from. We are hoping that this will also prove popular with our retired members who can, once again, get access back onto a Army camp and for those of you who have travelled a long way to be here your efforts are really appreciated.

Key messages that have come out of our past discussions are:

Whole Family engagement. Encouraging the 3Rs engagement wherever it is practical to do so. We are also encouraging wider engagement with other capbadges in order to generate mass within an area rather than seeing a Branch closing down.

Regional focus. We are continuing to develop regional events to bring the 3Rs together. We already have Corps Weekend in the South West, Project NOEL in the North West and Eden Camp in the North East (albeit next years event maybe the last open unless we can find new people to run it) and Summer Sales in the Centre, but we would like to look at other opportunities. These must have a local lead but the Corps HQ team will be very happy to assist. This year, we have supported the Catterick RSA Branch who did a great job with the organisation of an event to celebrate the Corps' 100-year association with Catterick Garrison (known as Project CENTURION) by exercising our right to the Freedom of Richmond which took place on 12 Jul 24.

Website. We continue to develop our website and this remains the one-stop-shop for official information on what the Corps and Association are doing. It is also how you book onto National events!

Benevolence. We need Branches to remain engaged with the vulnerable within their areas and encourage them to ask for assistance if required (a hand up not a handout!!). If you are not aware, we have also recently launched the **Supporting Our Signallers** initiative to build on the excellent work already being conducted by our Branches. The intent is to reach Signallers who need assistance or help in those areas where we may not have a local Branch.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2025

15 March	Annual General Meeting	Victory Services Club
18 May Yorkshire	Eden Camp	North
5 June Chelsea	Founder's Day	Royal Hospital
- 22 June	Corps Weekend	Blandford Camp
TBC August	Summer Sales	Cirencester
6 September	Corps Memorial Service	NMA Staffordshire
6 November	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
9 November	Cenotaph	London
TBC November	Project NOEL	Liverpool

3Rs Officers Drinks Reception at Buckingham Palace.

We are awaiting confirmation of the date

HRH The Princess Royal is available.

We have requested following dates and they are in priority order below:

Thursday 26 June

Thursday 12 June

Thursday 15 May

Supporting Our Signallers



Signing onto the QR Code

