



FLEET AIR ARM

AIR SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN / NAVAL AIRMAN (SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT)

As an Air Survival Technician, you'll make sure your crewmates and passengers are fully equipped and know what to do in an emergency on board a Royal Navy aircraft. You'll look after the crew's protective gear, such as immersion suits, flying helmets, oxygen masks, parachutes and emergency breathing equipment, and maintain the aircraft's survival packs, radio beacons, distress flares, life jackets and life rafts. Most importantly, you'll also train people how to use them, as well as how to escape underwater from a ditched helicopter and other survival drills. It's a big responsibility, as lives could literally depend on your skills and attention to detail. However, with it comes the satisfaction of knowing you're a crucial part of the mission, whether in peacetime or combat. Your official title in the Royal Navy will be Naval Airman (Survival Equipment).

What we're looking for

You'll need commitment, enthusiasm and common sense. Lives may depend on the equipment you're working with, so you need to be thorough, organised, have an eye for detail and be focused on how important the job is. You need to be able to manage your own workload, keep accurate records and set high standards for yourself. You also need to be a good communicator, able to get vital safety information across clearly to anyone, from Aircrew to senior officers and members of other armed forces to civilians.

Basic training

Your Royal Navy career begins with nine weeks' basic training at HMS Raleigh. It sounds like a ship, but in fact it's a shore base near Plymouth. The discipline, teamwork, organisational, firefighting and weapon-handling skills you'll learn here will stay with you right through your Royal Navy career.

Aim to get yourself as fit as you can before you arrive. You'll be doing a lot of physical exercise and you'll find it much easier if you're already in good shape. There's also a swimming test, so if you can't swim, make sure you've learned by the time you join us. You can find out more about HMS Raleigh at royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

Professional training

You'll spend seven months at the Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering in Gosport learning survival drills and how to pack parachutes, life rafts and survival packs, with regular tests to check your progress. You'll then spend time on a Royal Naval Air Station, working closely with experienced Aircrew to develop real-world knowledge and skills, before you qualify to sign off servicing work as complete.

Pay and conditions

Royal Navy pay compares well with similar civilian jobs. As well as basic pay, you'll get extra money for special skills, when you're promoted and when you're away at sea. We also offer an excellent pension scheme, six weeks' paid holiday a year and free medical and dental care.

You'll generally join us on a full career, which is 18 years or to age 40, whichever is later. You may have the opportunity to serve beyond this, depending on what you want and the needs of the Royal Navy. If you want to leave, you can send us your request one year before completing your specified return of service. How long this return of service is, will depend on the branch you join. You will need to give 12 months' notice.

Promotion

You'll start your career as an Able Rate. With some experience and further training, you could be promoted to Leading Hand. After that, you may go on to become a Petty Officer, Chief Petty Officer, then a Warrant Officer. If you show the right commitment, skills and academic ability, you may also have the chance to become a Commissioned Officer. You'll be chosen for promotion on merit, so if you work hard, you can quickly rise through the ranks.

Skills for life

Training will be a constant feature of your time with us. We'll help you gain academic qualifications like GCSEs, A-levels, even a degree. You can also work towards NVQs and other vocational awards. As well as helping you develop your Royal Navy career, everything you achieve will be recognised and valued by a future civilian employer.

Sport and recreation

We can offer you a fantastic range of sports and other activities. All our ships and shore bases have superb sports and fitness facilities and we play a huge number of team and individual games. You'll also have the chance to go on adventurous training, which could be anything from a jungle expedition to mountaineering and caving to parachuting.

DO I QUALIFY?

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Age:	16 to 36.
Nationality:	British or British dual citizenship.
Qualifications:	No specific qualifications are needed for this job.
Gender:	This job is open to both men and women.
Starting salary:	For current information, visit royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

HOW TO APPLY

GET IN TOUCH

1. Go to royalnavy.mod.uk/careers or call **08456 07 55 55**.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

2. Go to an initial careers presentation.
3. Have an informal discussion with a Careers Adviser.
4. Take the recruit test.
5. Discuss your job options with a Careers Adviser.
6. Pass the medical, eye and pre-joining fitness tests.
7. Join the Royal Navy.