

227 PILOTS FOR UNIT LIGHT AIRCRAFT

1. Approval has been given for the equipment of Headquarters, 3rd Commando Brigade and Commandos with light helicopters.
2.
 - a. These helicopters will be piloted by officers, and volunteers are required for training as helicopter pilots.
 - b. This Routine Order lays down the eligibility, standard of fitness, tour of duty and conditions of service.
 - c. Flying training is carried out at the Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, near Stockbridge, Hants. (Nearest railway station - Andover Junction). The present length of the course is 31 weeks, excluding periods of block leave during the course. Duration of courses is subject to variation in the future.
 - d. Consideration is being given to the employment of NCO pilots.
3. After successful completion of a light aircraft course, pilots will be eligible to wear the Army Flying Badge and will be given the specialist qualification of 'Light Aircraft Pilot'. Awards of the qualification will be published in Symbol Lists attached to monthly Army Orders, and in Royal Marines Routine Orders as follows:

Light Aircraft Pilot - helicopter 'p.h.'

4. Officers will be eligible for Special Service Pay (Flying) at the rates applicable to Army officers employed on similar duties. These are:

	<i>Daily Rate</i>	
While under training	6s.	0d.
First Tour of Flying Duties		
Major and below	15s.	0d.
Second and Subsequent Tours of Flying Duty		
Lieutenant	20s.	0d.
Lieutenant after one year in the rank	22s.	0d.
Captain	22s.	0d.
Major	22s.	0d.
Lieutenant Colonel	16s.	0d.

SSP(F) will not be payable between tours of flying duty.

Eligibility

5.
 - a. Officers on the General List, Short Service Commission List or Special Duties List are eligible to apply.
 - b. Officers may volunteer to start flying training at any time up to their 27th birthday. Officers may volunteer immediately on completion of initial training but will not normally be considered for flying training until they have completed their first commission in a unit.
 - c. Air Crew selection tests may be taken as soon as the officer's application has been approved. The results of the CAMB medical tests remain valid for two years. Those who fail aptitude tests may take them again after a period of two years has elapsed.
 - d. Officers must have a minimum of three years to serve after completion of pilot training.
 - e. Officers will not normally be permitted to retire until three years after the date of completion of their basic flying training.

Medical

6. The medical examination will be carried out at the Central Air Medical Board.

It is essential that unit medical officers verify the PULHEEMS standard and that the Colour Perception rating and eye muscle balance tests are properly carried out. Medical defects are responsible for many of the failures at the Aircrew Selection Centre.

Volunteers must conform to the following standards:

a. Minimum height 66 inches, maximum height 76 inches.

b. Medical category

P	U	L	H	E	E	M	S	CP
2	2	2	1	3	3	2	2	1
				1	1			

c. Eye muscle balance tests must be within the following limits:

Esophoria not more than 6.

Exophoria not more than 6.

Hyperphoria not more than 1.

Hypermetropia not more than 2.5 convergence 10 cms.

Aircrew Tests RAF Biggin Hill

7. All pilot candidates must take a series of intelligence and aptitude tests. Each test is preceded by a standard and adequate set of instructions, which include practice questions. No technical knowledge is required, only common sense and experience of every day practical things, in order to obtain a high mark. To assist candidates in their preparation a general description of these tests is given below:

Every Day Science

a. This is a very simple test of everyday scientific knowledge.

Mathematics

b. (1) Part I. Includes very simple simultaneous equations; and mathematical problems.

(2) Part II. Time and distance problems including fuel consumption calculations.

Educational attainment

c. Questions on general knowledge and comprehension of the English language.

Progressive Matrices

d. A series of geometric patterns that test the candidate's reasoning ability.

Mechanical Comprehension

e. Questions on a series of diagrams of simple mechanical contrivances. (Pulleys, gears, etc.)

Instrument Comprehension

f. Part I. A test of the candidate's ability to interpret the readings of six dials.

Part II. The candidate has to relate the readings on two dials to illustrations of aircraft in flight.

Neither part is technical in any way.

g. Practical tests of the candidate's co-ordination of eyes, hand and feet.

Military Knowledge

8. Officers selected for flying training are required to have the following basic military knowledge by the time they join the course:

a. Organisation of basic infantry and armoured formations down to company or equivalent level.

b. Elementary tactics at Infantry platoon level.

c. Radio voice procedure for control of a net and one-to-one working.

d. Staff duties in the Field for message writing, issue of verbal orders and conventional military symbols.

e. A high standard of map reading.

f. Outline theory of the I.C. engine.

Applications

9. Applications should be forwarded in the normal way through Commanding Officers. The recommendations of Commanding Officers will be taken into account when selecting volunteers for training.

Selections

10. Selection will be made by the Department of CGRM who will arrange for aptitude tests and medical examination.

Tour of Duty

11. Officers who successfully complete the flying training course will normally serve up to three years on flying duties. This period may be reduced or extended to meet appointing or operational requirements. Officers will return to Corps duty for a period of at least two years but may subsequently volunteer for a further flying tour of up to three years. In the event of insufficient volunteers being available for further tours of flying duty it might be necessary to select officers who are suitably qualified.

Gratuities

12. Short Service Commission List officers selected for flying duties will continue to be eligible for gratuity at the rate of £180 for each year of service.