

98. RM AIR GUNNERS

1. With the introduction of helicopter borne Anti-Tank Guided Weapons (ATGW) it is necessary to introduce a new specialist qualification - Air Gunner - for light aircraft. Ranks will be employed primarily as helicopter borne SS11 missile operators. This operator will be required to locate, identify and engage targets and assist the pilot in low level navigation, air observation, air photography and control of fire. He will be trained in the use of aircraft radios and to carry out certain semi-skilled servicing and ground handling tasks. He will also be given ten hours dual instruction to enable him to fly the helicopter to a safe area and carry out a landing should the pilot be incapacitated.

2. *Eligibility.* Ranks volunteering for training as Air Gunners must meet the following conditions:

- a. Under 28 years of age when they start the training course
- b. Willing to serve a minimum period of 3 years as Air Gunner after successfully completing the course.
- c. Completed at least one full tour in a commando.
- d. Educationally qualified for promotion (i.e. NAMET 5/5 standard).

All volunteers for training must have their PULHEEMS standard and their CP rating verified. Standards are set out in PULHEEMS Administration Pamphlet 1962 Table 3A (Code No 13371).

3. *Application.*

- a. Eligible candidates should submit applications in duplicate through their units in accordance with Annex A to DCI (Army) 14/71. Applications are to be forwarded to DPRORM copy to HQ Trg Gp RM. DPRORM will forward applications to Ministry of Defence (AG6 Army Aviation) as necessary. Selected ranks will attend the Army course.
- b. The Ministry of Defence (AG6 Army Aviation) will arrange for the candidate to be called for testing and interview.

4. *Selection Procedure.*

- a. Candidates will be required to complete the selection procedure laid down in paragraphs 7 to 10 inclusive of DCI (Army) 14/71.
- b. Commanding officers are to ensure that ranks have a thorough revision of military subjects, map reading and signals in preparation for the selection tests.

5. *Training.*

- a. Candidates selected for air gunner will attend a course at the School of Aviation lasting ten weeks.
- b. After successful completion of the course students will be awarded the specialist qualification of HW(GW)(H).
- c. A candidate who fails to qualify will be returned to his unit.