

243 (Wessex) Field Hospital



243 (Wessex) Field Hospital is part of the Army Medical Service Reserves (AMS Reserves) and its mission is to provide vital medical support to the Regular Army and the UK's Armed Forces deployed anywhere in the world.

We are looking for Healthcare Professionals from all clinical specialities and grades (HCA's to Consultants) across the South West and Hampshire region and offer a unique opportunity to expand their existing skills and experience. The AMS Reserves will help develop confidence and leadership abilities in a way you never thought possible.

243 (Wessex) Field Hospital provides Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities by way of academic courses including a BSc in Clinical Leadership, as well as accredited clinical training. There are also opportunities for support staff including mechanics, HR administrators, chefs and various other trades.

The AMS Reserves selection criteria takes into account the value of professional qualifications, **so a wide range of people are eligible to join**, for some professions the maximum entry age is up to 54. You can also join as a Student if you are studying to be a Doctor, Nurse or Allied Health Professional with generous financial incentives.

If you are interested in joining then please contact the Operations Support Officer on 0117 986 3571 Ext 8242 or via e-mail at 243HOSP-rhq-roso@mod.uk

History

243 (Wessex) Field Hospital were formed with the amalgamation of 211 Field Hospital (Volunteers) based in Plymouth, and 219 Field Hospital (Volunteers) based in Bristol, on 01 January 1996.

The origins of the Unit dates back to 128 Field Ambulance and the raising of the formerly known Territorial Army now Army Reserves, some 100 years ago. The Officers and Other Ranks were heavily involved in providing medical support to the Field Army in the 1st World War, where in one such battle they were awarded The “Croix de Geurre” in commemoration of extraordinary devotion to duty in the evacuation of sick and wounded civilians from St Amand. The “Croix de Geurre” - a French Gallantry award, has rarely been bestowed upon a British Army Unit. Only twelve such awards have ever been made and of these only one to the Royal Army Medical Corps. During the 2nd World War, the Unit formed part of the Guards Armoured Division, which landed in Normandy in 1944. Following intense fighting, many of the sick and injured were treated and evacuated by medics and support staff of the deployed force. Since then, Unit personnel have completed numerous operational tours including Bosnia, Iraq and most recently completing such a tour of Afghanistan in 2013.



243 Field Hospital Detachment

Regimental Headquarters + A Detachment
243 (Wessex) Field Hospital
Starling House
Army Reserve Centre
Ashmead Road
KEYNSHAM
Bristol
BS31 1SX

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Email: 243HOSP-A-PSAO@mod.uk

Training also takes place in Gloucester.



A Detachment, 243 Field Hospital covers the northern part of 243's geographic footprint. The Detachment has two locations one at Keynsham Army Reserve centre, Ashmead rd Keynsham, BS31 1SX, and the other at Gloucester Army Reserve Centre, Eastern Avenue, Gloucester, GL4 3BG. The administration staff is based at Keynsham Army Reserve centre. The Detachment recruits Army Reserve personnel who live and work in Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucester, the Forest of Dean & parts of Worcestershire and Dorset. Medical personnel are drawn from personnel who work in the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS trust, The United Bristol & North Bristol NHS trusts, The Royal United Hospital, Bath, the Great Western Hospital Swindon as well as minor units in the area.



Partnering for Talent (PfT)

Students studying appropriate medical and healthcare related subjects may be offered a financial incentive (hereafter referred to as the Student Offer) as a means of recruiting them to the Army Medical Service (AMS) Reserves which will compliment other AMS Reserve recruiting activities. The Student Offer is designed as a financial incentive to encourage interest and motivation through the recruit training pathway. It is not a 'Golden Hello'. It is therefore aimed at students who have an interest and the right aptitude for AMS Reserve service but have made an expression of interest. The Student Offer is designed to be a long term recruitment mechanism where students will get a feel for AMS Reserves service while in higher/further education with an end state that they will join the AMS Reserves. Once qualified the student will become a trained and qualified part of their AMS Reserves unit with deployable utility.

Table – Recognised PfT Qualifying Courses			
Ser	Course Name	Student Offer (Net)	Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	Nursing Degree (2 nd year student).	£2500	Year 2 students only.
2	Nursing Degree (3 rd year student).	£2000	Year 3 students only.
3	Health Care Assistant (Degree/HND).	£2500	Year 2+ students only.
4	Medical Degree.	£4000	Year 4 students only.
5	Medical Degree.	£4000	Year 5 students only.
6	ODP Degree.	£3500	Year 2+ students only. £3500 is an authorised uplift (by AMD) from £2500 to redress current shortfall in ODP held strength.
7	BSc Bio-Medical Science.	£2500	Year 2+ students only.
8	Pharmacy Degree.	£2500	Year 2+ students only.
9	Pharmacy Technician (Degree/HND).	£2500	Year 2+ students only.
10	Environmental Health Degree.	£2500	Year 2+ students only.
11	Dental Degree.	£2500	Year 3+ students who must be allocated against Med Regt or Nationally Recruited Units.
12	Dental Technician (Degree/HND).	£2500	Year 2+ students who must be allocated against Med Regt or Nationally Recruited Units.
13	Radiography (Degree/HND).	£2500	Year 2+ students only.
14	Veterinary Science Degree.	£2500	Year 2+ students only who must be allocated to Nationally Recruited or Military Working Dogs units.
15	Physiotherapy Degree.	£2500	Year 2+ students only.
16	Paramedic HND/Degree	£2500	Year 2+ students only.

243 FIELD HOSPITAL: Who are we looking for?

Officers - Army Medical Services	Qualification / Standard
Medical Officer	MB BS or BCh
Nursing Officer	Registered Nurse (Adult) or Registered Nurse (Mental Health)
Technical Officer Radiographer	Appropriate degree level or vocational certificate in Radiography
Pharmacist	Appropriate degree in Pharmacy
Medical Support Officer	Same entry criteria as any other officer
Medical Students	Qualification gained post university studies
Soldiers Army Medical Services	
Combat Medical Technician	State Registered Paramedic or Ambulance Technician
Operating Department Practitioner	Dip HE Operating Department Practitioner or NVQ Level 3 Operating Department Practice
Biomedical Scientist	BSc in Biomedical Sciences
Pharmacy Technician	BTEC National Certificate/Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sciences or NVQ Level 3 in Pharmacy Services
Registered Nurses	Registered Nurse (Adult) or Registered Nurse (Mental Health, Med Regt's only)
Dental Nurse	NEBDN Certificate or NVQ Level 3 Oral Health Care Worker
Healthcare Assistant	NVQ Level 2 in Healthcare Studies
Student Nurses	Qualification gained post university studies
AHP Students	Qualification gained post university studies
Non-Army Medical Service Trades	
Chef	Training given, no formal qualification required
Driver	Training given, no formal qualification required
Military HR Administrative Clerk	Training given, no formal qualification required

Recruiting Process



All applications to join the Army Medical Reserves are now carried out on line at:

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

All applications to join the Army are supervised by the National Recruiting Centre (NRC) based in Upavon Wiltshire.

1. Once you have registered and received your username and password you can apply to join the Army Reserves. **You must start the application within 48 hrs of receiving your username and password.** Do not try and complete the application on a Tablet or Smartphone as the software is not yet compatible.
2. Completed applications are sifted and filtered as necessary, on a successful application you are sent two online questionnaires 1 Medical 2 Eligibility. Once completed, you will be assigned a Candidate Support Manager (CSM) from the NRC; they will guide you through the remainder of the recruit process.
3. Successful candidates will be asked to attend their local Army careers centre for a face to face interview. There are two pathways you may go down 1 Officer 2 Soldier, this is dependant on qualification experience and job choice.
4. During the process it's a good idea to visit your local Army Reserve Centre to get a feel about who they are and what they do, you will be welcomed warmly by all the reserve personnel that train there, and they normally hold their drill nights on a Tue or Thurs night from 7.30 – 9.30 pm. you will at various stages in the process be invited back to the Army Reserve Centre to carry out more unit administration.

5. On successful completion of the face to face interview you will be invited to attend the Assessment centre. The moment you step into the camp you are being assessed for attitude, suitability, enthusiasm and determination. There you will spend 2 days 1 night and carry out the following assessments:

a. *Fitness*: You don't need to be super fit to join the Army; all you need is the right attitude and determination to get there. You'll be put through your paces during your Army Assessment with several strength and stamina tests. It's nothing to worry about and you don't need to be super-fit, but to get to the level of a soldier in training you should do some training first.

b. *Ice breaker*: Used to create a positive group atmosphere, Help people to relax, break down social barriers, energise and motivate, help people to "think outside the box", and finally help people to get to know one another. You will during your time at the assessment Centre stand up in front of your peers and give a brief overview of yourself or a given subject.

c. *Medical*: Full top to bottom medical nowhere to hide. if you have answered honestly and been up front with the past medical questionnaire you will have no problems passing.

d. *Military Lesson*: You will receive a military lesson on a type weapon system or grenade you are allowed to take notes, the following morning you will undertake a test to see how much information you have retained.

e. *Meet and Greet*: You have the opportunity to rub shoulders with soldiers in Phase 1 training, ask those questions, and get their opinion.

f. *Interview*: The final stage of the Assessment Centre programme is an interview. It's important to dress smartly and act in a positive, polite and respectful way throughout your assessment as this will build a picture for the Interviewer, but above all you should be yourself; if not then you'll give a false impression to the interviewer which could in turn be detrimental either to your application or to your success in training.

6. Officers have a similar pathway but their assessment is carried out at Westbury in Wiltshire, it is called the Army Officer Selection Board (AOSB), a lot of emphasis is put on your leadership skills, ability to solve problems, be able to make a decision fast and act on it.

7. Successfully completing all that you are only required to carry out some pre-employment checks such as DBS (CRB), basic security check, and then you are ready to be enlisted into the Army Reserves.