



Ministry of Defence

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Thank you for your email of 16 July where you requested information about career progression for NCO Pilots in the Army Air Corps.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. May I please take this opportunity to apologise for the delay in responding to you.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Your questions are repeated below, together with the relevant response.

How many NCO qualified pilots are currently serving in the Army Air Corps (AAC)?

190

Can the above be broken down by rank please?

Warrant Officer Class 1	30
Warrant Officer Class 2	70
Staff Sergeant	50
Sergeant	40

Expressed as a percentage, at what rank or acting rank do NCO pilots attain their wings (Army Flying badge)? (For example, percentage of corporals, acting sergeants, sergeants, staff sergeants, warrant officer?)

Once successfully completing the pilot's course and passing Conversion to Type, a soldier transfers to the AAC where they will all be promoted to Sergeant. The Ministry of Defence holds no information on the rank of those who attend the pilot's course. However, the majority are Lance Corporal and Corporal, with a few who are already Staff Sergeant.

What is the average length of overall service for pilots who gain their wings as an NCO pilot in the Army Air Corps?

25 years, 7 months.

What percentage of NCO pilots complete 12 years service in the Army?

The Department does not hold this information. However, 26% of soldiers in the AAC complete 12 years' service.

What percentage of NCO pilots complete 22 years service in the Army?

The Department does not hold this information. However, 16% of soldiers in the AAC complete 22 years' service.

Please note that the answer to this and your preceding question are not at odds with the answer to the length of service question. We have been able to answer that question with specific reference to pilots, whereas these questions are dealing with AAC soldiers as a whole, therefore the two sample populations are different.

If a pilot who attained his/her wings as an NCO were to stay in the Army Air Corps/Army for 12 or 22 years, what is the average rank achieved by pilots after 12 or 22 years service respectively?

The Department does not hold this information.

What is the average number of NCO pilots selected to fly the Apache helicopter in the Army Air Corps (expressed as a percentage of the number of pilots who attain their wings)?

The Department does not hold this information as an official statistic. Internal management information produced in 2013 suggests the figure to be in the order of 36%.

What percentage of those trained as NCO pilots achieve the rank of officer by the point of 22 years service?

The Department does not hold this information. However, a Private joining the AAC has a 5.5% chance of becoming a commissioned officer.

In considering the information provided as official statistics, may I please direct you to the notes at the foot of this letter.

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Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat

Notes:

1. The statistics are based on averages based on seven years data ending March 2010. These averages are used to avoid small populations and the spurious rates that may result. The use of several years' data reduces fluctuations caused by one-off factors and also covers a wider period of the economic cycle which can influence outflow. Data for years 2006/07 and 2007/08 have been excluded due to issues of data quality and availability surrounding the cessation of legacy systems and the introduction of JPA. Data used is therefore drawn from 2001/02 – 2005/06 and 2008/09 – 2009/10.
2. Caution should be exercised with regards to interpretation of these statistics. They are constructed from behaviour for Army personnel covering a number of contracts/ engagements. They form a statistical average for the Army and do not relate to the terms and conditions associated with any particular contract. Nor do they take account of the application of specific measures which will influence careers, for example, redundancy.
3. This information covers all soldiers joining regardless of age.