

Reserve Forces training: a guide for employers

Platoon Tactics Course (Platoon Sergeants)



Overview of the training

The Platoon Sergeants Course is aimed at experienced Corporals. Successful candidates will be qualified for promotion to Sergeant and to perform the role of Platoon Sergeant, the second-in-command of a platoon of around 28 soldiers – if necessary in an operational theatre such as Afghanistan.

A Platoon Sergeant must provide 'leadership in support' to the Platoon Commander while taking responsibility for specific needs of the platoon including the health and hygiene, welfare, discipline and administration of its personnel. He must also ensure that the platoon is fully supplied with everything it needs (including equipment, food, water and ammunition), arrange the treatment and evacuation of any casualties and handle any prisoners of war.

Those soldiers seeking to perform the Platoon Sergeant role must be dynamic leaders and real team players, and the two week course is aimed at developing and testing these qualities. Taking on the level of responsibility required of a Platoon Sergeant means that candidates must be highly motivated and competent in the tasks they perform.

The training takes place at the Infantry Battle School in Brecon in Wales (which also trains the Regular Army) and is both mentally and physically demanding. The prospective Platoon Sergeants are marked on, among other criteria, their attitude to the training and the effort they put in. The course involves a great deal of theory and tactics as well as adherence to procedure, which are all assessed.

Content of the course

The training is a residential course that lasts for 15 consecutive days. Each day consists of at least 12 hours of training (excluding any individual preparation).

On the course, 10 days of the training are conducted through practical exercises outdoors and, of these, four consecutive days and nights are spent on an assessment exercise in the field.

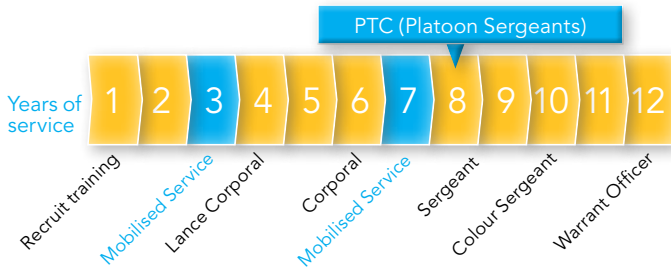
The course includes lectures and individual tuition sessions covering topics such as leadership, tactical planning and communication. This theory is then put into practice during the field exercises which test students in a range of military scenarios during the day and at night, such as platoon attacks, patrolling, defensive operations, fighting in built up areas and casualty evacuation.

During these exercises the student practices and is tested on performing the role of Platoon Sergeant. The potential TA Platoon Sergeant is trained alongside TA Officers and Lance Corporals who are simultaneously being trained in the roles of Infantry Platoon Commander and Section Commander respectively, which enables the student to practice the role within a real team.

There is also continuous assessment of core competencies throughout the course and a final written examination. These competencies include: leadership and robustness; logistics planning; attitude and effort; and specialist knowledge.

Position in a Reservist's career

The Platoon Tactics Course for Platoon Sergeants is normally undertaken by a Corporal, who will typically have been in the Territorial Army for around eight years and have completed one or two periods of full-time, mobilised service.



How do employers benefit?

The Platoon Sergeants Course develops skills and competencies which are central to all organisations: team working, leadership, planning and communication.

The course does this in a gruelling and high-pressure environment where the student is stepping up to a new level of responsibility.

Students become more robust, self-sufficient, reliable, confident and motivated over the two weeks.

They develop the ability to produce plans to support their group's needs, to command presence and to motivate the group to remain effective under pressure.

The training specifically develops the following skills and qualities:

- Team working, ensuring the group's needs are met and supporting the group's leader
- Planning based on situational analysis
- Organisation and administration
- Clear communication of plans to others to ensure delivery
- Self-motivation and confidence

How much would this training cost you to buy?

£4,325

According to research endorsed by the Chartered Management Institute, if you were to pay for training to deliver equivalent employee development it would cost you in the order of £4,325.

This relates just to the leadership and skills development which is relevant to the civilian workplace.



This document has been published by SaBRE (Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers), the Ministry of Defence campaign which explains the benefits, rights and obligations associated with employing a member of the Reserve Forces.

The Reserve Forces include the Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Marines Reserve, Territorial Army and Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

Reservists are civilians who train for their military role in the evenings, at weekends and normally for a two-week period each year. In times of need, the Government can mobilise them for full-time military service alongside the Regular Forces – and many thousands have served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Reservists carry out a huge variety of roles which mirror those in the Regular Forces, including serving in combat units and providing essential medical and logistical support.

They are critical to the success of our Armed Forces.

This course has been endorsed by the Chartered Management Institute – the only chartered professional body in the UK dedicated to promoting the highest standards in management and leadership. It delivers training and skills development that is as applicable and relevant to civilian work as it is to military life.
www.managers.org.uk

If you want to know more about the benefits, rights and obligations related to employing a Reservist, or have a particular issue you would like to resolve, please contact SaBRE.

www.sabre.mod.uk
0800 389 5459

