



· The Gunners ·

Newsletter - July 2026

Welcome to the Royal Artillery Charities Newsletter. This is where you can keep up to date with all the regimental family's news and information, we have over 3,000 subscribers.

If you have any articles for the Newsletter from your Regiment, Branch, District and Region, we would like to receive them, to share with our subscribers.

Please ensure that you have permission to share information and images.

The Gunners

Message from the Royal Artillery Sergeant Major

I'm honoured to introduce myself as the new Royal Artillery Sergeant Major. I've spent most of my service with the Gunners, including operational tours with 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery and roles instructing at Sandhurst and the Royal School of Artillery. These experiences have given me a real understanding of the professionalism and spirit that define our Regimental qualities, I see just as strongly in our veterans.

The strength of the Royal Artillery isn't just in those currently serving, but in the strong bond we share with our veterans and Chelsea Pensioners. Having seen the pride and commitment of those who've served before me, I'm determined to keep that connection strong across generations.

In my first weeks in post, I've been inspired by the passion and dedication shown by veterans at regimental events and Royal Artillery Association branches. Your ongoing involvement is a powerful reminder that the Gunner family goes far beyond active service, and it's this unity that keeps our regimental spirit alive.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming years, hearing your stories, understanding your challenges, and celebrating your successes. Together, we'll make sure the legacy of service, sacrifice, and excellence continues to thrive.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Royal Regiment of Artillery. It's a privilege to serve alongside you.

Ubique

· Events ·

Please monitor the RA website and facebook page for any further information and event updates.

Forecast of Events

Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance

Saturday 4th July 2026

The Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance was held at the National Memorial Arboretum, where the Regimental Headquarters welcomed more than 350 members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, including serving personnel, veterans and their families.

The day commenced with an inspection of the Royal Artillery Standard Bearers and the In-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital Chelsea by the Chairman of the Royal Artillery Association, the Regimental Colonel, the Regimental Secretary and the Royal Artillery Sergeant Major.

Following the inspection, the Honorary Chaplain led a commemorative service, providing an opportunity for all present to reflect, remember and pay tribute to those who have served and are serving in the Royal Regiment of Artillery; and especially those who have passed away since our last service of remembrance.

At the conclusion of the service, Branch Members were recognised for their dedication and commitment with awards marking 5, 10 and 15 years of committee service. In addition, two members of the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers Band were presented with the Volunteer Reserves Service Medal (VRSM) in recognition of their exceptional service and commitment.

Guests then gathered in the Royal Artillery Memorial Garden for the wreath-laying ceremony, a poignant moment of remembrance and reflection.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers Band for their excellent musical support throughout the service and for entertaining guests afterwards on Heroes' Square. Their exceptional musical contribution greatly enhanced the occasion.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this year's Service of Remembrance such a meaningful and successful event. We recognise that many travelled considerable distances to be with us, and your continued support is greatly appreciated.



· RAA Branch News ·

[Join Your Association Here](#)

[Branch Forms](#)

Slàinte Golf Branch

The Slàinte Golf Branch proudly held its 26th Annual Golf Event this year at Belton Woods Golf Resort. While the event marked another successful gathering of friends and comrades, it was particularly significant as the first annual meeting since the Slàinte became an official Royal Artillery Association Branch.

What began 26 years ago as a small gathering of serving, and retired father-and-son Gunners has steadily grown into a well-established annual event. Today, the weekend brings together serving personnel, veterans, and honorary members from across the wider Gunner family, maintaining the camaraderie and friendships that have been at the heart of the competition since its inception.

This year's competition was won by John Westerman, who emerged victorious after an enjoyable and closely contested weekend of golf. However, the event was also one of reflection and remembrance. 2026 marked the 10th anniversary of the passing of Craig Johnson, who sadly suffered a cardiac arrest during the Slàinte Golf Competition at Belton Woods in 2016. In a fitting tribute at the same venue, members gathered to unveil a memorial plaque in 'Jonno's' honour and raised a toast in his memory, ensuring he remains an enduring part of the branch's history.

The generosity of those attending was once again evident, with £880 raised during the weekend. The proceeds have been shared equally between the British Heart Foundation and Royal Artillery charities, supporting causes that are both meaningful and closely connected to the branch.

As another successful chapter closes, attention now turns to next year's event, which is scheduled to take place in Cheshire in June 2027. The Slàinte Golf Branch looks forward to continuing its traditions of friendship, remembrance, and healthy competition for many years to come.



Birmingham Branch

The very best of Birmingham! At the recent Birmingham Council's Annual General Meeting, prestigious awards were presented by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham to notable members of Birmingham's community. The recipients included Mr John Dolphin, Chairman of Birmingham Branch, who was honoured alongside co-founder of the rock band, Black Sabbath, Tony Iommi, recognising their outstanding contribution and exceptional service in the city of Birmingham.

The Lord Mayor said "It is wonderful to celebrate their achievements and thank them for the impact they continue to have on our great community".

On behalf of the Royal Artillery Association thank you John, for everything you contribute to the Royal Artillery Association and the wider veteran community, we are hugely proud of your achievements and warmest congratulations on your Award.



Bury St Edmund's Branch

A lovely photo of smiling faces ...last month members of the Branch and the Royal British Legion held a Summer Lunch at the Rigbygate Sports and Social Club, followed by a game of outdoor bowls, a great day was had by all who attended.



Royal Artillery Afghanistan Veterans

Having widened its membership to 200 veterans, an inaugural event to mark the official establishment of the RAAV was held on 20th June 2026, the event was supported by the Salisbury Plain Military Wives Choir, 19th Regiment RA and The King's Troop RHA. If you wish to be part of this growing network and supportive community for veterans and their families, please do get in touch with the Royal Artillery Afghanistan Veterans on [Facebook](#) or please reach out to raafghanistanveterans@outlook.com



Royal Hospital Chelsea

A big hello to two In-Pensioners who recently moved into the Royal Hospital Chelsea; Mr Tony Palys MBE and Mr Chris Birtwell, we wish them both well in their new home.



Biggleswade Branch

Biggleswade Branch celebrated their 80th Anniversary on 6th June with a Garden Party attended by 62 members and guests. Brigadier Mark Pountain CBE, RAA Chairman, attended to present the Royal Artillery Association Medal to Teddy McKenzie and the Certificate of Merit to Terry Harragan.



• RAA Awards •

The RAA annual awards at the RA Assembly were presented by the Master Gunner St James's Park. Each year various awards are presented to individuals, as well as the Branch/Regiment for outstanding service and support to the RA Charities. There were many winners this year and Artillery House would like to send its warmest congratulations to the recipients of all the awards.



AWARD	
MANSERGH MEMORIAL AWARD	LBdr T Radinivugalei, 3 RHA
RA ASSOCIATION MEDAL	Mr Teddy McKenzie Biggleswade Branch
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT	Mr William Morrison Edinburgh Branch
	Mr Anthony Triscott Plymouth Branch
	Mr Terence Harragan Biggleswade Branch
BURTON CUP Most money per capita to Heritage	Norwich Branch
ARTILLERY HOUSE CUP Most money raised overall by a Branch for RACF/RAA	Norwich Branch
CATERHAM CUP Runners-up to Artillery House Cup	Bolton Branch
EIRE CUP Most effort & Support to its branch throughout the year	Newbury & District Branch
RA ASSOCIATION CUP – Regimental Action or achievement of particular merit	105 Regt RA
RA ASSOCIATION KERR CUP - Battery Action or achievement of particular merit	43 Bty (Lloyds Company) RA
UBIQUE CUP – National Branch	Artillery Clerks' Association
RA ASSOCIATION ABU KLEA TROPHY Best Turned-Out Standard Bearer	Mr Alan Wright, Stockport & District Branch
STANDARD BEARERS' COMPETITION	Mr William Morrison, Edinburgh Branch
RA ASSOCIATION PRIZE FOR TROOP COMMANDER	2Lt S Wilkinson RA

· Royal Artillery Charitable Fund ·

RACF Welfare Team Quarterly Report

Unexpected life events, money worries...need financial help? – reach out to the RACF, helping you and your fellow Gunners through those difficult times.

Since the last issue of this magazine, the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF) reflects on support provided; the team have helped with 346 individual needs, delivering a total spend of £345,000. On average that is £997 per case. The RACF are here to help, do you know someone, someone part of your RA Association, a Gunner Veteran or Serving friend going through a difficult time, could we help them?

The RACF have spent £24,000 on bereavement costs this year. Helping towards funerals for our Gunner family and their dependents. Supporting where we can during these difficult times.

Rising cases numbers include 53 cases for serving soldiers and their families providing £70,000 of much-needed support. The RACF have spent on average £1321 per soldier. Some key areas include 3 cases for those soldiers in PRU's who require help adjusting to civilian life, helping with mobility items, household repairs, and goods. We also frequently help with costs associated to hospital visits such as accommodation, food, and transport to be with loved ones.

The RACF are here to support those in need — serving, veterans and their dependents. We can provide help towards critical household arrears, helping towards utilities and food costs when money is tight, household items. There are many things we can help with so please get in touch.' **We cannot however help with private medical or legal fees.**

Please contact us for signposting or call SSAFA on **0800 731 4880**, the Royal British Legion on **0800 802 8080** to get a case referred to the RACF or contact the team on either **+44 303 379 4560** or **+44 303 378 7035**. We can be contacted by email: RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk or via the website - [RA Charitable Fund Application - RA Association \(thegunners.org.uk\)](https://www.thegunners.org.uk)

Some messages of 'Thank You'

'You have made a genuine difference for this family, at pace, and you should collectively be deeply proud.'
CO

'I am constantly amazed how much the Regimental Family leans in to help us when we need it.' CO

'Once again, thank you for your support. You always support the need of our people at their darkest hours. Thank you for agreeing such a generous contribution and in such quick time.' UWO

Fijian soldiers from the RA community wishes to show their appreciation for the support shown by the RACF over the past few months by presenting the RA Charities a culturally significant battle club.



· Regimental News ·

Thank you very much for your continued support and fundraising for the Gunner Charities.

Royal Artillery Association Battery Grants

One of the charitable objects of the Association is to promote comradeship, fostering esprit de corps and preserving traditions. Each year the Association makes funds available to Batteries in the form of annual grants to help fund Battery events, improve conditions for members of the Battery and their dependents.

Find out more information from Carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk or through your chain of command.

5 (Gibraltar 1779 – 1783) Battery

19th Regiment Royal Artillery (The Scottish Gunners)

During a recent deployment to Edinburgh on Ex GIBALTAR SALUTE, personnel from 5 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Battery, 19th Regiment Royal Artillery (The Scottish Gunners) had the privilege of undertaking a varied and rewarding week that combined adventurous training, cultural engagement and ceremonial duties, culminating in an all-ranks dinner. Much of this activity involved integration with the 5 Battery Branch of the Royal Artillery Association and continued to reaffirm the close ties the Battery holds with its veteran community. The all-ranks dinner was made possible through the generous support of the Royal Artillery Association, whose contribution helped to ensure this was provided at no cost to the serving and veteran community, maximising attendance and significantly increasing cohesion and esprit de corps.



K (Hondegghem) Battery

5th Regiment Royal Artillery

In May 2026, personnel from K Battery, 5th Regiment Royal Artillery travelled to Hondegghem to commemorate the actions of K Battery during the Battle of Hondegghem in May 1940. The delegation consisted of soldiers from across the Battery, representing both current serving personnel and the wider regimental family, with the aim of honouring those who fought with courage and determination during the withdrawal to Dunkirk. For many, seeing the ground on which their predecessors fought brought history to life and fostered a greater appreciation of the legacy they now uphold as members of K Battery.

K Battery is extremely grateful for the continued support of the Royal Artillery Association and for its commitment to promoting regimental heritage, welfare, and the development of serving soldiers.



34 (Seringapatam) Battery, King's Gurkha Artillery

14th Regiment Royal Artillery

34 (Seringapatam) Battery of the King's Gurkha Artillery organised a Families Day 2026 on Saturday, 9 May 2026 at Larkhill entertaining more than 300 serving UKTAP & GURTAP soldiers and their families. The event featured a wider range of activities, culminating in military displays, sports and cultural celebrations.

Event Highlights:

- Artillery Equipment Display
- Jungle Survival Skill Lanes
- Khukuri Pattern Display combined with Martial Arts demonstration
- Pony Rides
- Cultural shows and performances
- KGA Ladies Community Charity Lunch

34 (Seringapatam) Battery are grateful for the grant from the Royal Artillery Association, helping to make the Families Day a fantastic success.



24 (Irish) Battery

14th Regiment Royal Artillery

24 (Irish) Battery RA and the Royal Artillery community came together recently to celebrate the official opening of the Cusack Club, an event made possible through the generous support of the Royal Artillery Charities. The occasion marked a significant milestone for the unit, providing a modern and welcoming space designed to enhance welfare, cohesion, and social engagement for all personnel. The Cusack Club will serve as a focal point for the ITT activity, offering a place to unwind, build camaraderie, and strengthen the bonds that are central to regimental life.

Maj Katie King (BC 24 Battery) said: *"The support from the Royal Artillery Charities has been invaluable in enabling us to deliver an opening event of this standard. It allowed us to properly mark the significance of the Cusack Club and bring our people together in a fitting way."*



11 (Sphinx) Bty

16th Regiment Royal Artillery

On Wednesday 10th June 2026, 11 (Sphinx) Battery Royal Artillery celebrated its 225th birthday, commemorating the Battery's distinguished connection to the 1801 Egypt campaign against Napoleon's forces, from which it earned the Sphinx badge and the battle honour "Egypt".

In recent years, the Battery has continued to uphold its proud tradition of service through deployments on Op LUMINOUS, Op STIFFTAIL, Op LEADPROOF, and multiple operational tours to the Falkland Islands.

This year, in a departure from tradition, the Battery chose to mark its anniversary by giving back to the local community. Three teams deployed from the Battery's home at Baker Barracks, Thorney Island to support organisations that rely heavily on volunteers and charitable donations to sustain their vital work. The chosen locations were St Wilfrid's Hospice in Bosham, the Cat and Rabbit Rescue Centre in Sidlesham and LifeHouse, a homeless shelter and community kitchen in Southsea.

Battery personnel undertook a wide variety of tasks including serving hot meals to those in need, cleaning and maintaining animal accommodation, and dismantling and disposing of surplus PPE delivered during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the work differed at each location, a common theme united every effort: service to the local community. Staff and volunteers at all three organisations expressed immense gratitude for the support provided, with some noting that several of the completed tasks may otherwise have taken years to accomplish.

Following the completion of the volunteering activities, all teams returned to the café at Baker Barracks, where food and refreshments were provided in a relaxed setting. This gave members of the Battery an opportunity to reflect on the day's achievements and the positive impact of their efforts. The occasion also included a short presentation by three of the Battery's most junior soldiers, who spoke about the history of 11 (Sphinx) Battery and the importance of remembering those who have served before us.

This concluding event was only made possible through the generous support of the Royal Artillery Association (RAA), whose donation funded the gathering and helped make the day a fitting celebration of both the Battery's heritage and its commitment to service.



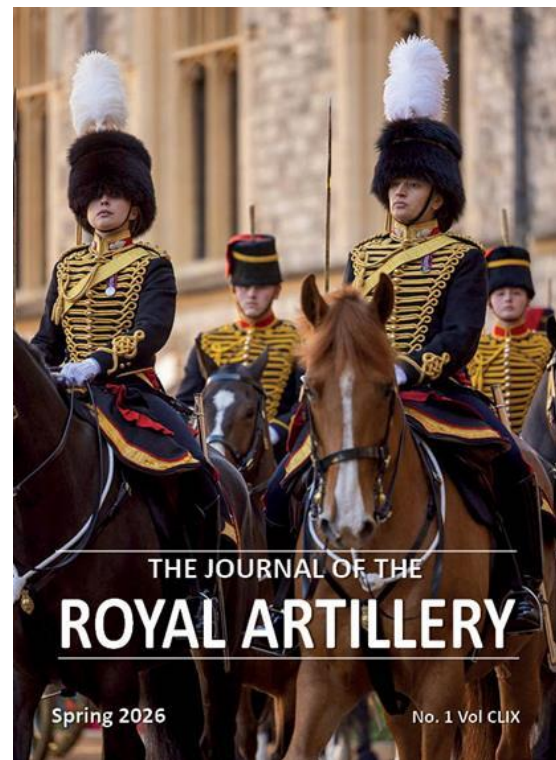
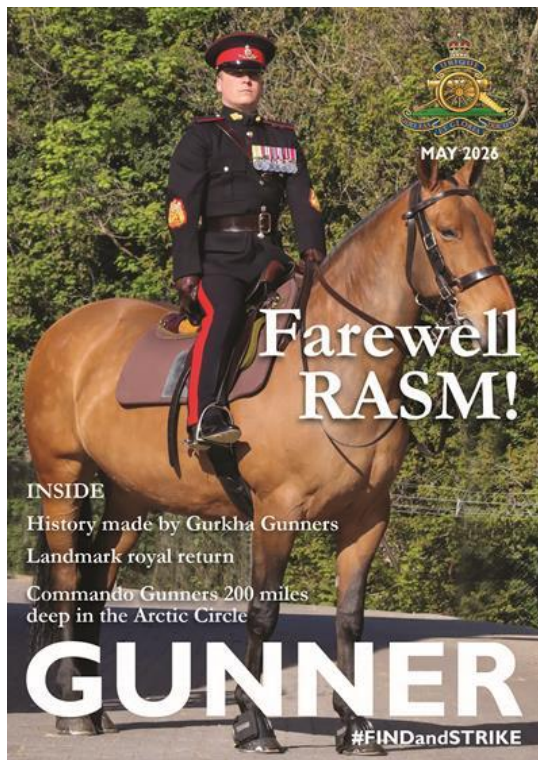
• Communications •

Gunner & Journal of the Royal Regiment of Artillery

The Gunner magazine and Journal of the Royal Artillery are now available to read via the website, please click on the button below to view the recent issue.

[Gunner](#)

[RA Journal](#)



•Notices•

Applying for Deferred or Preserved Pension.....

When you discharge from the Armed Forces, you may leave with deferred or preserved pension entitlement. This is a pension which is due to you at a later date.

It is important to note that your pension will not be paid automatically, and you must claim this by completing and submitting an AFPS Form 8 which is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

You do not have to apply in advance, but it is helpful if you submit your application up to 6 months in advance of your pension due date, if you are able. This helps the AFPS to prevent delays in making your payments.

Once your application has been completed, Equiniti Paymaster will arrange to pay your pension to you. This will be paid monthly and in arrears.

If you are unsure about when your Deferred or Preserved pension can be claimed, more information is available [A Guide to Deferred and Preserved Pension Entitlement.pdf](#)

Military History Webinars

The RA Historical Society arranges Zoom On-Line Webinars for its members on Gunner military history subjects. If you would like a copy of the Back Catalogue with links to the You Tube recordings of webinars held in the last 12 Months, please contact the RAHS Secretary.

If you wish to attend the webinars below please contact the RAHS Secretary, Lt Col Richard Clayton: richard.clayton312@gmail.com:

RA Historical Society 2026 Programme

Date and Timings	Event	Subject	Lecturer/ Lead	Bookings Close
Friday 18 to Sunday 20 September	Historical Field Tour to Dieppe	The Dieppe Raid 1942. Request Prospectus from Secretary	Maj Magnus Thompson RA	Places available. Book now.
Friday 23 October 1045 to 1600 hrs	Shrapnel Lecture Day, Artillery Centre, Larkhill	4 Lectures on Operation SEALION 1940, Defeating the V1, the Cold War and Nuclear Confrontation	Dr Spencer Jones, RA Regimental Historian and other notable speakers.	Friday 09 October

These events are open to all Gunners. To register please email Lt Col Clayton, RAHS Secretary: richard.clayton312@gmail.com by the dates shown

All Gunners are eligible to join the Society. Please contact the Secretary for details.

· The Gunner Lottery ·

Gunner Lottery is for the benefit of the Gunner charities and the Lottery can raise much needed funds and raise awareness of the good work done by the Royal Artillery charities. Thank you to everyone who supports the Lottery and congratulations to the winners each week. Good luck in the weekly Draws.

3 Digits: You'll win 5 Entries into the next Draw

4 Digits: £25 Cash Prize

5 Digits: £1,000 Cash Prize

6 Digits: £25,000 Cash Prize

You can take part as an individual or syndicate; Battery, Regiment or RAA Branch. You could be in with a chance of winning the top prize of £25,000 each week.

The Draw takes place every Friday.

JOIN TODAY [Gunner Lottery](#)



GUNNER LOTTERY

ROYAL ARTILLERY
CHARITIES

JOIN TODAY

CASH PRIZES UP TO

£25,000

Supporting those who serve
Supporting those who served

For every £1 entry, at least 50p goes directly to Royal Artillery charities.

The poster features a circular inset photo of a woman in a Royal Artillery uniform. At the bottom, a group of Royal Artillery personnel in uniform stand in formation, holding various regimental flags.



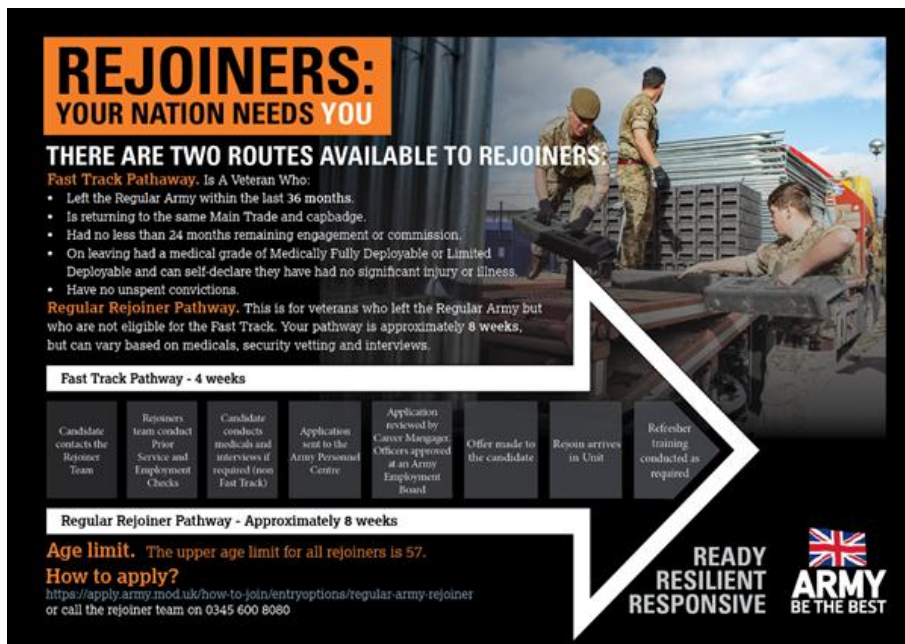
REJOINERS: YOUR NATION NEEDS YOU

ARE YOU AN EX-REGULAR OFFICER OR SOLDIER?
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT REJOINING THE ARMY?

DID YOU KNOW?
Depending on your personal circumstances, if you've left within the last 36 months, you could be fast-tracked back in within a month or sooner.

**READY
RESILIENT
RESPONSIVE**

ARMY
BE THE BEST



REJOINERS: YOUR NATION NEEDS YOU

THERE ARE TWO ROUTES AVAILABLE TO REJOINERS:

Fast Track Pathway. Is A Veteran Who:

- Left the Regular Army within the last 36 months.
- Is returning to the same Main Trade and capbadge.
- Had no less than 24 months remaining engagement or commission.
- On leaving had a medical grade of Medically Fully Deployable or Limited Deployable and can self-declare they have had no significant injury or illness.
- Have no unspent convictions.

Regular Rejoiner Pathway. This is for veterans who left the Regular Army but who are not eligible for the Fast Track. Your pathway is approximately 8 weeks, but can vary based on medicals, security vetting and interviews.

Fast Track Pathway - 4 weeks

Candidate contacts the Rejoiner Team	Rejoiners team conduct Prior Service and Employment Checks	Candidate conducts medicals and interviews if required (non Fast Track)	Application sent to the Army Personnel Centre	Application reviewed by Career Manager, Officers approved at an Army Employment Board	Offer made to the candidate	Rejoin arrives in Unit	Rejoiner training conducted as required
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Regular Rejoiner Pathway - Approximately 8 weeks

Age limit. The upper age limit for all rejoiners is 57.

How to apply?
<https://apply.army.mod.uk/how-to-join/entryoptions/regular-army-rejoiner>
or call the rejoiner team on 0345 600 8080

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