As an Aircraft Controller, you'll be the critical link between the aircraft and the ship. You're involved in the mission at every stage, from getting the aircraft safely off the deck, then co-ordinating its movements before bringing it safely in to land. There may be times when aircraft are flying into combat zones, get caught in bad weather, or experience some kind of emergency and you'll be expected to be able to deal with every situation in a safe and effective way. Becoming an Aircraft Controller is a challenging, but rewarding, career choice which brings with it accelerated advancement to Leading Hand. And, if you are capable, you will have the opportunity to qualify as an Air Traffic Controller. There is also the added satisfaction of knowing you're keeping the Royal Navy flying.

Skills for life
Training will be a constant feature of your time with us. We'll help you gain academic qualifications such as GCSEs, A-levels and even a degree. You can also work towards NVQs and other vocational awards. Further specialist training opportunities are available which include the highly valued Joint Air Traffic Control course.

Promotion
You will enter the Royal Navy as an Able Rate and, if you are successful on the Leading Aircraft Controller’s course, you will receive automatic promotion to Leading Hand. After that you’ll be chosen for promotion on merit. If you work hard, you may go on to become a Petty Officer, Chief Petty Officer and then a Warrant Officer. With the right commitment, skills and ability you could become a Commissioned Officer. Throughout your career, we’ll help you succeed by providing encouragement and a wide range of opportunities for further training.

Pay and conditions
Royal Navy pay compares well with similar civilian jobs. As well as basic pay, you’ll get extra money for special skills, when you’re promoted and when you’re away at sea. We also offer an excellent pension scheme, six weeks’ paid holiday a year and free medical and dental care. You’ll generally join us on a full career, which is 18 years or to age 40, whichever is later. You may have the opportunity to serve beyond this, depending on what you want and the needs of the Royal Navy. If you want to leave, you can send us your request one year before completing your specified return of service. How long this return of service is, will depend on the branch you join. You will need to give 12 months’ notice.

Not just a job, a way of life
There is a lot more to joining the Royal Navy than doing a job. For a start, all our ships and shore bases have superb sports and fitness facilities. We can offer a fantastic range of sports and other activities. You’ll also have the chance to go on adventurous training, which could be anything from a jungle expedition to mountaineering and caving to parachuting. From the moment you join, you’ll be part of a team that lives, works and relaxes together, forming friendships and experiences that can last a lifetime. It’s a unique way of life, and the opportunities we offer will allow you to reach your career potential and enjoy the time you spend with us to the full.