

ARMoured COMBAT SPECIALIST (CREWMAN)



THE ROLE

As an Armoured Combat Specialist (Crewman) you will train to operate the New Zealand Light Armoured Vehicle (NZLAV). The NZLAV is a highly mobile eight wheeled armoured vehicle fitted with a modern hi-tech fire control system, optics that allow the vehicle to be used by day and night, early warning systems that enhance survivability, and communication equipment to receive and share information.

As part of a tight-knit crew of three, you will operate the NZLAV in a combat role, providing the Army with a light armoured vehicle capability. Your crew tactically manoeuvres the vehicle to directly engage with an enemy, gather information and provide protected mobility to soldiers from other trades across the Army. NZLAV crews can be part of 'combined arms' teams - groups of soldiers with the common goal of winning on operations, often in high threat situations.

You'll train in the skills required to operate the NZLAV in a wide range of situations, from supporting NZ Police and civil authorities, to peacekeeping and war-fighting. You must be able to operate in the confined space of the vehicle, for extended periods, at all times and in all environmental conditions. You must also be able to quickly process and react to all that you see and hear, under challenging operational conditions.

You will begin as either a Gunner or Driver, eventually being trained to do both. As you complete further training and gain experience you will become a Crew Commander. Throughout your career, you will maintain your skills as a combat soldier.

JOB ON CAMP

In camp you will conduct routine training to maintain trade competence and proficiency. Simulation (virtual battle space) can be used to assist with this, as well as regular and rigorous physical training. You will most often train in Waiouru, and around New Zealand.

As a Driver, you will train to safely and confidently operate the NZLAV in all kinds of conditions and over all kinds of terrain. You will also learn basic vehicle maintenance and recovery, and many other skills required to perform your job.

A Gunner is primarily concerned with the operation of the turret. You'll train to safely and proficiently operate the 25mm cannon, the 7.62mm machine gun, night-vision and other specialised optical equipment.

As a Crew Commander you are in overall command of the vehicle, and you are responsible for your crew and any passengers being carried in the vehicle. In camp, this will include some personnel management and administrative responsibilities.

JOB ON DEPLOYMENT

Armoured Combat Specialists are deployed overseas whenever the need arises, predominantly in vehicle mounted operations. The most recent examples were deployments to Afghanistan and East Timor. Armoured Combat Specialist have also deployed in support of overseas training exercises conducted in countries such as Australia and Singapore.

CAREER PROGRESSION

After your induction into the NZ Army you will attend initial trade training (Combat Corps Training) prior to attending your first NZLAV course. As an NZLAV driver or gunner and can expect to spend at least three to four years gaining experience in those roles. You will work in a vehicle crew under the supervision and guidance of a crew commander. This may also include other senior staff and instructors. You will attend both tactical and live fire exercises at home and overseas in all sorts of challenging environments.

Through experience you will learn leadership, organisation and administration skills to help you progress in your career. Once your skills are refined, you will be selected to become a Crew Commander.

PAY & BENEFIT DETAILS

Careers in the Army are well-rewarded, as well as being diverse and exciting. As you become more experienced and move up through the ranks, gaining additional skills and qualifications, you will see your salary rise accordingly.

While undertaking initial Recruit Course you will be paid as a Recruit (see attached [pay table](#)). On completion of your Recruit Course you will be paid as a Private and your pay will continue to increase as your career progresses.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- You must be at least 17 years of age
- Meet the [citizenship & security](#) requirements to gain **CV security clearance** for this trade
- Class 1 Restricted Drivers Licence

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

You must have achieved the NCEA level 1 Literacy and Numeracy requirements

[Find out more about the NCEA levels and certificate requirements](#)

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

- You must be [medically](#) fit for service.
- Colour perception restrictions may apply.

TRAINING

BASIC TRAINING

Upon successful enlistment into the Army you will be posted to Waiouru Army base. Here you will do 16 weeks of basic military training to find out if you have what it takes to be in the Army, and learn various subjects including:

- Organisation and Administration
- Army Customs and Protocol
- Drill and Parades
- Military Field Skills and Weapon Training
- First Aid
- Physical Fitness

JOB TRAINING

COMBAT CORPS TRAINING

(13 Weeks) Location: Burnham Military Camp (near Christchurch)

As an Armoured Combat Specialist you are required to complete this course alongside your Infantry peers, prior to completing your Armoured Combat Specialist specific courses. This course is both physically and mentally challenging. It covers the essential basic trade competencies of Armoured and Infantry Soldiers so that you can function within a combat operational unit.

You will continue to improve your physical fitness, and learn combat first aid and casualty evacuation, navigation, and how to operate military communications equipment. Other skills learnt on this course include the detailed organisation of Armoured and Infantry units, and how they operate together within various types of tasks and conditions.

ONGOING TRAINING

NZLAV DRIVERS COURSE

(5 Weeks) Location: Waiouru Military Camp

This is usually the first course you will complete in your career as an Armoured Combat Specialist. You will be taught the characteristics of the vehicle and how to perform basic maintenance. You will learn to operate the NZLAV on NZ roads in non-tactical situations complying with NZ Road Safety requirements, and how to manoeuvre the vehicle off-road during tactical live firing exercises.

NZLAV GUNNERS COURSE

(5 Weeks) Location: Waiouru Military Camp

During this course you will be taught the basics of gunnery - ballistics, vehicle recognition, how to use thermal imagery sighting systems, and how to operate and maintain the 25mm LAV cannon and 7.62mm co-axial machine gun. Your training will be based on our state of the art NZLAV simulator and will culminate with a live field firing training exercise.

NZLAV CREW COMMANDERS COURSE

(10 Weeks) Location: Waiouru Military Camp

Once you have gained experience operating NZLAVs, and gained tactical experience within 'combined arms' combat operations, you may be selected to complete the NZLAV Crew Commanders Course. This will teach you all the skills you need to command an NZLAV crew.

LOCATION DETAILS

At the completion of your Combat Corps Training you will be posted to Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles (QAMR), based in Linton Military Camp (near Palmerston North).

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