

# Jess Symons, Operator Movement, Australian Army

## What was your employment training qualification?

Operator Movements - RACT soldier who plans, coordinates, executes, controls and monitors the operational and strategic movement of personnel and equipment of the ADF

## How did you find out about the One Year Role and what was the application process like?

I think I may have read that there were now One Year Roles in the paper. I went online and filled out some forms, then I was contacted by Defence Recruiting. From there I went in for some aptitude sessions, tests, physicals and an interview. Then one day I got a call with my enlistment date. For me, the process was very straight forward and went smoothly, for others it can take years to join as the job they want isn't available.

## Why did you choose the Operator Movement role?

I read up on all the jobs you could do for one year, there were 12 of them.

After reading the job descriptions, I didn't really have much of an idea what any of it meant to be honest, but you'll find that's the case with most who join. I liked the sound of Operator Movements and after asking around, I narrowed down my top 3 preferences.

## What did you do on a day to day basis?

After I'd completed basic training at Kapooka and finished all the courses for my job, I was posted into my unit at 3BDE, which was called JMCO (Joint Movement Control Office). On a usual day, we would have personal training (PT) in the morning for an hour, which could be anything. I lived on base, so I would go back and shower and change into camo for the rest of the day. Then we would spend the day doing various tasks that had been passed down through the Chain of Command and given out to us (the Privates) by the Corporals.

This could be organising transport from the office or you could be sent out to do various things. Sometimes you would get tasked after work to

go and take care of a service flight that was coming in with soldiers coming back from overseas exercises or operations. One night I got given a task with a few other mates to go watch one of the ships unload their gear down at the dock from 10pm - 6am

## What were the great things about your traineeship?

There were lots. I actually didn't mind Kapooka. You definitely have your rough days just like everyone else, but generally I thought it was really fun. I wouldn't go back though, once was definitely enough. My Initial Employment Training and driver courses were good, going 4WD, convoy and blackout driving. When we got to Townsville, we went out to the RAAF Base to check out all the aircraft- that was really cool.

## What were the not so great things?

Getting stuck in Bandiana at a holding platoon for a while, but I met some awesome people and did some fun things so it wasn't too bad. Sometimes you would get bad tasks, but I guess that's like any job. Picquets are probably the worst thing

## What are you doing now you have completed your traineeship?

Although I was tempted to stay where I'd gotten pretty comfortable, I just left Townsville and the Army a few weeks ago to undertake a Bachelor of Business (Tourism, Leisure & Event Management) at the University of Sunshine Coast. I've been living in Sippy Downs, which is one of the residences here. I just had my first week of classes and I'm loving it up here.

