



Pte Hallam is a Movement Controller in The Royal Logistic Corps

family at night for like an hour in telephone boxes. But then after week six it gets a bit more relaxed, and you have your phones more and you speak to your family more often."

Did you find that the first six weeks made you better friends with your contemporaries?

"Yeah, you're all close and you're all in the same position, so for that six weeks you're all in the same boat."

How did you find the staff during training?

"When you first arrive it's the most intimidating thing ever, but they help and support you. Obviously they have to be quite strict because it's basic training, but they are there to help you and it's all for a purpose."

"NOW I'M QUALIFIED TO BE A PERSONAL TRAINER"

How did you find the physical side of basic training?

"When I joined the army I was quite unfit as I never used to go to the gym and I found it really hard, I went Nordic skiing for three months with the Regiment and got quite fit, I have just completed my PTI (Physical Training Instructor) course, so now I'm qualified to be a personal trainer."

Can you just describe what you do as PTI in the squadron?

"So I train the troops to be fit

What attracted you to army life?

"I did an insight course at school, it was a week long 'Look at Life' course with the Army and I absolutely loved it! They told me all about the money and the travel and that was it I was sold! And I joined straight from school at 16."

"GETTING PAID TO GO AWAY WAS PERFECT"

What was it about being a Movement Controller that appealed to you?

"It was the travel more than anything, they told me I could go to all these places with the Army and get to travel all over the world, getting paid to go away was perfect."

And had you done much travelling before you joined the army?

"No, none."

Did you learn to drive with the army?

"Yes and with my pay I brought a car straight away."

And what do you love most about your job?

"The experiences and the people I get to work with and meet, I meet so many different types of people, and every day is different."

"I ENJOYED EVERY MINUTE OF IT"

What was training like?

"It was really nerve racking, but I enjoyed every minute of it, I didn't know what to expect when I first arrived but I loved it."

Had you been away from home much before?

"No I'm quite a home girl and I'm really close to my family, they support me every single step of the way, so it's good being posted here as it means I'm only an hour from home so I get to go home quite a lot."

During basic training how often do you get to call home?

"I did the junior entry course and in the first six weeks of training you didn't really have your phones on you, and you spoke to your

enough, it varies from day to day but it could be just two people in a session or a whole regiment. And its all ranks, so at the moment I'm a private but I could be running a fitness session and telling the Officers to work harder!"

So can anyone do the PT course?

"Yeah anyone as long as you can pass the entry course and you're motivated."

"I LOVE MY TRADE AND ALL THE TRAVEL THAT I GET"

Do you think the PTI route it one you're going to pursue further?

"I could but I love my trade and all the travel that I get from that so I don't think I would want to do it full time at the moment. I don't know for the future, but I think I get the best of both worlds."

"IF I EVER LEAVE THE ARMY I HAVE THOSE QUALIFICATIONS"

So now you are a qualified PTI, if you decide to leave the army can you pursue that side of things and become a personal trainer?

"Oh definitely. I also have adventurous training qualifications so I'm a qualified canoe, swim, squash and mountain bike instructor. So if I ever leave the army I have those qualifications as well."

What was your Movement Controller training like?

"It was really good, some of it was quite hard as it's quite academic. But it was really interesting and I learned a lot on it. At the moment I'm a class two Movement Controller, I did my class three course when I first joined and then last year I did my class two

course. When I was a class three I had to be supervised to go on jobs and now I can take the lead on jobs myself and look after people who are class threes. I also got an NVQ from my training."

Were you quite a confident 16 year old or do you think the journey you have been on has made you more confident?

"It has definitely made me more confident, when you first join you have to do an ice breaker and talk about yourself for three minutes; back then I found it awful but now I could probably talk about myself for twenty minutes, so I've come a long way. It is quite daunting and intimidating when you first start but you do build your skills and it brings your personality out."

"I PROCESS ANYWHERE FROM 30 TO 240 PASSENGERS"

Describe your day to day job...

"So at the moment I work in the Joint Air Mounting Centre and I work on flights. Depending on which exercises and operations that are going on around the world, I process anywhere from 30 to 240 passengers. I make sure all their kit and equipment is ready to go, safe and packaged correctly to go on the aircraft. It's like a normal airport, we have waiting rooms, we check passengers in and we take them for food before they go on their coaches and go on to the aircraft."

What special qualities do you need to do your job?

"You need to be quite confident as you have to stand up in front of a room with hundreds of passengers and brief them. Friendly I think, as well, because you are with people a lot. You have to be a people person and you have to be able to talk to people."

Where have you travelled with your job?

"I've been to Kenya, Bahrain, Colorado in America, Jordan, France, Germany and Austria."

What did you do in Colorado?

"I was with the Commando Brigade. They went on exercise and I brought them back, so I processed them and their kit."

"WE WORKED FOR ONE DAY AND THE REST WAS SEEING BAHRAIN"

So did you just go straight there and do your job and come back?

"No I was there for a week and we worked two days of it so the rest was a holiday, it was the same when I went to Bahrain. That was for five days and we worked for one day and the rest was seeing Bahrain. But there are pros and cons to everything, I went to Kenya for three months and that was a hard three months with not much downtime, but then I went back to Kenya on another trip and I did three Safaris! So it all depends really."

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