



TERRITORIAL ARMY (TA) OFFICER ENTRY GUIDE

Indian Army • Part-Time Commissioned Service

A commissioned officer's briefing for civilian professionals and Ex-Service Officers — eligibility, selection procedure, training obligations, pay structure and promotions in the Territorial Army.

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Structural reference:- Territorial Army Act 1948, and official notifications on jointerritorialarmy.gov.in and joinindianarmy.nic.in.

JOINING THE TERRITORIAL ARMY AS AN OFFICER

A part-time commission for gainfully employed civilian professionals and Ex-Service Officers

The Territorial Army (TA) provides a unique avenue for gainfully employed civilian professionals and Ex-Service Officers to wear the olive green uniform and serve the nation during emergencies, without leaving their primary civilian careers. It is structured as a part-time commitment rather than a full-time profession.

1. Conditions of Eligibility

- **Nationality:** Only citizens of India (both male and female) are eligible to apply.
- **Age Limits:** Candidates must be between 18 and 42 years of age on the date of application submission.
- **Educational Qualification:** Must hold a Graduate Degree in any discipline from a recognized college or university.
- **Physical Standards:** Candidates must be physically and medically fit in all respects as per standard military norms.
- **Employment Status (Mandatory):** Must be gainfully employed in a legitimate civil profession (private sector, Central/State Government, PSU, or self-employed). Unemployed individuals are completely ineligible.
- **Exclusions:** Serving members of the Regular Army, Navy, Air Force, Police, GREF, Paramilitary, and similar forces cannot apply.

2. Procedure of Selection

For Civilian Candidates

- **Written Examination (CBT):** A computer-based entrance exam consisting of questions on Reasoning, General Knowledge, and English.
- **Preliminary Interview Board (PIB):** Candidates clearing the CBT are screened and interviewed by the PIB at the respective TA Group Headquarters.
- **Service Selection Board (SSB):** Shortlisted candidates undergo a rigorous 5-day psychological, group task, and personal interview evaluation at an SSB centre.
- **Medical Board:** Successful candidates are examined at a designated Military Hospital for final medical clearance.

For Ex-Service Officers

- **Ex-Service Officers (Commissioned Officers only, from the Army/Navy/Air Force)** download application form IAF (TA)-9 (Revised) Part-1.

- Applications are screened directly by the Army Headquarters Selection Board (ASB).
- Eligible candidates are called for a direct interview conducted at the Additional Directorate General Territorial Army, New Delhi, followed by a Medical Board.

3. Tenure & Training Obligations

- **Tenure:** Grant of Commission is in the starting rank of Lieutenant. Service does not guarantee a permanent lifespan or pension unless mandatory physical service parameters are met.
- **Basic Military Training:** 3 months of mandatory continuous basic training at an Infantry Training Centre (ITC) in the first year of commissioning.
- **Annual Training Camp (ATC):** A mandatory 2 months (60 days) of paid embodied training camp every subsequent year.
- **Post-Commission Training:** 3 months of structured courses at Army schools (such as the Young Officers Course) within the first two years.
- **Service Embodiment:** Officers can be 'embodied' for full-time service for longer durations based on operational needs, counter-insurgency requirements, or national emergencies.

4. Emoluments, Promotions & Financial Structure

When embodied for training or operational military service, TA Officers are placed on the same 7th Pay Commission Scale, Rank Pay, and allowances as Regular Indian Army Officers.

Rank	Pay Level	Basic Pay Matrix (Rs)	Military Service Pay (Rs)
Lieutenant	Level 10	56,100 – 1,77,500	15,500
Captain	Level 10A	61,300 – 1,93,900	15,500
Major	Level 11	69,400 – 2,07,200	15,500
Lt Colonel	Level 12A	1,21,200 – 2,12,400	15,500
Colonel	Level 13	1,30,600 – 2,15,900	15,500
Brigadier	Level 13A	1,39,600 – 2,17,600	15,500

Promotion Timelines & Rules

- **Lieutenant to Captain:** Time-bound promotion on completion of 2 years of commissioned service.
- **Captain to Major:** Time-bound promotion on completion of 6 years of commissioned service.
- **Major to Lieutenant Colonel:** Time-bound promotion on completion of 13 years of commissioned service.

- Colonel and Brigadier: Promoted via selection boards based on vacancy, merit, and physical service records.

Dual Salary Policy & Civilian Pay Synchronization

- No Dual Income: TA Officers are legally entitled to draw only one primary salary at any single point in time. Drawing dual full salaries from both sources concurrently is completely barred.
- Private Sector & Self-Employed Rules: During the mandatory 60 days of Annual Training Camp (ATC) or during operational military embodiment, the private employer halts the officer's corporate salary. For that duration, the officer draws full rank pay and allowances from the Indian Army. Upon de-embodiment, the officer returns to civilian work, and the corporate salary resumes.
- Central / State Government & PSU Rules: Government employees are placed on official military duty under Special Casual Leave or Lien rules. While the officer draws full Army pay, if the civilian government grade pay is higher than the basic military pay scale, the parent civil ministry or PSU department pays the balance difference to safeguard civilian earnings. The job lien ensures active uniform days fully count towards regular civilian promotions, pension credits, and seniority increments.

5. Perks, Privileges & Incentives

- Allowances: Entitled to Dearness Allowance (DA), Kit Maintenance Allowance, Transport Allowance, Field Area Allowance, and specialized increments on completing consecutive Annual Training Camps.
- CSD & Rations: Access to Canteen Stores Department (CSD) facilities and free army rations for self and dependants during periods of embodiment.
- Medical Benefits: Free comprehensive medical facilities for self and family during training and service windows.
- Travel Concessions: Entitlement to Air/Rail travel concessions and specific study quotas as per Army rules.
- Pensionary Benefits: Granted a regular service military pension on completion of an aggregate of 20 years of embodied physical service.
- Job Security: Protected by the Territorial Army Act, which mandates that civilian employers must legally grant leave for TA duties without penalty, forced resignation, or corporate career regression.

6. Where to Monitor for Recruitment Notifications

- Official TA Website: All primary schedules, application downloads, and result tracking happen via www.jointerritorialarmy.gov.in.
- Indian Army Main Portal: Cross-notifications are regularly hosted on www.joinindianarmy.nic.in.
- Print Media: Major notifications are officially issued in the weekly Employment News / Rozgar Samachar and leading national daily newspapers.

Note (September 2026):

This guide is for informational purposes only, compiled from Territorial Army Act provisions and official notifications. Candidates should confirm current age limits, pay levels, and procedural details against the official website (jointerritorialarmy.gov.in) before applying, as norms are periodically revised.