

# Meet an engineer

A day in the life of Army Captain Lauren Hall as she shares what it's like having a career in STEM, and how to make sure a vehicle is ready for action

**Q. What do you do during an average day at work?**

**A.** I am an Engineering Manager of a Platoon of technicians, vehicle mechanics, armourers and metalsmiths. It is my job to ensure that engineering tasks given to the Platoon are carried out efficiently and in a safe manner. This enables us to get the broken piece of equipment back to its user as soon as possible.

**Q. What are the main responsibilities of your role?**

**A.** I oversee the technical tasks that are carried out by the tradespeople in the Platoon. This includes making sure they have the correct tools for the tasks, that they have the right resources to carry out the task and ensuring that their qualifications are current so they're competent to carry out the task.

**Q. What's your favourite part of the working day?**

**A.** Easily physical training. I am an athlete on the Army Elite Sports Programme and very fortunate that the Army sponsor me to run at national level. We're aiming to compete at a major championship and working towards that dream is my favourite part of the day.

**Q. What's the most challenging part of your job and how do you overcome it?**

**A.** Fitting everything into each day! There are so many interesting tasks and projects that I work on in the Army; managing this alongside an athletics career can be hard work, but both engineering and sport within the Army are just so rewarding.

**Q. What checks do you make on a vehicle before a training exercise, to make sure it's safe and ready to use?**

**A.** I am an armoured vehicle commander and, alongside my driver and crew, I carry out the necessary





checks prior to deployment. This is called a 'first parade check' and is when the basic functions of the vehicle are tested. It includes a check of the engine compartment as well as an internal and external check of the vehicle. A few key features that are checked include oil, fluids and lubes, tyres for damage and pressure, cleanliness, lights and fuel level.

**Q. Did you want to be an engineer when you were growing up?**

**A.** Maths and physics were always my strongest subjects at school. When I went into the Army careers office, they suggested a career in engineering because of this. It was then that I began to believe I could actually make a career out of my strengths and passions.

**Would you recommend a career in engineering?**

**A.** Absolutely. Technology is always improving and for it to develop we need innovative young people to bring fresh ideas. There are so many paths to take and the thing I love is that it will make a difference to the lives of others. Whether you want to be an engineer of an aircraft, support construction projects or operate hi-tech communications systems, we need engineers across all areas.

**Q. How did you achieve your career and what advice would you give young people thinking about a similar path?**

**A.** Hard work and determination will allow you to be the best you can be. I made sure I worked hard at school and college, which enabled me to get the place at university that I wanted. I have continued that positive mind-set throughout my time as an engineer and also as an elite athlete. My advice is: no matter the setback, always think about how you can solve or get around the problem. There will always be hurdles in life but with a positive attitude you can overcome them.

**Q. Have you ever found it challenging being a female in the world of engineering, and would you recommend that girls follow in your footsteps and pursue a career in STEM?**

**A.** The different genders in engineering isn't really at the forefront of my mind and I have never found it a challenge. We are all human beings and each individual will bring different skills to the table. A skill that is your strength may be a weakness for someone else and vice versa. Projects in the Army and STEM are a team effort.

**Badge**



The British Army partners the Scout Mechanic Activity Badge

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**Outcomes**

Young people will be inspired by a female engineer in the British Army to consider careers in STEM subjects. They will also find out what checks need to be done on armoured vehicles to make sure they are ready and safe for use.

**More information**

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