

# JDF COMMISSIONED OFFICER

Information provided by CHOICES Career & Education Advice

## WHO IS A COMISSIONED OFFICER?

Today, we're examining the committed individuals who manage affairs and lead members within the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF).

So, gear up and tighten your bootstraps because a commissioned officer's job isn't a walk in the park.

## WHAT THE WORK INVOLVES

As a commissioned officer, your rank and area of service will determine your level of responsibility. Nevertheless, in general, officers will typically:

- Plan, lead and execute military operations which contribute towards Jamaica's overall security
- Train and direct subordinates to perform tasks effectively as a unit
- Manage military equipment with responsibility and care
- Lead by example by behaving in a courageous, diligent and disciplined way



## WHO IS THIS CAREER FOR?

If you aspire to be an effective officer, you must be:

- Able to withstand extreme mental and physical challenges
- Able to give orders clearly and succinctly
- Able to think critically, develop well-thought out plans and make quick decisions
- Adaptable and able to remain calm despite high levels of stress and fatigue.
- Self-motivated and disciplined
- Optimistic about each operation and determined to inspire others to work hard towards end goals
- Respectful to those both above and below your rank

## WHAT CAN I EARN?

While salaries may vary based on specific ranks and areas of service, commissioned officers generally earn relatively high salaries.

## HOW DO I QUALIFY?

You must have 5 CSEC passes (inclusive of Math and English), undergone CAPE Units 1 and 2 (or get an associate degree) and be 18-23 years old to apply to become an officer. It's suggested that you participate in various school clubs and teams to learn basic leadership skills beforehand. It's also highly recommended that you complete a bachelor's degree to become more eligible. A degree also enables you to apply up to age 25.

JDF's selection process is notoriously rigorous. Among other things, it requires you to undergo physical and mental assessments, an extensive medical screening and demonstrate your public speaking skills. As such, exercising regularly and participating in class presentations throughout school will help you prepare for these assessments.

## WHO OFFERS TRAINING IN JAMAICA?

The JDF provides you with basic training before sending you to do up to a year and a half of training overseas.

## CONCLUSION

During your time as a commissioned officer, you may find yourself leading up to 500 men and women as you ascend ranks. With such responsibility, you will be challenged as you gradually learn leadership, resilience, and communication skills. Although this career is often quite taxing, it's also rewarding as it empowers individuals to lead the JDF's efforts towards promoting peace, reducing crime and saving lives across the country.

Continue reading for more on exciting careers for now and the future. Send your comments and suggestions to Angela deFreitas, General Manager of CHOICE Career & Education Advice- e-mail- [info@choicesonlinejm.com](mailto:info@choicesonlinejm.com). Do the online Career Key Test at - [www.choicescaribbean.com/career-key](http://www.choicescaribbean.com/career-key) - and find the right career for you.