



# SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

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SOLDIER is published by the Ministry  
of Defence and printed by Wyndeham  
(Roche) Ltd. Print contract managed by  
Williams Lea.

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ARMY

Message from outgoing Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir David Richards

# Farewell to you all

**W**HEN I walked into the recruiting barracks I never thought I would be leaving from this office more than four decades later.

That I have says little about me and much more about the men and women with whom I have had the honour to serve over the years.

Throughout my career I have worked with the best of their generation and, as a tactical, operational and now strategic commander, I know that our successes have been based on their hard work, goodwill and professionalism.

So it is with a heavy heart that I leave the Army after so long but I am proud to leave it in good shape and with an exciting future.

As I look forward, I see an Army ready to serve the nation, adapting to new challenges and offering all ranks the opportunity for the fascinating and demanding career that I have enjoyed. One that engenders, rightly, huge respect across our nation.

I would like to leave by saying thank you. Your courage, determination and humour has made the British Army what it is.

These qualities and the leadership, at every level, are what ensure our Army is still viewed, together with our comrades in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, as one of the world's finest fighting forces.

And our families, who support us so well, are an integral part of this capability. Without them, we would not achieve nearly as much. For all this, I am immensely proud and grateful.

With a sense of huge gratitude for who you are and for all you do, a very big thank you to you all. ■



**“Because of the  
space we can do  
things that we  
can’t in Cyprus”**

Fusiliers show eastern  
promise in Jordan  
(pages 35-38)







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Cover: Graeme Mann

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# BRINGING BUSINESSES ON-BOARD

## Defence chiefs forge stronger links with Reservist workplaces

Report: Richard Long

Plans for a fully integrated and small business Reserves Force are to come to fruition in the report of the Future Force 2020. The report, which is being published by the Ministry of Defence, will set out the vision for the Reserves Force in 2020 and how it will be delivered. It will also set out the vision for the Reserves Force in 2020 and how it will be delivered. It will also set out the vision for the Reserves Force in 2020 and how it will be delivered.

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**“The skill sets of people with a Service background represent a huge benefit”**  
Employers on why they hire Reservists p28

**“Jumping out of a Blackhawk is pretty ally”**  
Part-time paras earn American wings p40

**“Why do we get issued with equipment we are not allowed to wear?”**  
Talkback finds the answers p50

### MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

## WARRIOR WINS ON HOME TURF

Mixed martial arts star Ryan Crochran (21 years) is competing in the first round of the UFC Fight Night 100. Crochran is a former British Army soldier and is currently a reservist. He is competing in the first round of the UFC Fight Night 100. Crochran is a former British Army soldier and is currently a reservist. He is competing in the first round of the UFC Fight Night 100.

### COMBINED SERVICES RUGBY LEAGUE

## Services stung by late comeback

The Combined Services Rugby League team has suffered a late comeback in their match against the Army team. The Combined Services Rugby League team has suffered a late comeback in their match against the Army team. The Combined Services Rugby League team has suffered a late comeback in their match against the Army team.





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# THE informer...

BRITISH TROOPS' GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE ASSET [news@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:news@soldiermagazine.co.uk)



Picture: Cpl Obi Igbo, RLC

**Aiming high:** The number of part-time soldiers will almost have to double over the next five years if the Force is to meet its target

## New role for Reserves revealed

THE government has announced an ambitious new structure for the Army that will see Reserve soldiers playing a far greater role as part of an integrated Force in return for improved benefits and a wider support package.

In presenting the Reserves in the Future Force 2020 white paper to the House of Commons, Defence Secretary Philip Hammond confirmed plans for part-time troops to increase from 19,000 to 30,000 as the Regular Army reduces from 102,000 to 82,000.

Under the changes, it was revealed that the Territorial Army will officially change its name to Army Reserve.

Mr Hammond said: "We are revitalising our Reserve Forces, reversing the decline of the recent past, growing their trained strength and investing an additional £1.8 billion over ten years.

"This marks a significant step forward as we change our relationship with Reservists, their families and employers, dramatically improving what we offer."

The document states that paid annual leave will be introduced for volunteers when training and on operations. They will also be eligible for Armed Forces pension entitlements and healthcare benefits from April 2015.

In a bid to strengthen the relationship between the Army and civilian

businesses, more notice will be given to soldiers selected for operations to enable their employers to plan ahead.

Small and medium-sized enterprises will also receive an extra £500 per month while their staff are deployed on military missions.

The Army has separately published details of the future basing and structure of the Reserve, involving new roles for three units, the establishment of six others and the withdrawal of nine from the order of battle.

Among the changes is a plan to "pair" Reserve and Regular units that operate in similar roles in order to improve their training and access to the latest equipment.

Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Wall, commented: "The Army Reserve will be more highly trained, better equipped and better paid.

"These reforms are going to result in a Service with a greater role for the Reserves than we've seen hitherto."

In the future volunteers will be deployed as entire units for contingent or enduring operations as well as individually to fill gaps in Regular units.

They will also play a vital role as specialists in the areas of cyber warfare and IT.

"It clearly depends on motivated

individuals who are keen to be trained to the standards of their professional regular counterparts, supported by their families and certainly enabled by their employers," added Gen Wall.

"We are doing the right thing here. I think this is the time to do it and it's going to work well."

● Full coverage of the new integrated Force – pages 24-33

### ARMY RESERVE IN NUMBERS

# 26,000

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS TO HAVE  
DEPLOYED ON OPERATIONS OVER  
THE LAST TEN YEARS

# 40

DAYS PER YEAR AN ARMY  
RESERVIST WILL BE EXPECTED TO  
TRAIN – UP FROM 35 AT PRESENT

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**“THE WORST CASE SCENARIO IS GETTING AN INFECTION FROM A DIRTY NEEDLE, SUCH AS HEPATITIS B, HEPATITIS C OR HIV”**  
**– WANNABE TATTOO ARTISTS TRIGGER ARMY HEALTH WARNING, PAGE 15**



Pictures: PA and Sgt Adrian Harlen, RLC

## Royal male delivery

**B** RITISH Service personnel marked the birth of the country's future king with ceremonial displays across London.

Members of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery fired a 41-gun royal salute at Green Park from their 13-pounder quick fire weapons to hail the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's baby boy.

In front of the Tower of London, the Honourable Artillery Company – a Reserve unit that is the oldest in the British Army – fired 62 rounds over the River Thames.

Elsewhere, formations with connections to the first-time father sent

messages of goodwill.

The Household Cavalry – the regiment that Prince William commissioned into from Sandhurst – raised a toast to the 8lb 6oz child on exercise in Norfolk and also in Afghanistan, where some members of the unit are deployed on Op Herrick 18.

The Irish Guards, of which the Duke is colonel, hailed the occasion by lifting glasses of traditional Irish stout at their barracks in Aldershot and London.

Maj Mark Edward, commanding officer of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, said: "The opportunity to mark the birth came as a huge honour."

## Explosive menace uncovered

**AN exhibition is giving new insight into the hidden threat posed by improvised explosive devices.**

The National Army Museum display explores the history of the insurgents' weapon of choice, as well as the people who plant them, the soldiers who search for them and the deadly consequences of being caught in a blast.

Compiled with help from military

experts, the exhibit includes an interactive experience, where visitors can walk down a simulated Afghan street seeded with devices.

Amy Cameron, the institution's education officer, said it had highlighted the "dedication, resilience and courage" of the counter-IED community.

Unseen Enemy runs until March 31, 2014 and entry is free.

## ON THE PULL

■ ARMY, Royal Navy and Royal Marine personnel are gearing up to raise money for charity while setting a new world record by pulling a two-tonne field gun from Portsmouth to Poole.

The team, which includes 12 members of the Military Provost Guard Service, will set off from HMS *Victory* on August 3 and aims to complete the 80 miles to Poole Quay in three days.

Two squads of eight will take turns to haul the carriage, swapping every six miles, with officials from Guinness World Records assessing the challenge.

Funds raised through the event will be donated to The Royal British Legion, the Royal Marines charity and Julia's House Children's Hospice.

## NEW COURSES KICK OFF

■ MILITARY personnel are set to benefit from more educational opportunities thanks to the expansion of the university short course programme.

The previous contract for the tri-Service scheme has expired but a new prospectus will become available from this month, covering more establishments and subjects than before.

For more information on the changes read **ABN 63/13**



## AUGUST'S A PICNIC

■ THE Royal British Legion is encouraging people to stage "poppy picnics" during August's warm weather as part of a new campaign.

After registering an event, the charity will send organisers a pack that includes posters, stickers, invitation cards and a collection box for donations.

For more information and to register visit [www.poppypicnic.org.uk](http://www.poppypicnic.org.uk)



## Personnel get taste of Peninsular history

A GROUP of 50 soldiers travelled to Vitoria in Spain to join the latest commemorations marking the 200th anniversary of the Peninsular War.

Troops from 97 Battery, Royal Artillery and The King's Royal Hussars were invited to the city, which was the backdrop for a fierce battle between the combined British, Spanish and Portuguese force and the French army.

The trip included an extensive battlefield tour, during which the gunners learnt how their predecessors provided

direct artillery support during the critical attack at Gamarra Mayor.

The Hussars were also given an insight into the contribution made by their forebears, who acquired the king's silver chamber pot in the chaotic scenes that followed the skirmish.

A wreath-laying ceremony followed, in which tributes were paid to the 2,000 Servicemen who fell in the battle and the thousands who succumbed to their wounds in the days and weeks that followed the conflict.



**Conflict commemorations:** Anniversary events have given troops a flavour of the bloody battle



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**TOUGH  
ENOUGH?**







**“ I DON'T HAVE TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE AS MUCH BECAUSE THEY HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO TURN UP FOR TRAINING ”**

**– TROOPS LIFT LID ON LIFE AS A REGULAR-TURNED-RESERVIST, PAGES 31-32**



Picture: Aston Martin Racing

**New employment:** The scheme found Sgt Nathan Blewer a placement with Aston Martin

## Career boost for injured troops

**I**NJURED Servicemen and women can now access personal employment consultants and tailor-made vocations, thanks to the launch of the Recovery Career Services (RCS).

Hundreds of businesses – including multinational corporations and world leaders in motor manufacturing – are supporting the scheme, which is being jointly run by Armed Forces charities and the MoD.

A web portal provides soldiers, sailors and airmen with a comprehensive list of opportunities including training, volunteer placements, mentor support and job shadowing.

Sgt Nathan Blewer (2 RTR), who is awaiting medical discharge after receiving major injuries in an IED blast in 2010, is one soldier to have landed an impressive role through the new service.

“I’ve supported Mission Motorsport from the beginning and a position came up with the pit crew for Aston Martin Racing in the World Endurance Championships,” he explained.

“There was a very strict interview process and they were looking for all the skills a soldier can offer – except

getting shot at and blown up. Now I’ll be working on the team on race tracks across the world, including Le Mans, Sao Paolo and Shanghai.”

The RCS forms part of the defence recovery capability, which was declared fully operational in June, and is linked to the Career Transition Partnership, the MoD’s provider of resettlement services.

The initiative has a team of 19 employment consultants based across the country providing one-to-one support to injured troops.

It also has a relationships team, who engage with industry bosses to discuss appropriate options for those entering civvy street.

Adrian Peters, RCS programme director, said his target was for 100 per cent of Service leavers to fulfil their job plans following discharge.

“We are now making sure people get what they need – this is about inspiring individuals,” he explained.

“Lots of organisations come to us and ask how they can help and now we can point them in the direction of our relationships team.”

Visit [www.recoverycareerservices.org.uk](http://www.recoverycareerservices.org.uk) for more details on the scheme.

**“ Now I’ll be working on race tracks across the world ”**

## HUMAN RIGHTS RULING

■ A LANDMARK case in the UK’s highest court has ruled that the MoD owes troops a duty of care under the European Convention on Human Rights.

The judgment handed down by the Supreme Court said that soldiers’ human rights should be protected even on the battlefield.

It could now pave the way for families of Service personnel killed in combat to sue the government.

“I am very concerned at the wider implications of this judgment, which could ultimately make it more difficult for troops to carry out operations and potentially throws open a wide range of military decisions to the uncertainty of litigation,” Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said.



Picture: Richard Watt

## PASHTUN PREPARATIONS

■ ELEMENTS of 7th Armoured Brigade have taken part in Exercise Pashtun Warrior prior to their deployment to Afghanistan this October.

The training on Salisbury Plain allowed the Desert Rats – including troops from 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland and 3rd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment – to develop their tactics, techniques and procedures.

It also provided an opportunity for the Warhog Group to conduct manoeuvre training under the direction of HQ Brigade Manoeuvre Group.

In line with the drawdown of UK Forces, there will be around 6,000 personnel operating in Afghanistan from autumn 2013, with roughly half of the units in theatre forming Task Force Helmand under the command of 7th Armoured Brigade.

# ‘Time to talk on terms’ soldiers told

**ARMY** personnel are being urged to voice their opinions on the new employment model in a consultation running until the end of October.

The programme is the most thorough review of terms and conditions of service in a generation and soldiers and their families are being given their say via presentations, focus groups, an online survey and interviews.

Some aspects of military life need

to be protected, such as subsidised accommodation, welfare provision and high standards in both training and education.

However, the Army has acknowledged that in order to recruit for the future updates need to be made – particularly in relation to the impact of Service life on families and the careers of spouses and partners.

For more information on the

process and a link to the survey read **2013DIB/37**.

## NEW EMPLOYMENT MODEL

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A PHRASE used to describe fresh terms and conditions of service (including rules around allowances and pay), which defence chiefs are currently examining as part of Army 2020.





**“THERE WAS JUST SO MUCH GOING ON AND WE GOT LOADS OF ROUNDS OFF”**

— DESERT DRILLS TEST INFANTRY TO THE MAX, PAGE 90

Picture: Dominic King



## AUF WIEDERSEHEN, JHQ

■ GERMANY-based troops have begun to say goodbye to the communities that have hosted them for nearly 70 years.

Farewell events were held as the first stations to fold under the MoD's rebasing plans closed their doors.

Some 120 soldiers from 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment – the last remaining unit in Muenster – marched through the town with bayonets fixed and watched on by hundreds of spectators.

In Moenchengladbach the closure of the Joint Head Quarters was marked by a three-day celebration featuring a concert by British and German military bands, a city centre parade and funfair.

The UK footprint will reduce further in 2015 with the closure of Bergen-Hohne garrison and stations in Herford and Niederkruechten-Elmpt.

## SYSTEM SWITCH-OFF

■ THE joint personnel administration system will be temporarily switched off later this month for essential upgrades.

Users will be unable to access their accounts from 1700 on August 23 to 0800 on September 3.

Anyone with expenses claims or updates to emergency contacts must submit them by August 19.

# Immigration rule overhaul

## Warning to troops over timing of applications

THE Home Office has put special measures in place to help Army personnel meet the criteria for family migration to the UK.

Rules governing entry were changed in July 2012 but temporary arrangements were put in place to ensure soldiers and their loved ones were not affected until the MoD completed a review into the impact on Service life.

The study took into account the Armed Forces Covenant and its conclusion states that from December 1 the military community will comply with new family immigration rules.

Special measures have been put in place to allow non-European Economic Area dependants of eligible Servicemen and women to continue to make applications under the old rules until November 30.

They are encouraged to do so as successful candidates will be issued a UK visa on a route to settlement and will be exempt from the minimum income threshold that will apply after this date.

Personnel who are to be discharged or made redundant between July 9, 2012 and December 1, 2013 should ensure family members apply to come to the country while they are still serving to benefit from the measures.

Dependants of foreign and Commonwealth citizens, including Gurkhas, being discharged in the same period will continue to be dealt with under the old immigration rules until the end of November, providing applications



Picture: LHR Airports Ltd

are made prior to their soldier leaving the Army.

For more information read [ABN 60/12](#).

A review has also been carried out into UK residency rules for new Armed Forces recruits.

Potential troops from Commonwealth nations wishing to join the military will now need to demonstrate they have lived in the UK for the last five years.

In addition, non-British recruits to the Reserves will be required to have “indefinite leave to remain”.

This will not affect Service personnel already serving or on recruitment from the Republic of Ireland or the Brigade of Gurkhas.

“There has been a long tradition of Commonwealth citizens serving in the British Armed Forces and most recently on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Mark Francois, Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans.

“We continue to value their service which provides an important contribution in defending the UK at home and abroad.”

# Major walk for mental injuries

SOLDIERS past and present are being invited to walk the 870-mile length of the Welsh coastline later this month to raise awareness of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Walk On Wales was conceived by former Welsh Guardsmen Jan Koops and Dai Graham, who were on board the *Sir Galahad* when it was struck during the Falklands conflict, killing more than 40 men.

Now the pair want troops to join them on the coastal journey to draw attention to the mental health problems faced by ex-soldiers, while raising £1 million for the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal and Combat Stress.

“I was one of the lucky ones because I’m still here and I left the Falklands behind whereas others couldn’t let it go,” said Mr Graham, a former sergeant.

“We’ve lost more troops since the

Falklands through alcohol and drug abuse than we did on the operation and we need to address those problems.”

He added: “In no way will this be a dour or sombre occasion; it’s a chance to walk with guys who have served and their families.”

The strenuous saunter will see 11 teams carry a specially commissioned silver baton (pictured below with Mr Graham), inscribed with the names of the 50 Welsh Guardsmen who have died



on missions since the Falklands conflict.

“For the last 31 years I’ve seen people struggling because of things they saw in battle

and if we can do anything to help then that would be fantastic,” added Mr Koops, a former captain.

“We want to raise funds but also get the message out about PTSD.”

The event, which begins in Cardiff on August 25, is already being backed by Prince Charles and Welsh rugby stars Ryan Jones and Martyn Williams.

For further details on the journey visit [www.walkonwales.org](http://www.walkonwales.org)

# 870

**LENGTH, IN MILES,  
OF THE WELSH  
COAST TREK**





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Diane Dernie, Mother of Ben Parkinson

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“ THAT IS THE WORST WE HAVE PLAYED IN THE WHOLE COMPETITION, I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY ”  
– SERVICES SLIP AT RUGBY LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL, PAGE 87



# Health warning over DIY tattoo kits

SERVICE personnel are being urged not to go under the needle of unregistered tattooists after a soldier was found to have inked several colleagues with a kit purchased online.

Among the risks related to do-it-yourself tattoos, which can be bought for £30 and require no supervision or formal training, are infection, allergic reaction and even HIV.

“There was an incident recently where someone bought their own kit and tried it out on his mates so we are assuming this is being done elsewhere by both military personnel and civilians,” said Maj Mike Forde, a public health expert in the Army Medical Directorate.

“These people won’t be registered or trained, will be less likely to have the right equipment and won’t necessarily follow good procedures.



**Work of art?:** Do-it-yourself tattoos are not only lower quality, but can pose serious health risks

“The worst case scenario is getting an infection from a dirty needle, such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.”

British soldiers are permitted to have tattoos as long as the markings are not considered detrimental to the Service

due to their size, position or nature.

According to the Queen’s Regulations, an unacceptable marking is defined as “any tattoo(s), excessive in size or number, offensive or obscene, which is visible when wearing parade uniform.”

It is illegal to administer them unless both parties are over 18, as it is to run any sort of tattoo business without local authority registration.

“The normal healing process for a new marking is about two weeks, so soldiers certainly should not have them done just before they deploy because it’s going to hurt when they need to be carrying things,” Maj Forde added.

“We recognise they are part of military culture and can be a badge of honour, but we do not want people putting themselves at unnecessary risk.”

Read **2013DIN06-020** for details.

## Forces travel for free in London

**ARMED Forces personnel can now travel for free on the Transport for London network when in uniform and carrying the MoD form 90 ID.**

The offer applies to Regular and Reserve soldiers and is applicable



to bus, underground, London Tramlink and Dockland Light Railway services.

The concession will not impact on existing allowance entitlements for those in the capital.

It does not apply to the National Rail network.

### LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN

SWAG	FORCE FOR GOOD	QUIDS IN
£36,000	<b>AUDIO AMBITION</b> The Heritage Lottery Fund has given a grant to a regimental association to help it develop an audio archive. The resource will showcase the experiences of soldiers and their families from the Second World War to the present day.	Royal Dragoon Guards Association
£10,150	<b>RIDE WITH PRIDE</b> After suffering a bullet wound to the head during Op Herrick, Hldr Craig Patterson (4 Scots) completed the Ride of Britain from Edinburgh to London in just five days using a specially-adapted recumbent bike alongside 40 other cyclists.	SSAFA Forces Help
£5,000	<b>SACRIFICE AND SUPPORT</b> The family of an officer killed in Afghanistan in 2008 have donated a sound system to motivate injured soldiers as they work back to full fitness. The Aaron Lewis Trust was set up in memory of Lt Aaron Lewis of 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery.	Colchester Garrison Regional Rehabilitation Unit



Picture: Capt Sam Scammell, RA

**Hot shot:** A winning entry from last year’s contest

### FINAL PHOTO CALL

■ AMATEUR and professional photographers still have a chance to see their best shots showcased as part of the 2013 Army Photographic Competition.

Open to all Service personnel, including Regulars, Reserves, cadets, civilians and contractors, the contest closes on September 6.

TV historian Dan Snow will attend an exhibition of the winning images at the National Army Museum in October.

The top pictures will also be displayed on ArmyNet and in *Soldier*, as well as being made into calendars and Christmas cards later in the year.

Photographs must have been taken between September 25, 2012 and September 6, 2013 and should be submitted in hard and electronic format to WO1 Michael Harvey at Army Media and Communications, Army HQ, Monxton Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 8HT.

For further information on entry criteria read **ABN 05-13**.



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Picture: Cpl Steve Blake, RLC

**Building bridges:** The US exercise saw the sappers help to restore dilapidated crossings

## Construction learning curve

RESERVISTS from 72 Engineer Regiment have been working on a number of construction projects in Custer State Park as part of their involvement in the US training exercise Golden Coyote.

A team of 55 soldiers from the Gateshead-based unit travelled to South Dakota for the programme, which trains the National Guard for overseas operations while also focussing on community tasks in the local area.

As part of their visit the sappers helped to build a new costume room for the Black Hills Playhouse, which performs to more than 35,000 people during their three-month season.

"Working on these projects is fantastic," said Sgt Derran Howe.

"I wish we could do more things like this in Britain as it really gives you a sense of purpose to be involved in something that's going to last and will benefit others.

"I've spoken to a few of the locals and they really appreciate us being

here – you can see by the way they are with you that it means a lot to them."

Personnel also helped to restore dilapidated bridges, build new fishing piers, install steps on a steep embankment and fit a kilometre of safety fencing along a significant buffalo-herding route.

Their efforts brought a boost to the state-funded park, which employs just 34 full-time staff to maintain some 73,000 acres of land.

● Role of Army Reserve set to step up – full details pages 7 and 24-33.



# 55

**NUMBER OF RESERVES WHO TRAVELLED TO THE STATES FOR THE EXERCISE**

## ENDEAVOURS IN ESSEX MARK NEW BEGINNING

VOLUNTEERS from 16 Air Assault Brigade marked the long-awaited Reserves announcement (page 7) with a joint training day in Fingringhoe, Essex.

The tri-Service serial, which saw the paratroopers land by Chinook helicopter before launching simulated attacks, was visited by Defence Secretary Philip Hammond and the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Wall.



Picture: Cpl Osi Igbo, RLC

## TRAINING TRAGEDY

■ TWO Reservists have lost their lives while training in the Brecon Beacons.

LCpl Craig Roberts and Edward Maher died during a routine exercise on July 13 when temperatures in the national park hit 30 degrees centigrade.

A third soldier was admitted to hospital and remained in a stable condition as this issue went to press.

Officials are looking into the cause.

## Civvy managers get the military treatment

PART-TIME soldiers put civilian managers from more than 100 companies through their paces in military scenarios to open their eyes to the skills and drills learnt in the Army Reserve.

Troops from 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers challenged industry bosses to various tasks ranging from operating on a boat to camouflage and concealment.

"It's not easy and they certainly found it tough sleeping under bashers out in the open and carrying

on with activities the next day," said WO2 Howard Smith (RRF).



The veteran of 19 years' Reserve service added: "They really have shown resilience and a lot of them have seen the advantages and level of training that a volunteer can bring to the party."

Participant Sue Kelly (pictured left), a record keeper for Tyne and Wear NHS, explained: "It's been a real experience. I found it hard at times but a lot of fun.

"I now understand a lot more about what a Reservist does and how they bring a plethora of skills to the table."



# Delivering **EXTRA** financial help to the families of British servicemen and women killed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

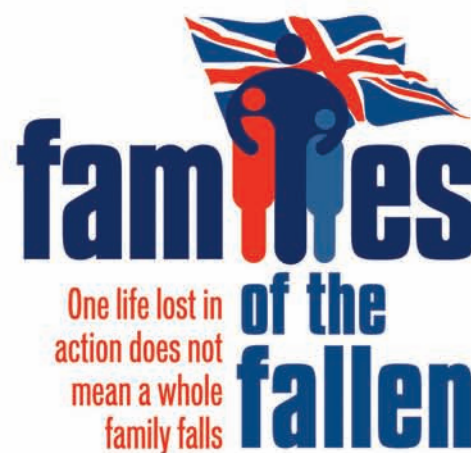


Families of the Fallen has been set up specifically to deliver this EXTRA financial help. Working closely with existing charities, we found wide agreement amongst them that the money currently available is not enough to properly address all of those needs, which can vary so much from family to family.

Families of the Fallen is the **ONLY** charity focused exclusively on providing these EXTRA funds. We deal with requests that do not qualify under the MOD or other grant-giving organisations' criteria, but which greatly assist families and partners trying to rebuild their lives without their main breadwinner.

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Families of the Fallen *only* accepts invitations that come through - and with the recommendation of - existing military charities and military organisations



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“I PUT IT DOWN TO THE NEW GENERATION  
BEING SO MUCH MORE OPEN-MINDED”

– OUT IN THE ARMY, PAGES 72-73



**Death-zone defiance:** The soldier battled partial sight loss during the dangerous climb

## Extreme Everest mission

**A**N Army vet has become the first female Regular officer to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Lt Col Melissa Bowerman (RAVC) scaled the 8,848m peak after three years of preparations.

Instead of using the route taken by most climbers, the 41-year-old chose the more technical north ridge approach.

“I was looking for a challenge and felt that Everest would give me the ultimate test, both physically and mentally,” explained the officer.

“I knew the route was really difficult but I wanted an extreme adventure and to know that I hadn’t taken the easier option.”

Lt Col Bowerman’s fitness regime included 20-mile hikes carrying a bergen loaded with 30kg of water and baked bean tins.

“There were many times when all I wanted to do was have pizza and wine

in front of the TV, but I always forced myself to train,” she admitted.

The dangers of the sport were brought home during training last September when the mountaineer narrowly avoided an avalanche that claimed the lives of 11 climbers on Mount Manaslu in the Himalayas.

“The camp was completely swept away,” the officer recalled. “I lost all my equipment but that of course pales into insignificance in comparison to the lives that were lost.”

Further challenges lay in store during the ascent of Everest when Lt Col Bowerman faced a chest infection and partial sight loss in the

so-called death zone above 26,000 feet.

“Not being able to see where to place your feet was pretty frightening but my military training stood me in good stead; it gave me the determination and calmness to continue,” she said.

# 3

**YEARS THE ARMY VET  
SPENT PREPARING  
FOR THE DAUNTING  
MOUNTAIN MISSION**

### SERVICE SONGWRITER

AN Army drummer has written a charity single inspired by life on the front line.

LCpl Nick Wintle (Gren Gds) penned the lyrics on Op Herrick 16 and hopes that downloads of the track will raise money for Help for Heroes.

Explaining the inspiration behind *The Desert Plain*, the 27-year-old said: “It’s an acoustic-type song about being in the green zone.”

“I jotted down the words in my notepad alongside our orders but I didn’t have my guitar with me in Helmand so the tune came later.”

Back in the UK, LCpl Wintle recorded the music on a smartphone and uploaded it to iTunes.



Picture: Graeme Main

## GOOD DRILLS

### APACHE UNIT ANNIVERSARY

AN Army aviation unit has celebrated 70 years of flying, half of which has been spent on operations. 656 Squadron – part of 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps – was formed during the Second World War to fly artillery observation missions and now operates the Apache attack helicopter.



### ACCOLADE FOR ENGINEER

AN ARMY officer has become the first member of her corps and the first female to be awarded the Churchill Medal. Capt Pip Lines (REME, pictured) received the accolade, which recognises engineering achievement in the Armed Forces, for her work with the Combined Force Lashkar Gah Light Aid Detachment on Op Herrick 16.



Judges praised the 30-year-old for providing “unprecedented levels” of technical support for a diverse range of military vehicles, weapons and equipment.

### STUNT SETBACK

A MEMBER of the Royal Signals’ motorcycle display team had to be taken to hospital when he was injured during a display at the Great Yorkshire Showground. The performance by The White Helmets was being enjoyed by hundreds of spectators but had to be cut short when the stunt rider fell to the ground. The Serviceman’s injuries are not thought to be serious.



### IDENTITY THEFT ACCUSATION

A FORMER sergeant in the US Army has been charged with using the stolen identities of fellow soldiers to apply for thousands of dollars’ worth of bank loans, the US media reported. Prosecutors allege James Robert Jones was working at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, when he illegally obtained social security numbers, dates of birth and other information on military personnel, some of whom were deployed in Afghanistan.

## BAD DRILLS





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“IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNISE THAT IT'S NOT JUST DEFENCE FACING DIFFICULT DECISIONS”

– FAMILIES FEDERATION CONSIDERS BIG PICTURE, PAGE 57



# Soldiers help to shape the Service

SENIOR personnel have met to discuss the impact of changes to the Army on its troops.

Around 218 soldiers attended the regimental sergeant majors' conference, where they considered issues such as contingency operations, Army 2020 and the new employment model.

Held at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the event was an opportunity for warrant officers to be briefed on developments in defence and to represent the views of Servicemen and women to the chain of command.

“RSMs are key opinion formers so it's important they know what's going on and that we listen to them and use their experience to shape policy,” said Army Director of Manning, Brig Rob Nitsch.

“Since last year's convention, when we were really looking down the barrel of uncertainty, we've had several announcements, including the recent one on the Reserves, so I feel we've been able to be more positive this time about where the Service is going.”

Among the topics explored in group



Picture: Graeme Main

**Front-line feedback:** The event relayed troops' experiences up to Service commanders

discussions were career management and terms and conditions of service, both of which will be affected by the Army's new structure.

Event organiser, academy sergeant major WO1 Vern Stokes (Coldm Gds) added that it was vital he and his

colleagues understand how to lead their soldiers through the changes.

“The adjutant general takes this meeting very seriously in terms of us representing the opinions of the troops and I genuinely think it has a positive impact on policy,” he said.



Picture: Steve Dock

## BACK IN BUSINESS

■ A POPULAR welfare hub at the Army's largest training establishment has re-opened its doors after a £300,000 refurbishment.

The Sandes centre at Pirbright (above), which provides soldiers with a place to escape the stresses of work, was in urgent need of repairs to its roof, windows and heating.

With some 2,000 recruits and permanent staff using the facility every week, the community set about raising the funds to renovate the 60-year-old building through charity events, donations and grants.

Now, following a four-and-a-half month upgrade, personnel can once again make use of the centre's cafe and communal areas.

Phase one recruit Ciaran Rogan said he was pleased to see Sandes back in business, describing it as the cornerstone of morale.

“Not only do they supply food but the staff go the extra mile for you, whether you need space to think quietly or just have a chat,” he said.



## ...A high-adrenalin driving experience

LAST month's spine lines competition would have been no mystery to the daredevils among our readers. Based on our feature about a blind stunt rider, (Harry) Houdini, (Doug) Domokos, (Tony) Jaa and *Jackass* star (Stephen) Glover have all found fame by performing jaw-dropping tricks.

This month, in keeping with the endorphin-crazed theme, we have teamed up with Experience Megastore ([www.experiencemegastore.com](http://www.experiencemegastore.com)) to offer two readers the chance to sit at the wheel of a supercar.

Winners, along with a guest of their choice, will drive nine laps in three different cars; the Aston Martin *Vantage*, Audi *R8*, Lamborghini *Gallardo*, Ferrari *430*, Maserati *Gran Turismo*, Lotus *Elise*, Subaru *Impreza*, Porsche *911 Turbo* or Ariel *Atom*.

Alternatively, participants can undertake passenger laps driven by a professional race car driving instructor.

The prize can be redeemed at venues in Essex, Lincolnshire, Vale of Glamorgan or Scotland and to be in with a chance of winning, tell us what links the words on the spine of this issue.

Send your answers on a postcard to the usual address or via email to [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by August 30 and visit the company's website for full terms and conditions.

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[www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk) AUGUST 2013 21











#### THE BIGGER PICTURE

MORE than 100 athletes took the plunge at Bala Lake, in North Wales, for the annual Inter-Services Open Water Swimming Championships. The event featured one-, three- and five-kilometre races and saw the Royal Air Force take top spot. The venue also staged the Army inter-corps and inter-unit finals. See page 88 for a full report. Picture: Graeme Main





# INTEGRATED FORCE

## The changes afoot for British Army Reservists

ACCORDING to Service chiefs, merging separate full-time and part-time organisations into one single Force will make the British Army truly 21st century. But how will they do this? Read on to find out...

### PAIRING

Every Reserve unit has now been formally teamed with a Regular one. For the full listings visit the Army 2020 information portal on the defence intranet

● JOINT training alongside Regular units will form the basis of the overhaul. This includes bringing Reservists' equipment up to the quality of their full-time colleagues.

Not only will the Army Reserve enjoy £40 million of dismounted close combat kit – including helmet-mounted night vision systems, SA80 weapon upgrades and GPS devices – but these items will be procured this year for delivery as soon as possible.

Personnel will share resources with Regular troops in a way that is quite new to the British military.

Training cycles will be synchronised between every paired formation and

Reserves will join battlegroup-level exercises, where they will generally deploy at sub-unit level.

Overseas opportunities and sub-unit serials in the United Kingdom will also become far more commonplace.

Sgt Mark Williams (R Wx Y) said news of his formation's partnership with The King's Royal Hussars had been well received by fellow Reservists.

"This allows volunteers to have an identity with a Regular unit and learn how they operate and what standard of training they are at, and lets us mirror that," the Serviceman explained.



Team talk: Grenadier Guardsmen will train in the light infantry role with members of The London Regiment (Westminster)

Picture: Steve Dock

### SHIFTING SITES

● IN order to increase the presence of the Army Reserve in urban areas – a vital recruiting ground – the Service will merge 32 sub-units.

Many of those have a low intake and will be moved to larger sites that are already occupied by the same cap badge – mostly within neighbouring communities.

However, population was not the only consideration for military bosses when altering the locations.

Proximity to paired units in the Regular Force and previous recruitment levels were also taken into account.

Some sites are going and others are being created, but overall the Territorial Army will be down by 26 bases by 2016.

Centres will have to meet ambitious manning targets, and those that fall short of this could be subject to further location changes.



### FORMING NEW UNITS

**101 Battalion, 104 Battalion, 105 Battalion and 106 Battalion in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and 6 Military Intelligence Battalion and 7 Military Intelligence Battalion in the Intelligence Corps have all been added to the order of battle**

● DIFFERENT capabilities will be required of the Army in future, which means that just like the Regulars some changes are needed to the structure within each cap badge.

As a result, basing arrangements must also be altered (see above).

The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Intelligence Corps are the two formations that will see major new units created.

Amendments have been made to others at minor and sub-unit level too, with the creation of several new companies and squadrons.

Those who applied and are selected to man the new branches have yet to be revealed in the main.

Maj James Campbell-Barnard, part

of the FR 20 projects office team, explained why new units needed to be added when others were being lost.

"Because we have made the Regular component smaller we need to ensure Military Intelligence provides the capability that we require," he said.

"Therefore we have to increase the Reserves."

Members of some of the withdrawn Royal Signals sub-units will also be moved over to this area.



26 – the overall reduction in Territorial Army bases





**Bridging the gap:**  
Members of 75 Engineer  
Regiment coupling M3  
rigs on the River Weser  
Picture: LCpl Griffiths, 75 Engr Regt

#### DID YOU KNOW?

THE ARMY RESERVE'S TRAINED STRENGTH – THAT IS, THE NUMBER OF TROOPS READY TO DEPLOY – IS INCREASING WHILE ITS ACTUAL CAPACITY (OR LIABILITY) IS BEING REDUCED

## CREATING FRESH ROLES

- 152 Transport Regiment will become 152 Fuel Support Regiment
- 155 Transport Regiment will become 165 Port and Enabling Regiment
- 156 Transport Regiment will become 156 Supply Regiment

● IN addition to three Royal Logistic Corps formations getting new roles, various sub-units will also be subject to alterations in their taskings.

However, only those in the Royal Mercian and Lancastrrian Yeomanry are facing a new cap badge.

"While some of the changes may be unwelcome by the units affected, they are necessary to deliver the effective, modern and integrated Army Reserve of the future and to enable us to deliver on our commitment to Reservists of better training, better equipment

and a fully integrated role," Defence Secretary Philip Hammond told the House of Commons.

For some, however, the opportunity to "re-role" is a very welcome one.

Capt Ashleigh Brown, of 75 Engineer Regiment, said her colleagues welcomed the creation of the new Amphibious Engineer Training Cell in its ranks.

Taking responsibility for the M3 rig pictured above, the sub-unit will be populated with troops from across the regiment.

"The guys are really excited about it and you can see why," the officer told *Soldier*.

"They have already undertaken a training package on this piece of equipment and think

it is an amazing capability.

"It has certainly generated a lot of interest across the unit and we have had a lot of applications to join."

However, as with most formations the regiment faces mixed emotions with the removal of 125 Field Squadron, which can trace its roots back to 1908.

Commenting on the overall changes, Capt Brown added: "I think Reservists are glad to be finally getting recognition for their commitment to serving their country.

"As adjutant I sometimes get emails at 0400 from people because they have finished their day job and then started on their military one.

"That kind of dedication is unbelievable."

**3**  
MAJOR FORMATIONS TO BE GIVEN A NEW ROLE

## SAYING FOND FAREWELLS

**Formations to go include 100 (Yeomanry) Regiment, Royal Artillery; 72 and 73 Engineer Regiments and 38 Signal Regiment. From the Royal Logistic Corps, 88 Postal and Courier Regiment; 160 Transport Regiment; 165 Port Regiment\*; 166 Supply Regiment and 168 Pioneer Regiment will be removed**

● FOR those Reservists in units being removed from the order of battle, the 2020 vision marks the end of an era.

Because the current structure of the Territorial Army does not meet the capabilities required for the future, nine major units and numerous sub-units had to be withdrawn.

But despite any sadness over the history of such formations, Reservist Maj Bill Holland (7 Rifles) said troops do understand the need for change.

E Company, where the Serviceman acts as permanent staff administration officer, will cease to exist from next year.

Instead, its troops must choose whether

they move to the Army Air Corps' newly-formed 678 Squadron – an Apache support unit – or the Royal Logistic Corps.

Either way, it will mean a considerable change for all personnel involved.

"The company understands this decision because we have all been talking about these alterations – the bigger picture and the future of the Army – for the last six months," the officer explained.

"The announcement has been greeted with a mixture of emotions as there always is in these type of situations.

"Many are sad they are not going to be called riflemen any more and are losing that Infantry focus, but at the same time they're happy the Army Air Corps needs such skills."

The officer continued: "About 60 per cent of our people have deployed on Operation Herrick over the last decade and I think their commitment will remain.

"I am sure the majority of personnel will decide to stay. We have to make this work."

\*165 Port Regiment is being removed but its title and capability survives by 155 Transport Regt being renamed as 165 (Wessex) Port and Enabling Regt.



**Reload:** A new Apache support squadron may take some Reservists from withdrawn units  
Picture: Steve Dock

**9**  
MAJOR UNITS TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE ORDER OF BATTLE





# BENEFIT BOOST

## New recruits welcome improved pay and training opportunities for part-time personnel

Report: Joe Clapson

**W**ITH an increased reliance on Reserves under its Future Force 2020 structure, the Army is offering improved pay, benefits, equipment and training in a bid to reach a new volunteer strength of 30,000.

To meet those aspirations, the government has published a white paper presenting a wide-ranging package that aims to entice both civilians and Service leavers (page 7).

But how will this be received? And will it be enough to fill the Force?

To understand what is motivating the next generation *Soldier* spoke to Reservist recruits on Exercise Summer Challenge, where they were completing a basic training course.

"I didn't know about any changes to our benefits before signing up so anything extra is a bonus to me," said Pte Joshua Ferraioli (7 Scots), an adventure instructor.

"Separate to pay and benefits, the Army has so many people to talk to and help you – much more so than on civvy street – and that has been the real plus for me."

Although he signed up before the offer was improved, unemployed Pte Courtney Frankland (6 Scots) agreed the changes were pleasing.

"We now get paid for our days off, which is good," he explained.

"If I get on well I can progress but if it doesn't work out I will have gained civilian qualifications which I can use elsewhere."

In order to sufficiently revamp the Army Reserve, which should see its soldiers deploy on operations as complete formations, the government is investing £1.8 billion over ten years in addition to its current spending.

One standout amendment to the volunteer offer is that they will now earn approximately one day's paid leave for every ten training days completed. Annual leave will also increase to match that of full-time soldiers (pro rata).

The driving force behind the Ministry of Defence's masterplan is to create an integrated Force where Reserves work alongside Regulars seamlessly, without deficiencies in either skills or knowledge.

Spr Dale Quenault, a member of the Royal Engineers, believes the goal is achievable.

"I think we can definitely reach the standards of full-time soldiers, but only if we put in the time and effort," the welder said.

"The opportunity, along with funding and support, is now there if people want to take it up."

Pte Ryan Mcleod (6 Scots) added: "The Regulars have done a great job in Afghanistan and that really spurs me on to become what they are."

"With integration and new training there should be no stopping us."

To reach the manning levels

required, the Service must effectively double the size of the Reserves within five years.

But according to personnel undertaking the exercise, the desired outcome can be realised.

"To recruit more Reserves extra work could be done to tell people what the Force actually does, to show that it's much more active than in the past and is far from being a drinking club for weekend soldiers," said Pte Mcleod, an apprentice engineer in

the Merchant Navy.

Pte Ferraioli added: "A lot of my mates in the Territorial Army have been on tour and done difficult jobs alongside Regular soldiers but the public aren't really aware of that."

Regular Serviceman Lt Col James Cook (RA), commanding officer on the

exercise, said the government's recruitment target was a difficult but attainable one.

"No one is underestimating that it's going to be tough to get to 30,000 and it will take time, but we'll get there," he explained.

"As an Army I don't think there's anything more we can offer."

"We're paying well and we're training well – maybe we just need to explain that to the public better."

"Many people still don't realise that Reserves get paid or what they do as soldiers." ■

**‘THE REGULARS HAVE DONE A GREAT JOB IN AFGHANISTAN AND THAT REALLY SPURS ME ON TO BECOME WHAT THEY ARE’**

"THE new benefits will probably be more of a tool for retention than recruitment but they will definitely help make decisions on pensions and pay easier. Building an integrated Force is working and the only sticking point has been the 'old and bold' volunteers who haven't been as open to change as the new generation. Older Regulars are now well used to working with Reserves after ten years alongside them in Afghanistan so there's no problem there."

Capt Nick Street (19 Regt, RA)



"CURRENTLY the training is harder for full-time soldiers but we will have to hit the same standards in order to integrate properly."

Pte Joshua Ferraioli, (7 Scots)



## INSIGHTS ON INTEGRATION...







**Worth shouting about:**  
Reservists' paid service  
is now pensionable



Pte Joe - Steve Dook

### KIT, EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

- Reserve Forces will have the same equipment as Regulars and train on the weapon and vehicle platforms common to their roles
- Fitness training equipment worth £2 million has already been delivered to Reservists

### PAY AND LEAVE

- Annual leave policy has already been made consistent with that of Regulars. The entitlement is calculated on a pro-rata basis for the time they have worked
- Reservists will earn approximately one day's paid leave for every ten training days completed
- A tax-exempt training bounty will be paid to individuals who complete their annual training requirement from April 2014

### PENSIONS

- All paid service (that is, whenever soldiers are training or deployed) will count as pensionable pay and contribute to an individual's career-average revalued earnings pension pot

### MOBILISATION AND DEPLOYMENTS

- Army Reservists can expect a maximum of 12 months' mobilised service in every five-year period
- For enduring operations Army Reservists will be given a nine-month notice period
- For short notice operations the MoD will aim to give at least 28 days' warning



## WHISTLE-STOP WHITE PAPER – A BREAKDOWN OF NEW BENEFITS FOR RESERVES

### ATTENDANCE

- Army Reservists will be required to attend certain core training events
- The annual training commitment will increase from 35 to around 40 days per year

### HEALTH PROVISIONS

- Occupational health provision will be extended to all Reservists, including the provision of fitness for work medicals, hearing assessments and visual acuity tests
- The defence medical rehabilitation programme will be increased to include provision of rehabilitation for those injured during training

### WELFARE

- Some 76 dedicated welfare officers will look after the specific needs of Reserves

### EX-REGULARS

- A £5,000 commitment bonus payable over four years will be offered to Service leavers and ex-Regulars transferring to the Army Reserve

### OFFICERS

- An early commitment bonus worth £5,000 is available to direct entry officers joining the Army Reserves up to and including the rank of captain

### THE UNEMPLOYED

- Traineeships for Reservists are being piloted, providing modules that contribute to accredited vocational awards to set the foundation for joint industry-apprenticeships

"A YOUNG soldier always looks up to a seasoned vet, whether they are a Regular or a Reserve, because they have been there and done it. The corporals and sergeants have told us about their experiences and I think 'wow, I want to aspire to that'."

Pte Joe Jenkins (7 Scots)



"JOINING the Reserves is a stepping stone for me as it lets me see if I like the Army without making such a dramatic leap as joining the Regulars. One of the best things is that there's a consistent ladder – if you do well you will progress."

Pte Courtney Frankland (6 Scots)





# BRINGING BUSINESSES ON-BOARD

## Defence chiefs forge stronger links with Reservist workplaces

Report: Richard Long

**I**F plans for a fully integrated and well-trained Reserve Force are to come to fruition the support of civilian employers is going to be crucial.

While the prospect of greater training and mobilisation on future operations will undoubtedly appeal to the growing ranks of part-time soldiers, their managers and bosses may not be so enthusiastic.

However, the Future Force 2020 white paper features a number of incentives for workplaces and every effort will be made to recognise the

contribution these bodies make to the defence of our nation.

The key attraction is the offer of £500 per month, per Reservist, to small and medium enterprises on top of the allowances that are already available when their staff are mobilised.

This sum will help offset the loss of workers as they fulfil their military commitments and companies will be able to plan for such eventualities as greater notice will now be given ahead of any absences.

A national relationship management scheme will also be created to strengthen the link

between the Ministry of Defence and larger businesses.

With an increasing reliance being placed on the Reserves, *Soldier* spoke to a variety of employers to gauge their reaction to the white paper and the impact it will have on their organisations.



**Engineering benefits:** Dave Waller actively recruits people with a Service background

● **ENGINEERING** firm LH, which specialises in overhauling train engines and gearboxes, employs 379 staff, of which three serve in the Army Reserve.

Managing director Dave Waller actively recruits Service leavers due to their skills and expertise and

believes more part-time soldiers will be joining his ranks in light of the Future Force 2020 announcement.

"We are working with 143 Brigade to offer job opportunities to troops who have been made redundant or are wounded or injured," he told *Soldier*.

"I can see us taking on more Reservists as well. The skill sets of people with a Service background represent a huge benefit to my business.

"The abilities we gain from employees who are active Reserves far outweigh the downside to these proposals.

"We may lose someone for 12 months but at the end of that period they will be more rounded and experienced.

"For a smaller business that is going to be more difficult but there are financial incentives in place to help them.

"The notice period is also excellent and I don't think we will struggle to plan ahead."

Mr Waller is ideally placed to comment on the benefits Reservists offer as he served in the Territorial Army for 12 years from 1982.

He added: "As a 17-year-old I was considering a full-time military career but I wanted to do an engineering degree first.

"Joining the TA allowed me to sample Army life before making my final decision. I progressed well with my civilian work but the military skills I learnt have helped me enormously, that is why I am supporting these plans."





● **DEAN Hyde**, chairman of the Association of Incident, Fraud and Claims Investigators, has employed several Reservists over the years and has no issue with the MoD's plan to boost the number of part-time personnel.

"I do not blame the government for this," he said. "We have to live in the real world and we cannot afford to have as many troops as we once did."

"I would rather we had a small number of soldiers who are better equipped and then

outsource when it is needed. That's what we all do in business."

At present, the association has one Reservist who works as a lecturer but of the 312 investigators in the field around ten per cent are in the TA.

And Mr Hyde is not concerned about the prospect of seeing his staff mobilised in the future.

"In reality we have got more chance of employing a female who is going to fall pregnant and go on maternity leave," he explained.

"With the Reserves you know at some point a deployment might happen and you can plan in advance. You cannot prepare for someone who suddenly becomes ill."

"From a personal perspective, the good thing about employing an individual with a Service background is that they have loyalty, a conscience and a good work ethic."

"You have the raw materials to work with and that is a great start."

"The white paper is looking to give more assistance to employers and I hope this announcement does not stop people taking Reserves on."

"As long as we know about commitments in advance it shouldn't be a problem."

"In some instances Reservists have been frightened to tell their employer about being in the TA and were taking their chances in terms of mobilisation. That shouldn't be the case."

#### ● NOTTINGHAM

University Hospitals NHS Trust employs more than 14,000 people, of which just 19 are Reservists – with 16 in the Army.

Martin Garvey, the trust's HR manager for workforce planning and information, said the organisation actively supports staff that also serve in the military and will continue to do so in the future.

The trust even hosts an annual Reservists' dinner to honour their achievements.

"It is a constant mystery why we only have 19 and over the years we have given our people links to find out more about the TA," he told *Soldier*.

"We see the benefits in the skills they gain. The Army trains in a particular way and their man management is very precise."

"Some of our surgeons and nurses have been involved in battlefield surgery and the knowledge they bring back can be passed on to our junior doctors and other clinical colleagues."

"Deploying has had a big impact on them and they have a few hair-raising stories to tell, but I have never come across anyone saying they did not want to do it."

Mr Garvey said the trust was in a good position to cover the loss of staff but conceded it may not be the same elsewhere.

"We are a very large body and over the course of a year we have people off on maternity and sick leave," he explained.

"Deploying is no different – it is someone who is not here and we have to plan around that."

"We get a good period of notice so we can find a way to cover them."

"For a department of three people or a smaller business I can see the problem, but we have never turned down a deployment and never would."

"This is something we genuinely believe in and being a Reservist has no impact on whether we employ someone."



**Trust management:** There is a low take-up despite inherent support

“THE SKILLS WE GAIN FROM EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ACTIVE RESERVES FAR OUTWEIGH THE DOWNSIDE TO THESE PROPOSALS”

● **OUTDOOR** pursuits company Thrills and Skills For Life, which is based in Northumberland, Durham and the West Country, has a high percentage of Reservists on its books, which is both a blessing and a curse for owner Chris Hall.

The business employs eight staff – seven of whom are in the TA – with two workers currently deployed in Afghanistan.

"Unluckily for them I am their platoon commander so when we finish at work I'm still their boss," said Mr Hall, a captain in 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

"We are a machine gun platoon so when I want to organise some training I know they will be available as I give them the time off."

"At present I have two members of staff in Helmand province. The bugbear of that is we have to replace them while they are away."

"Those coming in know they will be gone when the others return so you don't get the same commitment, but you have to invest time and money in their training."

"It is annoying to have two guys away but there are benefits to it. They will return super fit and super focused and Afghanistan is character enhancing. But I have been without them for 11 months."

The officer acknowledged the white paper will receive a mixed response but was pleased to see the government making provisions for smaller businesses.



**Thrills and skills for life:** Nearly all of the company are in the TA

Main picture: Steve Dock



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# RESERVES OF POWER

Ex-Regulars explain why they made the decision to join the world of part-time soldiering

Report: Joe Clapson  
Pictures: Graeme Main

**T**HE Regular Army's loss could be the Reserves' gain if plans to recruit personnel leaving full-time service as a result of the Strategic Defence and Security Review prove successful.

Around 3,800 soldiers are exiting the military on a voluntary basis in the latest round of

redundancies but it is these men and women who have the potential to turn the Army into an even more formidable force by boosting numbers and offering vital expertise.

"When Regulars leave their skills are often lost with them," explained Capt David Oliver, a permanent staff officer based with the Royal Wessex Yeomanry.

"Rather than lose their knowledge we need to keep it to enhance the Reserves."

With the MoD planning to

reduce the Regular Army from 102,000 to 82,000 by 2020, while doubling the number of Reservists to 30,000, efforts to encourage those leaving full-time service to continue on a reduced schedule will become increasingly important.

And according to the former Regulars at Capt Oliver's Salisbury-based TA unit, keeping an active hand in the military world after moving into civvy street has a lot of appeal.

Following a 24-year stint with the Royal Logistic Corps, WO2 Mark Gibbons (155 Tpt Regt) still wanted



to be part of the Army.

"At the age of 46 I wasn't ready to end my Service career and when I saw the quality and calibre of the Reserves I thought I'd like to be part of it," the regimental recruiting officer told *Soldier*.

"Those who aren't ready to give it up and want to continue training might be tempted.

"I do think it's a tall order to recruit the number of personnel the MoD is talking about but numbers should increase as many of those leaving rejoin as volunteers."

To ensure the Army Reserve acquires the increased manning levels it needs, a number of radical changes have been made to the enrolment process as well as the incentives offered to ex-Regulars.

For those enlisting within three years of their date of discharge, one option could earn them a sizeable amount of extra pay.

The commitment bonus (early years) is available to officers up to the rank of captain and is worth £5,000 before tax if they stay in the Army for four years.

The scheme has been put in place to encourage committed service and will see lump sums of £2,000 handed over to personnel when they join, followed by three yearly payments of £1,000 on completion of annual training.

Alternatively, Service leavers could opt for a reduced commitment, which requires them to attend 19 days of training per year to qualify for a bounty and gives commanding officers the discretion to reduce the requirements of military annual training tests.

Under the second option, ex-Regulars are not obliged to fulfil their call-out liability unless in circumstances of great emergency or imminent attack on the UK.

For LCpl Paul Hansford (R Wx Y), a former Royal Engineer, it made financial sense to make the switch.

"I missed a promotion in 2008 and had three-and-a-half years without a pay rise," said the 40-year-old.

"I wanted to start something new but didn't want to completely let the military side of life go.

"I left the Regular Army on December 11 last year and after some simple paperwork became a TA soldier on December 12.

"Now I work as an outdoor pursuits instructor as well as with the Reserve Forces.

"The way things have worked out is absolutely brilliant and I cannot fault the training or the system."

Capt Damien Thursby (R Wx Y), a

former officer with the Army Air Corps and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, was also pleasantly surprised by the ease at which he could start work as a Reservist.

"The process of joining was fairly painless – I just did a few interviews then had to wait for the final forms to come through," he said.

"If a guy has to wait six months it might put him off so if the admin side of things is made quicker it will improve recruitment."

The squadron 2iC explained that although most aspects of Service life are the same as when he was a full-time soldier, some elements have now changed.

"As an officer I don't have to motivate people as much because they have already decided to turn up for training," he said.

"Also, there are lots of opportunities to go on exercise with Regulars and that certainly wasn't the case even 12 months ago."

For ex-soldiers facing up to the reality of a nine-to-five job, the draw of an operational deployment is something they may not wish to ignore.

For both WO2 Gibbons and LCpl Hansford the prospect of serving in Helmand province – or wherever else the British Army might be operating in future – encouraged them to get back into soldiering.

"I have volunteered to go to Afghanistan this September so I'm working

on pre-deployment training while getting trade qualified," said the senior NCO.

"I never had the chance to get out on Herrick with the Regulars so this opportunity was great for me."

LCpl Hansford added: "I didn't go on tour during my full-time career because my eldest child suffers with cystic fibrosis but now, due to advances in science, I will be able to get out if the opportunity arises.

"Previously I wouldn't have been able to leave for six months at a time but now because of changes in medication I'll be able to deploy and that was a major reason for joining."

With an abundance of fit and capable personnel leaving the Regular Army and the door to the Reserves wide open, a part-time Force brimming with expertise and operational nous seems an increasingly likely vision. ■

**"I cannot fault the training or the system"**

**THE process for transferring from the Regular Army to the Reserves has been updated. It is now overseen by regimental career management officers and incorporates the National Recruiting Centre. For details read DIN 2013DIN01-095**



**"I didn't want to completely let the Army side of life go"**

LCpl Paul Hansford (R Wx Y)



**"There are lots of opportunities to go on exercise"**

Capt Damien Thursby (R Wx Y)



# ANY QUESTIONS?

**We asked what was niggling you about Reserves reform. Here, Deputy Commander Land Forces, Maj Gen Ranald Munro, offers some answers**



**WHY** is the retirement age for officers 60 when soldiers have to have a medical and apply for an extension after the age of 55? – Name and address supplied

"HISTORICALLY, the rationale behind this was that the kind of work soldiers were engaged in tended to be more robust and physical, while an officer's job after regimental duties was expected to be more desk-based. We are looking at this and a number of HR issues to establish whether we have the ages right or if we need to change them to reflect the Army Reserve of the future. There are many strands to this work, some of which move quite slowly but we are progressing them as vigorously as we can."

excellence. What we have ended up with is some movement but not that much in the greater scheme of things. Of course, there are examples when you get into the weeds where we've had to make tough decisions and weigh one against the other. I think what we've ended up with is a pragmatic solution and that might not always look tidy, but one of the things I've been delighted about is that pragmatism has been prioritised over dogma."

**SOLDIER** **SO** how will you support those affected by closures?

"TOGETHER with units and the Reserve Forces and Cadets Associations we are working out a transition plan for the people in areas where sites are being vacated. We're not just saying 'get on with it', we are absolutely trying to nurture them and guide them through the options available, whether that's rebadging and learning new skills or moving to another location, which should usually be within about 50 miles or an hour's travel. These people mean a lot to us and we want to keep them."

**TWITTER** **HAVING** been a Regular and in the TA, I don't think there's any way Reservists can compete with full-time soldiers unless they are ex-Regulars or put in excess of 90 man training days. @reggiecairns

in mind it is down to the rail operating companies to provide this benefit. I'm hopeful that as we get the message out to society that we are doing defence differently the train firms will recognise the value of Reservists and make the card available to them."

**TWITTER** **THE** recruitment partnering project (RPP) is really struggling to employ sufficient Regulars. Why will the Army Reserve be any different? @LincolnJopp

"THIS is a joint effort. The Army is responsible for monitoring its recruiting and supporting Capita [the contractor] in its endeavours. Like any new process there are going to be issues and both sides are trying to streamline the system together. When I speak to commanding officers I tell them they are personally accountable for the manning of their units because that's where it matters."

"THIS comment is, quite frankly, incorrect. More than 26,000 Reserves have deployed on operations in the last ten years. Clearly it is possible that across the whole range of cap badges and skill sets, these personnel can go on the most demanding and kinetic deployments and deliver."

**SOLDIER** **BUT** how are you going to bring the whole of the Army Reserve, not just those with recent operational experience, in line with Regulars?

"I THINK it's obvious that during steady state conditions Reserves will not be as broadly trained as the Regulars. But bear in mind most are at readiness and will not deploy in the first phases of an operation. Most won't be required until later so there is plenty of time to top up their training so that when we need them they can take their place alongside Regulars. We're making sure that soldiers, as with officers, are selected to the same standard – common selection, as it's called. We're also reintroducing starred weekends. These are days that the CO says are critical for delivery of capability – for example, you may have to do six out of nine starred weekends in a year."

**SOLDIER** **WHAT** do you think is the key to the success of the plan?

"IT has to be a cultural shift. I recognise that will take time but we've started the process. Soldiers are saying to me 'I'm up for this but please, set the conditions in society that will allow me to join the Reserves with confidence so that I know I won't be disadvantaged in the work place as a result' and that is what we need to address." ■

**WHY** closing certain locations, thereby forcing some Reservists into a long commute or to transfer into a totally different specialism, are you not risking losing a lot of good people? – Name and address supplied

"THE redesign and rebasing of the Army Reserve wasn't done in isolation and we sat down with a whole bunch of stakeholders. The criteria we looked at were things like where we can recruit from, pairing arrangements with Regular units, access to the training estate and the locations of industry areas of

**WHY** on man training days you are entitled to home to duty allowance (HTD) but why isn't this the same for additional duties contract days? – Name and address supplied

"HOME to duty is intended to compensate a soldier for the fact that they have limited control over where they are deployed. An additional duties contract is an employment contract; a part-time job, and if we did pay HTD this would be taxable, as it would be in civilian street. Again, this is part of the terms and conditions work that we are looking at."

**WHY** is it that the benefit of having a Forces rail card is not extended to Reserves? – Capt Chris Thomas, RA (V)

"THERE is a very good case to be made for extending it to the Reserve. But bear





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# Eastern promise

**Infantry soldiers boost battlefield skills in Jordan**

**Report: Sarah Goldthorpe  
Pictures: Graeme Main**

**S**TAGED in Jordan's expansive desert, Exercise Pashtun Links has an impressive track record in preparing Royal Engineers for the IED threat in southern Afghanistan.

But the package, which is run every six months, can also be a highly valuable experience for those working in support of the training as well as the sappers undertaking its scenarios.

Members of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers proved this recently when tasked with adding a high degree of realism to serials for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search Task Force.

The Cyprus-based unit, which is currently on standby to deploy to Afghanistan as the Theatre Reserve Battalion, made the most of the mission by undertaking some arduous live firing.

Maj Jim Bird, officer commanding A Company, explained how the landscape of Al Humayma in the south of the country had offered his men the high degree of realism required to test their weapons and tactics to the max.

"The reason we are here is to support the Royal Engineers but Jordan presented a fantastic opportunity for us," he said.

"Because of the space we can do things that we can't in Cyprus."

Around 100 personnel undertook various drills ahead of their main objective including section assaults and forward operating base clearance tasks by both day and night. >>





>> Deploying a plethora of assets, from 60mm mortars and heavy machine guns to the highly sought-after Javelin anti-tank weapon, troops tested the capability of their kit free from the space limitations of UK training areas or rules of engagement that dictate Herrick missions.

"The guys have really enjoyed it," Maj Bird added.

"One soldier said to me when he came off the ranges the other day that it was the best live firing he had ever done, and another that it was his favourite day in the Army to date."

Members of 2 RRF currently sit at 48 hours' notice to deploy.

And although many of its young troops have not yet completed a Herrick tour, reception, staging and onward integration training keeps them focused on Afghanistan.

For that reason alone, an exercise looking beyond the warfare of Helmand province was welcomed.

"This is the first time we have done conventional warfare training in a long time," Fus Colin Ross told *Soldier* during

a section attack.

"I love it; this is what we joined for. "There's lots of points for us to work on but it was definitely worth coming.

"It gets us away from day-to-day barrack stuff."

Cpl Scott Ferguson agreed that the experience had helped personnel to picture contingency operations in other areas of the world.

"This is about going back to how we used to operate before," he said.

"To return to that way of life is very important because we don't know what kind of a deployment is coming our way next.

"The ground here is the biggest killer. Every time you take a step it moves from under your feet. If you're advancing fast that makes it very, very hard.

"Going through a section attack was challenging and not enjoyable but afterwards you come back, have a laugh about it and get a good sense of

satisfaction from the task."

Seven years ago A Company fought the longest defensive battle that British troops have been involved in since the Korean War.

They spent 107 days in contact with the Taliban in the town of Now Zad, Helmand province.

As Army 2020 changes take effect, this formation will surely be looking back at such history with pride.

Within the next year the battalion will be disbanded and its troops moved into sister formation 1 RRF or another cap badge.

In the meantime, officers are keen to ensure that this upheaval does not detract

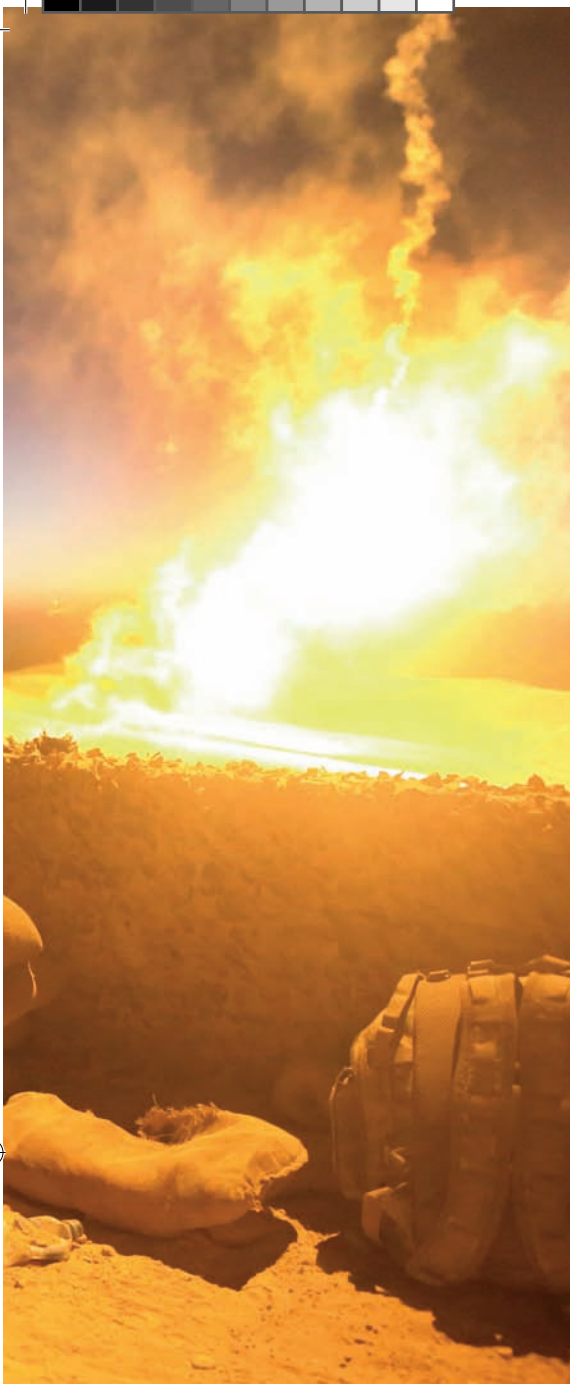
from the soldiers' core business of fearless war fighting.

"We have a lot of new lads in this company who haven't done a tour before and this exercise is an experience they can take away," said company sergeant major WO2 John McCowd.

"Jordan is a commander's dream

**"Because of the space we can do things that we can't in Cyprus"**





**Left, Bright lights:**  
Fusiliers put their various weapons to the test in the Jordanian desert, free from the space constraints of UK live-firing exercises



**Left and below, Sharp in the dark:**  
Night serials tested the soldiers' ability to defend a forward operating base with restricted visibility

because there are fewer restrictions in place in terms of arcs of fire.

"In the UK we have built-up areas and civilians but here there is nothing like that.

"It's like a tiny operational tour and that's what the guys have said.

"To some extent an exercise is an exercise in the UK and the troops know that; they are not stupid.

"But here you can see it is a foreign landscape, and the sort of environment they are likely to be operating in."

Whether these men remain Fusiliers or not, their determination to be the best Infantry soldiers that they can remains consistent.

To that end, such detailed training on a plethora of weapons will serve the Army of the future well.

"Jordan provides a fantastic opportunity," added commanding officer Lt Col Jim Taylor.

"Our soldiers must have strong basic soldiering skills in order to apply them in any situation and being really good infantrymen will be the building block to anything we do in future." ■





## Fusiliers in focus

### Scenes from the live-firing serial...

**1.** The Fusiliers' Fire Support Group operated heavy machine guns, which have an effective range of up to two kilometres

**2.** Soldiers defend a simulated forward operating base using a variety of assets, including the general-purpose machine gun

**3.** For many, working with 60mm mortars was a highlight of the overseas training serial

**4.** Highly realistic night-time section attacks tested snipers' skills

**5.** Underslung grenade launchers were deployed during the desert scenario

**6.** Witnessing the use of the Javelin surface-to-air missile was a first for some personnel



**'Jordan is a commander's dream because there are fewer restrictions in place in terms of arcs of fire'**



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## PART-TIME PARAS TAKE TO THE SKIES OF NORTH CAROLINA

Report: Becky Clark  
Pictures: Steve Dock

**W**ITH Reservists already enjoying increased funding and training opportunities under Army 2020 restructuring, volunteer paratroopers have been getting valuable airtime stateside.

Members of 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, 299 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers and 144 Parachute Medical Squadron travelled to Fort Bragg to take part in Exercise Black Warrior – a two-week serial that included a number of firsts for the British soldiers.

Working alongside their counterparts from the US Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command the visitors completed jumps from unfamiliar aircraft and were introduced to the very latest battlefield triage techniques.

With opportunities to parachute in the UK limited, the primary aim of the exercise was to allow the Reservists to build jump experience and gain their coveted American wings.

The airframe used was the distinctive UH-60 Blackhawk.

"I hadn't done a helicopter jump before and doing it from a Blackhawk was pretty ally," said Pte Louis Anderson (4 Para).

"It's different; you're not in a queue waiting to jump – you're looking down with your feet dangling out, which definitely increases the anxiety but it's certainly worth it."

Lt Tom Jones (4 Para) described the additional considerations when jumping from a rotary wing aircraft.

"The main difference is the altitude," said the 22-year-old software engineer.

"You jump a lot higher with a helicopter because you're going slower and so you have a longer opening time for the canopy; six seconds compared to three or four in a fixed wing craft."

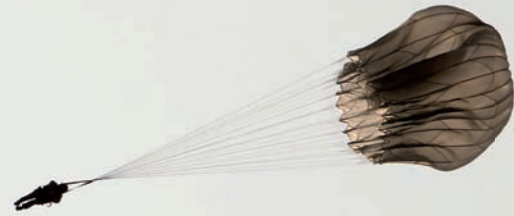
"Because it's very hot here at the moment there were a lot of thermal draughts, so you fall a lot more slowly as well."

"The other thing is there's a lot of air around you. In a plane you're sealed away in a bubble so you get that sudden shock when the doors open."

"In a helicopter you just slide away and you don't get hit by the same airflow."







To create added realism, one jump was followed by a patrol serial to mimic an insertion.

"For the scenario we had to patrol out in eight-man teams," explained Cpl Adrian Howe (RE (V)), a Wakefield-based civil servant.

"We came under contact from the enemy, suppressed the fire and took a casualty. We got them on a stretcher and carried them out to a simulated evacuation point.

"Working more with the Americans gives us a chance to familiarise ourselves with how they do things and brings us more into line."

Another key aspect of the training was its cutting edge medical package.

"It was pretty advanced stuff," said Capt Tom McInnes (RAMC (V)).

"The Americans showed us the different types of tourniquet they use, such as the combat ready clamp, which is a bit like a piece of Meccano, and a ranger clamp, which is a ratchet-like mechanism.

"It's stuff I've never seen before.

"They also use a mannequin that is much more advanced than anything we have in the UK.

"It had both legs amputated, bled realistically and had bone sticking out of the wound.

"The training value was tremendous and I don't say that lightly – the guys got a lot from it."

A new addition to the exercise this year was close quarters unarmed combat training.

US instructor Sgt Michael May explained what the troops would gain from learning the fundamentals of martial arts.

"I think it brings out the flight or fight instinct and really gives you confidence to close with the enemy," said the 24-year-old.

"It's a whole different skill set. You learn not to be scared to get hit.

"The first guy to bring a gun to a fight always wins but the combatives programme teaches you head to toe how to react so you have that assurance going into a scenario."

Capt Alistair Stewart, second in command of A Company, 4 Para said the interaction with Americans was one of the key benefits of Black Warrior.

"We're two countries united by a common language and it always comes up in training that both sides do things with a slightly different spin on them.

"It's good to identify that now to avoid a cultural clash later when it's a more critical situation.

"It's about establishing relationships, which let you work together more effectively when it matters."

Having served in the TA for 30 years, the former hotel manager was clear on the benefits of foreign exchanges for recruitment and retention purposes in the new-look Reserve Force.

"It's exciting for the guys to come here, especially the young ones out of training," he added.

"For some it's their first time parachuting abroad.

"The Americans always host us so well. We've made time for a battlefield tour and we've done some recreational shooting on a private range with vintage weapons.

"Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as well as getting some really good training in." >>



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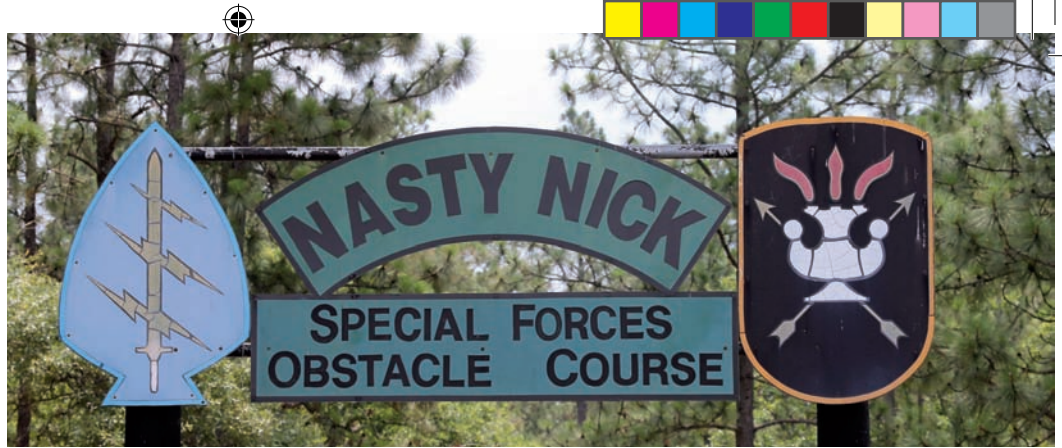
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## 'Nasty Nick'

### Getting to grips with the Green Beret assault course

A FIRM fixture on Exercise Black Warrior is the chance for participants to pit their skills and nerves against the infamous US Special Forces obstacle course. *Soldier* spoke to troops about negotiating 'Nasty Nick'...



● "THERE'S a big *Full Metal Jacket* style fence that's about 60 feet high and a couple of other tricky bits. In one place you have to go up a rope, onto a horizontal log and then another log that slopes downwards towards a ladder. You stand up, walk across it and go down another rope – that's difficult. It's very tiring on your upper body."

We don't really do enough of that in the British Army – our training is more about cardio and our legs."

– Pte Oliver Hayes (4 Para)



● "THE course is really interesting and more challenging than what we normally do."

There's a tunnel system that you have to crawl through and climb out of but you usually find there's two or three of you in there and it gets clogged up so you're stuck in the pitch black, waiting to see the exit.

Getting into any enclosed space in the dark always makes you apprehensive.

It's good to think you're following in the footsteps of the people doing all the 'sneaky beaky' stuff in the US Army and that they've gone through the same hell."

– Pte Stephen Kelly (4 Para)



● "THIS is one of the toughest obstacle courses the American military has to offer; it is where the army breeds its special forces."

Soldiers have to go through it in order to earn the glorious green beret.

There are more than 30 obstacles but no one knows exactly how long it is or what the fastest time is because that's kept a secret.

There are quite a few rope obstacles, which is challenging because a lot of people don't have enough strength to climb one more than once.

It's designed to test every part of your body but especially your mental toughness, to see if you have the tenacity to continue."

– SFC Patrick Smith (US instructor)



## American Wings

BLACK Warrior allows participants to earn their American jump wings, which troops can wear on their combat uniform above the right breast pocket.

"It's definitely good to get your American wings," said Pte Louis Anderson.

"I was in 3 Para before I joined the Reserves and it's hard to get them as a Regular because you don't get as many opportunities to jump with foreign armies."

# 1,500

height, in feet, that personnel jump from when exiting a helicopter

# 95

the average temperature in Fahrenheit at Fort Bragg

# 60

percentage humidity level in the local climate

the number of airborne Reservists on Exercise Black Warrior

# 49



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DEPRESSION is a real illness with real effects on work, social and family life. People who are suffering with the condition may lose interest in things they used to enjoy. If you have been having feelings of extreme sadness contact your GP. Treatment usually involves a combination of self help, talking therapies and medication. Depression is more common in women but men are far more likely to commit suicide. This may be because men are more reluctant to seek help.

**Top tip** – If you need support, contact your chain of command, unit medical officer, welfare officer or chaplain.

## FEELING DEPRESSED

# 5 HEALTH SYMPTOMS MEN SHOULDN'T IGNORE

BRITISH males are paying the price for neglecting their health; more than 100,000 die prematurely each year. Here are five signs that Service personnel should act on today

## A LUMP ON YOUR BALLS

TESTICULAR cancer is most common in men aged 20 to 35. Nearly 2,000 males are diagnosed with the disease each year in the UK, so regular self-examination is vital. If you notice an abnormality see your GP. Most testicular lumps are not cancerous but it is essential to have them checked as treatment for the illness is far more effective if diagnosed early.

**Top tip** – Visit [www.checkemlads.com](http://www.checkemlads.com) to find out how to examine yourself properly.

READ all about the Army's ongoing men's health campaign on the intranet and Armynet.

**CHECK** your moles regularly and be aware of any change in colour or shape or if they start bleeding. Most alterations are harmless and due to a non-cancerous increase of pigment cells in the skin. But see your GP if a mole looks unusual or becomes itchy. It can be checked and removed if necessary.

**Top tip** – To minimise your risk of skin cancer, avoid exposure to the sun between 1100 and 1500. Cover up and use sunscreen that is at least factor 15.

## MOLES

MOST men have problems getting or keeping an erection at some point in their lives. See your GP if the issue lasts for several weeks; they are likely to assess your general health because impotence, also known as erectile dysfunction, can be a sign of more serious conditions such as heart disease, diabetes or high blood pressure. Some people are given medication such as sildenafil (also known as Viagra).

**Top tip** – Lifestyle changes such as losing weight and exercise can usually correct this problem.

## IMPOTENCE

WHEN the prostate is enlarged it can press on the tube that carries urine from the bladder. This can make it hard to pass urine, which can be a sign of prostate cancer, the most common form of the disease in men in the UK. More than 30,000 men are diagnosed with this every year. Other symptoms include pain or burning when you pass urine and frequently waking up in the night to pee. If you are experiencing any of these see your GP.

**Top tip** – Many men's prostates get larger as they get older due to a non-cancerous condition known as prostate enlargement or benign prostatic hyperplasia.

## TROUBLE URINATING

Picture: Graeme Mann



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# TALKBACK

YOUR letters provide an insight into the issues at the top of soldiers' agendas... but please be brief. Emails (mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk) must include your name and location (although we won't publish them if you ask us not to). We reserve the right to accept or reject letters, and to edit for length, clarity or style. Before you write to us with a problem, you should first have tried to get an answer via your own chain of command.

## Gripe over Glasgow centre

**T**HE Army Personnel Centre (APC), based in Glasgow, is inconveniently located for the majority of soldiers and exceptionally costly to maintain.

As the Army endures huge cuts surely it can no longer be acceptable to continue using money in such an inefficient way?

For most Servicemen and women the centre is a flight away and may require an overnight stay in a hotel due to the lack of any messes.

The high number of troops serving there unaccompanied (many families opting to avoid the accommodation provided in Paisley) also require privately rented flats.

The time must have come for the APC to relocate to an area that is more convenient for most of our personnel.

They deserve somewhere easier to access, while the cost is no longer justifiable. – Name and address supplied.

**Liz Harrison, Army Personnel Centre, Civil Secretary, replies:** Since its formation in 1996, the APC has delivered effective career management of the whole British Army during peacetime and several operational conflicts.

Key to this success has been the continuity and corporate knowledge of its high-calibre civilian staff, along with a smaller military team whose experience brings vital currency.

Glasgow was selected as the best option for this facility following a comprehensive feasibility report, the Roberts Study.

Subsequent reviews, including the Grimstone Study as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review and Defence Reform, have endorsed the value for money that the Glasgow location and workforce delivers.

## TUCKED UP BY RAF UNIFORM RULES?

**I** WOULD like some clarification on how the standard issue personal clothing system (PCS) items should be worn.

We do not normally wear them tucked in. However I am currently serving at a Royal Air Force station where we have been told to tuck the garments in.

None of my colleagues seem to know what is correct so can you provide some clear direction on this issue for us please? – Name and address supplied.

**Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, responds:** The current RAF policy allows the PCS combat uniform jacket to be worn tucked into the trousers with the sleeves rolled up in appropriate situations.

Army personnel permanently assigned to an appointment within a wholly RAF environment may conform to these rules and regulations with the authority of the senior RAF representative.

This only applies to combat uniform and Service personnel should continue to wear regimental and corps parade clothing according to their own dress regulations.

## Last post for British military?

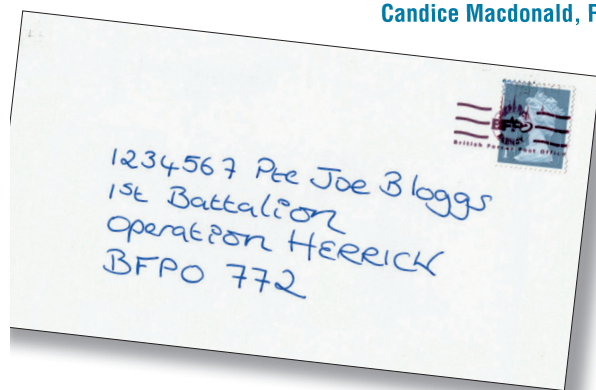
FOLLOWING the recent reply which explained the entitlements for British Forces Post Office services ("Postal deliveries hit the rocks in Falkland Islands", July) and the announcement last month about the privatisation of Royal Mail, can somebody provide assurances that these facilities will continue once these changes have happened? – Charlie Rigg, JHQ.

**Candice Macdonald, Royal Mail Group, replies:** Royal Mail is very proud to deliver a no-charge service to our Armed Forces undertaking operations, and that's something we will continue to provide.

Free post to the Services does not depend on the organisation remaining in public ownership.

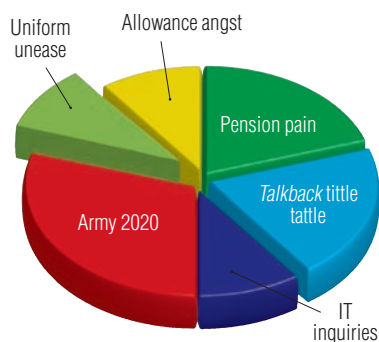
The Ministry of Defence fully reimburses Royal Mail for the provision of the facility and any change to this important operation would be a government decision, whether it remains under public ownership or becomes part of the private sector.

**Roll up:** The RAF has its own rules on how troops should dress



## Slice of Service life

This month's ruminations from the ranks...



## PEDANT'S CORNER

**CAN** you please do something about the excessive use of the word "platform" in *Soldier* when describing vehicles, aircraft or tanks?

I find it very irritating, and I'm sure I am not the only reader to say so.

They are exactly that; vehicles, aircraft and ships.

Please call military hardware by their proper name. – James Jeans, Sydney, Australia.

**The editor replies:** Thanks for your letter – it's my pleasure to have been able to give you this platform.







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## TALKBACK

### 'Cotton on to combat uniform'

**T**HE vast majority of very senior officers photographed in *Soldier* are clad in the interim multi-terrain pattern Combat 95-style shirts and trousers that, in my opinion, are vastly more comfortable than the standard-issue personal clothing system (PCS).

Is this leadership sending a covert message to the integrated product team?

Many new pieces of equipment go through a period of initial teething problems but PCS appears to have been designed with little thought to operations.

For a start, it is not conducive to movement because it's far too heavy.

The material also has a high synthetic content that makes breathability poor.

A particular bugbear of mine is the combat smock. Although it is fitted with good features such as pit zips and sleeve pockets, it is too heavy.

When wet, the fleece-lined hand-warmer pockets soak up water and can remain damp for prolonged periods.

Also, the sleeve pockets are fitted too low down the arm and, as a result, flap about and catch on things when loaded.

If they were raised to the upper sleeve or shoulder area they would move less and still be accessible even when wearing body armour.

They could be improved further by positioning them in line with the sleeve rather than at an angle and having a vertical access zip.

This would make them even more accessible and less likely to catch on kit.

It would also counter the non-stealth effect of Velcro.

I am fortunate enough to have been issued with a smock constructed of high content cotton material, which dries quickly and is lightweight.

I have no doubt that it must cost more to produce and is less durable than the PCS smock, but it is ideal for those people who are required to operate in hot and humid conditions.

Can this be made more widely available or, failing that, can soldiers who value effective field kit privately purchase it? – [Name and address supplied](#).

**Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, responds:** PCS combat uniform was designed with great care, taking into account feedback from Service personnel who had served in Iraq and southern Afghanistan.

It was manufactured for operations without compromise, for everyday wear in barracks and was extensively tested prior to its introduction.

As with all equipment, its design will evolve based on comments from users.

Your input is very helpful and has been passed to the design team in Abbey Wood, where it will be added to the many other insights and opinions already received.

The range of items that make up the temperate combat uniform have been designed for wear by members of all Services across a wide spectrum of climatic conditions.

Garments are issued to those personnel who require them with no need for private purchase.

### PENSION AGE ANNOYANCE

■ WHY doesn't your pension start from the day you join the Army, regardless of being under or over 18?

I was an Army Foundation College junior soldier and obviously didn't query the pension start date at that very young age, but if you're using live ammo and conducting marches then surely you are putting yourself at risk?

This period should also count towards someone's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, which I believe has been reduced to starting at 17-and-a-half.

It feels a little like the system of employing junior soldiers is unfair as you're in the Forces but yet pension and service medal days don't start for another year or so. – [Name and address supplied](#).

**Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), responds:** When Armed Forces pension scheme (AFPS) 75 was introduced this age was deemed to be primarily about training.

This somewhat outdated view was recognised as no longer being appropriate so under the AFPS 05, introduced in 2005, reckonable service starts from the first day of pay.

For many who took the offer to transfer from the aforementioned scheme, inclusion of junior service was a big factor.

The new pension due in 2015 will also recognise all paid service.

**Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, adds:** There are many examples of soldiers under 17-and-a-half who commit offences through youthful exuberance that warrant an entry on their disciplinary records.

This would preclude them from receiving the medal later so 17-and-a-half is considered a sufficiently mature age at which to start service towards the award.

## Disquiet over Serviceman's bar from bounty

I HAVE been a member of the Army Reserve for almost four years.

In this time I have attended training with three different units and completed an operational tour.

During the last year I have transferred to a new formation due to relocation.

I have now been advised that we must attend six weekends where we have to stay in our barracks overnight or we will not qualify for our bounty.

We are not allowed to stay at home on the Saturday evening and return on Sunday morning. At previous units this has not been the case.

Having read the Territorial Army regulations and been advised that there is no DIN to supplement them, I can find no wording to suggest that you have to complete six residential weekends to qualify for your bounty.

I appreciate that if the training is at another location, or at a field weekend, then sleeping at home is not an option.

The regulations state that we should

complete 12 training days, made up of weekends, including nights, in addition to an annual camp and the completion of military annual training tests.

This is stated in chapter two, part two, sections 2.032-2.034.

Are overnight stays implemented only at a company level or at a commanding officer's discretion, and can they be enforced? – [Name and address supplied](#).

**Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), replies:** The paragraph you quote states "weekends", which does not make Saturday and Sunday separate training days.

Unit COs determine their own programmes against mandated outputs and plan accordingly, and you are usually expected to work through the weekend in order for the sessions to be efficiently run and effective guidance to be delivered.

Staying in the TA centre allows some training to continue into the evening and to recommence early the next morning.



The lessons may be more effectively delivered in the centre than in the field or at a camp – particularly for classroom or IT-based development – or gatherings designed to enhance unit cohesiveness.

Occasionally, there may be exceptions for domestic or welfare purposes.

The CO may give permission for the weekend to be split for individuals who apply in good time.

However, soldiers are paid only for the day they actually attend and have to make up the time they miss in order to qualify for their bounty.



# 'We must use our heads'

**I** AM currently serving on Op Herrick 18 and want to know why we get issued certain types of equipment that we are not allowed to wear – for example, floppy hats and Combat 95 multi-terrain pattern uniform (MTP)?

Why is a floppy hat issued and what is it designed for?

Instead, we have to don warm berets that absorb the heat and thick MTP Personal Clothing System (PCS) combat uniform.

The temperature here is now in the forties and I can understand why Service personnel are suffering with the heat.

Some common sense should be applied. – Name and address supplied.

**Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, replies:** Units are issued with a range of clothing so that individuals can operate under varying conditions.

Combat Soldier 95 MTP was a bridging measure between woodland Combat Soldier 95 and PCS combat uniform.

What your unit chooses to wear is a matter for your local chain of command.

**Kit question mark:** These troops have flexible rules on headwear but the chain of command has the final say

Picture: Steve Dock

## Is Batus the exception to the rule?

DRAFTED in for the summer season to help with range safety during the exercising period, I am currently serving at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (Batus) as temporary deployed staff.

On speaking to the administration office here about relocation leave and claiming the ten days permitted, we were told that we are not entitled to it.

I went out and found the relevant paragraph in the joint Service publication (JSP) which states we can indeed claim but we were told we couldn't as Batus does not work from JSPs.

Forgive me if I am wrong, but I thought all British Army establishments worked from this system. Or is this Batus yet again making up its own rules as they go along?

– Name and address supplied.

**Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), replies:** Firstly, the regulations laid down in JSP 760 *The Tri-Service Regulations for Leave and Other Types of Absences* apply to all three Services.

You are correct that it relates equally to Batus as it does to all Army units and regulations include those serving permanently or temporarily with Batus.

Regarding relocation leave, this is granted to individuals in receipt of an assignment order who, as a result of the new tasking, are required to change Service family, single living or substitute

equivalent accommodation.

Relocation leave is intended to facilitate the settling-in/relocation process for them and for their dependants.

In your case, you are not being reassigned but the commanding officer of your parent unit has the power to grant you up to five days' stand-down when you return from Canada.



Relocation, relocation, relocation: Service personnel at Batus can be granted a short stand-down

Picture: Graeme Main





## TALKBACK

### DIGITAL DOSSIER THIS MONTH'S ELITE TWEETS

#### #SUPREME COURT (P 11)

@cbcn\_Pilid

By ruling that soldiers can sue the MoD for wartime deaths, UKSC has opened a Pandora's box.

@BeattieDoug

I get their pain but come on – it was war. Are we going to see claims for Falklands, NI, Bosnia, Afghan now?

#### #TFL (P 15)

@George\_Barff

#TFL #underground can you please inform all your staff that soldiers travel for free in uniform. Fed up of explaining myself to them.

@SysReboot

UK soldiers given free travel by #TFL as a perk. I say any military personnel should get free travel anywhere in UK all the time.

#### #RESERVES (P 24-29)

@Tweetingbanksy

Corporate Covenant will give guidelines for companies to support Reservists. Something that will be vital if FR 20 is to be a success.

@BandQ

We're delighted to announce that we have been given an award for our continued pledge to support Reservists within our organisation!

#### #FAST LANE (P 78-79)

@WantageMayor

At opening of Mission Motorsport's racing car workshop in East Challow. Great idea for rehabilitating injured Servicemen.

#HelpforHeroes

@GrierMartin

Mission Motorsport is doing some great things for wounded warriors here. It is a joy to see.

#### #AFF (P 57)

@KayBurley

Campaign for priority boarding for Armed Services gathering pace with support of Army Families Federation. Up to ministers to lobby airlines!

#### VETERANS

@WRFCA

It's the end of an era for Bob Nicholls who served with the #TerritorialArmy for 43 yrs after joining at 17 years old.

@soldiermagazine

## 'Getting hands on kit is key'

AS a member of the Reserves, I find the current climate very frustrating.

I am a class two warrant officer involved in squadron operations, working very closely with permanent staff instructors, and we are given dates to carry out training throughout the year.

We achieve this with support from our regiment and outside agencies.

On a number of occasions we have been asked to carry out trade drills (petroleum operations, refuelling aircraft) at different locations, only to be informed that we couldn't work at weekends.

On one instance, we had an airframe booked to fly us to a training area.

This was all confirmed but then it came to light that the exercise was due to start on a Friday afternoon, so it was cancelled.

I can understand that if a site is managed by civilians it costs extra money to get them to come in to work but what does this say about the future of the young men and women who join the Army Reserve?

I know that change is in the air, so how do we go forward training properly for our tasks if we're not allowed on operations?

You can't beat getting your hands on the equipment. – Neil Cartwright.

**Col Adrian Walton, AD Reserves, Directorate of Training (Army), replies:** The current focus on Op Herrick has driven training resources rightly in that direction and both Regular and Reserve users have had to trim their activity.

However, moving forward with



Picture: Steve Dock

the enhanced and more integrated Reserve (page 7), the core role training opportunities you describe will be more readily available, with some joint Regular/ Reserve activity and with an overall increase in man training days.

This change in emphasis needs to be supported by all agencies, not just those in uniform, and some alterations required will take time as existing contractual arrangements may need to adjust.

Future training will be challenging, rewarding and, above all, produce a volunteer capability in direct support to Regular activity.

This will be a real attraction for those considering serving in the Army Reserve.

## Instructors frozen out

WORK for several weeks each year, usually up to four in a row, as an adventure training (AT) ski instructor in Austria, Germany and France.

I am in the Territorial Army and have been unable to obtain either the local overseas allowance (LOA) or longer separation payment (LSA) at any time.

I cannot get any clear indication as to what I am entitled to.

When discussing matters with Regulars with whom I work, I find that they receive both allowances and the soldiers attending the training usually get LSA. However, my fellow instructors in the TA receive neither.

Would someone please clarify the situation? Any answer might encourage more Reservists to support the expeditions, which often struggle to get instructors. – Name and address supplied.

**Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), replies:** The eligibility rules for LSA and LOA while on AT are laid down in JSP 752 Tri-Service Regulations for Allowances.

Personnel are not entitled to LSA while conducting adventure training unless they



Picture: Steve Dock

are enablers (instructors, drivers, chefs) whose attendance is solely to facilitate the activity and without whom it could not take place.

If you are an instructor then you fit into this category and will be entitled to LSA providing you meet all the additional eligibility criteria.

LOA contributes towards the extra costs of day-to-day living when personnel are required to serve overseas.

There are circumstances where UK-based troops can claim temporary rates of this payment when abroad, but adventure training is excluded.

● More TA questions put to the top – page 33



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## TALKBACK

# Gut-wrenching decision

**W**HILE I understand that the Army must reduce in size, I find it hard to comprehend why they feel the need to discharge physically fit individuals.

Last year I was pre-selected for promotion to the rank of warrant officer.

At the same time I was diagnosed with having coeliac disease; a dietary issue that requires an individual to maintain a gluten-free diet.

I did not think that this would be a major issue and continued with my military career as normal, passing all mandatory annual tests and continuing to perform to the standard that was expected of me.

However, after a consultation with an occupational health board, they gave me a grade of medically non-deployable (permanent).

This brought my career to a standstill and I was de-selected for promotion.

Am I the only serving member within the Army that has dietary requirements?

If not, then surely others with this condition or similar problems should watch out.

It is common knowledge that soldiers and officers deploy and are catered for on operations with this particular condition.

I have now resigned myself to the fact that I must leave the Army but the MoD should take a good look at its personnel and review the careers of all ranks that have spent their time coasting along, unfit and unable to pass mandatory tests, or others that have more serious medical conditions, before kicking out physically fit individuals who can still commit to full and active service. — Name and address supplied.

**Lt Col Brandon Wellard, DM(A), responds:** The purpose of the PAP 10 process is not to reduce the size of the Army but to manage the medical administration of Service personnel in order to maximise operational effectiveness.

The policy is that all those who are medically unfit for military service will be discharged but it may retain those seriously injured, if they wish to stay, for as long as there is a worthwhile role or it is judged to be in the interest of the individual and the Service.

As a result of your joint medical employment standard (JMES), which you state as medically non-deployable (permanent), you are below the minimum medical retention level and your CO must decide whether to apply for you to stay or for your transfer or discharge as part of the “restricted employment in current unit” process. PAP 10, chapter ten provides full details.

With regards to coeliac disease, JSP 950 directs that grading should be dependent upon the ability to maintain a gluten-free diet in deployed operations.

In these environments it is difficult to guarantee the absence of gluten in the food supply and coeliac sufferers can suffer severe abdominal complications.

Deployed commanders will not routinely accept this risk and therefore the Service enforces the appropriate JMES to support its duty of care for the individual.

You identified other cases where soldiers and officers continue to serve with dietary requirements.

Where this does not impact upon an individual's ability to operate, the Army will try to provide employment opportunities for them.

If that is not feasible, the difficult decision to discharge the Serviceman or woman will be taken.

You can appeal against medical and/or employment decisions.

Details can be found in PAP 10.

## THE JOY OF iOS 6

**■** BACK in November it was reported by various IT news organisations that the Communications-Electronics Security Group (CESG) had published documents on how iOS 6 (the latest operating system for iPhones, iPads and iPods) can be used to carry information at a restricted level.

However, it is worth noting that the Royal Artillery has been using the iPad since 2010 to help its personnel learn how to handle fire missions.

Other unclassified apps have also been developed and are now available on the Defence Gateway.

The benefits of creating an app can be numerous. You could, for example, contain all the pamphlets needed to run a range package on a single device, while officers and warrant officers might be able to readily access doctrine and Army Knowledge Exchange (AKX) updates.

What are the plans, if any, to create an app that feeds from the AKX and Army Battle Box onto these devices? — Lt P Roberts, R Signals.

**Joe Buchanunn, Army Media & Comm, SO1 Digital, responds:** The CESG security procedure document refers to the ability of iOS 6 to handle restricted emails (up to impact level three).

It doesn't cover documents that aren't emails and it doesn't apply to just any iPhone or iPad that you can buy yourself.

It refers to “an enterprise deployment (...) of recommended network architecture, including carrier components, as well as recommended provisioning, configuration and management of the iOS devices”.

Various Army staff, including information security experts, are involved in local trials of restricted content delivery involving different mobile devices.

This is in preparation for when CESG approve these devices to hold restricted documents.

When this does happen, a suitable system will be in place for users to obtain approved content, and policy and guidance published.

## ‘Mess kit grant is not uniform’

I WRITE in response to the “New mess dress allowance” article in your April issue.

It was a shock to read that personnel having to transfer to a new corps or regiment due to Army 2020 restructuring would be permitted to claim the transfer grant for garments.

As a serving Rifles officer, I had to pay £2,000 out of my own pocket for new mess kit when my regiment formed. Was I not also told by the Army to change regiments?

Like most of my colleagues, I was flabbergasted to find out that we would have to pay for our new uniforms.

This has left a bitter pill in the mouths of many serving officers as this allowance reeks of double standards and unfairness.

I wholly support the grant because it is the right thing to do, but it has opened some old wounds that, in my opinion, need addressing by the Army. — Maj S Pengilly, 2 RGR.

**Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, replies:** The enduring policy on transfers is that individuals must purchase new items of

regimental dress.

We each get an annual uniform maintenance allowance, worth around £250 a year to officers.

Multiply £250 by the years you have served to see just how valuable this is.

It was recognised that what happened during the future Infantry structure changes, where people were given up to five years' grace to acquire new uniform, was not the best way to build unit cohesion.

So for directed transfers as part of Army 2020, troops will receive a one-off grant to purchase their new regimental dress.

We can't change the past, but we can make life better today.







## CAREERS

**The CTP Online Careers Fair** taking place between July 30 and August 6 will be the largest military recruitment event in the UK, helping those planning to leave the Services to find new positions within the civilian job market. Further information about the Online Careers Fair can be found at [www.ctp.org.uk/employers/onlinecareersfair](http://www.ctp.org.uk/employers/onlinecareersfair)

**London Transition Fair** will be held on September 26 from 1000 to 1300 at RMR Barracks Wandsworth. It's open to all serving and former soldiers and their families who are considering living and working in London. There will be more than 50 stands, including local and national employers. Advice will be available on education, employment, health, housing and welfare. For more information on the event contact [Londist-S02Transition@mod.uk](mailto:Londist-S02Transition@mod.uk)

**Just Resources** provides a transition course 'Heightened Readiness for Resettlement', an intensive three days of training with the goal of helping participants gain confidence and plan their future after leaving the Armed Forces. Register now for programmes starting in September. For more course and pricing information call 0208 567 4040 or email [course.admin@justresources.com](mailto:course.admin@justresources.com)

**ANAtch** is a group of ex-Service personnel and related individuals that assists those who have served in the Armed Forces in their bid to find employment in industry. ANAtch's understanding of both the military and this sector has helped many soldiers find fitting careers post service. For more information visit [www.anatech.co.uk](http://www.anatech.co.uk)



## COMPETITIONS

**Spine line winners:** Thomas Parrot, Ipswich (Happy Mondays tickets); Phil Dunne, Nantwich (Travis tickets).

**Flight from Saddam:** Cpl S Haggerty, BFPO 16; CPO I McCallum, DE&S, Yeovil; WO2 D Chamberlain, Bovington, Dorset.

**The Great Escape DVD:** CPO D Rackliff, SKPT, Yeovil; D Woolmer, Whitehaven, Cumbria; Jayne Hawkes, HQ Hereford Garrison; Capt M Claxton, 10 Sig Regt, MoD Corsham; Ian Yates, Clitheroe, Lancashire.

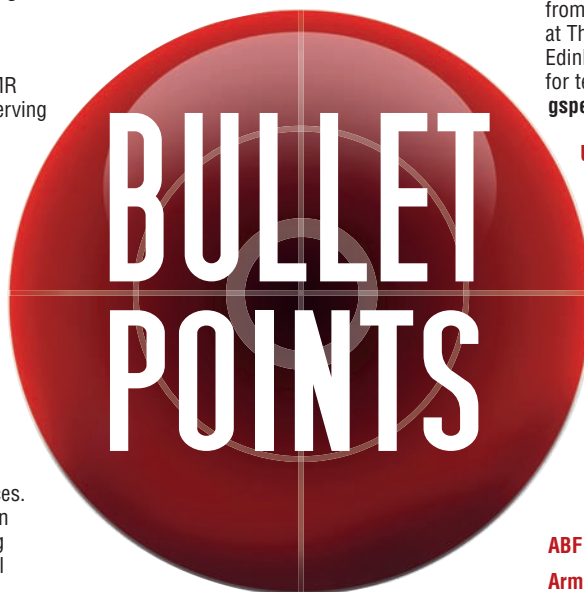
**Zero Dark Thirty:** Sgt M Aplin, 230 Sig Sqn, BFPO 35; Keith Chapman, Knightswood, Glasgow; Angela Neilson, HQ 145(S) Bde, Aldershot; Jennifer Barnes, Rochester, Kent; Cheryl Bolla, Army HQ, Andover.



## DIARY

**August 3-5: The Field Gun Pull.** A team of 25 tri-Servicemen will be pulling a 1,800-pound

field gun and carriage between HMS *Victory*, Portsmouth and the Lord Nelson pub, Poole Quay – a distance of more than 80 miles – to raise money for The Royal British Legion, the Royal Marines charity and the Julia's House Children's Hospice. Anyone wishing to donate can visit the following websites: [www.bmycharity.com/fieldgunpull2013](http://www.bmycharity.com/fieldgunpull2013) (RBL); [www.bmycharity.com/gunpull2013](http://www.bmycharity.com/gunpull2013) (RM); [mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/fieldgunpull2013](http://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/fieldgunpull2013) (Julia's House).



**August 28-30: The Walled City Tattoo Ebrington Square, Derry-Londonderry.** Part of the UK City of Culture 2013, the event will combine the pomp, ceremony and grandeur of traditional tattoo events with a special Derry-Londonderry twist, with music, song, theatre and dance coming together in an evening inspired by the rich heritage of the city. Further information from [www.walledcitytattoo.com](http://www.walledcitytattoo.com)

**August 30-September 1: Banger Rally – The Cosmopolitan Classic.** Le Mans, Paris, The Alps, Monte Carlo, Nice – get a team and join three days of madness across Europe. For further details on this motoring challenge visit [www.boombangerrally.co.uk](http://www.boombangerrally.co.uk)

**August 31: IG HAC 105 polo.** The HAC, the British Army's surveillance and target acquisition regiment, will be holding its annual flagship polo event at Ham Polo Club, Richmond, London. The day will include matches with the Hackett Army, RAF and Army Reserve teams and a variety of military displays. Tickets from £10. Gates open 1100. To find out more visit [www.hacpolo.co.uk](http://www.hacpolo.co.uk)

**September 11: Golf day in aid of ABF The Soldiers' Charity.** Linden Hall Golf Club. Providing the opportunity for civilian golfers to mix with military players and raise money for the charity. The competition will be a four-player team event, with team and individual prizes, plus the Lynn Hall Memorial Trophy to be competed for by Service teams. Entry fee for groups is £200, which includes refreshments and a late lunch. Entry forms and further details are available from Capt Mark Allison (RE) on 0191 265 3232.

**September 15: The Waterloo Show and Military Fair,** Shaftesbury Estates, Wimborne St Giles, Dorset. In aid of ABF The Soldiers'

Charity, The Defence Medical Welfare Service, SSAFA, Combat Stress, Caring for Courage and Scotty's Little Soldiers, the event features Kings Troop RHA, White Helmets motorcycle display team and the Red Devils parachute team. 0900 to 1800, adults £15, children (5-13) £5. For further details email Nick Oliver at [n.oliver@scotsdg.co.uk](mailto:n.oliver@scotsdg.co.uk)

**September 19: Charity ball in aid of ABF The Soldiers' Charity.** Black tie dinner dance. Three-course meal with wine and music from The Stewart Reid Band. 1900 to 0030 at The Royal Scots Club, Abercrombie Place, Edinburgh EH3 6QE. Single tickets £55, table for ten £500. Phone 07855 704142 or email [gspence@soldierscharity.org](mailto:gspence@soldierscharity.org)

**Until further notice: Chelsea pensioners' wartime stories** are being captured in a new online collaboration between the National Army Museum and the Royal Hospital Chelsea. **The Old and the Bold** is an audiovisual history project and videos are available to view at [www.nam.ac.uk](http://www.nam.ac.uk)



## DIRECTORY

**ABF The Soldiers' Charity:** 0845 241 4820

**Armed Forces' Buddhist Society:** Chaplain 020 7414 3411; [www.afbs-uk.org](http://www.afbs-uk.org)

**Armed Forces' Christian Union:** 01252 311221; [www.afcu.org.uk](http://www.afcu.org.uk)

**Army LGBT Forum:** [www.armylgbt.org.uk](http://www.armylgbt.org.uk); [chair@armylgbt.org.uk](mailto:chair@armylgbt.org.uk)

**Armed Forces Muslim Association:** Chaplain 0207 414 3252; [www.afma.org.uk](http://www.afma.org.uk)

**Armed Forces Humanist Association:** [www.armedforceshumanists.org.uk](http://www.armedforceshumanists.org.uk)

**Army Libraries:** 01252 349381

**Army Ornithological Society:** [www.armybirding.org.uk](http://www.armybirding.org.uk)

**Army Welfare Service:** 01980 615975; [www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/welfare-support.aspx](http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/welfare-support.aspx)

**Army Families Federation:** 01264 382324; mil 94391 2324; [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)

**Blind Veterans UK:** (formerly St Dunstan's) [www.blindveterans.org.uk](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk); 0207 7235021

**British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association:** 0208 590 1124; [www.blesma.org](http://www.blesma.org)

**Career Transition Partnership:** 0207 766 8020

**Children's Education Advisory Service:** 01980 618244; [enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk)

**Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society:** 01372 841600; [www.combatstress.com](http://www.combatstress.com)

**Family Escort Service:** 0207 463 9249

**Forcesline:** UK – 0800 731 4880; Germany – 0800 1827 395; Cyprus – 080 91065; Falklands – #6111; from operational theatres – Paradigm Services \*201; from anywhere in the world (CSL operator will call back) – 0044 1980 630854

**Forces Pension Society:** 0207 820 9988



**Heroes Welcome:** [www.heroeswelcome.co.uk](http://www.heroeswelcome.co.uk)

**Help for Heroes:** 0845 673 1760 or 01980 846 459; [www.helpforheroes.org.uk](http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk)

**Joint Service Housing Advice Office:** 01722 436575

**Medal Office:** 94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

**Mutual Support (Multiple Sclerosis group):** [www.mutualsupport.org.uk](http://www.mutualsupport.org.uk)

**National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association Office:** 24-hour helpline 0845 257 4853; [www.ngvfa.org.uk](http://www.ngvfa.org.uk)

**National Ex-Services Association:** [www.nesa.org.uk](http://www.nesa.org.uk)

**Poppyscotland:** 0131 557 2782; [www.poppyscotland.org.uk](http://www.poppyscotland.org.uk)

**Regular Forces' Employment Association:** 0121 236 0058; [www.rfea.org.uk](http://www.rfea.org.uk)

**Remount:** 01451 850 341; [www.remount.net](http://www.remount.net)

**Royal British Legion:** [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

**RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre:** 01622 795900; [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk)

**Scottish Veterans' Residences:** 0131 556 0091; [www.svrnline.org](http://www.svrnline.org)

**Service Personnel and Veterans Agency:** 0800 169 2277 (from the UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)

**SSAFA:** 0845 1300 975; [www.ssafo.org.uk](http://www.ssafo.org.uk)

**Stoll:** (formerly known as the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation) 0207 385 2110; [info@stoll.org.uk](mailto:info@stoll.org.uk); [www.stoll.org.uk](http://www.stoll.org.uk)

**The Not Forgotten Association:** 020 7730 2400; [www.nfassociation.org](http://www.nfassociation.org)

**uk4u Thanks:** 01798 812081; [www.uk4u.org](http://www.uk4u.org)



## INTELLIGENCE

The following Army Briefing Notes, Defence Internal Briefs and Defence Information Notices can be found online by visiting [www.armynet.mod.uk](http://www.armynet.mod.uk)

**ABN 62/13:** Civilian performance awards

**ABN 61/13:** Laundry tax relief

**ABN 60/13:** Families migration changes

**ABN 59/13:** Free travel London

**ABN 58/13:** New contract for PAX

**ABN 55/13:** Redundancy T3 update

**ABN 54/13:** TA Phase 1 courses

**DIN 2013DIN01-142:** Family migration changes affecting UK Armed Forces family members who are non-European Economic Area nationals

**DIN 2013DIN01-140:** Lecturer and senior lecturer appointments at the academic departments of Military Anaesthetics and Critical Care, and Military Medicine

**DIN 2013DIN01-139:** Changes to military out patient accommodation at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine and Birmingham hospitals

**DIN 2013DIN01-138:** Armed Forces Jewish community moral leadership course

**DIN 2013DIN01-134:** Tax relief for laundry expenses

**DIN 2013DIN01-132:** Survey for LGB civil servants

**DIN 2013DIN01-131:** Publication of revised JSP 763: *The MoD bullying and harassment complaints procedures*

**DIN 2013DIN01-130:** The effect of Service

discipline offences on applications for settlement or UK citizenship made by serving personnel, veterans or their families who are foreign or Commonwealth citizens

**DIN 2013DIN01-129:** Modernisation of terms and conditions for civilian staff

**DIN 2013DIN01-128:** Free travel on the Transport for London network for Service personnel in uniform

**DIN 2013DIN01-126:** Introduction of the Herrick drawdown allowance

**DIN 2013DIN01-125:** New contract for provision of PAX personal accident cover

**DIN 2013DIN01-124:** Senior civil service terms and conditions reform

**DIN 2013DIN01-123:** Commercial – procurement profession skills and competency framework

**DIN 2013DIN01-122:** Ramadan & Eid ul-Fitr 2013

**DIN 2013DIN01-118:** Future officer structure policy update

**DIN 2013DIN02-003:** Access to the *Defence Manual of Security* (JSP 440)

**DIN 2013DIN04-114:** Procurement of agency workers and contingent labour

**DIN 2013DIN04-113:** Interim contract notice for the disposal of office and domestic furniture and associated equipment

**DIN 2013DIN04-112:** Interim contract notice for the disposal of office ancillaries (inkjet and toner cartridges and mobile phones)

**DIN 2013DIN04-110:** Sensors support optimisation project for in-Service equipment contract MCS/1001

Continued on page 56

NO. 861

## JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

WIN  
£100

TEN details have been changed on this picture of the Queen inspecting the Royal Guard at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh during the ceremony of the keys. Circle the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 861, Soldier**, Ordnance Barracks, Government

Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU by August 30.

A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted.

First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £25 gift vouchers. The results will be

announced in the October issue. Usual rules apply. **June's winner:** First correct entry drawn at random was LCpl Tony Arthur, HQ 1 MI Bde, RAF Henlow. **Runners up:** Leslie Wilson, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland and Pte Mukum Hembya, Helles Barracks, Catterick Garrison.







**DIN 2013DIN04-109:** Amendments to role 2 operational medical module electro-med contents – 370 modules

**DIN 2013DIN04-108:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of surgical power driver capability within module 316 and 370-2 (afloat)

**DIN 2013DIN04-107:** Declaration of BID/1660/1 and BID/1660/1V1 (the BID/1660 is also known as Anwell) as being obsolete by Crypto Services for Defence

**DIN 2013DIN04-106:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of topical negative pressure dressing capability within module 316 and PCRF

**DIN 2013DIN04-105:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of surgeon's personal lights within module 316 and 370-2

**DIN 2013DIN04-104:** Framework contracts for the supply of commercial publications to the MoD

**DIN 2013DIN04-103:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of the ruggedised blood storage units within module 370-4

**DIN 2013DIN04-102:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of ROTEM capability within module 322

**DIN 2013DIN04-101:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of regional anaesthesia capability within module 318 and 370-3

**DIN 2013DIN04-100:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of pneumatic tourniquet capability within module 316, PCRF and 370-2

**DIN 2013DIN04-099:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of operating table attachment capability within PCRF and 370-2 (Aft only)

**DIN 2013DIN04-098:** JSP 800 vol 6 edition 2 (amendment 1) – movement of vehicles by ISO container

**DIN 2013DIN04-097:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of maritime patient resus trolley capability within PCRF and 370-5 (Aft)

**DIN 2013DIN04-096:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of the lab information management system capability within modules 322 and 370-4

**DIN 2013DIN04-095:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of lightweight operating table within modules 316 and 370-2

**DIN 2013DIN04-094:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents, May 2013

**DIN 2013DIN04-093:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of labcold fridges (blood banks) within module 322 and 370-4

**DIN 2013DIN04-092:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of labcold freezer within module 322 and 370-4

**DIN 2013DIN04-091:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of labcold defroster within module 322 and 370-4

**DIN 2013DIN04-090:** Amendments to operational medical module contents – inclusion of difficult airways management capability (glidescope) within modules 318 and 370-2

**DIN 2013DIN04-089:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of Fabius Tiro anaesthetic machine within module 318 and 370-2 (Aft only)

**DIN 2013DIN04-088:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – inclusion of critical care bed capability within module 313

**DIN 2013DIN04-087:** Replacement of grenade visual and infrared L114A1 with grenade discharger visual and infrared L131A1

**DIN 2013DIN04-086:** Stocks of PE4 overdue return date to depot

**DIN 2013DIN04-085:** Removal from service of flare tripwire kit L10A1

**DIN 2013DIN04-084:** Provision of a commercial surface freight movements service within the UK and destinations worldwide

**DIN 2013DIN05-026:** Reorganisation of the Land Equipment Operating Centre Headquarters into a portfolio management office

**DIN 2013DIN05-025:** The reorganisation of departments within Joint Forces Command-Joint Warfare

**DIN 2013DIN05-023:** Formation of the Defence EOD, Munitions and Search Training Regiment

**DIN 2013DIN06-025:** JSP 426 – MoD fire safety regulations – new leaflet 13

**DIN 2013DIN06-024:** Joint Service Publication 403 volume 1 – range safety policy letter 13/02 – civilian use of MoD ranges

**DIN 2013DIN06-022:** Joint Service Publication 403 volume 1 – range safety policy letter 13/01 – establishing operational ranges

**DIN 2013DIN06-021:** British Standard European Normative International Organisation for Standardisation 7010 – safety signage

**DIN 2013DIN07-097:** Army postgraduate studies with the Defence Academy

**DIN 2013DIN07-096:** Reinstatement of spouse/partner language training for overseas postings

**DIN 2013DIN07-094:** Helicopter underwater escape training at the Underwater Escape Training Unit, RNAS Yeovilton

**DIN 2013DIN07-093:** Senior officers' briefing

**DIN 2013DIN07-091:** Aeronautical meteorological personnel

**DIN 2013DIN07-090:** Commando Helicopter Force basic military acquaint course (Air 338)

**DIN 2013DIN07-089:** Exercise Spartan Hike 2014

**DIN 2013DIN07-088:** Joint and single Service security, intelligence, photographic and geo-spatial training courses for training year April 2013 to March 2014

**DIN 2013DIN07-087:** Defence Medical Services ethics symposium IV

**DIN 2013DIN07-086:** Temporary landing zone safety officer course dates 2014

**DIN 2013DIN07-085:** Training in management accountability

**DIN 2013DIN07-083:** Army support for specific learning difficulties

**DIN 2013DIN07-082:** Reserve officers' staff course (Land)

**DIN 2013DIN08-006:** Joint Services Command and Staff College international student charging regime and allowances

**DIN 2013DIN10-031:** Army Sport Control Board Charitable Fund

**DIN 2013DIN10-030:** Army Football Association – affiliation and cup competitions

**DIB 39/13:** Reserves in the Future Force 2020: Valuable and Valued

**DIB 38/13:** PUS and CDS write to all staff on the spending round announcement

**DIB 37/13:** The new employment model – consultation with Service personnel

**DIB 36/13:** Armed Forces redundancy programme – notification of Army personnel selected for tranche three redundancy



# REUNION

**4th Mechanised Brigade and 204 Signal Squadron** will be holding a disbandment parade on Friday, August 9 at Helles Barracks, Catterick Garrison. Past members of the squadron are invited to attend, all personnel to be seated by 1130, with the parade to commence at 1145. In addition, an open day will be held at Gaza Barracks on August 10 from 1100 to 1500, with stalls and displays from the formation's past. All former members are welcome to attend.

**22nd Annual Eden Camp All Services Remembrance Parade** takes place at the Eden Camp museum on Sunday, September 8 from 1000 to 1700. The camp will be open free to veterans and their partners. Those wishing to attend are requested to contact the museum director with approximate numbers and whether travelling by coach or mini bus. Telephone 01653 697777 or email [admin@edencamp.co.uk](mailto:admin@edencamp.co.uk)

**Royal Hampshire Regiment Annual Reunion luncheon** for all territorial battalions and successors in 1 and 2 Wessex on Saturday, September 28 at Newburgh House, Winchester. 1200 for 1300. Contact Maj Ian Taylor at 4 Cedar Wood Close, Fair Oak, Eastleigh. Phone 023 8069 4771 or email [ian.p.b.taylor@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.p.b.taylor@btinternet.com)

**8 Regiment RASC/RCT/RLC 12th anniversary reunion dinner** will be held on Saturday, October 19 at the DW Stadium, Wigan. It is open to any ex-member of 8 Regiment of any cap badge who served between October 1962 and July 2012. For further information contact Jimmy Aspinall, email [jimmyasp@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmyasp@hotmail.com) or David Southall, email [dcsouthall@aol.com](mailto:dcsouthall@aol.com)

**Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Regimental Association annual fusilier gathering** will be held at the Royal Court hotel, Coventry on October 19 from 1900 to 0100. Past and present members of the regiment are welcome. Full details from Warwickshire Headquarters, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, St John's House, Warwick CV34 4NF. Telephone 01926 491653 or email [rrfhqwarw@btconnect.com](mailto:rrfhqwarw@btconnect.com)



# HOME TRUTHS

A PERSONAL view from Catherine Spencer, chief executive of the Army Families Federation. Log on to [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk) for more information



Picture: Graeme Main

Positive step: The Service is right to increase its efforts to communicate with the loved ones of Reservists

## Support for Reserves must take strides

THE Army is making greater efforts than ever before to engage with the families of Reservists.

At the Army Families Federation (AFF) conference in London last year we heard from the wife of one part-time soldier who had not had any contact from the Service and struggled throughout her husband's deployment.

While nothing had gone wrong as such, she certainly felt abandoned and this provided further evidence of the need to improve the way in which these families are communicated with if their Serviceman or woman is deployed.

The AFF already liaises with Reserve units and sees some really impressive work to keep relatives informed and supported when soldiers are on tour.

Regimental operational support officers, whom our UK director Jill Baines spoke to during her recent study of Reservists, are a committed and impressive group working hard to improve the experience of families and there is certainly proactive work going on at unit level.

An MoD study will also soon be launched

into communicating with "geographically dispersed" families.

It will provide vital information on how to keep the loved ones of Reserves and Regulars in their own accommodation as in touch as they want to be with their soldier's unit.

The AFF is well aware that it is much more challenging to keep those living in their own houses well informed.

**'It is much more challenging to keep those living in their own houses well informed'**

And if the new employment model's aspiration to encourage greater home ownership among full-time personnel is successful, working out how best to involve such families will be key to ensuring that they know where to get support.

Our organisation recently held three roadshows across the UK, giving loved ones the chance to speak to local command on the issues that matter to them.

Following their success we will hold two more during November in St Helens and Exeter, which will be open to all but aimed specifically at Reservist families.

We hope this will give us and the chain of command insight into what issues individuals face and what needs to be done to improve communication. ■

## Troubled waters trickle beyond defence



Picture: Alex McGregor

Testing times: Business awards demonstrated that other sectors are coping admirably as well

THE AFF employs 65 staff worldwide, the majority of whom are Army spouses.

We work hard to ensure that our people feel motivated and a recent staff survey demonstrated a high degree of satisfaction.

Last month I was delighted to have our achievement recognised more formally as we were voted employer of the year at the Test Valley Business Awards.

It was extremely interesting to be in a commercial and corporate environment, and to hear all about some of the amazing companies managing to operate in hard times.

It remains important to recognise that it's not just defence facing difficult decisions.

The event also provided an opportunity to promote Army spouses as capable employees to a wide audience.

## Working hours woe

EXCESSIVE working hours seem to be the norm across defence as redundancy takes its toll in an organisation that has not quite yet reached a new streamlined shape.

In our household "I'll be home normal time" now stands at around 2000 or later – even when the day has begun at 0700.

It's a story that seems to be repeated across the Army.

Look out for our survey on this issue in September, where we'll be checking to see what's really going on in time for me to pass the results to the Armed Forces pay review body the following month.





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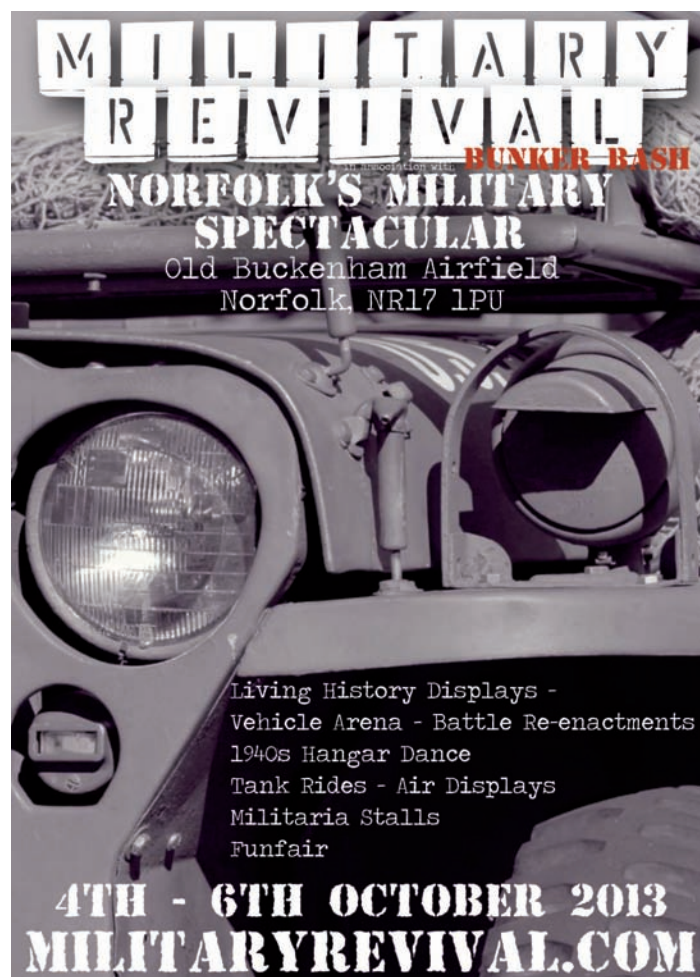
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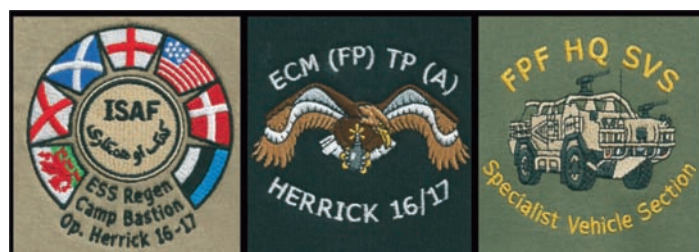
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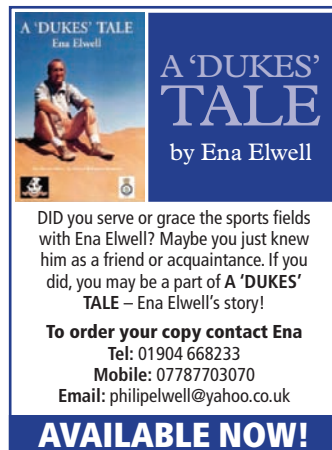
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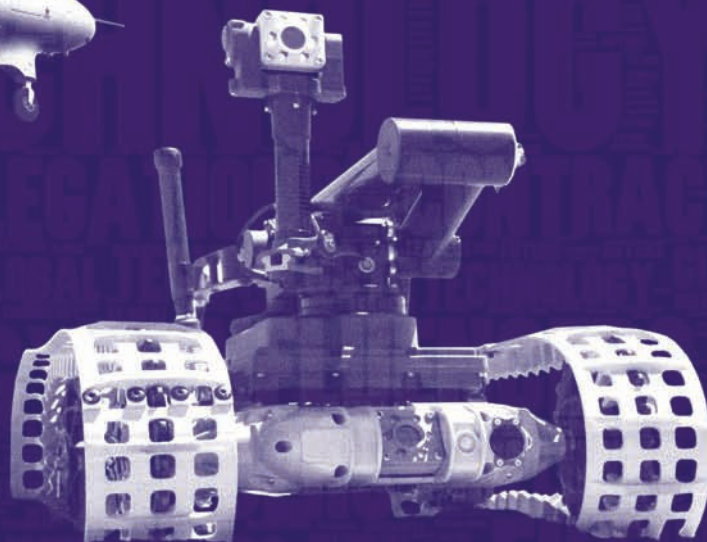


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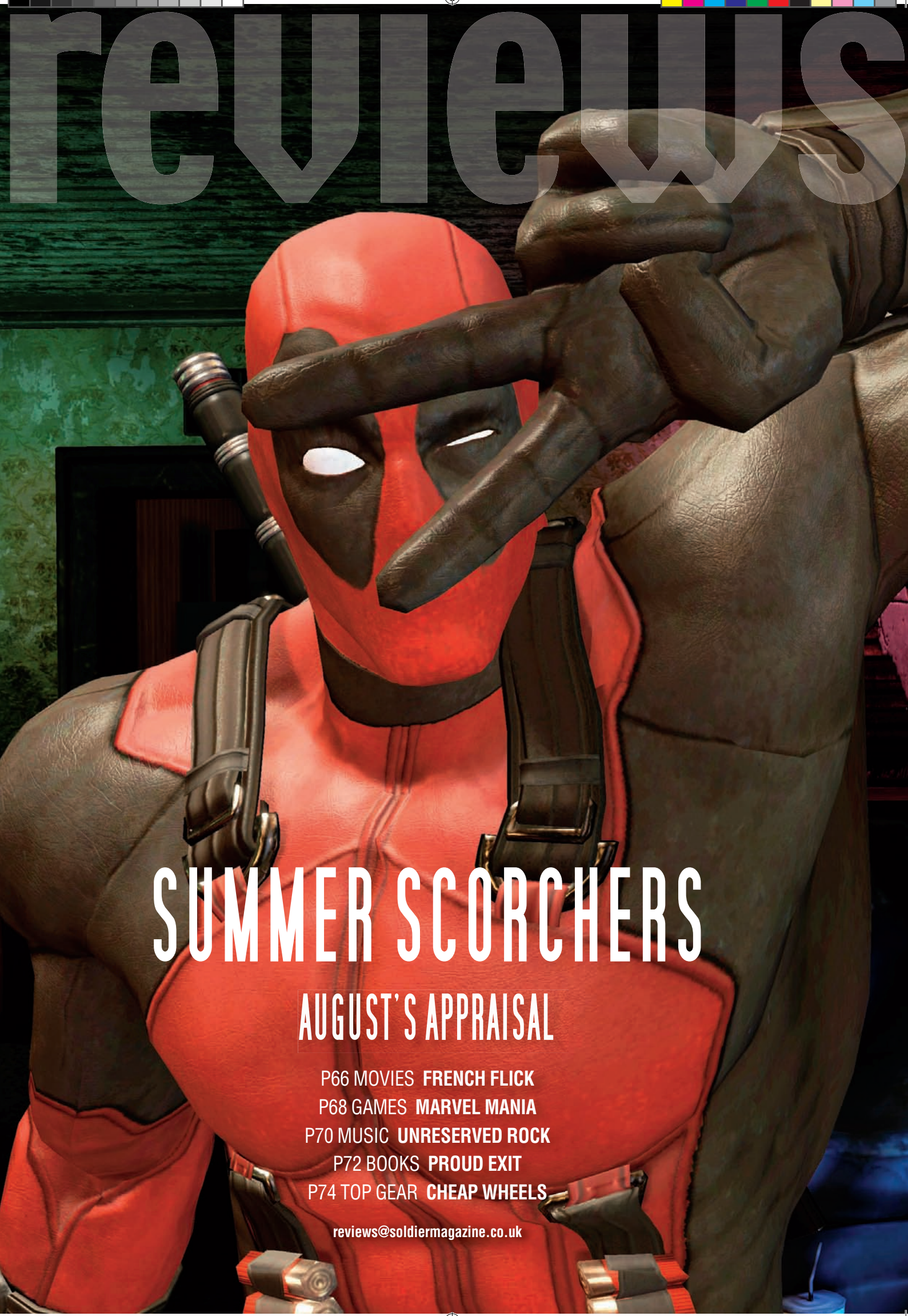
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A close-up, high-quality image of the character Deadpool. He is wearing his signature red and black tactical suit. His right hand is raised to his face, with his index finger pointing upwards and his other fingers curled, as if he is covering his eyes or making a 'V' for victory. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some green and blue tones.

# reviews

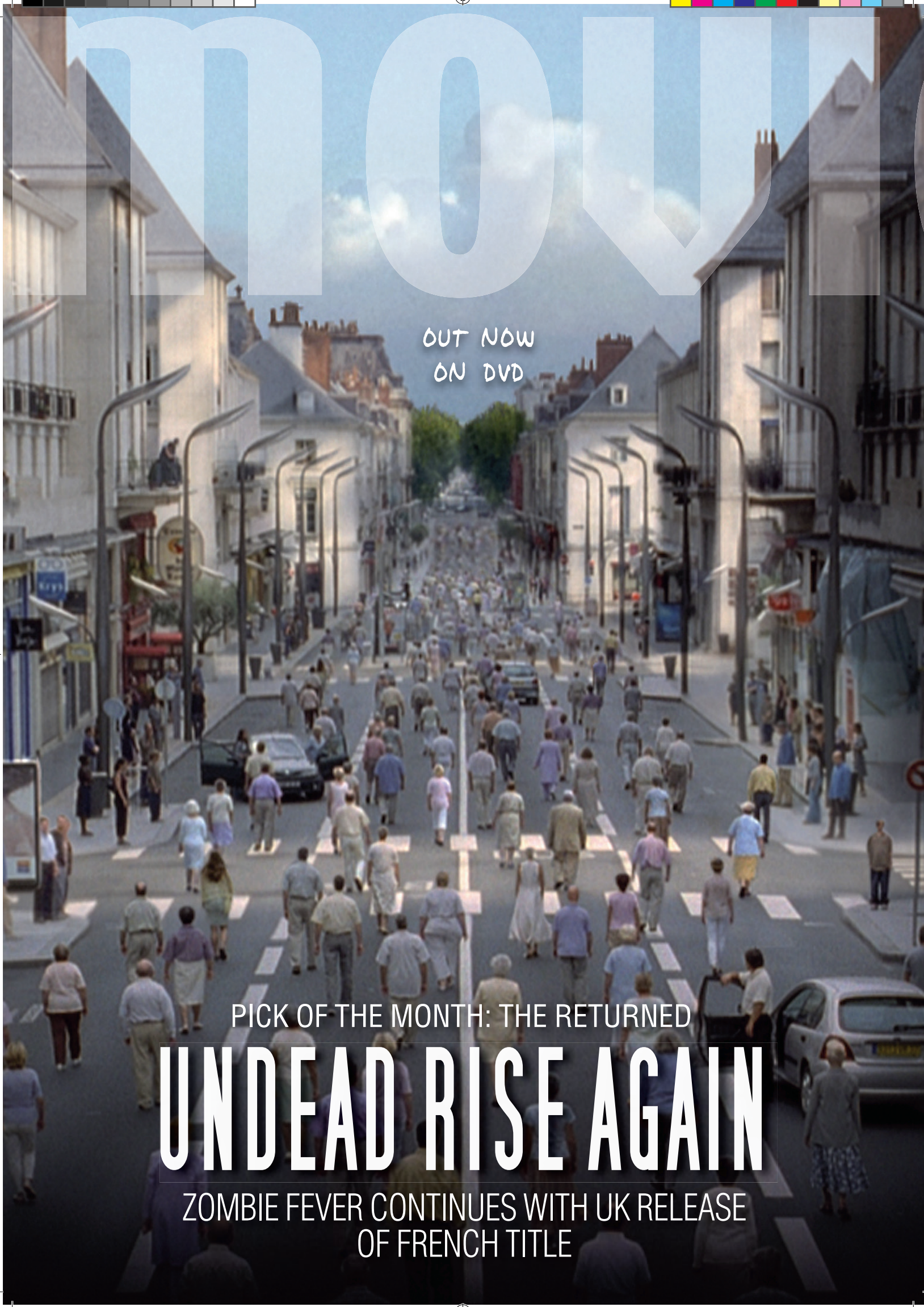
## SUMMER SCORCHERS

### AUGUST'S APPRAISAL

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# MOV

OUT NOW  
ON DVD

PICK OF THE MONTH: THE RETURNED

# UNDEAD RISE AGAIN

ZOMBIE FEVER CONTINUES WITH UK RELEASE  
OF FRENCH TITLE





# as

Review: Gemma Davies

If you've been watching Channel 4 series *The Returned* you may well already be familiar with the 2004 zombie flick *Les Revenants*.

Directed by Robin Campillo, the French film portrays millions of the recently-deceased returning to the world in a chilling existence between wakefulness and sleep.

Having inspired one of television's most talked about shows for a while, the original subtitled feature is out now on DVD in the UK.

And no doubt hoping to cash in on the critical acclaim that the small-screen version has secured, *The Returned* remains astonishingly unnerving and well worth a watch, even for those who are well and truly engrossed in the offerings of Channel 4.

"We wanted the dead people just to be like photographs of themselves," the director said in an interview following the original release.

"We remember them in their best Sunday clothes; very clean and slightly smiling.

"I like the idea that you change a little part of our reality and keep the rest the same."

Characters in this film are certainly treated as realistically and thoughtfully as possible.

But it is the lack of answers around its unravelling events that frustrates.

We never find out why these individuals came back, why they suddenly leave again and such questions plague the audience throughout.

Instead, the title is more concerned with how people handle death.

"I wanted to make a film that dealt more with sensations than emotions," Campillo admitted.

"My movie is about this sensation; of cold and of being a little bit distant.

"I didn't want to make a feature with a main message but with different echos or mirrors."

This is what the French do best – give us a story that makes the audience think.

Revealing the man behind the writing, the director explained: "In a time span of two years a few friends of mine passed away.

"It wasn't like mourning, but being in a world of strange sensations.

"I didn't know where they went and I wanted to translate these feelings."

Certainly it is doubtful whether anything as sinister and subtle as *The Returned* would ever emerge from Hollywood.

The plot does not waste time on characters learning how to talk or walk, and is the only zombie film I have seen without blood and gut-munching.

If you are waiting for a dramatic climax this title is not for you.

But perhaps the idea of an ex returning from the dead can be scarier than a monster anyway. ■

## VIVACIOUS VIEWING



### ULTRAMARINES out now

If you're a sci-fi geek you'll like this Warhammer 40,000 release. There are lots of aliens, lots of shooting and lots of monsters getting sent back to hell where they came from. The film wasn't made on a massive budget but it's still good enough to achieve its aims. It highlights what we all want more of in our movies – aliens, space marines and hell beasts being slaughtered!

**Capt Nick Mazzei, AGC (ETS)**

**VERDICT:** Visuals like a videogame but provides an alien fix ★★★★★

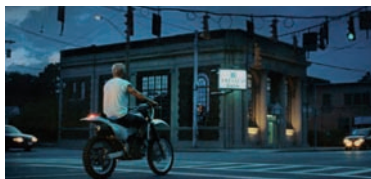


### THE BROOD out now

THIS digitally remastered classic weaves two storylines together to create a compelling and shocking horror. First we see a psychologist attempt to help Nola, whose troubled childhood haunts her adult life. Then it appears that mutant children are attacking Nola's friends and family. I was left confused and unsatisfied with the overall plot but the soundtrack is excellent.

**LCpl Joseph Kibbler, AGC (RMP)**

**VERDICT:** Orchestral score succeeds where screen action fails ★★★★★



### BEYOND THE PINES out August 12

THIS is an ambitious movie from **Derek Cianfrance** (*Blue Valentine*) covering the relationship of two families from different social classes over a period of 17 years. **Ryan Gosling** gives a standout performance as a motorbike stunt rider who turns bank robber to support his illegitimate baby son. There are moments of brilliance but some parts seem rushed.

**Joe Clapson, Soldier**

**VERDICT:** Another boundary-pushing offering from a bold director ★★★★★



### BURNT BY THE SUN 2 out now

THE disgraced Second World War Russian general Kotov is sent to fight with a penal battalion against an impregnable German fortress and the situation is fraught. The main story revolves around the events that places Kotov in this position, and what a tale it is. At times it's difficult to decide if this is a big budget war flick or a contemporary Russian attempt to atone its Stalinist past.

**Maj Neil Johnson, AAC**

**VERDICT:** Gripping subtitled study of second-order effects ★★★★★



### PARKER out now

FOR **Jason Statham** fans this is a real treat and with **Jennifer Lopez** also on form it's one hell of a film that shouldn't be missed. Parker (Statham) is a thief who will only carry out jobs that don't hurt the innocent but when employed by a notorious mobster this causes problems. His colleagues turn on him and leave him for dead but he survives, employs J-Lo and seeks revenge.

**Rodge Tapply, ex-RE**

**VERDICT:** Classic Statham mayhem – not to be missed ★★★★★



### WIN... THE LOOK OF LOVE

STARRING **Steve Coogan**, this is the true story of the controversial entrepreneur Paul Raymond, who established the Raymond Revue Bar and *Men Only* magazine, becoming the UK's richest man. *Soldier* has teamed up with Studio Canal to offer a copy of the DVD – released on August 19 – to five lucky readers. To have a chance of winning, tell us which Coogan character lived in the Lintern Travel Tavern. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

**Closing date: August 30**



A full-page background image featuring Deadpool and Wolverine from the movie 'Deadpool 2'. Deadpool, in his red and black suit, is on the left, holding a banana. Wolverine, in his blue and yellow suit, is on the right, looking at the banana. They are sitting on a wooden bench in a tropical setting with palm trees and buildings in the background. A large, semi-transparent 'Images' watermark is across the top. At the very top of the page, there are two color calibration bars: a grayscale one on the left and a CMYK one on the right. There are also registration marks (crosshairs) at the top center, bottom center, and on the left and right edges.

AUGUST'S  
HOT  
PICKS

PICK OF THE MONTH:

# REALITY CHECKED

WACKY RELEASE CREATES  
MAINSTREAM ESCAPE



Review: David McDougall

**F**OR those of a Marvel disposition, keen to sample this release, let me offer some sage advice: this game should come with a health warning, one that recommends a CAT scan and a psychological assessment before and after playing.

Simply put, *Deadpool* is absolutely barking but it's also refreshing and interesting.

Right from the off, this offering sucks you into a realm filled with the macabre and the downright bizarre.

The central character initially introduces you to his way of life via copious amounts of groin scratching in the confines of his apartment that is followed by a demonstration of his inflatable doll – don't ask.

The opening sequence involves Deadpool toying with the game's developers and showing them the error of their ways.

This results in one of the most unusual and ridiculous introductions ever made to a console title.

Afterwards, the one-man killing machine quickly gets down to business and chaos and bloodshed ensues.

And so do the puns, one-liners and hilarious jokes – all of which seem to be aimed at every trope and cliché in the video gaming world.

The action itself is fast-paced and filled with gore.

Enemies swarm towards you, or opt to take pot shots from cover, but they fall fairly easily to a combination of airborne sword attacks and teleporting in behind an unsuspecting baddie for an instant surprise.

If you grow weary of hacking foes to death with your swords you can resort to dual-wielding Deadpool's pistols.

But the controls are a little twitchy, especially at close range.

There are also grenades and quite a few other weapons, several of which are somewhat unconventional.

Despite the madness, some elements of this offering are entertaining.

You find yourself trying to hone your combat skills amid a plethora of wisecracking retorts and overtly gory encounters.

And you also get to take on other Marvel favourites, including Wolverine, but these occasional silver linings do little to draw you back after completing the game, which always feels like a poor clone of the superb *Arkham Asylum*.

As releases go, *Deadpool* is a sight for sore eyes – a break from the non-stop production of *Call of Duty*-esque titles.

Here we have a game where realism isn't a requirement and there's a bold direction in the humour and scripting.

However, this approach does grate a little over time.

Eventually, the jocularity starts to wear thin and you find yourself wishing for a slightly more serious approach in the latter parts of the adventure – despite the character's notorious reputation.

*Deadpool* is a refreshing change but ultimately falls victim to its own wacky approach, which unfortunately makes it a repetitive experience. ■

# VIRTUAL PLAYGROUND

## THE LAST OF US

for PS3

*THE Last of Us* is emotive, gripping and consuming. It tells the harrowing story of a plague that infects humans and turns them into zombie-like creatures known as clickers. The strength of this release is in the storytelling, while the world created looks amazing and the game contains a level of detail not previously seen. Simply put, this title will be why the PS3 will be fondly remembered in years to come.



LCpl Joseph Kibbler, AGC (RMP)

**VERDICT:** A console defining masterpiece – highly recommended ★★★★★

## MOTOGP 13

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

THIS game is authentic where it matters, but hard as nails everywhere else. *MotoGP 13* is one for experienced racers that gives little quarter for newcomers.

The bikes and riders look great and the level of customisation is very good but the lacklustre audio and shoddy attention to detail disappoints. However, various seasons and leagues offer plenty for players to get their teeth into.



SSgt Graeme Russell, Scottish Tpt Regt

**VERDICT:** A fast and furious offering but one for the purists ★★★★★

## JACK KEANE 2: THE FIRE WITHIN

for PC

ADVENTURER Jack Keane returns with another fast-paced romp as he hunts for treasure in Shanghai. Sharp graphics and an array of puzzles offer solid entertainment but if you're expecting highbrow challenges you will be disappointed. Confusing controls and strange camera angles create a slight blemish on what is otherwise a decent offering that will be welcomed by newcomers to the genre.



Joe Clapson, Soldier

**VERDICT:** Solid, rather than spectacular, but still worth a look ★★★★★

## DYNASTY WARRIORS 8

for Xbox 360/PS3

THE *Dynasty Warriors* franchise is infamous for its repetitive hack and slash approach and this latest iteration makes no attempt to break with tradition. Set in ancient China, the title sees you assume the roles of historical figures as they fight to achieve supremacy for their state. Fans will enjoy the large cast and variety of weapons, everyone else will baulk at the lack of depth and mindless button bashing.



Stephen Smith, MoD Corsham

**VERDICT:** Bearable in small doses but soon becomes repetitive ★★★★★

## RIDE TO HELL: RETRIBUTION

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

TAKING control of a Vietnam veteran as he hunts down members of a ruthless biker gang sounds like a decent premise for this little-known shooter. However, any sense of optimism rapidly disappears as appalling cut scenes, horrific gameplay and a constant stream of technical glitches combine to make this a truly forgettable console experience. A return to the drawing board is most definitely needed here.



Richard Long, Soldier

**VERDICT:** Avoid at all costs – unless you enjoy wasting money ★★★★★

## COMPANY OF HEROES 2

for PC

BRUTAL conflicts from the Eastern Front are brought to life in *Company of Heroes 2*. This is a throwback to an era when real-time strategy titles ruled the PC. It is littered with bold scenarios and there is no guarantee you'll get every man back from missions against machine gun nests and heavy armour. How to use ill-trained conscripts creates another dilemma, as it did for real in 1941. This is a pleasure to play.



SSgt Lee Gibbs, REME

**VERDICT:** A must-have game that gives hours of rewards ★★★★★





# mus



AUGUST'S  
WALL OF  
SOUND

PICK OF THE MONTH:

## ROCK STAR RESERVIST

SOLDIER PLOTS NEW  
PATH WITH DEBUT ALBUM





# TUNES FOR THE TROOPS

Review: Richard Long

**A**S a Reserve soldier Sgt Ro Barrett (42 Engr Regt) is used to the pressure of juggling workloads as he goes about his daily routine.

But with a healthy selection of songs to his name the ex-Regular has decided to pursue yet another avenue and the release of debut album *Alter Ego* underlines his ambition to break into music's top tier.

Having funded the project himself the tracks were recorded at the Parr Street Studios in Liverpool – birthplace of the first three offerings from chart heavyweights Coldplay – and the singing Serviceman said the investment has been money well spent.

"We have worked really hard on it," he told *Soldier*. "There were a lot of lessons to learn but I'm really proud of the outcome."

"I've had a lot of good feedback from guys in the regiment but I now need to push this into the mainstream and that is a big hurdle."

"If it goes well I'd like to continue in music and I've easily got enough songs for another two or three albums."

Barrett is no stranger to performing and he left the Service in 2004 to pursue a career as a musician.

Having worked on a number of different projects he joined the Territorial Army in 2006 and has since served in Afghanistan.

"I'm now on my second full-time Reserve service contract but I wanted to have a real crack at my music," he explained.

"The album features material that has been influenced by different experiences in my life."

"There is one song about a war veteran in an old people's home. It is a more sombre number compared to the other tracks and it will prove popular with fellow soldiers."

"I have taken quite a lot of inspiration from my Service life. Some of the songs were written in Afghanistan. I recorded them on my iPod and when I came home I had so many ideas to work with."

The money invested in the recording process has clearly paid off as the sound quality and production is second to none.

Barrett drives an impressive collection of original songs with some outstanding guitar work, particularly on *Fight and Overdrive*, but there is more to this album than all-out rock.

*Endless Daydreams* creates a sombre diversion while *Wonderlove* and *Wastin' All My Days* offer an acoustic, laid-back feel that contributes superbly to this highly-commendable album.

*Alter Ego* is available now on iTunes. ■

## Long Way Down by Tom Odell

THIS is the debut album from up-and-coming singer-songwriter **Tom Odell**. I first saw the 22-year-old perform on *Later With Jools Holland* and was instantly captured by this talent. His style is similar to that of **Coldplay** and **Keane** and he was the support act for **The Rolling Stones** at their London gigs – so he must be pretty good. Standout offerings include *Can't Pretend*, *Another Love* and the title track, *Long Way Down*.



Sgt Ben McDaniel, REME

**VERDICT:** Easy listening and a good album to add to any collection ★★★★★

## Wanderlust by Gavin Rossdale

EX-**Bush** frontman **Gavin Rossdale's** debut solo album *Wanderlust* is quite a departure from the harder, melancholy rock synonymous with the 90s post-grunge band. This re-release is an easy listen from start to finish, which in itself leaves the record a tiny bit repetitive. None of the tracks really stand out and after a while they seem to merge into one. This is not something I'd buy as it has no real redeeming features and that makes it a bit of a nonentity.



Cpl Adam Jackson, 3 Para

**VERDICT:** If you're a massive fan you'll love it, if not, save your pennies ★★★★★

## Young Folks by Various Artists

THIS is a compilation from the best up-and-coming indie/folk talent. If this album is anything to go by then our very best isn't particularly good. After hearing **Ellie Goulding** bigged up by my sister I gave her version of **Elton John's** classic *Your Song* a chance, but I stopped it before it was even half way. If you're a long haired philosophy student at university sitting under a tree strumming away on a second-hand acoustic guitar you'll probably love this.



LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

**VERDICT:** Can think of much better ways to waste a few hours ★★★★★

## Invisible Empire/Crescent Moon

THIS release represents a return to the delicate simplicity of **KT Tunstall's** early work, while also marking an evolution of her sound.

Described as an album "full of songs from the heart", the theme is apparent throughout with its slow and relaxing feel. It is certainly not what you'd call upbeat but with Tunstall's distinct voice it works flawlessly from start to finish. This is a cracking record and coupled with such powerful vocals it is well worth a listen.



Rodge Tapply, ex-RE

**VERDICT:** Perfect music to unwind to as the hot nights continue ★★★★★

## Pythons by Surfer Blood

FLORIDA-based band **Surfer Blood** are back with a new album that hammers at the college rock genre and makes a pretty decent job of it. Tracks such as *I Was Wrong*, *Blair Witch* and *Weird Shapes* cast you back to the early classic rock years and lots of picked fretwork and crunchy guitar playing offer a melancholic feel. However, *Pythons* is not without its lapses in ingenuity and it is hard to escape the feeling that the group should have really put their own stamp on it.

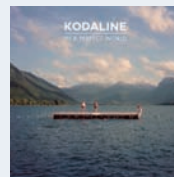


Sgt Craig Backhouse, Coldm Gds

**VERDICT:** Fans of college rock will be more than impressed ★★★★★

## In A Perfect World by Kodaline

AS singers of high hopes, **Kodaline's** debut album *In A Perfect World* is full of up-tempo numbers, tangy guitars and other instrumental tunes. This record immediately lifts your spirits and it is hard not to escape the summer festival, feel-good vibe that emanates from the tracks. Singles *High Hopes* and *Love Like This* impressively lead the way, while *All I Want* is another highlight that has received significant acclaim. This is a band to watch closely.



Gemma Davies, civvy

**VERDICT:** A brilliant offering from start to finish ★★★★★



# looks

AUGUST UNCUT

PICK OF THE MONTH:

## PRIDE AND PROGRESS

EX-SOLDIER'S STORY OF  
LIFE AS A GAY SERVICEMAN



Changing times: *Out in the Army: My Life as a Gay Soldier* is priced £16.99



## Interview: Becky Clark

**I**N 2009 a trooper from The Household Cavalry Regiment made history – and the headlines – by becoming the first gay soldier to feature on the front cover of this magazine.

Four years later, James Wharton has left the military and published a memoir of his service.

From performing ceremonial duties, working alongside Prince Harry in Canada and deploying on Op Telic to coping with addiction and suffering a beating at the hands of a colleague, *Out in the Army* offers a frank look at the highs and lows of the 26-year-old's decade in uniform.

Principally, however, the former lance corporal hopes that by providing a "snapshot of history" his tale will illustrate the progress made since the MoD changed its policy on homosexuality in 2000.

"I think the Army should be very proud of what's been achieved in just 13 years," he explained.

"You have to understand what the organisation was like for guys who served before the year 2000.

"Imagine being told every day that if your mate was gay you had to report it and then suddenly, overnight, you're told to embrace it.

"That's quite a switch and I think it was a lot to ask some parts of the military to change so quickly."

Despite initial concerns, Wharton described his eventual decision to reveal his sexuality to his workmates as easier than coming out to his family.

"I think that speaks volumes about the calibre of soldier that's in the British Army today and I also put it down to the new generation being so much more open-minded," he remarked.

However, while his announcement was largely met with support, the book also details a serious assault on Wharton by a member of his unit, who he later saw kissing another man in a gay nightclub.

"Eight times out of ten, the instances of homophobia came from guys who I'd wondered whether they were going through some kind of sexual anxiety themselves," he said.

"It underlines how fragile some people are and how much of a complex situation sexuality is."

Having experienced the emotional upheaval of coming out, Wharton advised anyone in a similar position "not to rush into anything".

"Make sure you're comfortable and you have your friends around you, but do it – because I felt like a much better soldier once it was out in the open and my reports reflected that," he said.

After his appearance in *Soldier*, the Serviceman found himself meeting American military officials working towards changing the country's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which ended in 2011.

He and boyfriend Thom became civil partners and featured together on the cover of *Attitude* magazine.

Wharton was also named in the *Independent* newspaper's "pink list" of the UK's most influential gay people and worked with gay rights charity Stonewall to promote equality in schools.

However, despite considerable progress, according to Wharton the fact that the Army's gay role model was a private soldier shows more work is needed.

"I do feel a senior figurehead is required; someone at the top for people to look up to," he said.

"Speaking hypothetically, if there is a gay general in the ranks – why isn't he talking out about it?

"What is there to be afraid of?"

Difficult questions aside, *Out in the Army* is a heartfelt account of a gay man's journey from recruit to veteran, as well as a non-judgmental appraisal of an institution's efforts to move with the times. On both counts it is a worthwhile read. ■

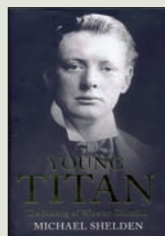
# RECONNOITRING READING

## Young Titan

by Michael Sheldon

### WINSTON Churchill

must surely be among the most heavily researched figures in history. It would seem that there can be little left to unearth but this book delves into his personal life and early political adventures, a turbulent and potentially ruinous period, which almost ended his career. This excellent narrative gives real insight into the shaping of the man who would become an icon of the Second World War.



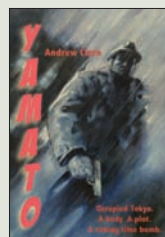
## Maj Mike Peters, AAC

**VERDICT:** Good read but very much for those with special interest ★★★★★

## Yamato

by Andrew Clare

GOOD characters, page-turning action and the obligatory love interest make for a Bond-esque plot. Set in post-Second World War Tokyo after the Japanese surrender, the story follows a conspiracy from within the Allied command to overthrow the occupying force. The author, an ex-Marine, has researched actual events meticulously to produce a believable alternative history thriller. I look forward to any future offerings.



## SSgt Wallace Stephenson, Int Corps

**VERDICT:** Communist plots and biological warfare – this a must-read ★★★★★

## Warrior Geeks

by Christopher Coker

THIS text explores the potential for the human element of the warrior to be subsumed by biologically and technologically enhanced soldiers, devoid or incapable of the military ethos and moral character. The result is neither an easy, nor a comfortable read; it is not meant to be. Instead, it raises disturbing, challenging and fundamental questions that have not yet been addressed.



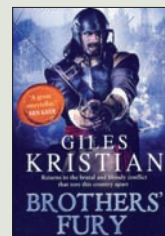
## Maj Chris Buckham, RCAF

**VERDICT:** A very thought provoking book – recommended ★★★★★

## Brothers' Fury

by Giles Kristian

SET during the English Civil War, this rip-roaring sequel to *The Bleeding Land* continues the adventures of the Rivers clan. Brothers Tom and Edmund find themselves on opposite sides of the conflict, while their sister, Bess, tries to save what is left of the family. The characters, although rather standard historical fare, are at least well drawn and the language and social norms of the time are used to good effect.



## Capt Alex Janaway, RAMC(V)

**VERDICT:** Pulp fun – captures the essence of the Civil War ★★★★★

## 70 Days to Hell

by Arthur Lane

THE 1941-42 Japanese advance through Malaya and into Singapore saw an Allied force crumble in the face of enemy superiority. Campaign veteran **Arthur Lane** uses post-war studies by the senior officers involved to dissect the failures. A work of great passion and detail, the text is a memorial to the fallen. Every Allied casualty is attributed to a known grave or memorial wall so that no one can be forgotten.



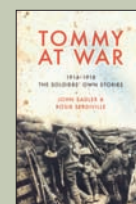
## Lt Col Andy Gladen, RE

**VERDICT:** An extensive and rewarding read that's well worth the effort ★★★★★

## Win... Tommy at War

by Sadler & Serdiville

AS the 2014 centenary of the outbreak of the First World War approaches, **John Sadler** and **Rosie Serdiville** have uncovered previously unheard personal testimonies from men and women of all backgrounds and classes who experienced the conflict first hand. *Soldier* has five copies of *Tommy at War* to give away. To be in with a chance of winning one, tell us what year the Great War ended. Send your answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) Good luck!



**Closing date: August 30**



# SLEEK SUZUKI: INSIDE STORY

## EQUIPMENT TO ENVY

STANDARD kit on the SZ4 model includes electric windows, cruise control, automatic air conditioning, electric heated door mirrors, adjustable steering wheel with mounted audio controls, 17-inch alloys, tinted glass, USB socket, CD tuner, multiple storage pockets, interior lighting, luggage hooks and accessory sockets.



## POWER APLENTY

THE *Grand Vitara* is a good-looking wagon. It lives up to its rugged appearance and performs more than adequately off the beaten track while offering a comfortable experience on the road. The 2.4-litre petrol version boasts a top speed of 115mph and achieves 0-62mph in 11.7 seconds. Selectable four-wheel drive modes also make the car easily adaptable to different driving conditions.

## ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

SADLY this vehicle lacks a sixth gear, which would help to improve its economy. The car would also benefit from a switchable two- to four-wheel drive system for better fuel consumption. Inside, the interior of the *Grand Vitara* is comfortable and seats five with room for a couple of dogs in the boot. However, it does feel somewhat dated in terms of style and there is room for improvement inside the cabin.



## SAFETY SPECIFICATIONS

THE vehicle has plenty of safety features to shout about. These include an electronic stability programme, vented rear disc brakes for swifter stopping in wet conditions and a strengthened rear suspension to keep the car firmly planted in the corners. Side, curtain, driver and passenger airbags are also welcome elements, as are the Isofix child seat anchors and a four-star safety rating from Europe's new car assessment programme.

## OFF-ROAD MODE

THERE are three traction options to choose from on this vehicle; 4H, 4H lock and 4L. The former is the high-range mode for day-to-day driving. It splits the power ratio 47:53 between the front and rear respectively. The second is also high-range but ensures all four wheels are travelling at the same speed, giving the best traction for mud and snow. 4L is low range, offering excellent low-end traction. This is the true off-road mode.



## SOLDIER'S VERDICT ON THE GRAND VITARA

**PERFORMANCE:** More than adequate off road, lives up to its looks. ★★★★★

**ECONOMY:** Lacks a switchable two- to four-wheel drive system. ★★★★★

**RIDE AND HANDLING:** A comfortable driving experience on the road. ★★★★★

**VALUE:** A great price for a good-looking and roomy four-wheel drive. ★★★★★

**SAFETY:** Decent features but lacks the five-star rating of some rivals. ★★★★★

**OVERALL:** An average performance but very good value for money. ★★★★★

# Top Gear

Review: Melissa Terry

JAPANESE manufacturer Suzuki is synonymous with fun, cheap motoring. The firm has been bringing small cars, fast motorcycles and budget off-roaders to the UK since the late 1970s.

Its output has come a long way over the years but the *Grand Vitara* was one of the first sports utility vehicles to carve the car maker's name in the countryside.

Stylish yet boxy, this model has now been in production for an impressive 24 years.

Striving to remain at the top of the low-cost, high equipment scale, it has undergone a couple of overhauls in that time.

Notably for 2013, the vehicle has received a facelift and improvements to both gadgetry and economy. So I decided to put it to the test.

Suzuki starts the *Grand Vitara* range with a 1.6 VVT petrol SZ3 three-door, priced at £15,995, and the model climbs through both petrol and diesel versions to reach the SZ5 2.4 petrol five-door. The latter comes equipped with sunroof, leather seats and a touch screen satnav system, setting users back £22,645.

I drove the 2.4 SZ4 manual petrol five-door variant equipped with variable four-wheel drive (see left).

The engine is quiet and the manual gearbox smooth with short gear changes.

There is plenty of power from the 2.4-litre machine, despite the car being quite heavy because of the four-wheel drive system.

I found plenty more to enthuse about with the driving position.

Visibility is very good all-round, offering great command of the road ahead.

A low sill means passengers can slide in without having to lift their feet over an obstruction – something many drivers don't consider but which is a definite bonus for anyone with young children or elderly parents.

The car is a comfortable, firm ride. Handling is good and it doesn't wallow around like some 4x4s, behaving more like a large hatchback.

Add to that 17-inch alloys, privacy glass, roof rails and a full complement of airbags, not to mention automatic aircon, steering-wheel mounted audio switches and cruise control as standard, and you have a stunning wagon with bags of kerb appeal.

Such features often come at extra cost – even on pricier competitors' models such as the VW *Tiguan* (from £21,250). But at £18,895, this vehicle gives more for less. ■





# edr

MONEY-  
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PICK OF THE MONTH:

# FOUR-WHEEL HIGH

CAR MAKER BRINGS BIG FEATURES TO MODEST PRICE TAG





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# SOLDIER SPORT

EDITED BY RICHARD LONG PICTURES BY GRAEME MAIN

**Hard case:** After excelling in the ring and tasting success as a kick-boxer, Kgn Bryan Creighton (2 Lancs) is seeking a new challenge as a cage fighter – see how he fared at Cage Warriors 57 on page 86...





# Back in the fast lane

Injured Servicemen return to the saddle at prestigious Silverstone circuit

Report: Richard Long  
Pictures: Graeme Main

**H**AVING used racing cars and powerboats to help wounded soldiers on the road to recovery, Mission Motorsport has added another string to its petrol-powered bow.

With an increasing number of troops showing a desire to get on the grid the charity staged its first motorcycle event at the prestigious Silverstone circuit.

The day offered expert tuition to a handful of personnel who were riding the two-wheeled machines for the first time since being injured, while also providing track time for those seeking a taste of life in the fast lane.

Cpl Richard Pittam (AGC (RMP), pictured below) suffers with spinal stenosis – a shrinking of the spine that restricts his movement – and the session helped him fulfil a long-term ambition of getting back on the bike.

"I got an email from Mission Motorsport asking me if I wanted to come to Silverstone and I said 'yes'," he explained. "To begin with it was about restoring my confidence, then I moved up to the start line and I've been taking corners as well.

"It is all coming back to me, although I've had to learn how to position myself as my legs are strapped to the bike.

"I'm almost housebound at the moment and have been trying to find ways to motivate myself.

"Even when things like this come along I try to talk myself out of it but there is nothing better than riding a bike."

For Pte Jamie Hull (4 Para) the Silverstone experience saw him return to motorcycling for the first time in ten years.

He was injured in an aircraft fire and suffered burns and damage to his lower limbs and is now determined to continue in the sport.

"I started by doing a few laps on a fully automatic just to get my confidence back and a feel for the bike again," he said.

"This is an excellent rehabilitation aid as it helps boost levels of self-esteem.

"It pulls guys out of their comfort zone and it takes a lot of guts to do something like this, especially if they have suffered traumatic injuries in the line of duty.

"It will help hugely in the pursuit of other activities and in terms of getting them back in the workplace.

"They will think 'if I can ride a bike, what else can I do?'

"It's good to be back and I would like to keep my hand in."

The session was aimed at reintroducing participants to the sport and showing them that motorcycling is still possible – despite their injuries.

It is hoped similar events will now follow, with track days, racing and vocational opportunities also a possibility.

"Some of these personnel would have never thought they could get back on a bike," Maj Mike Briant (RA), part of the Mission Motorsport team,

told *SoldierSport*. "We are looking at guys and girls with a full spectrum of injuries. Motorcycling gives you a feeling of independence and self control. We are trying to push them in a way some thought would not be possible."

Pte Matt Noakes (Mercian) has enjoyed a number of racing car events as well

as securing a work placement with Bentley through his involvement with the charity.

However, the visit to Silverstone allowed him to embrace his true passion – motorbikes.

"This is my first track day since I injured my shoulder in Afghanistan," he said.

"I have been doing the four-wheeled stuff and that has helped me no end but getting back on two wheels has put a huge smile on my face.

"I was a bit nervous at first but after a couple of laps I was hanging off the bike.

"I have learnt what my limitations are. I've been out in racing cars; pushed too hard and spun off. You can't do that with these machines.

"I will carry on with the track days but my ambition is to compete in the Isle of Man TT. I'm going to get my race licence and focus on that."

Noakes is now preparing for life outside the Service and he praised the level of support offered by the charity as he plans for the future.

"It looks as though my Army career is over," he explained. "I was at home and got diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder; I was climbing the walls.

"I then contacted Mission Motorsport director Jim Cameron and he was more than happy to help. The next thing I knew I was involved in things like this.

"It has helped me beyond belief and everything is coming together. I was worried about returning to a work environment but going to Bentley every day got me into a routine. I'm now looking at a career with them."

For more information on the charity visit [www.missionmotorsport.org](http://www.missionmotorsport.org)

**"IT HAS HELPED ME BEYOND BELIEF AND EVERYTHING IS COMING TOGETHER"**







**On track:** The day at Silverstone helped boost the confidence and rehabilitation of Cpl Richard Pittam (AGC (RMP), below left and right) and Pte Matt Noakes (Mercian, main picture)







Pictures: Sgt Paul Randall, Sgt Russ Nolan and LCpl Dan Wapen, RLC

**Running hot:** LCpl Nicola Van Staden (RE) gave the Army women an early triumph on the track with victory in the 5,000 metres at RAF Cosford

# Athletes taste highs and lows

## Inter-Services Athletics

Men	Women
Army 152	RAF 134
RAF 123	Army 130
Navy 116	Navy 63

**T**HE Army endured a day of mixed fortunes at the **Inter-Services Athletics Championships** as the men's team emphatically defended their title but the women were made to suffer at the hands of their rivals.

Having celebrated double success in 2012 the Reds were hoping for a repeat performance at RAF Cosford but the return of home favourite Cpl Laura McGawn scuppered their plans.

The multi-eventer gave a sublime display to secure wins in the 100 metres, long jump, triple jump and javelin – along with second place in the shot putt and third in the 800 metres – as the Royal Air Force posted 134 points.

But the new-look Army team fell agonisingly short as they reached a score of 130 in reply, meaning the hosts reclaimed their crown following defeat in Aldershot last year.

McGawn gave the light blues the perfect start as a leap of 10.94 metres saw her take gold in the triple jump.

However, the soldiers hit back with a superb double in the 5,000 metres as LCpl Nicola Van Staden (RE) and SSgt Sophie Morris (R Signals) dominated the

field to finish first and second.

Further success followed in the high jump as Maj Rosie Curling (AGC) and Pte Meg Walford (29 Regt RLC) took the top spots before Pte Georgina Price (29 Regt RLC) added more points with silver in the 400 metres hurdles.

LCpl Jenna McGrevey gave one of the performances of the day as she held off the challenge of teammate Cpl Danielle Hodgkinson (RAMC) to give the Army another double in the 800 metres.

Hodgkinson added to her points haul with victory in the 1,500 metres and McGrevey capped a fine day by taking silver in the 400 metres.

In the field, Capt Lucy Rann (AGC) and LCpl Alex Turbitt (R Signals, pictured) kept the Reds in touch with useful contributions in the javelin, discus and shot putt but the RAF maintained a narrow lead and victories in the relays sealed their success.

"I'm not that disappointed with the defeat," women's coach WO2 Tanya Jacobs (RLC) told *SoldierSport*.

"Laura McGawn is ranked fourth in the UK for heptathlon and she competed in six events on the day, as well as two relays.

"We had a lot of new young girls in our team and I was really impressed with

them. We've made some exciting finds and that puts us in a strong position for next year.

"There were quite a few people who were unavailable for one reason or another so we need new athletes to come through.

"I hope they stay on board so they can continue to progress. We want to beat the RAF team with Laura McGawn in it and this gives us something to build on."

While McGawn dominated the women's field, the Army men had a solo star of their own in LCpl Osman Muskwe (3 LSR).

The junior NCO secured victories in the long jump, javelin and high jump, was second in the shot putt and discus and came fourth in the 110 metres hurdles.

His efforts helped the team to a total of 152 points, which saw them comfortably beat the RAF with an improved Royal Navy squad finishing in third place.

A throw of 51.49 metres saw Cpl Ben Jones (3 RSME)







**Star turns:** Clockwise, from top, Rfn Funsho Joseph, Capt Ady Whitwam and Pte Georgina Price

dominate the hammer and with Gdsm Peter Moreno (Coldm Gds) and Cpl Paul Allen (RE) finishing second and third in the triple jump, the Reds were on the front foot from the start.

Moreno continued his fine form with victory in the pole vault before Capt Richard Smith (AFC Harrogate) retained his 400 metres hurdles title in a time of 54.96 seconds.

Cpl Ramone Smith (27 Regt RLC) proved to be the star of the sprints as he claimed a double in the 100 and 200 metres, while Sig Jonny Lowdowski (11 Sig Regt) produced a fine run to take silver in the 400 metres.

Gold medals then followed in the relay events as the Army capped a superb day in style.

"There were a number of new guys on the team this year," said Maj (Retd) Jim Wood, secretary of Army Athletics.

"Some of the old guard were either away on ops or have moved on so it gave others a chance to shine.

"What we were really pleased about is the fact that the Navy were a lot more competitive this year.

"Some of their performers pushed RAF athletes out of second- and third-place finishes and that allowed us to open a healthy lead." ■



**MULTI-EVENTER** LCpl Osman Muskwe (3 LSR) was one of the peak performers for the Army men at RAF Cosford. The soldier contributed an impressive 31 points to the team's overall total of 152 after securing victories in the high jump, javelin and long jump, silver in the shot putt and discus, and a fourth-place finish in the 110 metres hurdles. He has had a superb season to date and won the decathlon title at the England Athletics National Championships.

## SPORT SHORTS

■ A GROUP of injured personnel will take to the high seas this month to compete in one of the world's most infamous and arduous yachting events – the Rolex Fastnet Race.

The Team Army Sports Foundation and the Endeavour Fund have provided financial backing for the project, with Tri-Service charity Toe in the Water offering use of their Farr 52 yacht.

The crew have completed a number of gruelling training runs ahead of the August 11 start date and skipper Capt Lloyd Hamilton (RE) is relishing the prospect of taking part.

"The majority of participants will be selected from wounded and injured Service personnel who have either already been through a Toe in the Water programme or those who have acquired some sailing experience via another route," he explained.

"Racing offshore will be a new experience for most of these guys and will enable them to push themselves even further."

For more information on the event visit [www.toeinthewater.org](http://www.toeinthewater.org)

■ THE Army women retained their Inter-Services volleyball crown following a commanding performance against their rivals at RAF Cranwell.

Having lifted the title for the first time in 2012 the soldiers maintained their impressive form with back-to-back wins.

Capt Karen Tait (AGC (RMP, pictured left)) was named player of the tournament.

"This is only the second time in history that the Army ladies have won this competition which is a tribute to how far the team has come," said coach SSgt Nikki Mead (AGPDO HQ, pictured right).

"We have technically great players, a dedicated coach and manager – all of which points to a positive future."

Anyone interested in playing volleyball should call SSgt Mead on 94222 3255.



■ A SCOTTISH Reservist deployed in Afghanistan completed a half marathon dressed in a padded Batman suit to raise money for victims of the Boston bomb attacks.

SSgt John Castle (225 Scottish Med Regt (V)) battled searing temperatures to complete the challenge alongside colleagues from the United States Marine Corps.

"I knew the suit would slow me down a bit," he said. "The face piece allowed me to breathe but it got rather hot round the chest area."





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**Victory charge:** An unbeaten 28 from Sgt Jenny Walker (QARANC) helped the Army to a five-wicket win against the Royal Navy in their opening match

# Cricketers bounce back in style

Navy 110-3 lost to the Army 111-5  
Navy 182-1 beat the RAF 89-7  
RAF 95-4 lost to the Army 96-4

**Army women are 2013 champions**

**T**HE Army women hit top form in the middle as they recorded emphatic victories over their Forces rivals to reclaim cricket's **Inter-Services Twenty20** title in style.

Having suffered a comprehensive defeat in last year's tournament, the new-look Reds squad dominated proceedings in Portsmouth as their strategy of fielding first reaped maximum dividends against the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

The soldiers started their campaign in a determined mood and a committed performance with the ball saw the hosts restricted to a below-par 110-3 in the opening innings.

However, the run chase was far from easy and a flurry of early wickets saw the Army reduced to 40-5 to prompt fears of a batting collapse.

But an unbeaten 71-run stand between Sgt Jenny Walker (QARANC) and Capt Caz Norris (HQ ARRC) settled any nerves as the middle-order duo steered the team to a five-wicket win.

The Navy fought back to record a 93-run victory over defending champions the RAF, who could only post 89-7 in their pursuit of a daunting target of 183.

The light blues' struggles continued against the Army and a lack of fluency with the bat saw them restricted to 95-4, a total that was significantly short of being a competitive score.

In reply, the champions-elect made short work of the chase and an unbeaten 27 from skipper Cpl Eddie Koff (3 RSME) saw them celebrate a comfortable six-

wicket success in just 12.3 overs.

"We are obviously delighted to get our hands on the trophy but what is really pleasing is the fact we won with quite a few new girls in the team," manager Maj Ros Brown (R Signals) told *SoldierSport*.

"We had a tough game against the Navy. Batting second meant the pressure was firmly on us, especially when we lost a few early wickets.

"But Jenny Walker and Caz Norris put a strong partnership together to get us over the line.

"We had to win the second game. Both sides cut back on the extras and we bowled really well to make it a tight match. The RAF started well but we got a couple of wickets at the right time and that turned the contest in our favour.

"We have got a really good team spirit at the moment. Twenty20 games can go either way but we felt in control." ■



## BASE JUMPING

### Soldier soars to world title

ARMY officer Maj Alastair Macartney leapt to victory at the **Base Jumping World Cup** in Istanbul.

The 37-year-old battled against 47 competitors from 16 different countries and launched himself from the 236-metre Sapphire Tower in the middle of the city's business district.

Maj Macartney, who works at the Joint Air Delivery Test and Evaluation Unit at RAF Brize Norton, was flying a canopy emblazoned with poppies to raise awareness of the work carried out by The Royal British Legion.

"I was up against the best extreme sports athletes in the world," he said. "My military background helped me stay calm during some intense and turbulent weather conditions."

Competitors had to free fall from the roof of the tallest residential building in Europe before deploying their parachutes at the last second and piloting to a precision landing.





## SPORT SHORTS



■ THE Army began their 50-over cricket campaign with a narrow defeat to Kent's 2nd XI in Aldershot.

Batting first, the visitors set a commanding total of 312 and the soldiers fell just 20 runs short in reply.

Gnr Graham Wiseman (12 Regt RA) top scored with a rapid-fire 80 while Capt Ian Massey (LD) continued his fine form with a knock of 75.

All-rounder Pte Brannon Varley (DMSTG) also contributed a half-century to the Army run chase.

"It was good to respond to a big total," Massey said. "It would have been easy to feel the pressure chasing 312 but the boys played very well."

The Reds return to action at the Inter-Services in Portsmouth this month and will be looking to complete the double over their Forces rivals following victory in the Twenty20.



■ TENNIS ace LCpl Lawrence Tere (RAMC, pictured) warmed up for this month's Inter-Services showdown with a clean sweep of titles at the Army championships in Aldershot.

He downed WO2 Jamie Friend (RLC) 6-2, 7-5 in the men's singles final before teaming up with Cpl Taff Williams (AAC) to take the doubles' title 7-6, 6-4.

Tere completed his hat-trick in the mixed doubles, where he and Cpl Hannah Bacon (AGC) defeated Cpl Joe Martey (RLC) and Capt Fiona Welborn (RADC) 6-2, 6-2.

Welborn was victorious in the ladies' singles final, while Sgt Abi Hanafin (Int Corps) and Cpl Hilary Greig (AMS) won the doubles.

The Army team will take to the courts at Wimbledon for the Inter-Services on August 5 and 6.



Howzat?: Army bowler Capt Caz Norris (Int Corps) leads an appeal in the team's win against the Navy

## Reds seal double win

RAF 129 lost to the Army 132-5

RAF 72 lost to the Navy 73-1

Army 225-5 beat the Navy 107

Army women are 2013 champions

INSPIRED performances with both bat and ball steered the Army women to a comfortable victory in cricket's **40-over Inter-Services Championship**.

Having romped to a five-wicket triumph over the Royal Air Force in their opening match, the Reds turned the screw against the Royal Navy to win by 118 runs and secure a famous double over their military rivals.

Lt Col Sarah Streete (R Signals) top scored in both matches and with wickets being shared among the bowling attack the soldiers dominated throughout.

A spell of 4-32 from skipper Cpl Eddie Koff (3 RSME) and figures of 3-37 by LCpl Ronel Steyn (RE) restricted the RAF to just 129 in their innings before the steady hand of Streete, with an unbeaten 37, steered the team to 132-5 in reply.

The light blues then crumbled to a miserable 72 all out to hand the Senior Service a nine-wicket success, leaving the two unbeaten sides to square-off in the tournament decider.

Batting first, the Army found themselves struggling at 24-2 but a 149-run stand between Streete (69) and Koff (66) laid the foundations for a competitive total of 225-5.

The Navy made a solid start to the run chase as the openers shared a 50-run partnership but a spectacular collapse saw their middle order blown away.

A superb return of 4-28 from Capt Caz Norris (Int Corps) saw their opponents slip from 52-1 to 69-5 and Maj Ros Brown (R Signals) maintained the stranglehold thanks to figures of 3-18.

Lt Charlie Campbell (RLC) offered further support as she claimed 2-22 from six overs.

"We're really excited and the girls played extremely well throughout," Koff told *SoldierSport* after lifting her second trophy of the season.

"We put a good total on the board and the Navy found it very hard to get.

"Sarah Streete has been outstanding. She is the oldest player on the team but she really produced in this tournament – she is a great role model for the younger girls coming through.

"This trophy means a lot to us. We gave it away very easily last year so to get it back has made us extremely happy." ■



# WARRIOR WINS ON HOME TURF



**M**IXED martial arts star Kgn Bryan Creighton (2 Lances) is targeting the upper echelons of his sport after making a spectacular start to his career on the Cage Warriors promotion.

Fighting in front of a partisan crowd at Liverpool's Echo Arena, the soldier defeated Mark Connor with a second-round submission to enhance his growing reputation in the flyweight ranks.

The 27-year-old signed a five-bout contract with the organisation, which is regarded as Europe's leading MMA outfit, and his debut win came on the under card of a show staged in his home town.

"Mark Connor is 35 years old and had 16 professional fights to his name so he was an experienced opponent who had not been stopped before," Creighton told *SoldierSport*. "I stamped my authority on the contest in the first round with some front-foot pressure and then I managed to get a choke hold in the second.

"It could not have gone any better and the promoters said it was a good scalp to have.

"The support and atmosphere in the arena was amazing and I'm hoping to get a fight on the main card next time out."

Creighton started his sporting career in jiu-jitsu but also has a fine pedigree in boxing and Muay Thai kick-boxing.

In the ring, he represented the Army and is a former Combined Services champion and as a kick-boxer he boasts an impressive record of 54 victories from 70 bouts.

"I wanted a challenge and I joined the Army knowing they are big on sports," he explained.

"Everything I have done so far has been a progression towards mixed martial arts – it is the fastest evolving sport in the world.

"I had a one-bout deal with another promotion but I lost that contest. It was my biggest defeat to date but it was also a huge learning curve.

"A fight is all about what happens on the ground. The knockouts will come but on the floor you have to know your positions and holds.

"I've got a new coach who has been thrashing me on the wrestling side and that has made me a lot tougher.

"I've got a great contract with Cage Warriors and hopefully the next step will be Japan or the Ultimate Fighting Championship in America."

While Creighton has excelled on the mat he is also fully immersed in Army life and has praised the level of support he has received from the chain of command.

He said: "I recently came back from Estonia, where we were on exercise with Nato forces. I had a couple of weeks off to train and then I was out on the ranges.

"The regiment is happy for me to compete. It is great publicity for them and the Army." ■

## SERVICE FIGHT SENSATION IN NUMBERS

36

THE NUMBER OF BOXING BOUTS FOUGHT BY THE SOLDIER – WHO BOASTS 24 WINS AND A COMBINED SERVICES TITLE

7

YEARS SERVED IN THE BRITISH ARMY, WHICH INCLUDES A DEPLOYMENT TO AFGHANISTAN AS PART OF OPERATION HERRICK

54

VICTORIES ACHIEVED BY THE ATHLETE AS A MUAY THAI KICK-BOXER – HE ALSO HAS A RECORD OF EIGHT MMA WINS





**Fighting on:** Cpl Tim Tamani (REME) punches a hole in the New Zealand defence during the Combined Services' 20-16 World Cup defeat in Colchester

## Services stung by late comeback

**Armed Forces Rugby League World Cup semi-final**

Great Britain 16 – New Zealand 20

**A** LAST-gasp try from James Faleofa dumped Great Britain's Combined Services out of the **Armed Forces Rugby League World Cup** at the semi-final stage.

The defending champions looked set for a showdown with Australia in the tournament final but the New Zealand ace tore up the script as he powered to the line in the final minute to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

On a tense evening in Colchester the hosts failed to find the sparkling form that saw them crush their opponents 32-8 in the pool stage, where they also strolled to a 98-0 win over Serbia.

With the scores tied at 4-4 after a below-par first-half, the Services returned to the field for the second period in determined fashion and Pte Scott Sarson (2 Para, pictured) was at the heart of their best moves.

A sustained spell of pressure deep in Kiwi territory saw LCpl Ryan Taylor (RE) cross for a converted try but the visitors immediately hit back with two scores in a devastating four-minute spell.

A slick passing move along the back line allowed wing Aaron Wilson to touch down in the corner before some smart

handling saw Leon Walker claim his second try of the evening.

The dramatic turnaround left the home team trailing 14-10 but with time on their side hopes of a comeback remained high.

The Services dominated possession and territory but a succession of handling errors saw them squander their



advantage before Pte Dom Maloney (2 Para) finally crashed over by the posts.

After seeing the extras converted the New Zealanders mounted a late charge and with time rapidly running out their efforts reaped maximum reward as Faleofa threaded his way through the defensive line to score.

The setback proved to be fatal for the British Servicemen and as the clock ticked down they were left to reflect on what might have been as they slipped to a 20-16 loss.

"We're absolutely gutted," Army player Cpl Marc Donnelly (RE) told *SoldierSport* in the immediate aftermath of the defeat.

"The lads dug in but we just did not perform. That is the worst we have played in the whole competition, I don't really know what to say.

"It was just one of those days where things did not work for us, it was not down to a lack of effort. The ball didn't go to hand and I think the officials had a different take on certain things."

Donnelly was forced to watch the game from the sidelines having injured his knee in the first match with the Kiwis and was surprised by the strength of the opposition after their poor showing earlier in the competition.

"I didn't think New Zealand had a performance like that in them," he added.

"We beat them comfortably in the pool stage but they played really well today." ■





## Soldiers feel the chill in Welsh waters

ARMY athletes saw their hopes of victory in the **Inter-Services Open Water Swimming Championships** dashed by a strong Royal Air Force outfit in Bala Lake, North Wales.

With the Royal Navy failing to field a team, the competition was a two-horse race and the airmen were too strong for the soldiers as they triumphed with a 22-minute winning margin.

All three races attracted a healthy level of entries but the Army were unable to overhaul the RAF's combined team time of 4hr 21min 17sec.

Cpl Clare Wilson (208 Fd Hosp) won the female competition but her status as a Reserve soldier meant her efforts could not be included in the final Inter-Services standings.

However, the NCO won the Army triple-crown challenge with Lt Col Rob Healey (11 Sig Regt) taking the men's overall title.

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst were inter-unit champions, with the Royal Signals lifting the inter-corps trophy.

"We were extremely encouraged by the number of people coming along," said

Nathan Pearce, secretary of the Army Swimming Union.

"There were 118 entrants and that made it a successful competition – even though we did not win the Inter-Services this year.

"The Royal Air Force have a settled squad but operational commitments and training exercises mean we cannot always do that.

"But we have uncovered some really good talent at these championships and that will hold the team in good stead for the future." ■



Pictures: Caroline Royce/English Lacrosse Association

## LACROSSE

## Smith targets global glory

SERVICE star Lt Alison Smith (RA) is hoping to make it third time lucky when she takes to the field for England at the **Lacrosse World Cup**.

The officer was part of the team that finished third and fourth in the last two tournaments and with confidence running high the 29-year-old is hoping for a strong showing in Ontario, Canada this time round.

"It is a talented squad of players and I'm delighted to be part of it," Smith (pictured) told *SoldierSport* on the eve of her departure.

"We have got a lot of youngsters coming through that are really strong and this is one of the best England set-ups I've been involved with.

"We are in a group with America, Canada, Australia and Wales and face

the prospect of seven games in ten days, so it will be tough.

"Everyone is really excited. We have got six days to acclimatise and we have two

warm-up matches, but we just want to get on with it."

Smith started playing the sport as a 12-year-old and represented England at youth level before gaining full senior honours.

She is also part of the Army team but her international commitments mean she is not always available for selection.

"A lot of matches have coincided with my England training so I've not been involved as much as I'd like," the Servicewoman said. "It is a growing sport. Soldiers are being encouraged to take part and we have some good talent coming through, which is a good sign." ■







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# Final word

We asked members of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers for the highlights of a recent live-firing training exercise in Jordan



## **Fus James Maule**

Using the new Glock for the first time on the close quarter combat range was my favourite experience. I think it's better than the Sig – it's easier to use and more accurate too. Getting to use mortars was also another highlight. It was definitely worth coming out to Jordan.



## **Cpl Richard Watt**

Working with soldiers from other formations has been the best part for me. I spent some time overseeing range safety and that was different from anything I have done before. I have never worked with so many different skill sets – dog handlers, gunners, military police – so that was beneficial.



## **Fus Colin Ross**

One high point for me was the amount of ammunition we had on this serial – I have never seen so many boxes all stacked up like that. I have also never watched the 66mm rocket being used before. Having mortars was also a positive for me; I have not been in a firefight involving that weapon so it was good to experience.



## **Fus Gary Dawson**

The forward operating base defence serial stood out for me. There was just so much going on and we got loads of rounds off. The way everyone was working together was brilliant. We have done similar things in Cyprus, where we are based, but not on the kind of terrain you get out in Jordan.



## **Fus Marc Pearson**

There has been a lot of good training here all-round. The terrain has been far more difficult than what we are used to but more realistic as far as Afghanistan is concerned. Using the 60mm mortars was a change too – we can't use that weapon in Cyprus.



## **Lt Harry Garston**

My highlight was probably the forward operating base defence exercise because it's the first time in the whole week where my platoon was together. We have been on the mission-specific training cycle for 18 months now so to come to Jordan and get the lads seeing all the working parts such as the Fire Support Group and mortars in a live-firing capacity is really good.

**Cpl Alan Urwin**  
The section attacks were the most memorable. We had one day where we encountered a few problems but by night we had rectified them. In Cyprus we don't have such vast ranges; it is a lot more populated than in Jordan. It was a new experience to use all the different weapon systems together, including heavy machine guns and mortars, and was good to bring everything into one serial.



## **LCpl Jan Potgieter**

This exercise is the first time I have been able to step up and take control since I finished the Fire Support Group commanders' course in April. Normally I'm just a guy being told what to do but now I'm the one giving orders. It's challenging but rewarding here and the desert conditions are different to what we are used to. The training is great – it's an environment you can't replicate in Cyprus or the UK.





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