

# SOLDIER



JUNE 2018

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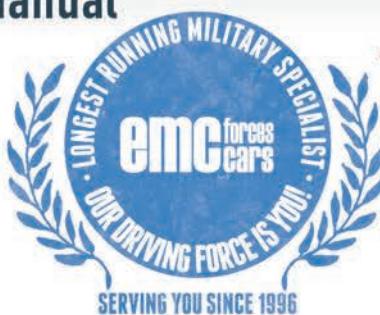
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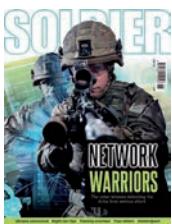
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Officials step up to Services stage



No stone left unturned in latest Joint Warrior exercise – page 28



# Cyber spring



WELCOME to the June issue, where we delve into the menacing world of cyber warfare.

Concern around this 21st century threat is well documented. And having found its way onto various UK training packages (page 28), this type of weapon will no doubt be on many troops' minds already.

This month we speak to the Royal Signals team charged with recruiting an 88-strong force to face off online enemies (page 44).

Also this month, training provided to Ukraine's front-line troops comes under the *Soldier* spotlight (page 33).

And make sure you don't miss our battle-winning night nav tips (page 22) and usual feast of Service sport (page 69).

Would you like our team to join your unit on an upcoming exercise or exped? Get in touch using the details overleaf and we could be helping you get the recognition you deserve.

Having your role in the British Army immortalised in the Service magazine is a small price to pay for being "crated" – honest.

**Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor**

“  
Army  
rugby is  
now in  
a really  
good  
place  
”

Inter-Services rugby union  
p72

## Where to find *Soldier*

### ► Printed copies

THESE are distributed to every Army site at the start of each month.

### ► Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

ALONG with news and glimpses behind the scenes at *Soldier*, we publish a link to the latest magazine at [www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine](http://www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine) and on Twitter (@soldiermagazine).

### ► Online

DIGITAL versions of current and past editions are available on the Army website at [www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk) Just click on the "read it now" tab.

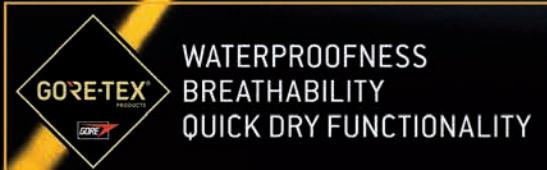
### ► Purchase

If you're not in the Army you can buy *Soldier* from your high street magazine retailer or directly from us at [subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk) (£23 for 12 issues in the UK).

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Picture: Graeme Main



# Replying to the ranks

Top soldier wastes no time in talking to his troops

**A**LIVEY question and answer session between the new chief of the general staff and junior ranks is on the agenda for this year's Land Warfare Conference.

In his first public outing since taking up the post, Gen Mark Carleton-Smith is billed to appear alongside Army Sergeant Major WO1 Glenn Haughton.

Succeeding Gen Sir Nicholas Carter, who takes up the post of chief of the defence staff, the former Irish Guards officer has held a string of senior positions – the most recent being deputy chief of defence staff (military strategy and operations).

He will host the Q&A on the second day of the event, which is being held at Church House in Westminster from June 19 to 20.

Royal United Services Institute research fellow Peter Quentin said Service personnel of all ranks could attend – and more junior troops could take advantage of a discounted rate.

He told *Soldier*: "We normally have representation from more than 40 countries – but this event is also open to more junior soldiers and we would encourage them to register."

"The central theme of this year's conference is how land forces will



achieve a competitive advantage on the battlefield and beyond."

Quentin continued: "We will focus on how armies should train for 21st century manoeuvre in urban warfare – including synthetic environments.

"The tempo of technological change and pervasiveness of information are driving changes in the character of conflict – it is not clear where these will lead."

Live video coverage of the event will be accessible via the Rusi website.

Details on how to view it will be distributed through the chain of command early this month.

## IN THIS MONTH'S REVIEWS



^"What makes this feature stand out is the openness and honesty of its stars"



◀ "This title will both challenge and intrigue"

PAGE 61

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# GLOBAL SITREP

## 1. ARIZONA

### PUSHING THE ENVELOPE

PATHFINDERS of 16 Air Assault Brigade have carried out high-altitude parachute training alongside their Belgian Army equivalents in Yuma, Arizona.

They honed specialist techniques to insert deep behind enemy lines, jumping several kilometres from the drop zone and landing stealthily into terrain chosen for its resemblance to Afghanistan and Iraq.

The dangers of the method were brought home when the Belgian Defence Ministry reported that one of its parachutists was killed while taking part in a practice jump.

The cause of the incident is being investigated.



Picture: Cpl Obi Igbo, RLC

## 2. BELIZE

### TROPICAL TASTER

SOLDIERS from 4th Battalion, The Rifles and 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland have been sharpening their jungle fighting techniques in the punishing environment of Belize during Exercise Mayan Storm.

A number of range packages over six days gradually increased in difficulty to test their close quarter marksmanship skills.

In line with their specialised infantry role they also rehearsed combat and extraction procedures for operating at reach in small 12-man teams.



The troops received tuition from jungle warfare instructors and local Mayan experts, including how to find water, build fires and set different traps for wild animals.

During their time in the country the British personnel helped the Belize Defence Force select its next generation of junior leaders.



## 3. ALASKA

### PEDAL TO THE METAL

EX-SAPPER and elite soldier Dean Stott smashed the world record for cycling the Pan-American Highway by 17 days so he could be back in time to see former colleague Prince Harry marry Meghan Markle.

He went without rest after learning during the feat that he had an invite to the royal event, completing the 14,000-mile route in 99 days.

To help him raise £1 million for the Heads Together campaign visit [www.deanstott.com](http://www.deanstott.com)

Prudhoe Bay

## 3. ALASKA

### PACKING A PUNCH

THE combined might of The King's Royal Hussars Battlegroup has been unleashed on the plains of Suffield.

Challenger 2 crews, snipers, mortar platoons, gunners, combat engineers and drone specialists are among the assets being put through their paces during Exercise Prairie Storm.

After rehearsing individual and collective drills and conducting live firing they were set to take on an opposing force played by 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards as this issue went to press.

Keeping the exercise on the move was the 400-strong 4th Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Battlegroup.



Picture: Sgt Mark Webster, RIC

INTELLIGENCE  
FOR THE ATLAS?

Brief the team now:



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## 7. ESTONIA

### CABRIT COOPERATION

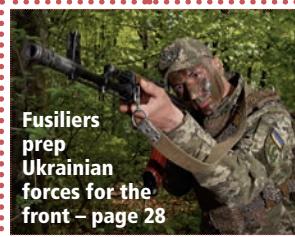
BRITISH soldiers have been supporting the largest mobilisation test conducted by the Estonian military since the country's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

The two-week exercise tested the Baltic state's defence plan and involved 15,000 Estonian

Regular troops, Reservists and volunteers, as well as personnel from across 13 allied nations.

Four Wildcat AH1 helicopters from the Army Air Corps' 661 Squadron flew missions to find and neutralise the enemy during the package, while also providing real-time reconnaissance to The Royal Welsh Battlegroup so that commanders had an accurate intelligence picture.

The training culminated in a force-on-force defence serial in the southern town of Valga.



Fusiliers prep Ukrainian forces for the front – page 28

## 6. GERMANY

### FIGHTING WITH FRIENDS

GRAFENWOEHR in Bavaria played host to the second Joint Warfighting Assessment, a US-led exercise aimed at promoting interoperability between Nato partners.

The package saw British troops from 1st Armoured Infantry Brigade working within the Americans' 1st Infantry Division while at the same time commanding a battlegroup manned by Danish personnel.

German, French, and Canadian forces were also represented at the exercise, which was launched last year to assess emerging concepts, integrate new technologies and increase cooperation.

Brig Zac Stenning, commander of the UK contingent, said: "What this means is not being insular, not just relying on our own technology but looking globally, understanding who we can fight alongside and whose technology we wish to be compatible with to continue to deter and, if necessary defeat, threats to UK security."



## 5. NIGERIA

### BOKO BASHING

SPECIALISED infantry personnel have been creating new training courses to support Nigerian Army operations against Boko Haram in the north-east of the country.

Troops from 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland enhanced the tactics and ground close combat skills of local troops to more effectively tackle the long-standing terrorist threat.

The Borderers also participated in Exercise Flintlock, an annual test organised by the US across Niger, Burkina Faso and Senegal that aims to improve counter-terrorism training and coordination among West African nations.

Two British teams trained Cameroonian and Nigerian armed forces in preparation for the exercise, focusing on low-level tactics, leadership, medical and sharpshooter skills.

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# Training revamp 'a real opportunity'

**R**UMOURS about the future of the UK's largest armoured training facility have been swirling for some time. But the team in charge of overhauling Army manoeuvres between now and 2025 say no decision has been made on the future of British Army Training Unit Suffield in Canada.

"This isn't about any specific area, it's about delivering the best training we can for the future – and it is a real opportunity," Brig Bobby Walton-Knight told *Soldier*.

His project – the collective training transformation programme – will ensure troops are better prepared for future missions by adding more realism and complexity to their serials – for example, by introducing a greater urban focus and considering new locations that reassure British allies.

Better technology is also being thrown into the mix, with the top brass keen to bring in more simulation to allow troops to rehearse complex scenarios that can't always be replicated physically.

Brig Walton-Knight continued: "Collective training is part of why soldiers join, and this will affect everybody in the Service."

"It's a huge transformation." By the end of the programme Army exercises will be more innovative, according to the officer, allowing soldiers to deal with far more complex environments and assessing their movements with new technology.

He added: "Our training has been improving for some time and the 'back to basics' work of the Field Army has made a huge difference in getting our core skills back to where we want.

"This change will build on that."



“  
This will affect  
everybody  
”



Have your say on the  
future of Army training  
press here

# WHERE in the world?

The project team is looking at other potential training locations...

■ The UK training estate is being studied to see if better use can be made of locations like Salisbury Plain Training Area

■ Poland, Finland and Germany are being assessed, but Europe alone may not meet the Service's training demands

■ Oman could be another excellent battlegroup exercise location

# Q&A



Soldier  
grills Brig  
Bobby Walton-  
Knight, director  
of the training  
overhaul...

## What needs to change?

Where we train and how we train. Alongside Kenya, Canada and Belize, we're looking at more operationally-focused areas in Europe where we can reassure allies and deter any potential enemies. We also want to make the most of simulation.

## Will it affect everyone?

Yes – including combat support and combat service support.

## Is this another money-saving measure?

It's about doing things better. If we can do this more cheaply, though, why wouldn't we?

## Are you asking soldiers what they think?

Yes, as many as possible. We welcome input and if anyone has any views on how training should be in future scan the QR code below to do our survey.

## What about Batus?

Our immediate plans are to continue training there but we are looking across the board and no decision has been made. One thing is for sure, we won't leave the world-class facilities we already have unless we find something as good.

## Why more simulation?

You can't do all training in simulated environments, it doesn't work. But these systems give us opportunities you don't get in the real world – to repeat things quickly in close succession and train without as many safety restrictions, for example.

## So when will things start to change?

During the rest of this year we should start to see plans taking shape and by the end of 2019 we will hopefully have a pretty good feel for the locations.

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<sup>\*</sup>Finance is subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Prices and savings correct at time of going to press.





# Mental health not about being 'softer'

THE mental wellbeing of soldiers should be taken as seriously as their physical condition, Prince Harry has told Army leaders.

Speaking at the Service's first Health and Deployability Conference in the run-up to his wedding, the Duke of Sussex urged personnel to support efforts to get troops talking about their feelings.

"This isn't about finding ways of making the Army softer or trying to be more fashionable," the former officer said. "Looking after the health of our soldiers is paramount.

"And just like our weapons, I believe that the mind should never be worked without regular servicing.

"For our veterans, serving men and women, their families, and the generations we are yet to recruit, the changes you can make from



today, can – and will – build a better, stronger, more courageous and inspiring British Armed Forces."

Commander Field Army, Lt Gen Patrick Sanders, is spearheading the call to action.

"If we leave this to the medics, doctors and nurses they will do their best, but it won't get fixed," he told the event at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

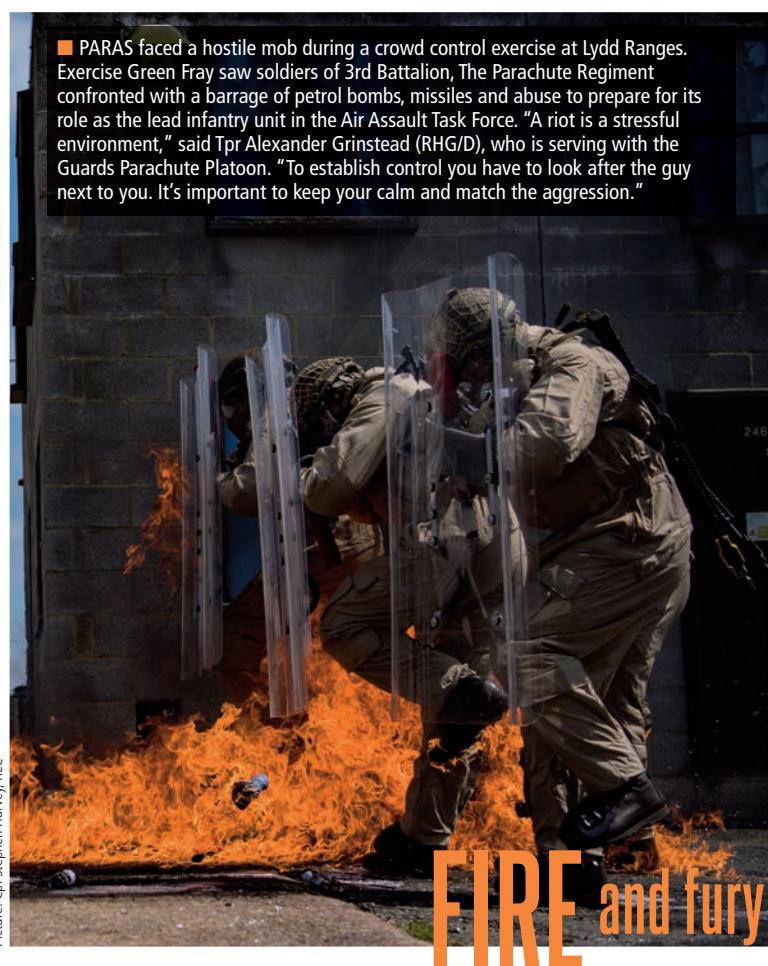
"We need to introduce cultural change: I want a culture of holistic physical and mental health."

The move follows the Army's efforts to train soldiers in the same way as professional athletes (*Soldier*, May) and reduce the number that are medically downgraded every year.

Lt Gen Sanders wants the Field Army to increase its deployability rate, and spotting soldiers' physical or mental problems earlier on is thought to be an important way to do that.

**The health of soldiers is paramount**

PARAS faced a hostile mob during a crowd control exercise at Lydd Ranges. Exercise Green Fray saw soldiers of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment confronted with a barrage of petrol bombs, missiles and abuse to prepare for its role as the lead infantry unit in the Air Assault Task Force. "A riot is a stressful environment," said Tpr Alexander Grinstead (RHG/D), who is serving with the Guards Parachute Platoon. "To establish control you have to look after the guy next to you. It's important to keep your calm and match the aggression."



Picture: Cpl Stephen Harvey, RLC



## SMARTPHONE SWAG

EAGLE-EYED sharpshooters are being urged to showcase their talent behind the lens by entering the prestigious Army Photographic Competition.

This year's event has a special new category for photographs and video clips captured on a smartphone.

Judges are looking for top-notch offerings to promote the work of the military across traditional and social media channels.

Command Master Photographer WO1 Will Craig (RLC) said: "This new category smashes the competition open, enabling anyone – including the public – to enter video footage."

Visit [www.army.mod.uk/photocomp](http://www.army.mod.uk/photocomp) for more details on how to get involved in the competition.



## NEW D-DAY INFO

■ A SERIES of books about the D-Day landings has been published to raise money for The Royal British Legion and Combat Stress.

Military historian James Robertshaw was inspired to write the battlefield guides after visiting Normandy in 2014.

"I saw many of our countrymen buried there and lots of sites with no information on what happened," he said.

"The books document the activity for each beach, all the operations mounted to overcome the German fortifications, the medals won and the major actions up to D-Day plus-eight."

The titles are available to buy at [www.dday-wardiaries.co.uk](http://www.dday-wardiaries.co.uk)

## ID CARD: TO BE CONTINUED

■ SOLDIERS leaving the Army can now retain their military ID to give them a visible record of service.

Previously, defence identity cards had to be surrendered but from now on they should be clipped across the corner by unit admin staff and returned to personnel.

The move is part of a cross-government effort to create a new veterans' policy that better recognises military service.

Old ID documents cannot be returned to those who have already left. Instead, an alternative form of veteran ID is being considered.

Read [2018DIN01-072](#) for more.



## VETS REFLECT ON RALLY

■ EX-SOLDIERS suffering from PTSD have been reflecting on their 2,000-mile journey around Morocco in a fleet of old bangers.

Driving Citroen Berlingos and Peugeot Partners, nine veterans followed the route of the 1990s Dakar Rally.

Despite repeated mechanical issues, the convoy completed the epic journey in just under two weeks.

"I've regained my sense of humour and I feel more positive and appreciated," said former Royal Engineer Jason Smith afterwards. "It's been so great to be part of a team again."

The trip was organised by Driven to Extremes, a group that aims to recreate the challenges and camaraderie of the military for those struggling with battle trauma.

## UN troops bring boost to Congolese orphans



■ THREE British officers serving on peacekeeping duties in the Democratic Republic of Congo delivered boxes of clothes, shoes and toys to an orphanage outside the eastern city of Goma. Having witnessed the awful conditions faced by children in the war-torn country the trio collected the items from friends and family while on RnR from Operation Percival, as the UK contribution to the UN mission is known. Maj Paul Horne (RA, shown above centre) said: "With so many harrowing and traumatic events taking place across this vast country on a daily basis it's heartening that you can do some good and make a small difference on your own doorstep." The team now hope to establish a lasting means of support for the orphans and street children of Goma.

## Light at end of tunnel for recruitment

THE Army is upping its game when it comes to recruitment, the outgoing commander Home Command has said.

Lt Gen James Bashall was appointed to the newly-created role in May 2016 with the job of heading up personnel support in areas such as training, career management and postings.

Recruitment formed a key element of the job, and the senior officer told *Soldier* it is the area that has given him the most concern during his time in the role.

"The positive thing has been the improvement in the number of people wanting to join the Service," said Lt Gen Bashall, who leaves the Army this month after 34 years.

"But the less satisfactory position is the actual inflow numbers and the challenges we face in converting applicants to those who join.

"We are still losing a number of people in that pipeline.

"There is work in hand to reduce the time 'in flight' and we are improving

the medical selection process to ease the transition from applicant to recruit.

"I'm confident my successor will inherit a sound programme and I believe we are on the road to continuous improvement."

Another area of success has been the increasing number of black, Asian and minority ethnic personnel now serving, which currently stands at 11 per cent against a government target of ten per cent by 2020.

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst has been fully subscribed for the past five intakes – a trend that has not been seen for several years – and Lt Gen Bashall has also been pleased to report the Service is better engaging with wider society.

He added: "We now have greater interaction with schools and young people, and we're taking opportunities to present a better picture of the Army.

"That involves use of things like military bands, free-fall parachute teams such as the Red Devils and work on our museums."

Home Command will be led by Maj Gen Tyrone Urch from this month.

“  
We're  
improving  
medical  
selection  
”





# OP HONOURS

Check the Army list on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk)



## Lifesavers and problem solvers praised

THE latest operational honours and awards list has been published.

It includes 17 decorations for the valuable work being carried out by British soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan and – for the first time – Eastern Europe.

Sgt Andrew Mather (R Irish, pictured above) received a Mention in Dispatches for saving lives in the wake of a suicide bomb near the German Embassy in Kabul.

He coordinated the initial response, directing stretcher parties and administering first aid under the threat of attack.

Mather's citation praises his leadership through "clarity of thought and decisive action", which saved at

least one life in the process.

In Iraq WO2 Luke Townsin (RE) exploited captured enemy material to provide vital intelligence that led to the destruction of at least one Daesh unit – an achievement that has been recognised with the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service.

Meanwhile, Maj Fiona Dangerfield (RLC) has been awarded the same decoration for her work managing new barracks and the arrival of a multinational armoured battlegroup in Estonia on Op Cabrit.

And Royal Engineer Lt Col Jason Ainley's leadership of 400 British troops in Sudan – where he faced political, logistical and environmental obstacles – won him an OBE.

“  
We are very  
keen to hear  
from anyone  
”

## Renewed appeal over toddler

ROYAL Military Police have renewed their appeal to any soldiers or civilians who can shed light on the disappearance of British toddler Katrice Lee (shown below) at a Naafi in Germany in 1981.

The two-year-old from an Army family vanished without trace while shopping with her mum in Schloss Neuhaus, Paderborn.

Despite widespread searches the case went cold but in 2012 the Service reopened enquiries, and last month personnel began a major forensic search of the nearby River Alme.

"In February 2017 the case featured on BBC *Crimewatch*," said senior investigating officer WO1 Richard O'Leary (AGC (RMP)). "As part of the feature a photofit was released of a man seen at the Naafi on the day Katrice disappeared, holding a child similar to her and getting into a green saloon car.

"We are keen to hear from anyone who could help to identify this person.

"A green saloon car was also seen on the River Alme bridge the day after. It may or may not be the same car, but we are very keen to identify it."



Got  
info?  
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616 888  
or Germany  
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Picture: Peter Davies

## IN NUMBERS

### INVICTUS GAMES 2018

The line-up has been confirmed for October's event in Sydney

72

Personnel  
and veterans  
in UK team

11

Sports included

## WHAT MONEY CAN'T BUY...

ARMY doctor Maj Nics Wetherill (RAMC), who led the first all-female crossing of Antarctica, has been named in the *Sunday Times* Alternative Rich List.

The chart, which recognises achievement and job satisfaction over wealth, listed the Servicewoman in its "free spirited and adventurous" category, praising her commanding role on the 1,056-mile Ice Maidens exped.

The trip saw the officer and five Army colleagues battle 60mph winds and -40 degrees Celsius temperatures.

Speaking afterwards, she said the experience had made them "better people".





A personal view from  
Sara Baade, Chief  
Executive of the Army  
Families Federation...

## RELATIONS IN THE NATIONS

**F**REQUENT moves are something families must get used to as part and parcel of Army life.

And while relocating within the UK may seem less daunting than going overseas, it can still mean significant change.

The devolved regions of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all differ in their approach to certain areas, and our teams work hard to ensure families are not disadvantaged by their posting.

While gathering views is at the heart of the AFF's work, building relationships with authorities is also vital.

I recently met MPs in Glasgow to discuss the issues families are facing there, including the unfair discrepancy in income tax.

This has long been a topic of discussion, and we intend to continue being vocal on the issue with policy makers.

We also presented a paper to the Welsh government about the lack of Service pupil premium, and I'm pleased to hear that new funding to support military children has since been announced.

Other recommendations we have made include ensuring families posted to Wales are not penalised on NHS waiting lists, and that landlords waive the "local connection" criterion for former partners seeking social housing.

All of this adds to our work supporting families, wherever they are.

[www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)



Picture: SAC Charlotte Hopkins, RAF

**We don't want anyone to be worse off**

## Tartan tax comes under review

**D**EENCE Secretary Gavin Williamson has promised to introduce measures to counter the Scottish government's income tax rise that will affect many of the 6,000 or so Regular and Reserve troops stationed north of the border.

The Scottish Parliament recently approved new rates, which will result in those earning more than £26,000 per year paying more tax in comparison to their counterparts in the rest of the UK.

British Army personnel have already voiced their concern over postings to the country in light of the change

("Counting the cost of the tartan tax", *Talkback*, May).

The Service has said there is no plan to offer financial compensation to those affected in the 2017/18 tax year, and that any future reimbursements will be applied on an annual basis.

But Mr Williamson told the Commons: "We do not want anyone who serves in our Armed Forces to be worse off as a result of the taxes being placed on them."

The politician said he hoped to provide an update on possible mitigation measures in June.



### GOLDEN GIRLS

Reds maintain Services streak – page 73



### HELPING KIDS COPE

■ SERVICE children living in Scotland are to be supported by a new scheme from The Royal Caledonian Education Trust.

The three-year project, boosted by a grant from ABF The Soldiers' Charity, will help youngsters address issues such as lack of

stable education, moving to unfamiliar areas and losing touch with their friends.

The organisation plans to recruit a youth participation project manager, who will talk to Service families to identify the issues important to them.



Pictures: Nato

## Deployed troops pull together

**A**FGHANISTAN-based troops from 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards mixed it up with multinational colleagues in a demanding test of military and teambuilding skills.

The soldiers joined colleagues from the UK-led Kabul Security Force, taking part in disciplines including mock casualty evacuations, weapons handling and a test of knowledge of Afghan history.

There was also a hotly contested tug of war competition and a stretcher race.

Force spokeswoman Sqn Ldr Karen Swanston (RAF) said personnel from countries including the US, Denmark, Finland and Australia as well as the UK were split into mixed teams.

"This was an exercise to hone joint working between our nations," the officer explained.

"We wanted to get participants from different partner countries together and they responded really well – the event was a great success."



## Trekking troops give off right signals

■ DETERMINED troops from the Royal Signals were pitted against each other in a gruelling mental and physical countryside trek.

Starting at dawn, 33 teams took on the 40-mile Lanyard Challenge through Staffordshire, Derbyshire and the Peak District, carrying their kit across different terrain. Members of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron were victorious with event hosts, Nuneaton-based 30 Signal Regiment, coming second.



### SPINE LINE COMPETITION

**WIN**  
a watertight cool bag and bottle

THE eagle-eyed weapons experts among our readers will have had no trouble identifying last month's spine line clues.

(John) Browning, (Vaclav) Holek, (Hiram) Maxim and (John) Thompson were all firearms engineers or designers, whose weapons helped to change the face of warfare.

This month *Soldier* has teamed up with premium watersports accessories store Red Original (<https://red-store.online>) to offer one lucky reader a watertight cool bag and marine-grade stainless steel insulated drink bottle.

With a combined RRP of around £200, and corrosion-resistant construction, these items are perfect for keeping your liquids at the perfect temperate during those summer workouts or trips.

To be in with a chance of winning the set, tell us what links the words on the side of this issue. Answer to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by June 29.



### IN NUMBERS ARMED FORCES DAY

PREPARATIONS are ramping up for the tenth annual event. Hundreds of parades and ceremonies will take place around the UK to celebrate our military:

**1,000**

soldiers, cadets and vets who will be on parade at the main event in Llandudno, Wales

**20** ops the Forces are on around the world

date the event takes place

**June 30**



Graphic: Freefolk

### PEER SUPPORT

■ VETERANS having trouble adjusting to civilian life or with mental health issues are being urged to contact one of Combat Stress's new peer support groups.

Led by former military personnel, there are now 28 branches established around the UK.

Call the charity's 24-hour helpline on **0800 138 1619** to be referred.

## NEW LOGGIE OUTFIT

■ A FLAG-RAISING ceremony has marked the creation of a new Reserve unit.

Birmingham-based B Troop of 159 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps is collocated with 202 Field Hospital and forms an extension of West Bromwich-based 237 Squadron.

Commanding Officer Lt Col Pat Allen said the formation had created "a fantastic opportunity" for the largest corps in the British Army.



Picture: Mark Owens

## MEDAL-SOME MITE

■ LITTLE Alfie Warren was among the proud family members watching on as The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards picked up their UN medals following a peacekeeping tour of Cyprus.

The decorations were presented to the cavalry regiment at Leuchars, where they have been based since 2015.

Alfie's father, Cpl Andrew Warren, was one of those to complete Operation Tosca, which sees the Brits helping to keep order along the green line between Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

## MONUMENTAL CENTRE

■ THE Commonwealth War Graves Commission is to unveil its first ever visitor centre.

The facility – due to open in Beaureains, France in spring 2019 – will explain how the organisation cares for some of the world's most iconic monuments and show craftspeople at work.



## Sombre ski moment...



■ TROOPS embarking on alpine adventurous training took time out to remember those who fell in a brutal First World War face-off between Austria-Hungary and Italy. The seven personnel from the Defence Academy laid a wreath at the summit of Col Dei Bos in the Italian Dolomites, where hundreds of troops were killed between 1915 and 1916. The six-day skiing expedition – Ex Picco Cima Tiger (pictured) – also saw team members rack up experience and gain qualifications in a series of activities on the former battlefields.

## Service complaints update

STEADY progress is being made with the new Armed Forces complaints procedure but more action is needed to address a two-year backlog of grievances from military personnel, according to the Service complaints ombudsman.

Nicola Williams (pictured) said that while the number of unresolved cases under the old system had been reduced there were still more than 40 outstanding from before January 2016.

She said 90 per cent of complaints should be resolved within 24 weeks.

"These are legacy matters stemming from the previous system," Williams commented. "The longer it takes to resolve an issue, the longer it is unfairly left hanging over both the complainant and the respondent – people might also move on."

She said the backlog had to be tackled as a priority to ensure "completely ineffective" old procedures were not repeated in future.

The Armed Forces complaints system was overhauled three years ago, making it simpler and giving extra powers to the new office of the ombudsman.

While these moves had improved things, barrister Williams maintained that the process was still a long way



from being efficient, effective or fair.

In her annual report to Parliament, she also questioned why a disproportionate number of complaints were from black, Asian and minority ethnic personnel as well as women.

She has laid out a number of recommendations and said she expected progress.

The MoD has welcomed the report and said it would consider its next step.

A spokesman for the department added: "We continuously review and improve our ways of working to ensure troops remain confident in the system."

“  
They should  
be resolved  
within 24  
weeks  
”



# FEARLESS FUNDRAISING



Pictures: Cpl Rebecca Brown, RIC

## Askari Serpent lifesavers

**I**F YOU thought it was just the medics responsible for saving lives on Exercise Askari Serpent, think again: a gifted pair of NCOs have been praised for fixing a broken Land Rover and saving a critically ill Kenyan woman in the process.

Cpl Robert Wood and LCpl Chesney Isaacs (both REME, shown right) had been deployed to a remote part of Kenya called Kipsing when the emergency unfolded.

As colleagues from 2 Medical Regiment helped the pregnant casualty, the pair repaired a local vehicle in under an hour so the woman could be driven 200 kilometres to hospital.

Cpl Wood told *Soldier*: "Our medics and doctor had been treating this woman who was at death's door.

"The locals had no way of getting her to hospital – a helicopter was unavailable but there was this broken

down Land Rover so we looked at it."

Quickly establishing that the root cause of the mechanical problems was a failed gearbox, the pair set about putting it right.

"It dawned on us that we had to sort this out quickly," he added.

"It was a massive high when we heard that the casualty had made it and was being treated – something I will take to the grave."

Capt Tom Bale (RAMC), adjutant of 2 Med Regt, said the work of Cpl Wood and LCpl Isaacs showed the value of troops from different cap badges working together.

"Ultimately, the skills of these two soldiers allowed a life to be saved," the officer concluded.

Exercise Askari Serpent is a six-week package that sees UK troops supporting Kenyan health authorities and charities.

**H**UNDREDS of soldiers took to North Yorkshire's gruelling landscape for a dawn-to-dusk relay event. The annual Race the Sun event saw 31 teams from across the UK swim, kayak, cycle, run and march 280 kilometres. Troops paddled the River Ouse to the outskirts of York, ran up the steep ascent of Sutton Bank, marched across Rievaulx Moor with a 15kg Bergen and completed a half marathon road run. Other legs included an orienteering event, 50km cycle, open water swim and duathlon. "We've seen some exceptional performances in running and on the bikes," said Lt Col Caroline Lewin, commanding officer of 2 Signal Regiment, the unit that organises the event. "It was a brilliant day and there was a great team spirit among all competing." Members of 11 Signal Regiment scooped the major unit title, with 216 Parachute Signal Squadron awarded the minor unit crown.



**IN NUMBERS:**  
**300**  
metres of ascent  
covered by runners  
who took on Sutton Bank



### On the pull

**R**OWERS from across the Army responded to an appeal by Cancer Research for athletes to complete a marathon on an indoor rowing machine. More than 25 soldiers from the Regional Command Indoor Rowing League accepted the challenge, covering 42,195 metres and helping to boost the organisation's coffers in the process.

Amount raised:  
**£6,000**  
For: Cancer Research



Cpl Robert Wood



LCpl Chesney Isaacs

**Tell us about your daring charity feats** [news@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:news@soldiermagazine.co.uk)



Pictures: Sgt Donald Todd, RLC

# THE BIG PICTURE

Royal wedding, Windsor Castle

## CLOSE SUPPORT

UNITS that hold a special relationship with Prince Harry provided ceremonial support at the former officer's wedding to Meghan Markle last month. Around 250 members of the Armed Forces helped celebrate the occasion, some of whom served with the groom during his ten years in the Army. Troops from the Household Cavalry lined the steps to St George's Chapel, while personnel from 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps were on parade around the castle.

Pictures: Sgt Donald Todd and Sgt Paul Randall, RLC





# NEED TO KNOW

SKILLS & DRILLS / HEALTH / NEXT STEP / EXPERIENCE / HOUSING

# Night nav



# know-how

## How to master military manoeuvres in the dark

► YOU may be confident finding your way to the RV in daylight, but getting around the training area in the pitch black brings some added challenges.

These navigation tips from the Infantry Battle School should stop you getting lost after the sun goes down...

### Get the basics right first

Navigating by night is not a completely different skill – the same principles apply as in the day. Orientate the map to the ground, trust your compass

and track your distance through pacing. Plan your route before you start and break down your course into a series of checkpoints. Take a route card too.

### Night vision nous

Keep one eye closed while using light to maintain night vision otherwise you will not see the features on the ground to help with your navigation. If you're using a head-mounted system be sure to keep night vision in your other eye.

### Pace yourself

Features will be harder to identify at night. By day you may get away with taking “the third track on the right” but in the dark you need to work out the distance and then pace it out. If you're part of a patrol appoint someone as a check-pacer to keep an accurate track of how far you've travelled.

### Be disciplined

Good light discipline is a must and applies not just to visible light but also to infrared light, which will stand out just as clearly to an enemy equipped with night vision kit.

### Tape your torch

You need white light to use your map – you can't see the contours with red light – but you don't want to give your position away to the enemy so prepare a separate torch for navigation.

One method is to tape it up, leaving only a pinprick to expose the minimum necessary light, or you can cover it with white cloth to dim the beam. Either way, make sure you get on your belt buckle and shield the map and torch to ensure you are not seen.

### Satellite assistance

You need to know how to navigate without GPS but if you do have it, learn to use it to its full capability. In darkness it is particularly useful to follow a series of waypoints rather than plotting grids on your map as you move. Remember to shield the light from the screen.

### Use the ground

Darkness does not make you invisible to the enemy. You are still likely to be spotted if you skyline yourself, follow obvious tracks or cross open areas, so use the terrain and vegetation to mask your approach.

### Practise

As with every other skill you only get good through experience. You can own the night, but only if you get out there and practise.

# Top tips for happy feet

Soldiers cover more miles than most, so if you're feeling footsore Paddy Shield – military consultant to boot manufacturer Haix UK – has this advice...

## Keep'em clean

Wash your feet often in warm soapy water, before drying them thoroughly. Dab, don't rub and take care to get between your toes, which is where fungal infections such as athlete's foot can develop.

Powder your feet to complete the process. After long marches, exercises or deployments, establish a regular foot care routine – for example, foot inspections or a buddy system.



## Be sock savvy

Always wear good quality padded socks made from a combination of synthetic and natural fibres. Changing your socks often will keep your feet fresh and prevent foot odour.

## Accessorise

Invest in items such as foot powder, nail scissors – stainless steel, sharp with curved blades

– or clippers, a nail brush and a nail file. Always wear flip-flops in the shower and in communal areas.

## Nailing it

Use proper scissors or clippers to carefully trim your nails. Toenails should be cut straight, not rounded.

## Size matters

Badly fitted boots can cause a variety of problems. It is best to measure your feet (both of them) in the afternoon when they are warm and swollen. Always wear the type of socks you intend to wear with the boots, which should always feel snug but not too tight and have enough wriggle-room for your toes. Use the lace-locking device to obtain the correct tension. Gradually break in your new boots and insoles so they become bespoke to you.

## Avoid injury

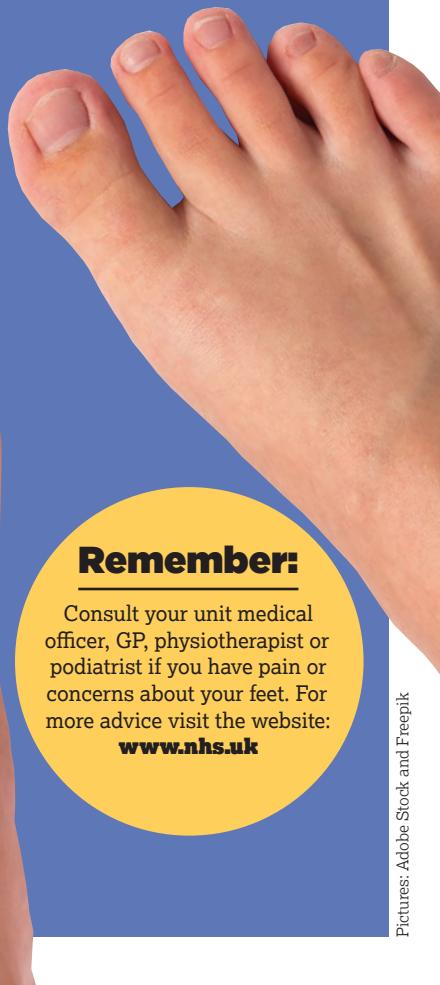
Choosing boots that have superior cushioning technology and design will help to decrease impact-related stresses when the foot strikes the ground.

Modern materials used in the lining of boots will help prevent blisters and soft-tissue injury by reducing friction and pressure. Don't share towels, socks or footwear and avoid walking outdoors in bare feet. Keeping your feet as dry as possible will also help prevent sores.



## Care for kit

Clean your footwear according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Polish leather boots including the rubber toe and heel bumpers. Wash fabric with hot water and soap. Regularly clean your insoles at 30 degrees Celsius. Wet boots should be stuffed with newspaper, aired and left to dry. If possible, alternate your footwear.



## Remember:

Consult your unit medical officer, GP, physiotherapist or podiatrist if you have pain or concerns about your feet. For more advice visit the website: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

# Keep calm and brew up

Soldier-turned-coffee entrepreneur shares five quick wins for civvy street success

► HAVING left the Army in 2012, Rob Dennison (ex-RLC) was coaching youngsters and working part-time in Halfords, but struggling to find his niche.

Then one day the self-confessed coffee snob decided to turn his passion for caffeine into a career.

He set about learning everything there was to know about the industry and last year launched the 50 Cal Coffee Co, offering high quality, roasted-to-order Arabica to a loyal customer base.

Now he wants to pass on his business acumen to other Service leavers.



■ To find out more or contact Rob Dennison go to [www.50calcoffeecompany.com](http://www.50calcoffeecompany.com)

## 1. Ask questions

Find someone who is already doing it and emulate them. I knew nothing about making coffee but I reached out to different people and asked for samples and spent a year researching. Don't steal ideas but you don't need to reinvent the wheel either – just put your own twist on it.

## 2. Don't be afraid to seek help

There's so much support out there. I'm happy for any Service leavers to get in touch if they want advice. As a sideline we're going to be launching a business coaching scheme for veterans. People lose track of the skills they learn in the military – project management, leadership, dealing with stress – I'm often shocked at how poorly people present themselves.

## 3. In giving you receive

If you give people what they want, they'll give you what you want. Market research is absolutely fundamental. It's all very well having a great product but you need to know if the demand is there, or if the sector is already swamped. The website [www.veteran-owned.uk](http://www.veteran-owned.uk) is a great resource if you want to find out more about an industry in a certain area.

## 4. Don't invest too much too soon

Lots of companies sink too much money before they know whether their idea is going to work. Take your time. In your first year you want to be able to back out and walk away if you have to. We invested just £80 initially and are now on track to make £24,000 in our first year of trading.

## 5. Hard work works

It's as simple as that. If you put the effort in you'll get the reward. I'm 100 per cent confident in our coffee. Long term I want to be known nationwide for our product and if I can help other veterans along the way, so much the better.

At the end of this month Rob will begin a 1,000-mile, 22-day cycle ride around the UK, raising money for military charities and meeting veterans along the way to share a brew. Support him via [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/around-the-country-in-80-coffees](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/around-the-country-in-80-coffees)

# A heart attack ended my career

He was a 21-year-old Royal Engineer whose career was on the up. Then Alex Fogg got a pain in his chest...

I WAS on a GPMG cadre in Northern Ireland. I was running when I suddenly got a pain in my chest – I couldn't breathe and had a dead arm.

I went to the med centre but they didn't know what was wrong.

They sent me back to work and told me to come back if things got worse.

Four months later I went swimming and it happened again, so I decided to grin and bear it. But an instructor insisted I went to the hospital.

By the time I was seen it was six hours later and I was still in agony.

I was put in intensive care for the night and diagnosed with pericarditis, which is an inflammation of the fluid-filled sac surrounding your heart.

Five weeks later I was in Australia on leave. I was on the treadmill in the gym and – boom – it hit me. I couldn't breathe.

Luckily, I was 200 metres from a hospital. I went in and fell towards the front desk.

When I woke up there were ten doctors around me. They asked me to sign a form for an operation to remove a blood clot that was blocking my artery.

I asked about the risk. They said they'd done four of those operations that morning and three of the patients had survived. I thought 'those are good odds, let's get on'.

A nurse told me it was quite odd for someone so young to have a heart attack

and if it wasn't for how fit I was, I probably wouldn't have survived.

They said part of my heart had died and wouldn't recover. The cardiologist asked what I'd do next. At that point I realised I was out of the Army.

It was a shock. I'd lived the military life since I was five; my dad was in, my granddad was in, my twin brother was in – I had no intention of leaving.

I went from being a guy that shone, who everyone was interested in because I was heading for bigger and better things, to someone that no one gave a s\*\*t about.

I was keen as mustard but I ended up on camp picking up the sergeant major's golf balls.

That absolutely shattered me and I felt suicidal at times. I tried to stay positive but by the time I left I couldn't even look at a squaddie.

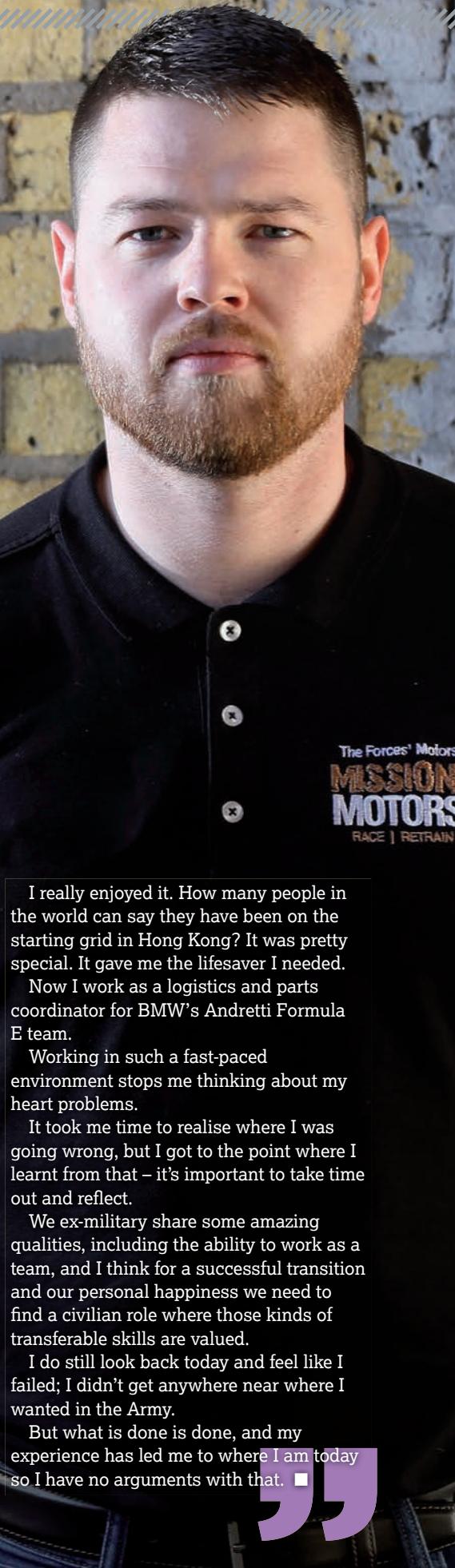
When I was finally discharged it was devastating. I didn't know what do.

Initially, I was money motivated so I tried a few jobs including financial advice and working on commission.

But I realised that I need to do exciting and out-of-the-ordinary jobs, as I've never been used to the ordinary.

My mum pushed me towards a charity to get help, and that's when I found The Warrior Programme.

It got me an opportunity with Mission Motorsport and that was a turning point.



The Forces' Motors  
**MISSION MOTORS**  
RACE | RETRAIN

I really enjoyed it. How many people in the world can say they have been on the starting grid in Hong Kong? It was pretty special. It gave me the lifesaver I needed.

Now I work as a logistics and parts coordinator for BMW's Andretti Formula E team.

Working in such a fast-paced environment stops me thinking about my heart problems.

It took me time to realise where I was going wrong, but I got to the point where I learnt from that – it's important to take time out and reflect.

We ex-military share some amazing qualities, including the ability to work as a team, and I think for a successful transition and our personal happiness we need to find a civilian role where those kinds of transferable skills are valued.

I do still look back today and feel like I failed; I didn't get anywhere near where I wanted in the Army.

But what is done is done, and my experience has led me to where I am today so I have no arguments with that.



 Follow Alex on Instagram @fogglife

## ► HOUSING

# House proud



Illustration: Adobe Stock

Don't let  
housing become  
a headache  
when you leave



► FINDING a place to live is a key priority for Service leavers – you will have a real problem if this is not squared away in good time. The bottom line is it's never too early to start thinking about it.

We asked Jackie Steven (pictured above) – housing specialist at Veterans' Gateway – for her top tips on putting a roof over your head.

### Get ahead

This might seem obvious but perfect preparation solves a lot of issues. **The Army offers briefings on resettlement** so make sure you go to them if you can. The advice you pick up will stand you in good stead and could make all the difference.

### Make connections

Your accommodation type will depend on your circumstances – you might be looking at mortgages. If you are renting, make contact with the local authority before you arrive and try to put yourself on the housing list. **Keep your options open** and make sure you look at the private rental sector too.

### See the bigger picture

You must be aware of the realities of civvy street – **there will be bills and council tax demands** that you may not have seen before because the Army has dealt with your admin. You must forward plan and keep abreast of your finances.

### Use the right tools

Take advantage of the help on offer. The likes of **Veterans' Gateway** and **RBL Moneyforce** have a number of assets to explore your options and help you with your civvy street transition.

### Fess up

Once you have started a tenancy or taken over accommodation, take advice if you start getting behind on rent or bill payments. Don't ignore the letters – get in touch with Veterans' Gateway for help. To contact them call **0808 802 1212**, text **81212** or visit **veteransgateway.org.uk**.

# AIR LAND SEA CYBER

**No stone left  
unturned on  
Exercise  
Joint Warrior...**



The latest instalment involved **11,600** military personnel from **17** nations including Norway, Estonia, Latvia, the Netherlands, Spain and the USA



Joint Warrior is linked to the Nato exercise programme and open to Joint Expeditionary Force countries



The package looked at how troops would take on a capable and well matched enemy



**THE EXERCISE IS ONE OF THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN EUROPE**

## TOP BRASS TALKS:

Training side by side with troops from other nations means we are stronger and more capable when it comes to keeping our countries safe and protecting our way of life.



Defence Secretary  
Gavin Williamson



**It was staged out of HMNB Clyde in Scotland**

**Soldiers from 16 Air Assault Brigade commanded the battle across Salisbury Plain, rehearsing tactics with their foreign counterparts as part of a nine-nation partnership**



Many of its serials looked at how the various armies blend their different military capabilities together



### IN NUMBERS:

2

length of the exercise in weeks

**This year the scenarios involved:**

- Sovereign nations disputing territory
- Counter-terrorism
- Information warfare
- Evacuation operations





“The integration has been difficult at times, but we share a lot of common ground in our methods. It's given me an insight into how other armies operate and do their planning”

**Sgt Joe Willis, joint terminal attack controller, 7 Para RHA**



Events culminated with the battlegroup of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment conducting urban ops with air support from Apaches, Chinooks, Wildcats and Tornados

# AIM HIGHER WITH THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Preparing for the move to civilian life? Get a qualification that matters. You'll find our qualifications are widely recognised in civvy street and come with the benefits of a practical approach to learning that's ideal while you're still in the forces and beyond.



Find out how we can help you become  
better equipped for civilian life  
visit [openuniversity.co.uk/soldier](http://openuniversity.co.uk/soldier)



The Open  
University

# TOP OF THE CLASS

Instructors pass on critical skills to Ukraine's front-line soldiers

Words: Graeme Main  
Pictures: Steven Muncey

**T**ODAY British Army short-term training teams are deployed to nearly every continent, but rarely do they get to see their lessons bear fruit during operations.

This isn't the case in Ukraine, though, where the conflict between government forces and Russian-backed separatists rages on and UK instructors continue to provide a crucial supporting role.

They have been working with the Ukrainian military for the past three years, delivering train the trainer courses focusing on improving medical, ground sign awareness and infantry skills – and so far the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

"The Ukrainians tell us that they are feeling the benefits from the courses when they are on the front line," Col Sion Walker (pictured below), commander of the British training headquarters in Ukraine, told *Soldier*.

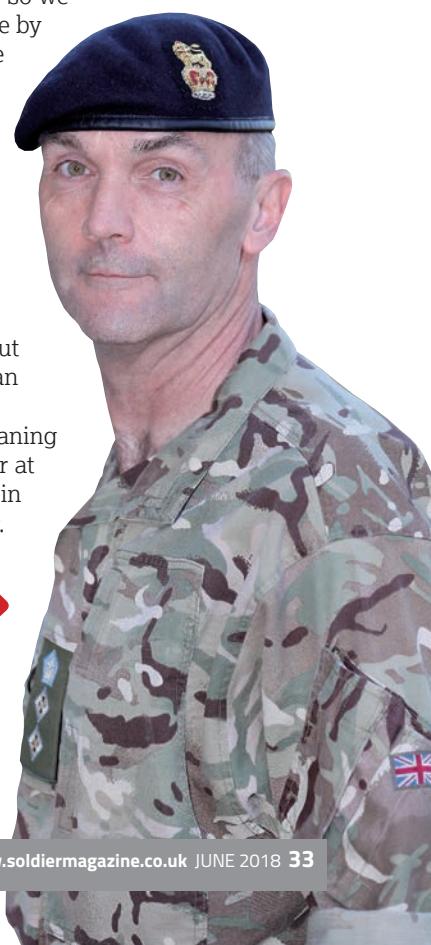
The enduring presence of training teams in the country has been key to their effectiveness as the instructors evolve course schedules and methods to the Ukrainians' needs.

"A key move on our part has been to focus on their brigades," explained Col Walker.

"We decided we should train personnel from these formations as they were rotating back into the war zone.

"They usually fight for seven months and then recover for five, so we fit into their schedule by picking up a brigade once it has come out of the fighting and after it has had a couple of weeks of rest and recuperation.

"This has improved things. In the last 12 months we have trained about 3,500 Ukrainians – an increase of 1,000 on previous years – meaning we are now far better at directing our efforts in a more effective way. This has increased



our throughput."

The officer believes the other important factor has been the quality of British instructors being sent to Ukraine, who typically have the skills and nous to build strong working relationships quickly.

"It really helps that we have senior and junior NCOs here who are very confident in what they are doing and can operate independently as well as rapidly break down barriers by citing their own experiences," he explained.

"For example, our personnel know not to dictate to Ukrainians how to do something.

"They ask them to demonstrate how they usually do it, and then show them the British way – students usually come to their own conclusion that our way is more effective," he said.

"The Ukrainians also say it's inspiring to work with us because they don't entrust the same level of responsibility on their NCOs or junior officers."

At the time of writing, personnel from 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were working out of Starychi, the site of a reconnaissance-focused skills centre.

Elsewhere, soldiers from the Royal Army Medical Corps were delivering combat medical courses to infantrymen, and Military Provost Staff were conducting two week-long packages on Nato-standard custody procedures and detaining soldiers in an operational environment.

The importance of these training packages cannot be overestimated.

Around 11,000 people have been killed since the outbreak of hostilities between Ukrainian troops and separatists four years ago, including 3,000 civilians.

And the Russian-backed rebels, fighting mainly in Donetsk and Lugansk where millions of people still live, show no sign of seeking peace. For now the war goes on.

"Most of the training we are supplying is a result of the Ukrainian armed forces' training demand, which is informed by their fighting in the east," said Col Walker.

"That said, we're not here to offer pre-deployment training – we're here to provide a long-term capability so that they can become a much more credible force."

"That presents its challenges but it's a two-way street and there's no doubt this is providing a great opportunity for our personnel to develop their leadership skills."

66  
THEY ARE  
FEELING  
THE DIRECT  
BENEFITS  
99





# WHAT THE TRAINERS SAY. . .



It's very interesting being out here and seeing how a different army operates. I'm a **junior leader course instructor** and the Ukrainians are taking our stuff in like sponges – **they're good at learning**. This is the first time I've taught and there is a language barrier to deal with but **using** interpreters works fine.

**Fus Ryan Hodnett, RRF**

I'm officer commanding with the **short-term training team**, working with Ukraine's 49 Reconnaissance Battalion to develop their tactics – looking at **NCO leadership, medical** and **recce skills**. All the courses are train the trainer so the students are already instructors. The medical soldiers we've met have higher abilities than we expected, but that's really not a problem as we adjust the training to provide more advanced skills and develop their instructional techniques.

**Capt Jon Peatman, RRF**

I've been training the Ukrainians in **junior leadership development**. They're already at a good standard but are willing to learn and have been putting a lot of effort in. We are also finding out about their tactics and how they conduct themselves, which is valuable.

**Csgt Alan Brooks, RRF**



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**A**S A teenager Lt Col Sulle Alhaji was disillusioned with life – and quickly heading for trouble with the authorities.

Growing up in 1970s Newcastle he found himself inside an education system that refused to challenge him and a society where racist language – and insults that would be unthinkable today – were tolerated.

But then a friend told him how he had been “learning to soldier”, and the youngster discovered the Army Cadet Force and a new perspective on life.

“I loved it there,” Lt Col Alhaji (RAPTC, shown third from left) recalls.

“The place gave me stability and excitement, and there was no racial discrimination.”

By all accounts, the officer’s life has come full circle. Having served a career from private soldier to the commissioned ranks, he is now heading up the

Army youth outreach team and helping to get a new generation of teenagers excited about military life.

Aiming to bolster diversity and bust myths along the way, the ten-strong cohort is made up of a variety of cap badges and backgrounds.

There are men and women, Christians and Sikhs, and every skin colour. A former beauty pageant

Report: Cliff Caswell | Pictures: Graeme Main

→ contender and model – whose love of fashion is superseded only by her passion for driving armoured vehicles – completes the team line-up.

Established at the beginning of the year, the group fits into the wider Sandhurst-based Army Engagement Team. And they have been tasked with visiting schools and community groups to give young people a flavour of Army life.

But a visit is a far cry from a dry military monologue.

Hands-on command tasks, science and technology activities and lively question and answer sessions are the order of the day.

"It's very much the right job for me at the right time," explained Lt Col Alhaji, who served in the Falklands War and Northern Ireland during the early years of his career with 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

"I have had the opportunity to hand-pick my team, which includes people with many different qualities – the diversity speaks for itself."

Although the group's presentations don't mention many details of combat, Lt Col Alhaji, who has been in the Royal Army Physical Training Corps since 1986, admits his personnel are well prepared for the inevitable.

"The first question from youngsters is usually about

whether I have killed anybody – and the second is 'are you any good at *Call of Duty*?'.

"Once we are beyond that, though, we can get things under way."

Challenges levelled at the teenagers they visit range from forensic analysis to technical skills and intelligence.

And there is even a portable obstacle course to test teamwork skills.

All the while, the aim is to boost youngsters' confidence with soldiers quietly giving a helping hand to the more reluctant participants.

"We find that many children don't actually know about the British Army's work," says Capt Jo Ellett (RE), who helps lead the team.

"Their parents remember Iraq and Afghanistan but the reality is that only a quarter of the Service is focused on combat. It is, however, what you see on TV.

"We need to be on the front foot and explain the facts."

Fellow sapper LCpl Victoria Grinnall (shown below), who models in her spare time and was a Miss Wales runner-up, agrees perceptions are vital.



## FACT FILE

### ARMY YOUTH OUTREACH TEAM

**Fully operational:**  
February 2018

**Remit:**  
UK and Northern Ireland

**TEN**  
Team members

**50+**  
Sessions delivered

when you ask young people whether they see the Army in a new light after a presentation and they say yes," he adds.

"And receiving the first thank you letter also proved to be very special."

There is certainly enthusiasm for what this small team is doing.

Society may have changed from the days when Lt Col Alhaji first joined, but the Army's ability to change lives for the better remains a common thread.

"There is some shock when I tell them," she admits.

"I've had a number of girls contact me to ask questions such as what life is like on camp, and we can help them find out."

The work is incredibly valuable, according to LCpl Ranvir Singh (REME).

"It's really satisfying

**“**  
**The diversity speaks for itself**  
**”**

**“**  
**There is some shock when I tell them**  
**”**





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# HOSTILE INTENT

Qatari  
troops show  
their war  
faces during  
UK training  
package

**J**HE command "fix bayonets" may not be heard frequently in modern combat but the ability to wield a blade is still an important skill for British infantrymen.

Just as crucial is harnessing the aggression required to take on the enemy at close quarters, as the next generation of Qatari officers discovered during a recent training serial on Lydd Ranges.

Thanks to a partnership between the UK and the Gulf state, a stint in



the Kent countryside has become a rite of passage for would-be leaders from the Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College.

The latest package saw instructors from both nations working together to guide 140 new recruits through drills such as section and platoon attacks, recce patrols and planning exercises, as well as bayonet sessions designed to summon up their inner warrior.

Leading the classes was Sgt Nicholas Richards (R Welsh, pictured), from the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, who said the students had adapted well to an unfamiliar technique.

"The Qataris don't utilise bayonets in quite the same way we do," he explained.

"So it was mostly new to them but they adjusted to the weapons system alright."

"For the first couple of weeks they were finding it hard to respond to our words of command so I learnt a few in Arabic because I wanted to get the best out of them."

"The British kids I usually teach tend to be more naturally aggressive than these guys – they took a bit more coaxing – but like all new soldiers, they are enthusiastic and keen."

Another major challenge for the cadets was living out in the green, but not always pleasant, English terrain.

Throughout the three-week exercise Mother Nature made sure they enjoyed an authentic taste of Britain in the spring, with temperatures ranging from zero to 28 degrees Celsius, as well as gale force winds and floods.

"It's 100 per cent different to Qatar, which is just desert," said OCdt Hamed Al-Kuwari.

"So living in the field was hard but it was a good experience because you don't know where the next war will happen."

"We could get sent anywhere in the world so it's important to be able to work in a variety of environments."

The 22-year-old thought the exposure to another Army's procedures was another major benefit of the package.

"From what I've seen the British tactics are good," he continued.

"There are some similarities, but the main difference is that they have a lot of operational experience."

"They've done it for real, so it's positive to work with them." ■

## JOINT EFFORT

- This is the fourth year that Qatari officer cadets have deployed to the Cinque Ports Training Area.

Administrative and logistical support for the exercise was provided by Reservists from 7th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, whose higher command – 51st Infantry Brigade and Headquarters Scotland – is regionally aligned with the Middle East.

While permanent staff from the Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College took the lead on instruction, personnel drawn from 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, 4th Battalion, The Rifles and training establishments around the UK acted as observer-mentors.

The arrangement is part of an agreement between the British Army and Qatar that also sees recruits from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst conducting training in the Gulf state.

# KEYBOARD CLASHES

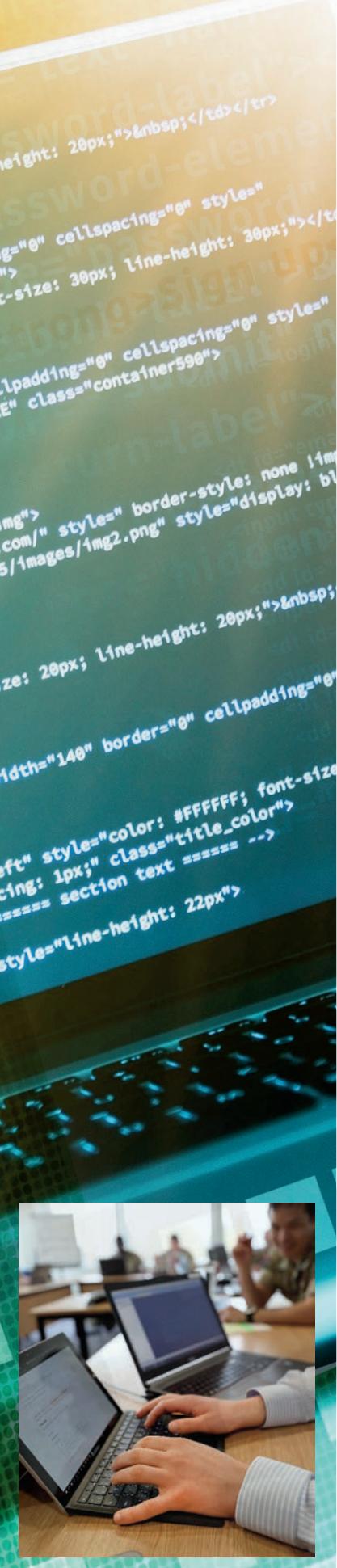
“  
We want personnel  
who can work in a  
team but use their  
own initiative  
”



Royal Signals calls on cyber  
buffs to step up for specialist role

## Want to join the Cyber Protection Team?

You will need to submit a Royal Signals PD206 application form. Speak to your regimental career management officer for advice, or access the Royal Signals' Moss page via the defence intranet. The next assessment panel will take place at the end of July.



# A

CCORDING to British security experts it is a matter of when – not if – the UK falls victim to a major cyber attack. Statistics from the recently set-up National Cyber Security Centre show there were 34 serious attacks and 762 lesser ones in the 14 months after it opened in October 2016.

The most severe kind – a so-called category one attack – could cripple the energy grid or banks with devastating effect.

For the military, an assault on its information systems could damage operational effectiveness and so, in recognition of this threat, the Forces have taken the unprecedented step of directly recruiting civilians into certain specialist roles.

Work to incorporate these experts into various Army formations is ongoing, but in the interim the Royal Signals is wasting no time in developing in-house talent.

The corps is in the process of recruiting personnel for its 88-strong Cyber Protection Team.

Capt Gemma Banting (R Signals, pictured far left), from the curiously-named cyber electromagnetic activities desk at Army HQ, explained that regular selection panels are being held to identify suitable individuals from across the Service.

“We look at applicants’ abilities and character to determine if they’re right for certain roles,” she told *Soldier*.

“They don’t necessarily need cyber experience but they’d have to demonstrate technical aptitude – for example, a good engineer could make a good cyber analyst.

“We want personnel who can work in a team but also use their own initiative and we’d expect them to have done a lot of research and have a good understanding of the various vulnerabilities and issues out there.

“People from any cap badge can apply, but successful candidates would then need to transfer to the Royal Signals – although this may change in future.”

Among those hoping to make the grade is LCpl Dimitris Kambouris, a Bowman engineer from 1 Signal Regiment.

The 26-year-old taught himself the skills required through online courses and hours of self-study after work.

“There’s not much scope for cyber work in my day-to-day role so if you want to get involved you have to do it in your own time,” he said.

“I’m interested in it because of the amount of technical expertise required.

“Skilled hackers profit from creating and selling hacking tools that anyone can purchase and use to run attacks.

“To defend against that is very challenging. You have to have knowledge of all the different kinds of attacks and methods of entry.”

Were an enemy to succeed in launching a cyber strike on military systems the implications could be severe – especially during active missions, as Capt Banting explained.

“With such a huge reliance on technology, hackers could degrade or deny a deployed capability – particularly when combined with another method of attack,” continued the officer.

“That could have serious consequences with potential for loss of life if, for example, the attack was against a medical facility.”

So there is no time to lose in building the Army’s defensive capabilities.

One way in which recruiters hope to boost interest in the field is through regular cyber competitions and the corps recently sent a team to the world’s biggest cyber defence contest, Exercise Locked Shields.

Staged in Tallinn, Estonia, the annual event saw a mixed-experience British squad compete against professional teams from across Nato to defend a purpose-built network from attack.

Trip organiser SSgt Andrew Gillett (R Signals) hoped the opportunity to pit their wits against some of the best hackers in the business would inspire troops to consider a career in cyber.

“Events like that are great because they encourage soldiers to do things outside the norm,” he said.

“It gives them the chance to practise cyber skills they’ve been learning in their bedrooms.

“To be defending such a complex network from a ‘red team’ of around 80 hackers with the skill sets they have; that’s something you don’t get anywhere else.”

Capt Banting agreed.

“We’d like other soldiers to hear about this and say, ‘wow, that sounds cool – I’d really like to do that’,” she said.

“It gets them interested in doing things in their own time and hopefully they’ll start thinking about the possibility of getting posted onto the Cyber Protection Team.

“Cyber awareness has increased and there are growing opportunities to work in the field – things are changing quickly.”

The computer-generated world may seem baffling to the uninitiated, but virtual weapons could prove as deadly to future military operations as bombs or bullets.

And these specialists might soon find themselves on the digital front line. ■

Pictures: Peter Davies and Adobe Stock

Words: Becky Clark



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**Building blocks:** The CEA allowance is vital for stable schooling

## Kids' funding doesn't cut it

“  
Why have  
we been  
abandoned?  
”

**T**HE Army has senior officer champions for race, gender, LGBT and stammering – but where is the advocate for the harassed minority of families claiming the continuity of education allowance (CEA)?

In 2010 the top brass said this would continue on the basis that many of us had committed to be mobile and serve and taken up CEA to provide seamless education and stability for our children.

Bizarrely, the latest defence information notice on the subject dresses up what is the disruption of education from GCSE to A levels as “aiding stability”.

I think it's clearly designed to deter claimants in order to save money and is a breach of the terms under which key long-term decisions to commit to boarding were made by personnel.

Continuity must mean just that, not the threat of uncertainty and disruption to our children's development.

Solicitors are getting rich out of CEA misery with some 1,600 personnel discussing the subject on Facebook.

Also, the chain of command being replaced by the remote Pay and Allowances Complaints and Casework Cell hasn't helped. Why have we been abandoned in this key moral component area? – **Name and address supplied**

**Col John Oldroyd, Army Pay Colonel, Personnel Directorate, responds:**

We recognise that this is an area of considerable interest following the publication of the 2016/17 MoD CEA review.

The Service's position, endorsed by the executive committee of the Army Board, continues to be that CEA supports a genuine need and is one of the most significant interventions that support mobility.

The majority of new claimants are not officers – it is increasingly an allowance that is drawn by those across the ranks.

However, this is a considerable expense so it's right and important that eligibility is properly assessed.

The recently announced change to the governance arrangements as children transition into the sixth form is part of a refined process.

There are no changes in the eligibility arrangements and generous timelines help ensure parents have plenty of time to weigh their choices and reapply.

We envisage that other than reapplying there will be no impact on those who continue to meet the long-standing mobility criteria.

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## 'That word makes me wild'

I HAVE read *Soldier* for years and find it most informative but I've noticed that the use of the word "platform" when referring to types of military kit is becoming increasingly common.

Indeed, the article in the March edition about the Wildcat helicopter ("On the prowl") used it no less than five times.

The dictionary definition of the word is either a raised floor or area of a railway station where passengers wait for trains, the thick sole of some shoes or the declared aims of a political party.

It isn't an aircraft, whether fixed or rotary winged, a vehicle, tracked or wheeled, or a seagoing vessel.

You should reduce the use of this word or, better still, find some alternatives to

describe the items in question. There are plenty in the English language. — **Jeremy Elsworth, London**

**The managing editor responds:** My dictionary states that the word can be used to describe "a vehicle used for a particular purpose or to carry a specified type of equipment".

It has also become common military parlance for coining ground and airborne assets so to use it five times in 1,000 words seems reasonable to me.

However, your views are noted and thanks for the feedback — at least it proves you are assiduously reading the magazine!

## Housing concern continues

REGARDING the letter in the February issue entitled "Don't sublet our housing", I support the initiative but in the note sent to occupants of Service family accommodation earmarked for lease asking if they wish to move, it said the DIO will foot the bill for removals.

That's fine, but personnel will incur other costs too, such as reconnecting telephones and satellite dishes which in certain circumstances are covered by disturbance allowance, which is paid by the unit.

However, if families have decided to move it will be deemed voluntary and they won't be entitled to these funds.

With almost all the income from this scheme going to the DIO I think all the costs associated with relocation should be borne by that establishment. — **Name and address supplied**

**Richard Sewter, Assistant Head, Accommodation Plans and**

**Requirements, DIO Service Delivery, replies:** You are correct, the payment of the disturbance allowance is made by the individual's administrative unit and not by the DIO.

There are strict criteria for this and generally it is made where there is an operational requirement for the move — for example, on posting.

As this does not apply for moves associated with subletting it does not come into play.

It is worth mentioning that the plan to sublet vacant SFA does not require a Service family to move, but if they want to and prefer to live within a fully inclusive military community then the DIO will facilitate relocation and make arrangements for and fund the furniture's removal.

Ultimately, our intent to sublet vacant houses is a last resort to avoid them standing empty.

## IN A SPIN ON LAUNDRY

● I HAVE been trying to obtain accurate information on the uniform laundry rebate.

I've contacted Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and they said I could claim back £100 per year.

On the [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) website it says you can claim it as far back as April 2008.

I sent off my P87 form but I was informed that HMRC doesn't do this anymore because the Army provides the refund automatically.

If this is the case I'm due money back for all the years I've been serving. Also, I'd like to know if this will affect my tax code. — **Name and address supplied**

**Lt Col (Retd) Kestrel Simson, Ceremonial, Operational and Service Awards, Army Headquarters, responds:** HMRC

rules state that you can get tax relief on the cost of repairing, cleaning or replacing a uniform if it is recognisable and shows you've got a particular job such as a nurse or soldier.

Your employer must also require you to wear this clothing while you are working and to pay for its upkeep.

For soldiers, this applies to combat dress. Even though it's an issued item and can be exchanged if it needs repair, individuals have to pay to launder this clothing and therefore can claim tax relief on that cost.

To avoid every individual submitting these claims, in 2014 HMRC agreed to a flat rate allowance of £100 per year.

This is applied monthly to your salary by JPA, reducing your tax liability by 1/12th of £100, which is £8.33. To a basic rate taxpayer, this is worth £1.67 a month (£20 annually) and £3.34 on the higher rate (£40 annually).

While it is not clearly shown on your monthly pay statement, you will see it on your annual P60. You do not need do anything to claim this allowance.

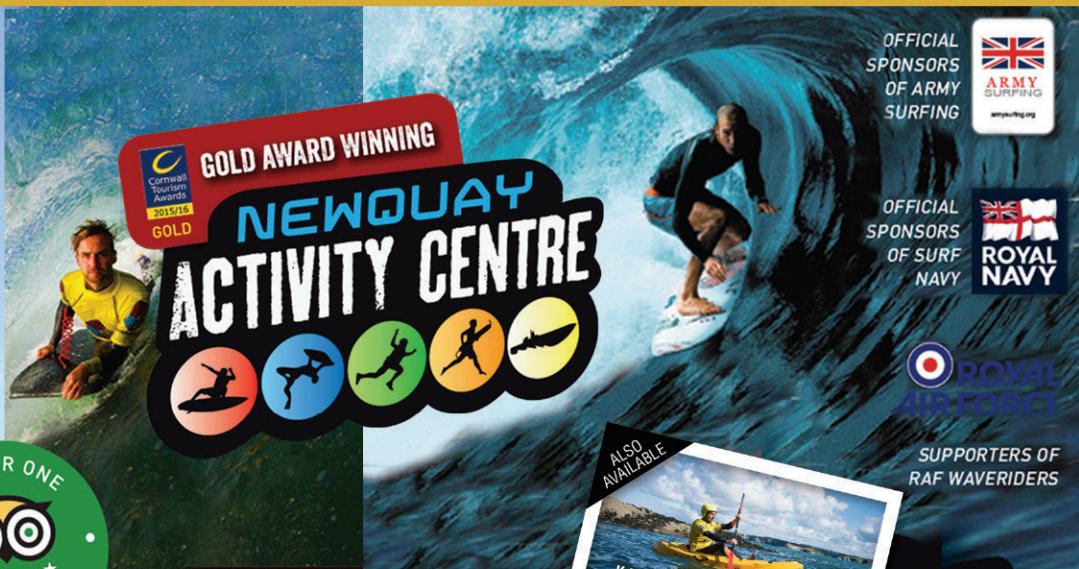
HMRC agreed to backdate the relief to personnel who had been serving since April 6, 2008 and this should have been received in 2014.

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## When good conduct isn't enough

**I**BELIEVE the rules for the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (LS&GC) are unfair.

For example, let's say soldier A attains the rank of corporal but has multiple charges against him and has served a two-year custodial sentence.

He continues his military career after he is released and completes a further 15 years in the Army without a hitch.

He is now eligible for the LS&GC because there was no disbarring conduct in that latter, well-behaved element of his career.

Meanwhile, soldier B completes 14 years of service and attains the rank of lance corporal with no disciplinaries except on tour he lost a single round and was charged a day's pay for the loss.

He ends his career as a staff sergeant with no further disciplinary problems but will never earn an LS&GC because a 24-year career will not provide him with the time to complete a full 15 years after the incident.

There are no concessions for minor offences for an NCO or officer.

Both these situations are a distinct possibility and could affect many soldiers, including myself, who have small blemishes on their record.

Why is there no room for human judgement and is it possible for the rules to be changed? – **Sgt Aston Meddows-Taylor, AGC (SPS)**

**Lt Col (Retd) Kestrel Simson, Ceremonial, Operational and Service Awards, Army Headquarters replies:** Situations such as the ones you describe were envisaged before the new regulations were introduced back in 2016.

The view was that prolonged periods of good conduct should always be rewarded as this reinforces the Army's values and standards.

The new rules introduced two significant changes.

The first reduced the time required to earn a clasp from 15 years to ten.

The second allowed all 15-year periods of Regular service free of any disciplinary entries to be recognised with award of the medal.

In your examples, under the old regulations soldier A would never have qualified and soldier B could have received it once he had done 15 years' service because a commanding officer could recommend the award even where there was a minor disciplinary entry.

Soldier A, who showed potential for continuing an Army career as he was not discharged after his custodial sentence, has clearly learned from his mistakes and served for 15 years without any further offences.

Now that can, and should, be recognised with the LS&GC.

With regard to soldier B, the chain of command would be aware of the entries on a disciplinary record that do or do not disqualify personnel, and can act accordingly.

For example, there is now a specific sanction of "censure (no disciplinary entry)" that they can give for minor offences that has no impact on eligibility for the award.

Details can be found in **JSP 761, 2016DIN09-023** and **AGAI 67**.

## SLIDE IN VISIBILITY

● SINCE multi-terrain pattern (MTP) clothing was introduced, the wearing of issued rank slides by officers and warrant officers has caused many awkward confrontations.

This is due to the poor visibility of the rank when it is sewn on to an MTP background.

I understand the need to conceal this on operations – there is always the potential for an enemy to actively target higher ranks to disrupt command and control – but in barracks, that's not the case.

Those who become indignant when their rank is mistakenly not afforded its rightful respect aren't helping themselves or anyone else by wearing a camouflaged slide.

Army dress regulations state that these badges are to be worn visibly on all occasions when in uniform, except on operations when insignia may be removed or covered.

The Royal Tank Regiment has a better solution with a black slide and a white rank that can be seen clearly from a distance.

A design rethink may spare the feelings of certain personnel, not to mention a few eardrums. – **Cpl Jack Gannon, RAMC**

**Lt Col (Retd) Kestrel Simson, Ceremonial and Operational and Service Awards, replies:** You are correct in saying that everyone is to wear badges of rank visibly on all uniforms.

Displaying these slides in barracks when in combat dress can cause confusion. Part two of Army dress regulations allows regiments and corps to don embroidered rank insignia on just the plain olive green slide with the formation's abbreviation at the base.

In some cases, this can be replaced by a black slide for the Royal Tank Regiment and a tartan slide for others.

There are no regulations stating which type of rank slides are to be worn in barracks.

However, they do say that only MTP slides are to be displayed in the field and operations.

The Army cannot demand that only regimental or corps rank slides are worn in barracks as they are personal expense items and are not issued free.

“**A rethink could spare feelings**”

### APPOINTMENTS

Lt Gen Mark Carleton-Smith appointed **Chief of the General Staff** from this month. He succeeds Gen Sir Nicholas Carter, who becomes Chief of the Defence Staff.

Maj Gen Tyrone Urch appointed **Commander Home Command** from this month. He succeeds Lt Gen James Bashall

Brig Robin Lindsay appointed **Commander 51st Infantry Brigade and Headquarters Scotland**. He succeeds Brig Gary Deakin.

### COMPETITIONS

**Spine line winners:** Frank Johnstone, Hallow, Worcester; Pete Rendall, 105 Bn REME, Keynsham; Maj Ian Weatherley, HQ London District, Whitehall

### DIARY

**June 2:** Royal Military Police annual remembrance service and parade at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire.

**June 3:** Ferryhill Veterans' Charity Show at Mainsforth Cricket Complex, Morrison Terrace, Co Durham from 0900 to 1800.

**June 5 – September 23:** *Aftermath: Art in the Wake of World War One* at Tate Britain, featuring more than 150 works from 1916 to 1932. Admission £18 for adults. Visit [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)

**June 11:** Families with additional needs and disabilities forum conference at MoD Main Building, London. Run by SSAFA, with specialist support and access to policy makers. To attend email [anda@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:anda@ssafa.org.uk) or call 0207 463 9315.

**June 15:** Honourable Artillery Company flank companies' ball at Armoury House, City Rd, London EC1Y 2BQ. Guests are welcome by invite of HAC members. For more details visit [www.hac.org.uk](http://www.hac.org.uk)

**June 30:** Armed Forces Day, with the national commemoration this year held in Llandudno and various events across the country. More details available at [www.armedforcesday.org.uk](http://www.armedforcesday.org.uk)

**September 30:** Stephen Spielberg's *War Horse* showing at Screen Cinema Folkstone from 1700 in aid of the Shorncliffe Trust. Tickets £5 from [www.shorncliffe-trust.org.uk](http://www.shorncliffe-trust.org.uk)

### DIRECTORY

**ABF The Soldiers' Charity:**  
020 7901 8900;  
[www.soldierscharity.org](http://www.soldierscharity.org)

**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)

**Armed Forces Muslim Association:**  
Chaplain 020 7414 3252;  
[www.afma.org.uk](http://www.afma.org.uk)

**Armed Services Advice Project:**  
0808 800 1007;  
[www.adviceasap.org.uk](http://www.adviceasap.org.uk)

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

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

**ArmyLibraries:** 01252 340094

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

**Army Welfare Service:**  
01904 882053;  
[www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support](http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support)

**Big White Wall:**  
[www.bigwhitewall.com](http://www.bigwhitewall.com)

**Blesma, The Limbless Veterans:**  
020 8590 1124; [www.blesma.org](http://www.blesma.org)

**Blind Veterans UK:**  
(formerly St Dunstan's)  
020 7723 5021;  
[www.blindveterans.org.uk](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk)

**Care After Combat:**  
[www.careaftercombat.org](http://www.careaftercombat.org)

**Career Transition Partnership:**  
020 7469 6661

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

**Combat Stress:**  
01372 841600;  
[www.combatstress.org.uk](http://www.combatstress.org.uk)

**Defence Humanists:**  
[www.defencehumanists.org.uk](http://www.defencehumanists.org.uk)

**Erskine:**  
0141 814 4569;  
[www.erskine.org.uk](http://www.erskine.org.uk)

**Family Escort Service:**  
020 7463 9249

**Felix Fund – the bomb disposal charity:**  
07713 752901;  
[www.felixfund.org.uk](http://www.felixfund.org.uk)

**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:**  
020 7820 9988

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

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

**HighGround:**  
[www.highground-uk.org.uk](http://www.highground-uk.org.uk)

**Joint Service Housing Advice Office:** 01252 787574

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Royal British Legion:**  
0808 802 8080;  
[www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

**Royal British Legion Scotland:**  
0131 550 1583;  
[www.legionscotland.org.uk](http://www.legionscotland.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.svronline.org](http://www.svronline.org)

**Single Persons Accommodation Centre for the Ex-Services:**  
01748 833797;  
[www.spaces.org.uk](http://www.spaces.org.uk)

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

**Stoll:**  
020 7385 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)

**The Poppy Factory:**  
020 8940 3305;  
[www.poppyfactory.org](http://www.poppyfactory.org)

**The Royal Star & Garter Homes:**  
020 8481 7676;  
[www.starandgarter.org](http://www.starandgarter.org)

**The Veterans Charity:**  
01753 653772;  
[info@veteranscharity.org.uk](mailto:info@veteranscharity.org.uk)

**Troop Aid:**  
0121 711 7215 or 07734 384260

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

**Veterans Welfare Service:**  
0808 1914 218 (from the UK);  
0044 1253 866043 (from overseas);  
[www.gov.uk/government/groups/veterans-welfare-service](http://www.gov.uk/government/groups/veterans-welfare-service)

### INTELLIGENCE

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

**ABN 45/18:** Rusi Land Warfare Conference 2018

**ABN 44/18:** Recruitment into the Adjutant General's Corps (Military Provost Guard Service)

**ABN 43/18:** Army LGBT+ Conference 2018 – this is belonging

**ABN 42/18:** Pay 16 transitional pay protection

**ABN 41/18:** Army Reserve recruiting team and Reserve recruiting instructions

**ABN 40/18:** Currency of Army Reserve appraisal reports for promotion boards

**ABN 39/18:** Army all-arms defensive cyber development event – cancelled

**ABN 38/18:** Women in Defence Awards 2018

**ABN 37/18:** Army diversity and inclusion conferences 2018

**DIB 04/18:** The Data Protection Act 2018 is coming into force

**DIB 03/18:** Changes to civilian statutory holiday pay

**DIN 2018DIN01-072:** Change of security policy to permit Service leavers to retain a modified MoD form 90 ID card on leaving the Armed Forces

**DIN 2018DIN01-071:** Service of prayer for the Armed Forces – November 8

**DIN 2018DIN01-070:** Provision of elimination samples by Service police and support staff

**DIN 2018DIN01-068:** Defence Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conference 2018

**DIN 2018DIN01-067:** Healthcare provision for British Forces in British Army Training Unit Suffield – directory of local health services and medical screening advice

**DIN 2018DIN01-066:** Men's ministry within the Armed Forces Christian Union

**DIN 2018DIN01-065:** The Operations Welfare Fund

**DIN 2018DIN01-063:** Medical preparation for Reservists deploying overseas

**DIN 2018DIN01-062:** Announcement of the award of the contract for provision of personal accident insurance cover

**DIN 2018DIN01-061:** Announcement of the award of the contract for provision of life insurance cover

**DIN 2018DIN02-005:** Investigatory Powers Act 2016 – update to the timelines for implementation and compliance

**DIN 2018DIN03-011:** Cyber and electromagnetic activities – issue of joint doctrine note 1/18

**DIN 2018DIN03-010:** Diplomatic clearance requirements for foreign state aircraft in the USA

**DIN 2018DIN03-009:** Independent prescribers employed by Army Medical Services

**DIN 2018DIN03-008:** Explosive ordnance disposal and search – incidents, accidents and near-miss reporting and investigation procedures

**DIN 2018DIN04-088:** Batsis declaration of obsolescence: VHF 0.8m and 1.5m antennas and VHF gooseneck

**DIN 2018DIN04-087:** Access to Energy Institute specifications and other civilian standards referenced in STANAGS

**DIN 2018DIN04-086:** Declaration of obsolete – Falcon CP1 annex A – CPI

**DIN 2018DIN04-085:** Sword and scabbard refurbishment

**DIN 2018DIN04-084:** Batsis management of MMR anti-tamper labels

**DIN 2018DIN04-083:** Cartridge powder actuated tool .38-inch red L11A1 and yellow L10A1 – obsolete

**DIN 2018DIN04-082:** Declaration of obsolete – general supplies fasteners

**DIN 2018DIN04-081:** Batsis declaration of obsolescence – A3 printer NSN 7025-99-724-1702

**DIN 2018DIN04-079:** Deletion of obsolete NSNs within DMC 8ENT within the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-078:** Deletion of obsolete NSNs within DMC 8REC within the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-077:** Deletion of obsolete NSNs within DMC 8RERC within the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-076:** Deletion of obsolete NSNs within DMC 8REMB, 8REJS, 8REDL within the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-075:** Deletion of obsolete NSNs within DMC 8REAB within the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-074:** Deletion of obsolete NSNs within DMC REFC within the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-072:** Declaration of obsolete – Falcon intercom pack

**DIN 2018DIN04-071:** Deletion of obsolete repairable NSNs within the land equipment vehicle support team, armoured track portfolio, DMCs 4CH, 3LD, V7, 9GWR, SHD, VLSMS

**DIN 2018DIN04-070:** Declaration of obsolescence: Clansman ground spike antenna kit, NSN 5820-99-620-5950

**DIN 2018DIN04-068:** Batsis declaration of obsolete: TCIS/Bowman miscellaneous items

**DIN 2018DIN04-067:** Batsis declaration of obsolete TCIS/Bowman miscellaneous items from DMC Z42

**DIN 2018DIN04-066:** Batsis declaration of obsolete: TCIS/Bowman miscellaneous items from DMC Y3

**DIN 2018DIN04-065:** Restriction of issue for irritant kit smoke respirator testing L1A1 (CS pellets) to phase one training establishments

**DIN 2018DIN04-064:** Deletion of obsolete NSNs within DMC 7BDLR the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-063:** Deletion of three obsolete NSNs within DMC 7AWD the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-062:** Deletion of obsolete NSNs within the land equipment covered in six DMCs the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-061:** Deletion of obsolete NSNs within DMCs 7SA and 7SL the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-060:** Operational medical modules – introduction to service of damage control surgery instrument sets – module 567 and sub sets one and two to deployed hospital care (rear)

**DIN 2018DIN04-059:** Deletion of obsolete NSNs 7BAL and 7BD within the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-058:** Deletion of obsolete NSN within the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team – 197 NSNs covered by DMCs 7DN, 7DP, 7FD

**DIN 2018DIN04-057:** Mk 7 combat assault helmet, life expiry notification

**DIN 2018DIN04-056:** Deletion of obsolete NSN within the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-055:** Deletion of obsolete NSNs 7RU within the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-054:** Deletion of obsolete NSNs 7ARM and 7AWD within the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-052:** Removal of medical modules 539, 540, 541 and 542

**DIN 2018DIN04-051:** Management of Batsis equipment schedules

**DIN 2018DIN04-050:** Planned withdrawal of Technical Documents Online print on demand contract

**DIN 2018DIN04-049:** High velocity missile Stormer platform (tracked vehicle) change to servicing and maintenance procedures relating to final drives

**DIN 2018DIN04-048:** Deletion of obsolete NSN within the land equipment OSVP vehicle support team

**DIN 2018DIN04-047:** Deployed physical training equipment

**DIN 2018DIN04-046:** Declaration of obsolete – Falcon

**DIN 2018DIN04-045:** Weapon equipment – declaration of obsolete/obsolescent status

**DIN 2018DIN06-019:** Claims and insurance provisions for the use of MoD vehicles in the UK and overseas and confirmation of motor liability cover

**DIN 2018DIN07-064:** Application to the Faculty for Defence Healthcare Engagement

**DIN 2018DIN07-063:** Exercise Macaronesia Express 2018/19 – expression of interest

**DIN 2018DIN07-062:** Intelligence processing service initial operating capability and user training

**DIN 2018DIN07-061:** Air Manoeuvre Centre of Specialisation courses

**DIN 2018DIN07-060:** Rationalisation of EOD and search competencies

**Continued on page 54**

## Intelligence continued

**DIN 2018DIN07-059:** Helicopter handling training

**DIN 2018DIN07-058:** Individual pre-deployment training policy

**DIN 2018DIN07-057:** Logistic functional area services training application procedure for UK accredited training

**DIN 2018DIN07-056:** Information management courses for September 2018 until August 2019 at the Defence Academy of the UK – Shrivenham

**DIN 2018DIN07-055:** Intrinsic Leadership and Behaviours Team (formerly Joint Equality and Diversity Training Centre) equality, diversity and inclusion specialist training 2018/19

**DIN 2018DIN07-054:** Adventurous training – planning expeditions to Nepal (2019)

**DIN 2018DIN07-053:** Air Warfare School courses 2018/19

**DIN 2018DIN07-052:** Employment training administrative instruction for registered nurses (adult and mental health) (Regular)

**DIN 2018DIN10-019:** Army Football Association – affiliation and cup competitions

**DIN 2018DIN10-018:** Inter-Services Twenty20 cricket 2018



## REUNIONS

**Artillery Clerks' Association reunion and dinner** at the Royal Artillery sergeants' mess, Larkhill on June 8-10. Open to all association members. To request a place visit [www.artyclerkassn.org](http://www.artyclerkassn.org)

**Mess reunion for serving and retired commando gunner officers from 3 Commando Brigade** on June 9 at the Royal Citadel, Plymouth. Hosted by 29 Commando Regiment RA. Details from Capt James Walley at [jameswalleywork@gmail.com](mailto:jameswalleywork@gmail.com)

**Royal Green Jackets Regimental Association annual Veterans' Day reunion** at Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester on July 14. Attendance is open to all past and present Riflemen and their partners. Contact Maj (Retd) Roy Stanger on 01962 887916 or [roy.stanger787@mod.uk](mailto:roy.stanger787@mod.uk)

**16 Regiment RA old comrades association reunion** – including

two-course meal and entertainment – at the Wortley House Hotel, Rowland Road, Scunthorpe on July 28 from 1900. Cost £25 per head. Payment must be made in advance, either directly to the HSBC 16 Regt OCA bank account or by sending a cheque to association treasurer Guss Goodall at 18 Dunstan Hill, Kirton in Lindsey, DN22 4DU.

**Annual reunion of Association of Harrogate Apprentices**, October 5-6 at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate. Further details from Len Morland on 01892 523987 or [secretary@aoha.org.uk](mailto:secretary@aoha.org.uk)

**23/144 Parachute Field Ambulance and Parachute Regimental Association reunion**, October 5-7, at the Royal Court Hotel, Coventry. For details contact Roy Hatch at [royhatchbem48@gmail.com](mailto:royhatchbem48@gmail.com) or via 07730 977 989.

**116 Coy, RASC; 18 Coy (Amphibious), RASC and 18 (AMPH) Sqn, RCT ex-Fremington Camp reunion** at the Barnstaple Hotel, Barnstaple, Devon on October 13. All former members of these units, including attached arms and widows, are welcome. For details contact [don.turner1@talktalk.net](mailto:don.turner1@talktalk.net)

**8 Regiment RASC/RCT/RLC 17th anniversary reunion** weekend and dinner, October 19-20. Friday at the Army Reserve Centre, Wigan and Saturday at The Village on the Green Club, Aspull, Wigan. The events are open to any ex-member of 8 Regiment who served between October 1962 and July 2012, along with their partner or guest. For details email [jimmyasp@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmyasp@hotmail.com)



## SEARCHLINE

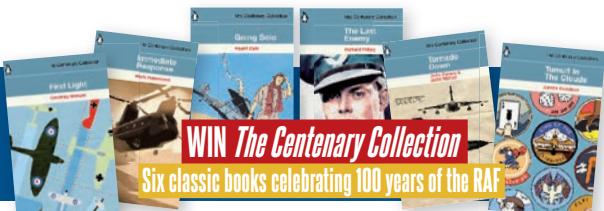
**Worthing-based charity Care for Veterans is looking for a pianist** to accompany its new choir. The Gifford House Singers have their own keyboard but need a musician to join their monthly rehearsals. Call 01903 218444 to volunteer.



## ROADSHOWS

**The Army Engagement Group** wants to hear from members of the public who would like an invitation to one of its roadshows. For more information call 01276 412880 or visit [www.army.mod.uk/engagement](http://www.army.mod.uk/engagement)

**June:** 28, Dudley



## NO. 919 JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

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Circle all the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 919, Soldier, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot,**

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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY

### 31 March 2018

1st Prize (£10,000): Sgt C Ellis, RRU, Catterick Garrison. 2nd Prize (£5,000): WO2 R Fewtrell, LAD REME 3 Med Regt, Preston. 3rd Prize (£4,000): LCpl R Platt, 20 Tpt Sqn RLC, London. 4th Prize (£2,000): Sgt P Strickleton, Sp Sqn, 3 Med Regt, Preston. 5th Prize (£1,000): Maj R Lewin, DIFC(A), London. 15 Consolation prizes (£200 each): Capt A Barron, Army Foundation College, Harrogate; WO2 L Buttitta, JSSU(Ch), Cheltenham; SSgt R Mukungunugwa, HQ Sqn, RL, Catterick; Cpl H Bekker, A Coy, 2 Yorks, Catterick; Sgt M Chadwick, Army Foundation College, Harrogate; Name withheld, HQ Hereford Garrison; Cpl S Greenslade, 521 Sqn, 11 EOD Regt RLC, Catterick Garrison; Lt G Gibson, 26 Sqn, 32 Engr Regt, Catterick Garrison; Lt J Coventry, 662 Sqn, 3 AAC, Ipswich; OCdt R Churcher, RMAS, Camberley; Cfn E Ross, 8 Bn REME, DSEME, Chippenham; Pte T Towers, 25 Trg Regt RLC, DLS, Camberley; Pte K Def Sch of Tpt, Beverley; Maj A Powley-Williams, HQ 12 Armd Inf Bde, Salisbury; WO2 L Jones, 6 MI Bn, Rusholme.

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### 7 April 2018

1st Prize (£10,000): SSgt M Cranston, 55 Bty, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113. 2nd Prize (£5,000): Sig D Riddick, 201 Sqn, 1 Signal Regt, Stafford. 3rd Prize (£4,000): Gnr H Burton, 159 Bty, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113. 4th Prize (£3,000): WO2 S Riste, 228 Sqn, 3 Signal Regt, Bulford Camp. 5th Prize (£2,000): Tpr N Simmons, HCMR, London. 6th Prize (£1,000): Capt D Bracey, 77 Sqn, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 22. 2 Consolation prizes (£500 each): Name withheld, HQ Hereford Garrison; LCpl E Keyworth, 2 Signal Regt, York. 15 Consolation prizes (£200 each): Capt S Moroney, 1 Yorks, Warminster; WO2 P Coles, LDOC, DSCOM, Abbey Wood; Sgt T Davies, Cyclops Sqn, RTR, Tidworth; Sgt D Watt, DPHC, Wales and West Midlands HQ, Telford; WO2 D Lough, 91 Sqn, 27 Regt RLC, Aldershot; SSgt D McGee, 88 Bty, 4 Regt RA, Topcliffe; Cpl A Carmichael, D Coy, 3 Scots, Ardersier; Pte E Fullick, 20 Tpt Sqn RLC, London; Tpr W Brightman, C Sqn, LD, Catterick Garrison; Gnr N Hudson-Carrier, C Coy, 3 RHA, BFPO 30; Capt R Hannan, HQ DPHC(E), Colchester; Cfn P Soso, 8 Bn REME, DSEME, Chippenham; Maj K Brewster, HQ 102 Log Bde, Grantham; Lt Col J Chetty, J3, PJHQ, Northwood; SSgt A Murray, 421 HQ Sqn, 11 EOD Regt RLC, Didcot.

### 14 April 2018

1st Prize (£10,000): Sgt C Entwistle, Sp Sqn, 1 Signal Regt, Stafford. 2nd Prize (£5,000): Sgt P Bailey, 9 Bty, AD Sp Wksp REME, Emsworth. 3rd Prize (£4,000): LCpl S Spurrell, 4 Sqn, 21 Engr Regt, Ripon. 4th Prize (£3,000): Cpl R Flanagan, 2 Rifles, BFPO 801. 5th Prize (£2,000): OCdt A Pryce, RMAS, Camberley. 6th Prize (£1,000): Cpl W Hattingh, HQ Coy, 1 RRF, Tidworth. 2 Consolation prizes (£500 each): LCpl L Kelly, 12 Bty, 19 Regt, Tidworth; Gnr M Magee, P Bty, 5 Regt RA, Richmond. 15 Consolation prizes (£200 each): WO2 C Bannerman, 213 MI Sect, 21 MI Coy, Abingdon; SSgt S Waite, 105 Bn REME, Bristol; Maj L Spencer, ICSC(L), JSCSC, Shrivenham; LCo Hinchley, 2 ATR, ATC(P), Woking; Sgt A Terry, 135 Geo Sqn RE, Ewell; Pte D McInnes, 5 Scots, Edinburgh; LCpl K Kirby, 132 Avn Sup Unit RLC, Ipswich; LCpl O Thomasson, 1 WG, Pirbright; OCdt B Bolton, RMAS, Camberley; Hldr C Barron, C Coy, 4 Scots, Catterick Garrison; Cfn J Cattermole, 8 Bn REME, DSEME, Chippenham; LCpl L Hargreaves, 158 Pro Coy, 3 RMP, Salisbury; Pte J Walsh, B Coy, 1 Yorks, Warminster; OCdt C Gregan, RMAS, Camberley; Capt P King, CTT, 43X, Tidworth.

**21 April 2018**

1st Prize (£10,000): Cpl S Alcock,

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# REVIEWS



MOVIES

## CHOSEN MEN

Army vet sheds light on  
life after service

EVERY year thousands of recruits pass out from the UK's military training establishments to great fanfare. The band plays, crowds cheer and members of the top brass commend their achievements as the troops leave behind their civilian lives and join the Armed Forces.

At the same time, others are making the quiet and unceremonious transition back to mainstream society.



Picture: Cpl Jonathan Lee van Zyl RLC

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GAMES

## MOVIES



For some this move is entirely their own choice. For others it's due to personal circumstances. And for a small number the decision is taken by doctors. Nevertheless, saying farewell to friends, comrades and the military lifestyle in general can be one of the toughest experiences these people will face.

*Chosen Men* – out now at selected cinemas and later this year on digital – tells the story of a group of soldiers who have gone back to civilian life.

Written, produced and directed by British Army veteran **Aaron Sayers** (ex-RGJ), the documentary focuses on a group of Riflemen who all saw combat in the post-9/11 conflicts.

Its scenes powerfully depict the reality of leaving the Armed Forces by contrasting what first inspired these troops to join the Royal Green Jackets (or "chosen men", as they were known) with how they now view their time in uniform.

What makes this feature stand out is the openness and honesty of its stars.

Having known all of them during his Forces career, Sayers draws out some deeply personal accounts.

He then explores the effect their experiences have had on their emotional wellbeing, family life and career prospects.

Viewers hear first-hand about the failings of the current system; Sayers' cast make no bones about calling out unfair treatment by the organisations they believe have turned their backs on them.

But the title has been endorsed by many of those who are working day in, day out to bridge the gap between military service and civilian life.

It showcases the work of Help for Heroes, The Invictus Games Foundation and the UK Veterans One Voice campaign, with insightful interviews from Help for Heroes founder **Bryn Parry** and former elite soldier **Andy McNab**.

Highly recommended for anyone considering calling time on their Service career – or those who feel let down by the transition process – *Chosen Men* adds to a growing number of voices seeking to improve veterans' lives. However, above all, it reminds everyone that a soldier's story does not finish on the battlefield.

Well worth a watch. ■

REVIEW: CSJT CHRIS CORBY, RIFLES

### VERDICT:

A powerful insight into life after the Army



Visit [www.chosenmenmovie.com](http://www.chosenmenmovie.com)

## WIN

DID last month's 75th anniversary of the Dambusters raid get you thinking about the classics? Look no further. *Soldier* has teamed up with Studiocanal to offer three lucky readers a classic war film goody bag including *Angels One Five*, *Ice Cold in Alex* and *Dunkirk*, plus a limited edition 75th anniversary *Dam Busters* poster. To be in with a chance of scooping a set, tell us the operational name of the famous Second World War mission to destroy the German dams. Answers to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by June 29.





## DVD/DIGITAL RELEASES



### A Quiet Place Out now

I REALLY wanted to give this one a big thumbs-up but it didn't deliver at the intensity of the trailer. The heroine, **Emily Blunt**, and her family exist in a post-apocalyptic world where aliens hunt humans through sound alone. If they hear you, you die. Granted there are some genuinely hand-wringing moments and, yes, the small but perfectly selected cast is just the right fit. But the aliens are just another rehash of the 1980s **Sigourney Weaver** genre and the ending flaps suddenly in the breeze. See this if you must, but don't say I didn't warn you.

**Maj Neil Johnson, AAC**



### Downsizing Out now

AWARD-WINNING director **Alexander Payne** brings us this mould-breaking, dark comedy sci-fi odyssey that also boasts a pre-apocalyptic climax. Step into a world where the decision to undergo a medical procedure to become five inches tall should be financially rewarding but is not without complications. Characters played by familiar faces including **Christophe Waltz**, **Hong Chau** and **Kristen Wiig** are on hand to help miniature Paul Safranek (**Matt Damon**) appreciate the bigger things in life. This is a decent offering.

**CSjt Chris Corby, Rifles**



## MUSIC

### PICK OF THE MONTH:

## WILDNESS

**Snow Patrol** battle "life block" on comeback album

AFTER an absence of seven years, soft rock outfit **Snow Patrol** have returned to the musical spotlight with new album *Wildness*.

The record ends a lengthy hiatus during which the band's members focused on individual projects, the most notable of which saw frontman **Gary Lightbody** working with super group **Tired Pony**.

He also moved to Los Angeles and produced a raft of high-profile co-writes with artists including **Taylor Swift**, **Ed Sheeran**, **Biffy Clyro** and **One Direction**.

While the extended break offered welcome diversions it also proved to be a source of inspiration for the day job and the singer used his creative burst to heal what he described as "life block" through a series of new songs.

He said: "I think it's the first record I've ever written that I haven't just asked a bunch of questions.

"I actually tried to figure out why I was unhappy, why I feel out of place, why I'm afraid.

"There's nothing really to protect myself for – it's all in the album.

"There are many types of wildness but I think they can be distilled into two: the wildness of the modern age and a more ancient wildness.

"Something primal, alive and



**VERDICT:**  
Heavy  
going and  
thought-  
provoking  
★★★★★

beautiful that speaks to our true connectivity as well as our passion, our love, our communion with nature and one another.

"This is the kind of wildness the album is centred around: the loss of it, trying to reconnect with it and to remember it."

Given such thoughts it will be no great surprise to learn that this offering strikes a heavy tone.

*What If This Is All the Love You Ever Get?* poses an obvious question while *Life on Earth* emphasises the need to escape the stresses and pain of our day-to-day existence.

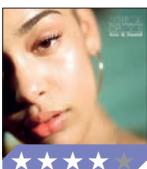
Fans will be pleased to hear that **Snow Patrol**'s trademark sound can be heard on *Heal Me* and *Empress* and there's a touching reference to the dementia suffered by Lightbody's father on the track *Soon*.

The slow burning song proves to be the record's highlight, with lines such as "secret storms of your wild youth are now just gentle breezes warm and faint" describing his tragic decline.

While tough going at times, *Wildness* is worth persevering with and serves as a welcome return for a band that had almost been forgotten. ■

**REVIEW: RICHARD LONG, SOLDIER**

## MUSIC RELEASES CONTINUED



### Lost and Found by Jorja Smith

JORJA Smith is a talented British singer-songwriter who is more famous for collaborating with **Drake** on *More Life* and co-writing *I Am* for the *Black Panther* soundtrack. This collection opens up with a lyrically haunting title track and continues in the same vein, showcasing her atmospheric vocals and marrying them with minimal accompaniment. The narrative is fresh and forthright and the record has an easy listening feel that makes it great for relaxing with friends. My personal favourite is *Teenage Fantasy*, which looks back at young love, the advice given by close family members and concludes with Jorja's own unhurried thoughts. This is a must-have debut album.

Janet Dornan, ex-R Signals

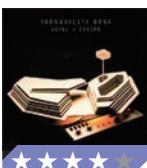


### Time Enough by The Once

THIS is the fourth offering from Newfoundland-based outfit **The Once**. On first listen it's obvious that they look to **Fleetwood Mac** and possibly **Rilo Kiley**

as influences. The music is well produced and polished and the vocals are gorgeous; the problem is the songs themselves lack substance and fail to challenge the listener. Highlights are the opening track *I Can't Live Without You*, which starts off with a lovely hook-laden vocal but tails off and soon becomes forgettable. The disappointing pattern is repeated on *Another Morning*. Listeners of Magic FM will think this sounds great; everyone else will be hoping for something a little better.

Damian Hern, ex-AGC (SPS)



### Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino by Arctic Monkeys

IF THERE'S one thing that's divided the Twittersphere more than Yanny or Laurel recently, it's the **Arctic Monkeys'** first new LP for nearly

five years. Whichever side you've sunk your flag in there is no disputing that *Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino* is by far the most sedate album the Sheffield lads have produced to date. Tinkling keys and lounge-style crooning replace the more trademark riffs, creating a trippy, psychedelic fuzz that is disorientating yet strangely seductive. Diehard fans should approach with care, but for casual or newer listeners there is much here to intrigue and entice. When the standout track is called *Four Out of Five*, there's only one mark you can give it.

James Morton, civvy

**WIN**

A TOTAL of 69 choirs from Great Britain and abroad have combined forces to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. *Remember*, by **The Military Wives Choirs**, is released on June 29 and features a selection of original songs and music from across the ages. *Soldier* has teamed up with Republic Media to give away three copies of the album. To be in with a chance of winning tell us the name of the choirmaster who helped form the first Military Wives Choir. Answers to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by June 29.

## BOOKS

### PICK OF THE MONTH:

## ARNHEM

### History heavyweight turns attention to Market Garden

ANY new title from military historian Antony Beevor comes with a certain amount of expectation.

His extensive and impressive back catalogue includes the acclaimed epics *Berlin: The Downfall 1945* and *Stalingrad*, which was recently banned in the Ukraine on the grounds that it repeated anti-Ukrainian propaganda from Russian sources.

In his latest offering he examines events at Arnhem in 1944.

Drawing on often-overlooked archive sources from the nations involved, he gives an intensely personal view of the fighting, adroitly weaving those tactical threads into the broader operational and strategic background to outstanding effect.

The book opens with an admirably clear overview of the main characters and wider context, allowing him to explore the effects that interpersonal rivalries and Allies' priorities were to have on the planning and execution of the ill-fated Operation Market Garden.

He then considers the evidence that



Pictures: Imperial War Museum

commanders on all sides viewed the plan that emerged as unwise.

Ed Marshal Walter Model, believing the bridge at Arnhem to be too distant, dismissed the possibility of a British bid to capture it by an airborne assault as far too reckless for a man as cautious as Montgomery.

Dutch officers from the Princess Irene Brigade were alarmed to learn that Lt Gen Brian Horrocks' XXX Corps intended to advance to Arnhem along a single road that was effectively a one-tank front.

This route featured in the Dutch staff college exams and any candidate who planned to advance from Nijmegen to Arnhem along it was instantly failed.

British opinion in some quarters echoed these views. The commander of 1st Airborne Division, Maj Gen Roy Urquhart, is quoted as having said to Lt Gen Boy Browning: "Sir, you've ordered me to plan this operation and I have done it, and now I wish to inform you that I think it is a suicide operation."

Beevor then descends into the thick of the action, drawing on sources from all ranks – British, American, Dutch, Polish and German – as well as a number of Dutch civilians as he charts the increasing confusion and desperation of the fighting in and around Arnhem.

The description of the aftermath of the subsequent British withdrawal makes particularly harrowing reading before Beevor returns to what he acerbically terms "the self-congratulation and buck-passing among senior Allied commanders" in the wake of the debacle.

But if the failure of Market Garden was bad for British morale, the book shows that it had a catastrophic effect on the entire Netherlands, with the Germans exacting reprisals on the population for having helped the Allies.

That winter the nation starved, as the Wehrmacht had seized almost all available foodstuffs.

All this makes the subsequent instinctive Dutch generosity to Allied troops, and later to veterans, all the more poignant.

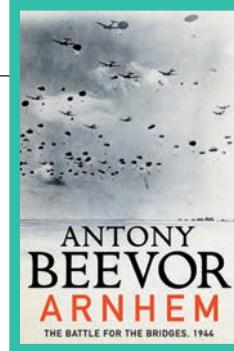
Read this book; then tread humbly when you travel to the Netherlands and visit the bridge at Arnhem. ■

#### VERDICT:

Beevor is back on top form with this gripping account

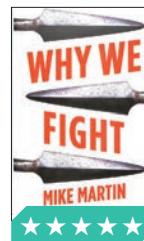


REVIEW: MARK HAINGE, EX-RE



*Arnhem* by Antony Beevor is published by Viking and priced £25

#### BOOK RELEASES

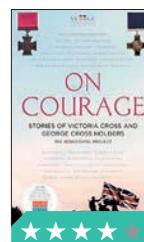


##### Why We Fight

by Mike Martin

THIS book looks at recent discoveries in the fields of psychology and neuroscience and relates them to today's conflicts. It applies evolutionary theory to the question; why does mankind fight? Why are some people willing to die for their countries or turn themselves into suicide bombers for their ideology? Written in a straightforward, clear and concise style that will appeal to military minds, the title will both challenge and intrigue anyone interested in war and could change the way the reader thinks about violence and themselves. Once you've picked this one up, you won't want to put it down. It is heartily recommended.

**Bob Shaw, ex-RLC**



##### On Courage

by The Sebastopol Project

WHENEVER I read about Victoria and George Cross recipients I am in awe of their character and tenacity. In this book, published in aid of military charities, various celebrities introduce 28 stories – some well documented and others less so. Tom Crean was decorated for his lifesaving actions during Scott's 1912 Antarctic expedition. Air hostess Barbara Jane Harrison sacrificed her life in order to save passengers on a burning aircraft in 1968, becoming the only woman to be awarded the George Cross in peacetime. A few pages do little justice to their heroism, but it is better to read a brief account and be engrossed than not read about them at all.

**WO2 Mike Owens, RE**



##### End Game

by Matt Johnson

THIS is the last instalment in a trilogy but each book can also be read as a standalone story. The final chapter brings the main character, Detective Inspector Robert Finlay, face to face with the man who has been trying to kill him. As an ex-Special Forces soldier and Met Police royal protection squad officer, Finlay's past has come back to haunt him, threatening the lives of friends and family in the process. It is a fast-paced, well written plot involving the Provisional IRA, Arab terrorists, human trafficking and rogue secret agents. This is compelling stuff and a great read for your lazy summer on the beach.

**Andy Kay, ex-RS**



##### Isandlwana

by Ron Lock

NEW titles on the 1879 Zulu War are published every year, many simply regurgitating the same stale and often cliched version of events. But this book about the rout at Isandlwana is the product of encyclopaedic knowledge, with added detective work. It lays down a dramatically new assertion; that the defeat was not the outcome of two blundering armies bumping into each other, but rather the result of a well-executed Zulu deception plan. It offers a controversial but compelling account of the battle that underlines the consequences of operational arrogance and underestimating the fighting abilities of a less technologically equipped enemy – something that should resonate with all those who serve.

**Maj Andrew Banks, Australian Army**

## GAMES



Space Hulk: Deathwing Enhanced Edition for PS4 and PC

### PICK OF THE MONTH:

## SPACE HULK: DEATHWING

Console conversion takes the fight to the Tyranids

» DECENT Games Workshop adaptations are hard to come by.

It's often difficult for a studio to implement one of the many popular tabletop or board game derived adventures on a digital platform. On the face of it, *Space Hulk Deathwing* seems to be one of the few success stories to date.

Set in the never-ending war-torn future of the 41st millennium, you jump into the shoes of a space marine – a hulking nine-foot tall augmented human who walks around in armour most tank commanders would give their right arm for.

You're up against a vast, somewhat derelict, spacecraft crawling with clawed alien beings that are commonly referred to as Tyranids. And there are a lot of them.

On the surface the game is a superbly captured slice of the *Warhammer 40,000* universe.

The ship's interior is suitably gothic and moody and the experience of lumbering around in vast armour is enjoyable and even immersive.



### VERDICT:

A great looking game let down by sub-standard AI  
★★★★★

But this release is not without its faults. The AI for both the enemy and your squad mates is often clumsy.

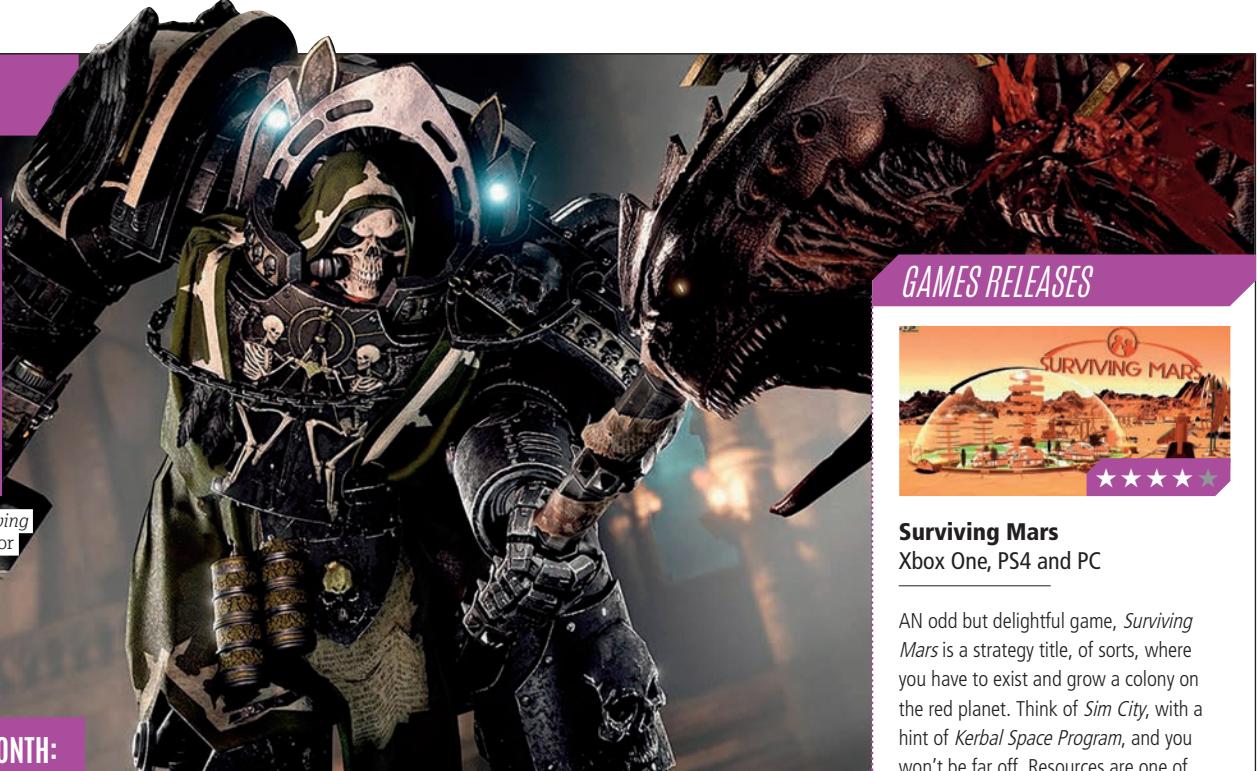
And though the Tyranids are known for their single-minded approach, they lack any tactical flexibility – preferring instead to hurl themselves towards you with inevitable predictability.

Up close, the graphical details also come undone as the developers opt for grandeur on a large scale while ignoring the need for the finer stuff.

It's not game-breaking by any means but the terrible AI is probably the most distracting aspect, forcing you to do all the work for yourself.

Luckily, the multiplayer is much better and allows you to carve your way through each mission with a competent squad. ■

REVIEW: DAVID McDougall, CIVVY



## GAMES RELEASES



### Surviving Mars

Xbox One, PS4 and PC

AN odd but delightful game, *Surviving Mars* is a strategy title, of sorts, where you have to exist and grow a colony on the red planet. Think of *Sim City*, with a hint of *Kerbal Space Program*, and you won't be far off. Resources are one of your most important commodities but there's more to this than that. There is also a story with plenty of mystery intertwined that makes the release a challenging but entertaining jaunt. In short, it's an offering with almost limitless possibilities and plenty of challenges. But most of all it's fun, though it does involve a somewhat steep learning curve.

David McDougall, civvy



### The Council

Xbox One, PS4 and PC

THIS is a superb looking game with an interesting atmosphere to it. *The Council* plays out a bit like an Agatha Christie novel from the 18th century. The narrative-focused approach is interesting as you're tasked with some investigative work amid the world's elite, including Napoleon. But the only way to solve things is to discuss and interrogate. As you progress your skills increase and you soon become an expert in getting people to spill the beans. The downside is that some of the characters aren't quite convincing. But if you fancy yourself as a bit of a Sherlock Holmes, look no further.

David McDougall, civvy

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# SOLDIER SPORT



## SERVICES SELFIE ➤

THE Army women maintained their unbeaten Inter-Services record with a 72-3 win over the Royal Navy. Read about the Reds' successful campaign on page 73...



# SEASON OF SUCCESS FOR MEN IN BLACK

WITH the curtain coming down on another busy season of Service football, the Army's legion of referees have been reflecting on a job well done.

More than 120 teams entered major and minor unit cup competitions during the 2017/18 campaign and, with a variety of corps tournaments also thrown into the mix, the demand for officials has been considerable.

But with the refereeing scene thriving the plethora of fixtures have been successfully negotiated by the men and women in black, who recently gathered in Aldershot for their annual development day.

The event allows personnel to look back at the high points of the season but it is far from the gentle wind down that many would expect.

"We had a match in the morning which was followed by some basic coaching points," the

Army's senior referee WO2 Andy Halliday (RAPTC, pictured right) told *SoldierSport*.

"We've done Prozone video analysis of offside calls, decision-making drills and have practised working together as referees and assistants.

"The Army is in a great position when it comes to refereeing; as a collective we have never been as strong."

Halliday is a man who knows what he's talking about.

Last season he reached the milestone of officiating in 300 Premier League games and has been the chief instructor for the Army's basic refereeing course for the best part of a decade.

"I always tell the guys on the course that they are now promoting themselves as a referee as well as a soldier," the senior NCO explained.

"You will find yourself at the centre of 22 players and you have to deal with that situation.



**"I TREAT  
EVERY  
GAME  
IN THE  
SAME  
WAY"**

"A young private may find himself refereeing a match between the sergeants' and corporals' messes with the commanding officer looking on.

"It could be the first time he has stood up in front of a group and if he copes with that he will gain skills that can transfer to the day job."

The four-day course is staged at various times of the year at locations across the country and mixes on-pitch lessons with the experience of taking charge of matches for the first time.

They will start out at level seven on the refereeing ladder but within three years can progress to level four, when they can join the civilian structure and climb further.

It is a path that Halliday has taken himself.

"I did the basic course while I was posted in Germany in 1994," he said. "When I got to level four I started in the civilian game;



that's when you get assessed more regularly and work your way up.

"The guy who took the course said one of us would make the Premier League within ten years. I laughed at him at the time but I was lucky enough to be the one.

"I've had a lot of backing from my bosses and have had the freedom to do the games I needed to move up.

"I cannot thank them enough but at the same time the Army has prospered from that. People look at what I've done and think 'I can do that too'.

"The 2016 FA Cup final has been the highlight and hitting 300 Premier League games was a great milestone.

"At that level of football the pressure sometimes gets to the players; they are expected to perform and if they don't do that they look for a scapegoat and that is often the referee.

"Buy I always treat every game in the same way: it is 22 players on the pitch. If you start taking it out of perspective you lose the ability to make clear thoughts.

"You must focus on the game in front of you, whether that's in the FA Cup final or a corps fixture."

The soldier plans to continue for at least two more seasons and is delighted to be in a position where he can give something back to Army football.

"I was always motivated to become the chief instructor," he said. "It is a pleasure to assist those coming through.

"The potential is there for others to follow the same path. They must have commitment, good fitness, support from their families and bosses, as well as a slice of luck." ■



Pictures: SSgt Paul Morrison, RLC

## GAMES IN NUMBERS

ARMY REFEREES IN ACTION OVER THE COURSE OF LAST SEASON

**280**

OFFICIALS PROMOTED BETWEEN LEVEL SEVEN AND FOUR IN 2017/18

**31**

GRADUATES FROM THE BASIC COURSE WHO WENT ON TO REACH LEVEL SEVEN DURING THE LAST CAMPAIGN

**28**

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ASSISTANTS ON THE ARMY'S BOOKS

**3**



Picture: Shutterstock

## ATKINSON'S ARMY SUPPORT

Premier League official Martin Atkinson was the special guest at this year's referee development day and he was clearly impressed by the Army set-up.

The 47-year-old observed some of the sessions on offer before delivering a presentation on how to make marginal gains and improve as a referee.

"This is so professional in terms of the facilities and opportunities for guys to train together," he told *SoldierSport*.

"Looking at different situations on video is the type of thing we do in the Premier League; it is brilliant.

"When I started out there was nothing like this to learn from and the guys here are lucky to have WO2 Andy Halliday (RAPTC) involved – he has so much experience to pass down.

"I've known him for a long time and his heart is in refereeing; that is a massive boost for something like this."

Atkinson is a former police officer and believes the discipline of the Armed Forces and emergency services can only assist aspiring referees.

"A military background is a real help," he said.

"It allows you to be firm and fair with players and gives you the experience of dealing with different people and getting your message across.

"Hopefully that can help in game situations.

"I'm happy to come here and give something back.

"Referees are one big family and we have to stick together."

Atkinson was speaking ahead of an epic 1,700-mile cycling challenge from England to Russia for this month's World Cup.

He is part of a three-man team that is hoping to raise more than £40,000 for four different charities including the Jane Tomlinson Appeal.

To donate visit [www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/whistlestop2018](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/whistlestop2018)



# SANGER SIGNS OFF WITH TWICKENHAM WIN

**H**EAD coach Maj Andy Sanger (RE) was handed the perfect farewell as the Army recorded another Twickenham victory over the Royal Navy in his final match at the helm.

With the Inter-Services honours already claimed by the Royal Air Force the old rivals were playing for bragging rights at the home of English rugby and tries from LCpl Chris Leathem (R Irish), Pte Junior Bulumakau (Scots) and Capt Jamie Miller (AAC, pictured above) steered the soldiers to a 22-14 win.

The Reds' cause was boosted by a red card for Senior Service forward Logs Sam Matavesi, who aimed an apparent headbutt at Sgt Ken Dowding (RA) with his side leading 6-0 in the first half.

"It would be easy to say the red card had an impact on the game," Sanger told *SoldierSport* afterwards. "I have spoken to Sam and he was a little bit

unlucky but he committed the referee into making a decision.

"We looked like we were always in control of the match: we had greater strike power and were far more threatening with ball in hand.

"If we had been more clinical at times the score would have been more convincing."

The result leaves Sanger with a record of seven wins and one draw in the fixture during his two spells in charge.

He also guided the team to five Inter-Services titles and victory at the International Defence World Cup.

The Reservist starts a new role as player development manager at Harlequins this month and he believes his Army background will stand him in good stead for the challenges to come.

"This is a professional rugby environment," he explained. "I want to go there and be part of something special."

**INTER-SERVICES  
RUGBY UNION**

**ARMY**

**22**

**NAVY**

**14**



"In military terms they want me to help with discipline, welfare and the transition of players out of the sport; these are things I've done in the various roles throughout my career.

"It's also about developing a team ethos and culture and trying to get the players and squad that little bit tighter on and off the field."

With his Army rugby commitments now complete Sanger believes the foundations are in place for a successful run under a new head coach.

He added: "If you compare the squad to the one we had two years ago, there are now 16 different players in the match-day 23.

"That is a huge turnaround. The average age is around 25 or 26 and over the past couple of years we have blooded a number of new players.

"Army rugby is now in a really good place." ■

## RUGBY IN NUMBERS

RED CARDS  
NOW ISSUED  
IN 101  
ARMY-NAVY  
GAMES

2

INTER-  
SERVICES  
TITLES WON  
BY OUTGOING  
HEAD COACH  
MAJ ANDY  
SANGER

5

POINTS  
SCORED  
BY THE  
VICTORIOUS  
WOMEN'S  
TEAM  
IN THIS  
SEASON'S  
FORCES  
CONTEST

82

DATE, IN  
MAY, OF  
NEXT YEAR'S  
MATCHES  
WITH THE  
ROYAL  
NAVY

4



Pictures: Allign Photography

## PARKER LEADS NAVY ROUT

HERE was a familiar feel to the final fixture of this season's Inter-Services women's competition as the Army inflicted yet another painful defeat on their Royal Navy rivals.

A hat-trick from Lt Fionidi Parker (REME, pictured) was the headline act in a thumping 72-3 win as the soldiers built on a hard-fought victory over the Royal Air Force to maintain their impressive unbeaten record in the tournament.

After a scrappy opening spell the Reds quickly slipped into top gear and they crossed six times before the interval to effectively seal the contest.

They repeated the feat in the second period as the Senior Service were blown away at Kneller Hall.

Parker's searing pace played a key role in the fullback's personal milestone and Cpl Lou Dodd (QARANC) continued her fine form in Army colours as she bagged a brace of tries, while kicking

with accuracy from the tee.

In total, there were nine different players on the score sheet as the soldiers' dominance continued.

"This is the first game where we've been able to put all our training into practice – that was good for the girls," skipper LCpl Ellie Gattlin (Int Corps) said afterwards.

"The Navy really brought it to us in the first half: that's the first time since I've played where we haven't put points on the board until past the 15-minute mark."

The win follows a dogged 10-0 triumph against the RAF and caps a challenging season for the Army squad in which the standard of opposition has increased considerably.

They have faced four international outfits over the course of the 2017/18 campaign and, while they lost to South Africa, Holland and England Under-20s, the soldiers recorded a comprehensive 51-6 victory over Germany. ■

## MASTERS ON TOP

THE Army was able to celebrate further Inter-Services success as the masters' team downed the Royal Navy to claim a third successive title.

Having defeated the Royal Air Force 59-8 in their opening fixture the Reds completed the job with a comprehensive 59-5 triumph over the Senior Service at Kneller Hall.

"This competition brings a whole new mechanic to the rugby we have played," Col Sandy Fitzpatrick, director of masters' rugby, told *SoldierSport*.

"We have been the dominant force but there is no arrogance or sense of foregone conclusion about these games; we can never take our eyes off the RAF or Navy."

As well as excelling on the pitch the squad has been involved in a number of community engagement projects throughout the season.

Among the highlights this year was a visit to The Royal British Legion Village in Aylesford, where the soldiers took part in a service in the garden of remembrance, and a training session for players from the Lothian girls rugby development programme.





## YOUTHFUL REDS EYE LORD'S CROWN

**N**EW Army cricket skipper Cpl Jay Boynton (REME) is placing his faith in youth as the side prepare to defend their Inter-Services Twenty20 title at Lord's this month.

A number of high-profile players have stepped down since the end of the last campaign and with an exciting breed of fresh talent emerging from the shadows the future is now looking bright.

The squad welcomed 20 newcomers into the fold for a trial during pre-season training and Boynton (pictured right) was a keen spectator as the Service's development side took on their Forces rivals as this issue went to press.

"We've got some great youngsters coming through and it is going to be a youthful team this year," he told *SoldierSport*.

"Experienced guys like Maj Storm Green (Coldm Gds), Lt Col Alex Senneck (R Signals) and Maj James Hudson (RA) have moved away but I have

confidence in the lads coming in.

"They are big shoes to fill and it will be down to people like myself and Pte Tade Carmichael (RLC, pictured above) to step up. But we also have good replacements coming in so we are in a strong position."

After some early disappointments the Army have become the team to beat at Lord's and have won the past five Inter-Services competitions.

The grandeur of the occasion remains as high as ever and Boynton is looking forward to another testing day at the home of cricket.

"It just gets better and better every year," he added.

"We have been very successful there and it is a great advert for the Forces game.

"Our results weren't that good for the first couple of seasons but we are now in the winning habit and that plays a crucial part.

"To play at Lord's is a great privilege and I hope that continues for years to come." ■



**"WE ARE  
IN THE  
WINNING  
HABIT"**



## ON TOUR IN TURKEY

WORLD champion Dominik Gurhs put riders from the Army wakeboarding team and development squad through their paces during a pre-season training camp in Turkey.

A 14-strong party travelled to the Hipnotics Cable Park in Antalya for the week-long event, which allowed the soldiers to learn complex acrobatics in a controlled environment.

Each day was broken down into different elements of cable riding to ensure everyone was able to progress, regardless of their ability level.

The warm weather and longer daylight hours also maximised the opportunities to train, while Hyperlite team member Tina Frömling added to the coaching expertise on offer.

"The setting gave riders a good amount of concentrated repetition and it is much easier to receive coaching and pointers," said Capt Charlie Hay (AAC, pictured above).

"Everyone was keen to learn air tricks and there was some awesome progression."

Visit [@armywakeboarding](http://@armywakeboarding) on Instagram for details on how to get involved, or email [awwachairman@gmail.com](mailto:awwachairman@gmail.com)



## SPORT SHORTS



### Hockey cups decided

THE Army hockey set-up crowned new corps and unit champions during three days of hectic action in Aldershot.

A 7-2 victory over the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers saw the Infantry claim the men's corps title, while the Adjutant General's Corps secured the women's prize after they defeated their rivals from the Army Medical Services 3-2.

The major units final was won by Army Headquarters and 5 Medical Regiment took the minor units honour.



### Reserves on the road

THE inaugural Army Reserve Cycling Championships were held at Thorney Island, near Portsmouth.

A full turnout in the women's field proved to be a huge positive and Capt Bexy Dew (RAMC) produced an impressive display to claim the title.

With the men's race also being well supported it was divided into novice and senior categories, with Capt Carl Proctor (Bristol UOTC) winning the former and Dmr George Aldridge (HAC) the latter after a hard-fought battle with Sgt James Green (RA).



## LOGGIES EDGE THRILLING FINALE



**A**SIX from the final ball of the day sealed a dramatic victory for the Royal Logistic Corps in the final of cricket's Inter-Corps Twenty20 Championships.

The Loggies appeared to be heading for defeat as they chased the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' total of 124, but they found a hero in the shape of tail-ender Sgt Des Plummer, who heaved the ball over the leg-side boundary to cap a remarkable turnaround at the death.

An inspired spell of bowling from LCpl Rome England (pictured left) had put their rivals on the brink of glory before Plummer delivered his knockout blow.

Such drama seemed unlikely when the REME posted a below-par target as they batted first.

Tight bowling from the RLC restricted their efforts early on and they tried to pick up the pace through WO1 Ian Dixon and Cpl Jay Boynton.

Dixon looked particularly threatening but was stumped

off the bowling of SSgt Uri Hill for 32 and, while Cfn Tom Lester did his best to marshal the middle order, the REME looked to be short of a competitive total.

The Loggies signalled their intent as opener Hill smashed a four from the first ball but they failed to build on the early momentum, reaching a lowly 44-1 midway through the reply.

England then claimed the scalps of Hill (pictured above) and the dangerous Pte Tade Carmichael in the same over before adding the wicket of Cpl Spicer Narayan to his haul. He claimed two further wickets in the fifteenth over to finish with figures of 5-23.

A rapid-fire partnership between Capt Tony Frost and SSgt Augustin Robertson brought the RLC back into contention before the former was dismissed in the deep.

Robertson's assault ended when he was run out from the first delivery of the final over but Plummer completed the job with a booming six. ■



## YORKS ON THE UP

VICTORY in the Army FA Cup final capped another superb season of sporting achievement for the soldiers of 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment.

The latest success came on the back of the rugby union team winning the Army Premiership final, where they defeated 12th Regiment, Royal Artillery 17-8.

Final appearances have become commonplace for the players in recent times and they have featured in the showpiece fixture for the past three seasons.

The footballers boast an equally impressive record as they have contested six of the last ten Army FA Cup finals – including a triumphant run during the 2016/17 campaign.

"At the moment we are doing really well in terms of Army sport so everything is good for 1 Yorks," football skipper Cpl Darren Clark told *SoldierSport*.

"If you achieve something you always look to go higher and higher, and that is what we have done today."

The cup double makes 1 Yorks the first unit to win the top prizes in Army football and rugby in the same season.



# CHAMPIONS DO THE DOUBLE



**A**LATE strike from Pte Marcus Barnes fired 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment to glory in the 118th Army FA Cup final.

The forward's close-range finish capped a memorable afternoon for the Warminster-based outfit as they defeated 3 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment to retain the prestigious trophy.

However, it was far from plain sailing for the defending champions as the Sappers – led by Army star Spr Dan Stoneman – proved worthy adversaries.

And it was Stoneman who was the first to threaten as he raced clear in the fifteenth minute only to be denied by a save from keeper Cpl Joe Jones.

The Engineers remained in control for the majority of the first half but clear-cut chances were at a premium.

Cpl Craig Holloway blazed over after Stoneman did well to retrieve a deep corner, while speculative efforts from Pte Ross Amner and Pte Reece Copland drew comprehensive saves from LCpl Luke Cairney in the Sappers' goal.

But the match burst into life in the early stages of the

second half as Stoneman broke away on the left and produced a low cross that was converted by LCpl Lee McCombie at the near post.

Substitute Sgt Justin Dolly tested Jones with a stinging volley after the Yorks' rearguard failed to clear a high ball into the area before the game reached a pivotal point in the 77th minute.

Stoneman stole possession on the halfway line and sprinted clear of the defence but was thwarted by Jones in a one-on-one duel.

The Sappers were punished moments later as patient build-up play from Cpl Darren Clark and LCpl Luke McLaren created an opening for Amner, who cut in from the right to arrow a shot into the top corner.

And the winger played a crucial role in the Yorks' winner when his perfectly weighted cross was dispatched by Barnes at the death.

"After lifting this trophy last year our aim for this season was to retain it," skipper Clark told *SoldierSport*.

"We keep going past the 60-minute mark; that's when you get the best out of us." ■

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## SPORT SHORTS



### Gurkhas boss court battle

REIGNING champions 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles mounted a successful defence of their Inter-Unit volleyball crown in Aldershot.

The team triumphed in a tough battle with their rivals from The Queen's Gurkha Engineers and won the encounter by claiming the first two sets.

The event attracted a strong Gurkha contingent with The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment and 2 RGR both in action.

Elsewhere, the 1 Signal Regiment team was victorious in the women's competition, while personnel from Army Headquarters claimed the Reserves' title.



### Sappers seal triple crown

THE Royal Engineers Hockey Club made history this season by winning all three of the Army's Inter-Corps leagues.

After suffering just one defeat over the entire campaign, the men's senior team won their respective title in style and saw notable performances from newcomers such as Lt Will Sadler and SPr George Warrender.

The masters' side boasted a 100 per cent record in their league – a feat matched by the triumphant women's squad, which also comprises players from the Army Air Corps, Intelligence Corps and Corps of Army Music.



## ARMY STARS SHINE FOR THE AGC



**A** STRONG showing from the Adjutant General's Corps' Army players helped fire the team to glory in the final of this season's Women's Corps Championship.

Reds stars Capt Chantelle Miller, Sgt Amy Robinson and Sgt Sarah Mimnagh were among the scorers as the AGC cruised to a 29-5 victory over the Royal Logistic Corps in the showpiece fixture in Aldershot.

The champions-elect made a rapid start as Miller rounded off a flowing passing move in the fifth minute.

The highlight of the match came moments later as the AGC gathered from a short lineout to set the platform for a slick interchange between Miller and Robinson, with the latter ghosting home under the posts.

Fellow Army star Cpl Jade

Mullen kicked the extras and Robinson crossed again on the stroke of half time as she intercepted a stray pass and sprinted to the line.

Mimnagh effectively sealed the win within minutes of the restart following a strong forward surge before the excellent Robinson burst through the RLC defence late on to create the opening for Miller's second try of the afternoon.

Cpl Bev Gilbert notched a late consolation for the Loggies but it was the AGC who celebrated a convincing victory.

"It was a great way to end the campaign," skipper Mullen said afterwards. "It has been very difficult this year with deployments and exercises.

"We want to keep developing so we can come back next season with a bigger squad." ■

● THE Infantry completed a successful day at the Corps Sevens Championship with a convincing win over the Royal Artillery.

Tries from Pte Siva Naulago, Pte Manuelli Raloka, Pte Sileki Rokovunicagi, LCpl Rusiate Waqa and LCpl Rupeni Rokoduguni (all Yorks) steered the free-flowing outfit to a 31-7 win over the Gunners in the final.

"Coming here and winning is a surprise," coach Capt Scott Maunders said. "It is a good platform to build on as we move into a new season."



# MONTH IN SPORT

## June's key fixtures...



**WHAT:** Army Individual Boxing Championships

**WHEN:** June 3-7

**WHERE:** Aldershot

**NEED TO KNOW:** With

the team honours already decided another season of ring action reaches its conclusion with a battle for individual glory across a host of weight categories



**WHAT:** Inter-Services Ice Hockey Championships

**WHEN:** June 4-8

**WHERE:** Ice Sheffield

**NEED TO KNOW:** This season will see the biggest tournament to date with 16 teams taking to the ice in the various Forces competitions. With eight Army sides included in the line-up the soldiers will be eyeing a bumper prize haul



**WHAT:** Inter-Services Women's Cricket

**WHEN:** June 26-29

**WHERE:** RAF Vine Lane

**NEED TO KNOW:** The Army played second fiddle

to the Royal Navy in Portsmouth last season and will be looking to bounce back with a new-look squad that has trained hard over the winter months

## BOXING IN NUMBERS

YEARS SINCE 2 PARA LAST WON THE INTER-UNIT BOXING CROWN

# 18

FINAL IN THE PAST SIX SEASONS FOR THE AIRBORNE UNIT

# 3

WINS FROM FIVE BOUTS FOR 2 PARA'S 56KG FIGHTER PTE STEVEN DALEY

# 5

TIMES BOXERS FROM 3 RIFLES HAVE COMPETED IN THE INTER-UNIT FINALS

# 1



## PARAS POWER TO TITLE

**A** PUNISHING early barrage laid the foundations for a convincing victory for fighters from 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in the Inter-Unit Boxing Championships final.

The Colchester-based squad won the first four bouts against 3rd Battalion, The Rifles via unanimous decisions and their all-action display paved the way for a 5-3 triumph on the night.

Pte Steven Daley set the tone as he defeated Rfn Ricardo Gomes in the event's opening clash before Pte Aslan Kay continued the onslaught in his contest with Rfn Jake Welch-Davison.

The lightweight unloaded some brutal combinations in the opening round and maintained his power and intensity throughout to seal a deserved win.

Pte Josh Brown produced a near identical display against Cpl Liam Jones, with his pace and aggression forming

potent weapons.

Brown underlined his class in the final round, when he landed two strong shots with the left to leave the outcome in no doubt.

The Paras claimed a fourth straight win as Pte Michael Jennings triumphed over LCpl Lewis Steel in a closer fight in the middleweight division.

And the match was settled in the first bout of the second half as Pte Tony Jones faced Rfn Aaron Goodwin.

After a cagey opening the rifleman appeared to show greater intent, particularly in the final round when he landed a good combination.

But Jones took the fight on a split decision.

Rfn Elliott Dillingham was handed a walkover to give 3 Rifles their first success and Rfn Connor Severns added to the tally as he edged a tight match with Pte Nick Owens.

Cpl Danny Kelly added further respectability as he claimed a unanimous decision against Pte Ben Wilson. ■



Pictures: Andy Bonner



# REFEREES LAUNCH SEARCH FOR FRESH TALENT

WHILE the Army's rugby stars stepped out on the Twickenham turf for the highlight of their season, the pinnacle for their refereeing counterparts came two weeks earlier at The Stoop.

Three teams of officials took centre stage in clashes between various sides from the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy, with the result from the men's senior fixture determining the outcome of this year's Inter-Services title.

Those involved have passed through the Army Rugby Union Referee Society's (ARURS) coaching programme, which immerses aspiring officials at grass-roots level and supports their progression in the game.

The organisation is now looking for new talent – both male and female, as well as ethnic minorities – to join up.

Novices start their journey at level 12, which sees them taking charge of company or squadron fixtures as well as second team matches among bigger units.



**"I WAS EXPOSED TO HIGH-LEVEL MATCHES AT AN EARLY STAGE"**

In terms of wider context, level one referees are those taking the whistle in the Aviva Premiership.

"The RAF-Navy match is level four, which is the equivalent to National League Two," explained Maj Max Marsden (RAMC), secretary of the ARURS.

"It takes a lot of hard work to get there.

"We are able to train people within the Army and run courses in Aldershot five or six times a year. Typically, we will have 100 newcomers in that time – around a quarter will go on to referee and the others are there to learn more about the game.

"Everyone leaves knowing that little bit more about what the officials are trying to do."

The organisation has close ties with civilian societies and those links allow referees to gain valuable experience thanks to the sheer volume of games available.

Capt Iain Kiy (AAC, pictured) benefits from involvement with the Dorset and Wiltshire society and was handed the honour

of refereeing the men's senior fixture at The Stoop – five years after his first ARURS course.

"It was extremely enjoyable," he told *SoldierSport*. "It was at a Premiership ground in front of a crowd of more than 4,000 and was great experience for me.

"The game itself was relatively straightforward. The RAF dominated at the scrum so I had to make sure the Navy kept things legal and safe.

"In terms of Army refereeing, this match is the pinnacle."

Kiy has acknowledged the positives of civilian societies but believes the military set-up has been vital to his development.

He added: "I would not be where I am without the ARURS.

"I was exposed to high-level matches at an early stage and they have also given me the experience of working with touch judges, which doesn't always happen in the civilian game.

"They were very good at giving me the right games at the right time; that was a huge help."

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# Final Word

## New technology is a great asset on exercise

**Tpr Ben Palmer, RHG/D**



It must be realistic because on a tour you'll be working to a timeline, multitasking and coping with pressure. You need to know you can carry on when you have nothing left in the tank.

**Spr Holly Brockton, RE**

Pictures: Graeme Main, Peter Davies, Lcpl Kevin Nelson, RE

Interviews: Becky Clark, Cliff Caswell



It depends heavily on the directing staff. If the instructors are experienced combat-wise they can put on a really good final attack and you'll come away on a high.

**Spr Luke Feasey-Balfour, RE**



Training needs to be ambitious and the targets have to be set quite high so that soldiers and commanders are pushed. The toughest package I did was when I spent 28 days in the jungle. You find your drills really have to be on point in that kind of environment.

**Cpl Ashley Siddall, RAMC**



It has to have an element of challenge and surprise; things that you wouldn't normally expect, to push you out of your comfort zone. That's what makes exercises interesting. You want each one to have a different twist.

**Pte Rosie Wildman, AGC (SPS)**

You get the most out of an exercise if it's physically tiring and mentally challenging. I'm new out of training and our final package was in Otterburn in February, in the snow. But when conditions are difficult there's a real sense of achievement when you've finished.

**Pte Paul Ramsay, Scots**

## TOP TRAINING

We asked personnel what makes the ideal exercise...

Going to different places in the world to train, rather than another spell on Sennybridge. People join the Army to travel.

**Capt Jo Ellett, RE**



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