

# SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

60

years of  
Cambrian Patrol

✚ The end of weapon  
cleaning as we know it?

SPINELINE  
COMPETITION

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ABDULLAH,  
HUSSEIN, TALAL

SAND  
BLAST

Airborne troops  
sharpen desert drills

10 >



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**ARMY**  
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## CONTENTS



## FEATURES

COVER  
STORY

- 34 Dry run**  
Gurkhas feel the heat in Jordan
- 42 Brain power**  
Controlling kit with thoughts alone
- 46 Sava Star soundbites**  
Reservists hone their skills in Croatia
- 50 'We need more options'**  
The new approach to Army careers

## REGULARS

- 7 The Informer**  
Top stories from across the Service
- 26 Need to Know**  
Essential tips for today's personnel
- 53 Talkback**  
Ruminations from the ranks
- 58 Bullet Points**  
Troops' intelligence assets
- 65 Reviews**  
Movies, music, books and games to fill your downtime
- 82 Final Word**  
Gurkhas reflect on Jordanian test

## SOLDIERSPORT

- 72 Fishing**  
Anglers face-off for Army title
- 75 Cricket**  
REME toast final success
- 76 Wakeboarding**  
Crossley returns in style
- 77 Rugby league**  
Women hit top form in Services clash
- 78 Triathlon**  
Rye reaches global stage
- 79 Rugby union**  
Fijians prove too strong for UKAF
- 80 Mountain biking**  
Soldiers boss cross country test
- 81 Cycling**  
Mixed emotions at road race clash





“

Obviously  
there's an  
opsec risk  
to using  
these devices

”

Gurkhas learn desert lessons – p34



42



50



75

# Everything changes



ARE you someone who embraces change? Or who whinges about the inconvenience and pointlessness of

having to overhaul “the way it’s always been done”.

For most, our true position probably sits somewhere between the two, depending on the issue. But if one thing is clear from flicking through this edition, it’s the fact that transformation is hitting the British Army at pretty much every level now.

From a Field Army restructure that will see the Service take more control of overseas operations (page 21), to an overhaul of the command, leadership and management course (page 20) and even changes to the way troops clean their kit (page 7), there’s not a lot that isn’t being reassessed right now.

In the same way The Royal Gurkha Rifles have been adapting to new fighting environments in Jordan (page 34), this organisation is also acclimatising to the changing nature of soldiering and of war.

It’s a fascinating time; one that we will try our best to document for you as time goes on.

Enjoy the issue.

**Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor**

## 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).

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### > Purchase

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Cleaning away at rifles could be harming them as well as wasting valuable training time



Picture: Steve Dock

# Scrubbing history

Ultrasonic tanks could spell an end to hours of weapon cleaning

**S**ITTING around scrubbing weapons is set to become a thing of the past for British soldiers.

The Infantry Trials and Development Unit (ITDU) is instead looking to introduce ultrasonic cleaning tanks – which are already used by industry and work by sending high-frequency soundwaves through water to remove dirt and carbon.

The plan was showcased by ITDU at the Defence and Security Equipment International expo last month.

Trials officer Sgt Daniel Birks (RM, shown below) said the idea followed the recent SA80 rifle upgrade.

"The Armed Forces still clean with oil and metallic brushes, but manufacturers tell us they don't do it this way anymore," he told *Soldier*.

"We scrub everything to death, but this can do damage to the systems – not to mention taking up time that could be better spent training."

Innovation funding allowed the senior NCO to carry out detailed research into ultrasonic cleaning of SA80s and GPMGs.

And Army HQ has now given him the thumbs-up to carry out further tests (shown right) with a view to the new system being rolled out to five regiments.

"When copper builds up it affects accuracy," Sgt Birks said. "But you're only

really supposed to clean the SA80 every 900 rounds.

"Generally, if you're firing a weapon it will perform fine for a whole exercise. You don't need to keep stripping it down as long as it's lubricated. And oil doesn't remove carbon.

"This new system will save man hours, and could reduce the size of personal weapon cleaning kits, but it will require a culture change.

"The idea is that we'll hardly clean weapons in the field at all.

"As long as they have a friction guard, we can just use these tanks for a deep clean back at camp with a small amount of carbon- and copper-removing solution.

"Each company would have a few baths, and on operations they'd be kept back at patrol bases."

Cleaning with water, rather than oil and metallic brushes, better protects the equipment too, he added.

"We spend hundreds of thousands refurbishing damaged weapons each year," Sgt Birks continued.

"But most of that is down to poor cleaning techniques.

"We are going to face resistance to this but the results from my trials found that these tanks saved soldiers' time by around 60 per cent.

"Everyone hates cleaning weapons, so why not make things easier?"

“Everyone hates doing it”





# GLOBAL SITREP

## 1. GREENLAND 'PHENOMENAL' FEAT

TROOPS from the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Support Battalion have been sharing lessons from a gruelling Arctic expedition.

The 15-strong team of predominantly junior soldiers from multiple cap badges, plus three instructors, spent two weeks exploring some of the remotest mountains on Earth.

The trip included becoming the first recorded people to climb unconquered peaks and spotting whales while navigating fjords.

In a presentation to colleagues at Imjin Barracks they described how the exped had developed their physical fitness, leadership and risk management skills.

LCpl Jagadish Gurung (QGE) said: "We saw the most beautiful scenes. The icebergs floating in the sea were simply phenomenal."

## 2. CANADA

### BRITS ON TARGET IN IMPRESSIVE SHOWING

THE British Army Combat Shooting Team has had its most successful ever outing at the Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Concentration, a series of marksmanship tests held annually at the Connaught Ranges in Ottawa.

The personnel took on teams from the USA, Australia, the Netherlands and Canada and notched up an impressive 22 gold medals across 31 events, including the overall team award.

Rfn Amrit Thapa (RGR) claimed the Top Shooter Service Rifle prize and Cpl Daniel Stanton (Rifles) the Service pistol shooting award.

"Our success can be attributed to two things," said team leader Capt Neil Guerin (SASC). "The outstanding quality of the soldiers and the effectiveness of the SA80 A3 when pitched against the other international teams."



Picture: LPhoto Paul Halliday, RN



1. GREENLAND

2. CANADA

3. BAHAMAS

## 3. BAHAMAS

### HURRICANE RELIEF MISSION CONTINUES

ARMY personnel are drawing breath after helping with UK aid efforts in parts of the Caribbean affected by Hurricane Dorian.

The category five cyclone was the worst on record, flattening large swathes of the Bahamas, killing more than 50 people and leaving 76,000 homeless.

Humanitarian and disaster relief teams from RFA Mounts Bay, including sappers from 24 Commando Regiment, Royal Engineers and logisticians from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, had been in the area since June waiting to assist in the event of a natural disaster.

Troops went ashore to distribute aid in the immediate aftermath and are now back on standby until the end of hurricane season in November.

"The devastation caused by Dorian was greater than expected," Lt Jamie Martin (RLC) told *Soldier*.

"We were often the first outsiders to land at various points on the island and the population of Abaco were enormously grateful to receive the aid, and happy to be reassured the UK was aware of their situation and help was on its way.

"Without capabilities such as the mexeflote it would not have been possible to get supplies ashore in the shallow waters."



## INTELLIGENCE FOR THE ATLAS?

### Brief the team now:



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### 7. DENMARK VIKING CONQUEST

OKSBOL training area is playing host to soldiers from 4th Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment taking part in Exercise Viking Star.

The package was getting under way as this issue went to press and has seen the Reservists integrating with Danish forces as well as brushing up on live-firing and urban fighting drills.

With members of the unit heading to Afghanistan as part of sister formation 2 Yorks in the coming months, the Scandinavian deployment is a useful opportunity for them to sharpen their skill set.

A visit to Copenhagen and a series of concerts by the regimental band is also on the agenda.

### 6. NORWAY LOGGIES BIKE SCANDINAVIAN WILDERNESS

THE mountains and fjords of Norway's Vinje region formed the ideal backdrop for a ten-day mountain bike expedition for personnel from 156 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps.

A 12-strong party from the Reserve unit tackled a variety of long, difficult uphill climbs and some challenging downhill runs on the trip. And with the sport

still in its infancy in the country the soldiers faced the added test of having to research potential routes and areas to ride.

"Norway is a superb country to undertake adventure training activities," said SSgt Pete Argent. "If you like peace and quiet and being able to ride trails where you'll meet no one else, it is the place for you. It is a hidden gem."



Gurkhas show grit in  
Jordan - page 34



- 6. NORWAY
- 7. DENMARK
- 4. NETHERLANDS
- 5. SWITZERLAND

### 4. NETHERLANDS ARNHEM 75

TROOPS from the Household Cavalry Regiment marked the anniversary of Operation Market Garden by retracing the route of the ground campaign in an original vehicle from 1944.

Capt Piers Flay, LCoH Harry Day and LCpl Matthew Palmer spent 201 days restoring the Daimler Scout Car, or Dingo, to full working order some 40 years after it was last used.

Along with 250 other historic platforms they drove from Lommel on the Belgian border to the outskirts of Arnhem, the same road that XXX Corps followed in its failed attempt to relieve airborne comrades fighting for control of the town's bridge.



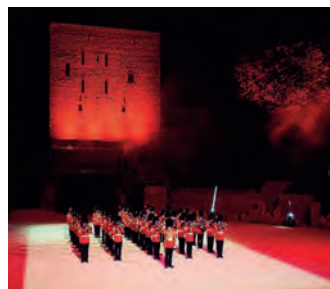
Picture: Benno Hunziker

### 5. SWITZERLAND STAR WARS SALUTE

THE Band of the Coldstream Guards represented the British Army at international military music festival the Avenches Tattoo.

The soldiers entertained the crowds with a marching display and a selection of music from the soundtrack of *Star Wars*, by composer John Williams.

Held in the dramatic setting of a Roman amphitheatre, the event also featured musicians from Trinidad and Tobago, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Belgium.





# CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

ABF The Soldiers' Charity is the national charity of the British Army, providing a lifetime of support to soldiers, veterans and their immediate families when they are in need.

We were founded in 1944 to ensure that soldiers returning from World War Two were well cared for. Since then, the welfare of soldiers, past and present, and their families has been at the heart of everything we do

## New podcast series launched

Lorraine Kelly introduces a series of conversations between people whose lives have been changed forever by war and conflict. This five-part series explores different aspects of military service, including camaraderie, mental and physical health, family life, bereavement, resettlement and more. Hear how life in the British Army has evolved over our 75 years of service from some of the incredible people our work has touched.

Search for 'Audio Boom Soldiers Charity'



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THE SOLDIERS'

CHARITY

To donate or find out more visit [soldierscharity.org](https://soldierscharity.org)

While there is a British Army, there will be The Soldiers' Charity.

The Army's National Charity

75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
1944-2019





Picture: SBS Photography

## Rugby death rocks sporting community

**T**RAGEDY overshadowed this season's Inter-Services Rugby League Championships following the death of Royal Air Force player SAC Scott Stevenson (pictured above, second from right).

The fullback suffered head injuries in his side's clash with the Army in Aldershot and, after a lengthy break in play, was stretchered from the field for medical treatment.

Reports emerged to say the 25-year-old was in a critical condition at London's St George's Hospital but a further update later revealed he had passed away.

"Rugby was Scott's whole life from as early as six years old," his family said in a statement.

"We take great comfort in the knowledge he passed doing something he loved, surrounded by his teammates, all of whom care about him dearly.

"Few of us are fortunate enough to leave life in such a way."

The family also offered its thanks for the superb medical care SAC Stevenson received on the pitch, in the stadium and at the hospital's specialist neuro-ICU – a thought that was echoed by Lt

Col Dave Groce (RLC), chairman of UK Armed Forces Rugby League.

"We had planned for a doctor to be pitch side, as well as the usual medical teams, which is above and beyond what is stipulated," he told *Soldier*. "His opportunity for survival was as good as it could have been.

"When you are responsible for running an Armed Forces sport you do not anticipate fatalities – that is the toughest part for me as chairman."

SAC Stevenson, who was based at RAF Marham, was well known to the Army players and had trained alongside a number of soldiers with the UK Armed Forces squad.

Injury ruled him out of the Defence World Cup in 2017 but his displays this season had prompted talk of a recall.

"He was a fearsome runner with the ball and had the talent to hit the gaps and run at you from all angles," Lt Col Groce added. "He was playing exceptionally well.

"The Army lads knew him and really liked him. He got on with everyone and was a typically good bloke.

"He was always one to look out for in the opposition as he was one of the RAF's better players."

“  
The Army  
lads really  
liked him  
”

## ALCOHOL MEASURE

■ ARMY units are being reminded about the importance of appointing alcohol advisers.

The role sees personnel sent on a day-and-a-half training course so they can become focal points for alcohol advice in their formation, helping to raise awareness of the issues around booze and support anyone with problems.

Each unit or establishment should select one officer and one senior NCO or warrant officer for the job – they should be people with good communication skills who are discreet and empathetic.

For training course dates and more on what is required read [ABN 96/19](#).



Picture: Freepik

## VETERANS' BOOST

■ THE government has given the Office for Veterans' Affairs a £5 million funding boost.

The newly created government set-up ensures that ex-Servicemen and women have access to medical treatment and training.

It will also tackle the growing number of homeless veterans.

Charities, MPs and stakeholders have often expressed the need for a coordinated approach to caring for former Armed Forces personnel.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans, Johnny Mercer, said: "We're already hard at work bringing together the right people across government, and this new funding will be instrumental in making this vision a reality."



## Reservists in tune

THE retirement age for Army Reserve musicians has been increased to bring it in line with the rest of the Corps of Army Music. Soldiers and officers can now serve until the day before they turn 65 without the need for an overage extension request. Previously, they could only serve until they were 55 and 60 respectively.

## IN NUMBERS

The Army Families Federation's 2018 annual report reveals how the organisation has been supporting Service personnel and their loved ones...

12,000



FOURTEEN

percentage of housing enquiries that related to the future accommodation model (page 20)







ANYONE who read up on the brave feats at Arnhem 75 years ago may have recognised the names printed on the spine of last month's magazine.

(Cpl John)

Humphreys, (Capt Eric) Mackay, (Lt Denis) Simpson and (Cpl Charles) Weir from 1st Parachute Squadron, Royal

Engineers escaped after being taken captive by the Germans at Arnhem bridge during Operation Market Garden in 1944.

We have teamed up with Rotary Watches ([www.rotarywatches.com](http://www.rotarywatches.com)) to offer one lucky reader a limited edition timepiece, which has been launched this month in partnership with The Royal British Legion to mark the company's heritage as one of the official watch suppliers to the British Army during the Second World War, and to raise money for the military charity.

Just 1,000 of these Mk II models are being created.

To be in with a chance of winning one, tell us what links the words on the side of this month's issue.

Answers – including daytime telephone number – to the usual postal address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by October 31.

**WIN**  
a limited edition  
Rotary watch  
worth £159

## SOLDIER HEALTH SURVEY

■ A SURVEY about how soldiers' work environment impacts on their health and well-being has been distributed to 13,800 individuals across the Service.

It takes around 25 minutes to complete and the deadline for submissions is October 18.

Results will be used to shape future Army policy.



The package gave troops the chance to gel as a platoon

# Riflemen rise to the

“It will be a big thing for them”

SOLDIERS from 5th Battalion, The Rifles have completed a challenging inter-platoon patrol competition at Stanford Training Area and Bulford ranges.

Over the course of the 48-hour Exercise Millennium Bugle, the Riflemen completed a series of military exercises that tested their leadership, teamwork and physical fitness levels.

Set in the context of realistic scenarios, and designed to enhance operational capability, the serials saw the soldiers scored on tasks such as navigation, harbour drills, improvised explosive device clearance and battlefield first aid.

The event then concluded with a testing march and shoot.

Maj Dan Brown, officer commanding B Company, explained how he ran a

“hasty” platoon attack to check the commanders' and soldiers' decision-making processes.

He said: “The aim was to test their lower-level tactical drills and skills under pressure in an austere environment, moving through challenging terrain before coming upon an enemy position.

“It proved to be a great test, and an opportunity to foster a competitive spirit while still assessing their low-level skills as infantry soldiers.”

For Rfn Kieran Roberts and his colleagues, the package provided a chance to really gel as a platoon and try out different techniques to solve the tasks thrown at them.

“It's been challenging but we've had the opportunity to work together closely as a team, getting to

## AJAX TRIALS

TRIALS are continuing on Ajax – the Army's new family of fighting vehicles set to replace the CVR(T) next year.

Once in service the platform will provide the armoured capability for strike brigades.

Sgt David Toughill (RDG), from the Armoured Trials and Development Unit told *Soldier*, it is a busy time down in Bovington, where members of the Household Cavalry Regiment are doing driver courses and preparing for user trials.

“We will look at things like how it handles, and then report that information back to General Dynamics,” the senior NCO explained.

“Being the first Army unit to get this

platform will be a big thing for them.

“As well as guarding the Queen, they are being entrusted with what is basically the Service's first digital tank.”

Hot weather trials will also be held ahead of reaching initial operating capability in mid-2020.







Pictures: Cpl Sam Jenkins, RLC

# challenge

understand each other's strengths," the Serviceman commented.

"And it's been good preparation for any future operations we and the battalion may face."



## Puzzle book to get public thinking

THE logic and problem-solving skills needed to be a British soldier are being showcased in a new paperback out this month.

*The British Army Challenge Book* contains more than 100 Service-approved puzzles, helping readers to develop the sort of mind-training needed for any team player or budding recruit.

It includes mazes, observation challenges and code-cracking activities, and will be available to

buy in bookshops for £12.99 from October 17.

"If you want to take these challenges to the next level, then we are always looking for bright young men and women to join the team," Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir Mark Carleton-Smith says in the book's foreword.



“It proved to be a great test”

## UNDER 30s 'NOT TALKING'

■ YOUNG Service personnel are not coming forward for support, a military charity has warned.

Data from SSAFA Forcesline – a confidential helpline for soldiers and veterans – found that only eight per cent of its calls were from those under 30.

That is despite 90 per cent of the same age group admitting they had needed help during or after their military career.

A survey by Censuswide earlier this year found that around one in five troops in this age group wouldn't speak up because of stigma. Yet 97 per cent of them said they wouldn't judge anyone else for asking.

Bill Grant, who manages the telephone service at SSAFA, said: "This data shows there is still a lot of work to be done to reach younger serving personnel."

In response to what it called the "worrying" trend, the charity is now trialling a new web chat service which it hopes to roll out in the coming weeks.

With more than a third of 16- to 24-year-olds saying they prefer using text or online forums to talk about problems, it is hoped this channel will offer an alternative way for them to speak out.

"It will encourage those who've been reluctant to ask for help to come forward," Grant added.

## HELPLINE STATS

There were more than

14,916



enquiries to Forcesline by telephone and email in the first half of 2019

and just 8%

of them were made by an under 30

## ROYAL APPROVAL

■ THE Queen has written to ABF The Soldiers' Charity on its 75th anniversary.

In a letter to president Gen (Retd) Sir Mike Jackson, the patron sent her best wishes to all those concerned with the organisation, which provides grants to soldiers, veterans and their families, as well as to other military charities.

The milestone will be marked with various activities this month, including a performance by the Band of the Household Cavalry on October 11 in Leicester.

Tickets cost £20 and can be purchased by calling 0115 9572103.



# FEARLESS FUNDRAISING



## Carrington countdown

UNITS have six months to get fundraising and be in with a chance of winning the prestigious Carrington Drum – the annual trophy awarded to the outfit that collects the most money on behalf of ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

This year's winners

were AFC Harrogate, followed by 29 Regiment RLC and 16 Medical Regiment. Entries for the 2019/20 contest close on March 31.



## Everest ambition

TWO majors from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers are taking on the Mount Everest Three High Passes trek this month to raise money to help Service leavers find second careers. Lloyd Morgan and Rebecca Pogson-Hughes-Emanuel will cover more than 200km and climb 30,780ft in 15 days. To help boost their total search their names on [uk.virginmoneygiving.com](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com)

Fundraising target:  
**£7,000**  
For: Hire a Hero



Junior commanders can experience more leadership problems than generals, say the organisers

Picture: Graeme Main

# Section commanders unite

## Army issues call for lower ranks to attend key leadership event

JUNIOR and senior NCOs are being urged to join the Army Leadership Conference on October 23.

This year's event at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is about 'leading in the digital age', but organisers say it is vital soldiers attend as well as officers.

"Leadership is not a rank-based thing," Maj Paul McFarland (R Irish), from the Centre for Army Leadership, told *Soldier*.

"Every section commander arguably has more leadership problems than some of our generals.

"Life or death decisions are made on the front line, and it might be lance corporals making these decisions, so we need to involve soldiers and NCOs.

"At the moment we are oversubscribed with captains, majors

and two-star generals.

"But one workshop is being run by the Army sergeant major and our keynote speaker will talk about small-team tactics, so the whole day is really relevant to junior leaders too – we would love to have 500 of them there."

He added: "The Sandhurst location shouldn't put personnel off; it just so happens the Centre for Army Leadership is based there."

**Diary date:** Oct 23

Register  
attendance  
on the CAL  
Sharepoint  
page



## Minibus memo

■ UNITS are being reminded that they can make applications to the **Army welfare grants committee** for the purchase of minibuses for non-entitled activity.

The message comes from the Sandhurst Support Unit (SSU), which recently used the system to help secure three vehicles for sports, social, welfare and cultural activities that are not eligible for military transport.

Applicants have to contribute at least 25 per cent of the total cost, with grant money covering the remainder.

"It really is a straightforward process," said Maj Kev Carpenter (RLC) of the SSU. "The buses give us an opportunity to do things out of the norm."

Read **Army Command Standing Order 3206**

for more information on how to submit an application.





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**Jim survived Arnhem.  
Many years later, when he lost  
his sight, we were there.**



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lives after  
sight loss

When ex-Army glider pilot Jim developed macular degeneration and glaucoma in his nineties we helped him rebuild his life.

[blindveterans.org.uk/jim](http://blindveterans.org.uk/jim)





# Cold weather course



Package includes mountain, survival and fighting skills

Picture: Steve Dock

**T**HE sub-zero temperatures of the Arctic circle await personnel who have signed up for the Army's first cold weather instructor course.

Led by extreme weather warfare specialists from the Royal Marines, the package will be delivered in two phases and has been designed to help the Service meet the challenges of deployments such as Op Cabrit in Poland and Estonia.

Capel Curig (shown below) will host a 14-day mountain training stage this month, when 30 soldiers from a host of cap badges will learn how to operate in a cold, rugged environment.

They will be required to conduct regular marches of more than 20 kilometres over some of the highest peaks in the UK, while mastering the skills needed to micro-navigate in hostile terrain.

The training will then switch to Norway's Bardufoss region (shown above right) for a four-week phase in March 2020.

Here, the focus will be on how to survive in temperatures as low as 30 degrees below freezing before the students learn how to ski with full military kit over frozen lakes and brushwood forests.

The programme then concludes with



a tactical, fighting phase.

"This is a newly designed course that is pretty unique to the Army," instructor CSgt James Keenan (RM) told *Soldier*.

"It is high-end soldiering and successful candidates will be able to go back to their units and teach these skills to fellow personnel."

“It is high-end soldiering”



Picture: Sgt Stefan Campbell, R Irish

## 'THEY KEEP ON GETTING BETTER'

**■ IT WAS** live-firing galore for members of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment as the Reservists took to the Sennybridge hills for their annual training exercise.

Unit spokesman Capt Richard Sheridan said the package for 180 troops had been particularly successful for the mortar platoon, with more than 600 live rounds fired.

"Their ammo allocation was probably on a par with that of a Regular battalion," the officer told *Soldier*.

"They are a strong team within the unit, and they keep on getting better."

He continued: "We crammed as much into a fortnight as we could, with the first week focused on giving our junior commanders the space and time to train their people."

"Everyone went over Pen y Fan too, which developed fitness, teamwork and confidence levels."

The cadre also included urban operations, a GPMG cadre and a stint helping Moldovan and Belarusian troops prepare for Cambrian Patrol later this month (page 22).

Last year the battalion won gold at the Army patrolling competition and they have the same goal this year

"No pressure!" said Capt Sheridan.

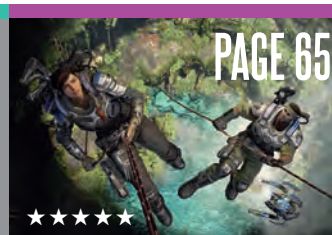
## IN THIS MONTH'S REVIEWS



"Raw, powerful and memorable, but exhausting to watch"



"It is well written, however it made me quite angry at points"



PAGE 65



600

live rounds fired by the 2 R Irish mortar platoon



## CAREER EXTENSION

■ REGULAR officers with experience in capability and acquisition are being invited to extend their career in a one-off trial.

The limited number who are selected will be able to stay in the Army until their 60th birthday and then draw the full AFPS 15 pension rather than the reduced early departure payment.

For details read **2019DIN01-097**.

The deadline for applications closes on October 11.

The initiative is one of many trials being introduced over the next few years under Programme Castle, a long-term initiative to improve Army careers (page 50).

## GREEN HOWARDS STONE

■ A MEMORIAL stone has been erected at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to commemorate all those who died serving in the Green Howards, which was amalgamated into The Yorkshire Regiment in 2006.

The statue was dedicated at a special ceremony last month attended by Gen Lord Richard Dannatt, former chief of the general staff.



## NEW JOBS PORTAL

■ A WEBSITE to help Army families into meaningful employment has been set up.

Visit [www.forcesfamiliesjobs.co.uk](http://www.forcesfamiliesjobs.co.uk) to browse jobs and training opportunities. The portal was set up by the Army, Naval and Royal Air Force Families Federations.

## FAMILY BUSINESS

■ PASSING out of phase two training is a proud moment for any recruit but for two new Royal Engineers the moment was made even more special by a family connection.

Sappers Rohan Walker and

Charlie Russell were awarded their stable belts by their dads, Damion Walker and Tony Russell, both serving staff sergeants in the same corps.

SSgt Russell (shown with Charlie)

described it as "one of the proudest moments of my life".



“There’s that sense of sticking your chest out”

# Ferdinand’s dressing-room chat

FORMER Manchester United star Rio Ferdinand offered a fascinating insight into life in the Old Trafford dressing room as he addressed personnel at the Army’s Optimising Human Performance Conference.

The day-long event at Sandhurst featured a raft of guest speakers from the world of elite sport and the military, all of whom shared thoughts on how the Service could better understand and meet the needs of the modern soldier.

Speaking on the theme of “it’s okay to not be okay”, six-time Premier League winner Ferdinand recalled how a competitive first-team environment made it difficult for individuals with personal issues to find help.

He stressed that notions of machismo must be confronted as the game moves forward.

“If people were down or struggling at home we would never know about it,” the ex-England defender said. “If we saw anyone with vulnerabilities or emotions it was quickly stamped out.”

“It is not until later in life that you reflect on these things, and I quickly realised that suffering on your own is very difficult.

“If only they had spoken up or someone had reached out.

“Sometimes you don’t need to hear anything back, it is about getting things off your chest. And there is real relief afterwards.

“I’m sure soldiers are the same. There’s that sense of machismo and sticking your chest out which needs to be broken down.

“Talking about your feelings and emotions is vital.”



Picture: Mike Egerton/EMPICS

Ferdinand’s thoughts were echoed by former soldier Andy Barlow (ex-RRF), who said leaders do not necessarily have to be friends with their soldiers but should be open to the prospect of sitting down and listening to any problems they have.

And fellow veteran David Wiseman, who served as an officer in The Yorkshire Regiment, argued there should be a proactive approach to mental fitness and highlighted the benefits that stem from techniques such as visualisation and meditation.

Elsewhere, a sports panel featuring double Olympic champion Maj Heather Stanning (RA) and England netball ace Serena Guthrie led a discussion on how to set the conditions to win, while Michelin star chef Adam Gray staged a practical cooking demonstration entitled “watch and cook”.

# Scots pay tribute to late Afghan hero

A MEMORIAL commemorating a British soldier who was killed in Afghanistan has been unveiled in his home town.

Cpl William Savage, of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, was killed by an IED along with two other soldiers while on patrol in Helmand province in March 2013.

The memorial to the 30-year-old was unveiled last month at a

ceremony at Stanley Primary School in Ardrrossan, Scotland, where Cpl Savage studied as a boy.

Family, friends, members of the local community and former comrades from 2 Scots laid flowers as the Last Post was played.

Cpl Savage’s son, who he never got to meet, also watched on.

“It’s very important this town doesn’t forget him,” said the late soldier’s mother, Isobel.



Picture: Charlie Gilmour/Ardrrossan and Saltcoats Herald



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## Aldershot troops: help test Army's new housing system



■ THE ARMY is inviting soldiers to join a pilot scheme of the future accommodation model (FAM), due to begin on January 31.

It will allow personnel to choose private rental accommodation over Service housing, with financial support from the MoD.

To be eligible you must be based in the Aldershot Garrison area, have served for more than four years, have at least 12 months left in your posting and be a Regular or full-time Reservist (full commitment).

Participants can be single, married or in a civil or long-term relationship.

Any soldier posted to Aldershot after the pilot has begun will then be asked to submit their preference for either Service accommodation, a private rental within 50 miles or their own home.

The pilot will take place over the next three years, and those who take part will be asked for feedback to test if the system is fit for purpose.

The results will then inform the Army on how to roll out FAM across the rest of the country.

A new team of advisers has been set up in Aldershot to help Service personnel and their families make sense of their options, while a series of briefings are scheduled at units throughout October (see below).

For more information, search for "future accommodation model" on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk), visit [www.discovermybenefits.mod.gov.uk](http://www.discovermybenefits.mod.gov.uk) or email [people-famcell-ald@mod.gov.uk](mailto:people-famcell-ald@mod.gov.uk).



The package will blend the fieldcraft of CLM part one with the education of part three

Picture: Graeme Main

“  
Personnel  
need to  
get a  
wriggle on  
”

## Switch from CLM to new course will be 'culture change'

THE Command, Leadership and Management (CLM) course is being scrapped in favour of a more challenging package that troops must complete in full before being able to promote.

From October next year, all Regular soldiers from lance corporal to warrant officer will instead undertake the Army leadership development programme.

They will get one year to finish it instead of the two years allowed for the CLM course.

And until they do, individuals won't be able to take the rank or salary of their next role.

Previously, troops who hadn't done part three of the package were still able to act up in a new position – meaning those who didn't want to promote further had little motivation to finish it.

The new course blends the fieldcraft skills and in-unit training currently developed on CLM part one with the military education of part three.

However, its content has been made

more varied and challenging, and standardised between the cap badges.

It can also be completed in any location, not just a soldier's own unit.

Maj Claire Hall (AGC (ETS)) of Personnel Policy, Army HQ, said troops would also notice more difference between the courses at each stage in their career.

"This is a culture change," she explained. "It's hastening the process and making our people better educated for their rank."

"Today's soldiers are demanding more, and they want their training aligned with officers, which this does."

"They want to be pushed."

The overhaul means that troops part way through their latest CLM course need to finish part three before next October or they may struggle to secure a place.

Maj Hall added: "These personnel need to get a wriggle on."

Questions about the changes should go to regimental career management officers or Army education centres.



## HOUSING HELP

An Aldershot-based team of advisers has been set up to help troops and their families make sense of the new options. Briefings will be held on...

October 8 and 14 at  
**St Omer Barracks**

October 15 at  
**Montgomery House &  
New Normandy Barracks**

October 24 at  
**Lille Barracks**

Picture: FreePik





The new role will begin with smaller-scale missions in Africa and Asia

Picture: Graeme Main

# Owning our operations

Army to get more responsibility for directing military campaigns

**A** SHAKE-UP of the Field Army is under way, in a move that will eventually see the formation take direct control of land-focused military deployments.

A new cell called Land Operations Command has been established, which will assume responsibility for missions that were previously overseen by tri-Service organisations such as Permanent Joint Headquarters.

Other changes will see Force Troops Command renamed 6th (UK) Division and assigned the Specialised Infantry Group to enable it to focus its efforts on hybrid warfare.

Sister formations 1st and 3rd (UK) Divisions will continue to lead on defence engagement and theatre enablement activities, and armoured war fighting respectively.

Maj Nathaniel Liladhar (Lancs),

from Headquarters Field Army's plans branch, said the reorganisation would allow the Service to better meet its commitments around the world.

"We need to be more agile and quicker to adapt to threats across the continuum of conflict," he added.

"Most operations are land-centric, and this will give the Army more ownership over its activities, as well as solutions to potential challenges."

The transfer of responsibility to Land Operations Command will start with smaller scale, capacity-building missions in Asia and Africa, with more complex deployments to follow over the next two to five years.

"Our approach will be 'learning by doing', developing confidence across defence and working up towards more complexity over time," Maj Liladhar told *Soldier*.

“We need to adapt to threats quicker”

Q&A



Soldier grills Maj Ian Jones (RE) from HQ Field Army on the shake-up...

## What does this mean for soldiers?

It's a fantastic opportunity for the Service to take more responsibility of campaigns and direct the kind of activities we need to be delivering. It gives the Army more of a say over where, when and who we deploy, taking into account tempo and operational pinch points within our formations.

## Who is affected?

8 Engineer Brigade, 104 Logistic Support Brigade and 2nd Medical Brigade have become part of 1 (UK) Div, 7 Air Defence Group has been resubordinated to 3 (UK) Div and the Specialised Infantry Group has joined 6 (UK) Div.

## Will there be basing changes?

No. Units that are being resubordinated will not have to move and there are no changes to infrastructure. Training activities will also continue as planned.

Got a story?

news@soldiermagazine.co.uk



■ SKYDIVING ace Cpl Stacey Briggs (AGC (SPS)) has been reflecting on a successful season that has seen her excel on the national and international stage.

The NCO, who became just the fifth female to join the world-famous Red Devils earlier this year, was part of the British Army formation skydiving team that won a domestic double in the UK league and national championships.

She then helped the soldiers to a silver medal in the European Skydiving League.

"It is overwhelming," she told *Soldier*. "We have been setting personal-best scores in every competition."

"We are on the road almost every single day, but the good far outweighs the bad."



## PATROLLING HISTORY:



## WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

WHEN troops are thrashed through the peat bogs and rivers of the Black Mountains this month, they will be following in the footsteps of tens of thousands before them.

Cambrian Patrol was devised for Welsh Reservists in 1959 by Maj Gen Lewis Pugh (shown below, left). The 80-mile route from Towy to Dwygyfylchi was designed to assess troops on their leadership, teamwork, march and map-reading skills, with a short shooting practice at the end.

And it was tested by the general himself before the first official event ran in 1960. The senior officer did the patrol alongside one of his lieutenant colonels over three days (sleeping in hotels instead of bivy bags). Six decades

later, the event has evolved to become internationally recognised as one of the world's toughest patrolling competitions.



## IN NUMBERS Cambrian Patrol 2019



**61** Regular units entering

**20** Reservist teams

**300**

size of the cohort organising and supporting the competition, including medics, marshals, inspectors, subject matter experts and admin staff



**130**  
teams entering in total

Subject matter experts help assess each of the patrol's specific tests



Picture: Sgt Jonathan Lee van Zyl, RLC

# Are you ready for Cambrian Patrol?

The event is **60** this year – and bigger and better than ever

“It's a remarkable milestone”

”



IT IS one of the largest and toughest patrolling tests in the world and more than 1,000 soldiers will take part in Exercise Cambrian Patrol near the Brecon Beacons this month.

Teams from across the British Army, Royal Marines and RAF Regiment will take on 36 international armies from as far away as Australia, the Philippines, Chile and Uzbekistan in a head-to-head battle that will cover 60 kilometres through the Black Mountains.

The troops will be weighed down with kit and equipment totalling at least 14.5 kilograms.

And the British contingent will include Regular and Reserve outfits plus members of the University Officer Training Corps.

Organised by 160th Infantry Brigade and HQ Wales, the event sees teams of eight personnel embark on a two-day patrolling mission.

They must follow a set of orders and navigate, day and night, through a diverse mix of scenarios designed to stretch all their military skills.

Teams are awarded points after each challenge, with just five per cent gaining the top gold award. A third usually fail to finish.

LCpl Kennedy Brown, in the cohort representing 3rd Battalion, The Royal

Welsh, said he hoped not to be one of them after bad weather interrupted proceedings last year and 2017 saw his team cancel due to drop-outs.

“All the boys have been training so hard for this,” the Reservist told *Soldier*. “We have more or less the same team as before, but this time we definitely mean business.”

“We are training pretty much every weekend, and are hoping for good results. Morale is high, and we just want to finish.”

Col Nick Lock, deputy commander of 160th Infantry Brigade and HQ Wales, said the event continued to draw attention overseas.

“This is seen by many as a reference for testing their dismounted close combat skills,” he added.

“We utilise subject matter experts to evaluate each of the specific tests, so, for example, on the CBRN stand we have a team from Porton Down providing their knowledge and support.”

“The Black Mountains have some tough terrain and the weather can produce some highly demanding training, too.”

“It's a remarkable milestone that this event has been in existence for 60 years, especially as it started out as a Reservists' march-and-shoot.”





# Ground view

Army Sergeant Major, WO1 Gav Paton, offers his take on Service life...

Contact Gav on Defence Connect

**A**GATHERING at Sandhurst saw me sit down with 290 of the British Army's regimental sergeant majors (RSMs) last month.

I spent an entire afternoon listening to what these soldiers had to say, and I was delighted to see their focus firmly on empowering our personnel.

Some of the topics we covered included pensions, retention, accommodation and social media.

So much good stuff fell out of our conversations on these issues – with all the questions being very soldier-focused and centred on how RSMs can better look after their troops.

This is a marked difference to the way things were when I was a young Serviceman 20-odd years ago.

Not one of our chats was about these leaders and where their careers were going – it all revolved around asking “how can I make this better for my soldiers?”

It's great to see that, for this crop of

RSMs, everything is about their people.

And I am starting to see a real shift in the way they do business; they are becoming far more approachable.

So don't be afraid to approach your RSM and the chain of command with any problems you have, they are the individuals who can do the most to help you out.

This month I am due to visit the corporals' mess in Catterick to talk about leadership, which I am really looking forward to.

Just like the upcoming leadership conference at Sandhurst, where more junior NCOs are being encouraged to attend (page 14), I expect this visit to highlight the fact that good ideas don't come with rank.

If you have any thoughts on how to improve things, or you want to challenge some of our ideas, make sure you feed this into your chain of command and contact me too.

By doing this, we can make sure that we benefit from the experiences of everyone in uniform.



The problems being raised at Gav's soldier breakfasts are the usual topics

“  
**Don't be afraid to approach your RSM with problems**  
”

## Bad blood at breakfast

**A**FTER bad press around the poor quality of food in our cookhouses, I have been popping up in as many of them as I can. And so far I haven't eaten a bad meal.

Thank you to all those who have allowed me to chat to you.

If you see me, please come and talk because I'm all about bringing the soldiers' voice to the top of the British Army.

Similar questions keep coming up, which is great in one way because it means I can narrow down the problems people have.

But I am also concerned this means we either aren't doing enough to address these issues, or we aren't communicating what is

happening to fix them.

Common queries include pensions (we don't know what's going on until the government tells us), beards (there are no plans to change this rule and we don't believe it affects recruitment) and the future of accommodation (a long-term project which we don't have any definite answers to yet – turn to page 20 for the latest details).

Please let me know how we can better communicate with you over these issues.

Twitter is working well, where I am getting hundreds of direct messages each month, but I would encourage you all to link up with me on Defence Connect as well.

## MOTHER OF PATROLS



■ **GOOD** luck to everyone taking part in Cambrian Patrol this month (see opposite). Last month I visited Australia, where it was being talked about. This shows what a fantastic world-class competition it has become. I have done it twice in my career, and it's one of those events you never ever forget. It can't be matched anywhere.



## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

**Q** What will be your horror movie of choice this halloween?

**A** That has to be Danny Boyle's **28 Days Later**



# THE BIG PICTURE

Arnhem, Netherlands

## Airborne anniversary

A BELGIAN soldier lands with a French parachute on Exercise Falcon Leap, where more than 1,000 paratroopers from eight countries tested interoperability between airborne forces.

The conclusion of the package, which featured the UK's 16 Air Assault Brigade, was marked by mass drops at Ginkel Heath to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Operation Market Garden, the Army's ill-fated attempt to capture bridges over the Rhine during the Second World War.

Outnumbered and outgunned by German forces, Allied airborne troops held out through nine days of street fighting before withdrawing across the river.

More than 1,500 British soldiers were killed at Arnhem and nearly 6,500 captured, while five Victoria Crosses were awarded.

Picture: Cpl Robert Weideman, RLC









# Let's talk

Problems in the bedroom aren't a topic for work... or are they?



► SOLDIERS can – and do – joke about most things.

But along with many Brits, their conversations about sex probably don't go too far beyond amusing gossip or kiss-and-tells.

But what happens if you've got a problem with your sex life?

According to couples counselling service Relate, around a third of people have suffered from some sort of issue in the bedroom.

Here, sex therapist Jules Prentice ([www.julesprentice.co.uk](http://www.julesprentice.co.uk)) – who specialises in treating Armed Forces personnel – suggests when it might be time to get help.

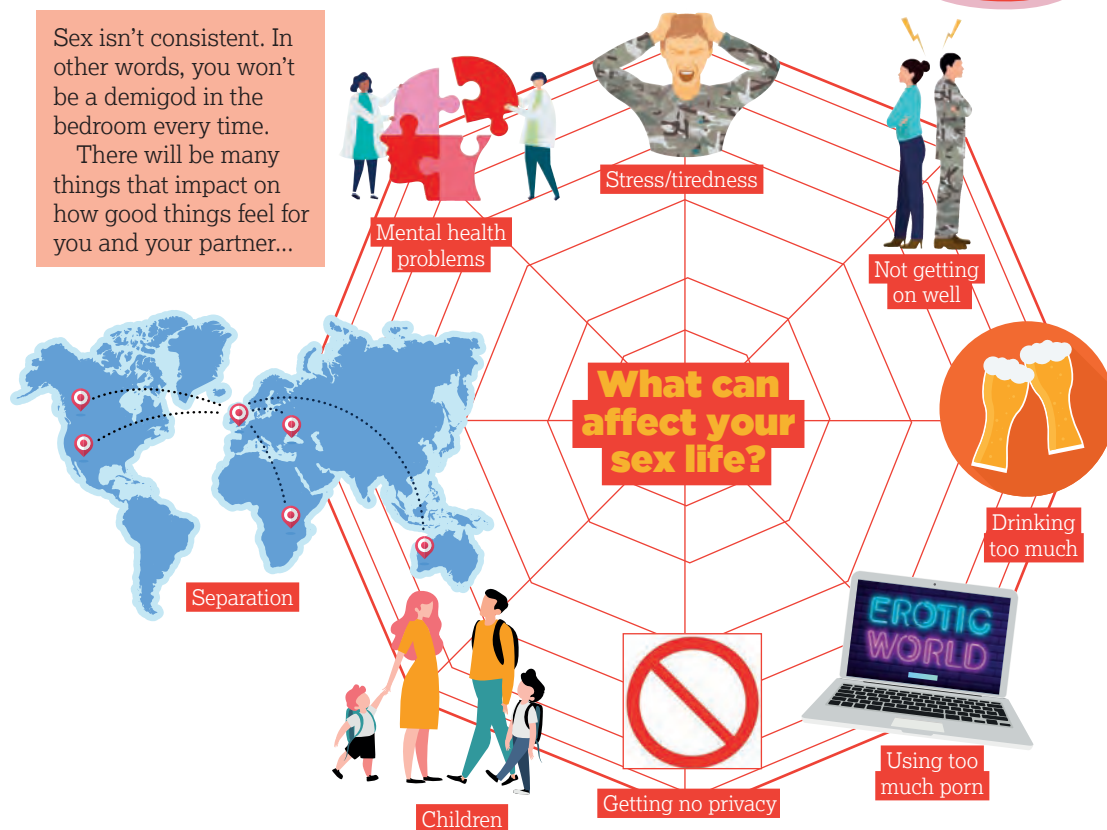
She is researching the link between stress and sexual behaviour in soldiers, and thinks more troops could benefit from speaking up.





# about SEX

Sex isn't consistent. In other words, you won't be a demigod in the bedroom every time. There will be many things that impact on how good things feel for you and your partner...



Wanting sex more or less than your partner is another common issue. But while problems like this are normal and don't necessarily cause long-term injury to a relationship, others may need specialist help. These include...

- ☹ Little desire to have sex
- ☹ Premature ejaculation (60 seconds or less)
- ☹ Being unable to keep an erection
- ☹ Orgasm disorders (being unable to climax or taking too long to do so)
- ☹ Painful sex
- ☹ Sex or porn addiction

Most people will experience issues like these on some level during their adult life, particularly during periods of high stress such as a return from operations. But they could also point to other health issues, so consider getting checked out.

## 6 months

If you have been **struggling for longer** than this, **contact a professional**. Start by talking to your **medical officer** or, if you would rather go outside of the chain of command, a **specialist psychosexual therapist** or **relationship counsellor**. Often there is more than one underlying issue, so **avoid looking for quick-fix tablets** on the web. **Sex therapy** has a **high success rate** and while problems may feel **embarrassing to start with**, they can be solved. Soldiers just need to **find the confidence to talk**.

Picture: Shutterstock

**Find out more**

[www.relate.org.uk/relationship-help/help-sex](http://www.relate.org.uk/relationship-help/help-sex)  
[atsac.co.uk](http://atsac.co.uk)  
[www.improvemysexlife.co.uk](http://www.improvemysexlife.co.uk)



# The great outdoors

If the thought of a post-Army career stuck behind a desk fills you with dread, this charity could help you find your niche

► FROM horticulture to construction, farming and gamekeeping, there are countless options for escaping the drudgery of office work, but the land-based sector is often overlooked by Service leavers.

Military charity High Ground wants to change that. Every year the organisation runs eight rural weeks – courses designed to give veterans and serving personnel approaching resettlement an overview of the opportunities open to them in the industry.

*Soldier* dropped in on one of the packages to talk to staff and students about the pros and cons of all fresco vocations...

Caronne McBride,  
ex-AGC (RMP)

“

I left the Army in 2006 and did private security before graduating in community education. I worked in the charity sector but was stuck behind a computer and didn't have much job satisfaction. With a high salary comes lots of hours and stress – I've seen that on civvy street. I think **quality of life supersedes quantity of money**. I came here thinking I wanted to work with animals, but I've left with an idea to go into landscaping.

”



“

I was medically discharged in March because of a head injury from a road accident I had on leave in 2015. **I could never work in an office-based environment** - I'm not that kind of person. Being outdoors appeals more, although the money isn't great in this sector. But once you get tickets in plant equipment, for example, and gain some knowledge your salary will improve.

”

**Jonathan Spearing, ex-Para**

**Col Peter Mahoney, consultant anaesthetist in the Royal Army Medical Corps**

“

I live in a rural area and am surrounded by farmers, gamekeepers and construction so I wanted to get a better understanding of what's around me - partly to see if it's something I want to be involved in when I leave but also so that I can guide soldiers I have responsibility for through their transition. I think the land-based sector is overlooked but a common theme among military personnel is **not wanting to be pinned to a desk**.

”

“

High Ground is a fantastic organisation. I saw the advert on Friday, phoned on Saturday, and by Sunday evening I was booked to come on the course. I'm interested in relief milking - providing holiday cover for herders - and working with animals. **Military skills are very transferable** - managing your time, early starts, getting stuff done. You just have to find your niche.

”

**Tim Lazenby, ex-RTR**

“



The aim of rural week is to encourage personnel to see themselves as something other than soldiers and use their skills in another context. As long as you have served, even for a short time, we can assist, either by helping you work out what qualifications you need or how to get relevant experience, as well as approaching regimental associations on your behalf for funding. The land-based sector is really varied, but we are honest - these kinds of roles are not well paid, especially when starting out. However, **quality of life, time with family and being part of a team are also some factors to consider**.

”

**Anna Baker Cresswell, executive director of High Ground**

## IN NUMBERS:

**£20,000**

money received by High Ground from ABF The Soldiers' Charity to fund Army personnel through rural week courses

Among the sectors covered during rural week are **agriculture, forestry and forest schools, gamekeeping, smallholding, floristry, viticulture** (wine growing), **landscaping, animal conservation and veterinary** roles. Interested? Visit [www.highground-uk.org](http://www.highground-uk.org) for full details





## ► SKILLS AND DRILLS

# Just do it

## How to nip procrastination in the bud



► PUTTING something off? We all do it. Sometimes tasks can seem overwhelming but author and sportsman Ollie Campbell says the art to getting stuff done is all about building a chain...

### Work out what's driving you

Identify your goal and the reason you want to achieve it. For example, you might want to lose 21lbs to perform better in your fitness test and pass your medical. Ask yourself why – the answer might be “so I can have the career I want and the satisfaction that would bring”.

### Break the task down into daily actions

These could be to hit your daily activity of 10,000 steps, spending 30-60 minutes in the gym or going to bed at 2200 so you can get up early and go for a run.

### Make a chuff chart

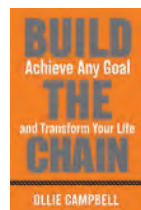
Buy a wall calendar and write the aim at the top. Put a big X through each day that you stick to the plan. Keep crossing off the days – you want to build an unbroken chain for as long as your goal remains the same.

### Don't worry about falling off the wagon

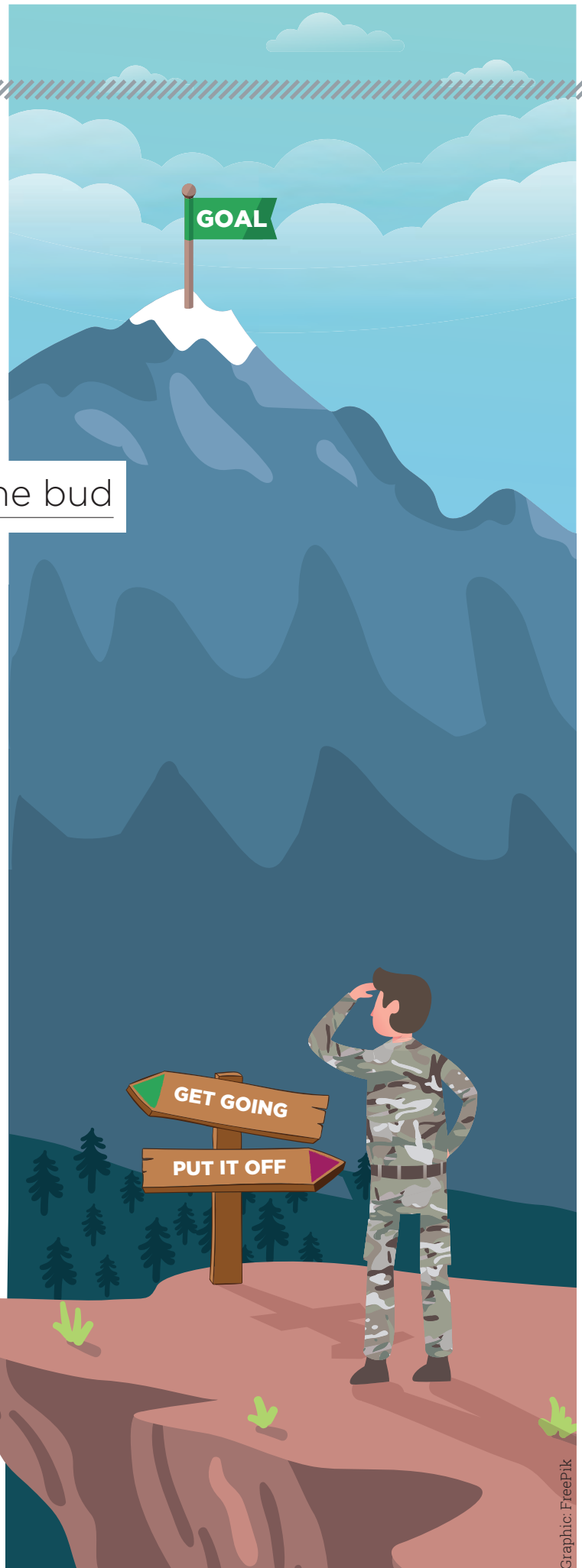
If you break the chain, note the number of days in a row you managed. This is where having a life coach is useful as they can help you review why you slipped. Aim to beat that number. Start from one and build it all over again. The longer the chain, the more likely it will be you'll achieve your dream.

### Remember...

The biggest reason for failure is thinking perfection is the goal. It's not – progress is. In the example above, hitting your daily actions would give you the best possible chance of meeting your aim in the least time possible. You'll be acing your fitness tests and have more body confidence and mental clarity in no time.



● Ollie Campbell is the author of *Build the Chain*, a personal guide to transforming your mental and physical fitness with small, achievable steps





# Made for walking

## 5 things you never knew about your military boots

► FOOTWEAR manufacturer Haix is no stranger to the punishment that British soldiers expect their combat boots to take, both on and off operations. Here, the Germany-based supplier reveals a handful of the tests carried out at its Bavaria lab to ensure troops receive top-notch kit...



Boots can be constructed from up to 130 individual components as part of an 80-step production process, so it's important every element is top quality. Even before production begins, **individual raw materials are tested.** For example, every leather dermis is checked by hand.



As they are constructed, random samples of each shoe are put through **more than 100 material and quality assurance tests**, replicating the day-to-day activities of military wearers. Abrasion checks are carried out on upper lining and sole materials, in wet and dry, and tear-resistance tensile tests ensure that they don't fall apart.



**Water-tightness is checked** using a 250rpm centrifuge – an eight-hour test where they are submerged in water – and a walk simulator and water vapour assessment to make sure fabrics are impermeable. Breathable or moisture-wicking materials undergo a “sun reflect” test that uses a spectrometer to assess light reflection... the more reflective, the cooler feet stay.



**Wearer trials** are held during product development. Haix equips users with boots for months at a time to use during their day-to-day routine activities. Performance questionnaires are then distributed. User feedback is taken on board, and design changes are made as necessary.



In a bid to minimise musculoskeletal injury, boots from every live production line are put through a series of **slip-resistance checks.** The Haix Scout boot, for instance, features a rugged rubber/polyurethane sole with a deep tread that has high slip resistance, and a side pocket to hold laces securely in place, eliminating trip or snag hazards.



“

Guys are ashamed  
to admit their  
partners are kicking  
the living daylights  
out of them

”

This former  
military policeman  
never imagined he  
would become a  
victim of domestic  
abuse. Now  
he is using his  
experience to help  
others...



The veteran's identity  
cannot be revealed  
for legal reasons



“

I SOMETIMES get asked – ‘why didn’t you lay her out?’

Firstly, it’s not in my character to hit women and, two, when the police turn up, a man would be automatically presumed to be the aggressor – even if it was self-defence.

As a military policeman of 13 years I was no shrinking violet. I was the last person you’d expect to become a victim.

I thought you had to be weak or have low self-esteem, but there’s no blueprint.

My partner was very attractive. She was beautiful, fun and wild. That was exciting to start with and I fell in love. But I didn’t realise I was being manipulated and isolated.

I gave up everything I had and before I knew it we’d moved 400 miles away, were living in the middle of nowhere, I had no car, a low paid job, no family in the UK and I was suddenly very vulnerable.

Domestic abuse is all about control. My name wasn’t on the rental agreement so if I stepped out of line I’d have had nowhere to live. If I wanted money, I had to ask because she held onto my bank card.

When our daughter was born my name wasn’t even on the birth certificate so I had no parental rights. I adore my daughter but she was used as another tool to control me.

My partner had an abusive childhood and I thought if I stood by her long enough one day she’d realise I wasn’t like those other men.

But the more I gave the more she took – emotionally, physically and financially.

I would wake up at night to a flurry of punches to the face. I was threatened with a knife. One day she punched me so hard she broke her hand.

The only time it stopped was when she was pregnant, but it soon started up again afterwards.

Eventually I had a breakdown. I went to my occupational health department and told them everything. They then spoke to social services.

That was the first time anyone acknowledged that I was the victim, not the perpetrator.

They were brilliant – they said ‘you need to go home and pack your bags and go, but we know you won’t’.

On average, they told me, people will endure about 50 assaults before they think about leaving.

In the end I did make the move. I found my own flat and was getting my life back together but it was a very small village and we were constantly crossing paths.

One night I was stupid enough to let her come round to talk about it and that’s when she attacked me again.

I called 999 several times but we were both arrested.

She kept quiet, however I admitted to grabbing her wrists in self-defence so I was charged with assault, held overnight, taken to court and bailed for five months with no access to my daughter.

Not long after that I hit my lowest ebb – standing on a chair with a rope round my neck, sobbing like a child. It was the thought of my daughter never forgiving me that stopped me killing myself.

This was a turning point. I decided I was going to meet whatever happened with my head held high. I went out, bought myself some weights and concentrated my efforts and my mind on getting fit.

On the day of my court appearance I was told the charges had been dropped because there was no case to answer. Just like that it was over.

I had almost killed myself for what I feel was a paper exercise by the police, so they could be seen to be doing something. I left the area and got my life back together.

She was never prosecuted.

I found it difficult to talk about for a long time but ten years on, I’m now an advocate for male domestic abuse victims.

Part of my work is giving talks to organisations, including to military units. Knowing what I know now, I look back at the domestic disturbances I dealt with while I was an RMP and wonder if I always made the right call.

However, I’ve been really impressed by how seriously the military police and Army welfare officers take the issue these days.

The Forces have unique issues with domestic abuse because it’s such a close community, where everyone knows each other.

But you should not let this stop you from coming forward and seeking help.

Guys are ashamed to admit their partners, who are half their size, are kicking the living daylights out of them. But it’s happening.

Whatever your gender, you are not responsible for someone abusing you.

Reach out and speak to someone. Please take that first step to a better life.

”

### IN NUMBERS:

**695,000**

the **number of men** recorded as being victims of domestic abuse last year. Men are thought to be **three times less likely** than women to report it

### October is National Domestic Abuse Awareness Month

If you or someone you know needs help speak to your unit welfare officer, padre or contact the Army Welfare Service on **01904 882053/54**.

There are also a number of civilian organisations that can assist, details of which can be found at [www.aaf.org.uk/advice/family-life/domestic-abuse](http://www.aaf.org.uk/advice/family-life/domestic-abuse)





Words: Steve Muncey Pictures: Graeme Main

**T**ROOPS of The Royal Gurkha Rifles may take pride in being the British Army's jungle warfare specialists, but with one of its two battalions always assigned to 16 Air Assault Brigade they need to be ready to fight anywhere at the drop of a hat.

The searingly hot, arid and exposed desert in Jordan is an environment that couldn't be more different to the lush, dense jungles of Brunei or the rain-lashed, windswept grasslands of Brecon where the Gurkhas conduct the bulk of their training.

So Exercise Olive Grove turned out to be the ideal proving ground to test the mettle of around 150 soldiers from 1st

Battalion's C Company.

"We haven't trained in the Middle East for an awfully long time," said officer commanding Maj Peter Houlton-Hart.

"Some of the guys have trained in Kenya and served in Afghanistan, but most have never worked in a pure desert setting before.

"Also, we haven't practised our conventional fighting skills since Askari Storm in 2018 because we went from there straight into a stint on Op Toral."

Perhaps not surprisingly then, the package proved to be an eye-opener in more ways than one for many of the unit's personnel.

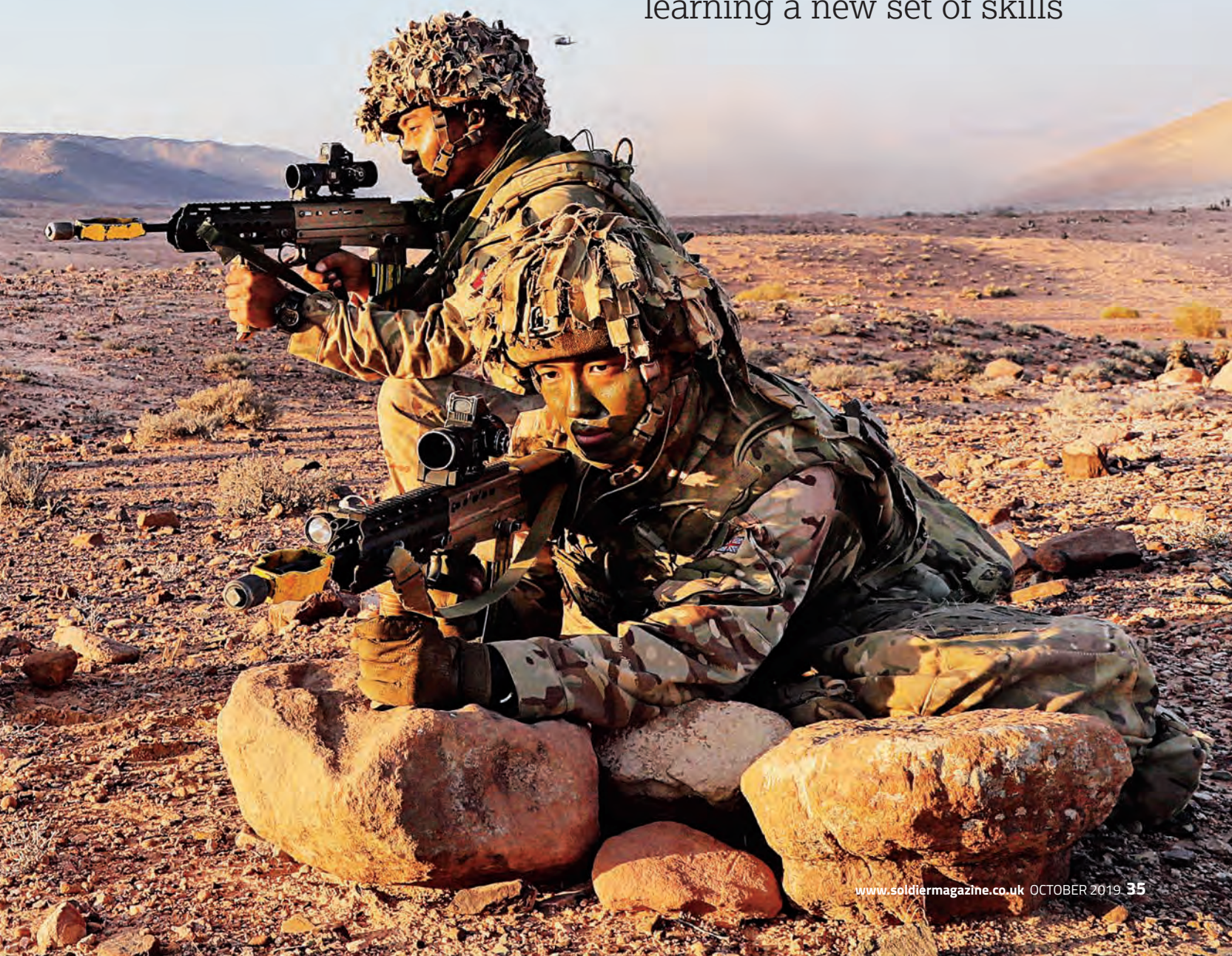
"The real estate is very different for us," said Sgt Indra Gurung.

"I've been in the Army for 18 years now and been to Afghanistan but it's my first time training in the desert. ➔



# DRY RUN

The Army's jungle warfare specialists have been learning a new set of skills







“We exercise a lot in Brunei and the terrain there is obviously jungle, the visibility just 20-30 metres out, but here we can see for miles.

“The weather and the the soft sand are really challenging and I was surprised by how difficult it is to tab over this terrain.”

He added: “I reckon it takes 70 per cent more effort to travel a set distance on this loose surface compared with hard ground.

“It was really good for me and the boys to learn about that, to know how hard we can push ourselves in this heat and how much more energy you spend in this environment.”

Learning to pace themselves on the march was just one of the lessons picked up over five weeks in the Arabian sun.

Working alongside Jordan’s Mohammed Bin Zayed Quick Reaction Force brigade, which is now a strategic partner for 16 Air Assault Brigade (see page 41), also proved to be valuable.

“We’ve been swapping tips with the Jordanians constantly,” added Sgt Dipendra Gurung.

“For instance, their desert navigation skills are really impressive – they gave us a lecture on that and it’s a bit different to what we’ve been taught before.

“Using distance and time are much more important as there are so few landmarks to use as a reference.”

They also provided the Gurkhas with a day-long session on desert survival.

“That was a really fascinating experience,” added Cpl Sameer Gurung.

“We learnt how to trap moisture using plastic bags over small patches of grass, bushes or pebbles. I’d never seen that before.”

Even training in familiar environments revealed some intriguing differences in approach.

“It was really interesting to see the Jordanians’ tactics for an urban assault,” said Cpl Santosh Shrestha.

“When we attack a building I would normally lead a two- or three-man formation all the way up to the house, but they approach the building one by one, which takes longer but I guess it could mean fewer

“

I reckon it takes **70%**  
more effort to travel a set  
distance on this loose surface  
compared with hard ground

”

soldiers are exposed at any one time.”

Many troops were also surprised by how light the Jordanians fight in the austere conditions of the desert (see opposite).

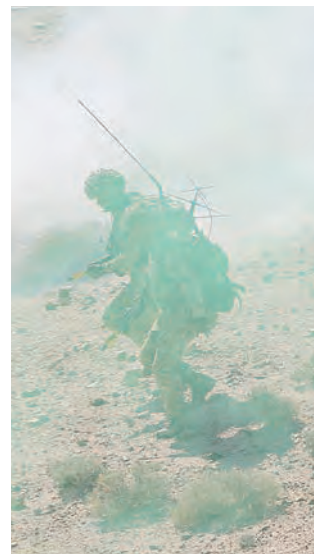
“They take only what they really need in terms of food, water and ammunition,” said Lt Tom Washington-Smith.

“We fight relatively heavy and assume logistics won’t be able to catch up with us, which is why we carry something to sleep in, excess water, food and even planning stuff.

“By comparison, the Jordanians move incredibly quickly over the ground, which for a short conflict is pretty good, but from our perspective we always think a bit more long-term.”

C Company second-in-command Capt Giri Prasad Gurung believes their partners’ aggressive resupply tactics are a double-edged sword, however.

“Fighting light and resupplying a lot has certain advantages in the heat, but in reality you need to think about the logistics of travelling in and the security implications,” he explained.

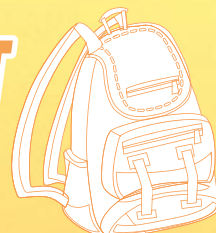






**THE Jordanian approach to desert warfare provided food for thought in two areas:**

## FIGHTING LIGHT



● This proved to be a big talking point for the Brits on the exercise.

“The Jordanians move very quickly and it’s not because they are cheating the exercise and have someone magically appearing with food and water later; it’s because they trust their logistics system a lot more,” explained Maj Houlton-Hart.

“Their resupply teams are willing to take more risks and push further forward with fresh water, food and ammunition.

“The British infantry traditionally carries a lot of weight which makes us slower across ground, our water consumption higher and our ammunition use greater.

“I’m not saying we should do things their way but it’s interesting to observe how they make their system work.”

## OPEN-SOURCE APPS

● The other factor was the host country’s willingness to use open-source applications on their phones for the planning and execution of missions.

“They used images taken from their phones to zoom in, plot grids, measure distances and create battlespace management products,” continued Maj Houlton-Hart.

“They were getting photos of the enemy through their weapon sights using their camera phone and messaging them back to battalion headquarters.

“Obviously, there’s an opsec risk using these devices like that and the mobile network could be cut in a war situation, but for the recce teams these devices proved very useful on the day.”







“They were dropping supplies too near the position for me – the amount of noise the heli makes will carry for several kilometres and the enemy will know you’re close by.

“I advised their logistic chain to do their drops a kilometre or more back, and I think they may have taken that on-board for the future.

“The Jordanians were there, in part, to practise their logistics with us so hopefully we’ve both got useful stuff out of the exercise.”

The Gurkhas’ certainly got a lot out of practising their desert warfare skills during their time in the Middle East.

“At first we found the lads were doing attacks almost football pitch-style,” Maj Houlton-Hart told *Soldier*.

“They knew where to be positioned, but they weren’t always taking the terrain into account.

“It’s a particular challenge out here as it looks very open but at ground level there are lots of little dips and gullies that the enemy can hide in and sneak up on you from.

“As a result, they weren’t always keeping themselves in good cover or they were exposing themselves too early to the enemy when they could have got closer without being seen.

“They really had to start thinking about the environment and adapt their tactics, which they did very successfully.

“For instance, when required they moved fast and attacked frontal, rather than from the flanks, to get across ground without taking excessive casualties.”

The vast ranges at the Al Humayma training area also allowed the soldiers to enjoy several live-firing serials.



It was really good to  
learn how hard we can  
push ourselves







**We Salute You**

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“

The terrain looks very open but there are lots of little dips and gullies the enemy can hide in

”







“That was the real highlight for me,” said CSgt Nishan Gurung.

“We started with section and fire-team attacks that included using the light role GPMG, and moved on to platoon assaults and a good company-level ambush.

“We positioned ourselves at the top of a mountain and had ‘enemy’ all around us and pretty much a 360-degree range in which to fire – that’s something we rarely get to do in the UK.”

Troops from both nations also took part in a field training exercise using blanks on the Al Quwayrah training area, where the Jordanians embedded reconnaissance teams and combat engineers into C Company as it moved across the desert to close in and eliminate a mock enemy.

Jordan’s Quick Reaction Force attacked from a separate flank after being inserted into the battle zone by Blackhawk helicopters.

Previously, the two formations had worked together in conducting rapid air landings using C-130s – a particularly valuable aspect of the serial because 1 RGR is currently 16 Air Assault Brigade’s Air Landing Battalion.

“Overall, it’s been a fantastic exercise for us,” concluded Maj Houlton-Hart. “We’ve had the benefit of great assets.

“Our guys join the British Army to be soldiers, and they are soldiering in a great environment out here so it’s been a fantastic few weeks.

“The more overseas packages like this we can do, the merrier.” ■

## AIRBORNE FORCES ALIGN

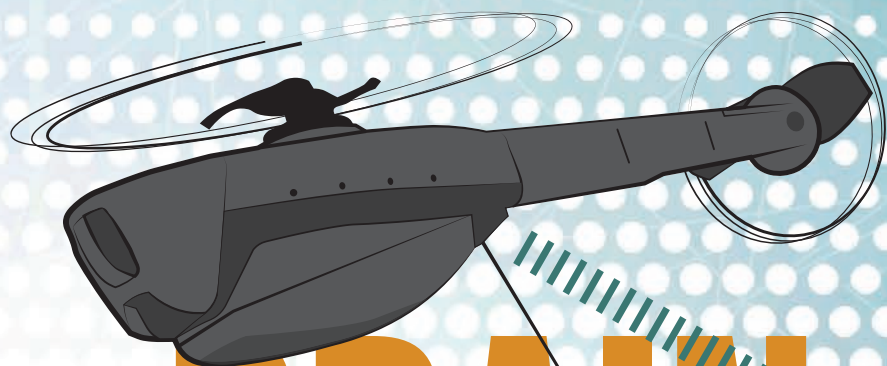


● SOLDIERS from 1st Battalion, the Royal Gurkha Rifles were working alongside the 61st Battalion of the Mohammed Bin Zayed Quick Reaction Force – a relatively new organisation that has formed close ties with 16 Air Assault Brigade.

Battalions from both formations have been paired up for training purposes and during Exercise Olive Grove 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment put their skills to the test alongside the 81st Quick Reaction Force Battalion.

Meanwhile, sister battalion, 3 Para, honed their skills with Jordan’s 91st Quick Reaction Force Battalion in early 2018.





# BRAIN POWER

How mind control technology could transform the battlefield – and soldiers' well-being

**M**ODERN technology has made life easier in many ways but it is sometimes a double-edged sword. The not uncommon sight of so-called smartphone zombies shuffling along the pavement, oblivious to everything going on around them, is a sign of just how all consuming it can be.

A similar issue faces troops on the battlefield, who are now equipped with the latest tablets and handheld devices to help them do their jobs.

These gadgets ease comms and improve situational awareness. However, the trade-off is the increase in cognitive burden on the individual – and the consequences for momentary distractions in combat, where lives are at stake, are much more serious than the temporary embarrassment of walking into a lamp post.

So what if there was a way to control military equipment with the power of thought alone? →





## How the brain-computer interface process works...

- 1 The user clears their mind before thinking a set of pre-determined thoughts
- 2 Sensors pick up the brainwaves
- 3 A computer uses algorithms to translate that data into direction for a drone





## The brain-body loop

The **neocortex** is the command centre of the brain – **the thinking part**. It sends electrical signals to the **limbic brain** which in turn sends **chemical releases** to the body, which responds and feeds back to the **cerebellum**. This is the seat of **unconscious behaviour**, where memories are stored



It may sound like the stuff of science fiction but according to Tony White, chief technology officer for land systems at equipment developer Ultra Electronics, the concept is not as futuristic as it seems.

“Brain-computer interface (BCI) technology is around ten years out from being domestically available,” he told *Soldier* after the Three Counties Defence and Security Expo, where he presented the early results of his research.

“BCI allows you to monitor brainwaves and then map them through a computer to manipulate things that are connected to it – for example, a drone or a radio.”

“Several vendors are working on it targeted at gaming. Medically, monitoring brainwaves from a neurological perspective is happening all the time. And within academia there are institutions doing exploratory work.”

“At Ultra we are looking at practical applications for control by thought.”

Linked to an ongoing project to develop a soldier-worn power and data system – known as UltraLynx – the current BCI prototype involves a series of sensors integrated into a helmet.

Wearers will learn to think a set number of commands in a consistent way.

The kit will pick up the relevant brainwaves, which an algorithm will then translate into direction for the machine in question.

White described how trials have been conducted using a computer simulation and getting testers to move a 3D cube on screen.

“We ask the users to empty their minds, think a neutral thought – then we teach them how to push the cube around,” he added.

“Basically you have 16 thoughts – up, down, clockwise, anticlockwise, pick up, drop and so on.”

“We teach the operator how to have those thoughts in a more repeatable way so that it becomes a habit.”

“About 40 people have tried the software in the last two-and-a-half years and we find most of them can grasp the basics with only around 20 minutes of practice.”

However, on a confusing, fast-moving front line, could a soldier drown out the mental and physical noise of battle enough to focus on the task?

The risks of becoming distracted while operating military hardware are not hard to imagine.

In a bid to help future users hone the necessary skills, White and his team have been working with Ellen Kay from human tech company Neuro8 to develop bespoke training packages.

Explaining how her work focuses on the link between neurology and biology, Kay said:

“If you are able to align mind and body before taking action you are more accurate in that action.”

“While we are in danger we are naturally designed to respond with fight or flight.”

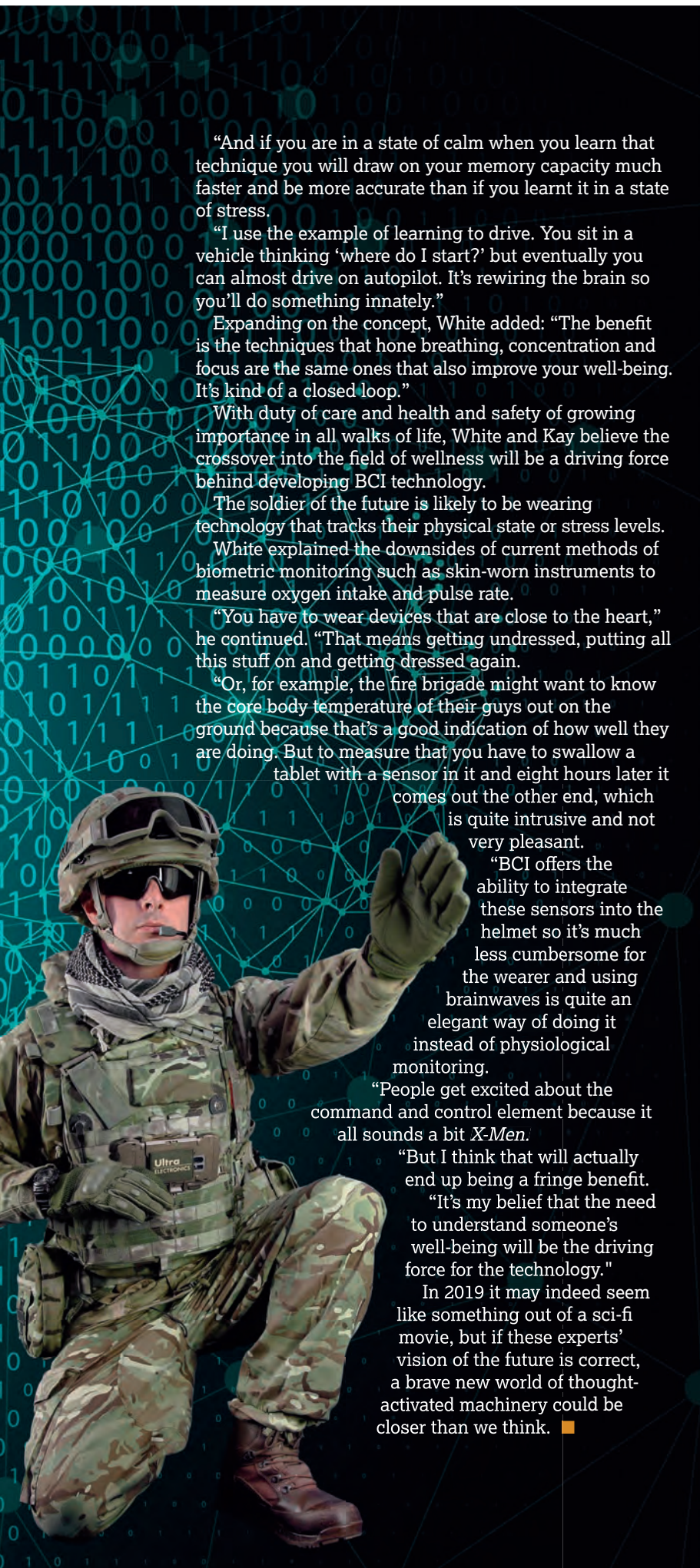
But if you are in a better space beforehand with the techniques we use, you are more productive, more resilient and your performance is better.



The need to understand someone's well-being will be the driving force for the technology







"And if you are in a state of calm when you learn that technique you will draw on your memory capacity much faster and be more accurate than if you learnt it in a state of stress.

"I use the example of learning to drive. You sit in a vehicle thinking 'where do I start?' but eventually you can almost drive on autopilot. It's rewiring the brain so you'll do something innately."

Expanding on the concept, White added: "The benefit is the techniques that hone breathing, concentration and focus are the same ones that also improve your well-being. It's kind of a closed loop."

With duty of care and health and safety of growing importance in all walks of life, White and Kay believe the crossover into the field of wellness will be a driving force behind developing BCI technology.

The soldier of the future is likely to be wearing technology that tracks their physical state or stress levels.

White explained the downsides of current methods of biometric monitoring such as skin-worn instruments to measure oxygen intake and pulse rate.

"You have to wear devices that are close to the heart," he continued. "That means getting undressed, putting all this stuff on and getting dressed again.

"Or, for example, the fire brigade might want to know the core body temperature of their guys out on the ground because that's a good indication of how well they are doing. But to measure that you have to swallow a

tablet with a sensor in it and eight hours later it comes out the other end, which is quite intrusive and not very pleasant.

"BCI offers the ability to integrate these sensors into the helmet so it's much less cumbersome for the wearer and using brainwaves is quite an elegant way of doing it instead of physiological monitoring.

"People get excited about the command and control element because it all sounds a bit *X-Men*.

"But I think that will actually end up being a fringe benefit.

"It's my belief that the need to understand someone's well-being will be the driving force for the technology."

In 2019 it may indeed seem like something out of a sci-fi movie, but if these experts' vision of the future is correct, a brave new world of thought-activated machinery could be closer than we think. ■

# Types of brainwaves

...and when they occur



## High Beta

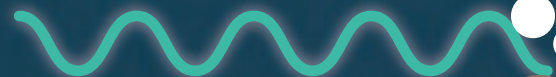
Produced in stressful situations. The body is at **peak performance** in **flight** or **fight mode**

## Mid Beta

When the brain is **listening** and **attentive**

## Low Beta

Daily activity. In this state you are **absorbing information**



## Alpha

Similar to when you are day-dreaming, this is when you are **thinking creatively**



## Theta

A dreamlike state prior to **falling asleep** or **waking up**. The body is resting but the mind is still working



## Delta

A low-frequency wave you experience **during sleep**



## Gamma

High frequency, as during lucid dreaming or having a **nightmare**, but physically the **body is totally zoned out**





# SAVA STAR

## SOUNDBITES

Light cavalry Reservists go  
back to basics in Croatia

**M**ORE than 100 British soldiers brushed up on their tactical skills under the Balkan sun last month on Exercise Sava Star in Croatia.

Staged on the Red Earth Training Area in Knin, it was the annual continuous training package for The Queen's Own Yeomanry – whose soldiers are more commonly found tending to their Jackal vehicles across North England.

The troops were put to the test alongside their American and Croatian counterparts.

“Working with other forces in such a different environment was a real gem,” said commanding officer Lt Col Miles Pennett.

Here's how the package shaped up... ■

Pictures: Sgt Donald Todd, RLC



# 127

**troops deployed**



# 14

**days long**



## THREE

countries involved

**The UK, Croatia and America are all members of the Nato military alliance**

# 100%

CC

The key characteristic of being a Yeoman is the willingness to fight. Naturally, Reservists can't give **100 per cent** of their time, but I do expect 100 per cent effort

DD

**Commanding Officer,  
Lt Col Miles Pennett**





**Troops  
worked on  
day  
and night patrols,  
setting up harbour  
areas and battlefield  
casualty drills**

The package  
culminated in a

“

It was hot, and that makes it **10 times harder**. But I enjoy being out of my comfort zone and helping the boys through it

”

Tpr Myles Leeson  
B Squadron

“

The benefits were seeing the differences in **tactics** and understanding how our **allies** might carry out a certain operation.

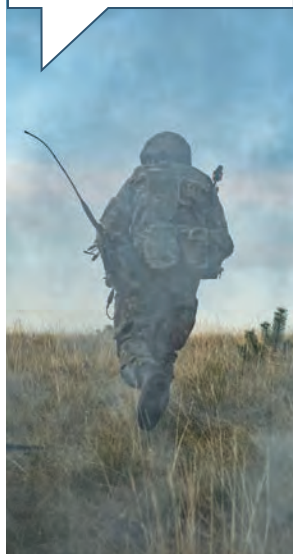
”

2Lt Kit Palmer-Price  
C Squadron



1,760km

**distance of the  
exercise from  
The Queen's Own  
Yeomanry regimental  
HQ in Newcastle**





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who fancies flying  
**APACHES?**

Or an  
**INFANTEER**  
with red-hot  
**CYBER** skills?





...then a new  
Army project  
could be about  
to make life far  
more exciting

**A**N ARMY initiative is set to revolutionise the careers of British soldiers. You might have heard of Programme Castle already, with details appearing in defence instructions and notices, and online forums.

But something sets this venture apart from the many others buzzing around Army HQ: it could see doors opened to soldiers and officers that previously seemed shut, as well as giving talented civilians a more attractive route into military life.

The thrust behind the move is the realisation that the Service needs to be more flexible, agile and responsive.

Col Ben Cattermole, deputy director of the project, says change is vital if the military is to continue attracting the best people.

“We want soldiers and officers to see what jobs they could go for and what skills they need to develop; to take more control over their own destiny,” he said.

“Our personnel need to have a wider range of career options and a much deeper understanding of what’s available to them, as opposed to being channelled down a single path.

“We also need to recognise the skills our people have from outside experience, so if in their spare time they are into cyber we need to know that, recognise it, record it and be in a position to utilise it when needed.”

The Personnel Directorate team overseeing the initiative has already talked to more than 2,000 soldiers and officers, and the feedback – along with research

with senior officers, government institutions, other armies and civilian employers – has led to some new ideas that will be tested in live trials.

Some of these are already under way, such as one extending the careers of officers with certain experience to age 60 (page 18).

Other trials being considered include fast-tracking soldiers with specialist skills, and allowing skilled civilians to enter the Army further up the rank structure.

Next year will also see the launch of a new digital platform to tell personnel about other Service roles available to them, and what they have to do to achieve certain career goals.

It will initially be available on Modnet, but will eventually be downloadable to mobile phones.

So if, for example, you’re a mechanic who fancies flying Apaches, the new app will tell you exactly what skills, experience and training you need to be eligible to apply for a pilot job in the Army Air Corps.

“I joined the Service at 16 and worked my way through the ranks,” explained Capt Dave Bradley (RE), another member of the Programme Castle team.

“The choice I initially made in the careers office has shaped my whole career, irrespective of what other courses I’ve done since.

“If you want to take a different path this app will immediately show you what steps to take and the skills you need.

“That information is available now, but it’s not easy to find.”

The Programme Castle team is looking for more suggestions from all ranks on how it might improve retention of soldiers and the development of their careers. ■

› To contribute email [armypers-castle-eandc-mailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:armypers-castle-eandc-mailbox@mod.gov.uk) or search for @Castle on Defence Connect



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## ‘Queen’s Regs need a makeover’

**T**HE Queen’s Regulations on dress and personal appearance stipulate different standards for men and women, which is entirely wrong.

They state that as a male I’m not able to wear makeup and my hair must be “well cut and trimmed”.

Yet my female counterparts are permitted to wear make-up if it is “inconspicuous” and their hair can be long, providing it appears “neat and above the collar” when on duty.

Surely this contravenes the Equality Act 2010?

Why do females have more freedom with regards to personal appearance, than their male colleagues?

This is not the only ambiguous and draconian regulation that we have to put up with – there are plenty of others.

Surely it’s time these rules were updated for the modern British Army.

– Name and address supplied

**Brig Edward Chamberlain, Head of Personnel Policy, Army Headquarters, responds:** You are correct that, apart from those with religious, medical and cultural considerations, Queen’s Regulations require a male soldier’s hair to be cut short such that its length does not reach the collar or onto the ears.

The policy on hair and make-up is common across the three Services.

The reason behind it is to maintain

a professional image.

This is very subjective and related to society’s conventions and the perception of the Service by potential recruits, the public at home and abroad, as well as by our potential enemies.

The visual impact made by officers and soldiers on parade, in barracks and on operations around the world is vital to protecting and enhancing our reputation.

The Army does not consider the existing dress regulations in breach of the Equality Act 2010.

Discrimination is treating one sex less favourably than the other. It is not about treating men and women exactly the same.

The Army monitors perceptions and trends and how it regulates personal appearance is reviewed regularly to ensure we maintain a strong professional image.

“This is entirely wrong”

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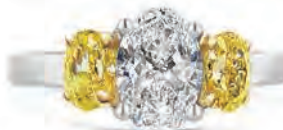
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## WHY OVER-37 POLICY IS PAST IT

● IN DECEMBER I will be posted to Larkhill, living in the mess during the week and then going home to my own mortgaged house at the weekend.

However, just because I'm not married to my long-term partner I do not qualify for the over-37 provision.

This is discrimination, surely.

I have been married before, am now divorced and don't see why I should jump into another marriage just to be eligible for this very out-of-date package. — Name and address supplied

**Col Philip Bassingham-Searle, Assistant Head of Army Remuneration Policy, replies:**  
Thank you for your letter.

The Army over-37 provision helps with the cost a Service person incurs when settling immediate family at a selected UK residence by enabling him or her to serve voluntarily unaccompanied at their duty station without financial penalty.

The aim of the package is to support the family during the later stages of a soldier's career as part of the Army's accompanied service policy, which is regularly reviewed to ensure it remains compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

At present you are not entitled to the provision by virtue of your personal status category.

The MoD has recently taken steps to recognise those personnel who are in long-term relationships and has widened the eligibility for Service family accommodation as a result.

The future accommodation model will also look to provide greater choice in this area.

Further broadening of eligibility and entitlement for those in a long-term relationship is subject to ongoing work and allowances will be included in this review — any changes associated with this must be affordable.

Your administration office will be able to provide more details on the policy regulations if you need them.

## THE BIG PICTURE

Northern Ireland, 1969-2007

### Op Banner at 50

THIS month marks half a century since troops were first deployed on the streets of Belfast in what would become the British Army's longest continuous campaign. Some 300,000 personnel served in Northern Ireland over the subsequent 38 years, and 1,441 lost their lives. These images were captured by *Soldier* during The Troubles.

1 Ardoyne Road, Belfast in 2001 — seconds before a bomb injured three Royal Ulster Constabulary officers

2 Snipers from 25 Engineer Regiment remove the last of the hanging watch towers in South Armagh, 2006

3 A Black Watch soldier at a vehicle checkpoint on the main road from Belfast to Dublin, 1991

4 Troops of 58 (Brve) Light Air Defence Battery, Royal Artillery on patrol in Belfast, 1973

5 Clean-up after rioting in Belfast, 1969

6 Foot patrol in Belfast, 1961

Pictures: Soldier archive

22 AUGUST 2019 [www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk)



## Troubles with Northern Ireland

I WAS really looking forward to reading the 50th anniversary of British troops deploying to Northern Ireland in August's edition of *Soldier*.

As always, I read the issue from cover to cover, so imagine my disgust when I found the article marking the start of Operation Banner.

It was just two pages and contained six pictures with one paragraph of text.

Is this really sufficient to mark 38 years of conflict?

I served for two-and-a-half years in Northern Ireland and honestly thought a magazine of your standard would have published a lot more material to mark this significant milestone.

Are those who served in the past no longer worth a mention — are they going to end up as a forgotten army?

I will no longer read *Soldier* and when my subscription expires I will not be renewing it. — Name and address supplied

**The managing editor responds:** I'm sorry you feel that way.

*Soldier* is primarily an internal communications tool for the British Army so we tend to focus on the here and now, but our decision to publish a pictorial spread to mark the

start of Operation Banner was also influenced by two other factors.

The first was that we usually produce in-depth articles to mark the cessation of major conflicts, not the start of them.

There have been exceptions, such as the outbreak of the First World War (*Soldier*, August 2014), and I'm sure you can appreciate why this was afforded special treatment.

Our second consideration was the coverage that we gave to Northern Ireland in our February and March 2018 issues, which focused heavily on comparing and contrasting the rigours of serving in that region now with the demands that were placed on personnel during the Operation Banner years.

The British Army has a large and diverse structure, a complex history and operates all around the world in various capacities so we cannot please everyone all the time.

I would urge you to keep reading *Soldier*, at least until our July 2022 edition when we are planning to mark 25 years since the conclusion of the British Armed Forces' campaign in Northern Ireland with a range of in-depth articles and archive material.

“I will no longer read *Soldier*”





### CAREERS

**An eight-week forestry course** is available to those transitioning out of the military. The Royal Forestry Society certificate in arboriculture and forestry is the first land-based skills programme to be approved by the Career Transition Partnership. Visit [www.ctp.org.uk/preferred-suppliers](http://www.ctp.org.uk/preferred-suppliers) for details.

**Interested in a career as a personal trainer?** Ultimate Performance is expanding and on the lookout for more ex-Service personnel to join its ranks. Visit [www.upfitness.com/en/careers](http://www.upfitness.com/en/careers) for more information on the opportunities available.

**Service leavers interested in working in the network cable and data centre sectors** can now use enhanced learning credits to access more courses. The funding can be spent on programmes delivered by CNet Training, which offers packages from a level three BTEC in certified network cable installation up to a level 7 masters degree in data centre leadership and management. The BTEC has been specially tailored for Forces personnel and includes a two-week industry placement. Visit [www.cnet-training.com](http://www.cnet-training.com)

The **Recruit for Spouses** coaching programme supports Army partners as they get back into employment. To apply contact [coaching@recruitforspouses.co.uk](mailto:coaching@recruitforspouses.co.uk)

**Forces Families Jobs** is a new platform designed to help partners into meaningful employment. Visit [www.forcesfamiliesjobs.co.uk](http://www.forcesfamiliesjobs.co.uk) to see the site, which is free to advertise on for employers who have signed the Armed Forces Covenant.



### COMPETITIONS

**Spine line winner:** Sgt Simon Haggerty, Normandy Bks, Leconfield.



### DIARY

**October 3:** Women in Defence Conference at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham from 0915. The event will include the shortlisting ceremony for this year's Women in Defence Awards. Refreshments and lunch included. To register visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

**October 7:** Study day examining

non-Western views of winning at Robertson House, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) from 0930 to 1400. Register via [armystrat-chacr-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:armystrat-chacr-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk)

**October 9:** Operations in the Urban Environment. A lecture by Wendy Pullen at RMAS. Register via [armystrat-chacr-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:armystrat-chacr-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk)

**October 9-13:** The first Chelsea History Festival. Held at venues along Royal Hospital Road, it will feature world-class historians and speakers, including Arnhem veteran Victor Gregg and author Antony Beevor. Visit [www.chelseahistoryfestival.com](http://www.chelseahistoryfestival.com) for ticket prices and full programme.

**October 17:** *Veteran State of Mind* podcast live at the National Army Museum, London. Author Geraint Jones and former elite operator Dean Stott discuss life in the military, mental fitness and breaking world records. From 1800 to 2100. Entrance £5. To book visit [www.nam.ac.uk](http://www.nam.ac.uk)

**October 18:** Royal Engineers Historical Society study day on the role of the Sappers in the Battle for Normandy 1944, at Brompton Barracks, Chatham. For details or to attend email [nick.gunnell101@mod.gov.uk](mailto:nick.gunnell101@mod.gov.uk)

**October 23:** Army Leadership Conference at RMAS (details on page 14). Includes a range of external speakers and workshops. The theme of this year's event is "leading in the digital age" and the Service is keen for junior NCOs to attend. To register a place visit the Centre for Army Leadership Sharepoint page on Modnet. Civilians can get a ticket through [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.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:**  
01793 783123;  
[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](mailto:chair@armylgbt.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

**Royal British Legion:**  
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;  
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**SSAFA:** 0845 1300 975;  
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Continued on page 58



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An aerial night view of the Melbourne skyline, featuring the Yarra River and the Yarra Bridge. The city lights are reflected in the water, and the sky is a mix of dark blue and pinkish-orange from the sunset. The Level Peaks Australia logo is overlaid on the image.

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[www.nfassociation.org](http://www.nfassociation.org)

**The Poppy Factory:**  
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[www.poppyfactory.org](http://www.poppyfactory.org)

**The Royal Star and 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)

**WRVS Services Welfare:**  
02920 232 668



## REUNIONS

**8 Regiment, RASC/RCT/RLC 18th anniversary reunion weekend,** October 18 to 19. A pre-reunion event will be held on Friday evening at a venue TBC with the main event at The Village on the Green Club, Aspull, Wigan. All past members, irrespective of cap badge, are invited along with a partner or guest. The cost is £30 per head or £10 for the pre-reunion event. For more information contact [jimmyasp@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmyasp@hotmail.com)



## ROADSHOWS

**The Army Engagement Team** wants to hear from members of the public who would like a personal invitation to its hi-tech roadshow. Call 01276 412880 or email your name and address to [armymediacomm-aeg-mailbox@mod.uk](mailto:armymediacomm-aeg-mailbox@mod.uk) with the event you are interested in attending.

**October 15:** Aylesbury

**October 16:** Abingdon

**October 17:** Milton Keynes



## SEARCHLINE

**4 Regiment, Royal Military Police** is due to disband on November 1, 2019. If you have donated or gifted any property please contact SSgt Gary McCallum (AGC (RMP)) via [gary.mccallum324@mod.gov.uk](mailto:gary.mccallum324@mod.gov.uk) to arrange its safe return. Anything left unclaimed will go to the RMP Museum.

**Former sergeant Frank Tilburn Hodson (ex-REME) is looking for information on craftsmen Pete Boots and Jim Gascoigne,** who served in the same command workshop as him in Hong Kong from 1959 to 61. Anyone with information is asked to contact [carolmorgan2412@icloud.com](mailto:carolmorgan2412@icloud.com)

**Author Mike Donovan wants to hear from anyone who served alongside former footballer Alan Gilzean** during his national service in Aldershot/Farnborough around 1959. He is writing an official biography of the ex-Scotland, Dundee and Tottenham Hotspur player. Email via [mikedonovan333@gmail.com](mailto:mikedonovan333@gmail.com)

**The Advance Study – a research**

**programme into the long-term health of military personnel injured in Afghanistan between 2003 and 2014** – is looking for new participants. Servicemen or veterans who were under 50 when they deployed are asked to get in touch on 01509 251500 ext 3408. The team wants to hear from those who were medically evacuated by air directly to a UK hospital, as well as those who were not injured and may provide a match in age, rank and role to one of this cohort. Taking part involves six separate day visits to DMRC Stanford Hall, Loughborough for a health MOT over 20 years. Travel and accommodation costs are reimbursed, and participants receive £100 per visit as a thank you. Visit [www.advancestudydmrc.org.uk](http://www.advancestudydmrc.org.uk) for more information.

TV producers are on the look-out for passionate and talented foodies to take part in the third series of BBC One show *Britain's Best Home Cook*, with Mary Berry and Claudia Winkleman. If you love cooking for family and friends, and would like to apply, email [cooking@keofilms.com](mailto:cooking@keofilms.com). Serving soldiers must seek permission from the chain of command, and the deadline for submissions is October 31.

# JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? No. 935

TEN details have been changed in this picture of the Inter-Services Cross Country Mountain Bike Championships.

Circle all the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 935**, Soldier, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot,

Hampshire GU11 2DU with your full contact details, including email address, by no later than October 31.

A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted.

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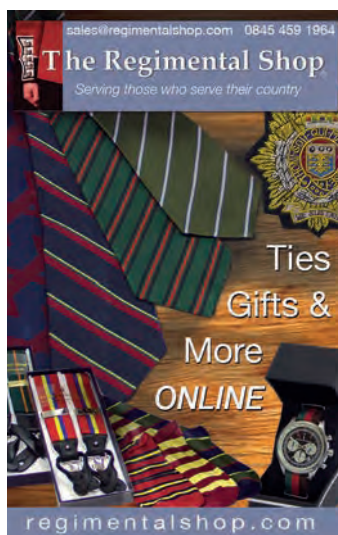
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# REVIEWS

MOVIES

## FARMING

Director grapples with the ghosts of his past in autobiographical debut

SOME films stick with you long after the credits have rolled – and this dark coming-of-age tale by British-Nigerian actor **Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje** is one of them.

Not because it is a perfect piece of cinematography – more of that later – but because its raw insights into childhood neglect and societal racism are impossible to forget. »

P67

GAMES

P68

BOOKS



## MOVIES



*Farming* takes its title from a practice common in Nigerian communities in Britain between the 1960s and 1980s, whereby children were “farmed out” to be raised by white working-class mothers while their birth parents focused on studying or establishing their careers.

In 1967, a year before Enoch Powell’s Rivers of Blood speech, Akinnuoye-Agbaje (*Lost*, *The Bourne Identity*, *Suicide Squad*) was sent to live with a gypsy family in Tilbury, Essex.

A sensitive child, he absorbed the casual racism bandied around by his critical foster mother (played by **Kate Beckinsale**) and her friends, triggering a profound identity crisis that eventually saw him join a feral gang of white skinheads.

The film – his first as a director but in which he also stars as his own father – stemmed from his attempts to process his upbringing.

“The movie began with me not being able to sleep at night,” he explained.

“I would write ten to 20 pages in order to sleep. In a couple weeks I had a 500-page manuscript that I wanted to adapt into a screenplay.

“I believe that I am alive today to not only tell my story, but that of a generation of children.”

Some 15 years on, the finished 102-minute feature makes for some excruciating viewing.

A trip home to Nigeria proves so traumatising for Akinnuoye-Agbaje’s young on-screen alter ego, Enitan (**Zephan Amisah**), that it renders him mute.

Disappointed at his failure to adapt to his native culture, his parents

send him back to the UK, where he desperately tries to lighten his now even darker complexion with talcum powder, giving the schoolyard bullies yet more ammunition.

Later, the teenage Enitan (portrayed powerfully by **Damson Idris**) is mercilessly persecuted by the sadistic “Tilbury Skins” gang, eventually becoming their quasi-mascot in a misguided bid for acceptance.

Their indoctrination of him via psychological and physical torture is at once difficult to watch and difficult to turn away from. He adopts their racist slurs, tattoos “black \*\*\*\*” across his knuckles and joins them in violently assaulting other black men.

It is unrelentingly, exhaustingly bleak, so much so that it is tempting to switch off in self-defence.

The gang scenes in particular have a surreal, nightmarish feel to them, lending them an abstract quality rather than coming across as someone’s real-life experience.

Another frustration is Enitan’s eventual redemption, which is dealt with hastily in the closing minutes and leaves a lingering sense of injustice. The villains of the story are never really asked to atone for, or even acknowledge, their part in events.

But perhaps that is the whole point. As Akinnuoye-Agbaje explained,

### VERDICT:

Raw, powerful and memorable, but exhausting to watch

★★★★★

● *Farming* is out now in cinemas

he wants to cast light on problems he believes have never been fully addressed by British society.

“The phenomenon of farming has been largely unknown despite the fact it has existed for decades and still impacts an entire African generation today,” he continued.

“Blacks are simply tolerated in Britain, as opposed to accepted. We just have to look at the recent Windrush scandal as an example of this.

“If you want change or harmony, you are going to have to look at these issues honestly and not sweep them under the carpet as if they are a dirty secret that will disappear.”

*Farming* certainly succeeds as an educational piece, and as a timely reminder of the dark history of racism in the UK.

The fact that bigotry seems once again to be finding a public voice is depressing proof that such attitudes are hard to stamp out.

However, this film might be too blunt an instrument to deliver the message properly. While viewers are unlikely to forget being bludgeoned over the head with its brutality, in the absence of any real probing of wider societal and political issues, some may well just duck and close their eyes. ■

REVIEW: BECKY CLARK, *SOLDIER*





## PICK OF THE MONTH:

## GEARS OF WAR 5

For Xbox One and PC

▶ THE previous iteration in this series left me with a bitter taste in the mouth.

It felt forced, regurgitated and mostly pointless. It was like a sandwich with two thin slices of bread, desperately trying to hold together a miserly offering of cheese.

Thankfully, *Gears of War 5* is different. It has substance and, more importantly, purpose.

The plot follows on from the disappointing fourth chapter and even boasts a catch-up for those who are either unfamiliar or unwilling to recall what happened.

You're soon introduced to the setting via a boot camp, which allows you to get used to the controls, weapons and tactics.

Then it's into the action. The campaign itself runs to a healthy 12 hours and none of it came across as forced or repetitive.

It all seemed smooth and purposeful, while aesthetically it's a sight to behold. The world of Sera has been recreated with a sense of reverence and respect and there is huge variety in the environments, keeping the backdrop fresh and interesting.

But I can't emphasise enough how good this title looks.

The controls and gameplay are as slick as ever and the cover system is effortless. The action is very well balanced, with quiet moments of exploration nicely mixed with frenetic shootouts and confrontations.

In a nutshell, the sequences are sublime and do not feel forced or overdone.

As well as the usual offerings there are several modes that mix things up – it feels wonderfully refreshing.

The horde mode features a few new mechanics but is largely unchanged, while escape sees you attempting to elude seemingly suicidal situations with a team.

It's highly charged with plenty of tense moments as the game tries to slow you down and kill you as you desperately search for each exit and neutralise the threats.

It's positively exciting and constantly tense. There are also plenty of character customisations, though sadly these are only in multi-player option.

It's safe to say that *Gears of War* is most definitely back and it looks like it's here to stay.

If, like me, you didn't like the previous game, this iteration harks back to the wonder of the original trilogy, with a fresh injection of scope, purpose and amazing scenery. ■

REVIEW: DAVID MCDUGALL, CIVVY

## VERDICT:

A tense, action-packed offering that looks great

★★★★★

## DVD/DIGITAL RELEASES

A Score to Settle  
Out now

HAVING been released from prison for a crime he didn't commit, **Nicholas Cage's** former mob enforcer embarks on revenge. However, there are things standing in his way: his adult son and childhood friend **Benjamin Bratt**. Trying to juggle rekindling his father-son relationship with night-time violence and retribution against those who did him wrong, he takes a no-nonsense approach to settling the score. But an unforeseen plot twist has you questioning whether what you have in front of you is real. If you're expecting another *Rock* or *Face/Off* action epic, you'll be disappointed. But if you're looking for a two-hour afternoon filler, you can't go much wrong with this film.

Cpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

The Emperor of Paris  
Out October 7

SET in post-Napoleonic Revolution Paris, escaped convict Vidocq (**Vincent Cassel**) stumbles across his former penal colony prisoners in the city's underworld. Having been outed to the local magistrate, he is faced with a choice of returning to the brutal prison ship or seeking revenge on those who wronged him. With a local sex worker, a drunk, an unemployed Hussar and his son in tow, Vidocq goes on a brutal rampage. However, the return of an old friend throws a spanner in the works. With great backdrops and exciting action sequences, this is a must-watch film – even if it does come with French subtitles.

Cpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

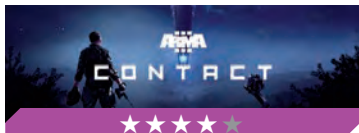
The Birdcatcher  
Out October 7

IT IS 1942 in occupied Norway and Esther, a recently orphaned 14-year-old Jew, escapes the slaughter of her fellow fugitives by German soldiers. Little does she know that the first farm she stumbles across is a den of Nazi sympathisers. Here, Esther learns to conceal her true identity until she can find a way to escape. This thrilling title is wonderfully shot with a "Nordic noir" feel, which brings a sense of stark reality. Inspired by true events, it is a lesson in the brutalities of war and persecution, but also in humanity and forgiveness.

Janet Dornan, ex-R Signals



## GAMES RELEASES



### Arma 3 (Contact)

For PC

PRIOR to this offering, I'd never played any of the *Arma* titles. I'd heard of them, but at the time I was locked to console gaming. This offering makes vast combat environments look small and the visuals are simply stunning. An update to the third instalment, it injects an interesting aspect to a typically grounded battlefield. An otherworldly presence makes itself known, forcing you to adapt to an otherwise conventional warfare title, sporting a map covering 163 square kilometres. Teamwork is key, and so is the game's extensive tutorial.

David McDougall, civvy



### Blair Witch

For Xbox One and PC

BASED on the successful and disturbing film series of the same name, *Blair Witch* is a horror game first and foremost. The environments are superb and also unnerving so expect to be lost and confused on a regular basis. It's a claustrophobic journey, where your only companion is a dog with a keen sense for danger. Body language and communication will keep you alive, and on the edge of your seat. Thankfully, this release isn't as relentlessly tense as the space horror *Alien Isolation*, which I had to give up after several missions. It's a promising and heart-thumpingly entertaining game, despite succumbing to predictability at times.

David McDougall, civvy

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## BOOKS

### PICK OF THE MONTH:

## WORLD PEACE

... and how we can achieve it



> Alex Bellamy, author and professor of peace and conflict studies at the University of

Queensland, talks to *Soldier* about his ambitious new book

So, this seems like a big shout. What reaction have you had so far?

It's a huge shout – I've had some raised eyebrows. The first publisher canned it because they said it was too optimistic but its main purpose is to spark debate.

It's meant to be a conversation starter rather than a blueprint. I'm not saying peace is likely or that it will happen soon, just that it is possible.

Why do you believe that?

For three reasons. Firstly, if we look at the sweep of human history, peace is actually much more common than we think. Lots of civilisations had enduring peace over hundreds of years.

Secondly, war is not written into our DNA. It is a product of social formations and therefore is liable to change, either as a result of societal and technological factors, or deliberate action.

And that leads to the third reason, which is that thanks to our understanding of history, today we have a fairly good idea of the sorts of states, institutions and laws that make societies more peaceful.

It's been possible in some times and places, so why not all times and places?

Why can't we seem to stop fighting then?

Actually, the level of armed conflict today is lower than it was in the 90s and Cold War. But we feel this sense of crisis today – partly because our politics are so dispiriting.

However, there are parts of the



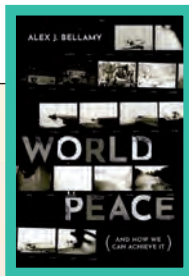
world – Western Europe being a classic example, but also Latin America and East Asia – that have gone from places where wars were quite common to where they are really quite rare.

It's also becoming much more difficult in contemporary wars to deliver the sorts of political and economic outcomes you desire – as the Americans found out in Vietnam and the Soviets and everyone else have discovered in Afghanistan.

But surely war is unavoidable sometimes?

The brutal reality is that war can be necessary to protect the peace. International law is very clear on that. Upholding mandates from the UN – collective policing – is also essential to





● *World Peace* by Alex J Bellamy, is published by Oxford University Press and priced £20

## BOOKS

### BOOK RELEASES



**Chastise**  
by Max Hastings

THIS is the story of Operation Chastise, otherwise known as the Dambuster Raid. In-depth research, letters and private documents bring to life the flyers and scientists whose efforts brought the project to fruition. The book is an easy read but imposes the mores of the 21st century on a different era. Hastings seems to find it impossible to admire the courage of the pilots without running down the overall campaign. As in his earlier title on Bomber Command he uses this account as a vehicle to attack Bomber Harris. It is well written, however, it made me quite angry at various points. This is not a salute to 617 Squadron.

**Andy Kay, ex-RS**



**The Art of Prowling**  
by Col G A Wade

PART of the Home Guard Training Series, this book was first published early in the Second World War in order to bridge the skills gap between the Regulars and their more mature counterparts. The thought of *Dad's Army* lurking around in the shadows in order to sneak up on unsuspecting Fallschirmjaeger, before dispatching them with a knife to the back, is a bit far-fetched, but you can see how publications like this led to the training pamphlets we have today. Interesting if rather dated, I wouldn't go rushing out to buy this book. However, if you have a spare hour it's worth having a flick through.

**Cpl Scott Roberts, Rifles**



**'Mad Mike' Hoare**  
by Chris Hoare

THIS is a biography of the now 100-year-old former soldier, mercenary, sailor, author and adventurer, "Mad Mike" Hoare, who famously inspired the character of Col Alan Faulkner – portrayed by **Richard Burton** – in the movie *The Wild Geese*. The author is none other than his son, Chris Hoare, who explains early on that his reason for researching and writing the book was to investigate why his father was often described to him as a legend and a gentleman adventurer. The result is a thoroughly enjoyable read of a larger-than-life figure who has relished his share of action and adventure. Definitely worth picking up a copy.

**Sgt Adam Jackson, Para**

maintaining order. However, currently the Security Council doesn't function properly. One of my recommendations is that states should do more to enforce resolutions, even if one is blocked by a veto.

In cases of blatant armed aggression or genocide the use of force may still be justified in service of the greater peace – as long as we think we are likely to do more good than harm and have a plan in place for afterwards.

If we open it up to full debate you're more likely to make sure you're doing it in those cases when it is right.

**What would you like military readers to take from the book?**

That the tactical and operational work they are doing can and does make a

difference when supported properly at the strategic and political level.

The skills and equipment they bring to peacekeeping and counter-insurgency type missions are absolutely critical. When we do it right – like in Kosovo or Sierra Leone – it has a real impact.

But the manner in which you fight is also very important. The ethical decision-making they get taught is vital. If you fight in a moral way you retain the bonds of cooperation and your legitimacy in the eyes of those you are fighting for.

The better we can fight, the longer we are likely to be able to maintain the peace afterwards. ■

**INTERVIEW: BECKY CLARK, SOLDIER**

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# SOLDIER SPORT



## PAIN GAME

ARMY cyclists hit top gear at the Inter-Services Road Race Championships. The men's team set a blistering pace in Upavon but were undone by a resurgent Royal Navy outfit. However, it was business as usual in the women's event as the soldiers won in style. Read more on page 81...









# BATTLE ON THE BANKS

## RECRUITMENT DRIVE DELIVERS AS SERVICE ANGLERS CAST OFF IN QUEST FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS

**W**HILE some may question the sporting credentials of fishing, there is no doubting the pursuit's popularity within Service circles.

More than 100 soldiers took to the banks of the Lake View Fishery in Leicestershire for the recent Army Championships and the competition proved to be as fierce as ever.

The week-long contest featured team and individual showdowns and formed the culmination of a coarse angling season that has seen personnel tested in a host of qualifying events across the country.

Earning a place at the showpiece does not come easy and it is the peak performers in the Army Angling Federation's group structure that are invited to take part.

"There are ten qualifying matches ahead of the championships and it is only the top third who get to come here," Lt Col Mark Harrison (RE), chairman of Army Coarse Angling, told *SoldierSport* during a break in proceedings.

"They will fish at natural rivers, canals, reservoirs and commercial venues.

"It has been great to see so many young lads out on the bank. We have done a lot of work to promote ourselves and the group secretaries have worked really hard.

"Fishing is proving to be a very popular sport within the Service at present.

"We are seeing that in all disciplines and the commitment from the guys is phenomenal. The amount of time and personal expense they put into it is outstanding.

"Everyone here is really

competitive and I have been very impressed with what I have seen; we have some high-calibre anglers on show."

Consistent displays on the nearby River Trent and at Lake View saw Cpl Daniel Moonesamy (RLC) crowned Army individual champion, while the Royal Engineers claimed the Inter-Corps honours – ending the Royal Logistic Corps' hopes of a third successive title.

The win completed a personal double for Moonesamy in 2019 as he also secured the equivalent prize within his corps and he is hoping for further silverware next season.

"It is a really good feeling," he explained. "It is what I wanted and I have put my heart and soul into achieving those goals this year.

"We went down to the River Trent to practise in the week before the competition and we came up with a plan which I followed on the day.

"It is always a close affair and going into the second day there were six other anglers in contention. But, luckily, I was the only one to win two sections and that was enough to get the job done.

"This is the pinnacle. There are people here who you do not see all year and there is great camaraderie between us, but the minute the fishing starts it is game on."

Moonesamy (pictured near left) is also part of the Army squad that competes in Division One of the National League, where personnel regularly lock horns with some of the country's finest fishing talent.

The soldiers claimed 19th place at this season's national



**"THERE IS A REAL RIVALRY BETWEEN THE CORPS"**

championships – in a field of 50 teams – but were narrowly defeated by the Royal Air Force at Inter-Services level.

Members of the squad were in the thick of the action in Leicestershire and team captain Sgt Garry Evans (AGC (MPGS)) said the competition provided a stern examination of their skills.

"It has been a tricky week," he explained. "The weather has not been perfect but people are still catching fish.

"And that's what we want to see; this sport is called fishing, not catching.

"The festival is held in different parts of the country every year and you have to plan ahead. There is a lot of preparation involved and you need to look at the results from each venue so you can work out how it fishes.

"I haven't been here for four or five years and it is totally different now so that planning is vital."

Evans (pictured above) was also encouraged by the number of fresh faces on show and believes the emergence of new talent is vital for the long-term future of the military team.

"I have been captain for nine years and in that time we have brought more and more people through," he added.

"A lot of young guys from the Infantry are now getting involved and there is a real rivalry between the corps.

"This is a pursuit where you have to put the time and effort in and it is not cheap, but you don't have to buy the best kit straight away.

"For us it is about attracting more soldiers as that creates greater competition and, as a result, the sport gets bigger." ■



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## SPORT SHORTS



### Tigers call for Boladau

PREMIERSHIP giants Leicester Tigers have completed the loan signing of Army star Bdr Ifereimi Boladau (RA) for the opening months of the rugby union season.

The powerhouse forward, who starred in this year's Army-Navy match, has joined from Championship side Nottingham and will bolster the ranks while nine senior players are away at the Rugby World Cup.

Tigers head coach Geordan Murphy said: "He offers us an experienced, versatile option in the back row."



Picture: Alligin Photography

### Loggies headline festival

IT WAS a day of double celebration for the Royal Logistic Corps as the new rugby union season got under way at the annual corps festival.

The Loggies battled their way to a slender 5-0 victory over the Infantry in the men's final and it also proved to be a tight affair in the women's showpiece, where they triumphed 12-10 over a combined team from the Royal Engineers and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The Royal Armoured Corps claimed the men's league two title.



## GUNNERS GROUNDED IN FINAL FORAY

INTER-UNIT  
CRICKET FINAL

8 REME

237-8

47  
REGT

74



A RUTHLESS display with bat and ball laid the foundations for a convincing win for 8 Training Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the Inter-Unit Cricket Championships final.

Half-centuries from LCpl Dan Pirie (pictured) and Lt Gavin McKenna steered the Lyneham-based outfit to a formidable total of 237-8 as they won the toss and batted first against 47 Regiment, Royal Artillery.

McKenna then led the charge in the field as the Gunners were dispatched for just 74 to crash to a 163-run defeat.

The decision to bat first was quickly vindicated as Pirie and Cfn Andrew Pallet put on 73 for the first wicket.

Pirie hit 11 fours on his way to a rapid-fire 54 before he was caught while attempting another big shot. However, LCpl Tom Lester maintained the momentum as the boundaries continued to flow.

The left-hander eventually perished for 37 but McKenna

was on hand to pick up the baton and a knock of 53 from 39 deliveries saw the score pass the 200 mark.

An unbeaten 33 from LCpl Sam Leaton ensured the REME innings ended on a high and at the halfway point they were in confident mood.

And that confidence was heightened as Leaton struck with the very first ball of the run chase.

The Gunners then limped to 59-3 before a spectacular collapse saw them skittled in the 23rd over.

McKenna claimed figures of 4-18 and Lester 3-19 as five Artillery batsmen were dismissed without troubling the scorers. 2Lt Will Farquhar was the only player to show any resistance in an innings of 42.

"With a score of 237, on that wicket, we knew we were in a strong position," victorious skipper LCpl Tom Waters told *SoldierSport*. "The surface started to crumble and once we got those first wickets we wanted to win it quickly." ■



Picture: Daniel Guetschow



## CROSSLEY TOASTS COMEBACK SUCCESS



**"TO CAPTAIN THE SQUAD WAS A REAL HONOUR"**

**W**AKEBOARD star SSgt Dale Crossley (RE) made a sensational return to the international stage by claiming a silver medal at the European Championships.

The soldier's success came in the masters' category of the German showdown and he added to his prize haul by captaining the Great Britain squad to a bronze medal in the team competition.

Crossley spent a year away from the sport's elite level due to work commitments at 3 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment and he was thrilled to perform so well on his comeback.

"The standard was insane," the former world champion told *SoldierSport*. "I'm really happy with it.

"There were some good riders from countries like Austria and Italy and it was a

strong category.

"I won my heat and qualified for the final. I was second after my first run and decided to really push it but I missed out on gold by just 1.66 points – it was so tight."

And with individual honours secured, Crossley's focus switched to helping his GB teammates in their quest for collective glory.

"As a team we have not won a medal since 2014," he added. "To captain such a small squad to a bronze medal score was a real honour."

The Serviceman won the National Championships in August and, with his comeback complete, he is targeting a prestigious hat-trick in 2020.

Crossley said: "I've won the World Championships but have never won a European title.

"It would be great to win all three in the same year and that is my goal for 2020." ■

## SPORT SHORTS



Picture: Cpl Becky Brown, RLC

### Title gain overshadowed

**V**ICTORY for the Army men in this season's Inter-Services Rugby League Championships proved inconsequential following the death of Royal Air Force player SAC Scott Stevenson (page 11).

Pte Kieron Roche (RAMC) was the difference between the two sides as he slotted a drop goal in the golden-point decider to hand the soldiers a 15-14 win.

Tries from Pte Robert Matamosi (RLC), Cpl Peter Holmes and Cfn Uraia Naulusala (both REME) had helped the Reds, who defeated the Royal Navy in their opening match, to a 14-14 draw at full-time.



### Soldiers in landmark win

**T**HE Army wheelchair rugby league team celebrated a successful showing in the inaugural Inter-Services competition in Portsmouth.

A 54-0 win over hosts the Royal Navy saw the soldiers start the campaign in style and they followed the result with a 16-4 defeat of the Royal Air Force.

The team will continue their momentum this month as they head down under to face their rivals in the Australian Armed Forces.



# GAME BRIEF

**COMPETITION:** Inter-Services Rugby League

**VENUE:** Army Rugby Stadium, Aldershot

**ARMY 54:** McAuley (2), Dainton (2), Eatock (2), Roberts (2), White, Kavanagh-Barnes.  
Conversions: Roberts (7)

**RAF 0**



**SUCCESS** at Inter-Services level capped a stunning campaign for the Army women, who were also victorious in the national Challenge Shield.

The squad has been boosted by a number of dual-code players, while other members have been coveted by some of the biggest clubs in the civilian game.

One of those is Gnr Abby Eatock (RA), who scored a hat-trick on her full debut for Leeds Rhinos less than 24 hours after the RAF were defeated.

Speaking after the Services win, skipper Cpl Emily White (AGC (RMP)) praised the efforts of her teammates and said they are targeting more honours in 2020.

"I'm absolutely over the moon," she said. "Our performances have been helped by what we achieved in the Challenge Shield.

"The girls have improved so much this season and our aim is to progress further next year. We have such a good team and supportive coaches; we can achieve anything."



Pictures: Cpl Becky Brown, RLC



## DOMINANT REDS TURN ON THE STYLE

**A**N ELEVEN-try blitz of the Royal Air Force saw the Army women claim yet another Inter-Services rugby league title in style.

The Reds headed into the contest on the back of a 60-0 thrashing of the Royal Navy and they justified their billing as favourites with a ruthless display from the outset.

Wing LBdr Jess McAuley (RA) started the rout in the seventh minute when she crossed in the corner following a storming run by cross-code star Bdr Beth Dainton (RA).

The second-row forward, a Welsh international in rugby union, opened her account moments later with a dazzling solo effort and more points followed in the 13th minute, when Gnr Abby Eatock (RA) capitalised on the soldiers' numerical advantage out wide.

Centre Sgt Carrie Roberts (REME, pictured above) was the next to profit as she cut through the RAF's faltering rearguard for a simple score under the posts and

skipper Cpl Emily White (AGC (RMP)) piled on more misery with a scramble to the line.

Eatock, McAuley and Roberts all crossed for further tries before the interval and, with the latter showing impressive accuracy with the boot, the soldiers raced into a 42-0 lead at half-time.

A lengthy injury break halted the Army's momentum in the second period and further additions to the scoreboard did not come until just short of the hour mark.

Dainton and Eatock were involved in a swift cross-field passing move that created the time and space for Capt Jade Kavanagh-Barnes (RLC) to score and it was fitting that the sensational Dainton should have the final say on proceedings as the champions saved their best to last.

Eatock launched a stunning break from deep inside her own half before offloading to Dainton, who rampaged forward to add the finishing touch to a superb counter-attacking move. ■

### INTER-SERVICES RUGBY LEAGUE

**ARMY**

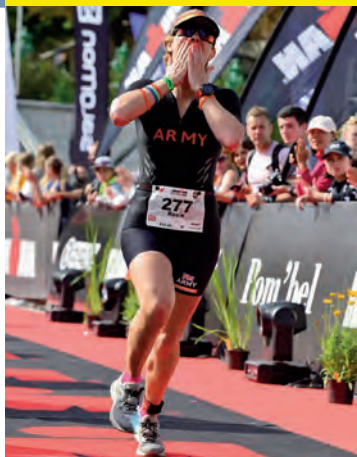
**54**

**RAF**

**0**







## TESTED IN TALLINN

A STRONG Army team produced a string of notable performances as they battled an international field at the Ironman Tallinn race.

Comprised of a 3.8-kilometre swim in the Baltic Sea, followed by a 180-kilometre bike stage and a 42-kilometre run, the event welcomed 14 soldiers to the start line, with Commander Field Army Lt Gen Ivan Jones also racing in the Estonian capital.

Lt Rosie Wild (RA, pictured above) claimed top spot in the women's 25-29 age category and was the ninth placed female overall. Teammate Sgt Nerys Jones (RAPTC) was fifth in the 35-39 bracket.

In the men's competition, SSgt Jappas Du Preez (RLC) claimed third place in the 35-39 category with a time of 9hr 4min 24sec and was 13th overall, while Capt Alex Fortune (REME) finished fourth in the 40-44 ranks.

"This has been the best experience I have had in terms of Ironman," Du Preez said. "I did the World Championships last year and I didn't think anything could top that, but this is incredible."



# RYE RISES TO GLOBAL STAGE



**T**RIATHLON star Capt Katrina Rye (RAMC) continued her remarkable ascent in the sport's elite ranks with a 16th place finish at the Half Ironman World Championships.

The officer, who was victorious at the European Championships earlier in the season, had targeted a spot in the top 25 ahead of the race and was thrilled to exceed expectations on what proved to be a challenging course in France.

"I'm delighted," she told *SoldierSport*. "It was tough and there were a lot of tactics involved, as well as the all-out physical effort."

"There was a massive mountain to negotiate on the bike and running after a climb like that is always difficult."

"It wasn't perfect but I am really pleased with the result."

Rye followed her efforts in Nice with a third-place finish at the Weymouth 70.3 and is now starting preparations for her full Ironman debut in Western Australia in December.

"That is where the best athletes in the world are racing," she added. "For me, it's about increasing the volume of training. It will be low intensity work and I will have to learn how my body reacts to the longer distance."

"It is going to be tough but I'm looking forward to the challenge." ■

**"IT  
WASN'T  
PERFECT  
BUT I'M  
REALLY  
PLEASED  
WITH THE  
RESULT"**



● A BAD cut forced light heavyweight star LCpl John Marvin (PWRR) into an early exit at boxing's Elite World Championships in Russia.

The soldier sustained the injury in his victory over Lithuania's Paulius Zuzevas in the opening round and later withdrew from the competition to prevent further damage.

"I am gutted, but onwards and upwards," he said afterwards.

Marvin, who represents the Philippines, will compete at the South East Asia Games next month before his attention turns to the Olympic qualifiers in January.

European silver medallist Gnr Karris Artingstall, Gnr Tori-Ellis Willets (both RA) and LCpl Meg Reid (RLC) will fight at the women's World Championships this month.



# MONTH IN SPORT

## October's key fixtures...



**WHAT:** Inter-Services Judo  
**WHEN:** October 10  
**WHERE:** Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot  
**NEED TO KNOW:** The

Armed Forces' top players return to the mat in their latest bid for military glory. The event features men's, women's and masters' competitions



**WHAT:** Inter-Corps Netball Championships  
**WHEN:** October 17 to 18  
**WHERE:** Aldershot  
**NEED TO KNOW:** This event has gone from strength to strength in recent years and is a proving ground for aspiring Army players. The AGC will start as favourites following their success in 2018



**WHAT:** Middlesex v Army women – football  
**WHEN:** October 23 (1930 kick-off)  
**WHERE:** Northolt  
**NEED TO KNOW:** The

soldiers play their first competitive game of the season in the Southern Counties Cup. Having missed out in last season's Inter-Services the Reds will be looking to start their preparations with a win

## IDRC IN NUMBERS

TEAMS  
TAKING  
PART IN  
THIS YEAR'S  
COMPETITION

10

ARMY  
PLAYERS  
INCLUDED  
IN THE UKAF  
SQUAD

12

POINTS  
SCORED BY  
THE MILITARY  
OUTFIT EN  
ROUTE TO  
THE FINAL

108

CONVERSIONS  
KICKED BY  
LCPL JAMES  
DIXON (RE)  
IN THE  
WINS OVER  
GEORGIA AND  
FRANCE

13

DEFENCE  
TITLES FOR  
FIJI SINCE THE  
COMPETITION  
WAS  
LAUNCHED IN  
2011

2



Picture: Alligin Photography

## FIJIANS THWART UKAF HOPES

**H**EAD coach SSgt Lee Soper (RA) praised the efforts of his UK Armed Forces players after an agonising loss in the International Defence Rugby Competition final.

Back-to-back wins over the Georgian and French Defence Forces saw the Servicemen progress to the main event in style but the Republic of Fiji Military Forces ultimately proved a step too far.

Winners in 2015, the Fijians opened a 17-3 lead at half-time and extended their advantage in the second period as they edged nearer to a successful title defence.

Royal Air Force star Flt Lt Rob Bell reduced the arrears from a catch and drive maul but their rivals hit back with a scintillating score involving the forwards and backs.

At 31-10 the contest was as good as over but a yellow card for the Fijians allowed Army forward Capt Stu Cross

(Yorks) to have the final say on proceedings as he crossed for a converted try.

"I have to say a massive thank you to all the players for their gigantic efforts against a very good team," Soper (pictured) said at the end of the 31-17 defeat.

"We started well but a couple of mistakes cost us points in the first half and the lads did great after the break.

"I'm really proud of the way we have pulled together in such a short space of time and were able to run the Fijians close at the end."

Cross produced a man-of-the-match display in UKAF's opening fixture against Georgia, when tries from LBdr Connor O'Reilly (RA) and LCpl Dan Tooth (Rifles) helped the side to a 69-3 win.

The team then triumphed over France in the semi-finals, with Cpl Gareth Smith (R Welsh) among the five try-scorers in a 39-12 victory. ■





# KINGS OF THE COUNTRY

**A**RMV riders overcame the challenge of the Royal Air Force to top the team standings at this season's Inter-Services Cross Country Mountain Bike Championships. Racing on home soil at Aldershot's Rushmoor Driving Area, the soldiers' eight-strong squad outscored their rivals to seal the collective honours in style – although they missed out on individual glory.

RAF sensation Sgt Dan Lewis dominated from the front and, with teammate Cpl Dan Watts claiming second spot, the visitors looked well set to push for victory.

But Cpl Ben Watts (RE, pictured) spearheaded the Army's charge with a third-place finish and his fellow athletes offered strong support as the coveted silverware was secured.

"If I'm honest, I was disappointed to come third," Watts told *SoldierSport*. "Dan Lewis is in a league of his own but I've been to and fro with Dan Watts this year and have finished ahead of him in national series races.

"My season was primed for July, when I won the Army Championships and raced at the nationals. If this race was seven weeks ago I would have been a lot quicker.

"But this event is all about the team prize and getting as many guys over the line as we could.

"We've won this two years in a row now and it is great to come away with a victory on our own course."

The Army's cause was boosted by the efforts of OCdt Amy Drysdale (East Midlands UOTC), who added welcome points to the overall total as the race's female champion.

Teammate Capt Sophie Weaver made it a one-two for the Reds and Drysdale's victory capped a superb debut campaign with the Service squad.

"I'm really pleased," she said. "This time last year I was nowhere near this standard.

"My aim was to come here and win but I didn't know what the RAF and Royal Navy would bring; it is a really nice way to end the season.

"It was a fast flowing course and that suited my style, although a big hill would have made it even more fun." ■

# DELIGHT AT DOWNHILL DOMINANCE

THE Revolution Bike Park was a happy hunting ground for Army riders as they dominated proceedings at the Inter-Services Downhill Championships.

Cpl John Riddell (RLC) clocked the fastest time on the Welsh circuit to top the individual standings and, with teammates 2Lt Jordan Wright (RE) and WO2 Gareth Bezant (AAC) finishing second and third respectively, it proved to be an all-Red podium.

The Royal Air Force had success in the women's field as LAC Katie Sweeting and Sgt Claire

Tea secured a one-two. Sig Alex Hodgson (R Signals) was third.

Unsurprisingly, the Army emphatically claimed the team honours to avenge their loss to the Royal Navy in 2018.

"We have got a strong team and we've trained hard all season," said Maj Marcus Goldsmith (RA), secretary of Army Downhill.

"There was some apprehension on the start line and this is a venue that pushes people out of their comfort zones.

"After last year there was a real determination to put things right."



Picture: Tom Roberts Photography





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# HIGHS AND LOWS AS REDS PUSHED IN ROAD TEST

IT PROVED to be a day of mixed emotions at the Inter-Services Road Race Championships as the Army stamped their authority on the women's field before suffering an agonising loss in the men's event.

The soldiers were pushing hard for the collective honours in the latter as they headed into the final lap of the Upavon circuit, but it was a resurgent Royal Navy outfit that sneaked a famous win by the narrowest of margins.

Cpl Adam Toole (RM) led from the front for the Senior Service and a clinical break late on saw him pull clear of Army rival LCpl Jack Webb (RLC) to top the individual standings.

But with Webb claiming the silver medal and teammate Sgt James Bevan (REME) the bronze, the Reds were well placed in the hunt for team glory.

However, the Navy boasted a strong presence in the peloton and that effort was decisive when

it came to calculating the final points totals.

Despite missing out on the main prize Bevan was delighted with his personal display and said that with all three Services now boasting strong squads the event's future is looking bright.

"It was very close out there," he told *SoldierSport*. "That is possibly the toughest competition we have faced."

"In previous seasons it has been the Army show, with the others doing what they can. But every year they are producing stronger riders and without that it would be fairly boring racing."

In contrast, it was business as usual in the women's contest as Army riders claimed the first nine positions in the top ten to emphatically secure the title.

LCpl Charmaine Porter (RLC, pictured right) and the returning Capt Ejay Harris (RAMC) crossed the finish line in unison, while team stalwart WO1 Chanel

INTER-SERVICES  
ROAD RACE

MEN

NAVY

WOMEN

ARMY



Mason (RAPTC) took the final podium place.

Given all three are national-level cyclists there was little surprise in the results but Maj Tony Ireland (RLC), directeur sportif of the women's team, praised the efforts of his squad as a whole.

"It was really good to see our core members riding well together and we managed to put a whole group in front of the Royal Air Force," he explained.

"Our tactics and teamwork eventually broke them."

"We've had two brand new riders here in the shape of Capt Sarah Hunter-Johnston and Capt Jess Wood (both RA); this is the first time they have pulled on an Army jersey."

"They rode really well at the Army Championships and in the road race series and they earned the right to compete."

"It is great to see such talent coming through." ■





I was surprised how easy it was to work with the Jordanians. They are very happy people and good at what they do. The survival course, where we learnt three ways of collecting water in the desert with plastic bags, was amazing.

**Rfn Anish Karmacharya**



The interoperability with the Jordanians was impressive, even with the language barrier. Very few of them spoke English and none of us spoke Arabic so we had to rely on a linguist, but we made it work.

**CSgt Nishan Gurung**



**Operating during the daytime in these temperatures means we have to think very hard about the soldiers' welfare, how they perform and how we pace them.**

**Capt Giri Prasad Gurung**



The environment is so different. We did a 25km insertion, which in Brunei is no problem, but here it feels more like 30 or 40km due to the loose sand you're walking on. You have to bear that in mind when planning your mission.

**Cpl Santosh Shrestha**



The Arabian culture is very interesting and the Jordanians are really friendly and want to know how we do things. I enjoyed the whole exercise but learning to ride a camel during the desert survival course was my highlight.

**Rfn Kushal Kumar Ale**



How much water you need in this weather has surprised me. We are used to a hot climate in Brunei, but we need a minimum of four litres to operate out here for a day. Less than half of that is required in the UK.

**Sgt Indra Gurung**

## Arabian insights

We asked Royal Gurkha Rifles personnel what struck them most about training in Jordan (page 34)

This has been my best overseas package yet. I've been to Kenya three times and I trained in New Zealand with their army in 2016, but Jordan has the best live-firing ranges I've ever seen. They're fantastic.

**Cpl Sameer Gurung**





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STREET

STUART  
BRENNAN

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PAUL  
KAYE

JOSS  
STONE

JAMES  
WITH COSMO

STEPHEN  
AND FRY



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\*There is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures. The CO<sub>2</sub> figures shown, however, are based on the outgoing test cycle and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration.