

# SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



OCTOBER 2017

£3.50



**RESUPPLY  
A JOB FOR  
ROBOTS?**

**LEADERSHIP  
LESSONS  
FROM THE  
ALL BLACKS**

**HOW TO**

**SET A  
PERSONAL  
BEST**

**DRONE RACING  
TAKES OFF**

**3**

**STEPS TO  
MAKE YOUR  
PAY LAST**

## STEPPING UP IN SLOVENIA

Reservists tackle mountain forest drills





A man with a beard and short hair, smiling, stands in front of a small white aircraft. He is wearing a black skydiving suit with 'airkix' written on the sleeve and 'Judas' and 'CRYSTAL' on the leg. He has a parachute harness on his back.

## Al's will

didn't just help him overcome the loss of both legs while serving as a paratrooper in Northern Ireland. It spurred him on to become Britain's first double amputee skydiver, joining the Red Devils and winning six gold medals at the World Championships – all while competing against able-bodied competitors.

## Your Will

could provide the funding to help support people like Al and their families when they need it most. **By leaving a legacy to ABF The Soldiers' Charity you can help us give something back to those who have given so much.**

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## CONTENTS



## FEATURES

COVER  
STORY

- 28 **Hot in here**  
Welsh Cavalry feel the heat in California
- 32 **Mind over mountain**  
Reservists hone skills in Slovenia
- 37 **'I'll be back'**  
The robotic future of resupply
- 44 **Drones take flight**  
Service sees aerial sport lift off

## REGULARS

- 7 **The Informer**  
Top stories from across the Service
- 21 **Need to know**  
Essential tips for today's personnel
- 47 **Talkback**  
Ruminations from the ranks
- 52 **Bullet Points**  
Troops' intelligence assets
- 61 **Reviews**  
Music, kit, books and movies to fill your downtime
- 82 **Final Word**  
Teamwork tips from the Scots Guards

## SOLDIERSPORT

- 70 **Golf**  
Double delight in Saunton
- 72 **Boxing**  
Marvin tops the podium in Malaysia
- 75 **Cricket**  
Tourists topple Forces finest
- 78 **Netball**  
Loggies star in season opener
- 79 **Cycling**  
Soldiers dominate on the road
- 81 **Rugby Union**  
Reds stars flood into civilian game



“This is like a  
fast-paced  
video game”

Drones take flight – p44





“  
We now have real  
strength in depth  
”

Stars of Saunton – p70

## A new type of comrade?



WE could probably have predicted it was on its way, but this month *Soldier* takes a look at the rapid and

exciting expansion of drone racing among the ranks, with Army players now seeking sporting status for the pursuit (page 44).

With every issue that passes, it is becoming apparent just how much of a big deal this age of automation is proving to be for military personnel.

If you don't know what we mean, turn to page 37 to find out how robots are set to transform the resupply of soldiers on the front line.

Faceless machines taking on a plethora of important military tasks might not be imminent, but it is hard to escape the fact that one day British troops are likely to be sharing the decision-making process with them to some degree.

Let us know what you think about this and other issues contained in this month's magazine.

And don't forget to turn to page 12 for your chance to win some cutting-edge suspension training kit.

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).

#### > Online

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

#### > Purchase

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Picture: Becky Walford



# Super sailing exped sets off

ONE of the largest Army adventurous training events in 2017 and 2018 has just started.

Exercise Pacific Longbow, a sailing expedition to circumnavigate the northern Atlantic Ocean and the eastern half of the Pacific Ocean (see pages 8-9) over the course of a year, will involve 180 personnel from 12 cap badges and covers around 25,000 miles.

Each crew, at least half of whom are young novices, will take command of the impressive sail training craft, *Discoverer* (pictured above), a 72-foot sailing yacht that was originally built for the Global Challenge round-the-

world yacht race and is now owned by the MoD.

They will cover a specific stage of the journey over periods ranging from three to six weeks, depending on the distance of the leg.

A crew from the Royal Signals are in charge on the first leg, which departed Gosport on September 29, bound for Gran Canaria and Lanzarote. They are scheduled to arrive on October 18.

Some of the younger soldiers will be sharing their experiences through social media posts in a move that is hoped will stimulate recruitment and retention. Search #longbow.

“Half of each crew are young novices”



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A taste of Army activity across the world

# GLOBAL SITREP

Picture: L'Phot Joel Rouse



## 1. CARIBBEAN RESTORING CALM

BRITISH Army personnel have provided crucial aid and assistance in the Caribbean after hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the region.

Some UK overseas territories suffered extensive damage and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel *Mounts Bay* was quickly on the scene with soldiers on-board.

It arrived at Anguilla just hours after Irma had passed through. Royal Engineers and Royal Logistic Corps troops were dispatched to assess the damage, help repair infrastructure, restore power to the island's hospital and fix a potentially dangerous fuel leak at a petrol dump.

Mexeflote landing craft operated by 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, RLC delivered six tonnes of much-needed supplies, including temporary shelters for people left homeless by the storm.

On Tortola (above), the largest British Virgin Island, soldiers from 24 Commando Engineer Regiment restored power, running water and carried out repairs at the international airport, allowing aid workers and more military personnel to land safely.

Around 1,300 Servicemen and women and 100 tonnes of supplies had been sent to the region as this issue went to press.

## 2. USA FLYING HIGH

ARMY Air Corps pilots have concluded eight months of conversion-to-role training at Exercise Crimson Eagle in California and Arizona.

The pilots – from 653 Squadron and supported by elements of 3, 4 and 6 Regiments as well as 7 Aviation Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers – were tested with demanding mountain flying drills, dust landings and live firing in temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius.



Picture: Sgt Donald Todd, RLC



## 3. CANADA IRON MEN

PERSONNEL of 1 Armoured Infantry Brigade and the Strike Experimentation Group have been participating in Exercise Iron Strike 2 at Batus with the Household Cavalry Regiment battlegroup.

Training against a hybrid opposition force, provided by the Royal Tank Regiment, the series formed the pinnacle of a series of studies, map exercises and war games that will inform commanders how such formations will fight in the future.

## 4. BELIZE JUNGLE JOUSTS

SOLDIERS of the Coldstream Guards have been in Belize, working alongside the country's troops as well as those from Barbados and Montserrat.

The personnel conducted a week of basic jungle survival – making shelters, setting traps and gathering water – followed by specific training such as monitoring enemy movements and completing a main river crossing.

They also tested themselves at tactical live firing and instinctive shooting, which assesses soldiers' reactions and accuracy.



This is the route for Exercise Pacific Longbow, one of the largest adventurous training expeditions in 2017 and 2018 – details on page 7

Picture: 2nd Lt Julius Coventry, AAC



## INTELLIGENCE FOR THE ATLAS?

Brief the team now:



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## 8. SOUTH SUDAN PEACE WORK PRAISED

SCOTLAND-based troops from 34 Field Squadron, 39 Engineer Regiment have received United Nations campaign medals to mark their successful contribution to the organisation's peacekeeping effort in South Sudan.

Around 100 personnel were recognised for their work on various projects including building a jetty on the River Nile, helicopter landing sites, flood prevention measures and the construction of a temporary field hospital in Bentiu, which supports 1,800 UN peacekeepers and staff, enabling them to continue working to improve conditions in the country.

The soldiers were deployed from February until July 2017 and around 400 British military personnel remain in the region, making it one of the UK's largest overseas missions.



Pictures: Lt Col Patrick Jackson, RY



## 5. UKRAINE NEW TRAINING DEAL

PRIME Minister Theresa May has announced a joint UK-Canadian training programme for Ukrainian personnel, the first time Britain has conducted such a package inside the country.

It will include combined reconnaissance, counter-sniper and military police training. It was also announced that a joint military exercise with Canadian troops would take place in Latvia later this year.

The initiative is scheduled to start in early 2018.



## 6. WALES FRENCH FLAVOUR

BRITISH and French airborne gunners have been training together at the Castlemartin ranges in Wales.

Troops from the Colchester-based 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery fired their 105mm Light Guns and called in fast jets alongside their counterparts from the French 35th Parachute Artillery Regiment, equipped with 120mm mortars.

Exercise Gallic Marauder is part of the operational partnership between British and French airborne forces, which are trained to deploy together at short notice.

## 7. IRAQ SAPPERS SET FOR SHADE

TROOPS from 22 Engineer Regiment are headed to Iraq to build infrastructure at Al Asad airbase (pictured).

Forty-four members of Tidworth-based 5 Armoured Engineer Squadron will deploy for six months, bringing the total number of personnel in the country to 600.



Picture: Cpl Timothy Jones, RLC



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Picture: Matt Austin  
■ PROGRESS is being made by artist Rob Heard in his bid to create a unique tribute to the Servicemen who died at the Battle of the Somme but whose bodies were never recovered. The civilian is hoping to hand stitch 72,396 shrouded figures as a representation of the lives lost and will put the items on display in London as part of the Armistice Day centenary in November 2018. He recently completed the stitching of 60,000 shrouds and has now started putting the figures inside and binding them at the neck and feet. Follow his progress at [www.shroudsofthesomme.com](http://www.shroudsofthesomme.com)

## Course reminder to corporals and others

**S**ERVICEMEN and women are being reminded that the system for allocating places on command leadership and management part three courses has changed.

Priority is now given to recently promoted personnel, who must attend the package within 12 months of being awarded substantive rank.

Taught at Army Education Centres and covering professional development, the training is the third

and final phase of preparation for new corporals, sergeants and warrant officer class twos.

Soldiers should engage with their chain of command to ensure they complete parts one, two and three within the correct time frame.

Under present rules Reservists do not have to attend part three training but this is currently subject to a review.

For further details on the change read [2017DIN07-024](#) and [ABN 24/17](#).

“  
It is only right  
they get the  
recognition  
they deserve  
”



Picture: Peter Davies

## ALLOWANCE INCREASE

■ THE continuation of education allowance (CEA) for Forces parents with children in junior school has gone up by 4.55 per cent.

Families will now receive a maximum of £5,719 for junior boarders and £3,369 for day pupils – an increase of just under £250 and £150 respectively on last year's rate.

The rise follows a change in the way school fee averages are used to calculate CEA, with greater weight now given to schools with more military children.

The new system indicates a small reduction in the allowance for senior schools but the amount has been frozen at last year's level for now.

For full details read [ABN 99/17](#).

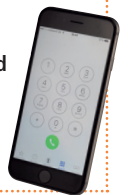
## TAKE THE RAPS

■ RESERVIST units are being urged to try out the new Reserve attendance and pay service (Raps) as part of a trial of the system.

It is designed to allow personnel to view their formation's forecast of events remotely.

The online programme allows soldiers to indicate their availability for training and record attendance so the information can be transferred to JPA to generate pay.

Personnel should continue using paper-based attendance registers until directed, and for more details on Raps read [2017DIN08-101](#).



## SHADER GRATITUDE SHOWN

■ A NEW medal is to be created to recognise soldiers' participation on Operation Shader, the Defence Secretary Michael Fallon announced during a brief visit to Iraq.

"It is only right that those who've performed above and beyond in this fight against the evil of our time get the recognition they deserve," he said.

Around 4,000 personnel should be eligible for the Iraq and Syria Operational Service Medal, as it will be known.



In this month's  
**SOLDIER  
SPORT**



» GOLF P70



» CRICKET P76



» NETBALL P78





## “This win means a lot”

–Sappers start season in style, page 81

### AIR FORCE FIRST

■ THE Royal Air Force has become the first British military arm to open up all of its roles to women.

Its ground component is now open for female applicants, in the first test of the government's decision to lift a ban on women serving in close combat positions.

The main function of the 2,000-member RAF Regiment is to patrol and protect bases and airfields.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said the change would lead to a more effective military for the UK.



### GERMANY CALLING

■ HQ BRITISH Forces Germany would like to hear from some of the thousands of military personnel and civilians who have served in the country over the last 75 years for a book they are producing to mark the Service's longest period of continuous overseas deployment.

They are also interested in receiving good quality photographs and items of memorabilia. For details on the project go to [www.bfgnet.de](http://www.bfgnet.de)

SPINE LINE COMPETITION

LAST month's spine line clues related to some outstanding triathletes in the Army – (Henry) Eaton, (John) Mead, (Katrina) Rye and (Phil) Westoby.

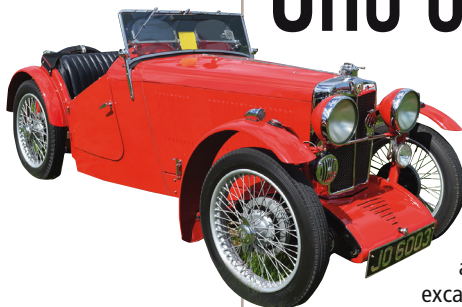
This month *Soldier* has teamed up with TRX ([www.TRXtraining.com](http://www.TRXtraining.com)) to offer a lucky reader their newest fitness product, *Force Kit: Tactical*, containing a suspension trainer, instructional DVDs, door anchor and extender strap.

To be in with a chance of winning this top bit of equipment tell us what links the words on the spine of this issue.

Answers to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by October 31. Good luck!



**WIN**  
TRX training package



Picture: Jaimie Wilson

## One careless owner...

THE remains of a rare vintage MG roadster have been unearthed by archaeologists excavating a Second

World War artillery position at Larkhill on Salisbury Plain.

The 1932 MG J2, of which only 2,083 were ever made, was believed to be a pool car used by troops training in the 1960s that had been dumped in a disused weapons pit.

Restored examples are now worth around £40,000.

The Larkhill site is one of a number

of areas on Salisbury Plain which will see troops re-accommodated in the UK from Germany under the Army Basing Programme.

Environmental consultancy firm WYG has been employed by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to survey the development site as part of the planning process.



### STREET SMART

■ CHALLENGER 2 main battle tanks from the Royal Tank Regiment's Ajax Squadron have received a makeover for training in urban environments. The "Berlin Brigade" camouflage scheme, seen here, is being used as part of a study into deploying the platforms in built-up areas. As the regiment's urban specialist unit, Ajax is testing doctrine, tactics and operating procedures while experimenting with other techniques from across Nato and the rest of the world.

IN THIS MONTH'S REVIEWS



"The acting is wooden at best – avoid this movie at all costs"



This affordable panel light gets some glowing comments

PAGE 61





# Stirred by survival tale

ONE of the most astonishing acts of survival from the First World War is being told at the Tank Museum to commemorate the centenary of the action.

The crew of the Mark IV tank known as a "Fray Bentos" spent more than 60 hours under a barrage of German fire while stuck in no-man's-land at the Battle of Passchendaele.

Despite the bombardment and a number of injuries, only one soldier was killed and the survivors were decorated for bravery.

The new display at the Bovington-based centre pays tribute to their story,

focusing on Sgt Robert Missen.

"We have been left a number of Missen's personal effects including the Bible he had with him, his uniform, medals, identity tag and cigarette case," said curator David Willey.

"And here at the museum we have an example of the tank that these men were in, so it is possible to see how cramped and intimate the space in which the drama took place was.

"Eight men stuck in a tank for three days and nights, being continually shot at with bullets and hot metal flying around inside – you still cannot help but be taken aback by the tale."

“  
You cannot  
help but be  
taken aback  
”

## RESERVISTS RECEIVE FIRST TAILORED TRAINING COURSE

■ PERSONNEL from Yorkshire and Lancashire have taken the first ever leadership and management course developed by the Army Education Corps specifically for Reservists.

Officers and NCOs from 4th Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment and 4th Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment gathered at Halton for the innovative two-week camp designed to improve their practical skills and leadership abilities.

The programme featured personality profiling, change management, planning and leadership theory. Fieldcraft and adventurous training sessions included presentations from noted climber Jeff

Smith, who has just summited Mount Everest, and endurance athlete Susie Chan.

Maj Alex Nancolas (Yorks, pictured), who works in the energy industry, said: "The delivery of the course was very different as it brought a broad range of ranks and experience together and the workshops certainly delivered what I hoped they would."



## FEARLESS FUNDRAISING



In loving  
memory

A FORMER garrison sergeant major cycled 1,000 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End in honour of his late wife. Joe Coleman (ex-RRF), whose last posting was as GSM at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, was due to make the journey in 2012 with wife, Maggie, when she was diagnosed with leukaemia. Along with friend Maj Andy Derby (Lancs) he set out to finish the trip.

Money raised  
**£5,486**  
For: Bloodwise

## Toral turnout

SOLDIERS deployed on Op Toral in Afghanistan are raising money for wounded troops from the country's security forces. The project will help the personnel to participate in the Invictus Games in future. The challenge will see each Brit walk, run, cycle and row 290.56 miles – the distance from Helmand to Kabul. To sponsor them visit [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/aim-afghanistan](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/aim-afghanistan)

## Officer takes a hike

CELEBRATING 45 years in the Armed Forces, Maj Roly Sutton (RLC) has completed a 24-day hiking challenge in Spain. The officer walked from Irún, on the French border, to Santiago de Compostela in a route stretching 621 miles.



Money raised  
**£400**  
For: Combat Stress





## "I was desperate to win that gold medal"

–Boxer aces Asia games, page 72

### SOLDIERS AND DRUGS

■ RESEARCH is to be carried out into the experiences of personnel discharged from the Army for drug use.

The 18-month study will track a group of troops who failed compulsory drug testing.

As well as exploring the underlying reasons for their actions, it will assess the impact that discharge had on their mental health, readjustment to civilian life and further substance misuse.

The research will be carried out by Galahad SMS, thanks to £175,800 in funding from the Forces in Mind Trust.

Galahad has worked with the MoD since 1997, including delivering mandatory briefings to troops on substance abuse.

### MENTORING OPPORTUNITY

■ BLACK, Asian and minority ethnic personnel are being encouraged to take part in a six-month mentoring programme.

Led by the Business in the Community initiative, the scheme is designed to help individuals attain professional goals and develop their careers.

Participants will be organised into groups of eight, with a lead mentor supporting them.

For more details read **ABN 101/17**.

### VETS CONNECT

■ A WEBSITE has been launched to help connect former Servicemen and women and promote their businesses.

The Veterans Network is a free platform offering a nationwide directory for companies established by ex-soldiers, as well as information on training providers.

Visit [www.veteransnetwork.co.uk](http://www.veteransnetwork.co.uk)

### NORTHERN BASE REOPENS

■ THE Officers' Association has opened a new facility in York.

Replacing a previous site in Leeds, it will act as the charity's base in the North of England and is located in the Innovation Centre next to the University of York.

The organisation supports serving and former officers as they seek new careers outside the military.

### STONEWALL CALL

■ THE Army is calling on troops to help it keep its place in Stonewall's list of top 100 LGBT employers.

Ten per cent of an organisation's overall score is based on employee surveys.

Visit [www.stonewall.org.uk/index-survey-2018](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/index-survey-2018) and enter code 1618 before November 3.



PAGE 37

"I'll be back"

Military drones set to revolutionise resupply



Picture: Gp Dek Taylor, RLC

## Staffordshire soldier laid to rest

THE resting place of a First World War soldier from Stoke-on-Trent was finally dedicated in his name at the Zantvoorde British Cemetery at Ypres in Belgium.

Sjt James McLynn, aged 22, of 4th Battalion, The North Staffordshire Regiment, was killed during heavy enemy shelling just weeks before the end of the First World War, and later buried as an unknown soldier.

After new information came to light, the MoD's Joint Casualty and

Compassionate Centre confirmed the Serviceman's identity and organised the rededication service, conducted by the Rev Philip Burrows of 2nd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment – the modern day successor to The North Staffordshire Regiment.

Sjt McLynn's family members plus representatives of The Mercian Regiment, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the British Embassy in the Netherlands and Belgium all attended the service.



■ A BBC TWO documentary series, *Army: Behind The New Frontlines*, will reveal the work British soldiers are doing across the globe.

With intimate access to all ranks, from the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Nicholas Carter to new recruits, the films examine the multiple roles personnel fulfill in a deeply unstable world.

Controller of BBC Two Patrick Holland said: "The series will reveal stories not covered by daily news bulletins and will instead explore how the Army continues to be deployed and is at the forefront of our nation's response".

The three-part series begins on October 18 and episode one follows Maj Gen Rupert Jones, the deputy commander of an international coalition of 69 countries and the most senior British Army officer in Iraq, as he oversees the effort to liberate Mosul.

It also focuses on 1st Battalion, The Rifles in northern Iraq, where they are training Kurdish civilians to fight Islamic State, as well as the regiment's 4th Battalion as they protect the airbase at Al Asad.





# Urban training boost



**T**HE Army's urban training facilities have been given a second shot in the arm in the space of a year.

Around £1.5 million has been invested in renovating 19 houses at Longmoor complex.

It follows a £2.4 million spend by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation upgrading New Zealand Farm Camp on Salisbury Plain late last year to bring it into line with modern training requirements.

The latest building work took around four months and involved modernising the existing accommodation blocks with new wiring, doors and windows.

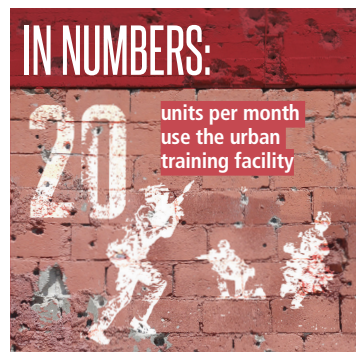
"The refurbished houses mean the complex will better meet the needs of troops in the South and South East garrison areas of the UK," explained the site's training safety marshal, WO2 Paul Searle (PWRR).

"It will improve the availability of urban environments as well



as providing units with greater accessibility to training."

The Longmoor site consists of a variety of old domestic dwellings, purpose-built houses, tunnels, a forward operating base and other supporting infrastructures.



“  
This will  
better meet  
the needs of  
troops  
”



## PICK OF THE PAINTINGS

■ THERE is still time to bid for a piece of artwork from the first exhibition by bomb disposal charity Felix Fund.

On October 3 the organisation will auction off more than 30 paintings and sketches, including this print of *Towards the Bomb* by Stuart Brown, and they will remain on display at Didcot's Cornerstone Arts Centre until October 8.

Offers can be made online by visiting [www.felixfundart.org.uk](http://www.felixfundart.org.uk)

## WOMEN WANTED

■ FEMALE personnel of all ranks are invited to attend this month's Servicewomen's Network conference.

Held at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on October 12, the event is also open to commanders and those interested in diversity.

It will celebrate 100 years of women in the Army and look at how to help the next generation progress.

Policy updates and presentations on gender psychology and leadership will take place, while panel discussions will explore topics such as culture, mentoring, motivation, change and role models.

"The conference is an opportunity to celebrate our success, progress the work of the network, and inform and support our people," said the organisation's co-chair, Lt Col Sarah Pringle (AGC (RMP)).

To register read **ABN 103/17**.

## DEGREES FOR OFFICERS

■ THE Service is launching a new partnership with the Henley Business School and University of Reading to offer bespoke degree programmes to officers.

Replacing the more general opportunities available in career stages one and two, the new scheme will deliver a programme linked to mandatory courses and an individual's job role.

Up to 450 places will be made available to cadets at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst from this month, with studies starting during the commissioning course.

For more details read **ABN 94/17**.

## Next gen clothing gets artistic input

DESIGNERS from the Royal College of Art have been drafted in to help the MoD's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory develop the Army combat uniform of the future.

Displayed at the recent Defence Science Equipment International exhibition in London (turn to page 37 for more), the kit is designed not only to fit the body well but be easy to run in and comfortable to wear over extended periods.

This pictured prototype was a ensemble that has been assessed

at the Specialist Weapons School in Warminster.

It features new materials including four-way stretch cloth and has silent hook-and-loop pockets.

The initiative is part of the MoD's Future Soldier Vision project that is aiming to ensure the next generation of British soldiers have kit utilising the latest technologies.







## "If you're positive you get more out of them"

—Leadership lessons, page 82



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

## CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

**W**E recently worked with Royal Air Force and Royal Navy colleagues to produce a joint survey on how to better support families when their serving person leaves the military.

Thousands exit the Army every year and there are some excellent services to help them make the transition successful.

However, the repercussions of such an enormous life change don't just impact on the soldier.

It's a step filled with trepidation for many who have followed their loved one around the world for years and have grown used to living within a Service community.

There is some help specifically devised for families, but is it enough? Are they made aware of how they can access this assistance? Is it being communicated effectively and, more importantly, do they actually feel supported?

We are delighted to have created a new transition post, sponsored by the Forces in Mind Trust, the purpose of which is to make sure support is more widely available, provide the help families say they need and identify problem areas.

You can help us with this task by completing the transition survey on our website, so we

can ensure we're delivering the correct support. Those transitioning in future will benefit.

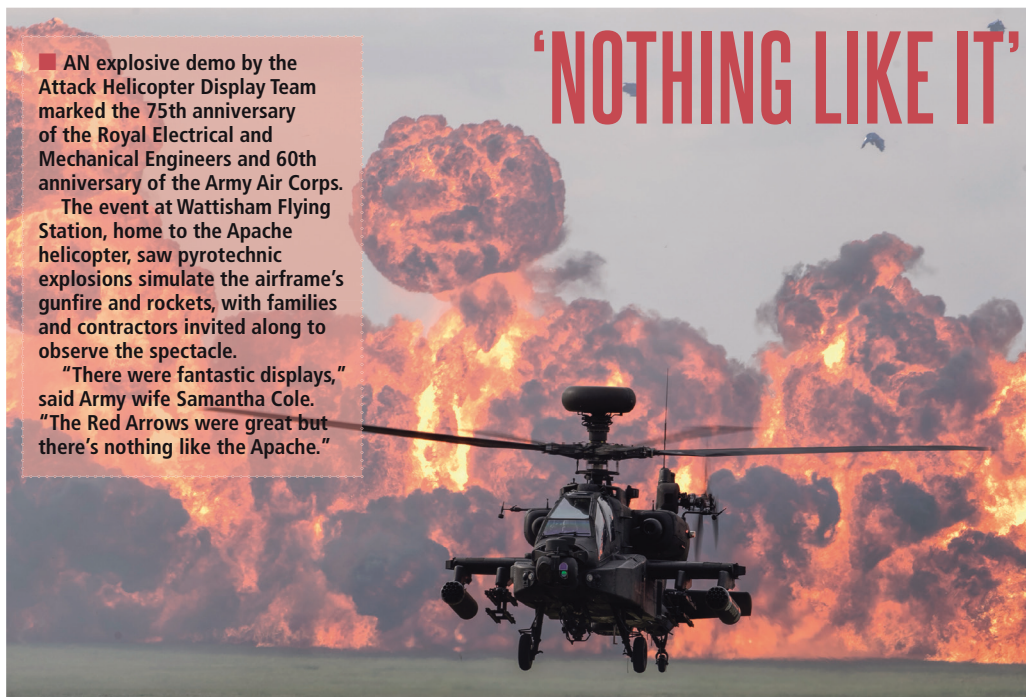


[www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)

■ AN explosive demo by the Attack Helicopter Display Team marked the 75th anniversary of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and 60th anniversary of the Army Air Corps.

The event at Wattisham Flying Station, home to the Apache helicopter, saw pyrotechnic explosions simulate the airframe's gunfire and rockets, with families and contractors invited along to observe the spectacle.

"There were fantastic displays," said Army wife Samantha Cole. "The Red Arrows were great but there's nothing like the Apache."



Picture: Cpl Jamie Peters, RLC

## Fit to join the Army Reserve

**V**OLUNTEERS have taken the issue of slow recruitment into their own hands with the launch of free weekly fitness sessions for locals.

Named "Lion Fit" after the creature on their tactical recognition flash, members of 4th Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment run the event before their drill night at Wokingham Army Reserve Centre.

"It's proving really popular," explained Commanding Officer Lt Col Justin Tancred (Para), the brains behind the initiative.

The officer set up a similar scheme three years ago for The Parachute Regiment's Scotland-based volunteers.

He continued: "We had around 14 come along in the first week and 26 for the second week.

"The vast majority have been females but it's aimed at anyone over the age of 18."

The battalion now plans to roll out the lessons to its other sites.

"We are raising awareness about who we are while benefitting the community," Lt Col Tancred added.

"But if we can recruit people as well that will be a massive boost.

"After the first session alone we had two expressions of interest.

"And there's so many spin-off benefits too. For example, it's good experience for the PTIs to think about creative lessons.

"There's a lot of good humour involved; people enjoy it."

Although some units may be put off by red tape, the officer said these issues could be overcome and that more imaginative community engagement was needed.

"Static stands, I'm afraid, are just not very effective because the only people who tend to turn up to these events are ex-military personnel or those who are just passing," he said.

"Lion Fit is a warm way of drawing people in."

“It’s a warm way of drawing people in”



The good humoured sessions have created interest in the North West unit





## New EOD robots on the way

**D**EFENCE Secretary Sir Michael Fallon has announced that 56 innovative bomb disposal robots will be purchased for the British Army.

The kit, manufactured by US firm Harris, will be delivered to the UK and in service by December 2020.

Equipped with high-definition cameras, fast datalinks, an adjustable manipulation arm and tough all-terrain treads, they are able to neutralise a wide range of threats.

The model features special technology designed to provide operators with human-like dexterity while they work the robot's arm.

The remote control handgrip gives them physical feedback, allowing intuitive detailed control.

## TANK 1 - QUAD BIKE 0

**■** ROYAL Engineers have sent a stark message to off-roaders who trespass on MoD land by crushing a quad bike abandoned on Salisbury Plain.

A video released by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation showed a Trojan tank reducing the four-wheeled vehicle to a small lump of scrap metal.

According to Lt Col Stewart Andrews (RA), the senior training safety officer for SPTA, the countryside around Tidworth and Bulford is a "hotspot" for illegal motocross and 4x4 driving.

"The military participate in risk-to-life activities," he said.

"When people disregard the rules and leave the public rights of way and Ministry of Defence roads, they put themselves and others in danger and can also damage the fragile environment."

The destruction of the quad bike was part of Operation Aston, a partnership between the Army and the local council to deter trespassing on the military estate.



Pictures: DIO

## IN NUMBERS

# 57%

of 16 to 21-year-olds said pride in their work was important in a British Army survey into job priorities

# 67

per cent cited a good salary as a vital factor

# 39%

wanted to make a difference to others



Picture: Twitter

## QUEST ENDS IN TRAGEDY

**■** TRIBUTES have been paid to a former Reservist who died during a solo mission to kayak 4,000 miles down the Amazon River.

Emma Kelty (ex-RY) is believed to have been shot and killed by bandits on a stretch of river notorious for drug trafficking.

Searchers found the 46-year-old's kayak and some belongings after she triggered a distress signal in a remote area of Brazil.

Her body had not been recovered as this issue went to press but Brazilian police confirmed they had arrested a 17-year-old boy in connection with her murder.

Known as Tam, Ms Kelty was an intrepid explorer. She hiked the length of North America in 2015 and in January this year became one of only six women to trek solo to the South Pole.

Writing on LinkedIn, David Turner, a former Royal Yeomanry colleague, said: "Few people live the life they would like to live."

"Tam did. And the world is a far less interesting place for her passing."

## MUSICAL MERCY MISSION

**■** AN Army musician embarked upon a 500km cycle ride through Africa to raise money for underprivileged children.

Maj Jason Griffiths (CAMUS), director of The Band and Bugles of The Rifles, pedalled from Lusaka in Zambia to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe in aid of the charity Brass for Africa, which improves youngsters' lives through music.

To give his total a boost go to [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/Griffy](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/Griffy)



“I didn’t choose it and I can’t afford it”

”

Housing headaches

**TALKBACK**  
PAGE 47









# THE BIG PICTURE

CATTERICK, NORTH YORKSHIRE

## GAME OF STONES

STRONGMAN LCpl Richard Clark digs deep during the Catterick Highland Games. The 28-year-old and comrades from The Royal Dragoon Guards snatched victory from organisers 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, as well as teams from The Light Dragoons, 21 Engineer Regiment and The Royal Lancers. Among the other events to feature in the contest were throwing the bale and the hammer, hurling the stone, tossing the caber, and the tug of war.

Picture: Cpl Mark Webster, RLC



# LIVING IN A WAR ZONE?

If you and your family are stressed or drifting apart, you can end up taking it out on each other.

**Forcesline** is a free, independent helpline, that's outside of the chain of command for the Armed Forces and their families. We'll listen and help get you back on track.

## 0800 731 4880

Open weekdays, 9am to 5.30pm

Or get in touch online at [ssafa.org.uk/forcesline](https://ssafa.org.uk/forcesline)



# NEED TO KNOW

FITNESS / HEALTH / NUTRITION / KITBAG / CASH CLINIC / SKILLS & DRILLS

## How to set a personal best

Army athlete Maj Ady Whitwam (RLC) offers advice on surging ahead as a distance runner...



## Set your standard

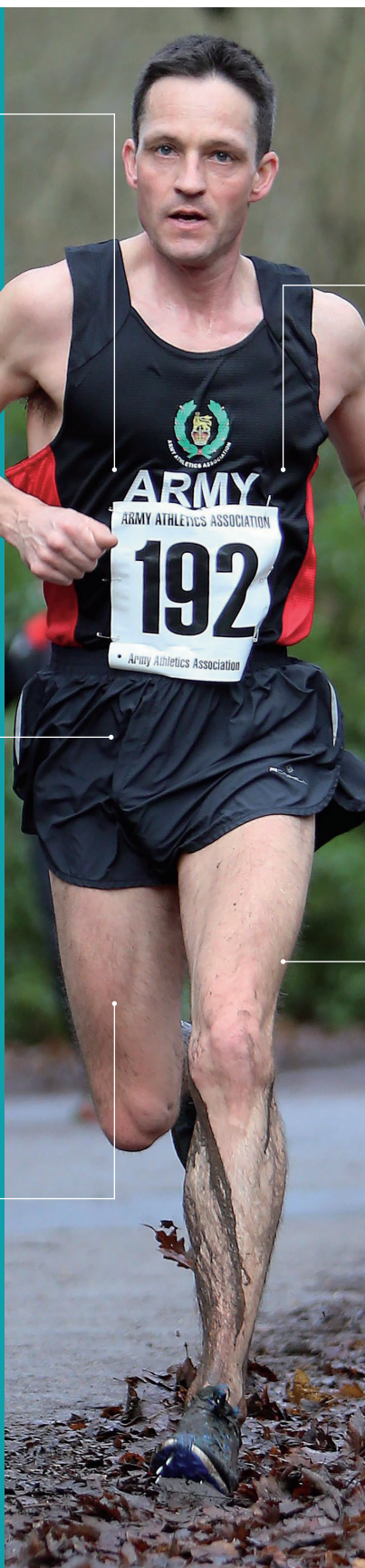
If you have never run a marathon before, don't expect to do your first one in 2hr 15min. Set a goal for a 10k, then a half marathon and use those results to gauge your fitness and ability. The times will offer a telling marker and manage your expectations.

## Be open-minded

Be prepared to try new approaches to training and racing, but don't feel compelled to follow the herd on every fad. Be selective and try things on a trial basis. If you don't find success, move on.

## Take advice

No athlete, whether seasoned professional or novice park runner, knows it all. Gravitate towards someone at a local running club or at work and ask for guidance. Even if you know lots, you can still learn more.



## Ditch the pressure

Achieving your goals with running will rarely happen overnight and seldom without lots of hard work; so, don't beat yourself up if every competition isn't your best. Enter a few races over a spread of months, and acknowledge that some will be stinkers, some will go like a dream, and some will be thoroughly unmemorable.

## Be realistic

Only aim for your absolute personal best if you are fit, healthy and under 30. If, like me, you are gliding gracefully into your 40s, consider an age-group best instead. Achieving a best as a 40-year-old or over-50 can be just as rewarding.

# SIX

tips to avoid injury...



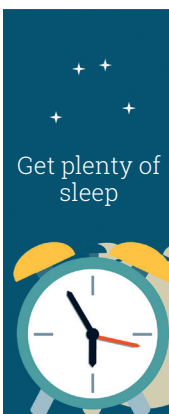
Don't do all your runs on roads



Don't wear old running shoes. Once they are done, throw them away

# >5-10%

Never increase weekly mileage by more than this amount



Get plenty of sleep

Hydrate well



Stretch



# The lowdown on Lyme disease



## DID YOU KNOW?

■ There are around 1,000 confirmed cases of Lyme disease in the UK each year but according to Public Health England the true figure could be more than three times that.

## What is it?

Lyme disease is a relatively rare but serious condition transmitted via tick bites. If left untreated, it can become debilitating and even fatal. So as people who spend a lot of time in woodland and grassy areas, Service personnel need to be on alert.

## Risk

Infected ticks can be found all over the UK as well as Europe and the US. They can lurk in woodland and parkland, urban parks and even gardens. You can be infected in any month, but spring and summer are most likely.

Approximate size of adult ticks



## How to prevent a bite



Apply **insect repellent** during outdoor activities



Consider treating clothing with the insecticide **permethrin**



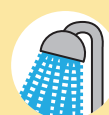
Wear **long sleeves** and tuck trousers into socks



Remember that **light coloured clothing** can make ticks easier to spot



**Stick to pathways** and steer clear of long grass where possible



**Shower** and check for ticks when you get home



**Check pets** too – one in three dogs are thought to carry ticks

## Actions on being bitten

Remove the tick as soon as possible but never pull it off with your fingers. Carefully detach it using a tick remover or a pair of very fine-tipped tweezers, ensuring no parts are left behind on the skin.

**Warning!** Never apply any creams, oil or heat to the tick and try to save it as it can be tested for infections.

## Diagnosis and treatment

Tick bites are easily missed and not normally itchy or painful, although you may get a rash in the shape of a bull's-eye around the bite. Look out for flu-like symptoms, headaches, fatigue, joint pain and behavioural changes, and seek medical advice if you get any. Your doctor can prescribe antibiotics. Without treatment, serious complications such as meningitis, facial palsy and nerve damage can develop.



## NUTRITION

# Ripe and ready

They're a great source of vitamins C and K, fibre, folic acid, manganese and potassium – not to mention antioxidants – so why not give this nutritious strawberry breakfast a go? All you need is a microwave.

### Ingredients

**94g**  
oat bran

**2 tbsp**  
oat flour

**2 tbsp**  
buckwheat

**1 tbsp**  
ground flaxseed

**1/2 tsp**  
baking powder

**pinch** of salt

**1/4 tsp**  
cinnamon

**1/2 tsp**  
vanilla

**2 tbsp**  
unsweetened apple sauce

**1/4 cup**  
almond milk

**1/2 cup**  
fresh strawberries, diced

low fat cooking spray

### How to make

- 1) Mix together the **oat bran, oat flour, buckwheat, flaxseed, baking powder, salt** and **cinnamon**
- 2) Stir in the **vanilla, apple sauce**, and **almond milk** until all dry ingredients are mixed
- 3) Gently fold in the **strawberries**
- 4) Spray a microwave-safe dish with **oil** and pour the batter in
- 5) Cook in the microwave for 1min 30secs or until the top is set
- 6) Allow to cool and serve



■ Visit [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk) and search for the *Healthy Soldier Cook Book* for more meal and smoothie ideas





# Game on

New simulator allows personnel to get creative on the battlefield

**UBVT:  
the  
score**

**115**

Players can be accommodated in each session

► THE millennial generation gets its knocks – too lazy, too fat, too whiny and too addicted to video games, to name just a few.

And, sure enough, in a meeting room at Ward Barracks in Bulford, *Soldier* found a group of them sitting on their backsides, twiddling their thumbs.

But platoon leader Sgt Luke Mason (Mercian) couldn't have been more impressed.

His troops were getting to grips with Unit Based Virtual Training (UBVT), a system that has succeeded the Joint Combat Operations Virtual Environment, or J-Cove.

"The older personnel tend to struggle with this type of training but most of my youngsters have mastered it in less than 20 minutes," the senior NCO said.

Around 30 soldiers were glued to monitors, using toggles on computer game-style consoles to control a simulated assault of Warrior armoured vehicles.

The graphics (shown right) feature a multitude of high-fidelity terrains, vehicles, weaponry, non-combatants and hostile forces.

"Most of them spend their evenings playing console games so they've really enjoyed this," Sgt Mason explained.

"The joy for me, as a platoon commander, is that I can experiment and try things I've never done before. And if it doesn't work we just reset and go again.

"The playback system is really useful too. We can watch attacks over and over again, see what we did right and wrong – the real world doesn't offer you that.

"Once we discover what works best we can apply that in live training."

While the J-Cove kit proved its worth, helping to train some 16,000 troops over the last eight years or so, it could only be employed for mission-specific preparations.

But UBVT can be used to support regular collective training as well.

Importantly, it works with Exonaut, an online tool the British Army already uses that gathers results and feedback in real time.

"It's a great CT1 and CT2 capability that allows commanders to hone crew, platoon and company-levels drills," said Lt Col Paddy Ginn, CO of 1st Battalion, The Mercian Regiment.

"Each mission lasts around 50 minutes and then we do an after-action review and repeat that three or four times in one day.

"That means when they're out on the ground they know where they fit in the overall picture.

"It gives my troops a head start and, as a result, we get more out of live training." ■



## For more info

Contact: [FdArmy-Trg-SimUBVT-Contractor@mod.uk](mailto:FdArmy-Trg-SimUBVT-Contractor@mod.uk)



**Demand for the system is already high**

At the time of writing, the Army had reserved

**73**  
eight-day training packages on the system, with

**50**  
already booked up by various units



# Cashflow crisis?

Try the 'piggybank technique' to help your pay packet go further each month...

## 1

### Select your main categories of spending

The aim is to have your books balancing, so you're not spending more than you earn. To do that you need to know how much you fork out on different areas of your life and put them into four or five categories. This could be bills, holidays, wedding savings, Christmas, clothes, hobbies or whatever works for you.

## 2

### Open the piggybanks

Now you know how much money you want to spend on different areas, set up a number of different savings accounts, each with cash in it for a different purpose. This means the money's effectively in little pots... or piggybanks. You should always have a main bank account and a bills account. Then pick the biggest three or four of your main spending categories for the others.

## 3

### Feed the piggies

Now feed each of the piggybanks, including the bills account, which you should always overestimate slightly. Set up standing orders from your main current account to shift the right amount of cash each month. Now when you look in your main account, you know it really shows how much you have to spend, as all the money for bills and other key areas has been shifted out.

■ Visit [www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com) for more cash saving tips



# Pulling together:

Do you have what it takes?

► WORLD-RENOWNED performance psychologist James Kerr (below) knows a thing or two about leadership.

His bestselling book *Legacy* reveals the lessons behind one of the most successful sporting outfits of all time, the All Blacks.

He also advises the US Army, Formula One teams and giants such as Google and Boeing on maximising staff productivity.

Quite a coup for the British Army, then, that he agreed to share his wisdom with instructors at 2 Army Training Regiment during an education and development day in Pirbright...

## Set your own standards.

At the start of the season most great sports teams will reboot what they expect from each other. This may include a set of new rules like turning up to all meetings ten minutes early for instance. The important thing is the standards are co-created. And your mates hold you accountable for your actions. One example occurred with the All Blacks in the run-up to the 2011 Rugby World Cup semi-final when two young players decided to drink heavily until six in the morning a couple of days before a match. They came back to the hotel expecting to be

in trouble with the coaching staff, but it was the players who sorted it out. It's much scarier to face the people you are directly letting down than any authority figure.

## Teamwork means different things to different people.

It's easy to assume people have the same values and experiences but they don't. Someone in your unit might never have participated in a team sport before so they have no idea what teamwork really means. Leaders need to model it and show what it looks like to bring it alive, maybe through



All Blacks celebrate after winning the 2011 Rugby World Cup  
Picture: Jean-François Beauséjour



“It's much scarier to face the people you are letting down”

setting up something like a buddy system. The group should write down what teamwork means to them. To have it communicated so explicitly can be very powerful and galvanises any crew really quickly.

## Good leaders are storytellers.

The Army, like many top sports teams, has a set of strong values but as with any organisation they can become tired after a while. So leaders need to be storytellers and be able to bring things to life in a fresh and engaging way through specific examples and experiences because that helps other individuals to connect with those values.

## Get to know what makes people tick.

A recruit might have joined for a square meal or to learn a trade. A leader doesn't have to be the troops' best friend or a surrogate parent but taking the time and having the emotional intelligence to fathom what is motivating different people is the key to successful leadership.

## Prepare to take small steps.

All Black rugby legend Sean Fitzpatrick once famously said: "Excellence is modest improvement, consistently done". Teams don't have to achieve everything

at once, they need to put the extra in to constantly improve. It is the little extras that champions do that mark them out from the average; they know how valuable the aggregation of marginal gains are.

## Punishment is an opportunity.

Use it to build a sense of personal responsibility to the team. An activity that does not contribute to the wellbeing of all, like shifting bricks from one side of the compound to the other, is futile but building a new bar for the mess, for example, adds to the positive vibe of the unit.

■ Final Word – page 82



# HOT IN HERE

## The Welsh Cavalry take the heat in California

**T**HE Mojave Desert might just be as far from the lush valleys of Wales as it is possible to get.

Barren terrain, temperatures of more than 45 degrees Celsius and the driest climate in North America mark this place out as one of the most inhospitable environments on earth.

But for the Queen's Dragoon Guards, also known as the Welsh Cavalry, this unforgiving place has been home for the past two months.

Exercise Diamondback has seen a battlegroup of some 250 personnel and 50 vehicles operating alongside US Forces at Fort Irwin's National Training Centre.

The purpose? To test their light cavalry reconnaissance capability within two separate American formations: 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division and 2nd Stryker Brigade.

Manoeuvring through the night and observing from concealed positions during the day, the British troops have been acting as the eyes and ears of the almost 3,000-strong force, all the while contending with a free-thinking and well-equipped opposition.

Coming just as the QDGs were preparing to step up to high-readiness, the package was a useful opportunity to practise interoperability, especially as from next spring they will be embedded in a US brigade as part of Nato's enhanced forward presence in Poland.

With C Squadron due to complete their stint in California as this issue went to press, *Soldier* caught up with members of B Squadron, freshly returned from the first rotation, to find out what they made of their time in the desert...











The QDG battlegroup was made up of troops from the Royal Yeomanry, Royal Dragoon Guards, 4 Regiment, Royal Artillery and 36 Engineer Regiment and supported by observer-mentors from Batus. The 50-strong vehicle fleet comprised Jackals and Coyotes as primary light cavalry platforms, as well as the Panther command support and liaison vehicle.



## Capt Hamish Barcroft



It was a great opportunity to be part of an exercise of that scale in an environment we are not normally exposed to.

Our vehicles are designed specifically for that kind of terrain though, so it was good to be able to test their capabilities as well as ours in that setting.

Seeing the similarities or differences in the Americans' doctrine and operating procedures was good. We'll be working with other Nato members on Op Cabrit in Poland next year so the key thing was practising interoperability and giving the squadron the chance to develop their skills as recce soldiers, which they will also be using when we're out there.



## Tpr Luke Parsons



The ground was the biggest challenge because the terrain was so uneven and hard to cross. We did a 16km insertion tab in the dark onto one of the observation posts and it was difficult to concentrate on where you were putting your feet and scan for the enemy at the same time.

The temperatures got up to 45 degrees Celsius in the day, which is pretty tough in all your kit. The desert was overwhelming. There's nothing but sand and mountains as far as you can see.



## Sgt Alex Doolan

Working with another nation was challenging but rewarding. Our main role is to push forward and put in observation posts to identify and report on targets. Calling in American artillery took longer than normal because everything had to go all the way up the chain of command and back down again. It was good preparation for the lads for Poland, though – it's little things like understanding their rank structure and how their battalions and companies are organised.



## Cpl Nick Pitt

The enemy didn't fully understand our skills so for the first ten days we ran rings around them. Then they clocked on and made it their main effort to find us.

They seemed to throw numbers and as much armour as they could at us, although our troop didn't get seen. It's a lot more realistic having a freethinking enemy, especially for the young lads who wouldn't have experienced that before or seen how all of the different levels of command work.





A close-up photograph of a tree trunk covered in vibrant green moss. The background is a blurred forest floor with fallen branches and more moss. The text 'Mind over mountain' is overlaid in large white letters.

# Mind over mountain

INFANTRY SOLDIERS PUT TO TEST IN SLOVENIA





“Everything  
you do is ten  
times harder”

Report: Sarah Goldthorpe Pictures: Peter Davies

RAIN cascades down the tree trunks of the Julian Alps. On brighter days this majestic

landscape would see tourists and enthusiastic hikers losing themselves in its slopes.

But today the weather is unseasonably grim and still, with movement only in the dark rolling sky, the cool wind and the relentless, hissing precipitation.

The sole humans inhabiting this place now are Reservists from 4th Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment along with their international allies.

And not just any allies, these troops are members of Slovenia's 132nd Mountain Regiment – part of Nato's Centre of Excellence for Mountain Warfare.

Along with soldiers from the US Colorado National Guard, they have deployed with the Brits on Exercise Triglav Star, named after the highest peak in the region (2,864m).

And as well as the obvious benefits of learning new skills and drills in mountain operations, this package is helping to clear the air.

"There's a concern amongst our European allies that because of Brexit Britain may not take its role in Nato as seriously," explains the unit's commanding officer Lt Col Justin Tancred.

"So any chance we get to demonstrate our resolve is good.

"This exercise is doing that."

More than 105 Reservists, including members of 4th Battalion, The Yorkshire





“It really improves your admin”

**Roll call:** Reservists from 4th Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, 4th Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment and The Queen's Own Yeomanry join members of Slovenia's 132nd Mountain Regiment and troops from the US Colorado National Guard on Exercise Triglav Star in Slovenia

➔ Regiment and The Queen's Own Yeomanry, have travelled to the central European country, which is renowned for its mountains and lakes.

And after tabbing up a narrow, slimy slope next to the green, swirling Sava Bohinjka river, it is time for a platoon to get stuck into a rope river crossing.

No let-up here for anyone troubled by heights; the afternoon sees the same troops scramble up wet, loose rocks to reach a hostile-

looking cliff face that they must abseil down while carrying their weapon.

"The mountains really improve your admin because everything you do here is ten times harder," says section commander LCpl Alastair Bowes (Lancs).

"Movement over the terrain is challenging, and doing it tactically would be very difficult I imagine.

"It's very easy to think only about yourself in this environment because the guys are cold and tired."

Kgn Wayne Blakeley (Lancs) agrees.

"It's a killer on your legs, and the weight you have to carry," he adds.

"If you were doing this on your own you would give up, but because of the good crack you have with the lads they spur you on to finish."

After a controlled descent of the vertical rock, these personnel will also undertake a 16km hike around Mount Triglav where they can expect to reach snow.

First aid drills and low-level







## Head for heights

Five tips from Slovenia's 132nd Mountain Regt for soldiering in this environment...

- Expect the worst. Pack for all eventualities and ensure you have enough supplies to survive for a period longer than expected
- Ensure that more than one medical plan is established, to cover a no flight zone should the weather close in
- Do not test new or unproven equipment during mountain operations
- Consider attachments, indigenous troops or anyone accompanying your element as a potential risk. Ensure they are properly trained and will not become a liability when conditions worsen
- Use a layered approach to preparing kit. Think about using a rack or load carrying system, instead of attaching all items to your armour. This frees you up from carrying all your weight around all the time

tactics for fighting in woods and forests are also going to be put to the test, before a three-night final exercise.

"This is something different," admits ex-Regular LCpl Christopher Simpson (Lancs, pictured below).

"We've got to use different bits of kit, and it's great for our recce platoons to learn stuff like the river crossing.

"It's just another way of doing things."

Kgn Calum Omand (Lancs) is not taking the overseas element of the package for granted, either.

"If you're going to get soaking wet you might as well do it in a nice country you haven't been to before," he tells *Soldier*.

"It certainly makes you appreciate how

well trained the Slovenians are. They are subject matter experts."

Pte Jack Robinson (Yorks) adds: "This really is a beautiful country.

"The Slovenian soldiers are very welcoming and the American personnel are fun to work with.

"We have been able to talk about the different way we would approach things, and learn about mountain medicine too, which has been so interesting.

"A lot of it is to do with keeping patients alive for as long as possible. You need to know proper tourniquet positions and how to stem serious blood loss."

War in a mountainous environment may not be imminent, or even likely, for the British Army.

But according to the battalion's CO the lessons are still valuable.

"It's important for our troops to experience the widest possible variety of potential operating environments," he explains.

"As with jungle warfare, every soldier should practise operating in mountainous terrain because you never know when you will be required to do it.

"These are brand new skills we are using, and that's a wonderful opportunity."

With a trip to the ancient town of Bled also being worked into the schedule before returning home, it is easy to see how this package will become a highlight of this unit's year.

And should they be mobilised to an alpine environment at any point soon, they will also prove a force to be reckoned with. ■





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Gary Jamieson, former Scots Guardsman, injured in Afghanistan in 2010, Charity Beneficiary. © Malcolm Cochrane







# 'I'LL BE BACK'

Robots are set to revolutionise the resupply of soldiers on the front line

**M**OST workers on civvy street dread words such as automation and autonomous for obvious reasons but in the not-too-distant future British Army soldiers will be more than happy to hear these terms banded about – because they could be life-savers.

Imagine being engaged in a firefight and a medical pack is dropped at your feet by a drone just when you need it, or a resupply of bullets arrives when your gun starts to run low on ammunition.

It might seem fanciful but, actually, the technology is already on our doorstep.

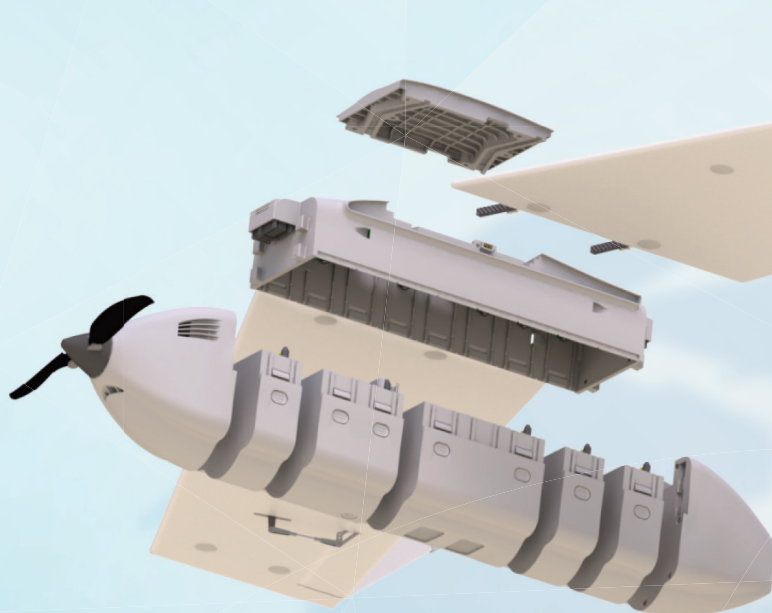
The rapid advances in autonomous systems, not

only in material terms but also in ideas and concepts, is staggering to behold and they are being spurred on by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory. It commissioned its so-called Accelerator competition, this year to find highly innovative ideas from industry and academia that use autonomous systems to deliver mission-critical supplies, focusing on operating from a base or logistics vehicle to replenish personnel on the front line.

The winners of the contest were announced at this year's Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) trade fair in London, where many of these radical concepts were already on display.

Read on to find out more about some of the futuristic products that have the potential to become a common sight on the battlefield in years to come...





## # Press button autonomous resupply

Two companies, 2iC and Blue Bear, are working together to produce a system that will potentially lead to soldiers being resupplied by an unmanned ground vehicle or a modular airborne drone (above) that can deliver a wide range of items literally at the touch of a button.

They will need to be wearing "smart vests", which are already under development, that contain power packs and can communicate with ground stations many miles away.

The troops will be able to call up medical or ammunition, for example, whenever their stocks run low. The smart vest may even be able to count the number of rounds discharged by the soldier's gun and send for a resupply drone automatically.

The materiel would then literally be dropped at their feet.

The two companies are now laying the foundation for providing a cost-effective MoD-owned software system into which third parties will be able to plug in similar land and air capabilities in the future.

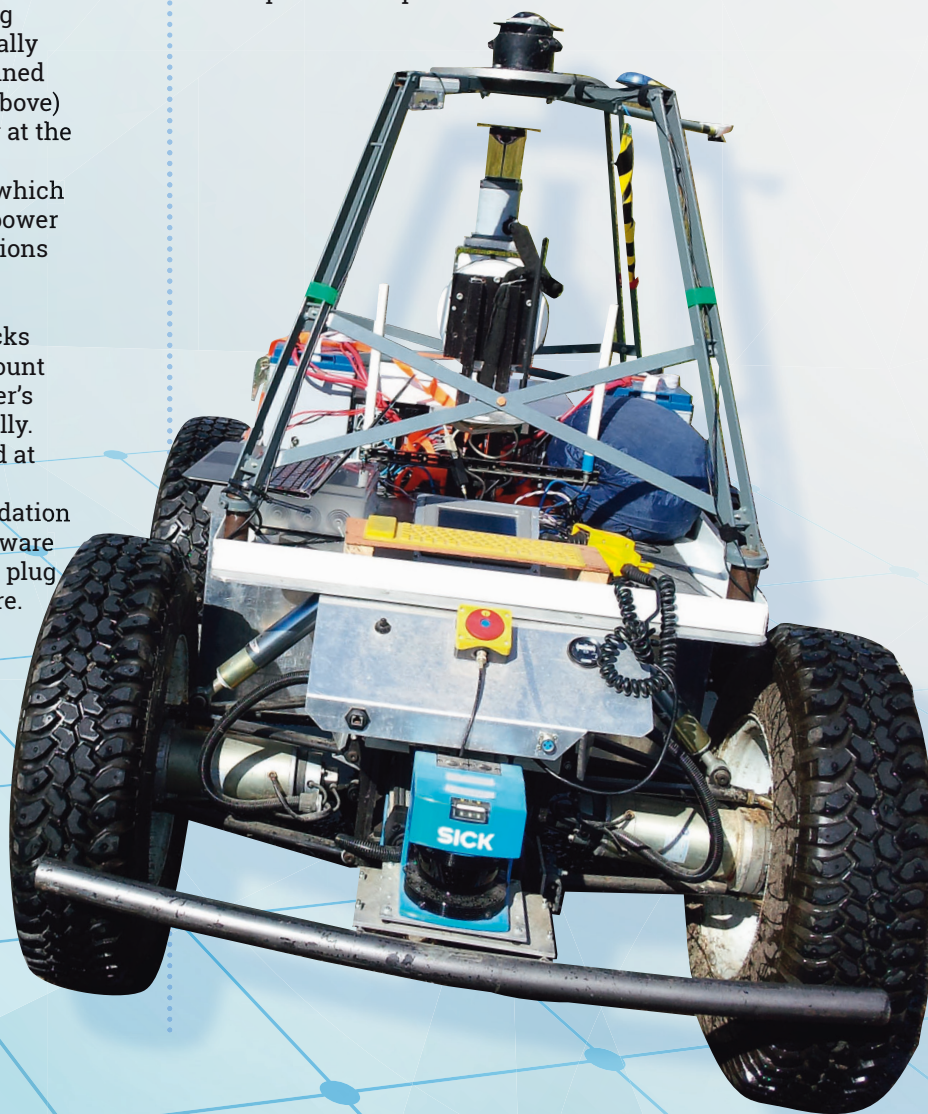
“  
The troops will be able to call  
up medical or ammunition  
whenever their stocks run low  
”

## # Self-navigating unmanned ground vehicles

Aberystwyth University and QinetiQ are producing a novel system that controls ground-based vehicles using only cameras.

In effect, it will be programmed in the same fashion as a soldier would be verbally briefed ("follow the river bank for three miles, turn left and cross fields until you come to a road," etc) and will use cameras to recognise features on the landscape and react accordingly.

Communicating such routes from maps and memory is easy for trained personnel. This will replicate that process for an autonomous machine.



Picture: Aberystwyth University



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## # UAS swarm with robotic hangars

This swarm of small, high-speed, fixed-wing, vertical take-off and landing aircraft are equipped with their own robotic hangar, which together form an autonomous system small enough to be installed on camp or on top of a truck or armoured vehicle.

Marble Aerospace is developing drones that can cruise at 180km/h and with a 120km range for pinpoint soldier resupply, or to establish high throughput logistics corridors with continuous shipping of materiel through multiple swarmed systems. Once installed, the vehicles can commute between all the robotic hangars in the network, forming a permanent, autonomous supply of goods.

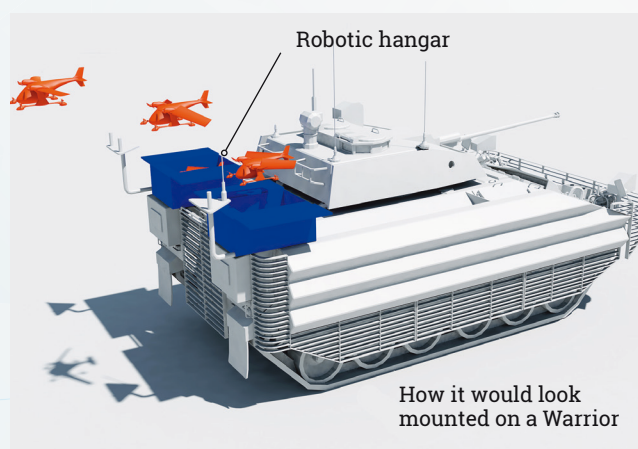
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A robust, reliable and efficient supply vehicle based on the company's existing SR-1 Eagle Owl platform

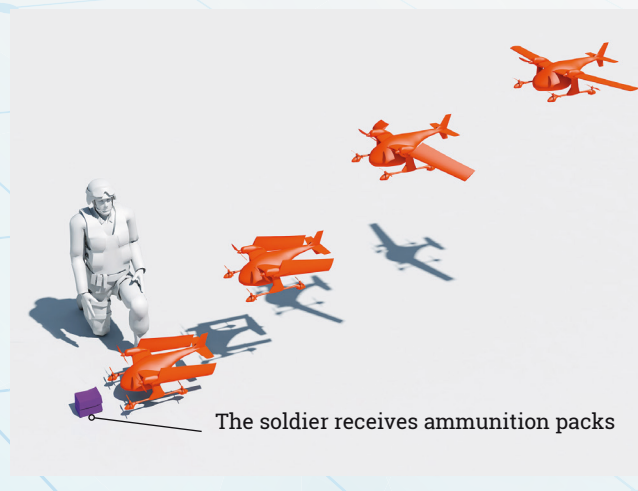
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## # Autonomous supply UAV

This rugged unmanned aerial vehicle has been designed for superior endurance (up to two hours), payload (20kgs) and range (up to 180kms), depending on operating conditions. Designed by SteelRock UAV Solutions, it is billed as a robust, reliable and efficient supply vehicle based on the company's existing SR-1 Eagle Owl platform and includes software and signal encryption to ensure the secure supply of vital kit to front-line troops.



How it would look mounted on a Warrior



The soldier receives ammunition packs





Picture: Plextek

## # Micro-radar for all weathers

This proposal focuses on the provision of a low size, weight and power radar which can be mounted on a drone in order to provide a day and night, all-weather situational awareness capability.

Plextek's technology will provide the drone with range, bearing and information on potential hazards such as buildings, trees, telegraph poles and wires to support operations in complex battlefield environments, in addition to being able to survey the ground surface to ensure it is suitable for landing.

## # All-terrain armoured UGV

BAE Systems is currently developing the Ironclad unmanned ground vehicle, designed to support mechanised and light infantry.

It is small enough to be transportable without the need for a trailer, but powerful enough to take up to 500kg of equipment. Its compact dimensions also make it ideal for operating in tight urban spaces.

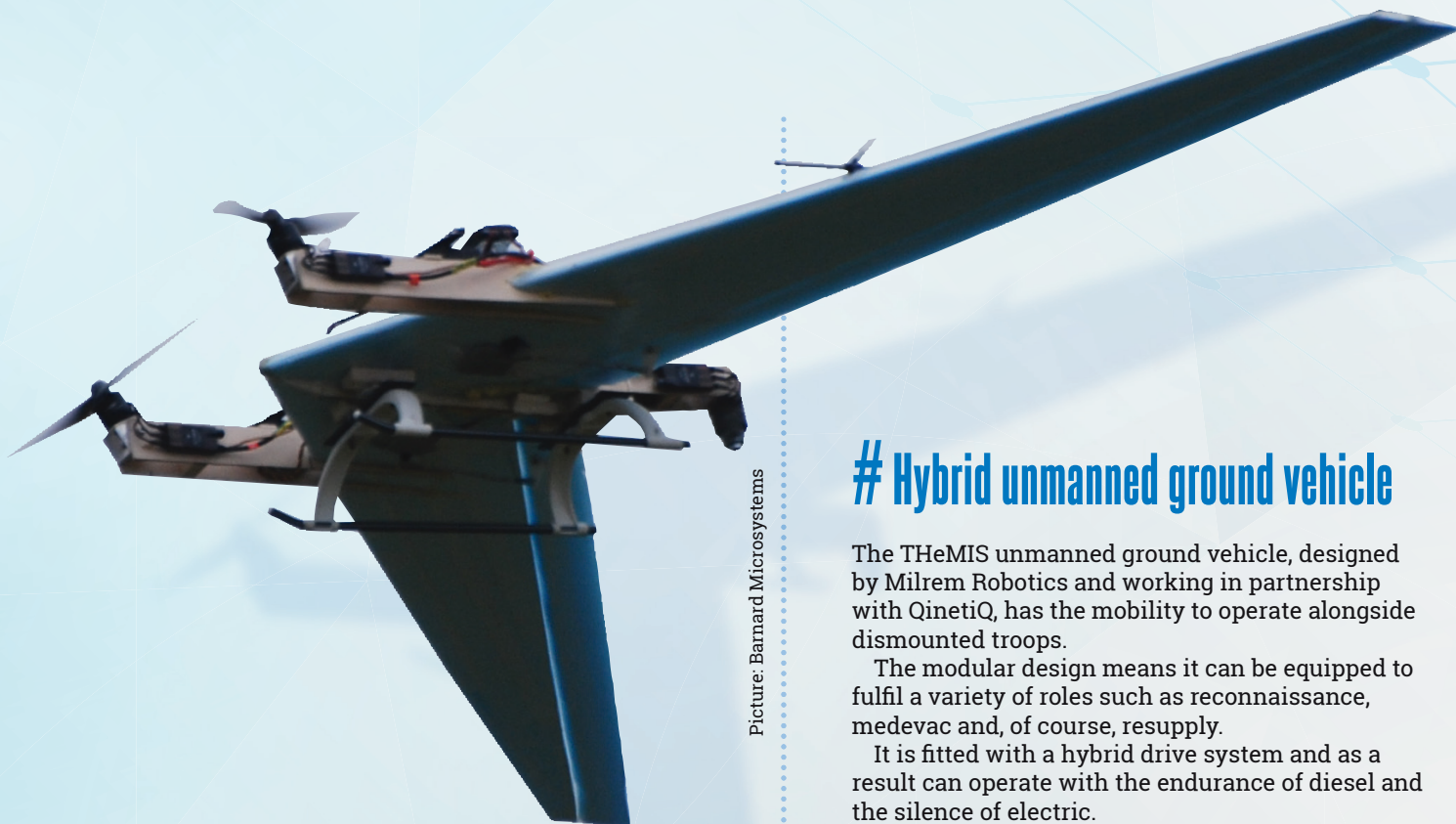
Future versions will be able to navigate their own way to a final destination and have built-in obstacle avoidance capability.

“  
Future versions will be  
able to navigate their own  
way to a final destination  
”



Picture: BAE Systems





Picture: Barnard Microsystems

## # Hybrid unmanned ground vehicle

The THEMIS unmanned ground vehicle, designed by Milrem Robotics and working in partnership with QinetiQ, has the mobility to operate alongside dismounted troops.

The modular design means it can be equipped to fulfil a variety of roles such as reconnaissance, medevac and, of course, resupply.

It is fitted with a hybrid drive system and as a result can operate with the endurance of diesel and the silence of electric.

## # UAV for complex military environments

Barnard Microsystems is developing unmanned aerial vehicles equipped with satellite-based navigation and collision avoidance systems to enable them to operate beyond radio line of sight, so they can be deployed in complex military environments such as urban areas.

They will use optical navigation to enable them to accurately travel without GPS and the company is planning to extend the capability of the autopilot to adapt to changing weather conditions.

“It can be equipped to fulfil a variety of roles such as reconnaissance, medevac, and, of course, resupply”



Picture: Milrem





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# DRONES TAKE FLIGHT

RACERS APPEAL  
FOR FRESH  
TALENT AS BID  
FOR SPORTING  
STATUS  
GATHERS PACE

Report: Richard Long Picture: Graeme Main







“You are flying round a course at 90mph and that has huge appeal.”

UNMANNED aerial vehicles have been a mainstay of military life for some time. But the phenomenon now stretches much further than Forces circles, with drones readily available for use in a variety of capacities in the civilian world.

So to see the pursuit rapidly evolve into the sporting sphere has come as no surprise.

Drone racing began as an amateur discipline in late 2014 but a significant spike in interest and investment over the past two years has led to the creation of highly competitive international leagues, with the winner of the last World Championships in Dubai scooping 250,000 US dollars in prize money.

And this is anything but a traditional sport.

Participants control drones equipped with cameras while wearing head-mounted displays showing a live stream from the device. They then steer the craft with handheld controls.

Similar to full-size air racing, the goal is to complete a set course in the quickest time possible. Events are often held at night with the track – and drones – illuminated by bright lights, while footage from the top stars attracts hundreds of thousands of views on various YouTube channels.

With such excitement emanating from the emerging sport the Army is getting involved courtesy of racers from the Royal Artillery.

The brainchild of drone enthusiast Maj Karl Eze, the set-up already boasts almost 40 members from a host of cap badges, with regular training sessions held in the skies around Larkhill.

The team defeated the Royal Air Force in a special challenge match in the summer and plans are now in place for a rapid expansion over the coming years.

“It is about getting the publicity out there so more people can get involved,” Eze (pictured left) told *Soldier*. “Once they get confident in what they are doing, and

we have four or five guys from each cap badge, we can look at forming corps teams.

“That is what we need if we are to go to the Army Sports Control Board and seek sporting status within the Service.”

Eze has been competing at national level for two years but only thought about forming the team in November 2016.

The Royal Artillery Servicemen were quick to add their support and the officer found a handful of counterparts who were progressing along a similar path under their own steam.

“We formed the squad in June and since then it has really gathered pace,” he added.

“We train two or three times a week in terms of live flying and another two or three while using a simulator.

“Our Facebook page is also proving to be very useful. Because we have cameras on-board we are able to make video posts and the footage has attracted a lot of views. The word is spreading.”

The sport holds plenty of attraction for junior personnel. Racing quadcopters can accelerate from 0-60mph in less than a second, while top speeds can approach 90mph.

The cutting-edge technology used to fly the drones also provokes interest and with Sky Sports now broadcasting events the exposure is growing.

“If you look at our team there are a lot of members from UAV regiments,” Eze added. “They have an interest in this through their careers.

“But we are now getting people from different Army backgrounds reaching out to us.

“Part of what we are doing is reducing the time, money and effort needed to get started.

“If you are a young soldier why would you not want to get involved? This is like a fast-paced video game, but in a real-life setting.

“You are flying round a course at 90mph and that has huge appeal. We want to push drone racing to junior personnel who are looking to take up a new sport. With the backing of our organisation hopefully they can reach the world stage.” ■

● To get involved visit the **Army Drone Racing Facebook page** or email **armydroneracing@gmail.com**





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Hants, GU34 2QG Or by email – [careers@augustus-oils.ltd.uk](mailto:careers@augustus-oils.ltd.uk).





## Forced down a costly road?

**I** HAVE a gripe about Service family accommodation property charges because I'm paying for a band A property when it's in band C.

The housing I've been allocated is a major's property, but I am a captain and do not accept that I should be paying a band A price for it.

I did not choose it and cannot afford it. I am entitled to a three-bedroom house and have no requirement for a fourth. It's not my issue if there are no other properties available.

If it were not for the extra bedroom the house would be classified as a type 5, band C property.

As such, I can't see why I'm having to pay an extra three pounds per day for a bedroom I'm not entitled to or don't want. — **Name and address supplied**

**Col Nathan Sempala-Ntege, Assistant Head, Personal Services, replies:**

As a captain your entitlement is to a type 5 property but you have been allocated a type 4 because of a lack of those sorts of houses in your location – this is termed an "allocation above entitlement for

service reasons".

When this happens the payment is whichever is the lower; the band for charge (BFC) for the property you occupy or the band A charge for the property to which you are entitled.

This is done to ensure people are not financially disadvantaged by this particular type of allocation.

In your case, you are not being charged for a band C, type 4 property, but rather for a band A, type 5.

The BFC is assessed using the combined accommodation assessment system (CAAS), however, each property is characterised not only by the number of bedrooms but other indicators too, including size.

This means that the CAAS band is relative and not absolute: the property you are in, if it could be assessed as a type 5, would not necessarily be band C – it may be graded higher due to its size.

Should you wish to move into a type 5 house you can request to do so and may be given the opportunity to move when availability permits.

# Talkback

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

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 🐦 [@soldiermagazine](https://twitter.com/soldiermagazine)

## THE IMPORTANCE OF DUNKIRK HISTORY LESSON

● THE August issue of *Soldier* was the first edition I've ever seen and I'm impressed with what I read.

I believe it's important to make the younger generations aware of the experiences of those who went before them.

Your article on Alfred Smith at Dunkirk brought back memories of my father, who was in the Welsh Guards and fought a rearguard action to enable soldiers to be rescued from the beaches.

He disappeared, and my mother was told he'd been killed in action, leaving her to bring up four young children.

Later the Red Cross informed her that he'd been found alive and was interned in a camp in Poland for nearly six years. — **Richard Hollifield, Bargoed, Wales**





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“We have to weigh up whether it's worth it”

# TALKBACK



Picture: Peter Davies

## ‘Allowance cut left us stranded’

**T**HE get you home (travel) allowance was withdrawn from all members of the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) in August with only 21 days' notice.

The reason given was that we are classified as non-mobile.

As a rule, we are not sent more than thirty miles from our unit, but the choice of locations offered on joining can be much further from our homes.

Also, MPGS personnel move their work location on a regular basis, for promotion or when bases open or close.

During a four-day shift many of us stay in camp, away from our families.

If we choose to move our loved ones with us then, surely, we should be classified as mobile.

As a result of the revision to the allowance, we have to weigh up carefully whether it's worth moving to gain promotion because of the financial losses it may incur, so I'd like to know if the rules could be revised in view of our situation. – **Name and address supplied**

**Col John Oldroyd, Army Pay Colonel, Remuneration Policy, Personnel Directorate, replies:** The objective

of this allowance is to reduce the impact of separation on personnel and improve retention while supporting the mobile nature of the job.

MPGS soldiers serve on a military local service engagement which provides employment by mutual agreement in a location, and are not required to be mobile.

The decision to serve in a particular location is a personal choice made by MPGS soldiers on this type of engagement. Separation is not imposed on them.

In light of concerns raised previously by these personnel on this subject, a review, including a six-month consultation period, was undertaken examining the policy and how it was being interpreted.

This review sought representation from a large group of stakeholders and included all three Services at MoD level, as well as the Field Army and key MPGS staff based within Army Headquarters.

It concluded that the policy should be made clearer but that MPGS soldiers would remain ineligible for the GYH(T) allowance.

“The time frame is unrealistic”

## POLICY DOESN'T MATCH REALITY

● I AM one of many unable to use the over-37 entitlement to move their family into a privately-owned house as the caveats within the policy do not allow for the fractured nature of house purchases.

We made the decision to resettle so my daughter could have a full year in her new school prior to starting secondary education.

According to JSP 752, I had to apply for the entitlement within or at six months of assignment, which I was at the cusp of.

Although we were very lucky and found a house quickly I was outside the six-month window and I'd like to know why there is such a limit.

The new employment model encourages family mobility but the six-month time frame is unrealistic given the nature of house purchases. – **Name and address supplied**

**Col John Oldroyd, Army Pay Colonel, Remuneration Policy, Personnel Directorate, replies:** All allowances have to have clear boundaries, otherwise they wouldn't be affordable.

This one has to be taken up within six months of one of the following: a change to personal status category one or two; a new assignment or unit move; or on reaching the age of 37.

Extending the six-month boundary could allow personnel to claim disturbance expense and movement and storage of personal effects twice for a single assignment.

It is recognised that no housing model can ever fully satisfy the wants of all individuals and it is expected that this one will be reviewed as part of the development of the future accommodation model, which aims to improve choice, help more people to live in the private sector and meet their aspirations for home ownership, whilst still fulfilling the needs of the UK Armed Forces.



## RANT OF THE MONTH



Get it off your chest and on social media



[www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine](http://www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine)

Our report on new Gurkha recruits acclimatising themselves to the British way of life in Darlington produced a warm reaction on Facebook...



**Stephen Phipps**

My father served in Burma, Malaysia and Singapore with the Gurkhas, and told me they were the best and bravest soldiers he ever met. Always welcome here.



**Nigel Savage**

Look like pussycats in suits but tigers in uniform. Welcome to the North East lads.



**Ben von Stockhausen**

Remember back in 1945 they defended the innocent Dutch Indonesians and the Dutch valiantly.



**Yvonne Masters**

Our friend was a major in the Gurkhas and I have great respect for them.



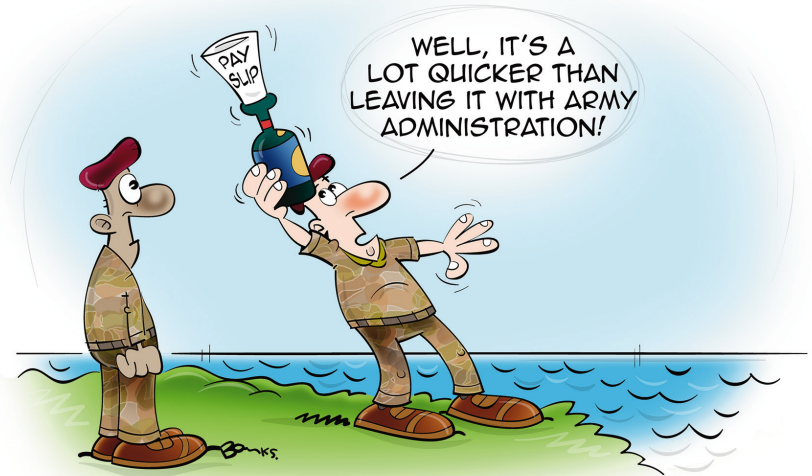
**Anne Russell**

They are very loyal and also very brave.



**Annie Watsham**

Welcome guys. You're incredible and an example to us all.



## Reserves pay the price

I AM becoming tired of the Army's terrible administration.

When will we realise that this failing destroys morale and hampers Service recruitment?

As a former adjutant and regimental administrative officer I believe I have an informed opinion on the matter.

One of my biggest concerns is our inability to pay Reservists in a reasonable time frame and reliably enough to allow them to plan.

To give an example, a unit I am currently working with processes pay sheets a month late – so June's man training days wouldn't be processed until July.

When you add a paper-based system relying on attendance registers being signed at least twice and then entered into Churchill and JPA you can see how the timeline can slip further.

And when Reserves are away on leave they face even greater delays.

I've not even mentioned the seemingly arbitrary pay cut-off dates that often fall around the 15th of a month, meaning that if you were unfortunate enough to work a man training day on or around this date you will not see that money for around six weeks at the least.

And don't even start me on bonus payment delays.

It's time to throw some money at a civilian consultancy and get this long-term problem fixed. – **Name and address supplied**

**Lt Col Jason Hurndall, Directorate Reserves, Army Headquarters, responds:** The pay process imposed

by Defence Business Services is not arbitrary but is required to ensure accuracy and timeliness.

There are a number of control measures imposed (the cut-off for attendance-based pay is set within this framework) and any deviation or condensing of this process creates an unacceptable risk of errors.

Within these pay windows, units must process their own pay.

The reliability of this system is unit-level business and your experience is not the norm, with the vast majority of units (and permanent staff administration officers) doing their very best to pay their people the right amount and in a punctual way.

The unit should process all attendance-based pay within the salary run dates each month; this allows the soldier to receive a full month's money on time.

This is uploaded through a Churchill bulk upload or individual element entry.

The addition of the Reserve attendance and pay service programme (see page 11) will assist in the administrative burden but will still require someone to send it to JPA.

The only reason why funds could miss the pay run is if those with access to that system are away leading up to pay day.

This should be mitigated by both resilience planning and ensuring the administration staff process the funds at regular intervals throughout the month rather than waiting until just before they are due.

“It destroys morale and hampers recruitment”





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Note that British Army personnel can only wear non-standard equipment when specifically authorised by the chain of command\*



# BULLET POINTS

Bite-sized data to keep you in the know



## COMPETITIONS

**Spine line winner:** Bill Jamieson, AMC, Army HQ Scotland, Stirling.

**Last Man Club DVD:** Michelle Dale, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire; Lynda Cross, MoD Lyneham, Chippenham; Lisa Telford, Wing Support Officer, Chicksands, Shefford; Chris Headland, Lincolnshire; Ronnie Grundy, Andover, Hampshire.



## DIARY

**Until October 8:** Bomb disposal charity, Felix Fund, will hold its first art exhibition and auction of original works by serving personnel and others with links to the EOD community at the Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot. Visit [www.felixfund.org.uk](http://www.felixfund.org.uk) for details.

**October 12:** Army Servicewomen's Network conference at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. For details on how to register read Army briefing note **103/17**.

**October 12-20:** The Band of the Coldstream Guards concert tour – October 12, De Montfort Hall, Leicester at 1930 and featuring *X Factor* winner Sam Bailey (call 0116 233 3111 for tickets); October 13, Hull City Hall at 1930 (call 01482 300306); October 20, Lincoln Cathedral at 1930 (call 01522 561 644).

**November 6-11:** The Armed Forces Art Society will hold its *Articles of War* exhibition at the Lighthouse Gallery in Glasgow. For details visit [www.afas.org.uk/exhibitions](http://www.afas.org.uk/exhibitions)



## DIRECTORY

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

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

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

**Armed Forces Muslim Association:**  
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[www.afma.org.uk](http://www.afma.org.uk)

**Armed Services Advice Project:**  
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**Army Families Federation:**  
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[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:**  
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**Blind Veterans UK:**  
(formerly St Dunstan's)  
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[www.careaftercombat.org](http://www.careaftercombat.org)

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

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

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**Family Escort Service:**  
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**Felix Fund – the bomb disposal charity:**  
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**Forces Pension Society:**  
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**Regular Forces' Employment Association:**  
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[www.legionscotland.org.uk](http://www.legionscotland.org.uk)

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



## INTELLIGENCE

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

**ABN 105/17:** Data protection information portal

**ABN 104/17:** The Army Reserve sub-strategy

**ABN 103/17:** Army Servicewomen's Network conference 2017

**ABN 102/17:** Army training governance changes

**ABN 101/17:** Black, Asian and minority ethnic mentoring programme

**ABN 100/17:** Lived experience study

**ABN 99/17:** Continuity of education allowance termly rates effective for academic year 2017/18

**DIN 2017DIN01-149:** MoD NHS/Agenda for Change grades pay award 2017

**DIN 2017DIN01-148:** Service of prayer for the Armed Forces – November 9

**DIN 2017DIN01-147:** Defence science, technology, engineering and maths youth engagement – civil service implementation plan

**DIN 2017DIN01-146:** Permanent transfer overseas – schooling allowances

**DIN 2017DIN01-145:** Defence adaptive sport and adventurous training for recovery

**DIN 2017DIN01-144:** 2017 Pay award for MoD community development workers

**DIN 2017DIN01-143:** Participation in LGBT Pride events outside of London

**DIN 2017DIN01-142:** Remembrance Day 2017 and The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Continued on page 54



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Continued from page 52

**DIN 2017DIN01-140:** 2017 Pay award for MoD community development officers

**DIN 2017DIN01-139:** Basic skills development managers threshold assessment guidance

**DIN 2017DIN02-007:** Risk balance case process uplift to the defence assurance risk tool

**DIN 2017DIN04-153:** Use of MoD F731 equipment conditioning label

**DIN 2017DIN04-152:** Planned withdrawal of support and disposal of obsolete items from artillery system project team

**DIN 2017DIN04-151:** The Disposal Services Authority name change to become the Defence Equipment Sales Authority on September 1

**DIN 2017DIN04-149:** Tricat new database implementation

**DIN 2017DIN04-148:** Notice of transfer of ownership – 3M Peltor ComTac XPI

**DIN 2017DIN04-147:** Return of serviceable A1/A2 laser light module

Mk 2 to Leidos B54 Donnington to cease immediately

**DIN 2017DIN04-146:** Military working dogs – change to provisioning and demanding of dog food

**DIN 2017DIN04-145:** Project Hadron – the disestablishment of Airport of Embarkation Wing (APOE) at RAF Brize Norton on September 1, amalgamation of the Air Movements Squadron and 1 Air Mobility Wing and re-brigading of other APOE capabilities under Ops Wing and Eng and Logs Wing

**DIN 2017DIN04-144:** Declaration of obsolescence – dummy load NSN 5985-01-563-2047

**DIN 2017DIN04-143:** Declaration of obsolete and out-of-service of Blackhawk, Saxon, Brutal and Discrete body armour equipment within DMC CN

**DIN 2017DIN04-142:** Temporary supply measures for BCIP EMD

**DIN 2017DIN04-141:** Declaration of obsolete – tactical network gateway

**DIN 2017DIN04-140:** Construction stores online catalogue

**DIN 2017DIN07-096:** Qualified helicopter tactics instructor course

**DIN 2017DIN07-095:** Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force Reserve nurse speciality and healthcare assistant course application process

**DIN 2017DIN07-092:** Army European winter activity instruction 2017/18

**DIN 2017DIN07-091:** Authority for Army orienteering 2017/18

**DIN 2017DIN07-089:** Adventurous Training Group (Army) ski courses

**DIN 2017DIN08-010:** Reserve attendance and pay service – initial operating capability

**DIN 2017DIN09-014:** The Shadwell Testimonial Prize

**DIN 2017DIN10-044:** Exercise Hard Ride – Army Motorcycle Championships 2017

**DIN 2017DIN10-043:** Adjutant General's Corps Alpine Ski Championships 2018 – Exercise White Lion

**DIN 2017DIN10-042:** 2018 Nato Chess Championship – UK qualifying event

**DIN 2017DIN10-041:** Inter-Service Judo Championships, November 2

**DIB 22/17:** 2017 Pay award for MoD civilian staff below senior civil servant

**DIB 21/17:** Publication of the results of the families continuous attitude survey 2017

**DIB 20/17:** New employment model: further programme update



ROADSHOWS

**The Army Engagement Team** wants to hear from members of the public who would like a personal invitation to its hi-tech roadshow. The event starts with a reception, is followed by a presentation, questions and culminates with refreshments.

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**November:** 1, Gloucester; 7, Watford; 21, Stoke-on-Trent; 23, Basingstoke

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## → Queen Ethelburga's College is league table ranked as the 5th best UK independent school for academic results and our Faculty is 8th.

We accept a broad range of abilities. As one parent said: "QE has the ability to turn the average youngster into well above average academically and have them also turn out as happy and well-rounded." 95% of Year 13 students go to university with majority to Oxbridge, Ivy League or Russell Group universities.

## → Our boarding facilities are the best in Europe. No one else even comes close.

Every bedroom has its own private shower and toilet plus telephone, voice mail, large plasma TV/DVD player + gaming port (on timer), a Sony PS3, fridge, microwave, trouser press and hot drinks facilities. House staff are friendly and caring.

## → A vast amount of fun-filled activities and trips out.

Each week we run 150+ non-sports and sports extra-curricular activities. Fun-packed weekends.

## → £30m Sports Village with 7 Astro-Turfs + 250,000 sq feet of indoor facilities.

QE is Regional Performance Coaching Centre for: England Basketball, England Hockey, England Netball, and Regional Centre Developing Player Programme England Rugby, plus QE Cricket Academy is in association with Yorkshire County Cricket Club. In 2015 QE won the British Colleges Rugby National Cup Final.

## → More British Forces children than any other boarding school - because we care.

We understand the needs of Service families with staff who are married to serving members of the Forces. With years of experience in ensuring our 300 + Forces children settle well, are confident and successful. Easy to get to by road, rail and air. Dedicated, professional, friendly and helpful staff go the "extra mile" to ensure your child is happy and doing well. We have Forces families from all over the UK.

## → Over £100m invested in new facilities in the last 8 years.

Why choose an independent school education for your child if you qualify for CEA? If you made a list, the same reasons would keep appearing. We think the list might include: happy children, academic results, a personalised approach, top quality teachers with specialised expertise, good discipline, latest technology and superb facilities, excellent pastoral care, excellent sport, first class boarding accommodation, diverse experience, small classes, university success, excellent career prospects, first class confidence and self assurance. If you want the best for your child, and to stand a chance of achieving most of this list, we believe you would need to pick one of the top 10 UK Independent boarding schools as ranked by the Telegraph. BUT, most importantly of all, we unashamedly also offer TLC - tender, loving care!

## UK's 2017 Top 20 Independent Schools based on Telegraph rankings for % A\*/A grade A levels

1	Cardiff Sixth Form College	91
2	The Perse School	87
3	Westminster School, London	86
4	King's College School (KCS)	86
5	Queen Ethelburga's College	85
6	Guildford High School for Girls	85
7	Concord College, Shrewsbury	84
8	City of London School For Girls	84
9	Haberdashers' Aske's Boys	84
10	St John's College, Cardiff	83
11	King Edward's Sch Birmingham	82
12	Magdalen College Sch, Oxford	80
13	North London Collegiate School	79
14	Royal Grammar, Guildford	78
15	Alleyn's School, Dulwich	77
16	Haberdashers' Aske's Girls	77
17	Faculty of Queen Ethelburga's	77
18	Brighton College, Brighton	76
19	St Mary's School, Ascot	75
20	Hampton School, Hampton	73





# REVIEWS

MUSIC

## PUTTING THE WORLD TO RIGHTS

Artist tackles global themes  
in impressive follow-up

A LOT has happened since Nick Mulvey released his Mercury Prize-nominated debut offering *First Mind* in 2014. An escape from London to rural Wiltshire was followed by the birth of his son and it was impending fatherhood, alongside the experience of spending time with famed producer Brian Eno, which fuelled the creative drive for his much-anticipated follow-up. »

P63

TOP GEAR

P64

BOOKS

P66

MOVIES



## MUSIC

» *Wake Up Now* may have been three years in the making but it tackles some weighty themes, many of which stem from him reflecting on the world in which his child has been born.

The track *Myela* was driven by the refugee crisis and a desire to help, while *We Are Never Apart* was written in support of the backlash to the Dakota oil pipeline running through sacred Native American land.

"Naturally, this record reflects all that's been happening in my life recently, as a man and as an artist, trying to answer a call to be a better person," Mulvey explained.

"The world seems so lacking in respect for the true value of life, for the planet, for social justice. But seeds of hope are everywhere.

"Fatherhood is a definite wake-up call and of course it is going to impact on my songwriting.

"I began to feel a new responsibility towards the world we are creating, the world in which my son will grow up.

"I knew it would be impossible for me to write a batch of new songs that weren't useful, that didn't speak in some way to what's happening in the here and now."

Eno's influence focused on the way in which Mulvey embarked on the recording process, encouraging him to question convention and to create a sense of community around his music.

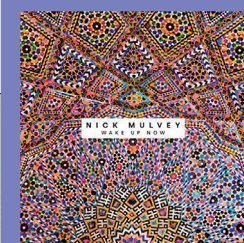
This advice inspired the singer to form a studio band and incorporate backing singers, with long-time collaborator **Dan Carey** offering additional production and electronics.

The collective approach is evident from the outset with multi-instrumental opener *Unconditional* offering a marked difference from the stripped-back nature of Mulvey's earlier material.

*Transform Your Game* follows a similar path but fans of his initial album will be pleased to hear the return of his elegant, fingerpicked guitar on the ballad *Imogen*.

This is a bold step from an artist keen to expand beyond the confines of his more tranquil debut and hints at exciting times to come. ■

REVIEW: RICHARD LONG, *SOLDIER*

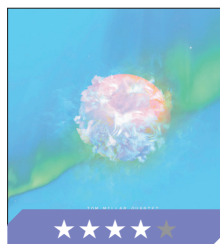


## MUSIC RELEASES

### VERDICT:

Collective efforts pay off in exciting follow-up

★★★★★



### Unnatural Events by Tom Millar Quartet

"HELLO; and welcome to Jazz Club". When

I read the band name; I thought, well this must be jazz. Now I'm no expert on this but I know that I like quite a range of jazz and **Tom Millar's** debut album is a superb example of later sub-genres, perfectly combining electric guitar and piano with a drum and bass (not that drum and bass!) background. It includes the usual techniques that you would expect, although I didn't see the electric sitar coming, and it all works very well. The album spans all types of mellow with some tracks evoking visions of their titles, none more so than on *The Seafarer*, where you can almost taste the ocean. This is a definite purchase for lovers of this style.

**Martyn Timmis, civvy**



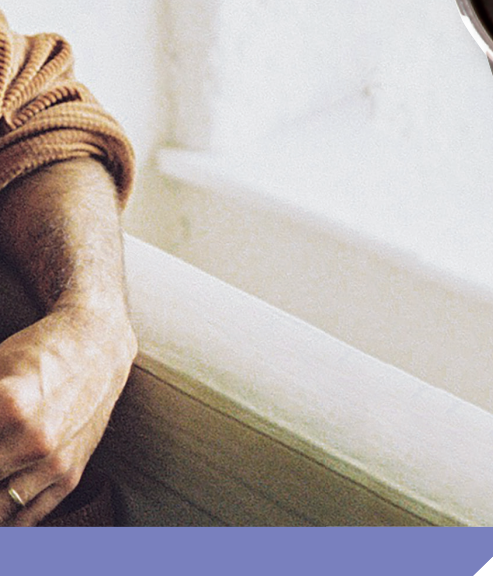
### Scum by Ratboy

THIS album is packed with clever, gritty lyrics delivered in a ska style.

It will not be to everyone's taste but is well worth delving into. Some tracks, like *Everyday*, are rather catchy with a wider appeal but the majority are loud chanting anthems, such as the impressive *Kicked Outta School*. It's not without its merits, as the production and deliverance are outstanding with plenty of artistic variety. But the record is not completely dominated by in-your-face songs and the melancholic *Sad Sad*, featuring **Mallory Merk**, showcases a sensitive side. Comedy is provided by the radio announcer interludes, especially the track about Trump Towers. Open your mind and give *Scum* a chance as this offering really does grow on you.

**Janet Dornan, ex-R Signals**





**Death of a King**  
by Reverend and the Makers

**REVEREND and the**

**Makers** may not be on most people's radar but they've scored five top-20 albums and have a devout following in indie circles. **Jon McClure's** band return with their sixth record and it's a bit of a departure from previous offering *Mirrors*. Opener *Miss Haversham* is a beauty of a song that has a heartfelt vocal backed up by a stomping chorus that elevates it beyond anything in today's charts. Lead single *Too Tough to Die* is a classy track that begs for the attention it probably won't get. It's heavy and dirty and a joy to listen to. My only criticism is that the album is too brief, which leaves you feeling a bit short-changed and clamouring for more. Longer next time please.

**Damian Hern, ex-AGC (SPS)**



**TOP GEAR**

**PICK OF THE MONTH:**

## PRETTY BRIGHT

**This two-way panel light could be a worthy addition to any daysack**



➤ WITH a rugged, durable shell and three useful settings, the multi-purpose Coleman Battery Lock Two-Way Panel Light ([www.coleman.eu](http://www.coleman.eu)) could be a handy addition for any activity from training exercises to camping trips.

A carrying handle at the top allows it to be hung from the roof of a tent or, alternatively, a ring lets you place it on a hook.

A removable ring covering a strong magnet on the body of the device also means it can be securely fastened to a metal post or similar.

The light itself has three modes, all of which are controlled from the same button.

The first two are striplight settings of 20 and 200 lumens respectively – easily bright enough to read by – and the third is a standard flashlight.

All these functions use LEDs, which makes power consumption minimal, with the light's total life claimed to be up to 100 hours when set on low – respectable enough for a three-to-four day exercise.

The gadget takes three standard AAA batteries, and a particularly useful function is its lock, which prevents the torch turning itself on and leading to a dead light when you least want it.

With its ability to easily switch between striplight and torch settings, this device would be ideally suited to anyone working out of a company headquarters or vehicle.

I would suggest that it also offers decent water-resistance, although I did not get the opportunity to test this element.

The hard case with outer rubber construction seems strong and resilient enough, but I suspect it could crack under enough pressure.

Tipping the scales at just over 242g complete with batteries, and with dimensions of around 19cm by 7cm by 4cm, the light is easily suitable for daysacks.

Retailing at around the £20 mark, it is also cheap and small enough to be a useful addition to anyone's exercise kit.

For these reasons, this item is certainly one to consider if you're in the market for a new light. ■

**REVIEW: MAJ MIKE RODGER, SCOTS**

**VERDICT:**

Versatile, light and worth a punt

★★★★★

## THE SPEC

**Light output**

Panel: 200/20 (high/low)  
Flashlight: 100

**Beam distance**

Panel: 14m – 5m (high/low)  
Flashlight: 65m

**Runtime**

Panel: 12hrs – 100hrs (high/low)  
Flashlight: 20hrs

**Batteries**

3 x AAA

**Features**

BatteryLock technology, 12m drop resistance, multi-purpose magnetic panel attachment

**IPX level**

4 (splash resistant)

**Size**

19.2 x 6.6 x 3.3cm (without clasp)  
/4.1cm (with clasp)

**Weight**

242g with battery



## PICK OF THE MONTH:

## SAS: GHOST PATROL

**How a secret unit posed as Nazis in wartime ruse**

► THE story of the Special Interrogation Group is brought to life in **Damien Lewis's** new book *SAS: Ghost Patrol*, published later this month.

In 1941 Capt Henry Cecil Buck of the 5th Battalion, 1st Punjabi Regiment – an Indian unit led by British officers in the North Africa campaign – was ordered to hold the line against Erwin Rommel's Afrika Corps.

After suffering heavy casualties the officer and his men were relieved to spy an Allied column approaching their besieged position, only to find that the advancing troops were actually the opposition dressed in British uniforms and driving stolen vehicles.

They were captured but managed a daring escape using the very same tactic, and so the idea of an ultra-secret deception force was formed.

After arriving back in Cairo, Buck impressed upon his commanders the potential gains of ferrying fluent German speakers behind enemy lines disguised as the foe.

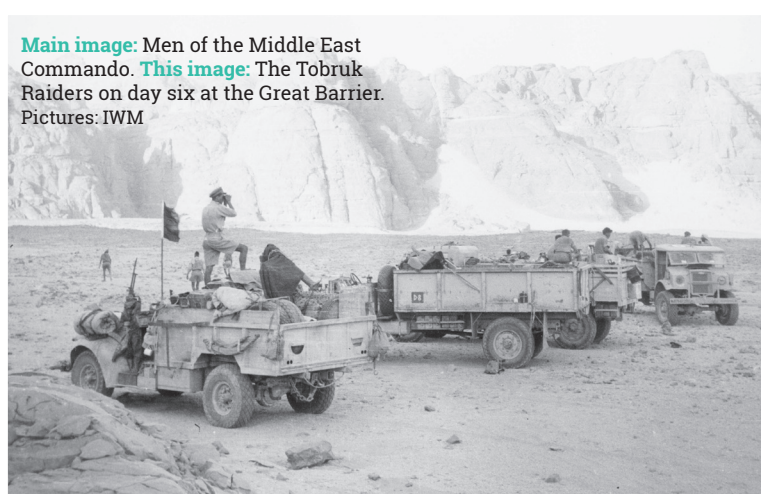
The strategy was approved and put into practice when the raid on Tobruk was being formulated.

Buck's task was to feign an assault on Barce and other German-held airfields, while the main target was in fact Rommel's stronghold.

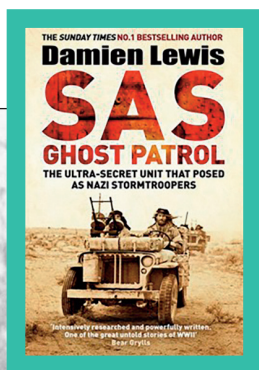
Lewis's account brings that operation to life in gripping style. Using the Long Range Desert Group, Royal Marine Commandos and the Special Air Service together in a Trojan



**Main image:** Men of the Middle East Commando. **This image:** The Tobruk Raiders on day six at the Great Barrier. Pictures: IWM







*SAS: Ghost Patrol* is published by Quercus on October 19, priced £20

Horse-style attack, the plan was the most audacious ever attempted and still stands as the longest mission ever to be undertaken by Allied Special Forces.

That alone speaks volumes to the courage of these marauding warriors, men like Maurice Tiefenbrunner and David Russell.

The book reads like a *Boys' Own Adventure*, except it isn't a work of fiction and the heroes don't come through unscathed.

What makes it even more compelling is that the action took place more than 75 years ago, with weapons and vehicles that in modern warfare would be a laughing stock.

I really enjoyed this title and Lewis's style of writing.

His storytelling enhances the bravery of the men and the danger of their missions without over-dramatising anything. There is no need to.

The heroic deeds described require no embellishment and are all the more remarkable because every word is true. ■

REVIEW: TONY DAVID, EX-RE

#### VERDICT:

Enhances the mystique of our Special Forces in gripping style.

★★★★★

## BOOKS

### BOOK RELEASES



#### The Fourth Reich

by Sara Moore

THIS book, rather worryingly presented as a solid academic publication, makes the far-fetched claim to "expose" the historical cover-up of Germany's intentions to create a European Empire through the EU. The author argues that the First World War was started by Germany, continuing a pattern of invasion first set by Bismarck in the 19th century. While that is true, she completely ignores the context of imperialism and militaristic tradition of the Great Powers of the time (including the British Empire). This ignorance of any type of political perspective and presenting half-stories as truths continues throughout 303 pages of ill-informed and highly biased writing.

James Martin, civvy

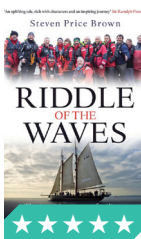


#### Passchendaele: 103 days in Hell

by Alexandra Churchill

ONE of the bloodiest battles of the 20th century, Passchendaele is remembered more for its mud and misery than for the individuals who fought. This book attempts to rectify this with the story of 103 participants, one casualty for each day of fighting. Reading the different accounts, you can't help but recognise the futility of war. Most touching was the tale of three Australian brothers, all killed on the same day with the same battalion. Packed full of rare personal photographs and contemporary grave images this would be of interest to anyone planning a battlefield visit in the future.

Cpl Scott Roberts, Rifles



#### Riddle of the Waves

by Steven Price Brown

WHEN the charity Turn to Starboard took a bunch of ex-Servicemen on a challenge to sail around the UK, few of the participants had any nautical knowledge. But they did have the experience of working together to achieve an objective. This uplifting account of the journey reveals how banter is an important part of bonding and can often help veterans settle into civilian life more easily. In one instance, a former paratrooper was "sentenced" to carry a sparkly gold women's handbag for 24 hours for a minor infraction. Plenty of books claim to be inspirational; this one truly is.

Andy Kay, ex-RS



#### An Army of Brigadiers

by Trevor Harvey

THERE is very little original material on the Great War that is available to the mainstream reader. The new series of books from the Military History faculty at Wolverhampton University has changed that. This excellent in-depth study of brigade commanders, their staff and their performance in battle is superb. The extensive research is comprehensively referenced, supported with data and well illustrated with maps and photographs. Not a light read, but a must have for the serious student of the British and Commonwealth Armies of 1917.

Mike Peters, ex-AAC



## MOVIES

### PICK OF THE MONTH:

## 6 BELOW

### Hartnett slogs it out in the snow

➤ IN 2004, following a string of poor life choices and bad luck, washed up ice hockey player Eric LeMarque went snowboarding off-piste in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

It was a decision he would come to regret.

After losing his bearings in poor weather, he found himself in a life or death struggle against the elements, with no food or water, minimal clothing and a dwindling supply of crystal meth.

Forced to go cold turkey while battling a severe case of frostbite, wolves and his personal demons, his outlook seemed all but hopeless.

The story would be far-fetched if it weren't true. Little wonder, then, that his ordeal has now been given the cinematic treatment.

Directed by **Scott Waugh**, *6 Below* sees **Josh Hartnett** (*Pearl Harbour*, *Black Hawk Down*) take on the role of the unfortunate LeMarque.

It's a tough gig.

As is often the case with survival epics, there is little dialogue and there are only so many facial expressions you can pull to convey hypothermia.

Given the amount of solo screen time he gets, Hartnett puts in a decent shift as a man on the brink – never more so than when eating his own scabs to stave off starvation.

While he flounders around in the snow, back home his long-suffering mother (**Mira Sorvino**) is unaware of his predicament so it is a week before any sort of rescue mission is launched.

This wouldn't be the first film in the genre to run up against the problem that real-life survival can be a pretty dull business.

Conserving energy and shivering in snow holes doesn't actually make for good viewing, so to counteract this, we get frequent flashbacks to LeMarque's troubled past, which serve to break up the

action but do little to make him relatable or even likeable.

It is also hard to empathise with someone who, when they plunge through ice into freezing water, is more concerned with preserving their last grains of meth than trying not to drown.

Upping the cheese level unnecessarily are the motivational musings that bookend the film, although in fairness the closing scenes do help to put them into context.

None of this takes anything away from LeMarque himself, whose strength of character and physical resilience border on the superhuman.

But, perhaps inevitably, this film doesn't quite do justice to real events. ■

REVIEW: BECKY CLARK, *SOLDIER*





**VERDICT:**  
Survival drama gets lost  
in translation

★★★★★

## DVD/DIGITAL RELEASES



### Baywatch

Out now

"SOME people stand in the darkness".

This is the opening line to the theme tune of the original *Baywatch* television series. How I wish

**Dwayne Johnson, Zac Efron**, director **Seth Gordon** and everyone else associated with this

appalling movie had done just that instead of bringing their generously billed "action-comedy" reboot to the big screen. A typical UK lifeguard is a disinterested, acne-ridden teen slumped in a poolside chair but according to this depiction their stateside counterparts save lives at will and foil elaborate drug-smuggling crime capers in their spare time – all while sprinting slow-motion down the beach. The laughs are set at the base level so barely raise a chuckle and the acting is wooden at best, while the unnecessarily high level of swearing becomes increasingly annoying. At two hours it is way too long, and I could have easily switched off after 20 minutes. Avoid at all costs.

**Richard Long, Soldier**



### Open Water 3: Cage Dive

Out October 10

JUST when you thought it was safe to go back in the water, along comes another terrifying and claustrophobic shark attack film. This intense thriller is focused on three "thrill-seeking" friends, who want to capture a cage-dive encounter with great white sharks as their audition tape for an adventure reality show. Off they pop to the rugged Australian coast but just as they've finished attracting a swarm of vicious sharks a massive freak wave causes havoc. As far as "found footage" films go, this one is relatively watchable, but it isn't worth rushing to pre-order. Better to wait until it's on the Freeview horror channel.

**Rodge Tapply, Ex-RE**



### Fast and Furious 8: The Fate of the Furious

Out now

THIS instalment sees **Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson, Michelle Rodriguez** and the rest of the gang return for another action-crammed adventure. You can't go wrong with the *Fast and*

*Furious* stunts – fights and pace make these sure-fire wins – and the fact that they have already started working on the next two movies with all the cast confirmed tells you all you need to know. If you're uncertain what to watch tonight, this film is an easy choice. It comes with the highest of recommendations.

**Cpl Adam Jackson, Para**



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# SOLDIER SPORT

Sports Editor: Richard Long  
Photographer: Graeme Main



## GAMES MASTER

ARMY boxer LCpl John Marvin (PWRR) enjoyed a golden debut for the Philippines at the Southeast Asia Games. Read about the soldier's medal-winning performance on page 72...





**TEEING OFF:** FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE SPORT AS WELL AS THE COMPETITIONS THAT RUN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR VISIT [WWW.ARMYGOLF.CO.UK](http://WWW.ARMYGOLF.CO.UK)

# STARS OF SAUNTON

## GOLFERS EXCEL IN LINKS BATTLE AS SERVICES DOUBLE IS CLAIMED IN DEVON

**T**HERE was double delight for the Army on the greens and fairways of Saunton Golf Club as the men's and women's teams downed their Forces rivals to secure the Inter-Services honours for 2017.

While the men recorded straightforward wins over the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy there was high drama in the other draw, with Spr Abi Kennedy (RE) rolling in a 25-foot putt on the last hole to clinch the title.

The prospect of such a tense finale seemed unlikely as a confident women's team took to the tee for their opening foursomes competition with the Senior Service.

The format has proved difficult to master in recent times and after a hard-fought morning the sides were locked at 2-2.

With the players returning to action for the singles matches the soldiers gained control as a succession of measured performances saw them claim an 8-4 advantage overall.

The foursomes again proved problematic in their clash with the RAF and the champions-elect were trailing 3-1 as the final contest drew to a close.

But the Reds mounted a fightback in the singles and found themselves 4-2 up with two matches left to complete.

LCpl Kirsty Kennedy (RE) capitalised on the momentum as she came from two points down with two holes to play to halve her tie with the RAF

INTER-SERVICES  
GOLF

MEN

ARMY

WOMEN

ARMY



number two, meaning all eyes were on twin sister Abi as she headed up the 18th.

With the match all square the RAF number one appeared to seize the initiative as her approach shot found the middle of the green, while Kennedy missed to the left.

A chip shot brought the Army player into range but when her rival failed with her first putt Kennedy was handed an opportunity from 25 feet.

The soldier calmly converted and then saw her opponent take two further putts to finish the hole, giving the Reds a crucial point as they won 6.5 to 5.5.

"It was a huge putt with a left to right break," team manager Di Walters, a former sergeant in the Royal Signals, told *SoldierSport*. "But from the second she hit the ball it was going nowhere but the middle of the hole."

"All the other players were watching on; the atmosphere was electric."

The performance of the Kennedy sisters, along with the likes of Cpl Kim Woodward (pictured) and Sgt Becky Mercer (both AGC (SPS)), highlighted the shifting nature of the women's game, which has attracted a host of younger players in recent times.

"They have become the face of Army golf and have proved that you don't have to have a 20-year Service career behind you to earn a place on the team," Walters added. "We now have

real strength in depth."

In the men's competition there was an early shock for the Army as the number one pairing of Pte David Blick (Para) and Gdsm Jordan Slater (Coldm Gds) lost in their foursomes clash against the RAF.

But the team rallied to edge 3-2 ahead and then stretched their advantage in the singles to claim a 9.5-5.5 victory.

Fus Jonny Stevenson (Scots) claimed a crucial half point as he fought back from two down with two to play before Cpl Richie Over (RE) secured the result by winning his match.

The soldiers' fine form continued a day later as they inflicted a 10.5-4.5 defeat on the Navy to seal the trophy.

Cpl Ben Churchill (RE) and Cfn Ashley Watkins (REME) posted 100 per cent records and non-playing captain Maj Bob Pace (R Signals) believes the team is now in a healthy position as it moves forward.

"David Blick is not long out of training but he became Army champion in July," the officer said. "He gave us extra confidence as he was bolstering an already-strong team."

"The most satisfying thing is that we now have a lot of junior NCOs and private soldiers in the group, which proves this is not an old man's sport." ■







## BOXING



### AIMING FOR THE TOP

VICTORY for LCpl John Marvin (PWRR) in Malaysia is the latest success story for Army coach SSgt Jason Browning (RAPTC) in his bid to see fighters excelling on the international stage.

A number of athletes have made the step up during his time at the helm and he believes the conveyor belt of talent will continue once he steps down from the role later this year.

"It was a great opportunity for John and he took full advantage," Browning told *SoldierSport*.

"LCpl Shamim Khan (RLC, pictured below) is due to fight at the Bangladesh National Championships, which is another fantastic opportunity.

"We now have guys going to different countries to fight opponents from all around the world; that shows the level of boxing we have here.

"We have trained novice fighters and made them into international athletes."

The set-up also recently celebrated a Scotland call for LCpl Meg Reid (RLC), while Spr Ebonie Jones (RE, pictured above) is due to train with the Team GB podium potential squad.



SEASON IN FULL SWING: A TEN-STRONG CONTINGENT OF ARMY FIGHTERS WILL COMPETE AT THE EINDHOVEN BOX CUP IN HOLLAND FROM OCTOBER 19 TO 22



# MARVELLOUS IN MALAYSIA



**"IT WAS  
A BIT  
OF A  
GAMBLE,  
BUT IT  
PAID  
OFF"**

**B**OXING sensation LCpl John Marvin (PWRR) made a sensational debut for the Philippines by winning a gold medal at the Southeast Asia Games.

The light heavyweight prospect inflicted a brutal first-round stoppage on his home-grown rival in the final, with victory coming in just 21 seconds to stun a passionate crowd in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

Convincing wins in the quarter- and semi-finals put the soldier on the path to glory but he admitted nerves were a big factor along the way.

"I was desperate to win that gold medal," the 24-year-old athlete told *SoldierSport*.

"I wasn't going to leave anything in the ring and didn't want the judges to decide the fight. However, I was surprised it was over so quickly.

"There was so much pressure ahead of my first fight. I'd never

fought in a competition like this before and it was a bit of a gamble, but it paid off."

Marvin represented England in a match against Norway earlier in his career but switched allegiances following a chance meeting between Army coach SSgt Jason Browning (RAPTC) and officials from the Philippines squad.

Having revealed that the fighter's mother hails from the country the soldier was asked to forward the paperwork to prove his eligibility and a call-up swiftly followed.

"To get an opportunity like this is a rare thing," Marvin said. "But the other squad members were not that welcoming at first.

"They had worked hard to earn their place and I was the guy called in from another country. I threw myself into the training and they eventually realised I was not there for a free ride." ■



The background of the advertisement is a scenic landscape featuring a person standing on a large, dark log that protrudes from a body of water. In the distance, there are snow-capped mountains and a dense forest. The sky is overcast with soft clouds. A large, light-colored diamond shape is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the brand name and promotional text.

**COTSWOLD**  
outdoor

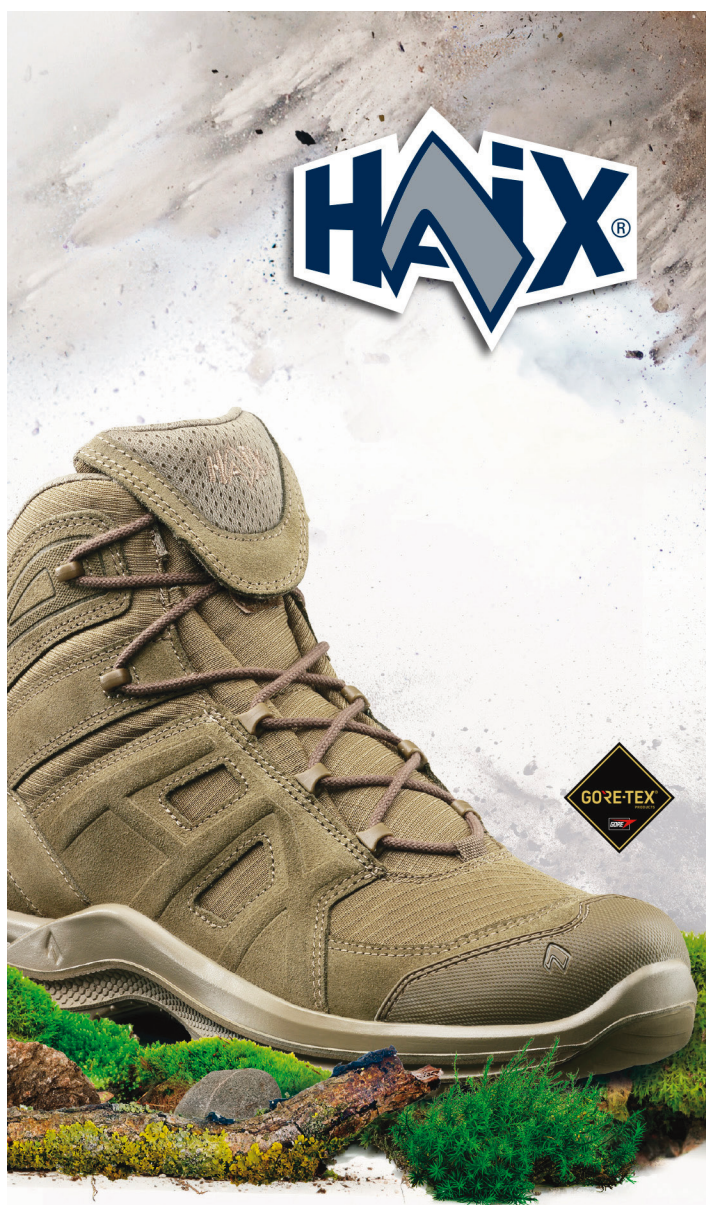
"While the world sleeps,  
we are awake. Wrapped up warm  
against the icy teeth of winter,  
we brave the cold, because winter  
rewards those that brave its harsh  
conditions. Winter's beauty is a  
harsh one; frozen, still, desolate.  
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[cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://cotswoldoutdoor.com)"

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**FRENCH FORAY:** ARMY CUP CHAMPIONS 12 REGIMENT, ROYAL ARTILLERY DREW 17-17 WITH THE FRENCH POLICE AS PART OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR RUGBY COMMEMORATIONS

**CRICKET**



# TIGERS ROAR IN SEASON FINALE

**W**ITH the cricket season seemingly over the UK Armed Forces made a hasty return to action as they locked horns with Bangladesh A in Aldershot.

The last-minute fixture came at the end of a long campaign but represented a welcome test against international opposition.

After winning the toss and electing to bat the Tigers made slow progress in the autumnal conditions as two wickets from Sgt Uri Hill (RLC) saw them stutter to 111-3. However, a late flurry of runs propelled the tourists to a total of 274.

In reply the hosts lost Maj

Storm Green (Coldm Gds) with just four runs on the board but after recovering to 50-1 they slumped to 98-9 and the outcome was inevitable.

A stubborn last-wicket stand halted the victory celebrations but the Servicemen were all out for 124 – handing their rivals a 150-run win.

"It was great to have this opportunity, although most of us had packed our kit away two or three weeks ago," skipper Green said afterwards.

"To get back into the cricket mindset and with no practice was pretty tough but we are glad we gave them a game." ■

**"TO GET BACK INTO THE CRICKET MINDSET WAS PRETTY TOUGH"**

● AN inexperienced Army side proved too strong for the French Pacific Combined Services as they ran out 78-3 winners in a match to commemorate the fallen rugby players of the First World War. The fixture was staged in the French city of Laon and saw a Reds team that featured just four starters from last season's Army-Navy game run in 11 tries while conceding just a single penalty.



## SPORT SHORTS



### Forces up for the cup

**THE UK Armed Forces** enjoyed a successful weekend on the court during the latest round of fixtures in the Volleyball England National Cup.

Coach WO2 Nicola Mead (AGC (SPS), pictured) guided the women's team to a 3-1 win over Milton Keynes City in the preliminary round, while the men sealed a 3-0 win over National League Division One rivals London Aces.



### Fighters edged out

**THE Army boxing team** started the 2017/18 season with a narrow loss to a robust TVS Tampere outfit in Finland.

Held as a curtain-raiser to the Tammer Tournament, the show saw the six-strong squad lose 4-2 to the hosts – who came from 2-0 down to secure the bragging rights.

Gnr Kaz Artingstall (RA) and LCpl Kyle Morrison (RLC, pictured) gave the soldiers the perfect start before a run of three defeats saw the contest tip in their rivals' favour.

Fus Sean Eng (Scots) attempted to restore parity in the final bout but a clash of heads forced the Scottish international to retire in the opening round. A return match will be hosted at ITC Catterick next month.



## SPORT SHORTS

Picture: Murray Kerr



### Scots shine in Glasgow

FOOTBALLERS from across the Royal Regiment of Scotland came together for a season-opening five-a-side tournament in Glasgow.

A total of 20 teams took part in the competition, which included players from 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th Battalions along with civilian and veteran sides.

The 6 Scots squad claimed the overall title with a 2-1 victory in the final.



### Triathlon's relay delight

THE Army triathlon squad enjoyed a record-breaking day at the national relays club championships.

Victories in the men's, women's, veterans' and mixed competitions saw the soldiers claim four team titles in a best-ever haul for the Service at the annual showdown in Nottingham.

The event comprises a 500-metre swim followed by a 14-kilometre bike stage and a five-kilometre run, with each member of the four-man outfit completing every discipline.

"The results are testament to the hard work and dedication of all athletes and coaches this season," said squad member Lt Henry Eaton (AAC).



## SPICE STARS IN LOGGIES TRIUMPH

INTER-CORPS  
T20 FINAL

RLC

207-5

RE

143



HALF centuries from LCpl Spice Narayan and Pte Tade Carmichael formed the bedrock of a comprehensive win for the Royal Logistic Corps in the final of cricket's Inter-Corps Twenty20 competition.

The duo launched a boundary-laden assault on the Royal Engineers' bowling attack to post a daunting total of 207-5 and with the momentum firmly in their favour the loggies went on to secure a 64-run victory.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, the champions-elect suffered an early blow when Sgt Ross Dearden struck in the second over.

But the arrival of Carmichael (pictured left) saw the tempo rise and he found a willing ally in SSgt Augustin Robertson as the score accelerated to 59-1 at the end of the power play.

The sappers claimed a much-needed scalp when the latter was trapped leg before but a succession of boundaries saw the impressive Carmichael bring

up his 50 in rapid time.

However, the left-hander perished at the hands of Spr Leo Beal and the engineers came close to a double breakthrough when Narayan (pictured above) was seemingly caught behind off the next ball.

However, the umpire turned down their appeal and the decision would prove costly.

Narayan (pictured above) launched a brutal late charge and a barrage of five maximums helped him to a score of 74 before he was finally dismissed in the last over.

With more than 200 on the board the loggies were firm favourites and after reducing their rivals to 33-3 at the end of the power play their hand was strengthened further.

Meaningful partnerships were in short supply for the sappers and two run outs in the middle stages did not help the cause.

After slipping to 107-9 they showed some resistance with a 36-run stand for the last wicket but it was too little too late. ■



# MONTH IN SPORT

## October's key fixtures...



« **WHAT:** Army Super Cup final  
**WHEN:** October 8  
**WHERE:** Army Military Stadium, Aldershot  
**NEED TO KNOW:**

The annual showdown between the Army's Regular and Reserve unit champions will see 1 Yorks lock horns with 154 Scottish Regt, RLC



« **WHAT:** Army women v South Africa  
**WHEN:** October 14 (1600 kick off)  
**WHERE:** Army Rugby Stadium, Aldershot  
**NEED TO KNOW:** The soldiers are used to facing international opposition thanks to recent clashes with England Under-20s (pictured) and the Springboks form their next test



« **WHAT:** Inter-Corps Netball  
**WHEN:** October 26-27  
**WHERE:** Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre

**NEED TO KNOW:** The Army Medical Services emerged as surprise champions in 2016 and with the sport enjoying an upward surge there may be further shocks in store this season

## INVICTUS IN NUMBERS

MEMBERS  
IN THE UK  
SQUAD

90

VETERANS  
ATTENDED  
TEAM  
TRIALS

306

SPORTS ON  
THE ROSTER  
FOR 2017

12

NATIONS  
TAKING  
PART

17

TOTAL  
NUMBER OF  
ATHLETES  
IN ACTION  
AT THE  
TORONTO  
GAMES

550



Picture: Sgt Ross Tilly, RAF

## GAMES IN FULL SWING

**W**OUNDED Service personnel were being tested in a host of athletic disciplines at the Invictus Games as this issue went to press.

The latest instalment in the multi-sport showdown was being staged in Toronto and a 90-strong UK team was hoping for a bumper medal return from their week-long Canadian adventure.

More than 60 per cent of the squad were newcomers to the Games, with many being inspired by the success stories of previous competitors in 2014 and 2016.

Among the events featuring on this year's roster were athletics, wheelchair basketball and rugby, archery and indoor rowing.

Bernie Broad, a former major in the Grenadier Guards who lost both legs in an explosion in Helmand province, was named team captain for 2017 and was honoured to lead his

country at such a prestigious sporting event.

"Since being medically retired from the Armed Forces in 2014 I feel that I have taken my foot off the gas and become quite complacent," the veteran explained.

"I have always been a keen and competitive sportsman, so I kick-started my fitness regime and now regularly swim, cycle and walk.

"The Invictus Games are empowering and inspire all of us as competitors to be the best version of ourselves.

"It allows us to be judged on what we can achieve, rather than what we can't.

"To simply be included in the UK team was an amazing achievement. To then be selected as captain filled me with such immense pride and it is a huge privilege to be given this honour."

Read the next issue for a full report on the team's success in Toronto. ■





## SPORT SHORTS



### Hansen falls short

**FORMER** soldier Rob Hansen came within six feet of winning \$1 million for the On Course Foundation during a hole in one challenge at the Belfry.

The golfer, who served in the Royal Signals for 20 years before being medically discharged, was one of nine players to take part in the event. However, the top prize went unclaimed on the day.

The On Course Foundation supports the recovery of injured personnel and veterans through golf events and employment in the golf industry.



### Sporting showcase

**MORE** than 2,000 athletes from 17 Regular and three Reserve units were put through their paces at the annual Sapper Games.

A total of 26 sports were played across a host of locations including skiing at the Milton Keynes Snow Dome and squash, triathlon and judo at Tidworth Leisure Centre.

Going into the final day only a few points separated the leading regimental teams but the overall honours were eventually secured by 1 Royal School of Military Engineering.

The Blythe Sappers Cup for the winning Reserve unit was presented to 71 Engineer Regiment.

# LOGGIES START IN STYLE

**A** NEW season of action on the court got under way at the annual Inter-Unit Netball Championships in Aldershot. Despite numbers being slightly down on previous years there was no shortage of quality on show and it was 9 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps who emerged victorious at the end of the two-day tournament.

The loggies downed their rivals from Colchester Garrison 12-4 in the final and the competition's top performers will be further tested at this month's Inter-Corps showdown.

"This tournament is all about getting people away from their desks and playing sport," Lt Col Andrea Zanchi (RLC), chairwoman of Army Netball, told *SoldierSport*.

"The teams were a little rusty on day one but by the end they were doing really well.

"Army netball is in a good place. We now have a more professional set-up and the players have responded to that. This season our aim is to retain the Inter-Services title and we are looking to arrange some high-profile games against franchise teams."



**"THIS IS ALL ABOUT GETTING PEOPLE AWAY FROM THEIR DESKS"**



**● THERE** was disappointment for 10 Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment in the final of cricket's Major Units Championship.

Batting first against their rivals from Army Headquarters, the Gurkhas suffered a double blow in the opening over as Maj Dom Davey claimed two quick wickets. They failed to fully recover from the early setback and were eventually dismissed for 133 with 39 from Cpl Jackee Gurung proving to be the top score.

The total was successfully chased down by the Andover-based outfit, who claimed the final silverware of the season.





## FRONT RUNNERS

THE Army reaffirmed their status as the dominant force in the women's competition thanks to another convincing team win.

A group of seven Reds riders crossed the finish line in unison to underline the emphatic nature of their victory – a move that meant determining the individual champion was an impossible job.

"The aim was to have a group of at least six riders clear at the front, with no RAF athletes in contention," explained Army road race secretary Maj Tony Ireland (RLC).

"They had a girl in the initial break but she only lasted a lap. It was a dominant performance."

The women's squad has continued its rapid evolution this year and the riders have enjoyed significant success on the civilian circuit.

Capt Ejay Harris (RAMC) and WO2 Chanel Mason (RAPTC) featured in the Storey Racing team that won the National Road Race Series.

Pte Charmaine Porter (RLC) finished fourth in the British circuit race championships and recently joined the OnForm team.



# SOLDIERS DOMINATE ON THE ROAD

## INTER-SERVICES ROAD RACE

### MEN

## ARMY WOMEN ARMY



It was a case of business as normal at the Inter-Services Road Race Championships as Army riders completed a clean sweep of the individual and collective honours.

Having been pushed all the way by the Royal Air Force last season the men's squad arrived at the Devon course in determined mood and their tactical approach reaped maximum dividends as Sgt Mark Robertson (REME, pictured) topped the podium, with teammate Cpl Richard Jennings (RLC) finishing second.

The team title was also secured as the soldiers performed well across the field and Maj Tony Ireland (RLC), secretary of the Army road race scene, told *Soldiersport* the athletes executed their pre-race plans to perfection.

"We knew the RAF would be strong again this year and they

had some really good riders but when it came to strength in depth we had 15 incredible lads on the start line," he said.

"It was a really competitive race with a number of breakaways being chased down and it was a select group that pulled clear at the front.

"We just kept attacking and that made the difference.

"But we also came down to recce the course over the August bank holiday weekend, which definitely worked in our favour. It was a great performance."

Ireland also paid tribute to the efforts of the Royal Navy squad, which has been bolstered by a number of new riders from the Royal Marines.

Robertson's victory came on the back of his success at the Scottish Championships, while last year's champion Capt Ryan Perry (REME, pictured left) finished seventh. ■



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**RUGBY UNION**



## SAPPERS ON SONG

THE Royal Engineers made a successful start to the new rugby union season as they secured the Corps Festival title at the end of a busy day of action in Aldershot.

Two tries from winger LCpl Sammy Sema helped the sappers to a 28-7 win over the Royal Signals in the final, while former Army star LCpl Peceli Nacamavuto rolled back the years with a jinking run and score from inside his own half.

The result capped an impressive day for the champions, who conceded just ten points on their way to claiming the title.

"This win means a lot to us," said skipper LCpl Joseph McClean. "It is a totally new team and atmosphere.

"We managed to use two rotations of the squad and nobody held back."

Elsewhere, the Royal Armoured Corps claimed the league two title with a victory over the Army Medical Services, while a combined Royal Engineers and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers side lifted the women's trophy.



# TALENT RISES IN SERVICE RANKS



**"THERE IS SO MUCH STILL TO COME FROM THIS GROUP"**

**A**RM Y rugby union is tapping into the experience of former head coach Capt Andy Sanger (RE) as more and more players venture into the upper echelons of the civilian game.

While LCpl Semesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG) continues to be the headline act there are now 38 soldiers starring at National League level or above and this rapid growth has led to the creation of a new post within the Service set-up – head of player development.

Sanger gladly accepted the position after he guided the Reds to Inter-Services glory last season and the new role has come with a busy workload.

"It is about looking after players, dealing with clubs, contracts and agents and communicating with units and commanding officers," he told *SoldierSport*.

"We had to work really hard over the summer and a lot of our players have now signed with high-level teams.

"The Army-Navy game at Twickenham is a great shop

window and when our guys sign with these clubs they know they are getting players with the right qualities due to their background in the military."

Among those to secure new deals over the course of the summer were LCpl James Dixon (RE), Rgr Chris Leathem (R Irish, pictured) and Cpl Lewis Bean (Rifles) – who all signed for National League One outfit Moseley. Other moves saw Pte Junior Bulumakau (Scots) join Doncaster Knights, while Bdr Pete Austin (RA) was snapped up by London Scottish.

The officer's new role allows his successor as head coach to concentrate on matters on the pitch and with another exciting campaign in store there is plenty to focus on.

"There is so much still to come from this group," Sanger added. "There was a lot of external pressure last year with us needing to regain the Inter-Services title and it being the 100th Army-Navy game.

"Now that monkey is off our back we can hopefully go out and play some expansive rugby." ■



# Final Word

Interviews: Becky Clark  
Pictures: Graeme Main



## Gdsm Jake Bickerton, SG

Communication is important and also making yourself part of the team instead of being an outsider. People are more likely to listen to their pals rather than someone they don't like. We motivate each other by egging each other on. We'll tell someone they can't do something, like saying "you'll never be at the front in PT", for example and then they'll try and prove everyone wrong.

## LCpl Michael Veevers, AGC

Lead by example. If you're positive with your outlook on a task and you help and guide people rather than just telling them, you get more out of them. You have to show you're just as prepared to work hard and get stuck into jobs as they are. Encouragement is important too; giving colleagues a pat on the back, not in a condescending way but by being constructive.



## Lt William Dalton Hall, SG

In order to motivate the team you have to motivate the individual. You have to recognise other people's strengths and weaknesses. It's also about empowerment – giving them a bit of control over what they want to do and achieve.



## LCpl Lloyd Davies, SG

You have to try and be a role model. If you show the guys you can do something they'll look at you and know that they can do it too. If you treat them without respect they won't give you respect back.



## Gdsm Patrick Law, SG

The best way to get a good work ethic out of the boys is to be polite and ask nicely. If someone's a decent bloke you want to work hard for them, whereas if they're constantly grilling you you don't like them and you do what's required and no more. People lose interest if you treat them like they're less than you.

## Sgt Matthew Callaghan, SG

I motivate my boys by trying to get the balance between their personal development and careers. It's about looking at the individual and weighing up his needs with those of the battalion and the platoon. If you work for the lads they'll work hard for you.



# How do you get the most out of people?

Personnel from 1st Battalion, Scots Guards share their thoughts on leadership and teamwork

## Capt Thomas Wilson, SG

It's about knowing the men under your command. If you know what makes them tick you can switch tactics on how to get the best out of them. Also, encourage them to understand the end goal because once they do they will flourish and thrive.





"Three short paragraphs,  
all of which I understood,  
written in plain English and  
very much appreciated."



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Jonathan Elliott, FPS Member

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