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ARMY

Making sense of new-look Army

WELCOME to our August issue, in which we reveal the full details of the most significant transformation to the British Army in a generation.

The secretary of state's announcement that 17 units will go now means that a total of 23 will be removed by 2018 (page 28).

Suddenly six years doesn't seem such a long time, does it?

One Serviceman – Cpl Eddie Buntine (Scots) – summed the situation up poignantly when the *Soldier* team grilled him and his colleagues for their thoughts. "This is about your muckers who you've been to war with, who will be split up," he explained.

As change takes hold, it may feel like there is little room for such sentiment. But the head of the Army was keen to answer your individual questions about the future when I met him for an exclusive interview.

Turn to page 23 to discover whether your tweets and emails made it to the man at the top.

We certainly didn't hold back – and even plucked up the courage to ask him whether he was a "puppet" general. Many thanks to the individual who submitted that little gem... my first meeting with the boss could quite easily have been my last!

Finally, have you all seen the fantastic Paralympic trailer being broadcast by Channel 4? If not, visit our Twitter page for the link.

It is without doubt the most moving piece of footage I have encountered on London 2012 so far – and a timely reminder of how the military qualities of strength and determination can push people on to achieve gobsmacking things after the most terrible setbacks.

Enjoy the Olympic Games celebrations and enjoy the issue. ■



Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor

“Battlegroup rotations won't come around all that often, probably for an average of six months in three years”

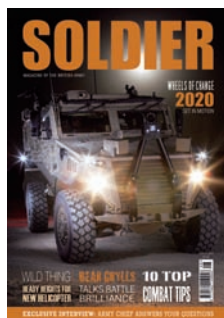
– Service chief answers your questions on reaction and adaptive forces (pages 23-24)

S. Goldthorpe

Sarah Goldthorpe

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Combat medics drive Afghan aid detachment



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The Army Families Federation delivers its verdict on changes to the Service p65

Troops reveal their thoughts on the biggest
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Women's volleyball team cap a superb season on the court



Gridiron The home cashed in on their home advantage at the Alibon High Stadium to win the men's and women's home services athletes meet.

Report: Richard Levin **#THE RIF HAD A STRONG** In 1995 and in 2000, more voters[illegible]

Read mapping: Cal NanoSeq MethylKit (v0.9.9) across to the line in the final line of the `fastq` file.

and in that time we've had 14 wins. It



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THE informer...

BRITISH TROOPS' GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE ASSET news@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Picture: LA(Phot) St Ethell

Shape of things to come: Service changes will see the creation of reaction and adaptable forces with greater integration of Reserves

British Army welcomes new dawn

IN ONE of the biggest reorganisations in Service history, the defence secretary has unveiled a new structure for the British Army that will place far greater responsibility on Reserve soldiers.

Announcing the long-awaited details of the Army 2020 plan to the House of Commons, Philip Hammond said the UK's Land Forces would shift more of its focus from sustained operations to reacting quickly to emerging threats.

"The Service needs to reshape to face an increasingly uncertain world and to go back to what is perhaps its more usual posture of contingent capabilities to deal with unknown things," the minister explained.

"The Army will remain a formidable fighting force; there will be a smaller number of Regulars with more effective integration of the Reserves, greater use of contractors and a much better equipped force."

Under the changes, 23 units will disband

and others will be merged (page 28).

The new-look organisation will have double the current number of part-time troops and be split into reaction and adaptable forces.

The former will comprise three armoured infantry brigades and 16 Air Assault Brigade, trained and equipped to undertake the full spectrum of intervention tasks.

The reaction force will consist of mainly Regular soldiers with approximately ten per cent coming from the Reserves.

Its formations will be responsible for generating a lead armoured infantry battlegroup and lead air assault group, both of which will be primed for short-notice missions.

The adaptable force will consist of Regular and Reserve Servicemen and women who will carry out a variety of military tasks including overseas engagement, stabilisation operations, standing commitments and homeland resilience work.

Crucial to this "split" arrangement will be a pool of force troops who will provide a wide range of support to both sections including engineer, artillery and medical capabilities from a centralised hub of resources.

The structural alterations are due to be implemented by 2015, with the aim of bringing the Army's size down to 82,000 Regular soldiers and 30,000 Reservists by 2018.

"The Service will be a leaner, more agile organisation; a forward-looking, modern fighting machine, remaining the best in class of the armies of the world," the politician added. "In the past, the Reserve may have come to be seen by some as an add-on to the Army but in future it will be a vital integrated component."

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- Reservists 'ready' – page 9
- General knowledge – pages 23-24
- Man with a plan – page 25
- Army blueprint – pages 26-27
- The changes in full – page 28

"We went to extreme lengths to make sure that soldiers were informed by their commanding officer so that people did not find out from the media first" – Gen Sir Peter Wall, pages 23-24





“THE NOISE OF THE WAVES CRASHING AGAINST THE BOAT
WAS AS LOUD AS A RIFLE GOING OFF BESIDE MY EAR”

— ARMY ROWER RECOUNTS PACIFIC TYPHOONS (PAGE 89)

Unit losses are fair, says Army chief

A TOTAL of 23 Regular units are to disappear from the Service's order of battle over the next three years, it has been announced.

Speaking after the Army 2020 plan was revealed (page 7), the Chief of the General Staff said the decision to remove several units and amalgamate others had been difficult but would result in a stronger organisation.

“I deeply regret the disbandment of any of our regiments or battalions, especially after such a period of intense operational commitment and contribution,” Gen Sir Peter Wall explained. “Capability in modern forces is not just about how much manpower you've got, it is a function of so many other things – not least the standard of your equipment, sophistication of your capability and quality of your people.”

“This is fair to the country because it's delivering the very best range of capabilities that we can manage from the resources we have been given.”

“And it's fair at the soldier level, where we should be doing our utmost to make sure everybody gets the best chance of being re-employed elsewhere in the British Army.”

Formations that will lose units in the shake-up include the Infantry; Royal Armoured Corps; Royal Regiment of Artillery; Corps of Royal Engineers; Royal Corps of Signals; Army Air Corps; The Royal Logistic Corps; Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical



“We should be doing our utmost to make sure everybody gets the best chance of being re-employed in the Army”
— Gen Sir Peter Wall

Engineers and Royal Military Police.

Among the Infantry units to be disbanded are 2nd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment; 3rd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment; 2nd Battalion, The Royal Welsh and 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

On the practicality of downsizing the Regular force from its current strength of 102,000 to 82,000, the general added: “We will have to wait until we have reduced force levels in Afghanistan before we can implement the reductions.”

“We will look after the interests of the individual primarily and he or she can hopefully be re-employed within their own cap badge.”

Under Army 2020 much work currently carried out by Royal Logistic Corps personnel will be handed over to private contractors.

“The reason it is being reduced is because we have a surfeit of logistic capability – we need to remove some of that,” Gen Wall said.

“The RLC will still remain a very significant and critical part of the Army and one of considerable size.”

Addressing the Royal Armoured Corps reductions, the Chief of the General Staff added: “This is not the start of a downward trajectory.”

“We will be left with three armoured regiments equipped with an upgraded Challenger 2 – large units with 56 tanks each – that will satisfy our requirements into the future.”

● **Regimental reworking –**
page 28

“We've had to make difficult decisions but what really matters is that we have a defence budget that makes sense, so we can give troops the support that they need” — Prime Minister David Cameron

Formidable firepower: Having earned its spurs in Kosovo and southern Iraq, the Challenger 2 is set to undergo an upgrade and will remain a feature of the downsized British Army Picture: Steve Dock





Picture: Graeme Main

“Indistinguishable from Regular colleagues”: Maj Gen James Everard has dismissed the notion that Reservists such as LCpl Craig Reid (RAMC) – pictured above preparing for mobilisation on Op Herrick 17 in Cumbria – cannot step up to the Army 2020 challenge

‘Reservists are ready for major role’

FULL-TIME soldiers have hit back at suggestions that their Reservist colleagues may not be capable of a larger role in the British Army of 2020.

Following the announcement that part-time troops will be given more responsibility in the coming years (page 7), personnel have rubbished the notion of “weekend warriors”.

In a letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, the assistant chief of the general staff argued that such accusations diminished sacrifices made by troops.

“The facts speak for themselves,” Maj Gen James Everard wrote.

“Since 2003 more than 28,000 Army Reservists have deployed alongside their

Regular colleagues on operations.

“Some have been severely injured, 70 have received operational awards and 26 have died.”

Reacting to an article by one of the newspaper’s commentators, the senior officer explained that volunteers give up family time and career opportunities when they enlist.

“Within weeks of deploying they are indistinguishable from their Regular colleagues,” he continued.

“They expect no special treatment and get none. Nothing could be further from the ‘all-expenses-paid jolly’ alluded to.”

The sentiment has been echoed by other Servicemen and women.

LCpl Danny Holdsworth (R Signals) said: “I think people give the Reserves a hard time.

“I’ve worked with them and it depends on whether the individual is enthusiastic or not, just like anyone in any job.”

Speaking to *Soldier* in March, Lt Col Tom Copinger-Symes revealed that Reservists under his command in the 5 Rifles battlegroup on Op Herrick 15 had been exactly what the tour needed.

“What we got from them was not only excellent core infantry skills but a wide range of other talents – from the artisan to the academic,” he explained.

● **Final word – page 98**

British premier pledges staged reduction

THE prime minister has visited troops in Afghanistan to discuss the drawdown of combat operations in Helmand and future downsizing of the British Army.

Speaking at Camp Bastion, David Cameron said: “We will do this [transition] in a sensible, ordered, practical way – 9,500 [soldiers will be reduced] to 9,000 this year.

“As local troops take a bigger role we will be able to reduce numbers further next year. I don’t want to see cliff-edge circumstances. I’m confident we are going to have a staged reduction and

deliver a secure situation.”

Commenting on Army 2020, Mr Cameron added: “We’ve had to make difficult decisions but what really matters is that we have a defence budget that makes sense, so we can give troops the support that they need.”

During his trip, the Conservative leader – pictured with Lt Gen Adrian Bradshaw, Deputy Commander ISAF, and British Ambassador to Afghanistan Sir Richard Stagg – also visited Nad-e Ali and Lashkar Gah.



Picture: Sgt Andy Ready, RLC

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Standing by: Army personnel will man four Rapier ground-based air defence systems at sites around the capital

Picture: Graeme Main

Step-up in support of sporting spectacle

THE Armed Forces have deployed 17,000 Servicemen and women as part of the security operation around the Olympics – 3,500 more than first planned.

Philip Hammond made the decision to call in extra troops last month after it emerged that private security firm G4S had failed to recruit and train the required number of guards.

In a written statement to the House of Commons, the defence secretary said: “Ministers have been monitoring this situation and, where necessary, preparing contingency measures.”

Mr Hammond added: “G4S has agreed that it would be prudent to deploy additional military support to provide greater reassurance.”

A further 1,200 Servicemen and women have been put on standby to assist the sporting event.

“The government has judged that there is no current need to deploy these additional personnel who will only be called on if needed,” a MoD spokesman said last month.

The department has promised that those troops drafted in to help at short notice will not lose any days of holiday and will be reimbursed for money they have spent on excursions that needed to be abandoned.

“We will ensure that all those taking part receive their full leave entitlement even if it has to be rescheduled, that no-one is out of pocket due to cancelled personal arrangements and that all

deployed troops are appropriately supported,” he commented.

As well as providing staff for security checks on pedestrians and vehicles, the Army is operating ground-based air defence systems to protect the Games from terrorist attack.

The deployment consists of four Rapier and two Starstreak high-velocity missile systems and forms part of a wider air security plan that includes a network of air observers and radars.

In recognition of the significant military contribution to the sporting spectacle, thousands of Olympic and Paralympic tickets have been donated to personnel via the Tickets for Troops charity.

● **Safeguarding Games – page 65**

Hainault home exceeds expectations

A TEMPORARY camp for around 4,000 of the military personnel providing security to the Olympic Games has pleasantly surprised its guests.

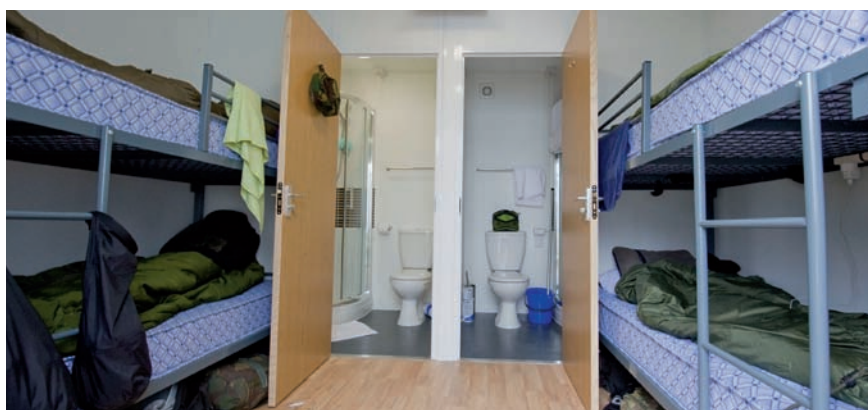
Over the coming weeks the Essex-based accommodation is serving as home to around 2,900 soldiers, 600 airmen and women, 130 Royal Navy personnel and 500 civilian employees from the G4S firm.

As this issue was going to press, the site was on track to absorb some of the 3,500 troops drafted in following the failure of the private security company to provide adequate manpower.

“It’s a higher standard than you would expect on usual operations,” explained the commandant of the facility, Wg Cdr Guy Bazalgette. “With contingency plans in place we are making use of every single bed space. The camp was always going to be split between the military and G4S and it will remain so.”

Inside the short-term housing in Hainault Forest, each two-person sleeping unit contains beds, an en-suite shower and toilet.

Cfn Adam King (7 Para RHA)



Picture: Cpl Mark Larner RY

expressed his surprise at what had been provided. He said: “I thought it was going to be tents in a field but we’ve got proper mattresses and electricity.”

Most Army personnel at the camp hail from 16 Air Assault Brigade and are being fed by the Royal Air Force’s 3 Mobile Catering Squadron.

Off-duty soldiers can take advantage of the on-site gym and social area, which is fitted with plasma televisions and games consoles.

On a visit to Tobacco Dock in Wapping – a separate accommodation site for 2,000 Forces personnel – Philip Hammond praised the contribution of the Armed Forces to the Olympic effort.

The defence secretary said: “Our troops are used to short-notice deployments and dealing with the unexpected, which is why I am confident they will do a superb job in assisting in the provision of security for the world’s largest sporting event.”

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



Handing over: SSgt Rob Shubert (R Signals) from the Kabul Joint Support Unit in Afghanistan helps to deliver aid to some of the region's poorest inhabitants as troops on Op Herrick 16 continue their efforts to bring security to the country. Last month it was announced that members of 4th Mechanized Brigade will assume command of the mission from October. The number of personnel on the next deployment will reflect the UK's target of reducing combat troops by 500 by the end of this year and call-out notices will be issued to around 575 Reservists. Picture: Cpl Dek Traylor, RAF

SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICES

■ **NOMINATIONS** are being sought for *The Sun's* annual Military Awards.

Categories cover a broad spectrum of Service life and include honours for best unit, outstanding soldier and those who have overcome adversity.

Prince Charles launched the initiative last month and writing in the newspaper he praised the efforts of those serving in the Armed Forces.

“*The Sun's* Military Awards seem to be going from strength to strength, highlighting extraordinary acts of grit, determination and resilience, as well as utter selflessness on behalf of others,” he said.

Entries must cover the period between September 1, 2011 and August 31, 2012 and the closing date is September 3.

For more details read **DIN 2012DIN09-016** or visit www.thesun.co.uk/millies

TICKET TO RIDE

■ **MILITARY** personnel working to support the Olympics in London can use the capital's public transport for free, it has been announced.

The deal applies to the underground, buses, Docklands Light Railway and overground trains until September 11.

Speaking last month, the city's mayor Boris Johnson said: “We are ready to welcome the world and host a hugely successful Olympic and Paralympic Games. That success will be in no small measure down to the contribution of our boys and girls in the military.”

STUDY REMINDER

■ **OFFICERS** wishing to be considered for this year's higher defence studies programme have been asked to submit their applications by September 15.

The scheme includes courses in international relations and short-term British Army fellowships and allows military personnel to undertake a period of advanced learning at university.

For further information read **ABN 61-12**.

GROUP GAINS GROUND

■ **THE Armed Forces' Buddhist Society** is searching for a larger venue to accommodate the growing number of troops attending its annual meetings.

Some personnel had to be turned away from the organisation's June gathering at Ampot House, near Andover, due to room size constraints.

The event featured discussions on religious freedom and diversity, with a range of speakers including the Chaplain General, Rev Jonathan Woodhouse, and Maj Gen Richard Nugee.

To find out more about the society visit www.afbs-uk.org

DEPTH CHANGE

■ **THE** diving standards team has transferred from Royal Navy command to the newly formed Defence Safety and Environment Authority. The organisation, which is responsible for the regulation of all MoD diving activity, remains based in Portsmouth but its chain of command and email addresses have changed.

Cadet Forces' cash boost

THOUSANDS more youngsters will be educated about the values of the Armed Forces, thanks to a £10.85 million cash injection.

The Ministry of Defence and Department for Education have committed the money to establish 100 new Cadet Force units in state schools across England.

Funds will help to purchase equipment and train staff over the next three years, giving more children the chance to learn leadership skills, build their confidence and volunteer.

“The funding will kick-start an exciting new phase in the development of our Cadet Forces – fostering greater social mobility and raising awareness of the values and ethos of our Armed Forces among local communities,” said Defence Secretary Philip Hammond.

A spokesman for the MoD added that research had shown those belonging to the groups tended to have more respect for authority and higher levels of self-



esteem. He said: “They are likely to be committed citizens, with high aspirations and a greater sense of community.

“The vast majority, nearly 80 per cent, said being a cadet had helped them stay out of trouble.”



...a £200 clothing voucher

THE answer to last month's spine lines competition would not have bewildered those committed readers who study the pages of *Soldier* from cover to cover.

(Cpl Garvin) Felix were all interviewed about their role during Op Herrick 16 on page 98 of the issue.

This month, we are offering a £200 clothing voucher for online fashion retailer Boohoo (www.boohoo.com).

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

Answers, plus your postal address, to the usual place or comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by August 31. Good luck!



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SERVICE LIFE LESSONS

YOUNGSTERS across the UK are to take part in a new fund-raising initiative that will look at life in the Armed Forces from a child's perspective. Red, White and Blue Day will be held on October 12 in support of ABF The Soldiers' Charity, the RAF Benevolent Fund and The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity.



STOCKPILE SURPLUS

THE MoD has been criticised by the National Audit Office (NAO) for spending billions of pounds on storing unnecessary military supplies. Among the stockpile is a 54-year supply of equipment for an old model of Nimrod (pictured) that was retired from service in 2010. The head of the NAO said the department could "ill afford" to store such kit.



REFRESHMENT REFUSAL

A BAR in Coventry came under fire after its staff refused to serve coffee to the family and friends of Cpl Michael Thacker (R Welsh) ahead of the Serviceman's funeral last month. The owner of Browns Cafe and Bar in Jordan Well later apologised, saying that in the circumstances the group should have been welcomed.



BAD DRILLS



Screen stars: Troops featured in the series have helped heighten awareness of Herrick

Our War returns to screens

A POWERFUL documentary featuring video footage shot from the helmets of British soldiers will return to television screens this month. *Our War 2* will run over three episodes on BBC Three from August 13.

The programme, which debuted last year to mark a decade in Afghanistan, was filmed during three different Herrick missions on cameras carried by members of 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards; 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and 2nd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment.

Speaking exclusively to *Soldier*, a star of the show explained how the project had a welcome impact on Herrick 15.

"Carrying the cameras made no difference to how we patrolled and acted," said Lt Jimmy Clark of C Company, 2 Mercian.

"But we used the footage to look back and assess things we had done to see what needed

correcting on the ground."

Three members of the platoon commander's team agreed to record their every move during an operation to secure Route 611 in Helmand province.

"It's very nice to have people cheering at UK freedom parades but sometimes in the back of your mind you do wonder if members of the public know what it is they are proud of and what soldiers do," Lt Clark added. "Programmes like this give them a valuable insight into how hard life can be in Afghanistan."

With raw battlefield scenes depicting ambushes, small arms fire and medical evacuations, the series promises to make compelling viewing.

And its executive producer Colin Barr praised military personnel for their cooperation with his team.

"They were so resourceful and rarely played up to the camera."

"Some of the footage that came back was just remarkable."

Social offer to Service leavers

TROOPS who depart the Army this year are being offered six months' free membership with the Round Table to help them build friendships in the civvy world.

The deal – which is also open to Royal Air Force and Royal Navy personnel – applies to males aged 18-45 and has been matched by the organisation's sister club for women, Ladies Circle.

Andrew Waring (pictured far right), a former Army aircraft technician who left the Service in 1997, said the group had made him more enthusiastic about life on civvy street.

"It was my uncle who told me about the Round Table,"

the 38-year-old lance corporal-turned-photographer explained.

"It had all the nice bits about the Army that I really missed: the structure; the teamwork, social life and adventure."

"As a soldier I had enjoyed rock climbing and canoeing and with the Round Table you can do all those things. It put me back in the game."

"It has also been great for my business. All the guys at my branch and others use me for events and weddings."

The worldwide network for young men organises social functions, international excursions and fund-raising activities.

For more details visit www.roundtable.co.uk/forces





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Picture: Cpl Steve Blake, RLC

Facing future challenges: Reservists are taking part in various training packages in a bid to increase their role during future missions

Reserves set to raise their game

VOLUNTEERS have wasted no time in taking the Army 2020 vision forward with a step-up in battlefield training and integration with their Regular colleagues.

Hundreds of part-time troops have embarked on exercises across the world in recent weeks, while others worked to provide security at the Games (page 11) and in Helmand province.

Exercise Lion Star 4 saw Reservist cadets from the North East Officer Training Regiment put through their paces in Cyprus prior to many attending the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

And members of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry honed their skills on the Challenger 2 main battle tank during a tough weekend of live firing (pictured

above). The serial, held at Lulworth Ranges in Dorset, was designed to give the volunteers hands-on experience as crew and followed tuition in simulators.

The London Regiment is also continuing its efforts towards handover in Afghanistan, with one cohort of volunteers currently deployed on Op Herrick and another in the final stages of preparations for a tour.

"A number of the soldiers have deployed on operations for the first time, while for others it has been the second or third time," explained Capt Rob Hill, the unit's regimental operations support officer. "They have taken their roles on with gusto and are working incredibly hard alongside their Regular counterparts," he added.

Army chiefs say that integration of full- and part-time troops is critical to the restructuring of the Service.

Speaking on the day of the Army 2020 announcement (page 7), Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir Peter Wall said: "The Reserve that we need is going to be a natural product of our relationship with the country.

"We are going to have a partnering formation in the adaptable part of the Force. This is new – it's novel – and I think it will bear considerable fruit."

Over the coming years Reserve units will routinely work and train with Regular formations. A government consultation paper due to be published in the autumn will set out how employers will be brought onside in the new arrangement.

FOR MORE NEWS...

Log onto armynet.mod.uk, visit army.mod.uk or follow the Territorial and Reserves link on the intranet

● THOUSANDS of Reservists swapped their civilian work clothes for combats ahead of this year's Armed Forces Day. Personnel from around the UK, from refuse collectors to bankers, took part in Uniform to Work Day to draw attention to their role. Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said the event had highlighted the importance of part-time troops on operations and in wider society.

Troops feel benefit of rule change

PART-TIME personnel claiming jobseekers' allowance will face less paperwork from now on, the Department for Work and Pensions has announced.

Money earned by unemployed Reservists during annual camp and courses in lieu has traditionally meant that their benefit claims were stopped completely. But in accordance with the revised rules, such individuals will be classed as "actively seeking employment" during this period and applications

will not have to be resubmitted from scratch afterwards.

"Under the new system, volunteers will receive a nominal payment of ten pence in order to ensure their entitlement remains open," a spokesperson for the department explained. "Outdated legislation will not stand in the way of unemployed people who want to serve their country."

Soldiers will still have to meet the usual conditions for the rest of the time they receive the allowance.



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IN MEMORIAM



WO2 LEONARD THOMAS (44)
ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS
KIA JULY 1
— AFGHANISTAN



GDSM CRAIG RODERICK (22)
1ST BATTALION,
WELSH GUARDS
KIA JULY 1 — AFGHANISTAN



GDSM APETE TUISOVURUA (28)
1ST BATTALION,
WELSH GUARDS
KIA JULY 1 — AFGHANISTAN

THE British Army is mourning the loss of three brave soldiers who were killed in a small arms fire attack in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand.

WO2 Leonard Thomas, Gdsm Craig Roderick and Gdsm Apete Tuisovurua were targeted following a patrol to Checkpoint Kamparack Pul, where they had helped to organise a shura with a local detachment of the Afghan National Civil Order Police.

Having completed the task and on leaving the compound, the trio were shot by a man wearing an Afghan police uniform.

WO2 Thomas, of the Royal Corps of Signals, joined the Army in 1986 and deployed to Kuwait and Iraq with 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards the same year.

He later transferred to 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards and finished his Regular service in 2001. Most of his time was spent within the reconnaissance platoon and he served with distinction in Northern Ireland.

As a career soldier, the 44-year-old joined the Reserve forces and volunteered for a role in the Military Stabilisation Support Group on Operation Herrick 16.

Lt Col Nigel Allison (RLC), of the Task Force Helmand transition team, commented: "A consummate warrant officer, WO2 Thomas was hardworking, hugely experienced, possessed a keen sense of humour and was rightly proud of his prestigious military career, the majority of which he spent in the Welsh Guards.

"A measure of the type of man he was is the fact that he had willingly volunteered for one last operational deployment."

Maj Matt England (AGC (ETS)) added: "He always wanted to be at the point where he could make the most difference.

"He was articulate, bright and fit and I was lucky enough to work with him and also call him a friend.

"He lived a full life and his values shone through in everything he did."

WO2 Thomas leaves behind his mother, partner and brother.

A family statement said: "He was a military man through and through."

Gdsm Roderick, of 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, joined the Army to keep fit and deploy to Afghanistan and passed out from the Infantry Training Centre Catterick in September 2009.

The 22-year-old became an exemplary member

of his unit and had a bright future ahead of him, with progression through the ranks a certainty.

Lt Col Dino Bossi, commanding officer of 1 WG, said: "Gdsm Roderick joined the Army expressly to go to Afghanistan and was in his element out here – thriving on the austere conditions, the hard physical work and the mental challenge of soldiering."

Gdsm Tommy Everett added: "Craig was a close friend, always making the lads laugh with silly comments.

"He was a massive morale boost for the team and was always grafting to get things done."

Gdsm Stewart Harris said: "He was a light that could not be put out; he could not be broken.

"He would put others before himself every time and every memory I have of him is a good or funny one.

"You have been stolen from us, Rod."

The Serviceman leaves behind his parents, two sisters, stepbrother, grandmother and girlfriend.

A family statement said: "Everyone who knew him will miss his big smile and sense of humour.

"He was the best son, brother or friend you could have wished for."

Fijian Gdsm Tuisovurua joined 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards in June 2011 after passing out of the Infantry Training Centre Catterick.

His professionalism and commitment to duty meant he was an extremely popular member of his company who was known for his love of sport.

Lt Col Bossi said: "Gdsm Tuisovurua had a deeply moral outlook on life and enduring principles by which he lived.

"He was extremely fit and robust but without show or arrogance.

"Everybody liked him – one could not fail to – and his infectious smile broke down barriers wherever he went."

Maj Julian Salusbury added: "He was a quiet, hardworking and willing guardsman who enjoyed life as a soldier and made many friends in the company. A committed rugby player, fit and eager to learn, he was a pleasure to command."

LSgt Laurie Challenger said: "A great asset to the team and a proud man who enjoyed working for us and never complained.

"He always had a smile on his face and always laughed. I loved that laugh; to me it's what I will always remember about him."

Gdsm Tuisovurua leaves behind his mother, father, four brothers and three sisters.



Statue salutes sacrifice of airborne troops

A SCULPTURE dedicated to the soldiers of The Parachute Regiment has been unveiled by Prince Charles at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

Standing five metres tall, the bronze monument (pictured left) depicts a paratrooper standing alongside the winged horse Pegasus, ridden by Greek mythological hero Bellerophon.

Designed by paratrooper-turned-sculptor Mark Jackson and artist Charlie Langton, the project took a team of 50 two years to complete.

"This is for the lads who didn't come back, as sure enough they could have been here thinking of me," said 87-year-old Normandy veteran Bill Ness.

The unit's royal colonel-in-chief attended a dedication ceremony along with serving and former members.

The British Airborne Forces Club organised a similar gathering at Aldershot Military Cemetery to dedicate a commemorative stone to the 54 airborne personnel who died during Operation Banner in Northern Ireland.



THE BIGGER PICTURE

WARTHOG vehicles operated by members of The King's Royal Hussars drive over dusty ground in Helmand province after emerging from murky water. Troops working with the agile all-terrain asset are at the forefront of some highly kinetic missions on Operation Herrick. As one of the most heavily armoured ground vehicles available to British troops, the tracked machine has been frequently deployed on combat assignments over the last three months. Picture: Sgt Andy Reddy (RLC)





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2020

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

You told us what to quiz him about and we obliged. Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir Peter Wall answers readers' questions on the Army 2020 plan and what it means for the future of British troops

Will the increase in Reserves activity be matched by more benefits?

A higher level of training will mean that Reserves will earn more and we want to make sure that your terms and conditions of service are as similar as possible to, if not the same as, Regulars. But it will take some time to get onto the same platform.

In a UK-based Army with less operational commitments, do you envisage soldiers getting more leave?

Soldiers will get the same leave as they do at the moment; there's no reason why this should change. But by being UK-based, Service personnel may be able to make better use of short breaks including weekends.

With the reaction force at high readiness at all times, how will the Army prevent burn-out?

Good question! There will be four brigades in the reaction force and an air assault brigade with one of its two battlegroups at readiness at any one time. One of the three armoured infantry brigades will also be at readiness and the other two will be doing training and additional tasks. Battlegroup rotations won't come around all that often, probably for an average of six months in three years. This should lead to a lower tempo than we have been used to but will also involve some really challenging training.

How can you justify disbanding 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland then days later need us to provide security

at the Olympics? Not needed, aye?

16 Air Assault Brigade has been committed to the Olympics as part of the security plan for some months now. Army 2020 is for the medium-term future and will be implemented from 2015 onwards. The Royal Regiment of Scotland is losing a battalion primarily because it cannot sustain its manpower. There are not enough people from Scotland who want to join the regiment to maintain five battalions so it's going down to four.

Why make Regulars redundant before you know you have enough Reservists to offset the loss?

Really good question! It comes down to the fact that we have to save money from our manpower budget right away. We are seeking to grow the Reserve to fill some of the reduction and capability that stems from the Regular Army shrinking by 20 per cent. But we will continue to meet our commitments.

What happens to defence if Scotland goes independent?

Another critical question, and the truth is we don't know. From a British Army point of view the United Kingdom structure is by far the best solution. The Service depends critically on manpower from Scotland, and not just for the Scottish regiments, so complete independence would pose challenges.



2020

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE



“There may be people out there who think that people like me are ‘pushover generals’ after an easy time but let me assure them that the top of the Service is determined to get this right”

The majority of Reservists have no intention of going on operations. How will you change that?

I think it's unfair to say that. But it is the case that a significant proportion of the Reserve might be needed at any point in the future for operations so we need to reform training and terms and conditions of service so that those enlisted can be available when we need them.

Will my unit [one selected for disbandment] be left to “wither on the vine” between now and 2015?

That's not the plan. The most important thing is that each individual gets the best possible treatment and some certainty over what will happen to them. But it's also important that we bring some closure to regiments and bases, and sustain a sense of purpose up to the point where everyone has moved to a new posting or in the case of the unlucky few, left the Army. There is no easy answer.

Will a Regular Army of 82,000 reduce its commitments or just run faster?

Its commitments have to reduce – and the conclusion to operations in Afghanistan will be the first step. But we want to make sure that we have enough challenge and excitement aside from operations to give everybody what they want from the Army. There's a balance to be struck. In operational terms, the force packages we will be required to produce will be a bit smaller than before. But I fully recognise there are always other pressures which can call on our manpower at short notice; the Olympics has proved the Army can go that extra mile.

This has all been trailed in the media for months and I found out what was happening to my battalion on Sky News. It has to stop. How can you lock this down?

Decisions cannot be formally announced until the secretary of state has spoken. There will always be speculation and, in a modern world with mobile phone communications, it is not within the Army's

gift to stop this happening. What Sky ran was a very accurate representation but at that point it was still conjecture. We went to extreme lengths to make sure that soldiers were being informed by their commanding officers as the secretary of state was making his announcement so that people did not find out from the media first.

What does all this mean for our [Regular Army] careers?

It means that the future Army is going to be very worthwhile serving in but with fewer units. Promotion into new jobs will be more competitive until we get down to 82,000, at which point career prospects should be similar to what they are now.

Aren't people at your level just puppets, forced to do what politicians want?

You cannot escape the fact that Army 2020 involved political considerations. But that's the nature of an institution that's really important to the country. I am entirely content this plan is the right solution for the Army and that decisions about regiments have been taken carefully. There may be people out there who think that people like me are “pushover generals” after an easy time, and that these sorts of decisions are relatively easy to make. But let me assure them that the top of the Service is determined to get this right so that future generations can be as proud of the Army as we are today. Army 2020 is a challenge but we will get there.



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Cpl John Scott
Rafoss USMC

The thinking behind major changes to the British Army's structure...

AS soldiers take in the details of the Army 2020 plan, its mastermind has shed light on some of the logic behind it.

Last summer Lt Gen Nick Carter was tasked with setting out the first principles of a new-look Service.

Supported by a team of experts and guided by the operational and financial demands of the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review, the senior officer set about designing a British Force fit for future operations and the “changing landscape” of warfare.

MAN WITH A PLAN

LT GEN NICK CARTER



Picture: Cpl John Scott Ratoss, USMC

Now, as the journey to reach his vision begins, the Serviceman has given a taste of the other pressures driving such a major restructure.

RISK OF ATTACK

"There is a requirement to be able to respond to a low probability, but very high impact, risk of a large-scale military attack and to continue to deter accordingly."

WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

"The fact that we no longer assume we shall be committed permanently on an enduring operation allows the Army to be structured on the basis of graduated readiness."

DRAWDOWN IN GERMANY

"The withdrawal from Germany requires the Army to engage with civil society (and employers particularly) in a very different manner than hitherto."

THE NEED TO ENGAGE OVERSEAS

"One of the major deductions from work done on the *Future Character of Conflict* study is that an Army that is more engaged overseas would have a better chance of understanding its environment and preventing instability upstream."

THE NATIONAL INTEREST

"The Army still needs to be capable of war fighting, fulfilling its traditional role in which this capability is both a deterrent and the ultimate national insurance policy."

THREAT OF TERRORISM

"There is a clear threat from terrorism. The Army has a role to play in this [...]. There is, moreover, an obvious link between effect delivered overseas and the networked nature of the ethnic minorities resident in the UK."



Lt Gen Nick Carter

THE NEED TO BE FLEXIBLE

"We must improve the Army's ability to adapt rapidly and learn lessons at a tempo that gives us an edge against future threats."

TRAINING DEMANDS

"We shall want to have a reduced tempo of activity to allow the time for training to be conducted thoroughly. Individuals will need the opportunity to gain different skills and competencies."

BRITISH ARMY BLUEPRINT

Personnel are facing one of the biggest structural changes the Service has ever seen. Some units will be lost, others will merge and the Force will be based around two separate components. Here, *Soldier* outlines key changes en route to the 2020 vision...

THE CHANGES

1

JULY 2012: VISION ANNOUNCED & RESTRUCTURING COMMENCES

- Defence Secretary Philip Hammond told Parliament: "Army 2020 will create a more flexible and agile force. Unlike the past, it will set a firm foundation of men and material, well trained, well equipped and fully funded. The regimental system will remain the bedrock of the Army's fighting future."
- Unit losses and mergers were revealed to troops by the chain of command in preparation for the creation of a single fighting force (page 28)

2

RESERVES BOOSTED

- Recruitment of part-time personnel will continue apace to deliver a larger and transformed force of 30,000 by 2018. A record number of enquiries met the TA's recent "do more, be more" ad campaign

3

JUNE 2013: PERSONNEL DEPART

- Following the exit of those who applied to leave the Army under tranche two of the redundancy programme, the second round of compulsory redundancies will be implemented

4

KIT KICKS IN

- Investment in affordable and future-facing equipment for Reserve and Regular troops is already under way. Next-generation platforms include the Wildcat helicopter (pages 31-33) and Foxhound

5

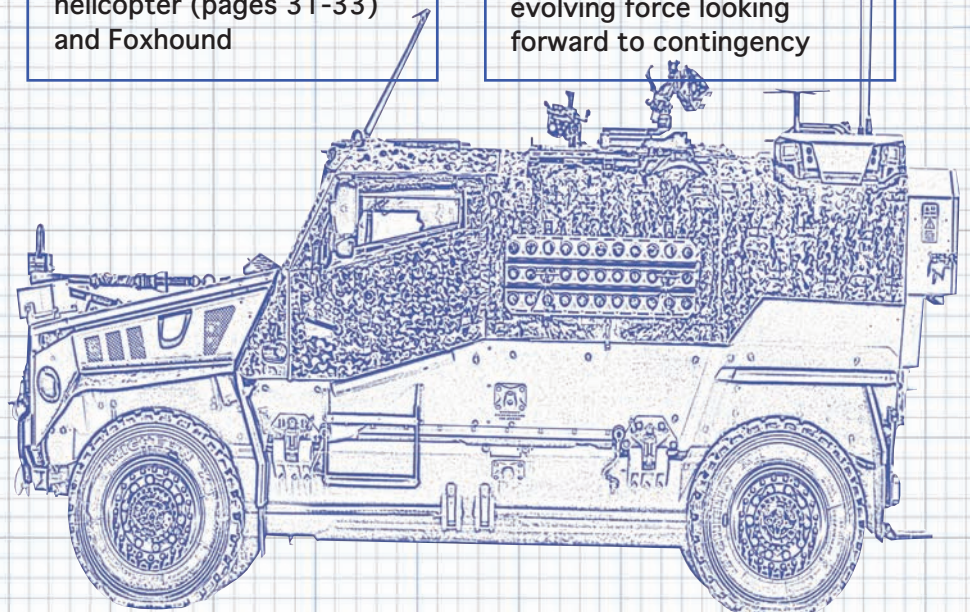
LATE 2014: AFGHAN EXIT

- Following transition of security operations to homegrown personnel, combat troops on Op Herrick will be gradually withdrawn, with the evolving force looking forward to contingency

6

2018: FUTURE MANNING LEVELS MET

- Six years after the Army 2020 announcement, 12,000 troops are likely to have left the Service and Regular manpower will stand at 82,000



THE VISION

THE NEW LOOK ARMY WILL BE DESIGNED AROUND:

A REACTION FORCE

- Standing at high readiness
- Based around three armoured Infantry brigades and 16 Assault Brigade
- With an armoured battlegroup and air assault force at very high readiness
- Undertaking short notice contingency and intervention missions
- Comprising mostly Regular personnel



AN ADAPTABLE FORCE

- Standing at varying levels of readiness
- Based under seven regional infantry brigade headquarters during training and a divisional headquarters on operations
- Capable of undertaking overseas military capacity building, homeland support during natural disasters, UK engagement and follow-on forces for future missions
- Delivering the Army's commitments on ceremonial duties and in Cyprus, Brunei and the Falklands
- Comprising a mix of Regulars and Reserves



FORCE TROOP BRIGADES

- Bringing together a wide range of Regular and Reserve capabilities including engineer, artillery and medical support
- Coordinating key tasks such as overseas capacity building

A LEANER, MORE AGILE FIGHTING FORCE OF 82,000 REGULAR TROOPS AND 30,000 RESERVISTS THAT CONTINUES TO OFFER EXCITING CAREERS TO ITS PERSONNEL AND IS THE MOST CAPABLE ARMY IN ITS CLASS

2020

REGIMENTAL REWORKING

A guide to the units being disbanded and merged under the Army 2020 plan



Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps

...will reduce from 11 to nine regiments

When: Between 2014 and 2016

To amalgamate: The Queen's Royal Lancers and 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) from October 2014

1st Royal Tank Regiment and
2nd Royal Tank Regiment from October 2014



Royal Regiment of Artillery

...will reduce from 14 to 12 Regular regiments

When: By October 2015

To go: 40 Regiment, the regimental HQ and two batteries from 39 Regiment



Corps of Royal Engineers

...will reduce from 15 to 11 Regular regiments

To go: RHQ and HQ Squadron, 24 Commando Engineer Regiment from April 2013

25 Engineer Regiment from October 2015

28 Engineer Regiment from October 2015

67 Works Group from April 2015

38 Engineer Regiment (already disbanded)

To change: Military engineering support will be provided by five close support regiments, two of which will incorporate Reserve troops

Specialist brigade close support will be rationalised to Air Assault Task Force and Lead Commando Group



Royal Corps of Signals

...reduced from 11 to ten Regular regiments

When: Disbanded July 2012

Gone: 7 Signal Regiment



Royal Military Police

...will reduce from four to three Regular units

When: Date to be announced

To go: 5 Regiment



Infantry

...will reduce from 36 to 31 Regular battalions

When: By 2015

To go: 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in autumn 2014

2nd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment from autumn 2013

3rd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment from October 2014

2nd Battalion, The Royal Welsh from autumn 2013

To change: Regular light role battalions will be partnered with Reserves

5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland will reduce to form a public duties incremental company from August 2013

1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment will join the Prince of Wales' Division.



Army Air Corps

...will reduce from seven to six Regular regiments

When: From October 2015

To go: 9 Regiment

To merge: 1 and 9 Regiment will merge under one headquarters – 1 Regiment – and will relocate to Yeovilton to form a large regiment equipped with the new Wildcat (pages 31-33)



The Royal Logistic Corps

...will reduce from 20 to 14 Regular regiments

To go: 8 Regiment disbanded in March 2012

19 Combat Service Support Battalion from December 2012

24 Regiment from August 2013

1 Logistic Support Regiment from April 2015

2 Logistic Support Regiment from October 2014

23 Pioneer Regiment from October 2015

To change: Reserve units will be restructured and paired with Regular regiments across a number of capabilities, meaning 20 per cent of logistic output will be delivered by Reservists in future



Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

...will reduce from six to seven Regular battalions

When: From autumn 2015

To go: 101 Force Support Battalion will transfer to the Reserve



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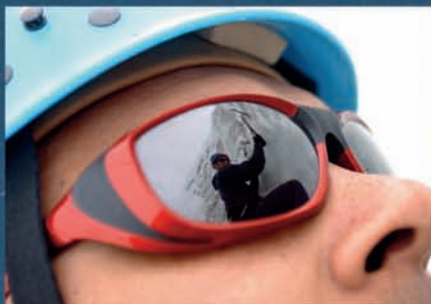
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BLADES OF GLORY

NEW ASSET ADDS CLOUT TO ARMY FLEET

Report: Sarah Goldthorpe
Pictures: Steve Dock

WITH awesome reconnaissance kit, a state-of-the-art glass cockpit and a robust engine, the Army's latest flying machine is certainly a sight to behold.

But with a hefty price tag, this airframe's actions will need to speak louder than its whirrs if it is to prove itself a worthy replacement for the Lynx when it enters service in 2014.

Luckily, those in the Army Air Corps charged with introducing the Wildcat into the Force's flying fleet are in no doubt as to how this powerful machine will boost UK troops on future missions.

"It is a much more capable platform," explained Maj Tim Pittaway, a member of the fielding team responsible for helping to deliver the helicopter to the front line. >>



>> He is one of four Army pilots putting the asset through its paces and is enthusiastic about its potential – especially with the addition of the Bowman communications system.

“The Wildcat can detect targets at a considerable range and you can then hand those targets on to the Apache, so really the package is complete now,” the officer said.

“It’s a bit of a game-changer in the cockpit too. Re-establishing links with ground call signs is a significant difference and it has new engines on-board which are far more powerful than the Lynx so that is very exciting.

“It is a massive privilege to be one of the first few guys to use it.”

The AW159’s integrated sensors allow it to carry out tasks ranging from airborne surveillance to utility support, overwatch duties

and troop transportation.

It can be equipped with 12.7mm or 7.62mm door guns and boasts crashworthy seating and fuel tanks.

The platform can also withstand far higher temperatures than its predecessor.

Defence Secretary Philip Hammond and Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir Peter Wall unveiled the first new model at Farnborough International Air Show last month and confirmed a £250 million support and training contract with maker AgustaWestland.

The Ministry of Defence has agreed to buy 34 for the British Army and 28 maritime attack

variants for the Royal Navy.

Speaking at the world-famous aviation event, Gen Wall said soldiers would primarily use the Wildcat helicopter for reconnaissance.

“There is more work to do to get this up to its optimum potential but I am absolutely sure we have done the right thing in buying this,” the senior officer told *Soldier*.

“We might be an Army that is undergoing considerable change but we are facing the future and we have to start moving there quickly.

“This shows we are going forward with new equipment.”

Brig James Illingworth, deputy commander

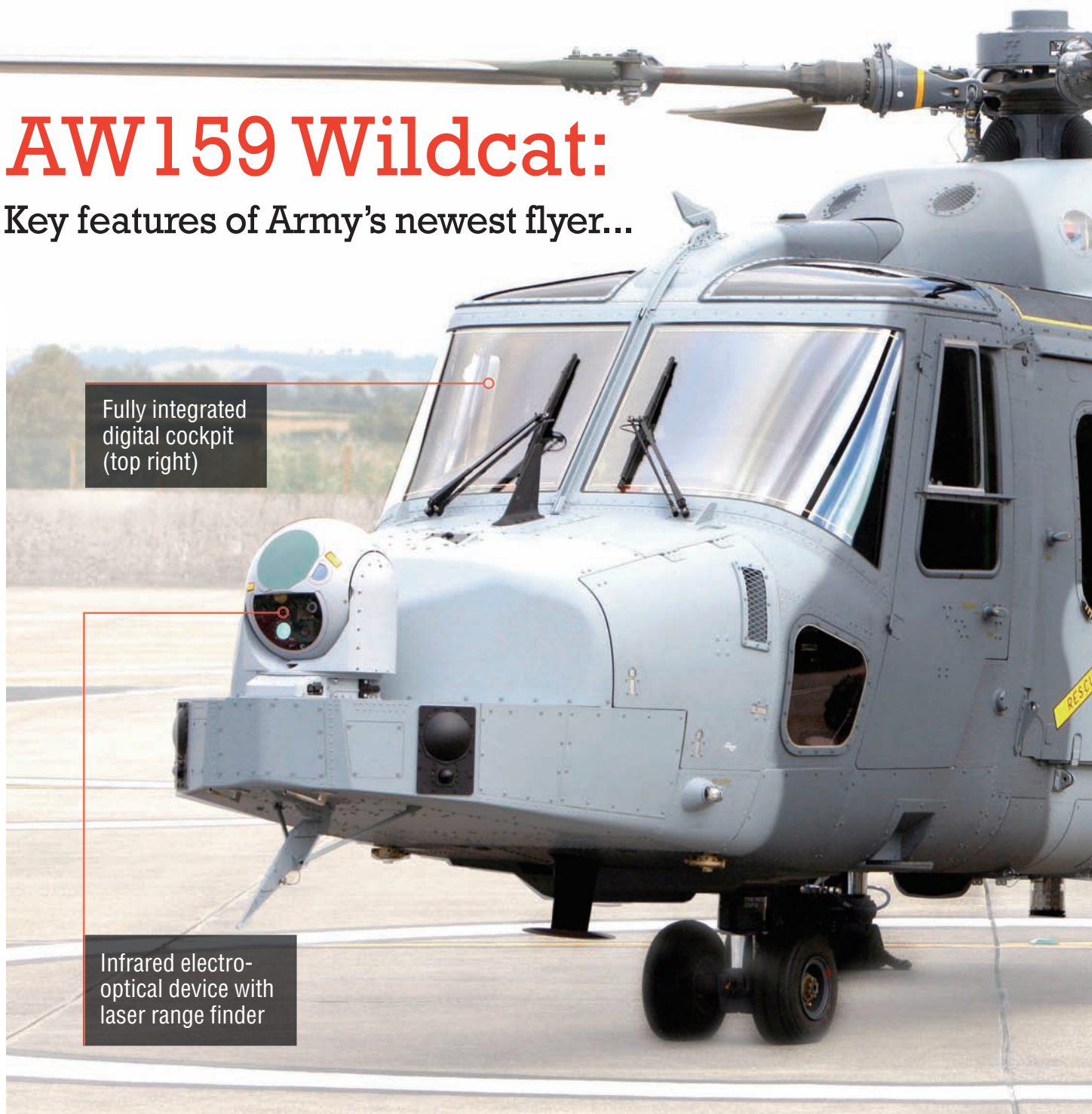
‘The Wildcat can detect targets and can then hand those targets on to the Apache’

AW159 Wildcat:

Key features of Army’s newest flyer...

Fully integrated digital cockpit (top right)

Infrared electro-optical device with laser range finder



of the Joint Helicopter Command, said: "I used to fly the Lynx so to see something so hi-tech replace the airframe is exciting."

"It's got the sort of kit that the new boys on the block love and is able to fly in conditions you couldn't in a Lynx."

The senior officer added that crucial support from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers would help Army Air Corps personnel to ensure sky-bound success for the new model.

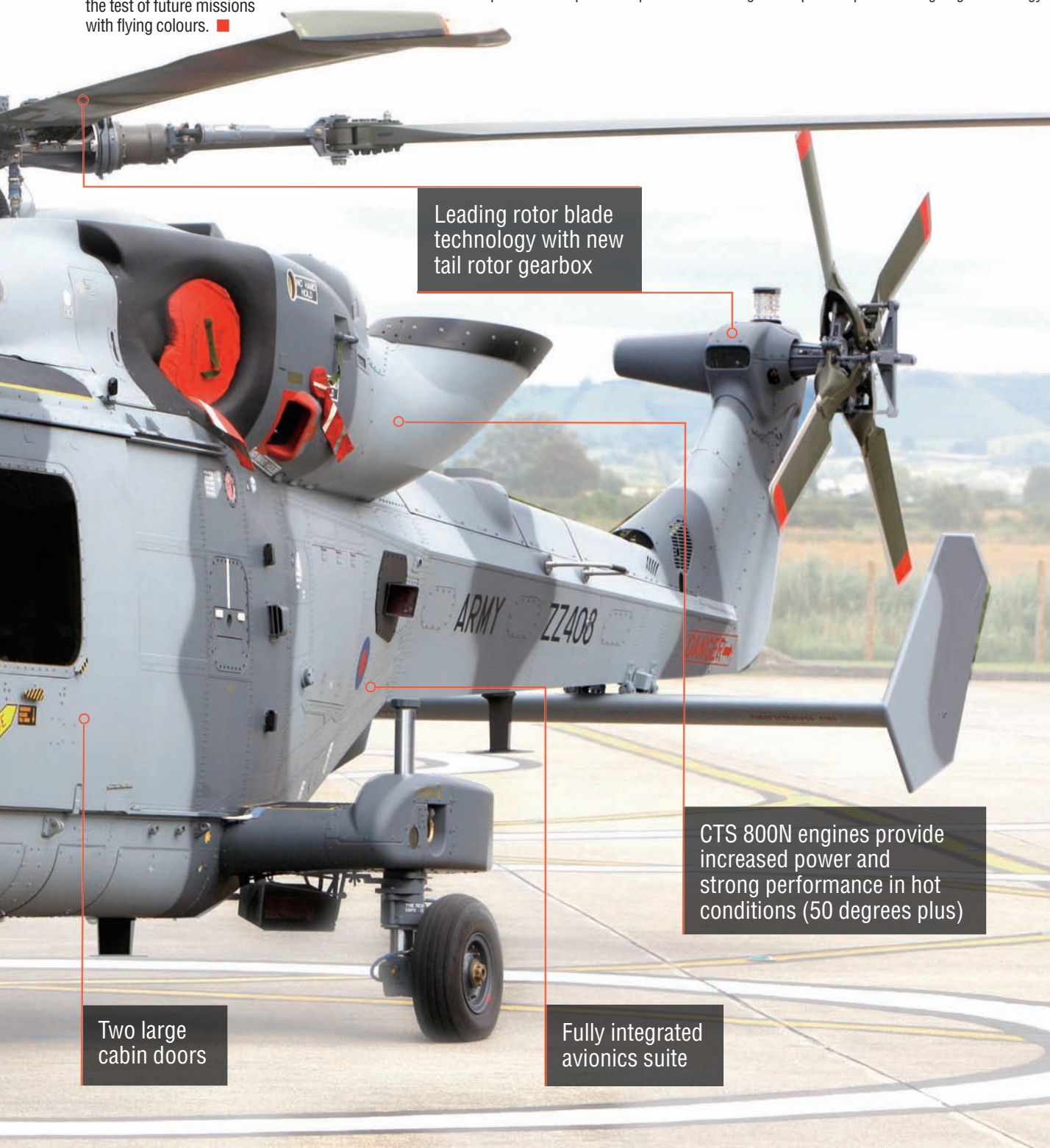
Intended to be in service until at least 2044, the final generation of troops to get their hands on the Wildcat have not yet been born. But those behind the platform say it will pass the test of future missions with flying colours. ■



Ideal match: The reconnaissance helicopter will complement the Apache's capabilities



Game changer: The Wildcat's integrated cockpit gives its pilots superior cutting-edge technology





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Aid station: Aspiring Afghan medics perfect their battlefield drills under the watchful eye of SSgt Jason Summerfield (RAMC)

Report: Richard Long
Pictures: Graeme Main



As the Afghan National Army continues to progress in its primary combat role, supporting elements are also making rapid strides ahead of transition in 2014.

The British Army's brigade advisory group is spearheading this crucial development and a small band of medics within the formation are using their knowledge and experience to help their home-grown equivalents function as an independent outfit.

Based at Camp Shorabak, the team has been teaching Afghan warriors core skills in trauma, primary health care, anatomy and delivering first aid under fire in an intensive eight-week course.

But the reality of instructing these soldiers is far removed from the methods used on recruits within the UK's ranks.

With literacy levels ranging from low to non-existent, PowerPoint presentations and lectures are not an option.

"I have not seen a computer since I've been here. This is back to basics, old-school teaching," Capt Ed Gordon (RAMC), the officer in charge of the advisory group medics, told *Soldier*.

"Hands-on training is what this is all about, with lots and lots of practise.

"They like games and competitions so we use that in our teaching and they always want to win.

"Afghans see their medic qualification as prestigious. When they go back to their villages or towns after leaving the Army it will be of use."

While teaching methods have been adapted to suit the students' needs, there is no doubt about their desire to learn and progress in the future.

Capt Gordon added: "They are quite receptive. We have seen those who qualify go to their kandaks [battalions] and prove themselves as robust medics. >>

HEALING
HANDS

Combat medics drive
Afghan aid detachment

>> "I think this is working very well.

"We are never going to make them into London Ambulance Service paramedics but this is about them operating in Afghanistan.

"This is one of the best jobs in Helmand province as we are working with the locals and helping them move towards transition.

"Developing the medical capability is what it's all about but we are also training instructors to teach their colleagues without our help.

"Hopefully by the time we leave, or through Op Herrick 17, it will be the Afghan sergeants teaching the warriors to be medics.

"For transition [of operational responsibility] to go smoothly the medical capability and counter-IED work is key. Anyone can shoot or drive a truck."

Soldier witnessed the aspiring medics in action during a training serial in which two warriors were injured by an "improvised explosive device".

The troops quickly returned fire as the casualties were moved to cover, where they received immediate first aid followed by in-depth treatment.

But the simple use of a tourniquet has also created problems.

British soldiers have had to teach the Afghans how to tell the time using digital watches so they can record when the device was applied.

Instructor SSgt Jason Summerfield (RAMC) said: "The main thing about the instruction here is the practical element; the theory side falls dead. We cannot use PowerPoint or slides as they would all fall asleep. It is about making it as hands-on as possible.

"They are receptive to the right teaching. We made a lot of mistakes in the first two weeks but since we changed the programme they have been getting better and better.

"In the future they will work independently on their own medical evacuations and treatments and will be successful.

"This is a challenge I wanted. I have done some instructing in the UK and it is good for me to pass on my knowledge and experience."

Fellow instructor WO2 Rob Davies (RAMC) has been impressed by the medics passing through the programme and believes the standard of education and literacy prior to the course is not a major concern.

"They are enthusiastic and motivated, they want to be medics and they want to learn, which is far more important than being literate," the senior NCO explained.

"They have absorbed more than we thought they would and we do a lot of repetitive teaching, which helps.

"They want to become medics as they feel it is helping the Army and Afghanistan.

"If these guys go on the battlefield we are sure they will save lives. Once they get some experience under their belts they will be a lot more effective." ■



Rapid reaction: ANA medics are put to the test following a simulated IED blast



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Report: Richard Long

NE of the overarching benefits of Reserve units is the ability of their soldiers to bring wide-ranging skills from the civilian world to Service life.

A prime example of this attribute is being demonstrated in Helmand province, where a small team of policing specialists have been paving the way for transition of operational responsibility.

Capt Lucy Sewell (R Signals), an inspector in the Warwickshire constabulary, and Sgt Dave Reid (AGC (RMP)), part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency, have left their day jobs behind to ensure the mentoring of Afghan police officers is bearing fruit.

The duo used expertise garnered from life on the UK beat to conduct a 30-day review of the training processes in place at the start of Op Herrick 16 and the hard work has continued at their base in Lashkar Gah.

"With our professional backgrounds we were able to come back with recommendations on how to improve policing in Afghanistan," Capt Sewell told *Soldier*.

"We cannot make them become a Western force but we can influence them so they adopt some Western procedures."

The review, conducted on behalf of the police mentoring and advisory group, included deployments to locations in Nahr-e Saraj, Nad-e Ali and Lashkar Gah, where the pair interacted with tolay, checkpoint and station commanders.

They also spoke to those personnel responsible for delivering training to prospective police officers.

"There were no messages about the pride of working in the community so we recommended ways of reinforcing that for those based at police stations and checkpoints," the officer added.

"We have given advice on how to deliver the training and we have devised an aide memoire that can be used here and on future Herrick tours.

"We are also hoping to develop a Pashto

version of the document so the Afghans can train their own people."

Sgt Reid has returned to the UK due to work commitments but was pleased to contribute to the programme, while witnessing the Afghan police in action outside the wire.

"We wanted to go round the entire area of operations to get a feel for individual places," he explained.

"I was surprised by the disparity; the Upper Gereshk region is so different to Lashkar Gah.

"We observed the basic training and went out to see those drills being put into practise. There are some good lessons being taught.

"But a lot depends on the checkpoint commanders. The Afghan police will have a boss and he makes the decisions. If he is keen on training and receptive to teaching it works well.

"They are coming on but the biggest problem is the poor literacy levels. It is very difficult for us to implement our methods as we are used to orderly sessions with educated people.

"To try and teach in a similar manner is incredibly difficult, so you have to adapt.

"For the Afghan National Police (ANP) this is all very new. They have never had any formal education and have never been to school.

"On the other hand, a young NCO delivering lessons is used to people sitting and listening.

"It is a learning experience for everyone."

The two-man team was able to give positive reports on the ANP but as the fatal shooting of three British troops last month demonstrated (page 19), such work is not without its dangers.

The soldiers also believe that further development of the country's police is needed if they are to succeed on their own.

"They know what they want to do but sometimes there is a lack of will to do it," Capt Sewell said.

"Some see the police station as their fortress and that is what they protect but

I WANTED TO PUSH MYSELF AND BRING SOMETHING TO THE PARTY BY UTILISING MY SKILLS. I FEEL I HAVE DONE THAT

Friendly force: Capt Lucy Sewell (R Signals), an inspector in the Warwickshire constabulary, and Sgt Dave Reid (AGC (RMP)) of the Serious Organised Crime Agency have been helping to improve policing standards in southern Afghanistan



BACK ON THE BEAT

others are going into the communities and reaping the rewards of building relationships with the locals.

"It is about getting the cycle moving and they need to step out of the comfort zone.

"But you only have to look back two or three years to realise how far they have come. They are making progress."

Outside of their policing role, the tour has given the duo a chance to gain valuable operational experience and was the realisation of a long-standing ambition to deploy to theatre.

Capt Sewell has served as a Reservist for 23 years and has been determined to make the most of her spell in Helmand province.

"It was the right time within my police career to put myself forward and volunteer," she said.

"I was at a stage where I could get something out of it while contributing to the tour.

"Out here you still have levels of discipline and you are still upholding the law but how you deal with the everyday aspects of the role is different.

"I have got four months left to go and then I go back to my day job. I have really enjoyed it but my police career pays the bills and my mortgage.

"Being in the Reserves gives you the best of both worlds."

Sgt Reid was limited to a shorter tour but was pleased to have the opportunity to prove himself alongside full-time personnel.

"I saw it as a challenge and it is important that the Reserves support the Regular Army," he said.

"I wanted to push myself and bring something to the party by utilising my skills. I feel I have done that.

"I wanted to be here for longer and I'm frustrated by that, but that's life.

"I have other commitments in the UK, particularly with the London Olympic Games, so it is understandable."

With greater utilisation of Reserve Forces key to the Army 2020 blueprint (page 7), personnel such as Capt Sewell and Sgt Reid are proving themselves as worthy contemporaries to their Regular colleagues.

And with valuable skills from civvy street boosting the Service's cause, the partnership will continue to flourish. ■



Picture: Graeme Main



UK CRIME FIGHTERS BECOME AFGHAN ADVISERS

A background image of Bear Grylls in a survival setting. He is lying on a large, dark log in a forest. His hands are visible, holding a knife. In the background, there is a body of water and green foliage.

LAI D BEAR

TV STAR AND EX-SERVICEMAN TALKS SOLDIERING, SURVIVAL AND A RETURN TO THE SCREEN

Interview: Sarah Goldthorpe
Pictures: Discovery Communications

EXPLORER, author, motivational speaker, television presenter... Bear Grylls is the embodiment of a life lived to the full after an Army career. The former member of 21 Special Air Service (Reserves) took five minutes out of his busy schedule to speak to *Soldier* following a tour of the US to promote his new autobiography *Mud, Sweat and Tears...*

How is life treating you at the moment?

All is good. I am busy planning a new programme which I am excited about announcing soon.

Do you still take an interest in the Army even though you are no longer serving?

Of course. Many of my friends are still members of the Forces. I like to keep in touch at regimental reunions too and hang out with my three closest buddies who I went through selection with, and to whom I have been best man at their respective weddings.

What do you think about plans to make the Reserves a much larger part of the future British Army?

It's a good idea – you just have to make sure their training is thorough enough before deployment.

'WHEN YOU ARE DOG TIRED BE THE ONE WHO CLEANS YOUR WEAPON WELL, GETS STUFF SQUARED AWAY FIRST' AND THEN HELPS YOUR BUDDIES WITH THEIR KIT'

As UK troops look beyond the mission in Afghanistan, what do you think will be the main challenges for them?

Training, manpower, public relations and making sure they do not get spread too thin.

Do you ever miss life as a Serviceman?

Sometimes, although I still have a lot of the same great dynamics with the filming crew from *Born Survivor* – most of whom are ex-soldiers as well. I

love the principles of working hard in hostile places and having our lives depend on all of us doing our jobs right every time.

Reckon you could do it again now?

Yes, but maybe without the shouting this time.

Any future events lined up with the Services community?

I regularly support the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Marines Reserve to encourage the young guys coming through – for example, by leading the Commando Reserves in a hard PT session in Newcastle.

What is your top survival tip for soldiers?

Learn to look after yourself when the chips are down. In other words, when



you are dog tired be the one who cleans your weapon well, gets stuff squared away first and then helps your buddies with their kit.

That is how you soar as a soldier.

The time to shine is when it is tough around you. It is a key quality in Special Forces personnel.

Cheerfulness and courage in adversity are important too.

When it gets tough, that again is the time to show courage and push hard – and for the stuff outside of your control, learn to laugh at it... including yourself!

What one piece of equipment could you not live without?

A sense of humour and the Bear Grylls Ultimate Knife [Shameless plug, Bear, shameless – ed]. ■



Time to shine: Challenging situations can offer a chance to prove yourself, according to Grylls



New heights: The ex-Serviceman-turned-Born Survivor is busy planning a new television show



Spread too thin?: The star suspects manpower will be a challenge for the Army post-Afghanistan



CLIMB TO FAME

↑ The star's first appearance on the small screen came in an advertisement for Sure deodorant, which featured his record-breaking ascent. He later headed up an anti-drugs television campaign for the Army.

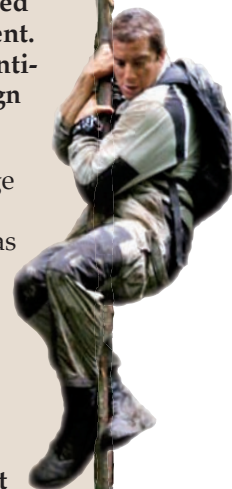
↑ In May 1998, at the age of 23, Grylls entered the *Guinness Book of Records* as the youngest Briton to summit Mount Everest, just 18 months after badly injuring his back.

↑ He spent the next 12 months in and out of military rehabilitation at Headley Court before being discharged and directing his efforts into getting well enough to fulfil his childhood dream of climbing Mount Everest.

↑ According to his surgeon, Grylls came within a whisker of being paralysed for life and at first it was questionable whether he would ever be able to walk again.

↑ That year he suffered a free-fall parachuting accident in Zambia. His canopy ripped at 16,000ft, causing him to land on his back and partially crush three vertebrae.

↑ Grylls served in the British Army's part-time 21 SAS(R) for three years until 1996.



"TEST" OF THE 20-SOMETHINGS

STUDENTS STEP UP IN READINESS FOR SANDHURST

Report: Becky Clark
Pictures: Steve Dock

AS the long-awaited British summer finally begins to arrive, students across the country are unwinding following the stress of exams.

Their counterparts on the defence technical undergraduate scheme, however, are in a very different position.

With their initial officer training just months away, the 20-somethings are preparing to experience the thrills and spills of a military career.

And the final step on that path is Exercise Typhoon Revival, a five-day serial that tests 120 individuals in fieldcraft and fitness on Sennybridge training area in Wales.

Here, participants are pit against a series of demanding command tasks that assess endurance and teamworking skills.

"Mentally, having the confidence to do five days in the field is something really useful to go to Sandhurst with," explained OCdt Sophie Longstone.

The 22-year-old has just completed a masters degree in civil engineering and architecture and will begin training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in January 2013.

"We'll learn from all the drills we practise but a lot of it is the realisation that you can do it," she added.

Challenges range from construction and casualty evacuation to mentally taxing



"We'll learn from the drills we practise but a lot of it is the realisation you can do it."



"My friends think it's a bit quirky spending your weekend doing this."
— OCdt Anthony Broadfoot

missions such as debating and strategic planning. And like the other serials these youngsters have undertaken in the build-up to 2013, it tests their ability to lead and think under pressure.

OCdt Joe Lawson spoke to *Soldier* while preparing to guide his troops through a casualty evacuation scenario.

"As the commander you need to make sure you don't get sucked into the task," he explained.

"This is a strong section that knows what it's doing so as long as the enthusiasm is high, I can try to direct them well and keep a lid on things — make sure people don't go running off."



"As the commander you need to make sure you don't get sucked into the task."

— OCdt Joe Lawson

Speaking after completing an engineering task, construction management graduate OCdt Anthony Broadfoot added: "Essentially this recreated what we need to do in forward operating bases. Guys have got very little kit but they need to keep fit, so using limited material we had to create a multi-gym."

"My friends think it's a bit quirky spending your weekend doing this but I'm in a very privileged position because in the construction sector it is difficult to get a job, yet I have one to go into."

Once a scenario is complete, graduates have little time to dwell on their performance as they move on to the next test.

Their ability to arrive at each stand on time not only demonstrates their navigational skills but determines how much rest they get.

On average, attendees will complete a round trip of 90km during the course — but with an even longer journey firmly in mind.

Of all routes into the Armed Forces, the one they are on requires perhaps the greatest dedication, taking five years from start to finish.

The course is the university component of the MoD's defence technical officer engineering entry scheme, which identifies new talent for all three Services.

"They join us as children and finish the scheme as adults," said Wg Cdr Jeremy Johnson, commander of the exercise.

"It's a huge commitment from them

over five years but also from the Ministry of Defence in trying to identify such people so early on.

"The serial achieves final preparation for initial officer training and beyond. But primarily it's a last check that yes, I can push myself that little bit further."

OCdt Lawson added: "This is called Revival for a reason.

"I haven't been on exercise for two years so this is a good little wake-up call for Sandhurst in September, to make sure I'm ready and fit." ■

School's not out: Troops on the defence technical undergraduate scheme were denied the luxury of a long summer break by the onset of Exercise Typhoon Revival



"The serial achieves final preparation for initial officer training and beyond."



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Mr & Mrs Allen (39 Regt RA) presenting the Winners Trophy at the Royal Artillery Gold Cup

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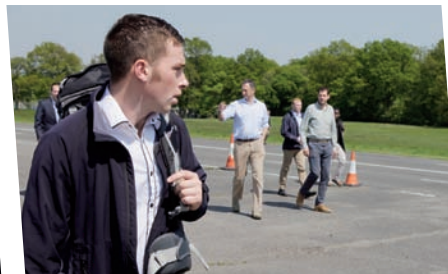
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PERSONNEL PRIMED FOR CLOSE SECURITY ROLE IN PUBLIC SPHERE



Report: Richard Long
Pictures: Graeme Main

WITH Army training packages often conducted in the vast expanses of Salisbury Plain or Norfolk's wooded countryside, it is surprising to see soldiers being put to the test in the lobby of Reading's Hilton Hotel.

But the grand setting has been used to ensure the Service's next generation of close protection personnel are fully up to speed when it comes to guarding ministers, senior military officials and diplomatic staff on global deployments.

Tasked with providing 24-hour security for a fictitious VIP, students from the Royal Military Police escorted the high-profile figure to a simulated media interview at the venue as part of a thorough five-day exercise.

While this might sound mundane and simplistic, the reality is anything but.

An advance party provided a thorough check of the route and building prior to the guest's arrival, before the security detail immersed itself in the hotel environment with a keen eye for anything out of the ordinary.

On this occasion the scenario passed without incident as the interview ran to schedule and the VIP departed after lunch.

Assignments such as these are a daily occurrence for the Close Protection Unit and aspiring members learn the tools of the trade during an eight-week training programme that covers everything from advanced shooting to tactical driving.

"It has been quite intensive from the start," student Cpl Sean Holderoft (AGC (RMP)) explained.

"There are a lot of physical aspects to the course, the PT and training exercises are demanding, but it is very good.

"Close protection is the shining star in terms of jobs we can do; it is the light at the end of the tunnel.

"It is another string to the bow and it gives us an opportunity to go to places like Malawi and the Lebanon, rather than deploying to Afghanistan for six months in every 24.

"I would thoroughly recommend the course to anyone who is considering taking part. We have been studying for two months and I now want to do it for real."

With the theory complete, personnel honed their new-found skills on Exercise Watchtower, a challenging confirmation package that is conducted in the public domain to test students in a realistic and demanding environment.

After seeing the Hilton scenario reach a peaceful conclusion, *Soldier* witnessed the other end of the spectrum as the serial moved to Dunsfold in Surrey – home of the *Top Gear* test track.

As the VIP was escorted to a meeting the group was attacked by enemy fighters, which prompted return gunfire, a swift retreat and a high-speed vehicle escape.

The two scenarios varied in extremes but instructor Capt Jim Devenney (AGC (RMP)) said they were a strong representation of what students could face out on the ground.

"Close protection can be required anywhere in the world, including Afghanistan, for senior military officials, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and as part of high-readiness teams," he added.

"Those involved are required to deliver protective security to facilitate the VIP's lifestyle on a 24-hour basis.

"One of our key objectives is deterrence. Proper preparation and a strong security plan can defeat the threat before it occurs.

"That is a huge part of what we do; it's not just a case of shooting and driving."

The officer has first-hand experience of

'IT'S NOT JUST A CASE OF SHOOTING AND DRIVING'



the role having deployed with the Close Protection Unit to both Kabul and Haiti.

"I had to extract an ambassador from an assassination attempt on my first day in theatre," he recalled.

"The only experience I had to draw upon was the training I had been given, but it held me in good stead.

"Such incidents are few and far between and I like to think that the preparation and planning we do is a strong deterrent. I am sure there have been a number of proposed attacks that we will never know about."

Fellow instructor Cpl Darren Edmunds (AGC (RMP)) added: "I've been away all over the world including the obvious places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The programmes are always busy but the chances of actually being required to act are fairly minimal.

"We want to achieve a professional image and we set our standards very high.

"If any potential enemies are watching, our actions can serve as a discouragement. The fact we do not get called upon that often is a testament to the service that we provide."

The training course runs four times a year and on each occasion its make-up is altered to avoid repetition.

Scenes range from low-level civil unrest and protests to small arms attacks, and previous serials have even seen security teams accompanying VIPs on trips to a tennis tournament at the O2 Arena, a Peter Kay gig and the London Eye.


"We have good links with local constabularies who allow us to carry out this training in the public arena," Capt Devenney said.

"We choose high-profile locations but the support we receive is overwhelming. That helps to create a certain level of realism.

"Every exercise has a completely different scope and the students don't know what to expect." ■



In the line of fire:
Students from the Royal Military Police's Close Protection Unit escort a fictitious VIP during Exercise Watchtower, held at the Hilton, Reading and Dunsfold in Surrey



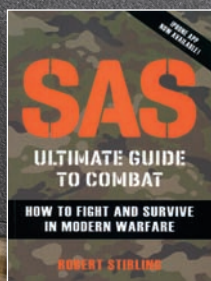
1 YOU will only need to see one casualty to value a quality medic. Make sure every man practises first aid until they are good at it. It's as important to focus on medical training as it is on combat skills.



5 ON guard or checkpoint duty you will be bored but remember that you are the only defence your mates have. Get on with the job because while your friends get their heads down you are their only barrier against the enemy.

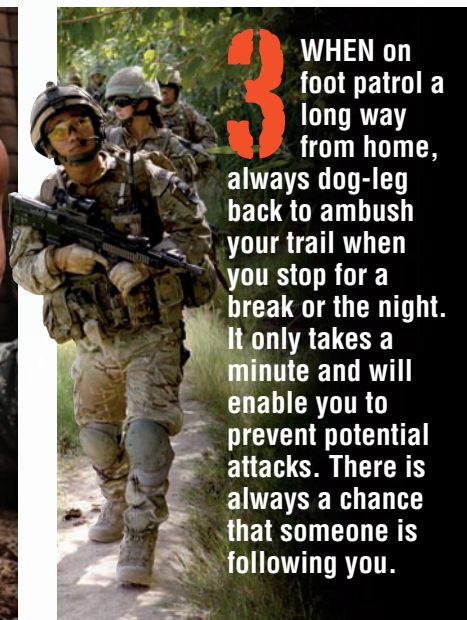


RANKED COMBAT COUNSEL



ROBERT STIRLING, AUTHOR OF *SAS: ULTIMATE GUIDE TO COMBAT*, LISTS HIS TOP TEN SURVIVAL TIPS FOR TROOPS ON THE HELMAND BATTLEFIELD

2 KEEP as fit as you can and take care of your feet so that when on patrol, your eyes are looking for the enemy rather than staring at the ground. If they hurt, your mind won't be on the job in hand and your life could be in danger. Wash your feet and socks every day.



3 WHEN on foot patrol a long way from home, always dog-leg back to ambush your trail when you stop for a break or the night. It only takes a minute and will enable you to prevent potential attacks. There is always a chance that someone is following you.

4 KEEP in the shade with a screen behind when in a sangar or tower so you don't give a sniper a silhouette. People forget this simple technique but, from a distance, your outline provides the perfect target.

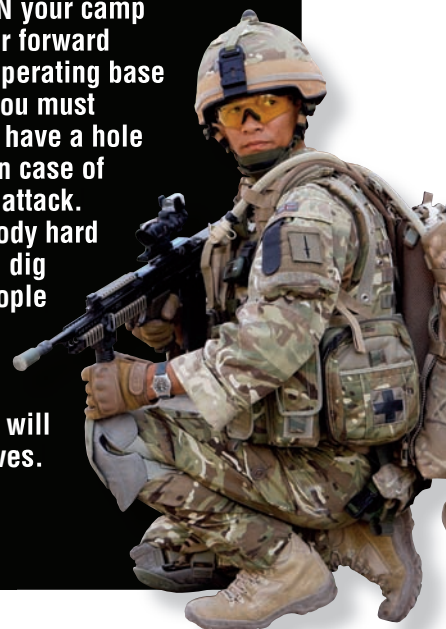


6 STAY calm and don't waste ammunition in a contact. You don't know how long you have until resupply and a bayonet is a poor match for an AK-47. Almost everyone fires more rounds than are needed. Be aware how much ammunition you will require on patrol.

7 ALTHOUGH it is tempting to stay still and shoot, move sideways after every few shots when in a close contact or you are likely to be spotted and hit. You are taught this but everyone promptly forgets it. Moving feels uncomfortable but if you don't, you will give your position away after a while. Remember your training.



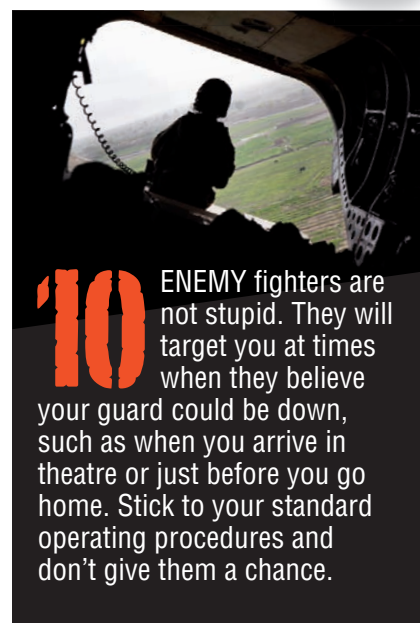
8 IN your camp or forward operating base you must always have a hole ready in case of mortar attack. It's bloody hard work to dig and people don't want to do it but it will save lives.



9 NEVER dig in or sleep under trees, thin roofing or by solid walls as they turn mortar fire ground burst, which is not a worry, into airburst, which is a worry. The mortar will go off in the air and drop onto you. If you want to sleep inside strengthen the roof with sandbags.



10 ENEMY fighters are not stupid. They will target you at times when they believe your guard could be down, such as when you arrive in theatre or just before you go home. Stick to your standard operating procedures and don't give them a chance.



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Jackets off in debate over uniform policy

I HAVE just been provided with a full complement of the personal clothing system (combat uniform) [PCS (CU)] in preparation for an operational deployment.

The style, quality and functionality of our issued uniforms has – in latter years at least – been good and the latest incarnation fits in to that category.

However, as a novice user of the clothing system, I just cannot understand why the Combat Soldier 95 (CS 95) multi-terrain pattern (MTP) lightweight shirt and trousers have been withdrawn from general issue and are now only used for jungle training.

The new jacket is a great design and



"Stop selling off the Combat 95 multi-terrain pattern stock, this man may have a point"

comfortable to wear – as a jacket! It has apparently been developed to be worn beneath body armour but unless it is minus ten or below, I'm not sure anyone would entertain doing so.

The biggest issue I have with this item (the field jacket is superb) is the off-the-shoulder cut which, when worn outside the trousers as directed by the dress committee, simply looks scruffy on most people.

I fully support the fact that commanders are empowered to modify dress policy at unit level. When tucked in, the outward appearance is much better and permits the individuality of the soldier in a mixed environment with the wearing of the revered stable belt.

That said, the jacket tucked in only looks right when the sleeves are rolled up. This can be done and is better when carried out in conjunction with the use of an iron but the fundamental design – padding et al – makes this option less than perfect.

I currently work in a very warm office in desert temperatures and find operating with sleeves down very uncomfortable. Consequently, and contrary to local and mainstream policy, I roll them up.

Given the lightweight jacket is designed to be compatible with body armour, which is only worn by around five per cent of the Army at any one time, why make everyone wear it?

Which brings me back to the MTP shirt. This item must cost at least half the price of the lightweight jacket and in terms of comfort is much more pleasant.

It also satisfies the uniform requirement as it can be worn in any configuration, be it tucked in or out and sleeves up or down.

While there is certainly a place for a lightweight jacket, most people who are fortunate enough to have been issued with both will wear the shirt in preference, simply because it is lighter and more comfortable.

The British Army's uniform has improved immensely over the years, so why are we now taking a backwards step and being

forced to wear something more expensive and uncomfortable?

Bring back the CS 95 MTP clothing. – Maj K N Tween (RLC), Kabul.

Maj Gen James Everard, Assistant Chief of the General Staff, responds: The British Army's position on PCS (CU) has generated much debate in these pages over the last year, and it has often been heated.

The Army Command Group (ACG) takes a close interest and evolves policy to meet the needs of operations and those of the individual – this issue is all about operational effectiveness.

The ACG met in June and agreed to review policy:

- Direction for the wearing of PCS (CU) remains unchanged. It will be worn in the loose style with sleeves rolled down ("down and out") on exercises and operations, and in barracks when required. Remember that the system was designed to be integrated with operational and personal equipment, and allows us to "train as we fight" for the first time.

- An additional lighter version of PCS (CU), developed to improve operational utility, is currently on trial and is likely to be issued from 2013 onwards. This will be in the same style as the existing jacket but is expected to be light enough to be tucked in and sleeves rolled up ("up and in"). Exact policy for wearing and scaling of personal issue will follow.

- Some of you have also been issued with the MTP version of CS 95 during earlier Herrick deployments. This can continue to be worn in place of PCS (CU) at local commanders' discretion and in the "up and in" style. This was a one-off issue which will waste out over time.

So, I hope this short update takes some heat out of this popular debate and meets your needs better. More to follow!

COSTLY DISCOUNTS

■ I NOTED with interest that *Soldier* gave publicity to an online portal called Rewards for Forces in the July issue.

I thought it pertinent to point out that once an individual has registered on this site they have to pay a fee of £24 to gain access to any money-off schemes.

This payment contradicts the noble idea – "a website has been launched to help Service personnel, veterans and their families get discounts in high street stores" – presented in the magazine. Websites such as moneysavingexpert.com offer a similar service to the whole community for free. – Name and address supplied.

The editor types: Many thanks for bringing this to our and other readers' attention. *Soldier* was not aware that the site in question required a subscription fee.

SOLDIER SHORTAGE

■ AS an avid reader of your magazine, whether as a serving soldier or "pad brat", I have been disappointed not to be able to get my hands on a paper copy since deploying on Op Herrick 16.

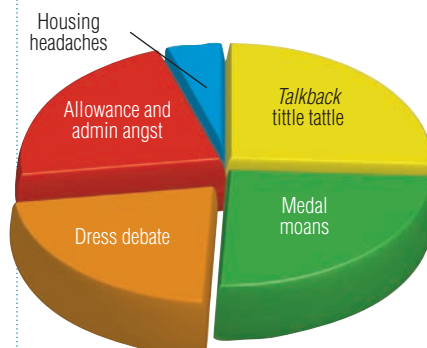
I am aware that there is an electronic version on the internet; however, as our time and data allowance is limited it is simply not possible to download and view this format.

I am sure there are hundreds of copies sat in Camp Bastion and Lashkar Gar but they don't seem to be getting to the forward locations and if they are, they are being well hidden! – Name and address supplied.

The editor types: *Soldier* is widely available in theatre but, rightly so, must wait its place in a congested supply line before reaching Helmand's harder to reach locations.

Slice of Service life

This month's ruminations from the ranks...



Left feeling spartan by loss of specialist pay

I AM writing about the MoD's decision to completely cut a soldier's specialist pay once they have given notice to terminate.

Due to personal circumstances, I made the difficult decision to leave the Army last year – a choice which resulted in my special communications pay being halved.

Earlier this year, and without any warning or communication from the chain of command, I received no extra money at all.

On questioning why the payment had stopped I was informed it was as a consequence of a new policy.

While I understand specialist pay is classed as a recruitment and retention tool, I and others believe the additional money is for doing the job. Indeed, so does the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB), which recommended to the MoD in its 2012 report that the decision be reversed.

For the past six months I have been doing one of the toughest jobs in my unit on half pay and I now do so for no extra reward. At a time when money is tight, my transition to civilian life is being made more difficult and the policy change and lack of communication is hard to take. – Sgt David Whitfield, 299 Signal Squadron.

Brig Tim Hyams, DPS(A), responds: As you identify correctly, specialist pay is awarded to "specific groups within the Armed Forces to assist with specific



recruitment or retention requirements" (Joint Service Publication 754).

It is, therefore, logical that when an individual in receipt of this money declares their intent to leave the military, retention aims are no longer being met.

From 2006, specialist pay was reduced to 50 per cent on submission of a notice to terminate.

As part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) allowance savings measures, the premature voluntary release rate of specialist pay was reduced to zero from April 1 this year.

This was announced, along with the other changes, on January 20, 2011, when a defence internal brief (2011/04) and an Army briefing note (03/11) were issued.

Specialist pay is justified upon recruiting and retention criteria and, in having to make difficult decisions to meet the savings required by the MoD, it was decided to remove it from those Service

personnel for whom it is no longer acting as a retention incentive.

At the time you submitted your notice to terminate, the new rules to be implemented on April 1, 2012 had been publicised for nine months.

Whilst you may perceive specialist pay as "additional money for doing the job" it is neither pay (the current term is, I accept, a complete misnomer, which does nothing to aid understanding); nor is it for doing the job.

As you will be aware from its 2012 report, the AFPRB "welcomed much of the MoD's developing approach to specialist pay, which includes [consideration of] a change of name to reinforce the recruitment and retention rationale". As you mention, the AFPRB also strongly encouraged the department to "reconsider its decisions on... withdrawing specialist pay from those submitting notice to terminate, before the announced cuts come in to effect".

The MoD did consider the position but, in common with a range of measures agreed under SDSR, it was implemented on April 1.

The department will be submitting further evidence to the AFPRB this year on the development of specialist pay, including a proposed change in terminology, which we would expect to see reflected in the 2013 report.

Divide decoration

I HAVE been following the letters covering the topic of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in recent issues.

Although I left the British Army after 32 years in 1994, I don't remember the decoration's eligibility criteria being altered beyond the qualifying period reducing from 18 to 15 years free of "undetected crime".

I did not receive the award until 1984 as a result of a misdemeanour in 1969. Things were more severe in those days – I was convicted in court of driving with no insurance and my commanding officer deemed it should count as a regimental entry.

However, once the necessary time of good behaviour had elapsed I received the medal and did so without having to put forward a plea of mitigation.

If the decoration is awarded for 15 years of long service and good conduct then I believe that is exactly what it should be for – with no "unless" attached. Surely a soldier is deemed to have rehabilitated himself by the passing of an error-free decade and a half!

If previous misdemeanours are to be taken into account then the medal should be split in two, with one decoration awarded for long service and the other for good conduct.

After all, there are no other gongs given in recognition of time spent in uniform, unless one is awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and, if still even in existence, they are few and far between. – Victor Hunt, Belfast.



AUCTION ANGER

I AM writing in response to the letter from Al Honeyman, "Decoration delinquency" (June), who raised the issue of serving personnel selling their Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals on eBay.

A recipient of the Golden Jubilee award, I served for a total of 35 years with the Regular Army, TA and Cadets and have been a member of the MoD Guard Service for a decade.

I was appalled and aggrieved that my colleagues and I were not awarded the Diamond Jubilee medal. Many members of the service guard those who make decisions that affect the nation.

A recent check of eBay revealed a total of 345 jubilee decorations were available to "buy now" and ranged in price from £120 to £500, yet there are those like myself who missed out. Whoever decided the criteria for eligibility should have a rethink and those selling the medal should have it withdrawn. – Anthony Cooper, Clifton, York.



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Former soldier urges personnel to drink less and avoid an unwanted theatre visit

SERVED in the Army for 13 years, primarily with the Coldstream Guards and later in The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Whether as a "pay day warrior", celebrating a friend's birthday or drinking with the rugby team, I had a good social life while in uniform.

Although frightening to think about it now, I was downing a pint every ten minutes during a typical Friday night out.

Despite the heavy drinking I was as fit as a fiddle – I boxed, played rugby and flew through my fitness tests.

Two years after leaving the Army in 2001 I noticed a lump on the roof of my mouth and, like most blokes, thought it would go away. It didn't and grew to the size of half a golf ball.

I waited another two years before I sought medical advice.

Following a biopsy – which blooming hurt – and various blood tests I found myself on the operating table.

After five hours of

maxillofacial surgery I was told that if the lump had gone untreated for any longer it would have become cancerous. The cause? Heavy drinking.

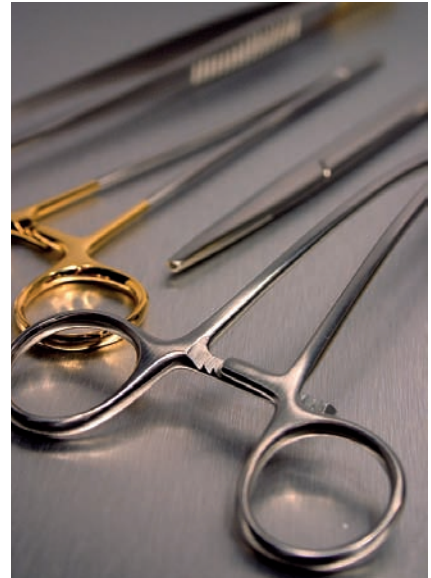
As a consequence of having a hole cut in the roof of my mouth and two sides of my upper jaw removed, I had to wear a special plate to bung the gap and prevent food and drink coming out of my nose.

I've since had reconstructive surgery. During a nine-hour procedure, skin from my left wrist was stitched to the top of my mouth and an artery from the same arm was used to feed blood to the flap, which was "plumbed in" through the left-hand side of my neck.

I've been left with a wicked scar on my arm which was patched up with skin taken from my increasingly civvy-like lower belly.

All is good now but I urge Service personnel to learn from my experience and, if you do have any lumps in your mouth or on your neck, go to the medical officer and ask for a check-up.

– Andrew Ralphs.



“I HAD TO WEAR A SPECIAL PLATE TO BUNG THE GAP AND PREVENT FOOD AND DRINK COMING OUT OF MY NOSE”



COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

■ FAR be it for me to unnecessarily add to the Amazonian rainforest's worth of correspondence on the subject of "bling", but I feel the *Talkback* correspondent who mentioned the Lord Ashcroft survey got about as close to the heart of the matter as anyone. ["Waits show little respect for fallen soldiers" (July).]

In my opinion, as British Armed Forces personnel have been on operations almost continuously for approximately 300 years, there has been plenty of opportunity to pick up a real gong or two.

If you served somewhere which wasn't classed as operational you should count your blessings and not buy commemoratives or waste valuable MoD time campaigning for a National Defence Medal.

I was also interested in D Macdonald's view, "Veterans call for a degree of decorum in decoration debate" (July), about time served in Germany.

In addition to supporting his stance on the long-term IRA threat, I'd like to mention the Cold War warriors who staggered on for weeks and months at a time – often not seeing their families for long periods. I don't see many of these individuals writing in begging for a Cold War medal to be struck, but then I guess most of them escaped the drudge by spending six months in Northern Ireland.

I am, by the way, quite happy with my General Service Medal (1962) with two clasps. – Dave Wakelam, Herford.

'You are covered to commute'

I REFER to WO2 Tony Gill's letter on motor mileage allowance – "Gnashing of teeth over insurance cover" (May) – and Brig Tim Hyam's response which asserted the requirement for a business use policy.

I fully agree with the senior officer's points but I believe the MoD has misinterpreted insurance rules.

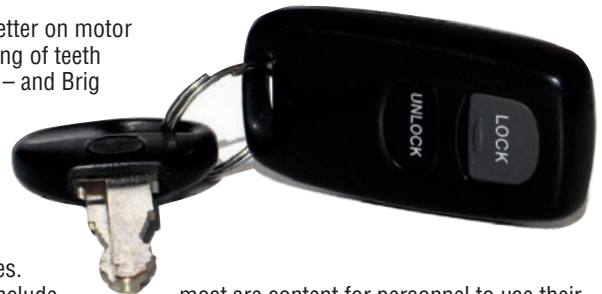
UK car policies generally include social, domestic and pleasure use and the majority also cover "commuting to and from your place of work", either as part of the standard package or with a minor uplift in premium.

In the military's case "work" refers to your place of duty. So, if the latter happens to be a medical appointment for which you would be entitled to Service transport, I would suggest that you do not require additional business cover. The same is true of attendance at any MoD/Army-sponsored courses, briefings or events.

I have conducted a survey with the majority of popular UK insurers and all agree with the above premise.

Business insurance is for civilian personnel who are using their car to conduct their main job, for example a doctor on call driving to visit the home of a patient.

It is worth noting that all British Forces Germany-approved car insurance policies do not cover for business purposes, but



most are content for personnel to use their car to commute to work.

Therefore if you need to attend a briefing away from barracks and have to use your own car, your "meeting location" is considered your place of work (for that day) and you are covered.

I applaud the chain of command for ensuring all Army personnel are looked after regarding car insurance but can't help thinking that, at best, over zealous staff do not understand or have clearly not researched the car insurance issue in any real detail. The alternative is that the Service is simply attempting to control its travel and subsistence budget by making it more difficult to claim motor mileage allowance.

I will ask the reader to decide which it is. – Maj Andrew Churchill, R Signals.

The editor writes: This is the author's personal view. Official policy was reflected in Brig Hyams' response in the May edition.

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THIS MONTH'S ELITE TWEETS

#OP OLYMPICS

@RadioChickBFG

Quite emotional to see Ben Parkinson carrying the Olympic Flame on BBC News, a true **#hero!** **#ArmedForcesDay**

@ForcesReunited

How many G4S [staff] does it take to change a light bulb? 6 soldiers and a police officer! **#Supportbritishforces** **#Britisharmy**

@CharlDeCarle

Hello Olympics. Goodbye getting to work on time. They're the athletes, can't they run, cycle, swim or hurdle over cars to work?

@NickSherrard

The British Army has admitted it didn't recruit enough soldiers and will be requiring G4S to do guarding duty in Helmand.

@TheJackieBrook

Why didn't we simply employ our best trained, best equipped personnel **#BritishArmy** first rather than private security?

#ARMY 2020

@jamesgbrooke

The whole of the British **#Army**, Regular & Territorial, will be able to be seated in **#Wembley** Stadium after Army 2020.

#MILITARY HISTORY

@RealTimeWWII

Percy Tibble, pub landlord, commended for "quick thinking & courage" after capturing 4 German airmen with a toy pistol.

#AND FINALLY

@LilythePurr

FACT* – you can't be a radio operator in the British Army if your name's Roger. *may not be a fact.

@SoldierUK

Love *Big Brother*... Contestants in a house for a week get all emotional about missing family. Try 6 months in Afghan **#ArmedForces**.

@WonkaSarcasm

Oh, you're 15 with a dog tag necklace? Tell me about your experience in the Armed Forces.

#JOINING UP

@kane94overton

At the moment I've got the easiest job in the world, from Monday onwards I'll have one of the hardest.... **#BritishArmy**

@soldiermagazine

Learning scheme discredited

As a soldier studying towards a Bachelor of Arts honour through The Open University, I want to highlight the difficulties in obtaining funding towards the cost of a degree using the Enhanced Learning Credits scheme.

Having personally paid for a third of my course I thought it wise to use my £2,000 entitlement for the next instalments.

My plan was to secure payment for two £735 modules which are scheduled to start in September 2012 and September 2013.

However, the credits can only be claimed during the course of a financial year whereas an academic year runs from September to June. The Open University was able to confirm my reservation and cost of the 2012 module but could not do so for 2013 as the registration process is not yet in place.

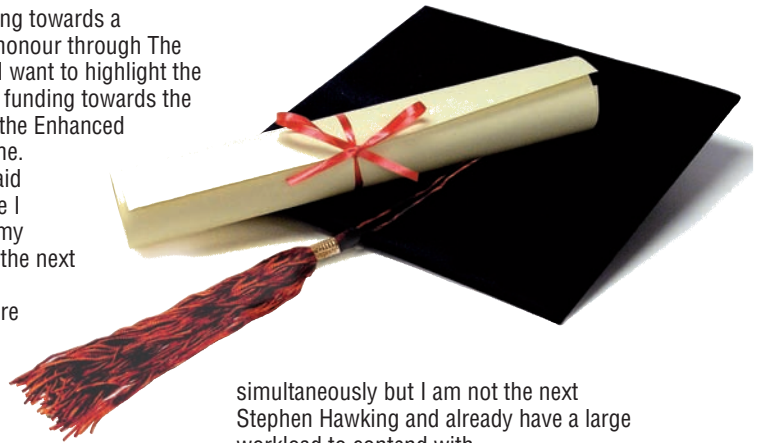
Consequently, I can only use around £600 of my entitlement.

Staff at my education centre suggested the option of completing two courses

simultaneously but I am not the next Stephen Hawking and already have a large workload to contend with.

There seems to be a lack of flexibility in the system considering The Open University is one of the biggest learner providers and is Forces friendly.

It is difficult to believe that an arrangement has not been sought. In light of current redundancies, increasing workloads and operational commitments, there are soldiers who wish to start their resettlement early in an effort to be better placed to take on an uncertain future. – **SSgt Hunt, RE**



■ THE home page of bbctoobig.co.uk carries a comparison between our brave Armed Forces and the BBC. There are many, like me, who would prefer not to pay a licence fee and would rather see this money put towards building up and equipping a military fit for purpose. If we generate a head of steam, the people could cause a sea change... saying and doing nothing is not an option. – **Peter J Ashman, life member of The Life Guards Association.**

Change of the light brigade

I SERVED with the 17th/21st Lancers from 1958 to 1964.

In 1993 I wrote to *Soldier* to congratulate the magazine on its excellent report on the amalgamation parade of my old unit with the 16th/5th Lancers.

The resulting formation, The Queen's Royal Lancers, has proved itself to be a fine regiment and I have attended reunions in the UK, Germany and, in 2004, the Crimea for the 150th anniversary of the Charge of the Light Brigade.

Having been commended for its service in Iraq and Afghanistan, history is to be repeated with the amalgamation of the QRL and 9th/12th Royal Lancers. The latter is another fine unit and one my son served with on attachment.

I would like to see the new regiment titled Royal Lancers but hope the powers that be retain the Death's Head emblem as its insignia. The cap badge was granted in 1759 as a perpetual memorial to Gen Wolfe by King George II.

Hundreds of us will wish the formation a virtuous future. Those who have



"Right gentlemen, we amalgamate two battalions into one regiment. That'll do us for at least 200 years or my name's not Cardwell!"

served with its predecessors will always remember they are "death or glory" boys and that October 25, my youngest son's birthday and the date I joined the regiment, will still be our Balaclava Day. – **N Quilliam, Isle of Man.**

● Regimental reworking – page 28



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Car ad no match for Diana Dors

PLEASE find enclosed pictures of the back pages of two issues of *Soldier* printed 60 years apart.

The 1952 edition [right] is part of my collection of 46, which covers the period from December 1952 to February 1959 – the last seven years of my decade of service with the Royal Engineers.

The magazines contain a wealth of information and have been called upon many times.

I must say, however, that the back cover of the 2012 issue [left] is not as entertaining as its predecessor. — **John Frost, Exeter.**



MOANING MAJORITY

■ **JUDGING** by the volume of letters on “medal moans” – as suggested by last month’s “slice of Service life” [page 53] – one can only conclude there are real problems with the awards system.

The recent medal review conducted by Sir John Holmes presents the perfect opportunity to fix the underlying issues.

The MoD will not be thanked if they allow the grumbling to continue.

However, the trend could also signal *Soldier*’s monthly postbag beginning to shrink.

Fortunately, the MoD has thought ahead and in turn plans to shrink the Army by 20 per cent. Sharpen those pencils! — **Si Tony Morland, Cadet Force adult volunteer, Salisbury.**

Compassion curtailed by current policy

I HAVE always been an advocate of the manner in which the Army supports its officers and men in times of bereavement, especially in the way all the stops are removed to get a soldier to the bedside of their next of kin.

Sadly, I was astonished to find out firsthand that this practice does not extend to those with critically ill family members living outside of the UK.

While I would have paid to be with my next of kin regardless of policy, the fact is there is an inequality.

If, for example, a Serviceman or woman was serving in Canada or Kenya and needed to return to the UK, they would be provided with a civilian flight at public expense and the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre would take care of all the necessary arrangements.

However, if your journey takes you

overseas you are essentially left on your own with no logistical or financial support from the Army.

I fail to see how this discrepancy is justified and would like to know why this happens and whether there are any plans in place to attempt to rectify this issue? — **A serving captain.**

Brig Mike Griffiths, Director Personnel Operations, replies: A basic principle in the construction of allowance policy, and its associated rates, is that members of the Armed Forces are normally recruited from the United Kingdom, which is regarded as the home base for Service personnel and their families.

Therefore the intention behind compassionate travel regulations is to get a soldier or members of their family back from an overseas assignment to the UK in

times of a domestic crisis.

It is a tri-Service policy, which is managed by the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre in accordance with the regulations and guidance laid out in Joint Service Publication 751, volume 1, part 3, chapter 1.

However, the Army has been conscious for several years that this rule disadvantages our Foreign and Commonwealth soldiers as well as those UK citizens whose in-scope relatives live overseas and has been working hard to address the matter – so far without success. We will continue to seek to resolve the issue.

For the time being, the only other avenue of possible fiscal assistance for those not eligible for travel at public expense would be to approach regimental, corps or Service charities.



SOLDIER OUTFOXED

■ I HAVE been a fencer for some 46 years, during which time I have had regular contact with the Service fencing community.

Consequently, I was particular interested in the mention of Jim Fox in the July issue, “Ranked: British Army Olympians”.

I knew the Olympic squad of 1976 and feel that the photograph featured in the article [left] is not of Fox but Adrian Parker, a fellow member of that team.

I trust the above information will be of assistance and look forward to future issues of your excellent magazine. — **Mr J West, Kingston-upon-Thames.**

The editor types: Touche. Having revisited the *Soldier* archive, there is certainly some doubt over the identity of the fencer featured last month. The “real” Jim Fox is pictured right.





APPOINTMENTS

Lt Gen Nick Carter, currently Army 2020 team leader, to be deputy commander International Security Assistance Force (Afghanistan and United Kingdom national contingent commander) in September.



COMPETITIONS

Carnage winners: Michelle Bosomworth, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear; Mr M Booth, Arnold, Nottingham; Jayne Hawkes, HQ Hereford Garrison, Hereford; Claire Halbert, Farnborough, Hampshire; Mr W Li, Cheadle, Greater Manchester.

Imagination Studio 3 winners: Mr M Tarbatt, Farnworth, Bolton; Clare Holding, Honiton, Devon.

Sniper Elite V2 winners: Mr D Woolmer, Whitehaven, Cumbria; C Long, Grimsby, Lincolnshire; WO1 W Christian, HQ 42 (NW) Bde, Preston, Lancashire; Maj K Bailes, LF CSS CD, Deepcut, Surrey; Sgt K Kiernan, 32 Engr Regt, BFPO 30; Cpl S Haggerty, HQ Sqn, QDG, BFPO 16.

Spine line winners: Mr P Healey, DSPA, Worthy Down, Hampshire; Mr P Rendall, 39 Sig Regt, Bristol, Avon; C Long, Grimsby, Lincolnshire; J M Wallace, UK Armd Div, BFPO 15; Sgt L Caulfield, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div; Sgt K Pritchard, AFCO, Bournemouth, Dorset; Maj A Cornell, ARTD, Pewsey, Wiltshire; Mr J Oliver, MoD Main Building, Whitehall, London; Mr G Drew, DEMSS Kineton, Southam, Warwickshire; Mr D Field, ATG (G), BFPO 16.



DIARY

August 4: Arsenal FC's little troopers coaching day and stadium tour is free for children of British Army personnel. To book a place visit www.mydaddyisasoldieradventures.org

September 15: The Troop Aid annual ball will be held at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham. For more information visit www.troopaid.info

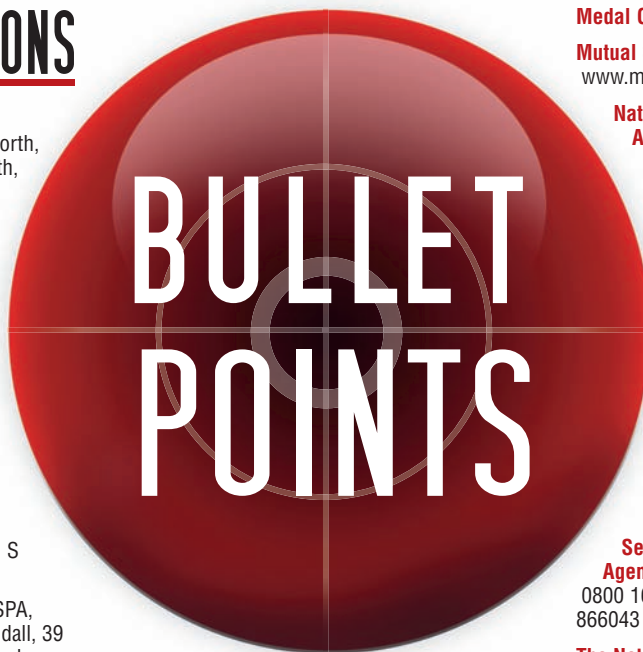
September 16: The Battle of Britain service will be held in St Boniface Church, JHQ for the final time. All are welcome at 1100. For more information contact Tollesburyboy@msn.com or 02431 9743352.

October 5: London Pacific Fashion Show. The Help for Heroes fund-raiser will be held at the Salvation Army Theatre, 275 Oxford Street, London W1C 2DJ from 1800 to 2100. For more information and tickets, priced £25, visit www.londonpacificfashion.org

October 18: Swift & Bold at the Royal Albert Hall. The massed Bands and Bugles of The Rifles and their special guests celebrate the history and achievements of riflemen past and present in a one-off night of music and

entertainment. Starting at 1930, the evening is being held in support of Care for Casualties with tickets ranging from £15 to £60. To book, call the box office on 0845 4015018.

Until further notice: Exhibition of War Correspondents – reporting under fire since 1914. Featuring some of the people whose words, images, voices and faces bring the story from the front line to those at home, sometimes at considerable risk to themselves. Imperial War



Museum North, The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1TZ. www.iwm.org.uk

Until further notice: The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes. The world's largest collection of Victoria and George Crosses. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ.



DIRECTORY

Armed Forces' Buddhist Society: Chaplain 020 7414 3411; www.afbs-uk.org

Armed Forces' Christian Union: 01252 311221; www.afcu.org.uk

Armed Forces Humanist Association: www.armedforceshumanists.org.uk

ABF The Soldiers' Charity: 0845 241 4820

Army Welfare Service: 01980 615975; www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/welfare-support.aspx

Army Families Federation: 01264 382324; [mil.94391.2324; www.aff.org.uk](http://mil.94391.2324;www.aff.org.uk)

Blind Veterans UK: www.blindveterans.org.uk

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association: 0208 590 1124; www.blesma.org

Career Transition Partnership: 0207 766 8020

Children's Education Advisory Service: 01980 618244; enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society: 01372 841600; www.combatstress.com

Family Escort Service: 0207 463 9249

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

Forces Pension Society: 0207 820 9988

Help for Heroes: www.helpforheroes.org.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office: 01722 436575

Medal Office: 94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

Mutual Support (Multiple Sclerosis group): www.mutualsupport.org.uk

National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association Office: 24-hour helpline 0845 257 4853; www.ngvfa.org.uk

Regular Forces' Employment Association: 0121 236 0058; www.rfea.org.uk

Remount: 01451 850 341; www.remount.net

Royal British Legion: www.britishlegion.org.uk

RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre: 01622 795900; www.rbli.co.uk

SSAFA Forces Help: 0845 1300 975; www.ssafa.org.uk

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency:

0800 169 2277 (from the UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)

The Not Forgotten Association: 020 7730 2400; www.nfassociation.org



INTELLIGENCE

The following Army Briefing Notes, Defence Internal Briefs and Defence Information Notices can be found online at www.armynet.mod.uk

ABN 53/12: Home Office families migration changes

ABN 54/12: Access to resettlement advice during tranche two redundancy

ABN 55/12: Dealing with commercial recruiting and resettlement agencies

ABN 56/12: Voluntary early release scheme 2012-2014 notification

ABN 57/12: Army FTRS re-employment policy

ABN 58/12: Army compulsory redundancy programme – tranche two update

ABN 59/12: "Where talent endures" and "medium- and short-term areas for reinforcement" designations for one-star Army appointments

ABN 61/12: Higher defence studies programme

DIB 38/12: Future Reserves 2020

DIB 37/12: Army 2020 study – *Transforming the British Army for the future*

DIB 36/12: Message from the head of the civil service – pensions update

DIB 35/12: Op Olympics – Armed Forces contribution to the 2012 Olympic and

Paralympic Games

DIB 34/12: A new defence primary health care organisation

DIB 33/12: Civil service reform announcement

DIB 32/12: Permanent Secretary Ursula Brennan to move to a new post

DIB 31/12: Armed Forces redundancy programme – announcement of Service personnel selected for tranche two redundancy

DIN 2012DIN01-154: Jobseeker's allowance regulation changes for Service personnel in the Reserve Forces

DIN 2012DIN01-153: Refund of professional body fees

DIN 2012DIN01-150: BR3 – issue of June 2012 edition

DIN 2012DIN01-149: Queen Victoria School admissions process for academic year 2013/2014

DIN 2012DIN01-147: MoD civilian decompression

DIN 2012DIN01-146: New UK migration changes affecting UK Armed Forces family members who are non-European economic area nationals

DIN 2012DIN01-145: Testing of colour perception and the definition of the colour perception 1 standard (this DIN replaces JSP 346, chapter 2, annex G)

DIN 2012DIN01-144: Officers' petroleum course 2013

DIN 2012DIN01-142: Utilisation of defence travel

DIN 2012DIN01-140: Utilisation of rail warrants

DIN 2012DIN01-139: Defence Medical Services 2020 project overview – *Shaping the Defence Medical Services for the future*

DIN 2012DIN01-138: Voluntary transfer of Army personnel selected for compulsory redundancy in tranche two

DIN 2012DIN01-137: Defence language award schemes

DIN 2012DIN01-136: JSP 477 – *Community development youth work and play work activities*

DIN 2012DIN01-135: Publication of BR 1750A – *Handbook of Naval Medical Standards* (June 2012 edition)

DIN 2012DIN03-022: Policy for the force protection of UK Forces on operations

DIN 2012DIN03-021: Requesting support from the Joint Helicopter Command

DIN 2012DIN03-020: Establishment of defence strategy and priorities

DIN 2012DIN03-017: Defence language capability policy

DIN 2012DIN03-016: Diplomatic clearance requirements for foreign state aircraft in the USA

DIN 2012DIN03-015: MoD use of government cloud services

DIN 2012DIN04-103: Declaration of out of service date of the 1.5kw and 3kw field lighting kits

DIN 2012DIN04-102: New contract notice for the complete recovery and recycling service for scrap metal and lead acid batteries – UK only

DIN 2012DIN04-101: Oral inflation valve – security of attachment

DIN 2012DIN04-100: Declaration of obsolescence for Kodak ML 500 printer DMC-W6-5836-01-499-9191

DIN 2012DIN04-099: Transition of commodities customer contact role from MoD to Rolls-Royce submarines for nuclear steam raising plant

DIN 2012DIN04-098: Declaration of obsolete O, E and phase one WMIK asset codes

DIN 2012DIN04-096: Minister (DEST)

Acquisition Awards 2012 – calling notice for nominations

DIN 2012DIN04-095: Equipment tables, scales and schedules

DIN 2012DIN04-094: Applying for Service families accommodation in the UK – transformation of allocation services

DIN 2012DIN04-093: Change of contract arrangements for the supply of equipment in support of military working dogs

DIN 2012DIN04-092: Declaration of obsolescence – director artillery

DIN 2012DIN04-091: Declaration of obsolescence – Foden recovery

DIN 2012DIN04-090: Amendment to 2011DIN04-129 – rescind obsolete declaration of test and measuring equipment

DIN 2012DIN04-089: New contract notice for the secure and non-secure disposal of IT and related equipment

DIN 2012DIN04-088: Replacement of low pressure electrolyser and gas management plant with combined oxygen generation system

DIN 2012DIN04-087: Declaration of obsolete – cartridge limpet mine disposal equipment N2 Mk1 and cartridge N2 Mk1 CW piston

DIN 2012DIN04-086: Publication of *The All Arms Recovery Manual* (edition 2) and cancellation of *REME Recovery Manual*

DIN 2012DIN05-026: Disbandment of the helicopter engines project team

DIN 2012DIN05-024: Freedom of information clearance process

DIN 2012DIN05-023: Formation of Defence Equipment & Support commercial commands and centre Joint Force Command head office and corporate services

Continued on page 64



NO. 849

JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

TEN details have been changed on this photograph of the Queen inspecting a guard from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland in the courtyard of the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh.

Circle the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 849, Soldier**,

Ordnance Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU by August 31. A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted.

First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £25 gift vouchers. The results

will be announced in the October issue. Usual rules apply.

June's winner: First correct entry drawn at random was Bdr L Spiers, 14 Regiment Royal Artillery, Larkhill.

Runners-up: Sgt R Phair, ACIO Ipswich and M Booth, Arnold, Nottinghamshire.



DIN 2012DIN05-022: The Bribery Act 2010

DIN 2012DIN05-021: Defence Logistics School organisational restructure

DIN 2012DIN06-028: Pneumococcal vaccination for welders

DIN 2012DIN06-027: Launch of the defence maritime regulator

DIN 2012DIN07-105: Defence awarding organisation – accreditation of courses

DIN 2012DIN07-103: TA and UOTC Orienteering Championships 2012

DIN 2012DIN07-102: Deletion of qualified educationally for warrant officer requirement

DIN 2012DIN07-101: Applying for modules in the military aerospace and airworthiness suite of accredited courses at Defence Academy

DIN 2012DIN07-100: Defence EOD Munition and Search School South – relocation, title change and course schedule

DIN 2012DIN07-099: Advanced command and staff course defence research papers – opportunities to sponsor/propose topics

DIN 2012DIN07-098: Tri-Service language examinations (professional, expert and functional) 2012/13

DIN 2012DIN07-097: Military Aviation Authority air safety courses 2012/13

DIN 2012DIN07-095: Organisation of international events for volunteer Reserve Forces

DIN 2012DIN07-094: City and Guilds Senior Awards

DIN 2012DIN07-093: Joining instructions for personnel attending Maritime Warfare School courses at Phoenix Training Group

DIN 2012DIN07-092: Exercise Spartan Hike 2013

DIN 2012DIN07-091: The defence logistics staff course – general outline and application process

DIN 2012DIN07-090: Degree programme for

all military logistics trade personnel

DIN 2012DIN07-089: Undergraduate degree programme for defence logistics officers

DIN 2012DIN07-088: Ending of all arms recruiting to the defence EOD operator programme

DIN 2012DIN08-007: Accounting arrangements 2012/2013 – this DIN replaces Finance Instruction 010-08

DIN 2012DIN08-006: Non-pay as you dine messing and casual meal charge for non-entitled personnel for financial year 2012/13

DIN 2012DIN10-026: Exercise Hard Ride – Army Motorcycling Championships



REUNIONS

Close Protection Unit: Anyone who has passed the Royal Military Police close protection course is invited to Longmoor Camp over the weekend of August 4-5 for an informal reunion. For further information contact SSgt Drew Bear on 01420 537082 or at cpureunion@yahoo.co.uk

Crewman/door gunner reunion on September 27 at the Victory Services Club in London. £40 per person. For details contact Cpl James Price at 8 Flight AAC on 94475 2731 or at aviationcrewman@yahoo.co.uk

David Sykes is planning a reunion for all members of **4 Sqn, 22 Signal Regiment** who served between 1970 and 1975. Considers September/October as a suitable time as hotel prices should be favourable. Anybody interested in attending can contact him by email at churchill422@sky.com

56th Signal Squadron (V) (Eastbourne): Reunion dinner will be held at the Cavendish Hotel on October 20. Application forms can be obtained from the UHO either by email at 39sr-56-paySNC@mod.uk or in writing from SHO, TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 7NL. Telephone 01323 728116.

Birgelen Veterans Association: The 12th anniversary reunion will be held at the Cavendish

Hotel, Torquay from September 28 to October 1. Bookings will be restricted to the first 100 applicants. Members wishing to attend the event should apply via the association's website at www.birgelenvets.org

Royal Hampshire TA battalions: The annual reunion will be held from noon on September 29 at Newburgh House, Winchester. Dress is blazer and regimental tie. All Royal Hampshire TA and successor 1 and 2 Wessex personnel are welcome. Enquiries for those not on the existing mailing list to Maj (Retd) Ian Taylor on 023 8069 4771 or via ian.p.b.taylor@btinternet.com

Royal Horse Artillery Association: The 92nd reunion dinner will take place in Trowbridge on October 6. Attendance is open to all past and present members of any RHA unit and their partners. Those who would like to attend should contact the dinner secretary for full details: R J Whiteway, The Hideaway, 18 Immenstadt Drive, Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PT. Telephone 01823 665650 or email rhaassn@hotmail.co.uk



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 drinks reception, is followed by a presentation and questions and culminates with refreshments. There will be a range of military personnel on hand to answer any of your questions. Call 01276 417000 or email your name and address to apt.mod@btinternet.com with the event you are interested in attending.

September: Stamford, Hertford, Southend (dates TBC).

October: Telford, Kidderminster, Canterbury, Eastbourne (dates TBC).



SEARCHLINE

Clive Slade is looking for information about a **troop ship arriving in the UK from India between 1945 and 1946**, which carried a serving member of the Armed Forces who was suffering from polio and had been nursed through the journey in an **iron lung**. He believes this was a first for such a medical case, with his father being one of the nursing staff. Contact Mr Slade on candvs4649tontrav@hotmail.co.uk

The **Aldershot Garrison warrant officers and sergeants' mess** is closing and moving to Evelyn Woods Road. Any previous member who has donated a presentation to the mess can claim it back up until September 1. Contact WO1 McCabe, HQ Aldershot Garrison, on 01252 348209.

Yulia Beardshaw is looking for **someone to write up the life story of her husband**, who served in the SAS. Anyone interested is asked to contact her on 01405 815275.

Myra-Ann Simpson is looking for a **John Meyers** who was posted to Wick in 1943. If anyone knows of his whereabouts contact myra.ann.simpson@hotmail.com

WEB WATCH

www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

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HOME TRUTHS

A PERSONAL view from Catherine Spencer,
director of communications at the Army
Families Federation. Log on to www.aff.org.uk



Picture: Cpl Paul Morrison, RLC

Where are troops headed?

SO the waiting is finally over and we now know the shape of the future British Army.

The first part of the project will be delivered ahead of schedule as the manning reduction demanded by Army 2020 will be completed by 2018 and, as expected, involve the loss of a further 12,000 troops.

With them will go some very famous old battalions while others appear to have defied logic by remaining in the order of battle.

Some major questions are still to be answered. Where are we all going to live? Will the Army become a two-tier organisation? How are the Reserves going to make up the 30,000 required to man the new adaptive force?

The basing strategy is due to be finalised in the coming months and while soldiers may worry about the difference between reaction and adaptive formations, families are most likely to just be thankful their loved

one still has a job.

However, I fear the question of the Territorial Army will take somewhat longer to resolve as the country is effectively looking to form a new semi-permanent section of the Service rather than modify the current part-time one.

Reservists who have deployed as part of Regular units over the past ten years have done brilliantly to fulfil their contracts, balancing the pressures of a civilian life with the complications of a military one while bringing units up to strength.

Their employers have accepted the pain of absence but benefitted from the battlefield skills and perspective that such personnel bring to industry.

But asking vastly greater numbers of troops and their bosses to cope with a significant alteration to this delicate balance will not be easy, especially as the UK's economic situation

continues to stagnate.

Current forecasts do not see things getting any easier over the next five to ten years – exactly the time frame in which Army 2020 is due to be implemented.

The strains this will place on soldiers will be enormous and the Army Families Federation will look to play an increasing role for these personnel and their loved ones as they become more khaki.

The government is asking more of Servicemen and women and these people will require more in return; their place in the Armed Forces Covenant will need to be properly articulated.

All of this will take some time to put in place but all the while serving personnel continue to be made redundant.

If the country's leaders can't balance this new equation, the burden must fall to those of us who are left behind after changes are implemented. ■

Safeguarding Olympic sport

■ AS this edition goes to print, the Games will be in full flow.

Records will be broken and dreams will be being fulfilled, and the eyes of the world will be on London.

While we all enjoy the spectacle and support our UK and Commonwealth athletes, let's spare a thought for the 30,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen who are either in Afghanistan, about to deploy there

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Fiona, (41), 5'3", enjoys walking, reading, cycling and music. Searching for male pen pals in Kabul Afghanistan, 41+. P047

Pen Pals service discontinued

The pen pal column has been a feature of *Soldier* since the 90s, however, with the increase in various forms of social media and numerous dating sites this has led to a marked reduction in both the number of pen pal requests and responses.

The service will end with immediate effect. Any pen pal advertiser who has already had a request published or reader who has sent a reply within three months of the advert's cover date, will still have their post sent onto the pen pal box number.

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The British Legionettes were founded by Lisa Aston, who is Russ Aston's sister-in-law, and are producing this calendar with all sales proceeds to be donated to The Royal British Legion.

The photoshoot is now finished and the calendar is in production and is due to be released for sale in September.

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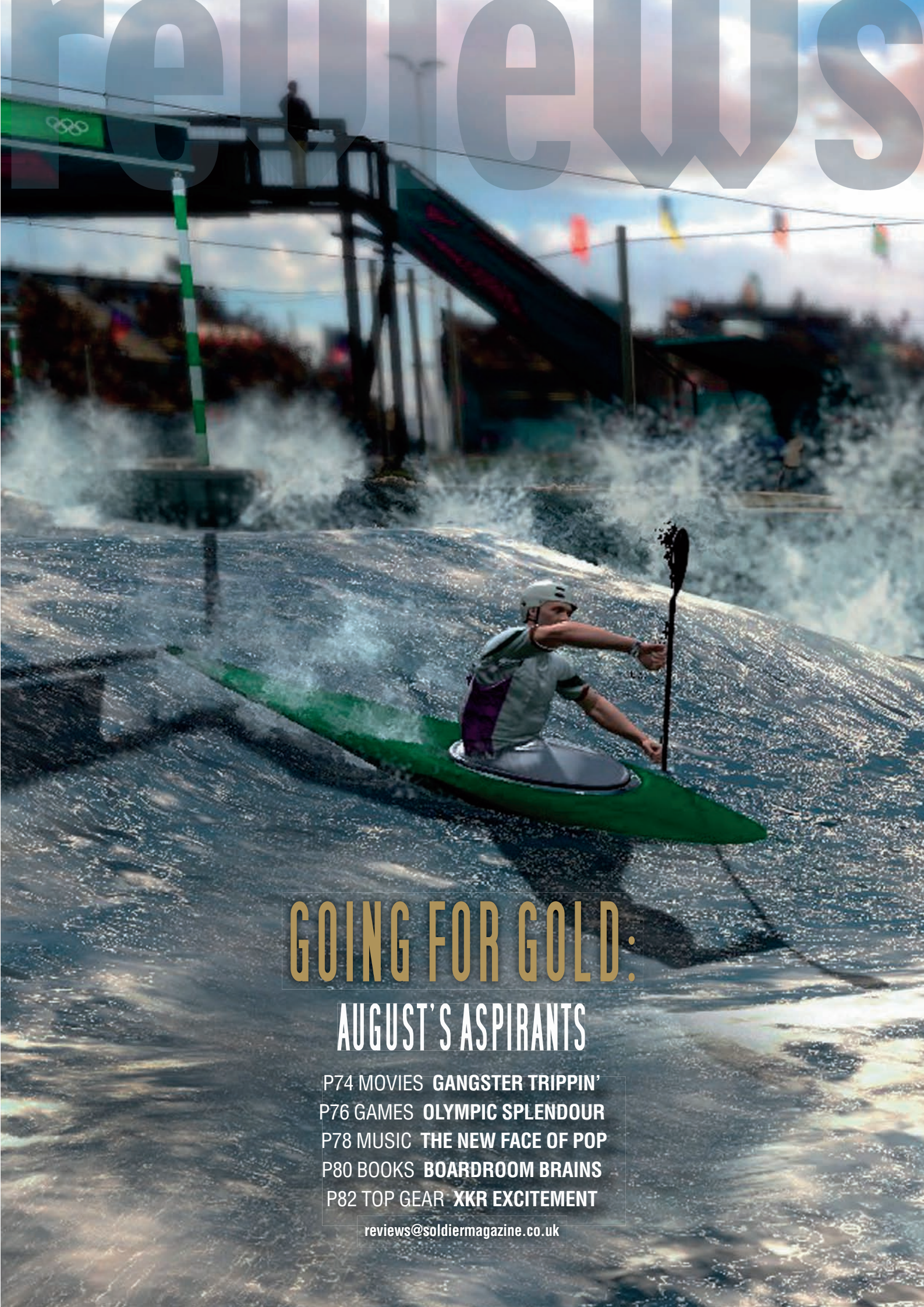


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VIVACIOUS VIEWING



CROWS ZERO 2 out now

BASED on **Hiroshi Takahashi's** best-selling manga series *Crows*, this is a brutal gang warfare film featuring the exploits of a group of delinquent, violent school students. A clichéd script exists to set up savage fight scenes which are more brawls than martial arts. And although the movie is well choreographed and superbly filmed, there are none of the enthralling stunts that a **Jackie Chan** picture would offer. If you're looking for fighting that is easily watchable this is definitely worth picking up but otherwise avoid it.

James Alston, civvy



AIRBORNE out now

DURING an electrical storm at 30,000 feet, the passengers of a transatlantic flight bound for New York gradually discover that things are not as they seem and are about to turn nasty. Coming over like a cross between *Airplane* and *The Twilight Zone*, a selection of familiar British faces ham it up in style while competing to see who can swear the most. By the end of the film you will be saying to yourself "what was the point of that?". The scariest part of the whole title is seeing how old Luke Skywalker (**Mark Hamill**) has become.

Jools Finch, MPGS



KLITSCHKO out now

THIS knockout documentary about the heavyweight Klitschko brothers is a real treat for fight fans. The feature takes us through the life-story of **Vitali** and **Wladimir** from their beginnings in socialist Ukraine to the top of boxing. A rare insight is given into the duo's extra-curricular success in politics and show business. Serving as an intriguing behind-the-scenes piece of film, it unlocks some of the enigma surrounding two giants who both have PhDs, speak four languages and tend to leave opponents either on the canvas or the wrong end of a points decision.

Joe Clapson, Soldier



IN DARKNESS out now

THIS film is a humbling look at the plight of the Jewish population during the Nazi occupation of Poland in the Second World War. It tells the remarkable story of **Krystyna Chiger** and her awful experience in Communist Russia, showing the unbelievably cruel acts of the Germans. When her family are finally hunted down they escape to the sewers of what was the Polish town of Lwow and today is the Ukrainian town of Lviv. This is an amazing tale of truth, fear and courage in the face of unbeatable odds.

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A MOVIE that will have you in stitches from the very start and brings the *Snow White* fairy story we all know to a new level of fun and enjoyment. Told from the perspective of the evil queen (**Julia Roberts**), the journey of jealousy, romance and betrayal will captivate all ages. From the monster in the forest to the bouncy giant, this is a charming adaptation of the Grimm tale immortalised by Disney's animated version. An eclectic cast that includes **Sean Bean** as the king, **Nathan Lane** as the ever-reliant servant and **Lily Collins** as Snow White makes entertaining viewing.

Charlotte Main, civvy



WIN... THE RISE AND FALL

THE Rise and Fall of a White Collar Hooligan is a gangster flick that leans less towards the football hooliganism cliché films and more towards the business end of criminal behaviour. It showcases the rising stardom of **Nick Nevern** who plays the unemployed and keen-for-cash Mike Jacobs. *Soldier* has teamed up with Momentum Pictures to offer a copy of the DVD to five lucky winners. To have a chance of scooping one, tell us who plays the movie's lead role. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date: August 31

Interview: Joe Clapson

ON paper the directorial debut from *Lock, Stock* actor **Dexter Fletcher** has all the hallmarks of a formulaic London gangster film that fails to reach the excellence of the 1998 title.

But although *Wild Bill* is set against a backdrop of East End accents and bloody pub violence, it brings far more to the screen than a bunch of men having a punch-up.

In what is a genuinely heartwarming father-son story co-written by the *Kick Ass* actor and his novelist accomplice **Danny King**, "Wild" **Bill Hayward** (**Charlie Creed-Miles**) returns home to his two boys after spending eight years in prison.

The former drug dealer wants to do right by his offspring but has no idea what the "straight and narrow" looks like or how to survive on it.

Speaking exclusively to *Soldier* about the movie, Fletcher said: "It tells a tale about a man who hasn't really grown up but who wants to put his past right."

"He was a bit of a bad lad and tries to turn his life around."

Hayward arrives at his high-rise London flat to discover that the mother of his children has scarpered and his young sons, **Dean** (**Will Poulter**) and **Jimmy** (**Sammy Williams**), have been fending for themselves under the radar of social services.

What follows is a dark comedy borne out of a crime drama, highlighting life on a sink estate where people live to make ends meet but still manage to keep a sharp wit about them.

"*Wild Bill* has characters that are both believable and likeable," the director explained.

"The genre is not the story; a lot of films are just about the setting and that is an easy trap to fall into."

"But I needed to know who the people were and what was going on – it's not enough to have a load of blokes who nick some money and then get shot."

"The whole audience can tune into this because they understand the characters in the film and recognise that **Bill** is trying to be a good dad."

Fletcher may have needed to sell this title as a London crime drama in order to gain the necessary backing, but the quality of writing and acting takes it several notches above its contemporaries.

Wild Bill successfully takes on the tough subjects of parentless children, drug pushers and the extreme violence handed out by criminal bosses.

And its co-writer is confident that Service personnel will enjoy the shock tactics awaiting the feature's audience.

"I really think soldiers will like this film as it's more than just a lads' tear-up; it's got a lot of heart," the Brit explained.

As the Olympic Games get under way, this portrait of what else is happening in east London is timely, relevant and set to win a clutch of awards for its cast and the man behind the camera. ■

Reviews

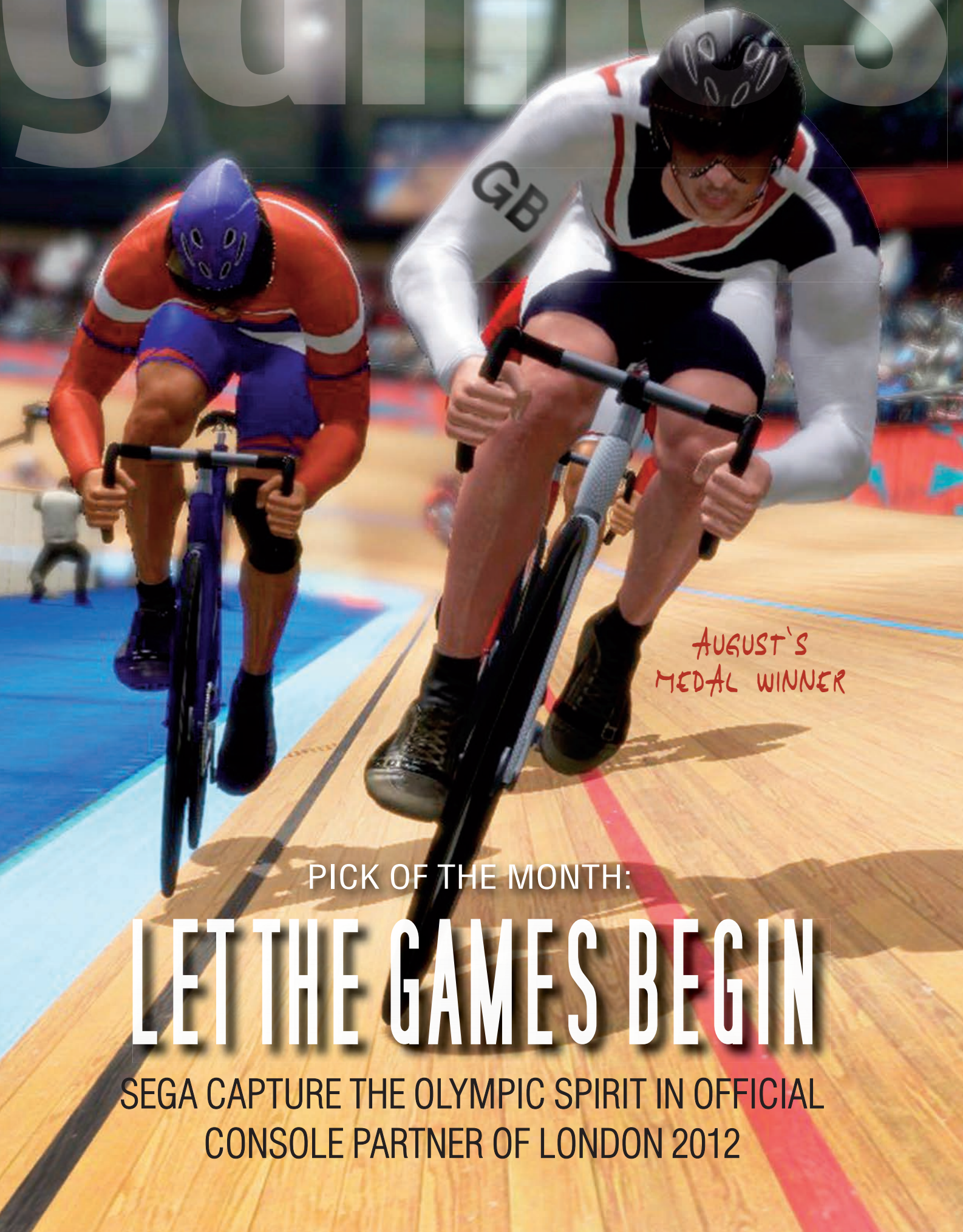
OUT NOW ON
DVD, BLU-RAY
AND DOWNLOAD

PICK OF THE MONTH: WILD BILL

DEXTER'S DEBUT DELIVERS

ACTOR-TURNED-DIRECTOR PRESENTS REALISTIC TAKE ON
LIFE IN EAST LONDON

games



AUGUST'S
MEDAL WINNER

PICK OF THE MONTH:

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

SEGA CAPTURE THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT IN OFFICIAL
CONSOLE PARTNER OF LONDON 2012

Review: Richard Long

In the console world, gaming spin-offs from major sporting events rarely deliver a medal-winning performance. With this in mind, the release of the official London 2012 Olympic Games tie-in has been met with a great deal of trepidation.

While previous offerings have underwhelmed thanks to a brutal button bashing philosophy, developers Sega have taken a more considered approach in their support of this summer's showpiece.

With 46 events to select from there is no shortage of variety and there are plenty of disciplines outside of the athletics sphere.

Swimming, archery, cycling, gymnastics, diving and kayaking are among the sports included on the roster, giving players the option of competing in individual showdowns or a full Olympic programme.

However, this repertoire delivers mixed results, with some activities fairing distinctly better than others.

On the plus side, the archery and shooting events are highly enjoyable and offer a challenging format that is anything but easy to master.

Players have to compensate for wind speed and direction before firing their arrows, while the skeet shoot requires deadly accuracy and consistency in order to succeed.

Cycling, although restricted to a single keirin competition, is another highlight thanks to its focus on maintaining stamina levels and selecting the perfect moment for a clinical burst of speed.

Track and field also makes a successful transition with players needing more than a repetitive action at the controls if they are to push for a podium finish.

In running events the emphasis is on rhythm and consistency, while throws and jumps are perfected by building speed before expertly flicking the analogue stick at the optimum angle.

While such challenges are entertaining enough they lack durability, which is mainly due to the short-lived nature of the sports themselves rather than any shortcomings on the developers' part.

On the downside, gymnastics and diving struggle to make the grade while beach volleyball suffers from a lack of control.

London 2012 is also missing real-life athletes, which is a slight frustration, and the lengthy wait between disciplines is an annoyance given the relatively brisk time it takes to complete each heat.

However, the presentation holds up well with accurate portrayals of the venues to be used this summer and the single-player mode allows you to create a personalised Olympic pathway by selecting individual events for every day of the competition.

The controls are easily accessible and avoid the dreaded button bashing and the number of disciplines and multi-player options offer good depth.

This is far from a non-starter and should provoke some interest now the Games have finally arrived, but it is difficult to see the title sustaining its winning run once the Olympic flame is extinguished on August 12. ■

VIRTUAL PLAYGROUND

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

RELEASED to coincide with the new movie, *The Amazing Spider-Man* game has been developed around previous offerings in the superhero franchise. In a word, this is fun – bags of it even. The biggest attraction is the ability to swing around New York as the webslinger himself. The title flows well and the combat resembles *Batman: Arkham Asylum*, in that you can keep to the shadows before moving to incapacitate your enemies. The graphics are okay and this has the basis of a decent game, but ultimately it may be one to just rent and return.

Cpl Mike O'Neill, RLC



INVERSION

for Xbox 360/PS3

IN an attempt to break from the first-person shooter mould, developers Sabre Interactive have incorporated the power of gravity into their latest combat title. Using the gravlink device, central hero Davis Russel can send enemies tumbling or use parked cars as weapons of mass destruction. While this seems like a novel approach it ultimately proves fiddly and difficult to master. With the game's unique selling point quickly dismissed, *Inversion* descends into another average shooter that fails to reach its full potential.

Richard Long, Soldier



LEGO BATMAN 2

for Xbox 360/PS3/Wii

BOASTING an ensemble of superheroes that makes *Avengers Assemble's* line-up look like a G4S delegation, this game has the star quality to rival the Dark Knight's cinematic endeavours. There will be few surprises here for fans of the ever-growing stable of Lego titles – gameplay sticks to the proven bash, build and brainstorm puzzles formula – but familiarity is this offering's greatest strength. With no revolutionary changes to the action, there is nothing to detract from the caped comedy, Wonderwoman cameos and John Williams' *Superman* score.

Andrew Simms, Soldier

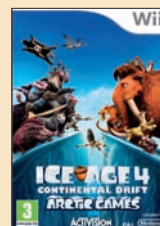


ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT

for Xbox 360/PS3/Wii

HAVING enjoyed considerable success at the box office, the brains behind *Ice Age 4: Continental Drift* are hoping to continue their winning run via the well-trodden path to the console world. Instead of adopting the mantra of a platform adventure, this title sees teams of frozen critters competing in a series of chilly athletic challenges. The wisecracking characters will appeal to youngsters but for adults the fun is somewhat lacking. The events are devoid of originality and can be rather difficult to master, making this an average offering at best.

Richard Long, Soldier



SPEC OPS: THE LINE

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

SET six months after a devastating sandstorm in Dubai, *Spec Ops: The Line* sees Delta Team on a mission to find out what happened to the US battalion sent to handle the evacuation. This is an *Apocalypse Now* story where you fight rogue soldiers who have been led astray by a disillusioned commander. The clarity of the desert allows for a mix of chaotic close-quarter battle and ranged sniping but the real joy of this title is the ability to flank and outsmart your opposition. This is a powerful third-person shooter that scores a strong seven out of ten.

Sgt Lee Gibbs, REME



BEAT THE BEAT: RHYTHM PARADISE

for Wii

DESPITE its minimalist appearance, this game is serious about drumming a sense of rhythm into its players. A simple test in which you hit buttons in time with an on-screen flashing light sets the tone at the start, before the beat-based challenges get progressively harder. A range of 50 mini-games follows – one of which includes playing golf on a tropical island – making this title a winner in terms of longevity. Once the surreal nature of *Beat the Beat: Rhythm Paradise* is negated, this offering emerges as a welcome addition to the Wii fold.

Joe Clapson, Soldier





AUGUST'S
AUDIO OFFERINGS

PICK OF THE MONTH:

THE NEW FACE OF POP

TEEN SENSATION EARNS RAVE REVIEWS ON
EVE OF DEBUT ALBUM RELEASE



TUNES FOR THE TROOPS

Review: Richard Long

HAVING achieved online notoriety with cover versions of Usher, Drake and Kings of Leon, UK pop sensation Conor Maynard has generated a healthy fan base ahead of releasing his debut album.

With 90 million combined YouTube views, nearly 300,000 Twitter followers and 400,000 Facebook likes, the 19-year-old is well placed for an assault on the charts.

These numbers make impressive reading and their impact has been felt across the pond, with heavyweight producers Ne-Yo and Pharrell Williams showing interest in signing the Brighton teen. While their efforts to snare the talent have so far been unfulfilled, they have been happy to collaborate with him on new record *Contrast*.

"When Pharrell first called, he was trying to sign me," the artist recalled.

"He'd been watching my progress on YouTube over the last few years and said that he really believed in me.

"He invited me to Miami for a week and I saw more famous people than I have in my whole life.

"It was an incredible time and I can't believe I got to work with Pharrell on my first album. He said that he thinks I'm going to change the future of pop music. That was a big line."

Maynard's debut single *Can't Say No* peaked at number two in the UK charts but the initial success has failed to distract him from the bigger picture.

"I had a little celebration in Brighton with my mates," he said. "I definitely had fun but I also had to finish the rest of the album so I just got on and did that.

"Everything that has happened so far has been amazing but I'm not about to take my eye off the ball. I'm getting ready for the next step because I don't want to trip up."

Such focus and attention to detail has seen the young pretender produce a highly polished pop record that will tick all the boxes for its intended market.

The Pharrell influence shines bright on *Lift Off* thanks to its heavy synths, while the Ne-Yo penned *Turn Around* is a future hit in the offing.

The only slight criticism is that *Contrast* is lacking in variety, with the majority of tracks conforming to the mainstream urban vibe that works in the here and now.

On the whole this is a decent enough debut, but you can't help but think he has much more to offer. ■

Albion Sky by Alistair Griffin

THE overdue release of *Albion Sky* comes off the back of *Just Drive*, Formula One's montage for the end of the 2010 season.



Alistair Griffin

has a superb ability to put the listener in the music, experiencing the feelings and emotions in the songs. It is clear he has particular influences and there is a **Take That** feel to many of the tracks. However, this offering is sure to strike a chord as the tunes are catchy and easy to sing along to. Although not the most original album, expect it to do well in the charts as it caters to a wide audience ranging from Britpop to boy band fans.

Rfn James Clark, Rifles

Overexposed by Maroon 5

HAVING skirted around pop's top table for a number of years, the infuriatingly catchy single *Moves Like Jagger* looks to



have pushed **Maroon 5** firmly into the mainstream. Their fifth album, *Overexposed*, sees the American outfit collaborate with **Britney Spears'** songwriter **Max Martin** and a string of other hit makers in a bid to build on these impressive foundations. Unfortunately, the magic is not repeated and while the record's polish and high production shines to a certain degree, it fails to surpass the unexpected charm of the lead track.

Richard Long, *Soldier*

Write It On Your Skin

THIS is **Newton Faulkner's** third album and sticks with his distinctly humanist themes.



Write It On Your Skin has been touted as a reinvention, but die-hard fans will be pleased to hear this is anything but a departure from the feel-good beats of the past. Tracks range from the thumping *Pulling Teeth* to the folky *Long Shot*, which is just one of those tunes you imagine watching clouds to. It's all pretty unpretentious stuff from a man who likes to keep it down to the basics. If you desire acoustic simplicity and coherent lyrics then this is for you and the honesty and uncomplicated nature make it worth a listen.

Capt David Greaves, REME

The 8th by Paul Heaton

THE soundtrack to **Paul Heaton's**



new soul opera of the seven deadly sins, and introducing a new eighth iniquity – gossip, the music has neither the darkness nor depth to carry it on its own. Narrated throughout, the gritty voice quickly becomes irritating and requires a strong visual distraction. There are hints of **The Beautiful South** on a couple of tracks but fans will be disappointed if they are looking for more of the same.

Capt Laura Mazzara, Int Corps

Face The Wolves by The Fallows

THIS is one of the most enjoyable albums I have listened to in a long time. It combines energetic folk-rock with catchy pop riffs to generate



a sound that seems somehow familiar yet is still distinctive and unique. The first six tracks provide a superb opening but the middle section slightly disappoints. At this point I was expecting *Face The Wolves* to rapidly head downhill, but **The Fallows** make a sudden return to form with a triumphant ending. Each track tells an individual story and as a collection this offering takes the listener on an interesting and emotional musical journey.

Pat Jordan, ex-RAMC

Fortune by Chris Brown

DESPITE a highly publicised assault on pop princess



Rihanna in 2009, the stock of **Chris Brown** continues to rise. New album *Fortune* has already topped the UK charts and lead single *Turn Up The Music* provided a number one smash. However, this offering is distinctly average and the commercial success it has achieved is somewhat surprising. The majority of tracks conform to a middle-of-the-road RnB formula, while guest artists such as **Nas** and **Wiz Khalifa** easily outshine the star turn when called upon. The only respite comes in the shape of Brown's hit single, which offers a welcome up-tempo feel.

Richard Long, *Soldier*

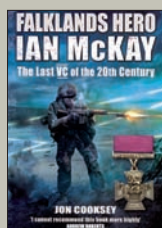
RECONNOITRING READING

Interview: Becky Clark

Falklands Hero: Ian McKay

by Jon Cooksey

THIS book charts the life of Victoria Cross winner Sgt Ian McKay from childhood through joining The Parachute Regiment and deployments in Northern Ireland – including Bloody Sunday – to his final heroic feat during the Falklands War. It's worth wading through the excess, trivial detail of the first few chapters to get to the subject's actions against Argentine forces, where **Jon Cooksey's** style loses its self-indulgent, meandering tone and becomes a good, gripping narrative of events. Wait for the paperback.



Capt Laura Mazzara, Int Corps

Under Every Leaf

by William Beaver

CHRONICLING the establishment of the Intelligence Division during the last quarter of the 19th century, this book should not be judged by its cover. While well researched, *Under Every Leaf* is nothing like the rollicking good read full of espionage and adventure promised by its blurb. Attempting to cover a vast swathe of the British Empire, far too many characters and complex subject matter, this book is written by a military historian for military historians and will probably hold no interest for those outside of this sphere.

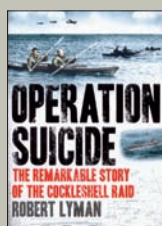


Sgt Wallace Stephenson, Int Corps

Operation Suicide

by Robert Lyman

A DETAILED analysis of the 1942 Cockleshell Heroes raid into Bordeaux Harbour, this title examines how such sorties were borne out of Churchill's desire to get on the front foot. *Operation Suicide* is at its best when discussing the human aspects of the endeavour but concentrates too much on the equipment considerations. To criticise this labour of love is, however, churlish; it serves its subject well. What this title sets out, very clearly, is how the bravery of such raiders kept morale up, frustrated the Germans and contributed towards Allied victory.

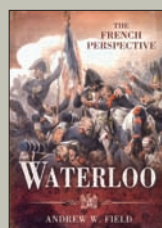


Maj Inigo Jones, MoD Main Building

Waterloo: The French Perspective

by Andrew Field

IT was about time a new book on the "Jonny Francois" view of Waterloo was published. I have a number of titles on the Napoleonic wars but this is very impressive. It is obviously the result of a labour of love, involving meticulous research and a great deal of effort by **Andrew Field**. Too many previous offerings on the subject fail to provide the French perspective and do not deal with the sorts of issues that only a military author can. This is magnificent and highly recommended, though primarily for the Waterloo enthusiast.



Col Patrick Crowley, PWRR

Second World War Infantry Tactics

by Stephen Bull

THIS book bares out the old adage that technology may change but soldiers and tactics do not.

Stephen Bull

has delivered an absolute gold mine of information. Packed with detail, diagrams and data, this really is an excellent buy. Chapters on anti-tank strategies and the comparative strengths and weaknesses of German, British and US soldiers are detailed, informative and remarkably topical. Ideal reference material for any Service personnel looking for ideas when preparing a presentation or study day.

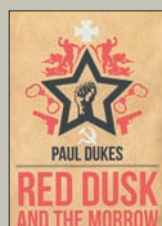


Maj Mike Peters, AAC

Red Dusk and the Morrow

by Paul Dukes

THIS account of the author's time in Soviet Russia – as a language teacher before the revolution and later as a member of the British intelligence service – reads as though it were a fictional spy novel. Well written and charting an incredible adventure, it is easy to forget that the characters featured in *Red Dusk and the Morrow* actually existed. Remembering that the title chronicles true events will cement readers' genuine interest in **Paul Dukes'** already engaging narrative. This is an excellent offering and a book history fans will especially enjoy.



Craig Don, ex-RE

AS the commercial world struggles to adapt to the effects of the economic crisis and defence faces up to an era of transformation, the only certainty appears to be uncertainty. But a new title by TA officer and business strategist Ivan Yardley suggests that companies could weather such turbulence by adopting the military mindset.

From Battlefield to Boardroom draws on the author's considerable experience commanding British soldiers and directing his own marketing company to offer insight into how the two sectors can learn from each other.

"Most businesses want an organisation that has greater empowerment and staff who are willing to take risks and make decisions," Yardley told *Soldier*. "However, they don't quite know how to put the leadership in place to create a culture that enables that. They could look to the military, which has achieved that in a robust and sustainable way on operations."

The book explores how firms could replicate the Army's front-line success by following the doctrine of mission command. Management based on shared values is presented as a credible alternative to the profit-driven behaviour that usually infiltrates the corporate world, where greed has led to a growing gap between the highest and lowest earners.

"Sound, robust leadership carries people through thick and thin," explained Yardley, who oversaw the deployment of 485 soldiers on Op Telic and various other missions as CO of 4th Battalion, The Mercian Regiment.

"You need chiefs who are going to act in a way that is good for the whole, not just the individual. It would be very difficult for any officer in the military to reward themselves 27 times more than a person further down in their organisation. If you don't maintain trust and commitment, people won't perform."

Lessons offered to Service personnel from the world of commerce may be of particular interest to those at the helm of Army 2020.

"Officers could look at how international companies operate without huge amounts of infrastructure," the Reservist commented.

"I'm not suggesting they adopt a McDonald's-style franchise but you could have some things contracted out; capabilities brought in at the last minute and temporary strategic alignments."

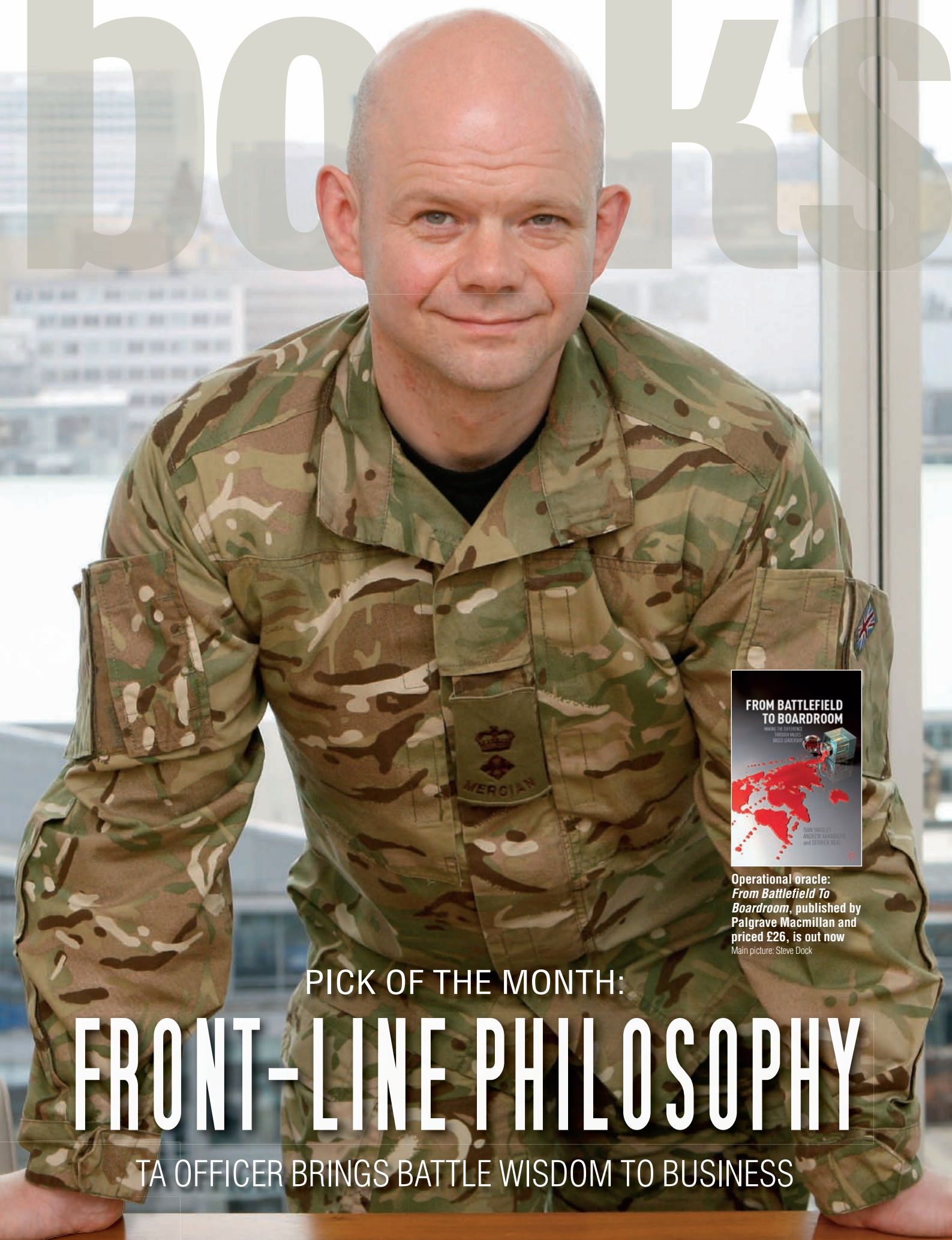
Although not the first title to examine how military tactics can be exploited by the corporate sector and vice versa, this author's pedigree at the operational end of both worlds should be the envy of other offerings.

Those looking for a self-help manual on how to translate battlefield experiences into a successful second career may wish to look elsewhere. But anyone involved in restructuring or wanting to understand the broader application of military theory to business will gain some useful insights.

"We have a fantastic opportunity for the first time in several hundred years to radically rethink how defence will operate, to be involved in something that's going to be much more diverse and transformational than it has been in the past," Yardley added.

The author's hope is that this vision is rewarded with thriving book sales over the coming months. ■

books



Operational oracle:
From Battlefield To Boardroom, published by
Palgrave Macmillan and
priced £26, is out now
Main picture: Steve Dock

PICK OF THE MONTH:

FRONT-LINE PHILOSOPHY

TA OFFICER BRINGS BATTLE WISDOM TO BUSINESS

STYLE SCRUTINY

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE *XKR*'S ELEMENTS...



POWER PERFORMANCE

THE five-litre V8 petrol convertible has some fairly impressive vital statistics. With a limited top speed of 155mph and the ability to clock 60mph in 4.6 seconds, drivers need not panic about nipping out at roundabouts. There is no sense of losing control with this beast; even at high speeds stability is maintained. With six gears and monstrous power this is no pussycat.

CLEVER COMMS

SIMPLY taking a seat behind the wheel of this machine is a treat but it's only one part of a first-rate experience. Drivers can cruise along listening to an MP3 player via the impressive Bowers & Wilkins sound system while taking direction from the built-in satnav and chatting on the phone using Bluetooth connectivity. With such technology, multitasking is no longer the sole preserve of the fairer sex.



EXTRAVAGANT EXTERIOR

ASIDE from its ability to outpace most contemporaries, the *XKR* is a fine specimen to behold. It looks classy with the electric convertible top up but extra special with it down. With quad exhaust pipes, rear spoiler and red brake calipers it is a head-turner. This angry looking soft-top oozes refinement and power.

IMPERIOUS INTERIOR

EVERYTHING with this work of art has been designed for a relaxing driving experience; from the soft-grain leather heated and cooled seats to the warmed steering wheel with contrast stitching. The automatic climate and humidity controls are excellent and add to the comfort. Even when pushing down hard on the accelerator you can feel a sense of serenity.



BASIC BOOT

IF there is one downside to this Jaguar it is the boot volume – 313 litres with the roof up or 200 with it down. Space is at a premium and you might struggle to squeeze in the necessary admin for a driving trip abroad. But if you're purchasing this speed machine, you've probably got another motor for your shopping bags anyway.

READER OFFER... *XKR* DISCOUNT



● **SOLDIER** has teamed up with Jaguar Military Sales to offer Service personnel an impressive discount of 18 per cent on new purchases of the Jaguar *XKR*, which has a standard retail price of £84,930. To take advantage of the offer visit www.jaguar-militarysales.com

TOP

Review: Joe Clapson

WHETHER entranced by the growl emanating from beneath its sculptured bonnet or the aggressive roar prompted by every press of the accelerator, there is no denying the Jaguar *XKR*'s siren-like qualities.

But there is far more to this 4.8-tonne baritone than just aural beauty – it has the good looks and moves to match the majesty of its music.

Purring through built-up areas, the five-litre V8 grabs attention with an impressive exterior, an intimidating face and a low body nestled on 20-inch Nevis alloy wheels.

However, it is the *XKR*'s performance on the open road that really strikes a chord.

Capable of 0-60mph in 4.6 seconds and boasting 625nm of torque, this Jaguar routinely displays its delicious derriere to other motorists.

Designed to travel at high tempo, picking up pace in the *XKR* does not come at a price – the handling remains stable and responsive and the active exhaust with quad tailpipes ensure the engine remains on-key.

Appreciation of this star attraction is further enhanced when the roof comes down. With speed and steering unimpaired, passengers' ears are given better access to the throttle-induced symphony.

Continuing the theme of satisfying noise, the crystal clear Bowers & Wilkins surround audio system delivers the soundtrack to your journey in style.

Using the touch-screen interface in the centre of the dash, you can tune into digital radio, flick to a booming anthem on the six-disc in-fascia CD player or pipe in hits from an MP3 player.

The same hi-tech monitor also provides access to the climate control and satellite navigation systems.

Featuring an exquisite interior – complete with comfortable sports seats, premium headlining and heated leather steering wheel – this Jag has all the bells and whistles you would expect from a luxury car.

But, as welcome and useful as these elements are, this big cat doesn't need support acts.

One pitch-perfect growl from its well-tuned engine will be enough to win the hearts of automotive aficionados. ■

ear

DRIVER'S
DELIGHT

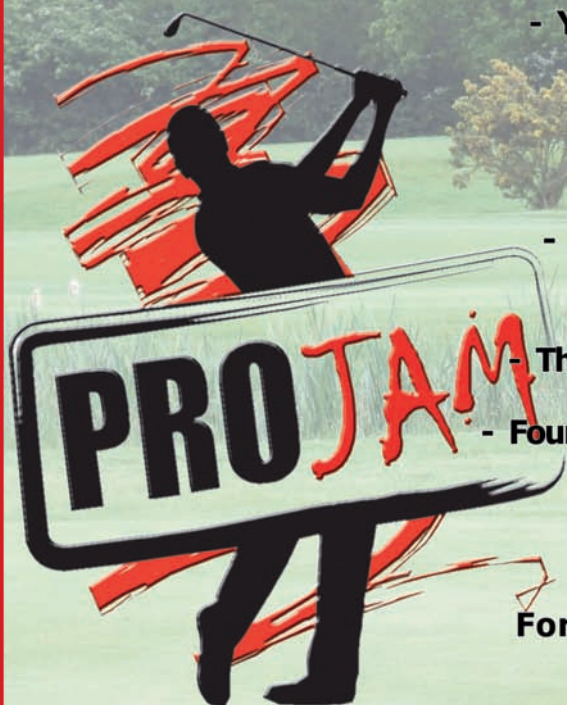


PICK OF THE MONTH:

NOTE PERFECT

JAGUAR'S ROAR TURNS HEADS IN TOWN

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- Your opportunity to learn to play and improve your golf
- Run over 22 weeks of the year, held at Silverstone Golf Club, Northants/Bucks border
- Each individual week includes 16 hours group tuition and playing golf in the afternoon
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**WINNING RUN: ARMY ON
TRACK WITH DOUBLE
SUCCESS AT FORCES
FESTIVAL OF ATHLETICS**

PICTURE: GRAEME MAIN





Gold run: The Army capitalised on their home advantage at the Aldershot Military Stadium to win the men's and women's Inter-Services athletics crowns

Track stars celebrate double delight

Report: Richard Long
Pictures: Graeme Main

THE Army's track and field stars produced a scorching display of pace and power to emphatically reclaim their Inter-Services athletics titles in Aldershot.

Having returned empty-handed from last year's competition, the determined Reds turned on the style to sink their Forces rivals and claim a sensational double in the team events.

A rejuvenated men's squad posted a commanding total of 171.5 points to crush defending champions the Royal Air Force – while the women celebrated a narrow win

“THE RAF HAD A STRONG TEAM BUT WE DID WELL ACROSS THE BOARD AND REALLY FOUGHT FOR IT”

over the light blues thanks to a score of 132.

The hosts made a perfect start to proceedings as Cpl Ben Jones (RE) dominated the hammer with a throw of 52.15 metres before Pte Osman Muskwe (3 LSR) took to the field for his first competition in a punishing day.

The multi-eventer produced a throw of 53.61 metres to finish second in the javelin before going on to win the long jump, high jump and shot.

He also secured silver medals in the 110 metres hurdles and discus, along with a bronze in the triple jump.

On the track, LCpl Ramone Smith (RLC) celebrated a sprint double in the 100 and 200 metres, while Olympic bronze medallist Sgt Musa Audu (3 LSR, pictured left) showcased his class to take another 400 metres crown with ease.

Capt Richard Smith (RADC) retained his 400 metres hurdles title and Pte Quinten Kearns (RLC) produced a sublime run in the 3,000 metres steeplechase to comfortably defeat his RAF rival, with Capt Adrian Whitwam (RLC) finishing third.

The men sealed a superb team performance with victories in the

4x100 and 4x400 metres relays.

In the women's competition, the field events also proved to be a happy hunting ground as Capt Lucy Rann (AGC, pictured below) and LCpl Alex Turbitt (R Signals) took gold and silver in the shot.

The duo repeated the feat in the javelin and also took second and third spots in the discus.

Middle-distance runner Cpl Danielle Hodgkinson (AMS) was the star on the track, winning the 800 and 1,500 metres, while Pte

Kelly Thomas gave an

encouraging performance in the sprint events to secure two silver medals.

A botched baton exchange by the RAF helped the Army to victory in the 4x100 metres relay, before Hodgkinson surged past her opponent on the line to ensure the Service took gold in the 4x400 metres.

“The RAF had a





Hard running: Cpl Danielle Hodgkinson (AMS) surges to the line in the final leg of the 4x400 metres

strong team but we did well across the board and really fought for it,” women’s coach WO2 Tanya Jacobs (RLC) told *SoldierSport* after watching her squad lift the Inter-Services trophy.

“We have lost for the past two seasons and being on our home ground in an Olympic year we were determined to win it back.

“I think that helped in getting people off work to compete.

“Our two throwers – Lucy Rann and Alex Turbitt – did very well and Kelly Thomas was a revelation in the sprints.

“We have had to contend with Op Olympics and we are extremely grateful to the units who have released their athletes. It was a fantastic day for us.”

For men’s coach Maj Martin Annis (RAPTC), Inter-Services glory proved

to be the perfect end to two decades at the helm.

“I’ve managed the team for 20 years and in that time we’ve had 14 wins. It is nice to go out with another victory,” he said.

“We had a reasonably strong team and did very well in all the events.

“Last year we lost a lot of athletes to operations and we had a few weak areas this season, but the guys who came in did a superb job.

“Osman Muskwe was one of the obvious stars and he set personal bests in the long jump and discus.

“Gdsm John Edwards (1 WG) also gave a strong showing on his debut in the high jump.

“Being on home turf certainly helped us and we pulled out all the stops.” ■

Muskwe’s magic

PTE Osman Muskwe (3 LSR) was the leading light in the Army men’s team as he competed in seven events. His busy day of action featured:

Shot putt: First place with a throw of 13.64 metres

High jump: First place with a height of 1.90 metres

Long jump: First place with a distance of 7.05 metres

Javelin: Second place with a throw of 53.61 metres

Discus: Second place with a throw of 44.52 metres

110 metres hurdles: Second place in a time of 15.82 seconds

Triple jump: Third place with a distance of 13.31 metres



Jumper raises the bar on debut performance



ARMY athletics has unearthed a potential new star in the shape of high jump sensation Gdsm John Edwards (1 WG).

The former Welsh international put his track and field hopes on hold after joining the military in 2010, but with his competitive spirit burning bright he returned to action at last month’s Inter-Services showdown.

The 22-year-old, who boasts a personal best of 2.07 metres, said: “I have been concentrating on my job and put sport to the back of my mind, but after a while I started to miss it and wanted to take part again.

“People were telling me I had the talent and that I should get back into it. At this stage it is not all about winning. I have not competed for two-and-a-half years so I need to do a lot of training before I can get back to the level I was at before.”

Edwards is a former All Wales champion and finished second at the Inter-Services. He has also got a new civilian coach and hopes to become a permanent fixture in the Army set-up.

“My unit has been very supportive of my efforts so far and it is good to be back,” he added.



Dream team: The impressive form of Capt Nick Beighton (RE) and Sam Scowen has earned them a place at the 2012 Paralympics in the mixed double scull

Sculling star reaches Games summit

Report: Richard Long
Pictures: Graeme Main

ARMY rower Capt Nick Beighton (RE) has continued his remarkable progress on the water by being named in the Team GB squad for the London Paralympics.

The officer, who is a double above-knee amputee, will compete alongside Sam Scowen in the trunk and arms mixed double scull, which gets under way on Friday, August 31.

Beighton was introduced to the sport in 2010 during a Battle Back talent identification day and later completed a one-kilometre ergometer test with the British team.

He returned to the set-up for further trials and full-time training a year later and went on to make his international debut before winning a bronze medal at the World Cup.

"I am proud to have served my country in the Armed Forces and it is a great honour to represent Britain again in a completely different way," Beighton said after his place in the squad was confirmed.

"It has been a long, hard journey since I was injured two-and-a-half years ago and I want to thank the countless number of people who have helped me along the way. I wouldn't have achieved this without their continued support and encouragement.

"It is a unique opportunity to compete in a home Paralympic Games

and truly a once-in-a-lifetime chance.

"Having the support of the nation behind us will hopefully lift our performance to the highest level. I can't wait for it to start."

Beighton was wounded on operations in Helmand province in 2009. He had been helping to build security and patrol bases in the Nahr-e Saraj district when he stepped on an improvised explosive device.

The blast saw the soldier lose both

legs above the knee and he was left with a broken arm, fractured pelvis and internal injuries.

Taking to the water proved to be a major boost during the rehabilitation process as Beighton sought new challenges outside the sports he enjoyed prior to being wounded.

"I had never experienced rowing before, I came in completely cold," the athlete explained.

"It is a new sport for me and you get a huge amount of satisfaction from learning how to do something well.

"This has offered me so much, not only in terms of my health and well-being but in meeting other rowers and hearing about their experiences.

"As a team we live in each other's pockets day in, day out and we've all gone through something which has changed our life.

"It is an unspoken thing."

The squad faces a month of training in the UK before moving to Spain for a final preparation camp ahead of the London Paralympics.

"Our objective is to go to the Games and perform well but you need to savour the occasion and not get lost in what you're trying to achieve," Beighton added.

"We've had a few blocks of training at Dorney, which is our privilege with it being just down the road.

"We're comfortable with the place, we know the conditions and that is our advantage as the home nation." ■





Pictures: Pacific 2012

Calmer waters: Lt Charlie Martell (33 Engr Regt) at the start of his attempt to row solo from Japan to the USA, which was thwarted by tropical storm Mawar

Storm front scuppers ocean crossing

Interview: Richard Long

A BRITISH soldier hoping to become the first person to row solo across the Pacific Ocean saw his world record attempt thwarted by a tropical storm that led to him capsizing in 50-foot seas.

Lt Charlie Martell (33 Engr Regt) was 34 days into his journey from Japan to the USA when he was rescued by merchant vessel *The MV Last Tycoon* after his boat was severely damaged by the vicious weather system.

The 41-year-old, who is a Royal Engineer commando in the Territorial Army, began his quest in Choshi and was attempting to row unsupported to San Francisco in a 4,500-mile voyage before tropical storm Mawar hit.

"I knew it was forming in the south-west and there was a good chance it would be heading in my direction," Martell told *SoldierSport*.

"I put out my parachute anchor, strapped my kit down and waited for it to kick in.

"The first 12 to 18 hours were not a massive problem, I was getting thrown about but I was coping well.

"As the storm got worse I capsized six times in the space of 12 hours but I didn't have any real difficulties. However, the seventh was more severe as the bulkhead smashed against the water and cracked.

"The boat is very strong and I was safe and secure, but it is not designed to face typhoons."

Martell, who also served for ten years in the Regular Army, issued a Mayday call that was picked up by the Falmouth coastguard and passed to the Japanese authorities.

After spending around 36 hours in an emergency state he was rescued by the passing vessel.

The soldier said his military

background held him in good stead during the ordeal and he compared his predicament to a survival exercise.

"During a storm you cannot cook or have hot drinks so you're living off snacks and fresh water and your energy levels suffer," he said.

"I had two or three nights without any sleep. When the bulkhead smashed water came flooding in and my sleeping bag was soaked.

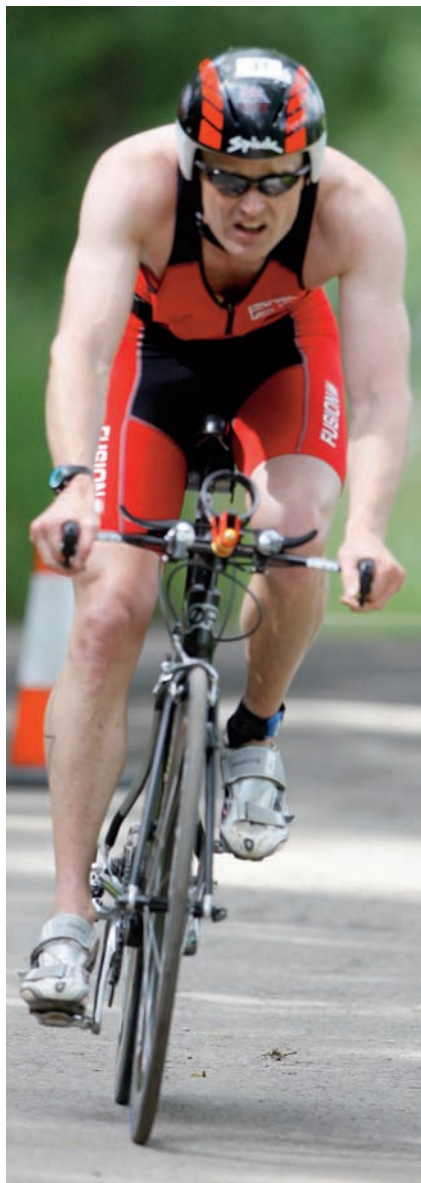
"The noise of the waves crashing against the boat was as loud as a rifle going off beside my ear.

"My Army training really helped. The discipline and thought processes needed to overcome obstacles, rather than giving in, was a definite advantage in this situation."

Martell was raising funds for *Toe in the Water and Give Them A Sporting Chance* and will assess the damage to his boat before deciding whether to attempt a second crossing next year. ■



Reds race to triple crown



Report: Richard Long
Pictures: Graeme Main

ARMV athletes continued their dominance of the Inter-Services triathlon championships by completing a clean sweep of titles at Hever Castle.

The men's, women's and veterans' teams all emerged victorious from the energy-sapping event, which featured a 1,500-metre swim followed by a 40-kilometre cycle leg and a ten-kilometre run.

A strong field assembled at the start line in the building's stunning grounds and the Army set the early pace with a promising showing in the water.

Maj Chris Stuart (RLC) took pole position heading into the bike stage and the team dominated the leader board at the start of the run.

But Royal Marine Maj Charles Pennington clawed back the advantage to emerge victorious, with Stuart coming a close second and Capt Rich Hunt (Rifles) third.

Capt Edd Charlton-Weedy (7 Para RHA) secured fifth place as the Army celebrated team glory.

Speaking to *SoldierSport* at the finish line, Stuart (pictured bottom right) said: "Charles is a phenomenal athlete and I knew he was in amazing form, but I am delighted with how it went.

"There was a nice cold swim to start with, which suited us, but the bike stage was quite bitty and it was difficult to get any momentum.

"On the run it was fairly wet under foot and there were a few cheeky hills, which made it a proper test.

"It was a good, hard course and that

made it fair for everyone.

"We have a few athletes who are away in Afghanistan and others have been competing in the middle distance championships, so we missed them.

"But we had guys here who were racing for the first time and they did a superb job."

The women's competition was dominated by the Army as 2nd Lt Elysia Ridley (RLC) was crowned individual champion, with Spr Lizzie Hill (RE) third and Maj Fiona Scotter (RE) fourth.

WO2 Glyn Painter (REME) won the veterans' event ahead of Maj Chris Biddulph (R Signals). Col Bob Pearce (late RLC) claimed fifth spot.

"I am delighted with the team's performance," said Capt Lloyd Keenan (RAMC), secretary of the Army Triathlon Association.

"The male and female events were sewn up early on but the veterans' competition was tough to call as the Navy and RAF loaded their teams.

"This is the blue riband event of the season and our mission statement is to dominate the Inter-Services triathlon year on year.

"We have delivered on that and the race was a huge success.

"We knew the bike course would be technical and not particularly fast, with the run more cross country than quick and flat. The additional challenge, as ever, was the weather and fortunately the gods were with us.

"We got the job done and I thought our athletes were superb."

For more information on the sport visit the Army Triathlon Association page on armynet. ■





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Back in the groove: Tennis ace Fus Dan Pethig (1 R Welsh) progressed to the finals of last month's Army championships after a two-year break from the sport

Pethig pushes top seeds on court return

Interview: Richard Long
Picture: Graeme Main

THE Army's tennis set-up has received a welcome injection of new talent in the guise of former semi-professional player Fus Dan Pethig (1 R Welsh).

An ankle injury saw the 22-year-old walk away from the sport to pursue a career in the military in 2011 but he is now back on the baseline after being invited into the Service fold.

Pethig fought his way to the final of the Army championships in Aldershot last month before losing in straight sets to WO2 Jamie Friend (RLC).

"This is the first tournament I have played in two years," he told *SoldierSport* on the eve of the match.

"Stepping onto the court felt so

strange but I started to get in my groove and as the week went on I really found my rhythm.

"The Army has given me a chance to come back. When I get time off I'm hoping to play some open competitions and will continue to represent the Service team."

Pethig is a former Welsh number two and was ranked within Great Britain's top 50 before injury halted his progress.

After a spell coaching his sister – who competed at the 2007 Special Olympics World Games – he followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Army.

"I started my training last February and I've been on tour in southern Afghanistan with my unit for four months," he added.

"I've come home on rest and recuperation and my CO has given

me an extra two weeks off to train and compete. I'm looking forward to getting back out there, I've been away for a month so it will be good to see how the lads are getting on."

Having been away from the sport for two years, Pethig only had a matter of hours to prepare for his comeback and his journey was set to continue at the Inter-Services tournament in Roehampton as this issue went to press.

"I did around ten hours of hitting and four hours of fitness work ahead of the championships," he said.

"I didn't realise the Army had a tennis team but I'm looking forward to the Inter-Services.

"We are going there in confident mood and we have got a good side – if we play well we have a chance of winning it." ■



'Dead' soldier joins Games roster

PTE Derek Derenalagi (2 Mercian) has been included in the 49-strong athletics squad that will represent Great Britain at the 2012 Paralympic Games.

The double amputee will compete in the F57 discus event in London, which gets under way on August 31.

Derenalagi was injured in Afghanistan in 2007, when the vehicle he was travelling in hit an improvised explosive device.

After being flown back to Camp Bastion he

was initially pronounced dead before a doctor noticed a slight pulse. The athlete lost both legs and spent two weeks in a coma.

Prior to the incident he had been a keen rugby player and after an intense period of rehabilitation he returned to the sporting arena through the Battle Back scheme.

On being named in the Great Britain squad, he said: "I'm thankful I'm alive and am honoured to have represented my country on the front line and now on the start line at the Paralympics."

SPORT SHORTS

■ A TEAM of injured Servicemen have been pushing their bodies to the limit in the Trois Etapes cycle race to raise funds for Walking With The Wounded.

Army athletes Craig Preece (21 Engr Regt) and Capt Rab Smedley (Para) were among those taking part in the three-day challenge, which was being staged as this issue went to press.

The event encompassed three Alpine stages from the Tour de France and required competitors to cycle more than 100 kilometres a day while enduring hill climbs in excess of 2,800 metres.

The six-strong squad was racing against seven other teams in a mission to collectively raise more than £1 million for the charity.

Donations can be made online at www.justgiving.com/WWTWTroisEtapes

■ A PARTY from the Army Mountaineering Association will be heading into the unknown this month as they attempt to scale an unclimbed peak in the Garhwal Himalayas.

The expedition is being jointly staged with personnel from the Indian Army and the group will ascend to a height of more than 6,500 metres during the six-week challenge.

Expedition leader Maj Matt Hing (RLC) said: "A lot of mountaineering has gone on there and there is a rich British history in the region."

"This is one of many defence diplomacy initiatives that are going on and India is an important ally. It has been 25 years since our last mountaineering trip together."

The expedition starts on August 18.



Heavy downpours put play on hold

THE unseasonal summer deluge has left the Army's cricket season in tatters after a number of fixtures and tournaments were cancelled last month.

Play between the men's senior side and the Kent 2nd XI was abandoned without a ball being bowled after heavy overnight rain took its toll on the Aldershot pitch.

The Inter-Corps Power Cup final suffered a similar fate but the Reds enjoyed some welcome time in the middle during their 50-over clash with the Civil Service.

Fielding first, the soldiers were put to the sword in the early stages as their opponents raced to 145-0 after 26 overs. But skipper Lt James Hudson (RA)

halted their progress with a spell of 3-27 from ten overs, while Pte Brannon Varley (DMSTG) and LCpl Jonathan Boynton (16 Regt RA) claimed two wickets each.

Chasing a total of 248 to win, the Army made a decent start with the bat and reached 62-1 before the rain returned to end the contest prematurely.

The downpours continued the following week as the team's clash with Derbyshire's 2nd XI was washed out, as was the women's Inter-Services Twenty20 showdown in Aldershot.

The Army Cricket Association is hoping to rearrange the tournament, along with the Inter-Corps Twenty20 and Power Cup finals, in September.

Sevens eye world crown

THE Army's Rugby Union stars travel to Colorado this month on a mission to win the inaugural International Defence Sevens competition.

With five tournament victories to their name this season, the Reds will be in confident mood as they lock horns with military sides from the USA, France and Australia.

The two-day event gets under way on August 18 and the squad is hoping to emulate the success of the Army's senior team, who were crowned defence world champions in the game's full format last year.

Having celebrated victories in Bournemouth, Richmond and Bristol at the start of the season, the Reds maintained their unbeaten run with further triumphs in Newquay and Edinburgh last month.

A 40-0 thrashing of the Bootleggers ensured the Cornish campaign started in style and the points continued to flow in a 45-0 win against the Griffins.

A hat-trick from LCpl Ben Seru (RE) and a brace from LCpl Semesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG, pictured) helped the Army cruise through their

last 16 clash with the Godfathers before the Akuma Dragons were swept aside in the quarter-finals.

The Newitts Centurions provided a sterner test in the next round but Seru and skipper LCpl Gerhard Wessels (RE) were among the scorers in a 29-19 win.

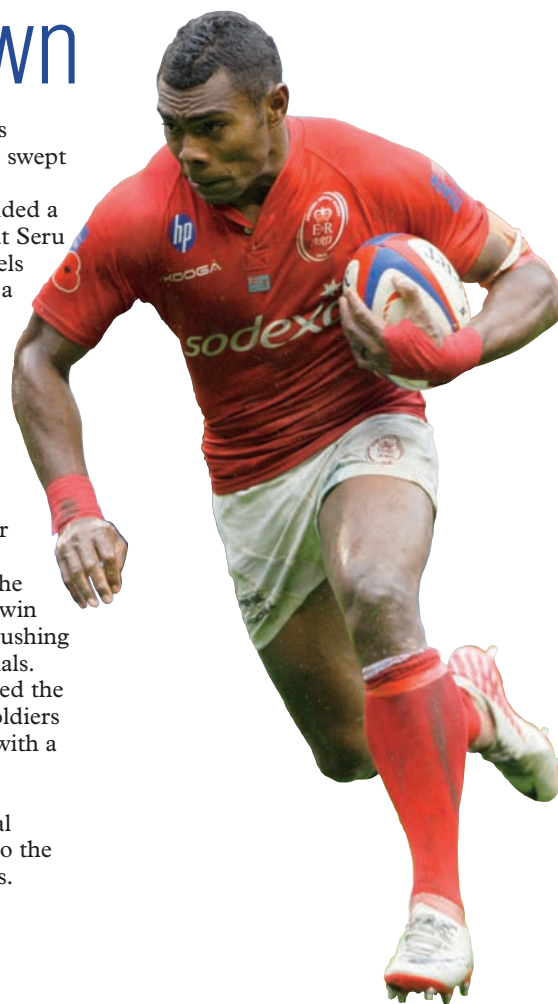
Rokoduguni maintained his fine form in the final as the speedster crossed for a hat-trick in a 28-19 victory over the Storm Sevens.

Seru continued to weave his magic in Edinburgh, as the all-conquering squad added another title to their collection.

After topping the pool stage, the Reds fought their way to a 28-5 win against the Flying Fish before crushing the HWF Wailers in the semi-finals.

The Newitts Centurions formed the opposition in the final but the soldiers celebrated yet another triumph with a 33-24 victory.

The Army were taking part in the Cwmtawe Sevens – their final tournament ahead of travelling to the USA – as this issue went to press.



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MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS SIGNS & MYTHS

What is Mental Health?

People who are mentally well are able to carry on their usual daily activities, cope with their emotions, and overcome problems in a positive manner, have self-respect and have confidence in their ability to deal with life's challenges. People who are experiencing mental health problems can experience a significant impairment of thought, mood, memory or the way they view the world that affects their judgement, behaviour, capacity to recognise reality, and/or ability to meet the ordinary demands of life. They may also be experiencing difficulties at work or home as a result.

What are Common Signs?

People who experience mental health problems exhibit certain signs; these can be physical, mental or changes in behaviour. Below is a list of signs common in most people who have mental health problems. A person may exhibit one or several of these signs.

- Withdrawal from their normal activities.
- Excessive tiredness or fatigue.
- Confused or distorted thinking, difficulty concentrating.
- Inappropriate expression of emotions (excessive anger, guilt, tearful, shame or fear).
- Loss of touch with reality.
- Inability to maintain their normal positive personal relationships.
- Inability to cope with daily life problems.
- Inability to take care of one's personal needs.
- Negative self-image and outlook.
- Feelings of hopelessness or helplessness.
- Violence towards self or others (including self-harming).

What is Stigma?

The biggest obstacle facing those with a mental illness is Stigma. Stigma is a mind-set that disadvantages an individual and justifies their exclusion from normal life. A mental health problem can be made worse when it is accompanied by misunderstanding, rejection, and ridicule. Stigma contributes to a worsening of the symptoms of mental illness. It will prevent many people from seeking help until it is too late.

Mental Health Myths.

Myth 1. 'Only weak people have mental health problems / my bosses will blame me'.

Fact: Anyone can be affected by mental health problems at any time in their lives.

Myth 2. 'If someone has a problem, they will get help'.

Fact: Most people do not get help because they are concerned about the consequences at work or their relationships or are worried about confidentiality.

Myth 3. 'My mate's / colleague's mental health problems are none of my business'.

Fact: Mates / colleagues are best placed to notice problems and provide both support and encouragement to seek help.

Myth 4. 'The military doesn't support personnel who have mental health problems/I don't know where to get help'.

Fact: The Army fully supports personnel with mental health problems as with any other illness or injury. The Army provides multiple ways to get help such as a TriM practitioners, Chaplains, your Unit Welfare Officer, your Medical Officer or Nurse...if they can't help they will know who can.

Myth 5. 'No-one can help me if I have a mental health problem / I don't trust mental health professionals'.

Fact: You can be helped. Good evidence shows that professional treatment helps, the earlier the better.

Seeking help early may help you get back on track at home and at work...Don't Bottle It Up.

SPORT SHORTS

■ A TEAM of injured personnel are taking part in the Ironman UK Triathlon to raise vital funds for charities that have supported them throughout their rehabilitation process.

The challenging event features a 2.4-mile open water swim followed by a punishing 112-mile bike ride and a full 26.2-mile marathon.

A total of 14 military teams will line up in the triathlon, which was being staged in Bolton as this issue went to press, with athletes competing on an individual basis or as part of a relay.

David Richmond, a former commanding officer of 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and Pte Jaco Van Gass (Para) are among the Army representatives taking part.

To sponsor the fund-raising team visit www.truespirit.org.uk

■ THE Army retained its title in the Inter-Services Coarse Angling Championships with victory at the Oakes Fishery in North Yorkshire.

Having battled heavy wind and rain, the soldiers recorded a comfortable win after a dominant display in all three sections yielded 18 points.

AB Paul Jackson, of the Royal Navy team, was crowned individual champion thanks to a 27.23kg haul.

■ NEW retro England football magazine *Sixty6* is appealing for picture contributions from serving soldiers ahead of the title's launch issue next month.

Editor Malcolm Robinson needs images of personnel in England shirts or with flags for a potential feature called *St George's Forces*.

The publication aims to celebrate the country's footballing achievements and its unveiling will coincide

with the start of the World Cup qualifying campaign in September.

Pictures should be sent to malrobinsonseventy3@gmail.com along with details of the unit, squadron or regiment and where those photographed are based.

■ SUPERBIKE rider Dan Linfoot has challenged budding artists to design a new military-inspired helmet that will be used in the final race weekend of the season.

The BMW Buildbase star has launched the competition to support the work of ABF The Soldiers' Charity and the winning entry will be offered as an auction prize for the cause.

Linfoot will wear the custom-made helmet at Brands Hatch on Sunday, October 14, while the runner-up will see their design showcased by Kyle Ryde in the 125cc Championship race on the same day.

The competition closes on Friday, September 14 and further information and entry details can be found at www.savagesquirrel.com



Making waves: The Army team championships in Aldershot produced a stunning day of aquatic action

Swimmers hit fast lane in team finals

Report: Richard Long
Picture: Graeme Main

ATHLETES from 10 Training Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers celebrated a nail-biting victory in the Army team swimming championships.

Having finished the event on equal points with the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS), the Bordon-based soldiers captured the major units crown thanks to a superior performance in the medley relay.

The women's competition also proved to be a close-fought affair, with 27 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps defeating 30 Signal Regiment by a narrow five-point margin.

A total of 22 teams took to the pool at the Aldershot Garrison Sports

Centre, making it one of the most well supported meetings in recent years.

The Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit took the minor units title, while RMAS triumphed in the water polo.

The team contest came on the back of an encouraging showing by the Army squad at the Inter-Services open water swimming championships.

Capt Alexandra Hardy (3 RSME) won all three races at Lake Bala but her efforts could not prevent the Royal Air Force from securing a slender win.

Speaking at the end of the events, Army Swimming Union secretary Nathan Pearce said: "All disciplines have been a huge success. This is mostly due to the willingness of soldiers taking part, with so many being tasked with so many other commitments they should be applauded for making the effort." ■

Ball battles pain barrier in golfing quest

GOLFER Capt Stuart Ball (RLC) is waiting to find out whether he has posted a new world record after he completed 432 holes in the space of just five days.

The 14-handicap player raised thousands of pounds for military charities Help for Heroes and Scotty's Little Soldiers by taking part in last month's challenge, which was staged at five different courses in the south of England.

Ball battled unseasonal summer weather and a persistent knee injury while out on the fairways but was determined to play until the last hole.

"It was very tough physically and mentally, especially when my body started to degrade," he told *SoldierSport*.

"All the scorecards have been sent off and we will wait to see if it is a record, hopefully it will work out.

"But that is a secondary

thought, the main purpose of this was to raise money for these charities."

On his longest day, Ball was awake at 0430 and was still playing at 2145.

He completed a total of 24 rounds shooting a top score of 76, which included an impressive nine pars and a birdie.

And despite pushing himself to the very limit, he has no plans for taking a break from the sport.

"I have not lost any enthusiasm at all," Ball said.

"My handicap is down to 14 and my game improved throughout the course of the week.

"I am going to continue working hard and I hope to represent my corps team and even the Army in the future."

Donations to the officer's fund-raising challenge can still be made online at www.bmycharity.com/StuartBall or via www.bmycharity.com/Stuball79 ■



Court stars end trophy drought

Report: Richard Long
Picture: Graeme Main

THE Army women's volleyball team capped a superb season on the court by claiming their first Inter-Services title in 30 years.

Having enjoyed a successful showing at the Crown Services competition, the Reds travelled to Gosport in confident mood and endured a tense day of competition before getting their hands on the coveted trophy.

After slipping to a 3-2 defeat to the Royal Navy in their opening encounter, the team made an immediate recovery and thrashed the Royal Air Force 3-0.

With the airmen beating the Senior Service in the final fixture, the Army was awarded the silverware thanks to their dominant victory in the event's second match.

"We could have gone up against the RAF thinking the Navy had already beaten us and there was nothing to play for," coach Sgt Nikki Mead (AGC (SPS), pictured far right) told *SoldierSport*.

"But we came out fighting. One of our girls had only done two training sessions with us

prior to the tournament and was out on court. We helped her the best we could but she still had to step up and serve – she did a fantastic job.

"We should have beaten the Navy but knew that if we defeated the RAF we still had a chance."

The Army boasted a squad of just seven soldiers, while their rivals were able to call on

experienced personnel for the battle on court.

"If we had our full complement of players available we would have absolutely thrashed them," skipper Capt Karen Tait (AGC (RMP), pictured far left) said.

"We have some fresh blood with a new attitude and the Army standards and values are really shining through.

"After the Navy match we could not be faulted for effort or heart, we fought so hard for each other and would not let the ball hit the ground.

"On an individual basis we should not have won but we wiped the floor with them in terms of grit and determination."

Mead is in her first season as Army coach and took three teams to Holland for matches against the Dutch military prior to the tournament.

They also competed at the Crown Services, where the mixed gender side were victorious and the women finished third.

The Army set-up is looking for new male and female players to join its ranks. Telephone Sgt Mead on military 94222 3255 for more details. ■



SPORT SHORTS



■ **ULTRA** athlete Capt Sip Powers (RLC) has reached the finish line in his energy-sapping bid to swim, cycle and run his way across the country.

The super-fit officer completed his 1,000-mile quest in 13 days and raised £5,000 for Battle Back.

Powers pushed himself in a 16-mile swim on the first day, averaged 230 kilometres daily on the bike and ran more than a marathon a day for five days.

"This was an absolute roller coaster of an adventure," he said.



■ **SOLDIERS** serving with 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards were given a welcome boost during their latest tour of Helmand province courtesy of a personal letter from Rugby Union star Ryan Jones.

The forward wrote to the unit on behalf of the Welsh national team during their recent test series in Australia.

The correspondence read: "You blokes are a real inspiration who deserve the recognition and support in everything you do, not only from the team but from the nation too."



■ **ARMY** cadet LBdr Vicky Simmonds had the honour of carrying the Olympic flame through the Norfolk village of Acle as part of last month's torch relay.

The 14-year-old is a keen runner and was nominated for her sporting prowess, which has seen her crowned Cadet Force national champion in cross-country.

After passing the flame to the next bearer, the teenager, of Acle detachment, described the experience as "the chance of a lifetime" and said she was extremely proud to be selected.

final word



We asked troops at the Army Recruitment and Training Division's Staff Leadership School for their thoughts on the Army 2020 plan

INTERVIEWS: BECKY CLARK
PICTURES: GRAEME MAIN



Sgt Mark Mountjoy (R Welsh)

It hasn't sunk in that my battalion, 2 Royal Welsh, is being cut. It's too early to say how that affects me as we don't yet know who's staying or going. The regiment has been around for hundreds of years and although we will keep one unit, the history will go. But I understand that decision makers have the bigger picture in mind and with the recession, we can only play the hand we've got.



Sgt Alex Simpson (RLC)

I am an ammunition technician and my trade isn't being cut so the announcement doesn't affect me personally but it's not a good thing for us as squaddies, knowing other people will be made redundant. We've seen changes in the past but no one serving now has seen adjustments of this scale. I think people will still be happy to be part of the Army.



WO2 Daz Pickard (R Signals)

It is not just regimental tradition that will go when units are disbanded – years of history will be disappearing as well. Changes to the Royal Signals haven't been quite as dramatic as they have for some other corps. One of the other problems we face is that a lot of troops have only ever known Afghanistan. In future they will have to adapt to fighting a different kind of war.



Cpl Nigel Bailey (RE)

Having reaction and adaptable forces won't make much difference to me personally because the way we work at the moment is on a cycle of rest and training, followed by pre-deployment exercises and then operations. That will continue. We're always busy – in the last two years I've been away four times – so I wonder how we'll cope. The work still needs doing.



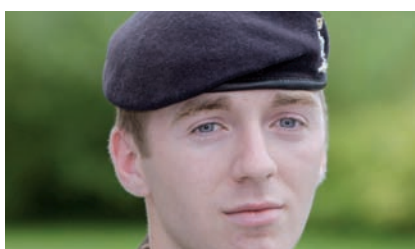
Cpl Eddie Buntine (Scots)

I'm gutted the Argylls have been reduced. It was a big shock for us when we found out but someone had to take the hit. The media play on the regimental history issues but for me it's not about that; it's about your muckers who you've been to war with, who will be split up. It hasn't made me consider leaving the Army. You've still got a Union Jack on your sleeve.



Bdr David Leeson (RA)

I think the reaction force is a good idea. I've been at high readiness before, from being out on the town to being in Iraq and I enjoyed that. There should always be that element, backed up by supporting units. We already have a sister Reserve regiment in the Artillery and it works well because we get some good guys and girls from there who get properly integrated during training.



LCpl Danny Holdsworth (R Signals)

I am not worried about my future personally but I've got a few mates who have been made redundant and I empathise with them. I have no regrets about joining the Army but I wish things could stay as they are and that we could be left alone to crack on despite the politics and financial situation. The new structure sounds good but it will take a lot to get there.



Cpl Iosefo Barinisavu (R Signals)

Some people will be very upset to lose their unit and pride associated with that. It doesn't just affect soldiers but also their families. The people at the top might have the bigger picture in mind but I'm not sure they appreciate what we're going through. A lot of the Commonwealth troops are mainly worried about citizenship if they leave. I've chosen to go next year.

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