

HARRY'S HEROES: INVICTUS GAMES GET ROYAL APPROVAL

Defence**Focus**

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BROTHERS IN ARMS

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from the operational honours

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FIONA SIMPSON



This month *Defence Focus* has gone all secret squirrel. To help get everyone used to the new Government Security Classification system, we have created a handy guide and some top tips.

And in an overexcited and, frankly, bonkers move we have also hidden seven squirrels in the pages of this month's magazine. If you can find all seven then send us an email with the page numbers and you could be in with a chance of winning a prize (see page 31 for more details).

In other non-secret-squirrel news, it's back to Mali again this month for the final two features from Ian Carr about the EU training mission there. In this month's edition he speaks to the UK ambassador out there to get a sense

of the bigger picture of how Britain is helping the country get back on its feet after the coup.

We are catching up with some of the amazing recipients of the latest operational honours, including the pair on our cover this month, Lance Corporals Simon Moloney and best mate Wesley Masters. Medic Masters was luckily on hand when Maloney was shot in the neck during operations in Afghanistan. Both were recognised, alongside 117 Service men and women and civilians last month.

We are also catching up with Prince Harry's latest venture, the Invictus Games, helping injured Service personnel on the road to recovery by getting them involved in an international sporting event. Emily Bird went to meet some of the Service personnel who will be involved in the Games at the newly-opened Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in east London.

As for the squirrels, I'll give you a clue to get you started: look to your right! Now go and get squirrel hunting.



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IN MEMORIAM

DEATHS ON OPERATIONS – 30 JANUARY TO 9 APRIL 2014



Sapper Adam Moralee

Sapper Moralee, from 32 Engineer Regiment, died on Wednesday 5 March in Camp Bastion.

Sapper Moralee was working with his section within Camp Bastion preparing engineer plant equipment for redeployment out of theatre when he was fatally injured.

Born on 2 November 1990 in Newcastle, he joined the Royal Engineers from school aged 17. He trained as an armoured engineer, learning to operate and maintain a variety of armoured engineer vehicles.

In March 2009, Sapper Moralee

was posted to 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 32 Engineer Regiment, and deployed on Operation Herrick 14 in March 2011 as part of the Armoured Support Group.

In mid-2013, Sapper Moralee successfully passed his pre non-commissioned officer cadre and was due to promote to Lance Corporal on posting later this year. He deployed on Operation Herrick 19 in September 2013 as part of a close support troop within 39 Armoured Engineer Squadron.

Throughout this time he worked as a combat engineer to give physical force protection from both the environment and the enemy threat to personnel deployed in forward bases, and to close these bases as part of Task Force Helmand's lift-off from Helmand.

He leaves behind his parents Lynn and Darren and fiancée Emma.

Sapper Moralee's family paid the following tribute: "Adam was a loving son, fiancé and friend who touched everyone's hearts that came into

contact with him. He loved his job and the friends he made from his time in the Army, and he would never have swapped those experiences for the world.

"Not a day will go by where he is not in our thoughts and hearts. He will be sorely missed by family and friends and forever loved by all."

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Davies, Commanding Officer 32 Engineer Regiment, described Sapper Moralee as 'quietly determined, utterly dedicated and an outstanding soldier'.

Speaking on behalf of Task Force Helmand Engineer Regiment Group and 32 Engineer Regiment Rear Operations Group in Hohne, Lieutenant Colonel Davies said: "We will eternally remember Adam as the dedicated professional and likeable sapper that he was.

"We will honour his memory by delivering the mission to which we have committed. At this most difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with his parents Lynn and Darren, and his fiancée Emma."

MIXING REGULAR AND RESERVE

MINISTER FOR THE ARMED FORCES MARK FRANCOIS TALKS ABOUT HIS PRIDE AT THE LAUNCH OF FORCE TROOPS COMMAND

It was with great pride that I launched Force Troops Command (FTC) last month in Wiltshire.

As I watched soldiers and officers showing off their impressive array of skills on Exercise Griffin Herald – from the medics operating in the field to the electronic warfare and UAV experts testing out their latest kit – I knew they were also breaking new ground.

Firstly, because these brave men and women are the opening salvo of Future Force 2020 and will blaze the trail for the advent of the Reactive and Adaptable force elements of Army 2020 later this year.

Secondly, because Force Troops Command brings together a diverse, comprehensive and world-class set of



skills and knowledge and those experts will have at their disposal some of the best and most advanced technology in the world.

Thirdly, because FTC represents the first fully integrated regular and reserve formation in the entire country, mixing the best of military and civilian capability.

Thinking back to my days in the TA, I can only imagine the sense of pride those present on Upavon Airfield felt to be part of a brave new world. But for them that pride is compounded by the knowledge they are pioneers.

In an age where threats and instability can emerge from anywhere at any time, they will be the ones sharpening our battle-winning edge as a very important evolution in the future of the British Army.

■ Find out more about the FTC launch on pages 8 and 9.



Picture: Senior Aircraftman Dek Traylor

**BRITISH AND IRISH DEFENCE FORCE SOLDIERS
WITH MALIAN TROOPS AT KOULIKORO TRAINING CENTRE**



SOLDIERING ON

FORCE TROOPS COMMAND WILL BE THE BIGGEST OF THE ARMY'S NEW FORMATIONS. AND IT HAS A BIG JOB TO DO WRITES IAN CARR

Although the Army tend to refer to all their activities as exercises, Griffin Herald was in fact more along the lines of an exhibition. The six-day-long interactive event at Upavon Airfield was a chance for the newly-formed Force Troops Command (FTC) to herald its arrival and demonstrate what it can do.

If the size of Exercise Griffin Herald didn't impress you then you must be a tough nut to crack. And if, by some strange chance, you were left unmoved by that, then the range of capability on display and the energy and professional polish of the soldiers manning the exhibition would surely have had an impact.

Launched on 1 April, FTC is the first major implementation of Army 2020, which will see the development of the British Army organised into three elements, Adaptable Force (AF), Reaction Force (RF) and FTC.

"We have been designed to deliver the combat support, command support and specialist support to the AF and the RF as well as to other government departments," Major General Tim Radford, FTC's General Officer Commanding, told *Defence Focus*. "By the end of 2015 we will be the largest of the Army's formations, with a quarter of all the Army's regulars and almost a half of its reservists integrated into our organisation. It has been a period of unprecedented change, there's no doubt, but by February 2015 the soil will have settled and we will be ready to move forward."

At its peak, during transition to the new army model, the command will have a strength of 44,000 troops. This will

eventually settle to around 37,500. It will consist of nine functional brigades and the Engineer and Logistic Staff Corps. Two of these, the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Brigade and the Security Assistance Group are totally new organisations.

There will be 115 units with representation from 16 cap badges and it will have co-ordinating authority over the RAF-controlled Joint Ground Based Air Defence Brigade, an asset which has a vital standing task in the Falklands and which proved its value during the London Olympics two years ago.

As much as 45 per cent of all Land Forces' equipment will reside within FTC, including 550 armoured vehicles and 700 protected mobility vehicles.

All of which explains the proportions of Exercise Griffin Herald. With all the static exhibits and the live demonstrations, including the always popular, except perhaps with the man in the foam suit, military working dogs



Dogged performance: Private Terry Gidzinski with Cheyenne





Eye in the sky: Bombardier Carl Mann with a Desert Hawk 3



Intense care: a fully operating field hospital, including a unique mobile CAT scanner, the only mobile version in the UK

display, apprehending insurgents and sniffing out detonators. It was a salami slice through the full range of British Army support assets.

Which really was the point of the event. And the range may well have come as a surprise to some, unaccustomed to seeing soldiers in diving suits and crewing river craft.

"This is about preparing ourselves for uncertainty, for contingent and expeditionary operations overseas. So we have brought all the generalist and specialist skills together under one command," said General Radford.

By bringing crucial support assets such as fire power, intelligence, engineering, logistics support and medical provision under one umbrella, FTC will be able to achieve greater efficiency and become a better engine for prioritising resources. "We will have greater command coherence so we can command, direct and support our soldiers better," said General Radford.

"When I was commanding Task Force Helmand in 2009, the soldiers who I served alongside relied heavily on things such as route clearance, medical support, communications and surveillance. Without this spectrum of specialist equipment and the personnel who operated them, we could not have functioned.

"It is the same today. But now these things are grouped together we can ensure they are looked after properly and their tasks allocated in a more efficient way, with simplicity and coherence. Which could mean for example producing smaller, bespoke packages tailored to the type of operation needing our

support," said General Radford.

Before FTC, many of these capabilities were split among a number of brigades, making it difficult to maintain an overall knowledge of full capability or to have stewardship to allow for agile decisions to be made.

At an individual working level it may be that soldiers won't feel much of a change. And you could argue that at the

coalface that doesn't matter much, as long as you know what's being asked of you and that you have the kit and the ken to do it.

"If you're a rifleman, your purview is probably no further than at company-level," explained General Radford. "But looking top down we know that the support and assurance we, as command, will be giving to that company, and therefore to the soldier and his family, will be better.

"In simple terms we will be able to look after them better. By structuring ourselves this way we can make sure they and their families have got enough schools and doctors, which is really important."

Supporting both the AF and the RF will mean developing a flexible and pragmatic approach. If an armoured infantry brigade goes out of the door as part of a rapid reaction, that will call for a certain suite of battlespace assets, while an adaptable force brigade in Africa involved in defence engagement is more likely to need communicators, defence cultural specialists and intelligence alongside them, or a team of engineers to drill a well.

"The demands on us are huge," said General Radford, "it is about having the right elements that we can group together in a bespoke way and sensibly prioritising our finite resources."

Meanwhile, on the demonstration field, a military dog renders an insurgent helpless, allowing a patrol to move in and take control of a situation.

Cheyenne and handler Private Terry Gidzinski have just given a perfect example of how the capability of FTC will make a massive difference to the soldiers they are supporting. 



FTC FACTS

■ Force Troops Command will comprise 25 per cent of the Regular Army and 49 per cent of the Army Reserve; it will be the Army's largest 2-star command

■ FTC will command 115 units; 55 regular, 41 reserve and 19 hybrid

■ FTC will hold 45 per cent of Land Forces' equipment, including 550 armoured vehicles



Picture: Sergeant Barry Pope RLC

Close shave: Lance Corporal Simon Moloney receiving medical attention from Lance Corporal Wesley Masters after being shot in the neck

HONOUR-BOUND

EMILY BIRD MEETS A FEW OF THE SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN RECOGNISED IN THE LATEST OPERATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS LIST



Picture: Corporal LSi Longworth RLC

Fast friends: Lance Corporals Simon Moloney and Wesley Masters

It's fair to describe a gunshot wound to the neck as a pretty traumatic injury. However, when it happened to Lance Corporal Simon Moloney during operations in Afghanistan, he kept his nerve so that he could continue to fight the Taliban for another 90 minutes to support his troops.

It was July last year when Moloney's troops were ambushed in a dawn raid. Moloney, from the Household Cavalry Regiment, and a machine gunner were providing cover from a compound roof when an enemy bullet hit Moloney in the neck, missing his vital arteries and voicebox by millimetres and knocking him to the ground. Just 10 minutes later, after he was

treated by a medic, Moloney kept on going until the fire fight was won.

In the face of such great danger, Moloney acted with little thought for himself, and it's this bravery and selflessness which has led him to be honoured with the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross in the latest Operational Honours and Awards.

The awards celebrate our Armed Forces personnel who show extreme dedication and commitment to their colleagues and country.

Speaking about the incident, Moloney said: "Initially, I thought I was dead. Not many people survive a gunshot wound to the neck, but the guy next to me quickly

assessed me and ensured that it hadn't hit an artery.

"At that point I thought I might survive a little bit longer, and with 15 different Taliban firing points and only two of us there, I just wanted to get on the radio, call in support and carry on with the fire fight.

"Two minutes later, the medic ran straight in and assured me that I was going to be all right. He was very confident and from then on it wasn't really a worry."

Moloney is not alone in being honoured for that particular mission. The medic who treated him, Lance Corporal Wesley Masters from the Royal Army Medical Corps, was also recognised.

As soon as he knew his colleague and friend had been shot, he didn't wait for orders to treat Moloney but raced in, through fire, to give him first aid while under accurate grenade attack. His only concern was to save his colleague's life.

The quick thinking and determination of Masters in treating Moloney while under direct attack resulted in him being awarded the Military Cross.

Moloney and Masters are just two of 117 Service men and women and civilians who have been recognised in the latest military honours list, issued last month, for acts of gallantry and skill.



Picture: LA (Phot) Jay Allen

On board: Chief Petty Officer Neil Halsey

IN DEEP

But bravery isn't just about stepping up in the face of enemy fire. It can also be about having the courage to make tough decisions in all kinds of dangerous situations, as Chief Petty Officer Neil Halsey discovered.

Off the Devon coast, one night in January last year, a tug boat collided with the vessel it was towing, tearing a hole below its waterline. The tug began to sink and was in danger of polluting the whole of the English Riviera with 200 tonnes of fuel.



Doctor in the house:
Surgeon Commander
Joanna Leason

Picture: Corporal Si Longworth RLC

Halsey, a chief marine engineering mechanic onboard HMS *Lancaster*, was on duty when the call came in. Together with members of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and a team from a nearby Royal Navy patrol vessel, they went on board the sinking tug and made the bold decision to go into the engine room to pump out the water and search for the hole.

"The vessel was unstable and was rocking from side-to-side," said Halsey. "We had to take our life-jackets off before going down into the engine room as they're saltwater-activated, which meant they'd have gone off and made it even more hazardous for us.

"The water in the engine room was up to our armpits. Being in the dark and in unfamiliar surroundings, it was difficult to find where the water was coming in. It was made even more difficult because of the thick layer of oil and fumes from the diesel pump that was running.

"Even though the pumps were set to work, the water level was still rising so we went to look for the split, which we found in the ship's side. We hammered some wooden wedges into the split which managed to stop about 70 per cent of the water coming in."

But even though Halsey had plugged the leak and brought in generators to pump the water out, the ship was still unstable. With water now at chin-height, Halsey was determined to stop the ship from going down and wanted to make sure that the diesel-driven pumps stayed running and the wedges stayed in place.

By now, four hours had passed, and his colleagues were getting cold so the RNLI team leader ordered everyone to get off the tug. But Halsey couldn't run the risk of the wedges dislodging, so he stayed on board for another two hours, until a Dutch salvage tug came and took over.

Through outstanding leadership skills, Halsey managed to avoid an environmental catastrophe and it's this, combined with his determination, that led to him being honoured with the Queen's Commendation for Bravery.

Halsey's firmness of purpose is a quality exhibited by all in the Armed Forces and not just in emergency situations.

SURGICAL SPIRIT

Leading up to the withdrawal of combat troops in Afghanistan by the end of 2014, British troops have been preparing the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF)



High flyers: Master Aircrew Bob Sunderland and Flight Lieutenant Charlie Lockyear

Picture: Corporal Neil Bryden RAF

so that they can take on the responsibility for security.

As part of the handover, Surgeon Commander Joanna Leason from the Royal Navy was asked to develop an Afghan surgical capability in Camp Shorabak, so that the ANSF could deal with their casualties.

Leason was integral in developing and delivering the training package to the Afghan surgical team so they were able to continue to develop their own clinical capabilities.

"One of the biggest challenges was understanding who was available to support the Afghan doctors. Without someone to sterilise the surgical instruments, and order the scalpel blades, the team is limited," said Leason.

"Once we had developed the basic infrastructure, we moved into the next stage so that the Afghans could start actually working on casualties themselves."

Leason understood the enormity of the task of preparing the Afghans to they could take the medical lead and the consequences if this didn't happen. She did everything she could to ensure they wouldn't fail.

Her zeal and inexhaustible energy which helped the Afghan clinicians to succeed is the reason why she has been awarded an OBE.

"Last May, the Afghan clinicians had dealt with just one minor surgical procedure," recalled Leason. "But, by the time I left theatre, they'd dealt with more than 100, and they've now dealt with several hundred casualties. This is really critical as they're moving forward, but this achievement is thanks to the efforts of everyone in the team, including the Afghans."

Leason's effort has done much to help the Afghan surgical capability stand on its own. However, she appreciates the work of the other people involved in the project and the importance of teamwork.

FLYING HIGH

Team spirit is a huge part of being in the military. RAF Chinook crew members Flight Lieutenant Charlie Lockyear and Master Aircrew Bob Sunderland understand the importance of solidarity. It made all the difference when they came under attack by Afghan insurgents in May last year.

They were taking part in a multi-ship operation, inserting troops in a high-threat area, when gunfire opened up on their helicopter, injuring some of the crew and damaging the Chinook's communications system.

"As we were landing, we came under heavy and sustained fire from the insurgents," said Lockyear, the

Chinook's captain. "A number of rounds hit the aircraft and the electrical and communication systems became damaged in the attack, and so communication within the aircraft became very difficult.

"I decided to abort and took off again. But, unknown to me, at that same moment the crewman at the back of the aircraft had put the ramp down to let the guys out, so we ended up leaving six guys behind.

"Thirty seconds later, the back-up communications systems came up and we suddenly realised that we needed to go back and get these chaps. And that's exactly what we did."

Immediately they went back to rescue their colleagues with Sunderland at the front of the cabin manning the front door-guns. Despite getting shot in the groin, he showed considerable courage by remanning his door-gun.

"We knew that we were going to go back into what was a dangerous area," said Sunderland. "I was putting down fire on the enemy to stop them engaging us. We then landed and picked up the remaining troops and flew back as quick as we could to the hospital at Camp Bastion, because there were some injuries on board, including me."

For their extraordinary courage, Lockyear has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Sunderland a Mention in Despatches.

Reflecting on that incident, Lockyear said: "The crew performed brilliantly, and, if any member of it hadn't, the outcome of that incident would have been very much a different story."

The achievements of Lockyear, Sunderland, Leason, Halsey, Masters and Moloney are just some of the many tales of courage, selflessness and commitment that shine throughout our Armed Forces.

They risk their lives in the service of the nation by defending the UK against threats to our national security and the interests of the UK and our allies in the world.

The operational honours system gives us all the opportunity to reflect on all the hard work that our military do to protect our country.

On thinking back to when he was shot and how everyone came together, Moloney says this is why he is proud to be in the British Army and why he is proud to be surrounded by fantastic Service men and women.

"That was probably one of the most intense fire fights I've ever had," he recalled. "But at the same time it was probably the best 90 minutes of my life."

"Seeing that many people at the height of professionalism, the height of courage, and to see all your best friends stepping up like that, it's something I'll never forget." 



Sight better: Irish Defence Force Lieutenant Sean Ryan teaches weapons skills to a Malian soldier

Pictures: Senior Aircraftman Dek Taylor

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

GENERAL BRUNO GUIBERT TALKS TO IAN CARR ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EUROPEAN MISSION IN MALI

It has been a busy morning at the Koulikoro Training Camp (KTC). Now full of lunch, a melange of military personnel from a number of European countries finish their cans of Orangina and pack their vehicles for another afternoon training Malian soldiers.

A few yards away, in an outdoor covered area complete with comfy chairs, Mission Commander, French Brigadier General Bruno Guibert, is saying his final farewells to a high profile European delegation.

Perhaps the international ambience is not as fragrant as it might have been due to the fact that, as luck would have it, a local contractor has chosen today to come along to empty the cess pit with a noisy suction pump. But no one seems to mind.

"It was a good visit both political and military, very important," the General told *Defence Focus* after the delegates had left. "They were asking us about the training that we have been giving the Malian soldiers and we explained the progress we have made."

While such visits might put an extra weight on the soldiers' shoulders, they matter to the future of the mandate of the French-led EU Training Mission (EUTM). So every effort is taken to impress.

For the last year or so, the European Union's objective here has been to support Malian efforts to fully restore constitutional and democratic order by helping the authorities exercise their sovereignty over the whole of the country and thereby neutralise organised crime and terrorist threats, predominantly from the north.

An essential element of this has been the role that KTC has played in rebuilding the Malian army by training them in infantry skills and by developing in them a fresh esprit de corps. "This is the fourth battalion we have trained and we are very optimistic because the level of the commanding officer and of the tactical leaders is very good," said General Guibert.

"There is good spirit and cohesion between the officers and soldiers. The training we give is the future for Mali. The feedback we have had from the battalions who have since deployed to the north has been good and has matched the expectations of the Malians."

All the signs suggest that the EU's objectives are being realised. Having been, in the General's words, humiliated by jihadist insurgents in the north last year, the Malian army has managed, in a remarkably short space of time, to restore their countrymen's pride



**General view: Mission Commander
Brigadier General Bruno Guibert**

avoid becoming destabilised. And, they know that the European continent is only a few kilometres away from Africa, so we are here also to secure our own safety. That is why so many European countries are in favour of the mission and want to participate.”

With four Malian battalions having passed through the 10-week KTC programme, the intention is to train four more. “When we have done that it means that we will have trained 6,000 soldiers by 2016 so the Malians can operate a relief-in-place in the north, which is an important objective for the army,” said the General.

But the aspiration is to go beyond that. Throughout the course of the second mandate the autonomy of the Malian Forces will be reinforced by giving them the capacity to train themselves, and eventually to train four more battalions, thus making a total of 12.

At the moment there are around 20 Malian trainers at KTC who, as part of the “train the trainers” package, participate in the provision of training to their fellow soldiers. As the scheme develops, so this number is set to grow, and in future the plan is to enable the Malians to train themselves at unit-level within their garrisons.

“Training will be recycled so that the experiences of the first four battalions who have been here at KTC and who have then been deployed to the north can use those experiences to give additional capacity and develop tactics in the future,” said General Guibert.

in them. With the EUTM’s help they have impressed civilians with their newly-honed professionalism, sense of purpose and pride.

“Now, especially in the south, we can see the Malians being very proud of their soldiers. Their historic image of the army, the trust and pride that they have in them, has been restored,” said General Guibert. “Even in the north the population sees the army as an asset which can stabilise the situation there and help them live in peace, which is what the majority want.”

But despite all the progress, the situation remains fragile and General Guibert is clear that this is no time for the European effort to relax. “The security situation has improved in the north, but the terrorist threat hasn’t disappeared, and the jihadists have shown they have the ability to reorganise themselves,” he said.

Happily, there is no sign that the EUTM is about to take its foot of the accelerator pedal as the mandate, which was due to complete in May, has now been extended by two years. “I think the European community understands how we are helping a friendly country to



**Safe route: Malian soldiers
learn about checkpoints**

“It’s important that the Malians realise that it is not just here at KTC where they train, but also in the garrisons. To be effective, an army has to be able to train itself and constantly build its capability.”

In the early stages at least, thoughts are being given to the role that EU troops might have in helping the Malians achieve this, though there are some support issues that will need to be sorted out first.

But this is not the only task that the EU mission will be engaged in over the next two years. During the second mandate a task force will be looking at organisational reforms to the Malian armed forces. In the capital, Bamako, there are currently around 20 officers engaged in advising the Malian authorities at a political and at a high-ranking military level.

“Training battalions is one thing, but you need to ensure a long lasting environment for them to survive,” said General Guibert. “For example, we are helping the ministers to think about doctrine. What is the final objective for the Malian army? We are looking at the way the chain of command will run the army day-to-day and how they will plan for the future. That includes the human resources process and IT. Over the last year this army has not been able to do this.”

While the General is looking forward to the time when the Malian authorities will politely say



Still life: searching insurgents efficiently but with proper respect

to their European friends ‘thank you, that is enough, we can now go on by ourselves’, for the time being he is convinced that the fragility of the region means that the international community must maintain their commitment to the country.

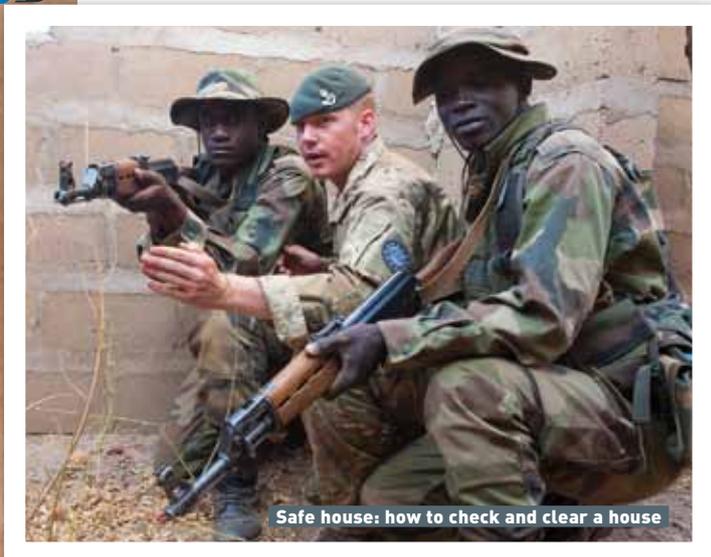
There is a beneficial by-product for these European partners. In a world where military co-operation is increasingly important, the mission in Mali offers a valuable chance to hone these working relationships.

“It is a good way to work together in a military mission. It is not a combat mission, but we can look at our respective doctrines and learn how to work within multinational standards,” said General Guibert. “We are also learning that for a moderate investment there can be a real, effective and visible result.

“Yes, there is a strong relationship between the French and the British. But this mission shows us that it is a question of global investment and a common action. There are no questions of levels of importance. It is about member states that are involved in a mission and each participation is as important as the other.” **DF**



Hot wired: Rifleman Sean Lizamore shows a Malian soldier how an explosive might be hidden



Safe house: how to check and clear a house

SAFE AND SECURE

GSC TOP TIPS

HOW TO HANDLE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND DATA

■ When you see unmarked information that you feel needs to be shared, especially outside MOD, just spend a few moments asking yourself how sensitive it is

■ Always be guided by any markings on paper whether they are security markings (in capitals top and bottom) or more bespoke handling instructions

■ Be very careful what you send over the internet. If you are in any doubt, don't send it and seek advice



■ Be really careful about how you treat other people's private personal data. Never send it over the internet unless you have their approval – and even then it will require other protections

■ If you're unsure how to treat something marked OFFICIAL SENSITIVE, you won't go wrong if you handle it as you would have done under the old RESTRICTED. But the two things are not the same, and there is a little more flexibility about handling OFFICIAL SENSITIVE if this is needed

■ Before you use the flexibilities for OFFICIAL SENSITIVE, when emailing over the internet or working on personal devices, you must make sure you fully understand the rules



■ If you have any doubts about any aspect of the new system, consult your line manager or your local security officer

You can find a whole heap of resources to guide you on the Government Security Classifications portal which can be found under the Policy and Guidance section of the Defence Intranet



Director of Business Resilience
Mark Preston

The new Government Security Classification (GSC) system was launched on 2 April. The six old classifications are out and three new ones are in.

The new scheme aims to unify the way government information is handled and classified, and to encourage everyone to take more responsibility for protecting government information.

Mark Preston, Director of Business Resilience and the person in charge of implementing the new system, said: "These are worthy aims and the right thing for government to do, but you can't change something as big as the classification system overnight.

"Attitudes and departmental IT systems both take time to change. That means living with some residue from the old system for a while. This is not ideal – but nor frankly is it a showstopper."

Mark and his team have been working to help staff across Defence understand how the changes will affect them.

"The main thing staff need to do differently is to focus more on

understanding the sensitivity of the information in the document," he said.

Mark explains that the biggest change that most staff will notice is at the new OFFICIAL level, most particularly to documents that have no marking on them. Under the old system these documents were UNCLASSIFIED, and many people thought this meant they could share them freely, including outside government.

"Well, there's no longer any such thing as unclassified information," said Mark. "We all have a duty to protect unmarked documents. If we think they have sensitive information in them, for example people's private personal data."

Everyone has a responsibility to safeguard government information. It isn't difficult and you don't need to look far for help.

"The best place to start is with the GSC Survival Guide which can be found on the Defence Intranet," said Mark.

"This gives a non-specialist explanation of the changes that have happened and it also points to more detailed information if needed."

THE NEW GOVERNMENT SECURITY CLASSIFICATIONS AND HOW THEY AFFECT THE WAY INFORMATION IS HANDLED

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION TREE

GSC Classifications

OFFICIAL

Any government information that isn't SECRET or TOP SECRET is automatically classified OFFICIAL

SECRET

Any government information that would compromise and cause serious harm is classified as SECRET

TOP SECRET

Government information is classified TOP SECRET if the consequences of it falling into the wrong hands would be grave

Security Marking

NO SECURITY MARKING

Information that does not meet the test for OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Information whose loss could significantly harm the work or reputation of Defence

CONFIDENTIAL

A temporary permitted marking for some kinds of less sensitive SECRET information

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE AND DESCRIPTOR

These descriptors can be COMMERCIAL (or CMRCL), LOCSEN or PERSONAL

DOS and DON'TS

DO remember that unmarked information may still be sensitive and need protection

DON'T worry! This is a bit different from before, but it's not too difficult to follow

DO protect TOP SECRET to an extremely high standard and set rules

DO respect document handling instructions and check anything you don't know

DO protect SECRET to a very high standard and set rules

Handling on DII

You must save **OFFICIAL - NO SECURITY MARKING** in open MOSS teamsites and Meridio as NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

You must save **OFFICIAL SENSITIVE** in open MOSS teamsites and Meridio as RESTRICTED

You must save **OFFICIAL SENSITIVE** with a descriptor in locked MOSS teamsites and Meridio as RESTRICTED

SECRET and **TOP SECRET** documents are to be stored in a special secure location



Picture: Senior Aircraftman Dek Traylor

Table top talks: UK Ambassador to Mali, Dr Phil Boyle (left), with Ian Carr

EDGE OF EXISTENCE

UK AMBASSADOR TO MALI, DR PHIL BOYLE, TALKS TO IAN CARR IN THE CAPITAL BAMAKO ABOUT WHY WEST AFRICA MATTERS

DF: How long have you been our ambassador to Mali?

PB: I arrived in September 2012 after the coup d'état, but before France's Operation Serval began.

By January 2013, just before the operation started, Mali was crumbling. Not only were the Islamists pushing south and extending their territory, but I'm sure that things were heading for another coup in Bamako.

DF: So if the French hadn't intervened with combat troops the situation would have been critical?

PB: Mali was about to implode, neighbouring countries such as Niger, Mauritania and Burkina Faso could have followed suit. We were on the cusp of having a country that was actually not just under the influence of Al-Qaeda, but actually governed by it.

I think we were potentially weeks away from that. That couldn't be allowed to stand. You cannot have an area twice the size of France, in the middle of Africa, as the basis for such a destabilising force.

DF: Which probably explains why the UK and other European nations were keen to help?

PB: Yes, to ensure regional stability and to prevent destabilising Mali's neighbours such as Libya and Nigeria. There have been terrorist organisations in the past that have been trained by groups in Mali so the international community could just not allow such a huge amount of ungovernable space to stand, and the UK has an interest in that.

Now, is it likely that a bomb would go off in the UK that could be traced back here? I don't think so. But it's possible that a line could be drawn between Mali and bombs going off in Toulouse or Marseille or Barcelona.

DF: So, is an element of the UK's involvement about showing support to our allies?

PB: The UK has an agreement with France, and while our support to the French operation, Op Serval, was not linked directly to the Lancaster House agreement, it was in the spirit of it. It has been about wanting to help our allies. It was just the right thing to do. The Prime Minister was very clear about this. We gave them strategic air lift and Sentinel surveillance support, which they particularly appreciated.

DF: What impact has our effort here had on our relationship with the French?

PB: I would assess the co-operation between the UK and French military here as outstanding. You know that we were the first nation to give support? We were even ahead of the Americans in providing materiel support. Other nations such as Denmark, Belgium and Canada followed. I'm convinced they came in at least in part because of our training effort at Koulikoro.

The French constantly tell me, and I don't think they are just trying to puff me up, that they enjoy working with us the most. They see us as the most professional trainers.

We might not be here in big numbers, but what we give has worked; it's filled the gaps that they needed filling and they really appreciate it. We are going to see more of this, the UK and the French supporting each other, not just in this area but around the world.

DF: So what we are seeing here in West Africa is an example of how defence is likely to work in future?

PB: Well, it's far cheaper than a war. That's putting it a little glibly, but look at it this way. Let's take the European Training Mission (EUTM) as an example. What we are investing here is tiny, yet we are achieving our objectives. We are enabling the Malians to defend their own country and borders. If that means that in five, ten or twenty years we don't have to launch another Operation Serval, then that means that it's a splendid investment.

DF: So is this defence engagement in action? Using all our assets to provide national defence at a distance?

PB: I think that's exactly right. We have done things like this before, but certainly it is an example of how our interventions will work in the future, especially in Africa.

So it's away from large scale military interventions, like in Afghanistan, towards what you might call pre-interventions, like here, training the local forces to deal with problems before they become problems.

It's not for me to ventriloquise for the British top brass, but we have had a lot of senior generals coming out here, and they have all been impressed with what we are doing and they seem to be thinking of this as an example of how we should be doing things.

DF: Have your role and your priorities changed much as a result of the last 12 months' developments?

PB: Not to the broad strategy. This post doesn't have a lot of consular responsibility in terms of looking after British nationals, nor is there much commercial activity. We have always had a post here for counter-terrorism and regional stability, but, the scale of it, of course, has changed enormously. When I arrived it was pretty much just me and a Blackberry. Briefly, during the crisis, I was actually overseeing the largest British mission in Africa.

DF: Why else does the UK have a mission here?

PB: Well, apart from counter-terrorism and the wish to ensure regional stability, there is the humanitarian element. This is the most resource-marginal area on earth. There are famines every couple of years. There is a real food security issue and millions of people live on the very edge of existence. The UK has an interest in helping to ease that.

DF: Global warming must have a big impact here?

PB: This is the most affected area on earth by climate change. You can see it happening. You can almost watch the desert encroaching on a day-by-day basis on Google Earth. The UK has an interest in not letting millions of people starve. We are one of the largest donors on the food security programme.

DF: Will our relationship with Mali change?

PB: Well, the amount of presence and influence that the UK has in Mali has increased enormously over the last year or more. I think the UK military should take some of the credit for that.

I think our presence will grow. We will have trainers at Koulikoro for at least another year. DFID is interested in getting someone out here, possibly full-time.

We will never compete for influence with the French here, that's not our aim. But, in terms of making a difference where it counts, we have come a long way. Before our involvement in the EUTM I'd say you could have probably met with Malian ministers who would not have known there was even a British embassy here.

DF: Have you enjoyed your time in Mali?

PB: It has been the best posting of my career. It has been a privilege being able to live and work among the Malians for two years. They are very hospitable and humorous people.

I'm really proud of what we have achieved. I am also tremendously proud of the UK military because at every stage they have over performed. All the way from getting the C-17s in the air with just four hours' notice, through to them delivering long training sessions at Koulikoro in 50-degree heat.

I'm proud when the French Ambassador congratulates me on yet another thing that the UK military has done. I've always had respect for the British military and I've worked with them before. But seeing how good these guys are has been a real eye-opener. **DF**



Market forces: a lady shopping at Koulikoro

Picture: Senior Aircraftman Dek Taylor

QUEEN ELIZABETH CLASS CARRIERS



Plain sailing: a computer-generated image of a Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carrier

Picture: BYT Surface Fleet

QE CARRIER FACTS

The Aircraft Carrier Alliance is counting down to the naming on 4 July with 100 fascinating facts about the carriers. Here are just a few...

- The Carriers will fly the F-35B, which is a STOVL aircraft – standing for Short Take-Off, Vertical Landing
- 90% of all suppliers for the QE carriers are in the UK
- The vast hangar and flight deck can accommodate every helicopter in Britain's Armed Forces
- The carriers are so big that construction workers have been given their own indoor navigation device to find their way around
- The QE carriers are each made up of 17 million parts
- HMS Queen Elizabeth is scheduled to arrive in her new home of Portsmouth in 2016

Join in the conversation and countdown on Twitter @QEClassCarriers

CARRIER COUNTDOWN

WITH THE FIRST OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH CLASS CARRIERS DUE TO BE OFFICIALLY NAMED WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE ROYAL NAVY'S NEWEST SHIPS

The Royal Navy's new aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, will be officially named by Her Majesty The Queen in a ceremony at Rosyth on Friday 4 July.

When the carrier is named it will be five years after the first steel was cut for the ship and 33 months since the first section entered the dry dock at Rosyth, marking the start of her assembly.

With the Queen Elizabeth now structurally complete, outfitting work continues on the carrier in the lead-up to her naming and subsequent 'flood up', when the ship will be floated for the first time. Work continues on sections of Queen Elizabeth's sister ship, the Prince



Moving parts: forward hull section of HMS Prince of Wales

of Wales, at sites across the UK, with assembly at Rosyth beginning later this year.

The Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said: "The naming ceremony in July will be a significant step forward for the Royal Navy and industry who have been working hard to make sure HMS Queen Elizabeth is on track to deliver carrier strike capability by 2020. Combined with the Lightning II aircraft, the QE Class will bolster the Royal Navy's ability to project power across the world and there is a lot of excitement about the ship nearing completion after years of hard work by thousands of highly skilled workers."

The QE Class will be the centrepiece of Britain's defence capability for the 21st century. Each 65,000-tonne aircraft carrier will provide the Armed Forces with a 4-acre military operating base which can be deployed worldwide.

The carriers will be versatile enough to be used across the full spectrum of military activity, from war-fighting to providing humanitarian aid. 

Picture: Aircraft Carrier Alliance



Building blocks: the first section of HMS Queen Elizabeth on its way to Rosyth



Take a bow: HMS Queen Elizabeth's bow section in place



Bird's eye view: aerial shot showing both islands in place

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Picture: Sergeant Steve Blake RLC

Game on: Prince Harry talks tactics with the wheelchair basketball team

I AM INVICTUS

EMILY BIRD LOOKS INTO A NEW SPORTING EVENT THAT WILL CELEBRATE ADAPTIVE SPORT AND THOSE WHO HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY

The summer of 2012 saw the nation basking in the glory of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

People from all walks of life were touched by Games fever in one way or another; whether that was by going to see the torch relay in their local area, taking up a new sport, or just watching the events on television. Unless you were living under a rock, the London Games were hard to miss, and with all that sporting exhilaration they were also hard not to love.

Almost two years on, Prince Harry wants to bring that passion and excitement back to the UK through a new international sporting event, the Invictus Games. They will celebrate the efforts and sacrifices made by our wounded, injured and sick (WIS) Armed Forces personnel.

At a launch event at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Prince Harry, alongside Defence Secretary Philip Hammond, announced the Invictus Games, which will see WIS personnel

from 13 countries compete against each other in paralympic-style games.

Taking place from 10 to 14 September this year, the public will be able to apply for tickets to attend any of the eight competitive sports taking place at the former Olympic and Paralympic venues in east London. Those unable to attend will be able to watch the Games on the BBC.

Prince Harry came up with the idea for the Invictus Games following a visit to the US Warrior Games in Colorado last year, where 200 WIS personnel took part in seven sports over a week-long programme.

After seeing first-hand the power of sport in inspiring recovery and demonstrating life beyond disability, Armed Forces champion Captain Harry Wales wanted to bring the event to an international audience.

His aim was to give WIS personnel the chance to participate, and to inspire many more who have suffered life-changing injuries, either by taking part in sport or by

simply watching it at home.

"Well, it was such a great concept by the Americans that it had to be stolen!" said the Prince.

"After the 2013 Warrior Games, I met a group of inspirational people who proved that anything is possible. And after hearing their stories about the Warrior Games, it really ignited something inside me.

"The Invictus Games, *invictus* is Latin for unconquered, will demonstrate the power of sport, inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and show that there is life beyond disability."



It was clear from Prince Harry's speech that adaptive sport is an integral part of rehabilitation. HR specialist Alex Menya (left) used to work at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation

Centre Headley Court before managing the sitting volleyball team. He too understands the positive power sport has

on WIS personnel.

"I worked at Headley Court for four years and that's how I got involved in adaptive sport," said Alex. "I see the guys when they come in for rehab, up until they return to their unit. Things like sitting volleyball help them with their rehabilitation as they are taking part in something they like to do.

"And when they have that sense of confidence, they're physically and psychologically in a better place.

"Rehab isn't easy and work still needs to be done, but sport recovery is all about forgetting the pain and the drama. Players are able to take off their prosthetics and everyone is sitting, playing the game.

"Once they've finished and had a good time, they put on whatever they need to put on, and go home for a soak in the bath."

It's not just accessing adaptive sport that plays an important part in helping WIS personnel on the road to recovery. It's also about trying out a variety of sports. Finding the right one can make all the

difference, as veteran gunner

from the 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, Danielle Hampson-Carroll, discovered. Danielle (left)

suffers from the newly-discovered condition

Functional Neurological

Syndrome following a back injury in 2011. The syndrome affects the legs and the spine meaning Danielle's legs shake constantly and uncontrollably.

Having only been diagnosed with the syndrome in March this year, Danielle initially found her condition frustrating as she felt that others were unable to understand what she was going through.

To cope with her life-changing illness, Danielle tried out many different disability sports, but after giving sitting volleyball a go she felt it was the sport for her.

"I tried wheelchair tennis, swimming and wheelchair basketball, and none of those fitted my personality," she said. "I started playing sitting volleyball last December, and since then my personality has come back.

"After my injury, I felt I'd lost part of who I was, and being with the sitting volleyball guys just made me feel comfortable.

"Slowly I was able to focus more on the game. And in that moment, while I'm playing, I forget about my injuries; I'm on the court doing what I do best, and that's the best part. Sitting volleyball has been, and still is, a big part of my recovery although I've still got a long way to go."

MOD recognises the importance of



Having a ball: Captain Harry Wales tries out his sporting skills with the sitting volleyball team

Picture: Sergeant Steve Blake RLC

“ And in that moment, while I’m playing, I forget about my injuries ”

adaptive sport. It sponsors WIS personnel to train for and participate in sporting tournaments, as well as sponsoring them to enter the Invictus Games.

Philip Hammond reinforced MOD's commitment to support WIS personnel at the launch of the Games.

"MOD's contribution to the Games sends a clear message to WIS veterans or serving personnel: 'we will never forget the sacrifices you have made, nor our obligation to support your road to recovery,'" said Mr Hammond.

"Whether that is by investing in better facilities, supporting your transition to employment beyond the Services or giving you unparalleled opportunities to compete on the sporting stage."

Alex has seen the benefit MOD's sponsoring has had on WIS personnel first-hand through his work managing the sitting volleyball team.

"MOD has been very good in helping these guys by sponsoring them and doing everything to make sure that the right facilities are in place, such as mental health assistance and physical support," he said.

"Work has been done to improve sport recovery and these Games are testament to the changes that have been put in place."

As the fast-approaching Invictus

Games stir the competitive fire in the bellies of Alex, Danielle and the rest of the sitting volleyball team, they will be eagerly preparing to compete with other wounded Service men and women from other nations, and hopefully go on to win.

"Our guys may have suffered injuries and illnesses but they still have that military zeal within them, and taking part in the Games proves that they are unconquered - disability does not have to mean inability," said Alex.

"We're really looking forward to it. Once we've done our training and have gone over our game plan we'll be raring to go!"

Bring. It. On. 



GAMES FACTFILE

■ Taking place 10 to 14 September

■ More than 300 WIS serving and veterans are taking part

■ Events include athletics, archery, wheelchair basketball, road cycling, indoor rowing, wheelchair rugby, swimming, sitting volleyball and a driving challenge

■ Teams taking part: Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Iraq, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, USA and UK

■ Venues: the Copper Box, Aquatics Centre, Lee Valley VeloPark and Athletics Centre

■ The BBC is the official broadcaster of the Invictus Games

NATO MEDAL FOR FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

It was the 3rd of January '89, and, straight from school, I joined up as a communications systems analyst (voice) (CSA(V)). I'd originally wanted to be a pilot, but didn't pass the aptitude test. I had the pilot skills, I just wasn't good looking enough! At the time, the careers information office saw I was interested in languages, and so they opened my eyes to this trade, which involved learning Russian and then a posting to Berlin.

The air signaller role, now known as weapons systems operator (linguist), allowed me to become aircrew and maintain the languages. I finished basic training just before my 19th birthday. I then moved on to my trade training, which was CSA(V) at RAF North Luffenham, learning Russian.

It is intense, because it's not like normal language classes at school; this was seven to eight hours a day of intensive language training with some very high quality instructors, including many native speakers. Of course, the Cold War was still on at this point as well, so Russian was still very much the language of interest.

Then I was posted to 26 Signals Unit, and that was at RAF Gatow, in Berlin. It was fantastic to get there just three months after the Wall had come down. The civic population were transiting freely across what had been the Wall, and the minefields, and the machine guns, and the rest of it, but there were still restrictions on us, as Servicemen, at the time, but we got across. It was amazing, this city you read about being in lockdown for all these years, and all of a sudden you were walking across. Berlin was a great city to be in anyway, but then just to be able to enjoy that contrast of



Silver service: Squadron Leader Dave McRitchie has been in the RAF for over 25 years

MY MEDALS

Squadron Leader Dave McRitchie talks to Fiona Simpson about his 25-year career in the RAF and some of the medals he has earned along the way

the opulent West and then the very recently Communist East, very stark.

Having completed initial training, I was posted to No 51 Squadron at RAF Wyton, flying the Nimrod R1, in 1992. The Former Yugoslavia had just erupted at this time. So it was a bit more language training and, after learning Russian,

learning Serbo-Croat was a piece of cake. They use the Cyrillic alphabet, so it was a lot easier to master that. The Former Yugoslavia operations were based in Pratica di Mare, just outside of Rome. I can't say too much about the operations we were flying, but they were typically about eight-and-a-half-hour missions and

we'd be flying three of those a week.

NATO MEDAL FOR KOSOVO

The conflict itself was something actually happening in Europe, in the 1990s, and I remember the headlines at the time that some of the atrocities committed were akin to those of World War Two.

It was quite hard to believe that that was happening, but it was good to be involved and to feel you were doing something

about it, contributing to the NATO efforts to stabilise the country.

As the problems in the Former Yugoslavia started to ease, we thought it was finished there but then Milosevic's Serbian forces invaded Kosovo. This led to the implementation of NATO's Operation Allied Force and further flying to support this.



OPERATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL AFGHANISTAN

After being involved in operations in Iraq I was selected for commissioning as a weapons systems officer (air electronics officer). Although others from my non-commissioned aircrew branch had been commissioned before, I think I was the first to do so and return to the flying branch.

Being in charge was a bit of a step up but I did a tour in the warfare centre, which provided the ground link for the Nimrod. I got a nice gradual build-up before going back to command the missions. It was fantastic, having flown as an operator and then coming back as the mission commander. I was now responsible for running the whole of the mission crew. It was a big event emotionally, because it's the achievement of ambition and of objectives, but there's also a little bit of nervousness, just hoping everything goes well!

So by now we were just getting into air operations in Afghanistan, and I got involved in that from around 2005 in electronic surveillance. At that time, although Kandahar Airfield was perfectly capable of taking aircraft, we weren't based there because of the risk to the aircraft. So we flew from bases in the Middle East. This involved in-flight refuelling, so we'd be doing 11 or 12-hour sorties in support of that.

Up there you get a



Family ties: Squadron Leader McRitchie with children Lorna and Adam

different perception of what's going on from the guys on the ground, because of course they're down there touching it. While we were on our operations several miles above the battlespace, even though you're talking to the boys and girls on the radio and the computer, you are remote from it. But the crew would read in really hard to the country of interest, just to make sure they understood the context. You would never claim to know the people as such, but you had a good understanding of what was going on, what was at stake and what we were trying to achieve.

I did a stint in Afghanistan in 2006, with the Deployable Air Integration Team, basically an air liaison cell, and that was at Kandahar Airfield. Being down on the ground, you were there working with the people that you'd previously been supporting from several miles up, so that was good to get an appreciation of what they were going through. And it really helped me when I went back for my next flying trips over there.

Bastion was just starting to step up then. Kandahar was very comfortable at the time;

you had Burger King, Tim Horton's Coffee Shop! But it was still subject to regular rocket attacks.



OP ELLAMY MEDAL

We were still flying out in Afghanistan up until late 2010, early 2011. The Nimrod was due to go out of service at the end of March 2011, but then Libya kicked off. I was the first mission commander to go out. I took a Nimrod out on the first deployment and that was late February, early March 2011. That was a strange time because we went out there thinking 'well, I'll only be here for three weeks, because the aircraft's going out of service', but then, of course, it got extended. So I ended up doing two or three multi-week deployments out there, routine provision of electronic surveillance as part of the NATO package.

I flew my last missions in May. In June we had the Nimrod retirement bash. Although it was just a lump of metal, after 19 years, 5,500 hours on it, you do become kind of attached to it. The squadron didn't disband, that stayed on and moved into

what we call 'co-manning' to prepare for the Nimrod R1's replacement, the RC-135 Rivet Joint. No 51 Squadron personnel went across to Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska to train on the US Air Force Rivet Joint. This included the mission crew, flight deck crew and, later on, the ground crew.

I was posted away to the Defence Electronic Warfare Centre from where I was promoted to Squadron Leader in February 2013. I'm actually posted back to No 51 Squadron in April, and then I'll be going out to the States on Easter Saturday to do my Rivet Joint Operational Conversion Unit training. After 3 years I am definitely keen to get back to flying.



LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT

I'd been in the RAF for 25 years this January. Have things changed? Within the flying world, it's the same as it always was. You go and you do your operations. The mission equipment has changed, upgraded through the years it's become more technical. But, doing the job, with professional crew around you, that is the one constant.

I've wanted to be in the Air Force I think since I was about seven; it's what I've always wanted to do, and I still do. There have been highs and lows. The low points have been times I've had to spend away from my kids; I knew that would happen. And my kids have turned out all right, they're quite balanced. They obviously miss me when I go away, but it's great when I come back, and that's certainly the best bit about going away.

When I look back, the high points are my more than 5,000 hours on operations with No 51 Squadron. It was fantastic just to be involved in so much. From the Cold War, to basically every operation the UK's been involved in since, I've been there.

THE ART OF WAR

FROM 20TH CENTURY TRENCHES TO 21ST CENTURY AFGHANISTAN, WAR ARTISTS HAVE CHALLENGED US TO SEE THE FRONT LINE AFRESH, WRITES SHELL DARUWALA

In 1916 a chance meeting between a Scottish etcher and a London portrait artist gave birth to a scheme that would establish art's importance in every major conflict that followed.

The most commonly told version of events puts the 40-year-old Scotsman, Muirhead Bone, about to be called up for service when he met influential art world figure William Rothenstein.

Rothenstein had been working for a wartime propaganda bureau, Wellington House, set up to help justify Britain's military involvement in the war. At the time, Rothenstein's boss, Charles Masterman, had been having a tough time getting photographs from the Western Front.

He desperately needed a reliable source of images from the front line for the bureau's posters and publications. In Bone, a former architectural draughtsman who could create accurate, detailed drawings on the fly, Rothenstein saw a solution.

Bone was soon heading for France; not as a soldier but as the world's first official war artist. With Masterman's backing, Bone was given the honorary rank of Second Lieutenant to ease his access to transport, locations and personnel.

But for his own safety, the artist was restricted to watching the action from behind the front line. He found his task frustrating.

Dr Sue Malvern of the University of Reading, an expert on the role of art in war in the 20th and 21st centuries, told *Defence*



Focus: "He complained endlessly about not being able to understand anything and that you couldn't see anything unless you were actually in it.

"Because the Western Front was largely trench warfare, you'd get these interesting sketches of the Somme where all you would see was a sort of landscape, because all the fighting's out of sight."

Interestingly, nearly a century later in Iraq, a number of Service photographers trying to take pictures from inside armoured vehicles voiced similar gripes.

Despite his reservations, within two months Bone had produced some 150 drawings for Wellington House. Though they lacked fighting action, his simple, prosaic sketches perfectly captured the desolation of the battlefields and the ruination left in the Germans' wake.

Bone was recalled from France in March 1917 and sent to Scotland where he was tasked by the Admiralty to record naval activities.

By early 1918 the war had taken a great toll on the British people. Nearly a million young men had lost their lives in the conflict, with more than twice that number wounded.

An unprecedented public need to grieve led the Minister for Information, Lord Beaverbrook, to establish the British War Memorials Committee. A body of work was commissioned for the nation, enlisting the talents of Britain's top literary figures and artists of the time.

Bone was a principal art advisor for the project. He knew that the story of the war would best be told by those who had lived it, breathed it and fought it, not by those who had stood back and observed, as he had.

A new generation of artists were returning from the Front and translating their experiences into powerful and often disturbing images. To Bone, the testimony of these young soldier artists, Paul Nash, William Roberts and Wyndham Lewis among them, would be crucial to the success of the remembrance project. It was their story to tell. And the public agreed.

Britain's war artists scheme of the First World War was the largest in Europe and produced a unique body of work for a grieving nation, including many striking, poignant and iconic images which continue to resonate in our collective consciousness.

The human element of conflict continues to be a touchstone for war artists 100 years on. Dr Malvern said: "What is common between the First World War

Bare essentials: Muirhead Bone sketching (inset)

The Battle of the Somme, which Bone drew in August 1916 (main picture)

Picture: IWM





Thought-collector: Derek Eland (right) finding out what goes on inside soldiers' heads

Picture: courtesy of Derek Eland

and the 21st century is that a huge amount of value is still placed on the soldier's experience."

Derek Eland, an ex-Para, represents a new school of war artist. He and his contemporaries have used digital media, installations, and even interactive computer simulations, to interpret the 21st century front line.

Eland, who served with 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment in the 1980s, travelled to Afghanistan in 2011 with the men and women of 16 Air Assault Brigade.

Deployed on Operation Herrick 13 at the invitation of Brigadier James Chiswell (as he was then), Eland wanted to show life in a new way. He travelled to three remote forward operating bases in Helmand to look at the lives of soldiers at the knife-edge of the campaign against the insurgency.

There he photographed and filmed troops at work and at play; even videoing a 20-minute gun battle in which he himself came under fire.

Wherever he went, Eland asked the people he met – British soldiers, Afghan troops and civilians, and coalition forces – for their handwritten stories on postcards. These were displayed alongside his photographs and film footage in ISO containers he called diary rooms for all who passed through to read, reflect on, and perhaps add their own stories.

"One of the soldiers said he wasn't going to write about the traditional things you might expect, about the fighting and the bombing. He was going to write about what he called two wars; the second being the one that goes on in a soldier's head when the fighting stops," said Eland. "I wanted this huge collective self-portrait, and I think that these 400 or 500 stories capture that."

Eland's work, *In Our Own Words*,

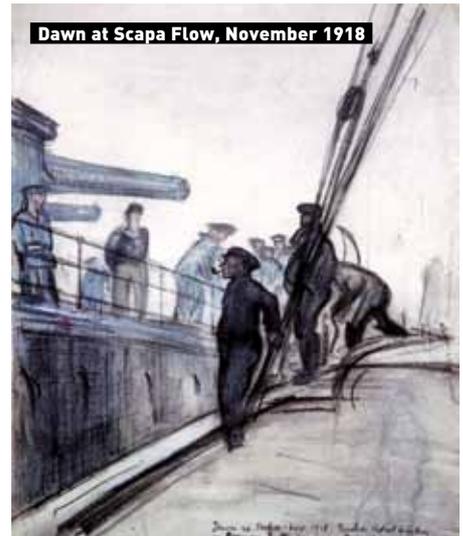
was exhibited at the Imperial War Museum North for six months and has received international acclaim as a groundbreaking exploration of the front line.

"From my point of view, what a war artist should try to do is bring a new perspective to conflict," he said. "Muirhead Bone was doing his wonderful drawings and etchings back in 1916. When they were seen they would have had an enormous impact. I'm of that same profession and I would like to think that the work that I've done also has that impact in changing people's perceptions of war."

You can read more about Derek Eland and his work, including a full write-up of this interview online at defencehq.tumblr.com. A book of his Afghanistan project, *In Our Own Words*, will be released on 11 November with proceeds going to Armed Forces mental health charity Combat Stress.

FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY

2014 marks 100 years since the start of the First World War. MOD is part of the cross-government effort, led by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, to build a



Dawn at Scapa Flow, November 1918

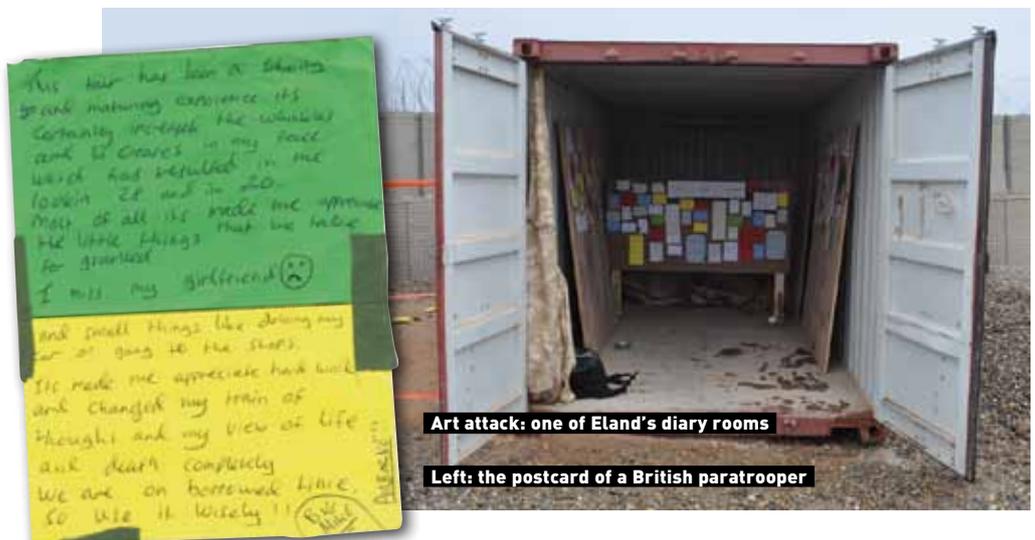
MOD ART COLLECTION

Most of Muirhead Bone's original war drawings can be found in the collections of the Imperial War Museum and the British Museum, but a handful of his naval works are retained by the MOD art collection.

Though not on public display, you can view them by appointment. Contact Simon Campbell Bird, the collection manager, on 020 7218 4106, or by email to simon.bird780@mod.uk for further information.

Derek Eland's Afghanistan exhibition, *In Our Own Words*, will be shown at the Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art from November.

fitting commemoration of this significant milestone in world history. Visit www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/first-world-war-centenary to find out more. **DF**



Art attack: one of Eland's diary rooms

Left: the postcard of a British paratrooper

Picture: courtesy of Derek Eland

SPRING-CLEANING FOR A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

SPRUCE UP YOUR LIFE, AND HEALTH, BY BUSTING THE DUST



The annual spring-clean should be used as an opportunity to spruce up your living environment and aid a healthier lifestyle.

For many, the allergy season is just beginning, with pollen from a multitude of blooming plants starting to aggravate people with allergies across the UK. By conducting a thorough spring-clean, you can ensure that those allergens within your home are reduced to a minimum.

Dusting is one of the first activities in most spring-cleaning schedules and it can have a dramatic effect on reducing allergens. However, if you use a duster that simply lifts the dust off surfaces and into the air, you will actually increase airborne dust particles.

Instead, use damp cloths or special dry dusters designed to trap and lock dust from hard and soft surfaces.

When using a vacuum cleaner, select one that has a high efficiency particulate absorption filter, with tight seams and seals to prevent particles from leaking out while you Hoover. This will reduce the amount of dust being put back into the atmosphere. Also, choose a style that requires minimal exposure during canister emptying or bag changes.

One of the major causes of allergic reactions to dogs and cats is not the hair or fur, but the dander (old skin scales) which is constantly shed into the environment. Your cleaning routine should include frequently washing bedroom linen. Try to wash your bedding at least once a week in 60-degree water to kill mites and their eggs. Using mite-proof bedding

VITAL NUMBERS

THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE READY TO HELP YOU

on your mattresses and pillows will also help contain the allergens.

Mould is a common allergy trigger. It can grow anywhere in your home where moisture is present. Thorough cleaning of the kitchen, bathroom and utility room with subsequent ventilation of these areas will help prevent mould growth.

Be sure to check walls behind kitchen units and cupboards, the lack of ventilation often means that excess mould grows in these areas. Look for cleaning products that help kill and prevent mould from returning.

Particular attention should be paid to window areas as these are subject to high air flow and so accumulate dust and pollen. Curtains should be taken down and where possible washed at a high temperature. If practical, curtains should be replaced with blinds that can be easily wiped down on a regular basis.

Soft furnishings and stuffed toys provide ideal environments for dust mites and pet dander to accumulate. Those items that are washable should be cleaned in hot water and dried completely before using again. Other items, such as stuffed toys, which can't be washed, should be placed in the freezer for 24 hours, then rinsed in cold water to remove dead dust mites and dried completely before use.

Many cleaning products contain harsh chemicals, strong odours or volatile organic compounds. These can have a detrimental effect on allergy sufferers, so be careful to choose products that contain no irritants, such as natural wax as opposed to spray polish.

By following just a few basic cleaning principles, it is possible to dramatically reduce the allergens that can trigger the nasty symptoms of hay fever, as well as other conditions such as eczema, sinusitis and asthma. 



This article comes to you from CS Healthcare, the specialist provider of health insurance for civil servants. Telephone 0800 917 4325. www.cshealthcare.co.uk

This article is general advice only. If you or a family member have any medical concerns contact your GP or medic.

RN Benevolent Trust: Grants, advice and income supplements for veterans. Call 0239 2690112 or email rnbt@rnbt.org.uk.

RN Association: Comradeship for all serving and ex-Service members of the RN, RM, QARNNS, WRNS, Reserves, RFA and RNXS. royal-naval-association.co.uk

Royal Marines Benevolent Fund: Relieves hardship among serving and former Marines and dependents. royalmarines.charities@charity.vfrees.com or call 02392 547201.

ABF The Soldiers Charity: Support to soldiers and veterans. www.soldierscharity.org or call 0845 241 4820.

RAF Benevolent Fund: Help for RAF personnel past and present. rafbf.org or call 0800 1692942.

The Charity for Civil Servants: Helps anyone who has worked for the Civil Service and their dependents. Advice about support and financial help. csbf.org.uk or call 0800 056 2424.

Army Welfare Service: HQ AWS has relocated to Upavon. Confidential support for soldiers and families. army.mod.uk/welfare-support/family/default.aspx or call (UK) 01980 615975.

RAF Association (RAFA): Comradeship and care for current and former RAF members. rafa.org.uk/welfare.asp.

HIVE: Tri-Service information covering issues like education and health. 167 offices. hive.mod.uk.

Royal British Legion: Charity providing financial, social and emotional support to vets and serving, and dependents. www.britishlegion.org.uk or call 0808 802 8080.

RFA Association (RFAA): Comradeship and care for current and former RFA personnel. www.rfa-association.org.uk or contact 01772 685427.

SSAFA Forces Help: Supports serving personnel, veterans and the families of both. Practical and financial assistance

and emotional support. ssafa.org.uk or call 0845 1300 975.

Harassment, bullying or discrimination:

JSP 763, The MOD Harassment Complaints Procedures, is a guide for Services and civilians. Contact the Defence Business Services on 0800 345 7772 (+441225 829572 from overseas) or em: PeopleServices@pppa.mod.uk.

Matters of conscience

and whistleblowing under the Public Interest Disclosure Act. Call 0800 3457772. Select option four.

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency:

Pay, pensions and personnel support for the Services and veterans, including the JPA system, and Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre: 0800 0853600; 0800 1692277 or veterans-uk.info

MOD Occupational Welfare Service:

Confidential advice on work and personal issues. Call 0800 345 7047

Service Complaints Commissioner: To make a complaint or seek advice, email: contact@oscc.gsi.gov.uk

Naval Personal & Family Service and Royal Marines Welfare:

NPFS & RMW have three main offices in the UK, where the serving person's next of kin resides determines which office to contact.

■ Eastern area office - HMS Nelson - Tel: 023 92 722 712 - after hours 023 92 726 159.

■ Western area office - HMS Drake - Tel: 01752 555 041 - after hours 01752 555 220.

■ Northern area office - Helensburgh - Tel: 01436 672 798 - after hours 01436 674 321 (Ext 4005)

RM Welfare - 01752 836 395 (via duty officer, guardroom RM Stonehouse).

The Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS):

Charity providing welfare support from frontline to recovery for wounded, sick and injured serving personnel and their families when they are in hospital, rehabilitation or recovery centres. www.dmws.org.uk or call 01264 774000

SUDOKU

				6				
7		6	8		2			5
		4				2		
3			2					5
	6	2				1	3	
8					1			7
		8				3		
	2		9		7	6		4
			1					

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9

8	3	5	1	2	7	4	6	9
4	1	7	6	9	3	5	2	8
6	9	2	5	4	8	3	7	1
9	8	3	2	6	5	7	1	4
7	6	1	9	3	4	2	8	5
2	5	4	8	7	1	9	3	6
3	2	6	4	1	9	8	5	7
1	4	8	7	5	2	6	9	3
5	7	9	3	8	6	1	4	2

Solution to the March 2014 puzzle

CHESS



Compiled by: Carl Portman

The Combined Services Chess Championships will take place at Shrivenham Station from Thursday 22 May until Monday 26 May 2014.

This wonderful competition is open to all members of the Armed Forces, the reserves, and the MOD Civil Service, and Combined Services Chess Association members. The format will be a seven-round Swiss tournament and all players are expected to compete in all seven rounds.

It really doesn't matter what your playing strength is, there will be a place for you. It is very friendly, very relaxed – certainly away from the board, and it gets better every year. This tournament will also be a qualifying event for the 25th NATO Chess Championships to be held in Canada in September, so there is an extra incentive to play.

Contact Major Francis Pearce at fpearce.jscsc@defenceacademy.mod.uk or Major Aaron Townend on 01985 210662 / 07900 262113 or at aron.townend374@mod.uk for further information. Refer also to 2014DIN10-007.



This month I give you a position from the game Adams-Christensen, Reykjavik 1990. It is white to move but black seems to have countered the attack. White can however deliver a decisive strike – how?

The first correct answer out of the hat wins a copy of the book *Improve Your Attacking Chess* by Simon Williams, kindly donated by Chess & Bridge Ltd of London.

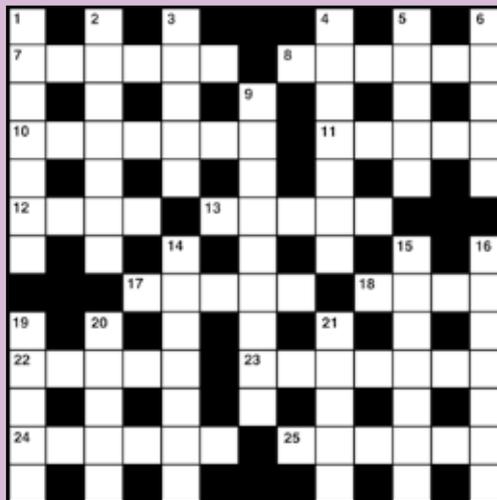
Send your answers to me at carl.portman@hotmail.co.uk please.

The answer to March's problem was 1...Rxc3, which is simply crushing. The winner will be announced. Winner of the February puzzle was Lee Howe from Commodities PPE and Workwear.

TOPICAL CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 7. Finch with a yellowish-green plumage, known for its melodious song (6)
- 8. Person who shoots with a bow and arrow (6)
- 10. This country's 2014 World Cup opponents are Uruguay, Italy and Costa Rica (7)
- 11. Snake poison (5)
- 12. Steve, one of the BBC's commentators at the 2014 Winter Olympics (4)
- 13. Maximum score with one dart in a game of darts (5)
- 17. *The _____ Of It*, the political series in which Peter Capaldi plays Malcolm Tucker (5)
- 18. Portree is the chief town on this island in the Inner Hebrides (4)
- 22. Jared Leto won one at the 2014 Academy Awards for his performance in *Dallas Buyers Club* (5)
- 23. Suitcases which hold holiday clothes (7)
- 24. Large building for holding aircraft (6)
- 25. It absorbs liquid and is used in washing and cleaning (6)



DOWN

- 1. Physics, chemistry and biology (7)
- 2. Word formed by rearranging the letters of another (7)
- 3. And 9 Down. This iconic Irish rugby star finished his career with victory in the 2014 Six Nations Championship (5,9)
- 4. Film which won most Academy Awards at the 2014 ceremony (7)
- 5. Xi Jinping is this country's president (5)
- 6. Border enclosing a picture (5)

- 9. See 3 Down
- 14. Helen, the first woman to visit the Mir space station (7)
- 15. In 2014, Russia's involvement in this country has caused huge tensions (7)
- 16. Young hare (7)
- 19. Host city of the 2014 Winter Olympics (5)
- 20. Part of an act in a play (5)
- 21. Adly Mansour is this country's interim president (5)

SOLUTION (NO PEEKING)

- Across**
- 7. Canary
 - 8. Archer
 - 10. England
 - 11. Venom
 - 12. Gram
 - 13. Sixty
 - 17. Thick
 - 18. Skye
 - 22. Oscar
 - 23. Luggage
 - 24. Hangar
 - 25. Sponge
- Down**
- 1. Science
 - 2. Anagram
 - 3. Brian
 - 4. Gravity
 - 5. China
 - 6. Frame
 - 9. O'Driscoll
 - 14. Sharman
 - 15. Ukraine
 - 16. Leveret
 - 19. Sochi
 - 20. Scene
 - 21. Egypt

SECRET SQUIRRELS

To mark the launch of the new Government Security Classification system this month, *Defence Focus* has gone all secret squirrel. To help the Defence community get to grips with the new system we have created a handy guide to the new classification, as well as top tips and info on where to find out more (see page 16). And there's even a chance for you to win a prize, as we have hidden seven secret squirrels throughout the magazine. Send us an email with the page numbers of where you have spotted the sneaky critters and you could be in with a change to win a compact camping kit. The

Crusader cooking set, designed by military equipment specialists BCB International, is a field cooking system, made of durable stainless steel, which runs off bio-ethanol fuel to cook more quickly and efficiently.

TO WIN
Email the page numbers with your name, address and phone number to dmc-newsdesk@mod.uk by 16 May 2014. Don't forget to enter Secret Squirrels in the subject line.



JELLY HOTS

BIO-ETHANOL is a gel fuel that is efficient and can be used safely under cover. It has been developed from sugar cane especially for use with field cookers, and burns cleanly, with



little or no smell. Unlike Hexamine solid fuel blocks, it is easy to light, saving matches. The sachets of gel are compact, flexible and can be stowed easily within personal kit.

WIN A GERBER BULLRUSH

Ideal for soldiers, the Bullrush Multi-Tool is a compact, super-tough unit featuring a potentially life-saving strap cutter.

Through collaboration with law enforcement and first responders, Gerber understands professionals don't want more tools; they want the right tools. The Bullrush Multi-Tool is designed to deliver the tools you need most often in a convenient design that's as easy to use as it is tough. With six core components, full-size plier jaws, strap cutter, partially serrated tanto-style blade, large Phillips head driver, flat head driver and pinch wire cutters, it is everything you need.

The Bullrush's folding tools include an integrated wedge lock to avoid accidental closure while deployed. Open the butterfly design and the full-size, spring-loaded



pliers offer easy one-handed operation, and, with a rounded, textured G-10 composite grip and a ballistic nylon sheath with a secure snap closure, the Bullrush is simple, effective and safe. Contact Gerber on 01506 406277 for stockist information.

PRIZE
 We have two Gerber Bullrush Multi-Tools up for grabs, each worth £79.99

TO WIN
Email your name, address and phone number to dmc-newsdesk@mod.uk by 16 May 2014. Don't forget to enter Gerber Bullrush in the subject line.





Do you enter the Sixth Form in September 2014?

Do you want to join the UK's sharpest minds, strongest athletes, and greatest leaders at one of the top performing Sixth Form Colleges in the country?

Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College is now open to non-military students seeking an outstanding Sixth Form experience **without** having to commit to a future Military or Civil Service career.

- > **Now offering a unique opportunity for a limited number of non MoD funded students.**
- > One of the UK's top performing sixth form colleges.
- > 100% pass rate at A Level for the past five years.
- > 89% of students achieved A*- C Grade at A Level in 2013.
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- > Outstanding sporting facilities.
- > Annual fees - £18k (with flexi boarding options).

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STUDENTS**

Entry requirements: A or B in Maths and Physics (or Dual Award Science) at GCSE. These subjects are compulsory to A Level.

REGISTRATION DAY
Saturday 10th May 2014

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