

desider

Feb 11 Issue 33



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

the magazine for defence equipment and support



New Chief of Defence Materiel makes offer to DE&S

Bernard Gray's message to DE&S staff [See inside](#)



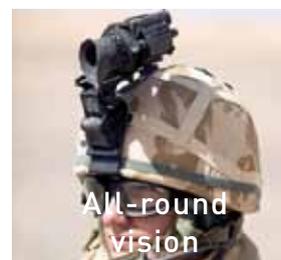
Technology on display



Ambush hits the water



Extension of support



All-round vision



Cutting edge engineering



cover image

Bernard Gray has addressed staff in town hall sessions at Abbey Wood after taking over as Chief of Defence Materiel last month. He has pledged to make staff proud of what they do for the front line but has warned that increases in the equipment programme have made the programme unaffordable.

Picture: Andrew Linnett

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desider is distributed free of charge to DE&S employees and the equipment capability sponsor. Copies can also be made available to readers outside the MOD, including those in the defence industries. While the editorial team takes care to ensure all material produced is accurate, no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Views expressed in *desider*, and the products and services advertised, are not necessarily endorsed by DE&S or the MOD.

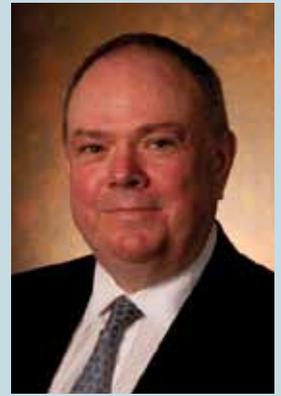
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Bernard Gray

Chief of Defence Materiel



'There is a great deal of hard work going on to support operations and to deliver the core equipment programme'

AS many of you know I am no stranger to defence. The DE&S headquarters at Abbey Wood is a place I have visited often; so when I returned to the site on 4 January, to take up the post of Chief of Defence Materiel, the place and some of the people were already familiar to me.

I intend to use the opportunity of the *desider* foreword to give readers a flavour of some of the things I am doing, areas of work I am involved in and people I am seeing.

I've spent my first few weeks in the post getting to know as many of the key people in the MOD as I can - and in meeting as many of you as possible in a series of "town hall" staff meetings, at which large numbers of you have been present.

For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to hear me speak and ask me questions, I am pleased to say that these are not one-offs but will continue well into the future. I am keen to talk to you and get your views and this is a good way of doing it.

I am already strongly aware that there is a huge amount of dedication and commitment to the task in hand in DE&S and appreciate the great deal of hard work going on to support operations and to deliver the core equipment programme.

My main focus at present is concerned with the Planning Round (PR11) which is of major importance both to the department, in that it is required to deliver undertakings made in the SDSR, but also to DE&S as it will provide the endorsed programme that the organisation will be expected to deliver against in the coming financial year(s).

Over the past few weeks I've spent considerable time working on this issue not only with DE&S Board members but also key senior officials in Main Building not only to gain a firm understanding of the issue at large but also how we might look to resolve it.

Thank you for the welcome I have been given and I look forward to working with you to drive DE&S forward.





'I want us to be proud of the job we do'

New CDM praises staff for support to operations

BERNARD GRAY says he aims to ensure that staff are proud of working for DE&S.

The new Chief of Defence Materiel, who succeeded General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue on 4 January, met hundreds of staff in two packed town hall sessions held at Abbey Wood on the 17 January.

And he was keen to praise staff for the work they do in supporting operations.

"It would be a great success for me in this role if, over the next few years or so, people can say to their friends, I work for DE&S and I am proud to work for DE&S," he said.

"We do a vital job and I want us to be proud of what we do."

Mr Gray's appointment was announced shortly before Christmas by Defence Secretary Dr Liam Fox. He has a background in defence, having been an advisor on the 1998 Strategic Defence Review, working for the now Lord Robertson and more recently authoring the 2009 "Review of Acquisition for the Secretary of State for Defence"; known colloquially as the Gray Report.

He explained to the audience that, before started work in the City, he had worked as a scientist in the nuclear industry and that his business background meant that he was also familiar with corporate finance.

"We face a number of interesting challenges over the coming years," he said. "The first thing is our continuing support to the operations in Afghanistan.

"We have around 10,000 of the department's people in harm's way there. Everybody working in this organisation has a significant role to play in supporting

that and there should not be any conflict in anybody's mind about the main priorities. That is to make everything an operational success."

Mr Gray said the work of DE&S fell into three separate areas of challenge.

The first was support to operations, the second was the Urgent Operational Requirement programme and the third was the core, longer-term, equipment programme.

One of his major challenges was to address spending in the core equipment programme. "For a long time we have had an overlarge and overambitious

'Working together we can drive DE&S forward. I hope you are coming with me on this journey'

equipment programme," he said. "And that problem has got seriously worse in the course of the last decade."

He added that when things went wrong it was often DE&S which took a disproportionately large amount of the blame.

Mr Gray said that increases in the size of the programme had consequentially made the programme unaffordable and that reductions to expenditure in the support area put at risk the future readiness and reliability of equipment.

He called for a robust debate among DE&S project teams to form a rational view of exactly what they could do.

He said: "The process of improvement involves everyone. It starts with me and it filters down to teams. I want teams to ask themselves if what they are promising to deliver is deliverable.

"We are often asked to squeeze a quart into a pint pot. We need to correct that problem. Beyond that, we then have to ask ourselves what would happen if DE&S was asked to fit a pint into a pint pot? Do we currently spend money in the best way to get the job done?"

Mr Gray said that one of his aims would be to help make sure DE&S earned praise for the job it did. "Much of what we do attracts a lot of comment both here and in the outside world, some of it accurate, most of it inaccurate. The press tend to have the last word. We need to think of a way of managing them instead of just saying 'that's not fair'."

Mr Gray also asked staff to pay tribute to former Chief of Defence Materiel General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue for completing the difficult job of merging the Defence Logistics Organisation with the Defence Procurement Agency to form DE&S and asked everyone present to give the General a round of applause.

And he finished with a pledge to staff: "My aim is to show leadership, clarity of thought and strategic guidance to the organisation" he said. "Working together we can drive DE&S forward. I hope you are coming with me on this journey."

■ It's good to talk, pages 24, 25

Gunner survives – twice!

Osprey is the star again as soldier survives two insurgent attacks

DE&S STAFF have welcomed news that a soldier on his third tour of Afghanistan has twice survived insurgents' bullets, thanks to the life-saving qualities of his Osprey body armour.

Gunner Carl Jordan, 26, would almost certainly have been killed both times.

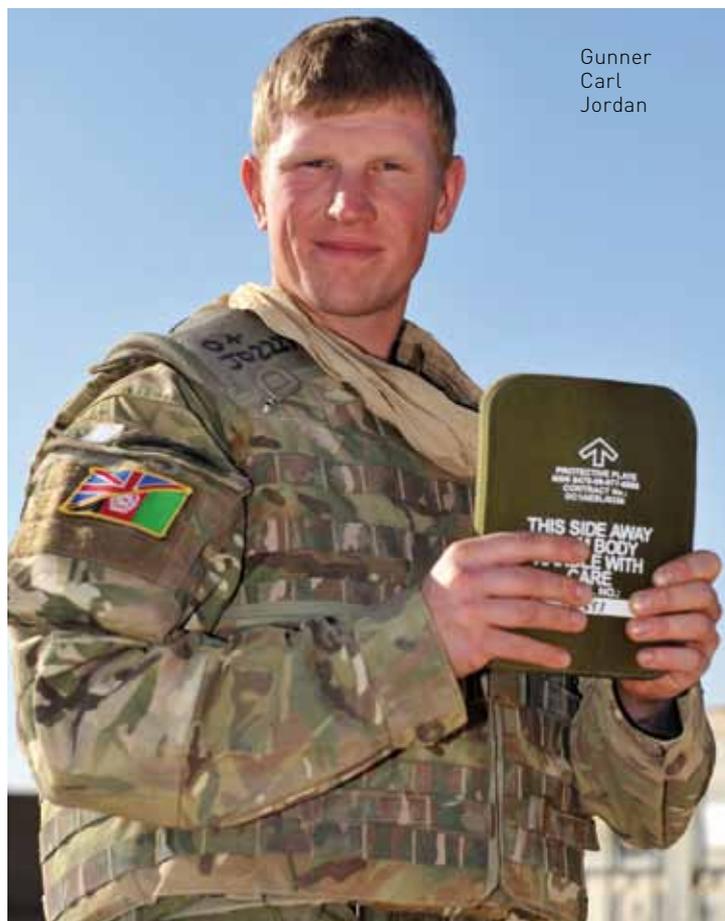
Carl received gunshots to the body in separate incidents, once to his front and once to his side – but on both occasions he walked away unscathed.

The first occurred while Carl was manning the defensive sangars protecting his patrol base. While monitoring an ongoing firefight, Carl felt a kick to his front as part of his body armour was ripped off.

After being checked out by the medic and having his damaged body armour replaced, he was passed fit and carried on the rest of his shift in the sangar.

The second happened while Carl, a member of Colchester-based 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, was supporting the opening of a new police station. In a firefight Carl felt a kick to his side. The Coyote vehicle in which he was travelling was riddled with bullet holes but Carl, despite having taken a bullet, remained unscathed.

Carl said: "On returning to the patrol base I discovered the gunshot damage to the side plate of my body armour. The situation



Gunner
Carl
Jordan

on the ground meant that there was no time to think about what had happened. I changed my side plates and deployed back out onto the ground again."

More good news of the work of Osprey body armour has been warmly welcomed at DE&S. "The Personal Combat Equipment team members were delighted to hear that Gunner Jordan was so well served by his issued Osprey Mk4 body armour system in these two incidents," said team leader Colonel Peter Rafferty.

"He and his comrades can

rest assured that the team will continue to monitor the performance of the equipment we procure and improve it where we can do so without impacting on their ability to fight. Our recently introduced pelvic protection system is one such improvement."

Carl added: "I'm just happy no one was more seriously injured in these incidents than was the case. Osprey is a great piece of kit and it's very likely I owe my life to it."

■ Pelvic protection: page 16

NEWSREEL

Jon takes on 2nd PUS task

JON DAY is the new 2nd Permanent Under Secretary at the MOD. Mr Day will occupy a key role at the centre of the MOD, driving the implementation of the changes resulting from the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the Defence Reform Unit. As one of the two Chief Operating Officers at the MOD (with the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff), Mr Day will be responsible for



a range of business including governance, propriety, safety and business process. He will also be a member of the executive committees of all three armed services. Defence Secretary Dr Liam Fox said: "Jon is a widely respected and highly experienced MOD civil servant and the best possible choice to help lead the MOD through the formidable reform, financial and management challenges that it faces. He has my fullest personal support."

Mr Day said: "I hope that my experience across the department will help me contribute to overcoming the challenges we all face as we implement the SDSR, building a coherent defence capability and a sustainable defence programme. I look forward to talking to as many of you as possible about how best to achieve these goals."

Typhoon pilots to get 'look and shoot' helmet system

THE LATEST highly sophisticated helmet is on its way for Typhoon pilots.

The Helmet Mounted Symbology System designed by BAE Systems lets the pilot 'see' through the body of the aircraft giving him a vital advantage when it comes to split-second decision-making.

Using the new helmet system, the pilot can now look at multiple targets, lock-on to them and then, by voice-command, prioritise them. It's a lightning-fast system to let the pilot look, lock-on, and fire.

The pilot can even do this when looking at targets over the shoulder – or at targets picked up by the radar underneath the floor of the aircraft.

The helmet works from fixed sensors around the cockpit area. As the pilot moves his head, helmet sensors move in relation to the sensors on the aircraft ensuring the pilot knows exactly where and what he is looking at.

Imagery projected onto the pilot's visor gives speed, heading and height – and precise position of enemy aircraft or missiles. The imagery, which remains stable and accurate at all viewing angles, means the pilot can make rapid decisions without ever having to take eyes off the target.

The new helmet system is expected to go into service with the RAF this year.

Minister opens up debate on acquisition reform

MINISTER FOR Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Peter Luff is to speak at a conference organised by the Royal United Services Institute and Cranfield University on defence acquisition reform next month.

Chief of Defence Materiel Bernard Gray will also be among the speakers at the one-day event which will take

place at the Defence Academy at Shrivenham on 15 March.

Other speakers are expected to include Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Capability) Vice-Admiral Paul Lambert and Major General Chris Deverell, Director General Logistics Support and Equipment, Trevor Taylor, Professorial Fellow Defence

Management RUSI, and Tim Banfield, Defence Director at the National Audit Office.

The event, which is being supported by DE&S, will focus on MOD's continuing work on the reform of defence acquisition, MOD's capability planning review and integrating support and logistics.

First Rivet Joint is on the way

RAF's Nimrod R1 replacement begins conversion as new crews start training with US

THE FIRST of three aircraft in DE&S' Airseeker project, the US KC-135, has arrived for conversion to RC-135 in Greenville, Texas.

It has already had equipment and engines removed to be ready for the next phase of its development which sees the US aircraft – called Rivet Joint – replacing the Nimrod R1 as a signals intelligence platform. They will collect and examine radio signals to provide the best information for front-line commanders.

The project is the most complex military sales case the UK has undertaken with the US Air Force in the last 70 years. The three aircraft will be operated by the RAF from RAF Waddington.



The first KC-135 aircraft arrives in Greenville

Meanwhile the first RAF personnel have arrived at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska for training. Once they are up to speed they will be allowed to fly on US Rivet Joint aircraft – co-manning – until the UK's fleet reaches full operational

capability. Up to 100 RAF personnel, pilots, navigators, electronic warfare officers, intelligence operators and maintenance technicians are expected to train at Offutt this year.

"The RAF is delighted to be joining the (Rivet Joint) component in a new era of joint training and operations," said RAF Wing Commander Garry Crosby.

"Our aircrews have flown alongside the United States Air Force for many years in a variety of conflicts. Now, to fly in the same aircraft brings the best of both fleets together to support operations."

US Air Force Brig Gen John Shanahan added: "Through this new agreement, we'll have a unique opportunity for mission integration and information interoperability, which will be advantageous to both countries.

"RAF Nimrod crews are some of the most capable in the world and we look forward to taking advantage of their wealth of experience as part of the Rivet Joint team."

Rivet Joint RC-135 deliveries to the UK are expected in late 2013.



X marks the spot: the first aircraft is in the hangar at Greenville to have some of its panels replaced

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DE&S delivers clearest, sharpest, most advanced night vision system available in the world

A SIX-YEAR programme delivering thousands of night vision systems for UK troops has been accelerated to less than 12 months.

DE&S' Dismounted Soldier Systems team delivered the last 100 of 11,000 Head Mounted Night Vision Systems (HMNVS) just before Christmas. They have been issued to deployable units and training establishments across all three services.

HMNVS is part of the Dismounted Close Combat Consolidation equipment package intended to provide units with the equipment to 'train as they fight' by day and night.

The system is the UK's variant of the AN/PVS-14, used by the US Army and US Marine Corps.

It is a lightweight, single-battery monocular goggle equipped with contractor ITT's Generation 3 night vision technology, the most advanced night vision in the world.

HMNVS provides the clearest, sharpest image available for soldiers at night and gives them a clear advantage on operations.

The first ones have proved their worth in Iraq and Afghanistan. The systems



are manufactured at ITT's facility in Virginia and repaired by ITT Defence in Basingstoke.

Around 2,000 Mark 1 HMNVS (the original dual-battery system) have, in the last year, been converted to Mark 2 (single battery) standard to ensure that all HMNVS conform to a common standard.

In meeting the UK's demands ITT achieved a monthly record number of

export systems.

Dismounted Soldier Systems leader Colonel Bill Pointing said: "This is excellent news for all those training for and deploying on operations.

"This latest delivery of HMNVS will allow training on the system to start earlier in the training cycle and represents the outcome of a great deal of hard work by ITT and the DSS team."

Pompey kicks off more carrier work

WORK HAS started on the second major hull section of *HMS Queen Elizabeth* being built at Portsmouth.

A steel cutting ceremony at BAE Systems marked the official start of production on the stern section, referred to as Lower Block 05.

Weighing more than 1,000 tonnes on completion, this section will house switchboards, air treatment units and the vessel's steering gear, as well as some accommodation areas.

This latest achievement in the carrier programme follows the start of production on the forward section of the hull, Lower Block 02, which began last February.

Steven Carroll, Queen Elizabeth Class project director at BAE Systems' Surface Ships division, said: "The sheer scale of the hull as it takes shape in six shipyards across the country is a reminder that this is truly a

once in a generation engineering project and we are all extremely proud to be a part of it."

Work is under way at six shipyards



Commodore Rob Thompson, Commander of Portsmouth naval base, cuts the first steel

across the UK employing 8,000 people on the programme and thousands more across the supply chain.

Kit passes factory tests

A KEY component of the highly mechanised weapons handling system (HMWHS) for the new carriers, designed and being delivered by Babcock, has successfully completed factory acceptance testing.

HMWHS provides mechanical handling facilities for moving palletised munitions around the deep magazine and weapon preparation areas, and a series of weapons lifts to connect the magazines, hangar, weapons preparation area, and flight deck.



Towards a safer world.

Putting the pulse into the heart of Apache

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NEWSREEL

MOD reduces its staff

BETWEEN May and November 2010, there was a reduction of 1,830 in the staff headcount in the MOD to 87,940, according to the latest figures.

There has been a freeze on external recruitment since May 2010, other than for business critical posts, such as those in direct support of operations, apprenticeships, fast stream and specialist graduates and posts paid for in full by other parties (for example United States visiting forces and Nato support facilities).

Website 'a vital channel'

JUST over £200,000 was spent on the MOD's website from May to November last year, the last six-month period for which figures are available.

"The website is an important channel for communicating with the wider defence community, the general public and the worldwide internet audience," Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, Peter Luff, said. "It provides a platform for the MOD to respond rapidly to current issues as well as providing an authoritative source of enduring information about defence and the Forces."

Printing costs

THE MOD spent £2,300 on producing copies of the National Security Strategy and the Strategic Defence and Security Review, according to figures released in Parliament.

Latest version Chinook passes first flight test

FLIGHT TESTING of the first Chinook Mk4 aircraft for the RAF has taken place.

The aircraft is the first of 38 Boeing Mk2/2A helicopters to be modified into the new Mk4/4A configuration under Project Julius which is also modifying eight Mk3 Chinooks into a new Mk5.

Project Julius, the name given to the Mk4 programme, is to be applied across the entire RAF Chinook fleet. It will produce an essentially new aircraft in terms of its interface with the aircrew and will provide much-wanted fleet coherence. First flight was a significant event in the programme's progress.

One major part of the modification is the Thales TopDeck cockpit. Under contract to Boeing, Thales UK is supplying its cockpit display system/mission avionic system which will deliver improved situational awareness, increased levels of safety and a vehicle for capability enhancement.

"The first of the modified Julius Chinook helicopters is expected to be available to commanders before the end of 2011," said David Pitchforth, managing director of Boeing UK Rotorcraft Support.

"The Mk2 Chinook fleet will be fitted with Julius cockpits by early 2015 with Mk2As and Mk3



Chinook: Project Julius will produce a 'new' aircraft for the RAF

modifications to be completed in 2015 and 2016. The aircraft will go to RAF Odiham."

The Julius aircraft are being modified at the Fleetlands facility operated by Vector Aerospace, Boeing's principal subcontractor for depth support of the RAF Chinook fleet.

Vector has established a dedicated production line at Fleetlands to support Julius, with specialist component

manufacture from its Almondbank facility near Perth.

"Vector Aerospace is delighted to be associated with this significant milestone," said managing director Tim Rice.

"It is a testimony to the skill and dedication of our teams in Fleetlands and Almondbank, who have worked in a spirit of partnership with our customer Boeing and the key equipment suppliers."

Keeping battle-winning equipment fit

THE ABILITY to screen and test complex electronic and optronic equipment is now available in Camp Bastion, Afghanistan

The ESS (Equipment Support Solution) facility has been up and running, helping to keep front line equipment available. But a capability gap which was increasing costs is now filled with the arrival in theatre of UK Land's primary electronic and optronic test and screening equipment – GPATE (General Purpose Automatic Test Equipment), DIANA (electronic) and GPTIRF (optronic).

A key factor in increasing platform availability is to ensure that failed sub components are repaired and returned to the user in the shortest time possible.

Currently up to half of electro/optical items returned to the UK for repair are in good working order with no fault found and others with faults that are minor that could be repaired in-theatre.

A simple screening capability that can support equipment triage and prioritise repairs will provide increased platform availability, reduce demand on

the air bridge and reduce costs. The latest uplift by Cassidian Test and Services has seen the systems re-housed in new containers that can handle extreme temperatures and 'opened up' to support testing and screening of equipment without the need for complex application test programs.

In theatre the systems will be operated by Defence Support Group technicians trained to repair optronic systems and cameras – one of the most urgent requirements identified.

In the longer term, automated screening programmes will be developed.

This is a small but important step towards enabling a more standardised approach to delivering a cost efficient and an operationally available fleet.

DE&S Deployable Support and Test Equipment leader Colonel John Abbott said: "Current operations in Afghanistan have focused thinking on equipment availability.

"The need to screen and repair forward complex electro/optical devices is an important element in the sustainment of battle-winning equipment."

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NEWSREEL

Celebration of Navy flying

THE Royal Navy plans to mark the 100th anniversary of fixed wing flying by an event in May at Eastchurch Airfield on the Isle of Sheppey, location of the first Royal Navy fixed wing flight. The centenary of the Admiralty's first order for an aircraft was celebrated in 2009, acknowledged as the beginning of naval aviation.

Backlog cleared

THE backlog of British Forces Post Office mail to Belize caused by security restrictions resulting from the toner cartridge bomb alert last November, was cleared in time for Christmas, Peter Luff, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology has reported in Parliament. Average delivery time from the UK to Belize through BFPO is currently between four and eleven days.

Promotion

SIMON Henley is the new president of EPI Europrop International to manage the TP400 engine programme. He joined EPI from partner company Rolls-Royce, replacing Nick Durham who has returned to Rolls-Royce.

SDSR cost

THE MOD spent around £75,000 on external consultants as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, in support of costing models, according to figures released to Parliament.

Perfect partners help bridge the gap

Pictures: Alpha Composites



BRITISH SOLDIERS on operations can cross obstacles with a portable bridging system procured by DE&S.

The lightweight bridges will help soldiers cross Afghanistan's network of wadis, canals and ditches.

DE&S' Manoeuvre Support team has worked with BMT Defence Services to solve the problem.

Roger Pidgeon, the DE&S team's project manager for short gap crossing, said: "We received an urgent request for an ultra-lightweight and man-portable short gap crossing capability.

"In the first instance we looked to deliver a commercial off-the-shelf solution, but none was immediately available on the market.

"BMT's engineering

knowledge helped us to reach specialist suppliers in the motorsport and aerospace sectors who have extensive experience in lightweight aluminium, carbon fibre or composite structures.

"Our requirement was turned into a bespoke design solution by BMT in just four weeks."

The bridges designed by Alpha Composites are carried by each soldier in a patrol. Soldiers can also use the system as a lightweight assault ladder, replacing the bulkier, heavier in-service equipment.

David Taylor of Alpha Composites said: "BMT asked if we could submit a design to their requirement. We are used to working to tight timeframes and are delighted that our short

gap crossing system has received an outstanding reception by front line troops."

Stuart Olden, BMT lead for land systems, added: "The Defence Technology Strategy asks us to target the better, faster pull-through of new technology into military capability.

"This project is a great example of MOD and industry working together to deliver critical equipment in a short timeframe. BMT's agile, responsive, systematic approach has been proven by yet another project delivered on time and to budget.

"We are proud of our work with Manoeuvre Support and continue to assist the team on a number of counter-improvised explosive device programmes."

Rolls-Royce to support T45 turbines

THE CURRENT in-service support contract for the Type 45 destroyers now includes the Rolls-Royce WR-21 gas turbines.

Contract amendments with BAE Systems will see Rolls-Royce providing in-service support for the turbines at a value of around £25 million.

This 'availability' contract will provide support to WR-21 from the manufacturer until November 2016.

The WR-21 Spares Contract was, at the same time last December, amended to procure the final batch of initial provisioning spares and long lead spares for WR-21 direct from Rolls-Royce at a value of around £20 million.

The WR21 Complex Cycle Marine gas turbine powers the six-strong class of Type 45 destroyers, all of which have now been launched with the first two already in service.

The engines are based on the Rolls-Royce RB211 and Trent 600/800 range of aero engines in civil and commercial operation. But instead they use a combination of sophisticated US-built heat exchanger and inter-stage intercooling to greatly increase efficiency.

This reduces operating costs over the life of the vessel by as much as 25 per cent over simple cycle engines while still producing comparable levels of power.

New rifle magazines keep on lightening the load

TROOPS IN Afghanistan are now using new, lightweight see-through magazines for the SA80 rifle, further reducing the weight of their kit.

Made from lightweight plastic, the 30-round Magpul EMAG magazine is around half the weight of a standard metal magazine, yet even more robust.

More than 100,000 have already been delivered to troops on operations. More than a million will be sent to Afghanistan under the four-year, £13 million contract with Hereford-based distributors Level Peaks Associations.

A clear window in the magazine allows troops to monitor how much ammunition they have left, helping them ensure they have sufficient levels at critical points in battle.

The EMAG's durability is further enhanced by an easily detachable cover to help protect against dust and sand



while the magazine is being carried – meaning fewer need replacing.

Cpl Stevie Japp, a soldier with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, said: "The new magazines are

a great bit of kit. The little window lets me see how many rounds I have left at a glance and it's a lighter and more robust design.

"The dust cap is a useful addition in the dusty Afghan conditions as it helps keep ammo clean."

Minister for Defence, Equipment, Support and Technology Peter Luff, added: "This contract with Level Peaks represents excellent value for money, allowing us to provide our Forces with improved equipment at lower cost to the taxpayer."

The magazine weighs 130g compared to its metal equivalent of 249g. Troops carry up to 12, so this change means each carries around one kilogramme less weight than before.

New camera equipment puts focus on base safety



Lt Gen Gary Coward gets to grips with Clambake, watched by Andy Bate, project engineer from Kylmar GDUK

EXTRA SURVEILLANCE equipment has been delivered to bases in Afghanistan in just six weeks.

After a visit to the front line by Peter Luff, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, DE&S was challenged to find short-range surveillance equipment to help improve soldiers' security at the UK's remote bases.

In Project Clambake DE&S' Force Protection team rapidly

procured 50 tripod-mounted, short range cameras from Kylmar GDUK to do the job.

They provide protection for vulnerable points of perimeter walls while the system can also be taken out on patrols and used on vehicles.

Kylmar managing director Peter Kyle-Henney and project engineer Andy Bate demonstrated the kit to Lieutenant General Gary Coward, DE&S' Chief of Materiel

(Land) before a trip to the front line.

On his return Lt Gen Coward said: "Clambake has been fielded in record time and is proving a great success in theatre. I was not surprised to learn in Helmand that the troops want even more.

"Project Clambake is a success which has given troops freedom of movement and situational awareness they need within the most austere environments."

C-IED: the DE&S work goes on

A THIRD member of DE&S' Counter-Improvised Explosive Device office leaves for Afghanistan this month.

Phil Pitcher will be on hand to help with theatre-based C-IED equipment queries.

It has been a busy 12 months for the eleven-strong office during which the first two members deployed, responsible for optimising DE&S understanding of operational requirements and providing technical advice to Abbey Wood teams.

The office has identified numerous interventions to improve C-IED capability. Delivery of several capabilities has been advanced with feedback from theatre that they have already saved lives, and overall coherence has been improved.

The next C-IED industry day will be in April to help industry further understanding of the threat from the roadside bomb and to discuss emerging requirements. Bookings to Gill Chadburn at DES CIED Office-1KMandSecSP, tel 030 679 81298.

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Lunchtime: Gen Parker looks to sample the latest rations

Troops 'want for nothing' on equipment

General visits DE&S and praises 'the very best' kit

SOLDIERS IN Afghanistan 'want for nothing' and have 'the very best' equipment.

That was the message from Commander-in-Chief Land Forces during a visit to Abbey Wood.

General Sir Nick Parker visited DE&S headquarters on 6 January and gave his positive message at a town hall session to DE&S staff.

With a keen interest in Land Forces' equipment procurement and support this was his second visit to DE&S since assuming his new post last November.

He was accompanied by Major General Chris Deverell, Director General Logistics, Support and Equipment. The pair were given an overview of DE&S activity and structure, and they looked in detail at DE&S' operational focus at Defence Support Chain Operations and Movements where Major General Ian Copeland, Director Joint Support Chain, led discussions looking at how DE&S provides operational support.

The visit then centred on the land environment with Gen Parker examining some of the latest equipment making a difference to soldiers in Afghanistan.

Highlights included improvements to the SA80 A2 and Sharpshooter rifles as well as some of the heavier weapons and the latest in optical viewing devices.

The LogNEC team demonstrated a 'live feed' of logistics systems essential in managing the large and complex fleets and inventories. Log Commodities showed off new clothing and equipment supplied to all those deploying on operations in the 'Black Bag', while offering Gen Parker a taste of the new 24-hour ration pack for his lunch.

NEWSREEL

Phoenix rises to White Fleet challenge

A NEW way of managing the MOD's 'white fleet' of vehicles in the UK is set to come into operation in August.

The current contract for non-deployable vehicles, those that many military personnel and civil servants use for business within the UK, ends this summer.

DE&S has formed Project Phoenix in the Service Provision project team, part of Director Land Equipment, to bring in a replacement five-year arrangement.

The Phoenix team has made good progress over the last year, supported primarily by Frazer-

Nash Consultancy, LSC and Actica.

Trevor Woolley, Chief of Corporate Performance at DE&S, said "I am very pleased with the progress made to date with the project. The team is highly motivated to deliver within extremely challenging timescales. I believe Phoenix will deliver significant benefits over the next five years."

The new contract will still have one service provider to manage the fleet but will use companies currently working with the Government to provide the MOD with the required vehicles. It

will give the MOD a one-stop shop for fleet requirements with better rates via a cross-Government contract with the right vehicle available at the right time at the right price.

The user should see no major changes - vehicles will still be requested through a booking system - but the new service provider will manage all requirements to make sure the fleet is used to optimum capacity.

Introduction of car sharing is also a possibility.

Further information available from the Phoenix Team on 0306 79 80673.

Enterprise praised

DEFENCE Secretary Dr Liam Fox has praised the work of Plymouth-based multi-role survey ship *HMS Enterprise* during a visit to the ship in Bahrain where it is working in coastal waters. The ship's main task is supporting update of hydrographic charting in the approaches to a new port to ensure safe access for merchant vessels.

Dr Fox said: "Our commitment to security in the Gulf is undiminished.

Enterprise's work with the Omani naval survey branch has played a significant part in ensuring safe access for merchant vessels in the Gulf of Oman."

FSTA on time

THE Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft programme is on schedule with the first two A330 aircraft converted to the tanking role, Peter Luff, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, has told Parliament. Aircraft have begun flight trials and their certification and qualification flight programme. New facilities being provided by AirTanker are ahead of schedule in readiness for the delivery of the first aircraft in late 2011.

MRA4 savings

NOT bringing Nimrod MRA4 into service and the RAF vacating RAF Kinloss is estimated to save around £2 billion over the next ten years, Armed Forces Minister Nick Harvey has said. Final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation after consultation.

Bowman comms moves onto the next level

ENHANCED DATA and voice capabilities have been delivered to those in air defence, artillery and engineering who use the Bowman communications system.

Following an intense 18 months of testing, the Joint System Integration Body (JSIB) has successfully completed integration of three Command Battlespace Management (Land) Battlefield Information System Applications (BISA) onto the Bowman infrastructure.

Ground-based air defence, fire control and Makefast (engineering) BISAs are now being uplifted across land forces in line with Bowman's BCIP5.4 fielding programme.

Makefast and fire control applications are planned for deployment to Afghanistan on Operation Herrick 14.

Established in 2002, the JSIB is a partnering arrangement between DE&S' Bowman and Tactical Communications and Information Systems team and General Dynamics UK at Newbridge in south Wales.

JSIB has a large stakeholder community that includes BAE Insyte, Thales, Logica, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon, their associated DE&S teams and users.

David Easton, BATCIS' System Integration Manager, said: "The JSIB has developed a mature system of system engineering principles and techniques that enable the

The Joint System Integration Body sees a large stakeholder community taking part, including General Dynamics UK at Newbridge in south Wales



delivery of real integrated capability to our users.

"The BCIP5.4 and BISA integration programmes were undertaken against extremely challenging timelines and everyone involved can be proud of what has been delivered."

JSIB delivers programme and technical coherence supplemented with strong system engineering principles within its integration role.

As part of this, JSIB has developed an integration maturity model known as the 'system integration readiness gate' process, providing a clear methodology, requirements and assessment criteria against which BISAs are integrated.

The success of JSIB highlights partnering, essential to management and the integration of complex project dependencies and constraints.

New protection in focus



FIRST PICTURES have now been issued of new pelvic protection for UK Forces in Afghanistan. The protection has been introduced to help beat the effects of IED blasts, as revealed in *desider's* January edition. The three-tiered system of clothing and armour consists of special protective underwear, and detachable armoured modular trousers. It has been designed to integrate with current kit being used by troops on operations. The first layer of protection is a pair of shorts which troops wear as underwear. Using cutting-edge science and technology developed by the MOD and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (dstl), the underwear is manufactured from scientifically-tested ballistic silk material that provides an initial level of protection to mitigate effects of blasts, including shrapnel. A second layer of detachable pelvic body armour, designed to meet the greater threats faced by soldiers on the ground, has already been successfully trialled by the MOD. It can be rolled up and clipped to a belt and then pulled through the legs to form a protective pouch – meaning troops' mobility is not impeded.



For troops whose role demands even greater levels of protection, such as those operating handheld metal detectors to search for IEDs, a third tier of pelvic protection is being developed to offer even greater coverage – including the upper leg and wider abdominal region. Design trials are planned to take place this spring.



COMBAT MANAGEMENT Systems on the Royal Navy's Type 23 frigates will be supported by BAE Systems in a seven-year £47 million contract.

Support will also extend to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship *RFA Argus*.

The systems help a ship detect and counter threats by managing all relevant external and internal information provided by the ship's radars. It integrates this information with the activities of the anti-air weapons systems as well as other sensors and weapons.

Ship combat systems in seven-year support

The latest contract is part of a larger Joint Support Solution which integrates the Type 45 support contract, awarded to BAE Systems in September 2009. This will result in a common support framework

with efficiencies passing to new combat management systems on future ships, including the Queen Elizabeth class carriers.

Support will include software support and spares and repairs combined obsolescence management.

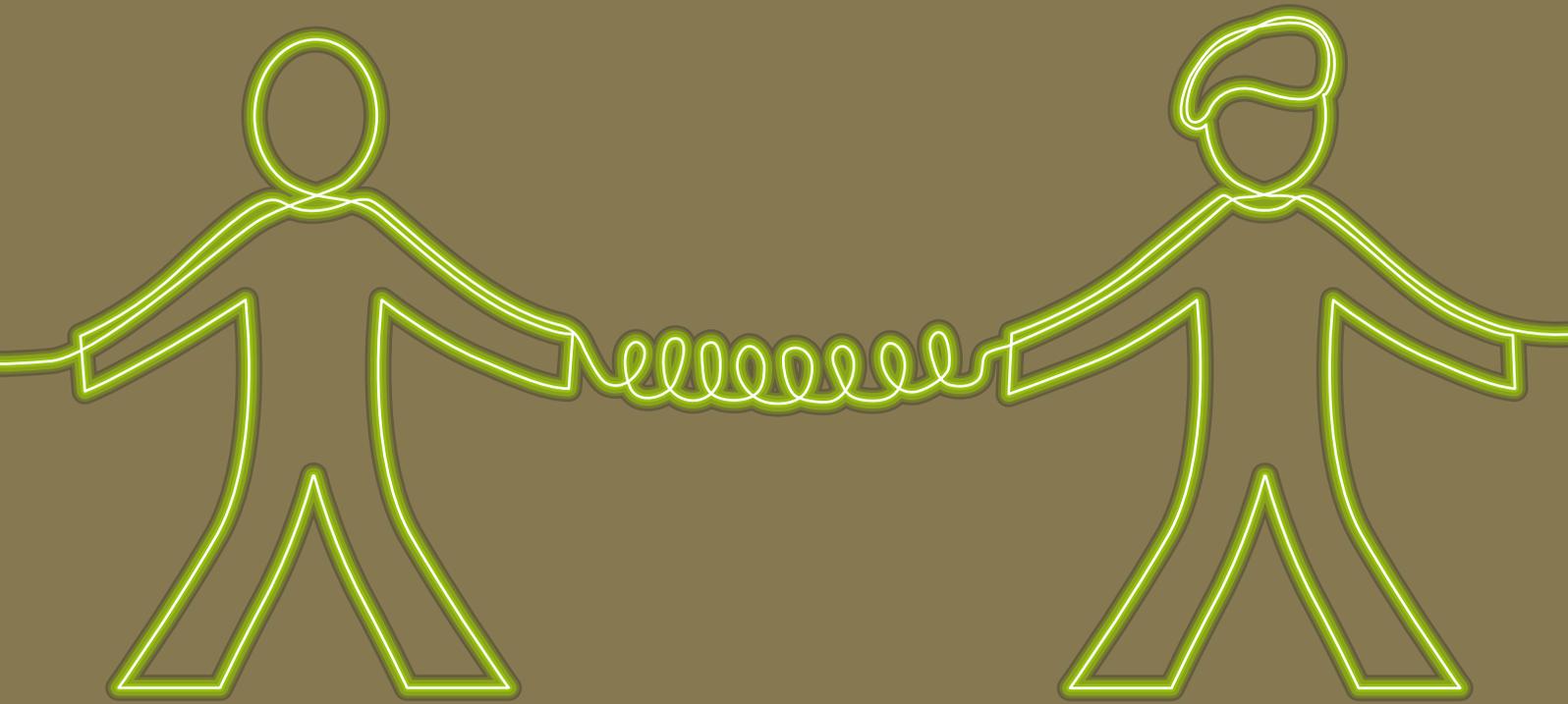
Dave Twitchin, DE&S' Head of Maritime Combat Systems, said: "This was far from a straightforward piece of work and is the result of innovative thinking and months of sheer hard graft."

"The result is clear evidence of the benefits that can be delivered by working together to achieve a single shared objective of delivering front line capability at reduced cost and improved quality."

David Leitch at BAE Systems Mission Systems said: "This contract generates further significant through-life cost savings to the Royal Navy through management and engineering efficiencies. It will achieve the objectives of the combat management system convergence strategy established by the MoD and BAE Systems."

Right: DNA2, the latest version of the system, operates on RFA Argus. Inset: Dave Twitchin of DE&S and BAE Systems Insyte's David Leitch put pen to paper





Keeping you in touch

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Ambush sees the light in Barrow

AMBUSH, THE second Astute class submarine, has emerged from BAE Systems' yard in Barrow.

The 7,400 tonne, 97-metre long boat was slowly moved from the company's giant Devonshire Dock Hall last month and lowered into the water to begin the next phase of its test and commissioning process.

It comes after the state-of-the-art submarine's naming ceremony before Christmas, when thousands of guests witnessed its sponsor, Lady Anne Soar, the wife of the Royal Navy's Commander-in-Chief Fleet Admiral Sir Trevor Soar, officially name the boat.

"Seeing *Ambush* launched is the best possible start to the New Year," said Jon Swift, head of Submarine Production at DE&S.

"She looked very mean, moody and magnificent as she emerged from the cavernous Devonshire Dock Hall on a cold, wet January morning and was rolled very slowly out onto the shiplift before being lowered gently into the water during the early hours.

"This is another significant milestone in the Astute Programme – it is a tremendous achievement with some fantastic teamworking from the shipbuilder, the crew and the Submarine Production team.

"*Ambush* is awesome, and she enters the water at a higher state of finish than that which was achieved for her first of class sister *HMS Astute*."

Mr Swift added: "2011 will be a challenging year requiring continuous close teamworking to see *Ambush* safely through the final stages of production, outfitting, testing and commissioning.

"There are some major milestones ahead of us which we are preparing for to ensure that *Ambush* is ready to sail safely on sea trials in the next 12 to 18 months."

BAE Systems is the lead contractor of the seven-boat Astute programme, and the launch of *Ambush* follows the formal commissioning into the Royal Navy of *HMS Astute* last year.



In the water: *Ambush* meets her operating environment for the first time after being lowered into the water at BAE Systems, Barrow

'It is a tremendous achievement with some fantastic teamworking from the shipbuilder, the crew and the Submarine Production team' – Jon Swift, DE&S



Targeteers take delivery of latest software tools

NEW SOFTWARE at the heart of a military targeting system is in service early and within budget.

Artillery System's Joint Point Mensuration (JPM) system contains imaging and targeting software procured through agreement with the US Government.

It can process a range of imagery and enables targeting using data of varying quality to make targeting of precision guided munitions faster, more accurate and with minimal collateral damage.

JPM systems are being rolled out across all three services to help process data that must be evaluated when preparing a strike with guided weapons.

JPM, originally an urgent operational requirement, went into service with the Royal Artillery and deployed to Operation Herrick alongside the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System in 2007.

It is now part of the core programme, and part of a range of tools Artillery Systems are delivering under the Defence Targeting Toolset.

Lt Cdr Tim Hutchins deployed a JPM system on board a carrier in a recent exercise. "As a targeteer I would not be without it now," he said.

"The ability to investigate potential target locations, and generate co-ordinates is excellent and has been used extensively.

"I am very pleased with the product and would not have been able to produce anywhere near the volume and accuracy of target information without it."

Paul Ng, project manager with the Artillery Systems team, added: "The software is at the cutting edge of geospatial exploitation tools available to the military and industry alike and has proved its worth many times over on operations.

"It is viewed as an invaluable element of the overall targeting system in brigade headquarters. I look forward to supporting this capability as it is rolled out across all the services."



Dr Tyler, top right, on the testing grounds of Seville

DE&S takes an early look at the SV programme

DE&S TOOK an early look at the Specialist Vehicle programme when Dr Andrew Tyler visited Spain.

Chief Operating Officer Dr Tyler saw the facilities at General Dynamics in Seville where armoured fighting vehicles are assembled and trialled on the test area.

Initial operating capacity for the Specialist Vehicle programme will be at Seville before full production transfers to the Defence Support Group at Donnington.

Dr Tyler was joined by Major General Ian Dale, Director Land Equipment, Roddy Malone, Specialist Vehicles programme manager, and military assistant Major Nick English.

The visit was hosted by General Dynamics European Land Systems and General Dynamics UK.

Dr Tyler's party saw a live display of the Leopard main battle tank and Pizarro infantry fighting vehicle from which the Specialist Vehicle design is derived, and travelled round the test area in the Pizarro.

The factory tour covered the production lines for assembling the Leopard and Pizarro and their test facilities, including the largest electromagnetic compatibility test chamber in Europe.

Project passes its second hurdle

A CONTRACT for new training facilities and accommodation for Armed Forces medical staff has been awarded to Carillion by Defence Estates.

It is the second phase of a plan – the Midlands Medical Accommodation Project – which will ensure the area becomes the focus for military medical expertise and assets.

Minister for Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, Andrew Robathan, said: "The men and women in our Armed Forces deserve the highest standard of medical care and I am committed to delivering the very best. The Government has invested in first class medical training facilities that will be a key component of a base from which to exploit and sustain progress in military medicine that will make a real difference to our troops."

The first phase has already seen a modern headquarters building at Defence Medical Services (DMS) Whittington, near Lichfield.

The new phase will see DMS relocate from Keogh Barracks in Surrey to the centre in Whittington.

Work is expected to begin on site this summer with relocation planned to begin at the end of 2013. The site will be home to around 1,400 people.

Talks move Anglo-French deal further forward



CO-OPERATION FOLLOWING the UK-France Summit and the mission in Afghanistan were top of the agenda during British Defence Secretary Dr Liam Fox's visit to Paris.

The Defence Secretary, pictured far left, held talks with French Defence Minister Alain Juppé last month for the first time since Minister Juppé took office.

They looked forward to UK-French bilateral military exercises which take place later this year and on Afghanistan they reaffirmed their support for the process of transition which will see security responsibility for districts and provinces progressively handed over to the Afghan National Security Forces.

'Biggest reform in a generation'

THE FORCE structure set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the remodelling of the MOD will be the most significant reform programme for a generation, Minister for the Armed Forces Nick Harvey has said.

"Strategy, operations, force structure, resource – all are framed by the vision set out in the SDSR. The SDSR is the agreed blueprint," he told an audience at the Royal United Services Institute.

But it would take time, he warned, to work through the decisions required to implement the changes.

Transformation of defence is not just about creating a coherent defence capability for the future, but making that capability sustainable

"That is why the reform agenda is not just about the big ticket items decided in the SDSR; it's about driving through new systems and processes – of accountability, transparency, cost control, realistic planning, firm and controlled project management – to bring the efficiency required to keep defence within the funding envelope."

Outlining the vision of Future Force 2020 Mr Harvey said: "Throughout the next few years, the mission in Afghanistan remains our main effort.

"Having made this commitment in the SDSR, this shaped many of our other decisions; the proposed changes to the Army, for example, and the preference for Tornados over Harrier.

"As we transform defence we will have to ensure that the decisions we make do not have unintended consequences for operations in Afghanistan.

"We have made it clear that there will not be British troops in a combat role or in the numbers they are now in Afghanistan by 2015 and, depending on progress, we may be able to start reducing our footprint earlier as we transition to more of a support role.

"So in transforming defence we need also to think beyond Operation Herrick and ensure equally that each decision we make is in line with the adaptable posture set out in the SDSR.

"Future Force 2020 isn't a specific package for a specific operation. It provides a menu of force elements from which we will be able to draw in the future.

"It provides a force structure which will enable us to react rapidly to crises, to conduct operations similar to Afghanistan, but also to respond with flexibility and agility to a range of threats."



Armed Forces Minister Nick Harvey on the Afghanistan front line last year

Armed Forces Minister underlines the wide scope of MOD and Forces reform

Mr Harvey also talked about the role of the MOD, saying it is equally important that we transform how we do things as well as what we do.

"To be successful, transformed Armed Forces require a transformed Ministry of Defence.

"Under the leadership of Lord Levene,

'We are looking at how to incentivise staff so that the behaviours we want to see are encouraged – leadership, personal accountability, creative thinking and innovation'

the Defence Reform Unit is working through how to create an MOD that is simpler, more effective, better-led, and, quite frankly, less wasteful of time and resources.

"Everything is in its scope. We are looking at the whole system, the

'operating model' of defence – the internal structure and processes, the senior rank structure, and how people are to be held to account.

"We are looking at how to incentivise staff so that the behaviours we want to see are encouraged – leadership, personal accountability, creative thinking and innovation.

"We are looking at how we generate and sustain forces, as well as at our lengths and harmony guidelines.

"And in all of this we are working to reduce significantly the running costs of defence.

"Taken all together the force structure set out in the SDSR and the remodelling of the MOD by the Defence Reform Unit, this will be the most significant reform programme for a generation.

"We have new leadership in the form of the new Government, a new Chief of the Defence Staff, General Richards, and the new Permanent Secretary, Ursula Brennan, along with Jon Day and Bernard Gray.

"Success will be collective, as must be the effort. It will be the energy and determination of military, civil service and indeed the wider defence community that will make the transformation in defence happen."

Front line kit? Simply the best!



See what DE&S' Chief Operating Officer and Chief of Materiel (Land) found when they spent a few days in Afghanistan talking to front line troops about the work of the organisation



'We drive around in some damn good vehicles'



Mastiff on patrol in Afghanistan

What a British soldier in a Forward Operating Base said when asked about the work of DE&S

Dr Andrew Tyler, right, and Lt Gen Gary Coward, below right, during their visit to the Afghan front line to gain feedback on equipment and support



Two chief officers from DE&S spent time with troops on the front line to hear at first hand what soldiers think of the work of DE&S.

The importance of keeping servicemen and women safe and supplied with quality kit was brought into sharp focus for Chief Operating Officer Dr Andrew Tyler and Lieutenant-General Gary Coward, DE&S' Chief of Materiel (Land), with the death while they were there of WO Charlie Wood (23 Pioneer Regiment, RLC) in an IED clearance operation in Lashkah Gar.

Both also attended a vigil at Camp Bastion for Cpl Stephen Dunn (216 Parachute Signal Squadron, RCS) who also died in an IED incident and was repatriated just before the New Year. Both events were a reminder of the bravery of those serving in Afghanistan, the continuing challenge being faced by UK troops, and the vital importance of everything DE&S does for them.

Dr Tyler and Lt Gen Coward were accompanied by the Director of the Joint Support Chain, Major-General Ian Copeland, along with the Defence Secretary's deputy private secretary and a representative from Permanent Joint Headquarters.

Both visited Kabul, Bastion, Camp Leatherneck, Task Force Helmand in Lashkar Ghar and Forward Operating Base Shawqat to gain an end-to-end and reasonably broad view of equipment and support.

"The overwhelming view from commanders and soldiers is that the kit is great," said Dr Tyler on his return. "The dismounted soldier equipment was universally praised for the way it both protects and facilitates mobility. We met

a soldier who three weeks into his tour was struck by small arms fire in his side. Not only did the new side plates probably save his life, but he didn't even know he had been shot until he saw his pierced magazines in his side pocket!

"We also had several reports of the reduction in injuries resulting from the recently issued underwear.

"The new vehicles were present everywhere in significant quantities. All vehicles, especially the latest arrivals Warthog and Husky, are extremely popular, allowing commanders much more flexibility to manoeuvre without significantly risking soldier's lives.

"There were also several mentions of US forces casting envious eyes on our equipment – perhaps one of the most striking bellwethers of the changes we have achieved in the past few years."

Lt Gen Coward added: "From Kabul to Shawqat, the overwhelming impression was positive – tangible, but still fragile progress in combating the insurgency; notable improvements in local governance; impressive progress with infrastructure; almost universal confidence in the kit, and; increasing evidence of realistic planning for transition.

"While there remained a significant number of urgent operational requirements to develop and deliver (and probably initiate), the overwhelming impression from an equipment and support perspective was that we needed to focus harder on sustainment."

But it wasn't just vehicles and personal kit that visitors saw. "The combination of ISTAR capability and precision attack is fundamentally underpinning the fight now," said Dr Tyler. "We saw extremely impressive examples of the way in which we are now able to hold ground, track insurgents, and launch strikes with minimal collateral risk.

"There is no question that this is giving us significant military advantage enabled by the equipment we are providing as well as facilitating the crucial partnering with the Afghan National Army, the Afghan National Police, and the local population.

"While there are some issues for us to

Below: Warthog is the latest protected vehicle supplied to front line operations, and is being used by soldiers of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment. A series of new vehicles procured by DE&S has revolutionised what is available on the front line, and helped save lives



follow up, none of these were unexpected and in most cases I know we have action underway and this was acknowledged by staff in theatre."

Dr Tyler returned to the UK with a message for DE&S staff and those in industry who support so well. "I would like to thank all of you involved in providing support to Afghanistan for your huge efforts over the past few years," he said.

"You have not received the thanks and praise you deserve and I know that many of you have worked for years without relief on this vital work. You can be assured that your efforts are really being appreciated where it matters – with the front line troops.

"You can also take tremendous satisfaction from the numerous lives that have been saved by personal equipment, vehicles, precision strike capability, medical equipment, ISTAR etc.

"The job is clearly not done and the threat remains very high; however you can come to work every day knowing that you are making a real difference. Thank you all."

What they said . . .

"The kit is good, soldiers have confidence in it – it saves lives"

"We drive around this area of operations in some pretty damn good vehicles"

"People are far more confident – you know that if you are hit by an IED it is not going to be curtains"

"Even would have died on this mission if not for the PPE"

"There is no need for the soldiers to buy pretty much anything"

"I am yet to have a commanding officer call me to say he has been let down by vehicle availability"

"The kit works!"

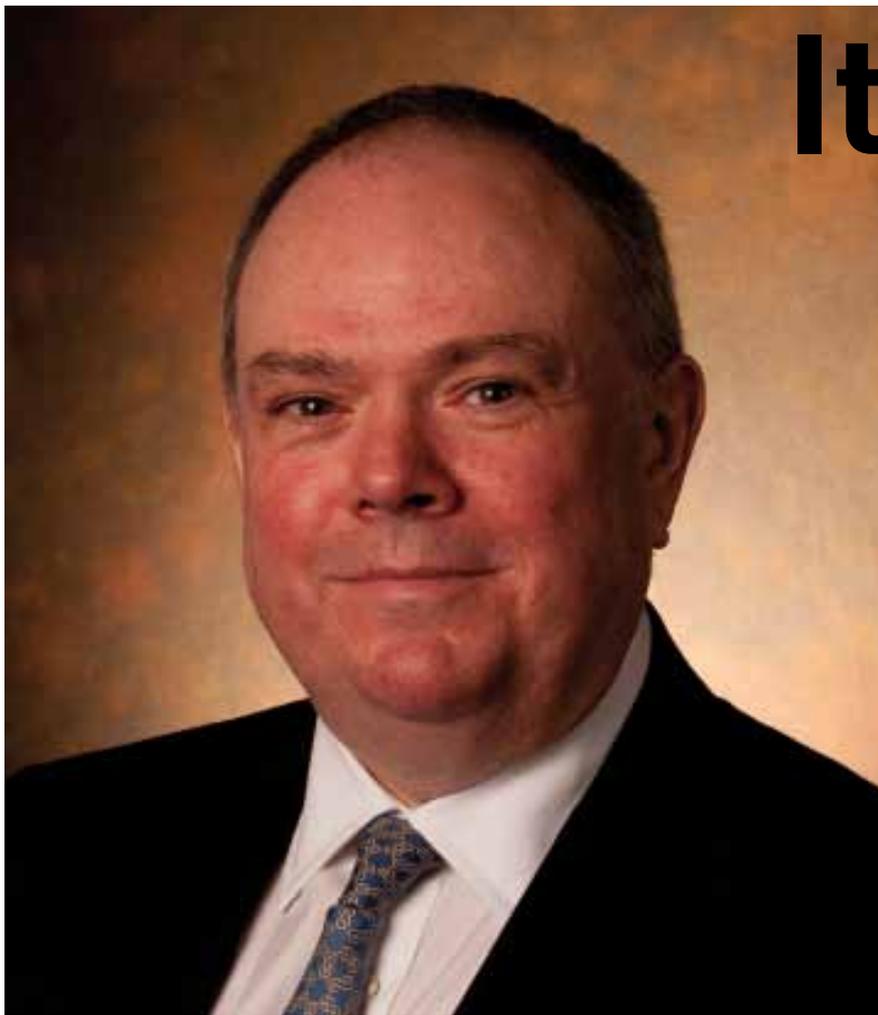
"People have absolute confidence in the vehicles"

"The kit is great"

- soldiers and commanders in Lashkar Gar and forward operating bases

Troops get set for a patrol in a Jackal vehicle, another front line success story





It's good to talk!

New CDM opens up the debate on DE&S' future

One of Bernard Gray's first measures on being appointed Chief of Defence Materiel (CDM) was to set in train a wide-ranging and comprehensive communications programme, with the object of engaging and stimulating his own staff in DE&S to draw on their collective experience and wisdom to come up with and help to agree their own proposals for the changes that will be needed.

The plan includes an extended series of 'town hall' briefings for hundreds of staff at a time, followed by question and answer sessions as well as formation of a series of working groups composed of staff of all grades and levels of experience that will engage in intensive discussion and evaluation of ideas for change.

He said: "This is the way I would

'Because our outputs in DE&S are so important both to current operations and the future defence of the country this is not something that we can afford to get wrong'

Bernard Gray has been appointed as Chief of Defence Materiel at a time of unprecedented change in the MOD – mirrored in DE&S. Here he explains how he intends to start going about the task

normally approach a significant problem – but it's all the more important here in DE&S where we have a contentious set of issues, and a lack of complete agreement, as we sit here today, about what the answers are.

"There's debate about what should or should not be done and some people are understandably anxious about change. But because our outputs in DE&S are so important both to current operations and the future defence of the country this is not something that we can afford to get wrong.

"These are all reasons why drawing on the wisdom of as many people as possible is important. DE&S is a large team and people who are involved in the shape and direction of the team feel significantly more motivated by that than people who are not involved. I want to ensure we engage the enthusiasm and

drive of everyone in the organisation and work as widely as we can.

"What has already interested and pleased me is peoples' preparedness to listen, to come along and talk to me and debate with me. I'm very happy to have that conversation with the staff here about how we take the organisation forward and however anxious people may be they have been very open minded about it. I do sense that people are prepared to be persuaded."

Mr Gray said communications was critical to his plans. He wanted to explain clearly from a leadership perspective what he wanted to achieve and wanted to marshal support from inside the organisation for achieving that change. He also wanted to reach out to past Chiefs of Defence Procurement and Materiel, who may have faced different problems, but could still provide very

useful expertise and advice.

He also intends to draw on the expertise of Lord Levene, who was CDP during the 1980s and now chairs the Defence Reform Unit.

Mr Gray said: “Lord Levene has made it clear that his review is not going to be specifically focused on acquisition – that is one of many strands that he is looking at. He’s made it clear he wants to work with me to ensure we get an appropriate set of measures.

“He’s also a very valuable person to draw on for expertise and advice. What he will say about other parts of defence will be very important and will affect how we do business. I’m already working with him and looking forward to continuing to do so.

“I have worked particularly closely with Sir Robert Walmsley and Sir Peter Spencer in previous dealings with the department and have huge liking and respect for them. I know their views and they will undoubtedly be a source of potential advice and expertise going forward. I think we’re very fortunate they are around to consult.

“They had different problems to deal with – Sir Robert had to deal with getting the Eurofighter Typhoon on track while Sir Peter dealt with the Type 45 destroyer programme while they both had to struggle with Nimrod and Astute programmes. Today, support to operations is probably a more significant issue for the organisation.”

Mr Gray brings to the post a lifelong interest in defence allied to considerable business experience in challenging circumstances. His father was an aerospace engineer and his interest rubbed off on CDM, when aged 10 he was taken to the Farnborough Air Show and still remembers being mesmerised by seeing the things that the Harrier fighter could do.

Later he developed interests in military history and defence as a whole – which led to his appointment as a defence correspondent on the Financial Times in the 1990s. “Defence is a fascinating mix of strategy, politics and industry. I think defence and the oil sector are the only two where you have this conjunction of so many different characteristics. There are always multiple dimensions of challenge here – so I find it fascinating.”

Mr Gray appears at ease with challenges that he faces, possibly helped by the fact that Abbey Wood and some of the people who work in it, are familiar to him.

‘For the future I want DE&S to take responsibility only for the appropriate things and avoid being in a conspiracy of optimism’

While new to the DE&S organisation, it is not unfamiliar, adding: “I’ve been to Abbey Wood many times – I was here before it opened in 1996 wearing a pair of wellies and I can attest to the stickiness of the clay underlying the site – so in one sense there was an odd sense of déjà vu when I arrived in January.”

As CDM, he said he needed to exercise a subtlety and a level of understanding of the multiple centres of power that exist in the MOD and outside, but his management style would be the same in DE&S as it would be in an organisation of any size.

He said: “In practice, if you take any organisation above 100 people you are

not running everything yourself – it’s an extension of the delegated style of management that you would adopt virtually anywhere. The kind of issues that arise here are similar to the issues that I have dealt with before in other organisations – or previously in the Ministry of Defence, so it’s perhaps not so much of an adjustment for me as it is for everybody else. I’m very comfortable working at scale and at home handling extended programmes.

“I have also spent much of the last decade refocusing businesses and creating clear strategies for organisations. The way I do it is by assembling and marshalling teams to do what is needed. I believe in data and analysis to drive conclusions and I am certain that the core of any good strategy is a clear and simple set of principles

“For the future, I want DE&S to take responsibility for the appropriate things – and avoid being complicit in a conspiracy of optimism about what can be done at what cost and by what date. If we do become complicit in it then we shouldn’t be surprised if we are held to account for it.

“It’s one thing if we’ve said clearly and given our professional advice that something cannot be achieved in a particular way and people have pressed ahead anyway – it’s quite another if we’ve gone along with it and said that’s all fine.

“So the first thing we have to do is exercise the best professional expertise that we can and to be as clear-eyed as we can about what the cost of delivering a particular capability is going to be. The second thing is for the senior people in this organisation to be having an appropriate dialogue between DE&S and Main Building that is professional and friendly, but a clear-eyed relationship that says what can be achieved – and let’s see where we get to with that.”



Long association with defence

- Bernard Gray was appointed Chief of Defence Materiel at the Ministry of Defence in December 2010. He is the author of the “Report on Acquisition”, prepared for the then-Secretary of State John Hutton in 2009, a work that has been widely regarded as a seminal analysis of the issues in defence acquisition both within the UK and internationally.
- He has a 20-year association with defence, which has included spells as a Special Adviser to Lord Robertson, then Secretary of State for Defence from 1997-1999, and as defence correspondent of the Financial Times from 1994-1997.
- For the past decade Bernard has spent much of the time in the private sector, as Chief Executive of CMP Information, the UK publishing division of United Business Media, and as Chief Executive and latterly Chairman of TSL Education, a private-equity backed publishing house.
- In both cases, the role involved substantial corporate turnarounds of troubled organisations to create highly successful enterprises. He has also acted as a non-executive director of Five, the UK broadcaster, and of Cable & Wireless, where he was also chairman of the remuneration committee.
- Bernard began his career with five years in investment banking, working in London and New York. He is enthusiastic about motorsport and is a life-long Everton Football Club supporter.

Here's to support for the n

Merlin helicopters will be supported for another five years thanks to an amendment to the through-life contract for the aircraft with AgustaWestland at Yeovil

Reports:
Hannah Swingler

Right: a Merlin pictured over a coalition base during operations in Afghanistan



THE MERLIN Mk2 upgrade has been officially unveiled to industry and MOD stakeholders.

The aircraft was proudly displayed at AgustaWestland's Yeovil plant where it is manufactured at an event to celebrate the ongoing success of the Merlin Capability Sustainment Program (MCSP).

Under the MCSP the Merlin Mk1 obsolescence issues will be addressed, allowing it to be supported for the next 20 years, and the installation of an open architecture for the avionic systems will allow quicker and cheaper upgrades in future.

The Merlin Mk2 is the Royal Navy's key anti-submarine warfare aircraft, and will now boast a new glass cockpit with touch screen displays, removable mission console and upgraded radar and acoustics processors, making it one of the best multi-role helicopters in the world.

Paddy Clayton, deputy leader for DE&S' Merlin team, said: "The MCSP is a large and complex programme involving the strip and reintegration of all the aircraft's electronic components, but delivery remains on time and on budget, with excellent support from our industry partners".

Rod Makoske, Lockheed Martin UK - Integrated Systems VP, added: "There has been an excellent start to the trials programme and the industry team is working closely with the MOD to complete the on-time development of this world-class multi-mission helicopter for the Royal Navy."

Nick Whitney, AgustaWestland's Senior VP UK Government Business, continued: "We are progressing well with the upgrading of the remaining Merlin Mk2 trials aircraft and in the next few months we will see the flight test programme get into full swing with all four trials aircraft flying."

The first fully upgraded Merlin MK2 is expected to enter service in 2013.

Taking the wraps off Mk2



Back row, from left: Paul McDermott (Merlin team - Merlin Mk1/Mk2 programme manager), Dave Ingram (AgustaWestland - MCSP chief engineer), Andy Smith (Lockheed Martin - senior programme manager), Steve Barratt (AW-head of Merlin business), Jack Thorner (LM - engineering senior manager), Peter Flutter (Merlin Helicopter Force - programme coherence), Jeff Streznetcky (LM - managing director, helicopter systems programmes) Front: Nick Whitney (AW - Senior Vice President UK Government business unit), Nigel Ellis (LM - MCSP chief engineer), Rod Makoske (LM - Group MD), Paddy Clayton (Merlin team - deputy leader), Jill Langan (LM - engineering director), Commodore Malcolm Toy (D Hells - Hd Hells 1), Scott Ewens (AW- MCSP programme manager).

next five years

Cost-effective operational support for Merlin helicopters has been secured for another five years thanks to a £570 million contract amendment for the second pricing period of the through life contract with AgustaWestland.

This will ensure seamless in-service support to the fleet of Merlin helicopters operated by the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

The Merlin is a versatile aircraft capable of performing a wide range of operational roles over land and sea for the UK military and as part of multi-national operations.

Just over a year ago the Merlin Mk3 was introduced to Afghanistan where it is being used in a battlefield support role transporting troops, ammunition, vehicles and food between tactical operating bases.

In addition, a number of Merlin Mk1 helicopters are deployed in support of maritime operations in the Gulf and on Royal Navy ships worldwide.

This is the second pricing period of the 25-year Integrated Merlin Operational Support (IMOS) contract which was awarded to AgustaWestland in 2006 and secured an increased availability of Merlin helicopters to Front Line Commands. It also saved the MOD and UK taxpayers more than 20 per cent compared to previous traditional support arrangements.

Captain Andy Lison (Royal Navy), leader of DE&S' Merlin team, said: "This is the culmination of a considerable amount of joint work with industry. As Merlins are deployed on operations with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, it will deliver high quality, cost effective support to the front line for the next five years."

Peter Luff, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, said: "At a time when Merlin helicopters are deployed in Afghanistan and on maritime operations worldwide, agreement to the second pricing period from 2011 to 2016 has ensured that cost-effective operational support will continue, at the level required by the Armed Forces."

Graham Cole, Managing Director of AgustaWestland said: "The IMOS contract signed five years ago took AgustaWestland's integrated operational support to the full availability output level for the first time and, working as a single partnered team, AgustaWestland and the Merlin team have delivered major support cost savings while enhancing aircraft availability."

Giuseppe Orsi, AgustaWestland's Chief Executive, added: "This contract



AN RAF Merlin helicopter practises dust landings and equipment drops in the southern Californian desert during Exercise Merlin Vortex. The Merlins have now been on the front line in Afghanistan for more than 12 months transporting troops and re-supplying them with ammunition, food and equipment. During this time they have carried almost 40,000 troops and lifted more than 750 tonnes of freight, providing a significant increase in UK military helicopter capacity available to battlefield commanders.

continues AgustaWestland's long term commitment to provide efficient and effective support solutions for the MOD's helicopter fleets, while delivering through a partnered approach increased aircraft availability and increased value for money to the UK Government."

The IMOS contract sustains more than 1,000 jobs, many at AgustaWestland's facility in Yeovil and at RNAS Culdrose in Cornwall, where the Merlin Depth Maintenance Facility and the Royal Navy's Merlin Training System are located.

Laying the groundwork for the future

Technologies which could deliver benefits to the front line of the future have been shown off by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Futuristic kit was presented at an innovation showcase by smaller companies who have received MOD research contracts.

Peter Luff, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, announced that nine new contracts, worth £500,000 in total, are being placed with SMEs, who make up around 60 per cent of defence research contracts. Technologies on show included:

- A body armour cover with electronic circuits woven into the fabric: Staines-based Intelligent Textiles have been awarded £49,500 to develop the technology to reduce the 'dismounted troops' dependency on batteries to power equipment carried on operations.

- Transferring motorsport technology to protected vehicles: Cosworth, from Milton Keynes, has been awarded a number of contracts by the MOD, including researching fuel efficiency and portable generators.

- A portable oxygen generator: Cambridge Design Partnership has developed a lightweight, portable oxygen generator under a contract worth £70,000 that could be used on the front line to administer oxygen.

The new contracts to SMEs include funding worth £68,000 to Edinburgh-based Dreampact for research into persistent surveillance on the battlefield. Imperial College London has been offered £67,000 to research a sensor system to detect the direction of small arms fire.

Mr Luff said: "Small businesses across the country are in the vanguard of providing novel solutions to defence and security needs, particularly in the realm of cyber defence and warfare. They offer innovation, flexibility and niche capabilities."

"The technology on show represents a fraction of the work being undertaken by some of the best brains in Britain. By embracing this work, the MOD has the potential to adapt, exploit and translate this research into kit and equipment that could directly benefit our troops on the front line."

Business and Enterprise Minister Mark Prisk added: "Innovation and enterprise are critical in developing new technologies to provide valuable assistance to our troops on the front line. It also sparks off new companies and industries that boost British industry. I am delighted to see the innovations on display and hope in the future they will play a role in supporting our troops and boosting the economy."

Technology proposals from SMEs are supported through research contracts from the Centre for Defence Enterprise (CDE), based in Harwell, Oxfordshire. The centre acts as a bridge between the MOD and businesses that may have a product or research beneficial to defence

and security. Experts at the CDE will assess both the science and the business proposals put forward on a case-by-case basis.

The UK's small firms put their best ideas on show to improve the life of the soldier on the front line



Above: a simple USB power connector used in the conductive body armour material invented by Intelligent Textiles



Above: Intelligent Textiles' new conductive body armour material with some ancillary items connected via USB ports



Above: Peter Luff (right) wears a new modular back pack system, having the finer points explained by Crib Gogh director Steve Heaward



Above: developed by Frazer Nash, thanks to funding from the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (dstl) and the Centre for Defence Enterprise, this bike is designed to assist in the rehabilitation of service personnel

re of defence industrial direction



FORMAL CONSULTATION on future plans for defence equipment, support and technology has now begun.

The Government has launched its Green Paper, led by the MOD and the Home Office. It covers a range of issues, including national security, working with other countries, exports, small and medium-sized enterprises and cyber security.

This is the first time these key issues have been considered together from a defence and security perspective.

Consultation will last for three months and will lead to a White Paper which will set out the Government's approach to industry and technology policy in defence and security over the next five years.

Peter Luff said: "To ensure our Armed Forces have the equipment and support they need, industry requires as much clarity as possible to plan its investment in research and production.

"The Strategic Defence and Security Review made clear that this consultation is an opportunity for industry and the public to help us shape how we deliver some of the vital components of our national security."

Security Minister Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones said: "As we said in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, Government needs to be smarter in the way that we meet the challenges to national security. Defence and security go hand in hand in many areas, which is why we are increasingly joining efforts to deliver solutions."

■ The Green Paper is available online at <http://defenceconsultations.org.uk/>. Formal public consultation will run to next month. All interested parties are invited to contribute to the debate.

Above: a soldier from 23 Pioneer Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, working as part of the Counter Improvised Explosive Device Task Force in Helmand Province, searches for a possible device, while isolating an area along a main road due to be cleared by Afghan soldiers. Military equipment needs to maintain a cutting edge against ever more sophisticated threats

Industry welcomes DE&S clarity as the White Paper looms

THE FRAMEWORK for a future approach to industrial technology policy has been welcomed by industry.

ADS, the UK's aerospace, defence and security trade organisation, said the Green Paper built on last year's Strategic Defence and Security Review which provided some clarity to industry on long-term plans for UK Forces.

Ian Godden, Chairman of ADS, said: "This will help industry – from large multinationals to small and medium sized businesses – engage fully with the MOD, the Home Office and Government more widely to identify what the Government requires of industry to support our Armed Forces and as a major contributor to wealth creation

in this country. There are clear benefits in considering defence and security together, particularly where sustained research and technology investment could support both sectors. But we should not underestimate the major differences between the two markets, in both customers and suppliers.

"Security will need increasing co-ordination between the many departments, agencies, and the private sector owner-operators of key infrastructure.

"ADS looks forward to leading industry's efforts in responding to this consultation and working with the Government and Bernard Gray for the long-term benefit for our troops, our economy and our national security."

Right: an innovative portable keypad system from Intelligent Textiles



■ Sci-fi to sci-fact? BAES' take on the future stealth vehicle: page 30

Sci-fi to sci-fact?

Stealth vehicle is just one of many ideas put to the MOD from study into the future of warfare

A VEHICLE which can 'sweat' to improve stealth was among hundreds of ideas presented to the MOD from a BAE Systems study designed to demonstrate how the future might look.

The sweating vehicle could use water from a diesel or fuel cell propulsion system to reduce a vehicle's thermal signature by 'sweating' it out through pores in the vehicle skin. That same water could also be reclaimed to enable soldiers to stay in the field for longer.

The Future Protected Vehicle programme highlights technologies and concepts which can be used to boost effectiveness of lightweight armoured vehicles.

The numbers give an idea of the scale of the programme: 567 technologies and 244 vehicle concepts were investigated following engagement with 35 organisations.

Seven concept vehicles have been developed, each highlighting technologies which could support



a particular specialisation. Forty-seven of the technologies are being pursued.

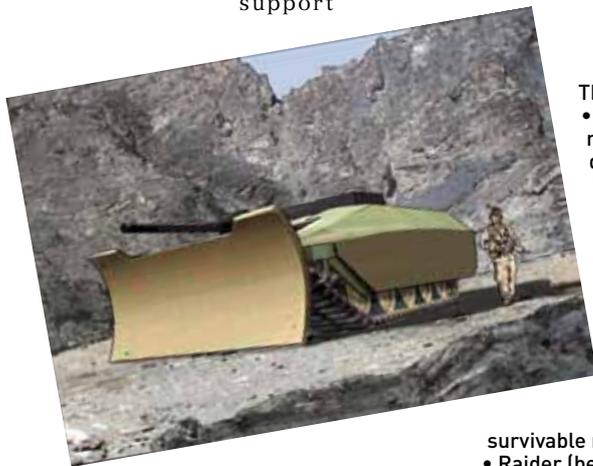
BAES gathered ideas from academe and industry. Ideas for further study have been funded out of a £2 million contract with Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (dstl).

The study was managed for the MOD by dstl. Its land strategy lead John Hunt said: "I was very impressed by the work. Not just by the outputs, but also the

inclusivity with which the study was carried out and the robust systems engineering methodology underpinning it.

"The 'quick wins' element was particularly pleasing as support to current operations is vital."

A contract extension means the team will be doing further work.



The seven concept vehicles were:

- Pointer (pictured right):- an agile robot which can take over dirty, dull or dangerous jobs, such as forward observation to support the dismounted soldier;
- Bearer (below right): a modular platform which can carry a range of mission payloads, such as protected mobility, air defence and ambulance;
- Wraith: a low signature scout vehicle;
- Safeguard: an ultra-utility infantry carrier or command and control centre;
- Charger (left): a highly lethal and survivable reconfigurable attack vehicle;
- Raider (below left): a remotely or autonomously controlled unmanned recce and skirmishing platform; and
- Atlas: a convoy system (retrofittable if necessary) which removes the driver from harm's way.



Ideas identified for exploitation include:

- Sweating vehicle could use water from a diesel or fuel cell propulsion system to reduce a vehicle's thermal signature by "sweating" it out through pores in the vehicle skin. That same water could also be reclaimed to enable soldiers to stay in the field for longer.
- eCamouflage will allow a vehicle to match its camouflage to its surroundings by using electronic ink - rather like a squid.
- Integrated biometrics will ease the workload on soldiers in complex crowd situations such as roadblocks and riots by running video surveillance through facial recognition and behaviour modelling software to spot potential troublemakers.
- Active protection will intercept incoming fire or disrupt targeting mechanisms while actuated spaced armour will allow a vehicle to deploy in "compact" mode before extending its armour to provide increased stand-off distance. A version of this is envisaged as employing magnets to "float" above a vehicle to provide protection from aerial threats.

Front line bases all set to turn green



REMOTE UK bases on the front line in Afghanistan could be run on solar or wind power if plans by DE&S come to fruition.

Currently all bases power their infrastructure through diesel generators which need frequent and often hazardous resupply convoys.

DE&S wants to minimise the need for such convoys by providing power from sustainable resources. Industry is being approached for ideas.

DE&S has launched its Fobex programme to treat the Forward Operating Base (FOB) as a system which will allow industry to apply a systems engineering approach.

"All aspects of a FOB are being examined from helicopter landing aids

to low power laundry solutions," said Ray Fielding of DE&S' Programmes and Technology Group.

"A particular strand of the programme called Powerfob has been initiated to allow DE&S to seek ideas and technology that could either reduce energy requirements of a base or provide alternatives to generators.

"Alternative power systems must provide a similar level of electrical power with the same degree of robustness and remove the logistics burden of transporting fuel to the base.

"There must be no compromise to the effectiveness of the operations."

Interested companies are being invited to demonstrate their products and concepts. The programme is being

run with the British Antarctic Survey and Canada's Department of National Defence, who face similar problems with bases. The US Marine Corps is running a similar programme.

"Although more efficient generators offer one possible solution, to minimise regular resupplies of diesel, renewable technologies are of great interest," said Mr Fielding.

"While a single technology may not be the answer it may be possible to combine a number of approaches to supply the power needed."

Successful companies will be invited to performance trials in the summer in a representative environment to show how their kit performs in real conditions.

Sustainable agenda fuels 2011 conservation awards

NOMINATIONS ARE opening for the MOD's annual Sanctuary and Energy awards.

The Sanctuary Awards began in 1991 when Otterburn Training Area donated a Silver Otter trophy to the MOD Conservation Office to reward the best conservation group project or best individual conservation effort on MOD land.

The awards have since taken place each year and now reflect the increasing influence of the Government's sustainable development agenda.

Awards recognise group and individual efforts for projects on or within land and property that the MOD owns or uses in the UK or overseas.

The Energy Awards began last year as

the MOD seeks to raise energy awareness, and has a major role to play in Government and the wider public sector in achieving the carbon reduction targets, as well as reducing the amount we spend on energy.

Achieving these targets will only be possible if all service and civilian personnel in the department along with industry partners take the necessary measures to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.

The awards aim to recognise individuals and teams for their efforts in the UK and overseas.

Nominations for Sanctuary Awards are invited for the four categories of award – environmental projects, sustainable

projects, heritage projects and individual contributions.

An overall winner will be selected from the winners of the four categories and will receive the Silver Otter Trophy.

Nominations for Energy Awards are invited for the three categories of award (individual, team and overseas) for those who have implemented innovative energy reducing ideas. Categories are open to MOD employees, service personnel and contractors.

Closing date for entries is 29 April. The Sanctuary and Energy award ceremony will be held on 11 October in Main Building, London. Further information from DE-Sanctuary@de.mod.uk

Last summer the international media picked up on the latest computer worm, known as Stuxnet, that had allegedly been attacking computer systems worldwide.

Stuxnet reinforced concern across the world that computer networks could be deliberately targeted to cause massive damage to advanced societies that have come to rely on the internet. These range from the simple infection of a business's computers, to e-crime and e-espionage through to the disruption of the computers that control electricity power and other essential utilities.

The dominance of the internet by the US and its allies gives Nato and other western countries significant strategic military advantages. This allows them to employ network enabled capabilities in almost every aspect of military operations. This dependence, however, makes it more important vital computer networks are protected.

In the US, UK and other parts of the world, governments, armed forces and industry players are moving rapidly to put in place organisations, technical capabilities and human

Cyber warfare: Is tomorrow's threat here today?

resources to protect their interests in what has become known as cyberspace.

The degree to which cyber threat is being taken seriously can be gauged by the fact that in the past year the UK government set up an organisation specifically to defend its interest in cyberspace.

In the UK, the Office of Cyber Security was created in June 2009 and the Strategic Defence and Security Review allocated £650 million to enhance cyber security across the UK government.

The UK's cyber security

programme is a cross government effort, co-ordinated by the OCS, which is based in the Cabinet Office. E-crime espionage – both state and commercial – against IPR, warfare and terrorism are main focuses of the new strategy, says the UK government, which is also aiming to build up cyber defence capacity and awareness in the private sector.

Most western governments have moved to set up cyber operations centres to monitor, on a real-time basis, the operation of computer networks in their country.

Western governments are taking threats in cyberspace seriously and there are rising expectations they will be able to build and sustain effective cyber defences. A number of leading security specialists will be exhibiting at Defence Security Equipment International (DSEI) 2011 including Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon. DSEI will also be devoting a session in the exhibition's seminar programme to combating cyber warfare.

Visitors to DSEI 2011 will also witness dynamic new features on the exhibition floor, such as a security demonstration area, as well as a security showcase to complement the popular innovation showcase.

The introduction of an Electronics Pavilion will act as a focus area for electronics companies of all sizes and specialisms to promote their equipment.

Also the show's first Robotics Zone will host live demonstrations of unmanned ground vehicles, unmanned underwater vehicles and unmanned aerial vehicles during the show.

Manoeuvre ahead of the competition

DEMONSTRATE YOUR LAND
BASED CAPABILITIES AT DSEI

DSEI 2011 will feature:

- British Army Demonstration Area
- Robotics and Un-manned Systems Showcase
- Security Demonstration area and Security Showcase
- Land vehicle display area
- Innovation Showcase and panel debates

DSEI attracts

1300

primes, integrators,
manufacturers and suppliers

and in 2009 featured

675

land focused exhibitors

TO BOOK YOUR SPACE AT DSEI 2011 CONTACT:

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DSEI
Defence & Security Equipment International
13 - 16 September 2011
ExCeL London dsei.co.uk

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What the BEEP!

Callsign W31 is doing a CTR on a suspected arms cache.

They're under camouflage and have been on task for seven hours when an enemy section arrives.

They start up the comms ready to send the co-ords for an air strike... and in the absolute silence of the desert, a tiny electronic 'beep' warns of a low battery.

The enemy section hears it, the mission is compromised immediately and heavy contact initiated.

W31 needs to bug-out and head for the ERV.

Right NOW.

You would think that removing the warning 'beep' from your rugged tablet computer wouldn't be that difficult.

But the standard Rugged PC industry is set-up for large volume serial manufacture and therefore will not always accommodate small changes.

At Getac, we have the flexibility and agility to be different. And it allows our customers to be different too.

We'd have supplied the right tool for the job. Meaning no 'beep', the ability for custom military connectivity, bespoke managed services and Information Assured solutions are just some of our capabilities on offer from Getac through our partner.

We've got great technology, smart people and a brilliant partner, and we're focused on delivering the solution you want, not the one we want to sell.



Oh...and like so much of what we offer, our 'beeps' are optional.

Visit us or our partner SBL for a beep-free discussion.



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THE BATTLE of Britain Memorial Flight's (BBMF) Dakota and Lancaster aircraft will get a new lease of life under a contract with the Aircraft Restoration Company (ARCo) at Duxford.

Let by DE&S' Nimrod team, the contract covers major maintenance of both aircraft to ensure they remain safe and airworthy to the current out-of-service date of 2031.

Both aircraft are big favourites with summer air show crowds across the UK.

Work on Dakota ZA947 has already started and the aircraft is due to be returned to the RAF's BBMF in April.

Due to space restrictions, ARCo has subcontracted the Dakota work to Eastern Airways at Humberside Airport.

While there will be no major maintenance, Eastern Airways will carry out routine repairs and replacements on the aircraft, including on the ailerons, elevators, rudder and the main electrical distribution box. The aircraft will also be repainted.

Work on the Lancaster will not start until late 2014 and ARCo is intending to build a new hangar at Duxford in time for this work.

ARCo also holds the contract for the current round of major maintenance for the BBMF Spitfire and Hurricane aircraft.

Air show favourites are set for a new lease of life



Top: the BBMF's Dakota in full air show glory while, above, work continues on her fuselage, engines and tail

Now Parliament gets a taste of front line equipment

MINISTERS, MPs and Lords got the chance to taste the latest operational rations and inspect dismantled close combat capability and operational clothing issued to troops in theatre at a DE&S-run event at Parliament.

They also talked to infantrymen recently returned from combat.

Six DE&S teams were represented and displays covered a huge range of kit including multi-climate rations, the new Sharpshooter rifle, helmets and body armour, weapon sights and combat clothing and information about the latest protected vehicles.

Seven Grenadier Guardsmen who had served in Afghanistan also took part in the event and were on hand to talk to Ministers and Parliamentarians about their experiences with current equipment.

The event provided an excellent opportunity to demonstrate first hand the equipment available and issued to soldiers on current operations, and the quality of

the ration packs now available. Visitors tasted the rations, tried on armour and were briefed on the kit by staff from project teams.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Peter Luff, pictured right, said after visiting the exhibition: "I would like to thank those who arranged this event, it is a fantastic display. I judge the effectiveness of our equipment by the number of complaints and we don't get any complaints about this kit."

Chief of the General Staff General Sir Peter Wall, who also spent some time at the event, said: "What I have seen here today is unrecognisable even from the recent past and is due to the hard work of people across the Armed Forces and in Defence Equipment and Support."

Teams that took part in the event in Portcullis House included Defence Food Services and Defence Clothing from the Joint Support Chain, Light Weapons,



Photography and Batteries, Personal Combat Equipment, the Integrated Soldier System Executive from Individual Capability Group and Protected Mobility from Combat Wheels Group.

Teamwork takes the honours



Honoured: Bob Love, above, and Derek Huggett, below



Winners praise team colleagues after their Honours list joy

EXTRAORDINARY DE&S staff were among those granted state honours in the 2011 New Year Honours list.

But while the honours recognise individual efforts, recipients have been quick to point out that their awards would not have been possible without the support of their colleagues in DE&S.

Rear Admiral Bob Love was made a CB for his work as Director Ships.

Calling it a "great honour" and "tremendous surprise", Rear Admiral Love sees his inclusion in the list as recognition of the efforts of the whole Ships Operating Centre:

"The team's key achievements over the last four and a half years have been getting the aircraft carrier project on track, learning lessons from the Orion deployment, and tackling Fleet availability," he said.

"As my own news sinks in it is a real pleasure to reflect on the team's achievements, the role I've been allowed to play in supporting them and the privilege of leading them."

Stuart Long of the Chinook team became an OBE for his work within the Helicopters Operating Centre. He also noted that his recognition was not down to solo effort.

"I'm humbled and proud to have been selected for this honour," he said.

"I see this as a reflection of the contribution of the entire team (industry and MOD) to defence operations."

Derek Huggett of the Protected Mobility team was made an MBE for his Urgent Operational Requirement acquisition of protected patrol and tactical support vehicles.

"I never expected this recognition," he said, "but it's a great feeling and very gratifying. It would never have happened, though, without the support of the rest of the team."

"Being involved in delivering UORs over the last four and a half years has been extremely demanding but hugely satisfying, especially when you hear the positive feedback from troops on operations, politicians and senior officials."

Honours list

Full list of DE&S sponsored personnel:

CB

Rear Admiral Bob Love, Director Ships
Major General Tim Inshaw, nominated for his service before joining DE&S

OBE

Stuart Long, Chinook team, formerly Sea King team
John Murray, Special Projects CISR team
Victor Leverett, Finmeccanica UK Ltd, Business Development Director
Group Captain Colin Hickman, Nimrod team
Captain Anthony Holberry, Capital Ships
Commodore David Evans, Formerly Hd Helicopters 1

MBE

Derek Huggett, Protected Mobility team
Fredrick Robinson, BAE Systems – Field Service Engineer
Carol Jones, Cobham Aviation Services – Head of Flight Operations
Howard Crabb, Marshall Aerospace – Production Manager
Acting Warrant Officer 2 Laird Webster, Formerly *HMS Drake*
Paul Simpson, Formerly Combat Racks Group

MSM

Warrant Officer 1 Steven Morgan, W01
Stephen Vernon, W01
Brian Kirkland, W01
Graham Hughes, W01
Michael Woodward

New camouflage pattern still racking up the fans

DELIVERY OF the new Multi-Terrain Pattern camouflage has won praise from DE&S for the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (dstl).

Lt Col Matthew Tresidder of DE&S' Defence Clothing team presented staff with a commendation from the Chief of Defence Materiel.

Dstl scientists determined the military benefits of multi-terrain camouflages and specified colour requirements specifically for Helmand Province.

Dstl then developed and applied the most comprehensive, robust test regime ever adopted for a camouflage entering British service.

Lt Col Tresidder said: "Without the incredibly strong evidence from dstl's testing, it's highly unlikely we would've adopted this particular solution."

"MTP has been a huge success, and is being worn by our troops throughout Helmand, who are delighted with it. It has provided a critical capability by improving mission effectiveness and morale, and our kit is now the envy of our coalition partners."



Lt Col Tresidder presents DE&S' thanks to Jamie Dunn and Rajesh Dhokia of dstl

New ammunition facility is earmarked for Portsmouth

WORK ON a new ammunition platform to serve the needs of the new generation of Portsmouth-based warships is due to start this year.

The new Upper Harbour Ammunitioning Facility (UHAF) will replace the current structure at the entrance to Fareham Creek, which was built in 1923.

UK company VolkerStevin will build the new facility to the south east of the current site capable of handling Aster missiles used by the Royal Navy's new Type 45 destroyers.

Seabed piling of the new site's foundations will begin soon with completion of the works due in 2012. The current structure will then be demolished.

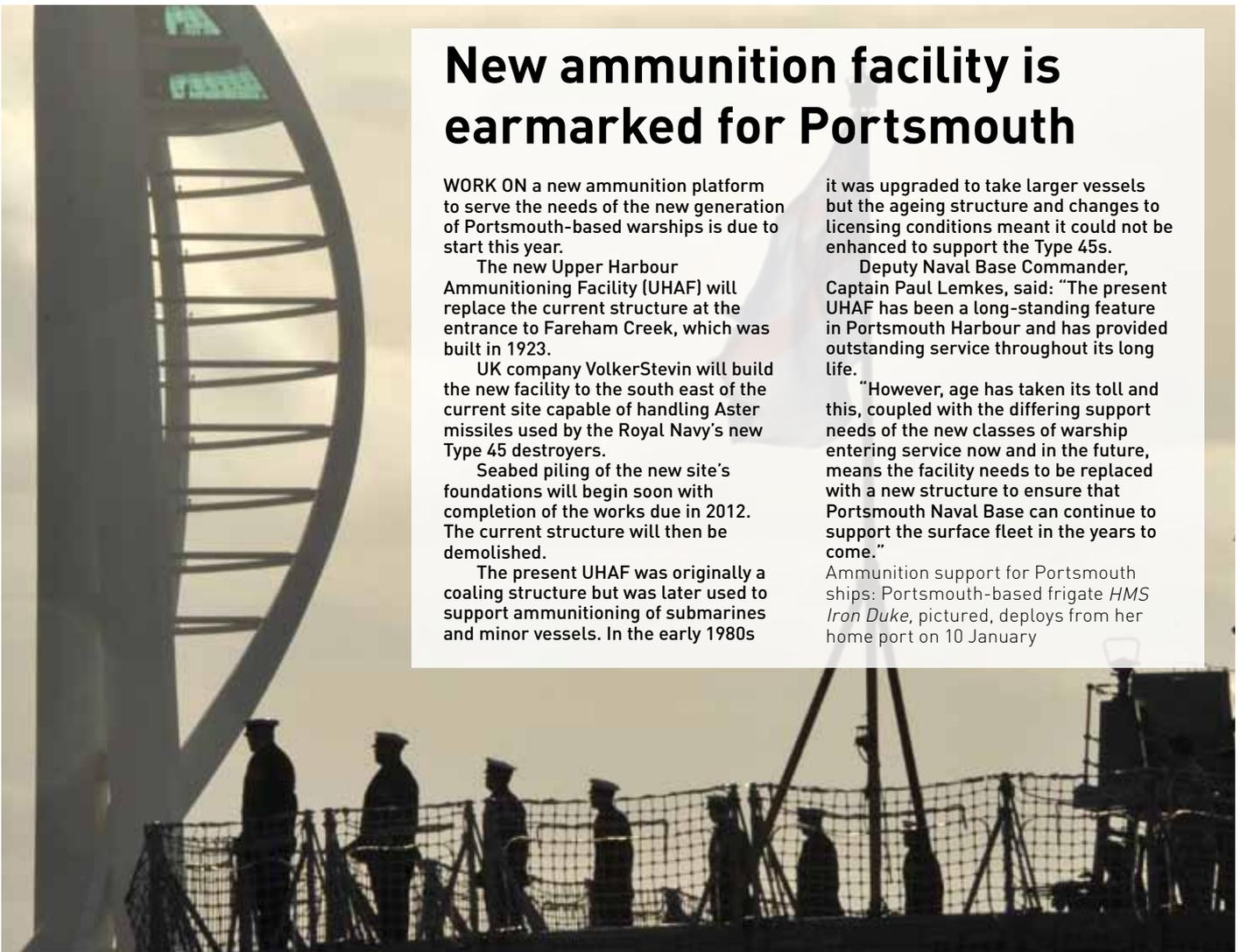
The present UHAF was originally a coaling structure but was later used to support ammunitioning of submarines and minor vessels. In the early 1980s

it was upgraded to take larger vessels but the ageing structure and changes to licensing conditions meant it could not be enhanced to support the Type 45s.

Deputy Naval Base Commander, Captain Paul Lemkes, said: "The present UHAF has been a long-standing feature in Portsmouth Harbour and has provided outstanding service throughout its long life.

"However, age has taken its toll and this, coupled with the differing support needs of the new classes of warship entering service now and in the future, means the facility needs to be replaced with a new structure to ensure that Portsmouth Naval Base can continue to support the surface fleet in the years to come."

Ammunition support for Portsmouth ships: Portsmouth-based frigate *HMS Iron Duke*, pictured, deploys from her home port on 10 January



Albion visits Albion

DEVONPORT HOSTED the rugby aces of Plymouth Albion as the Championship club visited their namesake *HMS Albion*.

The Devonport-based assault ship has a strong affiliation with the club and invited players on board along with head coach Graham Dawe, and director Graham Stirling.

Graham Dawe said: "It has been an exhilarating day out and provided an in-depth look round the ship to see the modern Royal Navy behind the scenes."

Above: Petty Officer Craig Shannon, left, of *HMS Albion's* rugby team and Graham Dawe

Green power plant set to reduce Devonport costs

THE ROYAL Navy has welcomed the concept of a new 'green' power plant to be built in the naval base at Devonport.

MVV Environment, a German company, has been awarded preferred bidder status by the South West Devon Waste Partnership for its residual waste disposal project.

Subject to planning permission, MVV is proposing to develop an energy-from-waste (EfW) plant in the Weston Mill area of the Naval Base's north yard.

Commodore Steve Dearden, Naval Base Commander, said: "I am delighted that the quality and value of the Devonport bid has been recognised by the award of preferred bidder status to MVV to build and operate the planned EfW plant."

"The naval base will benefit from the sustainable energy promised from the combined heat and power plant through the combustion of recyclable waste.

"The energy generated by this plant will reduce the running costs of the naval base through the supply of cost-effective heat and electricity to our site.

"If generating capacity allows, there may be some provision of energy to the local community.

"Such a power plant will ultimately benefit the taxpayer by reducing costs in partnership with Babcock.

"This power plant will also contribute significantly to the MOD and Government sustainable development and

environmental policy aimed at reducing both carbon dioxide emissions and the requirement for waste disposal by means of landfill sites."

Paul Carey, managing director of MVV Environment Devonport – MVV's project subsidiary company – added: "Our plant will be able to provide cost-effective, environmentally sustainable electrical energy, sufficient for more than 37,000 households.

"Additionally, the highly effective CHP plant will provide usable heat for Devonport and, potentially, local heat demand. The use of this heat will significantly reduce the carbon footprint for MOD and any other potential users and will contribute towards the MOD's green energy targets."

Safety = commercial sense

NEW POLICY addressing generic commercial safety issues has been issued in the light of findings into the loss of an RAF Nimrod more than four years ago.

The Safety in Contracts commercial policy statement addresses issues raised by the Haddon Cave report and underlines why safety standards should be included in all contract documents.

The statement has been written by the Director General Defence Commercial (DGDC) team with input and endorsement from DE&S' Safety and Engineering (S&E).

Howard Mathers, Director S&E, said: "DE&S staff and our suppliers have a clear legal obligation, both individually and collectively, to deliver safe products and services to the front line.

"All of us involved in acquisition need to be very clear exactly what is expected of us to ensure that we uphold the very highest standards of safety at all times."

Mike Greatwich, DGDC Director Commercial Services, underlined the importance of safety in contracts. "Men and women in the services depend on us, often with their lives, to do our job properly and professionally.

New policy lays down standards in all contract documents

"The crash of RAF Nimrod XV230 and the findings of the Haddon-Cave report into that crash were a stark reminder of the personal responsibility of everyone involved in defence acquisition to meet their duty of care in delivering safety.

"The statement provides all commercial staff with an essential summary of our safety policy, the law, and also the explicit role of the commercial officer in achieving safety as part of the project team."

Commercial officers are not directly responsible for specifying and monitoring safety, nor must they negotiate any sort of reduction of safety requirements or outputs without the express permission of their safety duty holder.

But they are expected to make sure standards defined by the project team are expressed in clear contractual terms and have been included in the Invitation to Tender (ITT) and contract documents before committing the MOD to contract.



Above: Howard Mathers
Below: Mike Greatwich



□ The statement and its supplementary policy support document cover a wide range of safety-related issues people need to be aware of.

□ These include: the role of the commercial officer; the importance of collective responsibility with contractors; and potential issues with overseas contractors.

□ The support document also provides a number of scenarios, sourced from real cases, to provide illustrative guidance.

□ To find out more, access the Safety in Contracts CPS on the Commercial Managers Toolkit.

□ Training in this area is also being developed and an announcement will be made when it is available.

□ More information, contact Daryl Stevenson (DES SE SEP-ASE-AsstHd) on 0117 9132320/9679 32320.

DINs - released this month

Defence Instructions and Notice (DINs) are defence-wide instructions, guidance and notices for military and civilian staff, containing up-to-the-minute information to help people carry out their duties. Some of the latest issued on Defence Equipment and Support are:

2011DIN04-005: Disposal of Harrier weapons system equipment. With the Harrier going out of service the weapon system, consisting of the aircraft, equipment both installed and held as spares, support equipment of integration/training/test/instructional rigs and facilities, ground support equipment and support infrastructure requires formal disposal. The DIN informs the MOD and support community of the sales plans with a view to possible reuse of equipment by other teams.

2011DIN04-006: Amendment to F Med 79 (prescriptions for spectacles) to accommodate General Service Respirator Lenses. F Med 79 has been updated to enable unit medical officers to request corrective lenses for the new General Service Respirator. Where lenses are required the officer should follow the processes in JSP and the Surgeon General's policy letter 15/08, ensuring the revised F Med 79 (09/10) form is used. Use of old forms will result in delays to supply of the lenses.

Further information and more details on the latest DINs see:

<http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Library/CivilianAndJointService/AtoZ/DinsIndex2011.htm>

Building a brighter future

A DE&S civil servant is in Afghanistan helping to build a civil service which will help sustain the country's future by allowing local workers into posts to free up military personnel.

Dave Horne is one of two defence advisors with the Nato Training Mission Afghanistan. He advises on civilianisation, including civilian pay and grading, recruitment, civilian positions, core competencies and senior leadership development.

He partners Bryan Beesley, private secretary to a senior Afghan minister, and they both advise the Afghan civil servants.

"Ministers run ministries, civilians generate policy and specialists execute that policy," said Dave, during a recent training event in Kabul.

"In the case of health the specialists are doctors, for education its teachers and for defence it's the military. The



DE&S helps train the next generation of Afghan civil servants

Dave Horne, on the right, with a human resource trainer from the Afghan Civil Service Commission

military here in Afghanistan are passionate about serving society and the civilian administration, and that's why the Ministry of Defence is trying to grow a civil service."

The fledgling organisation is keen to make a contribution. Civilian human resource training proved a notable success. Dave said: "Attendees were a mix of civilian and military – all with a desire to learn more about civilian structures, recruitment, job descriptions, pay, grading, staff evaluations and promotions.

"The course was in the workplace on every other morning to allow people to keep up with their work.

"Once the MOD has finished its training and goes through the pay and grading process, it will get a civilian management delegation from the Civil Service Commission. This will allow the MOD to recruit its own civilians into specialist

positions like finance, policy, legal, procurement and parliamentary affairs – to free up the military to do what they do best."

Dave is proud to be in at the start. "The whole civilianisation process might take a generation to complete, but we need to get started now," he said.

"That's where Coalition Joint Personnel within NATO Training Mission Afghanistan come in – to provide encouragement, advice and support. I am one of a long line of UK civilian advisors working with our international partners to help MOD achieve its aims. The best part of the job is working with my Afghan colleagues; it really is shoulder to shoulder."

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For further information:

contact Bruce Lornie on

+44 (0)1525 408476

bruce.lornie@millbrook.co.uk

www.millbrook.co.uk/military



Giving Clyde a lift

CLYDE'S SPORTSDROME was the venue for the first Royal Navy Scotland Push-Pull competition.

Guest of honour at the Sportsdrome's gym was former Britain's Strongest Man competitor and 14-time Scottish shot put and discus champion Neil Elliott.

□ The Defence Road Safety Award for 2010 has gone to 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery with RAF Coningsby as runners-up.

For details of how to enter see www.transportsafety.dii.r.mil.uk and look on the road safety page.



AB Michelle Brennan in action

Bicester makes sure pallets don't go to waste



A SUCCESSFUL initiative led by the Joint Support Chain Services' general management support team at Bicester has exceeded a key DE&S target to reduce the volume of waste sent for landfill.

As part of an ongoing waste management programme, the team has introduced a number of new practices to boost recycling and divert waste from landfill by 31 per cent against a target of five per cent.

Bicester is one of the main defence warehousing and distribution sites and generates a huge amount of waste packaging every year including thousands of storage pallets.

To make more efficient use of space, a local contractor collects and recycles the empty pallets.

Ian McLaughlin, Bicester General Manager, said: "Sorting out the pallets is a labour intensive

operation and working with a recycling company saves money and generates a small amount of revenue for us."

The same company also collects and separates plastic and cardboard packaging waste from the Bicester site. As a consequence, waste collection has been streamlined and the number of skips and wheelie bins around the site has been significantly reduced.

Mr McLaughlin estimates that over the last 12 months between £30,000 to £40,000 has been saved and more than 1,500 tonnes of packaging waste is now being recycled instead of being sent to landfill.

If other sites are interested in finding out more about the work being done at Bicester to recycle packaging and pallets, contact Ian on 01869 259314.

Engineers inspired by 1,000mph car project

And school pupils get in on the act too as Bloodhound shows off the best of science and technology

YOUNG ENGINEERS from DE&S have been putting their mark on the Bloodhound project to develop a car capable of 1,000 mph.

Bloodhound aims to move faster than a bullet from a gun, to cover a mile in about three seconds.

The project gives DE&S Defence Engineering and Science graduates the chance to work on the car's design, a cutting edge engineering challenge which will enable young people to recognise the excitement and importance of science, technology and mathematics inside and outside the classroom.

Wg Cdr Andy Green, who holds the 13-year-old land speed record at 763mph, is the pilot for the car while the MOD has provided three EJ200 engines from the Typhoon project, the lightest and most advanced jet engines in the world.

The team is also developing a hybrid rocket motor which needs an 800 horse power Cosworth Formula 1 car engine to drive its fuel pump.

"I have been involved in the integration of the rocket and was given the responsibility of integrating the Falcon hybrid fuel rocket motor within the



Bloodhound aims to be the first 1,000 mph car. Above: youngsters on a DE&S-backed scheme see a replica of the car on a visit to Bristol

car," said graduate Johannes Willis. "One of the main considerations in my project was that during the one-hour turn around time, only six minutes is dedicated to rocket replacement, and swapping a half tonne rocket with a nozzle temperature still of around 700 degrees Centigrade in six minutes is not an easy task."

Graduate Mark Wilcox added: "I have spent much of my time completing design and analysis work surrounding the braking systems.

"With a design speed of 1,050mph, slowing the vehicle down in 4.5 miles on completion of the measured mile is quite a challenge To achieve this speed the two

engines generate 47,000lbs of thrust, at 1,050mph; this is equivalent to the power of 180 Formula 1 cars."

Bloodhound's chief engineer Mark Chapman presented recently at the Professional Engineers forum at Abbey Wood on some of the design challenges that are being faced by his team.

Ten school pupils from Go4SET, a scheme backed by DE&S' Engineering Skills Support team to make youngsters more aware of opportunities in science and technology, have visited the Bloodhound premises on Bristol's harbourside to see a replica of the car. Follow Bloodhound's progress at www.bloodhoundssc.com

Staff have a chance of a life on the ocean wave

DE&S STAFF are being invited on weekend sailing expeditions on a sea cadet brig to help fund sailing trips for youngsters.

The weekends will be on the *TS Royalist*, pictured right, where the Square Rigger Club uses adult charters to raise money for bursaries for those between 13-18 (16-21 on a Tall Ships race) to sail on *Royalist* and her sister ships.

All you need is a big smile and lots of enthusiasm – you do not have to be able to swim, or have any previous knowledge or experience of sailing.

Climbing the rigging is only for



those who want to, and you must be in reasonable health. Warm clothing is essential and in return for your hard work, you will be well fed for three days.

TS Royalist adult weekend charters

May: Gosport to Gosport, Join 1400 Friday 12 May, disembark 1600, Sunday 15 May, (3 nights).

September: Falmouth to Gosport, Join 1400 Friday 9 September, disembark 1600 Monday 12 September, (3 nights).

Cost is £175 per member or £195 per non-member for a weekend.

Travel: Gosport (Fort Blockhouse) has free secure parking and access to Portsmouth Harbour station. Falmouth has railway communications.

More information <http://www.square-rigger-club.org.uk> or from Richard Weston on 0121 311 2008 or mil 94421 2216, richard.weston@de.mod.uk

Moved from Wyton? Here's the team who helped you out

WYTON'S STORAGE Reduction Team has removed its last file as more teams move to Abbey Wood.

The team – Julie Simmons (team leader), Margaret Draper, Alison Skingley, Clare Ogden and Moira Bailey – was set up last April to help project teams reduce what they held before their move to Bristol.

They helped teams review their documentation and carried out the massive undertaking of archiving and disposal of files.

With concerted effort from staff in project teams, 27,290 files have been removed from Wyton. This works out at a staggering average

of 30 files per hour, five days a week, over six months. Many files could be destroyed while 1,187 boxes were sent to TNT's archive.

Julie said: "This was an outstanding result and shows the determination of all the people involved, especially because the team members all came from the Redeployment Pool and had little or no registry experience.

"I feel very privileged to have led this exceptional team of people."

Julie is pictured, below centre, with her team, from left, Alison Skingley, Moira Bailey, Margaret Draper and Clare Ogden.



Nige Thacker and Tony Felstead get set to brave the icy waters

DE&S Santas take an icy plunge

TWO STAFF from DE&S took the plunge last month – dressed as Santas – to raise cash for lifeboats.

Nige Thacker D(MSF) and Sgt Tony Felstead from the Defence Cryptosecurity Authority (DCA), part of ISS Networks UKNDA, took part in the delayed Scuba Santa's Christmas plunge at Vobster Quay Dive Center, in Somerset on 9 January.

More than 130 Santas of all ages came from all over the country to brave icy conditions, narrowly failing to break the world record for the event which currently stands at 158 simultaneously diving Santas.

This was the fourth such event, postponed from its December date because of the snow.

Donations and a raffle on the day raised £2,000 towards the £10,000 target for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Nige and Tony's efforts raised £450.





New boss Mike moves in at Clyde

COMMODORE MIKE Wareham, left, is the new commander of Clyde naval base.

He relieves Commodore Chris Hockley, who has prepared much of the groundwork for the transformation of the Clyde base.

But it is Commodore Wareham who will have to turn into reality a plan which will see, among other events, the arrival of six more *Astute* submarines and the creation of a home base for all 11 of Britain's planned submarine fleet.

"Part of my job will be to ensure that we can offer our sailors and their families the best possible support here, in a fantastic part of Scotland," he said.

"One of my key roles, of course, will be to ensure

that the base provides the Royal Navy with the best possible service from what is the biggest military establishment in Scotland.

"And I am acutely aware of our very close links with the local community which I look forward to maintaining and developing further in the future."

He added: "It is an immense privilege and a great pleasure to be taking over as Naval Base Commander of the future home of the Royal Navy's Submarine Service."

Commodore Wareham joined the Royal Navy in 1982 and has previously worked at Clyde, serving in submarines and as a base director. He is married with two children.

New radar will be wind farm-proof

... and it earns an award for innovation

PURCHASE OF a radar for the MOD which cannot be affected by nearby wind farms has helped earn a top award for DE&S.

Chris Carpenter of Air Command and Control's programme support function collected the award for the innovation of the year in the Energy Buying and Supplying Excellence awards.

Introduction of the TPS-77 Air Defence Radar – the first of its kind in the world – is a big step forward for UK renewable energy as it allows the MOD to remove its objection to five offshore wind farms of almost 1,000 turbines off the Norfolk coast. Wind farms have the potential to affect operation of the UK's air defence radars.

The turbines should generate more than three gigawatts of wind energy per year by 2015, estimated to be worth around £7 billion.

The radar should be operational by November at the same time as the first wind farm at Sheringham Shoal.

The innovative deal saw four international energy companies, three UK Government departments, two global defence contractors and a trade association collaborate to unlock £7 billion pounds of renewable energy developments last year.

The radar is being jointly funded by the wind farm developers but owned and operated by the MOD to sustain the UK's air defence obligations.

After the deal Nicola Vaughan of RenewableUK,



Chris Carpenter, left, collects the award after the innovative deal which will maintain the UK's air defence responsibilities

the wind industry body, said: "RenewableUK is pleased that objections by the MOD to these offshore wind farms can now be lifted.

"Working together with government, the wind energy industry has proved that obstacles to such developments can be overcome in the interests of the UK as a whole."

Simon Bailey of Serco, who provide the radar, added: "Had it not been for the vision of all the UK stakeholders it is unlikely that such a timely solution with an acceptable risk and reward profile for all parties, would have been identified within the available timeframe. Credit to all involved that this solution has been created."

Flexible resourcing hits target

DE&S' Flexible Resourcing – matching skills of people with posts to meet business demand – has been completed on time.

Full operating capability, achieved in December, means DE&S operating centres are now better able to understand the numbers and skills of staff required to deliver prioritised outputs.

This will inform decision making on resourcing at operating centre and, where appropriate, at DE&S level.

"Reaching this DE&S Business Plan milestone is a fantastic achievement, representing significant work across DE&S to cleanse a variety of data sources (including HRMS and CMIS) and put in place the required systems and processes," said a project spokesman.

"In particular, a huge thank you to the Flexible Resourcing leads in each operating centre who have been driving this forward over the last two years."

Further info from Nick Nelson on 9352-33009 or nick.nelson851@mod.uk. □ ACDS(Log Ops), Joint Support Chain and Naval Base Operating Centres are not currently part of the project.

10 out of 10!

Marc earns top marks for his 10km road race efforts

DEVONPORT NAVAL base employee Marc Craig has presented funds he raised on the way to finishing ten 10km races last year.

The road runner, 34, from Saltash began his challenge in Plympton last March and continued with events across the west along with the BUPA London run in May. He raised £600 for Plymouth's St Luke's Hospice.

Marc said: "It's been an interesting and challenging year but also thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring.

"The highlight of the year for me was the London 10,000m. Taking my place on the start line with 15,000 other runners was a wonderful experience, especially as the race was run on the course likely to be used for the 2012 Olympic Marathon.

"But my body is now asking me to rest for a while as the last 10 months have seen a lot of miles run both in the races and training!"

Stephanie Cherington from St Luke's Hospice received the sponsored proceeds from Marc. She said: "Marc is a real inspiration, setting himself a challenge to run ten 10km races in one year.

"Raising £600 will make a big difference to St Luke's helping us to continue to care for patients in Plymouth and the surrounding area. I would like to thank all those who have sponsored Marc and the naval base for its support."

Founded in 1982, St Luke's Hospice provides highly specialised care for patients who have terminal or life-limiting illnesses and support to the families and loved ones of patients.



Above: Marc Craig presents the money from his ten 10km road races to Stephanie Cherington of St Luke's Hospice

Below: the youngsters of Lyneham see their removal fund boosted with more than £800 from FS Geordie Rochester's efforts in the Cardiff half marathon



... while kids cash in on Geordie's 50th birthday run

BROWNIES, GUIDES and Scouts are on the way to a new home – thanks to the efforts of a DE&S flight sergeant celebrating his 50th birthday.

Flight Sergeant Geordie Rochester, who works in the Compassionate Cell at Abbey Wood, turned 50 last June and wanted to mark the occasion.

"I had been running around the local roads a couple of times a week as part of my normal fitness regime and I thought I should do a sponsored run," he said.

"I wanted to raise the money to help local children. My wife Val is an assistant Brownie Guider at the 1st Lyneham Brownies and told me that, because a developer had bought the land that the Brownies, Guides and Scouts hut is on, they needed to raise funds to help them move their hut to a new home. So I decided to raise money for them.

The father-of-two picked the Cardiff half marathon for his fund-raising and set himself a two hours 20 minute target.

"We were blessed on the day with bright, crisp weather – ideal-running conditions. Along the way it was my impression that we were passing more people than were passing us – maybe more wishful thinking than matter of fact!"

With friend and pacesetter Taff Wood helping him along Geordie crossed the line in a few seconds over two hours, four minutes.

"The feeling of accomplishment was overwhelming, and I was on a high for about a week!" he said.

HR Information Notes are for

YOU

They contain vital information for all staff in DE&S - they are the main vehicle for announcing implementation of HR changes to line managers and individuals.



The Blue Light policing team at the fundraising event

Police celebrate disco success

MOD POLICE officers at Clyde naval base raised £400 from the latest Blue Light disco.

Cash will be split between local Helensburgh charity Enable and the Armed Forces' Canine Partners which trains and supplies dogs for disabled service personnel.

The event topped-off a year of fundraising which saw the children who attend the MOD Police-sponsored discos raise £1,454 for the local community.

Blue Light fund co-ordinator, Sergeant George Smart, said: "The discos have proved a hit once again this year with attendance in excess of 200 people at each event.

"The kids who come along should be proud of their achievements which have allowed us to support local charities and other activities within the community."

Blue Light discos have run since February 2008 in partnership with the MOD Police, the Royal Navy Police and Strathclyde Police.

Everyone attending is breathalysed on entry and the discos are a regular feature at Churchill Square's Drumfork Centre.

Recently released figures show that the initiative has been highly successful in helping to tackle anti-social behaviour.

It's child's play for the nursery at Devonport

CHILDREN AND staff of Devonport's Rogers Burrow Nursery celebrated the nursery's 15th birthday in festive style.

The occasion was marked with the opening of a new outdoor play area.

Amanda Dearden, the wife of Naval Base Commander Commodore Steve Dearden (who lives in Drake House in the naval base), and the Reverend Mike Brotherton, the Church of England chaplain for the naval base (*HMS Drake*), formally opened the newly-extended outdoor play area by breaking the tinsel across the gateway with help from Charlie Davies, aged three.

Mrs Dearden said: "It is lovely to see the children running around outside in the new grassed area and despite the Plymouth weather, with a pair of wellies and their imagination I am sure they will have been able to lots of fun.

"The extended garden will offer the children many opportunities to develop their learning, guided and supported by the professional team running Rogers Burrow. I am also looking forward to inviting them all to Drake House in the Spring for an Easter Egg Hunt."

The opening was followed by a party with parents as guests.



Licensed to manage - Neil is 'Mr 1,000'

NEIL JONES is the 1,000th Project Management Licence holder in the Project Management Development Programme (PMDP).

Neil, above left, is a practitioner member of the PMDP and has achieved a Level 2 Licence.

"A significant factor in my achieving this licence has been the PMDP and the excellent training and development opportunities it has provided," he said.

"The PMDP further exposed me to project management theory, but I have also been able to share experiences with others throughout the department and investigate practical examples from industry.

"The support of my team (Special Projects SCM) has been crucial in enabling me to make the most of the PMDP and by providing the ideal environment to test and hone my skills through management of a number of Urgent Operational Requirements."

Vic Jenkins, PPM head of profession, added: "Well done to Neil and the other 999 for demonstrating the drive and determination to make sure the department continues to improve the high standard of project delivery critical to the support of military operations."

Licenses issued by the MOD Head of PPM Profession are based on attaining internationally recognised qualifications, demonstration of relevant project management experience, and continuous professional development.

For further information contact the PMLA: DES PTG-PM Licence Team (Multiuser).



New play area: youngsters at Devonport's nursery at the opening of their new facility

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