



# Op OLYMPICS - Welfare Newsletter

July 2012 - Edition 1

## Money Matters

### Defence Welfare Package

The Defence Welfare Package (UK) is now in place for Op OLYMPICS. DWP(UK) includes a financial grant that provides up to £5/person/week to be spent on items such as TVs, DVDs, game consoles, board games, books, magazines or newspapers.

The grant can also be used to pay for access to swimming pools or fitness centres or for the hire of other items. It is not paid to the individual but collectively to the force commander to be managed for its intended purpose only. A total of £300k has already been granted and with the increase in personnel currently deploying to Op OLYMPICS the total amount of DWP(UK) will also increase. We'll keep you updated in this newsletter.

### The Commander's Welfare Fund

Further welfare money, potentially up to £1M, has been provided for service personnel (SP) deployed on Op OLYMPICS and is known as the Commander's Welfare Fund (CWF). This money is in addition to DWP(UK). Commander SJC has directed that the CWF is to be spent on items that are demonstrably linked to welfare. CWF money is distributed to local commanders using existing IMPREST accounts, GPCs or cash floats and the money allocation is allotted as £10/ person/week. Local commanders may spend the money as they see fit on items or activities that are demonstrably linked to the welfare of SP under their command for the duration of Op OLYMPICS.

### Refund of Nugatory Expenses

The MoD has extended the terms of the existing Refund of Nugatory Holiday Expenditure (NHE) provision to assist those actually 'out of pocket' due to financial commitments already entered into prior to the recent mobilisation of additional personnel for Op OLYMPICS. This is an exceptional provision and does not set a precedent for future operations or MACA tasks. In order for claims to be considered:

- the nugatory expenditure must be directly attributable to Op OLYMPICS. SP tasked to backfill those deployed at short notice on Op OLYMPICS are in scope.
- the SP needs to provide proof that a prior commitment was made, that Op OLYMPICS was the cause of loss and they must produce receipts and evidence for the claimed loss.
- the SP needs to have exhausted other means of getting refunds (e.g. holiday insurance or refunds from travel or event providers).
- claims are not limited to losses suffered by the SP and may extend to family or friends directly affected, if a case is reasonable and meets the criteria above.

This is welcome news but personnel should not expect refunds to be paid instantly. Only genuine claims will be met, so all claims will need to be scrutinised and verified. Claims should be initiated through Unit HR departments and additional direction has been issued to the chain of command.

## Transport

### Free Train Travel in London

Within the Transport for London (TfL) travel zones, in uniform or out and on production of a valid Defence ID card, SP may travel for free on London Underground, London Buses, the Docklands Light Railway, London Overground and other TfL operated services.

This offer expires on 11 Sep 12. In addition, we understand that all the Train Operating Companies serving London have agreed to provide free railway transport to and from London for those individuals travelling in uniform. This is a developing situation and we will keep you updated via this newsletter.



## Welfare Support

### Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi is now available at a large number of sites, including Hainault, Tobacco Docks Camp and Feltham. It is being rolled out to all other locations where Op OLYMPICS troops are accommodated. Just locate the network using your smartphone or laptop and log on. It's as simple as that!

### Logistics

The feeding of troops supporting the Olympic Games requires a gargantuan effort. With 37 military sites supporting 11 venues within the London area, this is a serious CSS operation! Around 270 military chefs have descended on London to feed 7,800 (and rising) personnel of all services. Our ability to handle fast-balls was tested with the creation of a 2,500 bed improvised camp in Tobacco Dock, Wapping, in world record winning time, 8 days from flash to bang!

Over the next 3 weeks, this site alone will see some 70,000 eggs fried, 280,000 brews made and 51 chefs from 22 different units to provide you with high class food and catering support.

Op OLYMPICS has again seen military chefs step up to the plate and provide the Commander with commendable Flexibility, Foresight, Agility, Co-operation, Efficiency and Simplicity. Now the forces are arriving, the procedures are being tested and the Games are well and truly under starter's orders, the largest military 'cook off' in our serving living memory is about to begin.



## London Update

Commander Joint Military Command (London) (JMC(L)) places welfare in his top 3 priorities. His intent is to improve the quality of life of those deployed on Op OLYMPICS, many of whom have been deployed at short notice and from overseas locations. This is being achieved initially in these 3 areas:

- **Communications.** In addition to the Wi-Fi service, phone cards and mobiles will be provided for those who have deployed from Germany.
- **Normalisation from operations.** Comforts such as televisions, electronic games and newspapers have been made available at all London locations. This helps SP relax in a familiar and non-operational environment giving some respite from the long hours worked. Gym packs and facilities have been placed where there are the highest concentrations of SP serving for the longest periods of time. This has proved to be very popular. Other local initiatives have been funded to give SP access to local gyms and swimming pools.
- **Commander's Welfare Fund.** JMC(L) is taking full advantage of the CWF. Units have come forward with imaginative ideas for welfare support, ranging from the purchase of coffee machines through to a barber service. Other plans include live shows performed by musicians from the Corps of Army Music, and tickets to some Olympic Games pre-events, rehearsals and competitions.

## Future Welfare Matters

If you have suggestions for improving the welfare of SP deployed on Op OLYMPICS, raise them to your commander. The money is there to support initiatives that are demonstrably in support of your welfare and it is important to use it in the best way. If you want to learn more about the welfare available to support you, or if you've got a great idea to improve welfare support, tell us what you want and we'll update you in the next Welfare Newsletter.

**Email your requests to [SJC\(UK\)-Olympics-J1-SO2 \(MULTIUSER\)](mailto:SJC(UK)-Olympics-J1-SO2 (MULTIUSER)).**