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desider

the magazine for defence equipment and support



Key milestones for the deterrent programme

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cover image



HMS Vengeance leaves Devonport following her successful refit

desider

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Printing:

 **WILLIAMS LEA**
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FOREWORD

By Tony Douglas, CEO

Having now spent a month in post as CEO, it gives me great pleasure to introduce this first issue of desider in 2016. I hope you all had an enjoyable break and are ready for the year ahead.

During my first month, and throughout my three-month introduction to DE&S, I have been incredibly impressed by our people who are nothing short of amazing. Their knowledge and energy continues to impress me.

Last year was particularly positive for DE&S with the clarity on our key priorities for the next 10 years outlined in the SDSR released in November, and DE&S transformation starting to take hold.

In addition we've had a number of recent achievements to be very proud of which include the significant milestones reached by both the Prince of Wales and Queen Elizabeth carrier projects, as well as the completion of a long overhaul period for HMS Vengeance. We have, and continue to, deliver the best equipment and support for our Armed Forces customers.

It doesn't stop there, the future, and immediate year ahead, is exciting for DE&S as we align ourselves to the requirements set out in the SDSR, together with Transformation continuing to make good progress and ensure we are 'match fit' by 2017. I look forward to our journey ahead.

As we move forward, we will always encounter obstacles in our path. However, I see these as opportunities for DE&S rather than challenges – opportunities for us to 'get better at getting better' and in particular fine-tune our delivery for our customers and the UK taxpayer.

It is an absolute privilege to be part of the DE&S journey, to listen, lead and work closely with our people to deliver the best for our Armed Forces customers.

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ROGER WEST, Director Logistics Delivery, talks to Desider about his career to date, the logistics commodities and services transformation, and the formation of the new logistics delivery operating centre



“
Our achievements would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and commitment of our staff.

Roger West

In the three years I've been at DE&S, I've been fortunate enough to contribute to a number of different roles across the organisation. I started in January 2013 as an interim manager responsible for the Inventory Management Transformation project, which later in that year migrated into the operating centre Director for the newly established Inventory Management operating centre.

I represented the land domain in selecting our Managed Service Provider, and I led the final stages of the Logistics Commodities and Services Transformation project [LCS(T)], before setting up the new Logistics Delivery Operating Centre (LDOC) which I'm now delighted to lead.

I've been lucky in my career, as I have been able to satisfy my thirst for a challenge and the opportunity for change. I've worked for some great organisations including IBM, Asda, C&L, and also had the opportunity to work in the public sector.

I really enjoy working in energetic teams to improve efficiencies and deliver value. I am passionate about this, and in the last 10 years that energy has been focussed

on government. This was first with NHS Scotland, then transforming procurement in HMRC, on to procurement director for NHS Supply Chain, and of course now with DE&S. I think I've been able to make a real difference, which is tremendously important for me personally and gives me great job satisfaction.

One of my proudest achievements at DE&S has to be being part of the team that delivered LCS(T), which went live in August this year. I'm so excited by this massive step forward for defence logistics, and I can see lots of other opportunities we'll be looking to exploit now that we've got it landed. It's going to deliver savings of around £500 million, give us better infrastructure, and the ability to serve our customers better. Through the relationship with our delivery partner Team Leidos, it will bring our performance up to industry best practice.

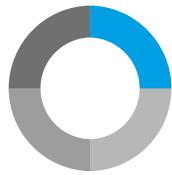
As part of the establishment of the LDOC, we've also brought defence support chain operations and movements alongside LCS(T), and can now deliver even stronger integration across our global supply chain activities.

Our achievements would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and commitment of our staff. As well as being fortunate enough in the last year to bring in some great new people, we've also had to wave goodbye to others, through the outsourcing to Team Leidos and the closure of our depot in Dulmen, Germany. I am grateful for everyone's contribution.

LDOC has some 900 staff. We're also responsible for the British Forces Post Office, food and fuel procurement, a range of change projects and the Disposal Services Authority, which sells or disposes of all our surplus equipment - anything from the HMS Illustrious carrier to clothing.

2015 was a great year for us, and we're now starting to play our part fully in the DE&S transformation with Spiral 1. I want LDOC to be a truly customer-focussed team, willing and able to set a new direction for military logistics, and comfortable to challenge and break a few sacred cows along the way.

Auf Wiedersehen Dülmen: See page 12



A growing threat requires a resourceful response.

It could be secreted in a piece of old water pipe, an oil drum or perhaps a slight depression on a road surface. Identifying and dealing with improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, is a highly specialised job. Should the global trend continue, over 10,000 of these devices will be deployed annually by 2017, posing continuing danger to lives and normality.

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Above:
Artful arriving at
Faslane

The third of seven new Astute Class attack submarines, Artful, has officially been handed over to the Royal Navy.

Until now the submarine was owned by Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) but the boat and her crew will now be added to the Royal Navy Fleet alongside the Navy's other units.

Defence Minister Philip Dunne said: "The handover of Artful to the Royal Navy is another major step in the Astute Class submarine programme, which continues to gather pace."

"These attack submarines will provide the Royal Navy with the most technologically advanced submarine Britain has ever sent to sea and will be a vital part of UK security for decades to come."

"They are being funded by our growing Defence budget and our £178 billion investment in equipment, which is delivering the very best possible kit to our Armed Forces."

Rear Admiral Mike Wareham, Director Submarines Acquisition at DE&S, the MOD's procurement organisation, said: "The handover of Artful to the Royal Navy is a proud moment for DE&S reflecting a key milestone and a significant achievement in the Astute programme."

The handover of Artful to the Royal Navy is a proud moment for DE&S reflecting a key milestone and a significant achievement in the Astute programme.

Rear Admiral Mike Wareham

"It follows a number of sea trials which have successfully demonstrated the submarine's capability and means she can now begin to prepare for operations with the Royal Navy."

Following her handover on December 10, the next milestone for the boat will be an official commissioning ceremony in March

2016, where her sponsor, Lady Amanda Zambellas, will formally welcome Artful into the fleet in the home of the UK Submarine Service, HM Naval Base Clyde.

Lady Zambellas said: "This is a really important milestone in the life of Artful as she takes her place in the Fleet under the White Ensign. I am extremely proud of my association with the submarine and look forward to her commissioning next year when I will also meet the Ship's Company that will take her on operations around the world."

Artful is one of seven Astute class submarines being built for the Royal Navy by BAE Systems Marine Services (BAES(MS)) in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, which are progressively replacing the Trafalgar Class submarines.

HMS Astute, HMS Ambush, and now Artful, are the first of the Class to be accepted by Navy Command, which is responsible for operating all of the Royal Navy's vessels.

The next three submarines in the Class, Audacious, Anson and Agamemnon are currently being built in Barrow, with the unnamed Boat 7 to follow.



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Simulating the fog of war

The creative team at DE&S travelled to Salisbury Plain training area to work alongside the Defence General Munitions Project Team and the Assault Pioneer Platoon, Land Warfare Centre, Warminster.

The team's remit was to provide a training film aimed at helping improve the safe operation and maintenance of the latest version of the Large Area Screening Systems (LASS) that has been in use from the late 1980s.

LASS generates a thick blanket

of smoke, more accurately described as an "airborne particulate mist", for battlefield training purposes from either a stationary or mobile platform.

A smoke screen up to 2km long can be produced within a few minutes and, assuming weather conditions are suitable, this screen can be maintained for many hours to create a 'literal' fog of war over a wide area. The screen is totally non-toxic.

LASS allows soldiers to train in realistic operational conditions

and it permits units to test the effectiveness of their command and control in this confusing environment.

LASS units are used both in the UK and at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in Canada.

BATUS is the British Army's largest armoured training facility which is equivalent in size to the combined area of all the main training areas used by the British Army in the UK and Europe.



Disorientating: A Smoke screen up to 2km long can be produced in just a few minutes





Auf Wiedersehen Dülmen

More than £4 million pounds of stock has already been returned to the UK from a huge depot in Germany after the decision was taken to reduce British Forces in the country.

The Dülmen depot in Germany, known as Tower Barracks, is operated by the Logistics Delivery Operating Centre (LDOC) and employs five DE&S civilian staff, including Tony Bland who as Head of Establishment is responsible for site management and the delivery of the drawdown.

For nearly five decades it has received, stored, maintained, issued and distributed non explosive materiel on behalf of the UK's Armed Forces.

Following the 2010 Strategic Defence & Security Review (SDSR) decision to drawdown British Forces

Germany (BFG) by 2020, it was concluded that the Dülmen depot would no longer be operationally justifiable to service the BFG requirements that would remain.

Work is now underway to return stock to the UK, or dispose of it locally, and the Dülmen Closure project team is on target to hand it over to the German Federal Authorities on 31 December 2016.

The team has established an excellent working relationship with the Head of Establishment, the German "Workers Council" and individual staff, as well as HQ BFG.

The success of this working relationship is partially down to the placement of Sabine Colgan at Dülmen to facilitate communication and, principally, support the

re-brigading process.

Sabine's role ensures the returning stock can be received by warehouses in the UK and that it fits in to the transition schedule of Team Leidos, LDOC's Delivery Partner.

Over the last five years, huge efforts have been put in to improving stock integrity. The dedication and professionalism of the staff has been evident as they have delivered this, their final task at the depot, to the same high standards that the team have always enjoyed.

With the support of staff at Dülmen, Project Teams at Abbey Wood, DE&S Customer Support Team (Air), Project Hercules and Land Equipment only the stock that is required to meet future needs will be returned to the UK.

Above:
General Sir
Harry Tuzo GCB
OBE MC MA,
Commander in
Chief British
Army of the
Rhine, opening
Tower Barracks
on 02 April 1974.

Depot opened on **2 April 1974**

Operational for over **47 years**

Employs **C.170** locally employed civilians, **4** civil servants and **1** military post

14000m³ of stock disposals have been sanctioned, **12000m³** of which has been completed

£416M of stock returned to the UK, so far, equating to around **8000m³**, in over **295** loads

£350M of stock disposed of to date, mostly using local German contractors

Depot covers **105** acres and **7** warehouses still hold stock

A photograph showing two men in blue work uniforms working on a large, dark metal industrial machine or aircraft component. One man is in the foreground, focused on a task, while another is visible behind him. Large pipes run across the ceiling in the background.

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QinetiQ

Two new high explosive facilities delivered

The DE&S Strategic Weapons Project Team (SWPT) has led the delivery of two new facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston.

Both facilities are part of the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme (NWCSP).

A new High Explosives Fabrication Facility (HEFF), has been licensed by the Health and Safety Executive to manufacture and store explosives under the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005.

HEFF will maintain the capability and capacity to manufacture explosives for the UK's nuclear deterrent for decades to come.

It replaces some 40 current facilities and their manufacturing equipment located across both the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites that have come to the end of their useful lives and consolidates them into one state of the art facility.

HEFF is a single, purpose-built, integrated structure, which incorporates industry-leading build standards to ensure safe operation and protection of production staff during the explosives storage, movement, handling and manufacturing processes.

Bringing this capability under one roof offers significant cost and time benefit for the manufacturing and

movement of explosives.

HEFF became operational in September 2015 and was the second capability to become operational under the auspices of the NWCSP within a nine-month period.

The first, again delivered to time and cost by SWPT and AWE Management Limited, was the Complex Machining Facility (CMF) at Burghfield.

CMF offers a modern, secure building with extremely effective environment controls dedicated to specialist, high-precision machining and the metrology of service and trials components necessary for the nuclear programme. CMF became operational in December 2014 and replaces facilities at Aldermaston that are over 50 years old.

DE&S Head of Strategic Weapons, Andy Mackinder said: "Delivery of both these major new facilities to time and cost is a significant achievement and is an exemplar of the benefits of MoD, with support from DIO and DOSG, working in a fully integrated way with our industry partner, AWE Management Limited.

"The new facilities will ensure that we are able to continue carrying out these crucial tasks to exacting modern safety and environmental standards as part of our mission to support the UK's nuclear deterrent."

HEFF is licenced to manufacture and store explosives



"The new facilities will ensure that we are able to continue carrying out these crucial tasks to exacting modern safety and environmental standards as part of our mission to support the UK's nuclear deterrent."

Andy Mackinder DE&S Head of Strategic Weapons

T&E begins here



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Minister for Defence Procurement Awards

The teams at the forefront of procuring world-class equipment and support for our Armed Forces have been recognised at the Minister for Defence Procurement Acquisition Awards.

The thirteenth awards – held in MOD Main Building in December – were presented by Philip Dunne recognising and rewarding excellence in the field of acquisition.

Six teams received awards with the DE&S Marshall Delivery Team receiving the Special Award for their outstanding contribution to delivering defence capability.

The winning teams were drawn from across the full spectrum of MOD acquisition activity, including in support of operation in Iraq and Sierra Leone, upgrading MOD-operated airfields, improved defence surveillance capability and getting the best deal for the taxpayer in rationalising MOD assets and estate.

Minister Dunne who was presiding over his fourth Minister(DP) Acquisition Awards said he was

delighted to attend the ceremony and "celebrate the spectacular job" DE&S departments do in defence.

"We had a wide range of teams receiving awards from different areas across the MOD," Minister Dunne said.

"What these teams have in common is that they are all delivering important parts of the defence business."

"The awards show that we can rise to some of the most demanding and challenging tasks that can be found in both the public and private sectors."

Paul Hamilton, COS PLUS (formerly Head of Industrial Policy) who chaired the judging panel said: "Every year, the bar keeps being raised; many good projects were turned down this time that might have won in previous years, because we want to keep the standard high and recognise those endeavours which demonstrate excellence in defence acquisition."

Every year, the bar keeps being raised; many good projects were turned down this time that might have won in previous years, because we want to keep the standard high and recognise those endeavours which demonstrate excellence in defence acquisition.

Paul Hamilton
Chair of the judging panel

Special award winners



Above: back row left to right, Justin Barrett, Gavin Plumb, Gp Capt Guswells and Dr Alison Mothersill. Front row left to right are Rachel Dunn, Nick Evans, Kevin Smith, Mick Brown, Min DP Philip Dunne MP, Tim Davies, Sharon Wilkins and Elane Pickering.

The DE&S Marshall Delivery Team won the Special Award for their outstanding contribution to delivering defence capability.

The team had to provide military terminal air traffic management services, fulfilling a critical element of the flight safety chain to ensure we protect our aircrews and meet our legislative safety requirements.

They consolidated over 70 contracts into a single service provision contract 12 months earlier than planned which will enable savings of over £1 billion.

Their work also ensured the safe operation of aircraft at 65 MOD-operated airfields and associated sites in the UK and overseas.

Mick Brown, the team leader for the Marshall Delivery Team, said: "It is a great privilege and honour to receive the Min(DP) special award on behalf of Project Marshall.

"Accelerating contract award by 12 months was extremely challenging"



Above: back row left to right, Paul Martin from Defence Support Group Sale & Outsource Team - DES, Nick Evens from Marshall Delivery Team with the special award and Paul Robberts from Communications & Intergration Team. Front row left to right are Richard Simms from Government Pipeline and Storage System Sales Team - HOCS - Defence Comercial, Mick Brown from Marshall Delivery Team, Min DP Philip Dunne MP, Gp Capt Rtd Nick Cox from C-130J Joint Team and Guy Hargreaves from Medical Delivery Team - DES with their awards.

and was only possible by the commitment and hard work of a large number of people in DE&S, in Air Command, and in Industry. I am very proud to be part of such fantastic team.”

Pete Worrall, Chief of Materiel Joint Enables, praised the Marshall team on their achievement saying:

“I am proud and delighted

that the Marshall Team has won Min(DP)'s Special Award for outstanding achievement in defence procurement. This not only reflects the Team's significant achievements to date but also reflects the superb support that we receive from Air Command as our Front Line Customer and our working jointly with Industry- Aquila (Thales UK and NATS) - to deliver to Air Command to performance, time and cost.”



THE WINNERS:

Government Pipeline and Storage System (GPSS) Sales Team – Head Office and Corporate Services (HOCS)

The team were tasked with the sale of GPSS and its successful delivery was a significant element of the Department's Asset Management Programme – a key commitment from the 2010 SDSR.

Richard Simms, former Head of the Defence Commercial Oil & Pipelines Liaison Team said: “To achieve all four key objectives of the GPSS sale was an outstanding success, especially given the roller-coaster ride we had over the six years that it ultimately took. Completion came as a mixture of relief, surprise and pleasure – probably in about equal measure!”

Medical Delivery Team – DES/ Surgeon General

The team delivered a multitude of diverse outputs over an intense four month period in support of Operation GRITROCK and the UK's effort to combat Ebola including the deployment of a bespoke medical facility.

Guy Hargreaves, the Medical Delivery Team Leader said: “We are all just so proud to have contributed in a significant way to preventing a worldwide Ebola pandemic, this recognition is the icing on the cake, noting of course the personal sacrifices and risks taken by all those combatting the disease on the front line.”

Defence Support Group (DSG) Sale & Outsource Team – DES

The team's sale of the DSG was under a challenging timescale and exceeded the expected sale price by more than £100 million. The sale will achieve £500M cost savings over the 10 year period.

Paul Martin the Service Provision Contract Lead said: “The award not only recognises the hard work to achieve the successful outcome but acknowledges the collective way teams worked together across the Department.”

Communications and Integration Team – Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl)

The Team were responsible for the innovative design, development, manufacture and maintenance of a vehicle borne surveillance capability. Paul Roberts Principal of the Special Projects Communications and Integration Team said: “This award is hugely appreciated as the team's dedication to the support and delivery of the capability has been outstanding. The opportunity for Dstl and industry to make a difference to operations is tremendously satisfying and for the stakeholders to reflect this with their support of the nomination is enormously appreciated.”

C-130J Joint Team – DES

The team achieved record levels of C-130 aircraft availability while saving around 20 per cent in support costs. These savings have enabled the C-130J force to support concurrent operations ranging from Nepal to the South Atlantic and the seamless redeployment from Op HERRICK.

Mark Thornton Head of the Air Transport Air to Air Refueling Team said:

“This award provides welcome recognition for this broad based team of their collective efforts to improve both value and Defence capability, secured during times of significant economic and military operational pressure.”

60 new RIB boats for RN

A £13.5million contract secured by DE&S with BAE Systems for 60 new PACIFIC 24 (P24) Rigid Hullled Inflatable Boats (RIBs) has been announced.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon revealed the news when he visited Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth, in December.

The P24 RIBs form a vital part of the Royal Navy fleet, deploying from ship or shore at speeds of up to 38 knots (44mph) as a rapid response craft to perform fast rescue, anti-piracy and counter-narcotics missions.

The high energy operations they perform means the strain on crews can be huge. To tackle this, the Pacific 24 Mark-4 RIB will include high performance shock absorbing seats which will minimise crew fatigue, allowing them to travel up to six-times the distance.

A team of 19 BAE Systems employees will start work in early 2016 to build the boats over the next four years at the company's small boats manufacturing facility at Portsmouth Naval Base.

New and innovative suspension seating in the P24 will also better protect against shocks experienced in high speed boat operations and exposure to vibration over longer periods.

Mr Fallon said: "These 60 new RIBs provide a vital capability to the Royal Navy and are a clear benefit of the £178 billion this government is investing in new military equipment.

"Built in Portsmouth dockyard this contract is not only good news for the Navy, but also for BAE Systems whose innovation has provided a modern design that will allow our armed forces to carry out operations ranging from armed boarding including anti-piracy and counter-narcotics missions to providing emergency rescue."

During his visit to Portsmouth Mr Fallon also discussed a huge programme of dredging set to begin ahead of the arrival of the new Queen Elizabeth Class Carriers at the base.

Taller than Nelson's Column and over one and a half times the length of the Spinnaker Tower laid on its side, the QEC Carriers will displace up to 65,000 tonnes of water when they arrive in early 2017.

To accommodate their vast size and bow design, over three million cubic metres of clay, sand and gravel will be removed from over two miles of Portsmouth Harbour, covering an area the size of over 200 football pitches.

During his visit, Mr Fallon took to the water to see how work is progressing on rebuilding the



Left: Defence Secretary Michael Fallon in Portsmouth

jetty that will be the home of HMS Queen Elizabeth when she moves to Portsmouth.

He also met employees from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) which is responsible for the jetty upgrade and for the dredging in and around Portsmouth Harbour which will widen and deepen the approaches for the two carriers – the largest ships ever built for the Royal Navy.

Commodore Jeremy Rigby, Naval Base Commander Portsmouth, said:

"I was delighted to update the Secretary of State for Defence on the progress being made in the Naval Base to support the arrival of the Royal Navy's new aircraft carriers. We are working hard to ensure the base is ready to receive the carriers by the end of next year. These are exciting times for the Naval Base and the wider Portsmouth area as we prepare for these ships which will secure the future of the base for at least the next 50 years."

The final section of HMS Prince of Wales: See page 21

Bottom: Pacific 24 RIB

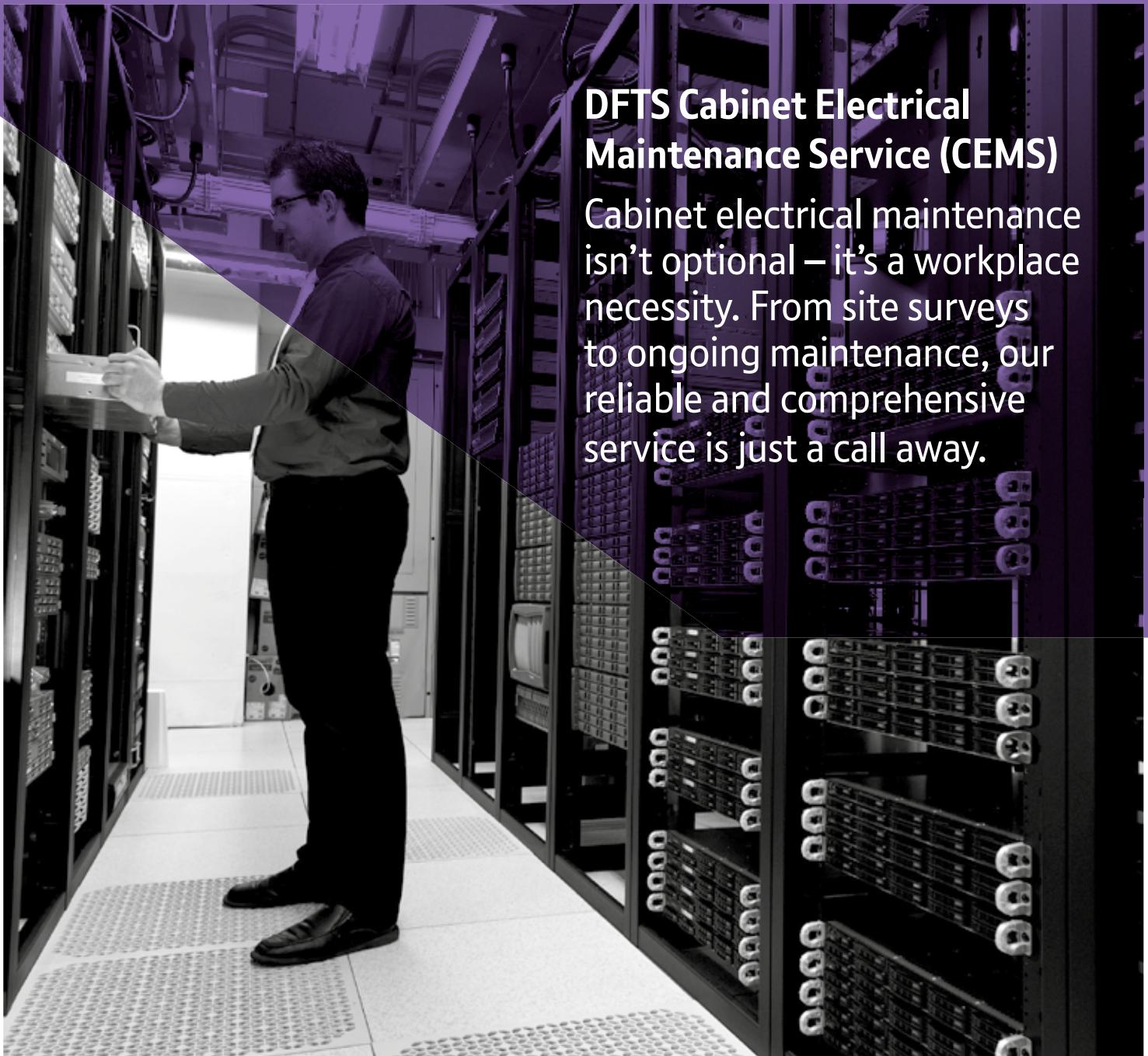
“The signing of this contract is not only good news for the Royal Navy and BAE Systems in Portsmouth but also for the Queen Elizabeth Carrier programme as these small boats will provide vital support on operations”

Neal Lawson, Director Ships Support at the MOD's Defence Equipment and Support





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AJAX contract awards

Two companies have been awarded contracts to help in the construction of 589 cutting-edge AJAX reconnaissance vehicles to the British Army.

Suffolk firm, Rockford Components, will supply electronic wiring and cables for the turrets and Kent Periscopes from North Wales will provide two sophisticated new periscope designs.

AJAX represents the future of Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFV) for the British Army, providing best-in-class protection and survivability, reliability and mobility and all-weather intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and recognition (ISTAR) capabilities.

Its range of variants will allow the British Army to conduct sustained, expeditionary, full-spectrum and network-enabled operations with a reduced logistics footprint. AJAX can operate in combined-arms and multinational situations across a wide-range of future operating environments.

Designed by General Dynamics UK, DE&S awarded a contract to purchase 589 AJAX for the Armed Forces through a £3.5 billion deal signed last year.

The first roll out of the vehicles will start in 2017 with production expected to complete in 2024.

The contract with Rockford is worth approximately £20 million and will secure jobs at the company until 2022.

Peter Lion, Rockford Managing Director, said: "We have been involved in the manufacture of armoured vehicles for almost thirty years and this contract not only allows us to grow our business but it also secures our involvement in the next generation of the Army's armoured fighting force."

John Oliver, Managing Director, Kent Periscopes Limited said: "As a UK based SME, we are delighted to have been selected to design, develop and deliver equipment for the AJAX programme. Over the last 12 months Kent Periscopes has been engaged in an aggressive expansion programme, adding significantly to its highly skilled workforce and opening new facilities. This contract award helps give us further confidence to move forward with our investment plans."

Corporate Risk Associates (CRA) has also played its part in supporting AJAX.

The UK independent risk management consultancy has provided personnel to work as part of an integrated team with engineers from South Wales-based General Dynamics UK, which is delivering the cutting-edge reconnaissance vehicles to the British Army.

CRA personnel supported General Dynamics UK in AJAX crew space design and assurance, and the completion of trial mock up vehicles prior to full production.

Jasbir Sidhu, Chief Executive at CRA said; "This was a huge opportunity for our business and we're extremely pleased to be involved in such a pioneering and innovative project that is designed to completely transform the armoured fighting vehicle capability being delivered to the British Army."

Described by General Dynamics UK as a 'step change' in armoured vehicles, AJAX will incorporate six variants designed to make it a highly-agile, tracked and medium weight armoured fighting vehicle. These include AJAX, ATHENA, APOLLO, ATLAS, ARGUS and ARES.



Below:
AJAX armoured
vehicle at DSEI 2015



Final aircraft carrier section arrives at Rosyth

Progress on the HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier continues apace, and the final section of the second carrier, HMS Prince of Wales, has arrived at Rosyth.

continued on next page↓

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon visited Rosyth last month and toured HMS Queen Elizabeth, and witnessed the warship's gas turbines fully up and running for the first time.

The carriers, the largest warships ever constructed for the Royal Navy, are propelled by an Integrated Full Electric Propulsion system.

Power is generated by two large marine gas turbine alternators and four diesel generators which collectively generate 109MW, enough electricity to supply 24,000 houses.

The four propulsion motors will take the giant ship up to its top speed - in excess of 25 knots, allowing the carrier to cover over 600 nautical miles in a day.

Each 65,000 tonne aircraft carrier will provide the armed forces with a four acre military operating base, which can be deployed worldwide and from which up to 40 aircraft including F35 jets, and Apache and Chinook helicopters, can be launched.

The vessels will be versatile enough to be used for operations ranging from supporting war efforts to providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief.

Days after Mr Fallon's visit, BAE announced that the 750 tonne Aft Island had begun its delivery voyage from Govan – 10 weeks ahead of schedule –

and arrived at Rosyth on December 18 after travelling 1,335 miles around the south coast of England.

Rear Admiral Henry Parker said: "This is the final piece in the jigsaw for HMS PRINCE OF WALES and the culmination of a lot of hard work on the Clyde."

"We are delighted to have all of the blocks finally in Rosyth and are looking forward to the Aft Island being lowered onto the flight deck forming the iconic shape of the ship."

The final section will control aircraft operations onboard and, once lifted onto the flight deck, will complete the iconic shape of the carrier. It will be lifted into place by the Goliath Crane, which can lift a maximum of 1,000 tonnes.

Minister of State for Defence Procurement, Philip Dunne MP said: "Our aircraft carriers, the largest ships ever built in Scotland for the Royal Navy, will help to secure the UK's interests both at home and abroad.

"Our new F-35 Lightning II aircraft will fly from the decks of HMS Queen Elizabeth in 2018. This is all made possible by our growing Equipment budget, which has increased to £178 billion, ensuring we are providing our men and women with the best equipment

possible."

Iain Stevenson, QE Class Project Director at BAE Systems, added: "To see the final section delivered to Rosyth, ahead of schedule and to an incredible standard of engineering is testament to the dedication, skill and ingenuity of all those working on the programme.

"There's more hard work to be done, but there's also an incredible momentum behind the programme as mission systems are tested on HMS Queen

HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales are the largest and most powerful warships the UK has ever built

Elizabeth and assembly continues for HMS Prince of Wales. HMS Queen Elizabeth is now very much alive and we're fast approaching the day that she'll make her first triumphant entry into her Portsmouth home."

Mr Fallon also said he was happy with the progress being made on the carrier projects.

"I'm very pleased to see Queen Elizabeth really taking shape now and getting ready for her sea trials, which I hope will be towards the end of next year, before she sails down to Portsmouth for final fitting-out and then over to the United States to collect the jets that will fly off her," he said.

"After that, she'll be ready to go out anywhere to sail the seven seas to defend us against our enemies."

To the end of October, the MOD has paid around £5 billion to Babcock at Rosyth and to BAE Systems on the Clyde and to the wider supply chain – boosting jobs and the local economies.

As well as visiting HMS Queen Elizabeth Mr Fallon also took the opportunity to visit key defence companies in Scotland to highlight the contribution MOD investment is making to its economy.

Over the next decade, the MOD plans to spend around £8 billion on conventional warships for the Royal

Navy, all of which will be built in Scotland. Alongside its sister ship the Prince of Wales, HMS Queen Elizabeth is supporting some 4,000 jobs and hundreds of apprentices in both Rosyth and Clyde shipyards, along with hundreds more in the supply chain.

During his trip, the Defence Secretary also met apprentices working on the next generation of Successor ballistic missile submarines at a facility manufacturing the missile tubes. Work on the Common Missile Compartment (CMC) for Successor currently supports around 100 jobs at Babcock at Rosyth.

While in Rosyth, Mr Fallon also met personnel who have moved into new temporary accommodation at MOD Caledonia which has been provided for the Queen Elizabeth's crew. A total of 302 new cabins are being provided, with all expected to be occupied by Christmas.

Mr Fallon said: "Scotland is a vital part of the UK's defence and will benefit from the £178 billion this government is investing in new ships, more planes, and new submarines.

"By putting national security first we are securing thousands of highly

skilled jobs across Scotland while keeping Britain safe."

Archie Bethel, Chief Executive, Babcock Marine & Technology added: "The build of HMS Prince of Wales and commissioning of HMS Queen Elizabeth is progressing rapidly here in Rosyth, and I know that the teams lucky enough to be working on this historic project are very proud of the progress made so far.

"We are now looking forward to seeing HMS Prince of Wales becoming structurally complete next year and HMS Queen Elizabeth setting off for sea trials shortly after."

Dedication plaque



Above:
Rear Admiral Henry Parker,
Captain Simon Petitt and Angus Holt

A dedication plaque which will sit under the Aft Island on HMS Prince of Wales was presented in December. Rear Admiral Henry Parker, Captain Simon Petitt and Angus Holt, HMS PRINCE OF WALES Delivery Director, positioned the engraved steel plate on the flight deck.

The plaque which features the three emblems of the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and British Army will be welded into place prior to the island being lifted onto the vessel's flight deck at Rosyth Dockyard. The Aft Island was built in Govan and arrived in Rosyth on December 18. A similar tri services plaque was also positioned beneath the Aft Island of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH.





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Key milestones for the deterrent programme

The rare sight of two nuclear submarines passing within metres of each other was witnessed at HMNB Devonport in Plymouth. HMS Vengeance and HMS Vanguard have reached important stages that will extend their life as the backbone of the UK's Continuous At-Sea Deterrent

continued on next page↓

Areinvigorated HMS Vengeance has left Devonport after undergoing a £350 million refit and refuel programme.

The three and a half year renovation involved over 2.75 million man hours and included an equipment overhaul as well as capability upgrades, such as the installation of improved missile launch and upgraded computer systems.

Following her successful refit she will

undergo sea trials before returning to fleet duties with the Royal Navy.

Cdre Mike Robinson, Head of In-Service Submarines at DE&S, said: "This has been a very good day for us. It is impressive to see HMS Vengeance leaving in such a very good state. I would like to take recognition of the hard work and professionalism of all those who have been involved in this project."

Naval Base Commander Devonport, Cdre Ian Shipperley said: "The refit programme for HMS Vengeance went really well, supporting

highly skilled jobs in Plymouth, which is very important for the local economy and for Devonport as a Naval Base. Everyone from engineers to logisticians play a crucial role here. We are a huge family contributing to the national effort."

As HMS Vengeance left, waiting nearby for her planned period of maintenance was HMS Vanguard. The £200 million contract was signed with Babcock and is expected to take around four years, securing more than 2,000 jobs and involving over 100 companies.

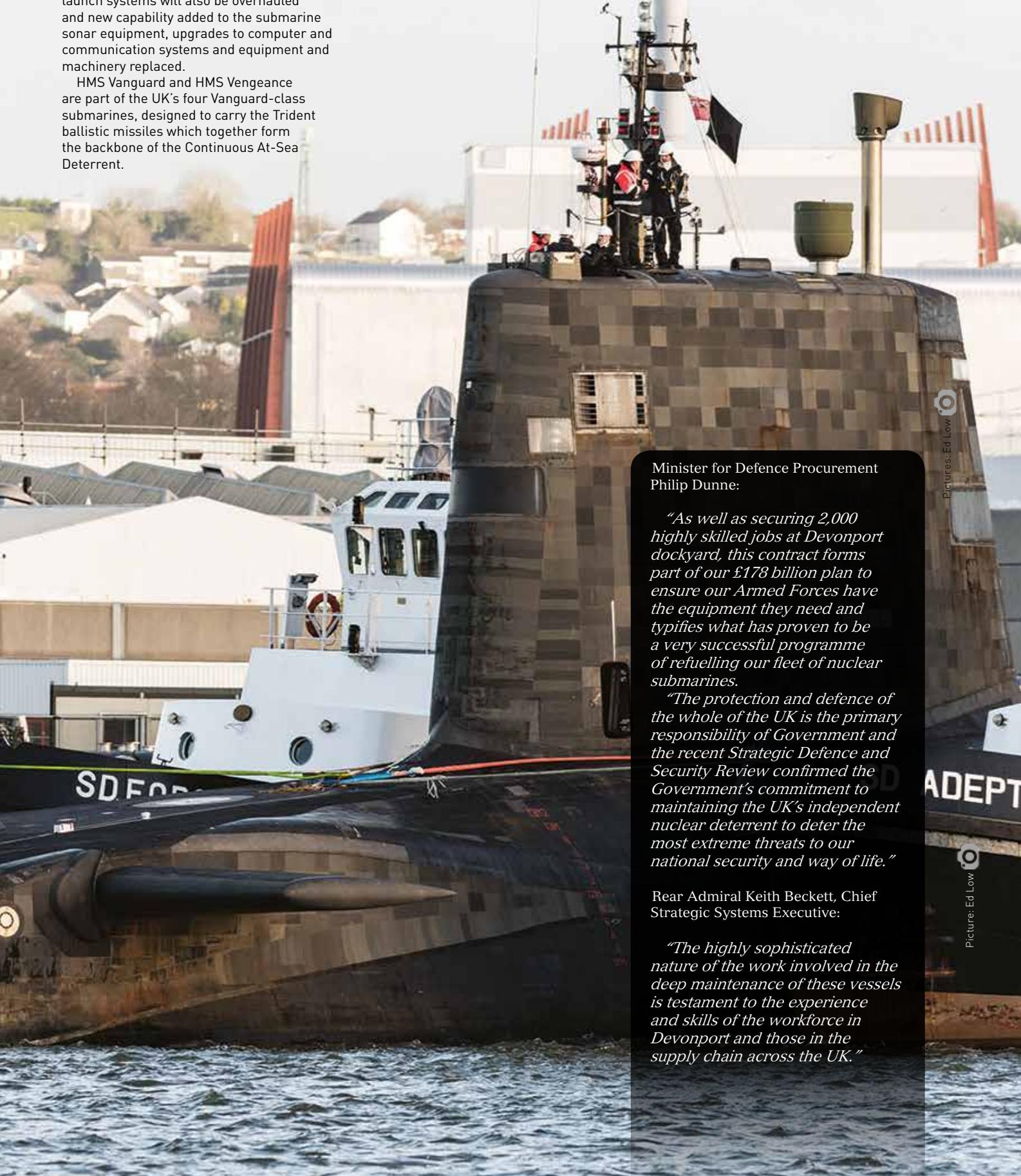
The contract will involve the replacement



Rare sight: HMS Vengeance glides past HMS Vanguard which was awaiting its renovation

of the nuclear reactor core, which powers the 16,000 tonne vessel. Submarine and missile launch systems will also be overhauled and new capability added to the submarine sonar equipment, upgrades to computer and communication systems and equipment and machinery replaced.

HMS Vanguard and HMS Vengeance are part of the UK's four Vanguard-class submarines, designed to carry the Trident ballistic missiles which together form the backbone of the Continuous At-Sea Deterrent.



Minister for Defence Procurement
Philip Dunne:

"As well as securing 2,000 highly skilled jobs at Devonport dockyard, this contract forms part of our £178 billion plan to ensure our Armed Forces have the equipment they need and typifies what has proven to be a very successful programme of refuelling our fleet of nuclear submarines."

"The protection and defence of the whole of the UK is the primary responsibility of Government and the recent Strategic Defence and Security Review confirmed the Government's commitment to maintaining the UK's independent nuclear deterrent to deter the most extreme threats to our national security and way of life."

Rear Admiral Keith Beckett, Chief Strategic Systems Executive:

"The highly sophisticated nature of the work involved in the deep maintenance of these vessels is testament to the experience and skills of the workforce in Devonport and those in the supply chain across the UK."

Picture: Ed Low

Picture: Ed Low



Picture: Andrew Linnett

Successful teams, role models and horses

A brief outline of your career.

I joined DE&S through the Royal Air Force, after around 20 years' service as a RAF engineer, where I did several tours, including the Gulf Wars and Northern Ireland. Gulf War I was probably the most memorable for me, because I deployed as the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Joint Helicopter Force Commander. We had several squadrons of helicopters and 1,100 people, and I was responsible for all of the engineering, logistics and life support.

I worked on the VC10 transport aircraft as a junior engineering officer and as the Engineer Branch and Trade Sponsor looked after recruiting, training and development of engineers in the Air Force. I was also Head of Media and Communications at High Wycombe. The last six years of my career I have spent in DE&S.

What does your role involve?

I look after several different departments: combat aircraft including Tornado, Typhoon and Lightning II, training aircraft and unmanned air systems. My portfolio crosses all four front line commands and Strategic Plans in the MOD, and key industrial partners. When it all comes together, it is exhilarating, and I can walk away thinking that was a good day's work. The biggest bonus for me is developing the team. When I see someone else learning and pitching something that goes down well, that is very satisfying for me.

What are your team's key achievements?

They have had a few lately. They have been able to bring together some significant deals over the last 12-18 months. We have managed to develop significant contractual changes around Typhoon support, saving serious sums of money, the UKMFTS team is in the final stages of a ground breaking service delivery contract. There have also been numerous deliveries on operations from the Unmanned Air Systems team and

the Tornado team have continued to support a really high-tempo operational piece, our customer performance has 100% green consistently. As far as I'm concerned the Operating Centre (OC) has absolutely starred, achieving some major capability milestones along the way, Lighting II being a good example of delivering several key milestones on the way to IOC.

What legacy would you like to leave for Combat Air?

Aside from business as usual, my focus over the last year has been around the Transformation process. I want to leave behind a more cohesive OC. What I want is to transform Combat Air so it has the confidence and resource to do its job. We already do a very good job, but we can do it more efficiently and more effectively. So my aim is to deliver, if not a completely transformed OC, one that is on the path to a new business structure, a new organisational model and a confident and highly motivated team.

How do you see your role as gender champion and why is it important to DE&S?

It is important to DE&S because we all need role models and we have several women in the Senior Leadership Team. I think it makes a difference to the dynamics of the Management Board, but more importantly to inspiring others. It is recognition that we got there through merit, not through a quota system, and it proves that anything is possible.

I mentor males and females, because it is about getting the right person at the right point in their career. Particularly in the engineering environment, there is a tendency to believe that, as a woman,

you have to be more professional, but I think you have to be as professional as the rest of your colleagues, male or female. At the end of the day, you just have to do a good job. DE&S is a meritocracy, it's not about being male or female.

What would you do to encourage more female engineers to join the Armed Forces?

I take part in a lot of events aimed to encourage more women engineers to join. We are getting our message across, but for me it is as much about retaining them as it is about recruiting, because as much as we can be equal about how much time someone gets off as parental leave, the woman still has to bear the child. There is more we can do to facilitate military and civilian female engineers returning to work at DE&S.

What are your views regarding the future? What is coming next?

Transformation is starting to take off, we are about to begin Spiral 1. People are keen to get on with it, so managing expectations and ensuring we don't run before we walk is a challenge. I would hate to see us rush into it and fail; it is going to be quite a cultural change. What happens next, is that we need to push Transformation outwards, towards our industrial suppliers and customers.

What do you do in your spare time?

I have recently bought half a horse – before you ask, both halves are expensive and dangerous. So I spend most of my weekends outside, either on the horse or on a bicycle, both of which I fall off with monotonous regularity!

"At the end of the day, you just have to do a good job. DE&S is a meritocracy, it's not about being male or female." AVM Sue Gray, Director Combat Air

Read more about the drive to inspire female engineers on page 34

OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE (OIP) TENT DEMONSTRATION DAY

ARoyal Artillery Barracks was the setting for a tent demonstration day that saw 13 companies exhibit the latest products to a group of Tri-Service stakeholders.

The Tent Demonstration Day at the barracks in Larkhill was organised by Modular Domestic Accommodation (MDA) Team from DE&S Operational Support Programmes.

It was put on to help stakeholders understand the Commercial Off The Shelf options available for replacing the canvas in the tents which form, amongst other things, field kitchens, dining facilities, headquarters, workshops and hospitals.

Nearly every Unit comes into contact with this vital equipment which forms the building block for deployed domestic and working accommodation.

General Service (GS) Tentage has been in service for over 50 years and its design has remained similar throughout its life, with only minor changes to the materials, parts and tent configurations.

It is still used all over the world and is required to protect its contents in a diverse range of environments.

The skin of the tent has traditionally been made from a

polycotton-canvas composition, but this historical specification has become more difficult to source and the Project Team has had to look for alternative solutions.

A Prior Information Notice invited Industry to demonstrate their products and groups of MOD representatives viewed each option from Industry separately. Some suppliers demonstrated their tent being erected from scratch.

During the day, the attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions and look closely at each solution, noting the strengths and weaknesses of each.

The comments have been collated and analysed by the MDA team to gain an understanding of the User perspective when formulating the Performance Specification with the Customer for the new contract. A new GS Canvas will be selected by the end of 2016.

The Project Team would like to thank Capt Oliver Pope and SSgt Ben Robinson of the Export Support Team, UKTI Defence & Security Organisation at Larkhill for their help and support hosting the Demo Day. Thanks also to the Industry teams, some of whom came a very long way to enlighten the audience on modern tentage solutions.

A new GS Canvas will be selected by the end of 2016



DE&S PEOPLE

Victorious MOD Abbey Wood Field Gun Team targeting new members

The MOD Abbey Wood Field Gun Crew beat all the odds to put on an incredible show and triumph at the International Military Tattoo in Birmingham.

The renowned competition sees crews race against each other on a flat track with an antique field gun, disassembling and reassembling it as required, before dragging the gun home and firing it - all in the shortest time possible.

The MOD Abbey Wood Field Gun crew was complimented by members of MOD Corsham's crew in Wiltshire, and competed under the name MOD South West.

They had just five days together to train in preparation for the showpiece event but despite this they excelled against crews who had spent far longer together.

And in front of more than 8,000 spectators, won the Saturday night race against teams from the Army and RAF, and triumphed over the weekend on aggregated timings.

Buffer Chris Clark has been involved in Field Gun competitions for more than 20 years. The buffer's job is to ensure the Victorian gun used is maintained and repaired, although

Chris's talents extend far further and his vast contacts book allows him to ensure the smooth running of the crew.

"Performing in front of a big crowd is always special," he told Desider.

"You are always very aware of them and you want to put on a show. It's a great buzz."

The trophy the crew was competing for was in memory of Robert Pascoe, an engineer and Field Gun crew member at RAF Cosford, who fell to his death during a hiking accident in 2013.

Lieutenant Rebecca French is both the Field Gun crew officer responsible for making sure all logistics are taken care of and a track judge, helping the crew strive for perfection and judging the crews they are up against during competitions.

She added: "The Tattoo was an amazing experience and a memory that we will stay with us. Robert [Pascoe] was known by a few of the team so it was also very poignant."

The Abbey Wood members of team, spent six weeks training together, dedicating around eight hours a week to honing their

performance which proved to be so impressive in Birmingham.

The team also take part annually at the prestigious Royal Navy Field Gun Tournament for the Brickwoods Trophy at HMS Collingwood in Fareham, Hampshire which is held in June.

And now the MOD Abbey Wood Field Gun crew, whose number one trainer for next season will be Lieutenant Tom Sheehan, are looking to recruit more members for the June competition so they can build on their success.

Crew member Leading Hand Vaughn Scott said: "Being part of this team is really special. The feeling of togetherness is wonderful – like a second family."

"It's all about working together to achieve your goal. You could have the perfect 18 specimens starting but if they didn't work together they would fail."

"Crossing that line together as a team is a great feeling and a massive achievement."

To get involved email Rebecca French at DESSEOC-Dir-X0@mod.uk



Above: The MOD South West Field Gun Team

The origins of Royal Navy Field Gun lay in 1899, in the Second Boer War, and in particular the 119-day Siege of Ladysmith. The British Army was besieged by Boer fighters in Ladysmith, 100 miles inland, but the Royal Navy courageously transported and then manhandled six field guns over rough terrain to help save the day. Since 1907, this teamwork, leadership, and moral and physical courage has been commemorated in the form of annual Field Gun competitions. Although the Royal Tournament ended in 1999 the equally historic Royal Navy Field Gun Tournament, first held in 1907, continues to be held annually at HMS Collingwood in Fareham, Hampshire.

DE&S PEOPLE

Picture: Mark Hawke



Ian Craddock LGBT Champion

Ian Craddock was deeply concerned to hear that members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT) community were surprised DE&S would even consider employing them. The married father-of-three is now an LGBT champion and determined to help change preconceptions.

As Head of the Helicopters 2 team Ian has regular meetings with the DE&S HR team and a few months back they highlighted a lack of a diversity and inclusion champion for LGBT issues.

He arranged to meet Matthew Pritchard-Evans who is a co-chair of the DE&S PRIDE network, a network established for LGBT employees

and their friends, families and co-workers.

It was a meeting that Ian found to be hugely inspirational, and following which he was keen to become the first DE&S LGBT Champion.

"One of the main reasons I wanted to do this was a story Matthew told me about people at Bristol Pride festival," Ian told Desider.

"There was a DE&S stall there encouraging people to join the organisation but people were expressing surprise that DE&S would be interested in employing members of the LGBT community.

"That concerned me and made me realise that we might not be able to attract some talented people into the

organisation simply because of their perception unless we changed our image."

Ian says his job as a champion is to offer support to the inspirational LGBT team already in place at DE&S and who established the network, and in turn to make sure DE&S are in a position to both attract and retain the best talent available.

"I believe there really is a need for us to support groups within our organisation that may not have a loud voice as they would wish to have," Ian added.

"As a straight ally and advocate for the LGBT community I now want more people to come forward and follow my lead. There are clear moral and business reasons to do more to support and to promote inclusion of the LGBT community."

On Thursday, February 11, between 12 and 4pm, LGBT is holding a meeting in the Terrace Room in CFB at Abbey Wood encouraging people across the organisation to consider becoming straight allies and learn more about why LGBT diversity and inclusion should matter to everyone.

Matthew Pritchard-Evans, DE&S Pride co-chair said: "Being a defence and military organisation, DE&S has a tougher job than most to promote diversity and inclusion against misconceptions from the past; especially in the LGBT community.

"It is fantastic to have a champion in Ian, who is willing to stand up as a straight ally and visually promote LGBT diversity and inclusion; both within DE&S and in the outside communities.

"Prospective employees inevitably judge a shop rather more than by what's in the window than by the sentiments privately expressed by the shopkeeper and so visual role models are the key."

Very busy time for BFPO

The British Forces Post Office (BFPO) was kept busy over the Christmas break with more than 600,000 packages being sent by friends and family to military personnel over the festive season. Defence Minister Michael Fallon helped kick off the flurry at the beginning of December when BFPO, in partnership with 32 (The Royal) Squadron RAF, loaded 20 bags of Christmas mail onto a BAe 146 aircraft, which was also tasked with flying Mr Fallon to Cyprus. For those deployed on Operations

and Ships in support, the Ministry of Defence provides its Enduring Families' Free Mail Service, which allows friends and family to send letters and parcels up to 2kg, and roughly the size of a shoebox, to their loved ones at no cost.

Colonel Tim Blackmore OBE, Head of BFPO, said: "Christmas is a very busy time for BFPO, and the team work exceptionally hard during the festive period to keep families connected, wherever they are in the world."



Above: Defence Secretary Michael Fallon

60 SECOND SPOTLIGHT

Name?

James Hennessey

Job?

I currently work for Soldier Training and Special Projects where I am a project manager for the placement of a cat B support arrangement for Surveillance and Target Acquisition equipment.

Your route into DE&S?

Prior to joining DE&S I spent 24 years in the Army. The first 12 were spent with the Royal Engineers, the second 12 were spent filming people up as an Army photographer. I initially joined DE&S in 2010 as a photographer but my post was cut after the SDSR. Luckily I had the opportunity to rebrand myself as a projects manager.

Your claim to fame?

Whilst working in Media Operations I was tasked to capture some video footage of the Prince Williams' final exercise at the end of his officer training in Sandhurst. I got shots of him storming a building through a window and was really close to the action.

What irritates you the most?

Some say I am always irritated/grumpy. The thing that really annoys me is people walking too slowly and getting in the way.

Your advice to anyone?

Don't walk too slowly.

What do you do when you're away from work?

My main hobby outside of work is diving and taking images whilst diving. The best place I have dived is Egypt and I plan to return there next year.

What are you most proud of?

Gaining a silver medal in the Cambrian Patrol. [A continuous 36-hour, long range patrol exercise which is run annually within the Cambrian Mountains of Mid-Wales which is considered one of the most arduous and prestigious military events].



Picture: Andrew Linnett

Below: James gets on with his ironing

Do you or someone you know deserve their 60 seconds in the spotlight?

Email tom.morris114@mod.uk

Your secret?

If I told you It would no longer be a secret.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

DESG Graduate Scheme representatives visit Welbeck Defence College

Members of DE&S' Defence Engineering and Science Group (DESG) have visited Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College to talk to current students about what the DESG Graduate Scheme can offer and to raise the profile of career opportunities within DE&S. The students benefitted from an insight into DE&S from a graduate point of view and gained a deeper understanding and appreciation into the type of work they could look forward to.

The students designed a helicopter landing pad that was at a minimum 10cm off the floor using a range of materials, stable enough to allow a remote controlled helicopter to land on and within a set budget. The tasks was similar to one they may be presented with whilst working for DE&S, but scaled down to allow for time and classroom size constraints. They were enthusiastic

and produced a variety of different design solutions.

The DESG team was represented by the DESG Manager Judi Hunt and two current graduates, Sian Griffiths and Aaron Jones, who had also been through Welbeck and are undertaking their first placements in DE&S.

Judi Hunt, DESG Manager said, "The DESG office takes current graduates on the Welbeck visits to add to the variety of information the students receive. Aaron and Sian were able to use their own experiences to relate to the students, tailoring their responses to what they would have found useful to know at the start of their careers within DE&S. In so doing they have helped encourage others to further consider what career opportunities the DESG scheme and DE&S can offer them."

After achieving their A Levels



Above:
DESG Manager Judi Hunt and two current graduates, Sian Griffiths and Aaron Jones

at Welbeck DSFC, students then attend an approved university under the Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme (DTUS), where they benefit from a bursary, undertake summer placements within DE&S and attend drill nights at their DTUS Squadron. Upon successful completion of their university degree they then progress onto the DESG Graduate scheme, where they will undertake 4-6 placements over a two year period before re-grading into a C2 post within DE&S.

Rachel hopes pinnacle achievement will inspire female engineers

Incredibly less than 6% of the engineering workforce in the UK is female. DE&S engineer Rachel Ashley is doing her best to change that.

As one of the youngest women to be elected a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers Rachel is keen to get more females interested in the profession.

At just 36 Rachel was elected to the pinnacle position in recognition of her contribution and achievements in the field of engineering.

Rachel said: "It was a proud moment. I felt my achievements had been recognised by my peers."

Rachel, a DE&S Air Command and Control Programme Support Function Team Leader, fell in love with engineering as a teenager when she did work experience at Birmingham Airport aged just 14.

"I managed to get some work experience in their engineering department and was on the frontline where they made sure faults were fixed on planes," Rachel said.

"It was pretty cool work experience

and absolutely fascinating. It really helped me form an understanding of what I wanted to do."

Determined to follow her dream of becoming an engineer Rachel took A-levels in maths, physics and chemistry before undertaking a degree in aeronautical and mechanical engineering at the Royal Military College of Science in Shrivenham – now called the Defence Academy.

After graduating, Rachel, a married mother of one, started with Airbus but soon moved to the MOD and has been with the department for 12 years.

She said: "The diversity of the career at the MOD is what attracted me. As an engineer it is a really interesting place to work."

"In my current role it's about making air traffic control and air defence systems as good as they can be and as user friendly as possible."

As well as working as team leader of systems engineers, Rachel is passionate about promoting engineering through STEM –

an outreach programme that goes into schools and colleges.

Rachel said: "It's important people get out there and change the perception of engineering as being all about getting grease on your hands."

"The last time I did that I was probably at Birmingham airport as a teenager. I have had a really interesting and varied career."

"A lot of girls are put off science because people don't see science as a topic for girls but that's not true at all. Therefore it's important for there to be role models who can go and talk about their careers and explain doing science doesn't mean you have to be a doctor - there are lots of other interesting careers out there, and I'm not just saying that!"



Above:
Rachel Ashley

DE&S Safety Day at Kineton

Defence Munitions (DM) Kineton rose to the challenge to do its bit as part of the inaugural DE&S Safety Day on 28th October 2015. A full and tailored day of events was put on for the 250 DE&S military and civilian staff at Kineton. The aim was very much to demonstrate our commitment to safety throughout the organisation: promoting safety culture to our staff and emphasising the theme of the event, "Everyone's role in safety".

First up to outline the context were opening addresses from DM Kineton Head of Establishment (HoE), Lt Col Mike Dempsey and the Chief of Materiel (Land) Lt Gen Sir Chris Deverell who was also present supporting the event. Following on the staff were split into two groups and then rotated throughout the stands for the remainder of the day that

stayed thankfully dry. Specific safety areas which were covered during the day were: transport safety, asset unloading, storage house safety, a 'spot the safety error' within an Ammunition Process Building (APB), the Design Development & Prototyping (DD&P) of safety equipment and an explosive demonstration. This latter event really drove home the power of the ammunition natures that are handled daily at Kineton. Lunch was taken in the Station 'HUB' restaurant which lived up to its name with an extra thirteen mini-displays for staff to visit during their lunch break. The stands culminated with an excellent Road Safety demonstration from both the DM Kineton Ministry Defence Police and the Defence Fire and Rescue Service; with the Christmas period looming ever closer the demonstration

was a pertinent reminder to all staff.

A very positive day was concluded with a prize giving and a closing address from the HoE who thanked everyone for all the effort that had been put into delivering the day and for all taking such an encouraging approach. He specifically gave mention to the fact that every element from across the Station had been represented and participated in the day, which assured him of DM Kineton's commitment to safety. The DE&S safety Day was an unequivocal success at DM Kineton that reinforced the message across the Station of the importance of safety and everyone's role within it and a day that had exceeded everyone's expectations.

DE&S Safety Day at Crombie

DM Crombie celebrated a Safety Day with talks and practical demonstrations covering various topics, such as personal, occupational, IT and even cycling safety. The event culminated in a raffle, prize giving and

feedback session. The day was a success and raised over £100 for charity in the process. One employee even arranged for the production of an appropriately themed cake. Alexander Brodie, Head of Establishment at DM Crombie, said: "The

variety of themes covered really brought home the message that Safety impacts on everything we do whether it be inside or outside of work."

Information Management Ways of Working Back in the Spotlight

Hundreds of DE&S staff benefited from a three day exhibition at Abbey Wood which encouraged employees to focus their attention on Information Management.

The second annual Information Management Ways of Working (IMWOW) event was staged by the Chief Information Office (CIO) in November.

Some information hub (i-hub) teams organised their own tailored activities to directly support staff in their areas, while the main event promoted key information management activities within DE&S, plus demonstrations of new and emerging capabilities in the field.

In addition staff received advice on their responsibilities towards current legislation, rules, policy and guidance on information management and data protection.

Elsewhere one application

explored was Defence Connect – a new MOD wide application – which allows staff/service personnel to easily find each other, connect, interact, and share their work.

Staff also saw a 'Live Lounge' demonstration of how various tools of the Defence Gateway such as Defence Connect and MODBOX can be used, put on by staff from the Support Enablers Operating Centre (SEOC) i-hub.

Another application explained was Defence Share which allows for rapid, flexible collaboration with all Industry Partners and external organisations, not just those that have connectivity into MOD networks and can be used to share official/sensitive information.

In addition the CIO Management Information Systems Team promoted the tools used within DE&S for Risk, Requirements and Project Management; ARM, Predict!, Doors,

Keypaq, Admis and EPM 2010. In particular they focused upon e-Solutions, the DE&S online directory.

And those present were also given a flavour of what is to come in the shape of an Office 365 demonstration, and housekeeping tips that will in the long term help staff prepare for the transition to the new IT system.

I-Hubs who got involved included the Information Management Team from Submarines - Strategic Weapons which ran a mini IMWOW in Rowan building at Abbey Wood and saw an increase in the completion of mandatory IM training as a result.



