

# desider

the magazine for defence equipment and support



**Lynx: A legend  
retires**



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Pictured: A Lynx helicopter over London at sunset during the final commemorative tour

**desider**

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# FOREWORD

By Michael Bradley, CEO

Just a month into the New Year and already a number of key announcements have been made by dedicated teams across DE&S.

Before addressing our most recent successes let me first talk about two events that happened last month that were highlights for me.

Firstly, on January 11 I was privileged to welcome Guto Bebb, the new Minister for Defence Procurement, to MOD Abbey Wood on what was only his second day in post. The Minister was very keen to visit one of our sites so that he could quickly learn about what we do.

During a Town Hall meeting, the Minister demonstrated how much he had learned about our organisation in such a short space of time and I know that since that first visit he has already had the opportunity to see much of the equipment and support we provide in use around the UK.

Abbey Wood also played host to the launch of the Primary Engineer and Secondary Engineer Leaders Award for South West England on January 22.

Five schools across Bristol participated, with pupils able to interact with some of our most innovative kit and speak with our teams, in the hope that we can help inspire the next generation of engineers.

This commitment to the scheme underlines again that DE&S is rightly passionate about inspiring future generations into core subjects and educating them about Defence. In years to come, these bright minds could play a huge role in delivering equipment and support to our armed forces.

In terms of some of our latest business delivery, the Puma 2 Gazelle team has agreed a £100 million deal to provide future support to the RAF's Puma HC Mk2 helicopters.

As well as maintaining the aircraft to ensure it can support ground troops and carry out humanitarian activities, the deal also sustains numerous jobs across the supply chain.

The Sea Ceptor missile programme, which has been procured to protect UK personnel against airborne attacks, has taken a significant step towards being accepted into service with the Royal Navy after a programme of successful firing trials.

The opening of two Operational Support Buildings is a key milestone in the innovative UK Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS) which will ensure the very best training for future pilots while also reducing the overall costs to Defence.

And most recently the acceptance of HMS Forth, the Royal Navy's new Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), was announced by our new Minister for Defence Procurement on one of his first major visits.

The 90-metre warship will soon be commissioned into the Royal Navy to prepare for maritime Defence operations including counter-terrorism, anti-piracy and anti-smuggling.

And on a final note let me congratulate those of you who were recognised in the Queen's New Year Honours. It was inspiring to see that you all recognised your team's efforts as a key part in your success. You have done yourselves and DE&S proud.

## SENIOR LEADER COMMENT

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## Air Marshal Julian Young, Chief of Materiel (Air), talks to Desider about his pride in serving defence, 2018 priorities and his career-long journey to work for DE&S



Picture: Jack Eckersley

I've been in DE&S for just over five years. The career path for most RAF engineer officers is to spend their early life in the front line and then later migrate gradually towards DE&S where they can apply their first-hand experience to support, new equipment and customer relationships. I spent most of my service career in the front line and was starting to think I would never get here!

In fact, I was so keen to make the transition that I applied and secured my first job in DE&S through external competition. I spent my first two years as Director Technical and then moved to become Director Helicopters for 16 months. I've now been leading the air domain as Chief of Materiel (Air) for the last 20 months, which is terrific fun.

Looking ahead, we have several big projects that will deliver new and substantial capability to the RAF during my time in post. Throughout 2018, the absolute priority is to see all of these progress positively. This includes F-35 Lightning II initial operating capability by December. It's the largest defence project in the world.

Additionally, we have our target to finalise Typhoon's Project Centurion by the end of the year. This will complete the suite of air-to-ground weapons onto the aircraft. We should also witness improved availability of A400M this year. Longer term, I shall see delivery

of the first P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to the RAF, which will be a significant 'time' achievement by DE&S and fill a big hole in UK defence capability.

Notwithstanding the 'uber projects', I get very excited every time we meet a milestone, as each one often reflects not just months but years of hard work. I know there's been a team who have delivered success over a long period to get there, and that's hugely satisfying and worthy of celebration.

On a wider scale, ensuring we fully embed transformation within the business is my next top priority. We've talked about it and planned it for all my time in DE&S, and implementing it remains a long-term effort. Changing organisational direction regarding new tools, skills and ways of doing things inevitably is going to take time, but early signals are that it is absolutely worth it.

Crucially, we must make sure the balanced matrix and functional management are successful. Top down, it will make us more efficient, effective and flexible. Bottom up, it offers new and positive career management opportunities for our people to develop career pathways, gain knowledge and expertise coherently and fulfil long-term potential. These are vital ingredients for us to deliver even more successfully to front line commands.

Internally, I chair the Safety Committee and I'm the champion for apprentices and

graduates within DE&S, both of which are great campaigns to support. Externally, my role as COM(Air) also gives me a seat on the Air Force Board and the wonderful title of the RAF's Chief Engineer. I also have an MOD-wide secondary duty as the Defence Engineering Champion.

We have 55,000 engineers and technicians across the MOD, and my small team and I are working to join up the engineering people activities across all four services, and to improve recruitment and retention across defence. These are all important roles, and it's a huge privilege to have the opportunity to give something back and to make a difference.

— “ —  
Looking ahead, we have several big projects that will deliver new and substantial capability to the RAF

— ” —

# £100m support deal for RAF's versatile Puma fleet

Just months after providing vital relief in the Caribbean, a £100 million deal to provide future support to the RAF's fleet of Puma HC Mk2 helicopters has been agreed.

The deal, which lasts through to March 2022, will sustain around 25 jobs at Airbus Helicopters UK Ltd in Oxfordshire at the company's base in Kidlington and at RAF Benson, where the front line squadrons are based, and many more across the supply chain.

The support arrangement will enable planned and responsive Puma operations to take place and ensure the maintenance of the aircraft as it provides support to ground troops on the battlefield and to civil and emergency services responding to disasters and emergencies.

Alan Draper, Puma 2 Gazelle team leader, said: "Achievement of this contract has required close collaboration between the DE&S team and Airbus, the prime contractor. The DE&S team also used new ways of working that are being embedded as part of the transformation programme being delivered across the organisation.

"This has provided insight and confidence that has helped the new arrangements be delivered on time and under cost."

The contract, which is intended to eventually provide support until the Puma HC

Mk2 out of service date, currently planned for March 2025, will provide technical services

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**This support arrangement, which embraces learning from the early days of operating the Mk2 aircraft, will ensure that cost-effective support is always available to allow the user to deliver the capability wherever and whenever it is needed**

Air-Vice Marshal Graham Russell  
Director Helicopters

— ” —

to support safety management and fault investigation and materiel support including repair and overhaul of major components. It

will also provide a training service for RAF maintenance engineers.

The Puma HC Mk2 was the first helicopter deployed to the Caribbean from the UK to provide emergency humanitarian relief to the islands left devastated by Hurricane Irma back in September 2017.

Deploying rapidly, the aircraft provided relief to people who saw their homes destroyed and helped deliver supplies and aid as part of the wider UK emergency response within 72 hours of receiving the call. Separately, the Puma HC Mk2 has been deployed to Afghanistan since 2015 as part of the UK's contribution to the NATO Afghanistan Mission named Operation Resolute Support.

Air-Vice Marshal Graham Russell, Director Helicopters at DE&S, said: "The Puma HC Mk2 is carrying out a vital role in troop transport, load movement and humanitarian operations around the world. The upgraded helicopters represent a significant increase in capability over the Mk1.

"This support arrangement, which embraces learning from the early days of operating the Mk2 aircraft, will ensure that cost-effective support is always available to allow the user to deliver the capability wherever and whenever it is needed."

Pictured: Royal Air Force Puma landing on Oil Nut Bay in the British Virgin Islands following the devastating hurricanes last year



# Defence minister announce



Pictured: Defence Minister Guto Bebb met with HMS Forth' Commanding Officer Commander Bob Laverty

Pictures: Jack Eckerstey

**D**efence Minister Guto Bebb formally announced the acceptance of HMS Forth, the Royal Navy's new Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), from manufacturer BAE Systems when he visited the company's Scotstoun shipyard.

The 90-metre warship, which was procured by DE&S and successfully completed her maiden sea trials in December, will now be sailed to Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth, where she will be commissioned into the Royal Navy and prepare for counter-terrorism, anti-piracy, anti-smuggling and other maritime Defence operations.

During his visit the Minister also announced key milestones in the UK's Type 26 Frigate programme - the start of production of the

next section of hull for HMS Glasgow - and BAE Systems' signing of a new £5.6 million contract to establish a Type 26 electrical testing facility in Leicestershire.

Defence Minister Guto Bebb said: "Thanks to the hard work of the Clyde shipyards, HMS Forth is now ready to join the Royal Navy surface fleet and begin the vital task of defending the UK and her interests around the world.

"Developing the Type 26 capability is also making great strides forward, reflecting the UK's commitment to this cutting-edge new warship, which will sustain 4,000 jobs in Scotland and right across the UK."

HMS Forth, one of five new OPVs being delivered for the Royal Navy, will enter service

—“—  
**Formal acceptance is a hugely important step in the delivery of any new ship**

Henry Parker  
 DE&S Director Ship Acquisition

—”—

# s acceptance of HMS Forth

Pictured: HMS Forth photographed during her naming ceremony last year



this year. Her sister ships – HMS Medway, HMS Trent, HMS Tamar and HMS Spey – are all expected to enter service by 2020.

The latest unit for HMS Glasgow, which will extend over two deck levels and house the ship's two large electric drive motors and associated shaft line, is now under construction and will weigh 132 tonnes once complete.

It will be added to the rest of the structure of the ship as it takes shape across the Clyde in Govan.

The newly-signed Electrical Integration and Test Facility sub-contract with General Electric, enabled through a £3.7 billion MOD contract for the first batch of Type 26 ships, will establish a centre in Whetstone, Leicestershire. This facility will allow critical power and propulsion integration and de-risking tests for Type 26, ensuring the Frigates have safe and effective propulsion systems.

The agreement, which follows a previous Design Development contract signed in 2016, brings the total committed investment in the facility to around £13 million.

Henry Parker, DE&S Director Ship Acquisition, said: "Formal acceptance is a hugely important step in the delivery of any new ship and the teams at DE&S could not be prouder to see HMS Forth emerge from trials ready for delivery to the Royal Navy.

"We look forward to continuing to work closely with BAE Systems to ensure successful



Pictured: Mike Holstead, T26 and OPV Head (centre) and Henry Parker (right), Director Ships Acquisition

delivery of the new OPV and Type 26 fleets."

Mike Holstead, T26 and OPV head at DE&S, added: "This is an important milestone for DE&S because it is the culmination of years of work aimed at demonstrating that the ship is ready to be handed over from the Shipbuilder. HMS Forth is a platform with a broad range of capabilities that will be used by the Royal Navy for a variety of tasks both in the UK and

around the globe."

Like her sister ships, HMS Forth will be equipped with a 30mm cannon and a flight deck capable of receiving a Merlin helicopter.

Displacing around 2,000 tonnes, they will have a maximum speed of 24 knots and will be able to sail 5,500 nautical miles before having to resupply.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## SPREADING THE WORD OF DE&S

DE&S promoted their engineering apprentice schemes and the organisation's commitment to being an inclusive employer when they attended a careers fair in Bristol.

The Bristol EqualEngineers Engineering & Technology (EET) Apprenticeship Careers Fair, of which DE&S are headline sponsor, was attended by more than 100 pupils aged between 14 and 16 from 30 schools across the south west.

EqualEngineers is the go-to hub connecting inclusive engineering employers and diverse engineers.

Pupils at the fair, held at 'We the Curious' in the city centre, heard from a number of leading engineering and technology employers looking for diverse talent for their organisations, and were able to find out more about apprenticeship opportunities.

Sam Cherington, (pictured centre), DE&S Diversity and Inclusion Outreach Consultant, said: "The Equal Engineers careers fair was a wonderful opportunity to engage a diverse cross section of talent for the next generation of DE&S engineering apprentices. It was a fun and successful day."



## BFPO CELEBRATE A STERLING 2017



The British Forces Post Office (BFPO) enjoyed a successful year with staff delivering more than two million kilograms of mail.

In all BFPO dispatched 2,038,573kg of mail in 2017, as well as processing 37,177 items of Defence Courier mail and more than 3,000 ballot papers for the UK's General Election in June.

In September the BFPO operations team delivered beyond expectations, when they were called upon to deliver items to HMS Ocean at very short notice in support of Operation Ruman – the humanitarian response to Hurricane Irma.

And during the festive period the RAF Northolt-based organisation dispatched more than 155 tonnes of mail and

delivered 7,872 Christmas boxes to boost the morale of personnel serving on operations at home and abroad.

In addition BFPO, which is also responsible for safely dispatching top secret mail (Protectively Marked Material), saw a growth of 11.45 per cent growth in the processing of Foreign and Commonwealth Office mail.

BFPO Head, Colonel Andy Moffat OBE, said: "The growth of online services continues to fuel the growing amount of parcels we are required to process, while Protectively Marked Material requires secure and sympathetic handling. The need to meet all of these demands in the most swift and secure manner remains."

## FUELLING OUR SUCCESS AT DE&S

The DE&S Defence Fuels Acquisition Programme (DFAP) co-hosted a successful 2017 Defence Fuels Seminar at Aldershot Garrison.

The event, co-hosted with the Defence Strategic Fuels Authority (DSFA) from Joint Forces Command, provided an invaluable forum for personnel from across Defence to discuss current challenges and future plans in the fuel environment.

Given the magnitude of activity in this space, the seminar was extremely well supported by more than 100 Defence fuels specialists and representation from both international and industry

partners.

Amongst others, the Seminar covered key topics including infrastructure/engineering, contracted capability, future capability, international engagement, technical issues and training.

Nigel Simmons, DE&S DFAP team leader, said: "The seminar provided an excellent opportunity for personnel working at every level of the enterprise to further their collective approach to the complex and vital task of providing fuel at the right time, place, specification and price for Defence platforms in each of the domains.



"This was a valuable opportunity for an often disparate professional community to congregate and share ideas; we look forward to building on this

success for next year's event."

For any queries regarding future Defence Fuels Seminars please email: [ACDSLOGOPS-DSFATaskTrack@mod.gov.uk](mailto:ACDSLOGOPS-DSFATaskTrack@mod.gov.uk)

## F-35 SIMULATOR WOWS CROWDS

The Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson experienced the world-class technology of the new F-35 in a Lockheed Martin simulator in London.

At an event held at the Institute for Engineering and Technology, the Defence Secretary was joined by MPs and journalists to see what it is like to fly and land the pioneering fighter jet which will protect British lives around the world.

The global F-35 programme will support 20,000 UK jobs over the 30-year production period and already the programme has generated over £9 billion for UK industry.

During his visit, the Defence Secretary also met with

representatives from some of the 500 UK companies in the F-35 supply chain.

Operated jointly by the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, the F-35 Lightning jets will fly from both land bases and the UK's new aircraft carriers.

Mark Thornton, Head of the DE&S Lightning Team, also attended the event.

He said: "This event enabled Ministers and MPs to experience, first hand, some of the technology which makes this a '5th generation' fighter and provided an opportunity for them to talk to the pilots who fly it and to some of the key UK industries behind the technology."



## FIRST SEA LORD VISITS MOD ABW



Admiral Sir Philip Jones, First Sea Lord and Head of the Royal Navy, paid tribute to DE&S staff when he visited MOD Abbey Wood last month.

Sir Philip celebrated last year's achievements, outlined priorities and fielded questions around ongoing programmes.

Addressing a packed lecture theatre, Sir Philip said: "Thank you for all you have done to enable the Navy to get as much of its capability out of the door. You are working so hard to sustain our people and our capability as we go forward."

He also celebrated some of last

year's high profile achievements and announcements around the Queen Elizabeth-class carriers, Tide-class tankers and Type 31e and 26 frigates, and highlighted that 2018 would herald more success, including the first flying trials for both rotary and fixed wing aircraft from the carriers.

Discussing priorities Sir Philip said his first was, and had to be, the successful delivery of operations, but that he was also focused on optimising the fleet around emerging tasks, and the resilience of manpower and equipment.

## DE&S ENGINEER WINS TOP AWARD

Chief Technician Robert Bates, from the DE&S Engineering Group software team recently received 'His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales Award for Services to Defence Engineering' from Prince Charles at a presentation ceremony at MOD Main Building.

Robert joined the RAF in 1995 as a Technical Apprentice at RAF Cosford, and has now become one of the pivotal members of his team at MOD Abbey Wood.

He is deeply involved in the DE&S Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programme as a champion, and as a STEM ambassador regularly goes into local schools working with

children of all ages on technical projects. He also champions Primary Engineering and GO4Set STEM challenges.

Outside work Rob has just completed a Master of Science (MSc) in Software Engineering, and is an adult helper at a Special Needs School.

Rob has been chosen as the role model to launch the DE&S internal communications campaign for Year of Engineering 2018, a cross government campaign to inspire the next generation of engineers and widen the pool of young people who join the profession.

*For more on Year of Engineering 2018 see page 27*



# Cutting-edge milestone for UKMFTS programme

A ceremony has been held to mark the opening of two state-of-the-art buildings that will help train pilots of the future to fly front-line military aircraft.

The opening of the Operational Support Buildings at RAF Cranwell and RAF Barkston Heath, in Lincolnshire, is a key milestone in the UK Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS).

They will be used by students from all three Armed Services undergoing Elementary Flying Training (EFT) and will house some of the very best computer-based training aids and simulation equipment.

UKMFTS is designed to provide an optimised flying training system that reduces the capability gap between training and front line platforms and optimises and reduces the time spent in training. This increases the amount of career time spent on the front line by British military aircrew and reduces overall cost to defence.

On January 16, the new building at RAF Cranwell was formally opened by Air Marshal Sean Reynolds, the Deputy Commander Capability and Senior Responsible Owner of the UKMFTS programme.

The structure, which will be used to train RAF pilots, was named the Sykes Building after Air-Vice Marshal Sir Frederick Hugh Sykes,

a former Army Officer whose fascination in military aviation was instrumental in the establishment of the RAF in 1918.

Air Marshal Reynolds said: "Bringing in the UKMFTS programme is providing the future



These buildings, represent an enormous success in the modernisation of RAF flying training

Air Vice Marshal Keith Bethell  
Director Combat Air



generation of military aircrew with the chance to learn in modern aircraft supplemented by the latest synthetic training equipment."

Just six miles away at RAF Barkston Heath, Rear Admiral Keith Blount, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Aviation, Amphibious Capability and Carriers), opened the second building, which has been extensively refurbished and will act as a schoolhouse for training Army and Navy pilots on EFT.

The structure has been named the Esmonde

Building after Lieutenant Commander Eugene Esmonde, who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for valour.

RAdm Blount said: "I am extremely proud to open the Esmonde building, which marks a significant milestone within the UKMFTS programme and recognises the courage and leadership of Lt Cdr Eugene Esmonde."

UKMFTS is a key MOD change programme, funded to 2033, and delivered in phases in partnership with the MOD's Training Service Partner, Ascent Flight Training.

Air Vice Marshal Keith Bethell, Director Combat Air at DE&S, attended the event.

He said: "It was a privilege to be part of the opening of these buildings, which represent an enormous success in the modernisation of RAF flying training. These facilities are the culmination of a tremendous amount of planning and development, and all those involved should feel proud of what they have achieved. Their efforts have ensured that the RAF can continue to provide globally acclaimed flying training at RAF Cranwell."

Dave Boden, Ascent Managing Director, added: "The UKMFTS programme is bringing in some fantastic new facilities, equipment and aircraft which will help deliver the world class flying training system our military aircrew deserve. The facilities opened at RAF Cranwell and Barkston Heath represent a major milestone on that journey."



Pictured: Rear Admiral Keith Blount opens the Esmonde Building

Pictures: Audacious during her first dive at BAE System's Devonshire Dock at Barrow-in-Furness



# Audacious achieves first dive

The fourth of the Royal Navy's powerful new Astute class submarines – Audacious – has achieved a significant milestone by successfully completing her first dive.

Known as a 'trim and basin dive', the two-day procedure took place in January at BAE Systems' Devonshire Dock at Barrow-in-Furness, in Cumbria.

The operation saw the high tech submarine submerge fully under water for the first time, enabling the mixed Royal Navy, DE&S and BAE Systems team on board to test many of the vessel's systems.

The dive was a crucial milestone, as it allowed engineers to calculate the submarine's precise weight and centre of gravity.

Some 16 tonnes of lead were taken on board and moved across the width of the vessel so naval architects could confirm their calculations. The crew then dived 15 metres underwater to prove the safety and stability of the 7,400 tonne, 97 metre-long attack submarine.

Stephen Rose, the Astute Team Leader, said: "This represents the successful delivery of a significant milestone in the programme which culminates in the delivery of Audacious to the fleet. I am extremely grateful to the Submarine Production Team, and those across both MOD and industry, for pulling together to deliver - and I recognise the efforts by all concerned."

Officially named in December 2016 and



launched in April last year, Audacious is scheduled to leave Barrow for sea trials later this year.

Captain Scott Bower, Commanding Officer of Audacious, said: "It was a considerable privilege to take control of Audacious for the first time during the trial. Yet as Commanding Officer I recognise this was a combined effort across the submarine enterprise, pulling together Ship's and MOD staff, BAE and a range of contractors to achieve success. The completion of this successful trial brings great

satisfaction to all involved and puts Audacious significantly closer to joining the fleet."

HMS Astute, HMS Artful and HMS Ambush are already in service with the Royal Navy. Boats 5 and 6 – Anson and Agamemnon – along with a yet un-named seventh Astute class submarine are in different stages of construction at the Barrow site.

On completion of her sea trials, Audacious is due to join her three sister Astute class vessels at HM Naval Base Clyde, the home of the UK submarine service.



Pictured: Minister for Defence Procurement Guto Bebb meets DE&S CEO Michael Bradley (centre) and DE&S chairman Paul Skinner

Picture: Andrew Linnett

# New Min DP visits ABW

Just two days into his new role as Minister for Defence Procurement, Guto Bebb visited MOD Abbey Wood to learn more about how DE&S procures and supports the very best equipment for our Armed Forces.

Mr Bebb, MP for Aberconwy in North Wales, addressed staff during a Town Hall and opened his speech by saying it was a “surprise but a great honour” to receive a call from the Prime Minister asking him to take up the position. He also paid tribute to his predecessor Harriett Baldwin, who has been promoted to Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

Mr Bebb said: “It is a privilege to be here and also to be in this position because I know how important it is.

“I am aware of the fact I have a learning curve ahead of me and that is why I need to work with you, with your management teams and you as individuals because I know that your expertise will be crucial to my ability to deliver in my position.

“It is humbling to be aware of the fact that, as I speak here, we have service personnel across the world protecting our country, contributing to a safer globe whether within Iraq, Afghanistan or Estonia dealing with all the tribulations. I have also been genuinely taken aback by the contribution some of our

submariners are currently making.”

He added: “The job that you are doing here to support those personnel is so crucial. We

— “ —

**The job that you are doing here to support those personnel is so crucial. We need to understand that we are all here in order to ensure our Armed Services have the best equipment and the best support that we can provide**

Guto Bebb  
Minister for Defence Procurement

— ” —

need to understand that we are all here in order to ensure our armed services have the

best equipment and the best support that we can provide.

“When we are not providing that, not doing that properly, when we are creating problems that can be avoided, then you need to be telling me where we are going wrong.

“Our armed services could not be sailing, flying or driving all over the globe without your support. You are a crucial part of what makes our armed services tick.”

Mr Bebb said DE&S also played a crucial role in the economic regeneration of the UK and recalled his pleasure at visiting the General Dynamics factory in Merthyr Tydfil and meeting apprentices recruited from the local community who were working in a highly skilled environment.

He also touched upon recent and upcoming successes at DE&S, including the delivery of the new aircraft carrier, progress of the Type 26 frigate build, deliveries of UK F-35 fighter jets and Sea Ceptor missile trials. He noted that such accomplishments, while undergoing a challenging transformation programme, showed “a level of dedication, commitment and expertise that bodes well for the future.”

Mr Bebb concluded: “Whilst I am in this role I will give 100 per cent because that is what you all give all the time and that is the least our armed services deserve.”

The logo for SSVC (Services Sound & Vision Corporation) is located in the top right corner. It consists of the letters 'SSVC' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by a circular icon with a blue center and a white outer ring. Below the letters, the full name 'SERVICES SOUND & VISION CORPORATION' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

**SSVC**

SERVICES SOUND & VISION CORPORATION

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a woman with dark hair sitting at a desk, looking towards the right. She is wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt. In the foreground, a person is seen from the back, wearing a plaid shirt and headphones, holding a camera on a tripod. The camera is pointed at the woman at the desk. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

# DIGITAL MEDIA TRAINING

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# Inspiring bright minds of t

Pictured: (left to right) Harry Fox, Emilia Young, Air Marshal Julian Young, Nyle Hussey, Staff Sergeant Marc Eddon and Daisy Hunt with Dragon Runner



Primary and secondary school children from in and around Bristol were given the chance to get hands-on with some of DE&S's most innovative kit when they visited MOD Abbey Wood to be inspired about engineering.

Children from Meadowbrook, May Park, West Town Lane and King's Oak Primary schools, along with secondary school children from King's Oak Academy, got the chance to see, interact with and ask questions about some of the equipment engineers in DE&S project teams have been working on.

The kit included the handheld nano surveillance helicopter Black Hornet, the

unmanned air vehicle Desert Hawk III, the multi-terrain bomb disposal robot Dragon Runner, a single seat liferaft and the Virtus body armour system.

The event was held to support the Primary Engineer and Secondary Engineer Leaders Award for South West England, which is a competition, this year funded by DE&S, to help promote the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in schools.

DE&S' support of the competition is just one way the organisation is linking into the launch of the Year of Engineering – a national campaign to inspire the next generation of



# he future



engineers and widen the pool of young people who join the profession.

School pupils have been asked to identify a problem in every-day life and design a solution to it in response to the question, 'If you were an engineer, what would you do?'

Bella Hunt (pictured left doing up strap), who attends May Park Primary School in Eastville won the Primary Engineer competition last year. The seven-year-old designed a mobile bin for her school playground and asked children to put their waste inside. Southampton University is now building her invention.

Bella, now eight, told Desider: "I don't like



Pictured: Harley Lewis, Elise Beaumont, Anish Basuthkar, and Zak Armstrong from Meadowbrook Primary School get to grips with Desert Hawk III

—“—

I really like vehicles so seeing Dragon Runner and Desert Hawk III was brilliant. It's amazing that both of them can provide different information to soldiers to keep them safe. I'd love to be an engineer if it meant that I would be working on projects like that

Zak Armstrong, 10, from Meadowbrook Primary School in Bradley Stoke

—”—

litter and I wanted a way of stopping children dropping it in the playground.

"I have come back again this year because I was really inspired by the competition. Being an engineer is definitely something I would like to be when I am older."

Zak Armstrong, 10, from Meadowbrook Primary School in Bradley Stoke, said: "I really like vehicles so seeing Dragon Runner and Desert Hawk III was brilliant. I'd love to be an engineer if it meant that I would be working on projects like that."

Paula Ifrim, 13, of King's Oak Academy, added: "I was particularly impressed with the Desert Hawk III and how it deliberately dismantles on impact with the ground to avoid major parts breaking on it."

DE&S engineers will continue their support of the competition by attending the schools and being interviewed by pupils about engineering and their designs before the competition deadline in March. This will importantly enable DE&S' STEM ambassadors to talk to school children about the importance



Pictured: Virtus body armour



Pictured: single seat liferaft

of engineering while also increasing their understanding about who DE&S are.

Air Marshal Julian Young, Chief of Materiel Air, welcomed the school children onto site in his role as Defence Engineering Champion and the lead STEM Ambassador for DE&S.

He said: "Innovative engineering is key to the success of DE&S and the way in which we support our armed forces and keep them safe. So we want the region's school children to be more interested in engineering.

"We are proud to be doing our bit towards addressing the skills shortfall in engineering across the UK, and promoting great career opportunities for our youngsters."

The winners of the South West competition and shortlisted illustrations from other schools will go on to be showcased at a public exhibition at the University of the West of England (UWE, Bristol) in June 2018.

The university's engineering entrepreneurs will also be challenged to bring one of the inventions to life.

Dr Susan Scurlock, Primary Engineer CEO, said: "The imagination of primary and secondary school pupils is given free reign when they are inspired by engineers, and DE&S have truly achieved that."



# DE&S staff recognised in New Year Honours

DE&S staff recognised in the New Year honours list tell Desider how they found out and what it means to them

**Captain Stephen Thompson** – DE&S Ship Acquisition QEC – Deputy Head – OBE



“To say it was a complete surprise is an understatement. Unusually I happened to be at home the day the letter arrived so I signed to acknowledge receipt, but mistook it for something that my wife must have ordered online!”

“Needless to say I am thrilled and very honoured. There was plenty of emotion and phone calls to my wife, then mother, then the children.

“Telling mother was a calculated risk as she was bursting to tell the wider family, as well as the whole village, town, county and region!

“The award is for services to the Navy over

my 37-year career, but primarily for working in DE&S on the T45 Destroyer, the Surface Ship Support Programme and most recently on delivering HMS Queen Elizabeth.

“This isn’t ‘my award’ and when I’m presented with it I will be thinking of the wider team, those civil servants, military personnel and contractors whom I have had the privilege of working alongside and who, collectively, have achieved incredible things.”

**Lt Col Richard Garbutt** MBE – Puma 2 Gazelle Delivery Team – Gazelle Manager – MBE



“I have always taken huge pride in my military service, and to be recognised in this way after 27 years of service and only

four months before I retire is an unbelievable honour.

“It was also, without doubt, the biggest and best surprise of my life. When Director Helicopters telephoned me on Boxing Day I thought it must be to tell me there had been a serious incident.

“It was incredibly difficult to keep it under wraps. Everyone I met wondered why I was grinning like a Cheshire cat, which is why I tried to avoid people between being told and the formal announcement.

“I have not seen the citation, but I understand it is for a combination of my general support to Gazelle helicopters and the work I did to generate a Gazelle medical evacuation capability that has directly saved lives and £15 million.

“I am acutely aware that I am being rewarded for the extremely hard work and selfless dedication of a great number of



# New Year honours

individuals that support Gazelle.

“Similarly, I am very aware that DE&S is full of people just as deserving if not more so and that I am indeed very lucky.”

**Michael Prior**  
– DE&S Future  
Combat Air System  
team - MBE



“My wife was the first person to know. She was intrigued that I had received a personal letter to my home from the Cabinet Office and was incredibly excited, if a little relieved, once she knew that the content was all good.

“When I could finally talk about it, I was with my family in a remote cottage in Wales with limited communications, so we had a quiet celebration. It wasn’t until I was back in Bristol after the New Year that I realised the level of attention I would receive both socially and at work.

“The recognition is for work undertaken in my previous post for negotiating two significant PFI/PPP contracts for the Fixed

and Rotary Wing Training Services to ensure the UK Military Flying Training System delivers the original capability and benefits it set out to achieve.”

**Brian Davies** – DE&S Lynx Wildcat team - MBE

“Receiving the MBE was a surprise – unusually for me, I was left quite speechless. It wasn’t difficult to keep quiet about it, though, as discretion and security are part of our everyday life within the MOD. However, the first person I told was a very close friend and respected work colleague.

“The award is a recognition of my over 55 years of providing practical, safe, airworthy engineering advice and support to military aviation.”

**Keith Satchwell** – DE&S Ships Maritime Combat Systems - Meritorious Service Medal



“It was completely out of the blue so, when my bosses called me in,

my default setting was that I may be in trouble!

“The reward is in recognition of over 25 years ‘as an exemplar of service values and esprit de corps, providing meritorious dedication to the clearance diving branch throughout an extensive career’.

Within the Military and Civil Service I have been lucky enough to work with many exceptional people, so it is always an honour to be recognised by your peers and superiors in such a manner.

“Although I am the one who has been recognised, I feel it is a team effort.”

**Lt Col Andrew Gardiner** – DE&S Support Enablers Operating Centre team – Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff Commendation



“I knew that I was being nominated for something before I left my previous job in NATO HQ Supreme Allied Command Transformation, which is in Norfolk, Virginia.

“I was nominated for the work I had conducted during my last year in Norfolk. I was the lead for a fairly high profile review of NATO’s major exercise programme which had required engagement across the Alliance and up to Supreme Allied Commander level.

“Although honoured to receive the award, recognition should go to the team of subject matter experts, drawn from across the Alliance, who supported me throughout the review.

“Once the award was confirmed publicly I group messaged my three daughters. They were obviously thrilled for me although they didn’t all understand fully what it was.”



Receiving the MBE was a surprise – unusually for me, I was left quite speechless

Brian Davies, DE&S Lynx Wildcat team - MBE



## Also recognised

Warrant Officer 1 Robert Barrow – DE&S Ships Maritime Combat Systems – Meritorious Service Medal

Warrant Officer 1 Alan High – DE&S Ships Maritime Systems Support - Meritorious Service Medal

Warrant Officer 1 David Lloyd – Submarine Delivery Agency – Meritorious Service Medal

# Lynx: "A great servant to the

**A**fter 40 years of service in both the British Army and Royal Navy, the UK Lynx helicopter fleet finally reached retirement when the Lynx Mk9A aircraft went out of service last month.

A total of 232 Lynx aircraft have flown over 1.4 million hours since going into service in 1976. Over the years, they have undergone a number of different upgrades and enhancements which have created different capabilities in support of operations in Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Iraq, Yugoslavia, Libya, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, multiple hurricane relief missions, including the most recent one in the Caribbean, and many other disaster relief exercises in Antarctica, Belize, Canada, Germany, Norway, Oman, USA and Kenya.

In addition, the Royal Navy Lynx Display Team, the Black Cats, would amaze crowds all over the UK whilst the Army Lynx Display Team highlighted the agility of the aircraft, being one of the few helicopters that could perform a barrel roll, backflip and loop.

A further example of the versatility of the aircraft, on August 11, 1986, saw a specially modified Lynx set an absolute speed record for helicopters over a 15 and 25 km course by reaching 249.09 mph, an official record it still holds.

Harvey King, now a civilian member of the Wildcat Safety Team, first encountered the Lynx on 829 Squadron, RNAS Portland,

in September 1986 as a young field training apprentice.

At that time, the transition to an entirely Lynx Small Ships Flight fleet was underway, with the Wasp anti-submarine helicopter finally going out of service.

He said: "I started as an avionics maintainer on the Lynx Mk3, and the aircraft proved its versatility. As the substantial differences between subsequent versions were mainly avionics based, as a Lynx avionics maintainer, I had to be versatile too.

"More recently I am proud to have carried out the clearance to permit a bespoke role fit developed for the carriage of up to two casualties and the associated Airworthy Medical Equipment (AME) onto the Lynx Mk9A. This allowed the aircraft to carry out its medical evacuation role on exercises in Kenya and was included in the Release to Service, the document which authorised service flying for the Lynx Mk9A."

He added: "I have had many memorable moments with the Lynx, the standout one being serving on the HMS Endurance Lynx Flight in the Antarctic."

Staff Sergeant James Goldstraw, now a member of the Wildcat Transmissions Engineering Design Authority, has spent the vast majority of his 13 years of service supporting the various Marks of Lynx helicopter.

He said: "It all began with training at

the School of Electrical and Aeronautical Engineering in Arborfield, in Berkshire, where we carried out the Lynx type course on Mk 7s

— “ —

It was a nostalgic day when we said a final goodbye to the Lynx.

Over its 40 years of service the helicopter has proven itself to be a great servant to the Royal Navy and British Army

Air Vice-Marshal Graham Russell  
DE&S Director Helicopters

— ” —

to learn the aircraft systems. In time, I gained experience through multiple operational tours and exercises including Iraq, Afghanistan, Oman, the Falklands and California, to name but a few.

"My final trip away with the Lynx Mk9A was a five-month deployment, as part of

Pictured: Army Lynx Helicopter waits on the airfield at RAF Odiham before its final flight



# Royal Navy and British Army'

9 Regiment Army Air Corp British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) Aviation Support Squadron in Nanuki. The primary role of the Mk9A in Kenya was to provide 24/7 Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) cover to exercising troops training in the remote locations within Kenya and also to BATUK dependents and permanent staff. The secondary role was to provide range clearance prior to live firing."

Ssgt Goldstraw said to ensure that the primary role of MEDEVAC could be achieved, the Lynx Mk9A had to be developed to permit the carriage of up to two casualties and the associated AME. This enabled the detachment to carry out an average 10 casualty evacuations per month of patients with potentially life changing or threatening conditions.

"This is just one of many examples where the delivery team at DE&S worked with a Front Line Command to have a positive impact on so many lives," he said.

"This was my first exercise as a Staff Sergeant and it was one of my most challenging yet rewarding of my whole career. The Lynx, in its many guises, has been a huge part of my career and I will have fond memories of the aircraft, as I am sure all that have had the privilege of working with Lynx will."

DE&S Director Helicopters, Air Vice-Marshal Graham Russell, added: "It was a nostalgic day when we said a final goodbye to the Lynx. Over its 40 years of service the

helicopter has proven itself to be a great servant to the Royal Navy and British Army, flying over 1.4 million hours and providing exceptional support all over the world; its exploits are recorded in countless military histories.

"However, I am delighted that we now have the Wildcat to take on many of the tasks formerly supported by the Lynx. Wildcat represents a considerable increase in capability in terms of platform and system performance, and I look forward to seeing her provide many years of successful service to both the Royal Navy and Army, continuing in roles that the Lynx had previously made its own."

As a consequence of the retirement of the Lynx fleet, the Lynx-Wildcat Project Team was re-named as the Wildcat Delivery Team on January 1, 2018.

## Lynx Commemorative Tour

To mark the Lynx's decommissioning the Army Air Corps flew five of the last remaining airframes from RAF Odiham in Hampshire, where they are based, on a commemorative tour.

The flight, on January 16, took in some of the sites and locations to which the aircraft is most fondly associated including Middle Wallop, Upavon, Yeovil, and Wattisham.

It culminated in an impressive V5 'air procession' along the length of the River Thames over central London.



# A royally impressive model

**D**E&S apprentices have presented a spectacular brass model of the HMS Prince of Wales aircraft carrier to Prince Charles.

A team of nine apprentices from Defence Munitions Gosport had just three months to build the 3ft long and 6kg heavy detailed model in time for The Prince of Wales' appearance at the MOD Apprentice Awards which took place at MOD Main Building.

The apprentices were put forward for the task by DE&S Defence Munitions Apprentice Training Manager Lynn Wilkinson-Berry, who recognised the prestigious event provided an excellent opportunity to showcase their exceptional skills to a wider audience.

After obtaining plans and ordering the necessary materials, the team committed a remarkable 1,362 hours to the task, which they completed with just days to spare.

During that time there were various changes to the design and one of the apprentices even suffered a minor injury from vigorous polishing.

But the huge effort was worth it with HRH Prince of Wales visibly impressed and telling the apprentices his grandson would love playing with it.

It is the second time within six months apprentices from DM Gosport have presented a model to a member of the Royal Family. In July 2017 they presented Princess Anne with a brass model of a Sopwith Camel when she visited their engineering college in Hampshire.

— “ —  
**I was very proud to be involved in such an important day**

George Ballard  
 Co-leader of the project

— ” —  
 Apprentice Matt Harrison, the aircraft carrier model project leader, said: “It was an amazing experience to present a gift to another member of the Royal Family. Even more so because it was a model of His Royal Highness' own ship. He was very appreciative of the gift and went on to ask us about our work within the MOD.”



George Ballard, co-leader of the project, said: “I was very proud to be involved in such an important day. Being involved in making the Prince of Wales Carrier for HRH Prince Charles and being able to present it to him personally was a great experience.”

Thomas Brading, a further co-leader, added: “It is not every day that opportunities like this present themselves. I feel so honoured and privileged that I have had the chance to have a role in making two bespoke models for the Royal Family.”

Other DM Gosport apprentices involved in the build were Ashely Biginton, Joseph Salmon, Ethan Radford, Luke Worrall, Nathan Hudson and Jack Roberts.

Pictured left to right: DE&S apprentices Thomas Brading, Matthew Harrison and George Ballard, Above right: the model of QEC Prince of Wales



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# Sea Ceptor missile tests

**F**iring trials from the first Royal Navy ship to test the new Sea Ceptor air defence system have been successfully completed.

The second ship fitted with Sea Ceptor has also conducted a successful firing to verify the weapon system upgrade.

The new missile defence system will provide UK personnel with a powerful shield against airborne targets – including hostile combat jets and helicopters, as well enemy missiles travelling at supersonic speeds.

The completion of the firing trials from Type 23 frigate HMS Argyll means Sea Ceptor can proceed to the next stage of the acceptance into service with the Royal Navy.

Richard Smart, DE&S Director Weapons, said: “These trials are a significant step in getting the Sea Ceptor weapon system to acceptance and a great example of how

important live trials are in helping us to understand a new military capability before using it in operational service.

— “ —

These trials are a significant step in getting the Sea Ceptor weapon system to acceptance and a great example of how important live trials are in helping us to understand a new military capability before using it in operational service

Richard Smart  
Director Weapons DE&S

— ” —

Pictured: Sea Ceptor missile trials on HMS Argyll

# Test firings successfully completed

“The success of the trials is testimony to the hard work put in by the DE&S project team and the working relationship they have with industry.

“The results of the firings are now going through extensive analysis; our assessment so far is positive and shows how Sea Ceptor is capable of protecting both the ship which fired it and other ships in its task group, which could include the UK’s two new Queen Elizabeth Aircraft Carriers.”

Designed and manufactured by MBDA in the UK, Sea Ceptor is being fitted to replace

the Sea Wolf weapon system on the Type 23 frigates and will provide the same capability for the Royal Navy’s future Type 26 Frigates.

Sea Ceptor defends escort vessels within a maritime task group, such as for the new Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers, and with HMS Argyll due to deploy to Japan this year, the trials successfully showcased the short range capabilities of the new defence system.

The system uses a new UK-developed missile, the Common Anti-air Modular Missile or CAMM, that is capable of reaching speeds of up to three times the speed of sound, and will have the ability to deal with multiple targets simultaneously over land or sea.

In addition Sea Ceptor supports around 600 MBDA jobs and its supply chain in key locations across the UK such as Bristol, Stevenage and Bolton.

Harriett Baldwin, the then Minister for Defence Procurement, said: “In the face of intensifying global threats, cutting-edge systems like Sea Ceptor will keep the UK safe. These successful trials from HMS Argyll mark a major milestone towards the introduction of this world-class missile system into service for the Royal Navy.”

Two sets of trials, conducted by DE&S and supported by a number of other organisations, lasted around two weeks each.

During the firings the system was first tested against single aerial targets. This was followed by more demanding tests, including a single target engaged by two missiles and a twin firing (two targets, each engaged by a single missile at the same time).



Picture: Courtesy of MBDA



Picture: Jack Eckerley

# On why engineering is the champion of careers

**2018 is Year of Engineering, a Government initiative designed to inspire the next generation of budding Isambard Kingdom Brunels. Jonathan Cook, Corporate Engineering Function Manager at DE&S, tells Desider why he believes engineering is an excellent career**

## **How did you become an engineer?**

I have always been interested in how things work. What makes a machine function and what makes it fail? I was inspired as a boy by an eccentric retired NASA scientist called Larry Simms, who lived on a boat kitted out as a laboratory and volunteered his time to help kids build electrical and electronic projects with a general theme of 'fly high, drive fast and occasionally explode'. My father was a shipwright at this time and I was fortunate enough to also have access to workshops in which I spent happy hours learning the practical side of fabrication, welding and machine-tooling. The approach to health and safety in these shipyards was fairly loose, so I also had several exciting visits to A&E.

This practical, technical interest took me through several universities studying physics, computational maths and mechanical engineering, and eventually to a post-doctorate research post at Oxford University, working with Professor Peter McFadden developing techniques to detect and diagnose mechanical faults from irregularities in helicopter gearbox vibrations. A few years later, as a lecturer on Digital Signal Processing at Southampton University, I was approached by the MOD to lead a team supporting Health and Usage Monitoring Systems (HUMS) on the Chinook helicopter fleet, which to me was an irresistible chance to apply the engineering I had studied and researched to a real-world application. Rather than publishing another academic paper, helicopters would fly or be grounded based on my analysis of their vibration health data. I joined the MOD in July 2000 with the intention of staying, at most, three years.

## **What type of roles have you held in Defence Engineering?**

My responsibilities grew quickly in the MOD, from leadership of the HUMS and vibration teams to all aspects of condition monitoring support, including development of policy and contribution to air accident and incident investigations. I had the opportunity to lead a large team and a large community of engineers in this field across what is now DE&S.

In 2007, the newly-formed DE&S developed the new roles of senior engineering leads for

each operating centre, now known as 'Principal Engineers'. The opportunity to lead and shape engineering within an operating centre was a very attractive idea, so I decided to make the step out of my 'comfort zone' in which I was a technical expert and was appointed as the first Land Equipment Principal Engineer, where I spent the next three years leading engineering activity, advising on technical risks and providing technical investment assurance for decision gates.

Although an engineer at heart, I recognised that the business of DE&S is to deliver complex projects and that as a leader in the organisation I needed experience on the 'sharp end' of

“ Engineering in DE&S is a great career choice for anyone who enjoys problem solving ”

project delivery. So, following competition I was appointed as the Integrated Project Team Leader for the Specialist and Logistic Vehicles fleets, combining two previous teams into one. It was a high-profile role supporting ongoing major operations and covert activities around the world, and I'm proud that my team rose to a number of challenges and excelled in this period.

I then spent three years as the head of the DE&S Engineering Group developing many of the concepts and systems that now underpin the Engineering Function. I took up my current position as Corporate Function Manager in February 2016.

## **What advice would you give to a young person considering an engineering career at DE&S?**

Engineering in DE&S is a great career choice for anyone who enjoys problem solving.

Whilst we do not manufacture anything in DE&S, we take high-level requirements from our customers and work through all of the technical details of how these requirements can be delivered as equipment, tested, integrated and supported throughout life, and how acquisition safety can be demonstrated and maintained. We then manage that work across the lifecycle of thousands of equipment lines in an immense range of operational scenarios. In doing this, we work with a wide range of suppliers who are at the leading edge of some world-class innovative technologies.

A great attraction to an engineering career in DE&S is the great variety of technical specialisms we require. There are careers as scientists working with the research community to test the underpinning science for the equipment we procure and support. There are technical specialists in fields such as electrical engineering, aerospace engineering, systems engineering and naval architecture. In some of these, we have leading experts in the UK, if not the world.

I would say to a young person that the interest, excitement and variety of a DE&S engineering career is a compelling reason to apply and to stay.

## **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

I enjoy cycling, running and swimming and have taken part in two international age-group Ironman events in 2016 and 2017. I am slow but persistent and apparently getting a bit faster. I was pleased in 2017 to beat my previous time by over an hour, which shows that the room for improvement is huge. Ironman is still a small community and I have been lucky enough to meet and spend time with some of the world's best, including Chrissie Wellington, a truly inspirational athlete.

I fit this around an active family life as a father of three sons, the eldest of whom has started university and begun driving this year so one less to be dad's taxi for!

# First Tide Class tanker accepted into service

Picture: Capt Shaun Jones, RFA

The first of four Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) Tide Class Tankers has been accepted into service by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA).

In 2012, following an international competition, the DE&S Commercially Supported Shipping (CSS) team awarded the contract for the main design and build to Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME) in South Korea.

Sensitive equipment, weapons and armouring could not be installed by DSME for security reasons and a contract for this work was awarded in 2014 to A&P Group Falmouth, which competed the work in July 2017.

And on December 18 last year RFA Tidespring, the first 201 metre-long, 39,000-tonne tanker, which can carry up to 19,000 cubic metres of fuel and 1,300 cubic metres of fresh water, was finally handed to the RFA, a civilian-manned fleet which provides support for warships, helping the Royal Navy to maintain its operations 24/7, 365 days a year, around the world.

The Tide Class tankers are replacing the RFA's single-hulled vessels. Significantly larger than their predecessors, they are an advanced capability, specifically designed to provide fuel and water to the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers and Maritime Task Groups.

The tankers, which can travel at speeds in excess of 15 knots and have a range of more than 8,000 nautical miles, will also operate Chinook, Merlin or Wildcat helicopters from their flight decks.

— “ —  
**All involved – DE&S Ships and wider DE&S teams, the RFA and industry in the UK and overseas – should be very proud of this achievement.**

Ian Merriman, Deputy Head of Acquisition for the CSS team at DE&S

— ” —  
 In addition to supply duties in support of the Royal Navy, these state-of-the-art vessels will provide a flexible capability to undertake a wide range of maritime operations, such as

constabulary patrols policing shipping lanes and humanitarian relief, as well as providing support to NATO and coalition allies.

On current plans, all four ships will be in service with the RFA by the end of 2018.

David Farmer, Head of CSS, said: “The acceptance into service of the first Tide Class tanker is a key milestone in this programme and the wider defence capability to support the Carrier Task Group.

“This milestone has only been achieved through the dedication and hard work of the on-site team in Korea, the project team here in Bristol and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. I look forward to Tidespring's sister ships joining her in service over the next 12 months as they complete their delivery voyages, customisation and customer acceptance trials.”

Ian Merriman, Deputy Head of Acquisition for the CSS team, added: “The tempo of the build and customisation process has been fantastic – just under six years since contract award and three and half years since build commenced. All involved – DE&S Ships and wider DE&S teams, the RFA and industry in the UK and overseas – should be very proud of this achievement.”



Picture: Tidespring on her Delivery Voyage to the UK

# CASE STUDY

## Nick Bennett, a DE&S Land Domain HQ Safety and Engineering Adviser, gives his insight into some of the many benefits of working for DE&S

**Name:**

Nick Bennett

**Job title:**

DE&S Land Domain HQ Safety and Engineering Adviser

**How long have you worked for DE&S?**

Six years

**Why did you choose to pursue a career in DE&S?**

I applied for a role in DE&S as I wanted to start a career, not just a job. I was also really enticed by the scope of the business, knowing that there are assignments in a number of different engineering disciplines, working with anything from software to the latest armoured fighting vehicle.

**What does your role entail?**

Generally speaking I provide assurance and advice on safety and engineering matters to the Chief of Materiel (Land), managing safety performance across the Land Domain. More specifically this involves analysing safety data and papers, identifying and understanding risks which may impact the wider domain, co-ordinating and disseminating safety best practice and liaising with our customers and regulators in the Front Line Commands and the Defence Safety Authority. It's a hugely varied and challenging role, but very rewarding.

**What are the opportunities to develop and progress within your function?**

Throughout my career in DE&S I have been offered a number of routes to develop and progress within my function. Since undertaking an Advanced Engineering Apprenticeship, graduating after three years of upskilling and development, I specialised in systems safety, completing the suite of Systems Safety courses and National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) qualifications. I am now fortunate enough to have been sponsored to do a part-time mechanical engineering degree at the University of the West of England. Completing this alongside work has its own challenges, but will enable me to further progress my career in DE&S.

**What do you most enjoy about your job?**

I really enjoy the variety of my assignment and the team I work with – a group of people who are hugely supportive, dedicated and professional in everything that they do. As part of a headquarters team you are exposed to a great deal of strategic level information, all of which needs to be carefully considered and acted upon. This allows me to influence and feed into parts of the business I am passionate about, which is very rewarding.

**What's your ambition?**

I'm really passionate about protecting people, ensuring that we provide safe equipment to our customers and that everyone goes home from work in the same state as they arrived in. My ambition is therefore to ensure that DE&S continues to provide equipment which is as safe and capable as possible, whilst continuing to improve our workforces' safety culture.



Picture: Jack Eckersley

**What's the greatest achievement (in your role) to date?**

In my current assignment I have a number of achievements I am particularly proud of. These include the delivery of the DE&S Land Domain Organisational Safety Assessment, presenting on Safety Leadership to the Land Domain Management Committee and leading DE&S input to the MOD-wide Defence Fire and Rescue Project. However, during my time in DE&S, my greatest achievement is successfully contributing to the Maritime Consumables Project. I was thrown in at the deep end but learnt a lot from the experience.

**Why would you recommend DE&S to others as a great place to work?**

DE&S is an organisation that values its people, evidenced through recent transformational changes such as the introduction of Functional Development Officers and deployment processes. It also offers a massive amount of opportunity to make a difference, empowering people to drive change and continuously improve – perfect for someone who is ambitious and keen to learn.

**What are the social benefits of working for DE&S?**

As someone who loves to keep active there are lots of benefits working for DE&S. The on-site gym, sports classes and clubs are all fantastic, and through the Civil Service Sports Club and Defence Sports and Recreational Association I have had opportunities to take part in a number of amazing events. Just this year I was fortunate enough to have been selected for a MOD team to do the three peaks challenge, climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in under 24 hours – something that has always been on my bucket list.

# WORK FOR DE&S

Welcome to this edition of DE&S jobs in Desider. There are great opportunities available at DE&S and each month we list current and future posts. For even more opportunities visit the Civil Service Jobs Portal at [www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk](http://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk)

## Graduate and apprentice schemes

DE&S offers a number of top class graduate and apprenticeship opportunities, providing successful applicants with 'hands-on' experience in roles across a range of projects.

If you have recently left school or university and are interested in embarking on a career in defence but do

not yet have the experience/skills required for our listed vacancies, find out more information on the range of graduate and apprentice opportunities DE&S has to offer is available at [www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk](http://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk)

## Rewards and benefits

We truly believe that DE&S is a great place to work, and it's important to us that all of our people feel the same way. Our unique employee experience offers:

- pride in supporting our armed forces
- delivery of some of the world's most complex projects
- significant investment in personal, professional and technical development.

We want to ensure that every single employee feels appreciated and fairly rewarded. That means having the best possible benefits package. As well as competitive performance-related pay and market-leading pension schemes, our employees benefit from flexible working, generous annual leave, and access to a number of member

discount, sports and social clubs. Our aim is to provide a workplace that gives you the flexibility to maintain a great work/life balance.

All our sites are designed to be accessible with good transport links, along with cycle racks and car parking. Our headquarters are in Abbey Wood, Bristol, with a range of facilities including a fully-equipped gym, on-site nursery, a range of restaurants and coffee shops, and a hairdresser's. But with over 150 locations across the world and close relationships with customers and suppliers, we also have opportunities based at RAF stations, Royal Navy and Army bases, depots and logistics facilities, or even on-site with industry partners.

## Equality and diversity

DE&S is committed to embracing diversity: it is one of our core values. Irrespective of gender, marital status, race, religion, age, disability and without reference to social background or sexual orientation, DE&S operates an inclusive environment to allow you to develop your career.

Whether uniformed or civilian, we expect the attitudes of our people to reflect our approach to diversity by:

- fostering a working environment where all staff feel comfortable, welcomed and valued for their contributions

- promoting a workplace that values dignity, respect and fairness
- promoting high standards of behaviour and complying with the law by creating equality of opportunity

To demonstrate our commitment, we are members of Stonewall, Race for Opportunity, Opportunity Now, The Employers Forum on Disability, The Employers Forum on Age, and we are also affiliated to a: gender.

Read more about equality and diversity in MOD.

## How to apply

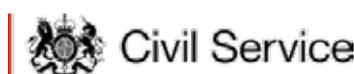
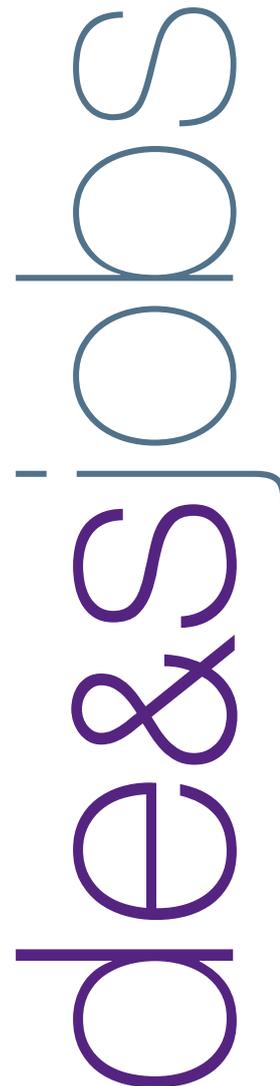
We are looking for innovative, talented, focused individuals to join us in being instrumental in defending Britain's interest both at home and overseas.

DE&S provides the opportunity for a truly rewarding career, working on complex, interesting and often sensitive projects of great significance and consequence, with excellent training opportunities for your continued

professional development.

If you would like to view all current vacancies across DE&S and the wider civil service, please visit the Civil Service Job Portal.

In addition, for an easy, hassle-free way of keeping up to date with all the latest vacancies, you can now follow us on Twitter or like our page on Facebook.



## CURRENT VACANCIES

### Associate IT Developer DE&S

Bristol | £19,000 pa - £35,000 pa | Senior Specialist

Closing date: 9 Feb 2018

Reference number **1571404** Post type **Permanent** Hours **37 Hours**

**Job Description:** We are currently seeking two professionals to join our forward thinking Application Development Team. One will focus on developing corporate applications, tools and ways of working utilising Microsoft Office 365 technology. The other will be responsible for developing intuitive, effective, mobile first corporate applications.

### Business Engagement Lead DE&S

Bristol | £56,000 pa - £70,000 pa | Senior Professional

Closing date: 11 Feb 2018

Reference number **1571464** Post type **Permanent** Hours **37 Hours**

**Job Description:** You will serve as the strategic interface and a trusted advisor, being responsible for the effective engagement with the organisation to ensure the corporate business strategy and vision is fully supported and delivers the business and transformation needs.

### Finance Apprenticeship Scheme DE&S

Bristol | £17,500 pa | Closing date: 12 Mar 2018

Reference number **1567186** Post type **Permanent** Hours **37 Hours**

**Job Description:** Three-year development programme focused around finance and accountancy roles across different areas of DE&S. You will rotate through a number of placements and may also have opportunities to work in other finance roles supporting the MOD's vast estate and Front Line Commands.

### Engineering Management Apprentice DE&S

Bristol | Year 1 - £14,847 | Year 2 - £15,890 | Year 3 - £19,016

Closing date: 18 Mar 2018

Reference number **1558837** Post type **Permanent** Hours **37 Hours**

**Job Description:** A 3 year advanced engineering apprenticeship with up to 60 places. Year 1 is full time at Bridgwater & Taunton College, while Years 2 and 3 consist of 4x 6-month placements and work experience at Abbey Wood, split by a block release HNC programme at college.

### DESG Graduate Scheme DE&S

Bristol, RAF Waddington | £25,890 pa | Graduate Engineer

Closing date: 3 Apr 2018

Reference number **1560819** Post type **Permanent** Hours **37 Hours**

**Job Description:** Fully accredited scheme by six of the major Engineering Institutions, with 4-6 month placements in a variety of locations across the UK and training courses aimed at developing technical knowledge.

**DBS has a right to close the campaign earlier than the date advertised**

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## DE&amp;S PEOPLE

## 60 SECOND SPOTLIGHT

**Name?**

Lawrence Riggs

**Role?**

I work within the Air Domain Shared Services Team as the Air Domain Occupational Health Safety Environmental Co-Ordinator based at MOD Abbey Wood.

**Your route into DE&S?**

I've been a proud civil servant for over 25 years. I started in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) processing claims and advising members of the public on state benefit eligibility. I worked in the Exeter, Watford and Bristol DWP offices before transferring to DE&S in 2011 to join the Business Management (BM) team on the Voyager project team. I stayed with BM and moved over to the C17 Command Support Airborne Equipment Project Team (C17CSAE PT) where I worked for four years, before taking up my current role in March 2017.

**Your claim to fame?**

I recently discussed train travel in India with Michael Portillo at one of his book signings at the Theatre Royal in Bath. We discussed the size of the trains (I've travelled on a sleeper train that was 27 carriages long) and the amazing sensory experience of travelling across India.

**Your advice to anyone?**

My wife Julie always tells me that "you are more likely to regret something you haven't done than regret something you have done." I would agree and say that life is short, be grateful for what you have and don't be afraid to try something new. In fact, actively push yourself to try something different and become the best person you can be. DE&S provide a range of excellent opportunities for personal and professional development and experience and I would urge colleagues to seek out those that enable you to upskill and add extra value to the organisation.

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

I 'enjoy' running half marathons, gaming, mountain/BMX biking and attending music events. I like trying new things and have completed many one-off events like indoor climbing in a converted church, a tandem parachute jump, and earlier this year, I abseiled over Canonteign Falls in Devon, a 220ft high waterfall. I have also recently signed up to the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) Steps Ahead Scheme where I will coach young jobseekers and the long term unemployed to help them create a CV, improve their confidence and explain employer expectations and good practice in interviews.

**What are you most proud of?**

I feel very fortunate that DE&S has provided



me with many moments to feel proud of over recent years but, on a personal level, the opportunity of studying for my Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) Human Resources Management degree provided a pivotal change in my thinking. I realised I could achieve much more and with a massive boost in confidence, I had the motivation to push myself further. The C17CSAE PT subsequently endorsed my successful application for the DE&S Associate Fellowship Scheme and as a result of this, I have now started a National Diploma in Occupational Health & Safety (NEBOSH) sponsored by Occupational Health and Safety Environment (OHSE) Function. I will always be grateful to the C17CSAE PT for the initial introduction to OHSE and opportunity to study at degree level. I am now a strong advocate for lifelong learning after proudly attending my graduation ceremony at St Mary's Church, Bridgwater, in September 2015, something I never imagined I would ever do!

**If you were sent to a desert island, what three things would you take with you?**

Cheese sandwiches, tea bags and, it's difficult to decide, but probably a sun hat to protect my ever thinning hair line.

**What irritates you the most?**

This was a tricky question to answer as I'm generally a happy, calm and positive person. However, I am told by reliable sources that I'm only irritable when I'm hungry or tired.

**What is your favourite place in the world?**

I really enjoy visiting places near and far and so it is very difficult to name one. Kefalonia (an island off Greece) is where Julie and I spent our honeymoon; Udaipur in India has stunning views and beautiful gardens; Barcelona is a vibrant city and Edinburgh has incredible architecture and an awesome castle. I could go on and on.

**What would surprise people about you?**

I am a big music fan and, as the youngest of six brothers, have been introduced to a wide range of music. As a result, my musical tastes include everything from pop, progressive rock, indie, hip hop, D&B, funk, soul, Brazilian death metal and opera!

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

Email [tom.morris114@mod.uk](mailto:tom.morris114@mod.uk)

# HMS Prince of Wales floated out of dry dock



Pictured: HMS Prince of Wales floating out of the dock at Rosyth

Pictures: Courtesy of BAE Systems

**H**MMS Prince of Wales, the second aircraft carrier being built for the Royal Navy, has been successfully floated out of the dock at Rosyth.

The dry dock was filled with water to allow the 65,000 tonne aircraft carrier to float into the waters of the non-tidal basin for the first time.

In a two hour operation, using eight tugs, she was then carefully manoeuvred out of the dock.

The carrier, which along with HMS Queen Elizabeth is the largest and most advanced warship ever built for the Royal Navy, is now berthed at a nearby jetty, where the team will continue to outfit the ship and steadily bring her systems to life in preparation for sea trials.

It was achieved after months of planning and preparation by a wide range of parties including the Aircraft Carrier Alliance (ACA), Onsite Ships Acquisition Client team members, HMS Prince of Wales Ships Company and members of the DE&S Salvage and Marine Operations (SALMO) team.

Andrew Hunter, of the DE&S Queen Elizabeth Class Delivery Acceptance Team (QEC DAT) Platform Team, said: "Having

been involved in the build of the second aircraft carrier from the start, the latest

— “ —

**This is wonderful news after the very many hard-fought milestones which the delivery team, made up of DE&S and industry, has achieved this year. We look forward to more of the same next year**

Henry Parker  
DE&S Director Ships Acquisition

— ” —

milestone was particularly poignant for me.

"Moving a ship the size of HMS Prince of Wales from the dry dock could have proved

problematic but proved relatively uneventful thanks to careful planning."

Douglas Pollock, the DE&S QEC DAT Platform Lead, said: "The first float off and undocking of HMS Prince of Wales is a significant achievement in the ship's programme."

DE&S Director Ships Acquisition Henry Parker added: "This is wonderful news after the very many hard-fought milestones which the delivery team, made up of DE&S and industry, has achieved this year. We look forward to more of the same next year. In the meantime, everybody should feel immensely proud."

Sir Simon Lister, Managing Director of the ACA, said: "This milestone marks a significant moment in HMS Prince of Wales' build programme and I would like to pay tribute to all those who have dedicated their efforts to this great national endeavour."

The team at the ACA, comprising the MOD, BAE Systems, Babcock and Thales, is preparing to hand over HMS Prince of Wales to the Royal Navy in 2019.

## DE&amp;S PEOPLE

## Kirsty set for epic challenge

**A** DE&S employee who was shocked to be diagnosed with a brain tumour is running the London Marathon for The Brain Tumour Charity.

Kirsty Brain, the internal business partner for the Land domain, was diagnosed only last April with a meningioma, a non-malignant tumour about the size of a grape.

Sadly, a close friend was in the final stages of battling an aggressive brain tumour and, despite rigorous treatment, lost her life just two weeks after Kirsty's diagnosis.

Whilst Kirsty's tumour is not cancerous, she does suffer from reduced hearing and tinnitus, and needs yearly MRI scans to monitor the tumour.

"I am one of the lucky ones", Kirsty, a keen hockey player and swimming teacher, said.

"Sadly many people with non-

malignant brain tumours experience daily fatigue, seizures, headaches, dizziness, loss of sight and hearing as well as other symptoms.

"For some it is life changing; being forced to give up work, surrender driving licences and the inability to carry out simple everyday tasks."

Kirsty has chosen to run the London Marathon because the date (April 22) is just a few days away from the day of her diagnosis and a few weeks from the anniversary of her friend's death.

"Any support will help me when my legs and lungs cannot, so please donate", she added.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kirsty-brain1>



## MOTTO

the MOD Lottery  
October 2017 winners

£10,000	Graham Turberville, Feltham
£2,500	David Hay, Plymouth
£1,000	Craig Dutton, Camberley
£500	Gillian Wallis, Glasgow
£250	Gordon McLean, Glasgow
£100	Jeremy Powell, Wolverhampton
	Mohammed Ahsan, Wolverhampton
	Paul Bolam, Newcastle
	David Turner, Beith
	Steven Murphy, Lincoln
	Cathy-Ann Wride, Corsham
	Jill Humphries, Abbey Wood
	Corazon Harris, Corsham
	Judith Spencer-White, Gloucester
	James McKay, Fife
	Sharon Jordan, Warminster
	Peter Burnett, RFA
	Anthony Throop, Lincoln
	Gavin Horne, Salisbury
	Karen Hampton, Glasgow
	Fiona Harrison, Edinburgh
	Alan Church, Kent
	Gillian Quirk, London
	Mark Wright, Kineton
	Emma Haden, Abbey Wood



Pictured: Liz Mills, Lt Cdr Hazelle Garton, Lisa Snowden

**T**hree staff from DE&S Yeovil were invited to a reception in The Speaker's House, Parliament, to commemorate the centenary of the formation of the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS).

Lt Cdr Hazelle Garton (pictured centre), a serving member of the Royal Navy, along with colleagues Liz Mills (left) and Lisa Snowden (right), who are members of the Yeovil Branch of the Association of Wrens, were honoured to attend on December 13.

The event, which represented WRNS Veterans, Association of Wrens, Wrens Benevolent Trust and ladies from all ranks and rates of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Band, is aimed at promoting the role of women in defence and recognises women past and present for their valuable contribution.

James Gray, Head of Armed Forces Parliamentary Committee, First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB ADC and Nia Griffiths, Shadow Secretary for Defence, made speeches in recognition of women in the Royal Navy past and present, with entertainment provided by a Royal Marines Band quartet.

On conclusion of the reception there was an opportunity to view a parliamentary debate in the public gallery.

Lisa said: "This special day was thoroughly enjoyed, meeting old friends and making new, all of whom have the common thread of serving in the WRNS or Royal Navy."

# Extraordinary staff support three exceptional causes



**T**he Weapons Operating Centre (WOC) tuck shop at MOD Abbey Wood raised a grand total of £1,000 for this year's chosen charity – The Great Western Air Ambulance (GWAAC)

Organiser Sheila Smart and Richard Smart (Director Weapons) presented a cheque to GWAAC Community Fundraising Coordinator Holly Adlem and GWAAC Critical Care Paramedic Pete Sadler when they visited MOD Abbey Wood last month.

On average, GWAAC attend five incidents each day – prioritising the most critical patients.

Their priority is to get to patients

fast. The team treat people at the scene, on the road and in the air, and give them the best chance of a positive outcome. The service they provide is reliant on a brilliant team of pilots, expert paramedics and doctors who specialise in pre-hospital care. They attend incidents across the region either by helicopter or in critical care cars.

They went on 1,824 missions in 2017 and need donations of £2.6 million each year to remain operational as they receive no government or national lottery funding.

Sheila said: "A huge thank you to all those who supported the tuck shop throughout the year."

**M**embers of the DE&S Land Domain Headquarters demonstrated their team spirit in the run up to Christmas by volunteering at the Caring in Bristol homeless shelter.

Team members spent three hours carrying out various tasks including sorting food and clothing donations and packing charity tea towels.

Caring at Christmas, the charity's annual project, provides warm, safe accommodation, food and social activities to homeless and vulnerable people in Bristol between December 24 and January 1.

During that period the project welcomes around 250 guests each day, providing 60 beds and serving 2,900

hot meals (plus 3,000 sandwiches).

Land Domain HQ Customer Support Team member Alexandra Evans, pictured at Caring in Bristol with Matt Tyers, Harry Lyons, and Nick Calvert, said: "We've recently merged two parts of the team together so decided an out of office event would help us get to know each other.

"At the end of our three hours we had sorted out three food deliveries and over 30 bin bags of clothes. We left feeling like we had really helped a local charity."

With a 14 per cent year-on-year rise in homelessness in Bristol, the charity has helped thousands of guests over the last 30 years.



**S**taff from across DE&S Helicopters and industry entered into the spirit of Christmas by wearing their favourite Christmas jumper to raise money for charity.

Employees within the DE&S Merlin, Apache and Lynx Wildcat delivery teams, Helicopters Operating Centre, Leonardo Helicopters, Selex and Lockheed Martin based at Leonardo Helicopters Yeovil took part.

Collecting £2 for every festive jumper worn on the day, the team and organisations (members of Merlin and Leonardo Helicopters pictured) collectively raised £281 for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day.

Save the Children, founded in May 1919, work in the UK and around the world to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm.

The charity's mission is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

Organiser Janette Robert, of the Merlin Delivery Team, said: "I would like to thank everyone who supported this event."





# ENGINEERING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

With a presence dating back to the 1930s, Boeing continues to help grow economic prosperity in the United Kingdom by creating new jobs, strengthening partnerships, investing in research and inspiring future innovators. Since 2011, Boeing has tripled spending with UK suppliers and doubled the company's UK workforce to meet the needs of local airline, military and security customers. That's just the start. In the years to come, Boeing is committed to reaching new heights, together.

SEE HOW WE'RE HELPING BUILD  
A STRONGER UK AT [BOEING.CO.UK](http://BOEING.CO.UK)

 **BOEING**