

desider

Feb 2013 Issue 57

the magazine for defence equipment and support



Ministry of Defence



Quick on the draw – UK Forces take up the Glock

Latest DE&S organisation wallchart [See inside](#)



Messages to the front line



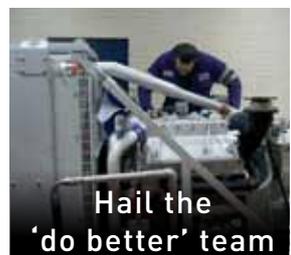
Island on the move



Powering the future base



Latest Skynet blasts off



Hail the 'do better' team



Special delivery

DELIVERY OF mail provides a massive boost to those serving abroad – courtesy of British Forces Post Office. Crew members of Plymouth-based frigate *HMS Northumberland* are pictured dealing with 180 sacks of mail delivered to the ship while she was on a three-day visit to Muscat in Oman as part of patrolling duties in the Indian Ocean.

□ BFPO on the front line: pages 24, 25

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A DE&S project team which manages hundreds of millions of pounds of equipment for Royal Navy warships and submarines has launched a transformation programme to save money and improve fleet availability



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Picture: Andrew Linnett

cover image

Royal Marine Sgt Steve Lord is pictured firing the Glock pistol at its public unveiling last month. DE&S has bought 25,000 of the Glock 17 to replace the Browning pistol which has seen long service with UK Forces

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The UK and Australia are to look at co-operation over mutual design work on the Type 26 Global Combat Ship.

insiderguide

Bernard Gray

Chief of Defence Materiel

'My objective throughout this process has been and continues to be making DE&S the best at what it does in the world'



I was very pleased to be able to speak to several hundred of you at town hall sessions I held at Abbey Wood headquarters last month to talk about progress on the Materiel Strategy and on your success in maintaining focus on both delivering equipment and support to the front line, including crucial support to current operations in Afghanistan.

Those of you who were able to attend would have heard me explain that this will be an exciting year to be in DE&S. We face the daily challenges of managing some of the biggest and most complex acquisition programmes in the UK, the constant demands of operations, the development of important plans for the coming withdrawal of our forces and equipment from Afghanistan and continued work and progress on the Materiel Strategy.

We have finalised a business case which asks for approval to launch an Assessment Phase to study the options the Materiel Strategy team has refined and developed over the past 18 months of studies.

Work is continuing on these options while we await Ministers' decisions on the way ahead.

Alongside the Materiel Strategy many of you may also know that the Defence Board has directed that the MOD's customer capabilities should be strengthened to match the proposed improvements in DE&S. This is a significant part of the overarching Defence Transformation programme and is a piece of work which I

have always championed and in which I am very pleased to play a significant role.

The development and success of an improved MOD customer is of huge importance to the long-term health of defence acquisition and will be something that will be of great interest to many of you.

As Senior Responsible Owner for the design and implementation of the end-to-end acquisition process I chair the Acquisition Architecture Programme Board. Board members include DCDS Mil Cap Air Marshal Stephen Hillier, DG Finance David Williams and DG T&CS Jonathan Slater. Both the Materiel Strategy and Customer Design programmes report to this board and we have oversight of the continued development of their work.

Finally, returning to the Materiel Strategy, my objective throughout this process has been and continues to be making DE&S the best at what it does in the world. I am confident that whichever option for the future development of this organisation is taken, you will be given more freedoms and more skills to do your jobs.

This will make your work more interesting, fulfilling and enjoyable and make DE&S a better place to come to work. Your views about the work that we are doing remain important and I hope you will find the opportunity to participate in one of the many different channels and staff meetings that are open to you.

A better plac

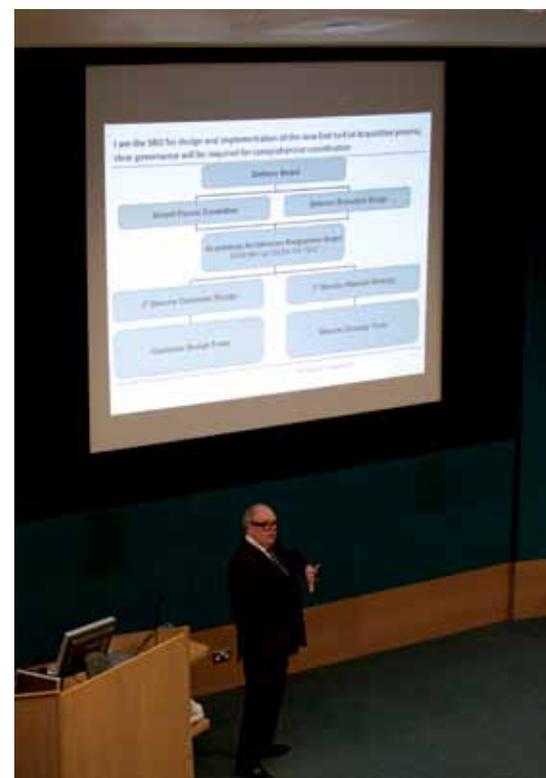
World class acquisition organisation is the aim of the future shape of DE&S

WHICHEVER OPTION is chosen for the future of DE&S – a Government Owned Contractor Operated body or the DE&S+ proposal – it will make the organisation a better place to work in, Chief of Defence Materiel Bernard Gray told hundreds of staff at town hall sessions at Abbey Wood.

Mr Gray said 2013 would be an exciting year in DE&S and congratulated staff on maintaining their focus on delivering equipment valued at billions of pounds to the Armed Forces.

He said: "Alongside all the important challenges we face we are delivering substantial amounts of new equipment – two *Astute* class submarines are at sea and the fifth Type 45 destroyer should enter service this year. Foxhound is a success story with vehicles now operational in Afghanistan and we have acquired an additional C-17 in record time."

The MOD now has a stable programme for the first time in years, obviating the rebalancing work that DE&S project teams formerly faced at this time of year. Protected vehicles procured by DE&S under Urgent Operational Requirements were another success story, saving the lives of UK service personnel in Afghanistan.



e to work – that’s the DE&S future



DE&S Director Materiel Strategy Barry Burton (centre) surrounded by team members at DE&S Abbey Wood headquarters after he congratulated them on their hard work and commitment following submission of the Initial Gate Business Case. He said: “I think it’s an amazing achievement to have got in such a short time to where we are now.”

Withdrawal from Afghanistan would be a big challenge for the future for DE&S, he said, and work was now under way to plan this enormous task.

Mr Gray explained that a Materiel Strategy Initial Gate Business Case had been submitted, with a Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) model and the DE&S+ model as options.

He said: “Change is always difficult and the future is always a bit uncertain.

But, subject to the approvals process, under any of the models we end up with we will be in a better place to work because we will have less interference in performing our tasks. That will make DE&S a very interesting place to work because everyone will be more empowered.”

His aim, he said, was to create a ‘world class acquisition organisation’ with a more robust customer interface, improved

systems and tools to get the job done, more effective processes and greater skills with better opportunities to develop those skills.

Mr Gray was addressing town hall sessions at Abbey Wood on 15th January where he outlined progress on the Materiel Strategy and took questions from staff.

“GOCO is the preferred option because we think we will not be

successful in getting the freedoms we want from the Civil Service with any other option,” he said.

GOCO offered a number of advantages, he added. The private sector offered access to world class skills and tools because of the possibility of higher reward; the profit motive made incentivisation easier; it was insulated from short-term political objectives which led to greater autonomy; it

was more responsive to organisational change and had the freedom to recruit and train which helped create a strong management cadre to drive better performance.

“This is a challenge to the Civil Service structure,” Mr Gray admitted.

“But I want the DE&S+ option to be strong too, so I can say to the private sector contractors, ‘if you can’t beat this, then I am not interested!’

“We are producing the same outputs having reduced the head count from 20,000 to 17,000 in three years,” said Mr Gray. “That’s a pretty good performance.”



“I want the DE&S+ option to be strong too, so I can say to private sector contractors, ‘if you can’t beat this, then I am not interested!’”

NEWSREEL

Herrick kit on the agenda

MOST of the military equipment being used by UK Forces in Afghanistan is likely to be brought home at the end of the current campaign. Armed Forces Minister Andrew Robathan told a defence debate in Parliament: "The withdrawal of our equipment in Afghanistan is a big issue. We are in negotiations with the Pakistanis and hope we will be able to bring a great deal more back through the Pakistan land route than we are currently capable of doing. We expect to bring almost all our equipment out."

Addressing the Scout

PRIME contractor General Dynamics UK has awarded Vitavox a contract with a potential value of £2.8 million to design and supply the Scout Specialist Vehicle programme with a secure public address system. This will allow vehicle commanders to speak to people outside the vehicle while remaining safe inside.

□ Scout: page 10

Steve's role

STEVE Wadey, UK Managing Director of missile company MBDA, has been named co-chairman of the Defence Growth Partnership (DGP) – a new partnership between industry and Government – alongside Business Minister Michael Fallon. The DGP will help Government promote defence exports and encourage small and medium companies but will also look at how links between civil and military technologies can be better exploited.

Brimstone – 'invaluable and popular with crews'

New contract replaces stocks used on operations



Brimstone, right, in an image by manufacturers MBDA and, above, beneath a Tornado being prepared for a mission over Libya in 2011



AN RAF squadron commander has spoken of the confidence his crews have in using the precision attack missile Brimstone on missions over Afghanistan.

Wg Cdr Andy Turk led initial Tornado operations over Libya two years ago and now heads 9 Squadron in Afghanistan. "Brimstone is being used to great effect by the RAF's Tornado Force in Afghanistan and was also invaluable during the successful air campaign in Libya," he said.

"It is very popular with our air crews because of its flexibility, accuracy and reliability – they have real confidence that the weapon will deliver the effects required.

"Brimstone has become a vital part of our modern and

sophisticated arsenal of precision strike weapons."

Wg Cdr Turk was speaking as a new £14 million contract was unveiled to deliver hundreds more of the weapon to the RAF.

Manufactured and assembled at MBDA facilities in Henlow, Bedfordshire, and Lostock, Bolton, the Dual Mode Seeker Brimstone missile is used by RAF crews to engage moving or static targets at day or night with pinpoint accuracy. The weapon's precision guidance capability means the pilot is able to engage fleeting targets extremely accurately.

After meeting RAF personnel working for Joint Force Support at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan

and discussing their operations, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, Philip Dunne, said: "Brimstone is an extremely effective and reliable weapons system for RAF crews and ISAF commanders. This investment to replenish supplies used in Afghanistan and in Libya will ensure this capability continues to be available while also giving a boost to the UK defence industry."

The contract for more Brimstone missiles comes a few weeks after a replenishment of Paveway IV bombs, securing 450 jobs at Raytheon UK.

Increasing bandwidth helps MOD to connect with the world

STAFF ACROSS the MOD will be able to do external business more easily with available bandwidth being more than doubled by April.

The MOD's Enterprise Gateway Service (EGS) is a fully managed service that provides secure internet e-mail and web browsing for all staff. It has seen a rise in web-based business and personal traffic over the years.

The service has been operational since 1999 through the Defence Fixed Telecommunications Service (DFTS) contract with BT. It supports an increasing range of business traffic, including up to 17 million incoming and outgoing e-mails generated

by its 170,000 registered users each month. It also handles around 17.5 million website requests every month from Joint Personnel Administration and Civil Service Jobs enquiries to Google Maps references. At peak demand the service has been affected.

Now DE&S' Networks team is enhancing the existing DFTS contract to the tune of £3 million to improve its capability from 100 megabytes at each Gateway location to 250 megabytes.

This reflects greater emphasis on shared services across Government which brings cost savings as well as supporting more effective data transfer and information from feature-rich websites.

Our UK employees are proud to provide kit for Britain's armed forces. We design, manufacture and maintain fighter jets, armoured vehicles and naval vessels including the Typhoon aircraft, Scimitar light tanks and the Astute Class of submarine. But we're prouder still of the contribution and sacrifices made by our armed forces every day. Thank you.

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NEWSREEL

Christmas – a final round-up

FINAL figures have been released on the MOD's efforts for the 9,000 UK personnel in Afghanistan over Christmas. As well as tonnes of tinsel and sackloads of Santa hats, 18,000 Christmas crackers and 16,000 streamers and party poppers, the MOD flew out festive food, including two and half tonnes of turkey, one tonne of Brussels sprouts, two and a half tonnes of gammon, two and a half tonnes of Christmas pudding, 23,500 mince pies, 40,000 After Eight mints, and more than 170,000 canapés and buffet items. Charity *uk4uThanks!* provided 20,000 Christmas boxes to troops all over the world.

Ten in the race

TEN private sector companies have been invited by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to tender for a new framework agreement to deliver construction projects across the UK defence estate. They are: Balfour Beatty Group, BAM Construction, Carillion Construction, Interserve Construction, Kier Graham, Lend Lease Construction (EMEA), Miller Construction (UK), Morgan Sindall, Skanska UK and Wates Construction.

Latest chart

THIS issue of *desider* contains the latest DE&S wallchart. Further copies can be obtained from DE&S' press office at Maple 0A, Abbey Wood ext 30537. Soft copies can be seen on the Defence Intranet and the Internet.



Falcon – and its DE&S providers

Falcon swoops to give Forces secure comms

DEDICATED SECURE broadband communications for the battlefield is expected to be with all UK military units by the summer.

Falcon, which achieved its in-service date last autumn, is a deployable broadband-based system that allows secure and resilient transmission of data and voice.

It is replacing technologically limited systems such as Cormorant and Ptarmigan which can't meet current and future information exchange requirements of the Forces.

"Falcon is now in service with the Army and RAF and this achievement is testimony to the dedication and commitment of the team involved in the delivery of this step change in communication systems capability for the Armed Forces," said Rob Tucker, Information Systems and Services' Networks Trunk Systems Deputy Head.

"The team in conjunction with industry has overcome difficult technical challenges and delivered a first class product that will be the main weapon of military deployed communications for the next decade and beyond."

Falcon is based on the internet protocol and combines data and voice in a way that minimises the number of end terminals needed in theatre. This allows multi-security domain communications and can provide services to all

Ready for action: Falcon, above right, on trials and, right, at the sharp end



data domains simultaneously. The system is fully scalable from a single small network in support of humanitarian operations to a full tactical deployment covering a large war-fighting theatre.

Falcon overcame a technical problem which caused the project to slip by more than a year and despite this the team has still delivered significantly under its original budget approval. The delay and the accelerated withdrawal from Afghanistan, means Falcon will not deploy on Operation Herrick.

Falcon can be fielded in several ways: in containers fitted to dedicated trucks (MAN HX60s), in containers on their own or as a set of equipment supplied on pallets. This flexibility allows for rapid reconfiguration of the wide area network depending on the military situation.

Engine development

THE MOD is to support Cox Powertrain and Ricardo in prototype development of a revolutionary high performance, lightweight diesel engine intended for fast, rigid inflatable boats used by the Royal Navy. The engine is being developed with the military in mind where extreme diesel performance, light weight and small package size are critical to mission performance alongside robustness and high reliability.

Saudi support

ROLLS-ROYCE will support engines powering Saudi Arabia's fleet of Tornado aircraft for the next four years after agreement between the UK and Saudi governments under the Saudi British Defence Co-operation Programme.

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NEWSREEL

Work starts on Marine centre

A new permanent base is to be built for 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines Armoured Support Group at Bovington, Dorset. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation has awarded a £14 million contract to Debut Services that will see work start next month. Buildings will include new bedrooms for around 120 personnel and transport facilities for 26 vehicles, which will include servicing, repair bay, covered vehicle parking and stores.

Strategy on the way

THE Government's International Defence Engagement Strategy will be published shortly, Defence Minister Dr Andrew Murrison has pledged. This will identify the optimum ways in which defence assets and activities can contribute towards wider Government objectives overseas, including security, conflict prevention and prosperity. "We consult across Whitehall to ensure that we prioritise our defence engagement most effectively against these objectives, in line with changing international realities," he told Parliament.

Captain Simon

THE first Royal Navy officer to be in charge of *HMS Queen Elizabeth* is Captain Simon Petitt. He will be the ship's Senior Naval Officer during the construction phase of the carrier.

Scout clears another hurdle

Design review completed as new engineering campus is formally opened

SCOUT SPECIALIST Vehicle has achieved its Preliminary Design Review (PDR).

The achievement was marked at the new engineering campus for future army systems at Caerphilly in south Wales, built by prime contractor General Dynamics UK.

Scout will be a fully digitised all-weather globally deployable reconnaissance vehicle for the British Army.

Roddy Malone, Scout SV leader at DE&S, said: "PDR exit, while a calendar event in itself, was conducted over several months with expert groups and system engineers from across the UK and the industry supply chain, DE&S and wider MOD.

"They worked closely together to focus on system maturity, surfacing design conflicts, risks and mitigations so as to drive out risk ahead of the major investment decision at Main Gate 2 (Production Release).

"Achievement of PDR is the culmination of significant system engineering and sub-system trials, bringing user and systems requirements to life."

He added: "PDR is a stepping stone to the System Critical Design Review (CDR) later this year which will baseline platform designs ahead of reliability trials. While there is much to do for CDR, clearing PDR is welcome progress."

Brigadier Robert Talbot-Rice, Head of DE&S' Combat Tracks Group, added: "The Scout capability is a vital part of plans to equip Army 2020. It provides an essential replacement for the existing Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) fleet which has its design origins in the late 1960s and, as it approaches its 60th birthday, is less able to meet ever-evolving standards.

"We are very happy to be working with GD UK to deliver what will undoubtedly be a world class capability making a major investment in sovereign defence skills as well as Land and C4I design facilities in the UK."



A turretless, pre-prototype vehicle goes through mobility trials

Evidence reviewed at PDR included:

- ❑ whole platform design (including a mobile vehicle test platform for pre-prototype trials);
- ❑ live firing with the new Anglo-French 40mm case telescoped ammunition;
- ❑ fully operational high-performance long-range sensors;
- ❑ blast trials;
- ❑ testing of advanced multi-layer secure (against cyber attack) electronic architecture with Defence Generic Vehicle Architecture standards;
- ❑ human factors analysis to ensure the soldier is designed at the heart of Scout.



Brigadier Talbot-Rice, right, briefs Carwen Jones, left, on Scout

Campus gives Scout boost

INAUGURATION OF GD UK's new design campus was conducted by the First Minister of Wales, Carwen Jones, who welcomed the company's £12 million investment, together with the high tech skills and industrial capability it creates.

The campus will be the centre of General Dynamics engineering in the UK and is where industry's Scout SV international engineering team will be led from.

It is also home to the company's team supporting Bowman communications to the British Army and to GD's innovation cells which recently designed and integrated wi-fi-enabled health monitoring systems onto vehicles in Afghanistan.

Mr Jones said: "General Dynamics UK is clearly at the forefront of vehicle design with Scout SV at the cutting edge of technological development. I am delighted GD UK have chosen to design and engineer this vehicle here in the heart of the Welsh valleys."

The new facility features some of the most advanced systems integration labs in the world, engineering bays for trials and space for four tracked fighting vehicles in a test environment similar to a Formula 1 garage.

A test track will also be added, along with working facilities for DE&S staff, partner companies, customers and supply chain teams.

Virtual exercise helps train UK's future warfighters



System success: MCTS

AN EXERCISE involving air and maritime warfighters has seen a synthetic training system pass another key milestone en route to full operating capability.

The Maritime Composite Training System housed at *HMS Collingwood* in Hampshire hosted the week-long Exercise Water Dragon which linked a simulated Type 45 destroyer in the system with two Typhoons and an E-3D simulator housed in the Mobile Air Battle Test Centre at RAF Waddington.

Simulators were manned by a mixture of front line operators, instructors and role players engaged in a realistic scenario based in the Gulf.

In proving the training capability, the two Fighter Controllers in the destroyer were able

to control 'live' Typhoons in a realistic and fully representative environment, a rare opportunity for Navy controllers.

Additionally, the opportunity to interact with an E-3D crew, developing understanding of operating procedures, gave further indication of the huge training potential that this level of interoperability will deliver.

The ability to conduct live, interactive debriefs between participating units greatly enhanced the learning experience of those involved.

Overall, the trial was successful and opens the door to further international interoperability trials with the US planned for the system in the coming months.

Somerset leaves Devon

HMS SOMERSET has left Devonport after completing the first Type 23 frigate refit under full implementation of new maintenance arrangements.

The nine-month docking has been successfully undertaken by a joint Surface Ship Support Alliance team – made up of DE&S, Babcock, and BAE Systems – and co-ordinated under the Type 23 Class Output Management (COM) arrangements.

Captain Jonathan Fry, head of the Frigates team, said: "*HMS Somerset's* upkeep has been the first real test of the ability of the Type 23 COM and the Alliance to deliver a major package of maintenance and capability upgrade.

"I am delighted that we have reached this key milestone on time and materially ready to commence sea trials.

"Both Babcock and the COM have worked hard to ensure taut management and delivery of a complex project and I look forward to a successful trials period and returning *HMS Somerset* to the Royal Navy once these are complete."

Babcock Managing Director Warships, Mike Whalley, added: "This will contribute to future Type 23 refits as the material state knowledge held by the COM team builds, allowing work to be increasingly well informed, and greater efficiencies and savings to be achieved."

Improvements to the ship include the new DNA(2) Command System, central to the ship's capability against air, surface and underwater threats; a SeaWolf missile mid-life upgrade comprising tracking, guidance and weapon management upgrades; installation of the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) enabling information sharing and collaborative working across the Armed Forces and MOD; and Nato radial filters to protect fresh air supplies from contamination in the event of an incident.

Maintenance to radar, sonar, and weapons systems including the 4.5 inch gun has also been carried out along with a full programme of deep maintenance.



DE&S and industry pass latest maintenance test

Above: *HMS Somerset* sees daylight again after her nine-month docking period

HMS Somerset is now on sea trials before returning to the Fleet.

NEWSREEL



Oman signs up to Typhoon

OMAN has become the seventh country, and the second in the Middle East, to operate Typhoon after its decision to buy 12 along with eight Hawk advanced trainers. Deliveries will begin in 2017. Air forces of the UK, Germany, Italy, Spain, Austria and Saudi Arabia already operate Typhoon. Chris Boardman, Managing Director of BAE Systems' Military Air and Information business, said: "This is excellent news for those who work at our Warton, Samlesbury and Brough sites." Oman's purchase of Hawk takes the total number of Hawk aircraft sold, or on order, to 998.

Final doors delivered

THE final set of doors for the *Queen Elizabeth* aircraft carriers' Highly Mechanised Weapons Handling System have been delivered by designers Babcock. The system helps move palletised munitions around the deep magazine and weapon preparation areas, and includes a series of weapons lifts to connect the magazines, hangar, weapon preparation area and flight deck. The final pair of hydraulically-operated lift doors are the last of a total of 38, each ship having 19 fitted. All have been delivered to schedule.

Carriers: page 12

Carrier build keeps moving forward



THE FORWARD island and bridge of *HMS Queen Elizabeth* has been unveiled ahead of its delivery voyage from Portsmouth to Rosyth.

It weighs in at 680 tonnes, heavier than some ships in the Royal Navy's fleet.

The iconic block, known as Upper Block 07, contains 83 compartments across its six decks, including the ship's main bridge and a cabin for the commanding officer.

The block is in an advanced state with its consoles installed along with 43km of

Island and bridge are unveiled in Portsmouth

cables and 3,101 pipes. It will be the first aircraft carrier section to depart in its final colours with its paintwork applied, while glass able to withstand a significant

impact has been fitted into the bridge's floor-to-ceiling windows. An illustration of the crest has also been added to show where the real one will be fixed.

Portsmouth will be the home port of *HMS Queen Elizabeth* so the island will return to the city as part of the completed aircraft carrier.

HMS Queen Elizabeth is progressing at Rosyth with work underway on all major hull sections of the second ship *HMS Prince of Wales*.



And there's a new sense of scale

A NEW series of images has been issued to reveal the true scale of the UK's new aircraft carriers.

The posters, one of which shows a 65,000-tonne vessel next to the Houses of Parliament, left, have been compiled to demonstrate the size of the Royal Navy's future flagships being built by the Aircraft Carrier Alliance, of which DE&S plays a big part, at shipyards across the country.

Ian Booth, Programme Director at the Alliance, said: "These posters depict the *Queen Elizabeth* class carriers in front of the Houses of Parliament and in Portsmouth where they will be based. They're stunning images and show that the UK can expect two really spectacular ships."

The Alliance is a partnership of BAE Systems, Babcock, Thales and DE&S.



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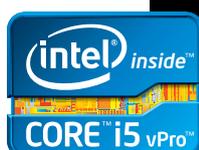
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Ministers take the front line quality test

Right: Philip Dunne is shown a stripped down Foxhound vehicle, while, far right, he visits the Defence Support Group hangar at Camp Bastion.



PHILIP DUNNE, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, has made his first visit to the front line in Afghanistan.

Mr Dunne was joined by Armed Forces Minister Andrew Robathan last month to see progress in mentoring Afghan forces and to look at the performance of equipment in theatre.

The ministers visited the major UK bases at Camp Bastion and Lashkar Gah as well as a smaller base in Nahr-Saraj district.

Mr Dunne said: "I've been extraordinarily impressed by both the

scale of activity here and the quality of operations being conducted."

Mr Dunne saw mechanics in action as he visited the Equipment Support Battalion and the Equipment Sustainability System at Camp Bastion where vehicles undergo deep maintenance before being returned to operations.

"The ability of our own personnel and contractors to get vehicles back onto the ground – whether they have been disrupted on operations or require routine maintenance – is impressive," he said.

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As F-35 Lightning II testing continues in the United States . . .

Production heads towards one-a-day target

A NEW assembly line in Samlesbury is changing the pace of military aircraft production in the UK.

The production line which sees aircraft sets being pulsed through an overhead monorail system for optimal efficiency has just delivered the first complete F-35 Lightning II aft fuselage set.

Taking just nine weeks to complete, the production of AF047 demonstrates the success of the new line.

Production rates currently see one aircraft set being produced every five days and at peak rate will reach one per day by 2016.

Chris Allam, Senior Vice-President for F-35, said: "2012 has been an incredibly important and incredibly busy year for the F-35 programme. We have delivered over 100 aft fuselage assemblies to the customer since production began in 2004; we've completed 42 aft fuselage sets in 2012 and we've just seen the first aircraft set coming off the new line.

"It's great news for BAE Systems and great news for the F-35 programme. And it doesn't stop there. This production line has an important role to play in other ways too.

"If you need proof that we are committed to world class manufacturing, if you want to see the future of aircraft production in the UK then the assembly facility at Samlesbury is a good place to start."



On the pulse: Samlesbury is aiming for a new aircraft set per day

The integrated assembly line is part of the company's £150 million investment in the F-35 programme at Samlesbury. A similar production line is currently being built to support the horizontal and vertical tail assembly builds.

BAE Systems is responsible for design and delivery of the aft fuselage and tail surfaces for each of the three F-35 variants.

The company is teamed with Lockheed Martin and

Northrop Grumman to deliver the F-35 Lightning II, which has a current requirement for more than 3,000 aircraft.

Fifteen per cent of Lightning II work is carried out in the UK and more than 130 British companies contribute to the supply chain.

The programme is worth more than £1 billion to UK industry each year and will support around 25,000 British jobs over the next 25 years.

Tornado engine servicing takes a step forward at Marham

ROLLS-ROYCE has opened its first service delivery centre to support military engines at RAF Marham in Norfolk.

Around 15 specialist Rolls-Royce engineers will work alongside their RAF counterparts at the new centre to deliver tailored support services for the Tornado aircraft's RB199 engines at the base.

The Centre also features live video links to the Rolls-Royce operations centre in Bristol, which will enable real-time decision making on engine issues helping to further increase aircraft availability for missions.

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton,



pictured above right, said: "This facility will provide critical support to the Tornado fleet so that it can continue to deliver the first rate operational capability for which the Force is justifiably famous.

"We are grateful for the essential support that our industry

partners provide; their work, in true partnership with the RAF, has and will continue to deliver world class performance on operations and in training."

John Rishton, Rolls-Royce Chief Executive, pictured left, added: "This is an excellent example of working in close partnership at the heart of our customer's operations. It will enable us to maximise engine time on-wing and improve response times on critical operational decisions."

Rolls-Royce supports the Tornado RB199 engines under the ROCET (RB199 Operational Contract for Engine Transformation) contract.

NEWSREEL

External study

AROUND three-quarters of MOD commercial staff – there are about 1,200 in the commercial function – will hold qualifications at various professional levels of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply by 2015, Defence Minister Dr Andrew Murrison has said. Around 47 per cent do so at the moment and this figure is expected to rise to 60 per cent by this April, he added, in a written answer in Parliament.

ESS supports the services

ESS Support Services Worldwide (ESS) has been awarded a contract with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) starting in May to provide soft services worth £57 million over three years to the MOD. ESS will deliver support to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, the Army and the RAF across sites in the south west. These include catering, mess and hotel services, cleaning, waste management, stores and logistics, motor transport and personnel and administrative support.

F-35 fuel tests

TWO F-35 Lightning II aircraft have refuelled in the sky above the US for the first time. The two aircraft, both Carrier Variants, refuelled from a C-130 Hercules as part of the F-35 flight test programme which will see more than 1,000 test flights this year.

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Building a safe engineering culture



AIR VICE-MARSHAL Julian Young has taken up his new appointment as DE&S Director Technical responsible for safety, engineering, quality, portfolio, programme and project management and technical delivery.

He said "I am delighted to have been appointed as Director Technical at DE&S: it was competitively advertised and absolutely worth winning. Beyond that I am an engineer and I relish the opportunity of working within a directorate full of technical and programme management expertise to help collectively make a difference to the outcome of military capability.

"There are many tough challenges ahead of DE&S and the wider MOD, and, using my previous experience of strategic change management, I look forward to playing my full part as a member of the senior management team to deliver a sustainable long-

New Director sets out early goals on his arrival at DE&S

term organisational structure that delivers what the Front Line needs and provides value for money for the taxpayer.

"Meanwhile, I am pleased to fulfil the specific roles of Skills Director for Engineering for all four services at DE&S and the MOD Quality Assurance Authority, both topics I have some prior knowledge and expertise in.

"Indeed, an early vision is to build a safe and professional engineering culture and community here at DE&S, and to promote strongly the

Management Team. He brings with him a wealth of experience that he will be able to put to good use in leading his team and its diverse portfolio in order to shape safety, engineering and technology for the future DE&S."

In 2009 the Air Vice-Marshal was appointed on promotion to Director Defence Support Review with responsibility for priming the Strategic Defence and Security Review with ideas on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of support; many of these - including 'Total Support Force' - are now being implemented.

He is an Engineer Officer and early operational tours were on Support Helicopter squadrons, including Operation Granby (Gulf War I) and detachments to the Falklands.

Later tours focused on Harrier GR7/T10 aircraft, in the project team and operationally. He served as Station Commander at RAF Cosford in 2002-03, and was awarded his CB in 2013 for work related to RAF organisational change and OBE in 2000 for work related to Harrier support.

The Air Vice-Marshal is married to Helen and they have three adult children. He is President of the Minerva Society and the RAF Microlight Flying Association, and Director of *RAF Active* magazine.

□ Air Vice-Marshal Young, pictured above, was able to set out his aims for the engineering community to 165 engineers and scientists from across DE&S at the Professional Engineers' Forum on 8th January.

A presentation on airworthiness skills showed the opportunities that all DE&S engineers have to develop themselves; a speaker from BAE Systems showed achievements on product safety through partnering with DE&S; and the technical Director responsible for the 2012 Olympic Stadium explained how the design was inspired by a bicycle wheel!

Representatives from engineering institutions, training providers and Technical development partner teams were available to provide advice and guidance about skills, development opportunities and professional registration during the event.

Air Vice-Marshal Young said: "The Forum is a key event to bring together engineers and scientists from across the organisation to create a cohesive professional grouping at the core of DE&S business."

The next Forum is scheduled for Monday 22nd July. Further information on Eng Pol events contact Rachel Dyer DESTECH-EGEngPol@mod.uk Tel 030 679 36769.

Equipment management continues to improve

MANAGEMENT OF the biggest equipment programmes is improving, according to the UK's spending watchdog the National Audit Office.

The NAO's annual Major Projects Report (MPR), published on 10th January, found that for 2011-2012 the annual cost increase for the 16 biggest projects in the equipment programme was £468 million, seven times lower than MPR 2010 which was recorded as £3.26 billion.

And almost three quarters of the cost increase in 2011/12 was due to rising oil costs leading to higher fuel prices over the next 27 years for the RAF's Voyager

aircraft contract. DE&S has already mitigated delays to the RAF's new tactical transport aircraft (A400M) by purchasing two extra Boeing C-17 aircraft and two BAe 146 aircraft.

Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said: "The 0.8 per cent growth in programme cost represents much less than the rate of inflation for the year.

"The work done to balance the budget and address fundamental project management problems is paying off. We can now make more accurate cost projections and invest in the best equipment for our Armed Forces with more confidence than ever before."



Greater transport capacity: ZZ177, the seventh C-17 bought by DE&S for the RAF, is pictured at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, on its first operational flight

New Intranet goes live at DE&S

THE NEW Defence Intranet has gone live for all working inside defence.

The internal information service will provide users with a common look while allowing business areas the chance to design their own pages.

New information architecture – developed by Microsoft and a team led by MOD Chief Information Officer – will provide context to where users sit in the MOD and enable quicker access to frequently used information.

With the MOD moving to MOSS for collaborative working, the web content management stream of MOSS will help build the more up-to-date Intranet using SharePoint technology.

New commercial director is appointed at DE&S

STEVEN MORGAN has taken up his appointment in the newly-created post of Director Commercial Operations at DE&S.

He is focused on acquisition and has line management responsibility for the ten Heads of Commercial in the Operating Centres, each focused on an equipment domain (for example Helicopters, Submarines).

Mr Morgan, pictured, said: "I have already discovered that DE&S is a hurricane of activity populated by a cadre of highly professional and dedicated public servants. I am so excited about joining this high-class team and am looking forward to sharing the challenges."

On appointing Mr Morgan, Les Mosco, MOD Director Commercial, said: "I'm really pleased that Steven is joining us. He comes with an impressive track record of complex acquisition and capital projects.

"His role in the MOD is to lead



the DE&S day to day commercial activity of circa £14 billion annual spend on some of the most challenging acquisition tasks in the UK.

"His appointment follows an extensive recruitment campaign, which also appointed a number of internal and external candidates to senior civil service posts. All will help strengthen the MOD commercial function."

Mr Morgan joins DE&S after a senior commercial, contracting and major projects career. His most recent roles include

Executive Director responsible for Heathrow's £4.6 billion capital acquisition programme and construction of the new Terminal 2 for four years, and BNFL's Commercial Director at Sellafield for five years leading the commercial migration of the nuclear site from owner-operated to contractor-operated.

He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) and a newly elected member of CIPS Congress.

In 2008 he was selected as CIPS Senior Procurement Professional of the Year, and holds an MBA in Contracting and Project Management from George Washington University.

He is also a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineering and a Visiting Fellow of Cranfield University where he has lectured on the Intelligent Client.

Mr Morgan is married to Anne and they will soon be relocating to Gloucestershire.

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Catalogue helps engineer better equipment supply

NEARLY 4,000 items of construction equipment have now been codified into a stores catalogue to make it easier for Royal Engineers to obtain material for building and infrastructure work.

For the past eight years DE&S' Expeditionary Campaign Infrastructure team (ECI) has delivered construction material to engineers and other military units supporting operations, training and humanitarian work.

This has enabled delivery of material – installations and buildings for example – in places where local procurement is

not feasible or desirable. Such delivery, where often no two projects are alike, places a high dependency on obtaining the right material at the right time.

ECI delivered this capability on time through enabling arrangements. Items were not codified and entered the supply chain without an item record, causing difficulties in demand and supply.

A new three-year £7.2 million contract with WF Electrical introduces a catalogue which has, at its core, a list of commonly used building materials with flexibility to deliver items as

required. The process has taken 18 months to complete, with 3,782 items codified after suggestions by Royal Engineers.

The project, under WO Andrew Haile, sees the catalogue include prices for each line item and the contract also includes the capability to supply items that are not listed within a given time frame to satisfy customer requirements.

The new contract is being used to support operations and training worldwide and the Construction Catalogue is available to military engineers on Technical Documents On Line.



WO Andrew Haile, project manager for the Construction Stores catalogue



The shape of things to come: a computer image of how the Type 26 Global Combat Ship will look

UK and Australia set to share Type 26 ideas

THE UK and Australia are to explore co-operation over mutual design work for the Royal Navy's new Type 26 Global Combat Ship.

With both countries due to build new frigates in the next decade or so, design of the vessel could meet the needs of the Royal Australian Navy.

Chances of co-operation have been boosted by a new defence treaty between the two countries, signed in Perth on 18th January with Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith, to provide a framework for co-operation.

The two countries will work together in areas such as cyber security, defence reform, personnel exchange, equipment, and science and technology.

In one of the first examples of the closer relationship, Defence Secretary Philip Hammond visited the Australian naval base and BAE Systems shipyard in Perth to discuss sustainment and development of Australia's submarine programme and future shipbuilding.

Mr Hammond and Mr Smith agreed to work on the prospect of collaboration on Australia's future frigate requirements and the UK's planned Type 26 ship.

Mr Hammond said: "This Government has made a concerted effort to renew and strengthen our relationship with one of our oldest allies. This defence treaty will drive forward closer co-operation on a wide range of issues, making our forces more interoperable and

maximising our capabilities.

"Areas of potential co-operation include future frigates, with the Royal Navy's Type 26 design, a cutting edge blueprint that could be the first of many opportunities for future collaboration.

"In times of budget pressures for all nations, it makes sense to maximise economies of scale and work with our friends to get the best value for money on all sides."

"Australia is a close ally of the UK and Nato in Afghanistan, as in Iraq, and is a key partner in the Asia Pacific region. Many of today's security challenges require a shared response, and the treaty therefore complements what we are doing in Nato."

Work urged on cyber security

WORK BETWEEN the MOD and private companies in cyber security has been praised by a powerful committee of MPs.

And commitment to foster an innovative cyber security sector in the UK including a distinct role for DE&S to confront threats and provide potential offensive capability has been welcomed.

But the House of Commons Defence Committee has called for a more vigorous approach from the Government to cyber security.

Committee chairman James Arbuthnot said: "The Government needs to put in place mechanisms, people, education, skills, thinking and policies which take into account opportunities and vulnerabilities which cyberspace presents."

Minister for International Security Strategy Dr Andrew Murrison said: "The MOD takes protection of our systems extremely seriously and has a range of contingency plans to defend against increasingly sophisticated attacks."

"The level of Government funding to tackle this threat underlines the importance we attach to these issues."

'Head and

DE&S has bought 25,000 Glock pistols as the new sidearm for UK Armed Forces. *Tim Foreman* watched its public launch



Standing on a firing range in Woolwich Barracks, Royal Marine Sergeant Steve Lord is poised, waiting for the order from the range control officer to draw his pistol and shoot.

As the cry of "target" the speed with which Sgt Lord draws the pistol from its holster and fires seems as fast as Usain Bolt out of the blocks. That is one of the reasons the Glock 17 has been picked as the UK military's new standard issue sidearm.

DE&S has signed a £9 million contract to provide the Armed Forces with more

than 25,000 new pistols. To mark this milestone members of DE&S' Soldier System Programmes team who procured the pistol and the Royal Marines displayed the impressive Glock 17 Gen 4 before members of the national media.

The unmistakable smell of cordite filled the air as the pistol was put through its paces in front of journalists, who were given a detailed briefing on why the Glock is the latest weapon of choice for the UK's Armed Forces, and were allowed to fire the pistol themselves.

Many who got to pull the trigger commented on the pistol's lightness and the level of accuracy even a novice was able to achieve when shooting at a target.

The Glock replaces the venerable Browning pistol that has been in service for more than 40 years and has seen action on operations all over the world.

However, despite its impressive service record, it has become increasingly expensive to maintain and the MOD decided it was time for a replacement.

After a two-year process the Glock was chosen. It is much lighter and more accurate than the Browning and its magazines can carry more 9mm bullets – 17 rounds compared to 13 for the Browning. The Glock has three built-in safety devices, so the pistol can be kept loaded with a round in the chamber – even when it is in the holster.

Warrant Officer Class 1 Mark Anderson, a Royal Marine working

as a requirements manager in Soldier System Programmes explained that the Browning's external safety catch could mean a longer delay before pulling the trigger.

WO Anderson, who trialled the new weapon before the contract was awarded, said: "The Glock can be drawn and fired accurately within two seconds, which makes it a formidable weapon and increases the chances of soldiers being able to defend themselves.

"Pistols are vital in close combat and are a key part of a soldier's armoury. Reliable, light and easy to carry, the Glock inspires confidence and performs exceptionally well."

Personnel across all services will begin to receive the new Glocks this year and troops deployed to Afghanistan will be among the first to use the new weapon.

The contract with Viking Arms of Harrogate, Yorkshire, also includes more than 25,000 holsters.

The Glock pistol, manufactured in Austria, was tested for around 18 months against seven other competitors, with the team firing about 250,000 rounds,



Glock 17 Gen4 9 mm pistol

Effective range : 25 metres

Calibre : 9 mm

Magazine capacity : 17 rounds

Composition : Steel with polymer frame

Weight : Unloaded: 625 g / 22.05 oz.

Loaded: 905 g / 32.12 oz.

shoulders above the rest'

including in climates ranging from the Arctic at -40C to deserts at more than 50C.

Colonel Peter Warden, until recently the leader of the delivery team responsible for the procurement of the new pistol, said: "The Browning is at the end of its service life. Like an old car, it became more cost-effective to buy a new gun than to keep maintaining and repairing it with increasing regularity.

"Now we have a much more effective weapon that is more reliable and durable. The Glock 17 has shown itself to be head and shoulders above the rest of the competitors."

He added: "The DE&S project team is to be congratulated on a successful project which has been delivered ahead of time and below budget. This is no mean feat and would not have been possible without much hard work in the planning and delivery of the project plan and in particular in the spirit of partnership

developed with Viking Arms UK and Glock, in meeting the targets set."

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, Philip Dunne said: "I have seen this pistol demonstrated in target ranges and am impressed that this new lighter, safer generation of pistol provides better value for money for the MOD and will complement the wide range of weapons already available to front line troops."

The Glock has a proven track record with other Armed Forces and was reliable and easy to use in MOD tests, according to Philip Page, Lethality Through Life Manager in Soldier System Programmes. "We tested them in several environments, from the Arctic in Norway, to the deserts in America, including sand drag tests, special mud tests, and in the freezing rain", he said. "It's about stopping the target - it's an incapacitation effect, which is vital if you want to stop the attack."





Skynet blast-off

The Skynet 5D satellite has begun its 765 million mile journey to provide secure military communications to all UK Forces

The latest of the MOD's groundbreaking secure military communications satellites has been successfully launched into space.

Launched from French Guiana, South America, the Skynet 5D satellite began its eight-day journey into space before settling into orbit and starting to beam signals that will be used to operate extra secure communication channels between MOD headquarters and the three military services worldwide.

Skynet 5D is the fourth (and last) satellite to be put into orbit since 2007 under a £4 billion Private Finance Initiative (PFI) programme with Astrium, who built the satellite, and service providers Astrium Services.

The satellite, built at Astrium's sites in Portsmouth and Stevenage, will fly at speeds of around 6,200 miles per hour and is expected to cover about 765 million miles in its projected lifetime.

It will reinforce and extend the operational service which Skynet has provided to UK forces including in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Middle East and the Balkans. Skynet 5D has increased fuel capacity, enabling the satellite to be repositioned more frequently in orbit, enhancing its ability to respond to UK operational requirements. The satellite has an expected operating life of at least 15 years.

Colonel Mike Griffiths, Head of Networks at DE&S, has described the

programme as a 'remarkable success'.

"For nearly a decade Skynet has been providing vital support to the Armed Forces. The launch of this latest satellite will provide the additional global communications capacity needed to support operations," he said.

Defence Secretary, Philip Hammond added: "The launch of Skynet 5D marks another milestone in this very successful programme. These satellites provide essential secure communication channels for our Armed Forces in Afghanistan and allow all three services to communicate with each other."

Manufacture of the Skynet 5 satellites began in 2003 with the first of the satellites, Skynet 5A, launched in March



2007, followed by Skynet 5B in November 2007. Skynet 5C was launched in June 2008.

The PFI with Astrium Government Communications (formerly EADS/Paradigm) began in 2003 and will run until 2022. It delivers the MOD's communications requirements, yet still enables Astrium to sell spare satellite capacity on the world market. This PFI approach has funded the four satellites without the MOD needing to find the considerable up front capital expenditure.

Two large ground stations control the satellite constellation. The programme also delivers different-sized ground and ship-borne terminals used by the services on worldwide operations. Skynet 5 satellites have the highest powered military radio band transmitters in orbit. Coupled with anti-

jamming antennae they are very efficient for military use and effective against hostile or non-hostile cyber interference. The extra communications capacity Skynet 5D brings will be used across the spectrum of defence from the infantry in Helmand Province to ships and air forces in the Gulf.

The MOD agreed to the launch of the fourth satellite after a study predicting a potential shortfall in Skynet overall capacity. It is predicted there will be a rise in demand, due to increasingly complex command systems and an upsurge in traffic. Skynet 5D is undergoing in-orbit commissioning testing and should be available for services in April.

The Skynet project sustains around 800 jobs between the company's sites in Stevenage, Portsmouth and Corsham in Wiltshire.



Special delivery – BFPO ups front

Systems which will improve postal services to deployed UK servicemen and women are being introduced across Afghanistan by a team from DE&S' British Forces Post Office.

Men and women on the front line of Afghanistan are enjoying enhanced services thanks to new information systems being brought in by British Forces Post Office.

The services will also increase visibility of the end-to-end mail chain and automate complicated manual processes.

The three new systems are e-bluey 2, Horizon Online (HoL) and Postal and Courier Electronic Records (Pacer) 2.

A team from BFPO's Technical Support Services (TSS) – Maj Mark Lloyd, WO2 Mark Gwilt, Sgt Russel Gibbons and Sgt Stuart Paton – were tasked with implementing e-bluey 2 in Afghanistan before the existing service ceased to function.

E-bluey, has been in service since 2001 and, with monthly downloads averaging between 55,000 and 100,000, it is extremely popular. The existing contract,

which has already been extended three times, ceased at the end of last December. The project team has been working on its replacement.

While some of the work could be done remotely, much of the work, including the technical refresh of hardware, could only be completed in theatre once Boeing Defence (UK) had installed and configured the new servers and made the production environment accessible.



Message from home: CSgt Dale Smith from 4 Mechanised Brigade reads an e-bluey while collecting his unit's mail

line game

The TSS team from BFPO's headquarters at RAF Northolt deployed to upgrade the existing e-bluey system used throughout theatre. Team members also installed and configured Pacer 2 for use at the Camp Bastion post office. They encountered a number of issues but, as they deployed with the right experts and were appropriately supported by those at RAF Northolt, they managed to complete all their tasks.

The team also trained up the local e-bluey SNCO, visited forward bases to rectify equipment issues and lack of training, carried out site surveys, refurbished holdings, submitted 'request for change' for systems, prepared for later installation of HoL and also helped in sorting some of the 2012 Christmas mail!



e-bluey

Probably the best known of BFPO's systems is the hybrid mail system, e-bluey. It has allowed deployed personnel to send and receive letters from families and friends.

Letters are downloaded, printed and sealed in theatre, as close to the point of delivery as possible. The time of transmission of a physical letter to a serviceperson is dramatically reduced, as it is not necessary to transport the letter through the mail system – which is particularly important in theatre as it reduces the logistic footprint.

The system is installed in 21 forward bases and patrol bases in Afghanistan and communications are provided by a portable broadband global area network satellite. E-bluey 2 uses existing hardware although replacement hardened laptops have been provided.

While the general look and feel of the website has been deliberately kept the same, there are important changes behind the scenes. The way information is inputted, transmitted and stored has been improved while the application and website incorporates recent technological advances in security; administrators are also better equipped to support the application.

'Track and Trace' with Pacer 2

Pacer 2 is a networked electronic accounting and 'track and trace' system for processing and management of all official mail worldwide; it also supports the movement of personal mail and parcels to entitled personnel serving overseas. The Defence Courier Module will also do the same for all protectively marked material.

Installing the system at Camp Bastion, the team sited terminals to suit working practises. External communications back to BFPO London is satisfied by the use of a Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) satellite. Internally, a non broadcasting, isolated wi-fi network was created so that each component of the system can 'talk' to each other.

While the DVB has proved stable, any communications outage would not directly impact on Pacer 2 as the system can continue to function off-line.

Pacer 2 has significantly speeded up receipting in mailbags as labels can be scanned in any order; it has also alleviated the need to maintain manual tick sheets. In addition to the handheld scanner, the team has sourced finger-mounted scanners and, once operational, these will also allow bags to be scanned and ticked in as the mail arrives.

Mail to onward locations will be processed more quickly and efficiently as only one bag needs to be scanned and the remainder will automatically be receipted and despatched to the end post office.

Pacer 2 has had a tough testing ground but has improved sorting and onward distribution of mail; it also provides HQ BFPO with visibility of the end-to-end mail chain.

Royal Mail systems at BFPO

HoL is the Post Office's bespoke counter management system. Adopted for use by the BFPO, it has been successfully introduced to almost every Forces Post Office. Sporting the latest Ingenico chip and pin card device, the system expands services and products available to the serviceperson overseas – many of these will be available in theatre too.

In addition to normal chip and pin transactions, the system will allow individuals to check their UK bank balance, top up mobile phones in advance of a return on R&R, pay bills, transfer money, use the Moneygram service and deposit money in dollars on leaving theatre.

The system has also been well received by counter staff because it alleviates the need to maintain many of the manual ledgers. The system provides a complete electronic audit trail and stock management is better controlled.



E-blueys downloaded and printed from the service at Camp Bastion by LCpl 'G' Gurung from 29 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps

The 'do better' team comes out on top

A ten-year transformation process is well under way to improve provision of safe and available equipment to the Royal Navy's fleets of ships and submarines

A DE&S project team that manages hundreds of millions of pounds worth of equipment management and spares support for Royal Navy warships and submarines has launched a programme to transform the way the work is being done, to save the MOD money and improve fleet availability.

The Maritime Equipment Transformation (MET) team went through a rigorous three-year market-testing programme, during which outside industry was invited to compete for most of the work the team did.

Team leader Jonathan Gilchrist, who led MET through the in-house bid process, said: "Our in-house 'do better' bid won that competition and since then we have been working on delivering against the demanding requirements set out in the Category A business case that underpins this programme. That win means there is a lot of pride in this team.

"Providing safe and available equipment, advice and spare parts the fleet needs – such things as diesel engines and hoses, pumps, generators, chilled water plants and a multitude of other equipment – is at present supported by about 80 separate contracts. We've launched a transformative process with industry that should bring this down to around 22 contracts over the next couple of years subject to MOD approvals.

"We are also working hard to rationalise our significant inventory holdings and processes to maximise availability and reduce excess stock to meet DG Resources targets. This is a really tough challenge but will result in

an affordable and sustainable equipment management service to the Royal Navy.

"We are also working on halving the number of key under-performing equipment, such as some diesel engines for example, by the end of this year (two out of nine achieved already) and we will reduce team manpower by April 2015 as a result of the reduction in contracts.

"The scope is huge. The estimated value of the proposed contracts on which we have briefed industry is between £350 million and £450 million over the next ten years."

Mr Gilchrist said their work was firmly in the support arena, although they support other teams in equipment upgrade programmes and are hugely motivated and committed to achieving all targets.

"Yes our work is at the lower end of the technology spectrum; it's about mechanical items, marine engineering and spare parts and such like. But if we don't get support to this equipment right then ships won't be safe to inhabit, move, have power or function properly, so our work is absolutely vital and my team knows that," he said.

"The key to us winning with an in-house 'do better' bid was to look at everything we did very carefully to see whether we could do it all more effectively. We are now nine months into a ten-year programme of transformation."

Seventy-five potential suppliers have been briefed on the process at an industry event led by the MET team and the colossal spectrum of equipment

and spares overseen by MET has been categorised into 21 separate 'Lots' of equipment groupings. Each Lot will be competed.

These have in turn been subdivided into four separate types of support contract, ranging from those involving provision of spares only to the provision of asset availability (Contracting for Availability).

The programme has flexibility planned into it, because during the next seven to ten years, when the planned new contracts are in effect, support solutions for new classes of ships, expected to come into service, may need support from MET.

MET supports all Royal Navy warships and submarines and provides support to some equipment fitted to RFA vessels. It also supports the Army, Royal Marines and Police with outboard motors.





Above: MET members join staff of a *Trafalgar* class submarine to work on a main circulation water pump

Left: maintenance is carried out on a Rolls-Royce Perkins CV8 diesel generator as fitted to *Sandown* class mine countermeasures vessels

It's all in the preparation

Implementation Manager Stuart Andrews said the key to the team's success in winning against an industry bid was careful planning.

Since then MET has introduced standardised processes used by all team sections all the time. This means that all work can be measured against the same criteria. At the heart of this is a six-step sustainable equipment management process based upon the "plan, do, check, act" principle. This process starts by identifying issues and solutions, plans are created, options generated, which are then presented to the MET programme board for endorsement; finally the decisions flow back into the team to be implemented. ESCIT (Equipment Support Continuous Improvement Team), which has been embedded in MET for the past three years, has been instrumental in the design and implementation of this process.

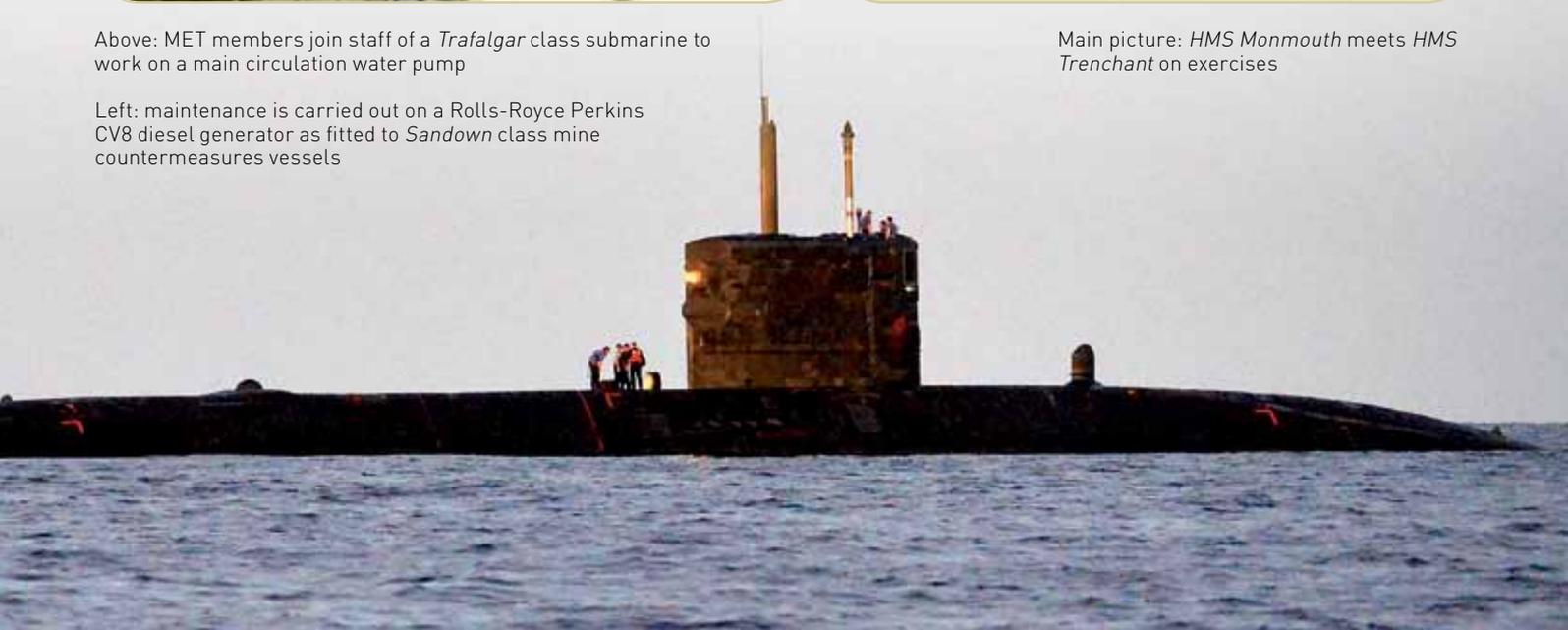
At its core it is a process that brings people together to formalise decision making within current constraints – it helps to focus and direct resources across the team in a coherent and standardised way which includes the engagement of all functions within the MET team and stakeholders such as Navy Command and industry.

Mr Andrews said: "We use this process to work our way from a known problem to an implemented solution against time, cost and performance criteria. It's a flexible process yet provides a solid framework for the team to work against. It's a process we believe could be used in other project teams and transformation programmes across DE&S."

Assistant Head of Commercial Scott White added: "We have learned a number of lessons during the competition phase of the MET Programme in 2008 and have used those lessons to help better shape and inform the process for this implementation phase.

"We have sought to simplify the procurement process – a process often criticised by industry as being disproportionate and unnecessarily complicated – by undertaking a single pre-qualification questionnaire exercise, for all lots, and structuring it in such a way that it allows us to grow existing and help nurture new relationships across our industrial base, including our wide range of SMEs, to deliver MET's future support solutions. In this regard, industry are key stakeholders in MET's future success and improving availability of equipment for the Royal Navy.

Main picture: *HMS Monmouth* meets *HMS Trenchant* on exercises



Nearly 10,000 staff took part in the annual *Your Say* survey. David Ball, DE&S Director Human Resources, pledges action on the results



David Ball

You had your say – now comes the hard part!

✓ A BIG thank you to the staff across DE&S who filled out the *Your Say* survey last autumn.

That is not the only way you give feedback. Other channels include Talk to the Board, Face to Face, town hall meetings and the Materiel Strategy engagement sessions.

Chief of Defence Materiel Bernard Gray and the DE&S Board looked at the *Your Say* results at its December Board and devoted an afternoon on 17th January to looking at what staff were saying through all these channels and how to respond. Individual businesses have been looking at the results for their own areas.

The survey had some positive messages: there are clearly things most of us in DE&S think are good about where we work – how interesting the work is, the respect we are shown, how considerate our managers are, the skills we have to do the job, and the opportunity to develop a career.

The survey shows a strong personal attachment to defence.

But there are some much less comfortable messages too. The overall sense of engagement has stayed the same as the year before. The

engagement score of 52 means that the average answer to the key engagement questions was a resounding ‘neither agree nor disagree!’ – suggesting perhaps that staff may be reserving their judgement at an uncertain time.

And there is clearly a long way to go before we feel fully involved and bought in to the change in DE&S and

across MOD as a whole. There are concerns over access to learning and development, about workload and about the tools for the job. And, not surprisingly in today’s climate, there is a lot of dissatisfaction with pay and conditions.

I will shortly publish on the Intranet more detail about what DE&S staff said; how it compares to what others have said; and what the Board intends to do about it

and, just as important, what it wants us all to do about it.

We have massive change in prospect for DE&S and getting everybody involved in that is hugely important. But that won’t happen unless people are convinced that the change is relevant to their concerns.

So the survey sets us all a real challenge: of course what we now have to do is show not just that You Said, but that We Listened. That is the hard part.’

More than 9,900 staff from DE&S completed the survey.

More than 7,000 provided written comments – 31,000 in all

The DE&S engagement score of 52 per cent is the same as last year and the same as MOD as a whole

The most engaged departments in Government score around 60 per cent

There are 10,000 hits a month on the DE&S Talk to the Board pages

Around 200 people provided feedback on the Materiel Strategy engagement sessions

‘We have to show not just that You Said but that We Listened. That is the hard part’

Safety tops submarine agenda

A COURSE to improve awareness of how maintenance work on submarines can affect future safety of the crew has been welcomed by DE&S and Royal Navy submariners.

The course is run by Babcock at Devonport for those working in its Submarines Business Unit

Content was developed by a team of subject matter experts, with input from training, quality, dockyard and reactor test organisations, production, and behavioural psychology, as well as from submariners.

First of the one-day courses were held last autumn for up to 40 delegates and will run for up to a year to include all

staff. Aspects of the course have also been delivered to key suppliers.

Babcock Safety Performance Improvement Manager, Collwyn Griffiths, said: “The input and impact of having Royal Navy presenters has been a key success factor – hearing real life experiences brings the message to life, and makes the potential consequences of decisions or actions all the more real by developing an empathy and relationship with submariners.

“The courses bring value to Babcock, the Royal Navy and the MOD, by continuing high quality of work undertaken and helping to maximise safety on the UK’s submarines.”



Above: a course gets underway at Babcock

Sealing the deal: Ken Tait, deputy head of DE&S' Defence Core Network Services programme, on the left, is pictured with Caggemini's Andy Whatman



Programme steps up – and is value for money

A THREE-YEAR contract for the hosting and application management of Purchase to Payment (P2P) has been awarded to Caggemini – the first contract under the Defence Core Network Services programme.

P2P is the MOD's strategic e-purchasing tool which enables electronic ordering, receipting and invoicing of goods and services and enables the MOD to conduct its business with industry.

Contract award followed a competition using a cross-Government framework. As Caggemini is the current supplier of P2P, there will be no noticeable change for P2P users.

Delivery teams and Defence eProcurement Services as the business owners have provided invaluable support to the Project Emporium team which has been working hard to ensure that P2P continues to be managed after the July 2013 expiry date of Defence Electronic Commerce Service.

The new contract represents a significant step for the programme and a value for money solution which has been delivered on time against challenging timeframes.

Vicki Dorey, Emporium project manager, said: "Placing of this contract was only achieved following a lot of hard work by many people within Information Systems and Services, who were under considerable pressure to deliver against an extremely tight deadline.

"Their endeavours mean that P2P will continue seamlessly from one contract to the next, with the added bonus of saving 15 per cent on current P2P costs to achieve the cost reductions imposed upon the DCNS programme."

Project Emporium is now focused on developing the options for future defence application hosting services, including the design of a DCNS applications services tower, while Defence Information Services Team colleagues over the coming months will ensure smooth transition to the new contractual arrangements.

UK repeats commitment to the Lightning II



48 first, more later, MPs are told

Above: ZM136, the second UK Lightning II, is pictured in the US where trials are taking place

THE UK remains committed to buying at least 48 of the F-35 Lightning II aircraft – the Joint Strike Fighter – MOD Permanent Secretary Jon Thompson has told the House of Commons Defence Committee.

He told MPs: "Our commitment over the first ten years is for 48, which was part of the announcements last May in relation to the reversion to STOVL (the short take off vertical landing version of the next generation aircraft).

"Over time, we would expect the number to rise to beyond three figures, but that would be in the second decade," he said.

Mr Thompson explained to MPs that the 48 aircraft are included in the ten-year

Equipment Plan which is expected to cost £153 billion over that time. The issue of whether extra aircraft would be ordered would be considered in the next Strategic Defence Review.

He said in uncorrected evidence on the committee's website that he had three priorities – battle-winning Armed Forces, a professional Ministry of Defence and hard-headedness about resources.

Controls introduced from 1st April last year had already reduced the current year's expenditure by the MOD on inventory by half a billion pounds on an annual spend of roughly £2 billion, but he explained that this money did not fall within the MOD's budget.

He said: "The savings will come from not needing so much warehousing and stock management.

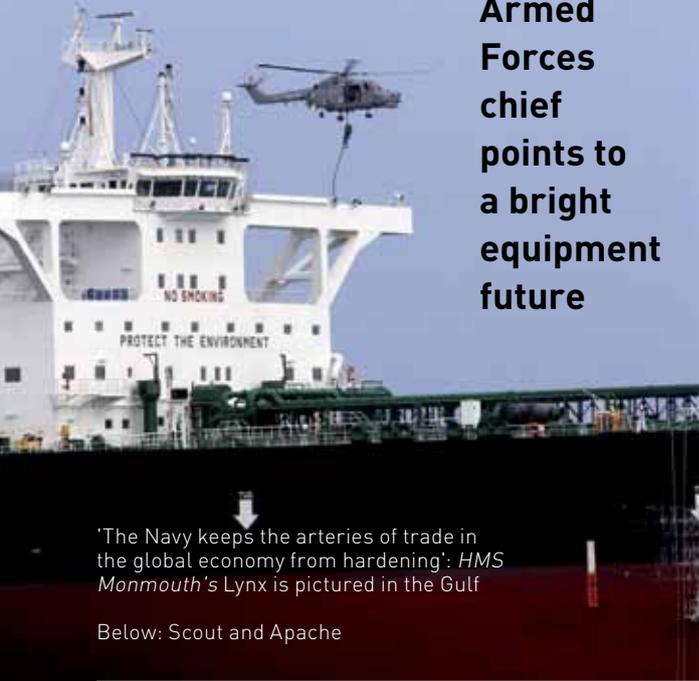
"We spend around £275 million or thereabouts on warehousing, distribution and so on.

"That is the number where you can make an annual recurring saving because you are not buying so much stock, you are not storing so much stock and then you are not ultimately disposing of it. That is where you can save money for the taxpayer.

"We would expect that to reduce fairly significantly. It can never be zero, because we will always have to manage some stock, but I would expect it to be in the high tens."

Force 2020 to have equipment 'Nato will be envious of'

Armed Forces chief points to a bright equipment future



'The Navy keeps the arteries of trade in the global economy from hardening': HMS Monmouth's Lynx is pictured in the Gulf

Below: Scout and Apache



THE CHIEF of the Defence Staff General Sir David Richards has said in a speech to the Royal United Services Institute that by 2020 the UK will have equipment that many of his fellow Nato Chiefs of Defence, would be envious of.

The Royal Navy would have a world class carrier capability with Lightning II combat aircraft on board, Type 45 destroyers on patrol, Type 26 frigates in production and *Astute* class attack submarines.

The RAF would have new Chinook Mk 6 helicopters, bringing the total Chinook force to 60, Typhoon Tranche 3 combat aircraft, as well as the Lightning II and Atlas and Voyager air transport and air-to-air refuelling aircraft, underpinned by the increased C-17 fleet;

The Army would have Scout vehicles, upgraded Warrior, Challenger, and Apache helicopters to provide improved reconnaissance, mobility and firepower;

And Airseeker and other critical platforms would ensure the Armed Forces had better situational awareness equipment than ever.

He said: "As the Prime Minister has put it, the Navy 'keeps the arteries of trade of the global economy from hardening'.

"The Royal Navy will continue to grow in importance. As our carrier capability comes into service it will be a key part of our diplomatic, humanitarian and military strategy prepared to overcome the toughest military challenges. This is its *raison d'être*. But I know it will be used for much more."

"In the future, the Chief of the Naval Staff and I have a vision for a Navy which procures ships differently allowing us to have more, not fewer platforms.



We must resist the pressure that has shrunk the number of platforms. Clearly that will mean rethinking the Navy, including examining the case for ships that may have a limited role in general war.

"As the concept develops we will look to acquire ships that range from top-end war fighting elements through potentially to more vessels tailored to separate but important tasks, to be deployed on a range of routine non-warfighting duties.

"The Army too is changing. Once we come out of the combat role in Afghanistan at the end of 2014, it will cease to be on permanent rotation with the burdens that imposes. Like the Navy, these land forces must be equipped to pack a punch but war fighting is not all they're for.

"Though more conceptual work is needed, given the importance of the region and clear Prime Ministerial intent, I envisage two or more adaptable brigades forming close tactical level relationships with particular countries in the Gulf and Jordan, for example, allowing for better co-operation with their forces. Should the need arise for another Libya-style operation, we will be prepared."

For the RAF, Sir David said the rate of technological advance was most keenly felt on air platforms. "Remotely piloted air systems and novel anti-air defences have changed our understanding of both what it means to fight and defend.

"We must not allow sacred cows – such as the indispensability of on-board pilots – to rule the day. The Chief of the Air Staff is leading the change. By giving 'wings' to UAV pilots the RAF is recognising the capability of the platform and skill of the pilot."

Fuel efficiency that adds up

– that's the aim of PowerFOB

A SECOND phase of trials to test technologies which will reduce through life costs and improve operational flexibility through increased fuel efficiency at remote operating bases has been a success.

Data from the three-month trial in Kenya, along with previous trials in Cyprus, will be analysed to explore benefits of combining existing diesel generators with batteries to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

UK Forces use around a billion litres of diesel a year. Forces at Forward Operating Bases (FOBs), training areas and temporary bases burn fuel in diesel generators to provide electricity. The cost of fuel, complex logistics in transporting diesel and the burden on personnel makes generating power expensive.

A team from DE&S Director Technical – Technology Delivery has worked with industry to develop a project called PowerFOB. It is aimed at finding efficient alternatives to fossil fuels. First phase

trials took place at Episkopi in Cyprus as its heat and humidity is similar to Afghanistan. Trials in Kenya featured three semi-operational bases, a main base at Simba for 500 people, a smaller forward base and a workshop similar to a patrol base.

The trials developed the Microgrid System which uses banks of lead batteries to store excess electrical power produced by the generator(s). When the battery bank is fully charged, an intelligent generator management system switches off the generator, delivering electrical power from battery storage until the batteries require re-charging and the generator is run again for another cycle.

The Microgrid is flexible, and can use power from a range of sources including solar and wind to offset energy demand and the need for diesel. It is being developed with interoperability in mind – to make the system 'plug and play' with a range of power-consuming and power-producing military equipment.

The Microgrid can be scaled as required, with 'units' of the equipment able to 'daisy chain'.

Results have shown that generator running time can be reduced considerably with a corresponding reduction in fuel consumption, maintenance and noise. The Microgrid also offers a back up power supply for when the primary power source has failed.

This simple idea is enhanced by incorporation of demand management (prioritisation of electrical loads: for example medical equipment and ISTAR) and of integrated renewables appropriate to the deployed environment.

This work has been used to develop part of a Defence Standard called the Generic Base Architecture which will apply to all future equipment for deployed bases.

PowerFOB equipment will be on display during national climate week 4th-8th March. Further details from DESPTG-TD-LogSys1a.

Latest senior appointments announced in the Armed Forces



DEFENCE SECRETARY Philip Hammond has announced senior appointments in the Armed Forces.

Admiral Sir George Zambellas, left, is to be appointed First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, in succession to Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope in April 2013.

Air Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford, right, is to be promoted Air Chief Marshal and appointed Chief of the Air Staff, in succession to Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton in July.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach is to be appointed Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, in succession to General Sir Nicholas Houghton in May.

Lieutenant General Richard Barrons is to be promoted General and appointed Commander Joint Forces Command, in succession to Air Chief Marshal Peach in April.

A new Chief of the Defence Staff will be announced next month and new Chief of the General Staff in due course.



Team Puma signs up to new ways of working

Teamwork: Team Puma members pictured with Gazelle and Puma helicopters at Eurocopter UK



SENIOR MANAGEMENT from a DE&S team and its industry partner have met to establish new ways of working to deliver the Puma HC Mk2 helicopter.

DE&S' Puma 2 Gazelle team and Eurocopter UK have developed a Team Puma charter to improve their relationship.

The charter was launched at Eurocopter's facility in Kidlington, which allowed staff to meet their opposite numbers and to see a Puma HC Mk2 and

Gazelle in the hangar. The event took place at the same time as delivery of one of the first Puma HC Mk2 to Eurocopter UK's premises.

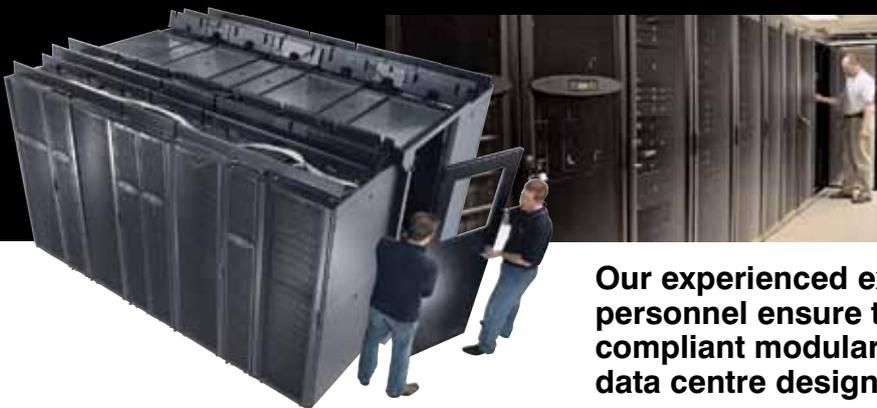
It was hosted by Ian Craddock, Head of Helicopters 2, and Markus Steinke, Managing Director of Eurocopter UK, who explained what the charter would mean. Themes include focus on delivery, personal ownership and collective effort, echoing wider Defence Transformation themes.

Group Captain Malcolm French, DE&S P2G leader, said: "This event has had a positive impact on my team, who now feel more able to resolve issues with their counterparts and to see how their individual day-to-day efforts contribute to the Puma HC Mk2 and Gazelle capabilities."

The next major milestone for the programme is the Puma HC Mk2 Release to Service, scheduled for May.

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Creating an effective workspace environment

Risk aware – yes risk averse – no

Safety is always high on the DE&S agenda. Major General Carew Wilks, Director Land Equipment, argues for a sense of proportion in risk management

✓MY COMMITMENT is to ensure equipment delivered by my Operating Centre is safe throughout its lifecycle. This safety can only be assured through the use of an effective safety management system – and the fundamental foundation upon which this is built is ALARP – As Low As Reasonably Practicable.

In the MOD a safety risk is ALARP when it has been demonstrated that the cost of any further risk reduction, including the loss of a defence capability as well as financial or other resource costs, is grossly disproportionate to the benefit obtained where safety risk is a measure of exposure to possible human harm. It is MOD policy that equipment must not be used unless all safety risks have been assessed as ALARP.

That's the technical definition. But this is what it means to me. I have the

responsibility to ensure that the full range of equipment from tents to tanks we deliver to the Front Line Commands is safe for its intended use. This is a duty I take extremely seriously – not only is it the right (moral) thing to do but there is a clear legal requirement, and effective safety management makes good financial sense.

Risk management is a key part of safety management – where risk management can be broken down into three broad questions:

- ❑ Risk identification and analysis – who is it going to harm and how?;
- ❑ Risk assessment – how severe is the risk and is it ALARP yet?;
- ❑ Risk control – how can we reduce the risk further until finally it is at a level that we can tolerate?



It is, of course, an iterative process so we undertake continuous performance monitoring and review to make sure that nothing has changed.

Safety management should not be onerous and the essential guide of 'proportionality' must be employed in our overall management of risk.

We are and must remain risk aware so as not to imperil those affected by our equipment – but we can never be totally risk averse. In the real world risk to life exists – but we continuously work to ensure that our equipment does not add to it.'

One year on – new approach sees science and technology on the front foot

ONE YEAR on from the publication of the National Security Through Technology White Paper – which replaced the 2005 Defence Industrial Strategy and 2006 Defence Technology Strategy – good progress is being made in embedding the new approach.

Industry reaction to the White Paper has been mixed, acknowledging competition and off the shelf procurement are already part of the MOD's approach, while welcoming government action to encourage UK defence and security companies to fulfil DE&S requirements and to export successfully.

Paul Hamilton, Head of Industrial Policy, said: "The White Paper's core message was that wherever possible we will fulfil the UK's defence requirements through open competition to obtain best value for money.

"We will also take action to protect our operational advantage and freedom of action, but only where this is essential for national security. Much of our focus is now on how we embed those considerations into our strategic balance of investment decision making.

"We have updated the Acquisition Operating Framework, Smart approvals and training courses. An action plan is in place to encourage small-and-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to fulfil their potential in responding to defence requirements, for example introducing an e-enabled template for lower-value contracts."

Mr Hamilton added: "We are forging better links and understanding of SMEs through the SME Forum chaired by the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology.

"We have given industry increased transparency about our

science and technology spending by publicising our spend by domain on the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory's website. The work of the Centre for Defence Enterprise has been bolstered, and it now holds both defence and security-themed calls, as well as marketplace and showcase events.

"Work is also underway with other departments about how to improve support to defence exports, including making exportability a consideration particularly in the early stages of the acquisition cycle."

The White Paper implementation is part of wider defence transformation programme, that includes implementation of Levene, Materiel Strategy and Lord Currie's review of single-source procurement. Further information is available from DECS-IP-group(multiuser) or telephone 0207 2184113.



Above: Paul Hamilton, Head of Industrial Policy

BENEFITS FROM a treaty which allows US defence articles to be exported to the UK without an export licence are to be explained to DE&S teams.

The US/UK Defense Trade Co-operation Treaty came into force last April and enables certain US articles to be exported to the UK without a licence under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).

The treaty also aims to enhance interoperability and get equipment to the front line quicker.

The first live Government to Government transaction involving Airseeker took place at RAF Waddington last December demonstrating that the treaty can and does work.

Teams to learn benefits of US/UK treaty

More transactions are expected involving other US/UK Government programmes.

Under the treaty a UK Approved Community (AC) has been established, which DE&S teams are already members of.

The UK defence industry is also supporting the principles of the treaty and five companies have so far joined the AC with more than 20 other applications being processed.

Companies in the AC can also

benefit from the ITAR exemption under certain circumstances. More companies are expected to join as awareness and understanding of the treaty increases.

DES' International Relations Group will host a seminar in the Lecture Theatre at Abbey Wood on 7th February from 10.30am-12.30 to explain how the treaty operates and how it might be able to support project teams in undertaking their US business more efficiently.

Places can be booked on e-solutions <http://mou.isg-r.r.mil.uk/eSolutions/>

NINETEEN MOD and industry students attended the fourth Civilian Submarine Qualification Course arranged by Abbey Wood's Submarines Workforce Management team and run by the Royal Navy Submarine Service at Devonport.

The mix of graduates and apprentices from Abbey Wood, Devonport, and Babcock are about to embark on an engineering career in submarine design and maintenance.

The course is based on the Royal Navy's submarine qualification course for new service recruits. Over two weeks students received lectures on submarine safety, construction, weapons, sensors, propulsion and internal systems.

Additionally they visited several simulators used by the Royal Navy to provide a realistic training environment. The students also spent time on board *HMS Turbulent* and *HMS Tireless*.

Warrant Officer 1 Stephen Mooney, the Submarine Qualification Training Officer, said: "Royal Navy submarine qualifications take part in two stages. We conduct the dry phase here and teach recruits how submarines systems work and all the routines which are carried out onboard.

"They then move onto the wet phase, which takes place on a submarine at sea. The training course for the civilian students is aimed at giving them a similar insight, to help them understand how we operate so that they can use that knowledge in their future careers".

Duncan Westlake, Submarines Workforce Management team leader, added "Students gain a comprehensive insight into the technical difficulties associated with designing, building and maintaining today's highly complex submarine platforms. This opportunity will serve all the students very well as they progress through their careers and further develop their specific skills."

■ **Apprentice success: page 37**

Getting up to speed in the world of subs



Course students and trainers line up at Devonport

Programme stakeholders get together

THE FUTURE Local Area Air Defence System (FLAADS) team has held a stakeholder event in Bristol.

Representatives from across the MOD, MBDA and its supply chain were welcomed by Adrian Birch (leader of DE&S' Short Range Air Defence team) and Nick Neale (MBDA's FLAADS(M) project director) with opening presentations highlighting the transformations which are taking place within the Team Complex Weapons Programme.

Key messages included the need for greater commonality of weapon systems; the ability to deliver to the front line in shorter timescales more capable weapon systems to counter increasingly sophisticated threats; and the shared benefits of successful export campaigns.

Sea Ceptor is the first element of the FLAADS programme which will replace Seawolf on the Royal Navy's Type 23 frigates and will be the principal air defence system for the Type 26 Global Combat Ship.

Variants of this new air defence system are planned to replace Rapier for the British Army and provide the RAF with an upgrade to the ASRAAM missile.





Starter for ten: Ed gets ready for his school 'grilling'

ED DUNLOP didn't quite know what he'd let himself in for when he volunteered to go on the radio.

The Warrant Officer from British Forces Post Office found himself in front of the microphone and being grilled by a phalanx of 'reporters'.

Healthland Primary School in Harrow, north London, was looking for people to talk about what it's like to work at Christmas.

They have their own school radio station which produces a programme every half term and is run by Year 5 pupils (9-10 year olds).

Alongside a local vicar and a paramedic, Ed described what it's like to work over the festive period – the highs and the lows.

The children did all the interviews and the results were impressive.

They asked some very thoughtful questions and were genuinely interested in what it's like to be working away from families at such a special time.

Ed said: "It was a great experience working with the children in our local community. A real privilege.

"I was impressed by the facilities that the school had and with the level of professionalism the kids showed; both on the technical side of producing a radio programme and with their questions.

"During my 24 years service I have been interviewed quite a few times for TV, radio and newspaper articles and I can honestly say that these kids would have given some of the professionals a run for their money."

BFPO's Ed helps the young tune in



Lauren feels the heat on first steps to a new career

CLYDE'S FIREFIGHTERS have been putting 15-year-old Lauren Wilks through her paces.

During her week-long work experience with the Defence Fire Service at Faslane last month Lauren worked with breathing apparatus, performed ladder drills, first aid, and was tutored on how firefighters deal with traffic collisions.

Lauren decided she wanted to spend her work experience with the Fire Service after seeing a TV programme on how responses incidents.

"I saw it and thought I would like a go," said Lauren. "It appealed to me because it is a hands-on job and you are helping people," she said. Her mum is an MOD civil servant while Dad is an ex-submariner.

Clyde's 28-strong force is split into four watches available 24 hours a day to respond to incidents at the military site.

Lauren is goalkeeper with Glasgow Rangers' under 17s team.

DSRA LOTTERY WINNERS NOVEMBER 2012

Bonus

- £20,000:** Kelly Harvey (Dstl).
- £10,000:** Jason Fry (Abbey Wood).
- £5,000:** Patricia Hassan (Foxhill).
- £2,000:** Jane Gregory (Abbey Wood). **£1,000:** Tracey Humphreys (Donnington).
- £500:** Ruth Slater (Abbey Wood).
- £300:** Craig Bainbridge (Abbey Wood), Martin Friel (Glasgow), Carol Cleverly (RNAS Yeovilton), Graham Clay (Liverpool). **£200:** Lindsay Freeman (Tidworth), Thomas Brooks (RNAD Coulport), Daniel Love (Glasgow), Bradley Scott (Beith), Jim Spendley (Aldershot), Susan Nourse (Chilwell), Robert Lakin (MDP Hereford), Kathryn Dymond (Plymouth), Anne Riglar (Corsham), Susan Knott (Menwith Hill), Lynda Holloway (DSG).
- £100:** Edward Bentley (MDP Marchwood), Kenneth McIntyre (Glasgow), Giles Cowling (Dstl), Robert Callow (Babcock), James Callaway (Dstl), Enfy Davies (Cosford), Bridget Morrison (Andover), Michele Steele (Donnington), David Bartlett (Corsham), David McGuill (Beith), Zoe West (RAF Henlow), Pamela Garcia (Abbey Wood), Douwine Phelps (Headley Court), Kenneth Lindsay (Abbey Wood), Claire Edwards (Abbey Wood).

Ships' staff keep totting up the awards



Mike Toft, holder of a Standing Joint Commander's Commendation

AS AWARDS for DE&S' contribution to the success of the London Olympics continue to be made, Commander Mike Toft has been awarded a Standing Joint Commander's Commendation by General Sir Nick Parker, for his contribution to Operation Olympics.

As the senior military representative Mike led a combined force of 200 Royal Navy, Royal Marine and Army Reserve personnel ensuring security of the sailing venue in Weymouth.

Mike, of Maritime Combat Systems, liaised with external stakeholders including Games organisers, G4S, Police and local authorities. He also hosted VIP guests – from David Cameron to Royalty including the Princess Royal and the Earl and Countess of Wessex.

Right:
Phillip
Jackson



PHILLIP JACKSON has been presented with a Director Ships People Award for his key role in the Type 45 class output management logistics team.

Chief Petty Officer Jackson received his award from Tony Graham for working to improve the delivery of logistic services to the destroyer class.

His work ethic impressed BAE Systems and dramatically improved quality of data and processes, evidenced in the design and prototyping for the web-based S82 ships demand tracker and the S145 low priority database.

Andy earns long service reward

MOD POLICEMAN Andy Palmer has received a Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for protecting Plymouth naval base and providing security nationwide, including at the London Olympics.

The marine unit constable based at Devonport received his award from MOD Police Assistant Chief Constable David Allard.

The proud moment was shared by Andy's wife and four-year-old son. Andy said: "It was particularly important that such a landmark was shared with my wife and son. We thoroughly enjoyed the occasion".

Andy who has completed 21 years police service joined the MOD police in 1991 having served with the Royal Navy for seven years as an engineering mechanic. He transferred to Devonport in 1995, eventually joining the marine unit in 1998.

He is also team leader of a group deployed with colleagues to assist with policing protests at demonstrations across the country.

Andy spent five weeks on secondment to support security at the London Olympics and Paralympics.

Road safety is on the right track at Clyde

SLOWER SPEEDS equal happy people – that was the theme at Clyde's Road Safety Week.

MOD Police spread the message to Faslane and Coulport staff, organising events to educate drivers and pedestrians.

"With winter here it was the perfect time to try and get our road safety messages across," said PC William Lavery, Crime Reduction and Community Safety Officer with the MOD Police.

"One of the tools we used was a seat belt sledge which mimics the physical forces placed on the body during a low-speed collision and shows how effective seat belts are."

Fellow Community Safety Officer, PC Jim Slack, added: "Another popular device was the desk top driving simulator which can test driver reactions to different scenarios.

"With the recent inclement weather it was more important that ever to get out and about and urge people to stay safe on the road."

Staff were also given free tyre safety checks.

People living at Churchill Estate in Helensburgh were



given the opportunity to attend road safety talks. Parents at the Clyde creche were also provided with expert checks of child safety seats.

Some of the organisers of Road Safety Week at Clyde are pictured, above, with competition winners.

They are, from left, Scott Dolan of SD Roofing, Chief Inspector Des Kennedy, competition winners Carole McGuinness and Andrew Williams, Crime Reduction Officer William Lavery and Superintendent Weapons at Coulport John Spy.

Apprentices celebrate success

First year Josh is toast of the south west . . .

DE&S APPRENTICE Josh Campbell is the toast of the south west after an outstanding first year in his work.

Josh joined DE&S apprentice colleagues Bradley Merchant, Georgia McCarthy and Mike Barnes at the south west regional final of the Engineering Employers Foundation (EEF) Future Manufacturing Awards in Bristol.

All four, pictured right, were nominated for the Outstanding Achievement by a First Year Apprentice Award.

Josh took the south west award for his exemplary academic efforts during phase one of his apprenticeship but also for his positive attitude towards engineering.

Runner up for the award was Jade Harrison of Cobham.

In the People Management sector

the Babcock Group took the award for its work at Devonport dockyard.

The annual EEF awards recognise achievements in engineering and manufacturing industry and are in their fourth year.

All 37 phase one apprentices from DE&S could apply for the awards, with six being put forward to the EEF for selection. The final four apprentices were chosen to go forward to interviews in the autumn

EEF, formerly the Engineering Employers Foundation, provides businesses with advice, guidance and support in employment law, employee relations, health, safety, climate and environment, information and research and occupational health. It also delivers training and consultancy in the UK and overseas.



. . . while Devonport youngsters earn their training rewards

THE LATEST trainees at Plymouth, have been presented with their training qualifications.

Eleven passed out of Devonport's MOD Technician Apprenticeship Scheme and were presented with their awards at a ceremony in HMS Drake's Wardroom by base commander Commodore Graeme Little.

Chris Warn, apprentice development manager for Devonport, said: "This is an ideal opportunity for Commodore Little to present the final deeds certificates to those passing out of the scheme.

"In addition, he has awarded performance prizes to those apprentices currently in their second and final years and welcomed those joining the scheme.

"The apprenticeship in Devonport gets better and better; the lessons learned by those passing out today and the staff who helped to make that happen will enable us to refine the programme to provide an ever-improving scheme."

The ceremony marks the first passing out of Band D engineering support service managers to work in the dockyard.

The Devonport scheme, started in 2009, aims to make the most of the superb training environment based on the waterfront. Its success is due to the hard work and support of the business areas and the majority of the apprentices have now passed into these same areas as qualified workers at various grades.

Three of the apprentices have already moved to Abbey Wood taking their maritime knowledge and experience with them.

The presentation saw the award of performance prizes for the 2010 and 2011 entries. Richard Griffiths and Joanna Ash were selected for the top HNC student and noteworthy contribution to the MOD prizes.

Stuart Redford and Bart Smorag were selected for the top National Diploma and best Performing Engineering Operations awards while Ross Ambrose received the Apprentice Development Manager's prize.

Back, from left: Chris Warn (Apprentice Development Manager), Kevin Swan, Scott Webber, Laura Holmes, Shaun Rich, Capt Chris Saxby (Superintendent Fleet Maintenance). Front: Sam Rapson, Paul Gilbert (SADM), Cdre Graeme Little, Ross Ambrose, Rob Craven



DE&S' Artillery Systems team raised £213 for ABF The Soldiers' Charity from a bake off on 14th January. Twenty six entries included cookies, tarts and buns with some cakes in the shape of equipment the team supplies and supports.

Admiral leads way in DE&S roll of honour

THE HEAD of DE&S' Fleet operating centres was 'speechless' as he was told of his knighthood in the New Year's Honours list.

Vice Admiral Sir Andrew Mathews headed a lengthy list of DE&S staff, military and civilian, who were honoured in the traditional New Year's Day announcements.

"On 10th December the First Sea Lord slid an envelope across his office table to me, looked me in the eyes and said: 'its good news,'" he recalled last month.

"And it was," he added. "I was speechless. It is a huge honour and particularly special as my wife Beverly gets recognition for all the support she has given me and the Navy for the last 30 years."

Sir Andrew's honour was good news for the Fleet's operating centres, where Rear Admiral Simon Lister, Director Submarines, becomes a Companion in the Order of the Bath.

Other leading military figures at DE&S joining the Rear Admiral with a similar honour were Major General Ian Copeland as Director Joint Support Chain and Air Vice-Marshal Julian Young, recently appointed as Director Technical.

Elsewhere there were a raft of OBEs and MBEs, including a number for staff who earned their honours for their work with DE&S but who have now moved on.

These included Lt Col Robin Smith, now the commanding officer of 24 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, but who was rewarded for his work with Logistics Plans in the Joint Support Chain.

Likewise for Major Darren Fisher, now commanding officer of 421 Squadron but rewarded for his work in the ISTAR operating centre with Special Projects SCM.

And also Flight Sergeant Derek Smith of 8 Squadron at RAF Waddington who earned his award while with DE&S' Harrier project team.



Vice Admiral Andrew Mathews	KCB	Chief of Materiel Fleet
Rear Admiral Simon Lister Major General Ian Copeland Air Vice-Marshal Julian Young	CB	Director Submarines Director Joint Support Chain Director Technical
Major General Peter Fox	CBE	Director Customer Design
Lt Col Ian Comerford Lt Col Robin Smith Mrs Anthea Dolman-Gair Mr David Penlington	OBE	Combat Wheels Group, Protected Mobility Team CO 24 Regiment RLC Force Protection Delivery
Chief Tech David Briggs Mr Christopher Page Major Darren Fisher Flt Sgt Derek Smith Major Kenneth Baker Lt Col Paul Edwards Sq Ldr Tal Lambert	MBE	Joint Strike Fighter Task Force USA Sea King project team OC 421 Squadron 8 Squadron RAF Waddington Individual Capability Group, Personal Combat Equipment Joint Support Chain Network Technical Authority Assurance (Air)
Mr Mark Grinnall	BEM	Counter Terrorist Centre Science Gateway
Non State Awards – industry (sponsored by DE&S)		
Dr V Misfud	OBE	(Cobham)
Mr W Cambridge Mr N Main Mr H Pitchforth	MBE	(Ultra) (Selex Elsag) (KBR)



An MBE for work on the UK/US relationship

A NEWLY-RETIRED Royal Navy officer has been presented with his MBE at Buckingham Palace.

Lieutenant Commander Stuart Hobson, 55, was given the award in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his dedication to the UK's continuous at sea deterrent and helping to promote relations between the Royal Navy and US Navy.

He left the Royal Navy after 38

years of service, on various submarines followed by shore appointments, finishing as officer-in-charge of Clyde's Strategic Weapons Support Building.

Stuart now works for Lockheed Martin UK Strategic Systems at Coulport as programme requirements manager.

He was accompanied to the ceremony by wife Wendy, and their three children, Chris, Nick and Emma, pictured left.



Teams' efforts help support Legion work

MEMBERS OF the Short Range Air Defence (SHORAD) and Maritime and Air Weapons (MAWS) teams have visited the Royal British Legion in Royal Wootton Bassett to present £1,000.

Each year the combined teams' charity committee nominates worthy causes with Lyn Richardson of SHORAD picking the Wootton Bassett branch for 2012.

Money was raised by a weekly bonus ball draw, raffles, quizzes and one member completing the Bristol half marathon.

Lt Paul Greason of SHORAD said: "It is a huge privilege to be able to bring some of the

team to Royal Wootton Bassett to present the cheque to the Royal British Legion. Hopefully the money will go some way to help the branch continue its fantastic work supporting serving and ex-servicemen and women for the future."

Last year the teams donated £1,000 to the Cotswold Care Hospice and Paul Sartori Foundation.

Team members at the presentation, above, included Lyn Richardson, Hayley Timms, Lt Greason, Warrant Officer 2 Craig Walkington, Chief Petty Officer Jess Chapman and Chief Tech Chris Clawson.

Trevor earns his Imperial medal

TREVOR HUNTER from Plymouth has been presented with the Imperial Service Order Medal for a long and meritorious civil service career with naval reservists.

Trevor, an administration officer at the Plymouth-based Maritime



Reserves Unit, *HMS Vivid*, for the last 17 years received the medal on his retirement from the civil service.

The medal was presented to Trevor by Commander Ian Pethick, above left, commanding officer of *HMS Vivid*.

❑ The Maritime Equipment Transformation team raised nearly £460 from its Movember activities to help fight prostate and testicular cancer.

This was achieved through men from across MET growing moustaches despite much 'ribbing' from their colleagues.

Money was raised through sponsorship from friends, colleagues and families plus 50p an insult from colleagues.

DINs - released this month

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

2013DIN04-004: With effect from last November JSP 505 – The Management of Test Equipment came into force. Annex A to this DIN details all test equipment-related Defence Council Instructions and DINs which have been cancelled by this instruction.

2013DIN01-003: This DIN provides details of the revised process for promotion into the Senior Civil Service. Vacancies will be advertised using the Civil Service Competency Framework to be introduced this April. An early adopter version will be available before then.

2013DIN05-001: A new policy is being developed on Defence Health Records (DHR) to cover all aspects of health and healthcare information on personnel for whom a DHR will be raised, and the exchange of information to and from that DHR between the MOD and external organisations.

Further information and more details on the latest DINs see:

<http://defenceintranet.diif.r.mil.uk/Reference/DINsJSPs/Pages/DINsindex2013.aspx>

We ensure global reach
from **up there**

to ensure smooth passage
down here

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