

HEADQUARTERS, SMALL ARMS SCHOOL CORPS

by
Lt Col (AIW) C Hood, Chief Instructor SASC

INTRODUCTION

I now find myself drafting my final Journal notes as the Chief Instructor, I am surprised at how quickly this has come around but time waits for no man. I am immensely proud to have been the Chief Instructor, a lot of challenges have been successfully faced and many positive changes have taken place during my tenure. I would like to thank you all for your loyalty and commitment over the last 2½ years.



As you all know Lt Col Will Paterson assumes the Chief Instructor mantle on 19 June and I am sure he will serve the Corps well, I hope you will all join with me and wish him every success.

The Corps continues to be fully engaged on all training fronts and the move of the Army to a Campaign Footing and Op ENTIRETY will no doubt present new tests. The maxim on which we operate of 'enabling training' remains our raison d'être, no doubt you will all face questions on how we can best deliver this training to meet the operational requirement whilst at the same time 'reducing the stuff in-between'. Innovation is perhaps the single most important means of achieving this without compromising proven standards – this will be your challenge over the next few years.

Providing QMSI's to the deployable HERRICK Brigades has now been achieved, this is a trial which should prove the benefit of a having a QMSI in Bde HQ we also secured a Captain's post in HQ 16 Bde and I have been directed to provide a Captain and a Warrant Officer on an enduring operational need to Afghanistan, both to be located at Camp Bastion.

The review of operational shooting standards (Project Odysseus) produced no great surprises but what it did do was to give impetus to effect changes in the operational shooting policy, long overdue. The revised AOSP's will hit the streets later this year, HQ SASC is also responsible for implementing the recommendations covering changes in range design, liaising with DTE. The other significant change was to Pamphlet 21 which was issued in April. The pamphlet now contains the safety regulations for both the RAC and the Inf. A commonsense solution which lays down a single safe system of training for both Arms.

STATE OF THE CORPS

As at June 15 our total strength was 164, breakdown by rank is as follows:

Officers	34
SMI's	16
QMSI's	56
SSI/Sl's	46
TAG(V)	6
LSL	6 (includes NRPS)

RECRUITING

Since the last Journal I have transferred a further 10 candidates into the Corps, all are welcome and a particular mention must be made to Sgt (SI) Gurung, the first Ghurkha to successfully complete candidate training. Recruiting continues to be the highest priority and I expect you all to be constantly on the look out for potential candidates. I wish to acknowledge the sterling efforts of Capt Steve Harrod during his time as Adj, his determination in securing candidates despite the many obstacles was first class. Capt Harrod has moved on at short notice to Germany and Capt Mick Ronan will cover as Recruiting Officer until the Adj post is filled.

SUMMARY

The way in which the Army currently conducts its core business, especially training will continue to come under the microscope as the need to conduct more Pre-Deployment Training is transferred to the Adaptive Foundation. There is sound logic to this and you all must fully support it, there will always be barriers such as insufficient operational weapons and equipment available for training but if we are to be seen as the training professionals you will need to deliver, I am confident you will.

My final words are to wish you all and the Corps the very best for the future and to say once more, thanks for all your support, loyalty and for the professionalism shown by each and every one of you as members of the SASC.

HEADQUARTERS SASC NOTES

by Captain Steve Harrod, Corps Adjutant

ADJUTANT SASC

The role of the Adjutant is now well established and judging by the number of phone calls I receive it is clear that you are all aware of the role and responsibilities of the Adjutant within the Headquarters. Clearly there remain a few areas that still require development and I get guided on those frequently!

On a personal note, I have recently been informed that I am to be posted replacing Major Craig Adams in Germany from 15 Jun 09 and the post of Adjutant is to be gapped until April 2010 (current planning). The point of contact for Welfare, Recruiting, QMSI courses and G1 is in the first instant to be the Corps SMI within the Headquarters.

Recruiting

Since the 2008 edition of the Corps Journal only a further 12 candidates have attempted our selection with various degrees of success. In addition our new Training Warrant Officer, WO2 (QMSI) Hayward, has continued where the WO2 Hipperson left off in January and has worked tirelessly to get them through at the standard we expect on the Infantry Weapons Division. This was WO2 Hayward's first selection course in his new appointment and although a steep learning curve, he achieved very credible results.

The course 0702 that finished in June 2008 saw 4 of them successful, they were:

Sgt (SI) Blackett (ex RIFLES)
Sgt (SI) Blair (ex RIFLES)
Sgt (SI) Hicks (ex MERCIANS)
Sgt (SI) Hutchison (ex RLC)

In March 2009 saw another 5 complete the course 0801 successfully;

Sgt (SI) Bradley (ex MERCIANS)
Sgt (SI) Connell (ex YORKS)
Sgt (SI) Harry (ex ROYAL WELSH)
Sgt (SI) Tester (ex IRISH GUARDS)
Sgt (SI) Varley (ex ROYAL SIGNALS)

They have all taken up their new appointments at the Infantry Battle School. Well done to all of them and we wish them every success in our Corps.

The course that is currently running, 0802 (at the time of writing this), has 5 of the 6 still working very hard.

I recently was invited to the Infantry Battle School to talk to some members of the AA SAA course who expressed an interest in the Corps and was pleasantly surprised to find 36 students all keen to know more. I also have written to 18 others since January 2009 so the interest is there but unfortunately a lot of those are being held back due to *Operational* reasons although I remain optimistic for getting at least 12 on the next selection course starting 31 August 2009. Please continue to recruit wherever you can and keep an eye out for suitable candidates and let me know names and postal addresses so I can write to them to *sow the seed*. Who are we looking for? As a reminder, the guide the below highlights the type of individual we are looking for:

Arm - Ideally Infantry Soldier, Other Arms with suitable knowledge of Infantry Weapon systems.

Service - Completed between 6 – 15 years. With the introduction of VEng (full) this can be extended.

HEADQUARTERS SASC NOTES

by
Captain Steve Harrod, Corps Adjutant (continued)

Rank - Sub Cpl to CSgt/SSgt.

Qualifications - The Corps places as a priority those that have Mortar, Anti-Tank or Gunnery Qualifications. As a minimum they should have SA (B) 90.

dated 14 Feb 08) some courses can be cross-linked to gain credible civilian qualifications.

Examples of qualifications for each rank that can be accredited are listed below;

Transfers from the SASC

During 2008 we have seen a few of our Corps members apply for commission outside the SASC and been successful. As they have not retired or left the Army they do not always get a mention so I would like to congratulate them both on your behalf and wish them all the best in their chosen paths and I am sure some of you will meet them again at some stage. They were:

WO2 (QMSI) – now Capt – J Southall - AAC

He joined the Army in 1992 and during a tour as an instructor at the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre, Chilwell, he was identified as having the potential to transfer to the SASC. So in the summer of 2001, he headed south for Warminster to attempt Candidate Training under the watchful eye of (then) WO2 (QMSI) Hirst. On successful completion of Candidate Training he transferred from the RAMC and began the next stage of his career.

Following two years in Brecon he moved to Sennelager as an instructor with SASC TAG(G). He was subsequently posted to the British Army Training Support Unit – Belize where he spent almost three years. It was during his time in Belize he applied for a commission with the Army Air Corps, he left the Corps in April 2009 to take up his new appointment and cap badge.

WO1 (SMI) – now Capt – J Hammond

SMI Hammond joined the Royal Military Police in 1988 and spent his formative years arresting people in Germany, Northern Ireland (at the time the RMP became AGC (RMP)), Bosnia and the UK. During his time in Germany he arrested an Infantryman in Osnabruck, this individual was last seen during candidate training and is now a serving member – he refused to name names as the person in question is still serving!

He transferred March 1998 and served at Brecon, TAG(G), ITC(C), RMAS, Baghdad and his final post with the Corps was as SMI at HQ ITG in Upavon.

He was commissioned into the Army Air Corps in February 2009 and is now in post as MTO with 9 Regt AAC in Dishforth, North Yorkshire.

CLM & Education

The SASC QMSI course for 2009 is delayed until later on in the year, possibly December 2009. The reason is that there are only a few eligible and it is not best use of resources to conduct a course for 2 people, with this in mind the plan is to bring forward 2010's personnel which will increase numbers to 13. HQ SASC will promulgate information nearer the date and let those eligible for the course know.

The QMSI course includes the 8 Training Objectives of:

- Apply Leadership and Management Principles.
- Manage/Develop Subordinates.
- Manage Activities.
- Communicate Effectively With Superiors, Peers & Subordinates.
- Operate IT/IM Systems.
- Perform in-Barracks Duties Expected of a WO.
- Lead Individual and Team Training.
- Evaluate UK Security Policy.

Gaining Civilian Qualifications Through Military Courses

I placed this in last year's journal but believe it still to be relevant to a number of you and it will also serve as a reminder or prompt to those that may have been thinking about this.

Throughout your military career you attend and pass a number of courses at certain stages to gain qualifications for promotion. Through the Infantry Whole Life Development Strategy (099/01/02/02

Sergeant

CLM (see DCI Army 47/04).
NBS* Applied Management HE Certificate.
BTEC Advanced Diploma "Trg & OP Management" (PSBC, Mor Adv, ATK Sect Comd).
BTEC Professional Management Studies – Award Level 5.

Staff Sergeant

CLM (see DCI Army 47/04).
NBS* Applied Management HE Certificate/Diploma.
BTEC Professional Management Studies – Award Level 5.

Warrant Officer Class Two

CLM (see DCI Army 47/04).
NBS* Applied Management HE Diploma/Degree.
BTEC Professional Management Studies – Diploma Level 5.

Warrant Officer Class One

CLM (see DCI Army 47/04).
NBS* Applied Management Honours Degree.
BTEC Professional Management Studies – Diploma Level 5.

These qualifications are part of the National Qualifications Framework and recognised by civilian employers. As you will be aware, course attendance alone does not give you the immediate qualification and further proof or a case study will be required. The Personal Development Advisory Team (PDAT) will also give advice on any financial contribution you will be required to pay using your Standard Learning Credits

If you are interested or require further information, the address below is the point of contact,

Personal Development Advisory Team
Headquarters Infantry
Land Warfare Centre
Imber Road
Warminster
BA12 0DJ
Tel No 94381 2224 / 2225

Although finding the time may well be a consideration, you will probably have the majority of work already at your fingertips. These qualifications will follow you through your Army career and can build up to be an impressive portfolio, all for the sake of a few hours work during or after a particular course that you are mandated to attend.

To finish off, I am grateful for those that offered advice and support and although I am aware there is still unfinished business, I will pass on all I can to the SMI so he can continue to assist wherever possible. It is unfortunate but unavoidable that the post will not be filled until sometime in 2010 but whoever takes over will, I'm sure, continue to build with what has been put into place so far.

The SMI is always available for questions and career advice at any time or if you wish to have an interview with the Chief Instructor, let him know, this includes telephone interviews if you happen to be in an overseas appointment and it is not practical for a visit. As previously mentioned, if we don't know, we can't help you.

*NBS.—Newcastle Business School

HEADQUARTERS SASC

PROMOTIONS SINCE LAST JOURNAL

HEADQUARTERS SASC

NEW COLONEL COMMANDANT SASC

PROMOTIONS SINCE LAST JOURNAL

Colonel Commandant Small Arms School Corps

NEWLY COMMISSIONED

24779515	Capt	NC	MacMahon	06/04/2009
24797296	Capt	DV	Upton	02/09/2012

PROMOTED TO WO1

24840120	WO1	LS	Bates	01/04/2009
24841006	WO1	DD	Milton	01/04/2009
24818366	WO1	A	Renton	01/04/2009
24799416	WO1	ID	Glade	11/05/2009
24756929	WO1	L	Jenkins	01/06/2009

PROMOTED TO WO2

25039976	A/WO2	GJ	Black	01/12/2006
24788694	A/WO2	AM	Chick	01/06/2007
25039774	A/WO2	IG	Milton	01/06/2007
25040977	A/WO2	PN	Greene	30/06/2008
25049549	A/WO2	NJ	Guerin	30/06/2008
24849680	A/WO2	S	Hayward	30/06/2008
25046025	A/WO2	PS	Mather	30/06/2008
25029584	A/WO2	GP	Swaby	01/12/2008
25026095	A/WO2	DP	White	01/12/2008

PROMOTED TO SSGT

24902255	SSgt	J	Adewole	02/04/2009
24945713	SSgt	G	Bowden	02/04/2009
25032116	SSgt	GE	Colville	02/04/2009
24903825	SSgt	LR	Ellicker	02/04/2009
25039824	SSgt	M	Hall	02/04/2009
25016569	SSgt	KM	Johns	02/04/2009
25014053	SSgt	S	Maclean	02/04/2009
24940055	SSgt	B	Stuart	02/04/2009
25030473	SSgt	BM	Trainner	02/04/2009
25048066	SSgt	DL	Wilbond	02/04/2009
25044820	SSgt	EP	Wood	02/04/2009

Note:

Lt Col W Paterson was in last years journal and Capt K Anderson will be promoted Major on 31 Jul 09.

The Small Arms School Corps welcomes the appointment of our new Colonel Commandant following Lieutenant General Sir Graeme Lamb who is retiring from the Army during July.



MAJOR GENERAL A C P KENNETT CBE (LATE PARA)

General Andrew Kennett took over as Director General Land Warfare (DGLW, previously DGTS) in February 2008. His previous appointment was Deputy Director J5 Strategy, Policy and Plans at HQ USCENTCOM, Florida, USA where he drafted the Commander's Theatre Strategy. He was previously the J5 at PJHQ which he joined in May 05 following two years in command of 1 Mechanized Brigade including Op TELIC 4, Iraq 2004.

In 2000 he spent 5 months in Sierra Leone as military advisor to the Sierra Leonean CDS during Op BASILICA and Op BARRAS. He was Commanding Officer of 3 PARA in the AMF(L) and light roles, having been Second-in-Command during a period in 5 Airborne Brigade. His regimental duty includes service in all 3 regular parachute battalions, 7 winters training in Norway and 5 tours in Northern Ireland, one of which included 18 busy months in Belfast and South Armagh as a rifle company commander in 2 PARA.

Previous staff appointments include Colonel Army Plans in the Directorate of Resources and Programmes in the MOD; as an SO1 he worked for the Adjutant General, and in the rank of Major, he was MA to Commander UK Field Army/IGTA during the SDR, Op GRANBY (Gulf 1991), Op HAVEN (Iraq 1991) and Op GRAPPLE (FRY 1992) for all of which Commander Field Army was Land Component adviser to the Joint Force Commander at High Wycombe, and Permanent Peacetime Commander of the Joint Force Command Group. Prior to attendance at the Army Staff College he completed a year on Loan Service to the Zimbabwe National Army at the School of Infantry in Gweru.

General Kennett is married to Debbie; they have a son (5) and a daughter (4), taking care of any previous aspiration for retirement but offering two perfect excuses to pass on a lingering interest in many sports, boats, various ways to get at fish and different styles of parachute. He is Chairman of the Army Parachute Association and a regular skydiver.