



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Tomahawk and Astute – a 21st century firepower display



Virtual warfare in focus [See inside](#)



Warrior
upgrade



Wildcat
goes to sea



Daring packs
a punch



Support takes
on a new look



Mapping out
the future

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Our UK employees are proud to provide kit for Britain's armed forces. We design, manufacture and maintain equipment including the Warrior armoured vehicle, the 105mm Light Gun and the Tornado aircraft. But we're prouder still of the contribution and sacrifices made by our armed forces every day. Thank you.

BAE SYSTEMS

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New Defence Secretary Philip Hammond has praised 'the most dedicated people in the public service' as he outlined his vision for defence in his first public speech since succeeding Dr Liam Fox

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cover image

A Tomahawk land attack missile is pictured being fired by *HMS Astute* during her latest set of trials. The missile, one of two fired on the trial, demonstrated complex evasive manoeuvres during flight and hit its designated target on a missile range

desider

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Scout, the Army's next generation of manned recce vehicles, will be fitted with one of the latest sighting systems available

DECEMBER 2011

desider

Bernard Gray

Chief of Defence Materiel

'I am impressed by the resourcefulness and inventiveness that staff have displayed in delivering what is required in challenging circumstances'



I took up the post of Chief of Defence Materiel a little less than one year ago. During that time, I can wholeheartedly say that of the many events I have attended, the two CDM Commendation Ceremonies that I have had the privilege of presiding over have given me some of the greatest pleasure.

The November ceremony in Main Building, at which I handed Commendations to 15 individual winners and 20 teams, was a hugely satisfying and enjoyable event. As at the first event in May, I was impressed by the variety of the successes achieved by both DE&S civilian and military staff alike and the resourcefulness and inventiveness that staff at all levels have displayed in delivering what is required of them in challenging circumstances.

Reading the brief summaries of the work of individuals and teams in DE&S made me – and I hope will make all of you – proud of your achievements and the work that you do in direct support of our Armed Forces.

The CDM Commendations complement the recent success of DE&S project teams at the recent special awards ceremony run by Peter Luff, the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology. At that event

seven teams from DE&S were congratulated by the Minister for their significant contribution to defence. Further reporting of both ceremonies can be found in this edition of *desider*.

I know that as many of you prepare for a break from work over the Christmas or New Year holiday period, you will be thinking about the progress we are making on The Materiel Strategy. The current work to prepare a submission to Ministers on Materiel Strategy remains on track for a Christmas submission date and we will therefore look forward to a decision early in the New Year.

As I have said before, both in this foreword and in town hall meetings with you, I believe this is an exciting time and one that offers the prospect of change that will benefit DE&S by addressing some of the difficulties that we face in our daily work. Your input is and will remain very important to this process and I will continue to keep you up to date with developments. I hope to hold a series of town halls when I have more to tell you.

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work over the past year to wish you a happy festive period and the opportunity to take a well-earned break.



Warrior up

THE ARMY'S Warrior vehicles are to get a £1 billion upgrade.

The Infantry Fighting Vehicles will be fitted with an improved turret and new stabilised 40mm cannon, enabling them to fire while on the move.

They will also benefit from a new standard armour mounting system, providing the flexibility to fit different types of armour and adapt to future protection technology.

The Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme (WCSP) will extend the vehicles' service life to beyond 2040, ensuring that Warrior will continue to play an essential role in the future conduct of land operations.

DE&S has signed a contract with Lockheed Martin UK for the demonstration and manufacture of the upgraded vehicles. The contract will create and sustain around 600 British jobs across the country within Lockheed Martin UK and its supply chain.

The Prime Minister, the Defence Secretary and the Chief of the General Staff have met soldiers who have used Warrior on operations and who are likely to benefit from the upgraded vehicle in the future.

Prime Minister David Cameron said: "This shows the concrete benefits of the fundamental changes we have introduced to modernise our Armed Forces and to bring the future defence budget back to balance. It means we are now able to ensure our soldiers have greater flexibility and firepower with these upgraded armoured vehicles."

"Warrior has performed outstandingly well in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and now



How Warrior will boost UK industry

Lockheed Martin UK and supply chain locations which will benefit from the Warrior Programme are:

Company	Location	Work	Jobs
Thales Optronics	Glasgow	Sights & situational awareness, Met sensor	50
Caterpillar	Shrewsbury	Engine modifications and integration support	10
Defence Support Group	Telford	Turret machining and WCSP integration	40
Meggitt	Coventry	Ammunition handling system	50
Ultra Electronics	Cheltenham	Electronic architecture and turret power management	160
Lockheed Martin INSYS	Amphill	Design/programme office	160
Lockheed Martin UK STS	Farnborough	Training	
Sci Sys	Bristol	Man Machine Interface & Electronic architecture	10
Moog UK	Reading	Rotary Base Junction	10

Other UK suppliers with less than two per cent of the programme account for the remaining 110 jobs that will be created or sustained. These include Westwire in Swindon responsible for wiring harnesses, and both TKE in Northampton and MTL Group in Rotherham responsible for metal fabrication

'Upgraded Warriors will give commanders and their soldiers greater flexibility and firepower'

Upgrade is a £1 billion investment

Afghanistan, and this programme will enable it to remain effective to the 2040s.

"It's also good news for British business: supporting the UK's defence industry and providing 600 jobs from Farnborough to Glasgow."

Defence Secretary Philip Hammond, added: "As a key step towards meeting our requirements for Future Force 2020, the upgraded Warriors will give commanders and their soldiers greater flexibility and firepower. This is fantastic news for the Army and it also represents a great boost to British industry – sustaining jobs, skills and capability within the UK's armoured vehicle sector."

The Warrior has been in service with the British Army since 1989 and has distinguished itself on the battlefield throughout its extensive deployments. The upgraded Warriors are expected to enter service by 2020, with the first deliveries beginning in 2018.

Alan McCormick, Vice President and Managing Director in Lockheed Martin UK's Amphill business, said: "We are delighted that the MOD has selected us to lead this critical upgrade effort

designed to maximise the investment made in Warrior vehicles to extend their lives into the 2040s.

"The Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme will provide a highly capable vehicle to fulfil the British Army's current and future requirements. It will also bring significant job opportunities for our team of suppliers based here in the UK."

The upgraded Warriors will also benefit from a new electronic architecture, able to work with advancing technology.

BAE Systems' Anglo-French joint venture with Nexter Systems – CTA International – has designed a revolutionary 40mm cannon and ammunition.

BAE Systems will also continue to provide support to Warrior in the form of maintenance, repair, upgrade and integration work. A £30 million armour and mobility upgrade it delivered earlier this year for Afghan service follows many earlier upgrades.



NEWSREEL**DE&S keeps backing SMEs**

THE MOD awarded around 2,500 direct contracts to small and medium-sized enterprises during the 12 months to the end of March 2011, according to the latest figures. In the same period, about 3,550 direct contracts were awarded to large businesses, valued at about £6,280 million. These figures are contracts administered through the central system which excludes purchases made through the Government procurement card and miscellaneous transactions. They also exclude subcontracts placed with SMEs by prime contractors and their supply chains, which are extensive and include a high proportion of SMEs.

Operational force levels

AROUND 109,000 past and present members of UK Forces have deployed to Afghanistan since operations began in 2001, according to provisional figures from Defence Analytical Services and Advice. Around 142,000 deployed to Iraq since 2003. Figures do not include supporting posts outside Afghanistan or Iraq.

Tornado support

THE Tornado sorties flown from the UK to Libya during Operation Ellamy saw VC10 and TriStar aircraft providing 170 hours of air tanker support, according to figures released in Parliament.



Astute shows off her cruise missile threat

THE ROYAL Navy's latest attack submarine, *HMS Astute*, successfully launched two cruise missiles during trials of her precision strike capabilities while dived in waters off the USA.

Two Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAM), which carry conventional high explosive warheads, each flew about half of their maximum range of more than 1,000 nautical miles. They demonstrated complex evasive manoeuvres during flight and hit their designated targets on a missile range.

HMS Astute is the first of a class of seven nuclear-powered but conventionally-armed submarines that will enter service with the fleet over the coming two decades, replacing older Trafalgar class boats. Missile tests were part of lengthy and exhaustive trials that *HMS Astute* is undergoing, to prepare her for operational service around the end of next year.

DE&S Director Submarines Rear Admiral Simon Lister said: "These very successful trials of *HMS Astute*'s ability to fire Tomahawk cruise missiles accurately at targets on land at huge distances are visible evidence of the immensely powerful capabilities these submarines will have. *HMS Astute* has further complex trials to undertake before she enters operational service towards the end of 2012."

"*HMS Astute* and her sister submarines will form one of the key elements of the UK's future maritime defence, as set out in last year's Strategic Defence and Security Review."

HMS Astute leaves King's Bay naval base, Georgia, to begin her successful missile trials

DE&S Head of Submarine Production Commodore Henry Parker said: "These successful trials are the result of a huge amount of work involving the Submarine Production team, the Royal Navy, submarine builder BAE Systems Submarine Solutions, the Tomahawk project

one new-model TLAM Block IV missile. Neither was equipped with a warhead for these tests. These trials continue our successful use of this powerful weapon system since it first entered service with the Navy 12 years ago."

Commanding officer of



Members of *HMS Astute*'s bombshop crew carry out checks on the 5.5-metre long 1,300kg TLAM missiles before they are loaded into the tubes. The launches were an important step towards proving the submarine's weapons handling and launch system designed by Babcock

team and the US Department of Defense. These successes are a tribute to their efforts.

"*HMS Astute* has been engaged on intensive first-of-class trials and will be undertaking further trials through much of next year as she prepares for operational service."

"The submarine fired one older-model TLAM Block III and

the 7,400 tonne submarine, Commander Iain Breckenridge, said the trials proved that *HMS Astute* was a truly capable submarine and that the UK submarine service would be able to provide this key UK strike capability for many years to come. The weapon was most recently used by the Navy to help enforce UN action involving Libya.

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NEWSREEL**Clothing roll-out**

ON current plans, all UK Forces personnel who require combat clothing, including reservists, are to be issued with the new multi-terrain pattern uniform by the end of 2013. Peter Luff, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology has said in a Parliamentary reply that issue to cadets of the multi-terrain pattern uniform is a decision for each of the services. Army Cadets have been included within the last tranche of the Army roll-out programme and it is intended to issue Royal Marine Cadets with the new uniforms after the naval core roll-out programme is complete. There are no plans to issue the new uniform to Air Cadets.

Sortie figures

FROM the start of Operation Ellamy until 27 October, the RAF conducted approximately 2,990 sorties, of which 2,060 were combat sorties, according to figures released in Parliament. The Army and Royal Navy also conducted combat and other air sorties during the operation.

Olympic task

MOBILISATION of reserve forces is being considered as part of defence's contribution to support the Olympic Games next year. Armed Forces Minister Nick Harvey says the MOD will provide a range of capabilities to support other Government departments for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Plymouth public kicks off sub dismantling debate

THE FIRST in a series of public exhibitions has taken place in Plymouth as part of the public consultation on the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP).

Around 400 people came to Plymouth Guildhall to talk to the project team, ask questions and share their views.

A wide range of residents from Plymouth and the surrounding area attended the five-day event, from former submariners and dockyard workers to people with very little knowledge about submarines who had come to find out more.

Some also joined in on workshops in which people could get together and discuss the issues in more detail.

Mike Cushen, SDP Project Manager leading the team manning the exhibition, said: "We've had a cross-section of people through the door so far which has helped us to get an understanding of the range of views in Plymouth about the project.

"We have had some really interesting feedback and some issues raised which we hadn't previously heard so it has been a valuable exercise.

"I am proud of the team who have delivered the exhibition professionally and have clearly and helpfully answered the questions and concerns of residents. I hope that everyone



Above: Rear Admiral Simon Lister explains proposals for disposing of defuelled nuclear submarines including those laid up at Rosyth and Devonport, during public consultation in Plymouth. Consultation, which is being run by DE&S, closes on 17 February.

who came to the exhibition in Plymouth now feels they know enough about the project and the proposals for dismantling the submarines to be able to submit an informed response to the consultation.

"The responses we receive will all be fed into our assessment after the consultation closes in February so that we can take

them into account as we develop our solutions."

As *desider* went to press, the team was travelling up to Scotland for the next exhibition to be held in Dunfermline.

Further events are being held in Saltash, Torpoint, St Mellion and Edinburgh this month and Linlithgow, opposite Rosyth dockyard, in the New Year.

Contract keeps ship data on record



BAE Systems will continue to keep records relating to Royal Navy ships

A FIVE-YEAR contract awarded to BAE Systems will continue information services vital to successful operation of the surface fleet for the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary in Portsmouth.

The Configuration Accounting Service involves management of a huge central information system, known as the Surface Ship Definition Database, which contains more than five million records relating to Royal Navy ships.

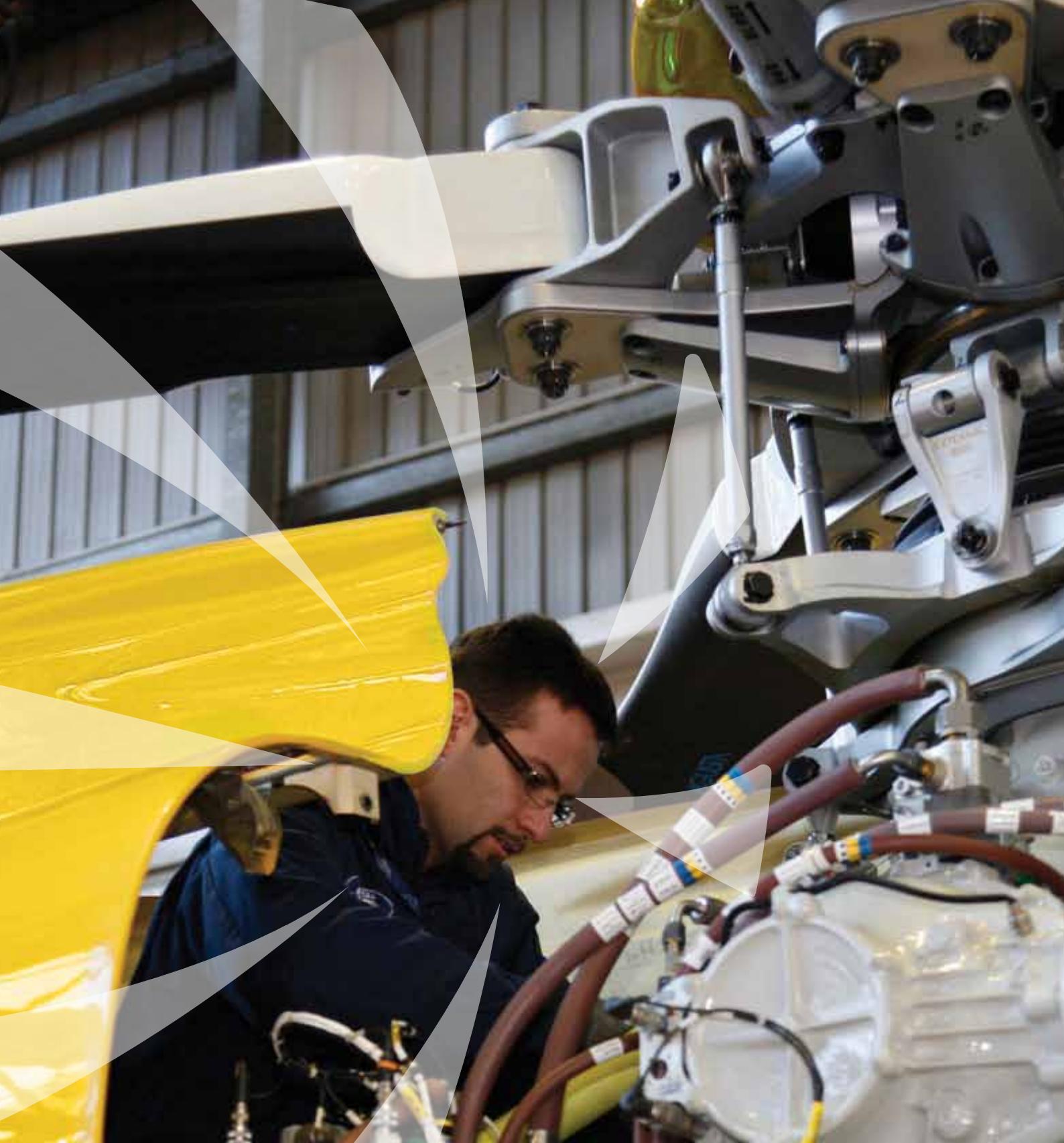
The company's engineers ensure all data, including technical documents, design change guidance and spares lists for each ship, are accurate, up to date and easily accessible. This information is required to co-ordinate maintenance, repairs and upgrades to the fleet.

Cdr Chris New, Head of Maritime Maintenance Support at Abbey Wood, said: "Configuration accounting is a key part of delivering maintenance and support to the surface fleet.

"The knowledge and experience that the BAE Systems team bring will ensure that key subject matter expertise will remain available within the maritime domain to support the current, and future developments in surface ship support arrangements."

The team also captures technical data from new ships under construction.

The contract comes into effect this month and follows on from a previous agreement.



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NEWSREEL**Spearfish upgrade**

ALTRAN Praxis of Bath has been awarded a contract from BAE Systems Mission Systems to design and build the Safety Electronic Unit (SEU) for the Spearfish torpedo upgrade. This will bring together all of Spearfish's safety control into a single embedded system, the SEU. This will enable easier introduction of new performance upgrades to Spearfish, reduce through life cost, and maintain exceptional safety levels.

On track

BMT Isis has completed a project for the MOD's Ship Safety Management Office to develop and integrate legislation tracking into the Naval Authority System. The system is a BMT-developed web application to manage safety certification of hazards for all Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels. The database currently contains maritime environment legislation likely to impact on MOD shipping.

Ramp off

REMOVAL of the take-off ramp on the Queen Elizabeth aircraft carriers is expected to be captured in a contract amendment early next year with further changes arising from decisions on the carriers to be captured in 2013, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Peter Luff has said. This comes from the decision to fly the Carrier Variant of the Joint Strike Fighter.

Submarine reactor testing to end at Vulcan

SUBMARINE REACTOR support work at the Vulcan naval reactor test establishment in the north of Scotland is to end in 2015.

The on-shore nuclear submarine reactor prototype at Dounreay in Caithness has supported in-service nuclear submarines and development of new reactor core designs.

With the development of a submarine design, powered by a new generation of nuclear propulsion systems known as the Pressurised Water Reactor 3 (PWR3), the work at Vulcan will end.

"Confidence in the technology is such that it is not now necessary to undertake reactor core prototyping activities," Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Peter Luff announced in Parliament on 2 November.

"Instead the PWR3 reactor core design will be supported through an extensive test and validation programme using computational modelling, analogy from current reactor designs and testing of individual components and systems."

"The Vulcan site will therefore not be required to support reactor core prototyping activity when the current series of PWR2 reactor core prototype tests are complete in 2015.

"Options for the future of the site range from placing the prototype facilities into care and maintenance while retaining the site's strategic capabilities, to decommissioning the site and returning it to Nuclear Decommissioning Authority ownership."

He added that the MOD would work with the Department for Energy and Climate Change, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Scottish Government during the process.

The Vulcan site is leased by the MOD from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and operated under a long-term partnering arrangement with Rolls-Royce. DE&S' Nuclear Propulsion team has established a project to consider future options for the site.

'MOD has now got a grip on equipment costs'

NEW DEFENCE Secretary Philip Hammond has said the MOD has now got a grip on the equipment programme and the books are being balanced.

"The trend of vast cost increases has been halted," he said.

"The 0.9 per cent overall increase this year is still too much, but it is seven times lower than the last year of the previous administration.

"It was right to take tough decisions in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to deal with an equipment programme that was out of control. The Nimrod MRA4 was more than eight years late, almost £800 million over budget, and had seen the unit cost of each aircraft soar by 200 per cent; with no clear idea of when the capability would be delivered."

Mr Hammond was replying to the National Audit Office's report into the MOD's major equipment projects, published on 16 November.

It highlighted a £466 million in-year cost increase in the 15 largest projects, around half of which was due to delaying the Astute submarine project.

Mr Hammond said: "Overall, much progress has been made, but more work is needed to achieve better value for the taxpayer while providing the Armed Forces with the

Balancing the books:
Defence Secretary Philip Hammond, seen third from left at a Remembrance Service at Camp Bastion, says the trend of increases has been halted



equipment they need.

"Getting this right is key to securing Britain's defence for the future. The introduction of the Major Projects Review Board is helping ensure our biggest programmes remain on track. I intend to take a leading role in ensuring this agenda is delivered."

Amyas Morse, head of the National Audit Office, said the

MOD had been hampered by a legacy of poor planning and performance on some past projects. The resulting cuts and delays were not value for money.

"But it is welcome news that the Department has finally accepted that the financial position it is in is serious and is actively working towards balancing its books in the longer term."

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Look out for...

Our Christmas competition open to deployed personnel and family and friends, which will be launched in December... WIN... amazing experiences worth up to £300... please visit www.winwithwelcome.co.uk or www.facebook.com/winwithwelcome to enter!

Wildcat first touchdown shows project progress

THE ROYAL Navy's next-generation helicopter, Wildcat, has landed on a ship at sea for the first time.

The aircraft touched down on the flight deck of *RFA Argus* off England's south coast on 7 November at the start of four weeks of tough trials for air and ground crew.

Wildcat is the 21st century variant of the Lynx helicopter which has served the Army and Navy since the 1970s.

The landing on *RFA Argus* began four weeks of operating limit trials for the Wildcat, which will lay the foundations for flying the new helicopter when it enters front line service.

A team from AgustaWestland, the Yeovil firm which builds the Lynx, experts from the Aircraft Test and Evaluation Centre at Boscombe Down, and Navy air engineers and technicians have joined *Argus* for the trials.

"This marks a significant milestone in the life of Wildcat," said Lt Cdr Rob Taylor, Commanding Officer of 700 Naval Air Squadron, the trials unit set up at Yeovilton to bring the new aircraft into service.

"The deck landing is the first



Happy landings: for the Wildcat on the deck of *RFA Argus*

in a series of trials which will see Wildcat cleared to operate on all classes of Royal Navy and RFA ships in all theatres of the world."

Wildcat has new sensors and kit – improved radar, improved communications suite, more powerful engines, more firepower, and a cockpit with four large display screens replacing the older dials and screens.

At the same time, engineers should find the Wildcat easier

to maintain, which means the aircraft will have an even higher rate of availability than the already-reliable Lynx.

The first Wildcat is scheduled to arrive at Yeovilton in January 2013.

Sixty-six Wildcats are being bought by the MOD, 38 for the Army Air Corps and 28 for the Fleet Air Arm. The Army variant is due to begin operations in 2014.

NEWSREEL

Strategies available

THE DEFENCE Logistics Sub-Strategy (DLSS) and Defence Logistics Information Strategy (DLIS) have now been published. These provide direction for 2011-2012 to all involved in the logistics process and using logistics information. DLSS covers the Defence Support Network, relationships with industry, collective responsibility, logistics information systems and logistics coherence. DLIS sets out information objectives of quality, processes, people, governance, exploit and simplification. Both documents are available on the Defence Intranet at the ACDS (Log Ops) home page.

On the case

DEVELOPMENT and sustainment of the Safety and Environmental Case Report for *HMS Protector* will be carried out by BMT Isis. The contract, following tender by DE&S' Minewarfare, Patrol and Hydrographic team, is for three years. The company has also developed a similar case for the survey boat *James Cairn IV* which will provide *HMS Protector* with its shallow water hydrographic survey capability. *HMS Protector* is the ice patrol ship deployed to the Antarctic.

Teaming up

SELEX Galileo and Systematic have agreed a partnership. This follows the two companies being chosen to provide the UK Air Warfare Centre with an electronic warfare training programme.

Firms team up in combat systems deal

TWO OF DE&S' major industrial partners have signed a historic agreement on co-operation to deliver combat system integration at Portsdown, Hampshire.

Agreement between BAE Systems and QinetiQ will support the Director Ships' Maritime Combat Systems' Naval Combat Systems Integration and Support Services (NCSISS) Project. It aims to secure cost effective delivery and the long term future of the facilities and expertise at Portsdown Technology Park. The two companies have previously worked on integration and support across the Navy's surface fleet.

Currently, system integration support is delivered through multiple contracts which include provision of the Shore Integration Facility and Maritime Integration Support Centre and the incumbent expertise.

In parallel with maintaining support to operational vessels and ongoing DE&S combat

system acquisition programmes, NCSISS will develop an enduring 'best for enterprise' solution for Portsdown, optimising combat systems integration and test output for MOD. This will be achieved through:

- review of current combat system integration operating models leading to:
 - leaner, risk-based processes;
 - greater availability, accessibility and utilisation of Portsdown to support MOD requirements and potentially, UK defence export initiatives;
 - rationalisation of the existing multitude of contracts.

Portsdown has been the MOD's focus for Maritime Combat System Integration for decades.

Dave Twitchin, head of Maritime Combat Systems at DE&S, said: "NCSISS is the first step towards delivering better

value for money in combat system integration across the maritime enterprise.

"I am grateful to QinetiQ and BAES and my own team for the hard work over a year which jointly developed the vision and plans for Portsdown. The agreement on NCSISS will underpin development of a close working relationship with the MOD with the joint aim of exploiting opportunities to deliver combat system capability more effectively and more efficiently.

"It is a clear signpost for the rest of industry and sets the direction for work with MOD in this crucial area of delivering maritime war fighting capability. NCSISS will be a novel contract which is about value for money and a vital change in behaviours.

"It will draw on the world class experience and expertise vested in QinetiQ and BAES and I am looking forward to all that this new approach heralds for MOD and industry in the future."



Daring – meet Diamond!

TWO OF the Royal Navy's Type 45 destroyers – *HMS Daring*, above left, and *HMS Diamond* – are pictured double berthed in Devonport for the first time, although they have both already visited Plymouth separately. *HMS Diamond*, as the newest destroyer in the class, is under basic operational sea training. Plymouth has also hosted another of the Type 45 frigates – *HMS Dragon* – which conducted a boat transfer in the Sound.

Info system hits ground running

A HOSPITAL information system introduced to the front line this year reaches full operating capability by the end of next month.

Logica has deployed the Whole Hospital Information System (WHIS) at the military hospital in Camp Bastion.

Under the next phase of the project the company and key MOD staff will integrate System C's Medway software with other medical applications already being used at Camp Bastion.

This will enhance data recording to help management and treatment of patients.

WHIS is being used across all stages of patient treatment from arrival through to discharge. It replaces a paper-based system which was inefficient and time consuming.

"WHIS is delivering real benefit and the deployed clinical teams have been very positive about the system," said Trevor Purches, the lead for medical IS in DE&S' Application Services Team.

"It has also improved quality of data capture and real-time oversight of the hospital for local commanders and those back in the UK."

Logica, the prime contractor, already works with the MOD on its globally-deployed healthcare system. System C's Medway software is used in more than 50 NHS Trusts in the UK.

Daring is ready to roll after final test success

HMS DARING is ready to take her place in the Royal Navy's operational fleet after overcoming her last test off the south west.

The first of Britain's new Type 45 destroyers is ready for its maiden deployment after a final spell of intensive training with the Plymouth-based Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) organisation.

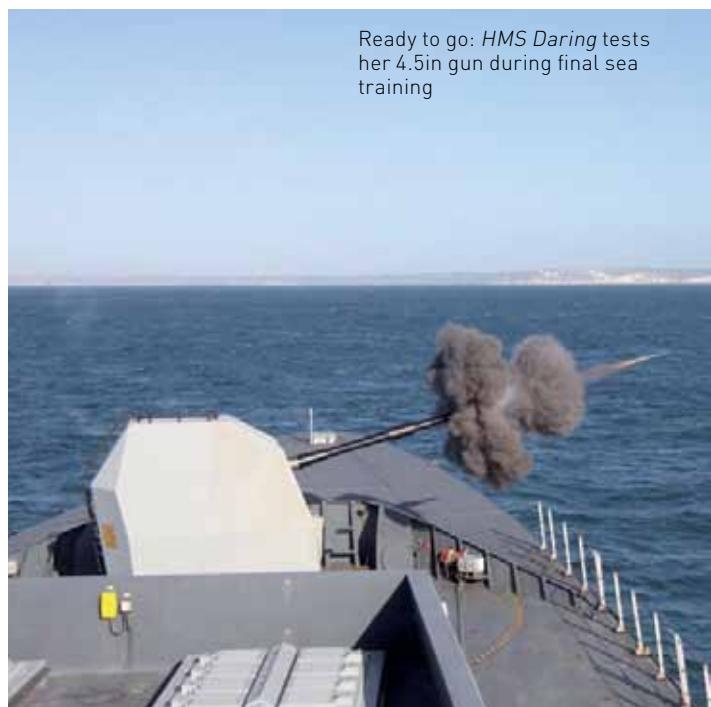
HMS Daring will sail on operations in the New Year after more than four years of trials, tests and training which ended with eight demanding weeks off Devon and Cornwall where the ship and all 180 men and women aboard were tested to the limit.

HMS Daring, the first of a class of six, has passed final training with flying colours after two months in the hands of the team from FOST, training specialists in Devonport naval base, which prepares the entire fleet for all eventualities when deployed around the globe.

The ship left operational sea training with a 'very satisfactory' score from the assessors – most ships generally pass the exacting workout with a 'satisfactory' mark.

Commanding officer Captain Guy Robinson said: "I now have absolute confidence in my ship and her crew."

"I have seen them face the challenges that may be expected of a warship which could be asked to operate anywhere



Ready to go: *HMS Daring* tests her 4.5in gun during final sea training

across the globe.

"Recent events in the Mediterranean and Middle East demonstrate just how quickly a crisis can develop. *Daring*'s versatility, reach and punch make her a very credible UK asset – and one that I am proud to command."

HMS Daring came through her first stint with FOST in spring 2010, during which lessons were learned about training Type 45s for front-line deployments. Next year *HMS Daring*, *Dauntless* and *Diamond* are all due to make their maiden deployments.

Defender, the fifth Type 45 destroyer is set to head to sea for her second stage trials early in the New Year, ahead of her handover to the Royal Navy later in 2012. The ship embarked on her first sea trials this autumn, the shortest trials period yet after lessons learned from build and in-service support of previous Type 45 ships.

Boeing closes in on Abbey Wood

BOEING'S SUPPORT to DE&S is moving closer to Abbey Wood.

Building 630 on the Bristol Business Park has become the regional HQ for Boeing Defence UK.

Its closeness to Abbey Wood will allow it to focus support to the Logistic Network Enabled Capability (Log NEC) delivery partnership and the rotorcraft business with DE&S' Helicopters Operating Centre.

The building was re-named Dakota House in a short ceremony attended by Jack Lopresti, MP for Filton and Bradley Stoke, Mike Kurth, managing director of Boeing Defence UK, and Brigadier Alan Clacher, head of Log NEC.

The name was chosen following an internal competition. The Dakota was involved in development of a number of current platforms including

C-17/Chinook for heavy lift and even the Apache, given its occasional use as an early gunship.

Brig Clacher complimented Boeing on the developments made in the short time since the signing of the Future Logistic Information Services contract. But he reminded everyone that the real work was just beginning.

Following ribbon and ceremonial cake cutting,



Opening ceremony – from left: Brigadier Alan Clacher, Mike Kurth and Jack Lopresti in front of DE&S and Boeing Defence UK staff

the senior party was shown a presentation on the experimentation and simulation lab that will be fully operational in Dakota House this month.

Portsmouth gearing up



Panorama: Portsmouth will be home to the *Queen Elizabeth* class of aircraft carriers

EARLY PREPARATIONS for dredging work are underway at Portsmouth to allow the first of the two new *Queen Elizabeth* aircraft carriers to be based there from 2016.

Because of the size of the ships – they will both be around 65,000 tonnes – dredging is needed to deepen and widen the approach to the naval base.

The channel is around 9.5 metres deep which will need to be deepened by around a metre.

The first carrier will berth on Middle Slip Jetty, which will need to be strengthened

and provided with additional shore services, including a large increase in the electrical supply.

Initial Gate Approval to proceed to competition for the work was received in October and will include completion of an Environmental Impact Assessment, identifying any measures required to safeguard the environment.

Pre-dredging survey work is due to begin in January and February to determine sea bed structure.

Subject to planning consents and approvals, it is intended

dredging and shoreside construction work costing more than £100 million will start in early 2014.

Work should be complete by the time the first carrier completes sea-trials in mid-2016.

As well as jetty upgrading involving some demolition and rebuilding, the shoreside works will include reinforcing the service supplies to the jetties.

This will involve laying new pipes and cables inside the Portsmouth base and the external connections, and some minor internal road reconfiguration.

NEWSREEL

PM boost for veterans

THE Government is investing up to £15 million to improve prosthetics services for veterans who have lost a limb while serving their country. The Department of Health will now introduce specialist rehabilitation centres for amputee veterans across the country. Prime Minister David Cameron said: "Those brave people can be confident they will receive the same levels of access to prosthetic limbs and specialist care from the NHS as they do at Headley Court. Our service personnel make an extraordinary sacrifice for us all and we need to go the extra mile for them."

Forum focus

TO support the 'personalisation' approach to Learning from Experience (LfE) a discussion forum is being piloted for sharing experiences and lessons across the Project and Programme Management (PPM) community. The forum will enable DE&S PPM Practitioners to seek advice and ask questions from others who have relevant experience. The forum will be hosted on the BPD LfE MOSS hub and went active on 1 December. Further information can be found on the site.

Close working

MINISTERS have agreed to a scoping study to see if a merger between the MOD Police and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary would benefit the already close interoperability between the two.

DVD set to showcase the best of Land equipment

DVD12 WILL be the principal industry event for Land equipment next year.

Taking place at Millbrook on 20-21 June it will be sponsored by DE&S Director Land Equipment, Major-General Carew Wilks.

DVD will focus on Land equipment, systems and technologies, with practical demonstrations by exhibitors along with a conference/workshop programme.

It has support from industry who will use DVD12 as one of their major events

in 2012 for demonstrating emerging capabilities in the Land sector.

Recognising the growing benefits of a systems approach in the Land environment, the main theme for DVD12 will be on systems integration and the development of a Land Open Systems Architecture (LOSA).

It is planned to include a practical demonstration of LOSA at the event, building on the work of soldier, vehicle and base architectures, and supported by a

conference programme.

DVD brings together MOD and industry and provides an excellent forum to exchange ideas, review new technologies and promote innovation in both defence and industry.

DVD12 will continue the emphasis of previous years in supporting operations in Afghanistan.

Details are available from Hosam Mostafa at DESLECWG-COS or on 030 679 32105.



Aircraft tow trucks are among thousands of items of support equipment covered by the change programme



A PROGRAMME of change to the way support at military airfields is delivered has been launched by Air Command and DE&S' Air Commodities team.

The changes aim to reduce annual running costs of ground support equipment and airfield vehicles by around a quarter from the current figure of £110 million.

At the moment there are more than 4,400 types of equipment used on military airfields from jacks and pulleys to hydraulic test rigs. There are also 6,300 vehicles of more than 700 types, including runway sweepers and snow clearers, with a combined value of £663 million.

All of which places a heavy burden

on the 1,500 RAF staff who support the equipment.

The programme – Future Airfield Support Engineering (FASE) – will look to make support more efficient, getting the balance right between operational effectiveness, affordability and value for money. It will reduce the logistic footprint and make life easier for support personnel.

Gp Capt Tim Brandt, leader of the Air Commodities team, said: "This is an exciting opportunity to move from support arrangements essentially unchanged from the Cold War to solutions fully fit for the future."

Gp Capt Steve Moody, FASE programme manager, added: "I look

forward to rapid progress in ensuring the level of staff is right with the right skills and the right structure to meet the challenges of the future."

With the support of Air Vice-Marshal Julian Young, Chief of Staff Support at Air Command, FASE was launched on 3 November. The first stage is focused on Air Command and will 'right size' people, equipment and structure for 2014.

Stage two will focus on DE&S and aims to optimise longer-term support to meet requirements of Future Force 20.

As the programme develops, use of Contractors on Deployed Operations and/or Sponsored Reserves will be considered among other innovative support solutions.

How partners help DE&S make front-line safer

Science lab opens new window on the future

A NEW laboratory which has already had a direct impact on UK operations has opened its doors to show work which continues to make troops safer.

The Information Superiority Experimentation Laboratory (ISEL) began work last year at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory's (Dstl) Porton Down site in Wiltshire.

ISEL is a commercially neutral, Government-owned and operated building which provides comprehensive support to users from DE&S, the Forces, industry and academia.

This includes secure and flexible space in ten reconfigurable laboratories, links to secure national and international network links, and access to subject matter experts from across Dstl, home to around 3,500 of the country's leading scientists.

The laboratory contributes to activities ranging from military training to equipment capability demonstration.

For instance a new approach to data acquisition has given much easier access to integrated databases helping with the fight against Improvised Explosive Devices in Afghanistan.

ISEL demonstrated how a conceptual piece of research would operate suitably on military networks

in theatre. Funded by the International Technology Alliance (ITA), a collaborative research alliance between the MOD, US Army Research Laboratory and industrial and academic partners, the project investigated linking large numbers of distributed data sources and has produced software to automatically integrate databases used in theatre into a singularly searchable platform.

ITA project lead Graham Bent said: "We used ISEL to demonstrate that this development would work on representative military networks.

"The research showed that the concept should work, but we needed to present the evidence to reduce the risk to procurement agencies like DE&S and others in the MOD. ISEL represents a safe environment, free of commercial sensitivities, where we can demonstrate that our technology solutions work in support of operations."

Dstl information manager Graham Balmer added: "This laboratory is designed with the future in mind. The customisable nature of ISEL ensures that multiple functions can be catered for, and it can adapt to emerging priorities, from support to operations that is saving lives right now, all the way to cyber experimentation."



Dstl scientists help inform those delivering virtual battlefield training

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QinetiQ

Remus all set to up its game

A CONTRACT to upgrade the Royal Navy's fleet of Remus 100 underwater vehicles has gone to Hydroid.

The upgrade will increase capabilities for mine clearance and hydrographic operations.

Improved sonar and acoustic positioning systems will be among the upgrades with some of the fleet being equipped with inertial navigation systems as well.

The fleet of Remus 100 vehicles has been in operation since 2006. The Royal Navy also uses several Remus 600 vehicles, which play a primary role in mine reconnaissance and also conduct hydrographic surveys and environmental assessments.

Diamond polishes a deal that won't cost the earth

TESTING AND calibration of navigation and landing aids at UK military airfields across the globe will now save up to 35 per cent on previous contract costs.

The £10 million, four-year contract announced in September between ADATS - DE&S' Air Defence and Air Traffic Systems team - and Cobham Flight Inspection will use a new Diamond DA-42 aircraft from next Easter.

The aircraft will be used for precision work where a stable platform with long endurance is preferable to the higher speed of the KingAir 200 aircraft.

The Diamond will save a third on operational costs while burning only a quarter of the fuel of the King Air.

Developed from a Mercedes engine and benefiting from carbon reduction measures imposed on car makers, the



Brought to book: ADATS leader Gp Capt Richard James hands over the contract to Ron Raison, Director Cobham Flight Inspection, in front of the aircraft type the company will be operating next year

Diamond's engines produce comparatively low emission figures.

A typical two-hour flight check in a KingAir 200 produces almost 1,600kg of CO₂ while the new aircraft produces a more environmentally friendly 212kg. It is a saving of more than 400 tonnes of CO₂ annually.

"When the flight checking contract came up for renewal, ADATS had an ideal opportunity to re-baseline the flight checking requirement following airfield closures and the

reduction in trials work," said ADATS Flight Check Manager Sqn Ldr Simon Hamilton-Bing.

"Under the new contract Cobham will fly the bulk of ADATS core systems using the DA-42. Extra tasks and trials will be charged accordingly."

He added: "This contract structure has been considered the best option to maximise value for money by giving Cobham a large guaranteed volume of work without ADATS having unutilised hours remaining at the end of each year."

The contract will run until October 2015 with options for another two years.

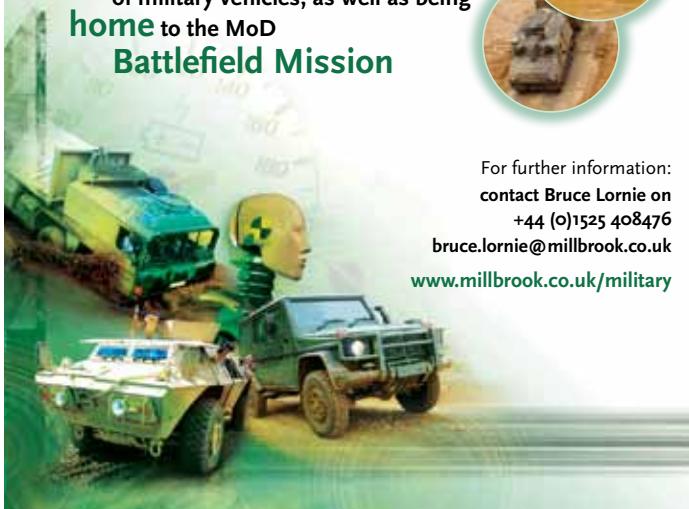


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Scanner helps boost Bastion

THE UK-led Anglo/American Role 3 hospital at Camp Bastion has opened its first magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner centre.

The advanced imaging machine will enhance the hospital's ability to diagnose and care for personnel who have experienced a variety of injuries, including concussions, traumatic brain injury and other head injuries.



Kent goes Forth from Rosyth

HMS *Kent* heads for the Forth railway bridge en route from Rosyth
Picture: Dave Cullen

HMS KENT has set sail from Rosyth after a year-long refit.

The Type 23 frigate will now embark on a series of sea trials before returning to active service in the New Year.

More than 295,000 hours and 15,000 litres of paint went into the refit.

Improvements included:

- Installation of Sonar 2087, a variable depth anti-submarine warfare system;
- A new Command System central to the ship's fighting capability;
- Large and small gun replacements;
- Filters to protect air supplies against nuclear, biological and chemical attack.

David Winstanley, Project Group Manager for DE&S at Rosyth, said: "The refit has been delivered on time and to budget which is a testament to the strength and durability of the DE&S project team as well as our partners at Babcock and wider stakeholder community."



The International Relations Group leads on implementation of the US-UK treaty. Sandra Eaton is Implementation Manager; Dr Simon Cholerton, pictured above, has taken over as Management Board representative from Stephen French and Trevor Woolley continues to be the Treaty Principal. The implementation team is working with US counterparts, DE&S project teams, British defence staff in the UK Embassy, Washington and cross-governmental stakeholders. For more information on what the treaty will mean, contact: Sandra Eaton 030 679 30269, Harry Heywood 030 679 80589 or Robin Mather 030 679 80868

DE&S and industry work towards treaty launch

Pathfinder projects named to help pave the way

THE US-UK Defence Trade Co-operation Treaty will come into force at the end of next March.

The treaty, signed in 2007, aims to ensure the required technology reaches front line troops quickly and unhindered by previous problems with US export controls.

It looks to guarantee free movement of defence articles to an 'approved community' of cleared facilities where end use is limited to US and UK government use without export authorisation.

And the UK is testing its national processes before the treaty comes into force to provide assurance that US technology can be safeguarded and to identify areas where the treaty will add value.

To help this, several 'Pathfinder' projects have been launched.

UK Pathfinder projects are Chinook, Apache, RivetJoint

and Bowman with US projects being Osprey and Raptor.

A seventh Pathfinder – the sale of system spares to the US Navy by Aish Technologies – was nominated by Aerospace Defence and Securities (the trade association representing UK industry's views).

In addition, the clearance process for membership of the 'approved community' is being tested at industrial facilities owned by Aish Technologies and MS Instruments.

DE&S Chief of Staff Dr Simon Cholerton is backing the

treaty. Speaking at an event soon after the tenth anniversary of 9/11, he said the date was "a stark reminder of why the relationship between our two countries is so important and why it is so vital to get the right equipment to our front line troops as quickly as we can – the treaty will help us in that endeavour."

DE&S' International Relations Group leads on implementation and has engaged in outreach activities with industrial stakeholders.

UK industry has a vital role in the operation of the treaty – the treaty will only realise its full potential if industry embraces the treaty's operating framework.

The implementation team is working to ensure how companies plan to utilise the treaty, the benefits they anticipate and any implications for business conduct.



Wet, wet, wet for the new air transport

THE A400M airlifter has come through wet weather tests without affecting the aircraft's engines.

The aircraft, the next generation transport plane for the RAF and other air forces worldwide, proved it could operate on wet runways and taxiways without water getting into the engines.

During the tests at Istres, France, the aircraft travelled through troughs containing 2-6cm of water at speeds up to 90 knots in take-off and landing configurations, including operations with reverse thrust.

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Orion will be the eagle eye of Scout SV

SCOUT, the Army's next generation of manned reconnaissance vehicles, will be fitted with one of the latest sighting systems.

Known as the Specialist Vehicle (SV), Scout will use Thales UK's Orion sights, improving on current sights used on Scimitar, the vehicle Scout will replace.

Orion is a fully stabilised, panoramic sight that provides long-range surveillance, an essential requirement for the manned recce role. It features thermal imagers allowing Scout to conduct recce in all weathers and at night.

Orion also boasts automatic target detection and tracking, enabling the system to identify and monitor targets independently. This will reduce fatigue, important for hard-working crews who need to maintain concentration.

The sight also features Wide Angle Surveillance and Detection, constantly scanning a wide arc and drawing crew attention to areas of interest.

Even with the growing capabilities of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, the manned recce role provided by Scout will be



Orion, above, will boast automatic target detection and tracking in all weathers and at night



essential. Scout can loiter for long periods and, being up close to the enemy, can expose ruses and deceptions on the ground which might deceive an 'eye in the sky'.

"Scout is a bigger vehicle than its predecessor with better protection as a result," said Will Gaskell of DE&S Combat Tracks Group.

"With the latest power pack, an extra pair of road wheels on each side and wide tracks, it has better cross-country mobility and performance. This allows it to

operate in harsh terrain where some in-service wheeled and tracked vehicles cannot go. Combined with Orion's surveillance abilities, Scout SV will provide some of the most capable ISTAR platforms in the world."

Steve Rowbotham of prime contractor General Dynamics UK said: "As well as being the best protected, most mobile and most fightable vehicles on the battlefield, Scout SV will provide that core 'find' and 'understand' capability that no other ground vehicle in the British Army can, thanks to its cutting-edge ISTAR credentials."



Scout prototype, unveiled in September

Minister on Scouting mission

DEFENCE MINISTER Peter Luff has seen progress on the new £12 million facility for the Specialist Vehicle programme being built by General Dynamics UK in south Wales.

The facility at Oakdale will feature systems integration labs for testing and developing key elements of SV, garaging and delivery bays for development vehicles, and facilities for SV partner companies and customers.

Oakdale is the original location of General Dynamics UK's tactical communication systems business from where it delivers the Bowman programme for UK Forces.

The Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology

also visited Newbridge – the company's Edge UK facility – to learn about the work the company is doing to support British small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the defence sector.

Mr Luff said: "This is an impressive company with a broad range of industrial capability which is clearly being put to best use on a wide range of MOD projects and programmes. I am especially pleased to see the very close working with small and medium-sized enterprises through the Edge facilities and across the wider supply chain throughout the company's business model and its major programmes."



Peter Luff (second left) and Chief of Materiel (Land) Lieutenant General Gary Coward, (second from right) see progress on the patented electronic architecture system for SV

'One of the tasks I most enjoy'

Chief of Defence Materiel Bernard Gray has paid tribute to the work of DE&S staff in his latest round of commendations. Katrina McCabe reports from Main Building

Being able to talk to staff who have done such a fantastic job for DE&S is one of the things Chief of Defence Materiel Bernard Gray enjoys most about his job.

Opening the ninth CDM awards ceremony in MOD Main Building, Mr Gray said: "These are difficult and challenging times and, despite this, there are great achievements running through our organisation every day. Taking time to share these is important."

Mr Gray paid tribute to DE&S staff for their work in the continued support of Operation Herrick and for the significant effort required for Operation Ellamy in Libya within extremely challenging timelines. Dedication of DE&S staff, he said, had directly contributed to the success of this operation.

My Gray presented certificates to the winners and chatted informally to guests at a lunch following the event. In his closing remarks, he acknowledged the fantastic contribution by all award winners, saying "their dedication and willingness to go above and beyond was of huge importance to defence and the UK. On behalf of the MOD and Defence Board, thank you and congratulations to you all."

Mr Gray ended the event by leading a round of applause for Master of Ceremonies Jerry Richardson. After 12 years' service to DPA, DLO and DE&S awards events Mr Richardson is stepping down to start a new venture outside MOD.

A number of customers also attended the day, paying tribute to the work of various teams and individuals.

Among the successful team and individual awards, Director Information Systems and Services, Major General Tim Inshaw, said of the Corsham New Environment Team, that successful delivery of the new facility at Corsham had enabled ISS to adopt new ways of working making it more efficient and effective.

Director Helicopters, Mr Adrian Baguley, congratulated the Helicopters Business Development Team for its work in seamlessly managing the collocation of staff from five sites onto three without disruption to support to operations.

Director Submarines, Rear Admiral Simon Lister, paid tribute to Geoffrey Todd of the Strategic Weapons project team for his work with the British Embassy in Tokyo. He said Mr Todd's expertise and leadership had been a key contributor to success.



Honoured: Mr Gray, front, centre, is pictured with award winners at the ninth CDM awards ceremony in MOD Main Building on Friday, 18 November



Operation Ellamy featured strongly in Mr Gray's tributes to the hard work of DE&S staff. A VC10 departs on an air-to-air refuelling sortie while, above, Typhoon and Tornado aircraft are pictured at Gioia del Colle air base in Italy

Commendation winners

INDIVIDUALS

- Mr Peter Coy – Combat Air Commercial Team
- Mr Peter Abbotts – Combat Air Commercial Team
- Mr Ian Hamblin – Combat Wheels Group
- Cdr Cris Crossley – Surface Combatants
- Maj Andy Elliott – Land Equipment Business Support Team
- Mr Jason Purveur – Protected Mobility Team
- SSgt Dan Williams – Battlefield Utilities Team
- Mr Ian Buglass – Puma 2 Gazelle Team
- Mr Wyn Thomas – Sea King Project Team
- SSgt Simon Eckles – Defence General Munitions Team
- Mr Christopher Sparks – Defence Munitions Bicester
- Chief Technician Daren Carter-Sewell – Logistics Network Enabled Capability
- Mr Karn Douch – Imagery and Geospatial Equipment Delivery Team
- Mrs Melanie Hayden – ISTAR Programme Support Function
- Mr Geoffrey Todd – Strategic Weapons Project Team

TEAMS

- Corsham New Environment Transition Team
- Devonport Roundel and Joint MOD/Babcock Combined Heat and Power Team
- Invigorating Engineering Support and Training Team
- Test Equipment Team
- JBTSE Mission Specific Training Tactical Engagement Simulation UOR Team
- Panama Project Team
- Helicopters Business Development Collocation Team
- FAST – Tornado Team
- FAST – Typhoon Team
- Typhoon Systems Integration Team
- Military Working Dogs
- Special Projects Search and Counter Measures Team
- Operation Maintop Project Team
- Intelligence Coalition Systems – Skysiren Delivery Team
- Force Protection Electronic Counter Measures Team
- VC10 Project Team
- Hercules Tristar Joint Propulsion Support Team
- Strategic Weapons Project Team United Kingdom Software Facility
- Contractors on Deployment Overtask Tranche 5
- Project Phoenix Team



ith the latest winners of Chief of Defence Materiel Commendations at Main Building on

Director Commercial, Les Mosco, was delighted with the efforts of Mr Peter Abbotts and Mr Peter Coy. Both had been involved in major contract negotiations following the Strategic Defence and Security Review, achieving a highly successful outcome for defence.

Major General Paul Jaques congratulated Mr Jason Purveur for his work in the design and delivery well within cost and time of the lifesaving Roll Over Drills Egress Trainers.

Brigadier Richard Toomey paid tribute to the Joint and Battlefield Trainers, Simulations and Synthetic Environments, Mission Specific Training, Tactical Engagement Simulation UOR Team for its role in delivering vital and urgent improvements to instrumentation for Operation Herrick mission specific training on Salisbury Plain.

Air Commodore Paul Higgins said the work of Staff Sergeant Simon Eckles in support of Operation Ellamy was first class, ensuring that deploying forces had the munitions they needed.

Rear Admiral Lister, congratulated the Invigorating Engineering Support and Training Team for its excellent work in the transformation of support to surface ships, outperforming against all original targets.

Mr Mosco paid tribute to the work of Mr Ian Hamblin for his relentless work in managing complex commercial arrangements for delivering Counter-Improvised Explosive Device kit to Operation Herrick.

Air Commodore Paul Higgins congratulated the Operation Maintop team for successful delivery of the Air Traffic Management Capability Upgrade Programme at Camp Bastion, adding that he had personally seen the fruits of their efforts in Afghanistan this year.

Commodore Christopher Forsey said that it was a great pleasure to introduce the Skysiren Delivery Team award. The system represents a step change in capability and the roll-out of the programme has been highly successful, achieved within budget and ahead of schedule.

Acquisition awards: pages 40 and 41

Preparing the Navy's future warfighters

DE&S is helping the Royal Navy revolutionise training of operations room staff. *Tim Foreman* joined a host of senior officers at the grand opening in Fareham



Screen test: personnel get to grips with MCTS at HMS Collingwood



Pictures: Pete Gowing

The Royal Navy has unveiled its new Maritime Composite Training System (MCTS) to a fanfare of trumpets and applause, marking the most radical change to its training for more than 40 years.

Senior naval officers, including Commander-in-Chief Fleet, Admiral Sir Trevor Soar, and Second Sea Lord, Vice-Admiral Charles Montgomery, witnessed the official opening of the new state-of-the-art warfare training facility.

Based across two sites at Fareham and Plymouth, MCTS – first unveiled in *desider* in the summer – features banks of flat panel LCD screens faithfully replicating equipment used at sea.

It is designed to ensure the next generation of Royal Navy sailors are among the best prepared in the world and allows crews to prepare for service on the latest Type 45 destroyers, as well as Type 23 frigates, Type 42 destroyers, assault ships and carriers.

Guest of honour at the opening in the Cunningham Building at *HMS Collingwood* in Fareham on 20 October was former First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Jock Slater. Sir Jock, who toured the facility, said: "This is the most exciting move in the right direction. Forty years ago we thought we'd entered a new era



with the introduction of computers but we've made a step-change now with MCTS.

"It beats the old technology hands-down in preparing officers and ratings for the future. It's a wonderful system."

Local dignitaries, VIPs from foreign navies, industry representatives and media also witnessed the unveiling of the new facility.

The system will be used by around 1,000 new trainees a year and will allow existing personnel to maintain their warfare skills.

MCTS was procured by the Training, Stores and Boats team at DE&S and replaces earlier training facilities.

Chief of Defence Materiel Bernard Gray said: "This system represents the MOD's commitment to delivering the best equipment for training and simulation required by the modern Royal Navy.

"With its ability to replicate all the current destroyers, frigates and capital ships in the Fleet the Maritime Composite Training System provides great flexibility."

Training, Stores and Boats team leader Mike Holstead added: "MCTS brings a step change in the way the Royal Navy does its surface fleet warfare training. It is flexible and reflects the modern Navy. For warfare personnel it offers cradle to grave training.

"People will come in at the start of their service and will revisit MCTS again and again as they progress through their careers.

"You can train people over and over again at minimal cost in comparison to training at sea with its weather vagaries and increased potential for equipment or asset failure."

The two MCTS sites are nearly 200

miles apart but are connected by a fibre optic link. At HMS Collingwood there are three reconfigurable Warfare Team Trainers and eight Electronic Classroom Trainers with a similar facility at Devonport in Plymouth consisting of two WTTs and one ECT.

The MCTS contract will run until 2018, during which BAE Systems Mission Systems – prime contractor, systems integrator and supplier of major elements – will maintain the capability and support the delivery of training. Work is already in hand to consider training for sailors who will join the *Queen Elizabeth* carriers later in the decade and the Type 26 Global Combat Ship after 2020.

Commodore Tim Lowe, from the Maritime Warfare School at HMS

Collingwood, said: "Forty years ago the Royal Navy achieved a step change in its warfare training with the introduction of the Cook simulators. Since then we have developed far more complex ops rooms and our training has had to evolve to meet this challenge.

"Today, with MCTS, we have moved to the next stage, some would call it a training revolution and in our training delivery we now have the ability to train, deliver and employ maritime effect in a far better and a far more effective way than we have ever done before."

Jeremy Tuck, BAE Systems Mission Systems, said: "We are delighted to be delivering this important Royal Navy programme and have used our experience in maritime operations to develop a cutting-edge, versatile training environment for Royal Navy personnel to develop and practice their skills."

Other companies involved in the programme include Aerosystems International, Hewlett Packard, Flagship Training, MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates, Serco and Pennant.



The most modern training for the most modern warship: warfare officers and staff will be trained on MCTS for a range of vessels, including Type 45 destroyer HMS Dragon

Simulation specialists of the game

Members of the British Army's PlayStation generation headed to Helmand Province on the latest Operation Herrick deployment having honed their soldiering skills in virtual combat.

As part of their year-long preparations for Afghanistan, troops from 20th Armoured Brigade have been immersed in cutting-edge simulation serials tailored to replicate real-life threats in theatre.

The digital deployment – delivered by training and simulation company NSC – saw each of the formation's battlegroups plugged into Joint Combat Operations Virtual Environment (JCOVE).

The system was procured by DE&S' JBTSE team – Joint and Battlefield Trainers, Simulations and Synthetic Environments – and originally introduced to British Service personnel in 2007 as a means of training troops in vehicle convoy drills. Since then, as shown to DE&S staff in a high-profile demonstration at Abbey Wood last year, JCOVE has developed to emulate and test soldiers' reactions on foot patrols, Taliban ambushes and the ever-present threat of improvised explosive devices.

Using military simulator Virtual Battlespace 2 (VBS2), a spin-off from commercial game engines, the training is run on a network of laptop computers with those taking part communicating via headsets. It boasts console-quality aesthetics and features authentic weaponry, vehicles and Afghan-style terrain.

"This sort of training has its limitations but soldiers, particularly those using JCOVE, really get involved with it and don't just sit there thinking 'I'm playing a computer game'," Chris Williams, NSC project manager, said. "It is far more realistic than any game on the market and is not there for entertainment – it is there for training the troops."

"A game only has to have enough code behind it to make the on-screen soldiers and enemies do the things necessary for the title's storyline; a training system has to be able to do anything," he added.

"Our 'soldiers' are at the will of the

"With an exercise on Salisbury Plain it can be raining and muddy, the soldiers all wear green and they've got Afghans driving about in brand new 4x4s – so much so that it doesn't look authentic," he added. "Put the training on a computer screen and these things do look real: the scenery looks real, the Afghans look real and there are beaten-up cars instead of shiny vehicles.

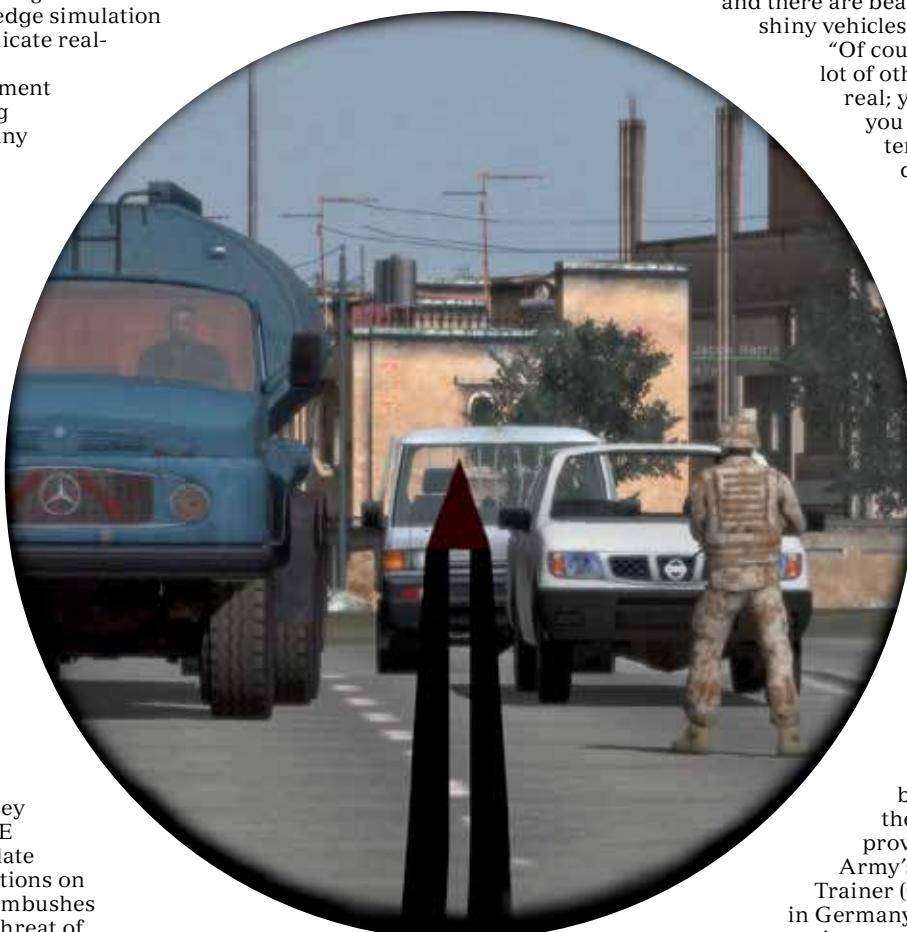
"Of course, there are a whole lot of other things that aren't real; you're not tired because you haven't just walked ten miles and your knees don't hurt when you're kneeling in a ditch."

In addition to readying those who will be patrolling Helmand's streets and wadi systems, NSC has exposed 20th Armoured Brigade's commanders and headquarters staff to a synthetic snapshot of the challenges of monitoring missions from a forward operating base.

Replicating the hi-tech surveillance equipment found in and around British bases in Afghanistan, the training solutions provider transformed the Army's Combined Arms Staff Trainer (CAST) at Sennelager in Germany into a high-octane operations room.

Aimed at arming those who will be controlling intelligence assets in areas such as Lashkar Gah or Nad-e Ali with the tactics and technical know-how to hit the ground running, NSC's custom-built Base ISTAR (intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance) system allows users to control a wide range of sensor types to monitor a virtual operating environment which can be customised to feature specific threats and actions.

For DE&S the relationship between JBTSE and the company has been vital. "The programme has been providing vital and effective training for a number of years, adapting almost monthly to new challenges posed by operations and



operator and consequently you can't have any areas of the map which are off limits.

"We also have to make sure that the software's weapons systems are realistic – in a simulation you can't suddenly acquire a super weapon that can take out all of the enemy in one shot."

Williams said the realism brought to the pre-deployment mix by NSC, which also develops and delivers strategic and operational war-gaming for the UK Joint Services Command and Staff College and Land Warfare Centre, complemented traditional training methods.

help troops stay ahead

Training in the virtual world continues to improve. Steve Tyler reports



the users about to undertake them," said John Brookes, the team's JCOVE project manager.

"NSC have been at the forefront of our understanding of the software, regularly demonstrating in JCOVE new and innovative ways in which VBS2 can be exploited to deliver more effective and broad-ranging training.

"This relationship is vital in developing our understanding of training with game-based technologies as the MOD seeks to provide more, and more effective, training solutions to users, delivering real capability and excellent value."

All of which helps save lives, whether preparing personnel for the sights and sounds of a patrol or rehearsing the reactions of those watching their backs in an ops room.

"Training soldiers is all about giving them the drills to deal with any given situation," Mr Williams said. "When something bad happens the first thing people do is panic, which is

why soldiers go over things time and time again. When they are faced with challenging circumstances their training kicks in and they do the things they need to do to save lives.

"If you want to test a soldier's reaction to a vehicle blowing up and you are doing it 'live', it ends up being a very expensive exercise and can put people at risk of injury. When you do it in a simulation you can do it 100 times at no cost and troops still react in the same way – you can feel the adrenalin go round the room. This type of training is being used, is useful and is saving lives."



Kestrel reaches full flight

Project Kestrel – Information Systems and Services' reliable backbone communications network – is now complete, guaranteeing increased capacity and improved quality of communications in Afghanistan.

Operation Herrick is relying on systems like Kestrel which offers the users general applications like e-mail and more specialised applications including stores tracking tools.

Created in response to a number of Urgent Operational Requirements, Kestrel is enhancing information systems deployed in Helmand Province.

New information services, such as video teleconferencing, need more capacity and better quality from the communications network than ever before. Such services are being demanded not just at Task Force and Battle Group levels, but also at smaller and further forward operating bases.

Kestrel now provides a vast expansion of high bandwidth data communication services supporting, for example, intelligence, surveillance and medical activities in Afghanistan. These life-saving services are now available at many forward sites not previously supported. Kestrel provides better support at all levels, enabling services normally associated with brigade headquarters to be pushed down to Forward Operating Bases (FOB).

The project has been so successful that it picked up two acquisition awards from Peter Luff, the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, at his annual presentations towards the end of October.

"This has been an impressive and very successful project which has delivered an important enhancement of capability to Operation Herrick," said Major-General Tim Inshaw, Director of ISS. "The team demonstrated its tenacity and innovation to deliver successfully a highly complex service in challenging circumstances."

The initial concept for a backbone network for Helmand was based on the need to transmit ever increasing amounts of data reliably across theatre. Kestrel was designed to be capable of accepting a wide range of systems that could plug into it easily at different locations.

Before Kestrel, in Afghanistan communications relied heavily on satellite links transmitting data via the UK. For example a telephone call from Bastion to a FOB may have been routed via the UK, potentially introducing errors and delays that may have caused a loss of this critical service.

DE&S' project to improve the quality of communications in Afghanistan is now complete. Project Kestrel has impressed not just those who will use it in theatre

Installation of Kestrel has improved the quality, reliability and capacity of communications because multiple satellite paths have been replaced by short, high bandwidth microwave links. In partnership Joint Forces Communication and Information Systems in Bastion and the Global Operations Security Control Centre in Corsham manage this network and sustain the Kestrel backbone in Helmand.

Kestrel was installed by a team of civilian and military personnel drawn from Information Systems and Services' Internal Services Provider team. The equipment was procured by the ISS Networks Delivery Team, tested and

assembled at Blandford, flown to Camp Bastion and delivered to sites by Combat Logistic Patrols.

The installation team has delivered and commissioned 22 Mobile Communications Units (caravans fitted with microwave radios, various communication equipments and masts) and additional supplementary installations to enable and support 30 sites across Helmand Province.

Kestrel is available now for new systems and services to use, with more sites in Helmand able to access the full suite of services provided. Those who use more demanding applications will find them working faster and better.

'The team demonstrated its tenacity, innovation to deliver successfully a complex service in challenging circumstances – Major-General Tim Inshaw, Head of Information Systems and Services'



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Working together

Civil servants have a huge part to play in the partnership with the Forces which will build the capabilities of the future, says the new Defence Secretary in his first public speech



The new Defence Secretary has praised 'the most dedicated people in the public service' as he outlined his vision for defence in his first public speech since succeeding Dr Liam Fox.

Philip Hammond, formerly Transport Secretary, said the MOD was one of the most important departments of government and also one of the most complex and challenging.

But he said: "I know I will be working with the bravest, most selfless and professional people the country has to offer - the men and women of our Armed Forces.

"And they are supported by some of the most dedicated people in the public service, the most highly skilled workforces in British industry and some of the most committed people in the charitable sector."

Mr Hammond was addressing members of SSAFA, the Forces' charitable organisation, where he outlined his thoughts on the role he will play in shaping future defence.

"We are dealing with the toughest economic climate in a generation and the biggest budget deficit in our peacetime history. Against that backdrop, in defence, we have also to deal with the legacy of an unaffordable equipment programme and a decade of operations at a continuously high tempo.

"We do so at a time when the threats to our national security and our national interests are evolving fast – and by no means diminishing. And at a time when our Armed Forces, including a substantial number of reservists, remain engaged in a dangerous and enduring mission in Afghanistan."

Mr Hammond described the mission in Afghanistan as vital to protect our national security and the first focus of defence must be the delivery of success on operations.

"The projection of military power is, after all, the *raison d'être* of the Armed Forces and the MOD; everything else is a supporting role."

The Defence Secretary said that it was his firm belief that when the Government asks the men and women of the Armed Forces to put themselves in danger in pursuit of national security, the Government owes it to them to make sure they are properly supported and have the best tools we can give them to do the job:

"In defence, we now have a clear programme to deliver on this pledge," he said.

"The Armed Forces that will emerge from the implementation of the Strategic Defence and Security Review will be

Libya – now the kit is on its way home

BRITISH MILITARY assets used in operations over Libya began to head for home after Nato ended its mission on 31 October.

News of the decision came while Mr Hammond was in Italy, enabling him to give the go-ahead to the initial drawdown of Tornado GR4 aircraft.

Remaining British air assets, including another 10 Tornado GR4s, two VC10 tankers, two E-3D Sentry and one Sentinel surveillance aircraft returned last month. *HMS Liverpool* also made her way back to UK waters.

On his visit to meet British personnel deployed on Operation Ellamy – as Britain's contribution to the campaign has been known – Mr Hammond paid tribute to their work.

He said: "Our Armed Forces can be

immensely proud that their hard work has assured the liberty of the Libyan people.

"This is a job well done and we will be sending our crews home from tonight. I have given my personal thanks to some of the aircrew and support personnel at Gioia del Colle."

Nato's announcement brings to a conclusion one of the most successful military campaigns that Nato and UK Forces have conducted.

At its peak, the UK had 2,300 personnel, 32 aircraft and four ships committed to the operation.

The UK has flown more than 3,000 sorties, more than 2,100 of which were strike sorties, successfully striking around 640 targets.

formidable, flexible and adaptable, structured to defend the country and project power abroad, equipped with some of the best and most advanced technology in the world.

"This is not a vision of retrenchment, it is an ambitious programme of renewal after a decade of continuous operations – a blueprint for a sustainable future as one of the world's most capable fighting forces."

On the first anniversary of the publication of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), Mr Hammond acknowledged that it had been a year of difficult decisions, but outlined what his approach to competing demands would be.

"I am determined that we neither compromise current operations nor constrain future defence capability, that we do not remove critical skills and capabilities that are irrecoverable, and that we retain the ability to scale up in the

future if our national security demands it," he said.

"I intend to be a strong and passionate advocate for our Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence both within government and with the public. I will advance the interests of defence and national security at every opportunity."

However, Mr Hammond said that first class Armed Forces depended on a first class economy and there is no future for a big military supported by a small economy.

"History is littered with examples showing that to be a fast track way to a collapse in global influence and military capability," he said.

He said that Future Force 2020, the reshaping of the Armed Forces, must be built on firm foundations with a force structure that is fit for the challenges of future warfare and the real-world risks we are likely to face.

He added that it must be a defence

programme that is affordable now and sustainable into the future.

"Unpicking the SDSR piece by piece is simply not an option. The transformation programme is essential to balance our books and modernise our organisation.

"I am clear that this is the only way to ensure success on operations and the continued ability to project military power."

Mr Hammond finished by reaffirming his belief that the men and women of the Armed Forces are the greatest asset defence has and that, during his tenure in office, the commitment to rebuild the Armed Forces Covenant will continue.

"This will mean all of us working together – Government at all levels working together with charities and the private sector – to look after our serving personnel, their families, and our veterans.

"The Forces deserve no less than success."



"I am determined that we neither compromise current operations nor constrain future defence capability, that we do not remove critical skills and capabilities that are irrecoverable, and that we retain the ability to scale up in the future if our national security demands it"

Achieving Trust Across the Value Chain



"Our products do what we say they will do." These are the words of Bob Gore, chairman of the Supervisory Board of W. L. Gore & Associates Inc., referring to the trust placed in Gore products globally. Garments manufactured with GORE-TEX® fabric are relied upon by military personnel across the world based on their trusted performance in the field. Trusted performance comes from Gore's total dedication to design and manufacture integrity, which means managing and controlling the entire value chain in the production of its products.

In order to ensure the product promise of GORE-TEX® products, Gore has a robust set of quality control tools across the value chain.

Laminate Development & Production

The famously durable, waterproof and breathable qualities of GORE-TEX® fabric have their fundamental basis in Gore's, unique membrane technology based on ePTFE (expanded polytetrafluoroethylene). The polymer PTFE, which was originally used

as a coating for non-stick pans and stain-resistant clothing, was modified by Gore to create ePTFE at the inception of the company in 1958. With over 50 years' expertise in the manipulation of ePTFE and as the inventor of the world's first breathable moisture barrier, Gore's knowledge and understanding of laminate technology can claim to be the best in the world. That long-term expertise comes into play right at the start of the value chain, to ensure the highest level of quality assurance for all end-products bearing the Gore name.

GORE-SEAM® Tape Development

& Production

Seams and fabric joints are critical points in a garment which make the difference between a garment which is durably waterproof and one which is not. When, the first outdoor collection of waterproof, windproof and breathable clothing was launched in the 1970s, seams were stitched and then glued together to provide a waterproof seal where the sewing machine needle had punctured the fabric. To improve upon this, GORE-SEAM® tapes and adhesives were developed along with seam sealing machines which use heat and pressure

to durably bond the tape to the laminate. Today there are over 40 different types of seam tapes which are used for a specific laminate, production requirement or end use.

GORE-SEAM® tape sealing machines are technically pre-set and evaluated in Gore laboratories to ensure quality production standards are uniform and seams are tested at factory level using a Suter Tester, testing 10 cm diameter of seam at a time.

Garment Design, Engineering & Testing

Gore works very closely with garment manufacturers and military users to ensure every garment is fit for use. Quality control methods apply through the entire design process to help ensure the performance of every individual garment when being used for the purpose it is intended. Extensive pass or fail testing of garments, from stress testing to destruction to physiological testing of subjects in Gore's laboratories all contribute to Gore's quality control assurance.

Brand Licensing Factory Support

Garments using Gore products are only manufactured by licensed garment manufacturers. Not only must each manufacturer undergo a stringent licensing process, but each one is provided onsite support from Gore throughout the manufacturing process to ensure standards are maintained to the highest degree.

Product Promise

Gore's highly valued products provide an excellent return on investment. Best in class performance and durability, even under extreme conditions, are what soldiers expect and which Gore delivers through development for the specific use and stringent quality control procedures.

With a deep understanding of the applications and usage of best in class materials, constructions and technologies, the set of tools along the whole value chain and close partnerships with every party of the chain helps Gore meet its high performance, "fit for use" principle, while standards are continuously maintained and improved through constant improvement and redevelopment.

For further information go to
www.gore-workwear.co.uk.

Front line joins DE&S in moving campaign forward

DE&S' SECOND Airworthiness Symposium at Abbey Wood examined current advice on airworthiness management.

The day, attended by 175 people on 6 October, was aimed at DE&S airworthiness professionals, but chief engineers from the Front Line Commands and Military Aviation Authority (MAA) representatives also attended.

Air Marshal Kevin Leeson, Chief of Materiel (Air) and the airworthiness lead for DE&S, gave the opening address.

Air Vice-Marshal Stuart Atha, Air Officer Commanding 1 Group, offered a perspective on his role as an Operational Duty Holder and his expectations of how DE&S can support him in meeting his responsibilities.

Mr Stephen Evans-Howe, QinetiQ Safety Director, provided an industry view on how to deliver sustained safety culture changes in a large organisation.

Other speakers were Mr John Allan, MAA Technical Group Head of Regulation; Gp Capt Colin Hickman, Deputy Head DE&S Airworthiness Team (DAT); Wg Cdr William Webber from the Release to Service Authority; Mr Bill Chrispin, Airseeker team leader; Air Commodore Graham Farnell, Joint Combat Aircraft team leader and Mr Nick Barnett, Head of DAT.

Links to all the presentations can be found on the DAT website.



Above: 175 people attended the second Airworthiness Symposium at Abbey Wood

Below: a full house for the fifth annual support chain seminar



... while full house boosts support chain seminar

'FORGING THE Links' was the theme of a seminar in Bristol, organised by DE&S and the UK Council for Electronic Business (UKCeB).

With capacity numbers, this fifth annual seminar on 20 October, previously called the Support Engineering Seminar, delivered a stimulating session. Experienced practitioners and managers from MOD and industry presented on defence perspectives, across land, sea and air.

The seminar explored common ground and dependencies between support engineering and supply chain management that drive effective and efficient support through life.

Key themes included the Total Support Force Vision, a contractor view of work in deployed operations, how engineering can help optimise supply chain performance, equipment support at the platform level, and a case study based on support for Bowman.

John Stratton, Director Maritime Equipment at Babcock, provided a keynote speech on how engineering and supply chain can together optimise support. Industry was further represented by speakers from BAE Systems, Kellogg Brown and Root, and General Dynamics.

To view seminar presentations visit the UKCeB website – www.ukceb.org – reference Past Events Notes.



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Barcode scan trials spark early praise

FEEDBACK FROM front line trials using handheld devices to read identification barcodes on items of military equipment has been positive.

And it could see the MOD adopting UID – unique identification – a Nato standard for marking items in a globally unique way.

UID has been adopted by various Nato nations, including the USA, to improve tracking and accounting of items.

While the MOD has not officially said it will adopt UID, trials have been undertaken by HQ Land Forces and Logistics Network Enabled Capability (LogNEC) to look at its benefits.

Trials have focussed on the Dismounted Close Combat (DCC) equipment used by 4 Rifles during their deployment to Afghanistan and initial feedback has been positive.

Due to the use of handheld devices that read the UID mark from a digital barcode, the Unit Quartermaster and his staff have much less time checking stock.

Accuracy of accounting has improved considerably – the barcode and handheld reader remove human error so the unit knows exactly where each item is at any time.

This improves the MOD's adherence to item tracking requirements of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). This is vital to the UK's reputation in international defence trade.

Once the final trial findings have been published it is expected the MOD will adopt UID. Support Chain Management will then develop overarching policy for UID and the MOD should realise significant benefits.



Towards a safer

Navy

Safety culture: UK Forces have made huge strides in embracing safety since World War Two. Above: *HMS Sutherland* spans the decades to join *HMS Belfast* during a visit to the Pool of London in October

New campaign looks to improve the safety mindset

THE ROYAL Navy has embarked on a new campaign to increase safety for its personnel, DE&S civilians and all contractors who work with them.

The Navy Safety Improvement plan – called Navysafe – was launched in October to improve safety in dockyards, ships and establishments, by providing safety equipment and improving the mindset of personnel.

One of the key aims is to improve safety culture throughout the Navy to stop damage to equipment and people. Posters and leaflet campaigns will help with awareness and ingrain safety into personnel.

"This new awareness of safety, joined with a much simpler reporting procedure will make the Royal Navy a much safer place to work for naval personnel and also MOD civilians

and contractors," said a Navysafe spokesman. New mechanisms will be developed to make it easier for people to report incidents and for subsequent management of lessons.

"Some of the safety practices in place for many of the civilian staff are not currently matched by their naval counterparts, and this can cause issues when working together," the spokesman added.

"With improving safety mindset and practices, the protocol differences will become less, allowing workflow between naval and civilian personnel to become smoother."

The plan is expected to last up to three years but regular updates will be issued to inform of the changing Royal Navy approach to safety.

THE ARMY will begin to bring home nearly 20,000 troops based in Germany from next month.

Around 1,800 troops will be relocated to sites across the UK. In addition, Army units will move from Cyprus while others will move location within the UK earlier than planned. This includes troops moving into former RAF bases at Cottesmore and Kinloss.

The aim, announced as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, is to return half

Army begins the move back home

of the Army's personnel currently based in Germany to the UK by 2015 and the remainder by 2020.

It will save the MOD around £250 million and it is thought Forces currently in Germany will contribute £650 million a year to the UK economy, as wages are spent in the UK instead of Germany.

These moves mean Waterbeach Barracks will be

sold, Trenchard Barracks (Celle) and Münster station will be handed back to the German authorities, and will enable the closure of Rheindahlen. Troop numbers in Cyprus will remain unchanged.

The Army takes over Kinloss earlier than the intended date of 2014/2015 and will see the number of service personnel in Scotland maintained. Three UK divisional headquarters will be replaced by a single headquarters in Aldershot.

■ Full details at <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/DefencePolicyAndBusiness/FirstTrancheOfArmyUnitMovesConfirmed.htm>

■ Silence descended on Abbey Wood on Armistice Day as hundreds of military and civilian staff paid their respects to fallen service personnel.

Last Post, performed by 17-year-old Tom Beach, a pupil at Monkton Combe School in Bath, rang out through the site before a two-minute silence to remember those who have died in two World Wars as well as modern conflicts such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Led by Rev (Wg Cdr) Jonathan Beach, the service also paid tribute to troops who are still based in Afghanistan as well as their friends and families.

Chief of Defence Materiel Bernard Gray said: "This was a fitting way in which the staff of DE&S could come together to remember those who have died in the service of their country. The service offered us the opportunity to reflect and be thankful for the sacrifices they have made."



Remembrance across DE&S



Plymouth commemorations coincided with the return of more than 1,000 city-based Royal Marines, Sappers and Gunners from 3 Commando Brigade who paraded to mark their return from a successful six-month tour of Afghanistan.



Staff and personnel from Clyde naval base gathered in Helensburgh for their commemorations with base commander Commodore Mike Wareham leading the Royal Navy contingent, left.

Personnel from Clyde were also on hand in Glasgow where Captain Michael Tarr, Captain of HMS Neptune is pictured, right, at the Cenotaph



Lt-Gen Gary Coward presents RAF Leeming with the winners' trophy

MILITARY PERSONNEL have been commended for promoting road safety at the MOD's annual awards.

This year's winning team was RAF Leeming for its robust year-long safety campaign.

Work included organising a Young Drivers' Awareness Day, skid awareness training, winter vehicle inspections and motorcycle training as well as a campaign with local schools.

More than 3,500 military and civilian staff are estimated to have benefited from the work which has also seen a 42 per cent drop in road accidents at the station.

Defence roads get safer

Abingdon were runners up with achievements including organising a driver fatigue campaign, child car safety and road crossing campaigns aimed at the station pre-school.

They also raised more than £30,000 during a motorcycle safety awareness charity bike ride between John O'Groats and Land's End.

Awards were presented by Lt-Gen Gary Coward, Chief of Materiel (Land) at DE&S.

He said: "I am very impressed by both teams'

efforts. Road Safety is all about saving lives and all those involved in these projects have done an exemplary job in promoting this ethos."

Mike Moate, S02 Defence Road Safety at DE&S, who organises the awards, added: "This year was particularly noted for the extremely high standard of submission and judges were impressed with the considerable effort and enthusiasm demonstrated to improve road safety across defence."

PORPSMOUTH NAVAL base has bid a fond farewell to its former Commander, Commodore Rob Thompson, and extended a warm welcome to the new man in charge, Commodore Tony Radakin, pictured right.

Service and civilian personnel lined the route as Cdre Thompson was chauffeured out in a six-tonne Army cargo vehicle from Marchwood military port at Southampton which also comes under his command.

The band of the Royal Marines School of Music gave him a musical send-off, playing outside the Naval Base Headquarters as he departed the building for the final time.

After three years in post, Cdre

Thompson, 53, is moving to Edinburgh to take up a new appointment.

He said: "In my short period as custodian of the naval base, the job has been as interesting, varied and as challenging as I had expected. The pace of change quickens and the base will be busier than ever preparing for the arrival of the last two Type 45 destroyers and the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers."

Commissioned in 1990, Commodore Radakin has served in a variety of ships as an Officer of the Watch, Navigating Officer and Operations Officer.

Early service included countering drug smuggling off Hong Kong and in the Caribbean; protection duties in the Falklands and the Iran/Iraq Tanker War; embargo operations in the Adriatic following the collapse of Yugoslavia; and command of *HMS Blazer* and *Southampton* University Royal Navy Unit (1993-95).

He has had three operational tours in Iraq each of which was in command: as a Commander in *HMS Norfolk* imposing security (2003-04); ashore as a Captain in Umm Qasr with the Naval Transition Team training the Iraqi Navy (2006-07); and, latterly, as a Commodore, commanding a UK and US Task Force protecting Iraq's offshore oil infrastructure and supporting transition to Iraqi forces (2010-11).



Tony takes charge of Portsmouth

Martin helps engineer a secure Afghan future



Martin, pictured with Becks Buckingham of key stakeholder the Ministry of Justice, receives his accolade



What they said . . .

"It is through the incredible initiative and creativity of leaders like Lt Col Sturgeon that the Afghan National Security Force has grown in quantity and quality over the past two years.

"His efforts to build unity of effort in the recruiting, building and development of the Afghan Army and Police is a tremendous example of the unique skills, experiences and capabilities our international trainers bring to the mission" – Lt Gen William Caldwell, American commander, Nato Training Mission Afghanistan.

"The innovation and initiative demonstrated by Lt Col Sturgeon is a fine example of the British Army at its very best, and I am delighted that he has been recognised for his efforts" – Gen Sir Peter Wall, Chief of UK General Staff.

A ROYAL Engineer has won a prestigious award for his work developing the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

Lieutenant Colonel Martin Sturgeon, pictured left, who now works at Abbey Wood in the MOD Portfolio, Programme and Project Management Centre of Excellence, developed a programme to co-ordinate dozens of international agencies responsible for recruiting and training members of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police, as well as managing more than 200 infrastructure projects including building new police stations.

He created the programme, which has won plaudits from the head of the British Army and senior American generals, after recognising there was no existing system for joint working in place.

The ANSF Transformation Programme was introduced in October 2010, and brought all support involved in developing and supporting ANSF under one central command.

Lt Col Sturgeon's work was recognised by the Association of Project Management (APM), who named the initiative 'Programme of The Year'.

APM is the professional body for project management in the UK and it is the first time the MOD has won such an award, fighting off other high calibre organisations and showing defence can manage programmes to the highest standards.

"I would like to thank the APM for this award," he said. "As a Royal Engineer, I am trained to find solutions to problems, and I am pleased that I could put my training into action for such a worthwhile cause. The Afghan National Security Forces are going from strength to strength."

"They represent the future of a country that I have become passionate about and I feel proud that, in some small way, I may have helped."



Thank shoe very much!

GENEROUS DE&S staff have kicked off the festive season early by donating thousands of shoeboxes stuffed with Christmas gifts to charity.

Teams from across Bristol and Bath have donated more than 2,000 boxes in aid of Operation Christmas Child – making them the biggest single contributor to the charity in the south west.

The initiative, which is run by international charity Samaritan's Purse, works by encouraging communities to donate shoeboxes filled with school items, hats and gloves, toys, games, toiletries

Report: Hannah Swingler

and sweets which will then be delivered to disadvantaged children living in challenging conditions overseas.

This year the boxes are being sent to Belarus.

DE&S Chief of Staff, Dr Simon Cholerton, who handed the boxes to the charity at a special ceremony at Abbey Wood, said: "This is a wonderful charity and I would like to thank all of those involved with Operation Christmas Child

for their hard work and dedication in organising such a successful fundraising initiative.

"The response to the Shoebox Appeal has again been outstanding; we remain the largest contributor to this worthwhile cause in the south west, and I am very proud to work in an organisation that can respond to a charity in this way."

Julia Hurrell, who co-ordinates the appeal on-site for DE&S, said: "Due to the current climate I am immensely grateful to everyone who has been so kind and generous in supporting the Shoebox Appeal.

"This is the 12th year MOD has donated and more than 18,000 boxes have been sent abroad. The local community also benefits from our efforts with staff utilising local stores to purchase the items required to fill their boxes."

Chris Roberts of Samaritan's Purse, added: "These shoeboxes really do change lives. Children who have received them in the past have said that it has made them realise that the world is a decent place after all. For others it gave them a reason to succeed so that they too could help children like them in the future."

"I have been overwhelmed by the response to this appeal by MOD staff. Their generosity has, once again, been outstanding and their donations will most certainly help change hundreds of children's lives." More information on Operation Christmas Child – www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk

MEMBERS OF THE MOD Guard Service's Yellow Watch at Clyde have been raising money for the Childrens' Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS).

Steve Pursley, John McDermid, Elizabeth McArthur, Karen Kelly and Ruth Duff gathered 107 prizes from more than 100 businesses before their raffle in Clyde's civilian canteen.

Steve Pursley said: "Robin House is such a great cause that everyone really got behind what we were doing and dug deep to contribute. We've raised £2,000 for the hospice with money still coming in."

Special guests at the draw were youngsters and carers from Robin House. Last year Yellow Watch made £2,400 for CHAS and in 2009 raised £1,089 for the BBC's Children in Need appeal.

Right: MOD Guards with visitors from CHAS' Robin House

Guards dig deep in Clyde raffle



Geoff takes on unique Venice challenge

GEOFF ELLIS ended an excellent year of orienteering with a coveted title in Venice, his first visit to a unique event.

The DES Networks flight lieutenant led from the third control in the race which attracted more than 5,000 runners last month before a mistake cost him two minutes.

Fortunately he had built up a sufficient buffer



Triumph: Geoff Ellis

before the error to be only 18 seconds off the lead, time he rapidly regained to cross the line in first place.

He then had to endure a 90-minute wait to see if he would hold onto top spot from the later starters.

The final result saw him win the event by just 46 seconds after 64 minutes of racing.

Karen's the Golden girl

Archery work hits target with top award



A WORKER at Clyde naval base has been rewarded with a medal marking her commitment to archery in the UK.

Karen Gold (pictured), personal assistant to Flag Officer Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland (FOSNNI), has received the Archery GB President's Medal.

Only 150 of the medals have been cast with Karen just the third person in Scotland to receive one.

The award is given to those who have shown exceptional commitment to archery and have been produced to commemorate the Grand National Archery Society's 150th anniversary.

"It was a great honour to receive the medal," said Karen. "To say I was dumbfounded is an understatement."

"It was Neptune Archery Club's Scottish Record Status Stafford Competition at the base. After the competition was over it was announced that they had a special presentation to give to someone. I had no idea it was me they were talking about!"

Presenting Karen with her medal was one of the most successful members of Clyde's Neptune Club, Cherry Lyne, who holds the flight world record in the Ladies Recurve under 50lbs category.

Cherry said: "As club secretary Karen does all the usual things a secretary should do – paperwork, organising competitions, day-to-day stuff. But she has prevented the club from being closed down twice, doubled the club's membership and promoted archery as a healthy activity for all ages to several hundred participants."

"Without her organisation, fast thinking and use of contacts, Neptune Archery would not exist."

Neptune Archery Club has around 25 members and regularly holds competitions that see participants come from all around the country.

Fencing star Keith all set to keep order at the Olympics



FENCING OFFICIAL Keith Bowers will be keeping order at the Olympic Games in London next summer.

Keith, above, of Maritime Combat Systems team at Abbey Wood, has been chosen by the London Official Committee of the Olympic Games to referee at the fencing tournament.

A double Bronze medallist for Scotland at the 2010 Commonwealth Fencing Championships, Keith, a Royal Navy Lieutenant, then qualified as an international referee at foil and sabre and has represented Great Britain on numerous occasions.

His most recent highlight was officiating at the 2011 World Student Games in Shenzhen, China, where he refereed the women's sabre team final.

"I am overjoyed to have been selected to referee at such a prestigious event as the Olympics, especially in my home country," said Keith.

"This is the culmination of ten years' hard work which has been well worth the effort – I feel totally honoured to get this opportunity."

Brian inspires his relay wonders to victory

A TEAM of RAF drivers, managed by a wing commander from Corsham-based Information Systems and Services, has driven away with a prestigious relay race for an unprecedented third time.

The RAF Motorsports Association took the Birkett Race, a six-hour relay in its 61st year, at Silverstone.

The team was managed by Wg Cdr Brian Watson from ISS' Operational Plans Team. Having captained one winning team and helped manage another, he was best placed to focus on managing the race team this year.

The Birkett at the end of October is a treat for club racing drivers. Teams of between four and six cars, many operating under a handicap system, complete as many laps as possible in six hours.

Wg Cdr Watson's team - Sqn

Ldr Darren Berris; Flt Lt Darren Howe; Sgt Bill Brown; Cpl Chris Slator; ex-Chief Tech Aircraft Technician Ian Fletcher and Ed Fuller - defeated a record field of 62 other teams in an event featuring cars from 1960s Hillman Imps to current model BMWs and Jaguars.

"The Birkett plays to the strengths of an organisation like the MOD," said Brian. "It requires careful planning, management and execution with a dedicated support crew. Not unlike project management, the planning and preparation are important in ensuring successful delivery on the day."

Brian's team also included six time keepers, six mechanics and two caterers, all helping to clinch the title 27.54 seconds ahead of their nearest rivals.



A massed start at Silverstone. Below right: Darren Howe's VW. Below left: Brian Watson



Team takes its teamwork back to school

COMMERCIAL OFFICERS from DE&S Ships' Surface Combatants in Abbey Wood took their teambuilding to Samuel White's infant school in nearby Hanham to give a neglected herb garden and conservation area a makeover.

The team was led by Rob Bayliss who is a governor at the school.

The project aimed to help the schoolchildren exploit a fantastic resource while for the team it was a modest contribution towards the Civil Service aim to give 30,000 volunteering days per year thereby helping to turn the Civil Service into a 'Civic Service'.

The team's plan saw Surface Combatant members donate plants while South Gloucestershire Council supplied compost and chippings free and helped get good deals from local nurseries.

Despite rain the team, pictured below, worked into the evening to make sure the site was ready for children the next day.

From left: Rob Bayliss, Helen Jones, Keith Davies, Mark Green, Tim Kidner, Carole Gooding, Martyn Gennar



Staff enjoy a taste of Clyde HIE Life

CLYDE RAN its annual health and safety event – known as HIE-Life – at the end of October.

For the first time the exhibition was set up in the site's Neptune Building Supermess, with dozens of stalls from leading companies in the health, safety and environmental sector and naval base departments on display.

The exhibition was organised by Sue Hill from Babcock's Health and Safety department and Anne MacDonald from the base's Injury Free campaign.

Specialist event company Pro-x were also involved, lining up companies to attend, with the Faslane Flotilla's Duncan Gow arranging the manpower to help

set up the stalls.

"We started arrangements for the exhibition back in July this year," said Anne MacDonald. "It looks like our preparations have paid off as we have had around 500 visitors over the past two days."

Sue Hill added: "The event seems to grow each year and it is fantastic that we can get so many people involved and interested in attending."

Among those departments



Base workers stop at one of the stalls during the exhibition at Clyde

taking part was the base's Regional Occupational Health team.

"Our stalls have been really popular," said Warrant Officer John Laird. "We have brought along an indoor air quality monitor, which shows how we can measure working environments to ensure they comply with regulations."

"On the environmental health side we've also been demonstrating some of the equipment we use in the role of pest control, and with regards to occupational health we've seen interest in some of the our first aid courses and health promotions which we regularly run."



Winning teams .

'Acquisition is a team effort'

DEDICATION AND ethos of project teams responsible for buying kit for the front line have been recognised in the ninth annual Minister for Defence, Equipment Support and Technology Acquisition Awards.

Seven teams from across DE&S as well as a team from HQ Joint Forces Support based in Camp Bastion were presented with the awards by Minister (DEST) Peter Luff during a ceremony at MOD Main Building.

Congratulating the teams at the formal presentation of the awards Mr Luff said: "These awards recognise and reward good performance and demonstrate that we in the MOD can deliver best-in-class project management.

"This year these awards represent the full scope of MOD acquisition, covering Urgent Operational Requirements, support to operations, equipment and estates.

"Acquisition is a team effort and all of the winners here today have demonstrated this. This is even more the case in our department, where civilians and military work side by side to deliver the best possible capabilities to our Armed Forces.

"It is also a joint endeavour. We are in a partnership with industry; an industry that produces ideas, innovations and solutions that allow us to deliver capability to our serving personnel and I would like to acknowledge

this joint contribution in delivering equipment and support for our Armed Forces, often in challenging conditions.

"In the current financial climate these conditions are even more pronounced but all of you have demonstrated that we can meet those challenges and achieve successful acquisition outcomes.

"Ultimately I am passionate about getting the right equipment at the right time and at reasonable cost to the taxpayer and these awards reflect your dedication and ethos; and your strong work to help me realise this vision."

Two of the winning teams were also given special awards – awarded to teams who have excelled in areas that hold specific relevance to the current acquisition climate. These went to the Project Kestrel team (see page 28) for its role in delivering the project as a UOR to theatre and the Operation Herrick Equipment Capability Branch for their contribution to operations.

Defence Minister Peter Luff praises DE&S teams for their best-in-class equipment performance.

Hannah Swingler reports



... winning teams ...

Collective Counter-IED Trainer (CCT) UOR Acquisition Team

The team's objective was to acquire a Collective Counter-IED training capability to reinforce learning and confidence among personnel preparing for deployment on Operation Herrick. They delivered the capability in record time, only five months from Capability Concept Demonstrator to deployment. Vital IED-search training is now delivered in the UK and in-theatre, improving confidence in deployed personnel, improving IED search performance and leading to fewer injuries.

Project Hercules Management Team

The team was established to address a problem with stock in depots and set up a pilot scheme to improve processes and collect data, dealing with problems and inaccuracies in the stock management systems that have been around for some time. The team, using innovative approaches with disposal organisations and front-line commands, achieved best value for defence; a recent audit confirmed the team's approach contained much that represented best practice. The project has exceeded its target during its first year, and has disposed of £355 million of assets no longer required in significant quantities or no longer fit-for-purpose, as well as recovering £28 million of 'lost' stock. The outcome is an air domain inventory which is accurate, composed of only fit-for-purpose equipment, with a much lower footprint in value and volume.

Operation Herrick Equipment Capability Branch (special award for contribution to operations)

The Branch staffs Urgent Statements of User Requirements, supports theatre in integrating UORs and manages scientific

advice to operational commanders. The team works with a multitude of stakeholders and their relationship management with PJHQ, Dstl and DE&S teams is integral to delivering battle winning and life saving capabilities. This contribution to protecting UK people, particularly from IEDs, is of the highest significance.

Welfare Communications Team

This team of only six provides welfare communications services worldwide. The team manages a £48 million annual investment programme and has halved the cost of calls to UK landlines, providing an invaluable service to deployed personnel. The team's focus and dedication has seen the establishment of wireless internet capability at Forward Operating Areas, ensuring vital service delivery to our personnel in the front line.

Project Kestrel Team (special award for delivery of Urgent Operational Requirements)

The team designs, acquires, deploys and installs communications and computer networks to UK Forces on deployed operations, notably to Afghanistan. The provision of communication services, to Counter-IED and Force Protection, to name a few, is a vital component to the success of operations and the protection of people. The team has provided expansion of this network to sites not previously supported, especially Forward Operating Bases. The team showed outstanding initiative in bringing this project to fruition, achieved considerable savings, while delivering in record time in extraordinary conditions.

Nimrod R1 Life Extension Team

The team was tasked at short notice to deliver in-service support to the Nimrod R1 surveillance capability for Operation Ellamy for

three months beyond its planned out-of-service date. The team performed under extraordinary conditions; support contracts were about to expire, team members had moved on; and contractors were already on site to begin dismantling the first aircraft. Nimrod went on to make a valuable contribution to protect the Libyan civilian population.

Apache Engineering and Logistics Team

The team had to provide the in-service support to Apache aircraft at short notice in support of Operation Ellamy/Operation Unified Protector. The project focused on means to provide support to Apache aircraft, which would enable them to deploy within hours of being tasked; and follow up with the support to allow them to operate from HMS Ocean shortly after arrival, while making sure that this did not impact on Operation Herrick and pre-deployment training. The success of Apache over Libya, and the enduring success of the platform in Afghanistan is testimony to their achievements.

Cretheus Project Team

The team has mitigated the detrimental impact onshore and offshore windfarms have on Forces' radars and avoided potential difficulties between the MOD, Scottish law and three other Government departments. Until Cretheus, no single body has had the specific responsibility for mitigating this effect on capabilities. The team advised energy companies of a new radar opportunity which can mitigate wind farm interference and if installed would remove MOD planning objections to a number of proposed developments. The team was instrumental in convincing companies to fund the new radar, roughly £40 million, resulting in the MOD facing no financial risk, and reducing operational risk. Their skills and innovation in the contractual work achieved 25 per cent saving on radar costs.

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:

2011DIN04-157: This DIN outlines the collocation of logistic commodity teams (Defence Fuel and Food Services, Defence Clothing, Medical and General Supplies and Movement Support Services) from Ensleigh, Foxhill and West Moors at Abbey Wood from November 2011 with telephone contact details.

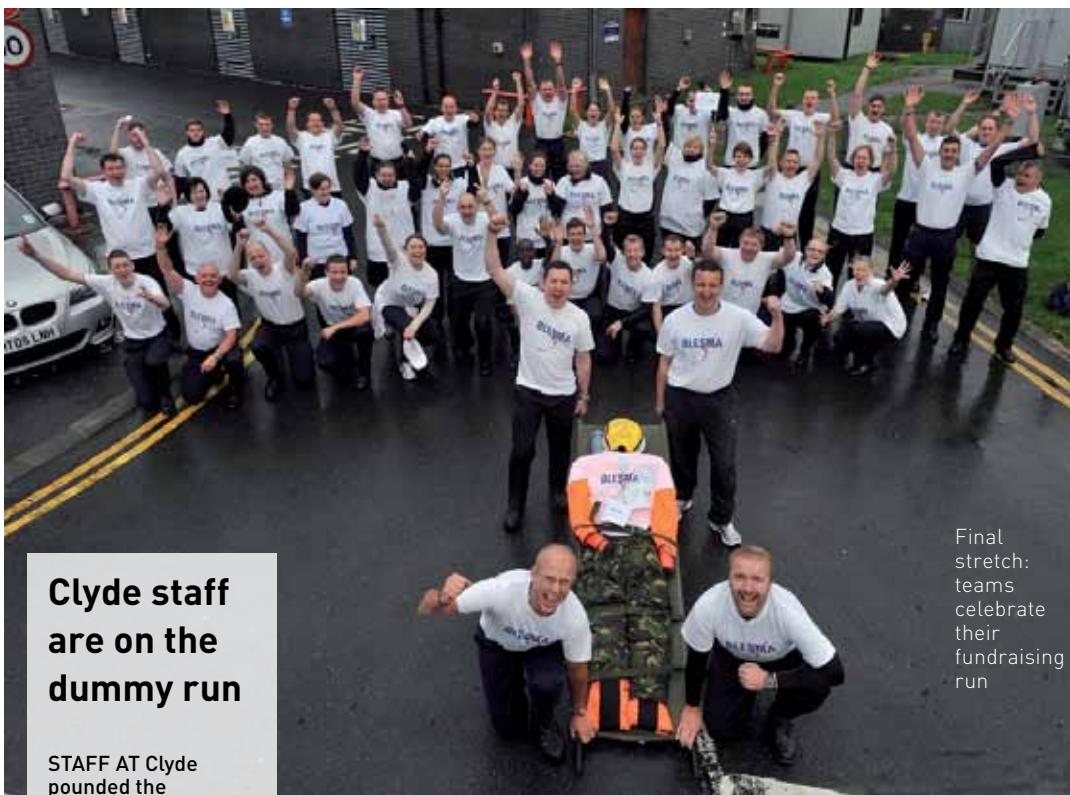
2011DIN04-150: The York Information Housing Centre allocates service families accommodation in the north east of England. The lease on Bacchus House in Osbaldwick has expired. DIO staff will relocate to Imphal Barracks, York.

2011DIN04-149: This DIN details new procedures for the Better Management Through Ashchurch (BETA) business process. It replaces the previous Joint Support Chain Requirements Change Process and will be used to request services provided by the Defence Support Group at Ashchurch.

2011DIN04-147: Following the sale of *RFA Largs Bay* to Australia units are advised that no mail should be sent to BFPO 446 and *RFA Largs Bay* should be removed from mailing lists.

Further information and more details on the latest DINs see:

<http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Library/CivilianAndJointService/AtoZ/DinsIndex2011.htm>



Clyde staff are on the dummy run

STAFF AT Clyde pounded the pavements to sweat their way to charity cash.

Members of the Clyde Logistics Organisation held a sponsored 24-hour stretcher carry, with ten teams of five taking turns to lug a stretcher with a man-overboard dummy the length of the naval base and back continuously.

CPO Caterer Dave Pitt said: "We wanted to do something to raise money for the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association and thought that a 24-hour stretcher fun would be challenging.

"The man-overboard dummy weighed around 15 stones, so you can imagine that after a while it began to hurt."

"Probably our biggest challenge on the day was the weather. We had everything in that 24-hours period from driving rain and hail to thunder."

Teams from the base's Career Management Cell and the Waterfront Manning Office, along with Babcock's Clyde managing director Mark Dixon also took part.

Around £3,000 has been raised with more to come.

Final stretch: teams celebrate their fundraising run

Charity keeps civil servants in mind

THE CIVIL Service Benevolent Fund – the charity for civil servants – has launched Health on your Mind, to raise awareness of mental health issues in the workplace.

It highlights help available to staff and to managers in supporting them. It aims to lessen the stigma that still surrounds mental illness.

It brings together organisations, including major mental health charities, who provide support to those in need.

By using the Civil Service charity as a channel, staff will be encouraged to seek help from a range of sources. Details at www.csbf.org.uk/healthonyourmind

DE&S keeps investing in the future of engineering

THE NUMBER of students mentored by DE&S engineers has passed the 300 mark.

This year DE&S has sponsored ten school teams in the Go4SET scheme, making it an exciting time for the organisation's Engineering Skills Support team.

Go4SET is a work-related learning scheme for 12-14 year-old, aimed at raising pupils' awareness of the exciting future career opportunities in science, engineering and technology (SET).

Teams of six pupils from schools around Bath and Bristol get a taste of real life application of SET in a ten-week programme working with ten DE&S-based mentors. One of the advantages of the scheme is that it brings schools together and encourages them to share ideas.

Mentors help pupils with research into projects and give them the opportunity to see how some of these issues are tackled in real life.

David Diamond, deputy director land systems with DE&S Safety and Engineering, was one of last year's mentors. He said: "The Go4SET experience was, I



Go4SET mentors attend the launch event in Filton in October

thought, an opportunity to teach kids a bit about engineering and hopefully impart to them some enthusiasm for the subject.

"Little did I know that they would be teaching me a few things and reminding me that positive thinking is the secret for success. The kids spent most of their time thinking of a million reasons why and how they could design their eco-classroom rather than focussing on a million reasons why and how things wouldn't work."

"I'd recommend any engineer supporting this scheme and in particular our young engineer because it provides a chance to put something back in to society and as a bonus it is great evidence for a future IEng or CEng application."

Go4SET offers a development opportunity for DE&S technical staff. Further information from Rachel Dyer DESSESea-DevPtr1b@mod.uk, Tel 030679 36769, or the Engineering Skills Director Intranet site.

Blood team earns praise as 'best of the best'

DE&S' BLOOD Supply Team has received a national award for services to the front line.

The four-strong team, based in Birmingham and part of Foxhill's Medical and General Supplies, were honoured at the Military and Civilian Health Partnership Awards (MCHPA) for developing new blood transportation boxes and monitoring devices to ensure a supply of blood and blood components to Afghanistan.

The annual awards – reported in November's *desider* – attracted more than 100 nominations from military and civilian medics.

During the last year, development of new transport boxes and monitoring devices have allowed delivery of more than 10,000 blood components, and the complex logistics chain can provide blood to wherever it is needed in the world.

This system contributes to high survival rates, and the technology is now being reviewed by civilian helicopter emergency medical services in the UK.

Andrew Brown, team leader of Medical and General Supplies, said: "I am very proud of the Blood Supply Team and thrilled that their hard work and dedication to supporting the front line has been recognised in this way. Our Armed Forces are exceptional



Martin Stevens of Birmingham NHS Blood and Transplant, left, and SSgt Steven Matthews from DE&S' Blood Supply Team pack blood into a Golden Hour Box for shipment to Afghanistan

and we are committed to providing them with the health services that they deserve."

Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, Andrew Robathan, said: "Thanks to the excellence of our people working in partnership, the quality of care available to our Armed Forces – from emergency life saving procedures on operations to primary care at home and overseas – is quite remarkable. These awards

are about honouring the best of the best, people who, often in the most demanding of circumstances, are delivering exceptional healthcare."

UK Forces are the only organisation that now has a validated system for transportation of blood throughout the evacuation chain. Britain is the only nation regularly shipping liquid platelets to the battlefield.

DSRA LOTTERY WINNERS – SEPTEMBER
£10,000: Michael Prendergast (RAF Benson). **£5,000:** Allison Derrick (Foxhill). **£2,000:** Mark Beaumet (Bath). **£1,000:** Benjamin Tasker (Wattisham Airfield). **£500:** Lesley Ledson (Liverpool). **£300:** Dennis Pink (Gosport), Sheila Purvis (Edinburgh), Alison Brooks (Gloucester), Ian Westwood (RAF Cranwell). **£200:** Linda Mullen (RAF Henlow), John Cotton (Donnington), Michael Taylor (Portsmouth), Guy Wesley (Marlborough Barracks), Keith Goodman (Dstl), Mark Shore (Shrewsbury), Norman Leitch (Camberley), Peter Cook (Met Office), Isabella Gilroy (Craigiehall), Noel Lavery (Keogh Barracks), Paul Hearnden (Marlborough Barracks). **£100:** Terry Pillinger (Fairford), Shirley Steele (RAF Aldergrove), Neil Smith (Portsmouth), Lorna Bain (RAF Lossiemouth), Philip Coulthard (RAF Spadeadam), Gary Cottrill (Main Building), John Jones (PPPA), David Amey (Bristol), Paul Good (Main Building), Alistair Gibbs (Abbey Wood), Christine Gilham (RAF Waddington), Tanya Thompson (Foxhill), Sharon Rawlings (Bath), D Gerrard (PPPA), Peter Williams (Melton Mowbray).



Royal approval: the Princess Royal congratulates organiser Kirsty Noble of the Aircraft Carrier Alliance for the success of the Beat the Block event

Carrier cyclists smash their charity target

FUNDRAISERS from the Aircraft Carrier Alliance, which includes DE&S staff, who took part in the cycling event 'Beat the Block' have smashed their original target more than three times over – and received Royal recognition for their efforts.

The dedicated group from Rosyth, Glasgow and Edinburgh originally hoped the 600-mile cycling challenge would raise as much as £10,000 for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines charity.

But so far – and there are still some donations coming in – the event has raised more than £35,000!

Organiser Kirsty Noble said: "It's wonderful that we have managed to raise so much for such a deserving charity and I'm grateful to everyone who took part."

"It was a great surprise to be invited to meet Princess Anne and a real honour

to represent everyone who put in so much effort to make the event a success."

'Beat the Block' saw 40 cyclists race the 8,000-tonne section of aircraft carrier *Queen Elizabeth* as it was towed around the north of Scotland, from Govan where it was constructed, to Rosyth where it will form part of the first completed carrier.

The 600-mile journey was completed in just five days, and the cyclists managed to beat the block – but it was a close race.

Kirsty added: "The route was pretty tough, some days the group covered more than 120 miles and although the scenery was stunning, the hills – and the midges – were brutal!"

The Aircraft Carrier Alliance is a unique partnering arrangement between DE&S, BAE Systems, Thales and Babcock to deliver the two *Queen Elizabeth* class carriers.



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