

desider

the magazine for defence equipment and support

Jan 2013 Issue 56

de&s



Ministry
of Defence



Ocean heads for calmer waters

DE&S teams shine in annual acquisition awards [See inside](#)



Support goes right to the end



Bringing pilots 'home' safely



Apprentices play a starring role



Latest Astute is on the way



Typhoon looks shiny and new

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

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FEATURES

20 DE&S makes sure the post always gets through

Postal workers at the British Forces Post Office, part of DE&S, have been praised by Chief of Defence Materiel Bernard Gray for dealing with the annual deluge of Christmas mail

22 Teamwork keeps DE&S on top

Excellence in acquisition, allied to good teamwork, helped DE&S take the majority of awards in the annual prizes handed out by the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology

26 Two nations join in weapon systems testing

A new facility – the Strategic Weapons System Ashore facility – for the UK and US to carry out comprehensive testing of their future strategic weapon systems looks set to get underway in Florida

28 Let's hear it for the girls!

Abbey Wood's young female apprentice engineers have come out on top in the latest MOD awards which have seen a first recorded by DE&S with the organisation's young engineering talent occupying the top three spots.



9

Picture: Babcock

cover image

The Royal Navy's largest ship edges slowly into dock at Devonport at the beginning of a 15-month refit. *HMS Ocean's* upkeep period is the biggest of its kind carrier out in the dockyard dockyard for more than 20 years

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Assistant Head, Public Relations:

Ralph Dunn - 9352 30257 or 0117 9130257
DESSEC-CorpComms-PR-AsstHd@mod.uk

Deputy Editor:

Steve Moore - 9352 30537 or 0117 9130537
stephen.moore544@mod.uk

Distribution Manager:

Dick Naughton - 9352 34342 or 0117 9134342
dessec-corp-busmgr1a@mod.uk

Advertising:

Anthon Linton – Ten Alps Media, 40 Bowling Green Lane, London EC1R ONE
Tel: +44 (0)20 7657 1819.
Fax: +44 (0)207 7379 7155
anthon.linton@tenalps.com

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NEWS

4 Astute is a 'jewel in the crown'

The Astute class submarines have been praised as a huge leap forward as DE&S awards a contract for the fourth in class *Audacious*

8 Support for those who support

Contact extensions worth nearly £350 million have been awarded to five UK companies for global maintenance of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary

9 Ocean heads for refit

The Royal Navy's largest warship has begun the biggest upkeep period carried out in Devonport for more than 20 years

11 More stocks of the 'weapon of choice'

Stocks of Paveway IV, the RAF's 'weapon of choice', have been replenished after the bomb proved effective during the Libya campaign

13 Typhoon clocks up a major milestone

The first 'major' maintenance has been carried out on an RAF Typhoon after the aircraft clocked up 1,600 flying hours

14 Support goes right to the end

A support contract for the Sea King will provide maintenance to the 90-strong fleet until the helicopter's out of service date in 2016

16 Cleared to land!

Testing on a flight simulator at BAE Systems will get to grips with the challenge of helping UK F-35 pilots to return to the *Queen Elizabeth* class carriers

19 Class Output delivers class output

Revised arrangements for docking periods for the Royal Navy's mine countermeasures vessels have proved successful as the first *Sandown* class vessel leaves Rosyth

JANUARY 2013

desider

Bernard Gray

Chief of Defence Materiel

'A huge amount of work has been undertaken by the Materiel Strategy team since it was formed 18 months ago'



I would like to offer you all a warm welcome back to work following a very well-deserved Christmas and New Year break. We are at the start of what I believe will be an extremely important year for all of us in DE&S, the year during which I anticipate major decisions on the road to the future for a changed and improved DE&S will be taken by Ministers.

As you all know, a huge amount of work has been undertaken by the Materiel Strategy team since it was formed 18 months ago and an Initial Gate Business Case has been prepared for consideration by the Investment Approvals Committee.

Once the Committee has reached its decision I will be in a position to explain to you the next steps in the process of developing an improved management structure for DE&S.

The Initial Gate Business Case recommends that we move into a formal Assessment Phase which will allow us to compare a Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) model (which remains the DE&S Board's preferred option), with an "as is" and a DE&S+ option.

Among the last events that I attended before the Christmas break were the MOD Apprentice of the Year Awards 2012 and a visit to BFPO as it dealt with the annual deluge of Christmas mail for service personnel on duty overseas.

I was delighted to open the Apprentice of the Year event and to see so many successful apprentices starting on their careers with the MOD and I was particularly pleased that the MOD Apprentice of the Year gold medal winner and both silver

medal winners are from DE&S. The majority of the other award winners also came from DE&S – my congratulations go to all of them.

My visit to BFPO's main sorting office also gave me great pleasure. I saw how staff dealt with the increase in Christmas mail, how they had developed improvements to their own working processes and I was able to thank them for their dedication to the very important job that they do, which rightly attracts some public attention on the run-up to the holiday period.

I was also pleased to note the award of the main build contract for the fourth submarine in the *Astute* class, *Audacious*. Getting to contract has been a considerable piece of work for all those involved, both in DE&S and our contractor and marks another step forward for our submarine programme.

I very much enjoyed welcoming MOD Permanent Secretary Jon Thompson to DE&S headquarters at Abbey Wood and listening, along with a large number of DE&S staff, to a presentation he gave on Defence Transformation. A number of questions to Jon were understandably about progress on the Materiel Strategy, which remains a major focus of your interest and concern.

Finally, as we stand at the start of the New Year and look ahead to the challenges and opportunities it will bring, I would like to thank you all for your continued professionalism and commitment. Together we achieved a great deal in 2012 and I look forward to our continued achievements this year.



Picture: Mike Vallance/BAE Systems

THE *ASTUTE* class has been described as the 'jewel in the crown' of the Royal Navy's Submarine Service by DE&S' Director of Submarines.

The fourth submarine in the class of seven – *Audacious* – is already well under construction at BAE Systems in Barrow, Cumbria.

Rear Admiral Simon Lister, Director Submarines, said: "These submarines represent a huge leap forward in technology and will operate all over the world with the Royal Navy.

"They provide the optimum capability a submarine can offer in land strike, strategic intelligence gathering, anti-submarine and surface ship warfare, and protection of the strategic deterrent.

"The *Astute* class will become the jewel in the crown of the Submarine Service and boasts much greater firepower and more advanced sonar and communications than ever before."

Rear Admiral Lister was speaking as DE&S awarded a £1.2 billion contract for *Audacious*. The contract with BAE Systems will safeguard 3,000 jobs at Barrow.

The full contract includes previous money spent across the programme and covers the design, build, test and commissioning programme.

First steel was cut in 2007 and construction of *Audacious* is advanced with all its pressure hull units now assembled in the company's main construction hall.

The first two boats, *Astute* and *Ambush*, are currently undergoing sea trials to rigorously test their systems.

Astute class – ‘jewel in the crown’ of Royal Navy’s Submarine Service



Astute has conducted deep dive trials and successfully fired Tomahawk land attack missiles and Spearfish torpedoes.

Ambush's ability to dive and surface has been successfully tested as has her propulsion system, and the third boat, *Artful*, is reaching the final stages of her construction at Barrow.

It has also been confirmed that a further £1.5 billion has been committed to the remaining three submarines in the class. This has enabled early build work to start on boat five – *Anson* – and long lead items to be ordered and bought for the as yet unnamed boats six and seven.

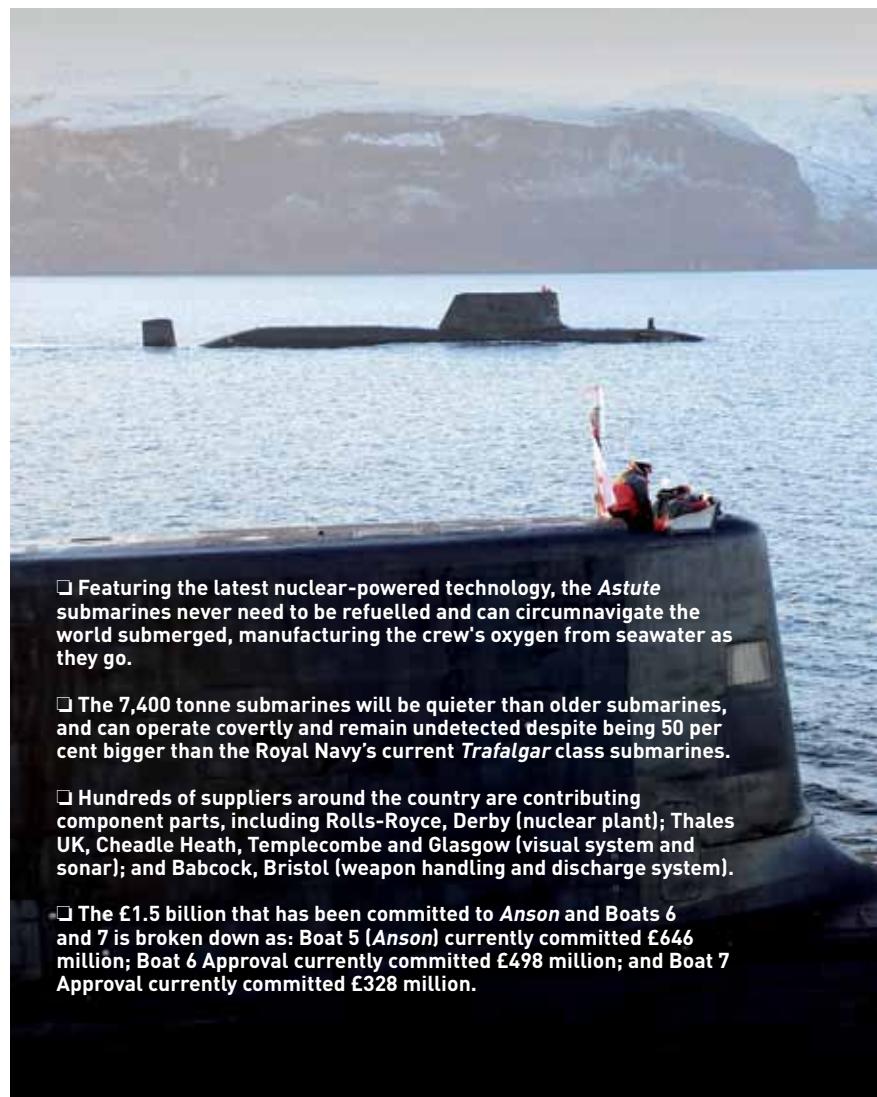
Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said: “This £1.2 billion contract marks an important step forward in the progress of the *Astute* programme and moves the Royal Navy closer to adding more of these highly advanced and powerful attack submarines to its fleet.

“I am also pleased that the MOD is committing more than £1.5 billion for boats five, six and seven. This funding demonstrates our commitment to a key Royal Navy capability and also to the submarine industry in Barrow which will play a vital role in *Astute* for decades.”

BAE Systems Submarines Managing Director John Hudson added: “This is a significant milestone for the company as it provides increased stability for the remainder of the programme.

“More than 5,000 people are employed at Submarines with more than half of these directly involved in the *Astute* programme, many in highly skilled, specialist positions, so the announcement is hugely welcomed.”

Above: build work on *Audacious* is well advanced at BAE Systems in Barrow.
Below: *Astute* and *Ambush* are pictured together for the first time during trials last month



■ Featuring the latest nuclear-powered technology, the *Astute* submarines never need to be refuelled and can circumnavigate the world submerged, manufacturing the crew's oxygen from seawater as they go.

■ The 7,400 tonne submarines will be quieter than older submarines, and can operate covertly and remain undetected despite being 50 per cent bigger than the Royal Navy's current *Trafalgar* class submarines.

■ Hundreds of suppliers around the country are contributing component parts, including Rolls-Royce, Derby (nuclear plant); Thales UK, Cheadle Heath, Templecombe and Glasgow (visual system and sonar); and Babcock, Bristol (weapon handling and discharge system).

■ The £1.5 billion that has been committed to *Anson* and Boats 6 and 7 is broken down as: Boat 5 (*Anson*) currently committed £646 million; Boat 6 Approval currently committed £498 million; and Boat 7 Approval currently committed £328 million.

Resources must be managed more carefully – Abbey Wood hears

MOD PERMANENT Secretary Jon Thompson has addressed DE&S staff at a town hall session at Abbey Wood focusing on Transforming Defence and the challenges faced in the coming year.

The MOD has made some positive changes over the past financial year to better manage its resources – including planning for an equipment programme that commits less resources than the totality of those available – because that is a prudent and risk appropriate approach.

Mr Thompson explained that the ten-year Equipment Programme announced by Secretary of State Philip Hammond last May had confirmed spending totalling £156 billion, including around £4 billion of risk provision and had left a further £8 billion of headroom, mostly in the later years, to commit to projects at a later date – an adaptable approach.

"What we have to recognise is that the country wants us continue to deliver

battle-winning Armed Forces, but it also wants us to be much more responsible about the way that we manage our money," he told staff.

He summarised the major transformation initiatives underway across the MOD and explained that civilian headcount had already been reduced by one fifth and

military headcount by five per cent. He also told staff that there was too much bureaucracy in the MOD.

"We have an extensive range of centrally-defined policies and processes. In my view we are over-specifying too much and we have to expect that different parts of



Warm welcome: Bernard Gray and Jon Thompson take an overview of Abbey Wood



MOD will do things differently. My aspiration would be to simplify and reduce bureaucracy," he said.

In answer to questions on the possible Government Owned Contractor Operated model for the future operation of DE&S and the DE&S+ model, Mr Thompson explained that no decisions had been made and that he anticipated the next stage being the

consideration of the Materiel Strategy Initial Gate Business Case by the MOD Investment Approvals Committee and Ministers.

In answer to a question about the difficulties the MOD faces in recruiting and retaining staff that it was a simple fact that in general MOD would not be able to compete with outside industry on salary packages for some specific skills – and people who entered the public services generally recognised this if they had such skills. However, he explained that the MOD had to ensure that staff were motivated and engaged in ways other than pure reward.

Mr Thompson was introduced to the town hall session by Chief of Defence Materiel Bernard Gray, who thanked him at the end of the session.



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NEWSREEL

Reform makes big progress

DEFENCE Secretary Philip Hammond has welcomed Lord Levene's first annual review of progress on Defence Reform. Lord Levene has congratulated the MOD on strong progress and says he believes the programme is being run with urgency. Mr Hammond said: "I acknowledge there is more to do. I am confident though that by April we will have gone a long way towards achieving the aim of the programme; a smaller, more professional MOD better at supporting the Armed Forces."

British sorties from Gioia

AROUND 2,050 operational sorties were made by British aircraft from Gioia del Colle, Italy, during operations over Libya. Armed Forces Minister Andrew Robathan has revealed. Transporting, equipping and running ground support in Gioia del Colle cost around £2.7 million. This excludes £5.6 million of air transport costs. These costs do not include normal funded flying hours. At its peak, 22 British aircraft were at Gioia del Colle.

Paul named

PAUL Everitt is the new Chief Executive of ADS, the Aerospace, Defence and Security organisation, on the departure of Rees Ward. Mr Everitt said "These are strategic sectors of the UK economy and their success is important, particularly during challenging times, in delivering jobs and prosperity."

Contract aims to see submarines keep their technological edge

A CONTRACT to support and maintain a new sophisticated combat system across the Royal Navy's submarine fleet has been awarded to BAE Systems.

The £46 million Design Services Arrangement (DSA) contract will ensure that the system, used to navigate vessels as well as gather intelligence and defend against attacks, is maintained and developed over the next decade.

Currently different combat systems are used across the fleet. This new contract will help drive adoption of a Common Combat System across all current and future Royal Navy submarines, with considerable benefits to training, maintenance and updating costs.

The contract will safeguard around 30 jobs at the BAES sites in Ash Vale in Surrey, and Weymouth.

Minister for Defence, Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne said: "The UK's submarine fleet is second to none and plays a key role in protecting our waters and interests both at home and abroad."

"This latest commitment to maintain and develop this vital technology throughout the fleet will ensure that we can continue delivering first class capability for many years to come."

Rear Admiral Simon Lister, Director Submarines at DE&S, said: "Command Systems on board our submarines contain many vital technologies and it is very important that our submarines retain their technological edge, now and in the future. This contract will help secure that position for the MOD and UK industry."



Keeping the Navy on the move:
RFAs Mounts Bay,
Wave Knight and
Cardigan Bay

Support for those who support

Contracts guarantee fleet auxiliary maintenance for another five years

CONTRACT EXTENSIONS worth £349 million have been awarded to five UK companies for the delivery of global maintenance to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

The contracts will secure five more years' support for the ships which sustain and replenish the Royal Navy around the globe.

Original contracts placed in 2008 were scheduled to run for five years with an option to extend further, subject to value for money and performance reviews which were completed earlier this year.

The extension is testament to the strong working relationship and partnering approach over the last four years between DES Ships' Commercially Supported

Shipping team and the five companies to deliver enhanced performance and value for money while sustaining key ship repair and maintenance capabilities in the UK.

In the last four years availability of ships has increased from 81 per cent in 2008 to 95 per cent in 2012 and has shown zero cost growth against the original approval.

Extensions are expected to sustain up to 800 jobs in the UK across the five companies involved – A&P Group (Ship Repair Facility) in Falmouth, Cammell Laird in Birkenhead, Lloyds Register in Bristol, Trimline in Southampton and Hempel UK in Cwmbran.

The flotilla of 13 ships

comprises fuel tankers, stores ships, a forward repair facility, a medical facility and landing ships.

Minister for Defence, Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne said: "These Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships are crucial to the work of the Royal Navy – without them it simply could not operate."

Head of Commercially Supported Shipping at DE&S, Commodore David Preston, added: "These contracts represent the best value for money and each of the companies has a proven track record in supporting the RFA worldwide – this ability to support the Navy wherever they are deployed is critical to UK defence."



Navy's largest ship will spend 15 months in Devonport

Reverse thrust: *HMS Ocean* is helped into 10 Dock at Devonport on 12th December

HMS OCEAN, the Royal Navy's largest warship, has begun the biggest upkeep period carried out in Devonport for more than 20 years.

The helicopter carrier, which provided security and a home for military personnel on the Thames during the London Olympics, will receive a £65 million upgrade which will see her return to the Fleet in 2014.

The contract has been awarded to Babcock, securing 300 jobs in Devonport. More than 70 contractors are also set to be involved in the project securing another 300 jobs across the UK.

During the 15-month refit, upgrades and improvements will be made to her radar, gun, command system and living quarters. Around 1,200 metres of new pipework will be laid and around 100,000 litres of paint will be applied.

Minister for Defence,

Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne said: "HMS Ocean plays a crucial role supporting operations as we saw during the Olympics and the Libya campaign and it is essential that we continue to invest in the upkeep of this formidable vessel."

His thoughts were echoed by

□ DE&S' Surface Ship Alliance Destroyers and Amphibious Platforms Team Leader, Kevin Barry, said: "This is a hugely complex project, both technically and from a project management perspective, and it is testament to the dedication of all those involved that we have successfully reached this stage of the process."

□ "There will be some significant challenges ahead but I look forward to this team effort being continued into the implementation phase, and to successful delivery of this highly capable warship back to the Fleet in 2014."

Vice Admiral Andrew Mathews, DE&S' Chief of Materiel (Fleet), who said: "Since entering service *HMS Ocean* has delivered comprehensive support to countless military operations as well as humanitarian and

disaster relief missions. This extensive refit programme is essential in ensuring that this magnificent ship is able to continue in her role supporting and protecting the UK's interests across the globe."

The upkeep is the first on an amphibious ship under full implementation of the Surface

Ship Support Alliance (SSA) Class Output Management (COM) approach, under which Babcock leads support of all amphibious vessels.

Babcock Warship Support Managing Director Mike Whalley said: "This is a substantial refit and noteworthy for its sheer scale, as well as representing an important milestone as the first to be undertaken

by the Babcock-led Amphibious COM team.

"The project will be a highly complex and challenging one, with the team focused on delivering *Ocean* fully refurbished, with improved capability and performance, safely, on time, and at optimum value for money."

HMS Ocean played an integral role in the Libya campaign launching Apache attack helicopters from her deck to attack Libyan ground defences.

■ *HMS Ocean* will use 10 Dock which, as part of the continual improvements being made at Devonport, will become the centre of deep maintenance for capital ships.

All the main stakeholders will share the same building at the dock, which has several conference rooms with teleconferencing facilities. DE&S staff will be able to drop in and log onto their relevant networks.

The building was opened by Commodore Graham Little, Commander of the base, and Mr Chris Tomkins of Babcock.

NEWSREEL

A pleasant surprise

A project to improve the airfield at Mount Pleasant on the Falkland Islands has won an environmental award. The £18 million Project Shackleton by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, contractors Colas and consultants Mott MacDonald relaid surfaces and replaced cabling and lights. Runway scrapings were used to resurface civilian roads, pallets were donated for community projects and 54,000 tonnes of local aggregate was used instead of importing it. The scheme has earned a civil engineering environmental quality award from Ceequal – an awards organisation for civil engineering, infrastructure and landscaping.

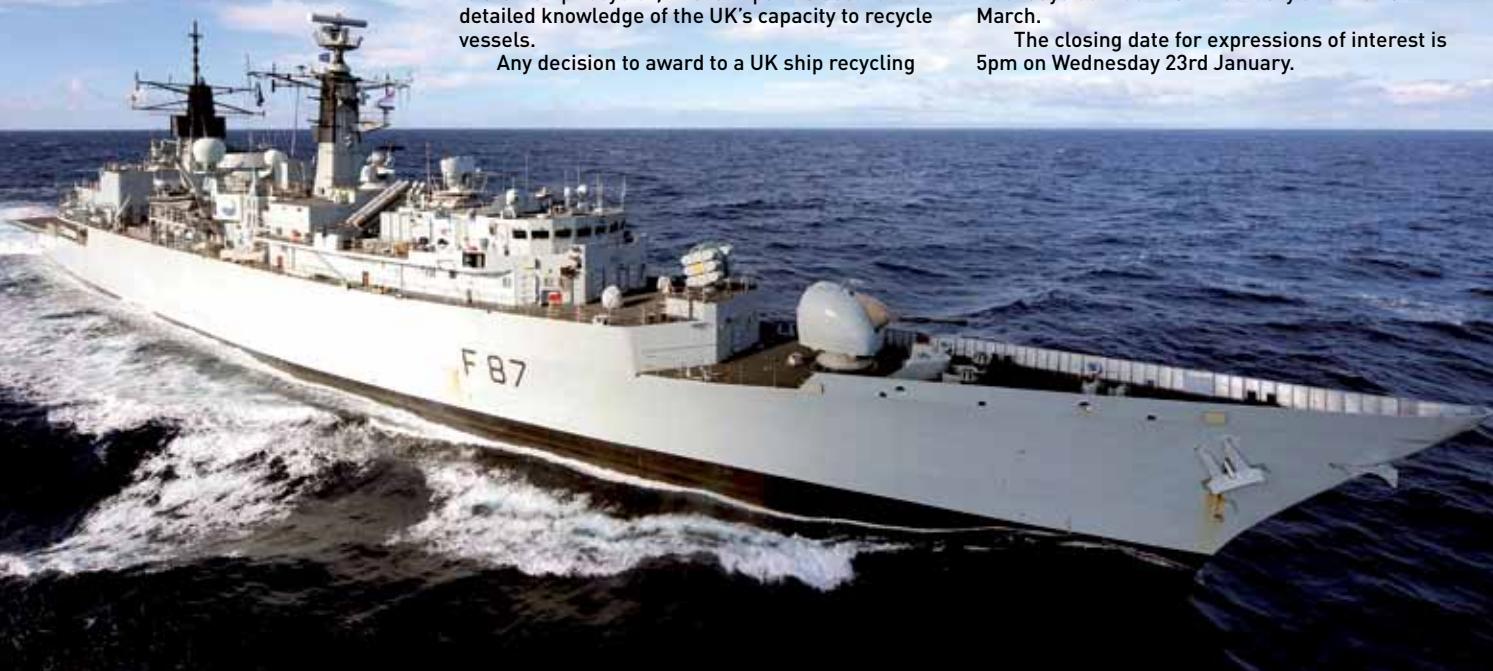
Name change

IN line with DE&S' Land Equipment Operating Centre's revised organisation design, the Joint and Battlefield Trainers, Simulations and Synthetic Environments team (JBTS) has become the Land Equipment Training and Simulation Systems Programme (TrgSimSP).

Apa to Brazil

APA, the second of three Ocean Patrol Vessels built by BAE Systems in a procurement with advice and input from DE&S, has been handed over to the Brazilian Navy. First of class *Amazonas* was handed over to Brazil last June, with the third, *Araguari*, expected to be delivered this April.

Type 22s – a new lease of life?



DE&S IS looking at future uses for the four Type 22 frigates which were decommissioned as part of the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review.

The Disposal Services Authority (DSA) is inviting expressions of interest in tendering for the ships – the former *HMS Chatham* (pictured), *Campbeltown*, *Cumberland* and *Cornwall* – for either further use, recycling or sinking as an artificial reef.

The DSA intends to award at least one vessel to a UK ship recycler; this is in part to secure detailed knowledge of the UK's capacity to recycle vessels.

Any decision to award to a UK ship recycling

company will be made in accordance with transparent and objective evaluation criteria which will be issued at the Invitation to Tender stage.

Only bidders that have completed and passed a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire will be sent an Invitation to Tender for the vessels and allowed access to view the vessel.

The vessels are moored at Portsmouth and will be sold from there.

The DSA is planning to host viewings on weekdays between 25th February and the 15th March.

The closing date for expressions of interest is 5pm on Wednesday 23rd January.

Air Safety Management Training Course

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For further information or to reserve a place please contact:

Emma Jones at course enquiries telephone: +44 (0)1252 738510
ASMT-enquiries@atkinsglobal.com

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11th – 15th March 2013



Flying training joint venture takes another step forward

ASCENT FLIGHT Training is inviting proposals for providing fixed wing training aircraft and support in the latest stage of the UK Military Flying Training System.

Ascent, a joint venture between Lockheed Martin and Babcock International, will manage procurement for training service, including the new aircraft, in 2015.

The new capability will deliver assets for elementary, basic, multi-engine and fixed wing rear crew training for the RAF, Royal Navy and Army Air Corps.

Consortia have 90 working days to respond to a specification that includes supplying aircraft, infrastructure and support to 2030 and beyond.

DE&S stocks up on the 'weapon of choice'

Right: a Tornado GR4 is armed with Paveway IV at Gioia del Colle, Italy, during operations over Libya in 2011



A DE&S team has replenished stocks of an RAF 'weapon of choice' which proved highly effective during the 2011 air campaign over Libya.

The Free Fall Weapons team, part of International Guns, Missiles and Rockets (IGMR), will buy additional Paveway IV precision bombs from Raytheon UK in a £25 million contract.

The weapon with a 500lb warhead will be carried by Tornados in Afghanistan and will also provide a key capability to be carried by Typhoon.

Around 450 jobs will be sustained at Raytheon UK's plants. It will secure 300 highly skilled defence sector jobs in Glenrothes, Scotland, and 150 in Harlow, Essex.

It will also sustain jobs at Raytheon's subcontractors – Portsmouth Aviation, Exelis in Brighton, Chemring in Ardeer and Thales in Basingstoke.

Paveway's global positioning system technology gives the UK the capability to conduct 24-hour



precision attacks against a wide range of targets. Aircrew also have the ability to reprogramme the weapon during a mission, offering capability to attack a wider range of targets.

IGMR leader Steve Ranyard said: "This latest order is a significant achievement for Raytheon UK and Free Fall Weapons. However, I am well aware that it could not have been achieved without excellent teamwork across the supply chain and I would like to thank our stakeholders for their contribution to this."

"The first deliveries from the PWIV replenishment contract placed with Raytheon

in December 2011 arrived into UK stores in an impressively short timescale and in response to MOD requests to expedite the delivery of capability.

"We look forward to taking delivery of these new weapons and the balance of the original contract in the coming months."

Bob Delorge, chief executive Raytheon UK, added: "Paveway IV is well recognised as being the RAF's precision-guided bomb of choice, with accuracy, flexibility, and reliability being some of the key characteristics of the system. This contract will help sustain hundreds of highly skilled staff while delivering an outstanding operational capability."

NEWSREEL

Meteor launch from Typhoon

THE Meteor Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile has been successfully launched from a Typhoon. This builds on an earlier series of flight trials, carried out by BAE Systems on behalf of the Eurofighter programme, where unpowered missiles were used to demonstrate safe separation on the missile. This work begins full integration of the Meteor missile with all Typhoon systems.

Pershore gets the go-ahead

VEHICLES from DE&S' Specialist Vehicle (SV) programme can now be tested at Pershore, Worcestershire. General Dynamics UK's Platform Test Services laboratory has been accredited by the UK Accreditation Service for electromagnetic compatibility testing of communications systems fitted to military vehicles. This will help delivery of the Specialist Vehicle fleet. The SV programme, which will provide the next generation of armoured vehicles to the British Army, can now be formally tested at the laboratory.

Raytheon deal

RAYTHEON will supply an undisclosed number of a new GPS anti-jam antenna system for deployment in operational theatres on a number of different vehicles. The contract, an urgent operational requirement, is a first of its kind for the company.

Team to lead information careers in Government

CLAIRE FRY, MOD Head of profession for Information Technology, and Commodore Jamie Hay, head of DE&S' Information Systems and Services programmes group, joined senior information technology leaders in Westminster Hall on 1st November, the first time senior leadership of ICT across Government has met at a single event.

Speakers included Cabinet Office Minister Francis Maude and Sir Bob Kerslake, Head of the Civil Service.

The event was hosted by

Andy Nelson, Government Chief Information Officer, and attended by CIOs from central and wider government as well as industry.

Claire Fry, pictured, said: "There is a significant amount of work going on across Government to develop the IT profession. This makes the profession a very positive place to be in the future. Events like this clearly recognise the IT profession as critical to the future delivery of services across Government."

The DE&S Information Skills team, working for Claire,



has taken the lead on the new Government IT Career Framework.

The purpose is to provide a common language to describe the IT Profession across Government. It is a tool that can be used by IT Professionals and their managers when looking at career choices. DES ISS will pilot the framework before it is introduced across the MOD this spring.

Roadshows and further information on the career framework will be announced soon.

More information from Jane Wharton, DES CIO-Exploitation-DepHd; Anita White, DES CIO-InfoSkills-Plans

Delivery focused – safety driven

DE&S leaders get to work on processes

LEADERS ACROSS DE&S are being brought up to speed on Main Board messages about safety following an event at Abbey Wood.

The event was led by Chief of Materiel (Fleet) and Chair of the DE&S Safety Board, Vice Admiral Andy Mathews and Chief of Materiel (Joint Enablers) and Safety Board member Mr Pete Worrall.

It gave senior managers the chance to shape plans for the future and work on turning revised safety messages into behaviours.

Vice Admiral Mathews spoke about progress on DE&S' continued development of the appropriate and proportionate processes and following them properly.

He introduced eight key messages and sparked debate on the extent that these messages describe the way business is conducted within DE&S.

Mr Worrall led the session on safety management in practice, linking safety messages to how DE&S does business. The session included lessons learned from real life events.

The message from leaders was clear: staff should make time for safety, take a step back, take heed of lessons learned, and be brave and share lessons – all to ensure that key safety messages are embedded to ensure delivery of safe equipment.



Safety messages: from Vice Admiral Andy Mathews, above, and Pete Worrall, below



DSEI

10 – 13 September 2013
ExCeL, London www.DSEI.co.uk

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TYPHOON ZJ932 looks resplendent at the end of the Retrofit 2 programme, the upgrade of early Tranche 1 aircraft.

The aircraft was the final single seater to be returned to the RAF by BAE Systems after a series of equipment enhancements, as announced in December's *desider*.

Air Commodore Keith Bethell, leader of DE&S' Fast Air Support team, is pictured receiving a framed photograph of the aircraft from Martin Ely, a BAE Systems aircraft electrician who has worked on the R2 programme over the last six years.



Typhoon clocks up major maintenance milestone

THE FIRST 'major' maintenance has been carried out on an RAF Typhoon after the aircraft clocked up 1,600 flying hours.

Work was carried out as part of the Typhoon Availability Service (TAS) awarded to BAE Systems in 2009.

The maintenance programme itself involves a complete strip-down of the aircraft to enable detailed inspections to be performed by the specially trained engineers.

Any repairs and modifications are also performed on the aircraft at this time before the aircraft is prepared ready to return to duty.

The first aircraft to complete the programme was ZJ921, which has now been returned to 3 Squadron at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire. ZJ921 was also one of the aircraft to fly out to Gioia del Colle in Italy, to support Operation Ellamy over Libya.

Gp Capt Simon Ellard, deputy head of DE&S' Fast Air Support Team, said: "TAS takes yet another step forward with the delivery of the first aircraft to have completed a major maintenance.

"A great deal of joint RAF/DE&S and BAE Systems planning and preparation went into this, and I know that the timely roll-out is the result of considerable effort and a strong culture of constantly improving effectiveness and efficiency."

Martin Taylor, Combat Air Support Director at BAE Systems, added: "The completion of the first RAF Typhoon aircraft to undergo a major maintenance is a significant milestone for us under the TAS contract.

"The team is continually improving processes and procedures, as part of the contract deliverables, to

ensure this complex front-line fighter aircraft is available for operational duty and that the RAF's flying timetable remains on schedule. This achievement is a good example of how this hard work is delivering results."

The first set of maintenance work known as 'primary' is undertaken at 400 hours, followed by a 'minor maintenance' which is carried out at 800 flying hours.

The Typhoon Maintenance Facility at RAF Coningsby has a further three aircraft in undergoing major maintenance.

BAE Systems ensures the support contract provides enough aircraft to meet the daily needs of the front line. Personnel work side by side in aircrew and ground crew training; depth maintenance and servicing of aircraft, technical support and spares management.



A joint TAS team gets to work on Typhoon

NEWSREEL

Clyde job numbers up

THE number of jobs at Clyde naval base is forecast to increase from around 6,700 now to around 8,200 by 2022, Defence Minister Mark Francois has told Parliament. This is primarily due to an increase of around 1,500 in Royal Navy jobs at the site, of which around 630 will transfer from Devonport with the *Trafalgar* class submarines. There are no plans to transfer MOD civilian jobs from Devonport. Mr Francois added that the move of submarines to Clyde would not lead to significant changes in Devonport civilian numbers, or total number of civilians employed by the MOD.

Card sharp

A new discount card for the Armed Forces, families and veterans has been introduced. More than 50 high street businesses have pledged generous discounts. The Defence Privilege Card will provide money off items ranging from children's toys, winter knitwear, mobile phones and food. So far around 24,000 members of the Armed Forces community have joined the scheme.

Safety audit

ENGINEERING and technology company Frazer-Nash has been awarded a contract as independent safety auditor for the Merlin Life Sustainment Programme. Frazer-Nash will provide an audit of the programme to ensure compliance with the appropriate safety requirements.

Advertisement**Simplifying CRC**

The announcement of plans to simplify the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) energy efficiency scheme from 2013 is welcome news to the defence industry, the MoD and its suppliers.

As a major energy user, the MoD is set to benefit from significant administrative savings as well as the abolishment of the performance league table, leaving more time to focus on new best practices in environmental sustainability.

At Interserve, we are working with the MoD to help reach this goal, taking a partnership approach to reduce estate-related energy spending.

By focusing on the practical day-to-day savings but assessing impact at an estate-wide level, we are ensuring resources are assigned to the areas with the greatest need for energy and utility cost reductions.

For example, we have been able to implement energy saving measures before the onset of the autumn and winter heating season, ensuring cost reductions are made where they will have the most impact.



Support runs to the end



New deal will take Sea Kings to their final days of service

Main picture: a Mark 7 Sea King is pictured above the clouds. Insets: above, a Sea King Mk3 in RAF search and rescue colours; below, a Royal Navy Mk4 in Norway

DE&S' SEA King project team has secured a deal with AgustaWestland – the helicopter's Design Authority – which will support the 90-strong Royal Navy and RAF fleet until its out-of-service date in 2016.

The three-year £258 million deal settles firm prices for the third and final period of the Sea King Integrated Operational Support (SKIOS) arrangement and shortens its duration as a result of the Strategic Defence and Security Review taking the aircraft out of service two years earlier than originally planned.

SKIOS, which pioneered the integrated operational support concept within the Helicopters Operating Centre, is an aircraft availability contract by which through-life support is largely delivered. It will be the first

such arrangement to support the planned rundown and withdrawal of an aircraft from service.

In signing the contract amendment, the Helicopters Operating Centre's Head of Commercial, Les Sigrist, and AgustaWestland's Commercial Executive, Tim Park, paid tribute to the co-operative working of the MOD and industry teams which has contributed to the success of SKIOS and enabled the new deal to be signed ahead of schedule.

Sea King Leader, Capt Tony Gray RN, said: "Pricing Period Three is challenging as it involves balancing requirements and risks to secure best value for money while maintaining defence outputs, not least the provision of search-and-rescue

helicopters around the UK, 24 hours a day throughout the year.

"By working together with our industry colleagues we have achieved what we set out to do and can build upon the success of SKIOS to date in order to manage the aircraft through its final years and take it out of service in a controlled way without adverse impact on the front line."

The versatile Sikorsky-designed Sea King first entered service with the Royal Navy in 1969. No longer used in its original anti-submarine role, the aircraft is still the mainstay of search-and-rescue in mainland UK and the Falkland Islands, provides the lift capability of the Commando Helicopter Force, and operates in the Airborne Surveillance and Control role.

THE HEAD of the Army has praised DE&S for its work in providing helicopters to the front line.

General Sir Peter Wall closed a review of DE&S' helicopters programme at Abbey Wood on 4th December by saying he was grateful to DE&S for providing such a crucial capability.

He was joined by Commander Joint Helicopter Command, Air Vice Marshal Carl Dixon, who added that his organisation enjoyed a strong relationship with the Helicopters Operating Centre and that helicopter capability has made great strides in recent years as a result.

The review took place as responsibility for capability sponsorship moves from Main Building to the Army under Defence Reform.

The Rotary Wing Army Equipment Board was hosted by Chief of Materiel Joint Enablers, Pete Worrall, and Director Helicopters, Adrian Baguley, both pictured, left, with Sir Peter.

The Army Board and DE&S agreed where the programme challenges lie and determined to continue work on maximising capability and increasing spending efficiency.

Sir Peter explored all elements of the £1.4 billion Helicopters Operating Centre with discussions ranging from safety modifications assessment phase work, to current delivery of Category A projects and the construct of the availability-based contracts.

And there's high praise for DE&S



SMALL BUSINESSES have been handed the chance to pitch their innovative ideas to the biggest defence companies – thanks to the MOD's first Marketplace event.

Organised by the Centre for Defence Enterprise (CDE), the event last month gave small and medium-sized enterprises a unique opportunity to engage with big business and offer up ideas and technology that could be used by the Armed Forces in the future.

DE&S staff joined SMEs at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London alongside academics and researchers from the Universities of Bristol and Lancaster who also had products to pitch to industry representatives.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, Philip Dunne said: "Marketplace provides a shop window for small and medium-sized enterprises in the most practical sense, helping those which have received research and development funding from the MOD to access their full potential for commercial applications in the UK defence sector and the export market."

Encouraging this technological innovation is vital to our national security and the country's economic growth.



From left:
Robin Little of
DE&S Defence
Supplier
Relations
team; Jonathan
Byrne, Head of
CDE; Minister
for Defence
Equipment,
Support and
Technology
Philip Dunne;
Richard Brooks,
Programme
Director, MOD
Science and
Technology
Programme.

Defence does business in MOD's Marketplace

We remain committed to providing our Armed Forces with the best equipment available, which is why we will continue to invest over £400 million a year in science and technology."

Supporting Marketplace were key defence and security companies in the UK including AWE, BAE Systems, Boeing, BT, Cobham, Finmeccanica, General Dynamics, HP, KBR, Lockheed Martin, Marshall Aerospace, MBDA, QinetiQ, Raytheon, Roke Manor, Rolls-Royce, Serco & NPL, Thales and Ultra Electronics.

Mike Kurth, Managing Director of Boeing Defence UK, added: "We see the Marketplace as a fantastic opportunity to engage with small and medium-sized enterprises that have relevant innovation and technology for potential work in the future."

CDE is committed to finding new ideas and making them a reality.

Since 2008 CDE has received more than 4,000 proposals for funding, resulting in around 600 contracts valued at more than £35 million.

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Cleared to land!

Brize gears up for A400M

A £15 MILLION environmentally-friendly hangar has opened at RAF Brize Norton to give RAF maintenance personnel facilities to house the next generation of large military aircraft.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) worked with industry partner Pride to deliver the new two-bay hangar with 5,000 square metres of floor space and 16 metre-high doors. The hangar will accommodate the C-130J Hercules and can house the A400M aircraft, set to replace the Hercules from 2016.

It complements a six-bay base hangar, a two-bay hangar and 12 older hangar buildings used for parachute training, defence movement training, storing equipment, spares, and housing training simulators.

Pride is a joint venture between Interserve Defence and Southern Electric Contracting, created to manage DIO's South East Regional Prime Contract. Valued at around £380 million, the contract is one of five regional prime contracts in place in the UK.

A ROOM with a view – the Flight Control Office on the deck of HMS Queen Elizabeth has been at the centre of trials with RAF and Royal Navy personnel.

When the short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) variant of the F-35 comes in to land on the deck of the UK's next carriers it will be vital that pilots are well-versed in the skills of landing on a moving deck.

Pilots have been visiting the BAE Systems simulator at Warton in Lancashire to familiarise themselves with the deck they will land on and the office – Flyco as it is known – from where personnel will guide them in.

"We are very supportive here in trying to help the customer come to terms with what the change to the STOVL version means in terms of bringing that aeroplane back into land on the Queen Elizabeth carriers," said Pete Wilson, BAE Systems' lead test pilot for the F-35 STOVL aircraft.

"We are reverting back to a manoeuvre called Shipborne Rolling Vertical Landing which means we are going to bring the F-35B into land on the deck at about 60 knots.

"It's a complex engineering problem to try to solve because we don't want to come down too steeply – that could break the aeroplane.

"We don't want to come down too fast because we would not be able to stop and would run off the front of the carrier which is clearly a disastrous situation. We don't have a hook

Testing on simulator gets to grips with helping UK F-35 pilots return 'home'

Above: view from the control office on board a carrier as an F-35 Lightning II comes in to land. Below: the office has a commanding view of the aircraft's arrival



on the aeroplane so we have to stop using our wheelbrakes alone.

"And we can't afford to come down too shallow because if the stern of the ship comes up high towards the flight path we could hit the back of the ship and that's also disastrous."

Mr Wilson added: "The work we are doing is extremely important as a risk reduction measure; what we are getting is an insight into the future so we are able to simulate the air around the ship, the lights which are embedded in the deck and the procedures and radio calls we are going to use."

"We are solving problems and putting design in place now when it is cheaper and easier than it would be later. I would say

we are saving millions of dollars of potential design change in the future. It is immensely important work and that's why we are here in this world class simulator facility."

In a busy year the team has met its milestones. "Every month we have a certain number of test points we have to execute which means flying the aeroplane a lot and we have managed to surpass the testing point requirement for the year, which is a significant achievement," said Mr Wilson.

One objective of the trials has been to come up with a set of requirements that define which tools and techniques are required by the Landing Signals Officers in the Flyco, helping in the safe recovery of the approaching aircraft.

Corsham takes on a transformation challenge

THE HEAD of the MOD's transformation has challenged staff to engineer a digital revolution as part of the changes to the organisation.

Dr Roger Hutton, Director Transformation and the MOD's 'Digital Leader', visited Information Systems and Services staff at Corsham on 4th December.

He urged staff to envisage a different, digital future for the

that does not mean that we are lowering our defences," he said.

He outlined the key tenets of transformation – battle-winning armed forces; a smaller, more professional MOD; and a hard-headed approach to money – and focused much of his talk on the need to change behaviours to improve business.

He said: "The Levene



MOD, closer to the experience of information technology in the home and on smartphones.

Dr Hutton said his visit to Corsham had given him a better understanding of the complexities facing those managing IT in defence, particularly keeping systems secure from outside threats.

He gave an example of how he now prefers to use his own laptop and smartphone to work on unclassified material, which, for many people, is a large proportion of their work.

"We need to pay greater heed to user needs, and make greater use of simple, off-the-shelf digital solutions, where

Report highlighted much that was good about our organisation, but also that our leadership in running the business needed to improve, that our people had tended to defend their own areas rather than think about what they could contribute to defence as a whole, and that we had failed to keep pace with the most modern business practices."

Dr Hutton went on to talk about the radical change that new financial delegations to Top Level Budgets represented, and about the new smaller, more strategic, stronger Head Office that was in the process of being created.

Civilian numbers on the way down

THE NUMBER of civilian staff employed by the MOD was 70,360, according to the latest figures on 1st October 2012.

This is a reduction of 19,610 personnel from the Strategic Defence and Security Review baseline figure of 89,970 personnel on 1st April 2010.

The figures were reported to Parliament by Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans Mark Francois.

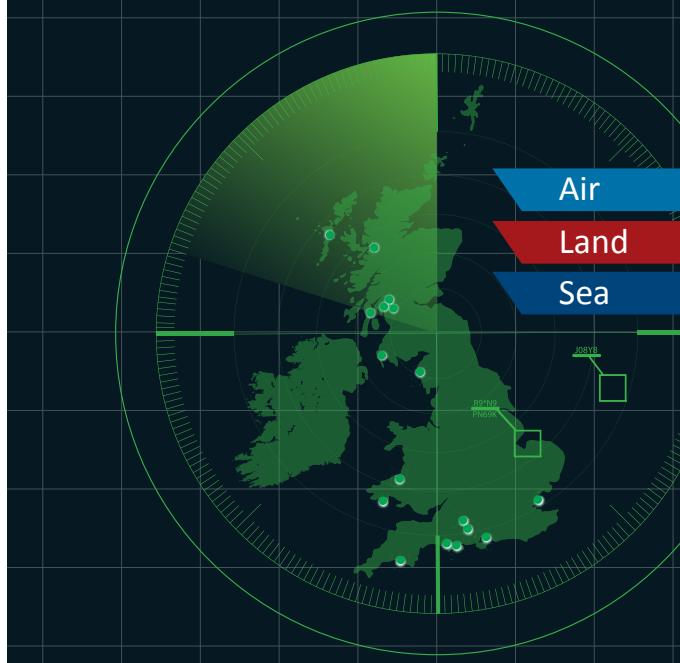
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DE&S helps Top Gun Tom complete 'mission possible'

IT'S NOT every day Pumas are part of movie shoots – or that DE&S gets closely involved.

Actor Tom Cruise flew in a Puma helicopter from The Oval to Trafalgar Square early on 25th November filming footage for the Hollywood star's new film *All You Need Is Kill*. The aircraft was fitted with cameras and associated equipment.

Use of the helicopter was down to the Puma Force and the Puma 2 Gazelle team (P2G PT) who were proud of their contribution.

P2G team leader, Gp Capt Malcolm French, said: "I am most grateful for all the efforts of the project team who gained a Release to Service to allow the aircraft to enter the Thames Valley Avoidance Area. This was a unique task achieved within a tight timescale."

Mission Impossible actor Cruise is no stranger to the military after his stint as a fast-jet pilot in *Top Gun*. But he and the film company were delighted with the footage taken from the Puma and impressed with the professionalism of the aircrew.



Cruise on: Tom Cruise, left, is pictured at the door of the RAF Puma as it embarks on its early morning flight over central London.

Above: Trafalgar Square is deserted during filming

Munitions ideas – the hunt is on

THE SEARCH is on for innovative research proposals which would allow munitions to be examined without having to be destroyed.

A current method used by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) uses x-ray equipment.

These allow Dstl's weapons experts to inspect munitions for damage not visible to the naked eye.

The Centre for Defence Enterprise (CDE) hopes industry and academia will provide further solutions, as a result of this call.

It will be launched at Harwell on 8th January.

Radio wave auction is set to be a Government first

THE MOD is planning to auction some of its radio spectrum in the first direct sale of its kind by a Government department.

Radio spectrum refers to the radio waves over which all wireless communication takes place, including radio, television, radar, satellite, mobile voice and data. Under plans announced today, the MOD intends to auction around 200 Megahertz (MHz) of its spectrum usage rights.

The MOD's announcement comes as market demand for extra spectrum is mounting, fuelled by the sharp rise in the use of spectrum-hungry devices such as smartphones and tablets.

The sale will give private operators the chance to buy more spectrum to support the introduction of fourth-generation mobile services to people in cities, towns and villages across the UK. Alternatively the spectrum could be used by fixed line operators

to provide wireless access to broadband services.

The spectrum being sold by the MOD is all below 15 Gigahertz (GHz) which is regarded as the most useful and valuable part of the radio spectrum because of its wide range of applications.

Almost half of all spectrum below 15GHz is held by the public sector and is used for a broad

- The MOD has identified two bands for sale: between 2.3 and 2.4GHz and between 3.4 to 3.6GHz. MOD's plan is to sell spectrum from both bands in one combined auction

range of services including defence, emergency services, transport and science. The MOD holds around three quarters of all publicly-held spectrum and one third of all spectrum below 15GHz.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and

Technology, Philip Dunne, said: "We welcome this opportunity to free up much-needed spectrum. We hope that the sale will help drive the roll-out of new generation networks and universal access to broadband, both of which are vital to the UK's prosperity."

The sale follows the announcement made in the Government's 2010 Spending Review that at least 500MHz of public spectrum below 5GHz will be released by 2020 for new mobile communications uses. The spectrum to be sold off is being cleared of military users to contribute towards this target.

Preparations are expected to start at the end of this year with the auction completed by the summer of 2014. Ahead of this, the MOD intends to produce an industry brochure this spring and to host an industry day early in the summer.

Class Output team delivers class output

Grimsby blazes a trail for new support arrangements

DE&S AND Babcock have united in praise of new support arrangements as *HMS Grimsby* emerges from a six-month docking period.

The *Sandown* class minehunter has left Babcock's Rosyth dockyard with enhanced operational capability. She is the first *Sandown* refit under the Surface Ship Support Alliance (SSSA) Class Output Management (COM) phase 2 arrangements, which see Babcock take the lead on the team.

Captain Jonathan Fry, leader of DE&S' Frigates and Mine Countermeasures team, said: "I am delighted that *HMS Grimsby* is back at sea in such a good material state and with significantly enhanced capability.

"The *Sandown* class delivers a vital element of the Royal Navy's operations worldwide, and the high quality support delivered by the COM and Rosyth dockyard is fundamental to its success."

His thoughts were echoed by COM leader Paul Holdsworth. "The challenge for the COM and the wider SSSA is to provide an effective through-life support service," he said.

"The goal is to optimise platform availability for the available budget to meet Fleet commitments.

"The close working relationship between the ship's staff, MOD, Babcock Rosyth operations and production teams and the *Sandown* COM has ensured

Shipshape: *HMS Grimsby* will return to the Fleet early this year after her refit at Rosyth, the first under new arrangements between DE&S and Babcock



HMS Grimsby's support period was completed on schedule, safely and to the quality standard.

"This demonstrates one of the fundamental advantages that underpins the SSSA –

joint responsibility in sharing expertise, knowledge, and skills."

HMS Grimsby boasts many improvements, including a first-of-class replacement of the entire fire detection system.

And Portland is readying for action too



HMS Portland, pictured during work at Rosyth

TYPE 23 frigate *HMS Portland*, pictured left, is back in Devonport and ready for sea trials after her 50-week refit by Babcock at Rosyth.

A total of 19 major system and capability upgrades have been completed, including installation of anti-submarine warfare Sonar 2087.

The work, delivered on time and budget, is another success for Class Output Management under the Surface Ship Support Alliance.

Commander Sarah West, the frigate's commanding officer, said: "In tandem with the MOD and Babcock, the crew has spent many long months working hard to return *HMS Portland* to fighting form.

"It is an exciting moment returning a warship to sea after refit – we know that *HMS Portland* is in great shape for regaining full operational readiness."

DE&S beefs up cyber training

TRAINING FOR DE&S staff on protecting information has been updated to include cyber security threats.

Threats to data security and integrity of DE&S systems and those of industry partners are likely to increase.

And with DE&S' unique role sharing information across teams, industry and front line troops, it is vital staff are up-to-date with their cyber awareness.

Training has been recommended by senior staff to be completed by March.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach, Commander of Joint Forces Command, said: "The connected nature of our modern world and our need to communicate across organisational boundaries and great distances makes us more reliant on IT.

"For all its advantages this exposes us to real cyber risks and threats, which are constantly developing. The threat is present but is often unseen. Do not underestimate the cunning of those that are out to get, deny or disrupt our information."

DE&S Chief Information Officer David Ball added: "We are very conscious of the risk to our reputation if we do not protect the often commercially sensitive information that is the lifeblood of our business."

Updates will be to the Defence Information Management Passport and Protecting Information Level 1 training. The new training is also available as a stand-alone module for existing Passport holders. Both can be accessed through the Defence Learning Portal.



Workers make sure Forces' post gets through

Christmas efforts cap a busy year of support to operations by British Forces Post Office

Pictures: Andrew Linnett

Postal workers in DE&S have been praised by Chief of Defence Materiel Bernard Gray for their work in dealing with the annual deluge of Christmas mail.

British Forces Post Office (BFPO) based at RAF Northolt deals with hundreds of thousands of letters and packages on their way to UK personnel based at home and overseas, including ships and submarines.

Staff perform a vital link between service personnel and their families, with much or all of the limited contact they have being provided by BFPO. It is a vital contribution to the services' morale.

Mr Gray said: "You have managed to maintain support to operations despite manpower reductions and it is clear that this workforce is extremely dedicated.

"Your work here is a significant achievement and I offer you my sincere thanks and congratulations for a job very well done. I am sure you will all be justifiably proud of your achievements."

Mr Gray's tour included the main BFPO sorting office – Defence Postal Services – the BFPO Technical Support team where he saw much new equipment in development, and the Defence Courier Service, the team that manages all classified correspondence for defence and other government departments.

Mr Gray said that BFPO, like all business areas of the MOD, had to scrutinise operational costs. Revenue at BFPO had increased by 12 per cent during the year in addition to reducing costs.

"I was also impressed to hear about



the achievements of the Technical Services Support team who have been heavily involved in digitisation of Forces' post offices worldwide and the introduction of BFPO postcodes to enable government e-services and e-commerce.

"I also understand you have designed and introduced an excellent BFPO App in record time for both IOS and Android, and developed an end-to-end mail tracking service into the Afghanistan hub.

"And one area that deserves particular congratulation is the team that is currently deployed to Afghanistan to

facilitate the e-Bluey 2 in-service roll-out and deployment."

Mr Gray said he noted that volumes of mail had increased significantly, including the Defence Courier Service that had received, processed and dispatched more than 188 tonnes of protectively marked material in 2012.

"There has been a 39 per cent increase in material being dispatched in support of operations overseas – a huge achievement of which you should be proud," Mr Gray said.

2012 stats:

2,333 tonnes of mail to worldwide locations;

859 tonnes (37 per cent) to Operation Herrick;

Since 1st October (beginning of the Christmas 'surge') 66,457 bags of mail dispatched worldwide (26,582 to Operation Herrick)



Teamwork keeps DE&S on top

Teams at the forefront of procuring world class equipment and support for the Armed Forces have been recognised at the annual acquisition awards handed out by the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology

Excellence in acquisition of military equipment, allied to good teamworking, helped DE&S take the majority of the annual awards decided by the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology.

In his first award ceremony since taking over as the new minister in the summer, Mr Philip Dunne presented 13 awards which saw teams involved in urgent operational requirements, international co-operation, and support for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics earning honours.

Big winners on the night were members of DE&S' Strategic Systems Programme shipboard integration team. Members were part of an international collaboration involving the UK and US Governments along with many different contractors in both countries.

The team updated the Trident weapon system on UK *Vanguard* class submarines, making sure the UK maintained a credible continuous at-sea deterrent.

For support to the Olympics, the year's most high profile UK event, there was important recognition for the Special Projects MAP team.

The project delivered a substantial and vital uplift in helicopter capability.

Project lead Nick Jones, said: "It's ironic that we received an award to recognise our support to the Olympics

■ continued on page 24

Defence Equipment & Support Commercial Policy team

The Commercial Policy team led work on delivery of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011 on behalf of the UK Government, working closely with Central Legal Services and a number of other subject matter experts, including International Relations Group.

The team produced comprehensive supporting policy and user guidance for all affected Government departments, and developed a number of training and awareness packages. This work involved converting highly technical and complex legal text into clear language that could be readily understood by procurement desk officers across Government and industry.

The Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Europe have been very complimentary about the guidance. Its staff in the main defence contractors in Europe, other member states and in the European Commission use MOD guidance as it is clear and comprehensive.

Offshore Patrol and Fishery Protection team

The team's objective was to achieve in-year procurement of three Offshore Patrol Vessels.

The Defence Board resource allocation of £47 million was granted on 25th November 2011 within a taut timeline of four months to complete the project. The team streamlined the smart approvals process by adopting a plan that allowed different stages to be conducted concurrently.

The complex commercial work of unwinding the lease contract and completing the sale was supported by an external legal team within one month and through robust negotiation. The final procurement cost was just over £39 million. This was £8 million inside resource allocation, and was completed two weeks ahead of schedule.

This has guaranteed the continued delivery of capability for both meeting the Royal Navy's enduring requirement to undertake UK fishery protection patrols on behalf of DEFRA and wider defence tasks including patrol of UK waters.



"I am delighted to celebrate your work in support of defence. The awards recognise and reward excellence and demonstrate that we in the MOD can deliver world-class results. So thank you for all that you do in delivering equipment and support to our Armed Forces" – Philip Dunne, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology

Min(DEST) Acquisition Awards 2012 – Winners

Standard Awards

1. Operation Herrick – Theatre Equipment Support Battalion
2. Defence Equipment & Support Commercial Policy Team
3. Offshore Patrol and Fishery Protection Team
4. MARS Tanker Project Team
5. *HMS Daring* Communications Project Team
6. Core Production Capability Project Team
7. Strategic Systems Programme Shipboard Integration Team
8. RAF Catering, Retail & Leisure Project Team
9. Defence General Munitions Packaging Project Team
10. Generic Vehicle Architectures Technical Working Group

Recognition of Achievement Awards

1. Special Projects MAP
2. Saturnine Team
3. Project Creole UOR Acquisition Team

Special Award

- Strategic Systems Programme Shipboard Integration Team

Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) Tanker team

The team was responsible for the procurement of four MARS military tankers, through a challenging international competition, to replace ageing and non-environmentally compliant Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships.

The MARS team gained approval for an open international competition with the intent of encouraging the world's most efficient shipbuilders to participate.

The international competition has resulted in a very substantial reduction in the cost of the project, and has produced significant savings for the MOD and the UK taxpayer.

HMS Daring Communications Fit project team

The joint DE&S and Fleet team successfully delivered an urgent, special communications fit onto *HMS Daring* for her maiden deployment to the Gulf between January and August 2012.

After examining all available options the team decided to develop and build an in-house solution using existing equipment before completing platform installation, all within a six-month window.

Members showed commendable innovation, ingenuity and risk management skills to source the required equipment, borrowing items from other projects and Allies..

The solution provided the necessary platform self protection indicators and warnings to the Command.

Core Production Capability project team

The team's remit was to manage sustainment of current facilities while regenerating core manufacturing facilities to support Astute, Successor and future submarine programmes.

Members devised and implemented a ground-breaking contractual agreement which implements a taut arrangement for securing the UK's capability to produce nuclear reactor cores for the next 50 years.

It included provision for the regeneration of current capability in an innovative, phased way which maintains manufacturing capability as well as development of the latest design reactor core in a facility that will meet modern safety standards.

Securing commercial arrangements to deliver this vital enabling capability to the UK submarine programme and placing it on a sustainable and affordable footing is an excellent achievement.



■ continued from page 22

and Paralympics, and didn't have much to do during that period. The real effort was in the 15 months preceding, to ensure that we had the latest capability and a robust support solution, where, if it were needed, it could do exactly what my customer wanted.

"I had two groups of representatives from my supply base (FB Heliservices – maintenance and support – and Eurocopter UK – design organisation) who were incredibly appreciative of the recognition and that the sleepless nights and commitment counted for something."

Mr Jones was joined by two other

teams celebrating special awards. The Saturnine team delivered a complex electronic countermeasures capability in support of explosive ordnance disposal operations within the UK to fill capability gaps in time for the Olympics. The team built an innovative co-operation with the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and with industry, undertaking the high level design in-house and retaining the design and integration responsibility.

Under the Urgent Operational Requirements (UOR) category, the Project Creole acquisition team, made up of prime contractor QinetiQ, DE&S' Joint and Battlefield Trainers, Simulations and Synthetic Environments team, and

the Collective Training Group at the Land Warfare centre, was recognised. The team acquired a simulated training capability to reinforce learning and confidence of personnel preparing for deployment on Operation Herrick. In six months the team took the project from concept demonstration to a fielded and sustainable capability.

Delivery and integration of this capability has significantly increased the realism of 'live' training and, for the first time, allowed exercising forces to replicate combat conditions experienced in Afghanistan.

Many awards demonstrated the depth and breadth of acquisition and support functions that DE&S continues to deliver

Strategic Systems Programme Shipboard integration team

The team's objective was to update the Trident weapon system on *Vanguard* submarines, ensuring a continuous-at-sea deterrent.

With the US and UK fleets updating their submarines concurrently, the usual risk-reducing approach of 'US goes first' was not available. This rare opportunity provided a unique challenge for the UK working in co-operation with the US.

Work was done in the shortest possible time with high safety standards.

This most demanding of challenges was fully achieved through a small pool of dedicated experts, supported by a considerable planning and management effort to ensure that stakeholders were provided with the most robust assurances.

Defence General Munitions packaging team

The team's directive was the procurement, issue, return, recycling and management of all general munitions packaging.

Quickly realising that accurate requirements and a single, focused contract would lead to real savings and tangibly reduce the volume of surplus stock, the team worked with industry, in-house suppliers and munitions project officers to determine the need, fundamentally re-shaping and streamlining processes.

Recycling has increased from around 10 per cent to 80 per cent of the requirement, and the surplus stockpile has reduced by around 70 per cent. With recycling approximately 20 per cent of the cost of buying new, the savings this year alone are around £16 million.

Overall this transformed process is saving the taxpayer, at a very conservative estimate, around £80 million.

Generic Vehicle Architectures Technical Working Group

The Generic Vehicle Architectures (GVA) Technical Working Group is a partnership between MOD and industry which manages, maintains and develops Generic Vehicle Architectures, based on an open systems approach.

This approach aims to reduce the integration time and cost for vehicle systems and sub-systems by mandating the use of open standards and defined interfaces.

The GVA approach is a world first. No other nation mandates a standard which drives both open systems and commonality of sub-systems to ensure a structured framework and defined key interfaces but with sufficient flexibility to enable innovation in implementation.

This joint MOD/industry team has developed a new Defence Standard which sets an international benchmark for acquisition excellence and open systems architectures.



daily. On the maritime front the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Tanker team was rewarded for procurement of four new oil tankers which will join the Royal Fleet Auxiliary later this decade to take up duties supporting the Royal Navy worldwide.

The international competition to replace ageing and non-environmentally compliant ships was a challenging one, which eventually saw a South Korean firm win the contracts to build the ships, with design input from a number of British companies.

Tony Graham, Director Ships at DE&S, said: "It has been pleasing to see people being recognised and rewarded for their special contributions to

supporting the Fleet. This year's awards recognise the diverse and challenging nature of the high quality work available in the Ships Operating Centre. All three teams should be proud they did something special and of high worth to defence."

On land, Defence General Munitions packaging team was rewarded for saving millions of pounds by increasing recycling of munitions packaging and reducing the surplus stockpile. And there was an award for the active partnership between the MOD and industry developed by the Generic Vehicle Architectures technical working group, managing, maintaining and developing generic vehicle architectures

in an open systems approach. Mr Dunne said: "I am delighted to celebrate your work in support of defence. The awards recognise and reward excellence and demonstrate that we in the MOD can deliver world-class results. So thank you for all that you do in delivering equipment and support to our Armed Forces."

One of the judges, the MOD's Head of Industrial Policy, Paul Hamilton, added: "I was delighted with the standard of nominations and our judges had difficult decisions to make. The winners represent excellence in acquisition and good teamworking right across defence and I congratulate everyone who has been recognised this year."

Minister (DEST) Recognition of Achievement Award

Last year saw the introduction of the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Recognition of Achievement Award. These awards have been introduced for teams who have been identified as deserving of an award in recognition of their achievements in specific areas of procurement and their contribution to the department's work. The two areas of procurement being rewarded are:

- ❑ Support to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games; and
- ❑ Urgent Operational Requirements

Special Projects MAP team

The team planned and executed a highly demanding, time critical and complex project to deliver a substantial and vital uplift in helicopter capability. This project required delivery within 12 months.

Delivering this uplift in capability within a year of the requirement being identified required outstanding work across the DE&S and industry teams. Their efforts have been hugely successful and defence is far better placed as a result.

Saturnine (SPSCM) team

The team delivered a complex electronic countermeasures capability in support of explosive ordnance disposal operations within the UK in time for the 2012 Olympics.

The team took the measured risk of an innovative collaboration with Dstl and industry, undertaking the high level design in house and retaining the design and integration responsibility. This facilitated more rapid commercial agreement with industry and protected the delivery timeline.

Managing the technical challenges of providing effective electronic countermeasures was highly challenging and the team had to capitalise on the agility of the innovative design approach, to permit design changes without delaying the overall schedule.

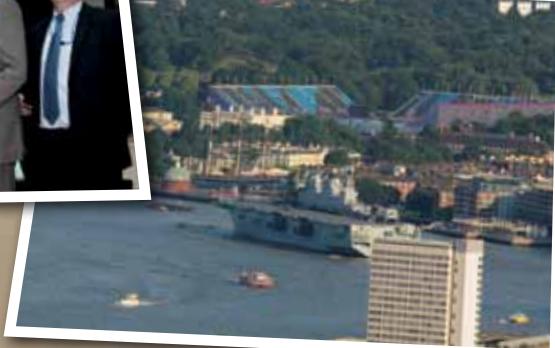
The innovative and collaborative approach enabled rapid delivery and the project reached its in-service date only nine months after conception.

Project Creole UOR Acquisition team

A small team acquired a simulated training capability to reinforce learning and confidence of personnel preparing for deployment on Operation Herrick.

In only six months the team took the UOR Project Creole from concept demonstration to a fielded and sustainable capability.

The delivery and integration of this capability has significantly increased the fidelity of 'live' training and, for the first time, allowed exercising forces to replicate the real ISTAR experienced in Afghanistan.



"The winners represent excellence in acquisition and good teamworking right across defence and I congratulate everyone who has been recognised this year" – Paul Hamilton, Head of Industrial Policy

Transatlantic systems testing

The UK and US work closely on their strategic weapon systems. Alan Clark, liaison officer in Washington DC for the UK's Successor programme of nuclear ballistic missile submarines, outlines the latest development in the two nations' weapon systems testing

A new facility for the UK and US to carry out comprehensive testing of their future strategic weapon systems has begun in Florida.

The new Strategic Weapons System Ashore facility, subject to formal approval for the project, will be at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and will firmly underline the UK as a long-term strategic partner in the UK/US Fleet ballistic missile programme.

The UK has a long history – since the 1963 Polaris Sales Agreement - of working with the USA on strategic weapons systems. Trident II D5 is currently carried on the Royal Navy's *Vanguard* and the US Navy's *Ohio* class submarines. Both countries will be replacing the submarines as they approach the end of their service life. After the UK's 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review the *Ohio*

replacement programme had been leading the UK's Successor programme. The US announcement last year to shift its replacement for two years now sees the UK with the more immediate timescale. Crucially the US opted to keep to schedule the design of the Common Missile Compartment which will carry the same Trident weapon system on both nations' submarines at build.

The first UK Successor submarine





will 'go first' to test the weapon system, including firing the first test missile on a Demonstration and Shakedown Operation (DASO). As you might expect, there will be a comprehensive set of shore-based tests before we get to DASO and this is where the Strategic Weapon System Ashore facility comes in.

Previously, the missiles, plus their launch systems, fire control, guidance and navigation were tested in different facilities across the US by computer simulation. By bringing the systems together in one place at Cape Canaveral, programme staff will be able to test interactions between system components using the same hardware and software found on the submarines. Stationary, inert missiles, fitted with electronic monitoring equipment, will be used for testing; the test facility will not be used for actual missile launches.

The US Navy chose Cape Canaveral for its unique capabilities and suitability for proposed operations. The new building will refurbish, update and transform a 1950s submarine missile test complex whose use was discontinued in the 1970s. The risk mitigation provided by Cape Canaveral is very important to the Successor programme, particularly with the UK being the lead ship.

The test facility programme is being managed by Strategic Systems Programs in Washington DC with support from



Alan Clark

Alan is a DE&S civilian serving in Special Projects Royal Navy based at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington DC.

His role has him embedded in the US Strategic System Program Office working as a liaison officer on the Successor Common Missile Compartment Project. His MOD career began in Rosyth and he has many years experience on the UK strategic deterrent programme, starting when he worked as a Test and Commissioning Engineer at the dockyard during refits of the Polaris weapon system. This role was followed by a tour of duty between 1991 and 1994 in Washington DC as a Technical Liaison Officer during which time the Trident submarine fleet entered service.

Alan has been in post for just over a year and has been reacquainted with former US and UK colleagues who have dedicated their careers to the deterrent programme.

His current position covers many aspects of the CMC Programme, including performance, cost and schedule leading to Main Gate submission and being the programme office representative for the SWS Ashore Project at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. SWS Ashore is a high profile part of the CMC programme.

other US Government departments and US contractors with UK input. In addition to certifying the design of the weapon and its support systems, Cape Canaveral will be used to certify the new Missile Service Unit and other support operations before shipyard integrated testing during submarine construction. The test facility will also be able to provide full life cycle testing, training and engineering evaluations for the legacy *Vanguard* and *Ohio*, subsystems.

The UK has been involved from the early stages of the shore facility programme and will continue to participate in all phases, influencing the design, ensuring it meets UK Successor needs and mitigates risks. UK personnel will be present during construction, gaining experience in installation, integration and testing.

Building should be finished in 2015. *Ohio* systems are expected to be operational in 2017 with the Successor and *Ohio* Replacement systems operational in 2020 in support of the UK's Successor programme.

Rear Admiral Mark Beverstock, DE&S' Chief Strategic Systems Executive, is the UK project officer for the Polaris Sales Agreement. He joined his US counterpart, USN Director Strategic Systems Programs Rear Admiral Terry Benedict, at the groundbreaking event for the facility at Cape Canaveral on 8th November. Lt General Governor of Florida, Jennifer Carroll, and Frank Dibello, President, Space Florida were also present.

Rear Admiral Beverstock's presence was warmly appreciated and publicly marked the UK as a long-term strategic partner in UK-US Trident testing.



Groundbreaking: UK and US representatives at Cape Canaveral in November

Let's hear it for the girls!

It's a clean sweep of the MOD's apprentice awards as DE&S' young engineers race off with the top prizes

Pictures: Andrew Linnett



Abbey Wood's young female apprentice engineers have swept the board in the latest MOD apprentice awards.

Polly Blaikie took the gold medal in the annual competition and was joined on the winners' podium by her fellow Abbey Wood apprentices Rachel Hacker and Gemma Winsley. And there was further success as Abbey Wood's Charlotte Haskins was the winner of the Sir David Cardwell Memorial Prize.

It is the first time that three young women have captured the main prizes, and the first time that DE&S has filled the top three positions. Polly has completed her apprenticeship and now works in the Submarines team where she is joined by Gemma. Rachel has a middle management role working for the Defence Ordnance Safety Group.

The three were presented with their medals in a ceremony at Main Building last month by the principal guest Princess Alexandra.

It was a triumph for Abbey Wood in a competition which has been going since 1977 and seeks to reward those in their final phase of training.

The competition was previously split into two groups, procurement executive

and services support, from which the overall winner was announced.

Since then the contest has been simplified with candidates providing a substantial written application including an example of their best work. Experienced interviewers than assess each candidate with winners receiving a medal, certificate and a cash prize.

A trophy is given to the winner of the Gold award which is held by the parent establishment for the next year.

Prizes were presented by the Princess who was suitably impressed by the high skills of the young engineers.

Other awards presented on the day included the Tom Nevard Memorial Competition prizes announced in the summer which included wins for Gareth Hopton and Luke Gosling of the Defence Support Group at Donnington, while there were other individual prizes for Andrew Hall of DE&S Abbey Wood and Defence Munitions Gosport's Danny White.

The Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation Medal, won by the DM Gosport pairing of Andrew Leadbeater and Sam Jennings and reported in last month's *desider*, was also presented on the day.

Charlotte Haskins' exceptional progress during her training was rewarded with the Cardwell prize. The award which dates back to 1982 is named after Sir David, a former Chief of Defence Procurement, and was presented by his widow Lady Cardwell

"It's good to see that our young people are being recognised for the skills that they possess and that the MOD still actively trains apprentices. And good too that the girls are coming through as engineers," said event organiser Tracey Cruse.

"Princess Alexandra was very impressed that there were so many girls among the winners – four in total with three among the main prize winners – with standards being as high as ever."

The event was opened by Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel and head of DE&S, who also gave the closing address. The event was also attended by the MOD's Permanent Under-Secretary Jon Thompson.

The awards are sponsored by DE&S Director Technical.

After the presentations award winners helped exhibit various engineering projects to their families and friends, which included work by apprentices from the Defence Support Group, RAF Alconbury, RAF Lakenheath, Defence Munitions at Gosport, and DE&S' headquarters at Abbey Wood.

The MOD delivers 10,000 apprenticeships a year, which includes around 400 civilians. Although Armed Forces personnel complete apprenticeships as part of their military training they are not employed as apprentices. The MOD is the leading Government department in delivering apprenticeships, recognising the apprentices' contribution to military capability and the skills base of the nation.



Tom Nevard Memorial Competition

Mechanical section (machining and general fitting)

Winner (1st phase): Gareth Hopton (DSG Donnington)
Runner up (1st phase): Jake Briscoe (DM Gosport)
Winner (2nd phase): Luke Gosling (DSG Donnington)
Runner up (2nd phase): Elliot Rogers (DM Gosport)

Mechanical section (hand skills and general fitting)

Winner (1st phase): Andrew Hall (DE&S Abbey Wood)
Runner up (1st phase): Jack Carpenter (DM Gosport)
Winner (2nd phase): Danny White (DM Gosport)



Engineering Project Management Team

Winners: Stephen Townhill (DE&S Abbey Wood), Keith Edwards (DM Gpsort), Hossein Khoshtaghaza (DE&S Abbey Wood), Richard Johnson (DE&S Abbey Wood)

Runner up: Jack Jones (DSG Donnington), Marc Piddock (DSG Donnington), Patrisha Goodman (DE&S Abbey Wood), Alex Bishop (DE&S Abbey Wood)

Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation Medal

Joint winners: Andrew Leadbeater and Sam Jennings (DM Gosport).

Adjudicating panel: Mr P Hall, Mr J Lewis (Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation).

Sir David Cardwell Memorial Prize

Winner: Charlotte Haskins (DE&S Abbey Wood).

Adjudicating panel: Mr Dean Millott (DCP Employment Framework Strategic Skills), Mr Warren Pickles (MOD Apprentice Competitions team)

MOD Apprentice of the Year 2012

Gold medal: Polly Blaikie (DE&S Abbey Wood).

Joint silver medal: Rachel Hacker and Gemma Winsley (DE&S Abbey Wood).

Adjudicating panel: Mr Matthew Whittington and Miss Sarah Handley (DE&S Land Equipment).

Above: Gemma Winsley, Polly Blaikie and Rachel Hacker are pictured with Princess Alexandra in Main Building

Below: Charlotte Haskins was winner of the Sir David Cardwell Memorial Prize, presented by Lady Cardwell



Full range of air, land and naval systems on display

Advertising features

ALTHOUGH DSEI incorporates a strong land systems focus, there is no doubt that the event is increasingly recognised by the international defence community as a unique opportunity also to evaluate the full capabilities of air and naval defence technologies and equipment, ranging from the latest warships and vehicle design to aircraft composites and surveillance radars.

DSEI 2011, organised by Clarion Events and staged at ExCeL London, featured 1,391 exhibiting companies representing 46 countries and included 30 national pavilions, with 28,440 international visitors and 1070 global VIPs in attendance.

The context of unmanned systems

In addition to static air displays at DSEI 2011, which included Lockheed Martin's Joint Strike Fighter, QinetiQ's Zephyr and AgustaWestland's AW159 Wildcat, the award-winning Unmanned Systems Showcase attracted the most visitors of any feature at the 2011 show. It was a highly interactive demonstration designed to show how unmanned systems worked in the context of a foot patrol in Afghanistan, featuring a static display showing the latest in Unmanned Aerial Services (UAS) that included Selex Galileo's Falco Evo Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

Away from the Showcase, Faun Trackway introduced its landing mat specifically designed for UAVs, representing the latest addition to its suite of temporary runway solutions, regardless of terrain and for any size or weight of UAV.

Highlighting the importance of the unmanned theme, Clarion Events launched a successful UAS UK conference and exhibition during 2012, which attracted an estimated 240 attendees; the same format is due to be repeated and staged alongside DSEI 2013.

Evolving land systems needs

One of the main themes at DSEI 2013

will be the UK Government's plans for reshaping the British Army as outlined in Future Force 2020, which emphasises the need for ground forces to be sustainable, capable and adaptable to meet both evolving threat profiles and economic constraints.

To address these changing requirements, which not only apply to the UK but also many international land systems markets, industry as a whole continues to be challenged in sourcing innovative solutions, with many examples to be showcased.

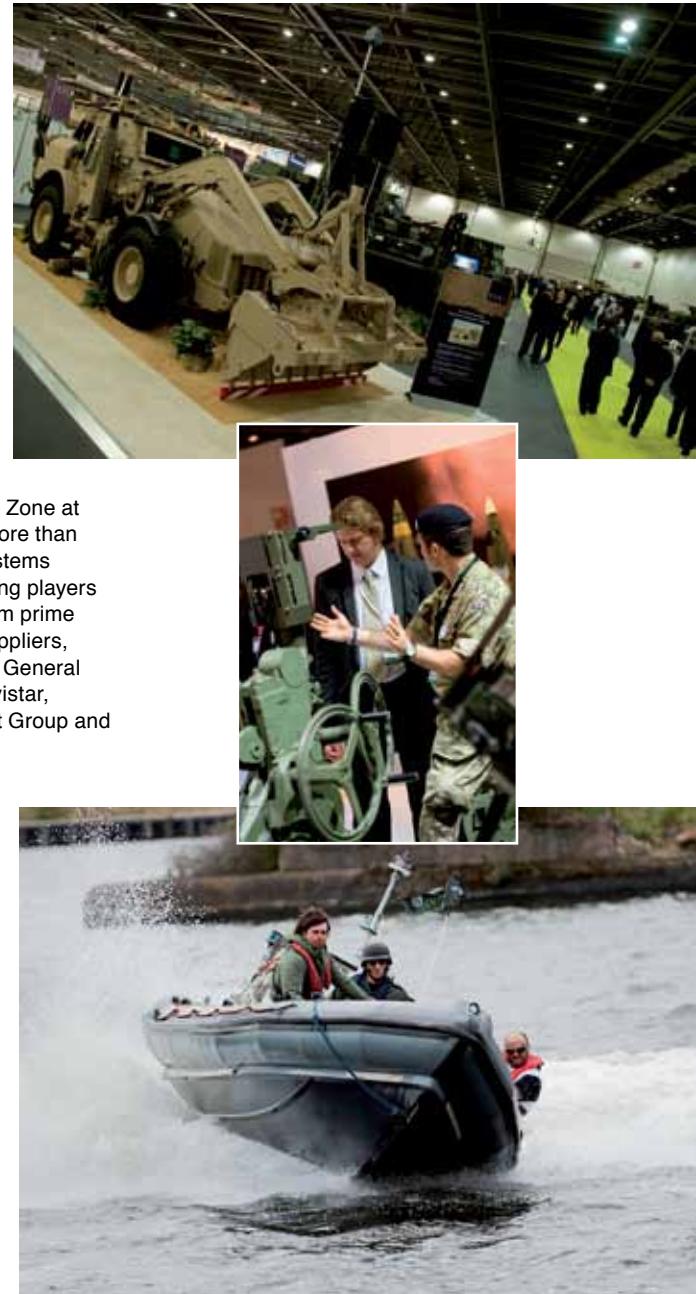
The dedicated Land Systems Zone at DSEI 2013 will be increased to more than 70 dedicated stands and land systems content will be displayed by leading players in the global industry, ranging from prime contractors to niche specialist suppliers, including BAE Systems, Daimler, General Dynamics, JCB, Land Rover, Navistar, Nexter, Patria, Rheinmetall, Streit Group and Supacat.

Emerging threats to maritime security

At DSEI 2011, an inclusive showcase of maritime capabilities was on display from global prime contractors and shipbuilders as well as smaller specialist technology providers, both inside the halls and on visiting ships dockside. Collectively they presented potential solutions to meet current and emerging threats to maritime security, ranging from international conflict to piracy, terrorism and organised crime.

Countering piracy was the theme of the daily waterborne demonstrations which included, for example, Nautilus' GARC and Northrop Grumman's Maritime Tactical Information System, as well as the first appearance of a hovercraft at DSEI – the Griffon Hoverwork 2400TD.

DSEI 2013 will feature an expanded marina and in depth scenarios, covering current and future threats to maritime security and warfare. This will provide exhibitors with a unique opportunity to demonstrate their related products and services in a



realistic environment in front of international delegations and visitors.

The strength of DSEI's proposition means that it can attract the whole defence community and supply chains covering air, land and naval markets. With a record number of overseas delegations recorded in 2011, DSEI 2013 will again provide an international showcase of key products, systems and technologies that will be crucial to future tri-service operational capabilities.

DSEI will be held at ExCeL, London from 10th-13th September 2013 www.dsei.co.uk



From DSME in Korea to DE&S

IT is a short train journey from Abbey Wood to BMT Defence's riverside offices in Bath, about 16 miles and on a good day it can be done in 40 minutes. It is a longer trip to DSME in Okpo on Geoje Island, South Korea. It is 6,000 miles away, and they are nine hours ahead of us.

Just as the K-Pop sensation 'Gangnam Style' has made an impact in the UK, neither time nor distance is proving any obstacle to the team delivering MARS for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Naval architects and engineers at BMT's Bath offices are maturing the design and since the summer they have been joined by welcome colleagues from DSME.

Jae-Hyung Kim, Electrical Design Engineer from DSME, arrived in November. "We are very proud to be working on this very important programme for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary" said Mr Kim. "Bath has such a great history; it is fantastic to be working on the programme right in the heart of the city."

Chris Trout, Head of Projects (BMT Defence Services), added: "We have been working with DSME for several years now, and the relationship continues to strengthen. The scale and capability of DSME's Okpo operation is inspiring. Getting to be one of the top shipbuilders in the world can only happen if you are exceptional at what you do. DSME have also recognised BMT's engineering excellence and our passion for success. Mutual respect makes the relationship work."

Many readers will remember Chris from his time at Abbey Wood and it will come as no surprise to hear



him praise the DE&S project team. "Acquisition is tough, it is hard work and getting kit into service is the prize. Being an intelligent customer; being committed and professional are essential. However, their secret is the way they are nurturing the three way relationship and it will be a strong team – in Bristol, Bath and Okpo that will deliver project success"

Above: a computer generated image of a future MARS tanker replenishing a Type 45 destroyer

Building engineering partnerships for success



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So when you decide to work with BMT, you'll be putting together a highly successful partnership.

email us at enquiries@bmtmail.com or visit www.bmt.org



"Where will our knowledge take you?"

FLYING HOURS for the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II have passed the 5,000 mark.

The milestone was reached by the combined F-35 System Development and Demonstration (SDD) aircraft flying at Edwards Air Force Base and Naval Air Station Patuxent River in the US, and the

training aircraft flying at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

All three variants, the F-35A Conventional Takeoff and Landing, the Short Takeoff/Vertical Landing (STOVL) – which will be operated by the UK – and Carrier Variant (CV), all contributed to the milestone.

Since the first flight in December 2006, F-35s have flown 3,464 times. This total includes 91 flights from the original test aircraft, AA-1; 2,510 SDD test flights; and 863 production-model flights.

Below: BF-02, an American F-35, is pictured during the latest trials in the US.



Lightning II keeps notching up the hours

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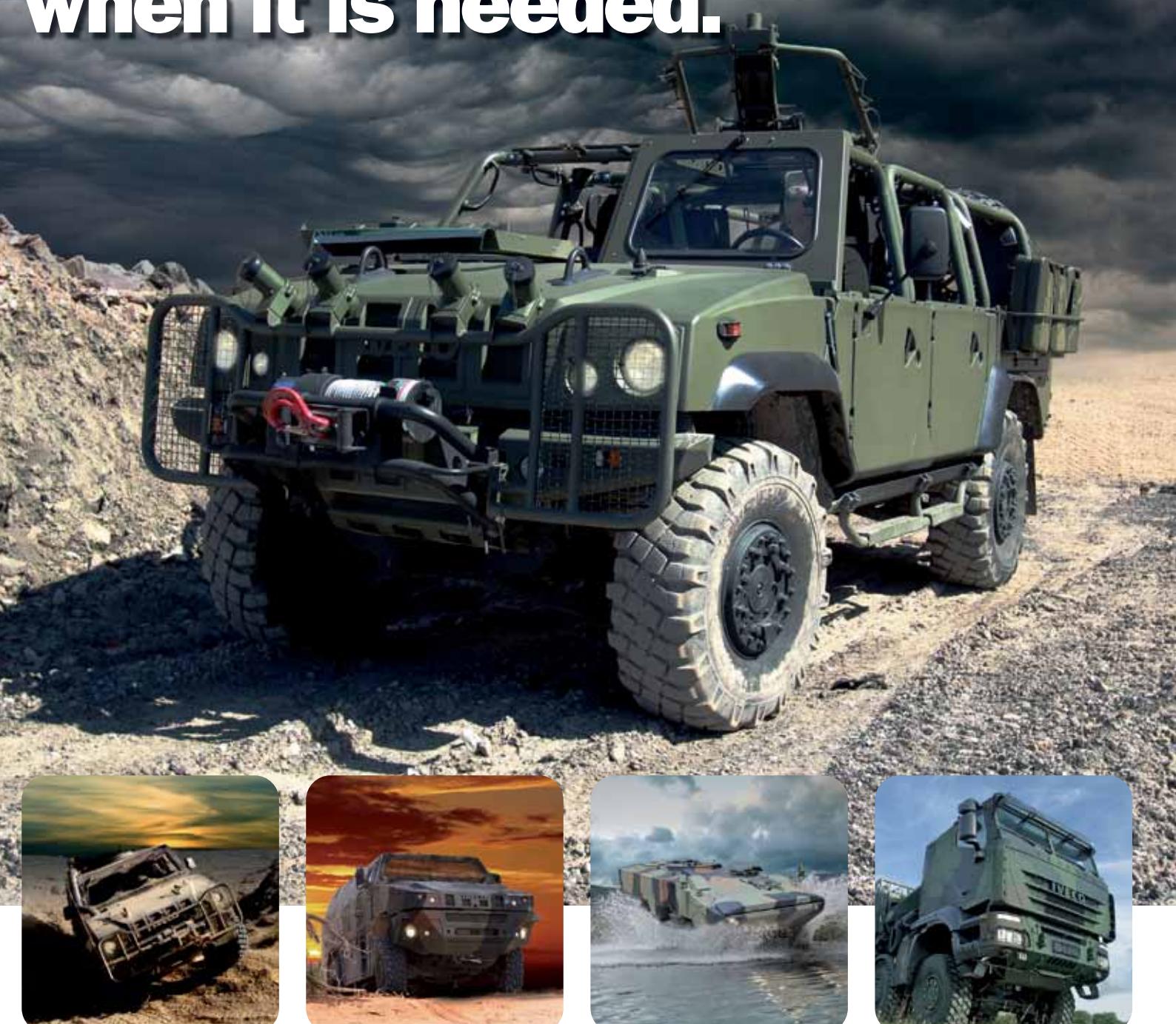
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tomers' needs, we aim to identify or anticipate at an early stage how requirements are likely to develop.

As a result, the whole product range is subjected to a continuous development process. Evolving needs are fed back to Engineering, who in turn develop a steady stream of enhancements in terms of payload, mobility and protection. Where necessary, complete new vehicle families are developed.

DE&S keeps raising the charity cash

A COMBINATION of cakes and facial hair in the ISTAR Operating Centre has earned nearly £1,500 for charity at Abbey Wood.

Clean shaven on 1st November, members of the Project Marshall and Air Defence and Air Traffic Systems teams grew spectacular moustaches for the Movember appeal to raise awareness of men's health issues. The 'Mo-shall' team

raised more than £450 through friends, family and a successful cake sale on the floorplate.

The ADATS team raised more than £1,000.

Joint Sensors and Engagement Networks team donated £174 to Children in Need, £116 from a cake sale with the remainder from an Olympics sweepstakes.



Above: members of ADATS and the Project Marshall teams sport their contributions to the Movember appeal while, right, Rob Kelleher and Duke Watson test each other's efforts



FOST Five become the moustachioed matelots

FIVE MEMBERS from Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) at Faslane decided to join in with the spirit – if not the letter – of Movember.

Royal Navy personnel are usually barred from sporting moustaches, having to follow regulations which state they can only grow the traditional "full set" – that's beard and moustache together.

However Warrant Officers Shaun Boulton, Justin Beattie, Al McLean, Tony Swift and Petty Officer Jay Rodgers were given permission to "stagger" shaving-off their full sets.

For one afternoon only on 29th November the five, who work as marine engineering staff, became moustachioed matelots to raise £400 for prostate and testicular cancer.

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Defender, the fifth of six Type 45 destroyers currently on trials before being handed over to the Royal Navy, has adopted Exeter City Football Club as a partner as part of its close relationship with the city. Club chairman Edward Chorlton is pictured at a recent home match alongside the ship's commanding officer Commander Phil Nash.



Box deliveries help bring festive cheer

MORE THAN 20,000 boxes full of festive cheer were sent to UK servicemen and women across the globe at Christmas.

The boxes, known as 'square stockings' and around the size of a ration pack, contained around 20 items, some Christmassy, some useful.

TV Presenter Lorraine Kelly joined members of the Royal Marines on a zip wire from Wellington Arch in central London before Christmas to launch the campaign, run by the charity uk4u Thanks!

The charity worked with the Armed Forces to send boxes to places like Afghanistan, the Falklands, and ships and submarines in time for 25th December.

The British Forces Post Office system was not used, so as not to delay parcels from families and friends getting through.

Hywel the hat-trick hero as Abbey Wood clinches title

A HAT-TRICK from Hywel Jones saw Abbey Wood clinch the inter-unit water polo title at the first time of asking at RAF Cranwell.

Jones struck with the final goal of a competitive final against RAF Brize Norton which saw Abbey Wood run out winners by 6-4.

Abbey Wood, made up of service and civilian players, had opened the scoring with Jones' first and there were further goals from Chris Jones and Rich Elford before Brize hit back. It needed late goals from Hywel Jones to confirm victory.

In the group stages four goals from Adam Taylor swept RAF Coningsby aside in an 11-2 victory.

And Hywel Jones was on target

with another hat-trick as Abbey Wood qualified for the final with a 14-2 win over RAF High Wycombe.

Hywel Jones said: "This is a great victory for Abbey Wood; we have beaten teams from much larger units with much younger squads and done so in style."

The squad then competed in the inter-unit swimming championships where Hywel Jones picked up second place in the men's 100 metre breaststroke and Libby Taylor claimed third in the female backstroke.

The men's relay team of Hywel Jones, Rich Elford, Chris Jones and Matt Rawlinson also claimed a silver medal. Abbey Wood finished fifth overall in the swimming.



Going polo – back row, from left: Mr Adam Taylor, Lt Col Matt Rawlinson, Flt Lt Rich Elford. Front: Sqn Ldr Chris Jones, Wg Cdr Damian Orton, Sqn Ldr Libby Taylor, Flt Lt Jude Clarke, Sqn Ldr Hywel Jones, Cdr Steve Etchells, Maj Scott Robinson. Not pictured: Capt Emily Stokes



Four in a row and a family double too!

GEOFF ELLIS took his fourth consecutive individual Inter-Services Orienteering title by destroying a field of the services' best athletes at Aldrughton, near Elgin.

Flt Lt Ellis' performance was matched by younger sibling, Flt Lt Rachel Sullivan, who narrowly took her first Inter-Services title.

They are believed to be the only RAF siblings to become concurrent individual Inter-Service Champions in any sport.

Other featured DES runners were SSgt Andy McNally, Lt Col Chris Sanderson and Lt Megan Ashton.



Above: team members on The Wrekin

Conquering The Wrekin

THE SPECIAL Projects SCM team has raised more than £1,000 for Help for Heroes by running up and down The Wrekin a staggering 108 times.

The 'dedicated' started their day on the Shropshire hill at 4.45am and finished nine hours later having completed a combined distance of 324 miles with a total ascent/descent equal to climbing up and down Everest twice.

From sonar to schools – the green fingers get down to work



Pooling resources: engineers get down to repairing the school's pond



IMAGE-conscious: the assessment centre gets a spruce-up

STAFF AT Imagery and Geospatial Systems (IMAGE) team have donated a day to the British Institute for Brain Injured Children (bibic) at its assessment centre in Bridgwater.

This involved garden maintenance, painting and decorating, cleaning buildings and equipment and most spectacularly demolishing a redundant playground without the aid of power tools.

The day provided an opportunity to use teamwork skills to maximise results as well as providing a sense of achievement for a worthwhile cause.

THANKS TO green-fingered Devonport personnel a Devon school garden is being transformed into a paradise for wildlife and pupils.

Bere Alston School's environmental garden is becoming a wildlife-friendly space that the whole school will be able to enjoy.

Nigel Shirlow, husband of school secretary Marianne, heads a team of submariner combat systems engineers.

"A project of this scale includes qualities embodied in the Naval ethos, namely teamwork, leadership and commitment," he said.

"I asked if we could adopt the school garden as our team project – the first time we have volunteered as a group – and my superiors were happy to agree.

"This sort of work has been a real first for some of the guys as they work on sonar, radio and intricate electrical equipment – it's been really good to get to grips with some more physically challenging work."

The environmental garden was created in 1997 but, as both pupil numbers and the garden grew, it had become less useable.

Award-winning Polly earns another mark of distinction

THE MOD's apprentice of the year – DE&S' Polly Blaikie – is one of a number from the organisation who have earned distinctions in their national certificates.

Polly, right, of DE&S' Submarines Platform Group, earned her Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Mechanical Engineering alongside DE&S colleagues Christine Butcher, Carl Greenslade, Jack Payne, Liam Shearn and Luke Weeks who were also awarded distinctions.

Adam Bedford, Daniel Cornell, Charlotte Haskins, Robert Jennings, Ben Mitchell, Alexander Moore, David Stafford, Stephen Townhill, Daniel Waldron and Christopher Wareing also of

DE&S earned passes. Rachel Hacker and Gemma Winsley, silver medalists in the MOD awards, were awarded distinctions in their manufacture engineering HNCs, alongside DE&S colleagues David Fogarasy and Ian McGee.

Passes went to Ross Abraham, Alexander Bishop, Thomas Driscoll, Richard Johnson, Mark Jones, William Kennedy, Hossein Khoshtaghaza, Thomas Leach, Jake Samways and Craig Taylor.

In the electric and electronic engineering HNC awards there were distinctions for Christopher Banks, Timothy Bates and Thomas Buxton. Passes were secured by James Baker,

Oliver Barton, Samuel Bilner, Jack Fillingham, Ceri Griffiths, James Hamer, Ryan Hodges, Patrick Jennings, Christopher Kucharski, Sarah Ledsham, James Montieth, Luke Postelthwaite, Benjamin Read, Mary Woodall and Daniel Wye.

All received their HNCs from the awarding body, Plymouth University's Faculty of Transport and Engineering Technologies, at a ceremony in Bristol Cathedral on 24th November.



Clyde brushes up on oral health



Dental staff, from left, Surgeon Lt Cdr Ruth Burns, Lesley Mooney, Leading Dental Nurse Vicky Parsons and AB Rachael Lucham

STAFF DESCENDED on Clyde's dental department to learn about the dangers of mouth cancer and raise cash for a local oncology unit.

The 13-strong dental team, part of the base's medical centre, held the event in St John's Church and Chaplaincy as part of oral cancer awareness month.

As well as display boards outlining the symptoms and risks of mouth cancer, there was also a quiz and goody bags, as well as a selection of cakes and biscuits donated by local businesses.

"The response was fantastic," said civilian dental nurse Lesley Mooney. "We were only too glad to help raise awareness because it can be such a debilitating disease. By informing people of the symptoms and risks we hope to encourage them to visit their dentists for regular check ups."

Cakes and goodies were donated by Morrisons, Tesco, the Co-Op, Greggs and Marks and Spencer.

Plans are already being drawn up by the Dental Department for the next charity event – a quiz night at the base's bowling alley on behalf of the Vale of Leven Hospital cancer unit.

ONE OF the most experienced pilots serving in UK waters has retired after pioneering the passage of some of the largest submarines in the world in and out of Plymouth.

Chief Admiralty Pilot Joe Lovelady has overseen safe passage of thousands of military, auxiliary and commercial craft, including nuclear deterrent Vanguard class submarines, in and out of Plymouth waters during his 41 years' service.

Joe has worked his way up from master on smaller tugs overseeing as the Chief Pilot the entire operation of helping the largest vessels in the Royal Navy such as aircraft carriers and US Navy warships.

Joe said: "The highlight of my career has to be bringing the V-class submarines into Plymouth for their first entry. They are bigger under water than anything else that visits, and Plymouth is a very complex port.

"Adding to the challenge of navigating the narrow entry to the naval base is the twisting channel and the varying tidal conditions. I always say to commanding officers that if they can manoeuvre ships in and out of Plymouth, they can manage any port in the world." Often there is only a metre clearance when transiting basin and dock entrances.

Joe's dedication extended to delaying retirement until he had helped train enough pilots without leaving the team short.

Commander Carl Necker, Queen's Harbour Master for the Port of Plymouth, said: "For more than 40 years Joe has consistently delivered expert assistance to the commanding officers of ships and submarines of all nations, throughout one of the most navigationally challenging ports in Europe, in all manner of environmental conditions.

"A consummate professional and true gentleman, he has been an exemplary Chief Admiralty Pilot throughout his tenure. I wish him all the very best for the future."

Joe pilots his way to happy retirement



Dedication: 41 years of service by Joe Lovelady

Imperious service is rewarded

DAVID BARRETT has received his Imperial Service Medal from the Bowman and Tactical Communications & Information Systems (BATCIS) Head Brigadier Ivan Hooper.

David retired from BATCIS last June after a 27-year MOD career which began with the reprographics team at Woolwich.

David stepped up to perform a Band D Commercial Officer role during his time in BATCIS and was responsible for three reprographics teams while working at Pinesgate, Bath in the 1990s.

David takes with him many happy memories including the time he had the honour to print a book for The Duke of Edinburgh on a visit to Woolwich Arsenal.

Since retiring, David and wife Karen have moved to Torquay.

DSRA LOTTERY OCTOBER WINNERS

£10,000: Joanne Regan (RAF Brize Norton).
£5,000: Peter Bell (Craigiehall).
£2,000: Michael Dudgeon (RAF Alconbury). **£1,000:** Andrea Middleton (Donnington).
£500: Simon Brewer (RMA Sandhurst). **£300:** Richard Matthews (Aldershot), Christopher Vickers (RFA), Martin Bayode (Whitehall), Zoe Cole (Cromwell).
£200: Daniel Phillips (Abbey Wood), Stuart Ashfield (DGC Feltham), Andrew Malyon (Brompton Barracks), William McClafferty (Coulport), Paul Burley (Rheindahlen), Christopher Harris (Abbey Wood), David Tye (RAF Wyton), John Power (RNAs Culdrose), Glen Ashton (Corsham), Lorna Omand (Wigman TAC).
£100: Dominic Leung (Abbey Wood), Dawn Wilde (Cheadle Hulme), Paul Cheetham (Corsham), Christine Frapwell (Abbey Wood), Michael O'Sullivan (DSG Andover), David Cox (RAF Cranwell), Coleen Partridge (Sutton Coldfield), Christopher Hartley (SPVA), Adele Appleby (UKHO), Jonathan Ross (Whittington), Christopher Parks (RAF Shawbury), Geoffrey Leaver (Bicester), Anne Huckle (Abbey Wood), Deborah Twells (RAF Honington), Lesley Bowen (Kentigern House).

Training to be the best

How a pair of swans helped hone Devonport's diving skills . . .

Devonport's divers get ready for the dive to the bottom of a lake near Plymstock



DEVONPORT DIVERS are known for their skills – but helping out a pair of nesting swans was something of a first.

The Royal Navy's Southern Dive Unit answered a plea from a bird lover worried about the future of the swans after a purpose-built nesting raft sank in a Devon lake. Many of the swans' eggs had been ruined by water.

Divers used the bid to refloat the raft as a training exercise for a supervisory diver leading

the exercise as part of his professional development, and to give good experience to the diver inspecting the purpose-built raft.

Leading Diver Ade Morris said: "This was a great chance to meet community needs, gain experience and directly train divers in command leadership and management experience. That is what the Navy is proud to do. I hope some good comes to the swans and the lake environment from this."



. . . while new kit gives Clyde firefighters a cutting edge

FIREFIGHTERS AT Clyde have new tools in their arsenal of rescue equipment with the purchase of auto-extraction cutting equipment.

The 28-strong team from the Defence Fire Service have been testing new "e-Draulic" equipment, pictured above.

Station Manager Jim Gray said: "Previous hydraulic rescue equipment required a generator and several metres of hose which restricted the capability.

"With our new equipment this is a thing of the past. The e-Draulic tool is battery operated and yet provides an increased capability."

Tal rewarded for keeping flag-raising on track



Teamwork: Tal Lambert and Victoria Pendleton at the award ceremony

TAL LAMBERT renewed acquaintance with Olympic cycling star Victoria Pendleton as the Armed Forces were rewarded for their work in supporting the London Olympics.

Tal, an RAF squadron leader with the Network Technical Authority team in Corsham, was among those who received a special award from *The Sun* newspaper last month.

A lunchtime reception at 10 Downing Street and an evening ceremony at the Imperial War Museum attended by the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall were part of the 6th December festivities.

DE&S' Information Systems and Services was key in delivering communications that enabled those involved in Operation Olympic to achieve their aims.

Tal said: "It was an honour

to be part of the team being presented with the Judges' Special Award received on behalf of the 17,500 members of the Armed Forces that were key to the success of the 2012 Games."

He was chosen to lead the flag-raising team at the Opening Ceremony for his work on Operation Herrick and his involvement in the Soldier On charity.

He also took part in the medal ceremonies at the Velodrome and raised the Union Flag several more times for the performance of Team GB in the cycling.

Gold medalists Victoria Pendleton and Greg Rutherford presented the award to the military team, both saying they had great admiration for the fabulous job the Forces did to ensure a safe and successful Games.

Recovery centre will be built on firm foundations

WORK ON a centre in the south west for recovering Armed Forces personnel with long-term injuries has begun.

The foundation stone of the Endeavour Centre at *HMS Drake*, Devonport was laid by the co-founders of Help for Heroes, Bryn and Emma Parry, and wounded Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel who will benefit.

The centre is due to be open later this year providing two pools – a hydrotherapy pool and a swimming pool with moving floor to reduce the depth. A separate block in the naval base – Parker Building, also under construction – will provide accommodation for families and users.

Bryn, Help for Heroes Chief Executive, said: "This is a major step in a recovery centre for personnel from the RAF, Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Army who live in the south west. This builds on the services already provided under the Royal Navy care pathway."

"The idea is that guys and girls who have been injured in Afghanistan, for instance, have a one-stop centre in the region



Bryn and Emma Parry, centre, join interested parties as the foundation stone is laid

they live. They will have been to hospital in Birmingham, then Headley Court and then into recovery in their region."

The recovery centre, replicated at Colchester, Catterick and Tidworth, is supported by £21 million from Help for Heroes and will be staffed and funded by the charity and the MOD.

Richard Ellis of construction group Interserve said: "To know

that our efforts are going to benefit members of the services who need such great support is gratifying. Rarely is it so satisfying to be working on such a worthwhile venture."

Hasler Company at *HMS Drake* currently supports the recovery process, principally from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines through the Naval Service Recovery Pathway.

Devonport savings recognised

DE&S AND Babcock made the shortlist for the national Energy Efficiency Partnership of the Year award.

Nomination was for the drive to reduce energy consumption at Devonport naval base.

Babcock, working with DE&S and contractors, investigated conversion, distribution, delivery and usage of electricity, gas, water and fuel.

In the first two years, electricity and gas consumption were cut by around eight per cent and ten per cent respectively, and energy bills reduced by more than £1.8 million.

Further savings included upgrading lighting systems in two facilities. This has reduced CO₂ emissions by more than 130 tonnes a year.

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:

2012DIN04-146: This describes procedures to be carried out by Type 1 (operational) customers to ensure the Medical and General Supplies team holds a current list of personnel authorised to demand medicinal products and any Type 2 customers who order via the Joint Supply Chain.

2012DIN04-148: As part of Defence Transformation, MOD civilian vehicles (white fleet) on lease or supplied under the Phoenix contract will now become the responsibility of the Phoenix Service Provider as the appointed MOD registered keeper for those vehicles. The census team at Chilwell, Nottinghamshire, will be transferring the record keeping and taxation process for white fleet vehicles only to the Babcock licence team in the Phoenix Cell at Abbey Wood.

2012DIN01-249: This covers the new Armed Forces Pension Scheme which will be introduced from April 2015. Service personnel within ten years of their normal pension age on 1st April 2012 will not transfer to the new scheme. All other members of a current Armed Forces scheme will be automatically transferred into the new scheme when it starts.

Further information and more details on the latest DINs see:

<http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Library/CivilianAndJointService/AtoZ/DinsIndex2012.htm>



We ensure global reach
from **up there**

to ensure smooth passage
down here

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