

RESERVE LINK

AUTUMN 2025



**SERFCA LORD-LIEUTENANT
AWARDS 2025!**

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Introduction from Colonel Richard Smith OBE, Assistant Commander (Reserves), Headquarters South East.

I want to start by saying a huge thank you and congratulations to all the Reservist, Cadets, Adult Volunteers, and individuals who contribute across the Southeast. Without your dedication, professionalism, and commitment we really could not achieve the outstanding things we do. Thank you.

I also cannot believe how quickly time flies by. I clearly remember being invited to write this introduction to the Link Magazine when I first took up my appointment 2 years ago. Over these past 2 years I have met some truly inspiring individuals, visited some first-rate training and been privileged to see so many people from our area recognised with thoroughly deserved awards and commendations. It has been inspirational and humbling.

Last summer the Government commissioned a Strategic Defence Review to “consider the threats Britain faces and the capabilities needed to meet them.” which is relevant to us all and will undoubtedly shape our collective futures. It is an ambition the SDR describes as a Whole-of-Society approach to Home Defence and Resilience, described as widening the participation in national resilience and renewing the nations contract with those who serve. Much of the detail remains to be clarified, but I know that this will present some very exciting opportunities for Reservist and Defence in the Southeast. Expect to see more of the detail in the coming months!

Finally, I will return to where I started with another thank you for your efforts and encouragement to keep up the good work.



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO...

South East Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association (SERFCA)

We are one of 13 RFCAs UK-wide. **SERFCA** is a Ministry of Defence (MOD) Crown body, responsible to the Defence Council, but separate from the Military chain-of-command. SERFCA's core outputs are; Volunteer Estate, Civil/Employer Engagement and Cadets & Youth.

Managing the volunteer estate through building new centres, maintaining buildings to the required legal standard and ensuring that all sites are kept in good condition, fit for purpose and secure. We aim to provide an attractive environment in which to recruit, train, refresh the spirit of our volunteers and in some venues; generate income for the benefit of Reserves and Cadets.

Civil and Employer Engagement for Reserves, Cadets and the Armed Forces society through engagement events, briefings and award ceremonies, allowing us to actively inform, influence, engage and create a positive but lasting change with key influencers. We also connect Defence with society through schemes such as the Armed Forces Covenant and the Employer Recognition scheme.

Promoting the Cadet Experience and Championing the Value of Reserve Forces by employing the Professional Support Staff within the Army Cadet Force and promoting their activities over online and offline media as well as funding necessary recruitment aids.

SERFCA LORD-LIEUTENANT

Awards 2025

As the year comes to a close, we reflect on another Lord-Lieutenants Awards season where many outstanding individuals in the Reserve Forces, Cadets and local communities have been recognised for their unwavering commitment to their services and organisations. These individuals truly embody the meaning of the volunteer ethos that we strive to support here at SERFCA and it has been our honour to recognise them, whilst also building relationships within the defence community.

His Majesty Lord-Lieutenant's Certificates for Meritorious Service were instituted to afford public recognition to those members of the Reserve and Cadet Forces whose efforts are not recognised by the twice-yearly Honours Lists. This year, the awards recognised **Reservists** like **Major Harriet Lauanders** from **202 Multi-Role Medical Regiment**, who juggles a demanding NHS career with her Reserve service whilst also being a single parent. A leading antimicrobial pharmacist, she has played a key role in Defence's Military Infections working group and has deployed to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK serving at Camp Bastion hospital.

In addition to the Reservists, certificates are also awarded to **Cadet Force Adult Volunteers** who dedicate vast amounts of their time to supporting Cadets. This includes **Civilian Instructor Graham Rowland** from **1404 (Chatham) Squadron Royal Air Force Air Cadets** whose unwavering commitment to training and mentoring has shaped the futures of over 1,500 young people, particularly in the fields of aviation and engineering. Through his expert instruction he has inspired countless cadets to pursue careers in aerospace and engineering.

We also recognise the **Best Reservist** in county and they are awarded thanks to the generous sponsorship from a number of organisations. Each company is selected for their support to defence and the armed forces community in their county and beyond. They also hold either a **Gold or Silver Employer Recognition Scheme Award**. The prizes are open to a Reservist from any of the three services considered to have achieved the most or made the greatest contribution that year. Our special thanks go to our new sponsor for Hampshire this year, **A1 Print Services**.

The Lord-Lieutenants from each county presented many additional awards too, including British Empire Medals, the Ulysses Trust Outstanding Service Award, a 3 Star Commendation, Cadet Force Medals, the Irlam Trophy and the Best Tri-Service Cadet.

The winner of the Best Tri-Service Cadet of Sussex, sponsored by **Cadet Direct**, was the brilliant Cadet Company Sergeant Major Roberta Sancha from No.1 (Brighton) Detachment Sussex Army Cadet Force. Her excellence was again recognised as she was also awarded the **Pooley Tri-Service Sword of Honour**, which is awarded to the best Tri-Service Cadet in the South East. This is the first year the sword has been awarded and has been very generously sponsored by **Pooley Swords**. In addition to the ceremonial sword, **Northern Trust** kindly sponsored the Best Tri-

Service Cadet by providing a trophy and voucher.

The **Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets** are also appointed in each county. They are selected from the community Cadet forces and Combined Cadet Force to support the Lord-Lieutenants on official engagements over the coming year. The appointment is one of the highest achievements in the Cadets and those selected will have demonstrated outstanding service to their Cadet movement, such as **Petty Officer Cadet Jemma Ball** from **Training Ship Whaddon, Milton Keynes Sea Cadets**. POC Ball's dedication to the Sea Cadets has extended far beyond her unit, with her helping to run a major district camp and providing a regular presence at Remembrance day events, charity fundraisers and high profile parades. She is a role model to the junior cadets, truly reflecting the Sea Cadet Corps values of commitment, courage and community.

All of the above would not be possible however without the fantastic venues that have supported us with the awards ceremonies, including Abingdon School for Oxfordshire, Lancing College for the counties of East and West Sussex and Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for both The Royal County of Berkshire and Surrey awards. An exciting new location this year for Kent was the prestigious Tonbridge School who's team were exceptional in facilitating the event.



SERFCA LORD-LIEUTENANT

Awards 2025



SERFCA WOULD LIKE TO SEND A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AND BEST RESERVIST WINNERS AT THE **2025 LORD-LIEUTENANT AWARDS** ACROSS THE SOUTH EAST.

His Majesty Lord-Lieutenant's Certificates for Meritorious Service were instituted in order to afford public recognition to those members of the Reserve and Cadet Forces whose efforts are not recognised by the twice yearly Honours Lists. The Lord-Lieutenant's Certificate thus ranks second to the King's Honours Lists.

The Best Reservist award is open to any Reservist from all three Services, of any rank and any length of service.

Please note: some ranks may be incorrect at the time of print as many may have been promoted since being awarded.



OXFORDSHIRE

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

- **Major Harriet Launders** 202 Multi-Role Medical Regiment
- **Warrant Officer Class 1 Mark Gott** 142 (Queens own Oxfordshire Hussars) Vehicle Squadron, 165 Port & Maritime Regiment Royal Logistics Corps
- **Flight Sergeant Michelle Gorman** 501 (County of Gloucester) Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force
- **Corporal Karen Mellow-Marais** 501 (County of Gloucester) Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force

BEST RESERVIST sponsored by Diamond Light Source

- **Corporal Robert Flint** 4626 (County of Wiltshire) Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force

THE ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

- **Staff Sergeant David Baileff** VR 73 Military Intelligence Company, 7 Military Intelligence Battalion
- **Sergeant Jodi Longyear** Detachment 135 Geographic Squadron Royal Engineers, 42 Engineer Regiment

BEST RESERVIST sponsored by Equinix

- **Sergeant Kieran Terry** Detachment 135 Geographic Squadron Royal Engineers, 42 Engineer Regiment

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

- **Captain Johanna Hrycak** VR 261 Squadron, 158 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps
- **Staff Sergeant Lisa Wild** VR 710 (Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars) Operation Hygiene Squadron, 165 Port & Maritime Regiment Royal Logistics Corp
- **Warrant Officer Kenneth Watson** VR RAFR 7644 Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force

BEST RESERVIST sponsored by ESRI UK

- **Rifleman Toby Baker** A Company, 7th Battalion The Rifles

SURREY

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

- **Captain Mark Windibank** Kohima Company, HQ Regiment Army Training Centre (Pirbright)
- **Warrant Officer Class 2 Paul Dillury** Kohima Company, HQ Regiment Army Training Centre (Pirbright)
- **Corporal Michael Cooper** 579 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search)

BEST RESERVIST sponsored by CGI

- **Corporal Oscar Searle** A Company, 4th Battalion The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment

KENT

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

- **Sergeant Shaun Barthram** 3rd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
- **Corporal Finlay Booker** 124 Transport Squadron Royal Logistic Corps
- **Lance Corporal Graham Farmer** 579 Field Squadron, 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search)

BEST RESERVIST sponsored by RIFT Group

- **Staff Sergeant Michael Osborne** 133 Divisional Recovery Company, 103 Force Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

SUSSEX

BEST RESERVIST sponsored by Sussex Chamber of Commerce

- **Corporal Elize Bailly** VR D Company, 4th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

HAMPSHIRE

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

- **Mrs Helen Cook** HMS King Alfred
- **Colour Sergeant Michael Hugget** VR C Company, 4th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
- **Sergeant Matthew Sampson** VR C Company, 4th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

BEST RESERVIST sponsored by A1 Print Services

- **Lance Corporal Jake Baker** C Company, 4th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Grant Funding Available for Reserve and Cadet Forces

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The Connaught Trust
Funding Reserves and Cadets



ARTIC ANTICS FOR HMS KING ALFRED

WHILE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE MAY NOT BE THE TYPICAL SUMMER HOLIDAY DESTINATION, FOR MEMBERS OF THE UK ARMED FORCES, IT OFFERS A UNIQUE AND UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE.

Each year, the Joint Service Adventurous Sail Training Centre (JSASTC) in Gosport organises a series of global sailing expeditions, including voyages to the Mediterranean, the Scottish Highlands, the Canary Islands and even the far reaches of Northern Norway.

These expeditions are open to Regular and Reserve personnel, including University Units, who can apply either individually or as part of a unit. Participants gain the chance to explore the globe while learning to sail or advancing their maritime skills.

Exercise Norway Express takes a Challenge 72 yacht from Gosport to Hammerfest in Norway, the northernmost town in the world. Over 6 months, the yacht is crewed by rotating teams of 15 personnel, with crew changes occurring every 2 weeks.

This year, Royal Naval Reservist Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Chi Mun Tang of HMS KING ALFRED stepped away from her Civil Service role to join the expedition, sailing north from Tromsø to Hammerfest. Over two weeks, she covered more than 600 nautical miles, crossing the 70° N latitude line. As a novice sailor, SLt Tang used the opportunity to earn her Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Competent Crew qualification, a foundational step toward leading future sailing expeditions. Service personnel are encouraged to return from such experiences, further their qualifications and contribute to

Adventurous Training within their units or across the wider Armed Forces.

Sailing in the Arctic during summer means experiencing 24 hours of daylight, which, while visually stunning, can be disorienting. The crew faced challenges sleeping and maintaining alertness during night watches. Yet the rewards were extraordinary: breath-taking fjords, crystal-clear waters and unforgettable wildlife encounter including dolphins that swam alongside the yacht for over 6 hours.

Despite the beauty, the expedition was not without its hardships. Temperatures ranged from below 10°C to 20°C inland and conditions at sea could be even colder. High winds and sleep deprivation added to the risk, demanding resilience and teamwork from the crew.

The JSASTC incorporates Adventurous Leadership and Resilience Training (ALeRT) into its expeditions, helping participants develop strategies for managing stress and responding effectively to challenging situations; skills that

are transferable to both military and civilian careers.

SLt Tang said: "I've enjoyed being on RN vessels but sailing on a yacht and using the wind to propel us was an entirely different experience! There were moments during the expedition where we all felt like we had to dig in and work exceedingly hard to operate the boat and maintain course safety. Hands-to-bathe in crystal clear waters, up against the Fjords, is exceptionally surreal. Watching moose swim between islands and dolphins playing on the bow of the yacht feels like a privilege and I would love to gain a place on Caribbean Express next year to continue building my knowledge and complete the shore-based courses which will enable me to take my own crew sailing in the future."

JSASTC runs international expeditions annually and interested personnel can sign up via Defence Connect. For more information, contact **AATG-JSASTC-GROUP@mod.gov.uk**

Sub Lieutenant Sam Kimberley



HISTORICAL MILESTONE: FIRST ROYAL MARINE OFFICER CADETS JOIN UNIVERSITY ROYAL NAVY UNITS



For the first time in the Royal Marines' 360-year history, there are now Royal Marine Officer Cadets in University Royal Navy Units. The Royal Marine University Royal Navy Unit (RM URNU) pilot scheme finally got underway, coincidentally and poignantly, in the week of the Royal Marines' 360th Birthday (Oct 2024). Twelve URNU students from 10 out of the 17 URNUs from across the country assembled on the Exeter to Lymington train on a cold, dark, and wet Sunday night, so far from the comforts of university life. Fully immersing themselves into the Candidate Preparation Course (CPC) alongside their civilian counterparts, the 12 students embarked on what has become an historical achievement.

Pulling up to Lymington Commando station for the first time, reality set in. It was also very humbling knowing that every Royal Marine has been in the same position as me. While walking up the steps to the CPC block, the recruits grinned at me, knowing what I was about to be put through.

Understanding that the first two days were light on the physical demands and aimed at medicals

and interest lectures, it gave me time to adjust to early mornings and eating like a recruit. The highlight of these two days was learning about the different specialities within the Royal Marines as well as getting hands-on with the different weapon systems the RM use.

Wednesday began with the Royal Marines Fitness Assessment (RMFA), this was followed by the swim test. Wednesday afternoon was our first taste of the infamous bottom field, where our courage and determination were truly tested. That evening the other URNU lads and I were glad that we had made it past the first day of real challenge, but we were still dreading the Endurance Course the following morning.

Thursday was the real test for us all, on the coach up to the Common all the lads were giving words of encouragement to each other. The day was truly physically and mentally challenging, far from the usual morning of a university student. Going through the tunnels, Peters' pool, and the sheep dip was almost an enjoyable experience compared to the plyometric work and legs raises that Sergeant Julian was getting us to do. The one time

that I did question why I'd chosen to miss my university lies in going on the CPC was when we had to crawl through the peat bogs of Woodbury Common. Throughout the day we had the opportunity to compete against each other, this is when I learnt what pays to be a winner means. The URNU lads performed very well throughout the day with a lot of us being in the front of the pack. The four-mile run back gave us time to compose ourselves and enjoy the exercise high we had spent the morning earning. On completion of the gruelling few days, those that had passed the RM URNU selection course, were proudly presented the Royal Marine Recruit Beret by the Corps Colonel who gave us words of inspiration and motivation to continue with a path towards a career in the Royal Marines. With the aim to gain more experience with 'green skills', the new RM part of URNU has given me a glimpse of what it takes to be in the elite fighting force of the Royal Navy. I look forward to seeing how the URNU and the Royal Marines can work together to give students exposure to life as a Bootneck.

Chief Petty Officer Graham Brown

SUB-LIEUTENANT DANIEL LONG - HMS KING ALFRED



Firing blank rounds while driving a boat up the River Dart, abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower, being activated to shadow a foreign vessel of interest close to British waters...

these are the exciting experiences life as a Royal Navy Reservist (RNR) can offer - and they're all real moments from my first couple of years since joining.

Responding to urgent operational tasking during your Initial Sea Time isn't what you expect when you're there for training. But when the unexpected happens, there are no passengers on His Majesty's Warship - you become a valued member of the Ship's Company, getting involved and doing what needs to be done.

My decision to join the RNR can't be pinned to any single reason. I've always enjoyed pushing myself outside my comfort zone, that's how you grow, and experiences like this have really shaped me as a leader and as a person. I began in the Cadet Forces, moving on to the University Royal Naval Unit and finally signing on as a Reserve Officer. It's been quite the adventure.

In that time, I've clocked over one hundred sea days, earned internationally-recognised qualifications in Leadership & Management (equivalent to a foundation degree), and even been awarded with the MacRoberts sword in recognition of my performance so far. It's been a very rewarding journey - even before mentioning the pride, duty, and fulfilment that comes from serving alongside your fellow shipmates in support of the nation.

Training with the RNR is so varied; if it weren't for our detailed programme, I would have no idea what to expect each Tuesday. One week it's firefighting and damage control practice, the next it's grassroots sports like fencing, then we're discussing the changing information warfare environment, and rounding

off the month with boat skills and man overboard recovery drills up and down Portsmouth Harbour!

That's just what I've seen packed into a regular training evening. Beyond that, there are weekend opportunities: from our Six Nations socials, to leading in simulated disaster-relief scenarios, and ceremonial sword and rifle drill practice before representing the Service in our local communities during the period of Remembrance.

Serving in the RNR is for anyone who wants to do something new and worthwhile, make lasting friendships with capable, motivated people, and sharpen their skills in ways civilian roles cannot offer. There can be no doubt that I have become a more outgoing, robust, and competent person thanks to my experiences in uniform.



3 PWRR – OP TOSCA 42

A Private's view

In January of this year 37 members of 3rd Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment deployed on Op TOSCA 42, in Cyprus, as part of 5 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (RRF) battlegroup. I am part of Ops Coy which is at the forefront of 5RRF's commitment to peacekeeping in Cyprus. There are three main responsibilities in Ops Company. We are here as part of the UN Mandate to prevent the recurrence of fighting, contribute to maintenance and restoration of law and order and to contribute to a return to normal conditions.

We help to facilitate peace in Cyprus through four days of patrols, four days of duties and then four days on rest/training. Duties change every cycle and range from Quick Reaction Force, Operational Taskings and Gate Guard.

The two opposing forces in Cyprus are separated by an area called the buffer zone which is under the control of the UN. The principal way we maintain the integrity of the buffer zone is through patrolling. Patrols are vital for peace keeping as they help maintain stability and deter any potential violations by either of the opposing forces. We do this through our visible presence as this means we can monitor the buffer zone and report any incidents which may take place, preventing any escalation or tension. The buffer zone itself provides a fascinating work environment as

you are surrounded by history, from crashed planes to derelict cars and buildings, the buffer zone has it all.

The next four days are spent on duties. As QRF we are the battlegroup's Quick Reaction Force and ready to deploy to any problem within the buffer zone that may arise. This can be anything from wildfires, preventing the smuggling of people and/or goods to dealing with major incidents such as a road traffic incident. On Ops, we help to facilitate inter communal events which increase co-operation between both sides. For example, with our intercommunal room, we will host events between both sides, which helps ease tensions and increases co-operation. As gate guard we are responsible for the security of the camp, remaining alert at all times to prevent any

unauthorised personnel on camp. With all the political and high-ranking military personnel of multiple nationalities passing through camp, it is paramount that we provide a safe environment for them to work in and host events.

When not working, we are lucky enough to have free time to ourselves that you wouldn't usually expect to find on tour, which can be used in any way we want. From day trips to Paphos, to nights out in Ayia Napa, or just staying on camp by the pool, we have the luxury of spending our free time however we see fit.

We have also been given the opportunity to spend time on Adventure Training while out in Cyprus, being given the opportunity to go Kayaking, Mountain Biking or Rock Climbing. I myself, went Sea Kayaking and having never been kayaking before, thoroughly enjoyed it. While it undoubtedly sounds as if we are on holiday, we are working hard, working for ten days before two days' rest.

Overall, Tosca has been a fantastic experience and has allowed me to perform a different and more dynamic job role, especially as a reservist. Furthermore, the opportunity to live and explore Cyprus in my free time has been incredible and completely unique in comparison to anything I have previously done with the reserves.

Private Harper Jackson, HQ Coy



MUSICAL HAPPINESS COMES IN WAVES... FOR THE PWRR BAND

CONTINUING A VERY BUSY 2025 SUMMER SEASON AND BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF OUR PREVIOUS JANUARY VISIT TO ASCENSION, THE PWRR BAND WAS INVITED TO SUPPORT THE ANNUAL KINGS BIRTHDAY PARTY (KBP) EVENT ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ISLAND.

Departing RAF Brize Norton Wednesday 4 June, on our arrival some 8 hours later, the 7 members of the selected team led by the Director of Music (DoM) were immediately into their stride, rehearsing and coordinating the music required to entertain the serving Military and MOD support population of the Island.

First engagement on Friday 6 June, found us performing a concert to students at 'Two Boats' School, where amongst other activities, the DoM made the entire audience (including teacher's!) demonstrate their marching skills to The Great Escape. Saturday 7 June was the main effort of our deployment, beginning with playing music for the afternoon KBP Reception at 'The Residence' in the presence of His Honour Simon Minshull, Administrator of Ascension Island. We performed a rousing, patriotic British programme of music, ranging from Beatles, Queen to Take That, which all invited guests thoroughly enjoyed. Part one of the day complete, it was a hasty retreat back down the mountain



to The Black Buck Bar (combined Officers' & Sergeants' Mess) for phase 2 of the event, belting out pop covers by Robbie, Oasis & Sir Tom to a very enthusiastic crowd.

Keen to undertake some low-level team building Adventure Training and after taking a well-earned standdown with our musical duties complete, Band members embarked on a day of exploration, beginning at dawn on a trip to North East Bay in hope of seeing hatchling turtles....we were certainly not disappointed. With scores of hungry birds circling, the team carefully escorted dozens of the tiny babies down to the water's edge to embark on their challenging journey of life in the sea ahead of them. For us, it was particularly satisfying as in January, we witnessed female turtles laying their eggs before returning to the ocean - so this was a true 'circle of life' experience.

From the beach, our next location was Green Mountain, to not only summit the 859m peak but also spot large Land Crabs. Within minutes of setting off, we were surrounded by the tough shelled creatures, providing lots of fantastic photo opportunities. Two hours later and slightly jaded, both CSgt Lorna Collin-Rance and Sgt Lynn Rawlings eventually reached the top to proudly unfurl the Tigers flag!

The afternoon was all about 'twitching', so the team headed for the nesting grounds of the Boobie, in the hope of seeing mating pairs of these very impressive birds. We were privileged to be able to approach them from a safe distance (so as to not disturb them) to capture photos of nesting adults....a truly amazing sight.

Far too quickly as the sun set on our final full day on the island, Band members reflected on yet another superb week of music-making, new friendships forged and a job terrifically well done.

Musician Richard Blake



SERGEANT JAMES PERRY - 3RD BATTALION THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT (3 PWRR)**Please tell us a bit about yourself**

I am Sergeant James Perry, a Physical Training Instructor (PTI) currently serving with 3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (3 PWRR). I attested in May 2024 and, after completing the Advanced PTI Course in October 2025, I will assume the role of Quartermaster Sergeant Instructor (QMSI) for the Battalion.

I am proud to be the first lateral entry sergeant into this role. To achieve that, I went through a demanding selection process, beginning with an initial interview at Aldershot and meeting very high fitness standards at the assessment centre, before securing sponsorship from 3 PWRR. My Corps is with the Royal Army Physical Training Corps (RAPTC), and I am attached arms to 3 PWRR. While the RAPTC is my professional home, 3 PWRR holds a special place in my heart, as they backed me from the start and welcomed my expertise.

In civilian life, I am one of two Fitness Consultants for **Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)**. Both the Army and Fire Service operate in the tactical athlete space, and there is a real synergy between the two roles. The access I have to RAPTC resources and networks strengthens my fire service work, and vice versa. I live in Kent with my wife, Lucy, and our four-year-old son, Thomas. Thomas is very proud of both of my jobs and often says he wants to work for the Army, the Fire Service, or sometimes both, when he grows up.

What training have you done or are currently doing with the Reserves?

I have completed the RAPTC PTI Course and am now preparing for the Advanced PTI Course, which will qualify me to assume the QMSI role at 3 PWRR. My focus has been on delivering Soldier Conditioning Assessments, Role Fitness Tests, and structured PT programmes.

Being the first lateral entry sergeant has meant adapting quickly, learning Army culture and processes while bringing in expertise from the tactical athlete world. Having 3 PWRR as my sponsor unit and the RAPTC as my professional backbone has made that possible, creating a synergy that enhances both my military and civilian roles.

Is your employer supportive and how?

Yes, KFRS has been very supportive of my Reserve service. They allow me to use **Gold Covenant** leave for courses, provide flexibility around training commitments, and recognise the value of the leadership and resilience skills I gain through the Army. They also see the direct crossover between military and firefighter fitness, both roles demand that people are ready to perform under extreme pressure.

Ann Millington, CEO at Kent Fire and Rescue Service, adds: "We have had a number of reservists and ex-military colleagues working for KFRS over the years and we have seen clear benefits:

Reservists have a range of valuable skills from their military training. This includes advanced first aid, strong leadership abilities, and discipline. These skills complement those of our firefighters, making the team stronger and more effective. Many reservists are already well-trained so we encourage applications so we can attract a more diverse group of applicants, helping the service find the right people for the job.

As a Service we also want to demonstrate our support for the armed forces."



What do you enjoy most/get out of being a Reservist?

I most enjoy the sense of dual identity, being part of both the RAPTC and 3 PWRR. The RAPTC provides me with a professional family of PTIs, while 3 PWRR gives me a community of soldiers where I can apply that expertise.

I also value the pride of breaking new ground as the first lateral entry sergeant, and the way my Reserve service benefits not just me but also my family. Thomas loves hearing about both my jobs, and it makes me proud to know he sees service and fitness as something worth aspiring to.

What are some of the challenges you have faced in your military career and how did you overcome them?

The biggest challenge has been balancing Reserve service, a demanding civilian job, and family life. It often means very early mornings and late nights so that I can fulfil all my responsibilities, but I make it work because I believe in the value of both roles, and because Lucy and Thomas support me in doing so.

Another challenge was stepping in as the first lateral entry sergeant. I had to earn trust quickly, adapt to Army systems, and prove my ability through action. I overcame this through discipline, humility, and by leaning on other Senior NCO's with 3PWRR and the RAPTC network for support.

What would you say to anyone considering becoming a Reservist?

I would say, if you are committed, it is one of the most rewarding choices you can make. You will be challenged physically and mentally, but you will also gain confidence, resilience, and skills that transfer directly to civilian life. If you have specialist expertise, the Army now has routes, like lateral entry, that allow you to bring that knowledge in and make an immediate difference.

Do you have anything else you would like to share about your time as a Reservist?

For me, being a Reservist is about connection and balance. There is a symbiosis between my RAPTC role and my civilian role with Kent Fire and Rescue, each strengthens the other. It is demanding to juggle, but it is absolutely worth it.

Most importantly, my family are part of the journey. Lucy supports me tirelessly, and Thomas takes pride in what I do, often saying he wants to follow in my footsteps. That makes the long days and sacrifices worthwhile.



SUMMER MOUNTAINEERING PROGRESSION

CAPEL CURIG, NORTH WALES | 94 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Service Personnel of 94 Signal Squadron participated in Ex Wyvern Lynx Summer Mountaineering Progression '25 a week long Adventurous Training exercise in the heart of Snowdonia National Park. The exercising troops departed Windsor Army Reserve Centre to Capel Curig Training camp. The training Camp being utilised for the delivery of this AT exercise. On arrival, members were briefed on the programme of the week by Warrant Officer Class 1 'Richie' Ayling the Unit Adventurous Training Officer.



LLYN GODDIONDUON, LLYN BYCHAN AND CAPEL CURIG

The first day started with getting to know area around the training area. We headed North of the camp through permissive paths and to the open access where we found 2 lakes (Llyn Goddionduon, Llyn Bychan). Our Instructors gave brief introduction to the Snowdonian flora and fauna. Then



we went to small peak next to Llyn Bychan which was 395m from Sea Level. This is when we got acquainted to take the bearing on the map to find the travel direction on the ground. On this day it was relating map to real ground such as countours, lakes, fences/ walls, streams and footbridges.

As we walked our Instructors gave us information on what Summer Mountaineering is about, how to anticipate weather conditions, physical terrain, most importantly how to stay safe as an individual and as a team. We had lunch there and headed south west to Capel Curig, through a saddle and handrailing the fence to find the Snowdon Trail which took us to Capel Curig. After a snack break at the Siabod Café we headed back to Snowdon trail and back to camp. We also got introduced with objective and subjective risks by instructor. Objective risks are environment, weather, rockfalls, avalanches, subjective danger are poor preparation poor fitness and insufficient equipment. Distance covered was 11 km.



MOEL SIABOD HIKE

We were dropped in a lay-by just before Capel Curig, from where we could get onto footpath to Moel Siabod. After a 30 minute walk through



permissive paths, we reached Open access area clearly indicated by first fence. That was main tell-tale sign that we are in open access area. We passed by a lake on left hand side and scree rocky area on the right. We got to old Quarry where mining had taken place in the past. We chose to climb up via the East Ridge of the Moel-Siabod. Once we started walking upwards, the climb was quite vertical at places, the visibility was clear as forecasted. We descended via North East ridge. On the ascend and descend we were stretched from our comfort zone walking through different terrain and rocky areas, scree. Descending down via North east ridge there were some big slabs and rocks. Often we had to scramble at places. Both groups finished in the Capel Curig like the previous day.

As soon as we were back from Moel-Siabod next tasking was to collect our Rucksacks, tents and rations from the store. Plan the route for an action full day for hiking for day 3. On day 2 we covered 12km distance in total as per our Strava.



DAY 3

HIKE TO YR ELEN, CARNEDD LLYWELYN & WILD CAMPING

Bethesda town - This is the town situated at the north-west of Capel Curig on A5. As soon as we were dropped we started navigating towards Yr Elen. This day was quite challenging in terms of planning and group decision making. At times we were challenged finding the best route to take. In this situation the group can split with disagreement with each others ideas. Stay intact and as one team was needed on this day as the weather was challenging and visibility was poor. But again we embraced it with team spirit and got to top Yr Elen which stands at the altitude of 964m. We took South West Ridge to climb and continued walking towards North West Ridge for Carnedd Llywelyn. Hiking from Peak of Yr Elen to Carnedd Llywelyn was bit tricky in the sense that we were walking on ridge with poor visibility and rain. Nevertheless with skill to navigate through terrain we got to the top of Carnedd Llywelyn which stands at the altitude of 1064m from sea level. From Carnedd Llywelyn we walked to Llyn Eigiau where we camped. Total distance covered was 16km.

Brief information on Llyn Eigiau - At 9pm on November 2, 1925, part of the ¾ mile long reservoir fractured under a stress following 2 weeks of continual heavy rain and flooded the valley under. The rushing water killed 10 adults and 6 children. This disaster resulted the Reservoir Act 1930 which is now updated to Reservoir Act 1975.

As soon as we got to campsite, finding water resources was one of instant priority to replenish our water for cooking and next day hike.

WO1 'Richie' Ayling kindly offered to volunteer to bring jerry can of water from van which was almost 3km from our camp site. That saved us walking back to water stream which was significantly further away (the water levels to the planned replen. were to low and stagnant to use). From both teams, we thank you wholeheartedly for saving our legs after what was already a challenging day.

DAY 4

HIKE BACK FROM LLYN EIGIAU TO CAPEL CURIG

On Day 4 after wild camping on the edge of Llyn Eigiau, we started walking towards Llyn Cowlyd. Navigation part was bit tricky to start with as there was hill to walk over but again with our precise bearing and navigation skills we walked to the Llyn. We had a quick break where we had the stunning view of the Llyn Cowlyd which sat between 2 hills. Thereafter we started walking back to Capel Curig from where we picked by the transport to the camp. This was fairly short day, took us 3 hours and 15 minutes. Total distance covered 12km.

DAY 5

LLYN IGWWAL, GLYDER FAWR, GLYDER FACH & CANTILEVER

On Day 5 we were dropped in the car park near Llyn Igwal. To start with, we observed a bridge designed and built by the Romans. After the historical bridge viewing, we started hiking for the day to

Llyn Igwal. Both instructors told us the myth about the Llyn Igwal and Devil's Kitchen. Soon after the story we started walking along the path that stretched along the west coast of the lake. The path continued towards Devils kitchen higher up the hill almost vertical. At places we had to scramble and carefully take step after step. The altitude as per Garmin watch was 600m. The path was mixed of scree and loose rocks so every step had to be judged and mindful not to kick any rocks for fellow hikers. We continued walking higher to Glyder Fawr 1001m high. Soon after summit we headed east from Glyder Fawr to Glyder Fach 994m high and to Cantilever. After lunch break we walked down back to Capel Curig via Tryfan.

To summarise, this Ex Wyvern Lynx Summer Mountaineering Progression offered more than scenic vistas and personal challenges. It was great opportunity to develop core skills, leadership and strong bond with our teams. The ALERT framework once again proved to be a powerful guide for growth, ensuring mountaineers. Adventurous Training like this not only develop technical abilities but also foster trust, communication and personal and team resilience. More importantly these qualities leverage performances during operation within the country and abroad. The positive feedback from all participants once again proves this sort of exercise to be extremely retention positive for SPs be that regular or reservists.

Warrant Officer Class 1 Richie Ayling



GUNNER THOMPSON'S CANADIAN ATTACHMENT



Range brief whilst it's snowing at Chilliwack range

I am an Army Reservist with 457 (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battery, 106 Regiment Royal Artillery and back in May 2024, I applied to do a ski season in Vernon, British Columbia. Once my visa was approved, I informed my Second Lieutenant that I would be requesting a leave of absence. It was at this juncture I was told about the Reserve Forces Foreign Service Arrangements programme. This programme allows reservists to maintain their service status with their British unit while gaining valuable international experience and fostering interoperability between allied forces.

It is possible to transfer from the British to the U.S, Canadian, New Zealand and Australian reserves. After a quick search online, my closest Canadian Reserve unit was in fact an armoured unit called the British Columbia Dragoons (BCD) that was based in both Vernon and Kelowna. In an ideal situation, I would have transferred to an artillery reserve regiment, but the closest artillery unit was the 15th Field Artillery in Vancouver which is 6 hours away from where I would be living.

In June I reached out to the BCDs adjutant and got the ball rolling, it was mentioned that there was no guarantee as the RFFSA programme is normally for NCOs and above but that I should apply anyway. Only a month or so later I got the official go ahead that my transfer had been approved and that my first training night would be on 27th November.

At the ski resort where I was living there is no public transport, no buses, or trains, and I had no car. I had planned to get a taxi down and back up for training nights however after mentioning this to the BCDs they sent a MilCOT (Militarised Commercial off the shelf) vehicle to come and collect me, take me out for dinner before training and then take me back once training had concluded. It was here when I realised the Canadian stereotype of genuine hospitality, warmth, and kindness was accurate. It instantly made me feel at home as they welcomed me immediately and treated me as one of their own.

Their professionalism, camaraderie, and genuine respect for international partners made the transition seamless. In no time

several soldiers offered to pick me up and drop me off for future training nights. It was a simple gesture, but one that perfectly captured the support.

The soldiers were fascinated to learn more about my regiment back in the U.K. as the Canadian Army does not currently have any air defence capabilities. The rationale being that their next-door neighbour spends more on military than the next eight countries combined. The soldiers were also captivated with my uniform and kit, especially with my helmet and daysack. The one thing they could not understand was that we sew on our TRF's (Tactical Recognition Flash), while theirs are all Velcro.

The Canadian Army is, unsurprisingly, quite similar to the British Army and as a result was easy to fall back into the British way of doing things, however every so often there would be a reminder that I was in fact in a different military. I would say that at times it certainly felt less formal and a bit more relaxed.

The British Columbia Dragoons are a primary Reserve Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment, they use



A recruitment event in Vernon with the TAPV

a Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) and a Light Utility Vehicle Wheeled (LUVW) or simply called a G Wagon. The unit either trains in Vernon or in Kelowna, it changes depending on what facilities are needed to carry out the training.

Over the course of several months the training nights consisted of winter warfare battle drills, mounted and dismounted patrols using G Wagons, Vehicle Camouflage & Concealment, Anti-Amour Ambush and Evading and Extracting.

In January I was able to attend a range weekend in Chilliwack, which is just outside Vancouver. Over this weekend the regiment stayed in Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) barracks which were some of the nicest I have ever stayed in and had some of the best military food I have eaten.

At this weekend I was able to take part in their equivalent of the ACMT (Annual Combat Marksmanship Test)

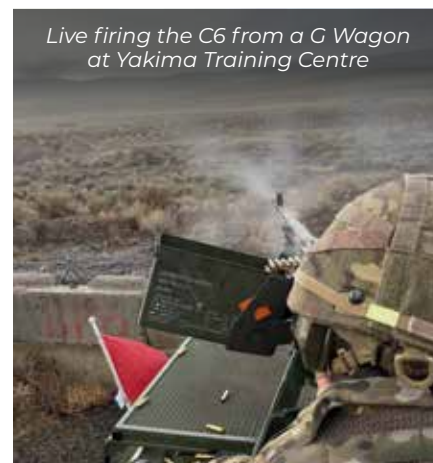
on their C7 and C8. Live firing in the snow at one of the most picturesque ranges is something I will never forget. I will also never forget the Canadian soldiers shocked reactions to my Cortex jacket and trousers.

In February I was able to take part in a recruitment event in Vernon, which involved the TAPV (Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle) being driven through the city as part of a winter carnival parade. I was also able to go on a 'ride along' at night in the TAPV as a couple of their soldiers were getting qualified as drivers and needed the night hours.

In March I was able to travel to the U.S. to Yakima Training Centre which is 2 hours from Seattle. This was for a long weekend for a live firing exercise using the C6 GPMG (General Purpose Machine Gun) on the LUVW. I was also able to join in during the TAPV live firing serial at night where I fired the 40mm GPMG.

Yakima Training Centre is 327,000 acres and has 25 ranges. Whilst driving out to the ranges we were passed by the Americans in Strykers as well as Black Hawks and Apaches from above. It was one of the most memorable range packages I have been on, none the less because it ended with a 'smoker' which is a big BBQ on the final night.

As the Canadian Reserves get ready to stand down for the summer, I am filled with genuine gratitude for the kindness, support, and camaraderie that I have experienced throughout.



Live firing the C6 from a G Wagon at Yakima Training Centre

It has become a memorable chapter in my service. I would recommend the RFFSA programme to any fellow British Reservist.

I enjoyed the contrast of spending my day teaching children to ski and then just a couple of hours later I would be practicing tank ambushes with the M72, finding a strange but satisfying balance between the two different worlds.

I would highlight that, although it was a different trade, I still gained valuable tactical knowledge thanks to the Canadian NCOs. They were not only highly knowledgeable but also incredibly eager to teach and very approachable, which made it easy to learn from their experience and put their guidance into practice.

I have not only gained valuable insight into a different way of soldiering, but I have also made some incredible friends along the way.

Gunner Thompson

Mounting the C6 on the G Wagon





OVERSEAS COHESION FOR 63 MI COY

Sergeant (Sgt) Barratt, Corporal (Cpl) Bateman, and Lance Corporal (LCpl) Holmes deployed as part of a Joint Counter Terrorist Training and Advisory Team (JCTTAT) Mission Support Team (MST) to deliver the inaugural trilateral Counter Terrorism intelligence workshop at the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC). The workshop was attended by 25 members of law enforcement from Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

JCLEC, Semarang, Indonesia, is a purpose-built facility for law enforcement partners to cooperate and enhance the capacity to combat terrorism. It was set up with cooperation between the Australian Federal Police and the Indonesian National Police following the 2002 Bali bombings. The facility has provided training, workshops, and forums to more than 38,000 participants from 85 countries since 2004, including many UK-facilitated courses.

The goal of the workshop was to create a Common Intelligence Picture (CIP) of the Sulu-Celebes Sea, and support Tri-Lateral intelligence sharing between the Philippines, Malaysia, & Indonesia.

Led by Sgt Barratt, the workshop used the UK fundamentals of intelligence as the structure to create an Intelligence Preparation of the Environment (IPE) and

subsequent CIP of the Sulu-Celebes Sea. The Sulu-Celebes Sea connects all three countries and is used as a facilitation route for terror and smuggling activities. Each nation has a good understanding of their own issues, however, there is limited intelligence sharing at the operational and tactical level.

The first week of the course was primarily a teaching week, where participants learnt the intelligence cycle, operational area evaluation, threat analysis and situation integration. There were multiple opportunities for participants to back brief which brought out some excellent discussion points and opportunities to share with their counterparts from the other countries. The second week was CIP production that was primarily led by the participants as the Subject Matter Expert (SME) for their countries, but with Sgt Barratt, Cpl Bateman, and LCpl Holmes acting as advisor mentors for each of the countries. To assist in CIP production, LCpl Holmes helped the team to set up a GeoViewer and Survey123 form for intelligence collation. The feedback at the end of the workshop was overwhelmingly positive, stating that future iterations of the project were an absolute must, and even going as far as requesting the same Mobile Support Team

(MST) members back for future deployments.

As reservists, all 3 Staff & Personnel (SP) from 61 MI were able to utilise experience from civilian careers to improve outcomes from the workshop. Notably Sgt Barratt, and Cpl Bateman current/former analysts for the police, alongside LCpl Holmes, who is a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) consultant.

A key element of the workshop was to build rapport with not just the participants from the workshop but also with attendees from other courses being run concurrently at JCLEC. The MST attended a weekly networking evening that involved plenty of karaoke and the traditional Indonesian dances – activities the participating nations are incredibly fond of.

The deployment was reflective of the growing working relationship being established between 61 MI and JCTTAT. The Company are continually delivering outputs that shape decision making of the Headquarters and aid staff in the planning of future projects. The success highlights the effective employment of the Army Military Intelligence Reserve and how our niche qualities and expertise can deliver in support of UK Defence.

**Lance Corporal
Jasmine Holmes, 61 MI Coy**

ULTRA4CHARITY ULTRA4VETERANS

TUNISIA DESERT RACE



On Sunday the 26th of October I ran the Ultra4Charity Ultra4Veterans Tunisia Desert Race. This saw me taking on 57kms of the Sahara Desert with 180 other competitors to raise money for 4 veterans charities.

I was diagnosed with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) through combat trauma in early 2018 after being involved in an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) blast on the 31st Jan 2012 on Op Herrick 15 with 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (1PWRR). The IED blast saw the multiple commander, Corporal (Cpl) (now Sergeant (Sgt) Retd) Jay Baldwin suffer a lower bilateral amputation.

As a result of this event, plus others during the operational tour it affected my mental health (MH) severely and impacted my service career seeing me become medically downgraded.

I thought this would be the end for me, but through speaking out and seeking help, I was fully upgraded to continue with my army reserve career in C Company, 4th Battalion, Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Since then I promoted to Sgt and just this year I have been awarded the honour of 4PWRR's Sobraon Sgt award (best Sgt), a Brigade Commander's Meritorious Service award and now a Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire's Meritorious Service Award. Hopefully my story helps those who are suffering to speak up, seek help and give faith that a successful military career can be achieved.

I had met Brian Wood, the organiser of the Ultra4Charity event, a few times prior through links within the Regiment, so when I saw he was working

to organise an Ultra4Charity event, I had to show my support to a fellow Tiger but more importantly to help those who may find themselves in similar situations to what I have been and hopefully raise further awareness and help to those suffering with MH issues.

Due to the conditions, we had to pack a race vest with essentials; water, food, GPS tracker, electrolytes, survival blanket, warm and wet kit. The race vest totalled 6kgs. There were checkpoints along the route between 8-10km intervals where a medical and physio team were on hand to support and we could take shelter from the sun and replenish water supplies. I had signed up to take part in the 50k race, but due to course changes due to heavy rainfall, this turned out to be 52.9kms.

We set off at 0715 at a good pace of 11 min miles and was running as part of a pack with Brian. However, after 2km, we took a wrong turn due to a route marking error. 4kms down the line a safety vehicle chased us down after seeing from our GPS trackers we had taken a wrong turn. They shuttled us back on course, but this added to the overall distance.

After 19 years infantry service my knees felt the strain from the soft sand and with the heat reaching highs of 38 degrees centigrade, it was a real challenge. I made it to the finish line at 57kms, with a movement time of 8 hours and 44 minutes. It was an awesome experience and seeing the sunset over the sand dunes of the Sahara desert is a sight I will never forget.

The team at Ultra4Charity succeeded in creating an event that was inclusive of all abilities, pulling people from all over the world to take part in a gruelling challenge. The sense of community that was formed in that desert was inspiring. To see people who had never met before, service members, veterans and civilians going through their lowest and highest and pulling together to support and achieve was amazing.

I am hoping to take part in the next event in the series, the mountains of Albania but may not be able to due to my units operational rotation.

Sergeant Matthew Sampson, C Coy, 4 PWRR



CAPTAIN JOHANA HRYCAK VR - RHQ 158 REGIMENT ROYAL LOGISTICS CORPS

"I was looking for something meaningful to do but with no military link in my immediate family, I was vaguely aware of the Army Reserves. I saw the road signs to the Reserve Centre, followed them out of curiosity, pressed the bell and soon found myself on an Army recruit selection weekend. It turned out to be one of the best, and longest, weekends of my life and the start of a 27-year adventure I never saw coming.

I've been cold, wet, tired and dirty more times than I can count - sometimes on exercise, sometimes skiing, scuba diving or skydiving. I've taught battlefield first aid throughout my 27 years and recently qualified to instruct the new NATO-aligned Tactical Combat Casualty Care course. I've also done live firing armoured exercises in Canada and had the huge responsibility of being Medical Sergeant on pre-deployment exercises in Macedonia and Kazakhstan.

I also ran the Army Careers Centre in Milton Keynes for three years, sharing my passion for service with young people at the start of their journeys and am delighted to continue in this area as I now serve as Officer in Command of the recruiting and mentoring team in my unit. I've recently returned from a two-week hiking expedition in Morocco, summating Mount Toubkal, so the fun and hard work still continues."

SERGEANT MATTHEW SAMPSON VR - C COMPANY, 4TH BATTALION PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT (PWRR)

"I initially joined the Reserves to take a look at Forces life and to deploy on OP Telic & OP Herrick. With the full intention of joining the Regulars, I found that Reserve life suited my family dynamic better and I now get the best of both worlds.

In my civilian role I'm a Health & Safety Advisor with Parkway Interiors Ltd who make furniture for super yachts & luxury apartments. Service life has always intrigued me due to my family history and the challenges, experiences and bonds make it better. I've gained a lot from being a Reservist, passing on my knowledge and experience to my peers and seeing them progress personally and professionally is very rewarding."

CAPTAIN MARK WINDIBANK - KOHIMA COMPANY, HQ REGIMENT ARMY TRAINING CENTRE (PIRBRIGHT)

"Originally I joined as a precursor to joining the Regulars, however I enjoyed the unit, people & training so much I stayed in the Reserves (TA back then). I've completed numerous exercises with the Reserves including trips to Germany, Spain, Gibraltar & Cyprus, not forgetting all those throughout Britain including Brecon, Otterburn, Salisbury, Stanford & many other smaller training areas.

I'm currently the Validation Officer at ATC Pirbright for Kohima Company ensuring we deliver the highest standard of training to Phase 1 Army recruits. My day job is as a project manager for BAE Systems within their Submarine division & most recently working on the Astute programme. I live with my wife Lisa & two children, a dog called Freddie & a cat called Bungle."

STAFF SERGEANT LISA WILD VR - 710 (ROYAL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HUSSARS) OPERATION HYGIENE SQUADRON, 165 PORT & MARITIME, THE ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS

"I was born to a serving father and carrying that tradition forward meant a lot to me. I joined the services as a chance for personal growth & to challenge myself, gain discipline & develop meaningful skills. As a full time Reservist I teach the Regulars & Reserve Army, Air Force & 3 Mobile Catering Squadron how to construct, operate and maintain Operation Hygiene Systems out in the field. I've been a trainer since 2018 and thoroughly enjoy it. I've been out on exercises in Canada, France, Jordan, Morocco and many locations throughout the UK. I also helped out at the UK Olympics and Commonwealth Games. There are so many things to enjoy including the travel and adventure, but probably the friendships made along the way come out top as they feel like family."

TRAILBLAZER IN THE RANKS!

AS1 EMMA BUTTERFIELD LEADS THE WAY IN CROSS-SKILLING

AS1 EMMA BUTTERFIELD OF 501 SQUADRON, ROYAL AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, HAS ACHIEVED A REMARKABLE MILESTONE IN ADVANCING WHOLE FORCE INTEGRATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE LOGISTICS TRADE.

Ordinarily employed as a Military Transport Driver (MTD), AS1 Butterfield has successfully expanded her professional portfolio by completing the Supply Fuels Course at MOD Worthy Down. This eight-day course, followed by an eight-week deployment to RAF Akrotiri, allowed her to apply her newly acquired skills across both Airfield Support Mechanical Transport (ASMT) and Aviation Fuels operations.

This achievement forms part of an innovative initiative to enhance operational efficiency by enabling a single Service Person to manage the full refuelling process, from delivery to aircraft servicing. This approach reduces the strain on workforce requirements while maintaining the highest standards of safety and effectiveness.

She is the first MTD across the Whole Force to become fully qualified in fuels operations, successfully demonstrating the value and feasibility of this cross-skilled capability. The concept is now being adopted more widely within the Regular Force, underlining the significance of her accomplishment.

As a Part-Time Volunteer Reservist (PTVR), her commitment and professionalism are standout. Balancing her military duties with civilian employment and personal life, she exemplifies the adaptability and dedication that define the modern-day reservist amid the complexities of global affairs.

Her outstanding performance and contributions have also been recognised through her recent selection for promotion to Corporal, a well-deserved reflection of her



leadership, determination and contribution to the future of Logistics within the Royal Air Force.

AS1 Butterfield's achievements not only mark a personal success but also represent an important step forward in developing a more flexible, skilled and capable Whole Force.

A massive congratulations to AS1 Butterfield, 501 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant C Smith

MUD, MAPS AND MOTIVATION

501 SQUADRON TAKES ON EXERCISE MUD MASTER

Twenty members of 501 Squadron RAuxAF recently took on the challenge of Exercise MUDMASTER, a demanding two-day navigation and driving competition organised by 154 (Scottish) Regiment RLC. Held from 25-26 October 2025, the event brought together over 308 participants and 154 vehicles, including teams from across the British Army, the RAF and even the Dutch Army, making it an international affair.

Ex MUDMASTER is designed to promote safe and skilled cross-country driving and navigation across varied and unfamiliar terrain. Conducted concurrently with a British Army Motorsports Association (BAMA) Navigational Trial, the exercise tested not only

off-road driving ability but also teamwork, route planning and problem-solving under pressure.

501 Squadron deployed between 23-27 October, fully embracing the challenge. Competing against tough opposition, the team showcased their professionalism, driving skill and sense of adventure, ultimately finishing as the First RAF Team



overall and also taking home the title of First RAF Brize Norton Team.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for the Reservists to really sharpen their skills in a competitive yet supportive environment, reinforcing the importance of safe driving and manual navigation, key components of their Logistics role.

The squadrons performance not only highlighted 501's trademark spirit and determination but also strengthened inter-service and international relationships through shared experience, muddy boots and a healthy dose of friendly rivalry.

A brilliant result for 501 Squadron - first in the mud, first in the competition and first in teamwork!

Flight Lieutenant C Smith

RAF RESERVES FORCE DEVELOPMENT TRIP 2025

622 SQUADRON'S ANNUAL FORCE DEVELOPMENT (FD) TRIP TOOK THEM TO BELGIUM AND HOLLAND TO EXAMINE THE USE OF AIRDROP IN OFFENSIVE AND HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS DURING WW2. THEY INCLUDED THE INVOLVEMENT OF 622 SQN IN OPERATIONS INFATUATE AND MANNA. A COMMEMORATION WAS ALSO HELD FOR THE CREW OF A 622 SQN LANCASTER THAT WAS DOWNED IN ACTION.

To break the journey up to the first destination, the opportunity to visit the V2 base at Eperlecques was taken. The massive underground complex, constructed by the Germans in 1943, was intended to be a launch site for the V2 rockets, a devastating weapon used against Allied targets in the UK, Belgium and Holland.

The site's sheer scale and engineering complexity are a testament to the ambitious plans of the Nazi regime. Measuring over 5 hectares in size, the bunker was designed to withstand aerial bombardment and housed multiple launch pads, workshops, and storage facilities.

Despite its formidable construction, the site was never fully operational due to Allied bombing raids and the advancing front lines. Today, the V2 site at Eperlecques stands as a sombre reminder of the dark chapter in history when technology was harnessed for destruction on a massive scale. The visit offered a

sobering glimpse into the wartime efforts and the human cost of such ambitious military projects.

The first proper day started with a visit to the museum at Fort Breendonk to gain an insight into

life under German occupation. Along with the stands given at the Fort, the museum provided an insight into how the Dutch viewed the occupation. A further scene setting was given on how the





German forces used airborne troops in the invasion of Belgium and the Netherlands, looking at their objectives and success or otherwise in achieving them. This led to a discussion on the allied advance post D-Day, looking specifically at supply issues and the relative merits of a broad front or sharp thrust strategy when on the offensive.

The discussion and stands then moved on to discuss Op Market Garden. Numerous stands debated the plan whilst considering what other opportunities were available at the time. Delving into the tactical details, conversations were had on the challenges faced on the Op and why all of the objectives weren't achieved. This continued to feed the FD lines on the repercussions for the Dutch people leading up to Ops INFATUATE and MANNA.

On the way to the Arnhem museum to finish off how this Op had impacted the local population, the team drove on Highway 69 stopping at various points to discuss how Corps fared in pushing further NE to meet up with the troops dropped during MARKET GARDEN.

On reaching the west coast of Holland, the team visited sites at Vlissingen and Westkapelle to start

the next phase of the trip and the Battle of the Scheldt. This was a crucial Allied campaign during the War, fought in October and November 1944 in the Netherlands and Belgium with the objective of opening the port of Antwerp to Allied shipping by clearing the Scheldt Estuary of German forces. Despite the port of Antwerp being captured largely intact in early September, the estuary remained under German control, blocking vital supply routes. Canadian forces, supported by British and Polish troops, faced difficult

terrain, including flooded fields and strong German defenses.

Discussions were had on Op INFATUATE and the role 622 Sqn had and how this led to the eventual Allied victory and the use of Antwerp, significantly improving supply lines for the final push into Germany. Talks included the problems faced by the Allies in clearing the area and how would the RAF conduct a similar op today? History has shown that these ops further compounded the issues for the local population that remained in German occupied Holland, leading to the first recognised humanitarian airdrop as part of Op MANNA. With over 20,000 Dutch dying from malnutrition, the Allies needed to provide food relief. The FD event finished with a look at the Op and how we are carrying out humanitarian relief today.

During the FD trip, the team took the opportunity to pay their respects through a short service and laying of crosses on the graves of a Lancaster crew that crashed, killing all on board whilst returning from a bombing mission in Germany. A short stand discussed the mission of Lancaster LM595 captained by Flt Lt Pyle, during which they looked at its target and what happened on its return. Mention was made of the 6,000 aircraft that were lost in this area alone during the war.

Wing Commander James Dorian



AIR SPECIALIST CLASS 1 CHRIS GAUCHAN - 606 (CHILTERN) SQUADRON RAF BENSON

Since joining the Reserves in 2021, I have had a lot of opportunities to be deployed. The beauty about being a Reservist is that I get to decide when and for how long I want to get mobilised.

Though mobilisation itself has been on my mind since finishing phase 2, scheduling this with both the RAF and my civilian work has been challenging. Nevertheless, there is always support and guidance when required throughout the process.

In my civilian job I am a Production Engineer for a company called Volution Group who manufacture ventilation systems, so quite different to what I currently do now. It's nice to get away from engineering and work on something completely different, whilst having my input and knowledge from the outside and vice versa.

A mobilisation opportunity came up with 7 Squadron, RAF Odiham which sparked my interest having spent time with the team during a shadow week. With the dates agreed from both sides and paperwork completed, I have now started my role as an Operations Specialist within the Squadron and currently going through further training to get validated. The Reserves prepare me for moments like this and the team here are great at what they do and training me up to the required standards.

So far I am enjoying my time and am proud to be a part of the team, playing my role in delivery key output for the Squadron. I will be committing more in the future with Odiham to keep up to date with my training and look forward to the opportunities that the RAF can provide.

AIR SPECIALIST CLASS 1 GABRIEL BALUYUT - 4626 SQUADRON, ROYAL AUXILIARY AIR FORCE

In my civilian capacity, I work as a Physician Associate (PA) and a Clinical Veteran Lead. As a PA, my role primarily involves working within General Practice, conducting patient consultations, managing acute and chronic conditions, and supporting preventative care services under the supervision of a GP.

In the Royal Air Force Reserves, I serve as a Medic. This role is involved in providing pre-hospital emergency care in both domestic and deployed environments, supporting clinical operations during exercises and operations, and being prepared for emergency response in diverse settings. I am still in the process of completing the full spectrum of training required for my role to ensure I'll be fully deployable and operationally effective, with the hope of supporting future RAF missions both in the UK and overseas.

My decision to join the Reserves was driven by a desire to gain specialist training and practical experience in emergency and trauma medicine—skills that go beyond what is typically encountered in civilian clinical settings. I am particularly interested in supporting future RAF deployments, whether through different operations, missions, mass casualty scenarios, or aeromedical evacuation roles.

Additionally, it was a privilege to be selected to represent the RAF in Volleyball at both the Inters and Crowns Championships this year. I value the camaraderie, teamwork, and physical challenges that sport in the RAF offers. Overall, the Reserves have equipped me with invaluable skills and experiences that complement and extend beyond my civilian career.

RESERVE FORCES IN THE SOUTH EAST

ABINGDON

1

Edward Brooks Barracks, Cholswell Road, Shippon, Abingdon OX13 6HW
A Company, 7th Battalion The Rifles
Tel: 01235 548 000
Waterloo Band and Bugles of the Rifles
Tel: 01235 548 028
145 Support Squadron, 202 (Midlands) Multi-Role Medical Regiment
Tel: 01235 548 021

ALDERSHOT

2

Army Reserve Centre, Seely House, Shoe Lane, Aldershot GU11 2HJ
2 Troop Aldershot 106 Field Squadron, 75 Engineer Regiment
Tel: 01252 914 003
Gale Barracks, Aldershot GU11 2BX
G Troop, 562 Tanker Squadron, 151 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps
Tel: 0300 155 2495
St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, GU11 2DN
160 Provost Company, 3 Royal Military Police Army Reserve
Tel: 01252 787463

ASHFORD

3

Army Reserve Centre, Sir Henry Brackenbury Road, Ashford, TN23 3HX
A Company, 3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Tel: 0300 1659 968
133 Divisional Recovery Company, 103 Force Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Tel: 0300 159 7381

AYLESBURY

4

Army Reserve Centre, Viney House, Oxford Road, Aylesbury, HP19 3RN
1 Platoon of A Company, 7th Battalion The Rifles
Tel: 07773 240 037
710 (Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars) Operational Hygiene Squadron,
165 Port and Maritime Regiment Royal Logistic Corps
Tel: 07966 745 480
RAF Halton, Aylesbury, HP22 5PG
7644 Squadron and RAF Media Reserves Royal Auxiliary Air Force
Tel: 01296 623 535

BANBURY

5

Army Reserve Centre, Oxford Road, Banbury, OX16 9AN
142 (Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars) Vehicle Squadron, 165 Port and Maritime Regiment Royal Logistic Corps
Tel: 01259 458 042

BENSON

6

RAF Benson, Benson, OX10 6AA
606 (Chiltern) Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force
Tel: 0345 606 9069
Oxford University Air Squadron
Tel: 01491 827 230 (ext 5227)

BLETCHLEY

7

Army Reserve Centre, Water Eaton Road, Bletchley, MK3 5HQ
633 & 634 Sections, 63 Military Intelligence Company, 6 Military Intelligence Battalion
Tel: 07966 534 630

BOSCOMBE DOWN

8

MOD Boscombe Down, Salisbury, SP4 0JE
Southampton University Air Squadron
Tel: 01980 663 233

BRIGHTON

9

Army Reserve Centre, Quebec Barracks, 198 Dyke Road, Brighton, BN1 5AS
B Company, 3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Tel: 0300 159 2376
Detachment, 221 Hospital Squadron, 256 (City of London and South East) Multi-Role Medical Regiment
Tel: 01273 545 689

BRIZE NORTON

10

RAF Brize Norton, Carterton, OX18 3LX
501 Log Support Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force
2624 Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force
4624 (County of Oxford) Movement Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force
4626 (County of Wiltshire) Aeromedical Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force
622 Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force
Tel: 0345 606 9069

CAMBERLEY

11

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Robertson House, Slim Road, Sandhurst, Camberley, GU15 4NP
Army Medical Services Band
Tel: 01276 412 620

CANTERBURY

12

Army Reserve Centre, Leros Barracks, Sturry Road, Canterbury CT1 1HR
Battalion Headquarters and Headquarter Company, 3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Tel: 0300 154 3873
The Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Tel: 0300 161 4674
Canterbury Detachment London University Officers' Training Corps
Tel: 0207 414 3880

COSHAM

13

Army Reserve Centre, Tudor Crescent, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 2SR
C Company, 4th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Tel: 02392 375 456
129 Medical Squadron, 243 (Wessex) Multi-role Medical Regiment
Tel: 07973 736 073

CRAWLEY

14

Army Reserve Centre, Kilnmead, Northgate, Crawley, RH10 8BD
D Company, 4th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Tel: 01293 586 418

EASTBOURNE

15

Army Reserve Centre, Barracks, Seaside, Eastbourne, BN22 7NL
4 Platoon, B Company, 3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Tel: 0300 159 2376

FARNHAM

16

Army Reserve Centre, Guildford Road, Farnham, GU9 9QB
A Company, 4th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Tel: 01252 716 236

HERMITAGE

17

Denison Barracks, Hermitage, Thatcham, RG18 9TP
73 Military Intelligence Company, 7 Military Intelligence Battalion
Tel: 0300 164 7120
Hermitage Station Tel: 0300 156 8270
Specialist Group Military Intelligence Tel: 0300 156 8270

ISLE OF WIGHT

18

Army Reserve Centre, Drill Hall Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5AA
IoW Troop, 266 (Southampton) Port Squadron, 165 Port and Maritime Regiment Royal Logistic Corps
Tel: 01983 522 821

MAIDSTONE

19

Army Reserve Centre, Boxley Road, Maidstone, ME14 2AR
B Troop, 124 Transport Squadron, 151 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps
Tel: 01277 268 960
Army Reserve Centre, 461 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford, ME20 6DB
220 Medical Squadron, 256 Multi-role Medical Regiment
Tel: 01732 842 424

MARLOW

20

Army Reserve Centre, Youens House, Old Horns Lane, High Wycombe, SL7 3DU
Marlow Detachment, Royal Marines Reserves (City of London)
Tel: 01494 652 012 (ext 2014)
2 Platoon of A Company, 7th Battalion The Rifles
Tel: 07773 240 037
871 (Marlow) Transport Squadron, 151 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps
Tel: 01159 008 656

MIDDLE WALLOP

21

Army Aviation Centre, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, SO20 8DY
B Flight 679 (Duke of Connaught's) Squadron, 6 Regiment Army Air Corps
Tel: 0300 160 3621

MILTON KEYNES

22

John Howard Barracks, Yeoman's Drive, Blakelands, Milton Keynes, MK14 5NQ
261 (Horsa) Squadron, 158 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps
Tel: 01908 211 155

OXFORD

23

Falklands House, Oxpens Road, Oxford, OX1 1RX
Oxford University Royal Naval Unit
Tel: 01865 255 330
Oxford University Officer Training Corps
Tel: 01865 255 341
Oxford University Air Squadron
Tel: 01491 827 230 (ext 5227)

PORTSMOUTH

24

Semaphore Tower, His Majesty's Naval Base, Portsmouth, PO1 3LT
HMS KING ALFRED, Royal Naval Reserves
Tel: 02392 723 319
Portsmouth Detachment, Royal Marines Reserve (City of London)
Tel: 02392 547 392
Solent University Royal Naval Unit
Tel: 0800 689 5652

PORTSMOUTH (Cont)

24

Army Reserve Centre, Peronne Road, Portsmouth, PO3 5LE
295 (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battery Royal Artillery, 106 Regiment Royal Artillery
Tel: 0300 158 5450
128 Divisional Support Company, 103 Force Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Tel: 07980 707 095
Army Reserve Centre, Duke of Connaught Barracks, Peronne Close, Portsmouth, PO3 5LG
A Flight, 679 (Duke of Connaught's) Squadron, 6 Regiment Army Air Corps
Tel: 0300 160 3621

READING

25

Brock Barracks, Oxford Road, Reading, RG30 1HW
Headquarter Company, 7th Battalion The Rifles
Tel: 07773 240 041
Detachment 135 Geographic Squadron, Royal Engineers
Tel: 01189 530224

REDHILL

26

Army Reserve Centre, Batts Hill, Redhill, RH1 1DS
Battalion Headquarters, 4th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Tel: 01293 586418
2 Troop, 579 Field Squadron, 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal & Search)
Tel: 0300 170 3960

ROCHESTER

27

Army Reserve Centre, St Margaret's Street, Rochester, ME1 3BG
Medway Division HMS PRESIDENT, Royal Naval Reserves
Tel: 02074 817 309
C Company, 3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Tel: 0300 165 9968
3 Troop, 579 Field Squadron, 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal & Search)
Tel: 01634 822882

SOUTHAMPTON

28

Army Reserve Centre, Blighmont Barracks, Millbrook Road West, Southampton, SO15 0AJ
9 Platoon, C Company, 4th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Tel: 02392 375 456
457 (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battery 106 Regiment Royal Artillery
Tel: 07878 681 241
266 (Southampton) Port Squadron, 165 Port and Maritime Regiment Royal Logistic Corps
Tel: 02380 725 016
25 Reserve Material and Personnel Exploitation, 2 Military Intelligence Battalion
Tel: 07973 739387
Army Reserve Centre, 32 Carlton Place, Southampton, SO15 2DX
Southampton University Officers' Training Corps
Tel: 02380 332 211

TADLEY

29

Army Reserve Centre, Tadley, Bramley, RG26 5AW
C Squadron
Tel: 01256 884402

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

30

Army Reserve Centre, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9HH
579 Field Squadron, 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal & Search)
Tel: 01892 556841

WINDSOR

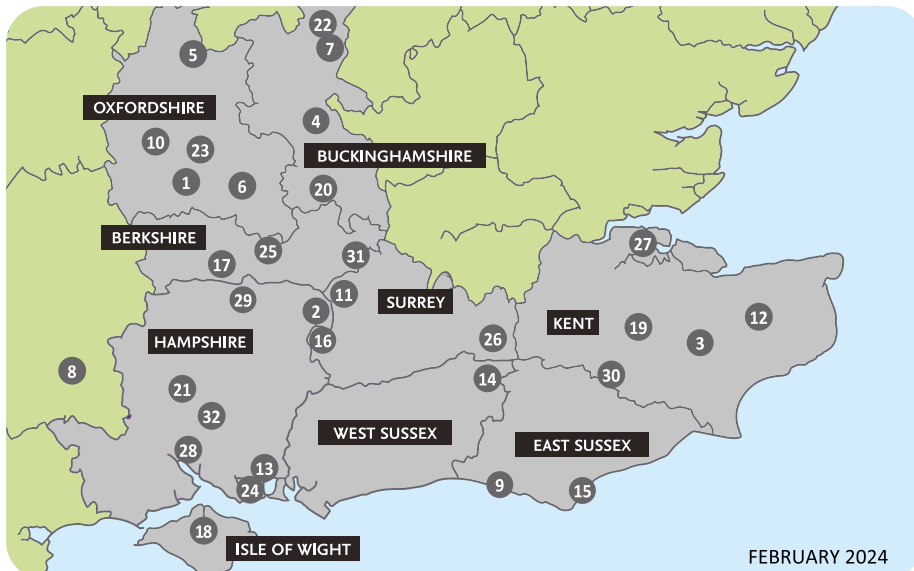
31

Army Reserve Centre, Bolton Road, Windsor SL4 3JG
94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron, 39 (Skinners) Signal Regiment
Tel: 01753 860600

WORTHY DOWN

32

Worthy Down Camp, Worthy Down, Winchester, SO21 2RG
Central Reserves Headquarters, Adjutant General's Corps
Tel: 01962 887 857



FEBRUARY 2024

EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) encourages employers to support defence and inspire other organisations to do the same. The scheme encompasses Bronze, Silver and Gold awards for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community and align their values with the **Armed Forces Covenant**.

The ERS is designed primarily to recognise private sector support although public sector organisations such as the emergency services, local authorities, NHS trusts and executive agencies are also eligible to be recognised.

SOUTH EAST SILVER EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME AWARDS

On Wednesday 3rd September 2025, we were proud to celebrate our Silver Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Award recipients in the stunning surroundings of Admiralty House at HM Naval Base Portsmouth.

Following the presentation of 33 new Silver Awards, guests were treated to a spectacular performance by the **Hampshire Caledonian Pipe Band**, with musical entertainment during the reception provided by the talented **RAF Salon Orchestra**. Our sincere thanks to both groups for making the evening truly memorable.



Silver award holders must already be accredited as a holder of ERS Bronze Award and held it with sufficient time to develop suitable plans and policies and evidence to support the ERS Silver application. Awardees typically demonstrate:

- Supporting Reservists with leave for training and mobilisation
- Supporting Cadet Force Adult Volunteer employees with leave for supporting the Cadet movement
- Active Veteran recruitment
- Flexible support for military families





WE EXTEND OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE SOUTH EAST ORGANISATIONS WHO RECEIVED THEIR SILVER EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME AWARD THIS YEAR:

AIB GROUP HOLDINGS LTD

AIRTANKER SERVICES LIMITED

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

BOSKALIS WESTMINSTER LIMITED

CARNIVAL UK

CHATHAM GRAMMAR

CHEVRON TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

COVERT PROTECTION LTD

CSM SEGNSWORTH LTD

DARCICA LOGISTICS LTD

DATANET INSTALLATION SERVICES UK LTD

DAWSONGROUP PLC

EX-MIL RECRUITMENT LTD

FORMASERVE SYSTEMS LTD

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

INTERGRATED ESTATE MANAGEMENT LTD

KBS MARITIME LIMITED

MATRIX BUSINESS IT LIMITED

MCCORMICK CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANCY LTD

MDCV UK

METaverse VR LTD

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

NVIRO

OXFORD SIGMA LIMITED

REIGATE & BANSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL

ROHDE & SCHWARTZ UK LIMITED

THE ROYAL ENGINEERS VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION & TRAINING TRUST

THE ROYAL NAVAL BENEVOLENT FUND

TONBRIDGE & MALLING
BOROUGH COUNCIL

UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL

WEY GROUP INTERNATIONAL LTD

WORLDWIDE LANGUAGE RESOURCES LTD



SOUTH EAST GOLD EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME AWARDS

On Tuesday 23rd September 2025, employers and organisations from across the South East attended a ceremony at the Army Flying Museum in Middle Wallop, Hampshire to receive their Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Awards.



Since its launch in 2014, the Gold Award has become the highest badge of honour for employers who champion veterans, Reservists, Cadet Force Adult Volunteers and military families in the workplace.

This year's winners demonstrate the power of values-led leadership, creating more inclusive, resilient, and dynamic organisations.

To achieve Gold, employers must:

- Provide at least 10 days' additional paid leave for Reservists
- Implement HR policies for veterans and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers
- Advocate for Defence across their networks and sectors
- Demonstrate sustained commitment well beyond the minimum requirements
- These organisations lead by example, helping to shift national attitudes and raise standards across their sectors.

ACROSS THE SOUTH EAST, 16 ORGANISATIONS HAVE RECEIVED THEIR GOLD AWARD THIS YEAR:

A1 PRINT SERVICES LIMITED
 BRIDEWELL
 BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
 CAREERFORCES LTD
 CSPM CONSULTANCY LTD
 EAST SUSSEX HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST
 KENT AND MEDWAY NHS AND SOCIAL CARE
 PARTNERSHIP TRUST
 MAIDSTONE AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS
 NHS TRUST

MICRO FOCUS SOFTWARE UK LTD,
 PART OF OPENTEXT
 ORDNANCE SURVEY
 PTSD RESOLUTION CIO
 RED SCIENTIFIC LTD
 ROYAL BERKSHIRE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
 SIRIUS ANALYSIS LIMITED
 SOUTH EAST COAST AMBULANCE SERVICE
 NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
 VETERANS OUTREACH SUPPORT

Anthony Young, CEO of Bridewell said, "At Bridewell, we are deeply proud of our armed forces community and committed to providing them with an environment where they are supported and feel they can belong. Being awarded 'Gold' under the Employer Recognition Scheme attests to this ongoing commitment, as well as the great work being done by the members of our Defence and Emergency Services Network.

Many members of the network are currently in service, veterans or supporting the cadets, and we are continually impressed with their professionalism, drive and experience. The armed forces community are essential to Bridewell's mission, and we will continue to support them and advocate on their behalf wherever we can."

Colonel (Retd) Patrick Crowley MBE DL, Chief Executive of SERFCA, adds, "This is outstanding news! We are delighted to see that 16 organisations in the South East have been awarded the prestigious Gold level in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. They have all shown great advocacy for the Defence-Employer relationship, helping to support Reserve service, Regular personnel, Cadet Force Adult Volunteers, veterans and the military 'family'. All richly deserved!"



Reservists' Guide to the Armed Forces Covenant & Employer Recognition Scheme

What is the Armed Forces Covenant?

The Armed Forces Covenant is a pledge by the nation to ensure that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly and with respect.

It focuses on removing disadvantage faced by the Armed Forces community in areas such as:

- Employment
- Education & training
- Housing
- Healthcare
- Family life & wellbeing



As a Reservist, you are part of the wider Armed Forces family. The Covenant ensures you, and your employer, can benefit from recognition and support.

The Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS)

The ERS encourages and rewards UK employers who support Defence and the Armed Forces community.

Employers can achieve awards at **Bronze**, **Silver** and **Gold** levels by:

- Offering flexibility for Reservists and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers.
- Publicly supporting the Armed Forces Covenant.
- Actively recruiting Veterans, Reservists, and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers.
- Providing additional leave for training or service commitments.
- Access to internal support networks

Why It Matters to You

- **Your role is recognised:** Reserve service is formally acknowledged as part of Defence.
- **Employer benefits:** Businesses gain kudos, access to skilled employees, and potential recruitment advantages.
- **Support for you:** Many ERS employers grant paid or unpaid leave for Reservist training.

How You Can Help

- Check if your employer has signed the **Armed Forces Covenant**.
- **Encourage them to apply for ERS status:** Resources and support are available at: www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk and through your Defence Relationship Manager.
- **Leverage your skills:** Use your military training as evidence of leadership, discipline and adaptability in your civilian role.

By raising awareness of the Covenant and ERS, you're helping build stronger links between Defence and the wider community.



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£209.95

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Combat Pro Boot, Brown



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Large Tactical Assault Bag,
37 Litres



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(3 Pouches)



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Patrol Pack, 20 Litres



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Soldiers Pocket Book



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Combat Survival Tin



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Care Kit Brown Polish

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THE ULYSSES TRUST

Challenge – Opportunity – Development



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READY FOR A CHALLENGE?

The Ulysses Trust provides support and funding to encourage challenging and adventurous activities by members of the Volunteer Reserve and Cadet Forces. We welcome applications from units across the UK and we are keen to give grants to Reservist units.

We support a wide range of activities in the UK and abroad including trekking, exploring, mountaineering, canoeing, sailing and diving.

Find out more at ulysses trust.co.uk



@UlyssesTrust



THE ULYSSES TRUST