

desiderer

Jan 11 Issue 32



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

the magazine for defence equipment and support



Ambush makes her debut

Latest Capability Sponsor wallchart [See inside](#)



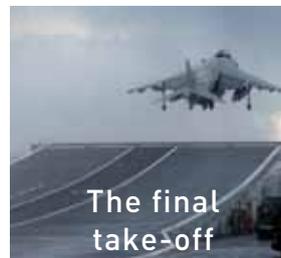
Foxhound joins the hunt



Mastering the globe



Building the future soldier



The final take-off



New man at the helm



5

Picture: Andrew Linnett

cover image

AMBUSH, the second submarine in the *Astute* class, has been officially named during a ceremony at BAE Systems' shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness. The next stage will be for *Ambush* to be rolled out of the giant build hall and lowered into the water for the fitting out to be completed this year.

NEWS

- 4 Sun shines on Dragon**
The fourth Type 45 destroyer has come through her first set of sea trials off the west coast of Scotland with a clean bill of health.
- 6 More effective logistics**
Boeing has been awarded a contract as partner for Future Logistic Information Services to deliver essential information across defence.
- 8 Farewell to Ark Royal**
HMS Ark Royal has relinquished her role as Fleet flagship as she returned to Portsmouth for the final time before decommissioning.
- 9 UK underlines commitment to the JSF**
Defence Minister Peter Luff has reassured Lockheed Martin that the UK is still committed to the Joint Strike Fighter.
- 10 C-17 can perform 'anytime, anywhere'**
The UK's seventh C-17 transport aircraft has been handed over at Boeing's final assembly plant in California.
- 13 Aircraft makes a dream start**
The A400M military airlifter has dropped paratroops for the first time in a successful demonstration of one of its key roles.
- 16 Sentry welcomes new upgrade**
The E-3D early warning aircraft will get an upgrade to one of their sophisticated airborne defence systems in a contract with Northrop Grumman.

FEATURES

- 18 Foxhound can be a front line winner**
The Armed Forces are a step closer to their next generation of patrol vehicles after a £180 million contract was signed to build 200 of the new vehicles – now called Foxhound – one of which was on show during a defence conference at Abbey Wood.
- 20 Praise for DE&S' performance**
DE&S' Chief Operating Officer has praised project leaders and staff after huge improvements in project delivery and performance over the last couple of years continue to enhance the organisation's reputation.
- 23 Type 45 – in the words of those involved**
The Type 45 destroyer programme has enjoyed a year of achievement after a period when it was in the headlines for the wrong reasons. Staff connected with the project tell the story of how they steered the ship back on the right course.
- 28 Vision of the future front line**
Some of the equipment may look like it's out of James Bond but Urbex on Salisbury Plain takes some of the most sophisticated military kit and tests it to see if it is suitable for the front line. Hannah Swingler reports.
- 30 DE&S provides a tonic for the troops**
Staff sent messages to front line troops at Christmas over the e-bluey system while DE&S announced that there was an extra 30 minutes of free telephone talk time for those away from loved ones and a deal to buy extra calls from Afghanistan to UK landlines at a cheaper rate.



NEWS

- 17 Latest helmets reach front line**
NP Aerospace has been praised by DE&S for its dedication in round-the-clock production of the latest Mk 7 helmet.
- 33 New landing craft facility opened**
The head of UK amphibious forces has saluted staff at Devonport as he opened a new indoor engineering facility for landing craft.

PEOPLE NEWS

- 35 Passports to a bright future**
DE&S organises the latest MOD annual apprentice awards .
- 38 Clyde police take the credit**
Helpful advice keeps local youngsters out of trouble.

desider

Assistant Head, Public Relations:

Ralph Dunn - 9352 30257 or 0117 9130257
ralph.dunn562@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-cosbusmgr1a@mod.uk

Advertising:

Antho n Linton - Ten Alps Publishing, 1 New Oxford Street, High Holborn, London WC1A 1NU Tel: 020 7657 1828
Antho n.linton@tenalps.com

Printing:



desider is distributed free of charge to DE&S employees and the equipment capability sponsor. Copies can also be made available to readers outside the MOD, including those in the defence industries. While the editorial team takes care to ensure all material produced is accurate, no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Views expressed in *desider*, and the products and services advertised, are not necessarily endorsed by DE&S or the MOD.

© Crown Copyright

This magazine is produced on Cocoon 50 Silk which contains 50 per cent recycled and de-inked pulp from post consumer waste and Forest Stewardship Council certified material from well-managed forests.



Please recycle
this magazine

Bernard Gray is the new Chief of Defence Materiel



Bernard Gray, left, accepts his new appointment from Defence Secretary Dr Liam Fox at the MOD on 16 December

'Without question he is the best man for this hugely demanding post' – Dr Fox

BERNARD GRAY is the new Chief of Defence Materiel on a four-year appointment.

He was announced as replacement for General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue as head of Defence Equipment and Support on 16 December, a day before Sir Kevin, head of DE&S since its formation in April 2007, retired from the MOD.

His responsibility includes MOD assets worth £104 billion and an annual operating budget of £13 billion.

Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Liam Fox, said: "Bernard Gray is without question the best man for this hugely demanding post at a uniquely challenging time. He brings to it deep knowledge and experience of defence generally, defence procurement specifically, of the Whitehall machine and the commercial world.

"Unlike many others who talk about the problems facing defence procurement, he talks about solutions. He will provide clear direction and leadership to DE&S during the very challenging time ahead and will be a huge asset to the Defence Board and the civilian leadership team in defence."

In a message to MOD staff, Mr Gray said: "It is a great privilege to be asked to lead this key component of our defence effort, and to have the opportunity to work with such a dedicated and vital group of people. The work we do is extremely important, and that is why I have accepted the invitation to take on this role."

Bernard Gray is a business leader

with high-level experience in media, telecommunications and defence, both in the UK and internationally.

Having co-ordinated the widely acclaimed Strategic Defence Review of 1998, Bernard Gray was commissioned in 2009 to carry out an independent review of the MOD's procurement process and to suggest further recommendations on how the MOD could improve the purchasing and delivering of equipment.

The report was presented to parliament in October 2009, with the MOD accepting its two main themes: a need to bring equipment plans into line with likely available resources; and a need to improve equipment programme planning, management and delivery.

In his earlier career Mr Gray spent almost ten years as a journalist with the Financial Times Group, including spells as the FT's defence correspondent and writing the Lex column. He started his career with five years in investment banking and capital markets working for Bankers Trust and Chase Manhattan in London and New York.

In non-executive roles, Mr Gray has been a director of Cable & Wireless and Five, the UK broadcaster.

The Chief of Defence Materiel role attracted a strong field of both internal and external candidates who were keen to accept the challenges of this key public sector role.

Recruitment for the role took place in accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners' recruitment principles.

NEWSREEL

Argyll back in the fold

HMS ARGYLL has been welcomed back into the operational fleet after a ceremony in Devonport naval base. The Type 23 frigate completed her £20m upgrade which has turned her into the most potent and relevant fighting ship of its kind and a force to be reckoned with for many years to come, according to its captain, Commander Paul Stroude.

CBRN contract

DE&S' Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) protection delivery team has contracted with Serco Selex (Inform), KBR and QinetiQ to form a joint delivery team. It will test and evaluate benefits, opportunities and risks of CBRN sector transformation. A team 'breakthrough' event took place at Winterbourne Gunner in early December.

Turret deal

GENERAL Dynamics UK has awarded the contract for manufacture of the turret for the Scout reconnaissance vehicle to Lockheed Martin UK. Lockheed will deliver three turrets to General Dynamics for the integration and test programme in the demonstration phase for Scout. For the production phase the turret will be assembled and integrated onto the Scout platform at the Defence Support Group facility at Donnington.

Victor moves

THALES have appointed Victor Chavez as its new UK Chief Executive. He had been deputy since October 2008.

Troops get improved pelvic protection

PELVIC PROTECTION for troops in Afghanistan has been introduced to protect against IED blasts.

The three-tiered system of clothing and armour consists of special protective underwear, and detachable armoured modular trousers. It has been designed to integrate with current kit being used by troops on operations.

DE&S has spent £10 million on the new armour system to date. The clothing is already being worn by troops on operations, with 45,000 pairs delivered to Afghanistan and another 15,000 ready to be issued to deploying troops. A further 60,000 are to be delivered to troops this year.

Developed by DE&S and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (dstl), the underwear is made from scientifically-tested ballistic material that provides an initial level of protection to mitigate against the effects of blasts.

They have been bought as an urgent operational requirement worth £6 million, manufactured by Northern Ireland-based Coneen, Watts Stone.

The first layer of protection is a pair of shorts

which troops wear as underwear. A second layer of detachable pelvic body armour, designed to meet the greater threats faced by soldiers on the ground has already been successfully trialled by the MOD. It can be rolled up and clipped to a belt and then pulled through the legs to form a protective pouch.

The £4 million contract for 25,000 sets of the second tier body armour has been signed with Northern Ireland-based Hawk Protection.

A third tier of pelvic protection is being developed to offer even greater coverage. Design trials are planned to take place this year.

Personal Combat Equipment leader Colonel Peter Rafferty said: "Our troops in Afghanistan face specific threats and by working together, the MOD and industry have created a layered system of clothing and body armour that offers troops fighting on the front line the best balance between protection, mobility and comfort.

"Troops on operations already have world-renowned body armour but we continually seek to improve the personal protection available to them."

Sun shines on Dragon



Dragon pictured off the Scottish coast during her sea trials
Picture: BAES

The Type 45 project – by those involved: pages 23-26

DRAGON, THE fourth Type 45 destroyer, has roared through her first sea trials.

The 7,350-tonne vessel proved her prowess during the four-week trial where her power, propulsion and navigation systems were put through their paces.

And for the first time *Dragon* also demonstrated the strength of her firepower when her medium and small calibre guns were successfully fired.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Peter Luff said: "*Dragon's* success marks another milestone in this programme. 2010 has been a magnificent year for the Type 45 programme and

we have celebrated a number of successes which is testament to the hard work of the MOD and our industry partners to provide the Royal Navy with a world-class military capability."

DE&S' Head of Destroyers, Commodore Steve Brunton, added: "I am extremely pleased with *Dragon's* performance during her first set of sea trials.

"She was certainly put through her paces in some fairly hostile conditions in the Firth of Clyde and off the west coast of Scotland, which only served to prove further the resilience in her design.

"The programme went as planned, and the experts on board were delighted with how

all the equipment and systems functioned."

Dragon, affiliated to the city of Cardiff and the Welsh Livery Guild, has now returned to BAE Systems' Surface Ships shipyard on the Clyde where she will undergo ship finishing activities and a staged handover of compartments and systems to ship's staff.

She will undertake a further period of sea trials, primarily focused on her weapon systems, before delivery to Portsmouth.

Angus Holt at BAE Systems' said: "With the first three vessels handed over, on the Clyde we remain focused on the delivery of the next three ships in the class."

Ambush gets her name in Barrow spectacular

AMBUSH, THE second submarine in the *Astute* class, has been officially named.

The 7,400 tonne vessel was named by Lady Anne Soar, wife of Admiral Sir Trevor Soar, formerly Chief of Materiel (Fleet) at DE&S, during a ceremony at the BAE Systems shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness, which was attended by First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope.

The next stage will be for *Ambush* to be rolled out of the giant build hall and lowered into the water for the fitting out to be completed this year.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, Peter Luff, said: "The launch of the second of the seven immensely powerful *Astute* class boats marks another milestone in our programme to equip the Royal Navy with the most modern and effective equipment available.

"It also demonstrates the government's commitment to maintaining the skills required to build such boats in the UK, sustaining thousands of jobs."

The seven *Astute* boats planned for the Navy are the largest and most advanced ordered by the MOD, with improved firepower and communications, and the ability to operate stealthily for extended periods.

The boats will be able to undertake a wide range worldwide, including deploying Tomahawk cruise missiles, and intelligence gathering. Refuelling of the reactor is not required during the boat's 25-year planned lifespan.

Admiral Stanhope said: "This is a great day for the Royal Navy. Nuclear-powered attack submarines like *Ambush* make an unrivalled contribution to the defence of the UK and our overseas interests.

"These new stealthy and cruise-missile equipped boats provide global reach and endurance, powerful anti-submarine and anti-surface ship capability as well as protecting the nuclear deterrent, land attack and intelligence gathering."

The submarine is expected to leave Barrow on initial trials by early 2012. Two other boats, *Artful* and *Audacious*, are also under construction at Barrow-in-Furness and early work is under way on a further two.



Mighty beast:
Ambush unveiled at
Barrow

A warm welcome awaits

AMBUSH MARKS the 24th nuclear powered submarine which has been designed and constructed at the Barrow shipyards, stretching back to 1960 with the launch of the first, *HMS Dreadnought*.

It is seven years since *Ambush*'s keel was laid down and construction began.

A spokesman for Clyde naval base, said: "HM Naval Base Clyde, the home of the UK submarine service, will see all the *Astute* class vessels berthed alongside along with the remaining Trafalgar class submarines and the Royal Navy's *Sandown* class mine hunters.

"It is always an exciting time when a new vessel is launched and those working at Faslane are looking forward to welcoming *Ambush* to her new home."

Ocean earns a long term reprieve

HMS OCEAN will be retained to provide a long-term landing platform helicopter capability.

This will result in aircraft carrier *HMS Illustrious* being withdrawn from service in 2014, once *HMS Ocean* has emerged from a planned refit and been returned to a fully operational state.

Details of the specific ship withdrawals announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review were revealed in Parliament on 15 December.

Type 22 frigate *HMS Chatham* will be withdrawn from service at the end of this month with sister ships *HMS Campbeltown* and *HMS Cumberland* on 1 April. *HMS Cornwall* will be withdrawn at the end of April once she has returned from her current operational deployment to the Indian Ocean.

The Bay class amphibious support ship to be decommissioned will be *RFA Largs Bay* in April. One of the two Landing Platforms Dock will be placed at extended readiness while the other is held at high readiness for operations.

From November the high readiness ship will be *HMS Bulwark*, and on current plans this will change to *HMS Albion* in late 2016 when *Bulwark* enters refit.

With a smaller surface fleet to resupply and refuel, the Auxiliary Oiler *RFA Bayleaf* and the Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment *RFA Fort George* will both be withdrawn from service this April.

NEWSREEL

Support to trainers

BAE SYSTEMS has been awarded a seven-year, £22.5 million contract to support the Royal Navy's submarine and mine warfare command team trainers. The programme called Unified Support Contract 3 (USC3) includes obsolescence management, technical support, corrective and preventative maintenance, repairs, design authority support, and site support based at Clyde and Devonport naval bases and HMS Collingwood.

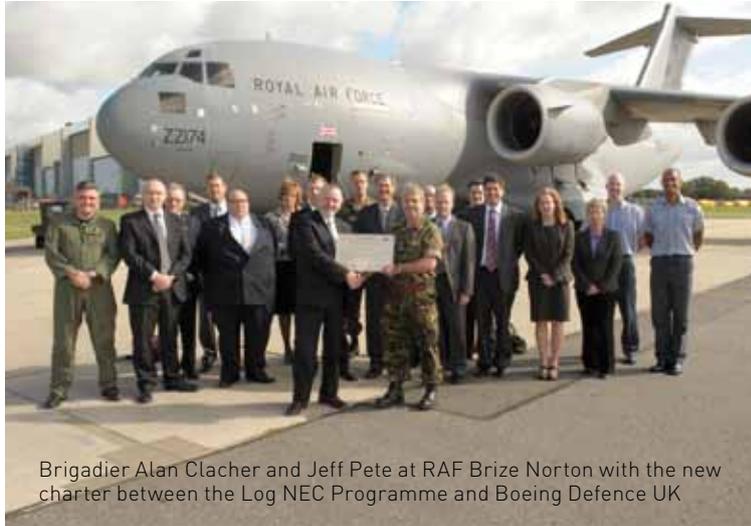
Staying afloat

DAMAGED vessels at risk of sinking could soon benefit from a new system developed by a consortium led by BMT Group. The new solution uses Kevlar-reinforced balloons that can be rapidly inflated to provide extra buoyancy, expelling water and keeping the vessel afloat until repairs can be made. By preventing damaged ships from sinking, the technology could help minimise the risk of major loss of life at sea.

World class

QINETIQ'S unmanned solar powered aircraft called Zephyr has had its world record for the longest flight of its kind ratified by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale at 336 hours, 22 minutes eight seconds at a height of just under 21,600 metres. Zephyr's potential uses include tracking pirates, monitoring international borders and improving battlefield communications and surveillance.

Boeing to deliver more effective logistic info



Brigadier Alan Clacher and Jeff Pete at RAF Brize Norton with the new charter between the Log NEC Programme and Boeing Defence UK

FLIS will replace 120 contracts with new streamlined support chain

BOEING DEFENCE UK has been awarded a contract as partner for Future Logistic Information Services (FLIS) which will deliver operationally essential logistic information across defence.

It means current logistic information services will be delivered in a more effective and efficient manner, while at the same time providing the transformational capability which defence needs to respond to the challenges of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

The new contract, which has an estimated value of £800 million over eleven years, will support the Government's deficit reduction programme by realising financial efficiencies of more than £160 million over the life of the contract.

Appointment of BDUK will replace more than 120 legacy contracts provided by more than 50 contractors with a streamlined, agile and effective supply chain to deliver logistic information which is fully integrated with the front line and industry.

Around 250 civil servants will be transferred to BDUK.

The Log NEC Programme is now working closely with BDUK on the transition elements necessary to achieve the planned vesting day of 1 March when the full service will begin roll-out. Allied to this is the development of a partnering charter between the two organisations.

To mark the contract award a ceremonial certificate was signed at MOD Main Building.

New deal kicks off with partnering charter sign-up

THE FUTURE for defence logistics will see the transformation of the current complex web of processes and systems into a streamlined, optimised, agile and effective end-to-end logistics support chain, fully integrated with the front line and industry.

FLIS will be a key element to this, a modern contractual relationship replacing the current plethora of legacy contracts.

As a starting point, a new Partnering Charter has been developed and agreed by Log NEC Programme and BDUK.

The Charter provides the framework for how the organisations will jointly support more than 250 logistic applications covered by the FLIS contract. It was signed by Brigadier Alan Clacher, Head of the Log NEC Programme, on behalf of the MOD and Jeff Peté, FLIS manager on behalf of BDUK in a ceremony at RAF Brize Norton.

Created jointly between the two organisations, and with full collaboration with the DE&S Partnering Support Group, the Log NEC Programme is looking to be one of the first organisations, either in Government or industry, to receive BS 11000-1:2010 (collaborative business relationships – a framework specification) accreditation.

This new standard, the first of its kind worldwide, was launched at the House of Lords on 7 December.

Brigadier Clacher said "A strong partnering culture is critical if we are to deliver agile and responsive logistic information capability at the tempo required to support operations.

"I am committed to embedding these partnering behaviours across the organisation."

Jeff Peté added: "Effective partnering is the key to agile response to military requirements. Boeing proudly embraces the concept to ensure continuous value to the war fighters."

Government paper nears the final stage

PLANS FOR the Government's green paper on equipment, support and technology are at an advanced stage.

Peter Luff, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, has held meetings with industry to inform the paper which is

expected shortly. "I have addressed a number of industry audiences and held meetings with individual suppliers, in London and elsewhere, including small and medium sized companies," Mr Luff told MPs in a Parliamentary answer.

Towards a safer world.

INTEGRATED ANTENNA SOLUTIONS. MAKING THE LINK.

- Centre of excellence for antenna design and production
- UK market leader
- Reactive solutions encompassing total requirement analysis - platform, application, environment and installation
- Discreet and bespoke antenna specialists
- Experts in combining wide-band/multi-band antennas to reduce footprint
- Advanced electromagnetic (EM) modelling for air, land, sea and human platforms
- Outdoor vehicle test range with secure workshop



e-mail: antennas.group@selex-comms.com

Ark marks her farewell



FLEET FLAGSHIP *HMS Ark Royal* returned to her home port of Portsmouth for the final time on 3 December, ending 25 years of service to the Royal Navy across the globe.

The aircraft carrier is being decommissioned early, and sailed into Portsmouth following a brief farewell tour of the UK and a stopover in Hamburg. No decisions have yet been made on her future, while her role as flagship will be taken on by amphibious assault ship *HMS Albion*.

A few days earlier the last launch of the Harrier GR9 aircraft took place from her decks around 40 miles off the coast of Newcastle. This was followed on 15 December by a spectacular fly-past of 16 Harriers from RAF Cottesmore to mark their retirement after 41 years of service.

Air Officer Commanding No. 1 Group, Air-Vice Marshal Greg Bagwell, said: "The Harrier is a true icon and stands testament to the innovation and excellence of British design and engineering, and the skill and courage of our airmen. It now takes its place in history as one of aviation's greats."



JCB vehicles on way for the Army

JCB IS set to deliver one of the largest British Army machine orders in its 65-year history by the end of the month.

ALC, a joint venture between Amey and Babcock International Group plc, who provide plant and mechanical handling equipment to the British Army, awarded the contract for 138 JCB 4CX backhoe loaders and 98 JCB 436eHT wheel loading shovels.

The backhoe loaders are made at JCB's headquarters in Rocester, and the wheeled loading shovels at JCB Earthmovers, Cheadle.

It follows an ALC order in 2007 for 420 JCB Loadall telescopic handlers which are currently in service with British troops all over the world, including Afghanistan.

The machines will be predominantly commercial with minor enhancements such as Nato green livery, personal weapons stowage inside the cab, convoy lighting and increased wading ability.

Tornado crews set to see the bigger picture

A TORNADO GR4 aircraft has successfully made its first test flight with a new capability to improve its communication.

Tactical Information Exchange Capability (TIEC) – integrated onto Tornado under a contract awarded to BAE Systems in December 2007 – will enable GR4 pilots to join the digital battlefield.

They will be able to communicate in near real-time with other friendly forces, gaining information on the position of all friendly and hostile forces, while passing their own information to other participating units.

The aircraft, flown by BAE Systems test pilot John Lawson, was airborne for around an hour, during which time it successfully made contact with the supporting E-3D Sentry aircraft and the Tactical Data Link Support Unit at RAF Waddington.



John said: "TIEC is an information data link that passes information directly into the cockpit from bases such as the support unit at RAF Waddington and radar stations, as well as other aircraft.

"This capability really widens the information available – it will be a big

improvement over the traditional use of radio and it gives Tornado crews a much bigger and clearer picture of where everyone is, who they are and what they are doing."

BAE Systems expects to complete development flying of TIEC on Tornado and deliver an operational capability next year.

UK still fully committed to the Joint Strike Fighter

THE UK is still fully committed to the Joint Strike Fighter and will bring it into service as soon as possible.

Peter Luff, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, delivered his message to Lockheed Martin's F-35 production facility at Fort Worth, Texas.

His visit followed the announcement during SDSR that the UK will now buy the F-35 Carrier Variant, the F-35C.

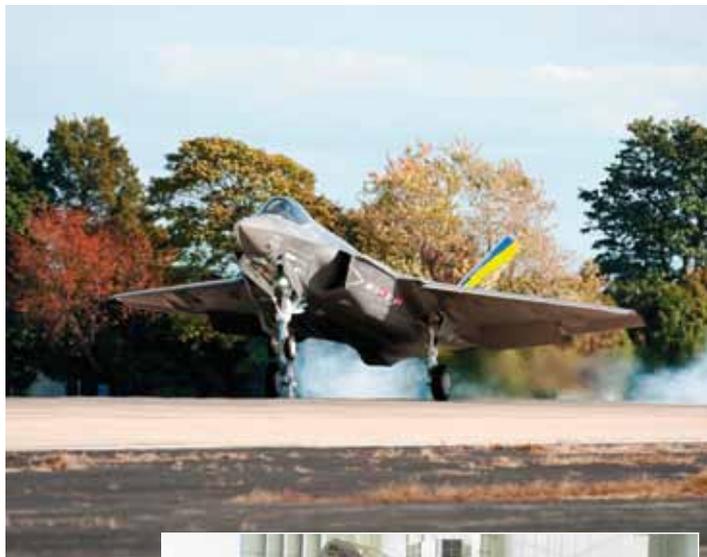
The minister was taken on a tour of the F-35 production line and met senior Lockheed Martin officials.

He was accompanied by Vice-Admiral Paul Lambert, Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Capability) and Mike Bullock, deputy head of DE&S' Joint Combat Team.

"I was impressed with the mile-long JSF production facilities at Fort Worth and with the advanced capabilities that JSF will bring to our Armed Forces," said Mr Luff.

"I have briefed the company that we remain fully committed to JSF."

The first F-35C arrived at NAS Patuxent River in Maryland in November where it began flight testing.



Above: the JSF will provide the next generation aircraft for the Royal Navy's carriers. Right: Mr Luff, fourth from right, is pictured alongside the second Carrier Variant development flight test aircraft



BAE SYSTEMS has opened a new titanium machining facility at its Samlesbury site in Lancashire.

The robotic facility will manufacture components of the aft fuselage, vertical tail and horizontal tail for the F-35 Lightning II carrier variant of the Joint Strike Fighter.

The 9,000-metre square

BAE's Lightning facility opens doors

machining facility has taken just ten months to complete and eight months to become operational.

The facility allows two titanium components to be produced at the same time, thus doubling

efficiency. This capability will be critical in meeting the growing demands of the F-35 programme which, at full rate production, will potentially see aircraft produced at the rate of one per day.

NEWSREEL

HMS Sceptre bows out

HMS SCEPTRE has bowed out of service at a ceremony in Devonport after 32 years' in the Royal Navy. The decommissioning on 10 December of the nuclear-powered submarine was attended by 450 people, including families of the current crew, senior Royal Naval officers, past commanding officers. The vessel is the last of the *Swiftsure* class of attack submarines.

Fast jet costs

COSTS per flying hour of Tornado GR4 and Harrier GR7/9 are broadly similar, figures in Parliament have revealed. The Tornado costs £35,000 per hour with the Harrier slightly more. Figures include forward and depth servicing, fuel costs, crew costs, training costs, cost of capital charge and depreciation. Typhoon costs at £70,000 per flying hour reflect build-up of the fleet with small numbers currently in-service. This cost will comparatively reduce as the fleet builds and is expected to be similar to other fast jet fleets.

Sub progress

A **CONTRACTING** strategy for the submarine dismantling project is being developed in the project's assessment phase, Parliament has been told. Public consultation is likely this year. Information on the assessment phase is available on the project's web site: <http://www.submarine-dismantling.co.uk/CurrentActivities.html>

C-17: the 'anytime, anywhere' performer!

Minister praises C-17 as the UK takes delivery of Globemaster no 7

THE RAF'S seventh C-17 transport plane has been delivered by Boeing.

The handover took place in a ceremony at Boeing's final assembly plant in Long Beach in front of an audience of dignitaries including staff from DE&S.

"The addition of a seventh C-17 to our fleet is a significant milestone that strengthens our support of operations worldwide, especially in Afghanistan," said Peter Luff, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology.

"And in May, we'll mark the tenth anniversary of the delivery of the RAF's first C-17, which continues to perform superbly – anytime and anywhere."

Air Marshal Kevin Leeson, DE&S' Chief of Materiel (Air), thanked Boeing employees and suppliers for delivering an airlifter that provides "exceptional performance, versatility and reliability".

The UK's fleet of C-17s has logged more than 60,000 flight hours, and has supported humanitarian and disaster-relief missions to Pakistan, Haiti and Chile.



The seventh C-17 for the RAF goes through its paces before handover to the UK while, right, Air Marshal Kevin Leeson, Chief of Materiel (Air) at DE&S, praises Boeing staff for their work

Assigned to 99 Squadron at RAF Brize Norton the aircraft provide critical airlift capability for the nation's Joint Rapid Reaction Force.

"The C-17 provides rapid-response capability for relief missions where no other strategic airlifter can land," said Rick Heerdt, Boeing vice-president and C-17 programme manager.

"We are proud to be your

partner on every one of those missions."

Boeing supports the RAF's C-17s through the Globemaster III Sustainment Partnership, a performance-based logistics programme with extensive support.

Boeing has delivered 224 C-17s worldwide including 20 with international customers. The US Air Force has taken delivery of 204.



Machine gun reaches 1,500 – now target is 2,500



Brigadier Carew Wilks greets Glyn Bottomley of Manroy at the handover of the 1,500th Heavy Machine Gun at Abbey Wood

THE 1,500th Heavy Machine Gun has been delivered to DE&S.

The Light Weapons, Photographic and Batteries team (LWPB) – part of the Individual Capability Group – hosted staff from manufacturers Sussex-based Manroy Engineering at the Abbey Wood handover.

Chief Executive Glyn Bottomley joined Brigadier Carew Wilks, ICG Group leader, in a short ceremony outside the team's armoury.

In 2006 the number of Heavy Machine Guns was down to 156 but, with the introduction of the new fleets of protected patrol vehicles, the huge increase in requirements for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and the introduction of the Dismounted Close Combat Consolidation project which includes making the HMG more readily available

in units for training, the fleet of weapons will rise to 2,500.

"The close relationship between Manroy and the team has led to development and introduction of a lightweight tripod, a 50 per cent reduction in weight, and an improved transit case that contains the complete kit including tripod, sights and accessories," said a team spokesman.

"Manroy has consistently delivered on time or early which has enabled LWPB to meet UOR targets and maintain the availability of a key piece of equipment."

The next area of activity is a support contract and a related spares supply contract involving the Defence Support Group to further enhance the capability and consolidate the availability of this key battle winning equipment.



Delivering all-round capability to our forces on operations...

- RECONNAISSANCE
- ATTACK
- SURVEILLANCE
- LIFT
- MEDEVAC

...in all environments

agustawestland.com



AgustaWestland
A Finmeccanica Company

NEWSREEL

Export group forms up

THE Defence Exports Support Group (DESG) has been set up with a core membership of the Defence Secretary, the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, the Minister for International Security Strategy, and Head, Defence and Security Organisation, UK Trade and Investment. Others will attend as appropriate. The DESG will be a forum through which ministers will focus support to UK defence exports.

Typhoon duty

TYPHOON aircraft will completely take over Quick Reaction Alert duties at RAF Leuchars in April when Tornado F3 retires from service, it has been confirmed in Parliament. Number 6 Squadron is planned to receive its full complement of Typhoon aircraft by September. Typhoon already performs QRA duties from RAF Coningsby and in the Falkland Islands.

Booted out

ESTIMATED life of combat boots in theatre is about six months with boots in normal conditions lasting about three years, Defence Minister Andrew Robathan has said in a Parliamentary answer. The MOD has three contracts supplying 32 types of boot to the Armed Forces, most used by the Army. Two contracts are with UK companies, the other with a Spanish company.

Project licensing races past the 1,000 mark

THE 1,000th MOD project management licence has been awarded.

The licensing scheme was introduced in 2006 to recognise and develop its professional project management community.

The scheme develops and assesses project team members, practitioners and

leaders against external standards. This has ensured those working in project management in the MOD either have, or can work towards, internationally recognised qualifications, furthering MOD professionalism.

The scheme, sponsored by the Head of Profession for project management and run by

a licensing team in the MOD's Centre of Excellence, has awarded the 1,000th licence.

Licenses are based on a combination of attaining qualifications (Level 1 – APMP, Level 2 – APM (PQ) and Level 3 – CPM), demonstration of relevant project management experience; and continuous professional development.

THE OVERHAUL of *HMS Vigilant* has passed a major milestone with completion of refuelling two years into the programme.

The *Vanguard* class submarine is undergoing her Long Overhaul Period (Refuel) by Babcock at Devonport.

And the seven-month refuelling, from removing the reactor head to access the fuel modules, has involved nearly 100 staff working to rigorous safety standards.

Refuel and subsequent reactor commissioning is a critical component of the three-and-a-half-year LOP(R) and dictates the overall programme duration.

This is supported by a major revalidation of all reactor systems and replacement of major equipment such as the reactor pressure vessel head, main coolant pumps, and reactor instrumentation suite.

HMS Vigilant has now been refuelled with Core H, as used in the new *Astute* class submarines, providing power for the remainder of the submarine's operational life, without the need to refuel.

Babcock submarine programme director Gavin Leckie said: "Refuelling a nuclear submarine is an exceptionally demanding project.

"The end of the refuel signals the start of the final phase of the LOP(R) programme

Vigilant hurdles refuel milestone



Work continues on the LOP(R) at Devonport

with the focus switching to commissioning submarine systems and reinstating the submarine structure in readiness for flood-up in the summer.

"The joint project team

understands the strategic importance of programme milestones in 2011 and is ready for the challenging year ahead."

The LOP(R) will complete next year, following sea trials.

... while the next refit is already planned

BABCOCK HAS been awarded a contract by DE&S to begin the planning phase for the multi-million pound refit of *HMS Vengeance* at Babcock's Devonport facility.

HMS Vengeance will be the fourth and last of the *Vanguard* class submarines to undergo a Long Overhaul Period and Refuel (LOP(R)) at Devonport – a project that will take around three and a half years and involve more than 2,000 personnel.

The overhaul will include furnishing *Vengeance* with the latest reactor core, as used in the new *Astute* class submarines, fuelling the submarine for life, and a number of updates and upgrades to her tactical and strategic weapons systems, as well as surveys, hull

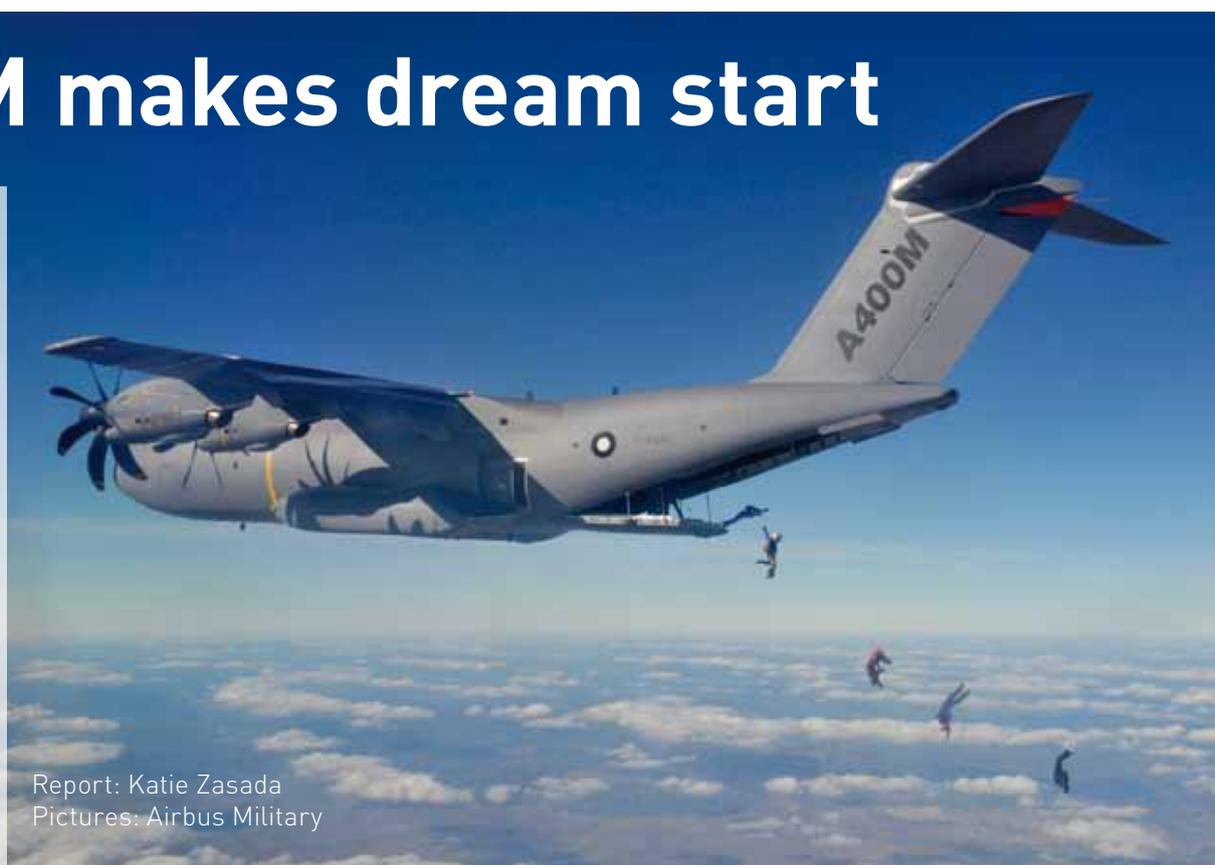
preservation, and overhaul of all the submarine's major components, systems and equipment. The programme will amount to around two million working hours when complete.

The planning phase for the LOP(R) will take 18 months with detailed schedules produced, based on the learning from previous LOP(R)s.

This phase will be undertaken by a joint team involving Babcock, DE&S and Rolls Royce, each leading in their areas of expertise. Combining the teams leads to efficient use of resources and builds an effective team ready for undertaking the LOP(R) when *HMS Vengeance* arrives in Devonport.

A400M makes dream start

‘The aircraft started as someone’s dream – we’re delighted to be part of that,’ says RAF paratrooper during latest tests



Report: Katie Zasada
Pictures: Airbus Military

THE A400M military airlifter has dropped paratroops for the first time in a successful demonstration of one of its key roles.

Six freefall paratroopers made jumps from the aircraft at a drop zone in France. Further trials are planned for later this year.

Two of the six paratroopers, Flight Sergeant Andy Wright and Sergeant Phil Collett, are based at the Joint Air Delivery Test and Evaluation Unit (JADTEU) at RAF Brize Norton.

FS Wright said: “The A400M started off as someone’s dream – and we were very excited to be part of that dream.

“The aircraft deflector seemed more like a hangar door and the ease of exiting the aircraft was fantastic.”

This successful jump is another important milestone in the programme to

deliver 22 modern, highly capable aircraft to the UK to be based at Brize.

Air Officer Commanding 2 Group, Air Commodore ‘Flash’ Gordon, said: “We have seen significant progress on the A400M since first flight last year and we now have three aircraft flying on the test programme.

“Aerial delivery will be a key part of that programme and these initial jumps, which are aimed at trialling the air defectors before the aircraft reaches its production maturity gate, form an essential precursor to full scale air despatch trials.”

The aircraft’s arrival into service alongside the C-17 and C-130J aircraft will provide the RAF with a three-aircraft transport fleet operating simultaneously from 2015 until 2022 when the C-130J is planned to leave service.

Above: paratroopers make their exit from A400M in the first of a series of demonstrations of key roles

Below: the successful team lines up for the camera



Signing of the charter at Oberndorf: left to right: Mike Thornton (H&K), Wolfgang Bantle (H&K), Brig Carew Wilks (ICG), Martin Newton (H&K), Tim Castagne (H&K), Col Peter Warden (ICG), Col Bill Pointing (ICG), Ken Tait (ICG), Margarete Darrall (DSG).

DE&S group takes long-term view

DE&S’ INDIVIDUAL Capability Group and key supplier Heckler and Koch have cemented a highly effective long-term relationship with the signing of a Partnering Charter.

The Charter was signed by Brigadier Carew Wilks, Head of Individual Capability Group, and Martin Newton, vice-chairman of Heckler and Koch, at Oberndorf, Germany.

It commits both parties to supporting the Dismounted Close Combat capability.

H&K provide a range of small arms for the MOD and, together with the Light Weapons, Photographic and Batteries (LWPB) team, and the

Defence Support Group, have supported current operations through urgent operational requirements, increased fleet sizes and spares support.

Main weapons supplied by H&K are the SA80A2, the General Purpose Machine Gun, Grenade Machine Gun and Underslung Grenade Launcher.

Brigadier Wilks said: “This partnering charter recognises our shared vision to support our front line troops on operations with the best light weapon capability, and cements the values and principles developed between LWPB, DSG and H&K in ensuring strong performance for the future.”

QinetiQ

LTPA

T&E begins here



Features

- Capabilities
- Sites and Ranges
- Innovation
- Facilities
- Case Studies
- News

www.LTPA.co.uk is designed to be the starting point for all MOD teams who have a T&E requirement. It aims to give you all the information you need about the Long Term Partnering Agreement (LTPA) between QinetiQ and MOD for test, evaluation and training support.

To find out how the LTPA can meet your T&E requirements, go to:

www.LTPA.co.uk

www.LTPA.co.uk is a QinetiQ registered domain name.

Royal Navy gunners join the 'Q'

THE FIRST order of a new helmet-mounted optical sighting system for Royal Navy helicopter door gunners has been delivered by BAE Systems.

The equipment will greatly enhance accuracy and target identification, while being affordable and compatible with the current helmet set-up and night vision goggles.

BAE Systems, prime contractor for the Lynx team, has delivered 12 Q-Sight Gunner Remote Sighting Systems (GRSS) that are qualified for use on the Lynx Mk8 helicopter.

Initial Q-Sight systems were delivered to the Navy for training last March. The equipment will now enter operational evaluation.



Hermes sails past 30,000 Afghan hours

THE HERMES 450 (H450) unmanned air vehicles have achieved more than 30,000 hours of support to UK forces on operations in Afghanistan.

The H450, operated and maintained by 32 Regiment Royal Artillery based at Larkhill, is used for a range of tasks from reconnaissance to target acquisition.

The system provides brigade headquarters with persistent intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR) data via electro-optical and infrared sensors out to a range of around 150km.

The Commander of 42 (Alem Hamza) Battery Royal Artillery said: "We have now achieved 30,000 operational hours of Hermes 450 and the delivery of extra capability in the form of the fifth task line will help to meet the significant number of intelligence requirements that Task Force Helmand generates each day.

"The capability has been absolutely key to many operations. The H450 system is flown from and maintained in Afghanistan. This enables close liaison between flight crews and the end-user that they support."

H450 operators are trained to fly the system tactically, balancing the need to remain covert while getting the best quality imagery.

The end result of this highly capable, reliable and efficiently-operated system is a theatre UAV Battery that produces 85 per cent of the full-motion video that is available to troops in Helmand.

Dr David Knowles, programme manager for H450 with DE&S' Unmanned Air Systems team, said: "Supporting operations is what we do and it's great to be part of a capability that has achieved such a milestone and continues to consistently deliver to the front line."

32 Regiment Royal Artillery is supported by a number of contractors on deployed operations (condos) who manage the spares system.

The H450 is supplied by Thales UK under an urgent operational requirement contract.

US-UK trade treaty moves to next stage

WORK HAS begun on detailed preparations to implement the US-UK Trade Co-operation Treaty.

The treaty seeks to improve support to UK Armed Forces by reducing the bureaucracy associated with the transfer of certain categories of defence technology between the US and the UK when for Government end use.

By simplifying export licensing arrangements for moving equipment, and the sharing of information within an approved community of US and UK Government and industry facilities, the treaty aims to meet the requirements of the UK and US Armed Forces more effectively.

Preparations will take up to 12 months and will be carried

out jointly with the US, and in consultation with UK industry.

During this period the possible application of the treaty to current and planned UK and US programmes and projects will be reviewed, processes and procedures underpinning the treaty will be trialled and applications to join the treaty community will be considered.

Advertisement



Close support for troops overseas

Interserve has significant experience of delivering critical estate, equipment and support services in The Falkland Islands, Ascension Island, Cyprus and many other countries around the world. This means we know what issues will arise when providing close support for servicemen and women overseas.

Interserve anticipates requirements, develops bespoke solutions and ensures that planned investment maximises value for end users.

Appreciating the local context is key - what works in the UK can present challenges abroad. Interserve translates processes that save money and boost service quality into the local operational environment, remaining flexible in the way that we work even when there can be no flexibility in the quality of services delivered.



www.interserve.com



HMS Kent is to receive substantial upgrades in Rosyth

Kent the latest frigate to benefit from partnership

A DEMANDING and tightly scheduled project between DE&S and Babcock will see *HMS Kent* receive upgrades in a substantial refit at Rosyth.

The Type 23 frigate's period in dock will further demonstrate the long-term relationship between DE&S and the company.

The ship will see the fit of Sonar 2087 and the tactical variable depth active and passive anti-submarine warfare system which will involve significant structural modifications to the aft end of the ship.

Further major upgrades will include the new DNA(2) Command System central to the ship's fighting capability

against air, surface and underwater threats; the Seawolf mid-life update comprising tracking, guidance and weapon management upgrades to counter evolving anti-ship missile threats; the 4.5 Mk8 Mod1 gun replacement; and new 30mm gun fit.

HMS Kent will also receive the new Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) (DII(F)) system, enabling information sharing and collaborative working across the defence sector network.

Upgrades will be undertaken alongside a full programme of deep maintenance including structural repairs, renewal of hull coatings, and refurbishment

and maintenance of all the ship's systems and equipment.

The programme is a challenging one, with a larger scope of work than the recent successfully completed refit on *HMS Argyll* to be undertaken within the same 50-week timeframe.

DE&S Programme Group Manager David Winstanley said: "Following on from the notable success of *HMS Argyll's* upkeep period, we are confident that the embedded partnering ethos will rise to the challenge of delivering the more demanding *Kent* programme to the same high standard achieved on her sister ship." *HMS Kent* is due to leave Rosyth in November.

NEWSREEL

Shell deal is signed

BAE SYSTEMS will supply the 105mm infra-red artillery shell Luma IR in a £5.5 million contract. Series production starts immediately and the 4,000 rounds will be delivered this year. Final assembly will be at BAE Systems' weapons business in Karlskoga, Sweden. Orders for further quantities could follow. The order is separate from the long-term partnering contract for the supply of munitions to the MOD signed in August 2008.

Tracking data

A SIMPLE but effective on-line directory of current operational data has been produced to promote exploitation, data sharing and collaboration across the MOD. The Theatre Data Exploitation Directory is published on the Dstl-administered RNetX collaboration area at <http://collab.dstl.r.mil.uk/SiteDirectory/TDeX/Pages/default.aspx>

Cave lecture

CHARLES Haddon-Cave, author of the report into the Nimrod crash in Afghanistan, will be guest speaker on Friday 21 January in Abbey Wood's CFB lecture theatre from 1-2pm. All are welcome but spaces are limited. E-mail admin.cmt@defenceacademy.mod.uk

Public interest

THE MOD received more than 1,000 letters from the public on the Strategic Defence and Security Review during the period of the review, Defence Secretary Dr Liam Fox told Parliament.

Sentry upgrade on way



Sentry, the RAF's Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft

AN UPGRADE to a sophisticated airborne defence system on the RAF's fleet of Sentry E-3D aircraft will be carried out by the Northrop Grumman Corporation.

The company has been awarded a contract by DE&S to design, develop, integrate, test and support the Mode S upgrade to the Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) interrogator for RAF Waddington-based E-3D Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft.

The IFF interrogator set provides a long range rapid early warning and detection capability allowing discrimination between friendly and hostile forces. The

Mode S system will enable the aircraft to be used in controlled airspace.

The contract modification for Mode S is valued at approximately £42.7 million over three years.

Work will be performed under Northrop Grumman's existing Sentry E-3D Whole Life Support Programme on contract until 2025. It will be the largest modification the company has carried out for the Sentry fleet and will help maintain their compliance with future global air traffic management requirements.

"This project is extremely significant for the continuing role of our AWACS platform," said Sandy McGregor, DE&S'

Sentry team leader. "I am very pleased with the total team effort shown by the Sentry team and our prime contractor Northrop Grumman to agree to this project."

Sir Nigel Essenhigh, UK chairman of Northrop Grumman, added: "This award confirms our commitment to the UK and demonstrates the continuing success of the joint working relationship that we have with the MOD in delivering best value for money."

Work will be carried out at RAF Waddington as well as in the US. Northrop Grumman delivers the support programme for the Sentry E-3D AWACS fleet and is on contract until 2025.

Jordanians take look at DE&S logistics



Pete Worrall, second from left, welcomes the Jordanians to Abbey Wood

A JORDANIAN military team led at 1* level visited DE&S in December to learn how DE&S manages, teaches and executes joint logistics.

The delegation was composed of their Director Logistics, Brigadier Tayel, his deputy Brig Mufla, and Col Mohammad Al-Thalji, the Jordanian/British project team officer, who also acted as an interpreter.

The team was accompanied throughout by Major Martin Birch of the UK staff in Jordan.

The visit was hosted by Director Helicopters, Pete Worrall; the visitors received an initial overview briefing on the DE&S from Jerry Richardson of the Business Development Team and spent the rest of their day in briefings with various Joint Support Chain staff, hosted by the Head of DSCOM, Brigadier Ian Copeland.



DE&S teams up with industry to get rapid protection to the front line

SOLDIERS IN Afghanistan have received the latest Mark 7 helmet thanks to the hard work of DE&S' Personal Combat Equipment (PCE) team and Coventry-based company NP Aerospace.

The company's dedicated workforce kept the production line going around the clock and at weekends to ensure the order was met in time to equip soldiers who were deploying on Herrick 13.

The Mark 7, which provides world-class protection and a more comfortable fit than previous versions, will continue to be issued to future deployments.

PCE leader, Colonel Peter Rafferty, visited the company on a Saturday to meet members of the weekend shift and thank them for their sterling efforts, which are directly benefiting troops on the front line.

Pictured: Colonel Peter Rafferty with some of NP Aerospace's weekend workers and recently completed helmets. From left: Sucha Birk, Geeta Jagatia, Col Rafferty, Piara Singh.

New system boosts the input to war-fighting capability

ROYAL ENGINEERS providing geospatial intelligence to commanders in support of mission critical war-fighting operations have been boosted by a new £3 million deployable computer system named Geosys.

The new system was delivered by Raytheon Systems (UK) through DE&S' Imagery and Geospatial (IMaGE) delivery team at Abbey Wood.

Geosys is made up of more than 100 systems, each able to process up to four terrabytes of mapping, geographic information and intelligence data individually and substantially more when additional network storage is added.

These systems have been designed to be used either as standalone or configured in a network.

This may include connection to wider coalition IT through gateway systems, resulting in improved sharing of information and intelligence across the operational battle space.

The equipment will collect, analyse and store intelligence data, from photographic images and digital maps to stereo enabled 3D imagery.

This is then processed and used to inform the mission commander's planning and decision making processes

with information both in electronic presentation and hard copy media through a range of printers also supplied.

Further flexibility was achieved by replacing an existing obsolete transportable container fleet.

The team worked with DE&S' Deployable Support

and Test Equipment team who purchased new 14ft ISO containers from G3 Systems in Portland.

These were similar to the in-service operational portable office, but with a redesigned interior including new work surfaces.

These will suit the needs of the Royal Engineers for use

with the new Geosys systems.

Lt Col Tony Wilby, commanding officer of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic), said: "Geosys is already proving its worth on Operation Herrick, delivering enhanced capability and flexibility to our soldiers in providing mission-critical support to commanders."



Geosys will boost intelligence to commanders supporting mission critical war-fighting operations



Foxhound has right formula to be a front line winner

New contract sees 200 vehicles on the way to increase force protection

The Armed Forces are a step closer to their next generation of Light Protected Patrol Vehicles after a £180 million contract was signed with Force Protection Europe (FPE) to build 200 of the new vehicles.

Foxhound has been designed to provide unprecedented levels of blast protection for its size and weight. Light and agile, Foxhound will allow troops to carry out a wide range of tasks in environments that may restrict larger, heavier vehicles – for example moving with ease through narrow alleyways or crossing bridges.

Speaking at a Motorsport to Defence conference at Abbey Wood, Minister for Defence Equipment and Support, Peter Luff, said: “I’m delighted that this important contract has been signed – it shows the real progress that’s being made to ensure our front line troops are able to use these versatile and highly protected vehicles as soon as possible.

“Using state of the art technology from a range of areas including the motorsport industry, this UK-designed vehicle demonstrates the Government’s commitment to providing our troops with the world class equipment they need.

“The jobs created and sustained through the manufacture of Foxhound will



also provide a boost to local economies across the UK.”

Foxhound incorporates Formula One racing technology which was devised by engineers from the World Rally Championship, McLaren F1 and BMW.

Foxhound can be easily dismantled if need be and its engine can be removed and replaced in just 30 minutes. It can drive away from an ambush on only three wheels as each wheel works independently.

Crew and passengers also sit inside a protective pod which can be quickly adapted to transform the patrol vehicle into an ambulance or supply truck.

Beneath is a V-shaped armoured chassis hull which deflects a blast up and away. This protects the main fuel tank, drive line, batteries and generator power pack.

Warrant Officer Class One Russell Smith, who was involved in the initial trials of the vehicle, said: “The mobility of this vehicle is second to none and is a huge improvement in comparison to the platforms it is going to replace; it will go virtually anywhere, is effortless and a real pleasure to drive.

“The vehicle will provide the highest levels of protection against the current operational threats, for this size and class



of vehicle, protecting both the crew and key automotive components.”

Nick Fox, Foxhound programme manager with DE&S’ Protected Mobility team, added: “We are delighted that all the hard work the team and industry have undertaken for the project has resulted in the contract placement for the Foxhound vehicle.

“With this project milestone achieved the path is clear for us to deliver this much-needed life-saving capability to operations against the challenging urgent operational requirement timescales.”

The first vehicles are expected to be available to troops for training this year, and will add to the wide array of protected vehicles already being used on operations in Afghanistan, including Mastiff and Ridgback.

FPE – whose headquarters are in Leamington Spa – was announced as the preferred bidder for the contract last September. All of the British designed vehicles will be built and supported in the UK creating or sustaining an estimated 750 jobs.

Above: Peter Luff, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, chats to WO Russell Smith, a driver of Foxhound

Left: Mr Luff announces the Foxhound contract at Abbey Wood

Above left: a military Land Rover is pictured at Abbey Wood alongside Foxhound and a Formula One car

Top: Foxhound in action

Pictures: Andrew Linnett

How Team Ocelot notched up two industry firsts

FORCE PROTECTION Europe’s new patrol vehicle lays claim to two important industry firsts.

It will be the first British designed and built protected patrol vehicle to include a fully composite pod to protect the occupants. This innovative module has been developed by drawing on technology from the motorsport industry.

Foxhound, known as Ocelot in its development stage, will also be the first British military vehicle to accommodate DE&S’ new Generic Vehicle Architecture requirements to create a single, standard digital electronic and electrical architecture for UK vehicles. It will enable crew to manage power and handle data efficiently on the vehicle, and for the vehicle to be easily adapted when the need arises.

The award is also a significant boost to Force Protection Europe’s supply chain which is 90 per cent British by value.

The vehicle has been designed, developed and built in the UK by survivability specialist Force Protection Europe and automotive specialist Ricardo plc, together with Team Ocelot partners Thales, QinetiQ, Formaplex, Defence Support Group and Sula Systems. The vehicle has undergone more than 12 months of rigorous blast and mobility testing before being chosen by DE&S.

David Hind, managing director, Force Protection Europe, said: “We are absolutely delighted to be awarded this important contract. Ocelot is a step change in protected mobility for this weight and class of vehicle and I am confident that it will be used to great effect in Afghanistan and any future operations.

“My number one priority now is to ensure that these vehicles are delivered to the MOD within the agreed timeframe. We are fully geared up to achieve this.”

Dave Shemmans, chief executive of Ricardo, added: “The Ocelot is a major advance in defence vehicle technology, offering an agile and highly flexible vehicle package with unparalleled standards of crew protection.

“We are pleased to have played a central role in developing this innovative new vehicle and look forward to working with Team Ocelot in the manufacture of the first 200 Ocelots for use by British forces.”

We are delivering the most complex engineering on the planet, to be used in the harshest environments on the planet, to do the toughest job on the planet, says DE&S' Chief Operating Officer Dr Andrew Tyler as he kicks off 2011 by congratulating project leaders and staff on . . .

Improving performance over the past two years



Dr Tyler, left, Chief Operating Officer at DE&S

'DE&S has improvement activities covering everything from project management including deeply specialist areas of risk assessment to bury our reputation for being unable to deliver complex projects'

I want to thank you all for the huge collective effort that has gone into improving our project delivery performance over the past couple of years, to congratulate you on the recognition of this effort by the National Audit Office (NAO), and to reiterate the fundamental tenets that have given rise to this performance improvement so that we can ensure it is sustained.

Last year, were it not for programming decisions, DE&S would have achieved all its Defence Strategic Objectives targets and its Strategy for Acquisition Reform targets. This financial year so far we are enjoying our best performance and notwithstanding SDSR programming decisions, we are reasonably confident of achieving all our targets across the board.

This is the second year running that the NAO has observed improvement in project management and delivery performance by DE&S. This recognition is no accident. It has been the result of a range of inter-linked initiatives and changes in behaviour. Perhaps the most significant of these has been our uncompromising focus on realism and honesty in assessing project risks, and forecasting outturns.

You are all aware that you are mandated to ensure that the Corporate Management Information System (CMIS) always includes the most up to date, honest, and realistic assessment of the forecast outturn for the project. While

the reality of our immensely challenging environment is that we will not always report good news, we stand a far better chance of mitigating impacts and having choices on courses of action when we recognise and report project issues early. I personally spend several hours a month

'This is the second year running that the NAO has observed improvement in project management and delivery performance by DE&S. This recognition is no accident'

analysing and discussing these project performance metrics.

There have been some excellent examples of this in the past two years. This is in sharp contrast to historical practice that often involved bad news emerging long after the point at which options were available to mitigate the situation. Well done to all of you for

embracing this culture of openness.

There are a number of areas where I believe we have upped our game considerably and in doing so contributed to the improved performance. The first is project risk management. Not only have we significantly improved the risk management processes, but we have dramatically improved the attention given to risk management as a day to day activity that is everyone's business.

The next area is the tracking of lead indicators of project performance. The Sentinel system – mentioned by the NAO – is proving very effective in tracking those lead indicators that history tells us will influence the successful outcome of the project.

The feedback is that the data input is not onerous (it should be readily available information to any well run project) and I can assure you that it is prompting regular discussion at 2* level and is briefed monthly to the Minister.

We have also made major improvements to ensure that projects are well founded in the first place; an area where we have not covered ourselves in glory in the past. Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Capability) Vice Admiral Paul Lambert intends to inject much greater rigour into the introduction of new programmes into the Defence Equipment Programme.

Once initiated, we will take the project on 'probation' and over a few months assess its viability for delivery.

Warthog is the latest protected vehicle supplied to front line operations, and is being used by soldiers of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment. A series of new vehicles, procured by DE&S over the last few years, has revolutionised vehicles available to troops on the front line, and helped save lives

From project foundation, proper performance management through life including critical lead indicators, active risk assessment, a comprehensive skills programme, and perhaps above all a leadership that is absolutely determined to get projects to performance, cost, and time' - Dr Tyler

At the end of this, the project will go through a Foundation Milestone Review which, if it passes, will involve us formally taking it on charge and delivering. Early pilots have been very successful and been recognised as such by the project teams involved.

Further initiatives include the focus

on our skills. While in train for sometime our Programme and Project Management (PPM) licensing will gather additional momentum through the implementation of the MOD's PPM Improvement Initiative.

Key strands here include a systematic assessment of our PPM competence as

organisations at Operating Centre level and the roll out of authoritative project management standards, methodologies and guidance in order to embed in the organisation consistent, repeatable ways of working that draw on the good practice we have delivered in pockets over the past few years.

To ensure we roll out good, practical information that will help the business, we are identifying a PPM cadre in MOD. This group of acknowledged elite practitioners of PPM will be looked to for their leadership across the organisation and their contribution to continued improvement in our project delivery performance.

We are always going to be immensely challenged in delivering projects to performance, cost, and time. After all, we are delivering the most complex engineering on the planet, to be used in the harshest environments on the planet, to do the toughest job on the planet. But by sticking to good project and programme management practice, and at all times – regardless of the pressure to do otherwise – being open, honest, and realistic about our project performance and forecast outturn, there is no reason why we cannot defy historical precedent and our critics and achieve superlative project delivery performance. Thank you for all your efforts and please keep an unerring focus on the causes of our success."

The number of support helicopters, and the hours they are available to fly in Afghanistan, has dramatically increased in the last year, thanks to the hard work of DE&S project teams



DE&S staff join in research event

DE&S STAFF joined industry and other members of the Armed Forces as General Dynamics UK held its fourth annual Joint Internal Research and Development (JIRAD) demonstration in Newbridge, south Wales.

JIRAD is an end-of-year showcase at which the company demonstrates innovative technologies developed in response to current operational needs.

This time the focus was on improved information capabilities for use in Afghanistan including network connectivity, information exploitation, deployed surveillance and protection, dismantled soldier systems, deployed logistics information systems and generic vehicle architecture for future vehicle platforms.

"JIRAD delivered a first class demonstration of technologies appropriate to the current and planned operations being conducted in Afghanistan," said Brigadier Ivan Hooper, leader of DE&S' Bowman and Tactical Communication and Information Systems team.

"All JIRAD attendees are acutely aware that there are significant challenges in Afghanistan and I appreciate the forward-leaning and innovative approach which General Dynamics UK continues to take.

"The company continue to provide leadership, development and systems integration expertise in the technology areas which have been showcased and this was clearly and professionally demonstrated at JIRAD."

Minister makes demands on appliance of science



ROLLS-ROYCE held a technology day for the MOD at its Learning and Development Centre in Derby to showcase innovation and technology within the company. Around 50 MOD visitors attended including Professor Phil Sutton, Director General Research and Technology at the MOD.

Pictured: Air Marshal Kevin Leeson, on the right, with Neil Walker Head of Materials, Organic Matrix Composites at Rolls-Royce

Top, from left: Jane Bailey of Rolls-Royce is pictured with Wg Cdr Jon Kirk (DCOS HQ 2 Group), Ian Garbutt (certification – propulsion and systems integrity) and Mick Coupland (Military Airworthiness Authority).

DEFENCE MINISTER Peter Luff has underlined the vital role of science and technology (S&T) in defence.

The Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology said that such a high priority was placed on it that major spending reductions had been avoided.

"It was a priority issue for me in the Strategic Defence and Security Review," he said in a Chatham House speech, with spending on science and technology set to rise slightly in cash terms over the Comprehensive Spending Review period.

"This is not perfect," he said. "I would like to see the S&T budget rise in my department – not least to compensate for the big reductions made by the last Government. But this is as good a result as anyone could reasonably expect."

"S&T fared better than most because advanced military research and development gives the UK a critical advantage over potential adversaries, and is saving people's lives; it can deliver value for money; and lead our economic recovery."

There are, he said, three main challenges. "First, we in defence and security need to find better ways of working with the people who know what potential opportunities and threats will emerge in the next two decades – people in our excellent universities.

"Second, how do we get the balance right between the here and now and our future needs? We will also address the needs of equipment and support against the needs of other areas such as personnel and training. At the same time we need a balance between our S&T investment in developing 'products' with our investment in improving our intelligent S&T customer function.

"Third, the unpredictability of the future, especially in the post-Cold War era, is often a real barrier to major private investment in R&D. In the coming White Paper, I want to know how we can address this."

Mr Luff concluded his speech: "Defence S&T is essential to the fighting edge of our Forces. We should also never lose sight of the contribution that defence S&T can make to our future."

See full text of the speech at <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/People/Speeches/MinDES/20101123DefenceScienceTechnology.htm>

Type 45 in the words of those involved

Last year was full of achievement for the Type 45 programme, which included the first-of-class – *HMS Daring* – declared in service. Type 45 has not always been in the headlines for the right reasons. *desider* tells the story

The Type 45 story began in December 2000 when the main design/construction contract was placed with BAE Systems.

In the years that followed the programme was frequently in the headlines for the wrong reasons, as the original cost and delivery schedule proved overly optimistic.

The turnaround began in 2007 when the MOD and BAE Systems amended

the previous commercial framework. As Dave Twitchin (Type 45 team leader 2006-2010) explained: “The new contract significantly improved the commercial framework incentivising industry to deliver in ways that were previously missing.

“In parallel, a partnering approach was re-invigorated with a number of specific joint working initiatives.”

One such initiative was establishing

a Joint Acceptance Team led by a senior member of the programme team, Captain Stephen Braham RN. He said: “The team has been pivotal, changing behaviours and improving the performance of the whole Type 45 enterprise.

“Working in an integrated team, MOD and industry staff have focused on jointly delivering best programme results with huge success.”

continued on page 24

Arrival: *Diamond* makes her first entry into her home port of Portsmouth



How hard work turned round DE&S' T45 destroyer programme

continued from page 23

Also critical was the establishment of a dedicated programme management office under Russell Brown. "When I arrived in 2006 there was insufficient project management expertise embedded in the team," he said. "My first job was to correct that – recruiting and developing the right skills and using them to put in place a robust system of programme control."

By 2008 these changes were starting to deliver results. *HMS Daring* completed two sets of highly successful sea trials and was accepted off contract. This was a huge breakthrough for the programme but significant challenges still remained.

■ ■ ■

By any standards Type 45 is an incredibly complex warship using cutting edge technology throughout; around 80 per cent of the equipments used by value are new to service. This meant that although the programme was on a firmer footing there were still issues to overcome.

Such an example occurred in October 2008 when a problem was discovered with one of *Daring's* gas turbines. Richard Bolwell (Type 45 Platform Systems team) said: "Initial analysis found the problem was in the intercooler

where a metal sealing strip had fractured and the loose debris had damaged the high pressure compressor. In just six weeks, the aft engine had been replaced, the cause of the problem identified and a modification to the intercooler was fitted on the forward gas turbine to prevent a similar failure occurring. To overcome a problem such as this in such a short time was a fantastic result."

■ ■ ■

More success followed in 2009. *Dauntless* and *Diamond* completed sea trials, *Defender* was launched and in December *Dauntless* became the second Type 45 to be accepted off contract. But more challenges emerged, this time with Type 45's primary weapons system, Sea Viper. The system incorporates three separate capabilities in a single world class air defence system, as Richard Smart, Head of Team Complex Weapons in DE&S explained. "With the capability Sea Viper provides Type 45 is able to engage a large number of targets simultaneously and defend aircraft carriers or groups of ships against current and future threats from the air,"

Where in the world?

Ship One – *Daring*
In service (July 2010). Based at Portsmouth

Ship Two – *Dauntless*
In service (November 2010). Based at Portsmouth

Ship Three – *Diamond*
Accepted off contract (September 2010), now undergoing final sea trials. Based at Portsmouth

Ship Four – *Dragon*
On Clyde. First sea trials completed December 2010

Ship Five – *Defender*
Fitting out on Clyde

Ship Six – *Duncan*
Fitting out on Clyde



Duncan on her final night in Glasgow before launch, while, below, this young well-wisher was keen to fly the flag



he said "It provides a step change in our air defence capability."

Following two successful test firings the system was tested for a third time in May 2009. This test firing, and a repeat in November 2009, did not meet all trial objectives. A complex and high intensity investigation by system manufacturer MBDA followed and further test firings were carried out last spring. These were successful, paving the way for *HMS Daring's* in-service date in July and *HMS Dauntless* to enter service in November. According to Nick Neale, MBDA project director for Sea Viper, this was a critical period for the programme. "With our national and international partners we worked tirelessly to find and fix the issues that emerged during this period and ensure that Type 45's in-service date could be met," he said.

What does Type 45 offer defence? The customer gives a verdict on page 26

The years of success

2008

- February Cutting of steel for *Duncan*
- May *Daring* completes second set of sea trials
- June First successful test firing of Sea Viper
- September *Daring* completes third and final set of contractor-led sea trials
- November *Dragon* launched
- December *Daring* accepted off contract
- December *Dauntless* completes her first set of sea trials

2009

- January *Daring* arrives in Portsmouth Naval base – her home port – for the first time
- February Second successful test firing of Sea Viper
- March Type 45 team wins a Minister(DES) Acquisition Award
- July *Dauntless* returns to the Clyde having completed her second set of sea trials
- July *HMS Daring* commissioned into the Royal Navy
- September MOD signs a contract for up to seven years' support for Type 45 with BAE Systems Surface Ships
- October *Defender* launched
- November *Diamond* returns from her first set of sea trials
- December *Dauntless* accepted off contract

2010

- June *Diamond* completes her second set of sea trials
- June Multi Function Radar fitted to *Defender*
- June *HMS Dauntless* commissioned into the Royal Navy
- June Sea Viper successfully completes her final test firing
- July *HMS Daring* in-service date declared
- September *HMS Daring* deploys for US – her first overseas deployment
- September *Diamond* is accepted off contract at Portsmouth
- September Sea Viper's Aster missile is fired off *HMS Dauntless* – the first time the missile is fired from a Type 45 platform
- October *Duncan* launched
- November *HMS Dauntless* in-service date declared
- November Type 45 team awarded CDM Commendation
- December *Dragon* first set of sea trials successfully complete

Glorious debut:
Diamond leaves the Clyde
for sea trials



Hugely versatile platform for our unpredictable world

SO WHAT does Type 45 offer UK defence? For that the customer must speak.

Commodore Simon Kings, Head of Above Water Capability in MOD Centre, said: "Type 45 is not only a world class air defence destroyer but also a multi-role, general-purpose platform, able to contribute effectively to a range of world-wide maritime, joint and coalition operations."

And from the sharp end, Captain Paddy McAlpine, *Daring's* commanding officer: "*Daring* represents a step change for the Royal Navy. Her technology and design make her an easy ship to fight with and my ability to control the airspace around the task force is unsurpassed. The potential I have witnessed promises that this capability is set to become the cornerstone of the future Royal Navy."

Last October, Captain McAlpine was able to test this potential further when *HMS Daring* took part in a joint exercise with the *USS Enterprise* off the eastern seaboard of the USA.

Significant challenges lie ahead for the programme, having to focus on the remainder of the build programme while providing in-service support using a ground breaking contract signed in September 2009. Captain Tony Erskine, who led the Type 45 Support team until last month, believes the Type 45 support solution is an innovative contract.

"BAE Systems manage equipment availability to agreed targets, incentivising them to minimise the cost of support by improving equipment

reliability," he said. "This is the first time this arrangement has been used for a major warship."

Support for Type 45 is paving the way for future maritime support models. According to Admiral Bob Love, DE&S' Director Ships: "Type 45 is at the heart of the Maritime Change Programme. Future support to surface ships will follow the model being used on Type 45, with multi-disciplinary Class Output Management

Global reach: the New York skyline frames HMS *Daring* as she arrives in the US for her first exercise last November



organisations based at the waterfront being responsible for the management of day to day support."

On 3 December the recent period of success on Type 45 was marked when the current head of the Destroyers team, Commodore Steve Brunton, held a Type 45 review with senior stakeholders. All agreed that central to the success to date and for the future is the collaborative teamwork that has existed since 2007. This includes the leadership from DE&S, the Royal Navy and industry who routinely meet in the Collaborative Enterprise Team (CET) – an informal

way of dealing with formal issues and cutting through the bureaucracy usually surrounding complex programmes.

Awarded a BAE Systems Chairman's silver award in 2009 for partnering behaviours, Commodore Brunton believes that the CET has been central to changing behaviours in recent years and is determined that it will remain central to the programme through an even busier 2011.

Angus Holt, BAE Systems Type 45 programme director, added: "Each of the milestones achieved since 2007 bears testament to the innovation, design and engineering skills of our employees and partners and proof of our commitment to building the next generation of warships for the Royal Navy.

"But we all recognise that while much has been achieved on the programme in recent years there remains just as much, if not more, ahead of us. We are all committed to delivering the full potential of Type 45, and transferring what we have learned to other programmes such as the *Queen Elizabeth* aircraft carriers and Type 26."

And the final word from Commodore Brunton: "Significant challenges remain. As we complete the build programme over the next three years and transition all six ships into service, we in DE&S and our industry partners fully recognise the need to improve performance and equipment reliability to deliver a class capability that fits the billing we readily give to Type 45 – not just a world class air defence destroyer but a versatile platform fit and ready to face the challenges of an unpredictable world."

Enterprise Directory – first live capability release for Alamein

PROJECT ALAMEIN has achieved permission to proceed to 'First User Live' for Enterprise Directory (ED), the replacement for the MOD dDirectory.

It was exhaustively tested and trialled to ensure that the capability functioned as required. ED allows users to manage their own personal and role data on DII(F).

More than 700,000 user and role records have been migrated into the ED system from a variety of sources. Users now have access to a wider range of contacts within the MOD than in the current dDirectory, as well as contacts from external organisations working with the MOD by name, role, location and organisation.

ED is fed with data from existing MOD human resource systems, including daily feeds from the JPA and HRMS personnel systems. In turn, ED sends data to a number of DII(F) and MOD systems such as the DII(F) Global Address List in Outlook, DII(F) Service Catalogue, Defence Travel, DII/C, UKDED and EGS.

Introduction of ED requires some changes to processes. JPA and HRMS are now the authoritative source for MOD military and civilian staff personal data. This means that changes to data must be made in these systems initially and will then automatically feed through to other MOD systems.

The processes for authorised demanders to request new accounts have been rewritten with the steps correctly ordered and any redundant steps removed. The MOD authorised demanders and the Atlas single points of contact (SPOCs) have been informed of the changes to their ways of working.

It is important that the information held about staff is correct; all staff need to check their ED entries and ensure their details are correct and are kept up to

Keeping you informed about Alamein – the latest improvements on DII(F)



date. All records shown on the screen will display a 'traffic light' symbol to show how up to date that record is. If the information has been confirmed recently, the traffic light symbol will show as green, if not it will be amber or red.

For any users outside DII(F) the record will be flagged as white. You should click the 'confirm details' link if you are happy with your information. If not, you can change certain fields using the 'Edit' tab. Once changes have been confirmed the traffic light will change to green until the next 90-day check date arrives.



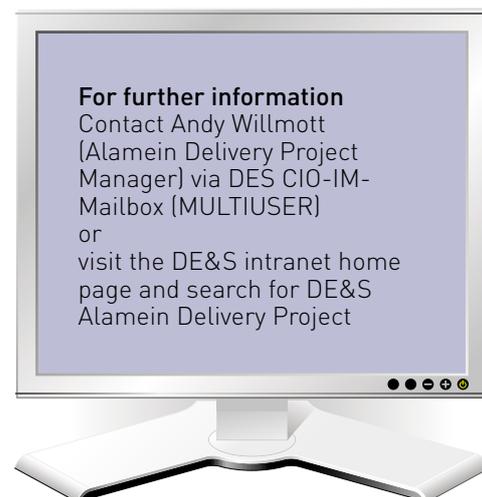
Any problems should be reported to Atlas SPOCs.

Staff should find ED intuitive to use but there is a short training module (DIIUSR-07) available on the Defence Learning Portal. This will explain how to browse, how to conduct typical searches and how to keep your information up to date, ensuring that others can find your correct details.

Atlas received permission to begin a phased rollout of Enterprise Directory throughout last month. The current dDirectory, which is being replaced by ED, is now read-only, so cannot be updated, and is due to be decommissioned this month.

For further information

Contact Andy Willmott (Alamein Delivery Project Manager) via DES CIO-IM-Mailbox (MULTIUSER) or visit the DE&S intranet home page and search for DE&S Alamein Delivery Project





Left: interested parties at Urbex included Lt Gen Gary Coward, far left, Chief of Materiel (Land) at DE&S



Report: Hannah Swingler

Pictures: Andrew Linnett



Robotic cameras, thermal sights and micro Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) may sound like the latest gadgets to be used by 007, but this is a vision of the future according to the MOD.

These gadgets are the latest in a series of new and emerging technologies that have been tested by DE&S' Programmes and Technology Group that could soon be used to support troops fighting on the front line.

The team, supported by troops from 3 Rifles and 36 Engineers, braved sub zero temperatures, icy winds and driving rain to test the equipment during Urbex 2010 – an intense three-week exercise aimed at exploring the potential to increase operational effectiveness through the addition of new or improved equipment.

This year, Urbex has assessed more than 300 pieces of equipment with only the most capable being put forward for the main trial.

More than 30 equipments ranging from torches to advanced micro-UAVs were judged to be suitable for the main trial and put through their paces in simulated combat scenarios to test their suitability and combat effectiveness for potential use on the front line.

Major Adam Crossley, Requirements Manager for DE&S' Programmes and Technology Group, said: "Urbex is a series of trials of dismounted close combat technology that could benefit the dismounted infantry soldier on the front line.

"What we test is a direct result of analysis of feedback from operational tour debriefs following tours in Afghanistan. This tells us what is required to either enhance or provide additional capability in theatre.

"We in Programmes and Technology Group will then go away and look at what existing or emerging technologies are out there. These range from micro UAVs that can be used in a combat situation providing tactical imagery to

Urbex on Salisbury Plain provides an ideal environment for trialling equipment to find out how useful it may prove on operations

Hints of 007 shape DE&S' vision of the future front line

the dismounted soldier, to a new range of optical sights for weapons including thermal and infra red imaging. Once found we put them through their paces to test their suitability for the front line."

Data is collected by the trials team by analysing how a range of tasks are completed by the troops. By baselining their performance with standard equipment the team can see if the new equipment which is being tested improves or hinders troops' ability to carry out that task.

'We put them through their paces to test their suitability for the front line' – Major Adam Crossley, DE&S Programmes and Technology Group

The assessment team distils the trials results into recommendations on what should be done with the equipment that has been trialled.

These recommendations were presented to key stakeholders throughout the MOD at a VIP day, which was held on 2 December at Copehill Down village.

Urbex has been run previously from 2003 to 2006 and again in 2009.

Examples of equipment now deployed having been tested within the Urbex process include thermal weapon sights, unmanned ground vehicles and the Sharpshooter Rifle.



Above: a soldier demonstrates the latest counter-IED equipment. Trialling equipment at Urbex is instrumental in informing the front line

Left: a hand-sized robotic camera which can send back pictures remotely as can the unmanned aerial vehicle, below



DE&S provides another tonic for front line troops



Julie Watkins (Abbey Wood) and Captain Gary Power from the British Forces Post Office with staff at Abbey Wood sending goodwill messages to troops in Afghanistan

Inset: Dee-Anne Elliott from Abbey Wood sends a message with a little help from members of 29 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps, based in South Cerney, Gloucestershire, who are responsible for running the British Forces Post Offices in Afghanistan

Staff at Abbey Wood had troops on the front line firmly on their mind during the festive season as they sent them messages of goodwill.

Using the British Forces Post Office e-bluey service, staff from across DE&S took a few minutes out of their day to show their support to those serving abroad on operations.

At the same time troops were handed extra free phone minutes and a reduction in call prices to keep them in touch with loved ones at home.

The e-bluey system, which is mobile and can be set up almost anywhere, works by allowing the user to compose a message online which is then downloaded, printed and sealed ready for delivery to the addressee often within hours of being sent.

Troops can use the same system to send a handwritten reply back home.

Lt Col Ian Stark, from BFPO, said: "Being away from family and friends is tough but especially so during the festive season and so we encouraged those with a few minutes to spare, whether they personally knew somebody currently serving on operations or not, to send a message of support at Christmas.

"The system is quick and easy to use and all messages were read and gratefully received by those away from loved ones during the festive season."

Staff messages from Abbey Wood and more free phone time add up to extra presents for those away from loved ones at Christmas

Speaking at the event, Julie Watkins, who works for DE&S' in-house caterers Foodhouse, said: "I have a son in the Navy but I really wanted to send a message to the boys and girls in theatre because I think they are doing a great job and deserve our support."

Dee-Anne Elliott, who works in the DE&S' Secretariat, added: "The troops are doing an outstanding job and I think it is important, especially this time of year, that we show our appreciation."

The number of e-bluey download locations in Afghanistan is currently 18. This is set to increase to 28 by next month.

The e-bluey service has been further

improved by the introduction of the photo e-bluey, which allows the sender to attach a photograph, which is printed in colour, and enclosed within the message.

Over the 12 months to last October more than 680,000 e-blueys were delivered to Afghanistan.

Along with the extra 30 minutes of free talk time, service personnel will now be able to buy extra calls from Afghanistan to a UK landline at a reduced rate of 6.5 pence per minute, down from eleven pence.

Troops are routinely given an allowance of 30 minutes each week by the MOD, which is doubled in time for

'Troops are doing an outstanding job. We must show our appreciation'

Charity gets behind



Servicemen and women join forces to launch the MOD/uk4u Christmas box campaign

Front line troops

Christmas Day, and are also able to buy extra minutes – now at a reduced cost – should they wish.

Defence Secretary Dr Liam Fox said: “Fighting on the front line is always tough, but it can be especially testing for troops and their families during the festive period. Cutting the cost of calls home and increasing the amount of free talk time during this time hopefully goes some way to showing our appreciation for their ongoing efforts.”

Ranger Ian McKernan, serving in Helmand Province with 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment, added: “Usually all my phone minutes are taken up speaking to my parents and girlfriend and so the extra minutes over Christmas and the New Year and the cheaper rates are a really great idea. It made being away over this period that little bit easier.”

The reduced rate in the cost of calls to UK landlines has been agreed with communications company Paradigm under the current Welfare Communications Everywhere (WelComE) services at no extra cost to the MOD, and the cost of calls is expected to stay at this level for the foreseeable future.

Colonel Neil Fraser, responsible for the WelComE service for DE&S, said: “Having had three Christmas Days deployed on operations, two of these in Afghanistan, I know how difficult it can be for families to be apart during this time.

“These cheaper calls, as well as the extra free talk time minutes, mean troops and their families can speak for longer and more frequently when it matters the most.”

In addition to their weekly allowance of free talk time, troops on operations are also entitled to unlimited internet access and, in certain locations, a newly-installed wi-fi service is now available, giving personnel access to their emails from the privacy of their accommodation.



**It was
a busy
time at
BFPO
too!**



BBC News filmed British Forces Post Office at RAF Northolt to give a flavour of the workload staff, part of DE&S, faced over the Christmas and New Year period.

Find the forces to send out some festive cheer

ST JOHN'S Wood Barracks, home of the famous King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, was the setting for the launch of the uk4u Thanks! 2010 Christmas Box campaign.

Royal Navy, Army and RAF personnel were joined by television personality and former Royal Navy Midshipman Ben Fogle to launch the campaign. The campaign saw about 22,500 boxes sent to servicemen and women across the world working away from their families.

uk4u Thanks! works with the Armed Forces each year to send the boxes, containing around 20 items, out to places such as Afghanistan, the Falklands, and ships and submarines across the world in time for

Christmas Day. They do not use the British Forces Post Office system, so do not delay parcels from families and friends getting through.

Defence Minister Andrew Robathan said: “The MOD is an enthusiastic supporter of the Christmas Box campaign, bringing cheer to those members of the Armed Forces serving abroad on operations over the festive period. Knowing that the public are behind them when they are working in often very difficult conditions, especially at this time, is a real morale boost for our servicemen and women.”

Royal Marine Sergeant Ian Breeze said: “I have received a uk4u Christmas Box in the

past, and found the items very useful and a real morale boost. Things like torches always come in handy, as do the little collapsible cups – you never know when someone's going to offer you a hot drink!”

Along with public donations, the charity is supported by companies including BAE Systems, Finmeccanica, the Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown, and Marks and Spencer.

■ The Christmas Box takes as its inspiration the 1914 gesture of the 17-year-old Princess Mary to present a gift from the nation for everyone serving overseas on Christmas Day.

Ensleigh briefs put safety on the agenda

FIFTY-THREE staff from across DE&S attended half-day safety briefings for senior managers at Ensleigh, Bath, run by DE&S' Attitudes and Behaviour Campaign team.

Briefings were delivered by Trevor Sillifant of Devonport and Western Area Health and Safety Group.

Attendees were taken through safety topics including benefits of managing health and safety effectively, corporate manslaughter and the role and powers of enforcement agencies including the Health and Safety Executive.

Delegates also discussed recent serious incidents connected to the naval bases and the wider organisation as well as having the opportunity to review recent Crown censures.

Delegates were given a pack of useful information including the Institute of Directors' guide to leading health and safety at work and a guide to HSG 65 – Successful Health and Safety Management.

New range takes Cyber security a step forward



NORTHROP GRUMMAN'S UK cyber test range – the first commercially available in the UK – has been opened at the company's Fareham office by Gerald Howarth, Minister for International Security Strategy.

"Cyber security is a growing challenge which threatens government and commerce," said Mr Howarth.

"The UK National Security Strategy has given it the high priority that it rightly deserves. As we increase our capability to protect ourselves, not only against cyber attacks on the government but on businesses and on individuals, the cyber test range being unveiled here will play an important part in understanding evolving threats and ensuring that critical networks are safe and properly protected."

Pictured with Gerald Howarth (far left) is Sir Nigel Essenhigh, UK chairman of Northrop Grumman and chief executive of Northrop Grumman Information Systems Europe.

Group seeks to keep Commercial in front

40 FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY 1970 – 2010

MILLBROOK

Home of the BATTLEFIELD MISSION

Millbrook is an independent world-leading organisation specialising in the development, enhancement and research of military vehicles, as well as being home to the MoD Battlefield Mission



For further information: contact Bruce Lornie on +44 (0)1525 408476 bruce.lornie@millbrook.co.uk www.millbrook.co.uk/military

A NEW MOD special interest group should help achieve positive press as procurement's profile continues to grow.

The MOD Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) Special Interest Group (SIG) will play a central role in plans to develop further a commercial community across the MOD to encompass purchasing and logistics.

High profile speakers and hot topics – for instance commercial impact on operations – have ensured sell out attendances at past MOD CIPS conferences.

The group seeks to expand activities to develop and maintain the 'community' outside of the annual gathering.

Andrew Manley, Director General Defence Commercial, is now at the top table of key discussions with suppliers and responsible for an annual spend of more than £20 billion.

Les Mosco, Commercial Director of DE&S, has been appointed as a Main Board member of DE&S.

"A strong sense of pride in professionalism, and being able to clearly see the positive impact directly delivered are reasons for the growing interest in procurement," said Darren Bone, Head of Commercial for ISTAR and a Fellow of CIPS.

"A key challenge is enhancing our communications.

"In the current economic climate, we must ensure Commercial is in the forefront of driving the efficiency agenda," he added.

Plans under review include knowledge-transfer events with key speakers, dedicated workshops to address key issues, and a forum to challenge and critique the norm.

The MOD CIPS annual conference will be on 27 January; bookings can be made through the Abbey Wood event booking tool.

To get involved with the SIG, either as an MOD employee or to present as a guest speaker at the conference, email DESISTARComrc1-HdEA@MoD.

Firms sign up to back fleet auxiliary development



HEADS OF the five companies that provide through-life support to the ships of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary have committed to the principles of sustainable procurement by jointly signing a Sustainable Development Charter with Commodore Dave Preston RFA, DE&S' head of the Afloat Support team.

The signing took place at the Cammell Laird shipyard in Birkenhead at the end of the annual supplier collaborative, the highest level forum between Afloat Support and its industry partners.

By signing the charter, all parties commit to using their purchasing power to promote good sustainable procurement practices in their own companies, and as far as possible down their supply chains.

Work will be to identify, develop, implement and record opportunities through the through-life support contracts' Joint Development Programme.

Signatories to the charter: left, back row: Nick Frowen of Hempel UK, Gary Oliver of Trimline, John Zinn of Lloyds Register. Front: Chris Bell of A&P Group, Commodore Dave Preston RFA, Head of Afloat Support at DE&S, John Syvret of Cammell Laird.

ABW on track to cut energy consumption

GOOD PROGRESS is being made at Abbey Wood to reduce energy consumption in line with the Prime Minister's commitment to reduce carbon emissions across Government office estate by ten per cent before May.

DE&S energy managers are working with Debut and Defence Estates to roll out measures through the strategic energy management programme (SEMP) to reduce the carbon used for utilities at Abbey Wood from 18,532 tonnes of CO2 to 16,679.

One of the biggest steps is installation of new heating controllers to reduce consumption between five and 20 per cent.

Other initiatives include improvements to Abbey Wood's ventilation system and investigating the requirements for cooling IT equipment.

Steve Croome, environmental adviser at Abbey Wood, said: "Our continued effort to reduce carbon across the site put us in a better position to achieve our emissions targets.

"However it is important that staff continue to take responsibility for reducing energy consumption."

Staff praised for skill and craft

THE ROYAL Marine who commands UK amphibious forces has praised the Devonport workforce including DE&S as he opened a new indoor engineering facility for landing craft.

Major General 'Buster' Howes unveiled a plaque on the renovated building in the naval base and congratulated staff from DE&S and Babcock on their skills in delivering the project in 12 months.

"This represents a big commitment to support to amphibious forces. As the man in charge of our amphibious forces, I thank you for your enthusiasm and hard work," he said.

"To bring this to fruition in 12 months is tribute to your skills and dedication. After the Strategic Defence and Security Review, we now have much more confidence in the case for amphibious forces which is good news for the way ahead for you, the Devonport workforce."

The building is a joint venture by DE&S and Babcock to provide weatherproof refit and maintenance of the fleet of 23 landing craft vehicle personnel. The unit will maintain craft under one roof to deliver improved safety and reliability to the Royal Navy.

Previously craft were maintained, repaired and refitted outdoors in various dockside sites or under temporary shelters. Now maintenance



Above: a landing craft in the renovated building in Devonport while, left, Major General Buster Howes lines up with Devonport staff at the official opening

periods can be programmed into the building with confidence in timely delivery.

The facility forms part of a wider DE&S/Babcock initiative to develop Devonport as the centre for amphibious support excellence (CASE).

Captain Graeme Little, leader of DE&S' Capital Ships In-Service team, said: "This facility is a major step change in our ability

to deliver high quality support to these craft and demonstrates our joint commitment to delivery of the CASE initiative."

Captain Ian Shipperley of DE&S' Superintendent Fleet Maintenance added: "The facility will be a step forward in engineering support by providing an undercover one-stop shop for all maintenance and repair."



■ FIVE guards from Faslane's MOD Guard Service have raised more than £2,400 for the Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS).

Steven Pursley, Betty McArthur, Karen McLaughlin, Ruth Duff and John McDermid are members of Yellow Watch and ran a raffle with 130 prizes from local businesses.

Back, from left: CHAS worker Dagmara MacIntosh, Steve Pursley, Karen McLaughlin, Betty McArthur, CHAS co-ordinator Lillian Stewart and Ruth Duff. Middle: William Durham and his father Billy Durham, and Erin Rule. Front: Sean Boyd (2) and Robyn Boyd (3) with the cheque.

DO YOU have a burning question that you would like the Board's opinion on? Talk to the Board is still open 24/7 for you to submit your questions to Board members.

The facility is your chance for a Board perspective on issues that concern you.

Please note that the facility is meant for strategic issues and should not be used as a replacement for normal business procedures or for your usual line management chain.

Visit the Talk to the Board site on the defence intranet for previous Q&As and guidelines on submitting questions.

'Talk to the Board'
at any time

de&s



Recruiting to back 'main effort'

CIVILIAN STAFF are now being recruited to a high readiness pool for posts across the MOD to support operations in Afghanistan.

The Afghanistan Main Effort: Civilian programme (AMEC) is seeking volunteers particularly from commercial, programme and project management jobs, in various grades, who might be called upon to augment in high profile, challenging and operationally focused roles.

The pool consists of staff pre-selected and willing to re-deploy at short notice within the MOD to meet business-critical needs. Individuals volunteer to become a member of the pool through the normal requisition process.

It is open to all grades from E2 to B2, and across a range of jobs. Augmentation roles provide an opportunity for individuals to work in (normally) operationally focused roles, addressing immediate staffing requirements in temporarily stretched branches; or perhaps tackling needs from legacy issues, such as Iraq, that may be diverting resources from the Afghanistan effort.

These augmentee roles can offer good personal development. Posts are in the UK.

More information on the AMEC intranet site.



**Josh and Tilley
put in the
leg work**

JOSH CLARK, above, sought an uncomfortable way of raising cash for Children in Need – by having his legs waxed.

Josh, a trainee reprographics designer for facilities management at Abbey Wood, let work colleague Amy Tilley loose in front of passers-by in Neighbourhood Two's atrium.

The pair raised more than £225.

HR Information Notes are for

YOU

They contain vital information for all staff in DE&S - they are the main vehicle for announcing implementation of HR changes to line managers and individuals.

37/2010 – Changes to eligibility for UK civilian transfer allowances

41/2010 – Chief of Defence Materiel Commendation Scheme



Passports to a bright future

ABBEY WOOD'S Sandra Hilder took one of the major awards as DE&S organised the MOD's annual apprentice awards.

Sandra, who works in the communications and situational awareness team, part of DE&S Ships, won the Sir David Cardwell Memorial Prize.

The award is named after Sir David Cardwell, a former Chief of Defence Procurement. It is given to the apprentice who has made exceptional progress during his or her training.

Sandra's prize was a book of her choice, half-bound in leather.

Apprentice of the year was Daniel Wright, who works in the Defence Support Group at Catterick. He pipped Peter New of the Joint Support Chain at Gosport to the gold medal, with Daniel Thorp of RAF Menwith Hill the bronze medal winner. The winner was presented with a trophy which is held by his parent establishment for a year while all three received medals, certificates and a cash prize.

Awards recognise the achievements of the MOD's civilian engineering apprentices in a number of competitions organised on behalf of the MOD by the DE&S apprentice management team at Abbey Wood.

This time, 22 civilian MOD apprentices were presented with awards by Gerald Howarth, Minister for International Security Strategy on 2 December in MOD Main Building.

The prestigious event was hosted by DE&S Chief of Corporate Performance Trevor Woolley and attended by the Permanent Under Secretary Ursula Brennan.

Winners were drawn from establishments around the UK, and their families, friends and senior management were on hand to join in the congratulations for the prize winning apprentices.

The MOD has a substantial commitment to civilian apprentice training at sites around the UK. Craft and technician apprentices follow training programmes which meet national framework requirements for engineering apprenticeships.

Apprentices are provided with a supported route into an engineering career with the MOD with an emphasis on vocational development.



APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR 2010

Gold: Daniel Wright (DSG Catterick); Silver: Peter New (JSC Gosport); Bronze: Daniel Thorp (RAF Menwith Hill)

TOM NEVARD MEMORIAL COMPETITION

Mechanical Section (machining and general fitting)

Winner (1st phase): Ben Camfield (DSG Bovington)

Runner up (1st phase): James Braithwaite (DSG Bovington)

Winner (2nd phase): Matthew Powell (DSG Donnington)

Runner up (2nd phase): Kevin Lewis (DSG Donnington)

Mechanical Section (hand skills and general fitting)

Winner (1st phase): Jordan Timberlake (JSC Gosport)

Runner Up (1st phase): Sam Talman (JSC Gosport)

Winner (2nd phase): Ben Dovey (DSG Donnington)

Runner Up (2nd phase): Steven Wilson (DSG Donnington)

Electronic Test

Winner (1st phase): James Baker (DE&S Abbey Wood)

Runner up (1st phase): Michael Sarr (DE&S Abbey Wood)

Winner (2nd phase): Aaron Savidis (DE&S Abbey Wood)

Runner up (2nd phase): Benjamin Mogridge (DE&S Abbey Wood)

Engineering Project Management Team event

Winners: Leanne Hull (RAF Lakenheath), Simon Milne, Christopher McGinn, Timothy Buchan



Above: the winners line up with PUS Ursula Brennan

Left: Daniel Wright

Below: Sandra Hilder

ELVY AND COAST CHARITY AWARD

Winner: Andrew Murray (DSG Donnington)

SIR HENRY ROYCE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION MEDAL

Winner: Daniel Thorp (RAF Menwith Hill)

SIR DAVID CARDWELL MEMORIAL PRIZE

Winner: Sandra Hilder (DE&S Abbey Wood)



Bob takes on Faslane role

WARRANT OFFICER 1 Bob Cawley, above, is the first Royal Marine appointed as Base Warrant Officer at Faslane.

"As a Royal Marine I wear a different uniform to most at the base," said Bob. "But I am always aware of the wider Naval Service and the part we all play towards achieving the collective requirements of that service."

Bob's main role will be to act as an information conduit between Command and the other ranks on accommodation, catering, retail and leisure at Clyde.

Devonport shows off its variety of skills

THE ROYAL Navy in Devonport has staged a variety show and raised £12,000 for Help For Heroes and Royal Naval and Royal Marine charities.

The event for 750 guests, took place in the Wyvern Sports Centre. The occasion also helped raise awareness of the naval base long-term rehabilitation unit Hasler Company and raised money for its supporting services.

Warrant Office Neal Frame said: "This event was a huge step up, in terms of the large-scale audience, for all of the acts and they all performed brilliantly on the night in front of the appreciative guests."

To complement the acts and supporting the audience 40 trainee sailors from *HMS Raleigh* waited on the tables, raffle tickets were sold and a cocktail bar also raised funds.



Facing up: members of ACDS (Log Ops) sport their facial hair to raise cash to fight prostate cancer

BRAVE souls from ACDS (Log Ops) put down their razors and took up the November challenge.

The aim was to change their appearance and the face of men's health by growing a moustache to raise awareness of prostate cancer which kills one Briton on average every hour.

The commitment lasted 30 days, with the team raising £1,942 for prostate cancer research, £942 more than their original goal.

Overall November raised just over £8.5 million nationally and more than £40 million worldwide.

Supervisor Steve is quick off the blocks

Specialists in Defence Support



www.cds.co.uk

Solutions for long-term projects and UORs

- Safety case consultancy
- Information Assurance
- Technical authoring
- Illustrations, 3D modelling and animation
- Integrated Logistics Support
- Bid support
- Configuration control
- Training-needs analysis and course material

We also offer secure premises, vetted personnel and conform to all Defence Standards. We are the MOD's contracted print management supplier and provide technical support services under the MOD FATS/3 framework.



Photography © Crown Copyright/MOD, images from www.photos.mod.uk

Please call Paul Meersman on 0800 138 4308 or email defence@cds.co.uk for more information.



STEVE HEARN has proved 'first past the post' at Devonport to complete the MOD's Advanced Apprenticeship.

Steve is a vessel traffic supervisor working for the Queen's Harbour Master at Longroom port control station

His qualification is made up of an NVQ Level 3 in Business Administration together with certification for key skills through the accredited provider JHP.

Steve was presented with his award by his assessor Garry Sheward from JHP, who said it was testimony to Steve's effort and hard work that he accomplished this NVQ earlier than anticipated and to a very high standard.

More info on the qualification from the Learning and Development team on Devonport ext 67106.

Steve, second from left, is pictured with, from left, Lt Cdr Richard Smith, deputy Queen's Harbour Master, Tania Milburn, the naval base's Learning and Development officer, and Garry Sheward, JHP assessor.

Me and my shadow!

THE DE&S shadowing programme allows staff to gain an insight into the work of senior people.

Having graduated from the Aspire 'Evolving Leaders' programme Lt Cdr Jim Sayer – now in the Joint Support Chain Operating Centre at Abbey Wood with the Helicopters Solutions team – thought his ideal shadow candidate would be Director Helicopters Pete Worrall.

Time with Pete would give Jim an insight into the Helicopters Operating Centre and what a day in the life of a DE&S leader was like.

The day began with Jim attending Director Helicopters' one-to-one brief at Yeovilton at 8.30am, although Pete had been in from 7am preparing for the day's meetings.

"Pete and I had a discussion before the meeting and it was evident he prepares himself well for his week ahead to ensure that he is efficient and effective and does not waste the time of his staff and stakeholders," said Jim.

"I was impressed with the amount of statistics on performance data and the

DE&S' Aspire programme builds better leaders. Lt Cdr Jim Sayer enhanced his work with a day of shadowing

levels of engineering and safety information that are captured and discussed at the meeting.

"I have no doubt that many people are involved in acquiring such critical information and it was heartening to learn that it was captured once and used many times.

"It was clear for me to see how coherent the data was, especially when exploring the strategic risks and how the mitigations are managed."

An operational brief followed with an update on helicopter performance and the previous week's tasking in Afghanistan.

Jim said: "Having just left

Pete Worrall, far right, greets Lt Cdr Jim Sayer, his shadow for the day



the Commando Helicopter Force as Air Engineer Officer on 845 Naval Air Squadron, it was pleasing to see that the Forces' endeavours on operations are getting the attention they deserve at the highest level."

Jim then accompanied Pete to the Lynx programme performance review and the QinetiQ 2* airworthiness review.

Overall Jim's experience of the day achieved his aim. "Pete is a very approachable leader, who gets a great deal out of his team.

"Management of stakeholders is clearly important in his role and it was evident that when a situation requires it he can be both authoritative and engaging, armed with a great deal of experience."

DINs - released this month

Defence Instructions and Notice (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:

2010DIN04-183: This details the direction on the management, support and utilisation of Fleet Portable Dental Units based at HMS Drake and HMS Nelson. The units are primarily used to deliver dental care afloat. Use of them can reduce the number of hours lost from an individual's primary role

2010DIN04-181: Process and priorities for allocation of heavy lift transport in Germany. It lists procedures to be used and the associated priority system for bidding for heavy lift resources.

2010DIN04-180: Provision of a surface global freight transportation service between the UK and destinations worldwide. This details the surface capabilities of the service for movement of ammunition and explosives, ISO containers, vehicles and other freight.

2010DIN04-178: Renaming of Basil Hill Site and move of Information Systems and Services and the GOSCC to the Corsham New Environment. Basil Hill is now MOD Corsham, reflecting relocation of the main gate and change of address. The main gate has relocated from Park Lane to Westwells Road.

Further information and more details on the latest DINs see:

<http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Library/CivilianAndJointService/AtoZ/DinsIndex2010.htm>

Driving home the safety message

Naval bases underline how to stay safe on the roads as MOD hosts week of activities



Road Safety Officers from Argyll and Bute Council and nursery staff teaching Clyde Nursery children how to cross the road safely.

A STAGED road accident rescue was among the graphic demonstrations as sites across DE&S brought home the importance of care during national road safety week.

Devonport Naval Base Commander Commodore Steve Dearden and Babcock Operations Manager Richard Hawkins volunteered and were cut out of a 'crashed' car by a team from Devon and Somerset fire and rescue.

"The exercise certainly put out a strong message about the importance of safe driving," said Commodore Dearden. "I

was very impressed with the professionalism and teamwork of the rescue team."

Supported by numerous local agencies, the National Road Safety campaign visited work areas across the site, allowing staff to watch accident DVDs, see road safety displays and pick up tips on how to stay safe on the roads.

MOD Police, trade unions, Babcock and the base's safety organisation carried out vehicle and cycle roadside checks, focusing on how to be seen and stay safe.

The naval base's transport

officer conducted lorry checks, defensive driving presentations and brought in classic cars of his own to convey the road safety message to various groups.

MOD Police at Clyde were particularly busy with a week of events, including a road safety stall, a quiz and survey, tips for safe biking, and speed checks on the nearby Churchill Estate

The Carousel-run Clyde Nursery was visited by road safety officers from Argyll and Bute Council to give children kerbside training.

Twenty-three drivers on the base were breathalysed with all proving negative while the MOD Police's PC Dennis Young was also there with his drug search dog.

Tracy Ross of the MOD Police said: "Driving safely and making sure that your vehicle is in good condition is always important, but it is absolutely vital at this time of the year when driving conditions can become harsh.

"Hopefully road safety week went some way to raising awareness and making people safer drivers."

Card idea does Clyde police credit

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour on the defence estate for Clyde naval base is being targeted by the MOD Police.

And recent figures show a reduction of more than 80 per cent.

Officers have recently gone further in looking after the welfare of local children, teaming up with the NHS and other agencies to produce a credit card style USB full of essential information which was handed out at the latest Blue Light Disco.

Using 2007 figures as a benchmark, officers have seen an annual fall in anti-social behaviour, with a 55.5 per cent decrease in 2008, a 48.07 per cent dip in 2009 and an impressive 86.6 per cent fall in 2010.



Above, from left: Michelle MacDonald from Route 81 youth project, Cathy McCuaig from NHS Greater Glasgow, PC Tracy Ross (MOD Police Crime Reduction and Community Safety Officer) and Samantha Souter from NHS Highland. Left: the credit card-style USBs



Staff enjoy some hearty fare

A VISIT to a radio station website earned DE&S staff some free cups of tea and chocolate at their base.

The Gloucestershire Heart FM Angels visited the Bowman and Tactical Communication and Information Systems' fielding management team based at Ashchurch, after SSgt Daryl Lowrie won a visit from the Angels by

visiting the station's website. The Heart Angels – the street marketing team of the Gloucestershire Heart FM radio station – popped in to see the staff, leaving behind plenty of Heart FM merchandise items so that the visit would be fondly remembered.

Left: the Heart Angels on their visit to Ashchurch

Geoff leads the DE&S challenge

DE&S ORIENTEER Geoff Ellis defended his title at the inter-service championships at Ocknell in the New Forest.

The RAF flight lieutenant from Information Systems and Services is the only RAF orienteer to win the inter-service title more than once.

He led the way as three DE&S orienteers were put to the test in an event which was otherwise dominated by the Army.

Lt Col Chris Sanderson, of DES Weapons' Defence General Munitions led the Army team and narrowly missed a place on the podium.

Capt Mark Bentley, also of Information Systems and Services, was the Army's running reserve and showed why he is a name to watch with a strong run that saw him out-compete other Army team members.

Geoff and Chris have gained selection for the Combined Services vs British Students fixture in March in Edinburgh.

The Combined Services team will again look to Geoff to lead the challenge against the students, many of who perform successfully on the international stage, as he has done for the last three years.



Flt Lt Geoff Ellis is pictured, left, with Air Commodore (ret'd) John Simons



Colin is way out in front

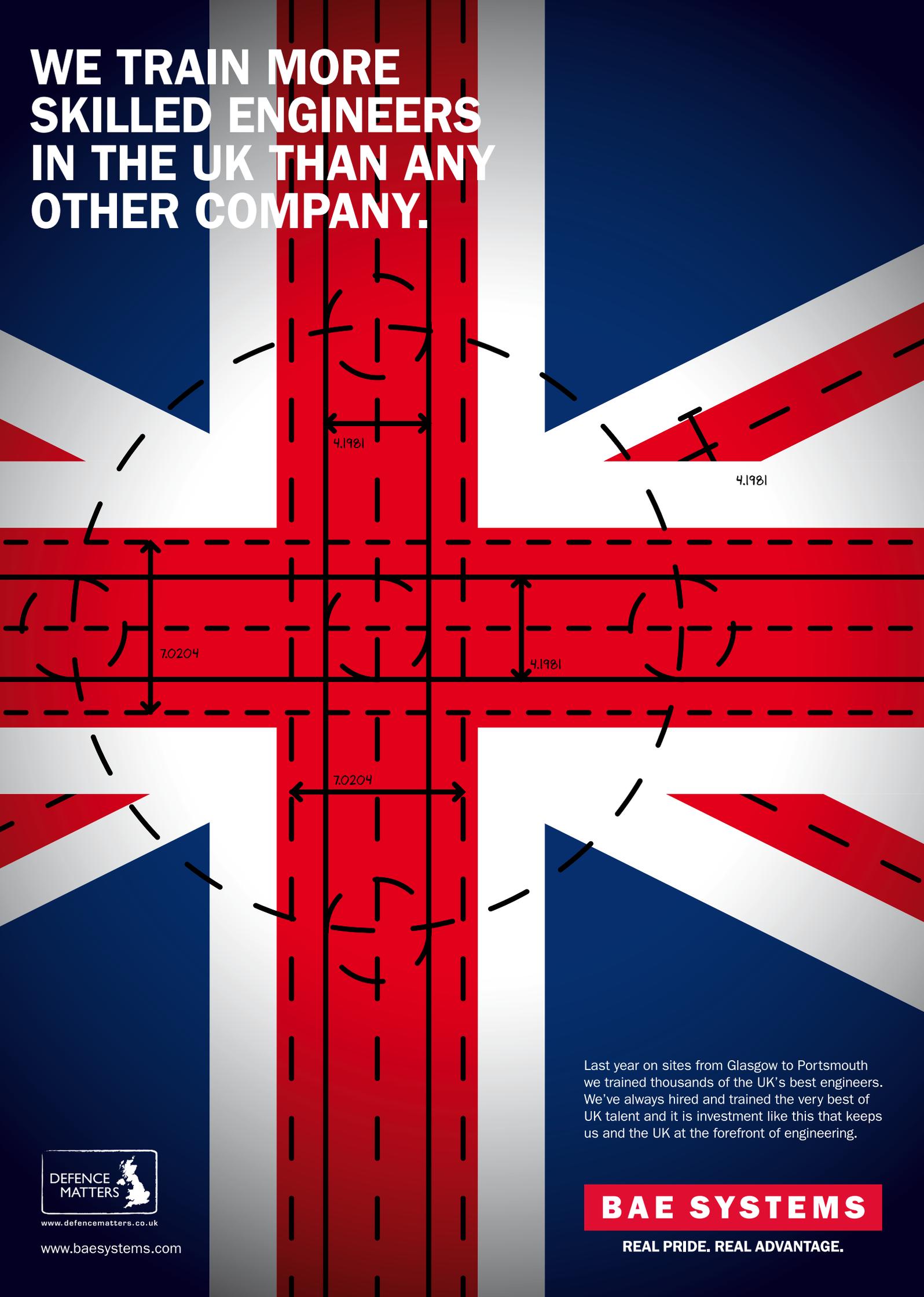
PETTY OFFICER Colin Abbot, pictured, was first across the line in the first Royal Navy Scotland cross-country mountain bike event.

Colin completed the muddy course of Ardgarten Forest in just over 41 minutes, nearly three minutes ahead of his nearest rival.

Twenty-five competitors from the Clyde base took part over the 14km rough terrain route with points reaching 200m above sea level.

Prizes were presented by Naval Base Commander Clyde, Commodore Chris Hockley.

WE TRAIN MORE SKILLED ENGINEERS IN THE UK THAN ANY OTHER COMPANY.



Last year on sites from Glasgow to Portsmouth we trained thousands of the UK's best engineers. We've always hired and trained the very best of UK talent and it is investment like this that keeps us and the UK at the forefront of engineering.



www.defencematters.co.uk

www.baesystems.com

BAE SYSTEMS

REAL PRIDE. REAL ADVANTAGE.