

desider

Nov 2013 Issue 66

the magazine for defence equipment and support



Ministry
of Defence

Dragon fire!



Type 45 gets down to business

Latest updates on GOCO and DE&S+ [See inside](#)



Safety is key
in submarines



Latest Bowman
is in the field



Comms at
Camp Bastion



Voyager hits
the mark



Clothes maketh
the soldier



TOGETHER
WE REMEMBER.



75
YEARS
1938-2013

BOEING | UK
PARTNERSHIP

This Remembrance Day we honour the
dedication of UK servicemen and women
and their families. Together we remember
all they have achieved and sacrificed.



FEATURES

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The Forces' annual culinary showdown at its new venue at Shrivensham was a great success. DE&S now looks to build on the past by making sure the contest evolves to keep pace with military and civilian expectations



cover image

HMS Dragon's Lynx makes a spectacular pass over the Type 45 destroyer during air defence exercises in the Mediterranean Sea, a new environment for the ship and her crew having been in the Gulf for four months

Picture: L [Phot] Dave Jenkins

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Bernard Gray

Chief of Defence Materiel

'MOD would be looking for savings from greater efficiencies in the procurement process rather than large savings from the operating costs of DE&S'



I hope that most of you are already aware of recent significant changes in the Materiel Strategy team that have added fresh senior-level scrutiny and support to the continuing development of the potential DE&S+ option.

I have appointed Pete Worrall, Chief of Materiel (Joint Enablers), as the Board-level champion for DE&S+. Pete will provide independent governance and challenge to the DE&S+ option within the Materiel Strategy programme as it develops its proposals over the coming months to find the best way the organisation could deliver for defence, while remaining in the public sector.

In addition Paul Blakiston has moved on promotion to become Director DE&S+. Paul will report to Director Materiel Strategy. He is charged with overseeing the development of a robust public sector alternative solution to the Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) option.

These changes have been made so that we can augment the impressive progress that has already been achieved on the DE&S+ option as we head towards the next set of challenging milestones on the Materiel Strategy and the finalisation of the Main Gate Business Case next year.

I want to ensure that the DE&S+ proposal is as strong as possible, so that it provides a real challenge to a potential GOCO solution and that Ministers are presented with a genuine choice.

Last month Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne was present throughout the committee stages of the Defence Reform Bill, during which the provisions of the Bill underwent detailed scrutiny by MPs.

The next step for the Bill

is the Report stage, prior to its Third Reading in the House of Commons, followed by its progression to the House of Lords and eventual Royal Assent, which we expect to take place in April 2014.

During the Committee stages the Minister made the observation that, should a decision be taken in favour of the potential GOCO option, the transfer of DE&S to private sector operation would be of comparable scale to the transfer of the Atomic Weapons Establishment to a private industry consortium under a GOCO model in 2000.

The Minister also explained to MPs that the MOD would be looking for savings from greater efficiencies in the procurement process rather than looking to extract large savings from the operating costs of DE&S. This is a message that I have also sought to put across to MPs when I have given evidence before Parliamentary committees and explained to those of you that were able to attend my town hall briefings.

Staff costs in DE&S are about eight per cent of the organisation's total expenditure – my case is that the real value of the changes we need to see will be in obtaining value for money in the 92 per cent of our budget that goes on the equipment and support programme.

Finally, I have continued my visits to other sites and recently went to Corsham and HM Naval Base Clyde. At both locations I continued to be impressed by the workforce and their dedication to the job at hand. I am encouraged about the changes introduced under the Materiel Strategy that will give them and all of us in DE&S the freedoms and flexibilities to make the most of our jobs.

Board post to champion the DE&S+ option

CHIEF OF Defence Materiel Bernard Gray has appointed Chief of Materiel (Joint Enablers) Pete Worrall as the Board-level champion for DE&S+ to provide independent governance and challenge to the programme as it develops over the coming months.

Mr Worrall has established a 3*/2* Steering Group which includes DE&S Board members not directly involved in the GOCO Option, senior personnel from the DE&S+ team and a senior independent member from a major consultancy company.

In addition to his monthly strategic Steering Groups, Mr Worrall will meet at least weekly with the DE&S+ team to review progress on the development of the DE&S+ option at the more tactical level.

Mr Worrall, pictured, said: "I am delighted to have been asked by CDM to



take on this exciting transformational role. My mission is to maximise the opportunity for the DE&S+ option to be a credible contender for consideration at Main Gate, to be compared against the preferred GOCO bid, and I am

determined to play my part in achieving that outcome.

"I will be responsible for providing independent 3* governance and challenge and I have already had a series of meetings with Director Materiel Strategy Barry Burton and Director DE&S+ Paul Blakiston and very much look forward to continuing these up to Main Gate.

"I will be looking closely at all elements of the programme as the DE&S+ option moves towards Main Gate next year. It will be my job to ask the difficult questions, proactively, to ensure that we have the strongest possible case."

Mr Gray said: "I chose Pete for this demanding role, in addition to his day job of leading the Joint Enablers domain, based on his long experience at all levels in DE&S, the DPA and the PE.

"In the 1990s he was also a member of the MOD team that established the Defence Research Agency.

"Pete therefore has first hand relevant acquisition and transformation knowledge with a deep insight into the way our work is done. That insight will be of huge benefit to the DE&S+ programme."

Team continues the dialogue

THE DE&S+ team held a successful engagement event at Winterbourne Gunner to discuss elements of the emerging design that cover the interface between DE&S and its customers.

The team has been engaging with representatives from the Front Line Commands, Head Office, Strategic Programmes and DE&S.

The full day workshop started with a briefing on the background to DE&S+, and how the team is aiming to provide a compelling option for the future of the organisation.

This was followed by an explanation of some of the details of the customer interface elements of the design, including how the organisation will work with customers to manage new business and changes to the existing programme.

In the afternoon session, attendees explored elements of the customer interface design through selected scenarios.

Conversations in all the groups were honest and constructive. It helped clarify how to develop the DE&S+ proposition further, helped answer some questions and pointed to where and how any outstanding issues need to be resolved.

It was the first time that some in the Front Line Commands had been exposed to the latest thinking on DE&S+, and there was significant interest from attendees in participating in future engagements.

The DE&S+ team is now looking at how to continue the engagement with the customer community, within the confidentiality constraints in which the team is working, as it turns design into practical delivery plans.



Liesl Neale, Richard Smart and Steve Goodbourn answer staff questions at the latest open forum at Abbey Wood. The forum was chaired by Materiel Strategy's Andy Weston, far left

'An attractive and strong alternative to GOCO'

THE NEW Director of the team putting together the public sector proposal for the future of DE&S – the DE&S+ option – has pledged to produce a very robust alternative to the Government Owned Contractor Operated organisation favoured by Government.

Paul Blakiston, pictured, has moved from Head of the Maritime Change Programme on promotion into a new two-star role in which he has six months to lead the design of an organisation which will still be part of the public sector but will give staff the freedoms to equip and support UK Armed Forces more efficiently and effectively.

"I am leading the DE&S+ team with Liesl Neale, who's been doing a sterling job so far," he said. "And I will be there to help Liesl make a compelling bid, one that forces industry to recognise that we are a serious contender."

The DE&S+ team is developing an innovative operating model to support the DE&S+ proposition. "We intend to have fleshed out our next iteration of the proposition by the end of November to give us time to make sure the key messages and selling points are well rehearsed," said Mr

Blakiston. "We already know what some of those unique selling points are and we want to make sure we can articulate them clearly and convincingly. In parallel, we are providing the



body of evidence to back up those unique selling points."

The DE&S+ proposition will be looking to gather as much freedom as it can for staff to do their jobs, while keeping the organisation in the public sector.

"I think there are a lot of people out there who would be

more content working in DE&S+ with the freedoms we shall acquire than they would be in an operating company," said Mr Blakiston.

"If DE&S+ can give our people the tools, techniques and freedoms that they need to move from good to great – one where we provide people with the freedoms they need to execute their business – then I think that could be a very attractive alternative to a GOCO proposition.

"The DE&S organisation has been doing a very effective job for what seems like a very long time, and I think when we look at the core reasons for cost overruns and delays to schedules many of them come from externally driven interference, lack of change controls, or political considerations.

"Putting a degree of independence in the DE&S+ proposition, justifying the need for freedoms to operate more efficiently and effectively and investing in our people and processes is what the DE&S+ proposition is all about. It's also about making efficiencies. We should not shy away from that challenge."

□ continued on page 6

More freedom from central control

■ continued from page 5

The freedoms from central control – including investments in people – that Mr Blakiston seeks are similar to, if not as wide-ranging as those a potential private sector consortium would expect. There is nothing, he says, for staff to fear in the proposition.

“Our job is to convince senior stakeholders in Whitehall that our proposition provides them better value for money than not giving us those freedoms.”

DE&S+ is already working with key people in the Cabinet Office and Treasury to test potential freedoms and make people aware of how fundamental they would be to the success of a DE&S+ operating model, he said. Similar freedoms are anticipated to be needed by the GOCO proposition so why should DE&S+ be denied them, he said.

Experience of the Maritime Change Programme gives Mr Blakiston the right background.

He said: “I am used to operating in that complex environment. The DE&S+ teams and MCP teams are broadly the same size. Protecting sensitive information is something MCP has done particularly well, and putting together a range of complex business cases and propositions is something we have been doing for the last five years. MCP has delivered significant change. I intend to continue with that with the DE&S+ Team.”

Materiel Strategy director Barry Burton welcomed Mr Blakiston to his new post. “As we move towards the investment decision on the future of DE&S, the DE&S+ team needs a significant figure to add impetus to the programme and to augment the good work already done by the DE&S+ team on the public sector comparator,” he said.

“Paul has huge experience of managing change in DE&S, particularly in his work on the Maritime Change Programme, and I believe he is exactly the right person to make sure the DE&S+ case will be as strong as it can be.”

Scale of GOCO transfer ‘is not unprecedented’

DEFENCE MINISTER Philip Dunne told MPs during the Committee stage of the Defence Reform Bill that the potential transfer of DE&S to a GOCO, should Ministers decide that was the best way forward, would be of a similar scale to the transfer of the Atomic Weapons Establishment to contractor management.

Mr Dunne, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, said: “If we compare the proposed two

phases of transfer of the GOCO, we are talking in the first phase about transferring some 3,800 people with an operating cost and capital spend of less than £400 million.

“In the second phase, once all the domains have transferred, we will be transferring some 9,000 people with a cost of under £1 billion. That is directly comparable to the scale of the AWE, which has some 6,500 staff and contractors and an operating cost and

capital spend of £850 million a year. It is also smaller than, for example, Sellafeld, which has about 10,000 employees and £1.6 billion of operating costs. The idea that the scale of transfer is unprecedented is, I think, a misapprehension.”

The Minister explained the DE&S maritime domain had been chosen to move into a GOCO in phase one because it would test challenging areas.

He said: “Maritime accounts for 45 per cent of the planned DE&S expenditure over the next decade. That is contained within a relatively small number of large projects, compared with the other domains. The sooner that such projects can get the benefits associated with an improved procurement system, the faster the impact of undertaking the change.”

Mr Dunne said Commands now took greater responsibility for setting their own equipment requirements. This had led to greater accountability, including finding the money to pay for any changes in specification they wished for.

“Hitherto, equipment setting has been undertaken by Commands, with individuals in the MOD, but there was no direct accountability for impact on the budget for the changes made. That is one of the driving theories behind what we are trying to do here: introduce more rigour to the decision-making process.”

GOCO advice for MPs from Philip Dunne, far right, who took time out to visit Abbey Wood on 21st October to open the new Pattern Room. He is pictured with Col Mike Ross, head of Defence Clothing

Story: pages 24 and 25



Other key points the Minister made included:

- The MOD is looking for savings from greater efficiencies in the procurement process rather than looking to extract large savings from the operating costs of DE&S;
- It would be possible, if MOD was content, for an American company to take over a GOCO, but it would have to employ UK-eyes-only personnel and would have to have either a UK chairman or a UK chief executive;

Future DE&S staffing levels unveiled

IN WRITTEN evidence to the Bill Committee Defence Minister Philip Dunne said numbers of staff in DE&S had reduced from 21,500 in 2010 to around 16,300 and would reduce further to about 14,500 by 2015.

He said: “This figure includes the planned outsourcing of the Logistics Commodities and Services activity. Also outside the scope of a potential GOCO are the 1,500 people who manage our naval bases. This activity currently sits within DE&S but will be largely transferred to the Royal Navy.

“A further 2,100 in Information Systems and Services will be transferred out of DE&S into Joint Forces Command. Finally, we expect that approximately 1,250 of the posts in what

will be the ‘common resource platform’ (HR, Finance, Commercial, and Technical specialists) and 350 of the posts involved in Requirements Management and the Finance Military Capability transformation could be retained within the MOD as part of the intelligent customer function.

“Of the remaining 9,300 posts, we would expect that 1,500 would be military personnel. These posts are planned to transfer into the GOCO in two stages, with a first vesting day at the end of FY14/15 followed by a second vesting day at the end of FY 16/17.”

The Minister said figures were based on current assumptions and it was too early to make definitive statements about the size and shape of a GOCO.

Dragon fire – at sea and in the air



AS *HMS Dragon* patrols the eastern Mediterranean her Lynx helicopter breathes fire into the sunset sky with a stunning array of decoy flares.

This powerful image of capability – both sea and air – was captured by Leading Photographer

David Jenkins, the Royal Navy's Photographer of the Year.

LPhot Jenkins said: "There are times when you take plenty of pictures and have very little to show for them.

"The images taken that night

were as a result of some careful planning and good fortune.

"What is rewarding for me is that the crew are pleased with the picture because it represents the capability that *HMS Dragon* delivers on a daily basis."

THE BUILD programme for the Type 45 destroyers has effectively come to an end with the commissioning of *HMS Duncan*, the sixth and final vessel.

Hundreds of guests including families of the 190 ship's company attended a colourful ceremony at Portsmouth to mark the ship's transition into front-line service.

First-of-class *HMS Daring* was commissioned in July 2009 followed by sister ships *Dauntless*, *Diamond*, *Dragon*, *Defender* and now *Duncan*.

Principal guests at *Duncan's* ceremony included Lady Marie Ibbotson – the ship's sponsor who launched the vessel at Govan shipyard on the River Clyde in October 2010 – and First Sea Lord Admiral Sir George Zambellas.

Dignitaries from the ship's affiliated cities of Belfast and Dundee and veterans from the last *HMS Duncan* – a Type 14 frigate in service between 1957 and 1985 – were also present.

The hour-long ceremony was rounded off in traditional Royal Navy fashion with the cutting of a commissioning cake. Performing the honour were the commanding officer's wife along with the youngest member of the ship's company – Logistician (Steward) Clancey Welford, aged 18.

The first four Type 45s have already experienced life on operational deployments and the fifth – *HMS Defender* – is due to deploy for the first time next year.

HMS Duncan will continue trials and training around the UK lasting well into next year before being ready to undertake operational tasking along with her sister ships around the globe.



The Duke of Kent, left, has taken a look around *HMS Duncan* after the ship's commissioning.

The destroyer hosted the Duke in his capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots Guards – the ship's affiliated Army regiment. He spent a couple of hours on board, sailing from Portsmouth and disembarking at the Marchwood military port.

NEWSREEL



Anna Soubry joins MOD

ANNA Soubry is the new Parliamentary Under Secretary for Defence following the ministerial reshuffle last month. Ms Soubry, above, Conservative MP for Broxtowe, studied law at Birmingham University and trained as a barrister. She has also worked as a TV reporter and presenter. In her political career she was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Health Minister Simon Burns from November 2010 to September 2012. In the reshuffle Mark Francois became Minister of State for the Armed Forces, replacing Andrew Robathan.

First A400M

THE first A400M tactical airlifter has been delivered to the French air force at a ceremony at the Airbus Military final assembly line at Seville. The aircraft, the first of 50 ordered by France and of a total of 174 on order, will be based at Orleans-Brice air base. The first of the 22 aircraft ordered by the UK is scheduled for delivery next year.

DVD dates

DVD, DE&S' annual stakeholder event, will be held again next year at Millbrook's proving ground in Bedfordshire. It will be on 25th-26th June with a pre-conference day on 24th June.

NEWSREEL

A call to industry

THE Defence Science and Technology Laboratory is looking to industry for innovative ways to develop simulation and field trial capability to counter potential threats to UK military helicopters from ground-based operated weapons. In particular, weapons operator performance during field trials is currently assessed using the Helicopter Collective Training System which is soon to be obsolete. So there is a call to replace and upgrade existing capability. This should bring together four elements; the weapons operator, the Defensive Aid Suite (DAS) fitted aircraft, the aircrew and countermeasures.

Jetty plans

PLANS have gone on show for a new jetty at the Thanckes oil fuel depot, in Devonport. Built in the 1950s, Yonderberry Jetty has been the main fuelling point used by Devonport's Royal Navy ships. It has now reached the end of its serviceable life and is being replaced. A new temporary jetty is proposed in the River Tamar, essential for maintaining military operations, while a more long term structure is constructed.

New recruits

MORE than 270 recruits have begun training at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy in Kabul, marking a major step in Britain's long-term commitment to Afghanistan's future.



Wanted!

New home for Illustrious

THE MOD is looking for ideas for how best to preserve the legacy of the Royal Navy's *Invincible* class aircraft carriers.

The last of the ships, *HMS Illustrious*, is due to retire towards the end of next year after 32 years of distinguished service that has seen her involved in operations across the world.

Following the announcement last year that the 22,000 tonne ship will be preserved in some form, the MOD is now inviting private companies, charities and trusts who are interested in buying her to come forward with ideas for her future use.

HMS Illustrious is the UK's High Readiness Helicopter and Commando Carrier, able to deploy Merlin, Chinook, Sea King, Lynx or Apaches. She is in the Mediterranean as part of the Royal Navy's Cougar 13 deployment of the UK's Response Force Task Group.

The ship has been involved in the Gulf War, supported evacuations from Sierra Leone, the conflict in Afghanistan in 2001 and Lebanon in 2006.

The MOD wants *HMS*

□ Proposals for *HMS Illustrious*' future use should be directed to the MOD's Disposal Services Authority (DSA) – <https://www.gov.uk/buying-defence-equipment-from-the-uk-armed-forces#dsa-capital-equipment-sales>

Illustrious to remain in the UK and bids for her future use must be viable and include plans for part or all of the ship to be developed for heritage purposes.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne said: "*HMS Illustrious*, like her two

sister ships *Invincible* and *Ark Royal*, has provided an invaluable service to this country over more than three decades.

"This competition will provide the opportunity for organisations to put forward innovative and viable proposals to honour the role and history of this iconic class of ship and all those who served onboard them."

Once proposals are received, an industry day will be held next year to discuss the ideas further. It is expected a final decision will be made after the ship is decommissioned and handed over to the Disposal Services Authority.

HMS Queen Elizabeth, the first of the two new aircraft carriers, is almost complete. She will begin sea trials in 2017, before undertaking flight trials with the Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter aircraft in 2018.

New weapon suppressors for UK Forces – the hunt is on

DE&S IS planning to launch a Capability Concept Demonstrator to test new suppressors for weapons used by UK troops to assess the effect on tactics, techniques and procedures.

The CCD will combine bespoke suppressors and five types of platoon weapons; SA80; Light Support Weapon; Sharpshooter; Light Machine Gun and General Purpose Machine Gun.

A suppressor reduces noise from the shot and potentially minimises disturbance of foliage when firing. It will also seek to minimise muzzle flash, particularly important in the dark.

Commercial off-the-shelf suppressors have

already been tested and the next stage is an in-depth examination of the potential benefits offered by 'tailor-made' suppressors.

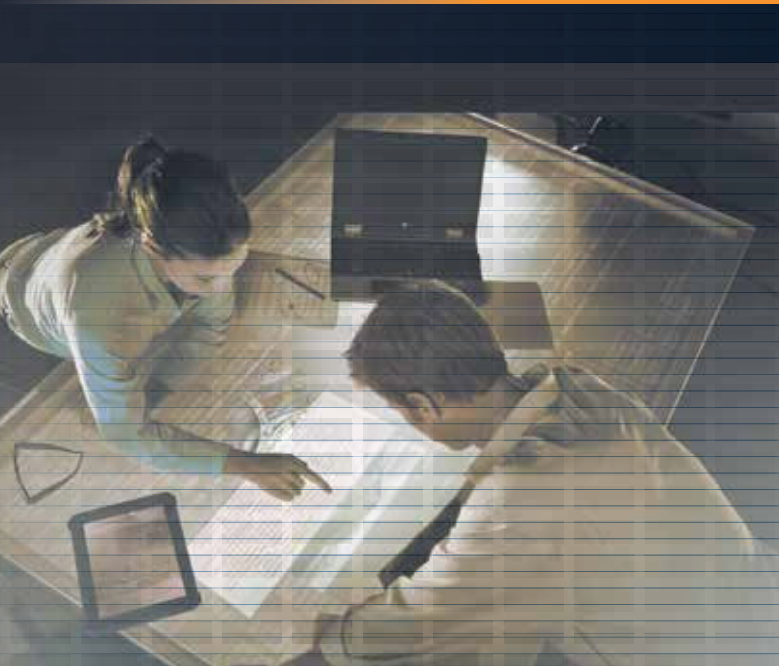
The MOD has now called on companies to manufacture bespoke products to be tested by specially selected troops and weapons experts.

It is not certain that these new suppressors will be bought for use across the Armed Forces, but this research is set to inform and reduce the risks of making the wrong decision if they are bought.

It is hoped a contract will be let by the beginning of next year. Following that, the suppressors can be designed, manufactured and tested by the summer.

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NEWSREEL

Protection money

ANTICIPATED expenditure on personal protective equipment such as helmets and body plates, personal load-carrying equipment (including webbing, belts and pouches) and CBRN suits in 2014-15 will be around £16 million, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne has told Parliament. This does not include concept and assessment phase expenditure for developing new CBRN suits. In addition, Virtus, which aims to deliver an integrated helmet and torso protection solution (including face, eye, pelvic and knee protection) optimising the whole system capability for service personnel, has a budget of approximately £5 million for financial year 2014-15.

Missile move

INSTALLATION of the Sea Ceptor missile system on Type 23 frigates will be part of the vessels' long-term refit programme, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne has told Parliament. It is due to start in 2015 and be completed by 2021. The weapon forms part of a new naval air defence system that can intercept and destroy enemy missiles.

Change talk

JONATHAN Slater, Director General Transformation and Strategy, will answer staff questions at Northwood from 1-2pm on 6th November. Bookings to 96161 4828



Mr Gray opens a building at Clyde with Col Matt Pierson

A top-level look at Clyde and Yeovilton

MR GRAY has seen Yeovilton's support to operations and transition plans for future Wildcat and Merlin helicopters.

The Chief of Defence Materiel met the Royal Naval Air Station's commanding officer, Commodore Jock Alexander, and his senior team, along with members of the Royal Navy and Army Wildcat fielding team. Mr Gray also toured the Wildcat training facility.

The visit followed a morning at AgustaWestland where Mr Gray saw the Wildcat production line and discussed the project with DE&S staff.

CHIEF OF Defence Materiel Bernard Gray has witnessed operations of the base which hosts the UK's nuclear deterrent.

Mr Gray visited Clyde naval base on 21st and 22nd October for talks on the base's infrastructure and to see the operations of some of its key facilities.

Last month saw *Astute* and *Trafalgar* class submarines using the base's new Valiant Jetty for the first time. The jetty is a modern facility to berth and maintain Clyde-based nuclear-powered submarines and will be a vital capability for Clyde as it moves towards being the single UK submarine operating base.

Mr Gray was given a tour of the jetty's facilities accompanied by Nuclear Operations and Infrastructure Director Wayne Lonsdale and the jetty's operator Andrew Pursey.

CDM opened a new centre for 43 Commando Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines, which provides military protection for the UK's strategic deterrent. Unit members put on a display of their capabilities for him.

Mr Gray also visited the armaments depot at Coulport which stores, processes and maintains the Trident deterrent, and stores conventional weapons for Royal Navy submarines.

And he visited the base's spectacular shiplift, which lifts vessels out of the water for maintenance.

"My visit to Clyde provided me with an excellent insight into one of the most important UK bases," said Mr Gray.

"During my visit I was struck by the professionalism of the staff who work there. The work of Clyde naval base helps to keep the UK and its interests safe and I was glad to be able to see some of its capabilities at first hand."

Inventory management takes next step forward

THE FIRST major project to improve the supply of essential information to support vital defence logistics has been delivered.

Release 1 of Base Inventory and Warehouse Management Services, or BIWMS, was introduced in September.

It allows placement and monitoring of acquisition requests with the US Department of Defense under the Foreign Military Sales programme.

The first release replaces an obsolete system for ordering under such agreements with the US. More users will be brought onto the system in the near future.

BIWMS is the first major transformation under the £1 billion-plus Future Logistic Information Services contract

which is being implemented by DE&S' Logistic Network Enabled Capability team and is set to run until 2021.

Boeing Defence UK is the industry partner providing commercial off-the-shelf products to replace outdated logistic processes for each of the services with a single one.

The first release of BIWMS uses the infrastructure at Boeing's new data centre which is provided under the FLIS contract.

It shows the success of the partnership between Boeing, the BIWMS team, Miro Technologies and a host of other stakeholders.

Release 2 is being developed and will replace the RAF's inventory management known as the Supply Central Control

System. Further work is set to improve inventory systems across land, maritime and munitions.

"Replacing legacy inventory management systems, some of which are approaching 40 years of age, is a major step forward for defence," said Barry Austin, BIWMS project executive.

"The project will allow us to manage our inventory in a more cost effective and efficient manner.

"It will also enable the MOD to correctly account for inventory transactions, and therefore reduce the need for a large degree of manual intervention.

"As each stage is rolled out, project teams will have increasing confidence in stock accounting information."

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Air-to-air milestone fuels Voyager feelgood factor

Picture: AirTanker/Geoff Lee
www.planefocus.com



A Voyager refuels a Typhoon and a Tornado during a sortie from RAF Brize Norton

Typhoon the latest to feel the benefit

REFUELLING CONTACTS between the RAF's new Voyager air tanker and transport aircraft and Typhoon jets have passed the 350 mark.

The milestone is part of a rapid build-up in capability of the Voyager aircraft a month after the retirement of the last VC10s.

Voyager was given the green light to begin air-to-air refuelling operations with Typhoon in a formal Release to Service on 15th August.

Having carried out its first Typhoon towline on 11th June, Voyager and Typhoon have now completed more than 350 contacts, offloading around 840 tonnes of fuel to the end of September.

Phill Blundell, Chief Executive of AirTanker, contracted to deliver an air-to-air refuelling capability to the RAF by next May, said: "Release to Service on Typhoon in the summer

represented an important step forward for Voyager, clearing the fast jet programme.

"Our service and the infrastructure is now there, while six of the aircraft that make up the core nine-strong Voyager fleet, have been delivered – we have a very tangible capability."

Voyager received the go-ahead to refuel the Tornado GR4 at the beginning of the summer. Combined with those figures for Typhoon, Voyager has completed more than 70 air-to-air refuelling sorties, giving away more than 2,300 tonnes of fuel. The fully certified and militarily converted Airbus A330-200 has a total fuel capacity of 111 tonnes.

The aircraft can carry up to 291 passengers with a cargo capability of up to eight Nato pallets or up to 43 tonnes.

The aircraft can also be configured to accommodate a 40-stretcher medical evacuation capability including critical care.

AirTanker has also received its Extended Twin Engine Operations clearance from the Civil Aviation Authority which allows its civilian airline operation to take on long-range routes by allowing it to fly up to 180 minutes from the nearest suitable airport.

This is a precursor to its role in support of the Falklands air bridge carrying military and civilian passengers from the UK to the Falkland Islands and Ascension Island. The service began last month.

The civilian registered aircraft will fly the route twice a week, the same as the previous service, carrying up to 200 passengers.

Dave Mitchard, AirTanker Services, said: "We have a first class aircraft and a highly competent team from military and civil aviation that's allowing us to blend best practice from both."

NEWSREEL

Speculate to innovate

NEW 'Innovation Networks' are being launched by the Centre for Defence Enterprise (CDE) offering greater support to industry and academia. The CDE has offered events to small and medium-sized enterprises and academia. It is now pulling all of these into a new-style event, where more information will be provided on themed and open competitions and projects previously funded by CDE will be showcased. The first will be on 27th November with ten networks held per year. Register at www.science.mod.uk under 'Events and Calls'

Answering the call

BOEING Defence UK has become the first commercial company to gain accreditation for directly connecting its telephone system into the military restricted system – CCS. Staff at Dakota House, Bristol (9267 4+ext) and Turing House, Milton Keynes (9267 5+ext) now have a public telephone number (the normal office number) and a military number (part of the MOD global military network) and can make and receive restricted calls to and from any global military site.

Signal work

BAE Systems has contracted Babcock to work on a new design for the Submerged Signal Ejector (SSE) for the UK's future ballistic nuclear submarines. The latest contract covers development of a new Mk12 SSE design up to system design phase.

A Royal glimpse at Portsmouth's future

THE PRINCESS Royal gets an overview, right, of preparations for arrival of future warships at Portsmouth, including the *Queen Elizabeth* carriers, from base commander Commodore Jeremy Rigby. The Princess was on a tour of the base which included the historic Block Mills, a Georgian factory which mass-produced wooden pulley-blocks for ships.

She also visited the Royal Marines School of Music where she spoke to several trainees and watched a marching display on the parade ground. It was the school's first royal visit since 1996 when the Earl of Wessex opened it on its relocation from Deal.



NEWSREEL

Britain hires a cyber army

BRITAIN will build a dedicated capability to counter-attack in cyberspace and, if necessary, to strike in cyberspace. The MOD is recruiting hundreds of computer experts to work in a new Joint Cyber Reserve which will see reservists working alongside regular forces to protect critical computer networks and safeguard vital data. Recruiting began this month, targeting three sectors: regular personnel leaving the Armed Forces, current and former reservists with the necessary skills, and individuals with no previous military experience, but with the technical knowledge, skills, experience and aptitude.

British work

A £367 million contract to support the RTM322 engine used in Apache and Merlin helicopters – announced in September – will see 40 per cent of the work performed in the UK. Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne has told Parliament. The vast majority will be done at Rolls-Royce facilities at Ansty in Warwickshire and Filton, Bristol. The contract will be performed by the Rolls-Royce Turbomeca joint venture in the UK, France, Germany and Italy with 60 per cent of the work performed overseas.

Legion award

ROYAL British Legion Industries, which provides training and employment to Armed Forces personnel, is charity of the year in the national Charity Times awards.

Guidance reissued on probing the X-factor

DE&S HAS reissued its advice about companies holding protectively marked assets on their own premises at 'confidential' level or above – known as being List X-cleared.

Clearance is needed to make sure assets are stored at the same level as those held in Government.

In the MOD, List X is managed by the DE&S Principal Security Advisor Team. Around 1,000 List X facilities are being managed with another 50 added this year.

Clearance by the DE&S Security Advice Centre can take 12 weeks and involves background checks on the company, its directors and security controller, using external government agencies.

Once complete, the site is assessed by an adviser and, after any remedial action, the facility can be placed on List X. The process can take up to nine months.

Security requirements do not stop companies without List X status from bidding for some government contracts and DE&S project teams should ensure any documentation does not state or imply that List X status is a pre-requisite.

"For companies that have not undergone the List X process MOD teams and contractors can arrange for supervised access by individuals from the tender companies to UK protectively marked material where these individuals have undergone and met the Baseline Personnel Security Standard," said Richard Medland, DE&S Principal Security Advisor.

"If the level of protectively marked material demands National Security Vetting clearance before access can be granted, then company personnel will be sponsored by the Contracting Authority to undergo vetting.

"The project team can arrange for supervised access to the protectively marked material, either at an MOD establishment or an approved List X facility. If appropriate, this allows all potential bidders equal access to material and to tender

Teams and companies reminded over security processes

for classified contracts."

Mr Medland added: "Where a successful bidder is required to be on List X these arrangements must be completed before they

take custody of any protectively marked material.

"The government operates a 'level playing field' where all companies are able to compete for work at any level of protective marking, regardless of their List X status. This is to drive best value for money through competition, and to ensure compliance with EU and UK competition and procurement laws."

List X enquiries can be directed to desinfra-securityadvicecentre@mod.uk



Work starts on Scott

SEVEN MONTHS' work has begun on *HMS Scott*, above, the Royal Navy's only ocean survey vessel, under the through-life support contract signed earlier this year.

Under the five-year contract, with an option to extend a further five years, Babcock will also provide fleet time maintenance, design services and spares management.

Capt (RFA) Ian Schumacker of DE&S' Commercially Supported Shipping said: "This is going to be Babcock's first refit of *HMS Scott* using commercial refit methodology. It will be a challenge, but one I am sure Babcock will rise to."

The docking period will see *HMS Scott* receive a number of upgrades and improvements that will significantly improve her sustainability and capability.

Babcock's project manager Mo Morey said: "The refit will be challenging as *HMS Scott* is a unique vessel built to commercial standards. We have taken a proactive approach, utilising our fleet time experience of the platform and undertaking extensive surveys of the vessel prior to the refit period to understand her material state to mitigate downstream risks.

"We look forward to working closely with the MOD and ship's staff to ensure successful completion of the first refit of *HMS Scott*'s through-life support arrangements."



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The way ahead

With challenging budgets, an ever reducing head count and the need to maximise spend, the MoD is working hard to make savings in all areas of service delivery. Yet, how is this challenge to be met without affecting the quality of the services delivered?

Outsourcing has a vital role to play, and with the correct integrated service solutions in place, the MoD can benefit from established expertise, freeing up military resource for core specialisms. This is where the right provider can make the difference as efficiency improvements require much more than a commoditised supplier relationship.

The key lies in developing partnerships with industry. It is here that the MoD can find new ways to meet these challenges, improve facilities and create long-term cost benefits - creating a service delivery model that delivers the right outcomes across all aspects of the defence arena.

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Bowman update is delivered to the field

Right: Cpl Gavin Read, attached from 21 Engineer Regiment. On completion of the uplift he is setting up hard drives for encryption using visual user data terminals



THE LATEST update to the Bowman Tactical Communications System – known as BCIP 5.5 – has now been fielded to the first two Brigades.

The final units of 3 Commando Brigade and 16 Air Assault Brigade were issued their updated equipment in August – a month ahead of target.

All Royal Navy Exercise Cougar 13 ships and units also uplifted before their departure in mid-August.

The update delivers much improved interoperability and is easier to use with greater

functionality for users. It also reduces burden on training.

Previous updates to Bowman were undertaken by General Dynamics UK with military liaison by Battlefield and Tactical Communications and Information Systems' Ashchurch-based Fielding Management Team.

A more innovative, hands-on approach this time sees the team and attached Army HQ staff running the production facility to carry out the technical uplift of around 30,000 items of equipment, with limited specialist contractor support

from General Dynamics UK. This has reduced fielding costs by 50 per cent compared with previous updates.

Training for DE&S and Army HQ personnel began last April with the Fielding Management Team being trained to run the MOD-owned equipment used to uplift Bowman kit.

Out-of-area work has been undertaken to uplift equipment in Kenya, where a team of three completed the task in 12 days.

As of 11th October 9,576 items – more than 30 per cent of the total requirement – had gone through the uplift.

As well as the major Land formations, 12 Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels have been uplifted and proven as fully BCIP 5.5 operational.

□ The whole 5.5 uplift completes in March 2015. Phase Two began last month for 12 Mechanised Brigade, the RAF, theatre troops (11 Brigades in all), 4 Mechanised Brigade, further training fleet stock and a second major overseas task at the British Army Training Unit Suffield in Canada.

'Olympic' missile sees stocks boosted

ANOTHER 200 StarStreak missiles – the weapon which gained publicity for its defensive role during the London Olympics, right, – are being bought in a multi-million pound contract.

The decision was announced last month by the Prime Minister on a visit to Thales UK's factory in Belfast.

David Cameron said: "Not only will this contract sustain jobs in Northern Ireland, but it also demonstrates the Government's commitment to supporting the UK's high tech design and manufacturing base."

"We know that our continuing support for this missile system will be of immense interest to potential export customers around the world."

Laurence Bryant, DE&S Director Weapons, added: "The continued support of the missile is a major part of the work of the DE&S Lightweight and Medium Attack Systems project team. This system has been in the MOD inventory for more than 20



Picture: Thales UK

years and these additional missiles are key to sustaining our ground-based air capability."

The order will increase stocks of the missile – known in the MOD as the High Velocity Missile, or HVM – which will be used to equip regular and reserve forces.

The world's fastest very short range missile has a peak velocity of more than Mach 3 which means it can cover a kilometre in less than a second.

F-35: 10,000 hours and counting

THE F-35 Lightning II programme has now passed 10,000 flight hours, more than half of those in the last eleven months.

To the end of September, F-35s flew 6,492 times for a total of 10,077 flight hours. The new milestone effectively doubles the safe flight operations of the F-35 in a year, compared to reaching 5,000 flight hours in six years.

All three variants, the F-35A conventional takeoff and landing, the F-35B short takeoff/vertical landing which the UK will buy, and the F-35C carrier variant participated in the milestone.

Meanwhile major components of the Royal Australian Air Force's first F-35 have been joined together to form the aircraft's structure. AU-1 will be delivered next summer.

Lynx repair contract goes out to 2015

DEPTH MAINTENANCE for Lynx helicopters will continue to be carried out by Vector Aerospace UK.

The news has been welcomed by DE&S' Lynx team, which has guaranteed extension of the Lynx Aircraft and Component Servicing, Repair and Overhaul contract until the end of 2015.

This will provide support to the Army and Royal Navy Lynx aircraft. Col Darren Crook, Lynx team leader, said, "We are pleased to have secured an extension to the Lynx depth arrangements with Vector."

"It will allow us to continue supporting the Front Line Commands with well-maintained aircraft, which is a fundamental role of the Lynx project team."

The Fleetlands-based operation has been a main UK provider of depth maintenance support to the

Lynx fleet throughout more than 30 years' of service and has been sole provider of this service to the Royal Navy and Army Lynx fleets since 2005.

Michael Tyrrell, UK Managing Director at Vector, said: "We are delighted to be extending this service, ensuring that the UK Lynx fleet can meet all of its current and future requirements."

The Lynx team has worked to ensure approval was achieved in time to provide a seamless extension to the contract.

The submission was welcomed by the approving authority. Annette Matton, Head of Defence Portfolio and Approvals Secretariat, said: "The approving authorities were grateful for a coherent, concise and logical exposition of the issues. They commend the team for constructive engagement with the scrutineers."



Brian Butler of Vector Aerospace, left, and Peter Connaw, the Lynx team's senior commercial officer, sign the contract extension

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Successor success is rewarded

PERFORMANCE UP and cost out are two of the primary Submarine Enterprise targets – and two Successor teams have been saluted by representatives from across submarines.

The Successor manoeuvring room and secondary propulsion teams received the inaugural Submarine Enterprise Performance Programme (SEPP) awards.

They were presented by Rear Admiral Simon Lister.

The team, implementing a vision of DE&S member Commander Tom Cheshire, had taken a significant change in direction from previous UK manoeuvring rooms to derive maximum benefit from the PWR3 reactor design and the US/UK exchange.

“The design development demonstrated what can be achieved in a short timescale from genuine collaborative working, good communication, challenging existing thinking and strong leadership,” said Admiral Lister.

Receiving the award alongside Commander Cheshire were Ian Shaw (BAE Systems) and John Mount (Rolls-Royce). They represented an 18-strong team drawn from DE&S’ Nuclear Propulsion and Future Submarines, Rolls-Royce, BAE Systems and US Naval Reactors.

The second award recognised a major initiative to examine options for simplifying the secondary propulsion.

Admiral Lister said: “The real success of the initiative is the cultural change delivered by encouraging others to look for new approaches, and in the relationships it has built across the teams and between organisations.”

The team behind this initiative was 14 strong, represented at the presentation by Jon Nicholson and Robert Ritchie.

Safety – at the heart of Submarine Enterprise



‘We must not, and cannot afford to, get it wrong’ – Rear Admiral Mike Wareham

Simon Lister is pictured, far right, with *Artful*, *Astute* Boat 3 at Barrow, and below, taking a break during the safety symposium last month

THE NEW DE&S Director Submarines has reinforced the need for ever more vigilance over safety throughout the Submarine Enterprise.

That was the message from

operate it’, Admiral Wareham added: “We must not, and cannot afford to, get it wrong.”

Admiral Wareham gave the opening address on the second day of the symposium, promoted

light of incidents from his own experience.

He told delegates about being rescued as an 18-year-old from a capsized boat while sailing on a Scottish loch. Later he witnessed children picking up graphite from the Chernobyl disaster as souvenirs. He was a Nato delegate at the time of the sinking of the Russian nuclear-powered submarine *Kursk* and was Naval Base Commander at Devonport when two seamen were swept to their deaths from a visiting US submarine during a Channel gale.

Admiral Lister said poor behaviours, lack of training and equipment failure had played a role in each past incident – all resulted from complacency.

Barrow has built more than 300 submarines for various customers including the Royal Navy. As well as being the most capable of those submarines, the latest *Astute* class is also the first to have a whole boat safety case as part of the design process.

The symposium was held against the atmospheric backdrop of the former graving dock, over which the Barrow dock’s museum is built.



Rear Admiral Mike Wareham to nearly 200 delegates at the fifth annual safety symposium in Barrow.

Admiral Wareham said that everybody in the enterprise contributed in some way to submarine safety, and he urged them all to follow the guiding principle coined by the US Admiral, Hyman George Rickover, known as the Father of the Nuclear Navy.

Quoting Rickover’s ‘I have a son. I love my son. I want everything to be so safe that I would be happy to have my son

by DE&S Submarines and sponsored by BAE Systems.

His predecessor, Rear Admiral Simon Lister, who will become Chief of Materiel (Fleet), challenged delegates to examine their own role in ensuring the safety of submarines in the

Artful on course to hit the water next year

ARTFUL, Boat 3 in the *Astute* class build programme, will leave Barrow next spring and enter the water for the first time to begin the commissioning phase of the propulsion and manoeuvring systems, before being handed over to the Royal Navy in 2015.

The remaining boats in the *Astute* programme; Boat 4 *Audacious*, Boat 5 *Anson*, Boat 6 *Agamemnon* and Boat 7, are in various stages of construction. The final submarine, Boat 7, is scheduled to enter service in 2024.

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Complex, challenging,

Task Force Helmand HQ is now at Camp Bastion, having made the move from Lashkar-Gah which, over six years, became the most complex Land Brigade HQ the UK has deployed on operations. The move was a complex one, with key roles for a number of Information Systems and Services teams

The relocation of headquarters from Lashkar-Gah – part of the drawdown of UK operations in Afghanistan – developed from an austere and hasty move into a major operation. With its huge communications challenges it became the most technically complex move of a Land HQ in recent times.

A myriad of command, control, communications, computing, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) capabilities are required to fuel the complex information needs of the Commander and his staff. This makes the delivery of C4ISR the most demanding and crucial component when planning these tasks.

The project was managed within ISS Service Operations by the Operational Plans Team and led by Engineering Operations. Project manager Capt Rob Clifford from Deployed Network Solutions co-ordinated activity and liaised with other DE&S delivery teams, Permanent Joint Headquarters, theatre units and coalition partners to sort out the complexities.

In theatre, Capt Clifford was supported by a four-strong team from Blandford managed by Capt Brett Palmer, to implement the major network changes needed. To install the HQ cabling a further eight personnel from the Installation Services Team in Henlow was deployed; Sgt Paul Brace and his team met every deadline and their arduous work included pulling cable in outside temperatures often reaching 50°C. Teams were backed throughout by support from Service Operations and ISS delivery teams as well as ISS partners.

More teams were involved in moving satellite communications. This was driven by Networks' Beyond Line Of Sight team with work from the Defence Information Services Team. Contractors too were heavily involved. Astrium staff were vital to the satellite communications elements, providing an improved longer-term service for Camp Bastion and ISTAR operations, while BAE Systems deployed outside their existing contracts to support specialist services. General Dynamics (UK) supported tactical

communication and information systems while the smooth information transfer and connectivity of the infrastructure was supported by Atlas. Co-operation was also needed with 90 Signals Unit, other government departments and specialist agencies.

The final move of headquarters staff was carried out in one day, with key staff led by 1 Mechanized Brigade flying to Camp Bastion by Chinook.

Brigadier Rupert Jones, Commander Task Force Helmand, was delighted that command and control was uninterrupted. He said: "The move of the headquarters from Lashkar Gah is a significant moment in the campaign and reflects the progress made by the Afghan security forces and that they are now in the lead for security across Helmand. The move is in line with our progressive lift off from the Afghan security forces."

Director ISS Gerry Cantwell called the move 'complex, challenging and operationally critical'.

He added: "The move required a vast number of moving parts to work together,



critical

share information and negotiate project timescales and resources. This would be a tall requirement in peacetime, but a Herculean effort on Operation Herrick. The success of this task is entirely down to the commitment and sheer hard work put in by all involved. A really great effort." Successful completion of the move has reflected well on ISS and its partners.



Below: Capt Rob Clifford and Capt Brett Palmer work on an Astrium-provided CCT120 Skylark satellite ground terminal



Key facts of the move:

- 52 different communication systems such as phone lines, IT and radios, were moved, each requiring connectivity either across Afghanistan, back to the UK, with coalition partners, or all three.
- 1,400 different items of IT equipment set up in the new headquarters.
- 260 staff and ten 20-foot containers of equipment moved from Lashkar Gah to Camp Bastion.
- Around 10km of cabling installed.
- Only took four waves of aviation moves to move the staff.
- Involved servicemen and women from all three services of the Armed Forces.
- Teams from across theatre and the UK contributed, primarily communications specialists, both military and civilian, but also builders, carpenters, metalsmiths, electricians and plumbers.



Valiant at work: the new
jetty will service *Astute* and
Trafalgar class submarines



Valiant opening sees Clyde base leading the world

The first nuclear-powered submarines have used Clyde's new Valiant Jetty. It is a major step in turning the Scottish base into the main submarine operating base in the UK. *Gavin Carr* takes up the story

Clyde has achieved a significant milestone with the first use of the naval base's new Valiant Jetty by a nuclear submarine.

The jetty provides a modern facility to berth and maintain six nuclear-powered submarines and is a vital capability for Clyde as it transitions to the single UK submarine operating base.

On Saturday, 5th October, the first vessel, a *Trafalgar* class submarine, successfully berthed at the facility and was followed on 14th October by one of the Royal Navy's new *Astute* class submarines.

The successful berthings signify the last major operational step of the project, thereby helping to maintain the base's capability to support the Fleet from Scotland.

Commander Nick King, Assistant Head of SSN Berthing at Clyde, said: "The Valiant Jetty is world-class – the most modern facility for berthing nuclear submarines in the world.

"Previous submarine berths were static whereas the Valiant Jetty moves with the tide," he added.

"This provides a huge advantage to the submarines alongside as there is no longer the regular need to adjust lines and cables with tidal movement. Both vessel and jetty move together which means a much neater, efficient and safer layout.

"The Valiant Jetty is already attracting the attention of navies around the world who are looking to utilise

the technology for berthing their own submarines."

The 200-metre long, 44,000-tonne jetty will provide six berths and support facilities to the Royal Navy's next generation of attack submarines as well as the *Trafalgar* class vessels.

The floating jetty is composed of 12 watertight cells, with concrete walls half a metre thick, and is kept in place by four piles at its corners allowing it to rise and fall with the tide.

Designed to serve the Royal Navy for the next 50 years, at its peak the construction site for the Valiant Jetty had more than 300 locally employed people working at Inchgreen in Greenock and at Faslane.

With handover of the jetty to the naval base complete, and with the first use now achieved, the facility team is looking forward to increased use and to refining experience in operating the jetty.

Andrew Pursey, Babcock Facility Manager for Valiant, said: "We have a newly-recruited and enthusiastic team of 29 to support *Astute* and *Trafalgar* class submarines berthed at the jetty.

"In order for the facility to be released for first nuclear use by the Naval Base Commander, a significant amount of support and team effort was required from across the base.

"Surveyors conducted a wide range of inspections of the structure above and below the waterline and procurement has ably assisted in the purchase of a full range of spares and equipment for us, as well as placing support contracts with suppliers. All this is to ensure we can maintain the high level of service our customers demand."

He added: "The trouble-free first berthing at the Valiant Jetty was a satisfying outcome to a long and challenging build up for the whole team."



Clothes that maketh th

Defence Clothing's admired Pattern Room is now at Abbey Wood. It was officially opened last month

Ever wondered how DE&S clothes the UK Armed Forces from the training ground to the front line? Or how the standards of traditional ceremonial uniforms of the British Army have been maintained down the generations?

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, Philip Dunne, visited Abbey Wood to find out for himself.

Welcoming the Minister to officially open the Pattern Room on 21st October, DE&S Director Logistics Commodities and Services, Neil Firth, said: "This Pattern Room is a unique facility which plays a critical part in our ability to sustain the diverse and very specialised clothing and uniform requirements of our Armed Forces."

Much of the procurement of Armed Forces clothing begins long before a contract has been signed, when suppliers meet members of DE&S' Defence Clothing team to discuss the next round of requirements.

And the place where those discussions will be held has now moved to DE&S headquarters. Formerly at Caversfield, and before that at Colchester, the Pattern Room has moved from its last home at Ensleigh in Bath to new premises in Abbey Wood North.

The Pattern Room supports the Defence Clothing and Survivability teams and their contractors in the production and technical evaluation of all kinds of clothing and personal combat equipment and other items for the Forces.

From battledress and bullet-proof vests to ceremonial uniforms; swords and helmets for the cavalry to saddles for the horses; regimental colours, combat boots and items for each soldier's Black Bag of front line personal equipment, the Pattern Room stores all the relevant master and standard patterns. It is the first stage of clothing procurement – everything from receipts to records of loans, an inventory of contractor details and a full database of services for all the teams' and contractors' needs. The Pattern is the baseline of quality and shows to manufacturers the standards of workmanship expected of them.

But it is the rows of kit which really excite, examples of all kinds of clothing the Forces have worn and are wearing in the 21st century which provide the centrepiece of the Pattern Room.

It can be viewed as a history of defence clothing down the ages, and some of the older items are eventually donated to military museums. But Defence Clothing team leader Colonel Mike Ross is keen to point out that, despite being surrounded by artefacts which would excite the military historian,

that is not the aim of the Pattern Room. With reference and lending sections, it is something entirely different.

"It is not a museum; it is a working place,"

he said. "We view it more like a library. We hold all the patterns for uniforms and a whole host of other kit used by servicemen and women and also MOD civilians such as dockyard workers. The information held here means we can exert complete quality control so we know, at the end of the process, that we are getting the clothing and equipment we want and need."

While a historical record may not be the aim, staff are proud of a few older artefacts that have been retained to show the scope of patterns from the past. Some go back more than 100 years. A Royal gamekeeper's plush jacket in a garish shade of green – think Robin Hood and you are close enough – is one item particularly admired. It dates from around the 1830s.

As well as the clothing through the ages there is storage of development samples, prototypes, trial items, tender items and suggestions that contractors have put forward. Pattern Room staff offer support for trials, where items can be inspected, broken down, counted, packed and sent to the trials unit. The room is also a focal point for disposals, collating items, recording and storing them before they are disposed of.

It is a complex process for complex Armed Forces. "Because of the intricacies of the British Army's regimental system we are probably one of the most complex Pattern Rooms of all the world's forces," said Col Ross. "Some countries have decided to get rid of their pattern rooms and have tried to continue the work through the use of photographic records. Subsequent reports suggest that most are realising their mistake. To truly understand a garment and how it is made, you have got to have the real thing."



e soldier



Philip Dunne takes a tour of the Pattern Room with Col Mike Ross



Recipe for more succe

Exercise Joint Caterer, the Armed Services' annual culinary showdown, is planned to be held at Shrivenham for the next four years after the 2013 event proved a resounding success. The DE&S-run show continues to move with the times

The Army showed their appetite for glory with victory in this autumn's Joint Caterer event at the Defence Academy, which switched this year from its more traditional venue of Sandown Park racecourse in Surrey.

For all three services it is regarded as the Blue Riband event for all involved in preparing, cooking and serving food.

For DE&S' Defence Fuels and Food Services team it is the culmination of a year's work to showcase the best of the services' culinary talents. The team, in its various forms, has organised the competition since it began 13 years ago. Its evolution has now included a new venue.

"Sandown Park was becoming increasingly costly," explained team leader Gp Capt Andy Killey. "Fewer and fewer equipment producers were putting their equipment on show so our revenue was static and the expenses were going up. It was clear to us that something somewhere would have to change. Doing it at a military unit where we can have a greater opportunity to attract military personnel to see the competition had to be a better idea and it all added up to a relocation. Shrivenham was ideal. It has

the facilities and showed the will to do it. This year was a very successful event."

Planning for the event begins even before the previous year's has finished. Team members join the Front Line Commands and potential judges from the commercial sector to discuss the strategic needs of the services' culinary staff. "We aim to make sure Exercise Joint Caterer is the pinnacle of the year for the caterers and stewards," said Gp Capt Killey.

It also attracts some top civilian chefs along to the judging panels – Cyrus Todiwala of BBC 2's *The Incredible Spice Men* was this year's top celebrity. Once the assessment is over, judges are encouraged to offer feedback to competitors.

"We get the judges to do a debrief of a chef's work," said Gp Capt Killey. "The competition is not just about making a judgement on people's work. It's about mentoring people too to make sure they are shown how they can improve. We give people with a high profile in catering an opportunity to spend some quiet time with the competitors. We think this is very important."

As well as pitching the best from

the three services against each other the event provides a showcase for each service's culinary arts team. The best performers go forward to the Combined Services team, taking part in major international competitions.

All of which means the competition has to continually evolve.

The team's planning officer Lt Cdr Steve Quantrill said: "We are constantly looking at ways to make the competition better. We have plans for next year which we will take to the team directors and judges. We are very keen to deliver what the Front Line Commands need but it is also important to keep the competition in line with the way civilian competitions are run. The format will continue to develop certainly to what the military want but also what will help our chefs with skills which will be measurable with the best chefs in the civilian world."

This year the show – run with the team's industry partner, food services marketing company Dewberry Redpoint – attracted around 50 exhibitors from food producers to equipment manufacturers. And there were 25 sponsors too, including financial support from livery companies from the City of London.

Pictures: Andrew Linnett



SS



'An army marches on its stomach and that remains true to this day as food is an essential element of ensuring our Armed Forces can deliver on operations. It fuels the essential work the Forces do all over the world. The right quality and variety of food can play a huge part in maintaining good levels of morale and performance' – Warrant Officer David Ashmore, DE&S' Defence Fuels and Food Services



Unravelling the spectrum mystery

OFCOM is to handle the MOD's release of radio waves to meet UK demands for data-hungry applications on smartphones and tablets. DE&S will be heavily involved

Spectrum is not just the organisation Captain Scarlet worked for when fighting the Mysterons.

The Government is selling some electromagnetic and radio spectrum previously owned by the MOD to enable economic growth and to allow more mobile phone communication.

This is a significant event for defence which the work of the Joint Spectrum Authority (JSA) – part of Director Technical – is supporting.

The JSA has worked with DE&S teams affected by the sale to ensure they can move their systems to use other spectrum bands or adjust the way they operate.

Jim Nixon, head of the JSA, said: "This has required some detailed technical studies that have been quite challenging for all involved as the need to move out of one spectrum band to another was never envisaged when the systems were originally procured.

"Those spectrum bands where the affected systems are moving to aren't empty so the impact on systems within those bands needs to be considered too."

JSA engineers also support teams who acquire systems that need spectrum to operate, balancing their requirements to fit around existing and other future needs. This extends to understanding what equipment UK allies have to ensure nations don't cause interference to each another.

"In the UK the MOD already shares a great proportion of the spectrum it owns with other government departments and some commercial users and it's the job of my team to make sure all this happens with a very low risk of interference as safety of life is often a consideration," said Mr Nixon.

Requirements of spectrum management aren't confined to the UK. JSA has a team that supports contingent operations in establishing battlespace spectrum management through back-office, on-call support and ultimately

providing augmentees into theatre.

Tessa Mulhall, deputy head of Electromagnetic Integration within Director Technical, which includes the JSA and the Electromagnetic Environmental Effects Authority, said: "The work and importance of the JSA isn't always understood across defence and we are constantly looking for ways to improve the awareness of our business and emphasise the need for delivery teams to engage with us as early as possible when they are considering systems that need access to the spectrum now and in the future.

"The JSA already is a busy place to work, though the Government's announcement to release spectrum has placed further pressure to balance increasing requirements against existing demand of this finite resource. However, I am proud the team is rising to the challenge and coping with the management of day-to-day spectrum and the delivery of revenue into HM Treasury as a result of the impending sale."

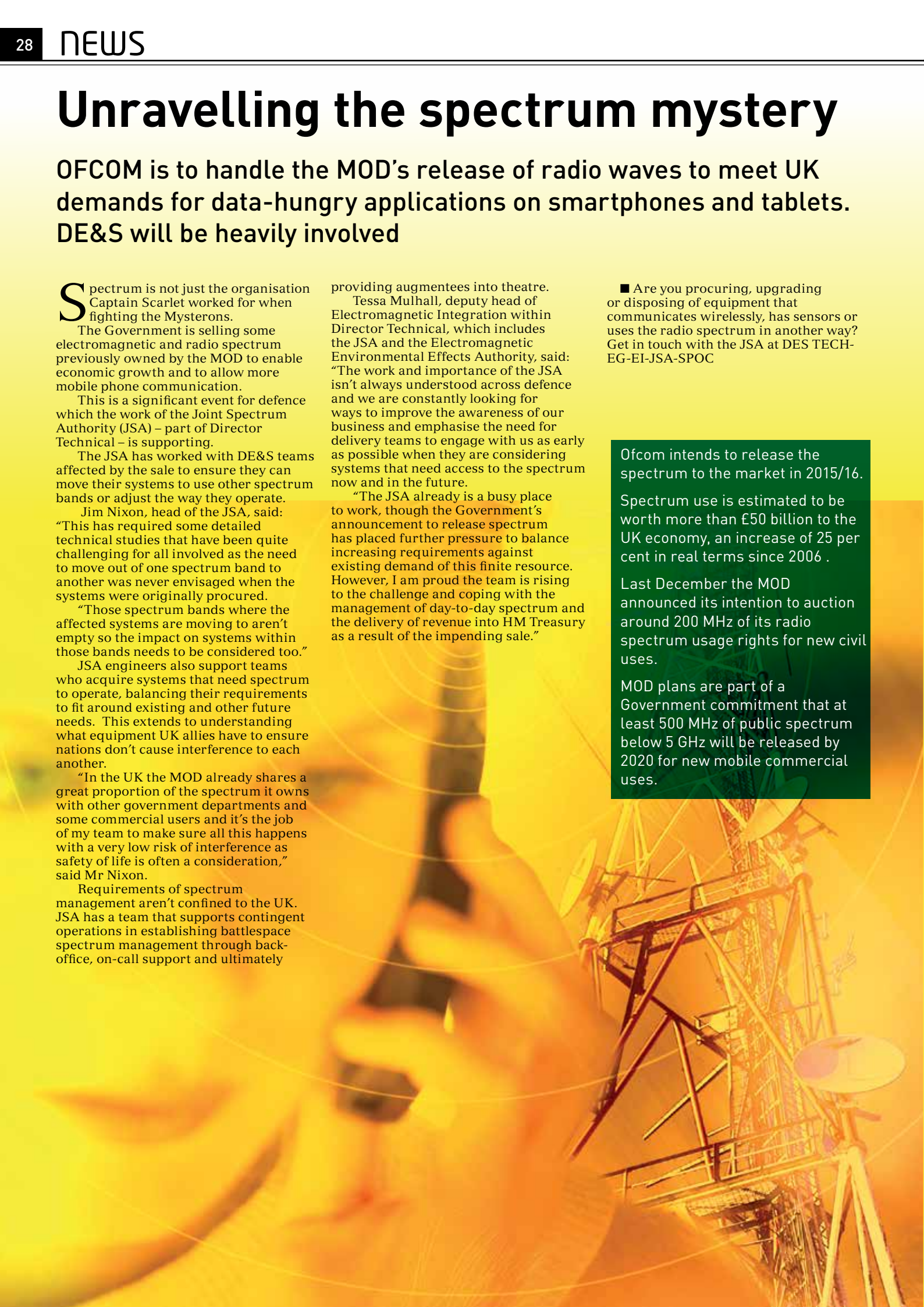
■ Are you procuring, upgrading or disposing of equipment that communicates wirelessly, has sensors or uses the radio spectrum in another way? Get in touch with the JSA at DES TECH-EG-EI-JSA-SPOC

Ofcom intends to release the spectrum to the market in 2015/16.

Spectrum use is estimated to be worth more than £50 billion to the UK economy, an increase of 25 per cent in real terms since 2006.

Last December the MOD announced its intention to auction around 200 MHz of its radio spectrum usage rights for new civil uses.

MOD plans are part of a Government commitment that at least 500 MHz of public spectrum below 5 GHz will be released by 2020 for new mobile commercial uses.



More cash for Reserves' equipment

ARMED FORCES Minister Mark Francois told MPs in a debate on Defence Reform that central to the Government's White Paper on the future of the Reserves was investment of more than £200 million in improved equipment over the next decade.

He said: "Central to the White Paper was the improved offer to Reserves, which includes, among other things, investing an additional £240 million in improved training, including more overseas training, and investing an additional £200 million over the next ten years for improved equipment. The Reserves have already received the same new-

style uniform as their regular colleagues, while Bowman radio equipment is being issued, along with new vehicles and personal fighting equipment.

"We will also pair Army Reserve units with regular units to enable sustained delivery of high-quality training and development of fully integrated capabilities, as well as the sharing of knowledge, skills and experience."

The Minister said support from employers was vital. Top industry bodies and companies had already signed a corporate covenant the Minister had launched, one of the key points of which was the release of Reserves.

The MOD has launched a nationwide recruitment campaign for the Army Reserve with more than 100 events up and down the UK. Brigadier Andrew Jackson, Director of Army Recruiting and Training, said: "These events are intended to show people that, no matter what your skills or background, the Army has something to offer you and serving with the TA provides opportunities to learn much more beyond military skills."

For more info on the reserves go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/recruitment>

DE&S helps capability in post-Gaddafi Libya

LIBYA IS looking to build defence capability with help from DE&S.

Brigadier Peter Rafferty, Head of Operational Support Programmes, is back from Tripoli where he delivered a number of sessions on acquisition and capability development.

The international seminar on procurement was at the Libyan army's administration department at Janzour Barracks.

Organised by the United Nations Support Mission In Libya, the seminar was hosted by the Libyan MOD's Procurement Office and the Libyan Armed Forces Military Procurement Department.

It was attended by more than 80 delegates from the Libyan MOD, other Libyan government departments, Libyan forces and public sector executives including the Libyan Foreign Bank and the finance ministry.

Under the UK's contribution to development of Libyan defence capability, Brigadier Rafferty supported a conference and seminar.

At the conference he delivered two sessions on behalf of the UK and US agenda to demonstrate international best practice for acquisition operating frameworks and covered capability development and management, and through-life support to capability.

At the following seminar

Brigadier Rafferty addresses the conference. Despite the Arabic script, his slide represents the CADMID procurement cycle used by DE&S!



he assisted Libyan delegates in developing proposals to be presented to the Libyan Government by the conference facilitator and Military Advisor to the Defence Minister, Brigadier General (retired) Ali Saad Belgasem.

"It was a great privilege to be asked to support the wider international effort to build ministerial capacity in Libya in the post-Gaddafi era," said Brigadier Rafferty.

"Our Libyan colleagues were gracious hosts and

eager to learn and apply international standards to their own processes. Having been responsible for similar capacity building in both Iraq and Afghanistan, I found my visit to be a fascinating insight to a different theatre, facing unique challenges, following the ousting of the former regime."

Along with DE&S, other speakers included QinetiQ, the European Union Border Assistance Mission, French DGA, and the UN Sanctions Committee.

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Brigadier Peter Rafferty, centre, head of Operational Support Programmes, joins team members and staff from Briggs in front of a patriotically turned out 2.5-tonne Hyster forklift at Abbey Wood

New contract will give defence handling a lift

A NEW contract guaranteeing safe and efficient handling of defence goods such as food, fuel and ammunition began on 1st October.

The seven-year contract with Briggs Equipment will provide Defence Mechanical Handling Equipment – forklifts, tractors and trailers for instance – across the world.

It combines the previous Tri-service Material Handling Equipment and Pathfinder contracts, saving £18 million over seven years.

The new contract, announced in *desider* in August, will increase efficiency through better data collection and fleet optimisation.

Introduction of a booking system through an updated asset manager portal (www.dls-briggsequipment.co.uk) will allow maximum use of contract equipment and reduce need for short term demands.



Port authority: forklifts get to work at Marchwood

A programme of replacing some of the vehicles has already begun, with 500 being replaced in the first year, and 600 more due to be bought as ageing equipment is phased out over the next seven years.

At Marchwood military port near Southampton new forklift container handlers are already in place to be used by 17 Port

and Maritime Regiment.

Briggs Equipment will buy most of the new equipment in the UK, providing manufacturers with a major boost in orders.

Hyster, based in Northern Ireland, has been manufacturing handling equipment for more than 40 years and is a key partner with Briggs.



Partners: Air Vice-Marshall Young, front right, and Nigel Fine sign the agreement

Engineering partners

DE&S HAS become a corporate partner of the Institution for Engineering and Technology.

The Institution will work to create a tailored package of products, services, support and accreditation workshops for DE&S staff.

The partnership has already enabled eleven DE&S staff to be trained as industrial registration advisors to support DE&S candidates seeking professional registration.

Nigel Fine, Chief Executive of the IET, attended an earlier Professional Engineers Forum at Abbey Wood to meet Director Technical, Air Vice-Marshall Julian Young.

The next Professional Engineers Forum at Abbey Wood will be on Tuesday 28th January 2014.

Team steams in with charity event back-up

TEA AND coffee drinkers felt the heat at Abbey Wood as the Armed Forces' latest piece of kit for forward bases went on show.

Nearly 900 new Field Water Heaters are on their way to all three services in a £2.7 million procurement by DE&S' Operational Infrastructure Programme.

And a couple were on show as SSAFA Forces Help held its charity Big Brew for staff on 9th October. The heaters were a useful standby in case of high demand for a refreshing cuppa.

"It is a really simple heater and all the users have told us how much they love it," said project manager Nick Jefferies. "It is very easy to store and requires little maintenance."

The Hawkmoor-made diesel-powered heater weighs around 90 kilogrammes – it can easily be carried by two people – and heats 60 litres of water in an hour. The water can be used for drinking, cooking and washing.

The heater replaces a model which has been in service for more than 30 years.

Around 500 of the heaters have been delivered so far, with a number already earmarked for front line service in Afghanistan.

The brew raised more than £800 from around 600 pieces of cake and cups of tea and coffee. J Sainsbury in Calne donated ten cakes to the sale while four new community volunteers were recruited. Further volunteers are welcome; contact Alison Miller on Abbey Wood 85539.

□ People news pages 35-39



Top right: Col Doug Gibson, deputy head of operational Infrastructure, Hawkmoor's Mark Heritage and project manager Nick Jefferies with the new Field Water Heater seen, above, in heat mode.

Right: Neighbourhood Two's Atrium displays a sweet tooth at SSAFA's Big Brew



Safety reporting system extends its DE&S reach

A SAFETY reporting tool used by a number of operating centres has now been extended across the whole of DE&S.

And it is being expanded outside the organisation where current processes may benefit from moving onto it.

ASSERT, previously known as Air Systems Safety and Environmental Reporting Tool, improves the quality of reporting on environmental safety, allowing data to be captured and reports produced more efficiently.

DE&S safety staff can then respond quickly and easily to changing reporting requirements

in line with evolving policies and procedures.

"The system is primarily a data input/output tool, allowing data to be captured and exported into the required report types," said Jon Carter, systems manager with Director Technical's Quality, Safety and Environmental Protection group.

"This reduces the manpower needed to capture and produce the relevant reports used by each operating centre, DE&S' Safety Board and the Quality, Safety and Environmental Protection group as custodians of the process."

The tool also allows management of DE&S safety

role profiles, safety critical posts and management of audits, and boasts an inbuilt action tracking system and a document management area.

"We have flexibility to develop the tool to take on additional reporting requirements where savings can be shown in performance, time and cost," said Mr Carter.

"The team is already in the process of moving a number of other reporting functions onto ASSERT, saving the MOD more money."

The tool was first used in Air Support, Combat Air, Helicopters and Ships operating centres.

New Reapers on the way

THE first three of five additional Reaper unmanned air vehicles bought in 2010 to double the capability are nearing completion of acceptance testing.

Defence Equipment Support and Technology Minister Philip Dunne has revealed the remaining two new Reapers are planned to complete final acceptance testing over the next two months. Once the new aircraft have completed acceptance testing, they will be moved to Afghanistan.

Poppy Factory makes mark on Minister

ARMED FORCES Minister Mark Francois visited the Poppy Factory's Richmond headquarters on 18th October to see the work of the charity on behalf of disabled veterans.

The Minister spoke to employees about the challenges facing ex-servicemen and women as they leave the Forces, and the role the Poppy Factory plays in increasing meaningful employment at the factory and throughout the UK.

Mr Francois said: "For me this visit was inspiring. The Poppy Factory manufactures the wonderful emblem by which our country remembers the sacrifices that were made so we can be free."

This year the Factory has made 12 million poppies, one million remembrance crosses and 96,000 wreaths for the Royal British Legion.

New logs centre opens its doors at Wittering

A NEW logistics operations centre for airfield support has opened at RAF Wittering.

The Airfield Support Capability Integrated Logistics Operations Centre, or AC ILOC achieved its initial operating capability on time in September.

Air Commodities team leader Gp Capt Greg Underhill said: "We need to manage our equipment more effectively and ensure better task management.

"So centralising fleet management and co-ordination of technical support in one location is an essential first step to achieve this improvement and we look forward to expanding the ILOC's role as it beds down."

The centre has been created by the Airfield Support Capability Role Office (ASCRO) and the Air Commodities FASE (Future Airfield Support Engineering Programme) team.

It is headed by Fg Off Marc

Deri, who said: "The ILOC gives you a single way into the ASCRO and the project team for all fleet management or technical questions, giving faster and more coherent answers."

Airfield Support has historically benefitted from a large inventory relative to the task and static numbers of personnel to maintain it. But the ageing inventory can no longer be maintained at its current size while wider RAF changes are reducing staff numbers.

The concept of aircraft

ILOC's is well established; it is more novel for support equipment.

The ILOC team is briefing at UK operating bases on the benefits of a single point of contact for technical questions on fleet management.

The centre will continue to evolve over the next 12 months to deliver further improvements to the management of air support equipment.

The ASC ILOC team is available on 95351 x7819.



Open day celebrates teamwork

AIR MARSHAL Simon Bollom, Chief of Materiel (Air), above, discusses video footage showing the targeting capability of the Litening III Laser Designator Pod on operations with Steve Peers and Kevin Hewson of Air Platform Systems, and Air Commodities team leader Gp Capt Greg Underhill.

The event was part of an Abbey Wood open day held by Air Equipment and Systems (AES) to raise awareness and celebrate the work across Air Commodities, Air Platform Systems and Flight Simulation And Synthetic Trainers project teams. It was also to understand how AES contributes to defence outputs.

The day saw the formal renaming of AES as Air Systems, Equipment and Training.

Red Tape Challenge trims DII user tasks

TWO CHANGES to the DII network have improved its everyday user experience and slashed the administrative burden, thanks to the Red Tape Challenge campaign earlier this year.

Scrapping some certificates of understanding will increase efficiency across around 250,000 users, particularly for staff tasked with tracking and recording the process.

Similarly the removal of unnecessary files will reduce the size of user-profile and the time it takes to load or update them across the system.



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A national conference that looks at future market trends and economic, regulatory, political and technology changes that influence exports and provide opportunity for the UK's world class maritime industry. Speakers from the highest echelons of the industry will promote debate on these topics and discuss the critical issues.

Tuesday 20 & Wednesday 21 May 2014
The Mercure Bristol Holland House Hotel
Redcliff Hill, Bristol BS1 6SQ

Preceded by an industrial visit to the Port of Bristol at Avonmouth, the event also includes a structured programme of one-on-one meetings and a conference reception and dinner. It promises to be a "must attend & unmissable" networking opportunity.

Organised by the Society of Maritime Industries
Programme and registration forms are available at
www.maritimeindustries.org



Above: Director Human Resources David Ball lines up with some of the latest recruits at Abbey Wood on 17th October

Abbey Wood rolls out the red carpet for DE&S' new blood

THE LATEST recruits to DE&S line up for the camera after starting work at Abbey Wood.

The DE&S bulk recruitment programme, now in its second phase, is looking to attract more than 1,300 new staff, particularly in commercial, engineering, finance, logistics, information, project and programme management, and quality areas.

The campaign began last March to address gaps across grades, functions, locations and operating centres.

Mark Large, the campaign lead,

said: "Over the past eight months we have made real progress towards achieving our goal which has required a significant amount of commitment from line managers, functions and the business."

"We must continue to build on these successes, ensuring we do not lose momentum across phases 2 and 3. These phases will see us recruit a further 600 people to meet our aim of ensuring the business has the skills and people it needs to deliver programmes effectively."

Nearly 900 vacancies had been advertised by the middle of October

with more than 4,000 people applying. 159 people have already taken up new posts with another 257 agreeing starting dates.

Response to the campaign has been positive, although people with specialist engineering and IT skills are proving difficult to recruit in a highly competitive market. The programme team is looking to use innovative ideas like targeted social media to increase interest in our vacancies.

The programme holds monthly briefings which are open to all staff.

WARSHIPS

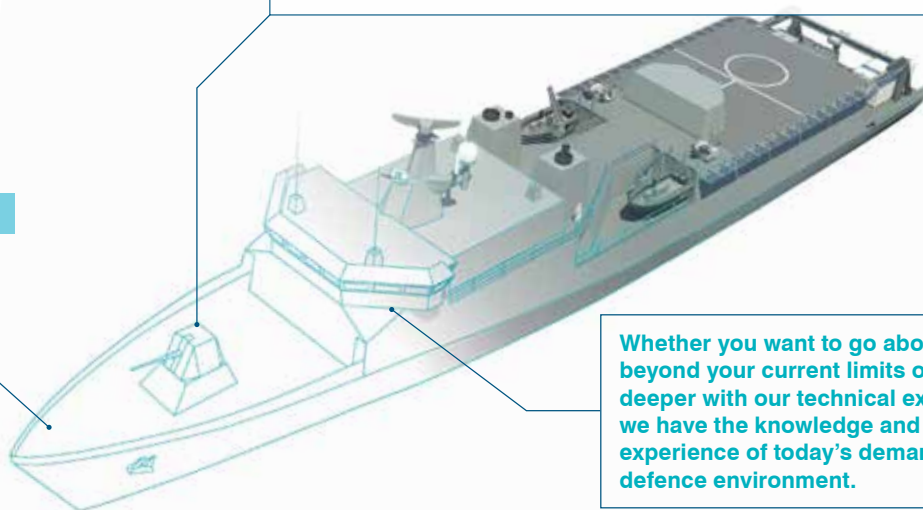
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Playing the long game

MAKING THE MOD a more intelligent customer is a major aim of DE&S reform. At the same time the Defence Growth Partnership is looking at how Government and industry can work better together to promote growth and improve competitiveness of the UK's defence sector to keep it at the forefront of the global market, while still providing the Armed Forces with battle-winning equipment.

The partnership has MOD support and its membership includes the UK's leading defence companies, a sector trade association (ADS) and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Its strategic future – *Securing Prosperity* – was circulated last month,

with a full implementation plan to be unveiled at next year's Farnborough Air Show. Before then Nick Payne, (above) Director of Commercial Scrutiny and Industrial Policy, will co-ordinate MOD involvement in the various workstreams set up, with help from subject matter experts.

"The partnership aims to help industry map out an approach for building greater competitiveness, innovation and international focus in the UK defence sector," said Mr Payne. "It will encourage UK-based companies to be the best, not only in fulfilling our requirements as efficiently as possible, but also to export even more successfully."

While the partnership will not change MOD procurement policy, it will complement many changes in the future structure and outlook of DE&S.

"While DE&S reform and the changes to Single Source Procurement are separate strands, DGP's strategic vision of

The Defence Growth Partnership is looking to build on a vibrant defence industry at the head of the global market. The partnership's work sits alongside DE&S reforms

a defence industry that is competitive and innovative complements these initiatives, which seek to ensure that we are both able to deliver greater value-for-money in defence procurement," said Mr Payne.

He added that the partnership would not be altered by a future decision on

whether DE&S became a Government Owned Contractor Operated organisation. "The two things are complementary but not co-dependent," he said. "The proposed DE&S reforms are intended to make MOD a more intelligent customer. The partnership is also looking at how Government and industry can work together more intelligently to promote growth and improve competitiveness of the UK defence sector, while providing our Armed Forces with the equipment and services they need."

The partnership has plans to develop the skills of MOD staff. "The skills workstream is focused on investing in the next generation of graduates and apprentices, creating much needed career opportunities for young people in the UK and tackling the major skills gap faced over the next ten years in science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects," said Mr Payne.

"This workstream aims to cultivate new talent in the sector in the years going forward, rather than MOD staff currently employed in engineering and technology roles."

■ Enquiries on the partnership and *Securing Prosperity* contact Tom Bonney: 0207 218 6447 DECS-IP-DepHd@mod.uk or Andrew Sams: 0207 218 0523 DECS-IP-AssstHd@mod.uk



The partnership is chaired by Michael Fallon, Minister for Business and Enterprise at the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (centre), and Steve Wadey, right, managing director of MBDA on behalf of industry. Philip Dunne, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, is on the left at the launch of *Securing Prosperity*



Partnership priorities

- Air Capabilities – which have yielded 82 per cent of UK defence exports over the last ten years with significant potential for growth;

- Intelligent Systems – electronics, software and systems integration that are at the heart of many military capabilities;

- International Business – developing more co-ordinated UK solutions, tailored to needs of customers around the world;

- Technology and Enterprise – establishing more effective ways of creating and exploiting future intellectual property, such as autonomous systems;

- Skills – developing the next generation of apprentices, technicians, engineers and other professionals;

- Value Chain Competitiveness – improving competitiveness of the UK's defence value chain, providing differentiation in terms of capability, cost and market access.

Colin in seventh heaven as he takes MOD title

COLIN SAWYER is the 2013 MOD Scratch Trophy golf champion after victory in the 36-hole event at Formby Hall in Lancashire.

Having qualified in a regional event in Bristol in July by shooting a gross 73 (3 over par), Corsham-based Colin of Defence Information Services Team was not expecting to lift the trophy after six previous failed attempts and with the previous three winners Davey Gravil (2), Stevie Barr (2) and Graham Walker (3) in the field.

A birdie/par/birdie start to the first round helped Colin to navigate Formby Hall's Old Course in 75 gross (3 over) to lead by two shots at the half-way point.

The second round saw a bit of a wobble through holes 4 to 6, but Colin was able to grind out a few pars, and a par/birdie/par finish saw him close out the second round in 77 (5 over).

After a nervy 30-minute wait for the two remaining groups to finish, Colin's 152 aggregate gross total ended up at the top of the pile to claim the coveted scratch prize.

Unfortunately the one-prize rule of the competition prevented his 140 nett score making it a clean sweep for both the Scratch and Handicap competitions, the latter by seven shots.

"After six failed attempts at the finals, you



Colin (pictured right) receives the MOD Scratch Trophy from Phil Thelwell (DSRA Golf Championship organiser)

could say that this year was very much my coming of age," said an elated Colin.

"I still have to pinch myself. I will be living off this for the next decade at least!"

Steve is prize guy in Cornish contest

REAR ADMIRAL Steve Brunton presented the prizes as 78 golfers battled it out for the Royal Navy Engineers Open Golf Championships.

The Rear Admiral, DE&S' Director Ships Acquisition, is now a regular at the championships in Saltash and this year claimed tenth place. WO Mark Minnett was victorious on his home course.

A charity raffle and auction raised £1,600 for a children's and young adults hospice, and also for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines charity.

□ DE&S' competitive orienteers were well to the fore as the Compass Sport competition held its finals in the Forest of Dean last month.

Lt Col Chris Sanderson of DE&S Weapons ran for the Lincoln Orienteering Group, scoring highly for this team in the Trophy competition but narrowly missing a place on the podium.

Alan Honey of DE&S' IMAGE team and Geoff Ellis of the Networks Falcon team, both representing Bristol Orienteering Klub, ran well to secure the cup competition by a significant margin.

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Abbey Wood answers a traditional call



NAVAL PERSONNEL at Abbey Wood – led by Chief of Materiel (Fleet) Admiral Sir Andrew Mathews, above right, and Warrant Officer Paul Buckley – raise a glass to Prince George of Cambridge to answer the traditional order 'Splice the Mainbrace'.

The occasion saw staff answering an order by the Queen to toast the birth of the prince with the traditional tot of rum.

Sir Andrew took the first tot on 25th September, after which his colleagues followed suit. The tot is issued to all personnel over 18, with a soft drink available as an alternative.

Originally 'Splice the Mainbrace' was the order to splice in a large run of hemp during battle to help repair the largest of a warship's running rigging.

If shot away, the rigging needed repairing to keep the ship manoeuvrable and in the battle.

Extra rum was issued to those able and brave enough to complete the task.

Since then the order has meant the entire crew would be issued with an extra ration, and the order is given on special occasions, including Royal births.

DINs - released this month

Defence Instructions and Notices (DINs) are defence-wide instructions, guidance and notices for military and civilian staff, containing up-to-the-minute information to help people carry out their duties. Some of the latest issued on Defence Equipment and Support are:

2013DIN04-151: The Variable Tactical Electrical Generator has now been accepted for service and will be issued to authorised units or can be ordered on Army Form 2268. The fleet is managed by Rolls-Royce under a contractor logistic support arrangement. All questions about the equipment should be directed first to the Rolls-Royce helpdesk.

2013DIN04-155: This outlines plans for hosting, distributing and viewing of in-service maritime technical publications. Historically, books and catalogues have been provided in hard copy, either as paper editions or microfiche. Digital searchable versions have been developed and hosted. Microfiche as a medium is now obsolescent and viewers provided to maritime platforms and shore establishments can no longer be maintained.

2013DIN04-162: Processes and procedures have been issued which are to be followed to register and account for Registered Numbered Equipment assets on JAMES, the joint asset management system.

2013DIN03-017: As part of the rebalancing of the Army, the Territorial Army is becoming the Army Reserve. Use of the terms TA and Territorial Army, unless legally required, will end by 20th January next year.

Further information and more details on the latest DINs see:

<http://defenceintranet.diif.r.mil.uk/Reference/DINsJSPs/Pages/DINsindex2013.aspx>

Staff are 'in the pink' to raise breast cancer cash

CIVILIANS AND service personnel from across Yeovilton took advantage of the 'pink coffee shop' to support Chief Petty Officer Laura Knight's ongoing battle with breast cancer.

The shop, in the crewroom of 702 Naval Air Squadron, saw staff donate cakes and biscuits to be sold on the day. Around £550 was raised for Breast Cancer Care.

■ Members of DE&S' Chinook team, together with other Helicopter Operating Centre colleagues, held a bake-off to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Staff entered 30 different home-made cakes, tarts and pastries into a keenly-fought competition, with the judges declaring that the chocolate fancy and cranberry and pumpkin seed flapjacks were

the winners. Staff chose their own favourites, contributing £280 for the privilege of enjoying the Tetbury tarts, the Fishponds flan and the Keynsham crunch.

■ Defence Munitions Gosport's 2013 Macmillan coffee morning raised £1,000 through apprentice car washes, the site manager's £1 challenge, local competitions and a raffle.

Gosport's Caravan, and Gosport and Fareham Civil Service Sports clubs made kind donations, along with a supply of insulated paper coffee cups from Benders Cups.

■ A Macmillan coffee morning at Air Traffic Control, Yeovilton, raised more than £260 through sales of homemade cakes, tea and coffee.

Bastion equipment award

TO PROVE it's not just DE&S staff who receive equipment awards, a member of the Household Cavalry who has maintained vehicles on operations in Afghanistan has been commended.

Corporal of Horse Christopher Douglass, pictured, has received a Commander Equipment Capability's Commendation. He received his award



from Colonel Adam Fraser-Hitchen.

It is unusual for a cavalryman to receive an engineering commendation. CoH Douglass earned his for managing the Brigade Reconnaissance Force vehicle fleet.

Working in Camp Bastion he was responsible for more than 30 vehicles including Jackals and Huskys, crucial to the ISAF security effort in recent years.

He said: "My job in theatre is very different to my role in the UK; I had to learn a huge amount as soon as I arrived. I had a little bit of previous experience working with vehicles but not looking after a whole fleet. Luckily I had a lot of support across Camp Bastion."



We're pretty hot on the water too!

NORMALLY THEY are known for their skills in dismantling and dragging a field gun around at breakneck speed.

But members of Abbey Wood's field gun crew turned their considerable talents to the water to rattle the opposition in Bristol's annual Dragon Boat festival.

Eighteen crew members, roared on by their supporters, took to Bristol harbour in an event which combines strength, teamwork and enthusiasm to drive a dragon boat along a 200-metre course.

The Abbey Wood crew set the fastest time in the heats, which involved 39 teams from businesses around Bristol, and entered the four-boat final as slight favourites.

After a breathtaking effort in an intense race all four crews were within 1.2 seconds with the Abbey Wood crew pipped into second place.

Team members raised £1,700

Abbey Wood's field gun crew takes boat race by storm

for the Royal British Legion by their efforts, with £160 coming from cakes baked by friends and supporters.

The 22nd September event is expected to raise around £60,000 for a host of good causes.

Medals for the event were presented by Nick Orme, managing director of ITEC, the principal sponsors of the event.

It's back on land for the gun crew with a demonstration event at the

Birmingham International Tattoo on 31st November and 1st December.

Top: the Abbey Wood gun crew powers away for a fastest time in the heats

Below: celebration as second place is assured

Pictures: Claire Rossiter





Andy takes safety award

A PORTSMOUTH safety advisor has been recognised for improving diving safety at the naval base.

Andy Croft, above, has been awarded the Superintendent of Diving Certificate for a document highlighting issues and hazards for divers in the naval base.

He said: "I am very grateful for the award and for the support I have received producing the document."

"It is important to remember divers are fragile; there has been a drop off of understanding for divers in recent years and this document should help to re-educate divers."

Diving is regarded by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as one of the most hazardous maritime activities.

This set of diving safety instructions provides clear and concise guidance for all naval base divers in a variety of situations, including shallow water diving, working under ships in strong tidal streams and other hazardous environments.

Commander Chris Baldwin, MOD Superintendent of Diving, said: "Andy has been a very positive figure in the naval base's safety management system for protection of diving."

Military tournament to celebrate British legends

THE BRITISH Military Tournament returns to Earls Court next month with a spectacular new show.

This year's event on 7th and 8th December – two shows each day – celebrates the achievements of heroes and legends in British military history.

Themes including codebreakers of Bletchley Park in World War Two, Nelson at Trafalgar, Lawrence of Arabia along with today's servicemen and women will take centre stage.

Participants from all three Armed Forces make up the show with

Royal Marines joining more than 500 participants with massed bands, the legendary field gun run, motorcycle displays, armoured vehicles, a hot air balloon and a helicopter.

The British Military Tournament is the largest fundraising event for the three national charities of British Forces – ABF The Soldiers' Charity, the Royal Navy and Royal Marines charity and the RAF Benevolent Fund – and is backed again by Boeing.

Tickets are on sale from www.britishmilitarytournament.com



Ever popular: the field gun run

Thanks for the memories

CORSHAM HAS played a part in producing and promoting an unusual book of memories to raise funds for Help for Heroes.

Poetry, Prose and Pictures is the work of Rebe (pronounced Reebee) Whittle, a manuscript of stories, pictures and memories of her 92 years, including her time as an air force auxiliary during World War Two.

It has been designed and published by her neighbour Alan Watters, who works in the Defence Information Services Team at Corsham.

"The book is unusual for a number of reasons, not least because it is published posthumously and its publication would have astonished the author," said Alan.

"It is a book to dip into and enjoy over and over again as it ranges across all the emotions of the human mind."

"It will make a delightful present or stocking filler for anyone of a literary or artistic bent and should be of particular interest to those with wartime service memories."

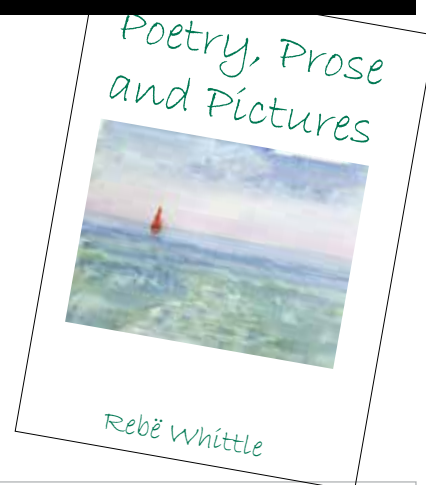
Rebe had wide artistic interests including art, poetry, theatre, opera, music and literature.

Her husband Harry was a Pathfinder Mosquito pilot, of which Rebe was very proud.

After her death last year her family collected manuscripts of poetry and prose she had written from the age of ten. These were put together as a memento with a host of Rebe's small paintings and sketches.

The book costs £5 and was launched at Corsham at the end of last month. Copies can be ordered from Alan at alan.watters132@mod.uk

Corsham helps launch 'delightful' book to raise money for Help for Heroes



Cash handover completes gala day

STAFF AND children from Clyde Nursery have presented two forces' charities with cash from a successful nursery gala day.

The Carousel-run nursery, just outside the gates of the base, held their gala day over the summer, with parents, staff, base employees and local businesses all pitching in.

More than £1,700 was raised from raffles and a tombola, a beat the goalie stall, a barbecue and a cake stall. The money was divided equally between the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Children's Fund and Help for Heroes.

The money has been presented to Kim Wardner from Help for Heroes and Commodore (now Rear Admiral) Mike Wareham, outgoing base commander, who received the cheque on behalf of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Children's Fund.

Pictured above, from left: assisted by some small helpers – Debbie Barnett from Clyde Nursery, John Burnett from Clyde, Commodore Mike Wareham, Kim Wardner from Help for Heroes, Gemma Arnold from Clyde Nursery, and Lt Cdr Carrie Insley with daughter Cora.

Lisah's up to speed as project lands a ministerial visit

A MECHANIC on the Bloodhound supersonic vehicle has been presented with a land speed record award for her contribution to the Bristol-based project.

Cpl Lisah Brooking, 27, from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers received the award from fellow mechanics helping to build the 1,000 mph car which aims to inspire the next generation of youngsters into engineering and science along with setting a new land speed record.

A number of DE&S apprentices have already been seconded to the project.

Cpl Brooking has been attached to the Bloodhound project to support testing and development of the car's custom gearbox as part of a rocket system which uses a Formula 1 engine as the fuel pump.

"I have learned so much about engineering at Bloodhound and been mentored by the best in the business – it's a real honour to be recognised for the skills I have got," said Cpl Brooking.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne congratulated Cpl Brooking during a visit to the project on 21st October.

"The REME are able to bring considerable experience of supporting and repairing world leading technology and engineering safety process to Bloodhound," he said.

"It doesn't stop there – the new skills and techniques the team learn are being reinvested into defence and will contribute to the electro-mechanical engineering capability of Future Force 2020."



Ministerial praise: for Cpl Lisah Brooking

Gosport dominates in annual Royce battle

INNOVATION AND excellent engineering skills have led two apprentices from Defence Munitions Gosport to win this year's Sir Henry Royce Memorial Competition.

Andrew Willoughby and Craig Kitcher designed and built a Poppin vacuum engine – a miniature device for continuous conversion of thermal to mechanical energy – during the first year of their apprenticeships which was then entered into the competition to follow in the footsteps of Sam Jennings and Andrew Leadbeater who won the competition last year.

The competition took place in September at the Sir Henry Royce Foundation near Towcester where the apprentices had to present their competition pieces to representatives of the foundation.

Andrew said: "On introduction to the Royce Foundation building, my immediate reaction was one of awe. Engines from various vehicles and ages along with other memorabilia are placed throughout the building.

"I then had to present our competition piece to John Lowe, Phillip Hall and Jonathan Lewis. This was exciting as it was the first time I'd presented a competition piece to anyone, let alone to representatives of such a prestigious icon and brand.



Royce winners for 2013: Andrew, below left and Craig



"A number of difficult questions were asked which helped me understand the high standards that are required of each contestant."

Craig added: "My overall experience of the competition was fantastic. I would recommend this experience to all engineering apprentices. It is a great opportunity to learn new things, solve problems

and interact with others.

"Andrew and I are grateful to the Sir Henry Royce Foundation for the opportunities it gave us and the support to up-

and-coming engineers. We are proud and inspired by our success and look forward to next year's competition."

The vacuum engine will be displayed at Defence Munitions Gosport along with other competition pieces while Craig and Andrew will receive their medals and certificates at the MOD annual apprentice awards ceremony next month.

Portsmouth goes forward in time

A TIME capsule created by schoolchildren has been buried beneath foundations for new Royal Navy living accommodation in Portsmouth naval base.

Sixteen children buried the capsule under the new Falklands Block which is due to open at the end of next year and will provide accommodation for 270 sailors. It will eventually replace the ageing Britannia Block.

Among the contents was a school pullover and tie, toys, coins, and school newsletters. Some pupils had written letters on topics such as poverty and global warming. The on-site Balfour Beatty team contributed photos of Britannia Block and staff members.

Commodore Jeremy Rigby, Naval Base Commander, told pupils: "About 75 years ago there were air raid shelters beneath where we are standing and messages had been carved on walls which now produce us with a snapshot of history.

"So when your capsule is dug up possibly in about 75 years from now, your items will provide a similar snapshot of life in 2013. Whoever uncovers the capsule will find it a fascinating historical resource."

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