

# desider

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the magazine for defence equipment and support

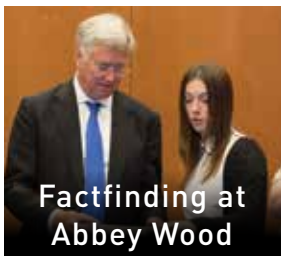


## DE&S signs up to the Scout

589 Specialist Vehicles are on their way to the Army in a £3.5 billion contract



Latest DG Finance and DCDS (Military Capability) wallchart [See inside](#)



Factfinding at Abbey Wood



Managing information




Proud in RAF colours



Battling the mud



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The Prime Minister, the Chief of the General Staff and Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology joined members of DE&S' Scout Specialist Vehicle project team in Wales to announce the biggest single order for armoured fighting vehicles for 30 years. The £3.5 billion contract with General Dynamics UK for 589 vehicles, training and initial support is another DE&S major project which is delivering capability for UK Armed Forces

### 28 Now the rubber hits the road!

The way DE&S provides and supports equipment to the front line is changing to meet the developing demands of the Armed Forces. *desider* provides an update on progress of the wide-ranging Logistic Commodities and Services (Transformation) programme

### 30 It's good to talk – especially at DE&S

DE&S has launched its first Staff Communications and Engagement Strategy which aims to strengthen communications across the organisation. It is designed to provide a framework for all communication and engagement activities from now until 2017



Picture: Andrew Linnett

## cover image

Scout is unveiled in a blaze of colour at General Dynamics UK's facility in south Wales in front of DE&S team members, employees of GDUK and a host of leading figures from the military, political and industrial world

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# desider

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## CDM Commendation winner 2014

*desider* magazine's performance in the commercial market earned it an award from Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel, in his recognition of top-performing staff at DE&S over the previous 12 months. Advertising revenue from the magazine and its family of supplements and wallcharts reached more than £500,000 in 2013-14.

# insiderguide

# Bernard Gray

## Chief of Defence Materiel

### 'A clear and strong demonstration of the great work we are doing in DE&S'



When I was appointed Chief of Defence Materiel nearly four years ago I set out on a journey to transform DE&S into a world class procurement and support organisation. 2014 has been a year of solid achievement and, for the first time, I believe we are visibly moving towards becoming the kind of organisation we know we can be.

Those of you who know me will recognise that I am quick to praise the work of staff at DE&S when there is good news to report on our projects. This month is no exception. It was a very good summer for our major projects, with progress on Merlin Mk2, Chinook Mk6 and Voyager passing important milestones either on or ahead of time, and on budget.

It is satisfying also to see the naming, and floating, of the first *Queen Elizabeth* class aircraft carrier. After many months of seeing its constituent parts built at yards around the country before transportation to Rosyth we, and the public, finally had an idea of the tremendous scale of the completed vessel and the amount of planning and work involved in a programme of this scale.

September saw us adding to our record of progress with the contract signing on the Scout Specialist Vehicle, the Army's next generation armoured vehicle, various versions of which will provide vital capabilities on the battlefield of the future. Details of the vehicle and the project's progress can be found elsewhere in this edition but I was delighted to be in south Wales as the media were told about the vehicle and had a look inside the General Dynamics UK facility at Oakdale.

Announcement of the contract

followed intensive and positive negotiations between DE&S and General Dynamics lasting many months. The hard work and commitment of the DE&S project team has resulted in a value for money contract which is not only excellent news for the MOD and the taxpayer but also a great result for the Army.

We will continue to work with General Dynamics in the years ahead and build on the success we have achieved so far.

The Army's leaders have described Scout as their highest equipment priority; we in DE&S are committed to meeting their expectations. We are all about bringing vital equipment to the Armed Forces through professional programme management and Scout is further evidence of how DE&S is being transformed so that we can deliver our most important and complex programmes in a timely way.

I've sometimes felt that general awareness of the role of DE&S when equipment contracts are announced or equipment goes into service was not what it could be. That was certainly not the case this time.

I was pleased to be at Oakdale, not just to see the outcome of the project team's work, but to get an idea of just what goes into organising such an event. DE&S corporate communications staff, along with their counterparts in London and at General Dynamics, worked hard to make sure of widespread and generally positive coverage across radio, television, newspapers and the internet.

Scout SV is great news for our soldiers and great news for industry. But it is also a clear and strong demonstration of the great work we are doing in DE&S.

MICHAEL FALLON made his first visit to DE&S headquarters at Abbey Wood as Secretary of State for Defence bringing with him a positive message of how the MOD was now being trusted in the way it spent taxpayers' money.

Mr Fallon, appointed over the summer to replace Philip Hammond, told an 18th September town hall session attended by hundreds of DE&S staff that one of the things he was told on his appointment was how much the MOD had improved in the way money was managed.

He said: "The final set of service redundancies was announced in June and since then we have had a series of big announcements on new investment. We are now trusted to spend money again.

"I am committed to continuing the work begun by my predecessor. He dealt, and you dealt, with the £38 billion black hole in expenditure. We are now able to invest again in the people and equipment needed to keep this country safe."

Mr Fallon was accompanied to the town hall session and introduced to staff by Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel. The MP for Sevenoaks spoke about the next Strategic Defence and Security Review, due next year, and the need to take account of new threats the UK faces.

"Before the 2010 review there had not been one for many years," he said. "We had not had a proper assessment of the threats



Above: Michael Fallon is given a demonstration of the Dragon Runner remote controlled vehicle by Emily Plummer, a third year engineering technician apprentice who is in the second of four six-month placements in DE&S

# MOD has won the 'trust' battle



Pictures: Andrew Linnett



Mr Fallon, pictured left with Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel, visited a number of project teams to gain some first-hand knowledge of the depth and breadth of DE&S work. He later spoke at a town hall session in the Abbey Wood gymnasium and took questions from staff

we face and what to do about them. We will have to go back to the 2010 review to see how much of it is still valid. I think a lot of the basic logic still stands so we should not be preparing for a review which tears everything up.

"The other obvious challenge will be the money. That's my job; your job is to get the best value for money."

The Defence Secretary said that a factor in the next SDSR would be the changing international picture over the last year, which had resulted in a growing acknowledgment of the clear and present danger to the UK.

Mr Fallon listed the priorities he faced as he came into office, including the drawdown from Afghanistan, delivering a successful Nato summit and getting to grips with issues surrounding the Reserve Forces. Added to this was the continuing uncertainty surrounding Ukraine, the Ebola crisis in Africa, evacuating British nationals in Libya and dealing with the threat of the Islamic State in northern Iraq.

He had no doubts about the role

and importance of DE&S. He said: "It is DE&S that provides the foundation in equipment, logistics and expertise and I put on record my appreciation of what is being achieved here, not simply in delivery but in improving your performance, in upping your game. You have proved you can deliver big ticket items to time and to cost to our Armed Forces so they can deliver on the tasks we ask of them, both now and for the future."

Questions from the floor included pay rates for current staff, how to attract talent from outside the organisation and ways to make contract negotiations faster while still remaining within legal frameworks.

On the arrival of Managed Service Providers, Mr Gray explained that costs would be carefully controlled when buying in private sector advice. "We can choose to buy how much service we want from them," he said. "The cost only rises when we want to do more than we have previously specified. Up to April we had a budget for DE&S personnel and a separate headcount control imposed on us. Now we have a total cash budget which

also includes all the third-party spend we make on outside consultancy.

"As our head count has gone down we have had to go outside for some of our services and in some cases that's more expensive than if we did the work ourselves. There is potential to use the MSPs as a strategic framework to get what we want and drive down what we spend. Instead of costing more, this will cost less. The workforce here is likely to get larger rather than smaller."

Mr Fallon, answering a question on the importance of engineers in DE&S, acknowledged the recruitment challenge. "Our most successful industries are aerospace and automotive and they are desperately short of engineers," he said.

"Companies are now setting up their own academies to train engineers. We need to attract more people in education into the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects. They must be taught earlier, taught for longer, and taught better. And culturally we have to change our view of engineers. They have more status in countries like France and Germany than they do here."

Mr Gray added that DE&S was doing much to encourage recruitment with a strong programme in both graduates and apprentice engineers. "In Brunel's city, we are making our own contribution," he said.

During his visit Mr Fallon was given an overview of the Materiel Strategy programme to transform DE&S and met a number of the organisation's project teams from across all four domains, along with members of the Defence Support Chain Operations and Movements team.

## DE&S gets ready for Managed Service Providers

MANAGED SERVICE Providers will play a key role in how DE&S gets things done which means better services and outputs for DE&S' customers.

That's the view of the DE&S Executive and the two-star directors as DE&S prepares for the arrival of MSPs for project delivery and human resources.

Richard Smart of the Materiel Strategy team said: "The first six months will be focused on bringing the MSPs progressively into the business, making sure they

understand the breadth and complexity of what we do and getting their views and expert advice on existing strengths that we can build on and other aspects of how we operate that we should improve.

"All of that early thinking will come together into a plan for business change that the MSPs will then help us to deliver. The work of the MSPs will be incentivised against delivery of agreed contract milestones, DE&S business results - as assessed using the Corporate

■ continued on page 8

# Now it's your chance to be heard

## Meaningful feedback needed as DE&S launches its own survey

DE&S STAFF will have the opportunity to complete the first DE&S Employee Engagement Survey this month instead of the MOD 'Your Say' survey.

The survey is an opportunity for staff to share their views about working in DE&S and will help the Senior Management Team to better understand the areas of greatest concern and identify improvements required.

Tony Graham, Director Ships and Communications Workstream lead for engagement, said: "I believe all the Operating Centre and Functional Directors are energised by the thought that this year's DE&S Staff Engagement Survey will provide our various DE&S change initiatives with the meaningful feedback they need from our people.

"This is the first year we have our own survey and the first year we have the full range of freedoms to act. This is our own referendum on all the hard endeavour undertaken to make a difference to this important organisation.

"It is vital we all take the time to complete the survey with great care as, more than ever, it really matters for our future."

The survey should take no longer than 15-20 minutes to complete. Information is protected at all stages of the survey process and responses cannot be attributed to individuals.

Results should be available next month and published on the intranet as soon as possible afterwards.

Any queries on the survey, contact: DES Sec-ABWCommsTeam (multiuser). The survey is live on-line until 31st October; paper returns will need to be received by ORC (the survey contractor) by 17th October.

Where DE&S has been, and where it is going: the first rich picture of DE&S



## 'Rich picture' signposts the way to future DE&S

DE&S HAS published a roadmap of the direction the organisation will take in the first year of moving towards its full 'match fit' status in April 2017.

Called the 'rich picture' the graphic shows the milestones the organisation has passed since launch day last April, and what will be achieved in the 2014-15 transition year before full transformation begins next spring.

It has been designed by DE&S Graphics, and championed by Chief of Joint Enablers Pete Worrall.

He is leading a communications workstream, one of six which bring together all the necessary change initiatives identified to deliver a match fit DE&S.

Last month saw the release of a new

DE&S Staff Communications and Engagement Strategy, setting out how DE&S will strengthen communication and engagement within the organisation.

Speaking about the rich picture, the Materiel Strategy's Director Barry Burton said: "Good communication is vital to our success as a bespoke trading entity and in delivering change.

"The rich picture forms part of that communication effort, illustrating the key milestones we have already achieved and those still to come during the transition period. I hope staff will find it useful."

Both the DE&S Staff Communications and Engagement Strategy and the rich picture are available on the DE&S intranet.

Engagement: pages 30 and 31

## Feedback programme set to continue

THE 30, 60 and 90-day time-bounded staff suggestion programmes identified on DE&S' launch day last April are now over, but the programme continues in the longer term.

There are just under 50 of the original suggestions that are being progressed as longer term actions, along with around 60 additional actions that have been identified from more than 450 suggestions received through the scheme since launch.

"We've seen a steady stream of new suggestions come in over the last six months and the team continues to work hard to address these and deliver tangible improvements to the business," said Stephen Palmer of the Materiel Strategy team.

"The scheme has generated some good ideas on a diverse range of issues, from suggestions about performance, recognition and reward to requests for more lockers and

cycle racks. We were given a budget of £1 million to fund the suggestions which have a price-tag attached.

"We have, to date, committed £250,000 for an external clean of the Abbey Wood site, £57,000 to upgrade the gym showers to cubicles, and around £30,000 on improvements to corporate communications, including the installation of digital screens in the Abbey Wood atria.

"We are also currently considering proposals for IT upgrades including installing broadband wifi, and increasing the number of spiderphones and tablets."

Details can be seen on the Staff Suggestions intranet page and new suggestions can still be submitted via the Materiel Strategy mailbox or the suggestions boxes installed at Abbey Wood and other DE&S sites.

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## NEWSREEL

## Ship design

**ENGINEERING** consultancy Frazer-Nash is to examine the best ways of designing and powering future naval vessels in support of the Advanced Electric Power and Propulsion Project being run in conjunction with the US Navy until 2017. The work is based on existing modelling tools delivered to the MOD under the Maritime Equipment Systems Enabler. This framework was awarded under competitive tender in 2011.

## Cash chase

THE MOD has recovered all duplicate payments to suppliers, amounting to £4.1 million, in 2013-14 and 60 per cent of the £500,000 duplicate payments in the first quarter of 2014-15. The figures were revealed in a Parliamentary answer last month. All overpayments since 2010 have been recovered. The MOD processes more than four million invoices a year totalling £26 billion.

## Sentinel costs

**COSTS** of keeping the Sentinel long-range airborne surveillance aircraft in service until 2018 will be just under £200 million, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne has said. The decision to maintain the capability was to preserve short term wide area surveillance and to allow longer-term requirement to be considered in the next Strategic Defence and Security Review.

## MSPs – ‘a great opportunity for DE&amp;S’

■ continued from page 5  
Plan – and collaborative working both between MSPs and with our internal DE&S workforce.”

Implementing coherent change across DE&S will be a key challenge. “MSPs should give us the capability, as well as the capacity, to make a lasting, positive difference,” said Mr Smart. “We’ve developed the concept of a rainbow team, comprising a mix of DE&S employees and senior personnel from each of the MSPs, to help with that. “Its task is to take the lead on ensuring that business needs and current practice right across DE&S is properly captured and brought into a single plan for business change that is agreed with the DE&S Executive.

“Once the plan is agreed, the rainbow team will take responsibility for delivering it, driving coherent change and making sure that the plan evolves in a controlled way.”

Mr Smart added: “In addition to having a relatively small presence in the rainbow team, the Project Delivery MSPs will have a greater number of personnel working in each of the domains with the

Chiefs of Materiel, the Operating Centre Directors and their project teams. Making sure that the work of those personnel in the domains properly informs the work of the rainbow team will be vital.

“As well as informing development of the change plan and helping to deliver it, I expect the Project Delivery MSPs to help us address near-term challenges on our equipment delivery, equipment support and logistics activities. The Human Resources MSP will be working alongside staff in DE&S HR to establish a business relevant HR function and deliver HR transformation.”

The plan is to bring in just under 150 MSP personnel for the project delivery work package and up to 70 or so MSP personnel for Human Resources.

Mr Smart added: “I think the MSPs offer a great opportunity for DE&S. They are being brought in to help us improve how things get done. Without the MSPs, I do not believe we have the capability or capacity for major change and making the most of the new freedoms to operate differently that came with the creation of DE&S as a bespoke trading entity.”

## Staff leap into action on Iraq equipment task

THE UK decision to give £1.6 million of arms to Kurdish forces battling Islamic State militants in northern Iraq required an immediate response from DE&S and staff from Logistic Commodities and Services (LCS) depots across the UK.

The shipment was requested by government officials in Baghdad and, when the call came, staff at LCS Bicester, Donnington and St Athan moved into top gear to ensure that the required equipment was picked, packed and delivered to RAF Brize Norton to be flown to Iraq.

Included in the consignment was one non-lethal consignment of equipment that included body armour, helmets and sleeping bags and one issue of 40 Heavy Machine Guns, with half a million rounds of ammunition.

“Once again LCS has demonstrated its agility and flexibility in meeting unplanned operations,” said Neil Firth, head of LCS.

“Working to a fast-paced and challenging deadline, the team delivered the requirement with minimal disruption to normal business.

“Our ability to respond to these unknown requirements has been tested to the full, and



Above: an RAF C-130J Hercules delivers UK aid into Iraq where American military personnel were on hand to unload the aircraft. Aid flights began at the end of August, delivering aid from RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus to northern Iraq. Early flights transported body armour, helmets and sleeping bags along with 7.62mm ammunition provided by other nations. Water containers, solar lamps and shelter kits have been delivered as part of the humanitarian relief effort. RAF C-17s have also transported equipment provided by the UK

once again we have passed that test. I am immensely proud of our people’s commitment, professionalism and dedication to supporting defence.”

The work of LCS staff comes

as the organisation moves towards a new and improved operating model.

It is designed to offer a more modern, flexible and agile service, ultimately to provide best value for money for the taxpayer.

□ **LCS transformation update: pages 28 and 29**



# PM scotches idea of mothballing a carrier

The latest hull section of *Prince of Wales* arrives at Rosyth, as *Queen Elizabeth*, below right, looks on



DE&S HAS welcomed the news that *Prince of Wales*, the second of the two 65,000-tonne aircraft carriers, will enjoy a full operational life with the Royal Navy.

The decision, announced by Prime Minister David Cameron, draws a line under suggestions the second carrier might be mothballed or disposed of. One will always be available for operations when both come into service.

"We will keep and use both *HMS Queen Elizabeth* and her sister ship *HMS Prince of Wales*, ensuring we always have one available, 100 per cent of the time from 2023," Mr Cameron said at the end of the two-day Nato summit in Newport last month.

"They are an investment in British security, British

## Decision brings more certainty and stability to project, says DE&S

prosperity and our place in the world, transforming our ability to project power globally, whether independently or with allies."

Using both carriers will be done under existing resources with more detailed plans on how they will operate considered by next year's Strategic Defence and Security Review.

DE&S Director Ships, Tony Graham, joined Rear Admiral Henry Parker, Director Ship

Acquisition, in expressing their delight at the decision.

"We all welcome the certainty brought to the carrier programme by the historic announcement by the Prime Minister to commit to two operational carriers with one always being available," said Mr Graham.

"This provides the UK with a continuous means of influencing world events. There were signs at the Nato summit that *HMS Queen Elizabeth* and *HMS Prince of Wales* already feature in the consciousness of other global leaders. We are certainly proud to be delivering something that really matters on the world stage."

Rear Admiral Parker added: "The clear direction that both carriers will be put to operational use is a great motivator to those of us across Government and industry who are working so hard to deliver them."

"This, and the improved clarity and stability that this brings to the support aspects of the project, are hugely welcome to all involved."

## Prince of Wales – assembly is under way

TWO OF the largest hull sections of *Prince of Wales* have docked at Rosyth, marking beginning of assembly.

The dry dock, vacated by *Queen Elizabeth* in July, was filled with more than 80,000 tonnes of water in preparation for the blocks floating into position during a five-hour operation on 9th September.

Lower Blocks 02 and 03, weighing in at 6,000 and 8,000 tonnes respectively, were manufactured by BAE Systems at the company's Portsmouth and Glasgow facilities. Lower Block 02, the forward section of hull, houses machinery spaces, stores and switchboards, while the mid section, Lower Block 03, houses 160 cabins and the ship's bakery.

Meanwhile, work continues on *Queen Elizabeth* to bring her systems to life in preparation for sea trials in 2016.

Investment is also underway to prepare Portsmouth as the home port of the carriers with *Queen Elizabeth* due to arrive in the city in 2017. This includes dredging the approach and main channels inside the harbour, upgrades to navigational aids and refurbishment of several jetties, along with wider infrastructure improvements.

### TIMELINES

- 2016: *HMS Queen Elizabeth* begins sea trials
- 2017: Royal Navy accepts ship from industry
- 2018: F-35 Joint Strike Fighter flying trials from carrier
- 2020: Initial Operating Capability for carriers and aircraft (Carrier Strike)

## Equipment spending is handed a 20 per cent budget target

MR CAMERON also announced that 20 per cent of future defence budgets would be dedicated to new equipment programmes.

Nato countries have agreed to halt the decline in defence spending and move towards committing at least 2 per cent of gross domestic product on defence.

"But it's not just the amount of money that matters. It is also about spending on equipment we can deploy," the Prime Minister said.

"So we have agreed that a fifth of defence budgets should be dedicated to major new equipment. In Britain we have the second largest defence budget in Nato and the biggest in the EU. We have taken longer term decisions to put our defence budget on a sustainable footing and the fruits of this are now coming through.

"We are equipping all three of our services with the best and most modern military hardware money can buy."

## NEWSREEL

## Lunch with the leaders

MICHAEL Bradley, Roger Hutton and the Army 2020 programme team lead the next series of Defence Academy lunchtime seminars at Abbey Wood and Andover. The Army 2020 team will host a seminar at Abbey Wood's Central Facilities Building on 22nd October between 1-2pm with Michael Bradley, DG Resources at DE&S, leading his seminar at Abbey Wood on 20th November. Roger Hutton, Director Defence Transformation, will host a seminar on 11th November at Andover's Ramillies Lecture Theatre. Other seminars, part of a series to allow service and civilian staff to hear from senior leaders and managers, will take place elsewhere across the MOD. Details on topics and booking processes are still to be announced.

## Cost of a reply

THE MOD estimates a cost of 18.9p for stationery every time a minister replies to a question from MPs and Peers. In 2013, MOD Ministers responded to 4,853 letters with a cost of just under £920. Replies to parliamentarians are delivered by hand so there are no postage costs.

## MOD Twitter

THE MOD runs 109 Twitter accounts, either registered by the MOD or one of the single services, according to the latest figures. Spending on all social media during 2013-14 came to £767,000 with £87,000 spent on Twitter.

# Typhoon – now even more capability is added

THE BIGGEST single upgrade programme for Typhoon is now in operational service with the RAF.

Known as Phase 1 Enhancements (P1E), the upgrade package delivers a range of enhancements to the Typhoon aircraft.

The suite of capabilities, developed by BAE Systems, along with DE&S, the RAF and partner companies, has been developed on the back of operations in Libya.

Upgrades include enhanced computing power, weapons systems integration advancements and improved sensor suites allowing Typhoon to make even more of its potency whether tasked with air-to-air work, air-to-ground or a combination of both during a single mission.

The P1E enhancements allow a single pilot in a single aircraft to simultaneously attack six different targets in one pass. Split into two elements, Phase 1 Enhancements (a) and Phase 1 Enhancements (b), the latter takes multi-role to a new level.

Typhoon Requirements Manager Wg Cdr Stephen Williams said: "P1Eb allows Typhoon to begin realising its air-to-ground capability while also delivering in the air-to-air arena.

"Our ability to switch between air-to-air and air-to-ground modes is a big step, providing great flexibility for our pilots on operations. This is a key step to delivering capability for the UK's Interim Force 15."

The PE1b package also brings upgrades for the aircraft's defensive aids sub system

and the latest interoperability updates for the multifunction information and distribution systems, which together ensure the Typhoon remains one of the most effective aircraft in the skies.

Testing of the P1E package was conducted through a combined industry and MOD team. Martin Taylor, Director for Combat Air at BAE Systems, said: "P1E is a massive leap forward in capability and by working jointly as one team, we've ensured that there are no surprises when it enters service. We have delivered a capability with all the necessary training and support to make sure it is ready and usable from day one."

The first nine P1E standard aircraft are now in service with the RAF with a further 18 to be delivered by 1st April next year.

## RAF's A400M over final hurdle



□ An update at RAF Brize Norton: page 12

AIRBUS MILITARY'S chief test pilot has described a flight in the RAF's first A400M as 'very satisfying' as the aircraft moved another step closer to UK delivery.

The first aircraft ordered by the RAF – now known as ZM400 – made its maiden flight at the end

of August from Seville in Spain, returning just over five hours later.

Edward Strongman, who captained the flight, said after landing: "It was very satisfying to conduct this first flight of the first A400M for the RAF. I have no doubt that its combination of true tactical

capability with strategic range will be an enormous contributor to future air mobility in the RAF."

The aircraft, now in RAF livery, is the first of 22 ordered by the UK. It is in the process of being accepted by the UK project team in Seville. Delivery is expected this month.



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# An update at Brize



Above: a C-130J at RAF Brize Norton  
 Left: Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel, is updated on the latest operational news at the Oxfordshire base



**BERNARD GRAY**, Chief of Defence Materiel, has been updated on Operation Herrick redeployment, C-130J capabilities and the introduction of the A400M transport aircraft during a visit to RAF Brize Norton.

## Operation Herrick, Hercules capabilities and the arrival of A400M are all on CDM's agenda

Defence Support Chain Operations and Movements briefed CDM on how the equivalent of 4,120 20-foot containers have returned so far from southern Afghanistan. The Air Port of Embarkation Wing at Brize, commanded by Wg Cdr Ange Baker, has become adept at unloading a B747 aircraft and processing stocks through import and customs processes.

improvements Marshall Aerospace has made in depth maintenance, leading to an increase in the number of fit-for-purpose aircraft to ensure the fleet sustains enduring commitment to Operation Herrick and training to prepare for a return to contingency.



Stocks are then despatched inside 24 hours on transport provided by Bicester-based Logistic Services Team, speeding up their return to front line units or to the Logistic Commodities and Services depots for future operations.

Air Officer Air Mobility, Air Commodore David Lee, then updated CDM on transition from C-130J to A400M over the next few years.



The majority of 2,781 vehicles have been brought back by C-17s of 99 Squadron to be handled by APOE Wing staff. Vehicles are processed through imports and despatched via low loaders to the Defence Support Group to begin regeneration.

CDM toured the refurbished 70 Squadron engineering/aircrew facilities with the Officer Commanding, Wg Cdr Simon Boyle, and the Chief Executive of Airbus Military UK, Richard Thompson. These will be the base for A400M despatch during the first two years of the aircraft's operations at Brize, being replaced in 2016 by a purpose-built maintenance hangar.

CDM's update on C-130J capabilities by Wg Cdr Graeme Gault of 47 Squadron focused on how capability migrated from the C-130K aircraft, the last of which retired last October, to the more modern C-130J, due to remain in service until 2022.

Aircrew instructors have undergone training in the International Training Facility in Seville while training courses began at Brize on 1st September. An update was also provided on the arrival timetable for the first aircraft by Programme Manager, Gp Capt Dom Stamp.

Hercules and TriStar project team's deputy leader, Wg Cdr Simon Young, updated CDM on

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# Army Wildcat continues on track

## Another project passes a major milestone

THE ARMY version of the Wildcat helicopter achieved an Initial Operating Capability on 29th August – the date approved at Main Gate in 2006.

It is another boost for DE&S as this is the fourth Category A contract to hit a major programme milestone this year.

The MOD is buying 62 Wildcat helicopters, made up of 34 Army versions and 28 Navy variants, which are set to replace the Lynx fleets due to go out of service between March next year and March 2018.

Both variants of Wildcat will be based at RNAS Yeovilton. The Army variant will perform a range of tasks on the battlefield including reconnaissance, command and control, transportation of troops and materiel and provision of force protection.

The Royal Navy variant is on schedule to achieve IOC early next year.

This will provide an agile maritime capability, providing, among other capabilities, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare and force protection roles.

Wildcat represents a significant improvement over the Lynx helicopter including superior situational awareness through its advanced electro-



The down line: troops abseil from an Army Wildcat

optical device, digitised cockpit and increased survivability provided by enhanced ballistic tolerance and other safety enhancement features.

The Army Wildcat will also be the first helicopter to utilise Bowman voice and data offering fully network-enabled mission systems.

Performance is also improved by an upgraded transmission system, new tail rotor and the use of the LHTEC T800 engines currently being used with great success on the Lynx Mk9A helicopter.

Wildcat has been developed and is being built by AgustaWestland in Yeovil. Much of the mechanical and avionics

systems have been developed and produced in the UK; major UK suppliers include General Dynamics, Thales, Selex and GKN.

DE&S Director Helicopters Adrian Baguley said: "2014 is a critical year for the delivery of the MOD's Rotary Wing Strategy, of which Wildcat is a key element.

"Wildcat represents a considerable advance on the current Lynx helicopters, offering significantly improved mission capability.

"With state-of-the-art sensors, equipment and weapons, it will be an outstanding asset to the Armed Forces."

## NEWSREEL

### Combating the boat threat

QINETIQ will help research co-ordination of vessel defence against the threats posed by small boats, in a contract awarded by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl). Dstl has developed a sensor system to detect small boat threats and QinetiQ will begin a containerised experiment facility for Dstl, incorporating some of its own technology, to demonstrate the system at sea. The demonstrator will integrate on-board sensors to show how information can be effectively presented to commanders allowing them to best co-ordinate a response to an identified threat.

### Typhoon move

TYPHOON aircraft of the RAF's 1 Squadron have moved from RAF Leuchars to RAF Lossiemouth. From last month 1 and 6 Squadrons will provide Quick Reaction Alert cover for the north of the UK, alongside QRA South, based at RAF Coningsby. Leuchars will become home to the Army from next year. First use of Typhoons in the QRA role from Lossiemouth was announced on 19th September to identify a Russian military aircraft in international airspace.

### New chart

THIS issue contains the latest edition of the DG Finance and DCDS (Military Capability) wallchart. Further copies are available from Abbey Wood x30537.

## Babcock contract aims to give the services a seven-year lift

THE MARITIME Equipment Systems team has awarded Babcock a contract to supply and support a range of davits, lifts, cranes and winches for the Armed Forces.

Under the seven-year Maritime Davits, Lifts, Cranes and Winches contract, Babcock will supply, manufacture and repair items including boat davits, aircraft lifts, weapon lifts, stores and personnel lifts, deck cranes, monorail cranes, overhead travelling cranes, folding cranes, winches and capstans, as well as providing spares, equipment repair and technical support.

The company will also be responsible for managing obsolescence, configuration and quality management.

Babcock will also ensure compliance with ammunition lifting regulations, where required, across all the DLCW range of equipment, as well as meeting low magnetic equipment requirements, including davit equipment and folding cranes.

Babcock has a number of naval equipment management contracts, including pumps, ropes, compressors, firefighting and domestic equipment, and electrical components, among others.

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# Warrior – a programme well on target



A true Warrior: firing tests during 2014 have proved successful

MANNED FIRE and fire-on-the-move trials are being planned as the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme builds up to an important milestone next year.

The trials are the latest following a successful year for the team as the programme enters the initial development testing phase. Along with Scout, the Warrior programme is one of the Army's top equipment priorities this decade.

So far this year the contractor has successfully fired 183 rounds of 40mm ammunition from the WCSP turret using the CT40 cannon and plans are in place to fire many more in the build up

## Firing trials will move Warrior to the next stage

to a programme Critical Design Review (CDR) milestone due in mid 2015.

Prime contractor Lockheed Martin UK Amptill is undergoing a series of development trials ahead of CDR and the main qualification and verification phase of the programme.

Preparations for the development trials programme began last year, building up to the first firing which took place last March.

In March the WCSP team began the detailed analysis of the CT40 cannon before its full integration into both the WCSP and Scout SV turrets.

Over a two-week period, the trial focused on assessing the performance of the

CT40 cannon at Shoeburyness. This initial trial provided the understanding and confidence in the CT40 cannon and its integration into the turret to progress to the full unmanned firing trials in May, again at Shoeburyness.

This trial continued with turret reaction to firing of the cannon but also introduced the L94A1 Chain Gun.

The trial aimed to assess toxicity and noise during weapon firing inside and outside of the vehicle.

Further investigations were conducted into the power characteristics of the system during firing to begin to build a more complete picture of the turret system performance.

During this trial 70 rounds of CT40 ammunition and 2,400 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition were fired with further valuable data recorded to support the development of the platform.

The next trials will support further investigation of the system and begin to test the full fire control and sighting systems.



## NEWSREEL

### Beefing up cyber skills

**NORTHROP** Grumman has partnered with Cyber Security Challenge UK to bring the US youth cyber education programme, CyberPatriot, to the UK to help inspire and nurture cyber talent at all ages. "This is a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate how we can apply our knowledge and experience in cyber to stimulate an interest in science and technology and help build the UK talent pool in cyber security," said Andrew Tyler, the company's chief executive for Europe. The competition programme will be known in the UK as CyberCenturion and starts this month.

### F-35 hours

THE F-35 fleet has surpassed 19,500 flight hours, according to the latest figures issued in Parliament. The UK's F-35B Initial Operating Capability remains on track for 2018.

### Reserve boost

MORE than 20 of the UK's leading engineering companies have been briefed in London on the benefits of employing army reservists. Deputy Command Land Forces, Major General Ranald Munro, told businessmen about the vital work done for the Armed Forces by engineers. Mark Sweeney of Essar Oil said: "Reservists are highly valued and bring something you can't buy as a training package from a conventional training provider."

## Contract keeps weather in line

**QINETIQ WILL** maintain and refresh information technology equipment for the Thundercloud data management system in a £15.8 million support contract over the next four and a half years.

This continues the work of the company's Thundercloud team at Farnborough which has provided these services for the last 15 years.

Thundercloud is a military data management system that collates, manipulates and distributes weather and oceanographic data.

Information is distributed via interconnected systems to air, sea and land operations where it is used to gain an understanding of the environment as part of shared situational awareness.

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# The Wrath of Paveway



## Live testing for RAF's combat-proven munition gets underway on UK ranges

Above: Paveway impacts on Garvie Island

TRIALS AND testing of Paveway IV bombs on UK ranges has begun with three being dropped during a test on an island off Cape Wrath.

As reported in *desider* in January, following work carried out by the Air Delivered Weapons section of the Defence Ordnance Safety Group (DOSG), the live variant of the RAF's combat-proven all-weather precision guided bomb was cleared to be dropped for trials and training on UK air weapons ranges from realistic heights by the RAF.

This reduces costs of using overseas ranges.

A Tornado GR4 dropped three Paveway IV bombs in a single release onto Garvie Island, part of the Cape Wrath range, from 17,000 feet.

Safety advice for the Weapons Danger Area was provided by desk officers from the Weapons Systems 3 team within DOSG.

Members of the team, along with DOSG leader Colonel Mark Vincent, witnessed the trial from the control tower at Faraid Head, Cape Wrath – on the edge of the danger area – to appreciate efforts of service, MOD civilian and QinetiQ staff who operate the range safely.

Wg Cdr Jim Press of the WS3 team praised DE&S science and engineering staff for their work in supporting the front line.

He said: "By understanding the environment, properly quantifying the risk and taking the necessary mitigation action, we have demonstrated that by challenging the prevailing

approach to this activity over the last 30 years, we are able to make a difference.

"Technology has moved on for both the aircraft and the weapons that we use, introducing munitions that have far greater stand-off capability. This has presented those involved in range safety with increasing challenges.

"However, by using the same technological advances in our ability to accurately target and analyse the results, we have presented a credible argument for senior commanders to allow this activity, while meeting current legislative risk thresholds."

Following the trials, it is envisaged more training by front line RAF aircrews will be done in the UK.



**'We have  
presented  
a credible  
argument  
for senior  
commanders to  
allow this  
activity' –  
Wg Cdr Jim Press**

Left: the  
41 Squadron  
Tornado from  
RAF Coningsby  
after releasing  
its munitions



# THE APACHE ADVANTAGE: SUPER CONNECTIVITY.

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LEVELS OF carbon dioxide are to be controlled to allow women to begin service in Royal Navy submarines.

QinetiQ's Atmosphere Control Services team has designed and manufactured specialist equipment for analysis and control of carbon dioxide in a submarine's atmosphere.

More carbon dioxide can be present in enclosed spaces like submarines. Normally this can be safely inhaled but, if inhaled by a pregnant woman, it may potentially impact on the development of a foetus.

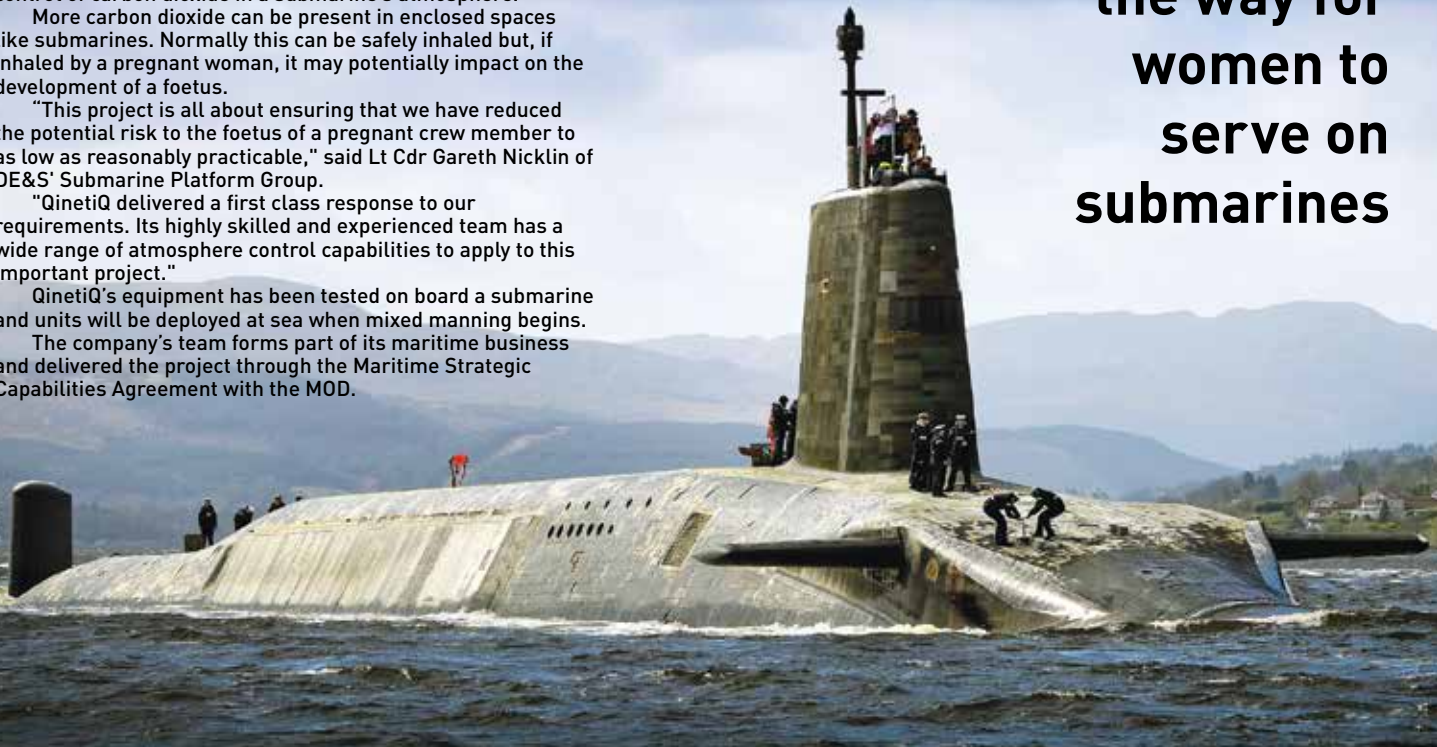
"This project is all about ensuring that we have reduced the potential risk to the foetus of a pregnant crew member to as low as reasonably practicable," said Lt Cdr Gareth Nicklin of DE&S' Submarine Platform Group.

"QinetiQ delivered a first class response to our requirements. Its highly skilled and experienced team has a wide range of atmosphere control capabilities to apply to this important project."

QinetiQ's equipment has been tested on board a submarine and units will be deployed at sea when mixed manning begins.

The company's team forms part of its maritime business and delivered the project through the Maritime Strategic Capabilities Agreement with the MOD.

## Tests pave the way for women to serve on submarines



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## Barrow gears up for Successor production

DEMOLITION HAS begun on buildings in Barrow as part of a £300 million-plus redevelopment to transform the way submarines are built in the Cumbrian town.

The site's old foundry and boiler shop will go in the first phase of the eight-year programme, and it is anticipated that more than 90 per cent of materials such as timber, bricks, sandstone and metals will be recycled.

The demolition at BAE Systems' site follows an announcement made in March by then-Defence Secretary Philip Hammond in which he outlined the scope of the investment during a visit to Barrow.

The programme will support delivery of a successor to the *Vanguard* class submarines and will involve construction of new facilities and the refurbishment of existing infrastructure, including:

- extension to the Devonshire Dock Hall to include a new manufacturing and installation facility

- refurbishment of the site's main fabrication facility, together with its existing plant and machinery

- an intention to build a 28,000 square metre off-site logistics building to store submarine parts and materials in the local area

Allan Day of BAE Systems Submarines said: "Redevelopment of the site is crucial to meeting the UK Government's target of having the first *Vanguard* replacement submarine in service by 2028, so the start of this demolition activity is a significant milestone."

Demolition of the site's old foundry and boiler shop will pave the way for new buildings that will house pressure hull units ready for shot blast and paint, and integration of submarine equipment modules.

□ *Astute* support at Barrow: page 37



A Royal Navy firefighting team pictured during an exercise

## Firefighters breathe easy in new support contract

FIREFIGHTING AND damage control on ships and submarines will continue to be carried out to the highest safety standards with a seven-year contract to support current breathing apparatus.

The enabling contract has been awarded to Scott Safety and will support Extended Duration Breathing Apparatus (EDBA).

It has been awarded by the Diving and Life Support Section in the Underwater and Electronic Warfare delivery team and MCS Commercial team of Director Ships.

EDBA provides compressed

natural breathing air for personnel involved in firefighting and damage control on surface ships, submarines and shore bases, along with the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Squadron at RAF Honington.

EDBA includes a back plate and harness, a full face mask and a two-stage pneumatic system. It is approved to European Standards and is mandated by the Naval Authority for Fire Safety Certification for ships and submarines and by Maritime Coastguard Agency regulations for Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels.

The contract – at a reduction

of 20 per cent to include upgraded equipment – was awarded a month before expiry of the previous contract.

The DE&S team updated the original contract's user requirements with advice from stakeholders to form part of the new contract.

It has more robust reporting requirements and incentivisation linked to the contractor's performance.

Early engagement with the company gave the team an understanding of manufacturing processes and cost drivers which put DE&S in a strong position when negotiating pricing.

### NEWSREEL

#### Lyneham progress

THE steel frame of the Defence College of Technical Training's main building has been completed at the former RAF Lyneham. The three-storey training building is part of a £121 million development by Balfour Beatty and Kier Group to provide two auditoriums, laboratories, classrooms, workshops, medical training and a cafeteria as part of the first ever combined Armed Forces training centre. Building should be finished by next September.

#### Forces' date

ARMED Forces Day 2015 will be centred on Guildford. A service at Guildford Cathedral will be followed by a formal parade in Guildford High Street and a picnic and proms in the park will be the centrepiece of the national celebrations on 27th June. The flagship event, held in Stirling this summer, gives the public the chance to celebrate the work of military personnel.

#### Forces funds

THE £1.1 billion Armed Forces investment package announced in July has been funded mainly by carrying over resources from 2012-13 and 2013-14, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne has confirmed. It has also been funded by drawing down some of the MOD's unallocated financial provision to the appropriate level in the context of the most recent financial planning cycle.

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# Synthetic skin keeps up chemical warfare battle

DE&S-SUPPORTED scientists have developed a synthetic 'skin' for testing the decontamination process for someone coming into contact with a liquid chemical warfare agent (CWA).

The synthetic skin was created at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) in Porton Down as part of development of more realistic test procedures.

The skin is made of a synthetic material which has similar surface spread and absorption properties to actual skin.

Work is being funded by the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear team across a number of related projects at DE&S.

Project manager David Clements said: "Someone who comes into contact with a liquid chemical agent could see their nervous system attacked via the skin.

"This synthetic skin enables researchers to conduct trials and test decontamination protocols in a safe and scientifically robust manner.

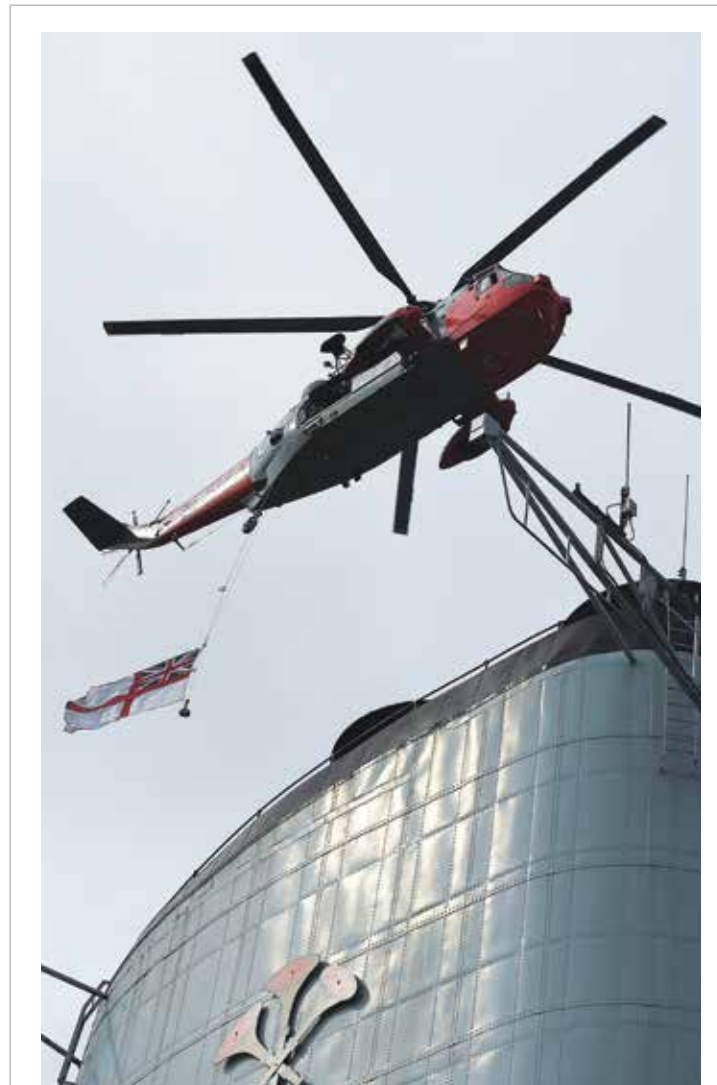
"As well as plugging knowledge gaps, the approach will allow more effective decontamination that could potentially save the life of those exposed to chemical agents."

Previous procedures only allowed for testing small flat samples, whereas the new skin can be made in large quantities and easily fixed to a mannequin.

Testing now takes into account the contours of a face or body, giving a more representative result, and enables scientists to test how the decontamination process interacts with personal protective equipment.

Servicemen and women are currently issued with the Decontamination Kit Personal -1 (DKP-1) – a cloth pad which contains absorbent clay called Fuller's earth that absorbs liquid contamination.

Ian Shortman, hazard management scientist at Dstl, said: "As a result of the development of the synthetic skin we have already identified an alternative technology with



## Lusty's ensign lowered for final time

HMS ILLUSTRIOUS – last of the Royal Navy's *Invincible* class aircraft carriers – has been decommissioned at Portsmouth, marking the end of her 32-year career.

The ship's White Ensign was lowered for the final time during the decommissioning ceremony at the end of August in front of hundreds of guests, ending an era which began with the launch of her sister ship *HMS Invincible* in 1977.

*Illustrious* is being replaced as the nation's helicopter carrier by *HMS Ocean* which has undergone a £65 million refit.

The MOD has said it wants to preserve *Illustrious* as a lasting tribute to personnel who served on the carriers. Last October the Disposal Services Authority launched a competition for innovative reuse bids to retain the ship in the UK, with part or all of it developed for heritage purposes, which could include tourism. The competition is ongoing.

comparable efficacy to DKP-1.

"We hope that in the future the use of the new test method will enable advances in products to be quickly and confidently adopted for enhanced

decontamination of CWA."

Research to develop the prototype skin to further match the properties of actual skin is also underway.

## NEWSREEL

### DIO signs up with a partner

THE Defence Infrastructure Organisation has welcomed its new strategic business partner, Capita working with URS and PA Consulting, in a £400 million contract to help bring private sector expertise to improve the way the defence estate is run. The contract could save more than £300 million a year during its ten-year life with savings in facilities management costs and reducing the size of the defence estate. Defence Minister Anna Soubry said: "We are ensuring that the organisation benefits from additional private sector expertise to enhance delivery and provide greater value for money for the taxpayer."

### AWE chief steps down

ANDREW Jupp has stepped down from the Atomic Weapons Establishment after a career with the organisation which has spanned nearly 30 years including nine as a member of the executive leadership team and the last four as its managing director. Rob Fletcher remains acting managing director. AWE is run by a GoCo company – a consortium including Serco, Lockheed Martin and Jacobs Engineering – through a contract with DE&S.

### Wi-fi boost

BT has announced it has given servicemen and women better communications with family, friends and colleagues by providing new resilient and secure wi-fi at RAF Brize Norton and RAF Northolt.

# Advanced, deployable

Prime Minister David Cameron says the Scout vehicle proves the Army will not be left behind in vital equipment programmes. DE&S press officer Emma Hallett reports on the biggest single order for armoured fighting vehicles in 30 years

The Prime Minister, the Defence Secretary, Chief of the General Staff and Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology joined DE&S' Scout Specialist Vehicle (Scout SV) project team in Wales to announce the biggest single order for armoured fighting vehicles for 30 years.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon signed the £3.5 billion contract with General Dynamics UK for 589 Scout Specialist Vehicles, its training system and the initial in-service support package, which will be the "eyes and ears" of commanders on the battlefields of the future.

Stood beside the Scout SV prototype David Cameron said it was a "historic day" as the MOD placed the "enormous commission" for Scout SV.

He added the order would send a message to Britain's allies and potential adversaries that the UK is serious about maintaining the strength of its defences.

Listing a number of large equipment programmes underway Mr Cameron said: "Today the Army can see they will not be left behind in this vital equipment programme that will give us the most advanced, the most deployable Armed Services of a country of our size and scale. So this is a major investment in the Army's capabilities and I'm very proud to be doing that. This vehicle will be at the heart of our army for years, if not decades, to come."

Army officers watched alongside ministers and DE&S staff as Mr Fallon put pen to paper in the Caerphilly village of Oakdale – the location of General Dynamics UK's factory and home of Scout SV design authority.

The contract was signed on 3rd September inside a marquee adorned with DE&S sails and packed with GD UK employees, members of the DE&S project team and the media.

The deal underpins at least 1,300 jobs across the UK as Mr Cameron praised the importance and quality of the UK's defence industry.

Minister for Defence Equipment,



Support and Technology Philip Dunne praised the work carried out by the DE&S team to get to this point.

Mr Dunne said: "I saw the first Scout SV variant when the Protected Mobility Reconnaissance Support (PMRS) prototype was unveiled at DVD earlier this summer; I sat in the PMRS then and got some sense of what it would be like to be inside a vehicle as an operator, but here, seeing the facilities, you get a real sense of the scale of innovation that is going into each of these vehicles, the amount of advanced technology that our soldiers will have which will place them in the best position of any army in the world."

The prominent phrase of the day was "fully digitised" – as those working on the vehicles showed off the sensors and software that will give Scout SV enhanced intelligence, surveillance, protection, target acquisition and reconnaissance capabilities.

Earlier in the day, Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel, was joined by Mr Dunne, General Sir Peter Wall and General Dynamics chief executive Kevin Connell for a tour of GD UK's design and engineering centre, including the systems integration laboratory and the human factors testing area.

Inside, six full-scale human factor

integration rigs manned by soldiers from the Armoured Trials and Development Unit (ATDU) were being used to finalise the designs; this includes versions of the Scout SV Repair and Recovery variants, the PMRS (Protected Mobility Reconnaissance Support), Command and Control, and dominated by the

**Scout SV: foundation of the future - pages 26 and 27**



Pictures: Andrew Linnett

Scout SV model, complete with the highly effective 40mm cased telescoped cannon.

After showing Mr Gray inside the Command and Control variant, Sgt Matt Smith of the ATDU spoke about the important relationship between DE&S Scout SV team and ATDU at the GD UK facility.

“DE&S is the authority on the platform whereas ATDU are the users and we work hand in hand,” he said. “Any concerns that we have from the observations go through DE&S so they can act on it and then hopefully we can get the designs tuned to give us the best platform we can get.”

Referring to the armoured vehicle, Sgt Smith added: “The best thing on it is its digital capability. It can take 360 degree day/night camera feeds, video feeds, pictures, acoustic signatures and laser warning threats. It has got so much more capability than we have ever had, including the capability from the platform to be able to analyse that information and pass it along up the chain... to make an on-the-spot decision that can be acted on a lot quicker than we currently can. Being able to get more accurate information on



what I am looking at is absolutely vital.”

Roddy Malone, the Programme team leader, said: “This is a great day and a big milestone for the project team. Achieving Main Gate 2 at the Investment Approvals Committee and at the Treasury is the culmination of a huge amount of work since the programme was first announced in 2010. More importantly in achieving its gate, the programme has been fully scrutinised at the IAC, by the Treasury and by the Major Projects Authority, who are all very much in support of the project moving into production, and the excellent value for money deal negotiated by the project team.”

Col Nick Hunter, DE&S Scout SV deputy programme leader and senior military officer in the project team, added: “Scout SV is a transformational programme and has been introduced to meet the future requirements of the British Army. It elevates the Army into the digital era, with growth potential for future decades and provides the foundation for us to extend the service life of the remainder of our armoured forces.”

Deliveries of Scout SV are planned to start in 2017, with the training establishment and first squadron fully equipped by mid-2019 to allow conversion to begin with a whole brigade ready to deploy from the end of 2020.





# A foundation for future armoured forces

## Benefit to the British taxpayer

- General Dynamics UK is the prime contractor for the programme, with a supply chain from right across the UK, including Lockheed Martin UK, Thales and General Electric.
- Users will benefit from Scout's Common Base Platform approach, including its high-reliability, lower cost of ownership and smaller logistics footprint thanks to the commonality of components across the fleet.
- Scout SV offers excellent growth potential, up to 42 tonnes over the life of the vehicle thus delaying the need for expensive life-extension or replacement programmes.

## Best-in-class

- Best-in-class protection and survivability.
- Best-in-class reliability and mobility.
- Best-in-class lethality utilising the new fully stabilised 40mm cased telescoped cannon, able to acquire targets and fire on-the-move using a variety of ammunition dependent on the situation.
- First fully digitised Armoured Fighting Vehicle for the British Army.
- Provides 24-hour, all-weather intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR) capabilities.
- Compact and stabilised package.
- A turret optimising human factors and system packaging has been designed specifically for the Scout Reconnaissance variant in partnership with Lockheed Martin UK.
- Provides advanced imaging technology significantly better than currently in service.
- 24-hour sensor capability allows Scout SV to find and engage targets more effectively at far greater ranges.
- World's most advanced Electronic Architecture on an Armoured Fighting Vehicles.

## What next for Scout SV?

- Critical Design Reviews for all remaining variants to be completed through 2014 – 2015.
- Further Scout pre-production prototypes of all variants to be rolled out through 2014 and 2015.
- Completion of MOD armoured fighting vehicle trials for all seven prototypes to be completed through 2015 – 2018.
- 589 Scout vehicles to be delivered to the British Army between 2017 – 2024, along with the provision of initial in-service support and training.

Scout SV will provide the foundation of the armoured infantry brigades of the future and the opportunity to extend the service life of the remainder of UK armoured forces.

"Scout SV is the project that will help refresh our entire armoured capability and allow us to remain a global first-tier military force," said Colonel Nick Hunter of the DE&S Scout SV team.

He explained that the Army's plan to maximise the potential of existing assets, such as Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme and the upgrade of Challenger 2, would be underpinned by development of Scout SV.

The Warrior Programme will extend the life of the UK's infantry fighting vehicle by 15 years, to 2040, by upgrading its firepower, protection, surveillance and communications systems.

For the Army, Scout SV provides a step change in the ability to succeed in any environment. "It elevates the Army into the digital era and enshrines growth potential for future decades," said Col Hunter.

"Scout SV will provide the platform for the Army's armoured cavalry capability. The defining characteristics of cavalry are versatility and agility; Scout SV will provide a multi-purpose capability, with less logistic drag than heavy armour but better protection, firepower and mobility than light forces. Strategically deployable and capable of independently moving over hundreds of kilometres Scout SV will remain continuously networked and capable of going directly into action operating across all land terrain types."

He added: "Much more than a solely armoured cavalry platform Scout SV will provide the armoured backbone throughout the armoured infantry brigades enhancing the commander's ability to make the right decision in the complex modern land battlefield. Scout SV will also allow us to work integrally with military allies and civilian colleagues from any nation, from the most technologically sophisticated to the most basic."

The Command and Control variant will process and manage information to provide commanders with information to make informed decisions on the battlefield.



The Engineering Reconnaissance variant will provide timely and accurate engineering information on the natural and man-made environment.



The Equipment Support Recovery variant is fitted with a recovery package that is optimised to provide the most effective means of recovering a casualty vehicle.



The Equipment Support Repair variant will be used to tow battlefield damaged vehicles and lift heavy sub-assemblies.

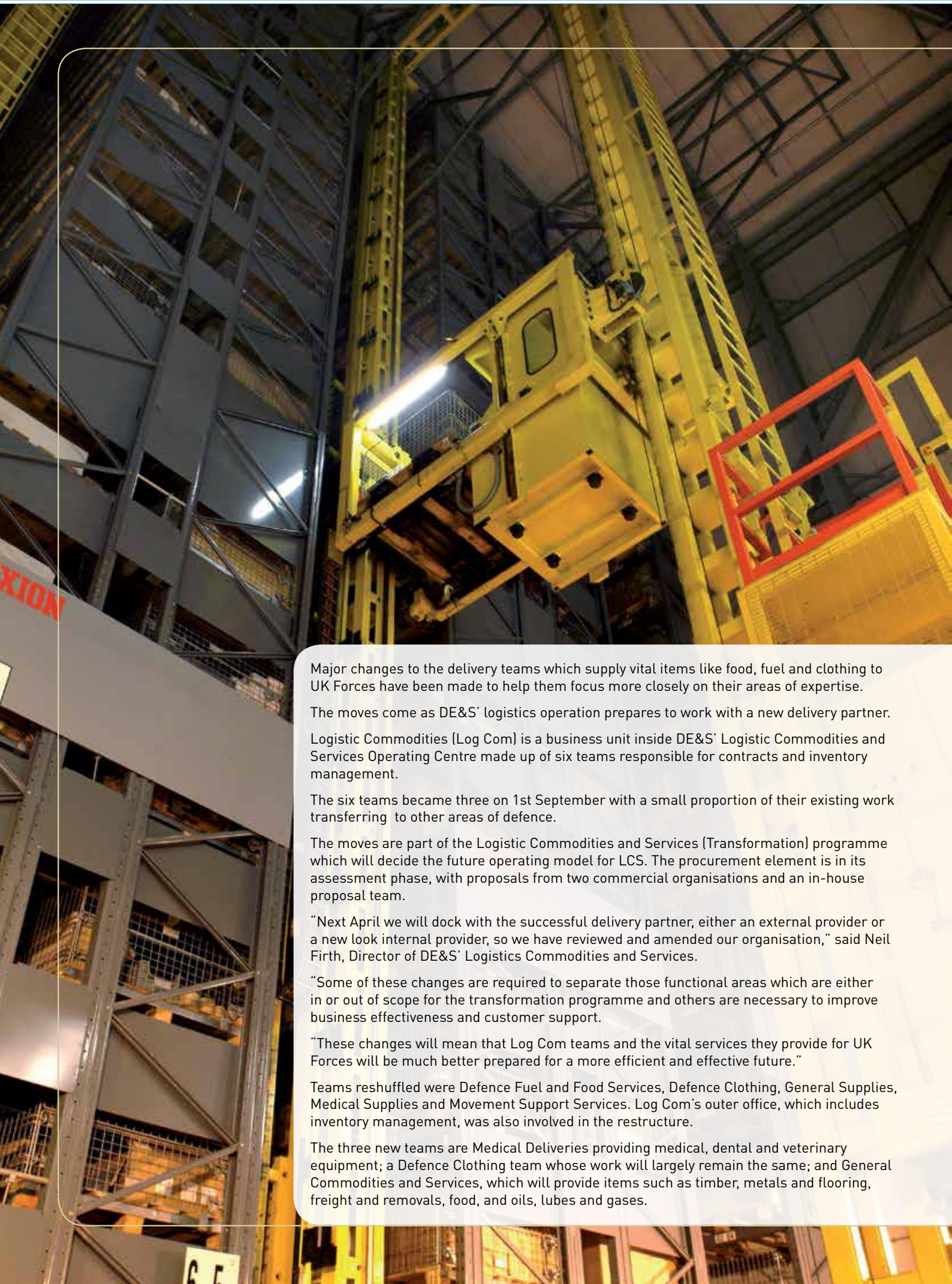


The Protected Mobility Reconnaissance Support (PMRS) variant will be used to deliver and support specialist troops across the battlefield.



The Scout Reconnaissance variant will be the medium-weight core of the British Army's deployable all-weather intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance (ISTAR) capability.





Major changes to the delivery teams which supply vital items like food, fuel and clothing to UK Forces have been made to help them focus more closely on their areas of expertise.

The moves come as DE&S' logistics operation prepares to work with a new delivery partner.

Logistic Commodities (Log Com) is a business unit inside DE&S' Logistic Commodities and Services Operating Centre made up of six teams responsible for contracts and inventory management.

The six teams became three on 1st September with a small proportion of their existing work transferring to other areas of defence.

The moves are part of the Logistic Commodities and Services (Transformation) programme which will decide the future operating model for LCS. The procurement element is in its assessment phase, with proposals from two commercial organisations and an in-house proposal team.

"Next April we will dock with the successful delivery partner, either an external provider or a new look internal provider, so we have reviewed and amended our organisation," said Neil Firth, Director of DE&S' Logistics Commodities and Services.

"Some of these changes are required to separate those functional areas which are either in or out of scope for the transformation programme and others are necessary to improve business effectiveness and customer support.

"These changes will mean that Log Com teams and the vital services they provide for UK Forces will be much better prepared for a more efficient and effective future."

Teams reshuffled were Defence Fuel and Food Services, Defence Clothing, General Supplies, Medical Supplies and Movement Support Services. Log Com's outer office, which includes inventory management, was also involved in the restructure.

The three new teams are Medical Deliveries providing medical, dental and veterinary equipment; a Defence Clothing team whose work will largely remain the same; and General Commodities and Services, which will provide items such as timber, metals and flooring, freight and removals, food, and oils, lubes and gases.

# Now the rubber hits the road!

The way DE&S provides and supports equipment to the front line is changing to meet the evolving demands of the Armed Forces.

*desider* provides an update on progress of the wide-ranging Logistic Commodities and Services (Transformation) programme

**T**ransformation of DE&S' Logistic Commodities and Services will identify and implement an improved operating model for logistics. It will deliver a modern, flexible and agile logistics service to defence, address problems with old and failing infrastructure and ultimately provide best value for money for the taxpayer.

The programme began its engagement with industry in June 2013 when more than 70 commercial organisations were represented at an Industry Day. Two options for the future delivery of in-scope LCS services are being assessed; the outsource of current operations to industry or an in-house solution. Both options are expected to deliver higher standards of service through more modern infrastructure, new ways of working, and at a lower cost to the taxpayer. The out-of-scope services, which include Disposal Services Authority and British Forces Post Office, will remain MOD-managed for the time being.

The LCS(T) team at Abbey Wood has been in negotiations with two selected industry bidders; Defence Integrated Supply Chain Solutions (DISCS) – a Babcock/DHL joint venture, and Leidos (working with Kuehne + Nagel and TVS Supply Chain Solutions). In addition, an in-house proposal headed by the Director of LCS Neil Firth has been developed.

A huge amount of work by everyone involved in the programme made sure that all three bids were submitted on time on Friday 22nd August. There is now a period of intensive evaluation through to the end of this month to select the option to take through to Main Gate Business Case and subsequent Ministerial approval. The way forward is expected to be announced by the end of December.

As LCS transforms itself into a new logistics provider for defence a Commissioning and Managing Organisation (CMO) will be created. This will ensure that the chosen Delivery Partner and the rest of DE&S and the MOD work effectively and deliver the outcomes expected. It will manage the contract and assess the performance levels of the Delivery Partner, and will require a mix of civil service, military and outside industry skills to be fully effective. The CMO will act as the link

between DE&S and the future logistics operation, ensuring that crucial services are maintained and then improved.

Newly appointed LCS(T) Programme Director, Roger West, said: "I have been encouraged by the dedication shown by the LCS(T) team, who have managed to bring the programme to the home straight. I am looking forward to being a part of this exciting transformation programme and managing the transition to the new service. This will be where the rubber really hits the road and, while we've given ourselves three years from next April to March 2018 to deliver

the complete new service model, we'll be looking for opportunities to deliver further efficiencies and value for money where we can."



Changes to delivery teams – staff pictured at Abbey Wood, from left: Richard Spurrier (Movement Support Services Section Lead), Alex Hunter (Fuels Commissioning and Management Organisation Deputy Section Lead), Brian Seymour (Oils, Lubes and Gases Section Lead), Alastair Taylor (General Commodities and Services Chief of Staff), Col Stephen Heron (General Commodities and Services Team Leader), Adrian Wootton (General Supplies Section Lead), Lt Col Nigel Shepherd (Defence Food Services Section Lead), Alastair Baird (General Commodities and Services Finance)



# It's good to talk . . .

. . . especially at DE&S where improvement in communications and engagement with staff will help explain the transition of the organisation towards 2017. *desider* looks at the detail

**D**E&S has launched its first Staff Communications and Engagement Strategy which aims to strengthen communication and engagement in the organisation.

Pete Worrall, Chief of Materiel (Joint Enablers) and workstream Champion for communications said: "A vital element contributing to our success as a bespoke trading entity will be how well we communicate and engage with our staff. This strategy sets out the key things we intend to focus on during the transition period into transformation to improve communications and engagement within DE&S.

"The key communication and engagement outcomes we are seeking include: a culture that listens to, learns from and empowers our staff; an informed workforce which is clear about the case for change; an engaged workforce which is committed to transforming DE&S for the better; and a senior leadership team which

is committed to improving staff engagement within their teams."

Mr Worrall added: "I hope that in producing this strategy we have demonstrated senior management commitment to strengthening our communications and engagement with staff although I recognise that we will be judged on not what we say we are going to do, but on what we actually do.

"We would like to increase staff engagement in and ownership of our new DE&S, so please take the time to read the strategy and where practicable, get involved. We will all shortly have the opportunity to complete our first DE&S Employee Engagement Survey. The DE&S senior management team is keen to hear what you have to say and we will listen and act on the feedback you provide. Please take the time to respond."

The Staff Communications and Engagement Strategy is for use by all DE&S staff. A draft was sent to all DE&S staff for comment and the strategy has

been shaped by staff feedback. It provides a framework for all communication and engagement activities from now until 2017.

The Strategy has been informed by best practice drawn from discussion with organisations which have a similar complexity and scale as DE&S and in essence encompasses four themes, namely: development of a corporate narrative, leadership communications, change communications and communications channels. These themes are supported by the engagement activities set out in this Strategy and are implicit in all related communications activity.

Communicating DE&S successes, telling a compelling story of how they are achieved and facing up to communicating the challenges DE&S face is essential if the organisation is to build and sustain its reputation; being recognised as a professional, highly capable and customer orientated organisation.





### The strategy's principles are:

- Every member of staff is a stakeholder;
- Staff participation leads to better decisions;
- Communication is a two way street;
- Better engagement will result in improved job satisfaction and performance;
- DE&S will be open and transparent in communications;
- Leadership wants to engage staff in a way that builds trust and strengthens mutual understanding and collective management of change.

A number of communications and engagement initiatives will be taken forward over the coming months including the development of a corporate narrative that will explain what DE&S does and how it does it, a refresh of the Face to Face brief and *desider* magazine, the introduction of new digital signage, improving senior management visibility, developing engaging managers, and the generation of a set of DE&S behaviours and v



# Data protection – DE&S is ahead of the game

**D**E&S HAS received the seal of approval ahead of schedule from Government for the way it protects personal and business critical information.

The organisation, assessed in March last year as having made significant progress, was given 18 months to reach full operating capability at Level 3 of the Information Assurance Maturity Model, a Government process to assess information handling.

DE&S processes were reviewed in July, and MOD Chief Information Officer has now confirmed that DE&S has reached the required standard ahead of schedule.

A certificate confirming this has been issued to DE&S Director HR David Ball, responsible for information management in the organisation.

This is great news and a credit to a massive effort across everyone involved with maturing our Information Management," said a delighted Mr Ball.

The IAMM was developed in 2008 by the Cabinet Office following high profile data losses, including two unencrypted discs containing the child benefit records of 25 million families and the loss of an MOD laptop.

All main areas in the MOD were required to reach IAMM Level 3, to demonstrate an effective regime that, at minimum, protects personal and business critical information.

Air Vice Marshal Julian Young, DE&S Director Technical and Chief Information Officer was equally thrilled at the news.

This is an excellent example of success achieved through collaborative working," he said. "Our information community, led by a strong network of information asset owners, has worked tirelessly to achieve an improved culture of management of information and IAMM Level 3 certification is a clear indicator that we are heading in the right direction.

What we have done is establish the right depth of knowledge and practice in our key business areas: our task now is to extend this achievement across the breadth of our entire business.

DE&S CIO team is already looking to make further improvements across the organisation with achievement of IAMM Level 4 a possibility next year. The team will continue to develop the Information Portal <http://defenceintranet.diif.r.mil.uk/Organisations/Orgs/DES/Policy/Info/Pages/DESIMPortal.aspx> and plans an Information Fortnight next month to help improve information skills across the business.



## Upgrades prove value of industry partnership

THE FOCUS will turn on DE&S' Naval ship maintenance agreements with industry this month as frigate *HMS Montrose* and minehunter *HMS Ramsey* both head for refits.

Type 23 frigate *Montrose* docks down in Devonport where Babcock starts work on a 15-month programme to include upgrades and improvements.

Work has been developed by the industry-led Type 23 Class Output Management team which works as part of the Surface Ship Support Alliance involving the MOD and industry partners Babcock and BAE Systems.

The work will draw on lessons learned from previous Type 23 refits, helping to ensure the right work is undertaken at the right time to ensure

maximum efficiency and value for money.

At the same time *Ramsey* begins a six-month Support Period (Docking) at Babcock's Rosyth yard.

*Ramsey*'s work has been developed by the Sandown Class Output Management team, again working under the Alliance agreement.

DE&S' Type 23 Frigates team leader, Capt Giulian Hill said: "The upkeep of *HMS Montrose* is a significant milestone in the ship's life. It provides an important opportunity for reinvestment in the ship's material state which will be delivered under the successful partnership between the MOD and Babcock."

*Montrose* is expected to leave Devonport for sea trials in early 2016 while *Ramsey* is pencilled in for trials next spring.

## Technical support is refreshed

IMPROVEMENTS ARE being made to the way technical support is delivered to DE&S project teams

The Framework Agreement for Technical Support (FATS) is managed by a small team at Abbey Wood and provides a quick route to market for projects requiring technical studies, technical project support and technical engineering support.

"We've have been working hard to look at our processes with fresh eyes and by engaging with our customers more we are set to improve the service we offer over the coming months," said Maria Harryman, FATS Gate and Governance Lead.

A new customer engagement forum starts this month to improve communications between the FATS team and project teams. These will discuss issues around FATS Gate and Governance, tasking submissions and supplier performance.

The FATS team has also introduced improved, easy-to-use tools for project teams to map aspects of a requirement to the abilities of suppliers and produce a field of suppliers for competitive tendering. Many of the improvements resulted from ideas at user workshops.

The FATS team has a clearer view of requirements that can now be used to influence the list of capability areas covered by future frameworks. The next framework, FATS Design and Engineering, is due to be let by next April.

Further information is available at:

<http://defenceintranet.diif.r.mil.uk/Organisations/Orgs/HOCS/Organisations/Orgs/DGTCS/MODCommercial/Pages/FATS4CustomerDocuments.aspx>  
and:  
<http://defenceintranet.diif.r.mil.uk/Organisations/Orgs/HOCS/Organisations/Orgs/DGTCS/MODCommercial/Pages/FATSSTSCustomerDocuments.aspx>



## Board green light will help solve car park issues

Full capacity: the north east car park at Abbey Wood

THE NUMBER of car parking spaces at DE&S headquarters at Abbey Wood South is to be increased by 342 next year, following Board approval of plans for the upgrade.

At present, the north-east car park has space for nearly 1,000 cars while the larger south-west car park has space for more than 2,300. The combined total of spaces available in the three car parks and the Inner Zone is 3,676.

Under plans approved by the DE&S Board and with the agreement of South Gloucestershire Council an additional 55 spaces will be created in the north-east car park and 287 spaces will be added to the south-west car park.

These increases will be achieved through partial remodelling within the existing

boundaries and will increase the total number of parking spaces at Abbey Wood to just over 4,000.

The Board has decided that to minimise disruption to staff the main remodelling work will be undertaken next spring and summer. This will avoid greatest demand on the car parks, which is traditionally from November to April. Some preparatory works will be carried out during the winter but this should have a minimal effect on parking capacity.

Director Human Resources David Ball said: "Increasing the amount of parking available for our staff at Abbey Wood South will help to ease the pressure on car parks and reduce the queues that build up during peak periods. It will also provide more scope for easing of parking restrictions.

"This was a high priority for the Board. We knew from the reaction to the suggestions scheme and the recent Travel to Work Survey how important an issue it is for our staff. The number of spaces we are adding here is the maximum we could achieve under Permitted Development, but we will keep the situation under review."

DE&S Deputy Head of Infrastructure Martin O'Kane added: "We know that the period of maximum demand for car parking is during the winter months, so we've scheduled work when inconvenience to staff can be kept to a minimum.

"The work will be completed in phases, which will enable us to limit the number of spaces being taken out of service at any single time to 300. We will publish details of the works programme nearer the time."

## 'Golden' era will come to a close

ROYAL FLEET Auxiliary Tanker *RFA Gold Rover* has sailed for the final time on deployment to the other side of the world.

The 56 officers, non-commissioned officers and other sailors left Devonport last month on the final deployment before the ship is due for retirement in two years' time.

The ship will spend her final days in the South Atlantic making port visits before returning to the UK sometime in 2016 before being retired.

*RFA Gold Rover*, which entered service in 1974, will then be replaced by one of four *Tide* class ships being built in South Korea with significantly more capability than the current versions.

# Scientists probe new territory for F-35 pilots

Nick Honey (QinetiQ) delivers a technical update to the Joint Safe Escape Analysis Solution (JSEAS) conference at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton



ENGINEERS AND scientists are drawing up advice to F-35 pilots on avoiding damage to their aircraft during release of munitions.

For the MOD it is new territory as there has been no capability to release munitions from a fast jet's internal bomb bay since retirement of the *Buccaneer* in 1994.

Experts from the Defence Ordnance Safety Group (DOSG), US Air Force, US Navy and industry are working on a common approach to what is called 'safe escape' advice.

Known in the UK as 'aircraft self damage' it involves an appropriate aircraft manoeuvre during weapons release.

Factors to consider include aircraft performance, munitions performance, atmospheric conditions, velocities and release altitudes.

The experts have designed the Joint Safe Escape Analysis Solution (JSEAS) – a cost effective single advice tool for the F-35's partners.

The latest three-day JSEAS conference was at the Fleet Air Arm Museum in Yeovilton to analyse data

and ensure that project milestones are being met. The MOD was supported by QinetiQ, Lockheed Martin UK and Thales.

Wg Cdr Jim Press from the Air-Delivered Weapons section of DOSG said: "Despite differences in culture, policy and approach from each organisation, the JSEAS team continues to develop this essential tool for fielding *Lightning II* in line with project milestones.

"This is a collaborative programme, not just between the partner nations, but different armed services and between government and industry. After all, we cannot allow delivery of the aircraft without the ability to release munitions."

The US Air Force Seek Eagle Office certifies all weapons carried by every aircraft in the USAF. Technical Director James Brock said: "The team has performed above and beyond expectation to provide a software simulation tool to meet critical warfighter needs. The processes implemented and the lessons learned will be used as the foundation for weaponising the F-35 in a joint environment."

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From left: John Davis (Senior BAE Systems Engineer,) Ben Caldwell (BAE Systems Engineer), George Stirling (MOD Project Manager), Capt Mark Gale (DE&S), Terry Bewley (Principal BAE Systems Engineer), Alex McIntosh (BAE Systems Project Leader)

## Barrow beefs up its Astute comms capability

A NEW era of support for submarines in service was launched at Barrow when Capt Mark Gale – who heads the on-site element of the Submarine Production team – opened a facility that paves the way for a new approach to supporting key equipment.

Three dedicated BAE Systems Submarines engineers are based in the facility on Buccleuch Dockside with the equipment they need to support the *Astute* submarines' vital internal communications system (ICS).

The engineers are already providing a valuable service to *HMS Astute* and *HMS Ambush*, both now in service with the Royal Navy.

The facility has also already been used by members of the ship's company for the third boat, *Artful*.

Capt Gale said: "The ICS is a safety critical system for the submarine and it is therefore important to ensure it functions correctly.

"This new facility will allow any technical issues to be investigated and resolved in a relatively risk free environment.

"It will also allow future upgrades to the system to be fully tested and de-risked thereby ensuring minimal

disruption to the in-service submarine flotilla.

"*Artful's* ship's company are very impressed with the capabilities of the facility and with the support they have received to date from its engineers."

Peter Newman, Head of Submarines Support and Technical Services, added: "*Astute* contains systems more complex than seen in service on submarines in the past. BAE Systems has recognised the need for a greater depth of support, more in the model of the combat systems post-design services.

"This ICS Shore Reference and Integration Facility is the first of these capabilities to be set up in Barrow."

The ICS is the submarine's network for all communications in the boat, and is vital to enable members of the ship's company to work effectively as one team. Principal Engineer Terry Bewley, Senior Engineer John Davis, and Engineer Ben Caldwell now work from the facility.

Project leader Alex McIntosh led the BAE Systems team behind the project, with full MOD support, led by Project Manager George Stirling.

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## Qualified to work on Wildcat

THE FIRST six Air Engineering Technicians have qualified as trained engineers to work on the new Wildcat helicopter.

A trophy has been established by AgustaWestland for the Wildcat trainee who has achieved the best all-round academic results throughout the training.

This was presented to AET Robert Challinor, 25, by Rich Webber, training service delivery manager for AgustaWestland Wildcat training centre.

The young technicians completed their 23-week Phase 2b training at RNAS Yeovilton which has formed part of a 55-week long training programme to equip 28 technicians as fully qualified to maintain aircraft.

# A surge in upskilling



Professional and technical – DE&S staff are taking advantage of opportunities to improve their skills. Above: engineering apprentices get competitive in the annual Tom Nevard event in August

## DE&S engineering staff in dash for qualifications

THE NUMBER of DE&S engineering staff taking part-time professional and technical qualifications has increased four-fold over the last two years.

In a welcome surge in interest for developing technical skills, Systems Engineering MSc students doubled last autumn to 40 per year, with places for 50 from next January.

And two people are being funded for PhDs in engineering topics with DE&S on the lookout for more.

The figures show the Engineering Policy team's success in driving forward its strategy to develop skills and increase professional registration through Director Technical's upskilling budget.

The surge also builds on the Executive Board's promise on DE&S' launch day last April to develop skills and invest in careers.

Air Vice-Marshal Julian Young, DE&S Director Technical, has welcomed the increase in interest.

"Opportunities for upskilling abound," he said. "People need to be committed and, of course, put the hard work in, though both they

and DE&S benefit from personal and professional development.

"Indeed I have studied on part-time postgraduate courses, and benefits are realised from the time the first assignment is submitted. Looking at our offer, people will be hard pushed to find better opportunities for technical training anywhere either inside government or industry – so make use of it!"

Air Vice-Marshal Young added he was particularly keen in promoting an MSc in Software Management, a key skills shortfall at DE&S.

Through the Engineering Policy team's lead, 18 course places on the Defence Academy's MBA programme also have been taken up by a range of DE&S professionals starting next January; two places still remain for applicants.

Funding is available for courses including ONC, HNC, OND, HND, Open University, Undergraduate, Postgraduate and professional body qualifications and awards.

Further information is available from Adrian Stevens, DESTECH-EGEngPol-Skills1@mod.uk, tel: 030 679 80157.

□ Are you an Engineer or Project Manager? Or both? Do you want to become one? To find out more about the future of the functions, training opportunities, professionalisation and competence come along from 10am-2pm on Tuesday 14th October, NH2 Atrium, Abbey Wood. Further information from Philip Wright, DESTECH-EGEngPol-Skills-2@mod.uk, tel: 030 679 85465.

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# Weapons range cracks open the champagne

CELEBRATIONS FOR 75 years of test and evaluation work at Aberporth took place last month with festivities for range workers, family and friends at the site.

The weapons range at Aberporth is operated and run by QinetiQ and employs around 200 people in specialised roles from engineers to surveyors to in-flight safety officers.

employees through the years that MOD Aberporth has a reputation for excellence at the forefront of test and evaluation of complex weapons."

The Aberporth range was first opened in 1939 for gunnery practice by the Honourable Artillery Company and was soon joined by the Projectile Development Establishment, laying the foundations for the next 75 years of research,



Happy 75th: for Aberporth on the west Wales coast

It provides a safe and secure environment for testing of air launched weapons and Unmanned Aerial Systems – many under a Long Term Partnering Agreement with DE&S – as well as for training armed forces.

The range is an important part of the local community providing local employment, including apprenticeship training to provide high-quality skills needed to operate the range.

Weapons Operations Director, Graeme Morrison, who unveiled a ceremonial plaque, said: "It is through the hard work and dedication of all

development, testing and evaluation for the Ministry of Defence.

After World War Two, Aberporth became an outstation of the Farnborough Royal Aircraft Establishment with the first guided firing of an anti-aircraft projectile in 1948.

The range went on to be at the forefront of projectile development with many firsts, including a first firing of a SeaSlug from a ship in 1957 and an Exocet missile in 1975.

The 1990s saw transition through defence agencies with QinetiQ now operating the range on behalf of the MOD.



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# Armoured vehicles set for a new life in Latvia



Above: a CVR(T) operated by soldiers of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers makes light of the desert terrain in Afghanistan

Right: soldiers of the Lancers in Latvia with some of the vehicles last May



## Threats need international response

THE DEFENCE Secretary has emphasised the importance of an international response to the ISIL threat during discussions with allies in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Michael Fallon visited Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and Manama in Bahrain soon after his first visit to Abbey Wood.

Mr Fallon said: "In taking action to degrade and destroy ISIL terrorists it is important that key regional partners continue to play a leading role.

"The UK Government continues to discuss what further contribution the UK may make to international efforts to tackle the threat we all face from ISIL."

The UK has a long-standing relationship with Saudi Arabia, assisting with support of Typhoon and Tornado aircraft and benefiting from engagement with the Saudi Arabia National Guard, National Guard Communications Project (Sangcom) and Ministry of Defence.

Mr Fallon saw structural work at Bahrain to improve Royal Navy facilities.

MORE THAN 120 surplus Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) (CVR(T)) armoured vehicles are to be sold to Latvia in a strengthening of relations with the UK's Nato partners.

The highly-mobile UK vehicles – the family includes Samson, Scimitar, Spartan, Samaritan and Sultan – have seen action in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq and Afghanistan. They have been sold to the Latvian army in a package worth £39.4 million, including their overhaul and refurbishment.

The 123 vehicles will allow Latvian forces to better transport infantry, reconnaissance teams, air defence sections and mortar fire controllers as well as provide vital battlefield capabilities including ambulances, armoured command vehicles and armoured recovery vehicles.

The sale was announced at last month's Nato summit in Newport by Defence Secretary Michael Fallon.

He said: "This is just one way we are supporting our Baltic Nato allies. As a leading member of Nato the UK is keen to restate publicly our support for the collective security of its members and enable our partners to contribute to international peacekeeping and security operations."

The vehicles became available following the Strategic Defence Review in 2010 in which they were identified as surplus to requirement as the Armed Forces restructure to better meet the challenges they will face in the future.

Part of this is the £3.5 billion investment in 589 Scout vehicles announced last month.

Three CVR(T) vehicles took part in a parade to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the Declaration of the Renewal of Independence in Valmiera, Latvia last May.

Accompanying the vehicles were troops from the 9th/12th Lancers, led by Captain Jason Styles. The 9th/12th Lancers are a formation reconnaissance regiment attached to the 7th Armoured Brigade in Hohn, Germany.

From next year, they will be amalgamated into the Royal Lancers.

The troops' presence at Valmiera enabled them to further inform military and civilian attendees about the vehicles' capabilities.

## DE&S teams invited to Army's latest trials day

THIS YEAR'S Army Trials Briefing Day will be in Warminster on 6th November.

The event – at the land Warfare Centre – is free to all staff in the MOD.

"For staff involved in planning or programming trials this will be an essential day and we are keen to get as many people from DE&S involved as possible," said Lt Col Simon Dunk of the Trials and Experimentation Planning Office.

The day will include discussion on

processes and correct procedures when planning an army equipment trial. Timelines to be considered when booking Army resources will also be explained while there will also be presentations on the capabilities of Army Trials Development Units.

The day takes place in Blenheim Hall (Keren Theatre) from 9.30am-3.30pm

For information and to book a place e-mail Mark Hall on Army Cap-LCMB-TEPO-AO or 94393 7054.





Little Boy at the Imperial War Museum, from left: AWE's Steve Fisher, Ross Watson and Gareth Price admiring the reconditioned casing

## Little Boy earns big museum future

SCIENTISTS AND engineers from Atomic Weapons Establishment's National Nuclear Security Centre have refurbished Little Boy as part of wider improvements to the Imperial War Museum in London.

In January 1993, the US Government made a Little Boy casing available to the Imperial War Museum for an indefinite period.

Little Boy was the codename for the type of atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on 6th August 1945 by the Boeing B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay, piloted by Colonel Paul W Tibbets.

Refurbishment of Little Boy was discussed by the US and UK Governments resulting in the UK's offer to restore Little Boy on behalf of the US Government – using the unique skills of AWE scientists and engineers at no cost to the museum.

AWE Head of International Relations, Gareth Price, said: "AWE was privileged to work on this historic and important artefact that marks the transition to the nuclear age.

"I am delighted that we delivered this within what was a challenging timescale for the refurbishment programme at the museum."

A ceremony was recently held at the museum to mark the opening of the new World War One gallery and the refurbishment of the museum at which AWE representatives were present to join the celebrations and be thanked for the excellent work done by its technical experts.

# Blast and shock go top of international agenda

THE ATOMIC Weapons Establishment and the Defence Ordnance Safety Group came together last month at an international event on blast effects and protection.

More than 150 international experts in the science of blast effects and shock waves gathered in the UK for the first time in 14 years at the 23rd International Symposium on Military Aspects of Blast and Shock (MABS) – held on 7th-12th September at Pembroke College, Oxford University.

The week-long event was chaired by DE&S Specialist Fellow Dr Ian Barnes of the Defence Ordnance Safety Group who is the UK representative on the International Committee for the biennial MABS symposium.

A small team, comprising staff from AWE, DOSG, Ansys and Cranfield University, came together more than 18 months ago to deliver a successful conference.

Last hosted in the UK in 2000, MABS has evolved over nearly six decades from nuclear blast simulators and experimental methods to include the burgeoning field of computational simulation, then expanding its membership to Nato and beyond.

The blast threat has also evolved for this now-global community so MABS has expanded to consider all explosive

threats. It brings together the world's foremost scientists and engineers working in the field.

In the opening address, DE&S Head of Weapons Engineering, Air Commodore Mike Quigley, spoke about the vital role of the MABS community in understanding and responding to the threats faced across the world.

AWE Head of Applied Physics, Dave Chambers, said: "MABS is one of the most respected technical communities in the defence industry. I am proud of the contribution that our scientists and engineers are making to MABS and its continuing growth – resulting in great scientific advances in blast physics and mitigation to protect global security."

Summarising the experience Dr Barnes said: "I have been part of the MABS community since 1998 and was invited to become the UK representative on the International Committee about four years ago.



DE&S Head of Weapons Engineering, Air Commodore Mike Quigley, opening proceedings at the 23rd MABS Symposium

"From 2010, the UK came under increasing pressure to host a symposium, bringing with it a considerable responsibility and challenge for 2014. I am delighted that organisers were able to achieve such a professional and efficient result given that it had to be in the margins of our normal jobs."

Nineteen nations were represented at MABS 23 and responsibility for hosting the next symposium has transferred to Canada for 2016.

**Nato – 28 member states and 30 partner countries – discussed future stability in an unpredictable world during its summit in Wales last month. UK liaison officer *Chris Metcalfe* explains the role of the Nato Support Agency, and how the logistics arm offers DE&S . . .**



## . . . another way to save money

NATO IS at the heart of UK defence – and the MOD has the chance to use the Nato Support Agency for future services.

The agency, based in Capellen, Luxembourg, provides traditional in-service logistics support, including for weapons systems, while its Central Europe Pipeline System programme provides jet fuel transport and bulk storage, point to point transport of diesel, gasoline and domestic fuel to military and commercial customers. The agency's airlift management programme owns and supports three Boeing C-17 aircraft.

The Agency operates on a 'no profit, no loss' basis with an annual turnover of

around €2 billion. All the money the MOD spends – €110 million last year – with the agency supports UK Forces. Funding by the MOD includes fuel for Royal Navy ships in foreign ports, in-service support to the Multiple Launch Rocket System and purchases via the Nato Logistics Stock Exchange.

A number of DE&S teams have made considerable savings by working through the agency. One saved 30 per cent by using agency-provided in-service equipment support compared to the original national-based solution. Another has saved around £1 million a year using agency services to procure clothing and medical supplies.

The MOD is a member of a number of support partnerships including nations who have common requirements and judge the agency to offer best value. These include artillery, rockets and missile systems, naval logistics,

ammunition and global positioning systems.

The MOD also uses the agency to support the UK contribution to the mission in Afghanistan. It supports UK airborne early warning capability and also manages fuel contracts to service UK requirements.

Other, as yet untapped, opportunities for MOD engagement with the agency may include support to land combat vehicles, aircraft such as A400M, helicopters, unmanned aerial systems and information systems.

It is not just the MOD that benefits from working closely with the agency. Last year UK defence companies won contracts to the value of €211 million for the agency's services. UK industry receives one contract for every three it bids for.

Given the Permanent Under Secretary's and Chief of Defence Staff's intention to 'put Nato at the heart of UK defence' the MOD has the chance to consider the agency for future support.

To support this ACDS (Log Ops), the MOD's strategic lead for agency issues, has a budget for those wishing to see if the agency provides best value for defence. With an increased focus on multi-national co-operation, the agency offers a range of opportunities to engage in support of UK objectives.

For further information on NSPA contact the UKLO on ACDS LOGOPS-InterNSPA UK LO C1 or uklo@nspa.nato.int; Tel: 00 352 3063 6983



□ Operation Azotize came to an end last month as the RAF and Polish Air Force handed over the symbolic key of the Baltic States' airspace.

The Nato Baltic Air Policing Mission goes onto rotation 36 as the RAF and Polish forces handed over to Portuguese and Canadian detachments.

The RAF has conducted sorties since last May, using four Typhoons to intercept aircraft entering into Baltic air space without permission.

# Mud, mud . . . glorious mud!



**Alan finds a tough way of earning himself a drink!**



GLORIOUS MUD might not be your cup of tea, but for Alan Cuer it was a way to work up a thirst, test himself in challenging conditions and raise cash for charity.

Alan, of DE&S' Medical Delivery commercial team, took on the Tough Mudder South West event over an 11.5-mile course in Cirencester.

He joined a field of around 12,000 to take on a course of 21 obstacles and a few additional hazards thrown in.

Copious amounts of energy drinks and a light warm-up got him to the start along with his team of eight, before the event began.

"I encountered deep ditches full of mud and water,

crawling through trenches in the dark, 15ft jumps into cold water and a nice plunge in a skip full of ice water," he recalled.

"At the end of the course I was greeted with my Tough Mudder headband and a hard-earned pint, and after a quick visit to the car to get changed, I was back into the Mudder village to soak up the festival style atmosphere and enjoy a few more beers with my teammates."

Alan also raised around £240 for Help for Heroes through his exertions.

"I would recommend Tough Mudder to anyone," he said. "It is well-organised, good fun, especially in a team, and has a great atmosphere. The best part? Realising vital organs hadn't dropped off after the ice skip, known as Arctic Enema, and the camaraderie shared with participants throughout the course."

"And the worst part? Running the last 4.5 miles with cramp in both legs made life interesting, but apart from that it was a great experience and one which I will be undertaking again next year!"

"For those that think it might be too tough I would point out that one of the finishers was a 67-year-old, so no excuses!"



## And the Women's Network likes mud too!

THE MOD Women's Network is helping women to make a difference to the offices they work in, to build a support base where women can seek advice, gain encouragement and mentoring with their careers, and inspire each other to take their place as the leaders of the future.

Money has also been raised for charity with the latest event seeing members of the newly-branded Network get covered in mud in the Race for Life Pretty Muddy 2014. Members have contributed more than £400 to Cancer Research.

The Network runs events throughout the year. To find out more, get in touch at DES HRPlans-BBWN(Multiuser).

Muddy but unbowed: from left, Julie Malone, Sheila Smart, Lisa Young, Janet Young and Deborah Tobin



## Yeovilton pays tribute to 100 years of sacrifice

YEOVILTON PAID tribute to 100 years of suffering and sacrifice in conflict as it hosted the Wreath of Respect on its nationwide journey.

As part of a week-long motorcycle journey a representation of the Royal British Legion Riders of which there are more than 6,000 called at the base's Fleet Air Arm Memorial Church to say thank you to all those who have suffered and died in conflicts up to and including the present day.

Starting at the National Memorial Arboretum the wreath began its eight-day motorcycle journey covering more than 1,250 miles.

At each stop the wreath was laid to rest for a short period before being passed to another rider for the next leg of the trip. A short act of thanksgiving and blessing was held before the wreath continued on its journey.

Dougie Bancroft, the tour organiser, said: "We all saw the amazing pictures from the D-Day landings and we feel that many people here wanted to show respect too. The wreath is a project to bring people together to say thank you to all those who have given so much."

The wreath left Yeovilton to continue to Cornwall.



Think bike: motorcyclists at Yeovilton on their tour around the country

### Oceans of work for family team

THE ROYAL Navy's helicopter carrier *HMS Ocean* has helped bring a father and son together to work on returning the ship to sea.

Lee Agar, a Leading Engineering Technician, and his father Phil shared the finishing touches to the work package during *HMS Ocean's* marine engineering sea acceptance trials.

As Lee helped set equipment to work, test and adjust it, Phil, who works for Babcock sub-contractor Pyeroy, completed the painting that preserves the metalwork.

Phil said: "It's been a good experience; Lee has always been hardworking, always cheerful and it's been brilliant to see what he does on board, and have a hand in *HMS Ocean* taking over as the in-service landing platform helicopter. The ship's company have been great."

Phil began his working life as an MOD apprentice.

## Restructure earns reward

THE RESTRUCTURING of Operational Support Programmes has earned a commendation from Director Land Equipment.

The work of five teams has been brought together into two delivery programmes directed by a lean management office to deliver Operational Support Vehicles and Operational Infrastructure.

Efficiency has been achieved by centralising performance management, governance, business management and office support.

OSP's achievements have been applauded by PJHQ and the Front Line Commands who have a clearly marked 'front door' to expeditionary infrastructure and logistic vehicle delivery and a more comprehensive, coherent management of equipment and support.

OSP Programme Management Office Deputy Head Colonel Doug Gibson said: "This has required a fantastic effort right across OSP. It has brought new ways of thinking and new ways of working. As a result we are more efficient and more effective in delivering our outputs. We have a clearer focus on our priorities which we have been able to jointly



Members of OSP collecting the commendation from Maj Gen Paul Jaques, from left, Denise Di-Caro, Simon Frame, Major General Jaques, Jo Llewellyn, Helen Churchill and Sqn Ldr Darren Emmett

agree with our key customer – Army Headquarters.

"Duplication has been ironed out. For example, by bringing all our pre-Initial Gate work together in the Programme Management Office we have been able to pool expertise and to develop and learn from experience more

quickly. We now deliver office support, business management, performance management centrally and we manage engineering, safety, quality, through life support as functions.

"We have saved operating budget costs and improved the quality and speed of our output."

RACHEL DYER of DE&S' Engineering Policy team spent four days at the Nato summit last month making sure the media were kept up to date with conference progress.

Rachel was one of many volunteers from Government departments chosen to support the summit.

She was seconded to the media centre where more than 1,500 reporters from all over the world descended on Newport.

She staffed the media desk providing liaison between the press and event organisers and was asked to organise the line-up of the Heads of State photoshoot in front of Celtic Manor.

"I'm claiming the credit for being the only one at the event to have a selfie with President Obama!" she said. "Although in fairness, there might have been others."

She also attended a press conference chaired by the Deputy Secretary General for Policy and Planning to hear developments in current policy.

She said: "Being so close to such an important event at a time of international



### Rachel keeps the media in line

political turmoil was an invaluable experience and it was a privilege to represent the MOD throughout the occasion. It is an experience I will never forget."

Pictured above: Rachel, right, is joined by Joanne Errington from HMRC, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne as media centre staff last month.

### Bath to host poppy clash

BATH RUGBY'S Recreation Ground will host the Combined Services when they take on the Barbarians on Tuesday 11th November (7.30pm).

Both teams will wear shirts adorned with the poppy while the match is a fundraiser for the Royal British Legion.

Some of the greatest names in world rugby have played for the Barbarians and both sides are likely to feature Aviva Premiership players when the squads are announced.

Tickets are available from [www.bathrugby.com/tickets](http://www.bathrugby.com/tickets) or 0844 448 1865. Prices are £15 covered, £10 open and £5 for under-18s.



On the march: DE&S' Mark Milson

# Mark's boots are made for marching

MARK MILSOM may never have had an ambition to be a paratrooper – but he can rub shoulders with the best after completing the 'Paras 10' in north Yorkshire at the end of August.

The ten-mile cross country race at Catterick Barracks takes place over the same route that trainee Paratroopers must tackle as one of the tests on their way to gaining the red beret of the Parachute Regiment.

Competitors can choose to just run the route in trainers, or attempt the P-Company Challenge which involves 'tabbing' the route in military boots and carrying a 35lb bergen.

Mark trained for 15 weeks, including swimming, treadmill sessions and general body conditioning, road running in trainers and running in boots while carrying the weighted bergen.

"Looking back at it, I really enjoyed the whole day – although I was dead on my feet by the time I crossed the finish line," he said.

"The event was well organised and the race route was well planned with some of the steepest hills I have ever encountered and a handful of

muddy water-filled obstacles.

"I was lucky enough to come through it fairly unscathed, unlike one woman who broke her arm and another man who broke his ankle!"

Mark, from Special Projects (CISR) team, raised more than £650 for Endometriosis UK. His wife Kelly, who also works for SPCISR, was diagnosed with endometriosis nearly two years ago when she had keyhole surgery for an ovarian cyst.

Endo is an incurable condition which affects many women in the UK. It can be very painful and debilitating for sufferers, and in many cases can cause infertility.

"Endometriosis-UK provides information and support for all endo sufferers, and Kelly has found them very helpful and useful over the last two years," Mark said.

Mark wanted to do something more challenging than the usual road races and opted for the more difficult P-Company Challenge to give himself a harder challenge.

"I say a massive thank you to all my friends and colleagues who sponsored me, and to Kelly for her support throughout the training and the race itself."

## Geoff sprints to more titles

GEOFF ELLIS of the BACIS Falcon Team has secured his 5th M35 British Orienteering title, and second of the year, at the British Sprint and Middle Distance Championships weekend in the west midlands.

In the sprint championships at Keele University Geoff qualified fastest in his heat and, as clear favourite in the final, he secured victory by four seconds.

On day two at Brereton Spears, near Rugeley, Geoff finished third, in the fourth and final event of the British Championships for 2014.

From the four events, Geoff has secured British Night Champion, second at the British Championships, British Sprint Champion and third at the British Middle Championships.

He has completed the Age Category (35-40) Grand Slam and has won at least one title per year in the last four years. Geoff has previously secured four podium finishes in one year – 2012 – but has bettered this year with two titles.

Geoff also managed a piece of history at the Caddihoe Chase 2014 event in the Forest of Dean which hosted the Veterans' Home International.

He had a flyer on the first day and finished fastest of the non VHI M35s by more than three minutes.

On day two Geoff ran strongly for his fourth consecutive Caddihoe Chase title. He is the only person to have his name on the trophy four times.

## Abbey Wood gears up for the annual shoebox appeal

STAFF AT Abbey Wood are again being urged to contribute to a happier Christmas for youngsters with the launch of this year's shoebox appeal.

Operation Christmas Child sends boxes of goodies – presents and useful items – to children abroad.

Boxes will be going to Kyrgyzstan in this year's appeal, the 15th year that Abbey Wood has supported the charity Samaritan's Purse.

Appeal organisers say that acceptable items this year include hats, gloves, scarves, stationery, pencil cases, notebooks, soft toys (not knitted ones), cars, soap/flannel/sponges, toothpaste/toothbrush, combs/brushes, sweets, balls, tissues, beads/bracelets etc, small purses and bags, small dolls, small colouring books, plastic animals, whistles/mouth organs, yo-yo's, dominoes, skipping ropes, slinkies etc and boxes of straws and table tennis balls which can be used as blow footballs.

No playing cards, chocolates or goods with a Harry Potter theme please!

Those wishing to donate items for boxes can use three collection boxes in neighbourhood two until 31st October.

If you are organising donations of filled boxes and require empty boxes/leaflets/posters or any other information contact Jules Hurrell on x38083 or William Bussell x31151. Storage for filled boxes is also available.

The presentation by Director Technical Air Vice-Marshal Julian Young of the boxes will be on Tuesday, 4th November at 1.30pm in the sports hall.

More information will be on an updated page at <http://defenceintranet.diif.r.mil.uk/organisations/orgs/des/community/charities/pages/charities.aspx>



Commitment above and beyond: apprentices pictured on their own community projects in Devon

# Serving the community

ENGINEERING APPRENTICES across the MOD are well known for their work across a range of skills

But engineering management apprentices at Devonport have been out and about helping community projects as part of their training.

Kate Perry, Apprentice Development Manager

Devonport, said: "The community projects have given apprentices a chance to develop and put into practice project management and teamwork skills that are essential to their future work placements.

"It has also given them the opportunity to give something back to the local area. This is the first year that the community projects have been run on this scale and I am extremely proud of

## Work outside work is now the norm for MOD's future engineers

the group and their commitment to the task in hand."

The apprentices are potential project managers for the MOD and the community project aspect of their training has been enlarged to reflect theoretical project management knowledge.

The students were allowed one week to plan the project when they had to discuss the project with the outside organisations' co-ordinators and run it like a mini-project, developing a basic

project plan, risk assessments and managing staffing.

One group of apprentices, Jamie Scott, Ben Ham, Ryan Lock, Dan King, Alex Holwill, Will Trant and Adam Jude worked with the gardening group to build a woodland walkway in a disused area to help educate school children on wildlife and conservation.

Another group, Axel Nicks, Jo Clingo, Joe Quigley, Harrison Drayton, James Girow and Kris Majer transformed a disused shop to house a café and performing arts space.

The apprentices have started work-based placement in teams based at the dockyard before undertaking an intensive HNC in Marine Engineering at Cornwall College in the New Year.

# Jura the toast of service dogs

POLICE DOG handler PC Simon Hill and Jura are officially among the best working pair in the UK after bringing trophies home to Devonport from two competitions.

PC Hill and Jura – a Malinois (Belgium) Shepherd – were the first ever at Devonport Naval Base, in Plymouth, to enter the National Police Dog Handling Assessment Finals where they came fourth.

Prizewinning Jura is also the British Police and Service Dog of the Year for the second year running, having successfully defended this title over the summer.

PC Hill said: “Considering it was only the second year of taking part in any sort of competition, I’m very proud of this achievement and of Jura. He’s a fantastic working dog. He’s got a huge appetite for working and loves all the disciplines.”

Jura qualified for the National Police Dog Handling finals (near Rotherham, South Yorkshire), featuring 21 dogs, following his success in the south west regional heat.

The dogs from all types of police forces sought to impress the judges with displays demonstrating their working



Top dog: Jura, pictured with PC Simon Hill

skills, including obedience, searching area and buildings, searching for people and apprehending and guarding and chasing an ‘armed’ and un-armed person.

PC Hill said without the mutual support of fellow competitors, who freely pass on their tips, he would not have been so successful.

Colleague PC Dave Gibbs said: “I’m very pleased at Simon’s success. Jura was bred under the MOD Police puppy breeding scheme and trained in-house at Devonport which is a tribute to the skills of the staff here.

“Devonport now has the fourth best police dog in the UK, and hopefully will improve on that in the future.”

## MOTTO – the MOD Lottery July winners

**£10,000:** Matthew Triggs (Catterick Garrison). **£5,000:** Clive Murphy (Abbey Wood). **£2,000:** Mark Bullock (Okehampton). **£500:** Paul Howley (Blandford), Chris Jackson (Grantham). **£100:** Karen Virgo (Abbey Wood), Michael Dorman (Abbey Wood), Paul Isaac (Abbey Wood), Tony Ruff (Feltham), Deborah Thorne (Abbey Wood), Jacqueline Davies (Shrivenham), Andrew Taylor (Shrivenham), Craig Cooper (Inverness), Josephine Clark (Catterick Garrison), Darren Butt (Abbey Wood), Sara Brunton (Yeovilton), John Dixon (Leconfield), Sharon Gilley (Hook), Jonathan Handyside (Wimborne), Donna Matthews (Bastion), Nigel Whittle (Feltham), Claire Ruffley (RAF Wyton), Fiona Martin (Bordon), Justin Tong (Donnington), Gordon McQuade (RAF High Wycombe).

## 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:

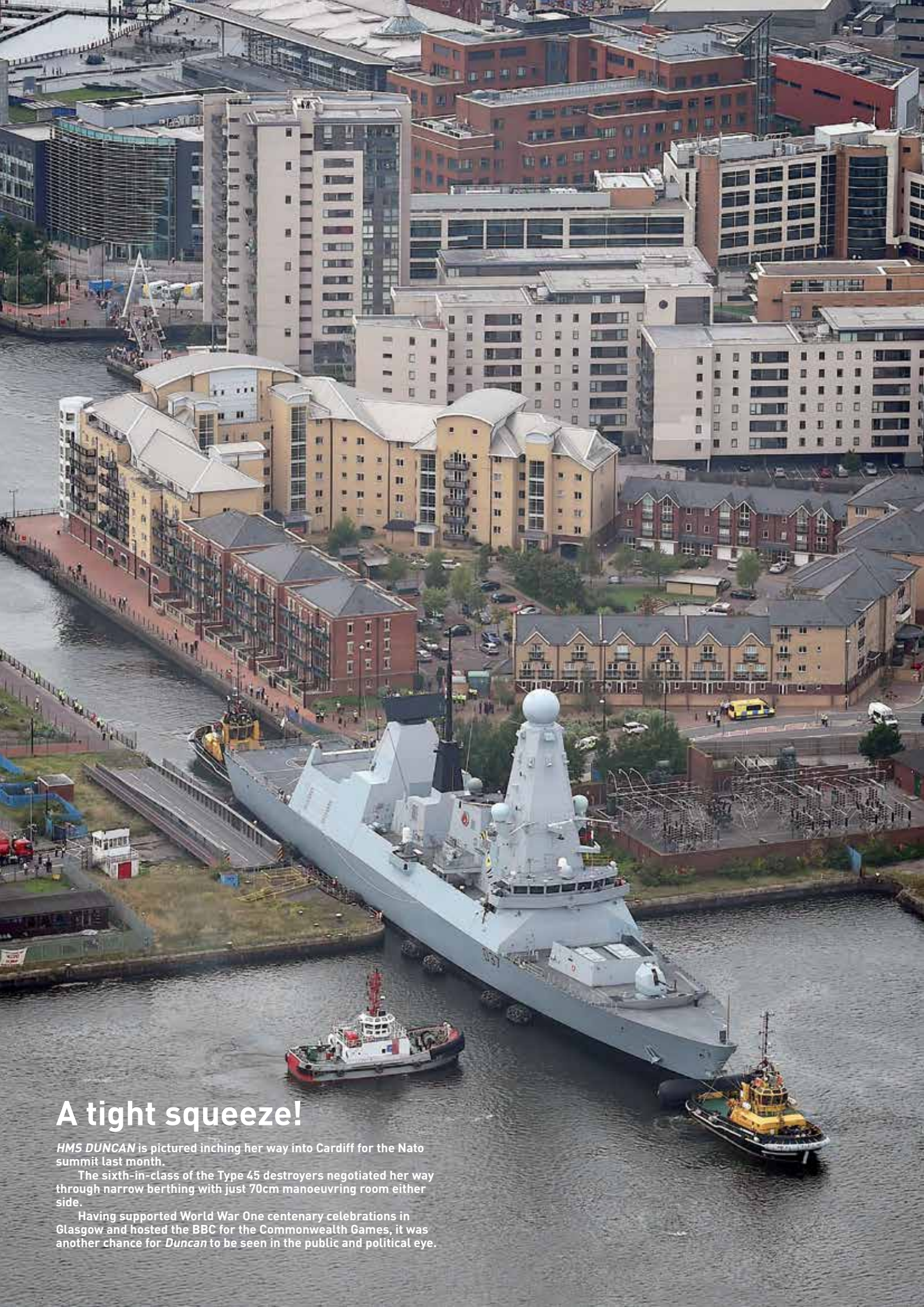
**2014DIN04-133:** This announces a change to the enabling contract for the supply to libraries, branches, units and establishments in the department of national and international standards, commercial web-based on-line databases and other digital media such as CD Roms or licensed DVDs.

**2014DIN04-146:** DE&S is looking to reduce depot storage and unnecessary line procurement costs. Where batteries have not been demanded in the last two years, they will be declared obsolete if no objections are received within 30 days of this DIN.

**2014DIN04-151:** Support Chain Information Services (formerly Log NEC) has been working to reduce the range of logistic applications. MJDI implementation for Army units is complete and the process for decommissioning UNICOM has begun.

**2014DIN04-164:** Information in this DIN relates to all users and demanders of black electrical insulation tape (green line).

Further information and more details on the latest DINs see:  
<http://defenceintranet.diif.r.mil.uk/Reference/DINsJSPs/Pages/DINsindex2014.aspx>



## A tight squeeze!

*HMS DUNCAN* is pictured inching her way into Cardiff for the Nato summit last month.

The sixth-in-class of the Type 45 destroyers negotiated her way through narrow berthing with just 70cm manoeuvring room either side.

Having supported World War One centenary celebrations in Glasgow and hosted the BBC for the Commonwealth Games, it was another chance for *Duncan* to be seen in the public and political eye.