



DE&S on track!

Praise for major project successes

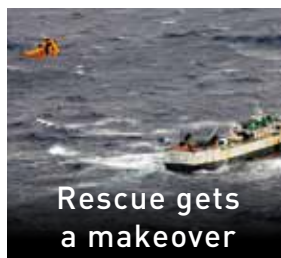
- ❑ 99 per cent of requirements delivered
- ❑ Cost of projects down by £397 million
- ❑ Best time performance since 2001



Kit for the
Ebola fight



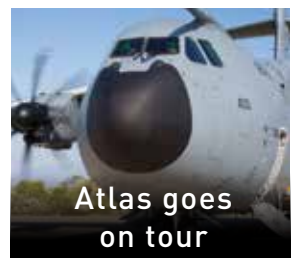
Training looks
to the future



Rescue gets
a makeover



Patrol vessels
take shape



Atlas goes
on tour



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With the withdrawal of the UK from Afghanistan BFPO is looking to expand its services to other government bodies



Picture: Andrew Linnett

cover image

The National Audit Office's review of DE&S' top 17 major projects – including Voyager, pictured above at its home at RAF Brize Norton – shows the best performance on time and cost for at least a decade.

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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

‘Stronger financial management means we can be trusted to do a good job’



I wrote in January about how a new year was about setting new goals, and that we should all aim to build on the progress we made in 2014.

Within days of the start of the year we were presented with more evidence that DE&S is performing well with publication of the National Audit Office's latest Major Projects Report, its periodic examination of our biggest projects. The news was good. The report talks about the work we have done in DE&S to substantially reduce delays and cost overruns, restoring trust in the MOD's financial management. It is our best performance for many years and represents a real confidence boost in the first full year of our Bespoke Trading Entity status.

The NAO, which was also looking at our ten-year Equipment Plan, pointed out that we are getting much better at forecasting project costs while exerting proper controls over variations in approved timings and costs of major projects. This is also an area where we are making good progress; for the second year running we have maintained an affordable plan.

The one note of caution saw the NAO point out – it is their job to do so – that there may not be enough contingency in the

Plan if our forecasts of procurement and support costs turn out to be over-optimistic. I and the MOD believe that our current forecasts and assumed levels of savings are reasonable and appropriate. The NAO's caution does not detract from a positive report into what we do to make sure taxpayers' money is wisely spent.

This is excellent news for us all. In the past the NAO has been rightly critical of the cost and time overruns that have plagued procurement and support of defence equipment. Now even the public spending watchdog is recognising that DE&S is well on the way to being the world-class organisation I want it to be. Much of this is your achievement. The tremendous efforts that the staff of DE&S have put in, allied to the undoubted expertise you all possess in your various fields, has made this possible.

This good news came on the back of more comments from Lord Levene on how well transformation of the MOD and the way it works over the last four years has been carried out. Stronger financial management now means we can be trusted to do a good job. That, more than anything, shows we are on the right road. Well done!

DE&S annou

BAES signs up to provide support for a range of tracked vehicles in £50 million contract

THE MINISTER for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology has highlighted DE&S' latest contract with BAE Systems as an example of the way the Government is transforming delivery on procurement, during an event in Telford.

Philip Dunne made the comments as he announced a £50 million deal with the company to support the British Army's armoured tracked vehicle fleet, safeguarding around 100 jobs at its Combat Vehicles facility in the town.

The announcement combines a number of existing support contracts into a more efficient and effective contracting agreement saving taxpayers money.

The five-year contract covers an array of design services including safety advice and elements of operational effectiveness for a range of armoured vehicles in the fleet, including light, medium and heavy variants.

Mr Dunne said: "This contract helps ensure that we sustain a battle-winning armoured vehicle fleet and represents an important investment in armoured vehicles capability within the UK defence supply chain that safeguards UK engineering jobs.

"It is also essential that we deliver high-quality equipment and services at the best possible value for the taxpayer and are able to meet any future capability challenges."

Major General Paul Jaques, DE&S' Director Land Equipment, added: "Our vehicle fleet has played a vital role on recent operations and will continue to be a key part of the British Army's capability for years to come, so agreeing this five year support contract with BAE Systems is great news.

"This is another example of how the MOD is investing in the Army's capability and ensuring our soldiers have well supported equipment."

The contract supports a range of the Armed Forces' armoured vehicles inventory which contains more than 3,500 vehicles. These include the following tracked platforms: Warrior; Titan; Trojan; Bulldog; Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked); Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle and the Challenger 2 main battle tank.

It also includes the Panther Command Liaison Vehicle, a wheeled armoured platform.

ances more first class support



Babcock takes on £900m work

A CONTRACT worth £900 million over ten years has been awarded to Babcock International to transform the way the Army's vehicles are maintained, repaired and stored.

The contract has the potential to grow to around £2 billion as a result of plans, subject to value for money, to bring more services.

It has been awarded as part of the sale of the Defence Support Group (DSG) land business to Babcock for £140 million, which was announced last December. From April this year Babcock will deliver the services currently provided to the Army by the DSG land business.

The Army should save around £500 million during the contract, a reduction of more than a third of the current costs.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne said: "This contract puts DSG on a sustainable long-term footing to support maintenance and availability of land platforms for the Army, in a similar manner to existing contracts for support of platforms for the other services.

"Babcock will provide DSG with key engineering and fleet management expertise which it has built up over 15 years of working with the Army.

"DSG will also gain the potential to provide vehicle maintenance to other existing heavy vehicle customers, which it is unable to do while owned by the MOD.

"The contract will also ensure the Army's continued access to improved vehicle repair and maintenance support – all at significantly better value for money for the taxpayer."



Above:
Mr Dunne
announces
the new
contract at
Telford

Right:
vehicles that
the contract
covers.
A bigger
version of
the graphic
is available
on pages 20
and 21 of this
edition of
desider

Signing marks first transformation milestone

THE FIRST milestone in the DE&S transformation programme has been achieved – the Collaboration Charter was signed on 16th January.

It describes the behaviours expected for ways of working between the four partners, DE&S, Bechtel, CH2M Hill and PwC.

"Collaboration is critical to the success of DE&S transformation," said Richard Smart, Director Materiel Strategy. "We have designed a Charter that sets the standards for how the transformation partners will work together to deliver the programme.

"It establishes the mechanism and governance that will seek continuous improvement in our collaborative behaviours."

DE&S has been hard at work on the new approach,

planning the detail of the changes required. The first phase of the programme is being delivered through 11 transformation milestones that define the approach to change through baselining the current position, defining the end state of the organisation at 'match fit' by 2017 and writing the implementation plans for effecting the transformation.

Delivered by this June by integrated teams involving all the transformation partners and co-ordinated centrally by Materiel Strategy, the DE&S Executive Board will be invited to approve the transformation and its implementation plans.

As this work develops, the transformation team will test emerging concepts with the domains and functions across DE&S.

Leading transformation partners at DE&S: pages 6 and 7

The changing face of DE&S – introd

Senior Transformation Partners in the Materiel Strategy Rainbow team



BECHTEL RAINBOW LEAD: Joseph Collins

Joseph Collins is a Bechtel Principal Vice President with 28 years' experience guiding functional managers in a broad spectrum of disciplines and managing large, complex projects involving extensive procurement scope for materials, equipment and subcontract services. Joe served for four years as the global Manager of Functions in the London headquarters of the Bechtel Civil business unit, where he was responsible for functional-based training, oversight of functional teams, and influencing project performance to ensure fulfilment of customer requirements. In his recent

position as Operations Manager of Bechtel Civil, he has provided strategic direction and oversight for all infrastructure and aviation projects such as contracts for the Saudi Arabia General Investment Authority, Gatwick Airport Capex programme, Waad Al Shamaal Mineral City and Kosovo Motorway. Joe also brings extensive design and construction experience at fossil and nuclear power stations. As a Principal Vice President, Joe is among Bechtel's top 100 senior executives and provides reachback access to Bechtel resources worldwide

CH2MHILL RAINBOW LEAD: Bruce Berwick

Bruce brings the leadership experience of 38 years in project and programme management, largely in the public sector. His role as Programme Manager for the £6.3 billion US Forces Korea Base Relocation Programme for the past five years draws on 32 years' US military experience of P3M primarily delivering high value infrastructure worldwide. Bruce led the consortium of CH2M Hill and four Korean firms, co-ordinating and integrating the efforts of the US and Republic of Korea Governments and multiple stakeholders to achieve governance and delivery of the largest peacetime redeployment of US Forces outside the USA. Bruce has managed multiple budgets up to and exceeding £1 billion over the past 20 years, including public sector programmes involving multiple funding streams with authorised uses and restrictions.



PWC RAINBOW LEAD: Ian Tomlinson-Roe

Ian has spent the last 17 years at Exco/Board level, in either a line role or consulting capacity, specialising in development of people strategies, organisational re-structures, the alignment of workforces, and the design and effectiveness of corporate HR functions. Ian's public sector clients extend across central government, local authorities, health economies and policing. His private sector clients have included Coca-Cola, Ricoh and Terra Firma. Ian brings a unique blend of line and consulting experience

and has held global responsibility for HR in two organisations: one employing 38,000 people in 27 countries, the other 80,000 people across 16 countries. Both organisations operated in heavily regulated environments. He leads PwC's Government and Public Sector HR Services practice



Managed Service Providers, now known as Transformation Partners, in project delivery and human resources who will bring private sector skills to DE&S are taking up their places at Abbey Wood. *desider* introduces some of the main players

Bechtel senior Transformation Partners for the Maritime domain

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER MARITIME: Larry Simmons

Larry has 36 years' experience with Bechtel and is a Principal Vice President, which places him in the top 100 managers in the company. Larry is one of only ten employees to earn Bechtel's highest level of Project Manager certification. He brings valuable insights from the US Naval Reactors programme to the Maritime domain, including project management and procurement support for the US Navy's £962 million Expended Core Facility.



Submarines lead is **Mike Stango** with 40 years' of experience from the US Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme where he led delivery of engineering, acquisition and in-service support services associated with nuclear propulsion equipment and materiel for the US Navy's nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers.

Toby Wilson is the Ships lead: With around 15 years' experience with Bechtel, he has implemented advanced performance management tools on multi-billion dollar commercial and US Government projects, including the £1.5 billion Los Alamos National Laboratory nuclear defence facility and £7.9 billion Hanford Waste Treatment Plant.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER LAND: Jeff Kerridge

Jeff is an accomplished programme and project manager on multibillion pound contracts with extensive experience on Government client and contractor supply sides. He has worked on major government programmes including the ground-breaking Rocky Flats remediation programme that set new standards for the US Government. Jeff was CH2M Hill's Programme Director on the £350 million Rolls-Royce Core Production Capability Project (2010-2013). He took the programme through the planning phase, new facility design and building demolition. He has most recently been the CFO on a major Federal decommissioning programme.



ucing the new partnerships

Bechtel senior Transformation Partners for the Air domain

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AIR: Ike Richardson

Ike is a Bechtel Principal Vice President with a distinguished leadership career of more than 42 years. His success includes programme management of some of Bechtel's largest EPC jobs. LANL is the US' premier nuclear defence laboratory, where Ike was Bechtel's senior executive leading a multidisciplinary workforce of 11,700. In this role, he led Bechtel in transforming the site's project management, safety, security and procurement services. He performed a similar role in transforming a £1.25 billion contract as President of Bechtel's Kwajalein Range Services where he managed sophisticated electronic, telecommunication and radar systems on multiple islands necessitating complex maintenance, supply and logistics operations. Ike's military career included Commanding Officer of the *USS Nimitz* nuclear aircraft carrier to Director of the Navy's Aircraft Carrier Program.



Mike Rafferty is the Air Support lead. He brings experience in leadership of Commercial (Contracts) and Logistics. He held a leadership role on the team that transitioned Los Alamos National Laboratory to a GoCo, served as Prime Contract Manager for the Iraq Reconstruction program, and was Prime Contract Manager for the Katrina Disaster Relief project.

Patrick Jackson is the Combat Air lead with 27 years' experience in project controls and risk management on multi-billion-pound government endeavours. He was Project Control Manager for construction and startup of the £7.9 billion Waste Treatment Plant for verification of hazardous waste at the Hanford site in the US.

PwC senior Transformation Partners for human resources

Transformation Lead and the point of contact for Land is **Laura Manson-Smith** who combines financial expertise with a deep understanding of organisational change. She has helped energy utilities and mining clients to transform their businesses including redesigning a \$5 billion oil and gas company towards achieving a 90 per cent reduction in business processes.

Milestone Project Manager and point of contact for Maritime is **Steven Kershaw**. A former Royal Navy engineer he has worked in DE&S on the Submarine Enterprise Performance Programme, Air Sector Enterprise Transformation and the HR recruiting programme. Steve has also led transformation programmes in the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and the Ministries of Health and Labour in Saudi Arabia.

Lisa Gelpy is the Reward Lead and point of contact for Joint Enablers. Her career has included designing and implementing pay and grading structures, benchmarking base, variable pay and long term incentives, tax effective delivery of pay and benefit, pension and benefit design.

The company's Resourcing and Deployment Lead and point of contact for Director Technical is **Juliet Stuttard** with more than 24 years of experience within human resource management. Juliet has experience in workforce restructuring and policy design and has recently led programmes with Birmingham City Council and Greater Manchester Police.

HR Function and Data Lead and point of contact for Air is **Paul Matthews**, one of the company's most experienced HR programme directors and implementation consultants. He also spent a number of years working internationally with PwC, including leading the set-up of its Human Resources Services client practice across Africa.

CH2MHill senior Transformation Partners for the Joint Enablers domain

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER JOINT ENABLERS: Patrick McClellan

Patrick is an accomplished programme and project manager most recently on the £6.3 billion US Forces Korea Base Relocation Programme, where he has consistently delivered balanced and unique solutions in an exceptionally complex environment. His leadership has been instrumental in the successful negotiation of several agreements between US and Korean military stakeholders that provided the framework for procurement of approximately £412 million in infrastructure, equipment and services for sensitive facilities. Patrick's diverse background includes six years in the US Navy and combines strong technical expertise with senior leadership roles on defence and private-sector projects.



ISTAR LEAD is Kim Martin with 29 years in programme and project management and a successful record of project delivery on large, high-value infrastructure projects worldwide. Her work at CH2M Hill has included engineering manager on the £4 billion Inner Doha Re-sewerage Implementation Strategy scheme and Deputy Delivery Services Manager on the Thames Tideway Tunnel Programme.

Chandler Ogden is the lead for Helicopters, a professional engineer with more than 27 years of mechanical system design and construction-phase experience. He supported the US Forces Korea Base Relocation Programme, managing delivery of £1.1 billion in facilities projects. The majority of his programmes have been for public sector clients, including the military, NASA, universities, municipal authorities and the US Department of Energy.

CH2MHill senior Transformation Partners for the Land domain

Lead for Logistic Commodities and Services is **Norb Schertzer**. He is skilled in defining project requirements and developing innovative funding strategies with phased schedules and complicated stakeholder profiles. As Senior Project Manager for the US Transportation Command Headquarters Project, Norb led planning, design and construction of a \$100 million 180,000 square foot secure logistics operations and headquarters complex.

Dan Wood is the Weapons lead. The majority of his career has been as a government contractor. He has participated in supply chain activities including procurement of nuclear power new

build, nuclear reactor decommissioning and operations/maintenance contracts for large government sites.

Inventory Management lead is **Tony Sutton**, an accomplished senior IT programme manager who has more than 30 years' experience of driving business transformation in finance, warehousing and distribution, warehouse consolidation, logistics optimisation, IT service transition, systems migration and implementation, IT strategies, technology roadmaps, due-diligence and post-acquisition integration.

A Land Equipment lead is to be appointed.

NEWSREEL

Team probes for info

MEMBERS of DE&S' Salvage and Marine Operations team have been helping with surveys of the wreck of the cement carrier *Cemfjord* which capsized in 70 metres of water near the Pentland Firth on 2nd January. A remotely operated underwater vehicle was used to look at the wreck and provide information to help the investigation, which is being carried out by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch.

Investigators need to know why the vessel foundered so rapidly, why none of the crew survived, and why it took so long for the alarm to be raised.

Headcount reducing

THE proportion of full-time trained military personnel in DE&S has dropped from 24 per cent to 15 per cent in the last five years, the latest figures show. As at 1st April last year the total DE&S headcount was 12,470 including 1,870 military personnel. In 2010 there were 21,810 staff in the organisation including 5,260 military personnel.

Public appeal

THE Army is launching a campaign to improve public understanding and support recruiting. The 'Normal Day' campaign launches as research reveals that 1 in 5 Britons believe the Army is less relevant now than ever. This rises to 1 in 4 among the Army's core recruitment audience (18-34 year olds).

Trenchant in the water again



Flood-up: HMS Trenchant is back in the water

SIXTEEN MONTHS in dry dock has come to an end for *HMS Trenchant* with the achievement of flood-up, a major milestone in the *Trafalgar* class submarine's substantial Revalidation and Assisted Maintenance Period (RAMP) in Devonport.

Flood-up completes about 70 per cent of the work, a challenging programme of maintenance, system revalidation and capability upgrades.

Activities to date have included installation of a new composite rudder, overhaul of port and starboard circulating water systems, torpedo tube revalidation, and pressure hull revalidation.

Trenchant will undock with an exceptional finish; the product of extensive tile refurbishment as well as the application of a new signature-reducing paint system.

Remaining work is likely to take another 12 months.

Report outlines success on Successor programme

PROGRESS ON the new class of Successor ballistic missile submarines is on track with the Main Gate investment decision set to be taken on schedule next year.

The latest MOD report to Parliament – the third since the £3 billion-plus Assessment Phase began in 2011 – details how the programme is refining design of the submarines and maturing the costs.

The new submarines will replace the four in-service *Vanguard* class boats with the Government committed to retaining a continuous-at-sea deterrent.

Additional reviews by the Major Projects Authority and the Major Projects Review Group last year were both positive about the programme.

"They concluded that the design of the submarine was progressing satisfactorily and suggested areas where further

work would be beneficial to explore how the programme's organisational, commercial and financial arrangements could be optimised," says the report. "This exploratory work is now in hand.

"The Successor submarine represents a major step forward

□ The next MOD report is due at Main Gate next year. For the full report to Parliament go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-united-kingdoms-future-nuclear-deterrent-2014-update-to-parliament>

in integrating safety into the submarine design process, and the safety case will demonstrate that the submarine meets extremely stringent safety requirements.

"Successor is designed to be one of the stealthiest

submarines in the world during its operational service from the late 2020s to 2060s. It will also be the largest, safest and most technically advanced submarine ever built in the UK, requiring step changes in manufacturing processes and practices."

The report continues: "Successor is being designed to be built more efficiently than the smaller *Astute* class submarines. To meet these aims, a number of world beating new and adapted technologies are planned."

The programme includes co-operation with the US on nuclear propulsion and the strategic weapon system while the number of people – MOD, BAE Systems, Rolls Royce and Babcock International – working on the programme is around 2,200 with more than half as engineers or designers. This is expected to grow further.

Minister makes Kineton visit

they do. I was also shown how the storage and maintenance sites are managed and how staff are handling 3,000 transactions a month."

Lt Col Dempsey said: "The visit presented the perfect opportunity to explain the scale of our operations and to reinforce that, despite the inherent dangers of ammunition, we are committed to maintaining a safe environment for all personnel on site and also the local population."

THE 900 staff of Defence Munitions Kineton in Warwickshire have been thanked for the work they do supplying UK Forces on active duty and training.

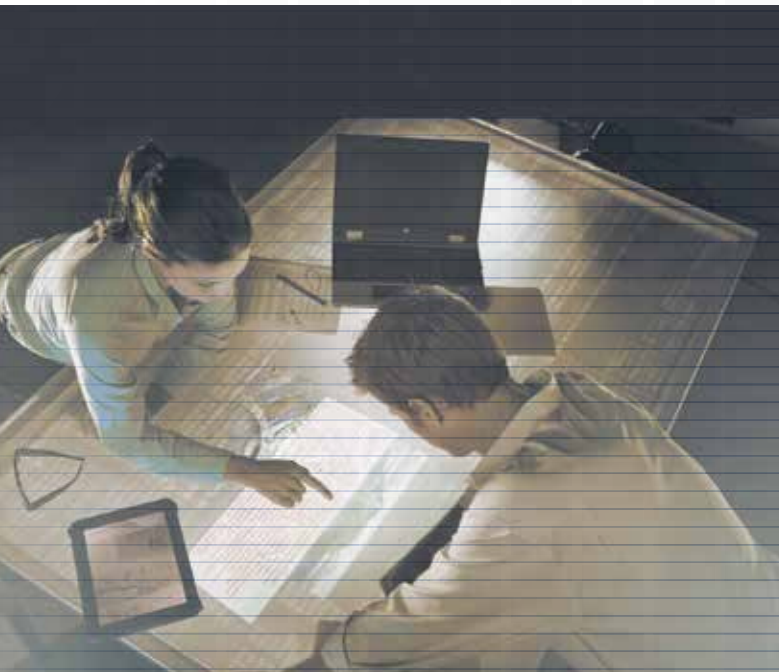
Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne was a visitor to the largest of the Defence Munitions sites responsible for safe receipt, storage, maintenance and issue of munitions.

Mr Dunne met Head of Weapons Support Neil Rixon, and Head of Establishment, Lt Col Mike Dempsey.

Mr Dunne said: "I was able to thank some of the up to 900 personnel on station for the vital work

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Under way: the first sections of the first OPV, *HMS Forth*, are pictured in Glasgow

First of the OPVs takes shape

THE FIRST of three River class Batch 2 Offshore Patrol Vessels being built by BAE Systems for the Royal Navy is fast taking shape.

The first steel for *HMS Forth* was cut by Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel, in Glasgow last October and the shipyard has since been a hive of activity.

More than 180,000 hours have so far been spent on the design and build, while more than 700 tonnes of steel is now passing through the fabrication shed and beginning to form the vessel.

The first five units, which comprise the machinery space and a section of the reinforced flight deck, will be moved into

the outfit hall in May. Supply chain partners are beginning to deliver equipment, starting this quarter with the engines that passed both their factory acceptance tests two months ahead of schedule.

The 90-metre OPV is based on a BAE Systems design already in service in several countries. Engineers have modified the design, ensuring it meets requirements of the Royal Navy.

The vessels will include a modified flight deck capable of operating the latest Merlin helicopters, larger stores and more accommodation for embarked personnel.

BAE Systems has been investing in new facilities, tools

and processes to transform its Naval Ships business and the new River Class OPVs are the first warships to benefit from this change in efficiency, quality and safety.

On the shop floor, a new flexible working arrangement called Schedule Based Working is breaking down traditional boundaries between different trades and giving employees more responsibility to plan their work.

This has led to increase in efficiency and also provided a better working environment to attract and retain the best talent.

Production Manager Gary Mitchell said "Schedule Based Working has brought behavioural and cultural change which has led to greater production and a closer bond between managers and operators."

Meanwhile, a long-term agreement has been signed with Wincanton to provide logistics and warehousing to support shipbuilding operations.

Wincanton now deliver the steel already prepped to

Investment in future ships by DE&S has helped BAE Systems launch its largest recruitment campaign for apprenticeship and graduate schemes, as well as industrial placements and paid summer internships for existing students.

There are 143 apprentice and 14 higher apprentice roles at the shipbuilding and support sites in Glasgow and Portsmouth.

Naval recruitment forms part of BAE Systems' largest intake of apprentices with 782 positions to be filled.

the point of use, in the correct order and just in time for construction. A new asset tracking system will also ensure greater visibility of parts availability and reduce the risk of damage or defects.

By the end of this year, all three new OPVs will be under construction as the first steel cut for her sister ship *HMS Medway* is set for the summer and *HMS Trent* in the autumn.

With a maximum speed of 24 knots and a range of 5,500 nautical miles, the ships will be globally deployable and capable of ocean patrol.



The new OPVs will mirror a design already in service with a number of navies

Nuclear weapon numbers reduced

THE GOVERNMENT has confirmed it has reduced the operationally available nuclear warheads the UK possesses to no more than 120, down from fewer than 160, as set out in the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review. All *Vanguard* class

submarines on continuous deterrent patrol now carry 40 nuclear warheads, down from 48, and no more than eight operational missiles.

"The Government continues to plan to renew the UK's independent strategic nuclear deterrent," said

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon. "At the same time, as a responsible nuclear weapon state and party to the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the UK remains committed to creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons."



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The 'Merlin Life Sustainment Programme' has inducted its first aircraft into the production line, on time and on budget.

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New contract refreshes Falklands SAR



An RAF Sea King Search-and-Rescue helicopter from 1564 Flight is pictured on a long-range rescue of a seriously ill fisherman 200 nautical miles east of the Falkland Islands

A NEW £180 million contract for helicopter services in the Falkland Islands has been agreed with AAR Airlift Group.

The contract will provide a helicopter Search-and-Rescue service in the Falkland Islands and maintain the high standards set by the RAF and its Sea King aircraft.

It will also continue a contractor-operated support helicopter service in the region.

The signature of this ten-year contract was celebrated by DE&S staff from the Special Projects Multi Air Platforms project team, AAR Airlift Group and primary sub-contractor, British International Helicopters, at a ceremony held at the Royal Aeronautical Society, London last month.

Ian Craddock, Head of Helicopters 2 for the Helicopters Operating Centre, said: "I have every confidence that AAR Airlift has the capability and experience to provide a Search-and-Rescue service that maintains the high standards set by the RAF, who we must thank for the service delivered to-date.

"I am also

pleased that AAR will be sub-contracting British International Helicopters, already successfully providing support helicopter services in the Falkland Islands, to support delivery of the combined service."

The decision to have a contractor operated Search-and-Rescue service was cemented in the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review to increase focus on Armed Forces operational commitments.

This confirmed the retirement of the Sea King Search-and-Rescue fleet next year.

AAR Airlift has sub-contracted AgustaWestland

to manufacture two of its AW-189 SAR helicopters to provide the Search-and-Rescue service and will continue to use two Sikorsky S-61Ns for the support helicopter role.

"This award presents a tremendous opportunity for AAR Airlift's business as part of our strategy to diversify our capabilities and customer base," said Randy Martinez, President of AAR Airlift Group.

"We are thrilled that our exemplary record of safety, reliability, and operational performance has earned us the confidence of the UK MOD to deliver this critical service."

The service is due to begin by April next year.



An AgustaWestland AW-189

NEWSREEL

CAGE is unlocked

A £3.2 million contract between AgustaWestland and BAE Systems, will see a mission planning system going into battle with UK helicopter pilots. The CAGE system has been selected for use in the AW159 Wildcat helicopter and can plan, brief, rehearse, execute and debrief a mission using the latest situational awareness and planning support information. The system is scheduled to be in service this month having passed a series of reviews. Work has involved BAES, Joint Helicopter Command, Navy Command, the Lynx Project Team and AgustaWestland.

Good employers

THE ROYAL Navy, British Army and the Royal Air Force have all been recognised as good employers for lesbian, gay and bisexual staff, Stonewall has announced. The Army has climbed into the top 50 employers at 46, reflecting progress made in advancing diversity and inclusion across the military. The Navy moved to 56th, up from 79 last year, and the RAF secured 91st to also feature in the top 100.

Cyber day

CYBER Security Challenge holds its south west regional cyber day at Plymouth University on 18th February highlighting pathways into the industry along with apprenticeships. More information from Steph Aldridge at saldridge@cybersecuritychallenge.org.uk

The first RAF Atlas aircraft, pictured at RAF Akrotiri



Atlas on tour

THE RAF'S latest transport aircraft, the A400M Atlas, has touched down on Cyprus for the first time.

The aircraft was visiting RAF Akrotiri as part of its ongoing checks to ensure that RAF airfields are capable of supporting the new aircraft.

The A400M Atlas can operate in both the strategic and tactical environment, including operating on natural surfaces and over long

ranges and so provides a "swing role" capability that sits between the C-17 and C-130 Hercules.

The Cyprus visit was useful in giving Akrotiri personnel exposure to the ground handling of the aircraft. During its 24-hour stopover, station personnel familiarised themselves with the size and shape of the aircraft with a view to developing procedures to support the aircraft during its operational role.

Atlas will support the deployment of conventional and high readiness forces, supporting all three services and wider UK interests. The aircraft will be capable of carrying 32 tonnes over a range of 2,300 nautical miles at speeds comparable with pure jet military transport aircraft.

The aircraft was delivered to RAF Brize Norton last November, the first of 22 to be delivered to the UK.



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'A demanding customer for the new Technical Director'

AIR VICE-Marshal Julian Young has taken over as Director Helicopters, returning to the world of aircraft types which marked some of his front line service.

The engineering officer and former Technical Director undertook operational tours on support helicopter squadrons, including Operation Granby (Gulf War I) and Falklands detachments.

"I am excited by the opportunity of moving into a delivery role, and back to an aircraft type that dominated my early front-line tours in the RAF," he said of his appointment.

"While the aircraft marks have moved on, my memories of operations remain vivid and I have kept in touch with old colleagues who are now key stakeholders.

"That said, I have a lot to learn about the delivery business, and shall apply myself to do so as quickly as possible from the many subject matter experts within the operating centre.



"I pay tribute to Adrian Baguley for his tremendous achievements during his time in the Helicopter operating centre, and shall do my best to sustain the great reputation DE&S has with Joint Helicopter Command and Royal Navy aviators."

Air Vice-Marshal Young has been Director Technical for the last two years. "I have enjoyed immensely my time as Director Technical, and had expected longer in post to help roll out more of the things we have pushed hard on.

"These include stronger engineering, project and programme management and information management functions, policy, professionalisation and standardisation; graduate and apprentice development; learning from experience; and better linkages with the Front Line Commands

on technology, quality and safety – some great people, and I shall be a demanding customer of the new Technical Director!"

Military flying training goes out to the masses

ABBNEY WOOD staff will get an update later this month on the flying training revolution sweeping across the UK's three services.

The UK Military Flying Training System is changing the way all military flight crews will be trained until at least 2033.

And a host of new aircraft are being introduced to make sure the training environment becomes as aligned to the front line aircraft as possible. As a result DE&S' UKMFTS team is increasing in size with a range of opportunities across its functional areas.

"By 2018 UKMFTS will have delivered up to seven new aircraft types in just seven years," said Alys Davies of the UKMFTS team.

"It is a radical change, but one that is necessary if the UK wants to remain at the forefront of military training for decades to come."

The 3-5pm session in the Central Facilities Building on 25th February will see team members present on the progress of the programme giving staff a chance to learn about a unique way of working in defence.

It is part of a programme of presentations which begins at RAF Brize Norton on 4-5th February and continues at Naval



A Texan T6, a proposed successor to the Tucano to be used for basic flying training. The Tucano is due out of service in 2019

Command in Portsmouth on 9th February.

Further sessions will be at RAF bases in Leeming (3rd March), Waddington (16th March) and Marham (25-26th March).

Training for pilots on fast jets, multi-engined aircraft and helicopters along with rear crew is designed and will be delivered by Ascent, a joint venture between Lockheed Martin and Babcock International in a 25-year contract which started in 2008.

"The Abbey Wood session is an opportunity to hear about

the Public Private Partnership which uses both private finance and conventional procurement to deliver world-class training for the UK's military aircrew," said Miss Davies.

"The Partnership will give a joint presentation and Q&A session explaining the partnering arrangement and what the programme is and does, and how it will look in the future."

Spaces can be booked on e-solutions. All are welcome. Contact Alys Davies (ABW 86990) or Andy Fry (ABW 80017) for further information.

NEWSREEL

Scout jobs reiterated

AROUND 1,400 UK jobs across 160 companies are expected to be involved in production of the Scout Specialist Vehicle, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne has repeated to Parliament. General Dynamics UK continues to award contracts to tier one suppliers. The Scout SV fleet has a planned initial operating capability of July 2020 following delivery of the first vehicles to the Army in 2017. The first brigade will be fully equipped with Scout SV from the end of 2020. The full operating capability is expected in 2025.

Ship milestone

PLYMOUTH-based HMS Monmouth has completed another milestone in her upgrade with the crew moving back on board to plan her return to the operational fleet. Monmouth entered refit with Babcock at the beginning of last year and has seen work to her superstructure, which has included around 17 tonnes of new steel.

MOD backing

THE MOD is supporting the launch of the International Institute of Obsolescence Management. It will extend support for obsolescence management to a wider range of industries and materials. It will also provide a defined career path and professional qualifications. The Institute plans to be fully operational by April next year.



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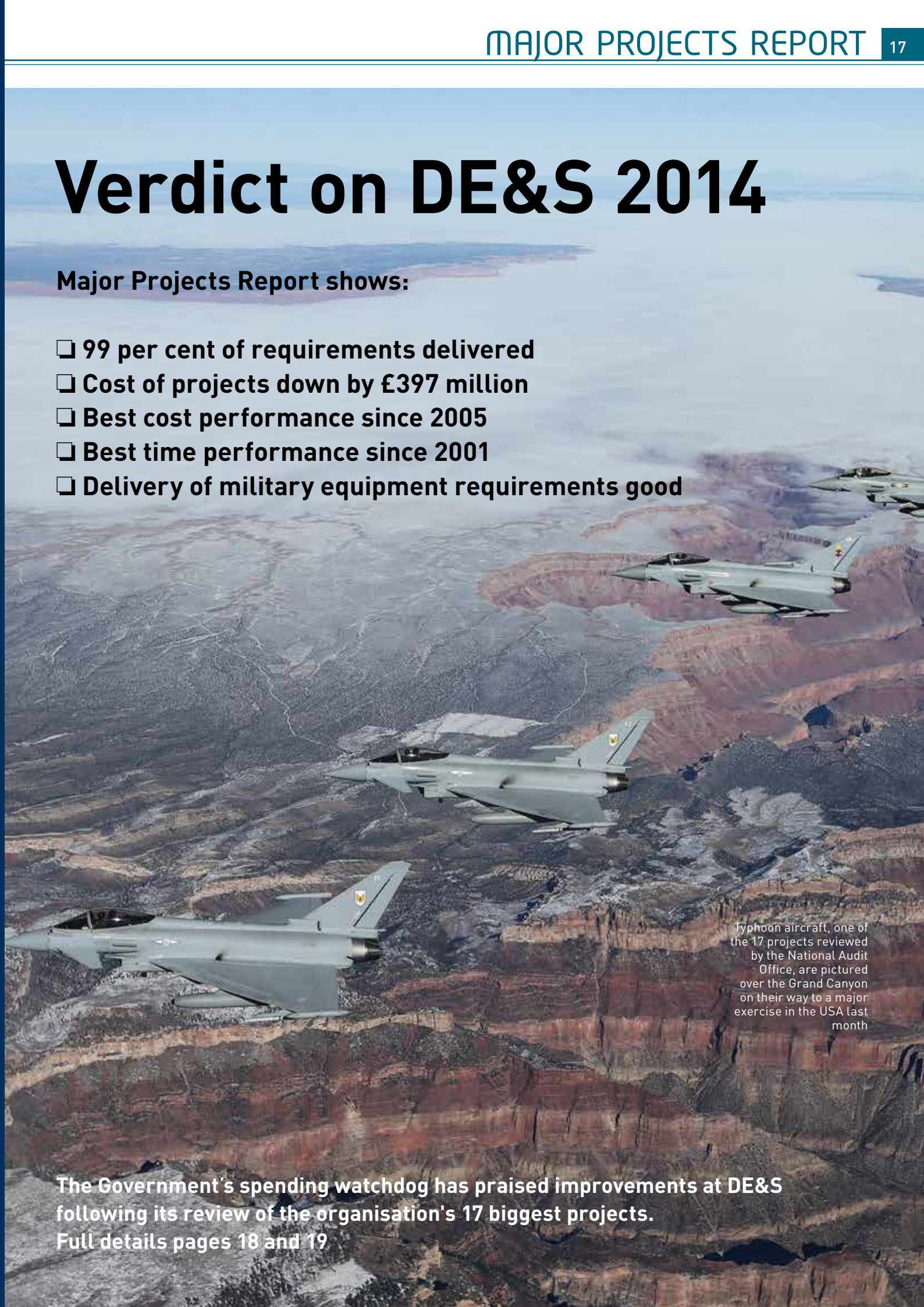
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Verdict on DE&S 2014

Major Projects Report shows:

- ❑ 99 per cent of requirements delivered
- ❑ Cost of projects down by £397 million
- ❑ Best cost performance since 2005
- ❑ Best time performance since 2001
- ❑ Delivery of military equipment requirements good

An aerial photograph showing three British Royal Air Force Typhoon fighter jets in formation, flying over the Grand Canyon. The canyon's layered rock formations and deep valleys are visible below the aircraft. The jets are grey with yellow and red markings on the tail fins.

Typhoon aircraft, one of the 17 projects reviewed by the National Audit Office, are pictured over the Grand Canyon on their way to a major exercise in the USA last month

The Government's spending watchdog has praised improvements at DE&S following its review of the organisation's 17 biggest projects.

Full details pages 18 and 19

A real confidence boost

Government spending watchdog confirms that DE&S continues to make good progress on equipment delivery

DE&S has turned in the best cost performance since 2005 and the best time performance since at least 2001.

That is the MOD's positive conclusion from the latest Major Projects Report issued by the Government spending watchdog the National Audit Office.

The report by the NAO recognises the progress that DE&S is making in improving the way military equipment is procured and supported through life, and praises the relative stability of forecast project costs.

The report has been welcomed by Philip Dunne, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology. "The NAO report recognises the

progress we are continuing to make, including the relative stability of forecast project costs, as well as highlighting areas where we must continue to improve and refine our processes," he said.

"Of the eleven projects within the MPR sample of 17 projects that have passed the main investment decision point, we have delivered 99 per cent of requirements, the forecast cost of the projects has reduced by £397 million and the in-service dates have had a small increase of 14 months. This is the MOD's best cost performance since 2005 and the best time performance since at least 2001, with delivery of military requirements routinely good over the period."

Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence

Materiel, was also delighted. "The report talks about the work we have done in DE&S to substantially reduce delays and cost overruns, restoring trust in the MOD's financial management," he said.

"This is excellent news for us all and represents a real confidence boost in the first full year of our Bespoke Trading Entity status. Even the public spending watchdog is recognising that DE&S is well on the way to being the world class organisation I want it to be."

This year for the first time the NAO has published a single document which brings together their review of the defence Equipment Plan and the MOD's Major Projects Report.

Key facts of the report include:

On cost:

There were no significant cost increases on any project and an overall cost decrease.

For the eleven projects where the main investment decision ('Main Gate') has been taken, the total variation in forecast cost during 2013/14 was -£397 million (-0.7% of a combined forecast cost of completion of £59.2 billion).

This is lower than the cost increase recorded in MPR 2013 of +£708 million (of which £754 million was attributable to the aircraft

carriers). Excluding the QEC carriers, there was a net cost decrease of £46 million across the remaining ten post-Main Gate projects.

There were no cost increases recorded in MPR 2014 on the QEC carriers.

On time:

The ten post-Main Gate projects where time is analysed (including the QEC carriers) recorded a total in-year delay of 14 months, a 0.7 per cent increase against the combined forecast timescale of 2,107 months. This is lower than last year's increase of 17 months and is significantly lower than the increase

recorded in MPR 2012 of 139 months. It is the lowest level of slippage recorded since 2001.

Only two projects reported slippage, eight months on Warrior and six months on the Core Production Capability project, but there is no impact on the operational capability of these projects.

On Performance:

A forecast of 99 per cent of key performance measures to be met is an improvement of one per cent from last year and matches the highest level over the last decade.

The MOD has identified risks to achieving



The MARS tanker project is set to deliver four new support vessels for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary before the end of the decade



The sustainment programme for Warrior was one of 17 major projects examined by the NAO. Pictured is a Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle on the prairies of Canada during a training exercise

four (2 per cent) of these measures. There is only one key performance measure that will not be met: since 1995, the MOD has accepted that in the most adverse conditions the required landing distance for a Typhoon aircraft would not be achieved. The MOD has no plans to implement measures to address this.

The Cost Assurance and Analysis Service (CAAS) team in DE&S has developed independent cost estimates for key support programmes in the way they have previously assessed the procurement programmes as

part of Annual Budget Cycle 14. This work has been provided to the NAO to review as part of their review of the 2014 EP document and CAAS will continue to work to bring its analysis of support costs up to a similar level as that which they have for procurement. Amyas Morse, head of the National Audit Office, said: "Our work on the Equipment Plan reveals a number of positive features, not least the relative stability of forecast project costs and control over in-year variations in approved timings and costs of major projects."

The full list of MPR projects is: A400M,

Astute, Complex Weapons, Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft, Lightning II, MARS tankers, Nuclear Propulsion Core Production Capability; *Queen Elizabeth* carriers, Scout SV, Typhoon, Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme, CIPHER, Crowsnest, LE Tac CIS, Marshall, Successor, Type 26 Global Combat Ship, Apache Capability Sustainment Programme.



Bulldog armoured personnel carrier (FV430 Series)

In service (1960) 2006 - Present
 Fleet size 880
 Top speed 40 mph



Challenger 2 main battle tank

In service 1998 - Present
 Fleet size 227
 Top speed 37 mph



Panther protected patrol vehicle

In service 2006 - Present
 Fleet size 398
 Top speed 55 mph



Warrior infantry fighting vehicle

In service 1987 - Present
 Fleet size 781
 Top speed 46 mph



Titan armoured bridge launcher

In service 2007 - Present
 Fleet size 33
 Top speed 37 mph



Trojan armoured vehicle

In service 2007 - Present
 Fleet size 33
 Top speed 37 mph



CVR(T) Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked)

In service 1975 - Present
 Fleet size 654
 Top speed 45 mph

Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle

In service 1990 - Present
 Fleet size 75
 Top speed 37 mph



oured
 ncher
 Present



£50m Support Contract



The way ahead

The MOD's Equipment Plan for the next ten years – 2014-24 – forecasts costs of around £1.5 billion less than the forecast cost of the 2013-23 plan announced last year. *desider* looks at the detail and DE&S' list of successes

£163.9 billion

The Equipment Plan figures for 2014-24, £162.9 billion compared with £164.3 billion, continue to demonstrate the soundness and realism that has underpinned management of the defence budget. The small reduction shows DE&S' confidence in achieving efficiencies in delivery of support.

The Plan is the MOD's forecast budget to cover the costs of procurement and support of military equipment for the next ten years. In 2012 the MOD adopted a new approach to generate greater stability in its procurement activity by developing a budget for a 'core programme' of key equipment projects, with additional sums set aside for contingency and emerging requirements. It is updated annually.

For the period 2014 to 2024 the equipment budget is made up of procurement (£68.9 billion) and support (£80.1 billion) budgets, a central contingency reserve (£4.6 billion), and an unallocated budget (£9.2 billion) that the MOD has not yet committed to specific programmes.

The figures show substantial improvements to the procurement process. This includes a programme designed to continue improvements in forecasting accuracy; a focus on delivering equipment support more efficiently; and making enduring changes to DE&S which became a 'bespoke trading entity' in April 2014 with unique freedoms to allow the organisation to operate in a more business-like manner.

There has been a small reduction in the equipment budget which reflects confidence that efficiencies in delivery of equipment support can be achieved, providing the required output at reduced cost. A significant programme of work is underway to deliver efficiency savings and good progress has been made so far, with around £3 billion of potential efficiencies identified by end of October 2014. Equipment and support for the Armed Forces has continued to be delivered without making any reductions in the planned scope of the equipment programme, and during ABC 14 DE&S was able to invest £1.1 billion in additional capabilities, mainly a package of joint enablers.

Key points from this year plan include:

- As part of the MOD's drive to deliver continuous improvement in the Equipment Plan there are a number of large projects that are set to deliver efficiency targets. This includes the Complex Weapons pipeline and the Submarine Enterprise Performance Programme.
- DE&S has put in place a 'Forecasting Improvement Programme' designed to continue improvements in forecasting accuracy and deliver a better understanding of over or under-spend when it does occur, including the implications for future years.
- Other areas being addressed include work to understand historic performance, improving understanding of costs and to continue the improvement in understanding and managing financial risk within project teams.

Ships

£18.2 billion will be spent on surface ships over the next ten years, in comparison to £17.4 billion at the end of the previous planning cycle. This sector covers design, build and maintenance of surface ships together with the supply and maintenance of the equipment on board. This includes investment in:

- completion of the two *Queen Elizabeth* class aircraft carriers.
- design and development of the Type 26 Global Combat Ship, which will replace the Type 23 frigate.
- four new *Tide* class tankers, to provide modern ships for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary from 2016. The contract for all four vessels was placed in 2012 and the first will enter service from 2016.
- Three new Offshore Patrol Vessels, for which a firm price contract has been awarded to BAE Systems. The first ship is planned to enter service in 2017.

During Annual Budget Cycle 14 DE&S:

- renegotiated the *Queen Elizabeth* class carrier contract to ensure a better contract for the taxpayer by rebalancing the risk and reward mechanism. As a result, any future variation in price, whether up or down, will be shared



- equally between the MOD and industry.
- invested additional funding to purchase the Ice Patrol Ship, *HMS Protector*, which had previously been leased.
- updated *HMS Chiddingfold's* main propulsion engines during a major refit in Portsmouth.
- fitted a new long range radar (Artisan) to *HMS Iron Duke* which has provided a significant upgrade in capability.
- signed a contract for the maintenance and repair of 17 different Sonar and Electronic Warfare Systems fitted across the fleet, at a value of £600 million over the next ten years.



Submarines

Around £40 billion will be spent on submarines over the next decade in comparison to £38 billion at the end of the last planning cycle. This covers all submarine procurement and support and includes investment in:

- support to in-service submarines, including engineering and design authority support to the UK submarine flotilla to ensure that they remain safe, available and capable.
- delivery of seven *Astute* submarines, the initial support and training, as well as delivery of the *Astute* Capability Sustainment Programme.
- Successor submarine design and build activities at Barrow; the common missile compartment arrangements with the US; the command and control and naval base infrastructure upgrades required.
- support, procurement and design of naval nuclear propulsion systems.
- the nuclear weapons capability sustainment programme, which covers operation, maintenance and updating of the Atomic Weapons Establishment; the Trident missile system with the US; the UK/French collaborative Teutates project, and the provision of other services and activities across the Strategic Weapons System.

During ABC 14 DE&S:

- maintained continuous-at-sea deterrence with the *Vanguard* class submarines and provided *Trafalgar* and *Astute* class submarines to support Fleet operations.
- accepted into service and deployed *HMS Astute* and *HMS Ambush* (boats 1 and 2) launched *HMS Artful* (boat 3), progressed the construction of boats 4-6 and cut steel on *Astute* boat 7.
- increased the design maturity of the Successor submarine and its nuclear propulsion plant.

Land Equipment

Around £15.4 billion will be spent on Land Equipment over the next decade in comparison to £13.1 billion at the end of the previous planning cycle. This covers delivery and support of armoured, protected and support vehicles, operational infrastructure, soldier fighting systems, and training solutions. This includes:

- the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme, delivering capability enhancements and an extended service life.
- the Challenger 2 Life Extension Programme.
- the Scout Specialist Vehicle and Utility Vehicle programmes which will replace a range of tracked armoured vehicles reaching the end of their viable lifespan.
- modifications to equipment purchased as Urgent Operational Requirements for Afghanistan in order to optimise their continued utility.

During ABC 14 DE&S:

- invested additional funding from the headroom in the Scout Specialist Vehicle to ensure that there was a realistic funding profile for this programme, which subsequently enabled contract delivery in September 2014.
- progressed the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme, which passed its latest milestone – the Preliminary Design Review – in December 2013. The programme is advancing towards a series of integration and firing trials.
- supplied the Army Reserves with more than 16,000 quadrails and downgrips for their SA80 assault rifles, equipping them to the same standard as their regular counterparts. The contract was awarded in September 2013 at a cost of approximately £5.8 million with all items being delivered before the end of March 2014.
- regenerated 75 of 99 Viking Armoured Vehicles for the Royal Marines at a



cost of more than £30 million, meeting target dates.

- fielded to Afghanistan a new lightweight mine roller for use with Husky protected patrol vehicles.
- declared Full Operating Capability for the Future Power Capability which represents the delivery of 100 new fuel-efficient, variable speed generators and associated power distribution equipment at a cost of £9 million.

Weapons

£12.6 billion will be spent on the Weapons programme over the next ten years, in comparison to £11.6 billion at the end of the previous planning cycle. This covers spending on procurement of more sophisticated weapon systems, predominantly through the Complex Weapons Pipeline arrangement, a wide ranging agreement with our industry partners worth around £7 billion over the decade. This investment includes:

- the Common Anti-Air Modular Missile (CAMM), which evolved from the Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile and has been developed for the Future Local Area Air Defence (FLAADS) System for the Maritime and Land environments.



- manufacture of the Maritime variant of CAMM, known as Sea Ceptor, which will enter service on Type 23 Frigates in 2016.
- delivery of a new Future Anti-Surface Guided Weapon (FASGW) which will equip the Royal Navy's new Wildcat helicopters.
- During ABC 14 DE&S let two significant contracts (total value around £600 million) for FLAADS on Type 23 Frigates and the FASGW (Heavy).



Combat Air

Around £17.9 billion will be spent over the next ten years, in comparison to £18.5 billion at the end of the previous planning cycle. This covers fast jets, Unmanned Air Systems and military flying training, including the procurement of training aircraft. This investment includes:

- Typhoon capability, including integration of a suite of weapons capabilities that will enhance its utility in the ground attack role.
- the Joint Strike Fighter programme, a critical element of plans to deliver a high-end power projection capability for decades to come.
- Unmanned Air Systems.



During ABC 14 DE&S:

- invested £72 million in development of E-Scan radar to enhance capability of Typhoon and invested £130 million to develop the unmanned Future Combat Air System concept.
- received a third F-35B Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing variant Joint Strike Fighter.
- took delivery of the final Tranche 2 and initial Tranche 3 Typhoon aircraft.
- delivered capability enhancements to the Typhoon fleet including air-to-surface capability and enhanced interoperability with coalition forces.
- invested in Meteor, a beyond visual range air to air missile, which is currently being integrated onto the Typhoon fleet.

Air Support

Around £13.8 billion will be spent over the next ten years, in comparison to £13.6bn at the end of the previous planning cycle. This covers all large aircraft, including transport, air-to-air refuelling and large ISTAR platforms. This investment includes:

- the A400M future generation of strategic/tactical air transport aircraft.
- the continuation of the Voyager transport and air-to-air refuelling aircraft programme, which replaced the VC10 and TriStar fleets from last April.
- new Airseeker, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Rivet Joint aircraft to replace the Nimrod R1 and provide the UK with an airborne signals intelligence collection capability.

During ABC 14 DE&S:

- was able to invest in extending the planned life of the Sentinel surveillance aircraft from 2015 to 2018 and to bring forward purchase of two A400M transport aircraft.
- made good progress building up core military capability of the Voyager

air-to-air tanker and passenger transport aircraft with six aircraft delivered by last April.

- took delivery of the first Rivet Joint aircraft in November 2013 as part of the Airseeker capability.
- accepted into service the second of two BAE 146QC transport aircraft procured under an Urgent Operational Requirement in April 2013.
- took delivery of satellite communication equipment at the end of financial year 13/14 to begin modification of C17 fleet in financial year 14/15.
- took delivery of a cargo hold trainer in support of A400M training.

Helicopters

Around £11.1 billion will be spent on helicopter capabilities over the next ten years, broadly unchanged from the end of the previous planning cycle. This covers spending on all helicopter procurement and support. This investment includes:

- upgrades to existing airframes and investment in new ones.
- longer term rationalisation to four core helicopter fleets – Chinook, Merlin, Apache and Wildcat – with plans to sustain them until at least 2040.

During ABC 14 DE&S:

- invested additional funding in vital rotary wing safety across the helicopter fleet, additional funding for the future buy of Merlin helicopters, and brought forward purchase of six Wildcat helicopters.
- had Puma Mk2 helicopters released to service with the Royal Air Force in August 2013. The modifications made to the Puma fleet will significantly enhance





its performance and handling.

- committed to contracts in December 2013 to modify RAF Merlin Mk3/3a helicopters to enable their use in support of the Royal Navy Commando Helicopter Force. This will enable them to transport Royal Marines and vital cargos from sea to land.
- had the first Chinook Mk6 helicopters delivered to the UK and released to service with the RAF in April 2014; user training has begun. The first five of 14 aircraft ordered have been delivered, with the remainder forecast for delivery before the end of this year.
- committed to multi-year availability contracts for the provision of support to the Apache fleet and to the engines used on Chinook, Apache and Merlin fleets.

ISTAR

£4.9 billion is planned to be spent on ISTAR over the next decade, unchanged from the end of the previous planning cycle. This investment includes spend on intelligence networks and applications; CBRN detection and countermeasures; operational surveillance systems and electronic countermeasures; air traffic management and tactical data links. It excludes expenditure on Air ISTAR platforms in the Air Support Operating Centre, including Airseeker and the Reaper Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

During ABC 14 DE&S:

- invested additional funding on ISTAR capabilities such as Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) detection and countermeasures, as part of the early years £800 million joint enablers package.
- introduced the Land Environment Air Picture Provision programme to provide ground commanders with increased air situational awareness – the warning and interdiction of air threats, co-ordination of air activity, and deconfliction of airspace – leading to greater combat effectiveness.



- delivered three Large Access Devices to the US Department of Defense to support the elimination of chemical warfare agents from Syria; protective CBRN equipment for aircrew; and a reach-back capability to analyse CBRN-affected soil samples.

Information Systems and Services (ISS)

Around £16.9 billion will be spent on Information Systems and Services over the next decade, an increase from the planned spend of approximately £15.8 billion at the end of the previous planning cycle. This sector covers all expenditure on procurement of data and voice communications and the development and upkeep of the entire supporting network infrastructure.

During ABC 14 DE&S:

- invested additional funding in cyber defence capabilities as part of the early years £800 million joint enablers package.
- developed and integrated the next upgrade to the Bowman tactical communications system which integrates digital voice and data technology. It delivers significant

improvements to the software elements of the system, in particular the combat application and the commonality between software used in barracks, on exercise and on operations. The upgrade is currently on time and within budget and is expected to complete by next month.

- accepted into service the first two increments of the BAE Systems supplied Falcon communications system. This system offers highly resilient, scalable broadband and voice communications across a theatre of operations.



It's way beyond business a

Kerry Town is work town for Ebola-battling medics – and DE&S' medical team staff play their part

DE&S' Medical Delivery team – part of Logistic Commodities and Services – is reflecting on the busiest period of medical procurement and support since the beginning of Operations Telic and Herrick in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Since last September and the creation of Operation Gritrock, the UK defence support to the fight against the Ebola virus in Sierra Leone, the team has had to step up activity way beyond business as usual to provide medical support.

The Customer Support Team led by Major Al Keeling, and Logistic Services staff at Warehouse 33 in Donnington, led by Elaine Fitzpatrick with technical input from Capt Skippy Bridges at 2nd Medical Brigade, built and delivered a small bespoke field hospital from scratch in ten days. This had never been done by the

'The performance of this team epitomises the professionalism that exists across DE&S' – Brigadier Andy Brown, Head of Logistic Commodities

team before and 10,000 demands were made for 15,500 items, all of which had to be packed up for transportation in 25 Nato pallets. Staff Sgt Thomas provided specialist module build expertise, the Inventory Team placed thousands of orders from suppliers to achieve this and the project team provided the equipment. The team's Paul Sant deployed to the warehouse to identify the surgical equipment required and Major Keeling undertook the tactical packing.

With a scarcity of medical logistic personnel across Government WO Jamie Cook deployed to 2 Medical Brigade to provide medical logistic support in procurement and technical requirements, for the Department for International Development (DfID) and Save the Children. This work was pivotal to support training and enable the 12 Ebola treatment beds for healthcare workers to be set up in Kerry Town, Sierra Leone

and 20 standard treatment beds for locals. This rapidly expanded to 20 for workers and 100 for locals.

The stakes were raised when Kerry Town needed a bespoke medical laboratory, followed by three more for outlying places, requiring the team to become specialist medical lab procurers. Lisa Barnes and her inventory managers procured more than 800 non-codified items with no current procurement route, dealing with 55 companies across the world against steep timelines. Products ranged from face shields to a suitable isolation unit to conduct specialist Ebola testing.

The Department for International Development wanted to deal with one single point of contact in DES and the Medical team found itself procuring everything from frozen reagents to torches. Flt Lt Nathan Tamblin co-ordinated the effort which saw 150 Nato pallets-worth of stores procured containing tens of thousands of items. This equated to building a small Porton Down-style lab in Kerry Town in less than a month. The team continues to sustain these capabilities and is now in the process of handing this to a DfID contractor.

The Blood Supply Team under Capt Andy Miles was required to establish the blood supply chain while Defence Clothing had to provide large amounts of Ebola protective clothing at short notice.

With 22 Field Hospital personnel deployed to Sierra Leone the team was asked to equip another field hospital for the UK. This was brought forward by four months and finished inside 30 days. This work was co-ordinated by Maj Keeling with

input from Maj John Bell (33 Fd Hosp) and Capt Bridges (2 Med Bde). This was helped by the return of equipment from Afghanistan.

RFA Argus, which took much of the initial equipment to Africa, needed to be equipped as a casualty receiving ship in support of the Ebola effort. WO1 Cook was the lead for this work in advance of the ships medical staff, and staff in Warehouse 33 packed another 16 Nato pallets-worth of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals for the ship.

As a novel entry operation, Front Line Commands and Permanent Joint Headquarters were learning as they went, leading to the need for supply chain interventions by the Medical Delivery team to ensure the required environmental conditions for delicate medical products were maintained and irreplaceable stocks were not lost

Brigadier Andy Brown, Head of Logistic Commodities at DE&S, said: "I am delighted with the pace at which the team gripped all of the key operational issues, established a clear working plan and then proceeded to lead the



s usual!

way across defence in delivering against these really demanding targets. Fully understanding the life-saving nature of the work, they thrashed themselves and worked around the clock to successfully deliver. The performance of this team epitomises the professionalism that exists across DE&S.”

Brigadier Martin Bricknell, Head of Medical Operations and Capability at HQ Surgeon General, HQ JFC, added: “I would like to convey my appreciation for the thoroughly professional and agile way the Medical Delivery team has stepped up to deliver the initial acquisition of medical materiel in support of Operation Gritrock. I am particularly pleased that this has been achieved without compromising essential routine and related surge business, such as standing up 33 Field Hospital for the very high readiness role several months earlier than expected.

“Equally, on behalf of the Department for International Development, I also thank the team for helping to establish an effective outload and resupply chain, including blood products. Personal interventions by your Customer Support Team have avoided several cold chain failures, safeguarding £1 million of materiel and avoiding a three-month capability impact.”

RFA Argus in Sierra Leone



ATi project lead Chris Last fits an Italian ATi into a chamber – like fitting a ship into a bottle!

Team gets to work on uplift of systems for safe treatment of patients

SPECIFIC WORK was thrust on the Medical Delivery team to uplift the UK’s Air Transportable Isolator systems for the NHS and Department for International Development – these are systems operated by the RAF’s Tactical Medical Wing which provide for safe bio containment and supportive treatment of Ebola cases who may have to be evacuated.

The team was given seven weeks to provide the equipment uplift from two to 18 systems. But, with legacy systems designed in the 1970s, there were no manufacturers who could meet the demand.

PCS Isolators, a small company already providing limited support, was brought in with supply chain expertise for the legacy components. To manufacture further assets required reverse engineering from the original design. Unusual steps were taken by the delivery team to allow industry to ramp up their capabilities to meet demand. This saw liaison officers embedded with PCS Isolators and the major subcontractor, Specialised Canvas Solutions, who provided the flexible plastic containment envelope. Further support to these companies was given with military assistance from 5 Battalion REME and 21 Engineer Regiment, hiring extra facilities and purchases of additional plant machinery to meet the surge demand.

The UK ATi supply chain was heavily dependant on micro enterprises which presented challenges in meeting the timeline. The Medical Delivery team purchased similar systems from the Italian defence contractor OMP Engineering Italia – their system had evolved from the original UK design.

Rapid decompression testing was conducted at the Centre for Aviation Medicine at RAF Henlow to test the integrity of the Italian containment envelope as part of the work to achieve air clearance. The team continues to mature the support arrangements for the ATi for the duration of Operation Gritrock.

The 18th system was delivered in November with full capability completed by December. Further systems continue to be delivered from PCS Isolators.



Medical evacuation of a patient with suspected Ebola

From rags to riches

The sale of surplus military equipment is a useful sideline for the MOD, bringing quality kit to the High Street at a competitive price

Ever wondered what happens to stock that the MOD no longer requires? Is it given away? How is it that you can see people on the streets wearing MOD issue camouflage clothing? What about all of those ex-MOD Land Rovers, how do people manage to obtain those? The world of MOD disposals is far more interesting than you would think.

The Disposal Services Authority (DSA) – in Logistic Commodities and Services – is the sole authority for disposal of MOD equipment except nuclear, land and buildings. In the past year alone DSA has disposed of everything from ships to helicopters, Land Rovers to dinghies, field kitchens to teaspoons, sandals to ceremonial tunics. The return on sales can be measured in millions of pounds and, as a result of recent changes in policy, now goes directly to the Front Line Commands.

One half of the DSA is Commercial Disposals, primarily based in Bicester, disposing of all equipment not sold Government to Government. Sales include tenders, private treaty sales and occasionally auctions. The biggest percentage of sales is through marketing agreements with specialist companies.

One of the agreements is with Essex-

based Disposal Services Ltd (DSL), specialising in disposal of clothing and general stores. Once items have been cleared for disposal and collected, DSL warehouse staff will sort, grade and condition as required – a far from glamorous task. Pockets and pouches are checked to make sure they are empty, loose footwear is paired up – even a scuffed pair of boots will sell for more than two odd ones.

Some items may require specialist attention, for example the removal of badges and insignia from clothing. A dedicated team carries out the work, taking great care not to degrade the condition of the garment. This attention to detail maximises retail value and makes sure security and sensitivity are not compromised.

The requirement to maximise the return on items sees DSL thinking in different ways – the distinctive colour of one unit's uniform was proving a barrier to sales; the uniforms were dyed black and started to fly off the shelf.

DSL has developed on-line sales sites using most of the mainstream providers (eBay for example), and its own website offers a portal to the company's and other contractors' stock.

The website also includes a link to the DSA's own Government site.

Wholesale customers use DSL's on-site 'shop' and buy off the shelf; goods can be seen before purchase, while impulse purchase may follow. DSL has built a customer base as diverse as its commodities encompassing everything from individuals and collectors through to film production units.

Some items passed to the DSA are so specialist or so unique that bespoke sales routes are the only option.

Contractors are responsible for collection, storage, accounting, marketing and sale of items within their contract but must also abide by relevant health and safety legislation and comply with stringent environmental and landfill targets.

For more on the work of the DSA contact: DESLCSLS-SecCommsOffr@mod.uk



On line sites

www.ex-mod.com – all surplus military items

www.britishmilitarysurplus.co.uk – clothing only

www.fieldtextiles.co.uk – wholesale clothing only

Ways to help ease disposal – tips to military personnel:

1. Remove badges without damaging material; DSL can do this if necessary;
2. Don't cut material before sending to the warehouse;
3. Pair boots up using an elastic band



First class customer delivery

British Forces Post Office has been the link between home and the front line for those on operations for many years. With the withdrawal of most UK Forces from Afghanistan, it is looking at moves in a new direction

British Forces Post Office, handling many thousands of items of mail for the Armed Forces every year, is looking to expand its services to other government departments.

Based at RAF Northolt in west London, BFPO has traditionally supported operations, exercises and MOD establishments with letter, packet and parcel services. But as postal technology has advanced, particularly in the last five years, it has developed an impressive bank of core electronic services to offer customers.

Military and civilian staff who have deployed on operations will have invariably received e-bluey printed

letters, may have withdrawn cash from Horizon Online at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan, and may have unwittingly had their unit's protectively marked material handled by Postal and Courier Electronic Records.

Each new system was modelled, developed and integrated in concert with the MOD's Architecture Framework which now sees these capabilities fully rolled out with ongoing support. This activity is continuing for future projects such as updates to the BFPO's Commercial Receipts activities and development of the Mail Joint Operating Picture.

As part of the aim of being more customer friendly BFPO is looking to develop new apps – BFPO apps have been downloaded 1,161 times in the last three months – and electronic methods of communication, aiming to provide more app services that are faster, intuitive and more accessible.

Electronic services are still available to service personnel still based in Afghanistan while on the back of the withdrawal of most forces from Operation Herrick, BFPO's electronic services have been identified as core services for all future operations.

BFPO electronic services

Postal and Courier Electronic Records 2 (PACER 2) is a networked electronic accounting and track and trace system for processing and managing official mail worldwide; it also supports movement of personal mail and parcels to personnel serving overseas.

The Defence Courier Module will also do the same for all protectively marked materiel.

The system which had been installed at Camp Bastion and is still fielded in places around Kabul guarantees efficient receipt and sorting of mail. Mailbags in particular are quickly receipted using portable hand-scanners instead of manual tick sheets.

Mail to satellite locations is also

processed quicker as only one bag needs to be scanned and the remainder can be automatically receipted and sent onwards.

Horizon on Line (HoL) is the bespoke counter management system installed in every foreign post office including Camp Bastion

Sporting the latest Ingenico chip and pin card device, the system also has a link back to the UK banking system. This was vital during the Cyprus banking crisis where personnel and their families in Cyprus maintained access to cash withdrawals at post offices while local banks remained closed.

HoL enhances the range of services and products available to overseas personnel; for example, in addition to chip and pin services the system

will allow people to check their bank balance, top up mobile phones in advance of a return on R&R, pay bills, use the MoneyGram service and deposit money in dollars (or other currencies) on leaving an operational theatre.

In addition to traditional letters and parcels the BFPO offers an e-bluey service, a personal private mail capability.

Both the deployed person and friends and family need to register at ebluey.com to create an account. Then, using either the website or the free to download e-bluey app, messages can be sent electronically with uploaded photographs.

All e-bluey messages are printed and pressure-sealed so only the recipient of the e-bluey can see its contents.





Crisplant Sorter

- 3,000+ processed items per hour
- Large letters, packets, parcels
- Items up to 30kg and 1m wide
- 40 cascades chutes
- 72 'bomb bay' cage chutes
- 72 bag chutes
- X-ray scanners
- Six-sided camera image capture
- Barcode reading
- Voice and manual encoding
- Track & Trace to item level
- Automated billing
- Revenue protection



Electronic letter sorter

- 20,000+ items per hour
- Process up to C4 envelopes
- Automated billing
- Revenue protection
- Minimum item size: 153 x 89 x 0.18 mm; 2 grammes
- Maximum item size: 330 x 254 x 6.3 mm; 250 grammes

BFPO Apps

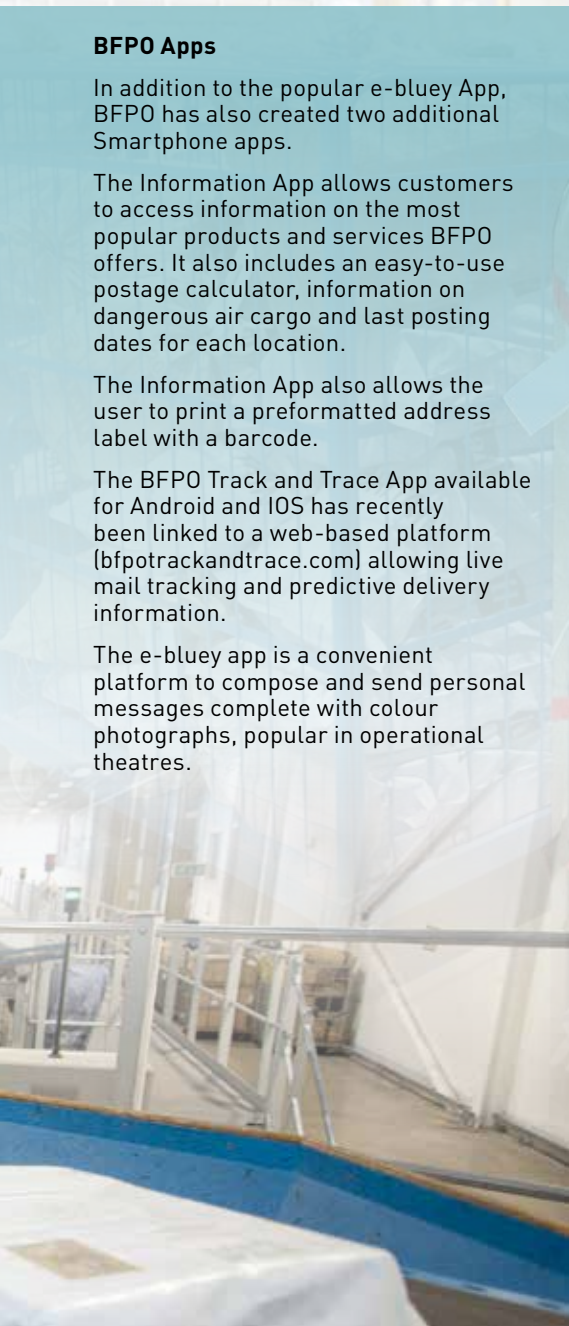
In addition to the popular e-bluey App, BFPO has also created two additional Smartphone apps.

The Information App allows customers to access information on the most popular products and services BFPO offers. It also includes an easy-to-use postage calculator, information on dangerous air cargo and last posting dates for each location.

The Information App also allows the user to print a preformatted address label with a barcode.

The BFPO Track and Trace App available for Android and IOS has recently been linked to a web-based platform (bfpotrackandtrace.com) allowing live mail tracking and predictive delivery information.

The e-bluey app is a convenient platform to compose and send personal messages complete with colour photographs, popular in operational theatres.



NEWSREEL

UK defence faces future

ANDREW Tyler, formerly chief operating officer at DE&S, has penned the first in a series of feature articles examining key challenges facing the defence and security industry faces and the capabilities which will be vital for the future. Dr Tyler, now Northrop Grumman's chief executive Europe, writes on how the UK can remain a world class fighting force. Further articles can be read at northropgrumman.ft.com

Pension boss

ROBERT Branagh, is the first non-executive director Chair of the new Armed Forces Pension Board. Mr Branagh is an experience non-executive director and has a business background in accountancy, commercial, governance and legal working environments. The new board will have seven employer members and seven employee members.

Dstl goes on tech hunt

DEFENCE Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) and Innovate UK are to invest up to £7.5 million in research and development to improve energy management on maritime vessels. Dstl is seeking proposals from companies with expertise in electrical systems, energy management or performance monitoring. Deadline for expressions of interest is at noon on 11th March.

Single source procurement – the future's Orange

REFORM OF Single Source Procurement – where there is no open competition – has come into force following Parliamentary approval.

The first stage of implementation has begun and covers all new and qualifying single source defence contracts worth £500 million or more, and relevant subcontracts worth £25 million or more.

The second stage will come into effect after 31st March and will cover qualifying defence contracts worth £5 million or more.

The new framework, called the Orange Book, requires that single source defence suppliers

operate on an 'open book' basis.

This will mean they will be held to account for their costings and that the MOD will be in a position to pursue better contract management.

The Orange Book will be enforced by the Single Source Regulations Office which will act as an independent regulator.

The new framework will secure better value for money for the tax-payer.

In due course savings to the defence budget are expected to be in the region of £200 million per annum.

Securing Abbey Wood



Left: Steve Lewis talks to a member of staff while, in the background, Andrew Barrett is on an MGS display.

Below: Samantha White, left, and Joanne Switalski talk about their jobs to visitors at their Abbey Wood event



It's top service from the team that keeps all at DE&S headquarters secure

MEMBERS OF the MOD's Guard Service who provide security at Abbey Wood have begun a new round of staff engagement in a bid to improve the services they offer.

The MGS has achieved the gold standard from the National Security Inspectorate – the UK's leading body for security and fire protection sectors.

In a bid to become the 'unarmed guarding provider of choice', the MGS at Abbey Wood recognises future strategy must include good customer service.

The MGS at Abbey Wood carries out a range of tasks, securing a site which can hold up to 10,000 staff and visitors.

Officers deal with access control, out of hours reception duties, sitewide patrols, floorplate breach patrols,

vehicle and bag searches and emergency procedures along with staffing the Abbey Wood security control centre.

Staff work closely with DE&S' infrastructure and health and safety teams along with

□ The MGS area head office is in Teak L0 in Abbey Wood North. Abbey Wood South has five operational managers, ten supervisors and 60 officers. All work shifts to cover Abbey Wood, 24 hours a day, every day

the MOD Police in the central gatehouse.

Eight officers hosted a customer engagement event in neighbourhood two recently with information display boards,

a manikin displaying future uniform, an aerial photograph showing MGS posts and related descriptions, photographs of officers at work and a desk display to show examples of what MGS officers are looking for on floorplate patrols.

Martin O'Kane, DE&S Deputy Head of Infrastructure, said: "This was an excellent initiative that provided staff with a rare opportunity to spend time with MGS officers and to form a better understanding of the extent of their duties.

"The event was well received and will have helped to strengthen the relationship between the MGS and other Abbey Wood staff."

Further events are planned at both north and south Abbey Wood sites.



Trident patrol as CDM visits Coulport

Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel, is pictured talking to staff during his visit to the naval armaments depot at Coulport



BERNARD GRAY, Chief of Defence Materiel, was handed an up-close look at the workings of the UK's nuclear deterrent during a visit to Scotland. CDM was shown around the Royal Naval Armaments Depot at Coulport, eight miles from the base at Faslane.

Coulport, which is part of Clyde naval base, is responsible for the storage, processing, maintenance and issue of the Trident Weapon System and the ammunitioning of all submarine embarked weapons. Coulport was established during the Cold War when it stored and loaded the UK's Polaris weapon system.

NEWSREEL

Engineering change

ENGINEERS Leading Change will be the theme at the Chief Naval Engineering Officers Conference on 31st March at *HMS Collingwood*. Conference will be opened by Vice Admiral Simon Lister, Chief of Materiel (Fleet) at DE&S, and the event will be attended by DE&S representatives. Conference will be followed by a dinner at *HMS Sultan*. Director Ships Tony Graham will host a half-day conference at *HMS Sultan* the day after.

Moving closer

DEFENCE Secretary Michael Fallon and his Irish counterpart Simon Coveney have signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the Republic of Ireland to ensure greater defence collaboration.

DE&S arranges cheaper fuel deal for staff

A NEW contract allows MOD staff to buy fuel at a discounted rate from nearly 1,800 fuel sites across the UK.

Staff now have access to the Allstar Premier Programme and the ability to buy cheaper fuel through the contract with Allstar Business Solutions. The four-year deal could save the MOD more than £1 million.

The MOD now has access to Allstar's

Discount Diesel Card which is accepted at Keyfuel Sites nationwide.

On production of the card the MOD will pay a reduced rate, typically saving 8p per litre.

Drivers will not physically experience the discount at the pump, they will use their card to pay the balance; the discount will then be applied when Allstar invoices the MOD.

The new contract will maintain the current level of service already provided by Allstar by using two types of fuel card within the UK, the Allstar Fuel Card and the Discount Diesel Card.

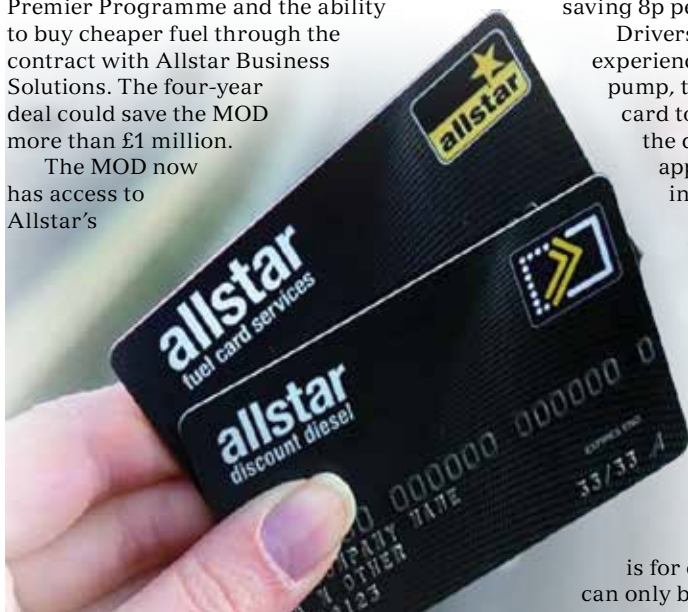
The Diesel Card is for diesel fuel only and can only be used at the Keyfuel

Sites. To help the driver find fuel stations where both cards can be used Allstar has created an online tool: <http://www.allstarcard.co.uk/calculators/allstar-fuel-stations/>. By selecting Allstar Premier Programme and inputting the postcode of the place where the vehicle will end the journey a list of sites will be displayed. Discount diesel sites will be highlighted with the discount logo; the normal logo will be displayed for standard sites.

Alternatively the Allstar App can be downloaded; this provides details of the Keyfuel sites on an i-phone, Android or Sat-Nav.

When hiring a car, drivers are encouraged to use either the online site or the app and are encouraged to plan their journeys in advance to make use of the Discount Diesel sites available.

■ DIN 2014DIN04-209 provides further detail on the process



Teams will be holding a series of sessions this year to share best practice on some of the most important projects and programmes the organisation is involved in. *desider* looks at what there is to be learned from them



Class output: Roddy Malone speaks about the Scout Specialist Vehicle



DE&S HAS launched a series of monthly Masterclasses that will pass on examples of best practice as the organisation gears up towards match fit 2017.

Last year, the Masterclass concept was piloted by the *Queen Elizabeth* carrier team. Due to its success, it was followed by the Scout team.

This year DE&S is launching a monthly programme kick-started last month by Inventory Management Transformation followed by the Marshall team this month.

Classes are important as they are prime examples of teams revolutionising change in DE&S. The Masterclasses will be the central event for the Learning from Experience strategy. They will be hosted by Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel, and senior DE&S leaders who will provide key insights and reflections.

Mr Gray said: "The Masterclasses will be a core programme of sharing best practice for teams of high profile projects and programmes. The events will be an opportunity to show how they overcame difficulties and to share their successes. It will enable staff in the organisation to take away key lessons that they can then look to implement in their own projects."

The Scout Masterclass was led by team leader Roddy Malone, joined by Head of Commercial Darren Bone and Financial Controller Nick Tiley. Mr Malone outlined how the project had reached contract award for 589 Specialist Vehicles and CDM provided insight at key points during the class as well as summing up the success of the final contract negotiations.

Pamela Jary, the DE&S Learning from

Experience lead, emphasised the role of the classes. She said: "Knowledge and experience are the most valuable commodities we own in DE&S. The Masterclasses will provide great opportunities for staff to hear how a team tackled its key challenges and created success. Sparing one hour per month to attend one of the classes is a sound investment in acquiring knowledge from others' experience."

'It's a chance to see how a team works together and what the roles of the team leaders are'

The classes will allow staff in other operating centres the chance to see what is going on in areas that may be unfamiliar to them and to meet staff they don't normally interact with.

"We will select projects relevant to a wide audience to show how we are changing DE&S as we transition to 2017. It's a chance to see how a team works

together and what the roles of the team leaders are," said Katherine Hollingworth of DE&S' Corporate Communications who is working with the Learning from Experience Team to organise the events.

"People will get an insight into what our 1* and 2* leaders do. People may see news in the media of a big contract being let and its effects on the defence agenda. They will have the chance to question the team members on how they reached contract signing and what issues they faced."

Sessions will see team members give a unique perspective on their project with a round-up of events by a senior leader. Following each presentation there will be a question and answer session.

"It will be a holistic view, from commercial to project manager to team leader, showing how different levels of the project come together, also fostering networking and interaction," Katherine said.

Best practice and lessons learned from each event will be shared on the Learning from Experience web pages.

Details of further masterclass topics will be advertised on the intranet.

Typhoon contract builds on support success

THE HEAD of DE&S' Fast Air Support team has hailed an extension of in-service support to the Typhoon as an opportunity to continue developing principles of joint working with industry.

BAE Systems has been awarded a £112 million contract to extend the Typhoon Availability Service (TAS) for the RAF's fleet for another 15 months.

The contract extension means the company will continue to work alongside the RAF in meeting Typhoon's operational requirements until next year.

The extension will help sustain around 650 jobs for BAE Systems' personnel at RAF Coningsby and RAF Lossiemouth supporting the Typhoon fleet.

Air Commodore Keith

crew training, maintenance of the aircraft in addition to servicing, which includes providing technical support and managing spares, repairs and logistics.

Nigel Davey, BAE Systems Director for Military Air Support said: "This agreement is a continuation of a strong partnership with the MOD and RAF to support its Typhoon fleet.

"Over the past six years we have worked hard to develop a service which ensures the RAF is able to meet its operational requirements while providing the best value for the UK's taxpayers.

"BAE Systems is proud to support the fleet at RAF Coningsby, RAF Lossiemouth and in the Falkland Islands as it continues to perform its vital role in safeguarding



Typhoons pictured over the USA last month

Bethell said: "This contract extension builds on the success of the Typhoon Availability Service contract which has supported the RAF Typhoon Force over the last six years.

"It provides the opportunity to develop the principles of joint working between industry and the MOD/RAF to deliver an efficient and effective fast jet logistics support package."

BAE Systems is responsible for delivering Typhoon aircrew and ground

our nation both at home and overseas."

BAE Systems' work on the TAS contract has delivered tangible savings. For example, from 2013, through increased efficiencies and continued improvement in aircraft performance, the company has been able to increase the amount of time between Typhoon's maintenance intervals from 400 to 500 hours. This generated a saving to the MOD of more than £100 million without compromising safety.

LTPA

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DE&S invited to saddle up for the Race Across America . . .

DE&S staff are being invited to take part in one of the world's longest cycling events – 3,000 miles across the USA – later this year.

Starting on 20th June the Race Across America is a time trial from San Diego on the west coast to Annapolis on the east. It has become one of cycling's most renowned endurance races and one of the world's toughest physical challenges.

Almost entirely self-sufficient, teams must negotiate extremes in terrain, temperature and individual comfort, and typically 'relay' through 50+ checkpoints, 24 hours a day to complete the course within the nine-day time limit.

As part of the MOD's Defence Sports and Recreational Association's (DSRA) 25th anniversary celebrations it will be supporting a team of current MOD civilians in the 34th running of the event.

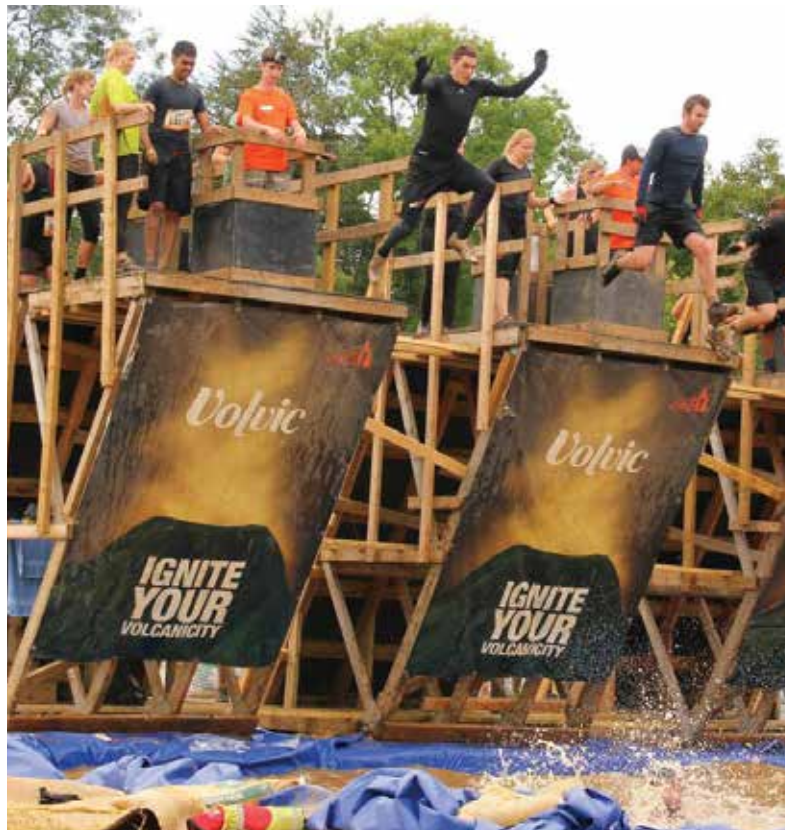
"Among many other things, adequate preparation, careful team selection, group cohesion, individual resilience and a collective sense of humour will be vital to a successful race," said Dom White, DSRA secretary and team principal.

The DSRA team will likely consist of four riders and six support crew, all of whom will be MOD or trading fund staff and DSRA members. As well as ensuring as safe and swift a journey across the USA as possible, each will manage one or more assigned areas of responsibility (navigation, nutrition, pacing strategy, bike maintenance etc) and have to work together for up to two weeks, often in confined spaces and with reduced sleep.

"The project is anticipated to bring together staff from many of the department's business areas or services," said Mr White. "The team will not be finalised until the spring and we are looking to hear now from those interested in joining as riders or support crew."

Representatives from DSRA (and later, from members of the team itself) will be visiting major defence establishments throughout 2015 to raise awareness of DSRA and talk about this 25th anniversary project.

- For further information on DSRA or the Race Across America, visit the DSRA Intranet Page or contact Dom White at MODCiv-DSRA2@mod.uk



Glorious mud: competitors take part in last summer's Tough Mudder. DE&S entries will be doubly welcome this year as the DSRA continues its health and fitness drive

. . . and there's a muddy keep-fit challenge adopted by the MOD too

TOUGH MUDDER, an event challenging competitors to battle through a series of mud obstacles, has been brought into the MOD's sporting calendar.

The west country event sees a number of Abbey Wood competitors take part each year.

It has now been brought into the calendar of the Defence Sports and Recreation Association as part of its bid to improve health, morale and fitness of MOD civilian staff.

DSRA has been working to introduce new events into its sporting year for 2015. And Tough Mudder will feature on the agenda at Cirencester Park on Saturday, 22nd August.

"I'm very pleased that discussions I've had with the DSRA team have resulted in the introduction of Tough Mudder into their sports calendar with such enthusiasm," said Matt Strzelecki of DE&S Technical, who took part along with teammates in last summer's event.

"I look forward to introducing these types of events as a regular part of the DSRA calendar which will hopefully attract many more members to the association."

Tough Mudder is a 10-12 mile obstacle course, designed to test strength, stamina, mental grit, and overall teamwork while completing 20+ obstacles on the course.

□ Two well-known staff at Yeovilton have retired. After 53 illustrious years the Tailoress Peggy Caren and her assistant Brenda Purchase have celebrated their final day at the Royal Naval Air Station.

Peggy was 23 when she began her tailoring career at Yeovilton. She was joined by Brenda 20 years later and the two have been sewing uniforms for countless Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel from the junior up to the First Sea Lord ever since.

Pictured from left: Brenda Purchase, First Sea Lord Admiral Sir George Zambellas, Peggy Caren and Commanding Officer of RNAS Yeovilton Commodore Jock Alexander





Hannah Weir (left), Laurence Bryant (centre) and Sheila Smart (right) present the money to members of the Great Western Air Ambulance

Weapons staff tuck into naming contest

THE WEAPONS operating centre's tuck shop, together with donations from the 'Name the Reindeer' Christmas draw, has raised £1,000 for centre's chosen charity, The Great Western Air Ambulance.

Together with tuck shop organisers Sheila Smart and Hannah Weir, Director Weapons Laurence Bryant presented a cheque to staff and crew of the Air Ambulance at their base on Filton airfield.

The winning name for the reindeer, drawn by Mr Bryant, was 'Capricorn'.

Prize winners: 1st Prize: Capricorn – reindeer and Christmas goodies: Simon Stevens (MAWS); 2nd Prize: Paola – Christmas jumper and goodies: Wayne Otley (IGMR); 3rd Prize: Opal – small cuddly reindeer: Christine Lonsdale (SHORAD); 4th Prize: Holly – small cuddly reindeer: Richard Diaper (COS); 5th Prize: Scratcher; selection of chocolates: Mark Jones (ADS).

Years of loyal service earns the gold standard

AN ABBEY Wood Warrant Officer – part of the German Liaison team at DE&S – has received one of the highest peacetime awards which can be bestowed by the German Armed Forces.

WO2 Dieter Honecker was presented with the Gold Cross of Honour for his 27 years of service with the Bundeswehr in a ceremony at Abbey Wood.

Father of two Dieter has been the military assistant to the German liaison officer at DE&S for the last three-and-a-half years – he returns to Germany in July

– and was presented with his medal by the head of the German delegation in the UK, Oberst Frank Hartwig.

The ceremony took place on the floorplate of the Land Domain and Army Customer team by the team's leader Brigadier Colin McClean,

who welcomed guests in English and German.

WO Honecker, a logistician, joined the German Army in 1987 and began his first multinational appointment in HQ Landcent in Heidelberg. He has since deployed to Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina. His logistic experience and advice on how to ensure reliable logistic support to operations has always been appreciated.

Since May 2011 he has worked at Abbey Wood, and is assistant to the new German liaison officer, Lt Col Michael Flor.

The Cross of Honour was introduced in 1980 on the 25th birthday of the German Bundeswehr by then secretary of Defence Hans Apel. The Cross has bronze, silver, and gold grades and honours outstanding service.



Dieter and wife Michaela at Abbey Wood

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General leads the DE&S way in impressive parade of honours

LT GEN Chris Deverell has been knighted in the New Year's Honours list which again sees a number of DE&S staff rewarded for their work.

Lt Gen Deverell, pictured below, has been Chief of Materiel (Land) at DE&S since June 2012 when he also became Quartermaster General of UK Armed Forces.

Lt Gen Deverell said: "I am honoured to have been appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in the New Year's Honours List. These awards are always evidence of the opportunities and support provided by family, friends and colleagues over many decades. The people of DE&S are part of that list.



"Our job, of course, is not yet done. But we can afford to stop and reflect on the recognition afforded by such awards to the critical and successful work that we do."

His KCB tops the list of honours at DE&S which sees Alasdair Stirling, Head of Future Submarines, become a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) for his work in defence.

Mr Stirling's team is managing design and development of the Successor submarine to the *Vanguard* class boats.

He said: "I am very surprised and delighted to be honoured for doing exciting jobs with dedicated and skilled people in government service.

"I am also thrilled for my wife and family as they have been invaluable support. We are all looking forward to the 'big day' but I am slightly apprehensive about the difficult questions that I may be asked!"

Mr Stirling, right, previously led the In Service Submarines support team, managing safety and availability and safety of the submarine flotilla. His earlier career included project management of the *Astute* class submarines and managing the commissioning and initial service of the ship lift at Clyde naval base.

Elsewhere on the list are two OBEs and a number of MBEs. Gp Capt Mark Hunt earns his OBE for his work in safety analysis which has led to better understanding of airworthiness.

Among the MBEs are Carol Scott of the Force Protection team for her sterling work supporting military operations. WO Andrew James, office manager of the Joint Services Support Team, is rewarded for his support to those suffering as a result of their service on operations.



KCB
Lt Gen Chris Deverell (Chief Of Materiel Land)

For his contribution, particularly in the field of equipment support

CBE
Mr Alasdair Stirling (Future Submarines)

For services to defence

OBE
Capt Paul Casson (Formerly Director Queen Elizabeth class project, now Royal College of Defence Studies)

For his leadership and management of the project to build the new generation of capital ships

Gp Capt Mark Hunt (Air ISTAR Type Airworthiness Authority)

A pioneer in the application of safety analysis to enable better understanding of airworthiness risk, which has supported the employment of Sentinel, Sentry and Airseeker on operations

MBE
Mr James Bowyer (SPCISR)
Mrs Carol Scott (Force Protection)

For services to defence
For support of military operations
For services to the Armed Forces
For services to the Armed Forces

Mr Melvin Lee (Janke)

Mr Michael Whatton (KBR)

WO John Morgan (Formerly TriStar Contract Monitoring leader)

For a pivotal role in the development of the TriStar depth maintenance contract
For support to others suffering as a result of operations

WO Andrew James (JSAU)

MSM

WO Michael Turner (DSCOM)
WO Mark Portman (Submarine Upkeep Technical Support Cell)

Partners join the list of honours for scientific expertise



AMONG DE&S' partners there was an OBE for Ian Elgy at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory for life-saving work on vehicle crew protection while Richard Burlend received an MBE for his engineering and scientific expertise.

Mr Elgy, left, said: "An OBE is beyond my expectations for my work. Nobody who works in the field of armour and protecting troops does so for awards or accolades, but it is fantastic to find that the work I have done is appreciated in this way."

Mr Burlend, right, who has worked for the MOD for 40 years, added: "Any success has been achieved by working with some excellent colleagues. The work has been varied and diverse in nature, always a challenge but at the same time interesting and rewarding."



Apprentices go in for team bonding



Left: DE&S engineering apprentices on their bonding exercises on the Cornish coast

A GROUP of DE&S apprentices at Devonport naval base have taken part in an adventure training week in the south west as part of their course.

The engineers, in the second year of a three-year advanced apprenticeship, spent a week in tents coping with bad weather on the Lizard Peninsular in Cornwall kayaking and orienteering.

The apprentices took part in an adventure training week in association with Cornwall College, ShelterBox and Lizard Adventure. It followed a similar event on Dartmoor involving teams of apprentices from Abbey Wood.

The students did not let bad weather

dampen their spirits as they also undertook self-reflection and teamwork exercises.

Apprentice Kris Majer said: "The whole week was thought-provoking and an eye-opener. Brilliant all round – five stars."

Axel Nicks said the week was important for team-bonding and added: "The activities were really fun and although they were things I had done before I still learnt a few things!"

The outdoor adventure was preparation for an intensive HNC in Marine Engineering at Cornwall College, which started last month. To add to the

challenge the students are due to complete the HNC, normally lasting two years, in only six months.

The week, organised by Lizard Adventure, was designed to bond the group to work as a team and support each other throughout the HNC course.

Ben Ham said: "It was an exciting and challenging week combining the right amount of work and play, as well as making some unique opportunities available for us to try.

"Overall the week was invaluable with regards to mental preparation for the HNC itself and, most importantly, it was a really enjoyable time."

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:

2015DIN01-003: This DIN outlines the changes to Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 and Early Departure Payment 05 legislation. It announces additional changes to secondary legislation and follows up a previous DIN in 2013 which highlighted aggregation policy issues.

2015DIN04-003: Amendments are being made to the contents of operational medical modules, which provide the equipment and materiel component of deployed medical operational capability. Management is conducted by the Medical and General Supplies team.

2015DIN05-001: With effect from 19th December 2014 the Defence Medical Services has amalgamated the 2* roles of Commander Joint Medical Command and Commander Defence Primary Healthcare to establish a single head of healthcare delivery: Director Healthcare Delivery and Training. The post will be based at DMS (Whittington).

2015DIN05-003: This reminds branches of the reduction in the Public Records Act's 30-year rule and provides instruction on the handling of those records older than 15 years of age.

A DIN Index Search replaced the annual DIN indexes at the end of 2014. More information from the link below: http://pppaintranet.chris.r.mil.uk/business/dins/din_index.php



Light gun in heavy move to Dartmoor

A COMMANDO Helicopter Force Merlin Mk3 is pictured supporting 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery training from the Royal Citadel base in Plymouth last month. With weather poor at Plymouth and Dartmoor, cloud bases down to around 400 ft and visibility, at times, of less than 2km, the aircraft's first move was from the confined area of the Citadel with an eleven-strong team in patrol order with a simulated 500kg pallet of ammunition underslung on the cargo hook onto Dartmoor. Returning to the Citadel, the second move took the 1,900kg L118 105mm Light Gun, also underslung, to the moor.