



Defence Electronics &  
Components Agency

# DECAnews

The magazine of the Defence Electronics and Components Agency

May 2017



# Editor's foreword



Welcome to the second edition of DECAnews. In this issue we look at the significant changes that have happened throughout DECA since the last edition.

On pages 4 and 5, we highlight the support solutions DECA has developed for Typhoon that offer the potential to reduce costs through innovative solutions not only for Typhoon, but also throughout Defence.

Our first DVD exhibition under the DECA brand created an opportunity for us to communicate our capability within the Land environment. Read about this event on page 6.

DECA hosted the Aerospace Wales members forum, welcoming industry members and Welsh Government officials. Read about the meeting on page 8.

The tremendous news of the announcement of the UK F-35 Lightning II component support work assignment is detailed on pages 12 and 13 confirming DECA's global status and underwriting MOD's decision to retain DECA as a key strategic asset to UK Defence.

We welcomed the Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns to our Sealand site in January providing him with a detailed insight into our capability. Details of this visit can be found on page 14.

2016 saw the centenary year of the DECA Sealand site and pages 16 and 17 looks back at some of the celebratory events. Further detail about staff achievements, Imperial Service Medal awards and acknowledgement of those individuals that have provided 40 years' service can be found on pages 18 to 23.

This newsletter is intended as a key communications tool to DECA staff and our key stakeholders and customers providing a regular window into our work and capability and I thank everyone for their contributions and look forward to receiving more for future editions.

Editorial contact  
hannah.jukes-jones@deca.mod.uk  
Military: 95551 5137 or 01785 785137

# Contents

Editors foreword	2
CE comment	3
Typhoon support	4
Success at DECA's first DVD exhibition	6
In focus; Tim Walton	7
Disability confident committed	7
DECA hosts Aerospace Wales members forum	8
Capability spotlight	10
UK wins global F-35 Lightning II support work assignment	12
Secretary of State for Wales announces UK Industrial Strategy at DECA	14
Momentous centenary celebrations	16
Imperial Service Medals awarded	18
Employee spotlight	19
40 years service recognised	20
Staff achievements	22
Competition	24

Front page photographs: Clockwise from top left; F-35 © Crown Copyright; Secretary of State for Wales visits DECA; The Centenary Committee team; Typhoon © Crown Copyright  
Inside front cover photograph; UK F-35B Lightning II at Elgin Air Force Base, Florida © Crown Copyright

# CE comment



"In writing the CE comment for this edition of DECAnews, it hardly seems possible that we are already moving into our third year as a stand alone Executive Agency!

I am, of course, extremely proud to be able to look back on a second successful and extremely eventful year for the Agency, where the efforts of everyone in DECA has again contributed to us maintaining our critical outputs to customers and successfully meeting, and often exceeding, our contractual and performance targets.

"It was good too that, in our celebrations of Sealand's centenary year, MOD's decision to retain us as a key strategic asset for the UK was so emphatically endorsed. It is perhaps unsurprising that one of the stand-out moments of DECA's second year for me was being able to announce to DECA colleagues the outcome of the competitive process for F-35 component maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade. To find out that we had not only been assigned the majority of the European F-35 activity we had bid for, but that the US F-35 Joint Project Office had decided that DECA should be the proposed 'global' repair hub for the initial phases of F-35 component work was truly special. This landmark decision is undoubtedly a game changer for us all in DECA and one that goes a long way in securing the future of the Agency for potentially decades to come.

"I encourage you all to read further about how this success was achieved in the F-35 article from Andy Stokinger, DECA's F-35 Project Officer on page 12.

"The continuing interest in what we do to lower support costs to defence, from across MOD and industry, has maintained DECA's high profile following assignment and the numerous visits we saw in 2016 has continued at pace.

As well as the frequent VIP visits in relation to our F-35 opportunity, we have hosted similar VIP visitors from across UK Government, Welsh Government, MOD and industry including a visit from the Secretary of State for

Wales, Alan Cairns to announce the new UK Industrial Strategy. You can read more about this visit on page 14. That UK government chose Sealand as one of the sites to make this announcement is in itself testament to the hard work and effort that we have all made in the early year's of the Agency that have cemented our position at the heart of government policy, the Export and Prosperity agenda and launched DECA onto the global stage.

"At the last Corporate Brief, I was also particularly pleased that I was able to let DECA colleagues know that we are beginning to see the fruits of these visits through encouraging signs of new work at both Sealand and Stafford. You can read in detail about the new Typhoon opportunities on page 4 but we have also seen increases in Land communication and navigational aids test and repair, Maritime development tasking, electrical and instrument activity at Sealand as well as increases in cryogenic activity at Stafford.

"Another positive change has seen the introduction of the CE Comms lunches where I have particularly enjoyed discussing your views and ideas and I thank you all for your contributions. We have also started a new apprenticeship scheme for 2017 which will see opportunities open at both Stafford and Sealand.

"Our visitors continue to leave with a lasting impression of the highly professional team we have at Sealand, Stafford and deployed areas in support of MOD across the UK. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all DECA colleagues for so ably supporting these successes and, I have no doubt, helping to secure future opportunities to expand our support for equipment across all Defence environments."

# Typhoon support

DECA continues to grow support solutions for Typhoon. In this feature Ian Ford and Derek Underwood explain how we are working to reduce costs by providing innovative repair-not-replace solutions for Typhoon.

Ian said, "For the past six years, DECA has been working closely with the Typhoon In-service Delivery Team to provide cost effective alternative support solutions to avoid unnecessary costs and extended lead times on replacement Typhoon items. DECA and the Typhoon In-service Delivery Team worked together to produce repair schemes where items could be repaired-and-not-replaced. This work originally focussed around cables, but is now expanding into aircraft components.

"Similarly, DECA has produced calibration solutions where the Delivery Team identified issues with the existing supply chain. With the signing and launch of the new Typhoon Total Availability eNterprise (TyTAN) contract, DECA are well positioned to continue to offer further innovative solutions contributing to significant cost savings as well as improving equipment availability."

"Here Derek and I explain specific examples where DECA has provided best value for defence."

## Typhoon headset cable modification

DECA carried out modifications to Typhoon headset extension lead cables to support MOD operational requirements.

This important modification enabled improved communication between pilot and ground crew helping to ensure effective aircraft release.

DECA's skills on reverse engineering enabled the team to produce electrical schematic drawings that ensured

the Test Equipment Product Lines department could modify the cables.

Just two days after receiving the equipment at DECA, 41 squadron successfully tested an initial modified cable at RAF Coningsby. On proof of concept, further cables shortly followed with the final consignment hand delivered by DECA to the Typhoon Support Centre at RAF Coningsby.

In a letter D Rhodes, from the Typhoon Support Centre in Coningsby, said, "On behalf of the Typhoon Support Centre I want to take the time to express my appreciation for the exceptional service provided by the DECA Engineering Development Team during the development and delivery of this requirement for Typhoon."

## Typhoon generator test stand

Currently Typhoon power generator testing is undertaken by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). To overcome extended turn-round-times a new test facility has been commissioned by the MOD that has been located at DECA. This compliments the existing Power generator test and repair capability already at DECA allowing the filter bench testing of Typhoon generators.

Key milestones already achieved:

- Typhoon Generator Test Rig arrived at DECA in February
- purpose built facility ready for installation and commissioning
- first Integrated Drive Generator stripped and re-built to prove tooling, DECA capability and procedures

## Repair-not-replace test equipment cables

Over the past four years, DECA has provided consultancy support to the Typhoon In-service Delivery Team in developing repair solutions for test equipment cables. The portfolio has increased to 84 different cable types resulting in over 720 cable repairs. This includes fibre optic repair capabilities as well as cable production and manufacture.

## On-Shore special-to-type test equipment calibration

DECA has provided calibration consultancy expertise to Typhoon for many years. This has resulted in the development of in house calibration solutions for over 75 different line items in DECA's Tri-Service calibration laboratory including a managed service to sub-contractors.

## TEMPEST and Electro Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) capability

DECA supported the Typhoon In-service Delivery Team to overcome an operational issue and improve the solution for aircraft cryptographic data fill cables.

As part of this, DECA has developed a relationship with the Communications Electronic Security Group approved Test House for Tempest and EMC testing.

After successful Tempest/EMC testing and In-service Delivery Team approval of the prototype cables, DECA are now manufacturing cables to support the Typhoon fleet.



## Typhoon maintenance platform inspection contract

DECA has recently won a contract to provide routine maintenance to Typhoon adjustable maintenance platforms at RAF Coningsby.

The contract will involve on-site inspections of the equipment that is vital for the maintenance of Typhoon. Maintenance will be carried out to meet Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations ensuring the compliance and safety of the platforms. Under this contract, the RAF has agreed that the DECA team will now service all of these platforms at the Coningsby site.

## Typhoon composite cylinders inspection and test

The DECA Airborne Bottle Bay has begun to inspect composite cylinders in support of Typhoon following on from the successful work carried out in support of Tornado by the DECA team at Stafford.

The specialist cylinders, which carry nitrogen and air, are smaller and lighter than the steel cylinders traditionally used and require DECA's specialist support capabilities. The cylinders are sent to DECA for inspection, examination, hydrostatic test to BSEN 11623:2002 and BSEN 1802:2002 standards and pressure tested up to 6526 psi before being prepared for dispatch to front line Typhoon units.

The DECA Airborne Bottle Bay is UKAS accredited and is able to perform hydrostatic testing up to a massive 10,000psi!

## Bespoke container provides storage solution for Typhoon 18CWT hoist

DECA Carpentry and Lifting Tackle teams have designed and provided a bespoke container solution for the Typhoon 18 CWT hoist.

The Typhoon airframe teams found that separating the hoist arm from the winch to store had the potential to lead to problems with over-winding. The Typhoon teams approached DECA for a storage solution to enable the hoist arm to remain attached to the winch mechanism for storage preventing this from occurring.

DECA designed a specific-to-content-container to accommodate the hoist arm, adding internal furniture to ensure the hoist fitted in its entirety into one container together with any accessories. The DECA team also ensured the design was weighted in such a way that the container was balanced throughout the whole length overcoming any issues when moving the container given the considerable weight of the winch!

Head of Account Management Derek Underwood concluded by saying, "Through this work, DECA are providing real and tangible cost savings to MOD as well as significantly reducing turn-around-times. This benefits Typhoon operations both in the UK and worldwide by increasing the availability of the Typhoon platform.

"These recent increases in the DECA portfolio prove the growing confidence that the customer and industry have in our capability to support Typhoon. This reinforces DECA's involvement in the new TyTAN supply chain."

Aled Evans Project Manager for Typhoon Avionic Test equipment also said, "I have, over the last few years, worked with DECA developing innovative support solutions which has included calibration of test equipment, manufacture and repair of associated cables. This service has provided improved turn-round times along with value-for-money solutions.

"Flexibility of the service has seen DECA provide support to the Typhoon at various locations in the UK and overseas. Recent initiatives have included providing EMC and TEMPEST clearance for newly designed cryptographic cables and a soon to be installed Typhoon Generator Test Stand to provide a test and repair service for various generators. DECA continues to provide a responsive, flexible and cost saving service, which will continue under the new TyTAN contract."

# DECA's first DVD exhibition

**Geraint Spearing, DECA's Chief Executive and members of the Business Development team represented DECA on a stand at the DVD exhibition in September 2016. This is the first time DECA has exhibited at Millbrook, a predominantly Land centric event, which provided an opportunity for DECA to demonstrate capability to Land customers.**

Attendees came primarily from DE&S, the front line commands including Army Headquarters, with representatives from the Defence Academy, military training schools and Permanent Joint Headquarters. DECA representatives engaged directly with military stakeholders and DE&S colleagues to understand the broad support requirements necessary to sustain the British Army.

DECA participation provided the opportunity to demonstrate the wide range of in-house repair capabilities available to MOD customers and the

wider Defence industry, an opportunity which aligned with ministerial direction to expand our service offering into the Land sector.

The DECA stand enjoyed visits from many high profile MOD customers which included:

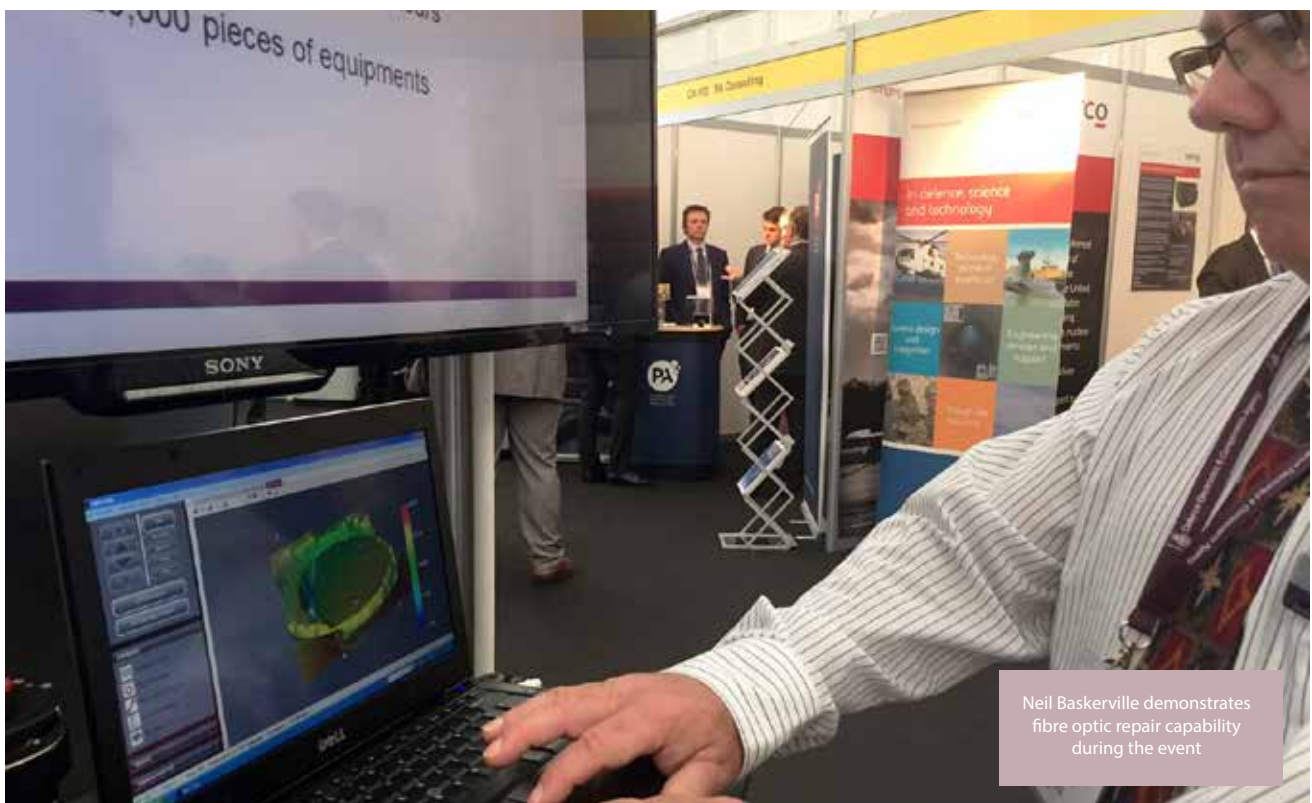
- Major General Paul Jaques - Chief of Materiel (LAND)
- Brigadier Duncan Capps - Head DSCOM
- Roger West - Director Land Delivery
- Lt Colonel Paul Fletcher - Armoured Vehicle Programme, Delivery Lead
- Ravi Venchard - Land Commercial
- David Roberts - BATCIS, Bowman and Falcon In-service Lead
- Lt Colonel Wayne Forrest - J4 PJHQ

During the show Minister for Defence Procurement, Harriot Baldwin MP delivered a speech saying, "I think this event is really a truly impressive reminder of the importance of equipping and supporting our forces with the kit that they need, when they need it and it shows how many people are involved in that effort.

"Its events like this, with its potent mix of Army, Industry and Defence relationships experts where ideas take hold, where relationships are formed, and where things get done.

Ian Cole, DECA Business Development Director stated, "DVD proved to be an excellent opportunity for us to engage with customers and suppliers from the Land environment and we are now looking to develop these relationships further. Indeed, as a result of engagements on the DECA stand we have commenced work on new production and development tasks and are holding on-going discussions around opportunities to work together with two industry parties."

This 12th DVD event demonstrated how the UK's biggest military vehicle demonstration has moved from strength to strength to become the premier Land equipment and support engagement event in the defence calendar.



Neil Baskerville demonstrates fibre optic repair capability during the event

# In focus; Tim Walton



**Tim Walton is an Independent Non-Executive Director (NED) on the DECA Board. Here Tim details his past experiences and reveals a small snap shot of his life outside his DECA responsibilities.**

Tim tells us, "I joined the DECA board in July 2015 and I am delighted to work with an organisation with significant opportunities to develop both existing and new products and services to retain

its position as a key supplier to MOD and commercial customers.

"For the last eight years I have undertaken NED roles with various organisations, but now it's good to be back in the Aerospace and Defence sector where I have spent most of my career.

"Currently, I also work in other part time roles for the British Standards Institute and the Single Source Regulations Office, another part of MOD. I am a Chartered Engineer, a Fellow of the British Computer Society and a Professional Member of The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining.

"For 30 years I worked at Rolls-Royce, originally as a Materials Engineer and subsequently in various senior technical, commercial and operational roles including manufacturing, logistics, procurement, IT and e-Business. My assignments included leadership of

two subsidiary companies and the negotiation and implementation of major outsourcing and joint venture initiatives. I also worked at Arup and London 2012 before starting my non-executive director work with NHS Direct, The Department for Business, the Accent Group and the Highways Agency.

"Now that I work part time, my wife and I enjoy looking after the animals, a pony and a dog. Deserted by my grown-up children, I also enjoy fly fishing for wild trout in Derbyshire and Staffordshire, and the occasional support of Southampton Football Club the supplier of top class players and managers of both Merseyside teams!

"I am looking forward to continued success for DECA in 2017, meeting more of you and working with you to make this success happen."

## Disability confident committed



**The Defence Electronics and Components Agency has been awarded the Disability Confident Committed accreditation.**

The newly established accreditation builds on the Two Ticks scheme and looks to help businesses in the recruitment and retention of disabled employees to help them move into employment and develop their careers.

To become Disability Confident Committed DECA has met certain criteria and committed to continue to offer disabled people access to opportunities through:

- an inclusive and accessible recruitment process
- suitably communicated and promoted vacancies
- offer an interview to disabled people meeting the minimum criteria for a vacancy
- anticipation and provision of reasonable workplace adjustments
- supporting existing employees who acquire a

disability or long term health condition, enabling them to stay in work where appropriate

- offering access to activities such as work experience placements and apprenticeships

Danny Avery, DECA Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committee member said, "This accreditation builds on the work we have completed as an organisation to develop a strong Equality and Diversity committed culture throughout DECA. As a Disability Confident Committed employer, we ensure our recruitment process is inclusive and accessible, support employees with disabilities or long term health conditions and guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for a vacancy."

"In line with DECA's commitments to Diversity and Inclusion, we aim to achieve Disability Confident Employer accreditation in 2017 as a key part of our five-year Diversity and Inclusion action plan."

# Aerospace Wales forum hosted at DECA

**DECA was delighted to host members of the Aerospace Wales Forum in January 2017 welcoming over 40 guests from industry, government and academia to the Sealand site.**

The Forum is the trade association for companies operating in the aerospace and defence sectors in Wales and exists to provide the best service it can in promoting its members' companies and capabilities, providing access to events, networking opportunities and industry expertise. DECA is a full member of this Forum.

Rachael Blackburn, the newly appointed Operations Director for the Aerospace Wales Forum, opened the meeting agenda that included a question and answer session from the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, Ken Skates AM as well as presentations from Dickie Davies, Deputy Director Welsh Government, Rhodri Evans, Price Waterhouse Cooper and Colin Sirett, CEO Advanced Manufacturing and Research Centre

Geraint Spearing, DECA's Chief Executive also gave a presentation and capability overview to the Forum saying, "It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to DECA. Through events like this we are committed to developing partnerships and engagement with as many companies as possible. This also allows us to increase DECA involvement within the wider community and welcoming you all here today is a great step towards these goals."

"Winning the F-35 assignment is tremendous news and has provided a new lease of life for DECA; a lot of our work involves the repair, maintenance, overhaul and upgrade of legacy equipment and F-35 provides us with an exciting next chapter to continue our long history."

Dickie Davies presented details of the current opportunities for Welsh Government funding saying, "We are here for you and to support and sustain business in Wales and the UK going forward and we are working to deliver an outstanding package of support. Three years ago, if I had said that we would have Aston Martin at St Athan employing 700 people you would have laughed and so would I, but we are actually there and we are growing."

Rhodri Evan, Cyber Security Lead at Price Waterhouse Cooper gave an interesting presentation on the importance of cyber security within industry. He detailed the impact of attacks and their effect, to not only business operations, but also how an attack can seriously affect the supply chain. Rhodri also detailed the new levels of cyber security protection that businesses will have to comply with.

Following on from the speakers, Ken Skates, Assembly Member, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, National Assembly for Wales held a Q&A session taking questions about rail and road infrastructure, apprentice schemes, trade tariffs, the devaluation of the pound, research and development investment and the implications of Brexit. He spoke to the forum saying, "I am pleased to be with you all here today. We are inevitably proud of our aerospace industry and the announcements of job creation in Wales. Wales as a whole is building on a very strong foundation and we are keen to make sure we find common ground to take advantage of and ensure that Welsh strategy dovetails with the UK's industrial strategy and the great news of F-35 assignment for DECA. It gives me great pleasure to work with you and I am looking forward to the future."





Examples of Welsh based  
 Aerospace, defence, FOC and aerospace support  
 companies

**Defence Electronics & Components Agency**

Offering UK MoD industry specialist capabilities and support services in electronics, electronics components and general engineering equipment.

Skilled technical staff across the UK to deliver world class support to the MoD in manufacturing and repair of defence equipment.



Dickie Davies, Deputy Director Welsh Government presents to the Aerospace Wales members forum

# Capability

DECA capability enhances product reliability, extends the life of legacy systems and delivers value to our customers. In this edition of DECAnews we showcase the Electrical and Instrumentation repair service.

## Electrical and instrumentation repair services

The Electrical and Instrumentation Product Line (E&I), based at the DECA Sealand site, is responsible for the maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade of electro-optical, electro-mechanical, electronics pitot, static, hydraulic, pneumatic and fuel management equipment used on both fixed wing aircraft, such as Typhoon, Tornado, Hawk and Sentry, and rotary wing aircraft including Sea King, Lynx, Chinook, Wildcat and Gazelle. Here Iain Dale, E&I Product manager provide DECAnews with an insight into their work.



**Iain explains, “Manned by over 30 highly skilled technicians with more than 200 years of experience, E&I play a vital role in keeping aircraft from all three services flying, carrying out repairs, overhaul and modification across a wide range of equipment.**

“Here at Sealand we have maintained components for the Laser Rangefinder and Marked Target Seeker (LRMTS) for over 30 years. This work includes the testing and repair of multi-layered printed circuit boards (PCBs) right down to component level. The LRMTS system, used predominantly on the Jaguar, Harrier and more recently Tornado GR4 platforms, allows the pilot to place ordinance on targets accurately using laser technology.

“We work closely with MOD and engineering departments to develop new opportunities and have recently worked with industry to repair various aircraft electrical systems such as:

- Pitot static systems
- flight control systems
- centralised warning panels
- control and protection units
- static inverters
- DC motors

- electrical switches
- power supply units including high intensity strobe light power supply units
- throttle handles
- cable looms
- pilot control columns

“The E&I teams also carry out repairs to non-hermetically and hermetically sealed instruments include helium gas filling and leak testing for airspeed, torque, oil pressure, hydraulic pressure and fuel quantity indicators.

“Our ISO class 7 cleanroom provides a premier service centre for clean environment servicing within the MOD and is used to service optical components and numerous gyroscopic instruments.

“The class 7 cleanroom creates a purpose built self-contained and dust free environment operating at a positive pressure, with a constant replenishment of filtered air to service and repair equipment. This avoids minuscule dust particles that can affect optimum operational performance and strictly regulated temperature and humidity reduces moisture content to ensure testing and calibration is within specific tolerances. To meet ISO standard 14644-1 (classification

of air cleanliness) the air in a class 7 cleanroom must have less than 352,000 particles per cubic metre within the size range 0.5 µm. To give this perspective, the ambient air in a typical urban environment contains 35 million particles!

Staff enter and leave through airlocks that include an air shower, and wear protective boots, hats and suits to eliminate external contamination and we closely monitor, record and validate the environment using bespoke testing equipment to ensure we consistently meet these rigorous requirements.

“Gyroscopic instruments (gyros) are an integral part of any avionic system and numerous types can be found throughout fixed wing and rotary aircraft. E&I currently service vertical gyros, directional gyros and rate gyros fitted to Chinook, Lynx, Gazelle and Tornado aircraft.

“At the heart of every gyroscopic instrument is a rotating mass which, using precision bearings and precise balancing, spins at speeds of up to 400 revolutions per second. These rotors are secured within a complex gimbal assembly allowing free rotation of the mass. Each instrument has a different variation of this design allowing for

# spotlight

multiple uses throughout the aircraft including navigational system inputs, points of reference or standalone self-contained cockpit instruments.”

“At DECA, we are responsible for the full-strip and repair of actuators, generators and alternators and the servicing of service cooling fans, a vital component of any aircraft avionic bay as well as both pneumatic and hydraulic pressure switches. We also overhaul and repair starter generators, High Energy Ignition Units (HEIUs) and contactors. The main platforms currently supported are Gazelle, Chinook, Lynx, Hawk and Tornado.

“The Rapier primary power supply centre delivers support to the land based Rapier missile system. The facility provides a component level repair and full refurbishment of the primary power supply unit which includes a

1.3ltr, twin cylinder, air cooled diesel engine, 3 phase 25KvA alternator, 155 bar hydraulic supply unit, relay box and transformer rectifier unit.

“Three separate buildings house the repair and test centres for the Rapier primary power supply, power generation and fuel systems. “The power generation systems repair and test Centre provides a test facility for the dynamic testing of aircraft AC and DC rotary power supplies, starter motors, cooling fans and aircraft heaters including associated control and protection units. Recently refurbished for the delivery of the new Typhoon generator test rig, this facility will enhance DECA capability and enable test of the Integrated Drive generators, auxiliary power units, DC generators, Transformer rectifiers units and associated Control and Protection units for the Typhoon Aircraft.

“The fuel systems repair and test centre delivers component level support to a variety of aircraft submersible fuel pumps, in-line fuel pumps and fuel flow transmitters.”

Iain concludes by saying, “The E&I team provide skilled maintenance and service for a huge variety of equipment, but there is one thing that they all have in common; their enthusiasm to continue to provide the best possible support to our Armed Forces.”



Part of the working area within E&I



Inspection of the gimbal assembly from a vertical gyro that forms part of the automatic flight control system fitted to Lynx and Chinook helicopters

# UK wins global F-35 Lightning II support work assignment

**The UK has been chosen by the F-35 Joint Program Office to deliver a global repair hub providing maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade services for F-35 avionic and aircraft components. Over the lifetime of the programme, components for hundreds of European-based F-35 aircraft will be serviced and maintained at DECA's site in North Wales.**

This work will generate hundreds of millions of pounds of revenue for the UK defence industry, with the potential to unlock more than £2Bn of future F-35 support revenue over the lifetime of the programme.

This will help sustain thousands of high tech jobs and skills. The work will involve maintenance and repair of systems for the F-35 aircraft including electronic and electrical components, as well as fuel, mechanical and hydraulic systems. The winning UK solution will be based on an innovative partnership between the Defence Electronics & Components Agency (DECA), BAE Systems and Northrop Grumman, supported by key F-35 Original Equipment Manufacturers. The work will be centred at the UK Government-owned, DECA, based at MOD Sealand, in North East Wales.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said, "This establishes Britain as a repair hub for all European F35s and is hugely positive news for our high-tech and innovative defence industry. It is an endorsement of the skills and capabilities the UK offers and will help create hundreds of high-end jobs, safeguard thousands more and be a substantial boost to UK exports.

"Building on the strong foundations of Britain's pre-eminent and enduring defence partnership with the US, this decision supports British jobs and helps keep Britain safer and more secure."

Andy Stokinger, F-35 Programme Manager explains how the project evolved into a successful UK winning solution, "The assignment of F-35 regional maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade (MRO&U) capability for airframes and engines for the European region to Italy announced in December 2014, was the catalyst which inspired the UK Government to adopt a novel means of competing for future F-35 work.

"The UK Government subsequently directed that future UK bids for F-35 MRO&U assignments would be led by the UK MOD and supported by key F-35 industry partners. Underpinned by the leaders of Lightning II Project Team (DE&S), DECA, BAE Systems and Northrop Grumman, this saw the formation of a Joint Campaign Team in April 2015. The task was to develop the strategy to support the successful delivery of the joint UK Government and industry Request for Information (RFI) responses for assignment of F-35 depot level MRO&U component repair.

"Led by Ian Cole, DECA's Business Development Director, the initial DECA engagement period included subject matter expertise from across the business and the F-35 Lightning II Project Team. As the solution continued to mature, DECA was confirmed as the hub of the UK F-35 solution. The requirement for a Joint Campaign Team and a dedicated campaign location to

support the imminent release of RFI Phase 1 provided the DECA Executive Management Board with the opportunity to resource both a DECA F-35 Campaign Team and the campaign infrastructure necessary to deliver the task.

"Supported throughout the campaign by Lightning II Project Team, the DECA core team working directly with industry colleagues developed the UK RFI responses together with the concept of operations of the engineering organisation responsible for delivery of the UK solution. DECA engagement across the business continued to grow and involved personnel from every area of the business, especially during the high profile F-35 visits and in direct support of the Campaign Team.

"Concurrently running with the engineering solution, DECA Executive Management Board members developed the commercial and financial model which would underpin delivery at Sealand, and, working collaboratively MOD Head of Commissioning Services who were fundamental to the development of the overarching business construct. This will see Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems enter into a formal partnering arrangement with DECA to deliver F-35 component repair.

"The successful UK assignment of the first batch of F-35 components for



repair is the first step in the delivery of a global F-35 component repair solution. DECA will continue to host high profile visits as part of the mobilisation and implementation of F-35 repair capabilities that will continue to involve DECA staff, partner organisation's and industry colleagues. The Joint Campaign Team is now working to develop the RFI proposal into a deliverable solution which may see F-35 repair work commencing at DECA as early as 2018."

Tony Douglas, Chief Executive Officer of the MOD's Defence Equipment and Support organisation said, "The UK's winning proposal, which will provide best value for money for the F-35

enterprise, is testament to the strength of both UK Government and our industry knowledge and expertise. There are currently around 400 jobs at DECA Sealand and many thousands more in the UK F-35 supply chain, and this opportunity will allow us to sustain UK and grow these valuable jobs, helping to secure the future of the UK aerospace industry."

Geraint Spearing, DECA Chief Executive added, "Securing this global repair hub at DECA in our 100th Year at the Sealand site is a fitting way to celebrate our Centenary. Our involvement in the global support solution for F-35 will continue to develop DECA's cutting edge capabilities, allowing

targeted investment and growth in our infrastructure and people. This will continue our proud heritage of providing pivotal support to our Armed Forces for many years to come."



The DECA F-35 Campaign Team

Pictured left to right, Paul Ruddick, Paul Grealis, Ian Randles, Ian Cole, Dave Evans, Darren Wagstaff, Andy Peterson, Andy Stokinger, and Carl Askew. Not pictured, Graham Hawksett, Chris McGarry and Steve Harrison

# Secretary of State for Wales announces UK Industrial Strategy at DECA



Secretary of State learns how DECA's repair-not-replace capability saves money for Typhoon

**Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns visited DECA's Deeside site on 23 of January 2017 to announce UK government's Industrial Strategy and gain first-hand experience of the technological expertise at the centre of the F-35 assignment success.**

Welcomed by DECA Chief Executive Geraint Spearing, the Secretary of State also met the DECA Executive Management Board during a short reception at the beginning of his visit.

Wayne Baker, DECA Operations Director then led a tour of the facility beginning in the business support centre. The tour then moved onto the Avionic Test Centre where the Secretary of State spent time with Chloe Lloyd, a DECA apprentice in Tornado Electronic Warfare before touring through the calibration, warehousing, Electronic & Instrumentation and Test Solutions areas. He spent time with Mike Ainsworth in the fibre optic cables repair area where Mike provided an overview of DECA's repair-not-replace capability saying, "Once damaged, Typhoon fibre optic cables are considered unserviceable and are replaced. Here at DECA we have developed the capability to repair these cables saving significant amounts of money and reducing repair times from weeks and months to days ensuring these items are back in-service as quickly as possible. We also provide advice to end users about how to avoid damage to the cables, reducing costs and downtime even further."

Following the tour, the Secretary of State addressed DECA staff in the proposed global F-35 components repair hub facility, saying, "It is an absolute privilege and delight to be here today and I would like to thank you, not only for your work on Tornado and Typhoon, but also your advanced manufacturing skills, your cutting edge fibre optic repair capability and your legendary repair-not-replace technologies. The amount of money you have saved the MOD and Taxpayer is quite remarkable, and enables further investment in new technologies. Most of all I want to recognise and thank you for what you have done in winning the F-35 assignment. This is not only a European repair hub; you went even further and now it has become the global repair hub for the F-35 avionic and aircraft components, a remarkable achievement.

"The second reason I am here today is the Cabinet launch of the UK's industrial strategy and you are fundamental to that, because it's from the excellence that you have here, that global centre of excellence that you have created that allows other components industries to be built on that."

"I would like to close by saying thank you once again for what you have done in saving the taxpayer significant sums of money and also the hope that is placed on your excellence for the next stage of the UK development in the global world that we embark in. So thank you very much, for what you have done, thank you very much for what you are doing and I stand with you ambitious, proud and optimistic for that future that lies ahead as we exit the European Union."



Peter White, Managing Director Qioptiq demonstrates their helmet visor capability to Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns

The tour also included a demonstration to the Secretary of State of helmet visor technology by Peter White, Managing Director of Qioptiq.



Technician Simon Knight explains the calibration of an armament gauge to the Secretary of State for Wales and DECA's Chief Executive during the site tour.

# Momentous centenary celebrations

**In a great year for DECA Sealand following announcement of the F-35 assignment, we have also been celebrating Sealand's centenary. Here Dave Entwistle tells DECAnews how DECA has marked this momentous year.**

Dave said, "DECA Sealand has a long and illustrious history in support of defence, 2016 marked the start of our centenary year and the formation of the Centenary Celebration committee. The committee consisted of a group of passionate volunteers who aimed to recognise the 100 year anniversary through a series of events. These events commemorated DECA's support to Defence and the hugely positive influence Sealand has on the local economy and our long standing relationship within the community, as well as celebrating with colleagues and friends past and present.

"The first of the events "Wings over Sealand" was a heritage exhibition held at the nearby St Bartholomew's Church; celebrating the centenary of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) at RAF Sealand. "The four day event of presentations and photographic displays focused on Sealand's impact in the local community and the changing site and its stakeholders throughout the years, covering everything from the early biplanes of the RFC through to the closure of South Camp and withdrawal of the RAF in 2006.

"The centenary team created a DECA display which completed the church timeline bringing it up to the present day. The four days concluded with a memorial service on the Sunday night."

"After this successful community event, the Centenary committee focused their efforts into developing a garden area on the DECA Sealand site.

"The modest garden area features an impressive Centenary monolith, mounted with a plaque displaying the official Sealand Centenary logo. On 22 June, both our current and former MOD customer focal points Chief of Staff (Air Domain)

Air Commodore Adam Sansom and Air Commodore Neville Parton officially opened the Centenary Garden to an audience of DECA staff, customers and contractors. A photographer captured the event with a series of commemorative "100" photographs."

"And the celebrations continued with a specially planned coffee morning. All DECA Sealand staff, contractors, lodgers and on-site customers were invited to attend and help themselves to hot and cold refreshments whilst browsing through a selection of old photographs from the history of Sealand.

"The aim of this coffee morning was to provide an opportunity to present everyone with a commemorative pin badge. The badge is based on the former Sealand 30 Maintenance Unit emblem with the centenary dates proudly displayed.

"Ian Doughty, Centenary Celebrations Leader, expressed his pride in the effort that had gone into such a successful event adding that he hoped everyone that attended our wonderful coffee morning had gained an insight into the fascinating history of Sealand, its significance to the local community and the traditions of excellence in supporting defence carried forward from previous generations with pride by the current DECA workforce.

"The Family Day was the headline event of our centenary celebrations. This fantastic event took place in September and gave us the opportunity to welcome our family and friends to the site and for us to give an insight into what we do.

"Exclusive access was given to the avionics repair and calibration production areas, test solutions and the main warehouse. There were displays and demonstrations across the site including a selection of Sealand historical photographs.

"Outside the main building were an assortment of attractions. The Typhoon Flight Simulator proved to be very popular

as did the T72 Tank and SA19 Air Defence Missile System inflatable vehicles, the bouncy castle, the professional face painting artist and the demonstration by the Cheshire Police Dog team. The refreshment area selling cakes both donated and homemade proved to be extremely popular too.

The Family Day was a significant achievement by the Centenary committee, and it was lovely to see so many family, friends and children enjoying themselves at Sealand. It was also great to see committee members in such unnatural roles delivering a hugely successful event, not forgetting to mention Support Service Director, Ian Doughty doing a fine job directing traffic in the car park!"

Dave concluded by saying, "The Centenary committee has achieved a great deal this year and so many people were involved with the celebrations. I would like to extend my thanks to the Centenary committee and everyone who offered their help and support to make these events a success.

"All proceeds raised at the Family Day have been donated to MacMillan Cancer Support; the final amount was an amazing £1000."

Geraint Spearing, CE DECA, brought the Centenary Celebrations to an official close on 15 March 2017 with the presentation of a very special commemorative book, chronicling the first 100 years of Sealand history. In a passionate speech, he said, "I am proud to have a long personal association with Sealand. I would like to thank everyone involved in the production of this very special commemorative book. I would also like to pay tribute to each and every member of the Sealand family, past and present, for their personal contribution. It is through your efforts that Sealand has survived, adapted, evolved and flourished for more than a century. MOD's recent F-35 announcement opens a new chapter for Sealand. As I look forward to Sealand's second century with pride and optimism, I wish you every success for the future."



# Our centenary celebrations in pictures



Pictured clockwise from top; Air Commodore Neville Parton receives a farewell gift from Geraint Spearing, DECA Chief Executive; Cakes a plenty for Macmillan; Visitors explore where DECA sends items following repair; DECA staff are given the commemorative book; The commemorative book and badge; The Cheshire Police Dog Team; Centenary pin badges are handed out at the coffee morning; Centenary monolith and garden.

Pictured centre top to bottom; Commemorative photograph, 100 years of Sealand; The Centenary team and visitors enjoying the attractions at the Family Day.

# Imperial Service Medals awarded

**Geraint Spearing, Chief Executive and Ian Doughty, Support Services Director, recently presented Imperial Service Medals (ISM) to Lesley Whatmough, Stephen Hughes and David Pinnington. David, Lesley and Stephen were joined by family and work colleagues during the presentations held at DECA Stafford and Sealand to celebrate their prestigious awards.**

Both Geraint and Ian expressed their congratulations to Lesley, Stephen and David saying, "It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this celebration of achievement. Receiving the ISM is not automatic; recipients have met extremely strict criteria and you have shown dedication and commitment to receive this extremely respected award."

Lesley began her service in the Repair Task Control office, once part of the Supply Accounts Management Squadron at RAF Stafford, later working within the Customer Services department at DSG Stafford. After 29 years of service Lesley left in December 2014. She was loyal and supportive of her managers and was at the forefront when organising the Christmas lunches and events in and outside the office. Lesley dedicated her spare time to local charities and worked voluntarily supporting students at Stafford College and was liked and respected by all of her colleagues.

At the presentation, Lesley said, "I have had some good times here at Stafford and I wish you all the luck for the future."

Stephen began his career as a Radio Technician in 1979 where his depth of knowledge and willingness made him a valued and respected member of the team. Considered a technical expert on the Radar Altimeter in Communications and Navigational Aids, Stephen mentored other team members and ensured this capability provided outstanding levels of support at the Sealand site. He consistently set high standards of quality for himself and was regarded by others as a benchmark for accuracy and detail. He was enthusiastic and driven on meeting weekly goals for himself, his team and customers.

Stephen commenced partial retirement in June 2011 and retired on 26 November 2015. Since retiring, Stephen has taken up bowling and also enjoys fishing, his garden and DIY.

David began his career at RAF Sealand on 20 September 1972 as an apprentice Electrical/Instrument Fitter. During his career he worked in Electrical and Instrumental, Power Supply

Unit Automatic Test Equipment (PSUATE), Test Solutions and Electronic Warfare.

David was highly respected by his colleagues and was dependable and reliable, setting a great example to his fellow team members by displaying an enthusiastic and proactive approach to his work. An excellent team member, he was focussed on achieving success not only for himself, but also for his team, carrying out his work with diligence and to an extremely high standard. David was always willing to help and support others and routinely used his considerable technical knowledge to resolve complex problems.

David retired from DECA Sealand in March 2016 after almost forty three and a half years' service.

The ISM was established by King Edward VII in 1902 and is awarded in recognition of meritorious and loyal service to the MOD and is only within the gift of Her Majesty The Queen.



Stephen with his fiancée and family



David and his wife Marina at the presentation



Lesley with her husband and family



Stephen receiving his Imperial Service Medal from Chief Executive Geraint Spearing



David receiving his Imperial Service Medal from Chief Executive Geraint Spearing



Lesley receiving her Imperial Service Medal and certificate from Support Services Director Ian Doughty

# Employee spotlight; Jason Cook



## What is your role within DECA?

I am a Business Development Officer for DECA, based at Stafford, and endeavour to seek out new opportunities across MOD where DECA can help provide better value and support for Defence.

## What do you like about your role?

I like to meet new people and learn more about the business; it's about expanding my mind. I feel a great sense of pride when an opportunity proves fruitful both for our customer and our business.

## What was your previous role?

I was Team Leader of the Specific-to-

Content-Container workshop based at Stafford producing large containers and bespoke items providing key operational outputs supporting operations.

## Where are you normally based?

DECA Stafford is my work base, but I spend 1 to 2 days in MOD Abbey Wood and various other MOD customer locations looking for and taking forward opportunities such as International Guns Missiles and Rocket, A400M, Maritime MX and Defence General Munitions. I am usually found walking the floorplates of Neighbourhood 1, 3 and 4 raising awareness of DECA

capability and the savings that can be secured through giving work to DECA. I present to individual Project Teams

## What are your future aspirations?

I am eager to learn, ambitious and would like a long standing career within DECA

## Contact details

**Jason.cook@deca.mod.uk**

**07867 140501**

# 40 years of service recognised

**DECA's Chief Executive, Geraint Spearing recent hosted a celebration to recognise employees that have completed 40 years or more service in MOD.**

The celebration, attended by Ian Doughty (Support Services Director), Lin Longman (Finance Director) and Wayne Baker (Operations Director), took place at Sealand and brought together DECA staff that had completed 40 years' service together with their friends and family. Each member of staff that had reached this significant landmark received a certificate, presented by Geraint, recognising the commitment and dedication they had shown to MOD and DECA.

Geraint addressed the attendees saying, "It is with pride that I welcome you all here today to celebrate the dedication you have shown to our organisation; you have all been part of our history as 30 Maintenance Unit, DARA, DSG and now DECA. There are some 700 years of service just here in this room today and many of you began your careers here as apprentices."

Geraint then spoke about the significant contributions each of the recipients had made to MOD before presenting them with their certificate.

Dave Trow, Steven Mitchell, Bob Smith, Colin Nixon and Haydn Davies all work on the same team, Tornado Partnered Support and entered their apprenticeships during the 1970s.

Bob said, "The event made me feel valued and gave us an opportunity to catch up with work colleagues. We have seen many changes during our careers; our new era as DECA looks very positive and shows a bright future for us all.

Dave added, "It was fantastic to have our service recognised in this way, we all enjoyed the celebration."





<i>Employees recognised</i>	<i>Service</i>
Tom Howard	52 years
Glynn Barham	49 years
Phil Lloyd	49 years
Al Watkins	46 years
Graham Brown	45 years
David Pinnington	44 years
Clifford Lewis	43 years
Trevor Sayle	42 years
Mark Kleinhorn	42 years
Steven Mitchell	42 years
Haydn Davies	42 years
David Trow	41 years
Andrew Holmes	41 years
Jim Bradley	41 years
Mike Pemberton	41 years
John Watson	41 years
Bob Smith	40 years
Colin Nixon	40 years

Pictured from top left to right; Glynn Barham, Jim Bradley, Graham Brown, Haydn Davies, Andy Holmes, Mark Kleinhorn, Cliff Lewis, Steven Mitchell, Colin Nixon, Dave Pinnington, Trevor Sayle, Bob Smith, Dave Trow and Al Watkins

# Staff achievements

## Greg wins iPad mini

**Congratulations to Greg Meredith who was thrilled to win the first DECAnews prize. Well done Greg!**

Greg, who works in the DECA Business Development team, won an iPad mini kindly donated by bebbington & wilson and received his prize from Dave Bebbington, Managing Director during a presentation also attended by DECA's Chief Executive.

Congratulations to Greg and we hope he enjoys using his new iPad.

We would like to thank Dave and all at bebbington & wilson for their kind donation and wish everyone luck with this edition's competition.



Geraint Spearing, DECA's Chief Executive (right) and Dave Bebbington of bebbington & wilson (Left) present Greg with his prize

## Dave's leg wax for Noah

**Dave Evans endured a full leg wax for charity raising money for his nephew, Noah.**

Dave who works in the Facilities Department at DECA Sealand took on the waxing challenge to raise money to buy a specially adapted trike for Noah, who was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy Spastic Displegia when he was 18 months old. The made-to-measure trike will provide 5 year old Noah with a well deserved opportunity to gain strength that will help him become more independent.

Talking about the challenge Dave said, "It was certainly a painful experience but one that I will never forget. I have been overwhelmed by the support shown by my work colleagues and friends and over the moon that I have raised enough money to buy Noah's trike."

Dave raised an amazing total of £1,359 with £894.00 being raised by DECA Sealand staff. The made-to-measure trike will be with Noah in February.

Well done Dave and happy pedalling Noah.



Pictured left to right; Dave with Noah and a smiling Dave during his leg wax

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## Cycling success

Staff from Sealand completed the Wirral Bikeathon in support of Bloodwise.

The 28 mile event which started in the picturesque Arrowe Country Park was undertaken by Shirley and Dave Trow, John Petticrew, Bob Smith and Simon Harrison whose efforts raised over £466.

The Wirral Bikeathon has been an annual event for the past 18 years

and this year raised over £41,000 for the charity Bloodwise. Bloodwise provides funding for world-class research, expert information and support to anyone affected by leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and other blood cancer disorders. Well done to the DECA team, keep peddling!!



Pictured left to right; Dave Trow, June Wylie, Jan Ball, Shirley Trow, Simon Harrison, Bob Smith, and John Petticrew. Not shown, Caitlin Harrison

## Raising funds and awareness for Meningitis Now

Lisa Stubbs of DECA Sealand organised a raffle to raise funds and awareness for Meningitis Now. Lisa asked colleagues to donate raffle prizes and sold tickets with Helen Barwina-Sharples throughout the site to raise a total of £610 at the event.

Meningitis Now is a charity which funds research and raises awareness of the symptoms of Meningitis. They aim for a future where no-one in the UK loses their life to Meningitis and everyone affected gets the support

they need to rebuild their lives. Talking after the event, Lisa said, "I am determined to raise as much awareness as I can for the infection which can so easily turn lives upside down. I will be distributing symptom cards to DECA employees and at my child's school to ensure more people become aware of the dangers of missing the symptoms of this devastating illness."

"I would like to thank everyone who donated prizes, bought raffle tickets and made donations."

If you would like further information, please visit the Meningitis Now website. [www.meningitisnow.org](http://www.meningitisnow.org)



## Outdoor adventurers

Representatives of the Unite union including a number of DECA technical apprentices took part in an outdoor event on a remote 70 acre site in North Wales. The course, funded through the European learning scheme, included activities such as shelter building and outdoor survival techniques aimed at personnel development and team building.

Carl Richards said, "The course was an excellent way for us all to work together and we all enjoyed the experience. We built the shelter together using unique

construction skills and even slept in it later. The instructor was so impressed with our methods he intends to use it as a demonstration shelter."

DECA Unite members have also donated £50 to local charity the Olivia Alice Foundation. Karen Walker presented the cheque on behalf of the branch.



Pictured left to right back row; Mike Gilbert, Scott Moray, Dave Blenkley, John Futter, Kieran Teece. Front row; Rich Prideaux (instructor), Dave Helm, Tony Higgins, Kelvin Davies, Jacob Davidson, Tom Sanderson, Kevin Field (instructor)

# Competition

Following on from our tremendous news regarding the F-35 global hub assignment, this issue's competition focuses on famous wins. Enterprise® has kindly donated One4all vouchers up to the value of £250. All you have to do to win is correctly answer the following questions. Good luck!

1. Who won the Battle of Culloden in 1745?

2. What date was the Battle of Waterloo fought?

3. In which battle did the infamous event 'the charge of the Light Brigade' happen?

4. 1 April 1918 saw the formation of the RAF. The Spitfires and Hurricanes fought their most famous Battle between 10 July and 31 October 1940. What is the name of this Battle?

5. Name the famous British Lieutenant General who led 190,000 men equipped with over 1000 tanks, 900 artillery pieces and 1,400 anti-tank guns during the Battle of El Alamein, 23 October to 4 November 1942

6. Which island was the Battle of Goose Green fought in May 1982?

The closing date for this competition is Friday 30 June 2017

The winner of last month's competition and winning the iPad mini is Greg Meredith from Sealand

The correct answers were:

- |                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Autopilot                   | 4. 9g       |
| 2. Short TakeOff and Landing   | 5. 1.3 Mach |
| 3. RAdio Detection and Ranging | 6. 1943     |

Please send your entries to Hannah Jukes-Jones by Friday 30 June 2017

[hannah.jukes-jones@deca.mod.uk](mailto:hannah.jukes-jones@deca.mod.uk)  
95551 5137  
01785 785137

MOD Beacon Barracks, No6 Site Building 2, Within Lane, Nr Hopton, Stafford. ST18 0AQ

Name

Department

Telephone number

One entry per person





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