



Defence Electronics &
Components Agency

DECAnews

The magazine of the Defence Electronics and Components Agency

May 2018



MinDP Awards



Editor's foreword



Welcome to the third edition of DECA news. In this issue we look at the significant successes we have achieved at DECA since the last edition.

On pages 4 and 5, we highlight the tremendous achievements of DECA and Team UK at the Minister for Defence Procurement Awards 2017 held recently in MOD Main Building.

On pages 6 and 7, DECA employees represent deployed civilians at the Remembrance Service in London, we highlight our support for CBI Wales and detail the Silver award presented to Team UK for the F35 component maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade contract assignment.

Our centre spread feature story covers an important visit by Minister for Defence Procurement to Sealand. Three DECA avionic technicians qualified as SAE Fibre Optic Fabricators recently and we detail the training and award ceremony on page 13.

Stafford MP Jeremy Lefroy visited the DECA Stafford site recently the article covering this visit can be found on page 14.

In people news on pages 15 to 19, In Focus gives an overview of our newest Board member Luke Dearden and charity work at Sealand sees a PJ day held for Children In Need. We have again welcomed four work experience students to our Stafford and Sealand sites as part of DECA's work to develop stronger links with our communities and our Employee Focus details the work Richard Davies undertakes both at DECA and as a St John's Ambulance volunteer. We thank two of DECA's suppliers for Christmas tree donations and finally Derek Underwood explains his passion for Triathlon.

This newsletter is intended as a key communications tool to DECA staff, 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.

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Front page photographs; Minister for Defence Procurement, Harriett Baldwin MP with the Team UK recipients of the Defence Acquisition Award

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Pictured above; Formation of F35 aircraft.

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CE comment



“As I look back on the highlights of what has been another extremely busy and successful year for DECA, I feel tremendously proud of what we have managed to achieve both in terms of business performance, but equally in continuing to raise the importance of the Agency in providing critical support to Defence.

“Since the last edition, we have seen an almost constant stream of important visitors across DECA. This has included UK Government Ministers from MOD and the Wales Office, Members of Parliament as well as very senior MOD and Industry officials reflecting the business development successes, critical support to operations and work for the growing number of Defence customers we have started to see appearing across the business. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work ensuring these events are a success and providing that warm DECA welcome and enthusiasm that has drawn positive comments from every visitor I have spoken to; Well done!

“This culminated recently with the visit of our new Owner following his appointment in January, the Minister for Defence Procurement, Mr Guto Bebb MP. This was the Minister for Defence Procurement’s

second visit to Sealand following his visit in November as guest speaker at the Confederation of British Industry (Wales) forum hosted at Sealand. The Minister was very keen to visit DECA in his new role to witness the progress we have made with key projects and new opportunities since his previous visit and to provide ministerial support to our efforts to secure further F-35 opportunities.

“It was very pleasing also to see an increasing number of important visitors to DECA Stafford. These have included recent visits from our senior sponsor in MOD, Mr Mark Preston, Director Commissioning Services and I was delighted to welcome MP for Stafford Jeremy Lefroy providing the opportunity for staff members to provide him with insight into our capability in support of UK Defence.

“It was a great privilege to be present at the Minister for Defence Procurement Awards ceremony hosted by our previous Owner, Harriett Baldwin MP, in November where Team UK’s phenomenal achievement in securing the F-35 maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade contract Tier 1 assignment was rewarded and recognised through the highest accolades within Defence Acquisition. We will keep you posted in future editions

on the team’s efforts to secure further F-35 activities through the imminent submission of the Team UK Tier 2 proposal in April.”

“As we move forward towards the new financial year into our third year as an Agency, we drive to evolve and adapt to the ever-changing strategic landscape through our Change Programme. The Change team has spent time developing the programme to drive increased customer focus and business efficiencies to ensure we are able to meet the changing needs of our customers. The programme will develop throughout 2018 and I look forward to reporting progress in future issues.”

“Lastly, I would like to mention the charitable events that DECA employees continue to support. The dedication to these events never ceases to amaze me and I am proud that people across our organisation continue to find ingenious ways to raise much-needed funds for both local and National causes.”

Minister recognises acquisition excellence

DECA together with our Team UK partners BAE Systems and Northrop Grumman were delighted to receive a Minister for Defence Procurement (Min DP) Acquisition Award for the successful F-35 Component Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul and Upgrade (MRO&U Tier 1) assignment to the UK at a ceremony held at MOD Main Building.

Now in its fifteenth year, the Minister for Defence Procurement Acquisition Awards recognises teams from across defence for their exceptional performance, innovation, effort and commitment in the field of acquisition. Harriett Baldwin (Former Min DP) presented the Awards at a ceremony held in MOD Main Building on Tuesday 28 November 2017.



Team UK recipients pictured left to right are: Alexis Honner, DSO, Susan Simpkin BAE Systems, Liz Connell, Northrop Grumman, Rob Merryweather, BAE Systems, former Min DP Harriet Baldwin MP, Lawrence Simpson, Northrop Grumman, Andy Hewitt, DE&S LDT, Andy Stokinger, DECA, Traci Kunz, DE&S Legal, Joe Dean, HO&CS and Paul Ruddick, DECA.

Eleven teams were rewarded for their outstanding achievements. Civilian and military personnel working together in the Commands, Head Office, DE&S, Dstl and DIO represented the breadth of defence. Supported by, and in partnership with industry colleagues, they are maintaining and enhancing critical defence capability.

Congratulating the teams Harriett Baldwin said, "The effort of the teams is more relevant than ever as we continue to look at ways to get the most out of our capability and to keep our forces fit for the future. Award winners have shown innovation, efficiency and collaboration and gone above and beyond, strengthening Defence, boosting our global reputation and promoting UK prosperity."

Speaking at the awards Adam Powell, Head of the Acquisition System Authority said, "The Awards show how people, be they Ministry of Defence civilians, Armed Forces personnel,



Team UK

industrial partners, academics and scientists can come together to deliver for defence and the country. They are examples of the 'Whole Force' approach in action."

In addition to their Acquisition Award, this year's Special Award for outstanding achievement was presented to Team UK who, in November 2016, were successful in the F-35 Lightning II Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul and Upgrade (MRO&U Tier 1) competition. As a result of their effort the UK will be a global repair hub for the F-35 providing maintenance and repair of major sub-systems including electronic and electrical components, fuel, mechanical and hydraulic systems, and ejection seats.

The UK solution will be based on an innovative partnership between Defence Electronics and Components Agency, BAE Systems and Northrop Grumman. The repair hub, based at MOD Sealand in North East Wales, will generate significant revenue and help sustain many high tech jobs in the UK.

Team Leader Andy Hewitt said, "Securing F-35 component MRO&U work against very stiff international competition was a significant achievement, which will provide long term benefits for the F-35 Programme and for the UK. The F-35 Component MRO&U team, a joint cross Government and Industry team, is proud to be recognised for its achievement by receiving a Min (DP) Award."



Andy Hewitt, Team Leader F-35 Bid Team receiving the award from former Minister for Defence Procurement Harriett Baldwin MP

Air Marshall Julian A Young, COM Air DE&S, said, "To win the Global competition for the first round of Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul and Upgrade of key Avionics and Mechanical components for F-35 was a fantastic outcome for Team UK. I was delighted that this achievement was recognised through the Min (DP) Award Scheme, but also to be chosen as the special winner for 2017 is the proverbial icing on the cake! Bottom line, I am exceptionally proud of Team UK for its truly magnificent success, and look forward to winning more work in the future."

Geraint Spearing, DECA Chief Executive also added, "These achievements are testament to the tremendous efforts and dedication across the entire DECA business, supported by our industry partners, and we feel tremendously proud of this achievement."

F-35 look forward

The DECA role was pivotal to the success of the Team UK bid with all of our staff demonstrating their commitment and professionalism during a host of F-35 related site visits. Team UK remains fully committed to delivering F-35 repair capability at Sealand, and have commenced on-site engagements with the Original Equipment Manufacturers to plan the stand-up of the large range of repair capabilities necessary to deliver the Tier 1 components.

As we move towards the Tier 2 Component Request for Information submission in April 2018, we aim to build upon our previous assignment success. We will work on delivering increased value with the aim of delivering efficient sustainment solutions that clearly identify the UK solution as the preferred choice for JPO, securing an assignment that will support DECA for the next 40 years.

Remembrance Service

On Sunday 12 November, six DECA employees had the honour of participating in the Remembrance Day Parade, as part of the National Service of Remembrance held at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London.

This privileged opportunity recognised DECA employees who had deployed as civilians in operational areas and commemorated the contribution of all British and Commonwealth military and civilian men and women involved in the two World Wars as well as later conflicts. It was a very poignant occasion and here David Latham, Trainee Accountant in DECA's Finance Directorate gives us an account of the day.

David tells us, "We met outside MOD main building to be given our duties for the parade. I was designated as the wreath bearer and two people were designated as left and right markers with armbands stating which department we represented.

After clearing security checks, we assembled at our nominated location.

"The service itself was extremely moving; standing shoulder-to-shoulder with many veterans from all areas of the Armed Forces. During the minutes silence I found it hard to believe how so many people in central London could be so quiet.

"When it was our turn we had to walk past the cenotaph with eyes locked left towards the monument and then eyes right towards the Royal balcony. After laying the wreath, we carried on walking through to Horse Guards Parade where Prince Edward, the Duke of Wessex saluted all of the service men and women accompanied by the Secretary of State for Defence."

David finished by saying, "I will always remember this day as a significant experience in my life and I feel great pride to have shared this occasion with such admirable people."



Pictured front row third from left are; Wayne Shill, David Latham, Richard Davies and Colin Davies.
Pictured back row third from left is Paul Stanley and second from the right is Dave McCabe.

DECA Supports CBI Wales

DECA Sealand hosted the quarterly Confederation of British Industry's (CBI) Wales meeting during September providing a forum for members to discuss business issues.

The CBI works with 190,000 UK businesses and government to create the right conditions for businesses of all sizes and sectors to grow, succeed and create a prosperous society.

The guest speaker at the event was Guto Bebb, MP for Aberconwy, formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales and now Minister for Defence Procurement, who addressed CBI members giving an insight into funding in Wales, issues arising from Brexit and new and developing infrastructure programs in Wales.

During his address the Minister said, "Thank you for inviting

me, I was born in Flintshire so it is lovely to be here today with you all. I have been the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales for around 18 months now and I must say that I have a fascinating role as a conduit between the two governments."

He then gave an insight into current issues for the area highlighting some growth deals and potential investment projects for Wales and took questions from the members.

Also presenting at the meeting was Ashley Rogers who gave a detailed account of the Supreme Court Ruling that has abolished Employment Tribunal fees and the effect this ruling has for business.

Following the meeting guests were taken on a site tour of the DECA Sealand facilities.



CBI Wales members during their visit to DECA Sealand



Pictured right, Wayne Baker, DECA Operations Director, hosts a tour of the DECA site with Guto Bebb MP pictured second from left.

Silver award for Team UK

BAE Systems awarded Team UK the Silver Commercial Award for the successful F-35 European component maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade (MRO&U) campaign during a ceremony held in London.

Peter Murphy, Commercial and Procurement Director International Operating Group BAE Systems presented the award to members of Team UK, the partnership between DECA, BAE Systems and Northrop Grumman responsible for the successful F-35 depot level MRO&U component repair. Keith Pavett, Commercial and Contracts Director and Ian Cole, Business Development Director represented DECA at the ceremony.

The BAE award recognises significant achievement across the BAE portfolio of businesses worldwide and acknowledges Team UK for their success winning the global assignment for the F-35 component contract.

Speaking about the award, Keith said, "It is a great honour to receive this award which recognises the extent of commitment and professionalism that Team UK and its constituent organisations, MOD, DECA, BAE Systems and Northrop Grumman displayed for the

F-35 contract Tier 1 assignment. However, there is still much to do for Team UK as we embark on the next stage of F-35 Regional MRO&U assignment with the Tier 2 competition now well underway."



Team UK receiving the Silver Commercial Award at the ceremony

DECA assists HMS Ocean back to task force duties

Capability spotlight

HMS Ocean is Britain's largest warship and the flagship of the Royal Navy. It is a helicopter carrier and assault ship designed to deliver troops by helicopter or by landing craft quickly and exactly where they are needed. As well as this role, HMS Ocean can host a command lead for UK and NATO Task Groups and leads the Combined Task Force 50, a multi-national task force maintaining free flow of trade and regional security in the Middle East.

HMS Ocean was due to sail with the NATO Task Group to the Mediterranean when its engineers found a fault on one of the two engine safety systems. The

MOD contacted the DECA Test Solutions team to repair the faulty system and to manufacture a component for HMS Ocean's critical engine safety system.

To develop a support solution for the equipment, the DECA team needed to establish some vital information. Using the excellent diagnostic and fault finding skills of the Test Solutions team they were able to develop a circuit diagram for the faulty equipment. From this the team were then able to overlay how the ships sensors fed into the system and then diagnose and identify any faulty components. Once these had been identified the team

developed a repair solution that was tested against all possible combinations of inputs and user settings before finally retesting the safety systems to ensure the repair was successful.

To mitigate the risk of further failures, DECA designed and built a self test box and test procedure that would allow on board testing to be carried out quickly along with sufficient spares to enable any repairs to take place on board. The approved servicing schedules for HMS Ocean will now incorporate the new improved DECA procedure.



“The whole end-to-end process was carried out in a collaborative, can-do manner and the ME-PCI team are very appreciative of DECA’s efforts in getting a key naval platform to sea on time.”

Head of Platform Management Andrew Herbert

Two members of the DECA team travelled to HM Naval Base Devonport to reinstall the repaired component to the ship’s main operating system and also updated the remaining engine systems to the same standard. They also delivered test procedure training to crew members who can now carry out on-board testing and repair.

Speaking about the tasking, Head of Platform Management Andrew Herbert said, “This task was an Urgent Operational Requirement and needed to be implemented within a 4-week period. The whole end-to-end process

was carried out in a collaborative, can-do manner and the Marine Electrical Platform Control and Indication (ME-PCI) team are very appreciative of DECA’s efforts in getting a key Naval platform to sea on time.”

This tasking was a significant success and enabled HMS Ocean to deploy on schedule as part of a NATO Task Group to the Mediterranean. After sailing, and under orders from Secretary of State for Defence, Ocean diverted to the Caribbean to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. As part of operation Ruman, HMS Ocean carried a significant

amount of aid and equipment providing vital humanitarian aid and supplies to the areas devastated by the hurricane.

This is not the first time DECA has helped HMS Ocean. Test Solutions have rebuilt Fault Indicator modules and Engine Ramp Generator boards. Both repairs have improved engine system reliability and Ocean’s capability.

For more information about DECA’s Test Solution capabilities, please contact Derek Underwood 07736 339968



Minister for Defence Procurement visits Sealand

Minister for Defence Procurement Guto Bebb MP visited the Defence Electronics and Components Agency Sealand site in March 2018, providing him with a chance to experience close up the critical support that DECA provides to the UK's Armed Forces following his appointment earlier this year.

This was the Minister's second visit to DECA, following his visit to Sealand in September 2017 as the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Wales, and it enabled him to gain an in-depth strategic overview of DECA's capabilities to support his new role and to experience first-hand the new capabilities and work that has been developed since his last visit.

A capability tour of the Avionics Repair Facility provided an opportunity for the Minister to meet many of DECA's team of world-class technicians who demonstrated how we support in-service equipment across Air, Land, Maritime and Joint Enabler environments.

Following an overview by Geraint of Sealand's proud heritage spanning over a hundred years, the Minister visited the Tornado Partnered Support area where he was able to see examples of the work carried out to support this Front Line platform. He also witnessed some of the new feasibility study work carried out in this area demonstrating expansion into Maritime equipment.

Moving on to DECA's Capability Development area, Richie Smith gave a demonstration of the new technologies being developed and explained how the new area allowed DECA technicians to develop skills on new technologies trained by DECA's own qualified trainers.

Mr Bebb even had a chance to practice his own hand skills before going on to speak to three of our new apprentices, Tom Bolt, Rhys Leslie and Jordan Rogers, to gain an insight to their first few months at DECA and their plans for the future.

In the Test Equipment Product Line area, Geraint outlined the volume and complexity of the equipments that were being tested and calibrated as well as the ongoing activities to develop the breadth of support across other areas of the test and calibration supply chain at this centre of excellence.

In the DECA logistics area, Anne Roberts provided an overview of the transformation and leaning activities that had been undertaken to make significant efficiencies in this area before demonstrating how DECA's capability is being grown to provide further valuable support not only to MOD programmes, but also contributing to Britain's global status by supporting industry partners and allies.

The Minister continued to engage with staff as he made his way around the Avionic workshop, keen to see up close

the precision work carried out on the shop floor including Typhoon fibre-optic cable repair work and new and growing activities on Land environment surveillance, reconnaissance and optical equipment. Lee Price then provided an overview of how the successful generation of these new opportunities formed part of DECA's wider Business Development Strategy and MOD direction for DECA to grow capability across Land, Maritime and Joint Enabler environments.

Ian Ford then provided an overview of DECA's General Purpose Automated Test Equipment and repair-not-replace capabilities for Typhoon where the latter has identified potential cost avoidance savings that continue to be actively taken forward with MOD and industry partners. The Minister also received presentations from Marcus Dalton on secure communications and cryptographic activity that DECA staff from Sealand and deployed teams carry out and the extensive capability undertaken at the DECA Stafford site by Jason Cook.

The Minister's final demonstration came in the Test Solution and Software Development area where he was particularly interested in the obsolescence repair work and extremely positive customer feedback on urgent operational requirements for HMS Ocean's Engine Safety System and submarine platforms.

Following the tour of the Avionics repair facility, Geraint introduced the Minister to DECA Trades Unions representatives before providing an overview of DECA Head Office capabilities and functions including presentations on DECA's Transformation Programme and recently developed Managed Service capabilities for MOD's Defence Equipment and Support by Dave McCabe and Damien Warren.

The tour of DECA's Head Office ended with a meeting with DECA's Executive Management Board and an opportunity for Minister to discuss the key strategic opportunities and issues facing DECA.

Finally, the Minister returned to the dedicated facility that will house the global F-35 component hub to address DECA staff saying, "As the Minister for Defence Procurement, I am pleased to be able to come here today and I am especially delighted in view of the success that you have had in relation to the F-35 programme which is a feather in the cap to all of you as team members here, but also for North Wales and the North West.

"I would like to thank you on behalf of the Ministry of Defence for the work that you are doing here. Your contribution is immense in relation to keeping our Tornado and Typhoon platforms flying and the cost savings that you are generating has a 'real-world' impact allowing us to do important work such as putting pressure on Daesh.

"The work you have completed in relation to HMS Ocean has resulted in our ability to carry out hurricane relief in the Caribbean allowing the MOD and our Armed Forces to deliver on behalf of this country.

"In the same way you are working very closely with DE&S on Managed Services and Warehouse capacity. The savings you are making enables the MOD to reinvest in the front-line.

"I think in the next few years you are facing a hugely challenging, but exciting transformational period. Along with Stafford, you will be playing a huge role in what is the biggest fighter aircraft programme ever in the history of the world and you will be playing a huge part in maintaining the most powerful stealth fighter on the planet. Your energy, your innovation in terms of ensuring that you won that first parcel of work is providing a huge boost to the local economy and I think that was highlighted very clearly to me when I met the first apprentices in this organisation for a while. I am delighted that there are new opportunities for young people in this organisation and I hope that will continue to grow as we move forward.

"What you are doing is pretty spectacular; by the time the F-35 programme is completed you will be looking after three thousand aircraft for twelve nations. This is certainly going to put Sealand on the map, it's going to put Flintshire on the map, it's going to put North Wales on the map and its going to highlight the fact that there is a global Britain offering the best solution.

"I think that we are all aware now that the arrival of the F-35 jets is getting closer and closer. In the autumn we will be seeing the first F-35s land on our new aircraft carrier off the Eastern Seaboard of the United States."

"It is no exaggeration to say that there are big things expected of you but I wanted once again to reiterate the fact that when we heard the announcement of your success in achieving that contract, there was a real excitement across government. I remember I was a Wales Office Minister and there was a feeling of pride that we had won such a prestigious contract and I think that elation is shared by members of staff I have spoken to today and by everybody in the Ministry of Defence. The expectations and the demands placed upon you will be significant. I have every confidence that you will be able to deliver and I look forward to working with you, in partnership, to ensure the continued success of this establishment and to ensure that we show our partner Nations that Wales and the United Kingdom can deliver on the F-35 programme. So thank you very much."



The Minister chats to Jordan Rogers one of DECA's new apprentices



The Minister during his address to DECA staff



DECA capability development helps HMS Westminister

HMS Westminister is a Type 23 Frigate Duke Class vessel and forms part of the core of the UK's front-line fleet. HMS Westminister recently developed a component fault and MOD's Defence, Equipment and Support Marine Systems Support Team approached DECA for a solution to this urgent operational requirement.

The component was vital in ensuring that the safety of HMS Westminister when docking and DE&S Ships sent sample items of this faulty component to DECA for initial assessment. The DECA team were able to access these items and rapidly develop and provide

a test, repair and maintenance solution for the faulty indicators. Members of the DECA Engineering and Operations team then visited HMS Westminister docked at Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth to carry out installation and verification on the DECA solution and component which was then signed off by the ship's engineers as serviceable.

Mark Bradley, DECA Engineering Development Team Leader said, "This project is a perfect example of how all DECA departments work closely together to develop bespoke and often unique solutions to meet MOD and Industry's urgent operational and obsolescence requirements. I would like to bring particular attention and thanks to the efforts of Dave Trow and Haydn Davies whose excellent efforts ensured the success of the project."

Dr Matt Darkin, MOD DE&S Marine Electrical Team Leader stated, "The obsolescence resolution service offered by DECA has proved itself on numerous

occasions in being invaluable in maintaining Fleet operability. The relationship continues to flourish and strengthen year on year."

DECA continue to work with DE&S Project Teams to provide support solutions across Defence that has seen significant expansion from DECA's traditional Air support role. DECA is currently working on a number of feasibility studies, repair solutions and obsolescence mitigation activities for other vital equipment and components on HMS Westminister and other naval vessels (see HMS Ocean on pages 10 and 11). In addition, DECA are also widening their portfolio of equipments including surveillance cameras and Intelligent, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR) equipment in the Land and Joint Enabler environments.

If you would like out more about DECA's unique capabilities please contact our Business Development Team on 01244 847038



Pictured above; HMS Westminister during humanitarian efforts to Libya
Pictured left; left to right; Haydn Davies and Mark Bradley visiting HMS Westminister to complete installation verification

Leading the way in fibre optic repair

DECA Chief Executive, Geraint Spearing had the pleasure of welcoming AVoptics Managing Director, Andy Voizey and Head of Training, Geoff Proudly to DECA Sealand for an award ceremony celebrating the achievements of three DECA Avionic Technicians who recently qualified as Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Fibre Optics Fabricators to the internationally recognised American accreditation standard SAE 5602.



Pictured left to right; Geoff Proudly, Antony Williams, John Cross, Geraint Spearing, Mike Gibson and Andy Voizey

Speaking directly about their training John, Antony and Mike said, "We work on the Typhoon fibre optic systems at the moment and the training has really helped us and given us skills we can put straight into action. The course content covered a huge range of fibre optic connections including commercial platforms and is an important part of our future."

John Cross, Antony Williams and Mike Gibson all undertook the training designed for individuals involved in the manufacture, installation, support, integration and testing of fibre optics systems. This extensive course covers the essential elements of fibre optic technology, how it works, the hardware, techniques and best practice as well as fibre optic, test equipment and test methods.

Welcoming everyone Geraint Spearing said, "I would like to thank you all for coming here today. Fibre optics is a growing market; you only have to look at any new platform to see the increased usage of fibre technology and this training is particularly important in support of our assignment as the global F-35 components Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul and Upgrade hub. I would like to extend our thanks to AVoptics for their hard work developing this training and to the team for stepping up to gain this very important accreditation."

Mark Pritchard, DECA Operations Manager spoke at the event and explained that it is essential to create maximum flexibility within his team and look to react to growing customer demand in new areas such as the growth of fibre optics. Mark's team

is already benefiting and becoming more agile through this and other cross-training opportunities for DECA technicians that Mark's sees as a key factor in the Agency's continued success. Mark said, "Fibre optic cable repair and manufacture is a support activity we undertake regularly and I required more of the team to be trained. AVoptics provide a commercially and internationally recognised qualification ensuring we can promote this capability to a variety of new and existing customers. To have this recognised qualification is essential to the growth and continued success of this part of our business. We found other courses did not deliver what we required; the AVoptics course content was far more comprehensive. The team really enjoyed the course and as a direct result, DECA can offer improved capability that provides a solid block for us moving into future equipment platforms."

Geoff Proudly has worked at AVoptics for 2-years and his task was to establish the training side of the business. Geoff said, "There was an absence of any accredited fibre optics courses in aerospace Europe. I have been part of the European Standards for a few years now and there have always been issues

around how we could establish a fibre optic accreditation. At AVoptics, we took the view that we would establish this training here in the UK and DECA is the first to put staff through this course"

Andy Voizey concluded by saying, "We are doing some very interesting things at AVoptics and very few companies have the expertise to provide this training. We come from the Aerospace industry and so we have the necessary expertise to deliver this training to fulfil the high standards required in this market sector. My thanks goes to Geoff, he developed the course and worked to get it to where it is today. I would also like to thank the DECA team for being the first to make it through the training. With your grounding and training you now have a much higher skill level and I would like to say well done to you all."

If you require further information, please contact John Cross on 01244 847023 or Simon Harrison on 01244 847242

DECA welcomes Jeremy Lefroy MP for Stafford

Geraint Spearing, DECA Chief Executive had the pleasure of welcoming MP for Stafford, Jeremy Lefroy to the Stafford site for a capability tour in January; the first parliamentarian to visit DECA Stafford since 2007.

Also welcoming Mr Lefroy were Jason Leeks, DECA Head of Strategy and Governance and Paul Bloor, Head of Customer Services and Production for the Stafford site who provided an overview of DECA Stafford operations. Following the introductions, a walk-round tour guided by site subject matter experts provided Mr Lefroy with insights into each capability undertaken on the site. A display of ground support equipment maintained by DECA showed the arrival state and the finished equipment following maintenance.



Kevin Birch, DECA Ground Equipment Workshop Team Leader, talks to Jeremy Lefroy MP about the support DECA Stafford provide to military ground support equipment

The Carpentry area displayed specific-to-content containers hand-made to house military equipment and meeting the Military Packaging Accreditation Scheme (MPAS).



Jason Cook, DECA Business Development explains specific-to-content containers and the skills required for their manufacture.

The Cryogenic and Gas Maintenance School chatted with Mr Lefroy about the bespoke training they provide to meet military requirements such as liquid oxygen handling and nitrogen concentration trolley operator and maintainer courses.



Pictured top; Collin Knott, (Centre) from the Cryogenic and Gas Maintenance School shows Mr Lefroy the Air Separation Unit and details other courses provided at the facility



Pictured top L-R are Paul Bloor, Jeremy Lefroy MP, Geraint Spearing and the Aircraft and General Engineering team who showcased the types of support provided to Defence equipment. Pictured bottom; Jeremy Lefroy chats to Gen Ford (middle), DECA Supply Chain Apprentice.

Mr Lefroy finished the tour saying, "Thank you for welcoming me to your site. It has been wonderful to see the skill level here and I am pleased to see your apprentice scheme continues to flourish."

The Airborne Bottle Bay show-cased the only UK MOD airborne cylinder inspection facility to meet UKAS ISO 17010:20125 and the Aircraft and General Engineering Workshop detailed their role repairing safety and survival equipment and specialised lifting tackle repair and manufacture. Mr Lefroy also spent time talking to one of three new apprentices at the site, Glen Ford, who started as a Supply Chain Apprentice in September.



Pictured L-R are Paul Bloor, Jeremy Lefroy MP, John Tipping, Stafford Cryogenics and Gas Manager and Jason Leeks. John explains the work carried out in the Stafford UKAS Accredited cylinder inspection facility

Geraint Spearing said, "We aim to work more closely with our local community across all of the DECA sites and welcoming you here as MP for Stafford is a significant milestone for our site. You are the first parliamentarian to visit us since 2007 and I hope this relationship will continue to grow." He also added, "DECA Stafford continues to be an efficient, cost effective support provider with some very important relationships both with local and wider industry and within MOD."



Jeremy Lefroy centre with members of the DECA Stafford team



In focus; Luke Dearden

Luke Dearden is DECA's MOD Departmental Non-Executive Director (MOD NED) on the DECA Board. He joined the Board in August and has already visited Sealand, supported our stand at DSEI and made an initial visit to Stafford where he attended the CE's Communications lunch.

Luke grew up in the north-west of England before moving to London to study and has now settled with his wife and daughter in Surrey. Although all too familiar with the M6 and the West Coast Main Line, that didn't stop him wanting to join the DECA Board.

The role of the MOD NED is to provide expert advice challenge and guidance to the Executive Management Board focusing on departmental issues, strategic direction and policy. The MOD NED ensures that DECA's strategic aims and objectives are consistent with MOD's overall strategic direction and within the policy and resources framework determined by our Owner, Minister for Defence Procurement. Here Luke details the experience he brings to this role and his first impressions of DECA.

Luke tells us, "After an enjoyable year in the Wales Office, I joined the Ministry of Defence in 2001 as a graduate entrant. I have since done a dozen diverse roles within departments such as the Home and Cabinet Office.

"These have included strategic policy, financial and operational roles such as the Finance and Military Capability and Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) 2010 teams.

"More recently I was Private Secretary to the Defence Secretary and now work as a Senior Civil Servant in the Security Policy and Operations area of Head Office.

"This has given me strong experience working across Defence, particularly within the Air environment, equipment

capability requirements, as well as industrial and export policy.

"I bring to the Board current MOD strategic, corporate experience and a network across Whitehall that I can draw on as we take DECA through the next strategic review process and look to build on the F-35 assignment that provides an excellent platform for the long term future of the business."

Luke concluded by saying, "It was great to meet some of the team during a recent whistle-stop tour of the Sealand site and to see first-hand some of the unique and vital work we do. It was truly inspiring and I really look forward to providing all the support to DECA and the DECA Board I can over the next few years."

Children in Need pyjama day

DECA Sealand organised a PJ day in support of Children in Need in November.

The event organised by Lynn Bidmead and Hilary Ellams encouraged DECA staff to come to work in their pyjama's for a small donation.

Both Hillary and Lynn collected money throughout the DECA site raising a total of £452.84 for the charity.

Lynn said, "Our fantastic DECA colleagues were again very generous. All our events are very well supported and I would like to thank everyone for all their contributions."

Well done to Hillary and Lynn for organising the event, to everyone who donated and to all who braved coming to work in their Pjs!



Well done everyone who participated and donated to the Children In Need charity

Work experience provides employability skills

DECA sites welcomed work experience placements giving young adults a chance to experience working life, increase their confidence, gain employability skills and first-hand experience of our capabilities. Owen Jones, Amber-Lili Hodson and James Wilde were welcomed at Sealand and Edward Jones at Stafford all spending a week with us. Here each has written a short account of their experiences.

Owen tells us, "During my work experience at Sealand, I learnt about the many processes which take place there. I was able to get hands-on experience of the practical jobs such as maintaining and calibrating aircraft components, which I found very interesting. Understandably, some work was either too dangerous or highly skilled, but I was able to watch the technicians do this type of work. I was given an insight into the well-coordinated logistics and how a large-scale project can be managed efficiently and I also learnt about DECA's impressive 100-year history.

Overall, I had a range of insightful and educational experiences, and would like to thank everyone who helped and mentored me."

Amber-Lili told us, "In early July I spent, what was for me, a revolutionary work experience week at DECA. I chose my placement hoping to gain an insight into how a large organisation is managed and to gain valuable information for the future. I instantly felt at ease in the work place and it made the transition from going from an educational setting to a working environment very easy and pleasurable.

"At the beginning of the week I spent time in Finance working with Kate Waud and Jayne Pryce, Sales Contracts with Lisa Speed, Ian Donnelly and Phil Rogers and with Gill Bartley who kindly gave me an insight into working in Human Resources. I learnt many valuable skills in all of these areas that I hope to develop more and expand on later in life.

"For the last two days of my placement I spent my time with the Engineering team and in particular in the drawing office. I had never really considered a career path in any form of engineering but working with such dedicated and engaging people made me change my view entirely. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in this department using computer aided design software, SolidWorks, where I was able to create 3-D models following a step-by-step tutorial and I would like to thank Mark Bradley, Mark Harrison, Phil Bufton and Graham Oxley for showing me this area.

"Lastly I would like to thank Dave Latham, from the Finance team for taking me on a tour of the shop floor where I got to see the new surface mount technology area and so many of DECA's skilled capabilities."

"I can't thank the staff enough for their time, support and guidance and for making me feel like a member of the team."

James Wilde wrote, "I first came to Sealand on the family day, after taking a look around seeing what DECA had to offer I was interested in experiencing what it would be like during a normal working week.

"My week was very active compared to a normal week in school. I was given a guided tour by Colin Nixon, completed a hand-eye coordination exercise and observed a vertical gyro running in the cleanroom with Mike Penny, Gwyn Roberts and Tim Newman. I also tested a Control Stability Augmentation System power supply for the Saudi

Tornado with Bob Smith, both manually and on the computer. The various practical questions certainly tested my physics knowledge and Tony Hunt showed me around the Tornado Partnered Support facility where I observed a full Tornado radar test with Steve Roberts.

"In Test Solutions, I tested and replaced a circuit board in a Power Supply Unit Automatic Test Equipment while being tested on my electrical component knowledge with Mike Gilbert. Trevor Sayle showed me the Electronic and Instrument area where we tested two temperature gauges that were serviceable."

"I enjoyed my time at DECA and hope to engage more in the future and would like to thank all those who gave up their time for me."

Finally, Edward Jones told us, "I spent my work experience in Stafford where I was given a fantastic insight into the work carried out there.

"Following my Health & Safety induction and site overview, I joined the Training School for a liquid oxygen demonstration which showed me and the other students how volatile this liquid can be if not kept in the correct conditions. After this, I spent some time in the Airborne Bottle Bay where I learnt about aircraft cylinders and pressure vessels. I was given a text to stamp on a steel plate demonstrating the importance of cylinder stamping accurate information transfer. This was the first part of a project that was set for the week.

"I spent day two in the Ground Equipment Workshop stripping down a Mark 19 Hydraulic Rig for testing aircraft hydraulic systems. This was particularly interesting especially as the equipment was for operational deployment.

"Day three was spent in the carpenter's shop on main site making a bespoke plinth for my stamped text. I was shown how to use the router safely and how to stain the wood with linseed oil. Colin Maddox showed me how to make some common wood joints using saw, chisel and mallet techniques.

"In the lifting tackle bay I was able to make my own cable to test and gained an insight into the testing procedures that are carried out on aircraft winches and other specialised lifting equipment.

"In the safety equipment bay I was shown the refurbishment of pilot helmets and life safety systems and also tested an inflatable target used for aircraft reconnaissance testing.

"On my last day I visited the museum stores. This is an amazing place, full of extremely interesting historic items."

"I would like to thank everyone for all their time and support providing me with an extremely interesting and varied week of work experience."

"I had never really considered a career path in any form of engineering but working with such dedicated and engaging people made me change my view entirely."

Amber-Lili



Owen Jones



Amber-Lili



James Wilde



Edward Jones

Karl wins DECA News competition

Congratulations to Karl Lewis who was thrilled to win the DECA News competition May edition.

Paul Bloor, DECA Stafford Customer Services Manager presented Karl, who works at Stafford for the Military Guard Service, with the One4all voucher prize donated by Enterprise.

We would like to thank Enterprise for their kind donation and congratulate Karl on his win.



Employee Spotlight; Richard Davies



Test Equipment Controller by day and Red Cross volunteer by night

Richard has worked at DECA Sealand for over 20 years and is a Test Equipment Controller as well as administrator for MJDI, (Management of Joint Deployed Inventory). and James, (Joint Asset Management and Engineering System). Described by colleagues as helpful, caring and hard-working it is no surprise that Richard spends every Saturday night helping others as a Red Cross volunteer at the Wrexham Welfare Centre. Here Richard tells DECA News about his work at the centre.

Richard says, "I qualified as a Red Cross volunteer 21 years ago and joined the Wrexham Welfare Centre when it was formed on 17 December 2016 as part of the Wrexham Welfare Nights team. We are part of the Red Cross emergency response offering in North Wales, funded by North Wales Police, Wrexham County Council, Betsi Cadwaladr and licensees in the area. We aim to prevent unnecessary admissions to A&E, reduce trouble in the area and care for vulnerable people; as it says on our twitter feed 'our volunteers will be providing welfare and first aid in Wrexham town centre tonight from 10:30 – until 04:30. Enjoy your evening'.

"Myself and the rest of the team work from a rest centre in Wrexham on Saturday nights. Safety of the team is paramount and we work closely with the police and have CCTV covering the town centre. Of course, on a Saturday night, most of our help is given to people who have been drinking, but we also see fights, illnesses and injuries that are not necessarily drink related. We may also need to provide help to people suffering from complex mental health issues, suicide attempts and self-harm.

"Our busiest time is over Christmas and New Year and we are expecting a busy festive period this year too. In 2016, we dealt with 434 welfare and 9 first aid cases over the 23, 24 and 26 December but over New Year's Eve alone we treated 468 welfare cases.

"It is safe to say that not one night is the same and we never know what is going to happen. It could involve holding a sick bowl for several hours, kneeling in the street holding somebody's head, treating victims of assault. Very often we have to spend considerable amounts of time trying to understand what has happened and how we can help but most of all showing our patients that we are not there to judge anyone, we are only there to help.

"I recently took part in a multi-agency operation at Holyhead Port. The operation

organised by North Wales Police involved the UK Border Agency, The National Crime Agency, Home Office Immigration, North West Regional Organised Crime Unit TITAN and HM Revenue & Customs to target human trafficking in the region. We manned the medically supported reception centre and gave us the opportunity to work alongside many agencies to safeguard all victims."

Richard concluded by saying, "The service has been referred to as 'a godsend' by paramedics in the area who recognise the vital work we are doing to reduce the requirement for paramedic presence in the town centre. In the last quarter up to September 2017 we have dealt with 3549 interventions of which 30 were medical. This represents a 308% increase on the previous quarter showing we are making a significant impact in Wrexham and are reducing 999 calls to the town centre. The centre will be two years old this December and I hope that our work will continue for many more years to come."

We would like to congratulate Richard on his dedicated work and commitment to the Red Cross.

Christmas trees donated

The DECA Procurement Team would like to thank GE Tools and Softcat Plc who kindly donated Christmas Trees this year.

GE staff attended site to decorate their tree, taking the opportunity to meet with members of the DECA Procurement Team.

The trees on display in buildings 13 and 15, added some welcomed Christmas cheer.



Pictured left to right; Lyndsey Axworthy, Carol Burgess, Chris Owen (GE), Lynda Ashworth (GE), Angela Pleavin, Tracy Thomas, Josh McCormick, Andrew Mitchell



Pictured left to right; Lyndsey Axworthy, Josh McCormick, Angela Pleavin, Kath Davies, Tracy Thomas, Andrew Mitchell

Derek Underwood; DECA's 'Triathlete'

We use problem-solving method 5W's, 1H to understand why someone would want to participate in Triathlons with our very own triathlete Derek Underwood, Head of Account and Bid Management.

WHAT?

There are four Triathlon course distances

Sprint distance - 400m swim, 15km cycle, 5km run

Standard (Olympic) distance - 1.5km swim, 25 or 45km cycle, 10km run

Half ironman and full ironman distances - not mad enough yet! These require a minimum of 16 hours a week training and approximately 7 and 12 hours to complete each respectively.

WHEN?

I train throughout the year and to get into race mode, I complete a sprint race at the start of the season in April. I then complete standard distance racing up to the end of the season in September.

WHO?

Myself, my family, other triathletes, volunteer coaches and first aid organisations including the Red Cross and St Johns Ambulance. The people involved in Triathlon are inspirational, are of all ages, shapes and sizes. They may be completing for the first time or are seasoned amateurs and professionals alike. The culture is superb, everyone is always willing to help and support and are full of advice including sharing experiences and lessons learnt. They are social too, not staying in cliques and are always positive despite injury setbacks, lack of form or illnesses. Age and speed do not seem to be a hindrance. When a 60 year old doing 25mph on a bike overtakes you and a 75 year old is competing with people in their 40's you can't help but be impressed! Let's not forget the Marshall's, members of the clubs that forego racing to ensure race events can go ahead. I have even roped in my daughters to help.

WHERE?

I've trained on my way to and from work (apologies Mark Pritchard for the Lycra trisuit early morning views from your office window!) and raced in lakes, rivers, quarries

and this year for the first time, the sea. I have raced the cycle leg on closed roads, in towns, cities in the UK and around the Isle of Anglesey. I have raced the run leg alongside lakes, on a beach with Snowdon mountain range as a backdrop, forest trails and even in Leeds in front of 1000s of spectators along the same course as the world elite triathletes including the Brownlee brothers!

In 2018 I will compete in 'must do' events of the triathlon calendar, the Adventure Series Challenge 3 Welsh world rated races, Chester half marathon and Abersoch sea triathlon. Majorca is also a popular destination and a potential for training in my 50th year, obviously with the blessing from my wife!

WHY?

I needed to be fit to keep up with my young children, improve my strength and mobility, as sitting in car, at a desk, in meetings or on the couch is not good for the body mechanics and golf just didn't cut it. I started swimming when my children attended their swimming lessons, I cycled to work and also ran now and again. Colleagues at work then challenged me to complete a triathlon and after getting over starter knee and shoulder injuries; the rest is history.

The different event types and distances, the constant changes required in training and also the nutrition preparations and differing environments keeps me interested. In addition I like the continuing challenge to improve myself. When you are bobbing up and down in a wetsuit, thinking, "That looks a long way to swim" with other athletes waiting for the hooter to go off and the piranha like water as the race starts - the adrenalin certainly starts pumping. There is a continuous requirement to reflect on past performance and to change training. if required I am now on my third iteration of my swimming technique!

As you can see, I am now well and truly hooked and would encourage anyone to participate.

HOW?

Like every task in life that needs completing to the best of our abilities, a triathlete needs to complete and trust their training, which is especially important considering there is a chance of drowning!

After physio advice, yoga, strength and conditioning and massage are incorporated into running and swimming techniques, squad swims, indoor and road cycling training. My family do ask HOW my 'chicken legs' do it!

SO, IS THERE ANYTHING TO CONCLUDE FROM YOUR ANSWERS?

Yes I think we can; Triathlons and the training involved offers camaraderie, increases flexibility and adaptability to change, increases your resilience, develops self-improvement and self-reflection and provides an opportunity to visit places you may not ordinarily visit. It increases fitness levels and provides an interest outside of work and family. Anyone at any level can get involved, give triathlons a go, you won't regret it!

If you are indeed inspired to get more information visit www.gotri.com



Derek with his medal for competing in the Anglesey 'Sandman' sea and sand full distance Triathlon at Newborough Forest in September 2017

Competition

Following on from our success at the Minister for Defence Procurement Acquisition Awards, this issue's competition focuses on famous Politicians. EMCOR Group (UK) plc has kindly donated Super Break vouchers up to the value of £300. All you have to do to win is correctly answer the following questions. Good luck!

1. Who became Prime Minister in 1940 following the resignation of Neville Chamberlain?

2. Which Prime Minister created the National Health Service?

3. Who was Britain's first female Prime Minister?

4. Which liberal was described as the 'Grand Old Man' and was Prime Minister four times in 1868 – 1874, 1880 – 1885, 1886 – 1886 and 1892 - 1894?

5. Which Labour Prime Minister was the only person to hold all 4 major offices of State; Chancellor of the exchequer, Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister?

6. Who is the longest serving Labour Prime Minister?

The closing date for this competition is Friday 29 June 2018

Please send your entries to Hannah Jukes-Jones by
Friday 29 June 2018

hannah.jukes-jones@deca.mod.uk

95551 5123

01785 785123

MOD Beacon Barracks, No 6 Site Building 2, Within Lane, Nr
Hopton, Stafford. ST18 0AQ

Name

Department

Telephone number

One entry per person

The winner of last month's competition and winning the One4all vouchers is Karl Lewis from Stafford Military Guard Service

The correct answers were:

1. William Duke of Cumberland
2. 18 June 1815
3. Balaclava

4. Battle of Britain
5. Montgomery
6. Falkland Islands

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