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*the magazine for
defence equipment
and support*

UK Military Flying Training System: Texan takes to the skies



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Foreword

"I look forward very much to further empower our workforce to deliver to the highest standard"



By Sir Simon Bollom, CEO

I took great joy in visiting Glasgow at the beginning of last month where I had the honour of addressing the shipyard's workforce and dignitaries prior

to the naming of HMS Spey.

The next-generation River Class ship is the last of five Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) procured by DE&S and built on the Clyde for the Royal Navy. These brand-new patrol ships will play a vital role in Britain's counter-terrorism and anti-smuggling work and provide essential support to defence operations.

The culmination of a successful programme is clearly a day for celebration, and I listened with interest as members of the DE&S team that saw this contract through to completion, gave passionate interviews to our media team at the dockside.

This drive to deliver is what makes DE&S staff so special and is the key motivation that drives us. I am determined that we will strive to retain our highly skilled and motivated people, and attract new people in our quest to become world-leaders at what we do – giving the Armed Forces the best equipment and support.

These qualities were acknowledged by Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Minister for Defence Procurement, when she visited MOD Abbey Wood last month. The Minister thanked you for your "immense expertise and your dedication" and highlighted that DE&S staff are playing a crucial role in Defence.

On that note I was delighted to see five of our staff have been announced as finalists in

the Women in Defence Awards 2019. These prestigious awards celebrate the value women bring to the defence enterprise and it is hugely satisfying to see so many of our staff recognised.

There were some impressive images of UK F-35 aircraft landing on the HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier for the first time, not least an excellent BBC documentary. Meanwhile, her sister ship HMS Prince of Wales continues its sea trials ahead of entering Portsmouth later this year. I and so many staff at DE&S will have taken great pride in seeing these trials progressing knowing that they are contributing to the formation of the UK Carrier Strike Group.

Elsewhere the first flight of a Texan T1, the latest and final type of aircraft in the UK Military Flying Training System fleet, marks the achievement of Initial Course Capability for Basic Flying Training.

Our contracts with Ascent Flight Training total £3.2 billion and will see Ascent deliver top-class instruction, infrastructure and support across the three Armed Services until 2033. Our challenge now is to work on improving this as an integrated capability that meets our Defence and prosperity aspiration.

Members of Situational Awareness, Command and Control have been on Exercise in Finland demonstrating how Firestorm – a high tech targeting system for calling in precision air strikes that we have recently updated – can help better protect military operating in high risk environments.

Finally, I want to welcome Mark Russell who officially starts as Chairman of DE&S this month. I look forward very much to working with him as I and my Executive Committee look to further empower our workforce to deliver to the highest standard.

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A student pilot and their trainer approach a Texan T1

Photo by Corporal Simon Armstrong
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David Johnson, Director General (Resources), talks to Desider about his role, efficiency savings and DE&S robots



For the past year, I've been keeping the Director General (Resources) seat warm on an ongoing interim basis. To put it simply, this means I'm responsible for DE&S' money.

That includes forecasting and accounting for expenditure, both for the customers' funds – the £10bn a year we spend on behalf of the front line commands – and our own operating budget of around £1bn a year. In the case of our operating budget, it also means getting the money in the first place. In addition to the finance elements of the role, I also have responsibility for DE&S' infrastructure at corporate level.

Outside of DE&S, I'm a non-executive director of an education trust which runs 10 schools in Wiltshire. It's been strange seeing financial reports which are in pounds rather than in millions, but I hope I can take some experience from DE&S and apply it in a very different environment.

Through our transformation and continuous improvement over the past few years, we've made some real progress. The development of our business planning processes will build on this. Currently, we tend to live from year to year, but we've

now got the tools to improve our planning and work out what resources we need, and we know how to prioritise and allocate them in a more scientific way, that will make DE&S a better place to work.

The biggest highlight from my time in post so far is that collectively we delivered £1.4bn of efficiency in the equipment programme last year. As our previous chairman liked to point out, that was more than it cost to run the organisation for a year – so we made a hefty profit for the department. That was a huge team effort across all functions and domains in DE&S.

I'm also excited about the Inventory Improvement Plan which is a joint iLog/Finance endeavour. Among other things, this involves automating some of our manual processes. For example, we've got a robot known as 'Clive' which transfers prices from CP&F into the inventory pricing system. This is great from a finance point of view as it reduces the risk of errors, but it also reduces the amount of tedious manual data entry that people have had to do.

If we can take anything from this, it's that we should dare to

If we can take anything from this, it's that we should dare to dream and be ambitious. Some of the things that the organisation has achieved in the last few years have been amazing

dream and be ambitious. Some of the things that the organisation has achieved in the last few years have been amazing, and we should have the confidence to believe that we can rise to any challenge. 'Clive' shows that we can streamline processes which have been with us for many years - we don't have to accept the old way of doing things.

I don't think we'll ever run out of ideas for new initiatives to improve - I know there are lots of ideas across the functions to reduce/improve high volume, repetitive manual processes. I really look forward to seeing how far we can take this.

SUPPORTING YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN

Knowing your supply chain is resilient has become increasingly vital in today's regulatory environment.

The Ministry of Defence and 11 Prime Contractors are collaborating across the defence and aerospace sectors to reduce the cost of demonstrating regulatory compliance to both buyers and suppliers.

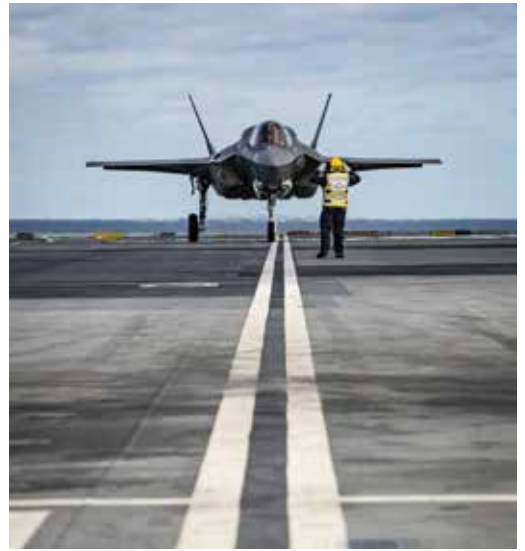
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Pictured: UK F-35 Lightning jets landing, taking off and hovering onboard Britain's next generation aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, for the first time (Pictures by LPhot Kyle Heller and LPhot Daniel Shepherd)

UK F-35 fighter jets first time on board HMS Queen Elizabeth

"These landings are a moment of celebration and pride for all of us involved in delivering and supporting these mighty warships for the UK"

These amazing pictures show the UK's F-35 Lightning jets landing, taking off and hovering onboard Britain's next generation aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, for the first time.

Flown by Royal Navy and Royal Air Force pilots, the Lightning jets are embarking on the 65,000 tonne carrier to conduct operational trials off the East Coast of the USA.

This follows last year's successful developmental trials with Integrated Test Force Lightning jets, where forces conducted 500 take offs and landings over their 11-week period at sea.

These trials are aimed at 'end-to-end' testing of the aircraft and personnel to ensure the aircraft are compatible with the carrier.

The tests involve mission planning, arming the aircraft using the ship's Highly Automated Weapon Handling System, flying missions and debriefing on completion.

Andy Hewitt, team leader of the Lightning Delivery Team at DE&S, said: "This is an important milestone, achieved on schedule and one that the Lightning Delivery Team can be very proud of. It will make a significant contribution to the body of evidence to enable the declaration of Initial Operating Capability (Maritime)."

The landings on HMS Queen Elizabeth are part of the 'Westlant 19' Carrier Strike Group deployment. Once fully operational, the UK Carrier Strike Group will be a formidable force around the world, using a number of platforms to work alongside our allies.

During this time, the aircraft carrier will be escorted by Type 45 destroyer HMS Dragon, submarine hunter HMS Northumberland, tanker RFA Tideforce and Merlins from 814, 820 and 845 Naval Air Squadrons, Wildcats from 815 squadron and Royal Marines from Lima Company, 42 Commando.

Commodore Martyn Williams, DE&S Weapon Support Head, said: "These landings are a moment of celebration and pride for all of us involved in

delivering and supporting these mighty warships for the UK. They offer an opportunity to look back on all we have achieved together - and to look forward to the same success on board HMS Prince of Wales as we stay focussed on preparing her entry into Royal Navy service."

The F-35B Lightning aircraft operates with cutting-edge design and is the first jet to combine radar evading stealth technology with supersonic speed, as well as the ability to land vertically.

Given its ability to conduct missions both from land and sea, the jets act as a formidable spine to the 'carrier strike' capability. The UK currently owns 18 aircraft, and will have received 35 jets by the end of 2022.

First to land onboard, Royal Air Force Wing Commander Adam Curd, said: "This is the first time I have landed onboard an aircraft carrier - for it to be HMS Queen Elizabeth, and in an aircraft as amazing as a UK Lightning, is quite something.

"This is a proud moment not only for me, but the wider team that has brought us to this milestone for maritime aviation and UK Defence."

The UK will declare Initial Operating Capability for Carrier Strike by the end of 2020. The first operational deployment for HMS Queen Elizabeth 617 Squadron and a squadron of US Marine Corps Lightning jets is due to take place in 2021.

Commander of the Strike Group, Commodore Mike Utley, Royal Navy said: "Getting to this point of embarking UK Lightning jets into our British-built carrier has been a significant joint undertaking by industry and military - both ours, and those from the United States.

"We will take the jets from the successful developmental phase we achieved last year through to a more operational footing, so we are confident that the jets, the carrier and our destroyers and frigates will function seamlessly together."



Boxer trials success

The DE&S Mechanised Infantry Vehicle (MIV) Delivery Team has completed a successful Electro-Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) baseline trial with Boxer.

The team collaborated with the Battlefield and Tactical Communications & Information Systems team, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, the Electromagnetic Environmental Effects Authority and industry partners; RBSL and KMW, during the trials which took place Element Test House in Malvern.

The EMC trials, carried out on a Boxer vehicle on loan from the Royal Netherlands Army, are undertaken to ensure

communications systems installed on military vehicles are robust enough to ensure the platform can perform on operations in an external electromagnetic environment.

Will Higham, MIV technical lead, said: "Being able to conduct these trials at an early stage in the programme has allowed us to move towards de-risking the programme to ensure the British Army stand to have a highly effective communications platform when Boxer is fielded."

The results of the trial will have a beneficial impact on the project as it moves into the Demonstration and Manufacture stage.

DE&S staff praised by Min DP

Minister for Defence Procurement Anne-Marie Trevelyan commended staff for their superlative efforts during a town hall at MOD Abbey Wood.

During her speech, the Minister mentioned some of the most recent successes DE&S have achieved, including the contract to support the engines of the typhoon fighter jets, the official start of the build for our second class of Type 26 anti-submarine frigates and selection of a preferred bidder for the Type 31 frigates.

She said: "Our armed forces are doing good across the world, delivering humanitarian aid, defending eastern Europe from aggression and protecting the waterways of international trade. We couldn't do this without your immense expertise and dedication."

Looking forward, the Minister explained that the challenge is to radically shorten our acquisition timeline and adopt a mindset that will allow us to take on more challenges to help "build a future formidable force."

The Minister added: "Britain has the means to respond to any danger, any time and anywhere for the next 50 years. And the teams here at DE&S will continue to play a vital part in bringing that vision to life."

See pages 12 & 13 for an exclusive interview with the minister.

Key milestone for DE&S project team

A DE&S project team have reached a key milestone in the drive to deliver unmanned capability for Mine Countermeasures tasks in UK water.

The Wilton project team, consisting of DE&S and Royal Navy personnel supported by Atlas Elektronik UK, successfully demonstrated operation of an autonomous unmanned surface vessel fitted with a towed side scan sonar controlled remotely from a command and control station shore-side.

This system will ultimately be able to undertake route survey tasks, detecting, identifying, and prosecuting mine threats. These world leading technologies will substantially reduce risk to the

sailors conducting these tasks and ultimately save lives.

Jared Pocock, Project Wilton's project manager at DE&S, said: "This demonstration is testament to Royal Navy, DE&S and industry partners working collaboratively to deliver cutting-edge capability. This is a key enabler for maintaining the Royal Navy as the world leader in autonomous Mine Countermeasures capability and ensuring the safety of our service men and women across the globe."

This system is the first of a number of unmanned and autonomous mine countermeasures systems which the Royal Navy has committed to delivering across a variety of operational theatres.





This is one of more than 1,000 incredible photographs entered into the Royal Air Force's Photographic Competition 2019, showcasing the "very best of the RAF." This photo taken by SAC Chris Thompson-Watts was 'highly commended' and features two Hawk jets which form part of DE&S' UK Military Flying Training System (UK MFTS). For more on the UK MFTS see page 14.

DE&S chief takes command of the Movement Coordination Centre Europe

Brigadier Nigel Allison, head of Defence Support Chain Operations & Movements (DSCOM) at DE&S, led the UK delegation to a flag ceremony in Eindhoven as Group Captain Stu Gregory took command of the Movement Coordination Centre Europe (MCCE).

Established in 2007, the MCCE now consists of 28 willing nations committed to co-ordinating sealift, air transport, inland surface transport, and air-to-air refuelling to maximize efficiency.

Through its membership, the UK can share spare capacity of its military air transport and roll-on/roll-off capability when other nations need it. In exchange, the

UK can access other nations' spare capacity when it needs it most.

Brigadier Allison, pictured right with Group Captain Gregory pictured left, within his capacity as the senior UK representative at the MCCE Steering Board, and as the tasking authority for UK's strategic lift assets, took a leading role in supporting Group Captain Gregory in his new role as Director.

He said: "I was delighted to be there to represent UK Defence Logistics. It's fantastic the UK continues to play such a key role in the MCCE. Not only is it better for the operations we support, but it's also better on the Defence pocket."





Meet the Minister for Defence Procurement: Anne-Marie Trevelyan

Pictured: Min DP Anne-Marie Trevelyan (Picture by Dave Jenkins)

"Keep up the good work and keep on top of our suppliers to make sure they're delivering the best capability possible on time, and on budget"

What are your first impressions of Defence and your portfolio?

I am a bit of a poacher turned gamekeeper as I had the Defence lead on the Public Accounts Committee before becoming Minister for Defence Procurement, so I have already looked in-depth at some of the key issues facing the Department from the outside. Defence is extraordinary and complex. It has a unique governance structure with military, politicians and the Civil Service at the heart of decision-making. This brings an interesting challenge to the role, as I need to balance the needs and perspectives of stakeholders with very different responsibilities, who often work within very different frameworks. My Ministerial portfolio must be one of the most interesting across government.

What strengths do you think you bring to the role?

I'm someone who likes to tackle a problem. My door is always open and I'd always rather that people were honest with me when there's an issue. I'm more interested in working together to help solve a problem than giving people a ticking off. I also think because I'm passionate about Defence but not directly involved with the armed forces, I make an excellent champion for Defence while still remaining objective. I've also really enjoyed the international relations aspect of this role. This side of things is quite new to me, but I've loved getting to build relationships with my counterparts. I'm quite a people person and enjoy finding common ground and putting people at ease.

What do you think are the greatest challenges you will face?

I think as Defence our greatest challenges are meeting our ambitions for Tier 1 status, and retaining our position as the lead NATO member in Europe, within the financial limitations we face. One of my biggest challenges as Minister for Defence Procurement is therefore making the case for changing annualised financial frameworks to give us the flexibility we need to maximise value for money, and ensure the most effective delivery. I also want to work with the front line commands to set realistic and viable investment plans for next generation capabilities.

What do you see as your priorities for the next 12 months?

I came into the Department with five main priorities and they've broadly stayed the same. My top two priorities are submarines and submarines. That's in-service submarines, and the new build programmes we have underway. Then there's

implementing the Acquisition Review and focussing on complex weapons. And finally, driving forward the Defence and Security Industrial Strategy, particularly shipbuilding, supply chain resilience and ensuring industry have the right skills, or "human capital," in place to support Defence programmes.

What do you think the biggest challenge that DE&S and its employees face in the next 12 months?

DE&S has successfully achieved an enormous amount of transformation in the past few years, but over the next 12 months the biggest challenge will be keeping abreast of the change of pace and culture. I mentioned that the Acquisition Review roll-out is one of my priorities, so I hope to see DE&S really embracing that. That's going to mean big cultural changes at all levels, to increase people's willingness to take risks and to embed the new practices necessary to speed up our procurement processes so we're delivering the capability our armed forces need, as rapidly as possible. I'm also really keen to see DE&S continuing to develop their people to ensure we have all the necessary skills we need across DE&S and I'd like to see DE&S building and maintaining those crucial relationships with the commercial teams and end users in the front line commands.

Do you have a message you would like to send to DE&S employees?

I've been hugely impressed by the DE&S workforce and their dedication to supporting our armed forces. They do a wonderful job at delivering really complex programmes and working closely with our front line commands. So I would say, keep up the good work and keep on top of our suppliers to make sure they're delivering the best capability possible on time, and on budget.

What are your interests outside of being an MP and a Minister?

I'm very lucky to live in Northumberland and I love walking in the Northumbrian countryside and along the best of our beaches whenever I get to escape London. There's nothing else like it to clear the head and it also reminds me that we are an island nation. Any downtime will find me with a tapestry in hand – there is nothing better to clear my mind.

Military flying training reaches significant milestone as Texan T1 takes to the skies for first student flight

Pictured: Student pilots will now be trained on Texan T1 (Picture by Corporal Simon Armstrong – Crown Copyright)



A significant milestone was reached at RAF Valley with the first flight of a student pilot in the latest and final type of aircraft in the UK Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS) fleet.

The first student sortie marks the achievement of Initial Course Capability (ICC) for Basic Flying Training (BFT).

On October 15, a student took to the skies in a Texan T1 tandem seat turboprop aircraft, equipped with the latest digital glass cockpit and mission simulation systems.

This follows the earlier February 2019 milestone of Texan T Mk1's successful first flight at RAF Valley and being accepted onto the Military Register.

The Texan T1 replaces the Tucano T1 which has provided the Basic Flying Training capability for the RAF since 1989, and which poignantly made its final student flight exactly the same day as Texan took to the skies for the first time with student pilots.

Wing Commander Robbie Lees, OC 72 Squadron at Linton, said: "The last student on Tucano completed his End Of Course Test, or Wings Ride, on October 15. He landed at 15:35 local time,

I am absolutely delighted to achieve the first student flight in a Texan T1. It has been an extraordinary team effort

Commodore Tom Manson,
Head UKMFTS in DE&S

signifying the end of 30 years of Tucano pilot training."

The new Texan T1 aircraft offers a technological step change from the Tucano and is aligned with the 4th and 5th generation combat aircraft that trainee pilots will fly in their front-line careers.

It is one of a suite of aircraft under DE&S' UKMFTS contract with Ascent Flight Training which totals £3.2 billion. Ascent will deliver instruction, infrastructure and support required to provide military flying training across the three armed services until 2033.

UKMFTS covers training for Rotary Wing, Fixed Wing, Fast Jet and Rear Crew. As well as delivering the four core elements of future military flying training the contract is sustaining approximately 500 UK jobs.

Commodore Tom Manson, Head UKMFTS in DE&S, said: "I am absolutely delighted to achieve the first student flight in a Texan T1. Training has not only achieved one of our Command Acquisition and Support Plans 2019/20 Strategic Milestones but we have also now declared ICC – the equivalent of Initial Operating Capability - across the whole of the

UKMFTS programme. It has been an extraordinary team effort."

The Texan T1's will be operated by 72 Squadron from RAF Valley. This will mean that two-thirds of fast jet pilot training for the Royal Navy and RAF will take place at the Anglesey base.

Wing Commander Chris Ball, who will command 72 Squadron at RAF Valley said: "Under UK MFTS, student fighter pilots will train on world-leading aircraft on phase 2 training. They start on the Prefect, move on to the Texan and finish on the Hawk T2, making the training process more efficient and far more representative of the aircraft types they will eventually fly on the front line. The Texan is the ideal lead-in trainer to the Hawk T2 advanced jet trainer and both are now operated here at Valley."

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On continuous improvement, collaboration and bell ringing

Chris Wardle is the Solution Design Lead for FMSP, laying the foundations for a more collaborative approach for driving change

What does your role involve?

As the Solution Design Lead for the Future Maritime Support Programme (FMSP) I'm responsible for working across Maritime support to develop a coherent support solution across ships, submarines and naval bases to improve the delivery of support to the Royal Navy. Our aims are improved availability of platforms, better condition of the built estate, improving the lived experience of our staff and sailors, and making the MOD a better customer to industry.

What about your role is exciting, rewarding or interesting?

In leading the solution design for FMSP I am genuinely excited about getting the best deal for the taxpayer and improving support to the Royal Navy. The programme is so wide ranging in its scope - it covers everything from picking stock from warehouse shelves to replacing the nuclear fuel in one of the nation's four deterrent submarines. Success of the programme is key to the maintenance of the UK's continuous at sea deterrent (CASD) whilst at the same time we are mandated to maintain listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments in naval bases. Knitting together these wide ranging and diverse activities into a system of support to deliver Royal Navy outputs is challenging - and I love a challenge. I meet people every day who are dedicated to providing the best support to our armed forces.

How important to you is teamwork?

In a programme like FMSP, teamwork is not just important,

it is essential to the success of the programme. Whatever its focus, the FMSP family have to pull together in the same direction to get the work done. And we are lucky in FMSP - everyone knows exactly why we are here, what needs to be done, and we are all working with enthusiasm and professionalism to succeed.

How are you helping embed change in your area?

There are so many ways. The current focus on continuous improvement allows for some introspection within the team to make us even more effective. But the real benefit to wider defence is the step-change we aim to make in the ability of the DE&S, Submarine Delivery Agency (SDA) and Navy Command to manage the relationship with our suppliers. We have restated the technical requirement for support for the first time in nearly 20 years and have taken a section of the requirement to the competitive market for the first time ever. We are also constructing future commercial relationships that will hold suppliers to account better than ever before and also allows for a more collaborative approach to driving change.

Why did you choose to pursue a career in DE&S?

I suppose DE&S is my natural home. After 33 years working in a series of Maritime Support jobs in ships, submarines and at the naval bases, the place these things come together is DE&S. Abbey Wood is a great place to work. Nowhere else is there such a community of people all with the single aim of supplying the armed forces with the best equipment and support we can afford.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

That's easy. It's the complexity of the programme. There are so many stakeholders and interested parties, so many differing requirements and competing priorities and so many interfaces and relationships that have to work in order to succeed in delivering the benefits the customer needs. It's a real challenge.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I'm based in the south west and have a young family there. When not ferrying the children about we enjoy the sea and the moors in equal measure. Being so close to both we are really lucky and there is no excuse for not getting out into the fresh air.

What might surprise people about you?

I'm a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. This society originated in London almost 400 years ago and promotes the science (and art) of church bell ringing around the world. New ringers are always needed at almost any church across the country. If anyone is interested in this exciting and friendly pastime, please ask me if you bump into me.

HMS Prince of Wales powers on with sea trials

Pictured: HMS Prince of Wales conducting deck landings on board for the very first time at sea (Picture by LPhot Alex Ceolin)



HMS Prince of Wales is making positive progress through her sea trials programme, which is designed to test the full spectrum of her vast and complex systems.

The aircraft carrier exited Rosyth dockyard for the first time on September 19 and is undertaking nine weeks of sea trials in the North Sea.

On board are experts from across the Aircraft Carrier Alliance (ACA) including personnel from DE&S, the Royal Navy and industry.

During sea trials, the ship's company are working alongside approximately 400 of their civilian counterparts to test all 158 essential systems which include power and propulsion, radars, communications and essential services supporting global deployment in the future.

During the first few weeks of trials, several key activities have taken place – all of which are important steps towards HMS Prince of Wales entering service in the Royal Navy, alongside her sister ship, HMS Queen Elizabeth. This has included the 920ft-long, 65,000-tonne warship conducting trials in a Sea State 6, which can see waves up to 20ft high.

It gave me a great sense of pride to be on board HMS Prince of Wales as she exited Rosyth for the first time

Steven Perry, a chief engineer at DE&S

An early milestone was the first aircraft landing, which saw a Merlin Mk2 from 820 Naval Air Squadron landing safely on the ship, whilst the RAF provided two Typhoons from Lossiemouth to assist with testing long and medium range radars.

Alongside the trials activity, the ACA workforce have completed in excess of 300 compartments on board, all of which have also been checked and accepted by the MOD Delivery Acceptance Team. That leaves less than 350 of the 3,000 compartments on board to have the final finishing touches applied before acceptance.

Steven Perry, a chief engineer at DE&S, who is on board currently working on the sea trials, said: "It gave me and my team a great sense of pride to be on board HMS Prince of Wales as she exited Rosyth for the first time. The sea trials have gone extremely well to date. The teamwork between ship's company, industry and MOD has been outstanding. Examples of this has been the unprecedented strike rate of compartment completions and inspections, with 100 compartments being accepted in one week. I am looking forward to the aircraft carrier's arrival into Portsmouth upon successful

completion of the sea trials."

Other activity during sea trials has seen the Forward Aircraft Lift, which can take two F-35s up from the hangar to the flight deck and complete its dynamic load trial by moving a 105-tonne test load through its full operating cycle.

The installation tests for her General Purpose Machine Guns have also been completed and they are now cleared for use. The propulsion system has been successfully tested to full power driving the ship to a top speed in excess of 25 knots.

Once sea trials are complete, HMS Prince of Wales will enter Portsmouth for the first time where two jetties have been extensively modified to accommodate and meet the support requirements of both carriers.

HMS Prince of Wales will be commissioned into the Royal Navy at the end of the year.

Meet the new DE&S Chairman: Mark Russell CBE



Mark Russell CBE tells Desider about his background, his love of public service and why the role as Chairman at DE&S was too good an opportunity to pass up

Why did you choose a financial career?

Well, like many who end up in finance, it wasn't the result of a conscious decision. At least it wasn't an ambition I had in the playground. I left university knowing that I wanted to do something in business or commerce. After a period as a very junior member of a strategy consultancy, I moved to an investment bank and started to do corporate finance. But, in hindsight, the financial training has been invaluable in the wider business work that I have been involved in.

Why did you join the Public Sector?

The most interesting piece of work I did while in the private sector was a government privatisation – the Property Services Agency. This experience led me to explore what might be available in the Public Sector. It was then that I found the Shareholder Executive, a part of the then Department of Trade and Industry.

Have you enjoyed it?

My time in Whitehall has been

the best part of my professional life. By far. I have loved the variety and profile of the work and, most of all, the colleagues. Even, at times, I have enjoyed the politics of it all. And I have really liked the feeling of public service and that, at the margins, I might be making a difference.

What have been your biggest challenges/successes at UK Government Investments/the Shareholder Executive

There have been organisational challenges and successes as well as work ones. The organisational ones have largely been around building a high-performing Whitehall – based group that mixes colleagues from the private sector and the Civil Service. We have achieved this certainly not by paying private sector wages but by offering demanding and fascinating work and creating a working environment and culture that is as good as it gets. There are parallels with DE&S but the very obvious difference is that UKGI is very much smaller – only 120 people – so we can be very nimble.

Our diet of work has offered some big challenges, but we have had a few successes. It has been

particularly interesting advising Ministers on distressed companies where we have usually been trying to help find private sector solutions to companies that are facing liquidity challenges and trying to avoid public sector bail outs. Jaguar Land Rover and the care home group, Southern Cross, are two examples where we engineered private sector solutions. Another real success was the creation of the Green Investment Bank, and its subsequent sale – a rare example of a successful policy intervention where Government actually made a profit.

What attracted you to the DE&S Chairman role?

For as long as I have been in Whitehall I have been interested in the work of the MOD. From as early as university Officer Training Corps days I have been a great admirer of our armed forces and continually impressed by what they do and how they do it. Our forces deserve the very best we can provide in equipment, support and service. We know this can be difficult and complex work – and it needs excellent people to make it happen – but often it can be held back by things that

we should be able to fix. Maybe overly complex processes, a simple communication failing or what I would call “Whitehall nonsenses”. Given my background and experience, I thought there would be areas where I can directly assist Simon Bolloom and the executive team while also helping the DE&S organisation get the most out of our non-executive Board colleagues.

What qualities do you expect to bring to the role?

A passion for the mission of DE&S, focus in where I engage and where the Board engages, an emphasis on teamwork and the support of colleagues, and a real eye on outcomes.

Finally, what is the best piece of advice you have ever received?

Probably what a schoolteacher once said to us – show courtesy and respect to all, regardless of the circumstances, and it will be repaid many times over. I have certainly found this. I would add one other bit of more practical advice that my first boss gave me – if you want something doing, give it to a busy person.

DE&S employees shortlisted for Women in Defence Awards

Unsung Heroines



Ross Hill, Joint Enablers Occupational Health & Safety Environmental Co-Ordinator

Why were you nominated for this award?

I was nominated as an unsung heroine because of the work I have done to bring mental health awareness to the forefront of the DE&S organisation, enabling the Mental Health First Aider training, providing regular presentations and events with personal testimony, liaising with individuals and managers, ensuring the message continues to be cascaded in an effective way.

How does it feel to be recognised as one of the best women in defence?

It is an immense honour to be nominated for these awards and after many years of working in the background it is overwhelming to suddenly be thrust into the limelight.

What advice would you give to other women hoping to gain the same award?

Look for work that inspires you, and don't give up at the tough fences. If you are not fulfilled in your work, then you need to find something new to challenge you.

Jo Osburn, Head of Maritime Combat Systems (MCS)

Why were you nominated for this award?

The Most Collaborative award, for which I have been shortlisted for, recognises where an individual has demonstrated creating a collaborative working arrangement within their organisation or with another organisation and has created a positive impact. As Head of MCS and the Chair of the Maritime Mission Systems Enterprise Board, I have brought together 12 leading Combat System Industrial Directors, in addition to a number of key Ministry of Defence customers. In what is a highly competitive market place, where collaboration has been non-existent, I have championed an ethos of collaboration to bring about the introduction of new technologies which bring about the exploitation of more open combat systems and

allow for a once in a generation change to improve what we can deliver to the Front line.

How does it feel to be recognised as one of the best women in defence?

I am immensely proud of being nominated and was amazed to be shortlisted for this award, especially having met some of the other fantastic nominees for this category.

What advice would you give to other women hoping to gain the same award?

I would encourage other women in defence to seek out new opportunities and not be limited by perceived barriers. Be confident in your skills and experiences, expand your learning by trying new things and if you come up against barriers, think of them as merely speed bumps, and find a way to overcome them.



Most Collaborative

Jan Riches, DES Warship Support - Type 23 Power Generation Machinery Upgrade Project Manager

Why were you nominated for this award?

I was nominated for the work I have done as part of the MOD Women's Network (MWN). I understand that my nomination outlined my previous co-leader role, the facilitation of formal events and managing the Bitesize programme, as well as support for individuals and the Menopause Community of Interest.

How does it feel to be recognised as one of the best women in defence?

As with my colleagues Jo and Sue, I was amazed/humbled to be nominated – and very grateful for the support and recognition of my colleagues.

What advice would you give to other women hoping to gain the same award?

The award is all about supporting/furthering D&I opportunities in general and for women in particular. We should all be doing whatever we can to help our female colleagues to succeed.

Emerging Talent



Emily Newton, British Embassy Nuclear & Strategic Deterrent and Threat Reduction

Why were you nominated for this award?

I was nominated for this award based on my impact, performance and attitude over the past four years of training to become a Nuclear Professional, becoming the youngest person to pass the Duly Authorised Person Board, allowing delegated inspector responsibilities from the Head of DNSR.

How does it feel to be recognised as one of the best women in defence?

I am honoured to have been short-listed as there are many exceptional and talented women in defence.

What advice would you give to other women hoping to gain the same award?

My advice to others would be to challenge yourself and push yourself - you are not the best you can be when you are comfortable. Invest in growing your network and contacts, you never know when it might be useful. Seek out opportunities to do something outside your normal role - STEM outreach, secondments, volunteer work. Keep striving.



Unsung Heroines

Outstanding Contribution



Sue Temple, DE&S QEC Warship Support

Why were you nominated for this award?

I am not aware of the details behind my nomination but I do know I was originally in the Unsung Heroine category

but was re-categorised by the decision panel to Outstanding Contribution.

How does it feel to be recognised as one of the best women in defence?

It has been such a humbling experience to be recognised by the organisation and nominated for Women in Defence 2019. To be subsequently shortlisted, particularly in view of the number of nominations this year, is such an honour and privilege, and is the highlight of my 35 years in the MOD.

What advice would you give to other women hoping to gain the same award?

Be a role model - lead by example, work hard, respect all, gain resilience, learn from your mistakes and always be positive, no matter the challenges you face. Remember to smile.

Congratulations to all our DE&S nominees who have been shortlisted for The Women in Defence Awards 2019. The women were chosen from roughly 500 inspirational nominees from across the defence community and will be attending the awards dinner later this month on 19th November.

DE&S team proud to see HMS Spey officially named in Govan

Pictured: The last of five cutting-edge Offshore Patrol Vessels procured for the Royal Navy has been formally named on the Clyde (Picture by Beth Squire)



HMS Spey, the last of five cutting-edge Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) procured by DE&S for the Royal Navy, has been formally named.

The next-generation River Class ship, equipped with a 30mm cannon and flight-deck capable of accommodating a Merlin helicopter, will boost Britain's counter-terrorism and anti-smuggling work and provide essential support to defence operations.

The 90 metre vessel is a product of the Batch 2 OPV contract with BAE Systems, worth a combined £635 million. It was officially named in Govan, Scotland.

Sir Simon Bollom, said: "This marks an important step toward the MOD's vision to establish a common shared architecture across all Royal Navy warships.

"It is great to see HMS Spey join her sister ships and I would like to thank the team at DE&S, our industry partners and the Royal Navy for working together to ensure this important milestone was achieved.

"Everyone can rightly be proud of what we have accomplished. The delivery of the OPV programme is fulfilling a key commitment of the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 and is part of the Government's £178 billion plan

Everyone can rightly be proud of what we have accomplished. The delivery of the OPV programme is fulfilling a key commitment of the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015

Sir Simon Bollom,
DE&S CEO

to provide the UK's armed forces with the best possible equipment."

The milestone on the River Clyde was a proud moment for those from DE&S who worked on the procurement of Spey and her sister ships.

Charlie Ball, the operations manager of the batch 2 River Class OPV project, said: "I was very proud to have been able to witness the naming ceremony. The whole team attended as it was almost the end of the project. While that meant it was bitter sweet, it's been really great to have been part of such a dynamic team."

DE&S apprentice Daisy Kilduff added: "This is my first placement and it's been a really great team to work for because, even though it's one project, we had five different ships that are at different stages of build.

"That's really brilliant because I get to see every single step of the project. There's definitely a real sense of pride within the team for what we have achieved."

HMS Spey was officially named by her sponsor Lady Alison Johnstone. The centuries-old tradition believed to bestow luck saw a bottle of Speyside Distillery whisky being smashed against her hull.

Initially constructed in BAE System's Govan yard, all five OPVs

were then moved to the company's Scotstoun site to be fitted out with their systems ahead a series of sea trials.

Construction of the OPVs for the Royal Navy, alongside the Type 26 anti-submarine frigate programme, has meant the Glasgow shipyards' order books are full until the early 2030s.

This has protected 1,700 Scottish jobs and supported a further 2,300 roles across the nation through the supply chain.

Defence Minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan, said: "Our Offshore Patrol Vessels play a pivotal role in patrolling our coastline, protecting our domestic waters and supporting maritime interests from anti-smuggling to fisheries protection.

"The naming of HMS Spey is an exciting milestone for the OPV programme, demonstrating our commitment to UK shipyards while bolstering the Royal Navy's capabilities."

All the Batch 2 OPVs - HMS Forth, Medway, Trent, Tamar and Spey - are planned to be delivered to the Royal Navy by the end of 2021.

CEO Commendations

DE&S former winners: what it was like to win their awards and where they are now



Merlin life Sustainment Team

Jason McHugh reflects on the CEO commendation the Merlin life Sustainment Team was awarded

Why was your team nominated for this award?

The award the Merlin team received, recognised the team's role in delivering over and above outputs. This resulted in 3 Merlin Mk4 from Commando Helicopter Force (CHF) embarking on Her Majesty's Ship Queen Elizabeth in August 2018 with search and rescue capability, alleviated pressure on the highly attributed Merlin Mk2 Force, enabling aircraft to be deployed and held at high readiness for hurricane relief operations, as part of preparations for Op Caribbean.

This is the highest accolade a team can achieve within DE&S, how did it feel?

It was an honour to represent the Merlin Delivery Team, who unfortunately couldn't all be present at the ceremony. Having all worked tirelessly to support the desire of the customer, it was rewarding to see that CEO and the Front Line Command recognise the dedication it took to deliver 6 months earlier than initially forecast.

What are your memories of the awards ceremony?

The award ceremony was held in MOD Main Building and was attended by many deserving teams who have all given above and beyond to deliver to the customers' needs. For some teams, the front line read out the citation, which was a touching moment

that was very much appreciated. After the presentation, there was a lunch provided and a great opportunity to network with the Senior Leadership Team and our fellow colleagues.

What would you say to other teams hoping to be awarded a CEO Commendation?

If you have witnessed or are part of a deserving team, you need to put yourself forward for this award. It is important that we as a team recognise the dedication and determination we have to deliver on our promises and it is events like this, that make us stop and reflect on what we have achieved.

As our Captain said, if you don't look up, how do you know how high you have climbed.

Have the team/team members built on their success?

Upon returning to Yeovil, the bright lights of the city were but a distant memory. That said, this award was recognition for the first of three major milestones in this project. We have all ploughed on with the demanding schedule and in October 19 delivered the final Release to Service for the Merlin Mk4, this is a major accomplishment, which enables full operational capability of the helicopter.

"It is important that we as a team recognise the dedication and determination we have to deliver on our promises and it is events like this, that make us stop and reflect on what we have achieved"

desider November 2019
Feature



Pictured clockwise from top left: Sergeant Dan Campbell setting up Firestorm, the view from the Firestorm set up, Corporal Paul Morrison feeling the cold assisting with Firestorm setup and the view from Observation Point during live fly phase of Bold Quest 19 (Pictures submitted by Mark Tetchner)

Firestorm

integrated targeting system shines on Finland exercise

DE&S staff travelled to a training exercise in Finland to demonstrate how a cutting-edge integrated targeting system can better protect military operating in high-risk environments.

The system, called Firestorm, was taken to Northern Europe as part of Exercise Bold Quest by staff belonging to the Tactical Data Link Support Unit (TDLSU) within the Situational Awareness, Command and Control delivery team at DE&S.

They were sent to the city of Kuopio in the region of Northern Savonia to be part of the UK's Digitally Aided Close Air Support (DACAS) team, where their main priority was the support of the UK Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) and Firestorm throughout the exercise.

The Firestorm system, a vital suite of equipment updated by DE&S Artillery Systems last year, allows specially trained soldiers to communicate effectively with aircraft overhead and call in the location of enemy targets for precision air strikes.

During Exercise Bold Quest JTACS were located at observation posts across central Finland controlling aircraft in remote, dynamic environments where traditional voice comms could put them at risk and can cause significant delays in air strikes.

The most notable upgrade made to Firestorm means the hardware now supports DACAS, where digital calls for fire can be sent as a standard message sent directly to the air platform via data.

Wing Commander Jason Wells, a member of the Joint Air Land Organisation Standards and Evaluation cell, which worked alongside DE&S in the DACAS team, said: "Traditional voice comms with the aircraft pose several problems to this type of operation.

"There could be a language barrier, the process of initial contact and implementation of the air strike can be too lengthy and counter location technology can pinpoint JTAC within a metre, which puts them in constant danger while they are transmitting.

"That is exactly why the need for DACAS arose. The capability to have a data link that can transmit

the information between JTAC and aircraft in a burst transmission can significantly reduce the risk associated to the points mentioned previously."

Firestorm utilises the Variable Message Format data link to enable JTAC to communicate digitally with the aircraft overhead, giving targeting and general situational awareness information, as well as positions of friendly forces from the JTAC to the aircraft.

It also allows the aircraft to send the JTAC information on what ordinance it is carrying and give detailed positional information throughout the operation.

This two-way digital exchange can be done without saying a word and with minimal ambiguity. The JTAC will also carry a video downlink to carry out target correlation by viewing what the aircrafts targeting pod is looking at and giving the aircrew directions to bring the pilot onto the correct target.

Corporal Paul Morrison, of the DE&S TDLSU team, said: "The UKs Firestorm system for ground units has improved the ability of JTACs to identify targets, monitor designation, view datalinks, communicate with aircraft and have a greater overall situational awareness of the battlefield.

"However, it should be noted these improvements also owe their success to the people who operate the equipment underpinned by focused air-land training.

"I was delighted that TDLSU had the opportunity to take part on this exercise and believe we added significant value. Our technical knowledge on tactical data links and the software tools we had at our disposal allowed us to offer a first-class service to both project teams and users alike."

Exercise Bold Quest featured more than 2,000 participants from across the globe and tests and demonstrates the functional and technical interoperability of ground, sea and air-based intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and joint fires systems.

DE&S cutting-edge equipment allows UK defence to stay ahead of the curve

Mark Goldsack, the recently appointed Director of the Department of Trade's Defence and Security Organisation, (DIT DSO), an organisation that supports government to government interaction, growth in defence, security and cyber security, tells Desider about terrific opportunities to enhance defence exports

How does DE&S contribute to exports?

You only have to look at the last Security and Defence Spending Review to see that DE&S is vital to the success of the export agenda. I know from experience that senior staff in DE&S play a vital role in explaining the UK programme to Navy's and senior military staff and offer a range of support to help us promote exports. Take for example the recent successes in Australia and Canada, where UK designs for Type 26 have been chosen as part of both countries' maritime modernisation programme. By DE&S staff explaining our strategy and how we wanted to achieve success, both governments understood the benefits of a UK design. It is clear to me that detailed and regular cooperation between DIT DSO and DE&S is essential so that any future designs look at export potential and opportunities.

DSEI must have been an important event for export opportunities?

Absolutely. DSEI 2019, which took over a year to plan, was a major exhibition for DIT DSO and we worked to support visiting overseas delegations. Many were looking at equipment being exhibited by UK companies, many in service with our armed forces. The UK MOD has a proven record of procurement and we were delighted that delegates from more than 60 countries saw what was on offer. I was also pleased to see so many staff from DE&S at the exhibition. With successful UK design and working with DE&S we can help enhance defence exports and, most importantly, the defence industry.

Has your experience been that other countries are impressed

by what DE&S procures and supports for our armed forces?

I am aware of a number of overseas delegations that have visited DE&S and come away impressed. This is not surprising, as the MOD benefits enormously as cutting-edge equipment allows our defence to stay ahead of the curve. From my previous role as the Army's Defence Attaché in India, I watched how India admired the UK armed forces, especially the Navy, as it had recently launched an aircraft carrier, cut steel on Type 26 and conceptualised how Type 31 may develop. It is increasingly clear that the equipment used by our armed forces is respected by overseas customers and foreign governments who want to understand its capabilities and are interested in how the MOD procure it.

What do overseas stakeholders want to learn from DE&S?

Many overseas stakeholders and foreign Navy's want to understand how DE&S procure equipment, your commercial practices and your disciplines of getting value for money whilst incentivising industry to continue to offer innovative solutions. They also want to know from our armed forces if a platform performs well. I believe the stamp of approval from the armed forces using the capability in the UK is vital for our overseas customers.

Looking forward, how do you see your professional involvement with DE&S progressing?

The UK MOD has a proven record of procurement and it is hoped customers will explore the possibility of working with DIT DSO and DE&S to help enhance



defence exports and the defence industry. Companies experiencing growth are keen to innovate and that is a major area of interest in DE&S. A thriving UK industry means increased volumes of sale and therefore better economies of scale. I am hugely grateful for the ongoing support of DE&S to date and my team and I look forward to a closer relationship in the future.

Working with DE&S we can help enhance defence exports and the defence industry

New environmentally friendly accommodation block opens on St Kilda

Picture: New eco-friendly accommodation block Hirta House (Picture courtesy of QinetiQ)



Following three years of challenging construction conditions, an environmentally and eco-friendly accommodation block has opened on a remote island.

The energy efficient and turf-roofed accommodation block, which is clad in hard-wearing Siberian Larch boards, is on St Kilda – a unique site that is an important component of the DE&S Weapon Range which provide capability assurance to the UK Equipment and Support programme.

St Kilda, which is owned by National Trust Scotland, is the only UK site designated twice by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site for both its natural and cultural heritage.

The accommodation, erected by QinetiQ under the Long Term Partnering Agreement with Trials, Evaluation Services & Targets (TEST) project team at DE&S, is named 'Hirta House' after the largest island in the St Kilda archipelago.

The new facilities are designed to minimise impact on the sensitive environment, merging them into the existing context far more than their predecessors and ensuring a sustainable future for the MOD's presence on the island. The project also promotes

This marks the result of a key MOD investment to provide living accommodation for the staff operating and maintaining the range safety tracking systems here on St Kilda

Ray Drury,
TEST team leader

environmental excellence through the introduction of numerous sustainable features including a bespoke sustainability framework.

St Kilda, situated 40 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, is home to rare birds and plants, a unique breed of sheep, and even its very own St Kilda mouse. As such, it was vital that the new infrastructure enhanced the existing site and protected the heritage and archaeology.

QinetiQ project manager, Douglas Binns, said: "When excavation began in 2017, there

was an archaeological dig as historical artefacts were found. As a result, there's been a permanent onsite archaeologist with us wherever we excavated untouched ground. We also employed an independent environmental assessor to ensure compliance with our agreement with the Trust."

Discussing challenges his staff faced, he added: "In the often extreme weather conditions on the island we had to be exceptionally careful that construction items weren't blown around the island or into the sea, as it is a marine protection area."

A formal handover ceremony of the new building took place earlier this year to mark this important milestone in the roll-out of updated capability and supporting infrastructure for the MOD Hebrides Test & Evaluation Range.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from Strategic Programmes (WECA), the DE&S TEST project team, QinetiQ, National Trust for Scotland, and other stakeholders.

TEST team leader, Ray Drury, who attended the opening ceremony, said: "This event marks the result of a key MOD Long Term Partnering Agreement (LTPA) investment to provide living accommodation for the staff operating and maintaining the

range safety tracking systems here on St Kilda.

"This achievement is a testament to the commitment from our delivery partner QinetiQ, the National Trust of Scotland and all the contractors who have overcome the most extreme environment in the North Atlantic to deliver this environmentally sympathetic facility."

Clea Warner, the National Trust for Scotland's General Manager North West and Islands, added: "We've been impressed by the way the MOD, QinetiQ and other partners have been determined to replace the facility with a structure that is informed by and compliments St Kilda's unrivalled setting."

St Kilda plays host to the bi-annual international maritime defence exercise, Formidable Shield, involving nine NATO countries which tests integrated air and missile defence capabilities.

Indy wins gold



A former soldier who took up powerlifting to aid his recovery following a serious injury sustained during a training exercise, has won gold at the Commonwealth Championships in Canada.

Indy Dhillon, a Technical Through Life Specialist within the Artillery Systems team at DE&S, suffered muscular damage to his back on a training exercise in the Brecon Beacons.

During his recovery, his physio suggested he take up powerlifting to not only aid his recovery, but also to improve his mental health.

Indy, who served in the Army for six years in Electronic Warfare and Signalling, found he really enjoyed his newfound pastime and decided to attend a competition day in Stafford to see what all the excitement was about.

"I was pleasantly surprised at how friendly and supportive the competitors were. I've never experienced this in other competitive sports I've played in the past, so that was really refreshing and motivated me to pursue it seriously," said Indy who is 6ft and weighs in at a sturdy 16st 7lbs (105kg).

Indy then decided to join the Army Powerlifting Union where he was able to train three times a week with a coach, competing in his first ever competition in April 2016. From then on, Indy was hooked and continued to compete as much as he could alongside normal work life.

"I train four days a week for at least four hours a day but make sure I have three rest days where I do minimal exercise to ensure I am properly rested," he said.

Needing to take on 3,500-4,000 calories might seem a struggle for Indy as a vegetarian, but he manages it though one protein shake, dairy, soya and currently, a couple of mince pies a day.

Indy said: "I have been a vegetarian all my life, but the choice nowadays is so much better. I try not to eat badly but I have to admit I do enjoy a paneer curry

accompanied by dozens of samosas, macaroni and cheese and pizza."

Earlier this year, Indy competed in the All England's competition in Manchester. The success in Manchester saw Indy being selected to represent England in the Commonwealth Powerlifting games in Newfoundland, Canada.

The competition was televised and held in front of 300 audience members where they watched Indy, alongside 15 other people from around the world, compete for first place.

"Normally, my ritual is to listen to heavy metal music before a competition, but I decided to listen to classical music; a different approach agreed with my coach," he said.

"Doing this made me feel more relaxed this time around. There were no expectations from my coach or from myself which really helped with my nerves on the day."

Indy was able to push his own boundaries in the competition, and the change in pre-game ritual seemed to pay off.

He competed in the under 105kg category, achieving the gold medal in the deadlift (335kg) and squat (300kg) and the silver medal in the bench press (165kg), coming first in his category overall.

Indy, who was the British Army powerlifting champion, said: "I'm very grateful for the support that I've received from my team and with the flexibility that DE&S offers, I was able to structure my working hours around the extensive training regime that I had.

Hoping to carry on his victories, Indy has sights set on the British Championships next year.

"I'm in my rest period now, but with my new coach I'm already looking forward to training for my next competition, which will hopefully be at the British Championships in 2020," he said.

From there he hopes to make the GB squad for the World Championships in 2021.

60 second spotlight

Since his gift experience of a tandem skydive flight, Steve has completed 450+ skydive jumps

Stephen Mains

Job:

Technical Through Life Support (TTLS) Deputy Manager, Merlin DT, Leonardo's Helicopters Yeovil.

Your route into DE&S?

This is my second spell with DE&S starting in March of this year by external recruitment with prior service of 7 years at Boeing Defence and Babcock International. My first engagement with MOD was 22 years in Logistics/ Engineering/ Bulk Aviation Fuel Manager/Aircraft Support, with the majority of that time at Westlands, now Leonardo's as DE&S Quality.

Your claim to fame?

From my MOD career, I signed off the very first Apache Helicopter for Ground Run, Flight and acceptance of contract back in the late 90's. I also met the comedian Billy Connolly at my uncles funeral as they were school friends, and what you see with Billy, is what you get.

Your advice to anyone?

I would say mindfulness of others and invest your time on passing on your skills to the best that you can in your field of expertise. In short, taking pride in developing people to the best of their capability.

What do you do when you're away from work?

I recently invested in a small motorhome and now live life for the weekends travelling around the South West of England, taking in the scenery of Lyme Regis, Dulverton, Salisbury, Poole and the North Devon coast. The sites are absolutely stunning with idyllic villages in



the countryside.

What are you most proud of?

It really must be watching my four children developing into adults and the pride I have from their own achievements in the world of photography and the arts.

If you were sent to a desert island, what three things would you take with you?

My phone, Blade Runner DVD and the motorhome.

What irritates you the most?

There is quite a number now as I have aged, but tabloid journalism is at the top of that pile and I made the decision a few years ago to give up reading newspapers and I feel a better person for that choice.

What is your favourite place in the world?

Although brought up on the

outskirts of Glasgow, I am taken back by the beauty of Edinburgh, its culture, its history and its smell of the brewery.

What would surprise people about you?

On my 50th birthday, I was presented with an experience of a tandem skydive and since then qualified as a licensed freefall skydiver with 450+ jumps in the UK, Spain, Portugal and Cyprus. I recently qualified as a Military Trained Parachutist (Round military Parachutes) with the Pathfinder Group UK, gaining my Military Dutch "B" Wings in the Teague, Holland. I now take part in jumping from WW2 Dakota aircraft as part of the demonstration team to commemorate events such as Operation "Market Garden" in Arnhem as part of the 75th Anniversary this year. This activity is open to male, female, civilian and service personnel regular or reserve and requires a only a five-day course in Holland.

Do you or someone you know deserve their 60 seconds in the spotlight?

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desider  



Desider is the monthly corporate magazine for DE&S. It is aimed at readers across the wider MOD, armed forces and defence industry. It covers the work of people in DE&S and its partners, and other corporate news and information.

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Eight members of the Royal Air Force from across Typhoon business were joined by a German Air Force colleague (based at Warton within the UK International Eurofighter Support Team) to complete the challenging Ex-Haute Route. This adventurous training event consisted of a 72 mile walk over 6 days through the beautiful Lake District. With daily ascents of up to 1055m the aim was to develop mountaineering skills through a mix of leadership, effective communication and teamwork. The circular route afforded fantastic scenery and hospitality of the youth hostels of

Ambleside, Coniston, Eskdale, Buttermere, Keswick, Glenridding and via Striding Edge back to Ambleside with all personnel having their opportunity to lead and polish up on compass and map skills. Expedition Leader Sqn Ldr Will Thurrell, said: "A fantastic six days which have helped to integrate new members into the team and enhance morale whilst reinforcing core skills and ethos." Project Officer Warrant Officer Carl Proctor, added: "For a group of which some only met for the first time, the team work was outstanding and so the challenge next time will be Camino de Santiago, Spain"

A DE&S graduate battled agonising pain to complete an epic 200 mile run between Leeds and Bristol to raise money for a mental health charity.

Tim Griffiths only started running when he arrived at DE&S nine months ago and was encouraged by his team to go on lunchtime runs of about three or four miles.

Overlooking 5km or 10km events, Tim's first ever race of choice was an ultramarathon measuring 33 miles in which he finished 20th out of 440 competitors.

And recently he ran from Leeds to Bristol, with stops in Buxton, Wolverhampton and

Tewkesbury in four consecutive days, covering an average of 47 miles a day.

This titanic effort was aimed at raising money for the Campaign Against Living Miserably (C.A.L.M), a charity offering men support when they're down or in crisis.

So far, Tim has raised almost £1,400, far exceeding the £750 the graduate project manager in Land was aiming for.

The run, however, did cause Tim significant pain in his calf muscles which slowed him down and he finished at MOD Abbey Wood at 10.45pm.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tim-griffiths7>



An annual golf day held by staff at Defence Munitions Glen Douglas in honour of a colleague who sadly died in 2016 has raised more than £1,000 for charity.

Michael (Mick) Currie was a dear friend and respected colleague of the Scottish facility and staff were keen to find a way to pay tribute to the larger than life character.

George Ferguson, one of his many pals at DM Glen Douglas, came up with an idea and the annual Michael Currie Golf Day was born.

The competition sees staff, friends and Mick's family gather and play to honour his memory and raise money for the Beatson Cancer Charity Well Being Centre in Glasgow.

The charity funds the development of pioneering treatments, ground breaking techniques and innovative and novel research that will contribute to changing the face of cancer treatment on a local, national and international scale.

It also exists to enhance the experience, treatment, outcomes and well-being of current and former cancer patients and their families or carers.

George, who has organised all the logistics for the golf day for the last four years, is seen here presenting a cheque to Karen Harrower from the charity.



Innovative designs by DE&S graduates

This summer the UK Naval Engineering Science and Technology forum (UK NEST) invited DE&S engineering graduates to spend a day at the Commandos' Training Centre at Lympstone near Exeter.

There, approximately twenty-five graduates gained an understanding of what it takes to become a Royal Marine - finding out more about the current equipment used and learning about the challenges faced on real-life operations.

They were tasked with planning a mid-21st century assault by Royal Marines on an enemy missile site perched on a clifftop. The task in hand resulted in a multitude of innovative and futuristic ideas.

DE&S Graduate, Chad Swaby had the idea to help commandos in the

field with specialised contact lenses. The lenses would have thermal imaging ability and artificial intelligence which would differentiate between civilians, enemy soldiers and hostages just from the way they move.

Explaining the concept, Chad said: "We can use that information to let Royal Marines know who they need to target and who they need to save."

He added: "The event was a great opportunity for us to see what commandos do and helped me to understand what I need to give Marines to help them succeed on a mission. It also gave me with a wider appreciation of what we do at DE&S and it was great to work with other young people who are as keen to shape the future of the way we work for the better."



DM Glen Douglas welcomes 94-year-old Billy back on site.

A retired policeman who started working at Glen Douglas on the day the Defence Munitions (DM) facility opened in 1966 was welcomed back on site more than half a century later.

William 'Billy' Ross arrived at the DM Glen Douglas as a Senior Police Officer (SPO) 53 years ago following a promotion to Inspector.

In September this year, at the request of the current SPO Sergeant Angus Livingston, the 94-year-old returned to DM Glen Douglas as an honoured guest and was treated to a tour of the site by current Head of Establishment Gavin Fitzsimmons.

One of Billy's most vivid memories of his time at Glen Douglas was from the great storm which hit the area in January 1968. Described at the time as central Scotland's worst natural disaster, 20 people were killed and 700

winds and rolled down the hillside." left homeless by gales that reached top speeds of 134mph.

Angus said: "Billy recalled dealing with officers seriously injured during the great storm when their Land Rover was blown off the road by the high

winds and rolled down the hillside."

Sadly, Billy had to leave his role in 1969 to care for his ill wife and later became a local registrar, marrying numerous couples in his own home in Arrochar.



MOTTO

the MOD Lottery July winners

£10,000	Colin Thompson, London
£2,500	Richard Hayes, RAF Conningsby
£1,000	Christina Bond, Winchester
£500	Steven Healing, Folkestone
£250	David Warner, Wolverhampton
£100	Angela Witham, Tidworth
	Jane Wallace, Cottesmore
	Ron Cranston, RAF Sealand
	Sarah Gray, Portsmouth
	Nick Carter, Bristol
	Jonathan Stocks, Huntingdon
	Andrew Widd, Menwith Hill
	Brett Ceazar, Corsham
	Richard Bell, Cheltenham
	James Spendley, Bramley
	Anette MacKinnon, Stirling
	Matthew Bassett, Portsmouth
	Victoria Hickman, RAF Cranwell
	Jessica Hopkinson, Exeter
	Amy Whyte, London
	Martin Allaway, London
	Laura Howell, Bristol
	Andrew McCulloch, Yeovilton
	Paul Maclellan, Faslane
	Pat King, Bristol

Case Study

Charlotte Ball, Operations Manager within DE&S, gives her insight into some of the benefits of working for the organisation

Name:

Charlotte (Charlie) Ball

Job Title:

Operations Manager

How long have you worked for DE&S?

16 months

Why did you choose to pursue a career in DE&S?

This is my second career having spent 22 years in transport and logistics management. I was looking for a complete career change, something that held more reward and something which had meaning to me. My late dad served as a Grenadier Guard in the late 1960's and I know that he'd be ecstatic with my new choice of career.

What does your role entail?

A plethora of things on a daily basis. It's the job of the team and I to deliver the Batch 2 Offshore Patrol Vessels to the Royal Navy. From organising Ship Staff training, to presenting our support solution to the customer, no day is ever the same, or boring. The OPV programme is fast paced, with a packed schedule and I'm learning and experiencing the lifecycle of a ship from concept to delivery in possibly the shortest timescale, with the ambition to hand over all 5 ships within the next 2 years.

What are the opportunities to develop and progress within your function?

The Learning Pathway for the Operations Managers within the Integrated Logistics Function is evolving but provides direction at all levels. Opportunities to network and bond with colleagues are extensive and if you don't know the answer you can find someone who can quite easily.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

I love working at Abbey Wood, I think the environment promotes a positive working culture. The flexibility around my working hours is also invaluable. My previous career meant that Christmas, summer holidays and bank holidays were the worst times of the year, working at Abbey Wood now means that they are the best.

What's your ambition?

To become a respected Counter Fraud Specialist, hopefully within the MOD. I'm fascinated by crime and criminology, particularly white-collar crime. I believe that one of the fundamental principles of being a Civil Servant is honesty and I am passionate about promoting awareness of fraud within the MOD. It's such a hidden crime but one that costs the economy a staggering amount of money each year and there is always a victim who suffers because of it.

What's your greatest achievement to date?

Completing my degree and Master's studies whilst working full time and undergoing major surgery, and the great friendships that supported me.

Why would you recommend DE&S to others as a great place to work?

There is very little I dislike about working for DE&S, I would certainly champion the flexible working, working environment, and the great friendships to be made.

What are the social benefits of working for DE&S?

Our delivery team have a social secretary who organises regular team get-togethers. As an operating centre, Ships Acquisition also arrange an annual "Team Bumble". You also never know who you're going to meet each day.



SIX GREAT REASONS TO WORK FOR DE&S



Bonuses & Recognition



Pension



Flexible Working



Professional Development



Holiday



Facilities

For more info and job opportunities visit:
www.des.mod.uk



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