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desider

Issue 145
September 2020

*the magazine for
defence equipment
and support*

**Ready to rumble - £240-million contract
to support mechanical handling vehicles**



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Foreword

I want to reiterate my thanks to you all for working through what continues to be a very testing period.

"I am as confident as ever in our ability to deliver for Defence as we respond to the everchanging world"



By Sir Simon Bollom, CEO

I hope you have all had a chance to enjoy a well-deserved break before we move into Autumn.

We continue to adjust our work patterns and behaviours to mitigate against a possible second spike; I have been really pleased with the way that we have adapted and successfully kept all our programmes running for Defence. One of the highlights from DE&S has been the excellent click and collect service our COVID-19 Operations Team has led: so far, they have delivered more than 9,000 pieces of equipment, providing the support our people need to work remotely and safely.

Of course, some of our people have remained working around the country through lockdown providing essential services, particularly our Logistics Delivery and Weapons Operating Centres sites. I recently visited Defence Munitions Gosport and was very impressed by how the team has managed the challenges of remote working, site capacity, and staff availability. I saw them arming a Type 45 Destroyer in Portsmouth: an excellent example of the way they have maintained their outputs for Defence despite all the obstacles in their way.

While at Portsmouth Naval Base I spent time with Ships Support, where work has continued at pace. I was impressed to learn that since lockdown DE&S and BAE Systems have returned 12 Royal Navy warships to sea through their maintenance and upkeep programmes.

I also went to visit General Dynamics UK in Merthyr Tydfil

where they are manufacturing the Ajax vehicles for the British Army. It was exciting to see the first vehicles starting to roll off the production line and be delivered to the Household Cavalry, who will be the first unit to use them. The programme is at a critical stage, and there is much work ahead for us, industry and the Army, but the result is a truly impressive vehicle that will give our soldiers a step change in their ground combat capability.

Last month we saw the construction of a new headquarters for Typhoon pilots based at RAF Coningsby, and the delivery of training simulators that will train the pilots of our growing Poseidon fleet.





All these programmes show me our close relationship with our customers to provide the materiel required by our armed forces. We continue to provide essential equipment and support to deliver exceptional military capability and value for money. Despite all the challenges this year has brought, I am as confident as ever in our ability to deliver for Defence as we respond to the everchanging world.

I am very pleased to announce that Rick Thompson has been appointed as the new Director General Air in the rank of Vice Admiral. Rick joins us on promotion from his current secondment as Managing Director of Sealand Support Services; he has had a long career in the Royal Navy and acquisition and his long experience with the F-35 programme will be invaluable to the Air Domain.

Finally, I must thank Air Marshall Sir Julian Young, who completes a very distinguished and varied career in the RAF, including the last four years as Director General Air where he has led the Air Domain quite superbly. He leaves his Domain and the RAF he has equipped in an excellent state, and DE&S will miss his leadership and experience. I wish him clear skies for his next adventures.

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Printing

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Medium wheeled tractor used for humanitarian efforts in the Caribbean

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Nigel Shaw, Chief Digital Information Officer, talks to Desider about his re-branded team, supporting COVID-19 operations and making DE&S more digital



For the last three years, I've been Director of DE&S' Chief Information Office (CIO). But you may notice that CIO no longer exists. Instead, my team is now known as DE&S Digital.

The change was made in June 2020 to coincide with our move into the Strategic Enablers business unit, and was fuelled by the need to align with big changes going on in the world of IT.

The word 'digital' is all about the transformative capabilities of newer technologies such as cloud, smart working, automation, analytics, and artificial intelligence. These are the skillsets we want to grow in my team.

The unprecedented situation we've found ourselves faced with through COVID-19 has impacted the team as much as any. We've been championing smart working for the past two years, so full-time remote working was perhaps an easier adaption than for many of our colleagues, but even for us this has been far beyond the norm.

We've had to work extra hard to check in on each other and ensure that those with specific challenges, such as caring responsibilities, are

given the support they need, even if that means re-baselining a few deliveries. People and wellbeing have had to come first.

Of course, the benefit for DE&S is that we've proven smart working in the extreme. It's been a blunt instrument, but everyone now uses their laptops and Skype, and many are using new tools such as MS Teams, Defence Share and Jira. I'm sure we'll return to spending more time in the office eventually, but I hope that the flexibility to work where we need to will remain.

On an operational front, I'm really pleased that Sir Simon Bollom, our CEO, has recognised the hard work my team has put in to keep the organisation running during this time. We've had some very visible successes, such as setting up the COVID-19 Ops Cell, equipping the team deployed to NHS England, developing the Personnel Data Capture tool in double quick time, and enabling MS Teams.

But there's also been a huge amount of unseen work taking place behind the scenes. From issuing and fixing laptops, providing support, and updating security guidance to keep us all

It'll be no surprise that my aim is to make DE&S a real digital leader in Defence

safe, the team has been very busy. I'm massively proud of them.

Looking ahead to the next few months, I have three main priorities: to improve our Information and Records Management to meet our legal and regulatory obligations; to use the rollout of Windows10 to drive further smart working improvements; and to continue to develop our talent and structure as DE&S Digital evolves.

Longer term – given our new name – it'll be no surprise that my aim is to make DE&S a real digital leader in Defence. I expect it to be a major theme in the Integrated Review and I'll be working closely with colleagues across the organisation to make sure we're driving forward with the use of new technology, and that we're all increasing our digital knowledge and skills.

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DE&S award £240-million contract to support MOD's mechanical handling capability

Pictured: MITER equipment will meet Defence's enduring requirement for earth-moving, engineer construction and mechanical handling capabilities (Picture Crown copyright)



DE&S has awarded a £240-million contract to maintain, manage and support the MOD's fleet of construction, protected plant and mechanical handling vehicles.

The seven-year contract has been awarded to AmeyBriggs and will meet Defence's enduring requirement for earth-moving, engineer construction and mechanical handling capabilities as well as supporting operational and non-operational tasks overseas and in the UK.

Vehicles within the fleet include excavators, bulldozers, cranes and forklift trucks.

The awarded contract sees three existing contracts - Defence Mechanical Handling Equipment, Protected Engineering Equipment and C-Vehicle capability - brought under one umbrella contract called 'MITER'.

When the merger of these capability contracts is complete, it is expected to save defence £136-million over the next 10 years and sustain jobs across the UK.

DE&S MITER Assistant Head, Simon Herrington, who led the DE&S team securing the contract,

The successful contract award for MITER is an excellent example of DE&S and industry working closely together to deliver an innovative solution

Chris Bushell, DE&S Director General Land

said: "This has been a culmination of five years hard work with a small dedicated project team assisted with subject matter experts and a very good working relationship with the Army as lead customer. This hard work and collaborative working has resulted in the project being able to declare a £136-million efficiency for DE&S and Army, a really great achievement."

The MITER capability is a key Defence enabler as it underpins

both peace time activities, and defence deployments and operations around the world, including activities at sea.

In recent years equipment has also been used to help with recovery activities following the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and Dorian in the Caribbean, and during major flooding incidents in the UK, as well as supporting the military response to COVID-19.

MITER maximises efficiency and value for money by providing a "Whole Force" approach that includes a fleet of equipment, personnel for military tasks, new information system, infrastructure and support under a service provision arrangement.

Jeremy Quin, Minister for Defence Procurement, said: "Our Armed Forces deserve the best equipment for their vital operations, both in the UK and right across the world. From humanitarian support to keeping our country safe, construction and mechanical vehicles are a key asset for defence.

"This contract is the result of excellent industry collaboration, and I am pleased that we are

continuing to support jobs across the country."

AmeyBriggs is a new joint venture between infrastructure support service provider Amey plc and Briggs Defence, a specialist division of asset management and engineering services provider Briggs Equipment.

Under MITER, AmeyBriggs will not only manage and maintain this key equipment but also provide support for military personnel in its safe and effective use.

To manage the contract around 180 staff and supply chain partners will be transferred into AmeyBriggs from the current support teams which brings together a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience.

Chris Bushell, DE&S Director General Land said:

"The successful contract award for MITER is an excellent example of DE&S and industry working closely together to deliver an innovative solution. This will provide the Armed Forces with a key capability, to deliver operational effect all over the world, on time and at a price that represents great value for money."

DE&S provide vital support to 12 Squadron

Pictured: New headquarters for Typhoon pilots at RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire (Picture courtesy of BAE Systems)



DE&S has played a key role in the fast-paced construction of a new headquarters for Typhoon pilots based at RAF Coningsby.

Construction of the structure at the Lincolnshire base began in June 2019 under a £35.2-million contract with industry partner BAE Systems (BAES).

The 2,780 sq m building will house 12 Squadron, a unique joint RAF/Qatari Emiri Air Force partnership and despite the restrictions of COVID-19 the build continued uninterrupted, achieving a transfer of ownership to RAF Coningsby in June 2020.

The project was overseen by the DE&S Force Growth & Qatari Joint Squadron team in consultation with 12 Squadron, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and sponsor 38 Group, delivered in partnership with BAES.

Using modern modular construction techniques, the joint team was able to fast-track the design and build of these facilities, ensuring they are ready for the first Qatari pilots and ground crew arriving at RAF Coningsby to continue their training.

The project took around 60

Ultimately, this project has been successfully delivered because of the close working relationships across all stakeholder groups, but particularly that fostered between DE&S and industry

Maggie Garrison-Parker, DE&S project manager

weeks to complete and, under the direction of BAES, involved a team of 30 sub-contractors from both national and local supply chains using nearly 1,500 tonnes of concrete and more than 1,000 tonnes of steel.

The building has been designed to deliver both the immediate needs of the joint squadron, accommodating specific cultural/religious requirements of Qatari colleagues, but it is also multi-functional and flexible, therefore able to react to longer term requirements of the RAF.

The completion of the project in such a short timeframe was particularly impressive given the fact that before construction could commence a Cold War nuclear shelter had to be demolished and the site cleared.

In addition, a significant amount of preparatory work had to be undertaken to secure and preserve all underground utility ducts and cables that ran beneath the site and serve the entire station. This had to be hand dug.

DE&S project manager Maggie Garrison-Parker said: "This achievement in itself was remarkable but made more so by the challenges faced by the

contractor working through the extreme weather conditions of last winter, securing a build site adjacent to Typhoon manoeuvring areas and during the COVID-19 restrictions.

"Ultimately, this project has been successfully delivered because of the close working relationships across all stakeholder groups, but particularly that fostered between DE&S and industry."

Since its formation, the team has been fundamental to the meeting of the 12 Sqn milestones; with delivery of the Ready to Operate Corporate Management Information System strategic milestone four months early in October 2019. Working in conjunction with their industry and Typhoon Force counterparts, the team is managing a range of Defence Lines of Development activities, covering training both aircrew and groundcrew, equipment, personnel, infrastructure and logistics as well as contributing to other areas. This support will continue until the squadron is detached to Doha in 2022 and will resume when the RAF element returns in 2023.

DVD 2020 update

The organisers of DVD2020, which is jointly sponsored by DE&S and the British Army, have announced that they have taken the difficult decision to cancel DVD2020, in light of the ongoing pandemic.

Despite working hard to ensure that, wherever possible, the event could continue to run as planned, organisers have decided that the uncertainty as to what could actually be delivered and the continued risk of the spread of COVID-19 is too high to confidently hold a safe event.

Director General Land, Chris Bushell, commented on the decision to cancel DVD2020: "It is with great regret that we have taken the decision to cancel DVD2020 due to the ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19. DVD is a great event which brings together industry, international allies and partners; DE&S and the British Army have been running this event for many years and therefore it is a shame that we have had to cancel this year's event. DVD's unique approach

to enable visitors to get a proper hands-on experience is not suitable at this time.

"Despite this cancellation I should like to reassure the Defence sector that the UK is still open for business and is seeking to develop and enhance the domestic market and export opportunities. Innovation and digitalisation remain paramount in the development and delivery of world class capabilities across the spectrum of Land equipment, reflected in our current procurement and modernisation programmes and in our future capability requirements.

"Working with our allies and industry to mutually develop, deliver and support capabilities and export opportunities remains a fundamental component of maintaining confidence in the wider UK economy. We look forward to other opportunities to develop an ever closer and more collaborative relationship, discuss the Land Industrial Strategy and enhance interaction with Defence industry."



Image courtesy of DefencePhotography.com

Pictured: Mechanised Infantry Vehicle Boxer

First Operation for RAF Poseidon

A P-8 Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) recently completed its first operational mission shadowing a Russian warship in the North Sea near to UK waters.

The P-8A Poseidon from 120 Squadron based at Kinloss Barracks demonstrated its speed and readiness by completing a prolonged overwatch of the Russian warship as it passed through the North Sea, supported by Typhoon fighters.

The P-8A is equipped with a powerful radar to track ships and

surface vessels and can locate and track potentially hostile submarines beneath the water. Monitoring and tracking all activity in the airspace and seas around the United Kingdom is paramount to the UK's security to ensure our skies and seas are patrolled and defended.

The Poseidon's operational debut follows the Prime Minister's recent visit to Kinloss Barracks and marks a significant development in the UK's Maritime offensive and defensive capabilities.



Pictured: HMS Tamar on exercises

HMS Tamar ready for front-line duties

In a speed that is thought to be a peacetime record for the Royal Navy, just five months after the first sailors stepped aboard Portsmouth-based HMS Tamar, she is now ready to be deployed around the globe for front-line duties.

Prior to returning to the south coast, Tamar successfully completed Fleet Operational Sea Training off the west coast of Scotland, marking the last act of turning Tamar into an active warship.

Training included fire, flood and navigational exercises and manoeuvres in the confined waters of numerous lochs.

Despite the pandemic, work has not stopped for the crew which is now ready for frontline duties after conducting various exercises at sea, such as gunnery, Man Overboard drills and practising offensive tactics with her sister HMS Trent against destroyer HMS Defender.



Pictured: RAF P-8A Poseidon over the North Sea

New Suite of Training Systems at Castlemartin

The DE&S Training and Simulation Systems Portfolio team recently attended the opening ceremony of the new Precision Gunnery Training Equipment (PGTE) Suite at Merrion Camp in Castlemartin.

The Suite will improve the training experience for Challenger 2 crews by providing a simulation of a battlefield experience covering each of the crew positions of Loader, Gunner, Commander and Driver.

DE&S worked together with Soldier, Training and Special Projects (STSP), Rheinmetall BAE Systems Land (RBSL) and the British Army to redeploy the PGTE system from Sennelager in Germany, where it was no longer in use following the drawdown of British troops.

Providing Castlemartin with its own PGTE facility will save the British Army time and money. Before this, students based at Castlemartin would have to travel more than 200 miles to Tidworth if they needed to conduct additional simulation training on PGTE, before returning to live firing back at Castlemartin.

DE&S Portfolio Leader Simon Pearce, said: "This is a fantastic example of DE&S, Army and industry working together to improve training delivery. Following the drawdown from Germany the joint team identified an opportunity to meet a long-standing aspiration and made it happen."



Pictured: A Merlin helicopter in flight over The British Virgin Islands

LPhoto: Joe Cater

Support to British Overseas Territories

Commando Merlin helicopters of 845 Naval Air Squadron have been involved in demanding disaster relief exercises on the British Virgin Islands.

The Royal Navy aviators flew reassurance patrols and carried out reconnaissance over the islands ahead of the intensive training, which prepared troops for disaster relief operations on the British Overseas Territory as hurricane season continues.

The UK's permanent naval presence in the Caribbean, HMS Medway is at the centre of the task group alongside RFA Argus. The task group will be in the region until the end of the year to carry out hurricane season work, provide reassurance to residents of British Overseas Territories and support US Coast Guards and other international agencies to carry out counter-narcotics operations.

The task group's focus has most recently been on Humanitarian and Disaster Relief training on Norman Island, at the southern tip of the British Virgin Islands archipelago where the task group is prepared to offer support to British Virgin Islands in the aftermath of a hurricane if necessary.

C-130J reinvigorated with new kit

The first of 14 RAF C-130J aircraft to be modified with a new Centre Wing Box (CWB) kit, procured by DE&S, has arrived back at RAF Brize Norton.

DE&S worked closely with and contracted Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group to install the new kit at its Cambridge site.

The CWB is a large structure weighing several tons that effectively attaches the wings to the fuselage. It is affected by metal fatigue caused by transporting heavy loads and, like many aircraft parts, has a finite life and needs to be replaced over time.

DE&S C-130J delivery team leader, Stephen Parkinson, said: "Enhanced Service Life CWB replacement is 'major surgery' and a highly complex undertaking. It involves replacing parts that haven't been exposed since the aircraft was manufactured, and this meant detailed planning and thorough preparatory work. One of the main challenges was to ensure the aircraft remained

perfectly straight once the old centre wing was removed. This required major work to the hangar including reinforcing the floor under the jacking points."

DE&S procured the new CWB kits from Lockheed Martin's C-130J manufacturing facility in Marietta, Georgia.

The new kit provides significant durability enhancements and extends the service life of the CWB by up to three times.

This modification will enable the RAF C-130J fleet to remain in operation until 2035 and beyond, ensuring this essential aircraft can continue to support tactical operations around the world.

All of the work was carried out in line with the C-130J routine depth maintenance programme, to ensure maximum availability of aircraft at the RAF Brize Norton base.

Modification of the second aircraft is currently well underway.



Picture submitted

Pictured: RAF C-130J in Marshall hangar

Six new Ares vehicles delivered to the Army

Pictured: The first six Ares vehicles have been delivered to the British Army (Crown copyright)



Despite challenges imposed by lockdown, the DE&S Ajax delivery team, part of the Land Equipment Operating Centre (LEOC), has been making steady progress. Most recently the team supported the delivery of six new Ares variants to the British Army that will be used to support course development and instructor training at the Armour Centre in Bulford.

Desider spoke to Colonel Mike Taylor, part of the Ajax delivery team working hand-in-hand with the British Army and industry partners GDUK, about how they have continued to deliver throughout the pandemic.

What have been the challenges of working against the backdrop of COVID-19 restrictions?

It has been extremely challenging delivering the first complex Armoured Fighting Vehicles to the Army in more than 30 years while under the restrictions of COVID-19. It took some time to adapt to the working environment but through dedication and commitment from both the project team and GDUK we have progressed well and continue to find new ways of coping with the restrictions.

How important has it been to work collaboratively with the Army and GDUK during this time?

Collaboration is the only way to deliver such a complex programme

Colonel Mike Taylor,
Ajax delivery team

Collaboration is the only way to deliver such a complex programme and galvanising the enterprise is the key to make sure all stakeholders are aligned and driving to a common purpose.

What lessons have you learned from this experience of working in challenging circumstances?

Communication, communication and communication. This has been fundamental to being able to deliver something so complex under such difficult circumstances.

What can we expect next?

So far, there are 157 out of 589 vehicles in various stages of production. In addition to the recent delivery of the six Ares vehicles, a further two Atlas, and two Apollo variants have entered Government Accepting Testing with GDUK for assurance checks before being handed over to the customer.

These successes have been



achieved through the hard work and dedication of the team. While we can be pleased with the success, there will be a lot more challenges ahead and we are ready and eager to tackle them with rigour. The focus now is the delivery of Ajax Initial Operating Capability followed by driving to deliver a Battlegroup at readiness for the Army.

Tempest will deliver game-changing technologies and capabilities that are affordable, flexible, upgradeable, connected and cooperative; ensuring the Royal Air Force retains Operational Advantage and Freedom of Action.

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DE&S and DECA: working together for Defence

Saving the taxpayer money and maintaining UK Defence equipment to the highest standard are both critical to DE&S. Desider looks at how DE&S works closely with the MOD's Defence Electronics & Components Agency (DECA) to deliver and support vital Defence equipment while generating significant cost avoidance and savings.

DE&S is working increasingly with DECA to maximise the benefits of this in-house capability. From its MOD Sealand headquarters in North Wales, Stafford and other regional locations across the UK, DECA works closely with DE&S to prolong the life of current equipment and platforms and provide managed services across all DE&S domains. This ranges from F-35 Lightning jets and Type 23 frigates, to night vision goggles and cryptographic equipment. The work often involves using innovative solutions to overcome technical obsolescence, which is significantly quicker and more cost efficient than investing in, and developing, replacement items.

DECA carries out Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul and Upgrade (MRO&U) services, and develops new, pioneering world-class capabilities and support in partnership with DE&S for future platforms.

Read on to find out more about DE&S' recent projects that have saved the taxpayer millions of pounds.



Crown copyright

The Army's new Starter Remote Controlled Vehicle (RCV) is ready to deploy on operations across the world, as it can now be operated from the safety of the Mastiff 3. This has been enabled through the delivery of a new Vehicle Installation Kit (VIK).

The new Heavy Explosive Ordnance Disposal robot will replace the venerable Wheelbarrow RCV which has, in various guises, been in service since the 1970s. DE&S' Special Projects Explosive Ordnance Disposals and Search team tasked DECA with building and installing the VIKs to make the Mastiff 3 compatible with the 300kg+ Starter robot.

Shelley Emery, team leader for Special Projects Explosive Ordnance Disposals and Search (SPEODS), said: "The DECA contract has proved great value for money, with four platforms completed already and the remainder due this year. To date, 77 of the 122 Starter vehicles have been delivered to the user and the robot has already proven its capability on operations in Northern Ireland."

The DE&S Air Commodities team uses DECA for a wide range of services. Flexible long-term arrangements allow for quick tasking in response to urgent issues involving aircraft, aircrew and airfield outputs.

DECA repairs ageing and legacy equipment, such as Battle of Britain Memorial Flight's vintage aircraft, while supporting state-of-the-art F-35 Lightning jets. The suite of works also covers fault investigation, calibration, automatic testing, obsolescence surveillance, and a help desk for electrical wiring queries.

Dominic McEvoy, Air Commodities Aircraft head, said: "DECA's workforce is their primary asset - the wealth of SME experience and knowledge is an important benefit for Defence. Two recent successes include DECA technicians who designed and manufactured headset cables for an urgent trial, and the regeneration of an oxygen production facility for critical MOD Military Assistance to Civil Authorities tasking for COVID-19 patients in the Falkland Islands."



SAC Tim Laurence



Corporal (Cpl) Rich Denton RAF

DECA manages the Army's Force Protection Electronic Countermeasures (ECM) fleet, holding more than 5,000 ECM units at readiness levels of up to 24 hours' notice to move. These ECM units are used to protect UK forces from Improvised Explosive Devices in the UK and overseas.

DECA carry out routine maintenance, battery change and minor repairs to the ECM boxes, consolidating these activities under one supplier which previously were undertaken by several different manufacturers.

Steve Westwood, Force Protection Electronic Countermeasures Team Leader, said: "Using DECA to provide the ECM Core Support Solution has secured a range of specialist technical skills in the region, saved the taxpayer £3.2-million, increased confidence in meeting the required readiness levels and improved responsiveness to change."

DECA has also worked closely with the end users to provide advice and develop their skills and experience. The DE&S Force Protection ECM team has been sharing their experiences with other teams in Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) who is looking to place similar arrangements.

Geraint Spearing, DECA Chief Executive, said: "We look forward to continuing to provide our principal partner DE&S with assured, timely MRO&U and managed services. Expanding our support and services will generate increased value for both DE&S and, ultimately, the taxpayer."



LPhoto Dan Rosenbaum

"I have been delighted with the quality of work that DECA has carried out for DE&S. Since DECA was established in 2015, both entities have forged a highly effective partnership which consistently delivers value for Defence at a very competitive cost. I encourage all DE&S delivery teams to consider using DECA for their Upgrades, or Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul work, as well as managed services."

Sir Simon Bollom, DE&S CEO





Picture: Andy Michael (QinetiQ)

On collaboration, training opportunities and golf

Ray Drury joined the Defence Engineering and Science Group graduate programme in 1988 and is now the DE&S team leader for Trials, Evaluation Services and Targets, managing capability assurance and developing working relationships

What does your role involve?

My responsibility as Trials, Evaluation Services and Targets (TEST) team leader involves the management of a broad range of capability assurance services across the defence portfolio. The most significant is the Long Term Partnering Agreement (LTPA) – a strategic investment into Test and Evaluation (T&E) capabilities distributed across 16 UK MOD establishments where a multitude of services are available to MOD and industry to use in the delivery of equipment, support and training for UK defence.

What about your role is exciting, rewarding or interesting?

There is a never a dull moment for me or the team since the demand for test and evaluation is ever present and there are always new requirements to be dealt with. There is a comprehensive forward programme of platform and weapon system trials including the aircraft carriers, F-35, complex weapons, munitions and NATO Alliance exercises such as Formidable Shield, a biennial event to demonstrate techniques and improve collaboration.

How important to you is teamwork?

Teamwork is imperative for all aspects of our work. My team of 50 forms part of a partnering agreement with QinetiQ, who employ approximately 1,600 people who operate and maintain the 16 MOD establishments. To this end, we are continuously working with the QinetiQ leadership to develop and improve our working relationships, building trust and confidence to work closely as one enterprise for defence.

How are you helping embed change in your area?

Change is a major consideration for my team, aimed at improving the delivery of the LTPA so that all our customers benefit from T&E services.

Another key aspect of the change is to be better aligned to our customers and users of the LTPA. We have embarked on a regular series of briefings to the DE&S/SDA Executive Committee, DE&S delivery teams as well as the Military Capability Board and front-line commands to raise the profile of the strategic investment into the LTPA. Moreover, we are highlighting the opportunity to exploit this by conducting test, trials and training through the LTPA tasking arrangement. To date, we have conducted more than 90 such briefings and trust the LTPA utilisation will continue to flourish.

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

I joined the Defence Engineering & Science Group graduate programme back in 1988 with the intention of cementing my academic qualifications and achieving chartered status as an engineer. The opportunity to continue my academic studies throughout my career has been an important factor and DE&S has been generous in affording me access to training and development to suit my interests and aspirations. I have found the variety of work challenges has more than fulfilled my appetite, professionally. I have been afforded some amazing work opportunities in the UK and overseas, managing projects, programmes and portfolios as an engineer, manager and leader. How many people

have been to sea in the US deep submergence vehicle – Avalon – and dived to 2,000ft in a training exercise in the Pacific? On the flipside, recent helicopter escape training in Aberdeen was not my favourite exercise, but the following flight to St Kilda to open the new facilities on our air weapons ranges was a joy.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

My current role has breadth and diversity, which is something I really appreciate and, importantly, the energy and commitment of the people delivering the T&E outputs is inspiring. The revised LTPA change programme is starting to deliver real improvements and feedback from our customers is testament to this.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Golf is my biggest distraction and I have been a keen competitor for more than 30 years, maintaining a single-figure handicap along with ticking off my bucket list of courses in the UK and overseas. Besides that, enjoying time with my family and friends to get the best out of life.

What might surprise people about you?

I am not related to the Virginian – for those born before 1970.

Cargo aircraft delivers new RAF Lossiemouth simulator

Pictured: New Operational Flight Trainer (OFT) part of a £470-million UK Government investment in the coastal RAF base in Moray, north-east Scotland (Picture submitted)



A giant Antonov AN-124 cargo aircraft recently touched down at Glasgow Prestwick Airport to make an oversized delivery of a new Operational Flight Trainer (OFT) heading to RAF Lossiemouth.

The simulator is one of two that will be installed in the new £100-million Strategic Facility built by Boeing Defence UK. From Autumn 2020, RAF Lossiemouth, home to 2,300 regular and reserve RAF personnel, will be the headquarters of the UK's submarine-hunting Poseidon MRA Mk1 Maritime Patrol Aircraft fleet.

The first simulator was offloaded from the specially chartered Antonov - which took off from Orlando, Florida - and transported by road to RAF Lossiemouth.

The simulators and new facility managed by DE&S are part of a £470-million UK Government investment in the coastal RAF base in Moray, north-east Scotland.

DE&S Poseidon training assistant head, Mark Corden, said: "The simulators provide training specifically for the pilots who will be flying the Poseidon fleet. They also have the compatibility to link

It's an essential part of making sure the pilots are fully prepared to operate the new fleet of aircraft

Mark Corden,
DE&S Poseidon training
assistant head

up with the mission simulators used by the rear crew, allowing them to train together. It's an essential part of making sure the pilots are fully prepared to operate the new fleet of aircraft."

The first of nine multi-role Maritime Patrol RAF Poseidon aircraft - named Pride of Moray - arrived earlier this year from the USA in February and was swiftly followed by the second - named City of Elgin - in March.

Both aircraft are equipped with sensors and weapon systems for anti-submarine warfare, surface surveillance. They will be joined by the remaining aircraft on order which will continue to arrive in the UK throughout this year and next, with the ninth and final aircraft due by the end of 2021.

Mark continued: "The weight of the simulator is not such an issue. It's the width and height, which makes it too big to be transported by any RAF aircraft, such as a C-130J, A400M or C-17. The Antonov is one of only a few aircraft in the world large enough to transport it."

The simulator is provided by Boeing but originally manufactured by Civil Aviation

Electronics. It is 7.39m long, 4.01m wide, 3.73m high and weighs 9,545.45kg (9.5t).

Two OFTs and two rear-crew simulators will eventually be installed in the new Strategic Facility, as well as part-task mission crew trainers, virtual maintenance trainers and electronic classrooms.

Success as Warrior completes first phase of reliability growth tests

Pictured: Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme completes 59 Battlefield Missions, Completing Phase 1 Testing (Picture courtesy of Lockheed Martin)



The DE&S Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme have recently met a significant milestone by achieving 59 Battlefield Missions.

Alongside Lockheed Martin UK, the British Army and Armoured Trials and Development Unit crew, DE&S facilitated 59 Battlefield Missions (BFM's) that has brought the programme to the end of the first phase of trials.

BFM's are designed to demonstrate the upgraded vehicle's ability as well as to test system integration including silent running, cross-country manoeuvre, navigation and crew-casualty evacuation.

Reliability Growth Tests are made up of a combination of Qualification and Verification activities and representative BFM's. When the development programme comes to a conclusion, the vehicles will have travelled the equivalent distance of a return journey from the North to the South Pole.

WCSP trials started in 2019, are now at a significant point in the development programme. There

Reaching the 59th battlefield mission on the Warrior CSP reliability trials is a significant achievement and testament to the great collaborative working between DE&S, the Armoured Trial and Development Unit and Lockheed Martin

Marcus Bruton, DE&S
WCSP Team Leader

have been a number of successful first-time events that have demonstrated the game-changing enhancements made to the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme. Once in-service, the updated and modernised vehicle will provide the British Army with the Armoured Fighting Capability it needs and will serve for several decades to come.

DE&S WCSP Team Leader, Marcus Bruton said: "Reaching the 59th battlefield mission on the Warrior CSP reliability trials is a significant achievement and testament to the great collaborative working between DE&S, the Armoured Trial and Development Unit and Lockheed Martin."

The significantly enhanced capability will change the way the British Army operates, enabling soldiers to carry out tasks in an even safer, and more modern environment.

The programme will also enhance the armoured infantry's operational effectiveness through upgrades to its survivability, improved situational awareness and network enabled capability.

The key upgrade being delivered is the ability to fire-on-the-move with the new CT40 stabilised cannon. As well as the new digital turret, this will not only upgrade the lethality of Warrior, but the enhanced situational awareness will provide soldiers with a far greater understanding of the battlespace.

Warrior provides excellent mobility, lethality and survivability and the updates will provide a future proof Armoured Fighting Capability which supports 900 skilled jobs across the UK supply chain, many of which are small-medium sized British businesses.



Pictured: Director General Air, Air Marshal Sir Julian Young

Air Marshal Sir Julian Young reflects on his gratifying career with DE&S and the Royal Air Force

Director General Air, Air Marshal Sir Julian Young, is retiring after nearly eight years with DE&S and more than 40 years serving in the RAF. Sir Julian tells Desider about his diverse and rewarding career

Sir Julian joined the RAF in 1980 as an engineer officer and spent most of his early days on the front-line using the equipment that DE&S delivers.

His first eight years in the RAF were spent working with helicopters, serving on four separate squadrons across Chinook, Puma, Sea King and Gazelle. So, to return to helicopters in DE&S was particularly fulfilling for Sir Julian, who described the role as a “delight”.

Having spent part of his career at the DLO (Defence Logistic Organisation) on Harrier for three years and at DE&S on support transformation for a year, Sir Julian re-joined DE&S in December 2012 as Director Technical (D Tech) after his wife saw the job advertised in *The Sunday Times*.

“I enjoyed my time as D Tech – as with really capable people its corporate outputs provide the glue that supports delivery. And my following role in January 2015 as Director Helicopters was a dream come true,” he said.

To Sir Julian, the ‘big job’ was to take up the position of COM(Air) in April 2016, to serve on the DE&S Executive Committee, be a member of the Air Force Board, and chief engineer of the RAF.

Sir Julian added: “The sense of responsibility made me spring out of bed every morning and it has been rewarding to deliver equipment and support, and to influence the future of the RAF.

“Indeed, so much has happened. We pride ourselves on hitting performance, cost, time targets and milestones, and yet every single one is a storyline of long-term personal hard work and commitment across the teams – I’ve enjoyed celebrating every single one.”

Considering his DE&S highlights, Sir Julian states that obvious thrills were helping to deliver Typhoon’s Project Centurion and achieving Initial Operating Capability (IOC) for F-35B Lightning on schedule in December 2018, which he describes as the most

significant fast-jet event in decades. Other notable highlights include seeing the P-8A Poseidon go from approval to IOC during his tour and supporting the A400M moving into such a strong position today.

Sir Julian said: “The international programmes provide the greatest challenges, and yet are so satisfying when we move forward as partners together.

“However, the real pleasure for me has been to see people succeed,” said Sir Julian, who has always been passionate about helping people develop their careers.

“I am excited when people grow, flourish and deliver in a way they never thought might happen.

“For example, to go from savings measures on Protector in 2017 to see the team’s beaming smiles at RAF Fairford a year later when the SkyGuardian prototype had flown unmanned across the Atlantic and landed exactly on time was fantastic. Similarly, colleagues from the Typhoon team and BAE Systems bursting into my office to celebrate Project Centurion with cake and bubbles was most welcome as the milestone had been declared on my birthday – and on the same day as the F-35’s IOC. I always say every day counts, but that was a special one.”

Reflecting on what has inspired Sir Julian at DE&S, he stated fondly that it is DE&S’ great people and desire to deliver everything asked of us.

“People have got used to me ending any meeting or Town Hall brief with a request for people to ‘work harder’ towards our common and shared values. I know they are already, and more smartly than ever before.

“My time has simply flown by, and I now leave to get what my wife calls ‘a proper job’. I wish Admiral Rick and everyone in the Air Domain and wider DE&S every success personally and professionally in the future. No matter what, there’ll always be a need to get jets off the end of the runway.”

60 second spotlight

"If you want something, go for it. You'll regret it if you don't"

Rachel Tothill

Job:

Head of Human Resources for Ships, Air, Corporate Services Group and Finance and Accounting

What was your route into DE&S?

I spent 17 years in the Royal Navy as a logistics officer, with most of my time either on ships in build or just built, or in Joint Establishments (Main Building, Foxhill, Ensleigh or Abbey Wood) I then left but had always wanted to join the Civil Service. I still work with some people in HR who I was working with in my last role within the RN.

I left the RN the day that the Defence Logistics Organisation and Defence Procurement Agency merged to form DE&S and then an opportunity came up to join the Civil Service so I started working in a military support function (MSF) role in ISS Corsham. I have been an HR Business Partner for some time now and have managed to support quite a few areas in DE&S over the years.

In the recent changes, I am now continuing to support ships and picking up the Air Domain as well as the Corporate Services Group and Finance and Accounting Functions and their Executive Directors, and am really looking forward to getting to know and understand the new areas.

Your claim to fame?

The nearest thing is that I managed to get a photo of myself in Navy News many years ago.

We were in a rowing boat (an eight) with the Controller of the Navy (Vice Admiral Rob Walmsley) as the cox and my

boss at the time, Rear Admiral Fred Scourse (Director General Surface Ships), and a few other RN Officers (including Cdr Peter Gilbert who is in the Ships Domain) as the crew. Getting a photo in Navy News was on my bucket list of things to achieve in life (I should add – at that time). I have also walked on an iceberg, not a particularly safe thing to do and wouldn't encourage it because they can turnover quite quickly. I was the Logistics Officer on HMS Endurance and we were down in the Antarctic, so surrounded by quite a few icebergs.

Your advice to anyone?

If you want something, go for it. You'll regret it if you don't.

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

I hate to say it but mostly normal 'living' stuff, looking after family, spending time with friends etc. I do quite like going away on holidays and as a family we do sail and so will usually find ourselves in the Mediterranean sailing at least once a year and we will get a yacht when I retire. During the present situation, holidays abroad have been off the cards, but I have actually enjoyed being at home and getting out more into the surrounding countryside. There is some great countryside around us. I have had to drag my children out for walks to get them out of the house which slightly takes the shine off the enjoyment.

What are you most proud of?

It would have to be my family, even though they have moaned an awful lot about the family walks during the COVID-19 crisis.

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

A Kindle full of books, Kindle charging lead and generator or



solar power source to charge the kindle, I do quite like reading.

What irritates you the most?

Being late for meetings, I try not to be but used to find myself rushing from neighbourhood to neighbourhood quite often. Now I find it really frustrating that I am still a bit late occasionally as meetings overrun and I am just sat at a desk at home.

What is your favourite place in the world?

Being at sea, preferably somewhere hot, but just having the feeling of being alone in a wide expanse of ocean/sea with nothing else to bother you. Ideally in a yacht so you can hear the gentle lapping of water against the boat, and perhaps with a chilled glass of wine or two.

What would surprise people about you?

I have a science background and in my teenage years used to do a lot for the British Association for the Advancement of Science, including representing the UK Youth Section at the Nobel Prize Ceremonies in Stockholm one year.

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

Email
Louisa.Keefe101@mod.gov.uk



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Collected items	Total
Chairs	1661
Monitors	1551
Keyboards	1326
Mice	779
Privacy Screen	205
Laptop Stand	787
Foot rest	1014
Monitor Riser	614
Supports	845
USB Cable	221
Total number of items collected	9003

Delivering 9,000 items of equipment and making remote working safe

Since June 2020, the DE&S COVID-19 Operations Team worked together with volunteers from DE&S as well as DE&S' Infra team, Chief Information Officer group and facilities management contractor, AMEY, to provide an extremely efficient click and collect service for DE&S staff to help staff work from home safely.

The service has been used by nearly 3,000 DE&S employees and over 9,000 pieces of equipment have been collected, including chairs, monitors, laptop stands and

many more items. This service has provided maximum benefit through the hard work and collaboration of many teams and has enabled the DE&S workforce to build resilience and continue to work from home both equipped and safely.

COVID-19 Operations Head, Air Commodore Rob Woods, said: "While England and the devolved nations across the UK continued to ease lockdown measures, DE&S recognised that working from home was likely to remain a key part of the 'blended' ways of working

for the foreseeable future. The 'click and collect' service has been a critical enabler to allow DE&S people to work safely from home when they need to do so. It's been a gargantuan task in such a short space of time but feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. As the Head of the DE&S Operations Team, I am immensely proud of all the people from across DE&S who have worked together to make it happen, thereby ensuring our vital support to colleagues on the front-line is sustained."



Cycling to combat cancer

In a remarkable story of courage and endurance, a

UK Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS) colleague

undergoing cancer treatment is preparing to cycle 300 miles for charity.

Chief Tech Nathan Grove, who is currently undergoing bowel cancer treatment at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, is looking to raise funds for his sponsored bike ride in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Nathan explained: "Following over a year of personal health problems, I was taken by ambulance to A&E and told that I had developed bowel cancer. This was followed by radiotherapy and chemotherapy. I'm currently aiming to improve my cardiovascular health prior to surgery in six weeks' time - combining it with a fundraising challenge. Improving my health will help make my recovery more manageable."

Nathan added: "Cancer will have lasting consequences for me as I wasn't diagnosed soon enough, my age (41) is a large factor in this, but it is not for me that I am raising money, I will be fine! I want to raise money for life-saving research, to help bring forward the day when all cancers are curable, so that others can avoid the pain it causes. I also want everyone to understand that cancer can affect people of all ages and that you must ensure you get checked if you have any doubts over your personal health."

If you would like to donate to Nathan's 300-mile bike ride for Cancer Research UK, please visit this link:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/nathans-cycle-300-fundraising-page-44>.

Team's quick thinking makes Training COVID-safe

During the Multiple-Launched Rocket System (MLRS) safety panel, users raised the issue that current social distancing rules were going to affect training due to those operating the vehicle being in close proximity in the cab of the vehicle.

With the aid of the NATO Support and Procurement Agency, our Artillery Systems team worked to develop a screen that sits between the driver and gunner to allow operators to sit in the vehicle safely. The novel idea has been successfully trialled and will be going into production immediately so units can take advantage of the teams' quick-thinking and continue with training.

From initial idea to the screen being trialled was just four weeks, proving the agility of the team, the effectiveness of the MLRS Support Solution, and the NATO Support and Procurement Agency.



DE&S takes on the environmental challenge

DE&S has a critical role to play in achieving the Greening Government Commitment Targets that have been in place since 2010 and bringing carbon emissions to Net Zero by 2050. This is a significant challenge for Defence, and the MOD is developing a departmental approach to sustainability and climate change in line with wider government work.

Having recently published its first Environmental Strategy,

DE&S and partner organisations are working hard to protect and promote our environment with a variety of projects.

Pollination charity 'Praise Bee' is spreading its work from the Bee Meadow at Donnington to several Defence Munition (DM) Sites, with the support from DM Gosport Environmental Protection Officer (EPO) Raffaele Turk. This work has been funded by our Delivery Partners Babcock DSG

and KNAD who, together, have donated £2000 to the charity.

At Bicester, Michael Panejko, site EPO, is overseeing the planting of 1050 trees on site as part of a successful tree planting collaboration project between DIO and Amey Regional Foresters, demonstrating how our estate can be put to good use.

At West Moors, EPO Claire Cowdrey has introduced a food waste recycling scheme

MOTTO

the MOD Lottery April winners

- £10,000 Colin Thompson, London
- £2,500 Nicola Knox, Coulport
- £1,000 Lesley Fenn, Wyton
- £500 Sophie Danns, Bristol
- £250 Andrew Staddon, Bristol
- £100 Steven McIntyre, Glasgow
- Paul Smith, Bristol
- Kim Proctor, Feltham
- Jason Lewis, Brussels
- Heather Mallinson, Bristol
- Darrell Edwards, Plymouth
- Nick Carter, Bristol
- Debbie Boon, Shrivensham
- Anthony Wysocki, Helston
- Angela Sullivan, Upavon
- Michael Higgins, Lincoln
- Claire Stewart, Bristol
- Kevin Vause, Bristol
- Tina Westbrook, York
- Alexander Gardiner, Leconfield
- Peter Davis, Ilford
- Mark Willcocks, Plymouth
- Samantha Manners, Bristol
- Peter Munro-Davies, Bristol
- Anne Larsen-Burnett, Winchester

with the waste being sent to a biowaste facility and turned into agricultural fertiliser while also generating electricity which is fed back to the grid.

Abbey Wood EPO, Sue Hordle, has had great success in removing Consumer Single Use Plastic (CSUP) from canteen areas and arranging for the recycling of takeaway coffee cups across the site.

White Fleet Transport Manager Nick Thomas is overseeing the availability of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) and their respective charging points.

The introduction of ULEV's across some DE&S sites is imminent and further availability is expected to be rolled out at other DE&S sites in due course.

DE&S Chief Environment & Safety Officer (CESO), Andy Bostock said: "Alongside projects like these, we can all help the environment by adjusting our own behaviours. Individually the effects might be small, but if we all do our bit, together we will make a significant difference."

Case Study

Callum Partridge, Survivability Engineer, gives his insight into some of the benefits of working for the organisation

Name:
Callum Partridge

Job title:
Survivability Engineer

How long have you worked for DE&S?
Five years, of which, I spent three years as an engineering apprentice.

Why did you choose to pursue a career in DE&S?
The development opportunities here are second to none. Whether this is a long-term commitment in the form of courses, or short-term in the form of conferences, DE&S have always been supportive. The opportunities were what initially drew me to DE&S and having that continual personal development support is what has kept me engaged with the business.

What does your role entail?
I work within the Survivability team that forms part of the Dismounted Close Combat (DCC) team. I am responsible for defining and evaluating technical requirements for new personal ballistic protective capabilities and for technical support of in-service equipment such as assessing design modifications. We manage a large variety of equipment ranging from small items like eye protection through to larger items such as Explosive Ordnance Disposal suits.

What are the opportunities to develop and progress within your function?
The engineering function currently offers several apprenticeship and graduate schemes of varying

levels, giving people of all backgrounds an opportunity to progress their engineering careers. In addition to the formal schemes, the engineering function also offers funding and support for internal and external courses, giving people the opportunity to develop their skill set and progress their careers.

What do you most enjoy about your job?
The ability to have such a major influence in the design of equipment that is very personal and critical provides a lot of satisfaction when users are providing positive feedback. I enjoy the challenge of continually investigating the various options to help improve the users experience further.

What's your ambition?
I am currently working towards my Bachelor of Engineering in materials engineering at Sheffield Hallam University. My ambition is to complete the course and possibly push on to work towards achieving my Master of Engineering in a ballistics related field.

What's your greatest achievement to date?
While not directly linked to defence, my greatest achievement has been contributing to the NHS' Procurement of PPE as part of DE&S' task force during the COVID-19 pandemic. Working alongside some incredibly versatile and determined people, we helped to deliver £5.8-billion of life saving equipment. Being part of a team that were able to secure vast quantities of PPE in just three months was a real privilege

Why would you recommend DE&S to others as a great place to work?
The flexible working arrangements and the civil service benefits, like discounts and sporting facilities, help to provide a great work life balance within DE&S. Coupling this with working alongside some incredibly professional and determined people makes DE&S a very positive place to work.

What are the social benefits of working for DE&S?
The sporting and activities community within DE&S has been great. I've certainly made use of the benefits CSSC has to offer, whether this is taking part in civil service sports day, or the frequent classes put on in the sports hall and gym. It's also great to see this ethos being carried over to Abbey Wood sports teams like the rugby club who have a great social element as well.



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