



# The Reservist

East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association Newsletter

Winter 2018

**Focus on:**  
HMS Sherwood

**Delivering Adventure  
Training Abroad**

**Inspiring A Future Generation  
Of Female Engineers**

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Left to right: Siobhan Weller, Les Fryatt, Kenneth Kwogyenga – Charity beneficiaries



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## Find Out More

If you are interested in becoming a reservist or would like to find out more about the Reserve Forces please visit:

Royal Naval Reserve - [www.royalnavy.mod.uk](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk)

Royal Marines Reserve - [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/rmr](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/rmr)

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THE LIMBLESS VETERANS

# Chairman's Introduction

It is a pleasure to introduce another issue of the Reservist magazine, which highlights the fantastic range of opportunities and life enhancing experiences available to those who join the Reserves of the Armed Forces. As we approach the end of a year which has seen the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, a war that was supposed to be the War to End all Wars, it is clear that our country still needs to be ready to defend the rights and liberties that we all too easily take for granted.

The 'lions led by donkeys' interpretation of the First World War is increasingly being questioned, and the students of East Midlands Universities Officer Training Corps (EMUOTC) were given an invaluable opportunity this summer to not only learn about the way in which military tactics developed in the last 2 years of that war, but to walk the ground upon which those tactics were enacted. OTCs recruit exclusively from university students with the aim of training the next generation of officers for the Regular and Reserve Army, although there is no commitment to join the Army at the end of a student's university career. Both the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force have similar organisations in universities across the country. Another significant anniversary commemorated in 2018 was the centenary of the formation of the RAF. No 504 (County of Nottingham) Squadron was active in that commemoration and celebrated its own 90th anniversary this year. The squadron has a proud history and played a significant part in the Battle

of Britain; its personnel were proud to parade in both Oakham and Nottingham as revealed on page 10.

This has clearly been a year marked by commemorations, for on 27th July, the Royal Army Veterinary Corps marked the centenary of its Royal Warrant with a parade through Melton Mowbray; one Reserve officer's contribution to the parade is detailed on page 8. The central theme of this magazine though is to celebrate the people of this region who still contribute to the safety of us all. The Reserves provide them with opportunities to develop new skills, gain new experiences, meet new friends and face demanding challenges. At times these can just be for the fun of it, but often they will bolster individual's abilities within their civilian employment, to the benefit of both themselves and their employer. The work of the Lincoln based 160 Transport Squadron of the Royal Logistic Corps in training their personnel in a range of driving skills which can aid their civilian employment exemplifies this aspect of Reserve life. I hope though that the other element of Reserve life that readers garner from this magazine is the enjoyment that so many people achieve from serving their country in the Reserves.



Colonel Murray Colville TD DL

*Murray Colville*

Colonel Murray Colville TD DL, Chairman of East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association



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## Caving in the Peaks

**Earning caving qualifications is probably not at the forefront of your mind when you think about military training but six reservists from Lincolnshire have discovered the benefits that adventure training can bring.**

The training was organised in the Peak District by Private Pete Harrison who serves with 160 Transport Squadron in Lincoln and is a bathroom and kitchen installer in his civilian life. He explained: "I first tried caving as part of a regimental adventure training weekend; as soon as I had completed the caving I knew it was the new sport for me and organised a five day foundation course.

"During the course we were pushed to our boundaries both mentally and physically, climbing over obstacles, getting wet and squeezing through extremely tight spaces."

The course was held over five days and took the reserves into several caves including Nicker Grove Mine, Carlswalk Cavern, Jug Holes, Giant's Hole, Peak Cavern and P8 Jackpot.

They were taught how to read cave maps, move through caves safely and how to assess features in order to navigate caves.

The training was run by Captain Simon Lewis who serves with the unit and is an experienced caver. He explained: "Caving is a bit of a niche activity; people either love it or, as is more often the case, hate it. So it was refreshing to take six motivated Army Reserve personnel, who were up for a challenge.

"The Peak District was an ideal training ground and we were able to explore a variety of different caves. The guys responded well to training and by the end of the weekend we had progressed from horizontal caving to doing some of the more vertical systems on ladder and lifeline.

"The weekend finished in the classic P8 Jackpot cave above Castleton where they were introduced to basic Single Rope Techniques which is similar to

aided climbing, but underground!"

Pete continued: "When people started to panic Captain Lewis didn't. He enabled all of the student cavers to stay calm and would use his experience to advise us of better solutions when tackling some of the more difficult obstacles."

The course has inspired some of the reservists to pursue this hobby in their own free time, as well as considering how the team-working skills they developed can be applied to their wider military training and civilian careers.

Pete concluded: "After completing my foundation course I am now trying to join a Single Rope Technique course so I can progress further. My aim is to travel to different countries to explore new cave systems and become a qualified caving instructor."



Reservists caving in the Peaks

## Mobilised in Qatar

**A reservist from Lincolnshire travelled more than 4,000 miles from Lincolnshire to Qatar, to complete his mobilisation at the Al Udeid Air Base.**

Senior Aircraftman James Farnhill is serving with the RAF Reserve's 7006 (VR) Intelligence Squadron based at RAF Waddington and travelled to the Middle East to spend four months working as an Intelligence Analyst.

James joined an all-American team from the United States Air Force and was the only UK representative responsible for processing, assessing, investigating and analysing information on site, as well as reporting potential threats to coalition aircraft operating in the Middle East."

As a Civil Servant in his civilian life, James decided to join the RAF Reserve back in 2014 after being handed a flyer at an Armed Forces Day event and going home to research more about roles available. He was attracted to the Intelligence Squadron as he liked the idea of challenging himself to do something different and having the chance to contribute to projects that are of national and international significance.



James Farnhill in Qatar

Speaking about his recent deployment overseas from a personal point of view, James continued: "It was a challenging experience, but a rewarding one, where I had the opportunity to brief senior personnel on a daily basis. Working in a fast-paced operational environment has increased my confidence and ability as an intelligence analyst. I am now greatly looking forward to another deployment overseas in a few years' time."

This was James' first mobilisation experience and he believes that this combined with other military training he has undertaken have helped to build his communication, presentation and leadership skills that can all be utilised in his day-job.



Sergeant Kate Dunscombe & Lt Col Wendy Adams

## Inspiring a future generation of female engineers

2018 was The Year of Engineering and an Army Reservist has made it her mission to sell the benefits of a career in engineering to the next generation of potential mechanical, electrical, civil and computer engineers.

Sergeant Kate Dunscombe from the Army Reserve's 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group organised an event called Exercise Sapper Cadet at Chetwynd Barracks in Nottingham to give female Army Cadets aged from 12 to 18, an opportunity to experience the trades, capabilities and opportunities available, if they were to pursue a career in engineering in the future.



The event celebrated women in engineering by showcasing career opportunities available to them with presentations taking place from females who already work in the industry.

Taking place over the weekend of International Women's Day (23 June) the event also celebrated the talent and achievements of successful women who serve in the Army's Royal Engineers.

Areas explored during the event included practical vehicle searches used by the Army; counter terrorist Explosive Ordnance Disposal training; water engineering (filtration and distribution); infantry assault bridge building, command tasks

and general STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) activities.

Kate, joined the Army Reserve in 2006 as she was an army cadet herself. She now works as a Signalling Systems Trainer for Transport for London; has enrolled as a STEM Ambassador and is passionate about sharing her love of engineering with others.

Kate explained: "This event was a fantastic opportunity to showcase to young people the engineering opportunities available to them both in civilian industry and the military. The hands-on experience they got from the event really brought STEM to life and demonstrated its importance across a breadth of roles within engineering."

One of the cadets taking part in the event was Cadet Ellie-May Bott, from Worksop detachment. She said: "I wanted to attend the engineering exercise as I would like to be able to get a taste of STEM activities and be able to expand my knowledge of the different careers available for both men and women".

This event was the first of its kind to be organised in Nottingham and included a total of 219 cadets taking part from across the 7 Brigade area.



## Veterinary surgeon takes part in Melton parade

A veterinary surgeon from the Army Reserve's only military working dog unit took part in a Leicestershire parade that was organised to celebrate 100 years of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps' (RAVC) Royal Warrant.

Lieutenant Tessa Muir, aged 32, serves with 101 Military Working Dog Squadron, and was part of the mounted contingent of RAVC Officers during a parade in Melton Mowbray that marched through the streets 100 years after HM King George V awarded the RAVC's Royal Warrant in 1918.

The Defence Animal Training Regiment, formally known as the Defence Animal Training Centre, is based at Remount Barracks in the town and is home to equine, canine and veterinary services. Tessa has always had an interest in joining the military for a number of reasons: seeking a career with a breath of challenges, new opportunities and because her family have served in the forces over a number of generations.

After living and working overseas for a number of years, when Tessa moved back to the UK she researched the role of a veterinary officer and started the application process. She explained: "The parade through Melton Mowbray is one of a number of events organised by the RAVC this year to celebrate being in the town for 100 years. It was fantastic to be part of the mounted contingent and parade alongside over 200 dismounted officers, soldiers and military working dogs from the animal centre. The crowd was about five people deep in places which was great to see."

As a keen horse rider, Tessa has an established base of riding fitness but still took part in the pre-parade training, riding the horses as part of the mounted contingent for a week



The Household Cavalry on parade

beforehand, under the watchful eye of representatives from the Household Cavalry.

Tessa continued: "Military training in advance of the parade included a variety of mounted sessions, encompassing sword drill and an early morning rehearsal ride following the parade route. We were shown how to prepare the horses, such as the specifics of tacking up with military kit including the saddle, bridle and accessories."

In her civilian job Tessa works as an Anti-Doping Manager for the British Horseracing Authority. She oversees the sports equine testing programme and the rider resting programme. Although on the face of it, Tessa's military and civilian roles seem different there are a number of crossovers in her skillset. Tessa said: "Both of my roles require a strong ability to work effectively in a team environment and perform well in high pressure, often in time critical environments. Life can be incredibly busy, particularly at certain times of the year when there are major racing events on. I am extremely fortunate to have a very supportive civilian employer that enables me to balance my commitments effectively."

Looking to the future Tessa is set to travel to Cyprus to provide veterinary cover for her full-time Army counterparts and is looking forward to the opportunities the trip will provide.

## Using 21st Century equipment to train

Reservists from Lincolnshire went on a training exercise which used modern technology to make the operation more realistic.

Exercise Steelback Typhoon was organised for soldiers of the third battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiments and they used the Deployable Tactical Engagement System (DTES) so they could simulate real-time battlefield casualties.

Colour Sergeant Mat Hardy who serves in 4 (Lincolnshire) Company, 3 Royal Anglian, explained: "The reality that the DTES system brings to the exercise changes the way a soldier behaves. "It forces the soldier to think about their own movements and tactics otherwise

they will become a casualty just as they might in real life."

The DTES system uses lasers on the weapons and sensors on a vest to register where shots go. This allows the soldier to know how accurate they are being and indicates when they have been hit and have become a casualty.

This information is then fed back to the commanders who must re-assess their objective in order to decide how to complete the operation without incurring more casualties.



Riflemen of 3 Royal Anglian form up before assaulting a compound on Stanford Training Area

The system is very accurate and often leads to a higher number of simulated casualties than a blank firing exercise.

Mat explained: "It also benefits medics not only in the amount of casualties they will have to deal with but will also affect triage and prioritisation, meaning the medics have to think more about the bigger picture than in a traditional blank firing exercise.

"If the Army Reserve are to maintain a high standard of soldier then this system will play a key part in inspiring soldiers to remain focussed and sharp while on exercise."



## Deputy Ward Sister: “Being a reservist is a really positive experience.”

A Deputy Ward Sister who works full-time for the NHS has explained why she loves being a reservist and why joining the military was one of the best decisions she has ever made.

Corporal Rosie Roberts serves with the Army Reserve’s 212 Field Hospital in Beeston and works as a registered nurse at Nottingham’s Queen’s Medical Centre.

Rosie, aged 27, was never interested in joining the Army but after seeing an advert on TV last year she started to wonder about the extra skills she could potentially develop as a reservist that would be beneficial to her day-to-day job in the healthcare profession.

She explained: “A lot of people around me thought that I wouldn’t do it. They said I wasn’t strong, fit or tough enough (both physically and mentally), and that the Army wasn’t for me. This however made me much more determined to join and push myself out of my comfort zone. I never



expected I would love the role as much as I do now, it probably sounds silly but I have felt a real sense of belonging at my unit. It’s fantastic.”

Since joining the unit, Rosie has completed her Phase One training in which she experienced learning Skill at Arms and live firing for the first time, as well as completing an exercise out in the field.

She continued: “Completing my Phase One training was a huge accomplishment for me. I met some fantastic people who will no doubt be friends for life because of the experience we shared together. I pushed myself beyond my limits every day, physically and mentally, and I feel a stronger person for it. The main highlight was my passing out parade and being able to march onto the parade square with the military band. My mum, dad, sister and brother-in-law all attended and it was a very proud day for me.”

Rosie explained that her family have been really supportive of her role as a reservist, particularly her mum.

Rosie said: “I spoke to my mum every night when I was away on Phase One training and she loved to hear all about what I’d been doing. At times where I



Corporal Rosie Roberts in her NHS uniform and in her military uniform

found aspects of the training difficult, my mum and my sister were there to motivate me down the phone to see it all through.”

Looking forward, Rosie is keen to continue to develop her reservist career and plans to do this with the support of her employer who allows her additional Armed Forces leave to complete her annual camp each year.

Over the next few months, Rosie is hoping to be able to help deliver some of the clinical training at her unit and aims to mentor new recruits on their journey in to the Army Reserve.

She concluded: “I am really keen to deploy on operations in the future to utilise clinical skills from my civilian role in a field hospital setting. Taking my nursing from the NHS to the field would be a highlight for both me personally and my nursing career overall.”

## Delivering adventure training aboard

Delivering adventure training is not what a Royal Marine from Nottingham signed up to do, but he has embraced the challenge to travel to locations around the world to teach novices and experienced personnel.

Corporal Pat Hoey serves with the Royal Marines Reserve and joined the Nottingham Detachment around nine years ago, at that time he was a student at university.

However, being a keen sportsman he was excited to be offered an opportunity to work at the Naval Outdoor Centre in Germany on a full-time reserve service contract and decided to leave his old life behind to follow his ambition of becoming an adventure training instructor.

Pat explained: “I had the opportunity to move abroad presented to me almost by accident as I wasn’t looking for a new job. There was a position available at the Naval Outdoor Centre as an adventure training instructor and I decided this was too good an opportunity to pass up so 10 days later I found myself driving out to Germany with all of my possessions. Here I quickly took part in some ski training and later in the Silvretta multi-day ski tour in Austria with the staff.”

Since this time, Pat has helped to deliver a variety of outdoor training programmes to students including climbing, biking and kayaking as well as developing his own skiing skills.

Pat continued: “I’m now more than three years into my contract and have not regretted my decision to move at all. I have developed a range of ski qualifications I can take back and deliver to the wider corps and have been able to deliver activities to a range of audiences using my new qualifications.

“Whilst this is not a conventional role for a reservist to fill my passion for adventure training allowed me to expand my horizons. The Royal Marines Reserve has invested in me and I have been allowed to develop myself during my placement to become widely useful at the centre delivering a range of training to the wider Naval Service.”



Pat climbing the Weissmies Traverse in Switzerland

# Achievements

## Celebrating 90 years of 504 (County of Nottingham) Squadron

2018 is the one hundredth anniversary of the creation of the Royal Air Force (RAF) but for one reservist squadron this year is also the ninetieth anniversary of its creation.



Reservists during the parade in Nottingham market place

In order to celebrate the anniversary 504 (County of Nottingham) Squadron have been involved in several major events throughout the year including a parade with their Honorary Air Commodore the former Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland Sir Laurence Howard, an all ranks dining in night attended by former members of the squadron and a parade through the city of Nottingham that coincided with Battle of Britain Sunday.

Flight Lieutenant Kevin Winks who works as a beekeeper in his civilian career, explained: "It has been a very busy but fulfilling year. The RAF100 anniversary has made this year even more special because public awareness of the RAF has been at an all-time high so we were very warmly received when parading through Nottingham and Rutland."

The parade in Nottingham was led by the RAF College Cranwell Band and was supported by local Air Cadet Squadrons. After a short service in the local church the parade moved into the Old Market

Square where they were inspected by the Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire and the Lord Mayor of Nottingham.

Senior Aircraftman Bryan Ford who works for a local council as a Refuse Collection Driver has taken part in both parades, he said: "I was a bit anxious about the parade in Nottingham because it was so important.

"Not only was it the Battle of Britain parade, it was also a celebration of the RAF100 and it was all in our Squadron's spiritual home but it was an excellent day with a lot of support from local residents."

504 (County of Nottingham) Squadron was formed at RAF Hucknall in Nottinghamshire in 1928; it was a Special Reserve Squadron that had an active flying role under Bomber Command.

Shortly before World War Two it was transferred to Fighter Command and was one of the Hurricane squadrons rushed to France in 1940 in an attempt to counter the German advance.

Subsequently the squadron performed an active and gallant role during the Battle of Britain.

It was during the Battle of Britain that Sergeant Ray Holmes was forced to perform a ram in mid-air on a German bomber intent on attacking Buckingham Palace. This scene would later be depicted in the film Battle of Britain.

For the squadron's anniversary dinner a cake was created that depicted this famous event.

In the fifties, as the jet age began, the reserve flying squadrons, including 504, were disbanded but the squadron was brought back into existence in 1998 when an Operational Support Squadron took over the name.

The squadron now based at RAF Wittering has a logistics role. Its personnel include logistics officers, chefs, drivers and supply, storage and distribution specialists who perform a critical role providing logistic support to RAF operations.

## Completing a vehicle search course

As a military working dog handler a reservist from 101 Military Working Squadron has taken part in a four week course designed to test her search techniques and her ability to work with a military Springer Spaniel.

Private Linsey Furness, who works as a hairdresser in her civilian life, took part in a vehicle search course the summer at the Defence Animal Training Regiment at Remount Barracks in Melton Mowbray and quickly bonded with the working dog she was allocated to work with to complete the training.

Linsey explained: "As a military working dog handler I didn't know quite what to expect on the course but I went full of enthusiasm eager to learn new search techniques. I was paired with a Springer Spaniel called Queeny and we quickly formed a close relationship. I then got to grips with the theoretical learning ready to go out and put what I had learnt into practice in a test scenario."

Vehicle search is a technique used by soldiers on operations to ensure cars and any other forms of transportation are safe both inside and out and are not a danger to either serving soldiers or members of the public by checking for weapons and explosives using a search dog.

Linsey continued: "We were taught how to conduct the correct search procedures and the dogs worked to find the target scent. The training also allowed us to practice searching caravans, trucks, large vans, railway carriages and mechanical transport areas.

"It was a great experience overall. Being tested as a handler was nerve-racking at times but the examiners tried to put us at ease. It was very hard to say goodbye to Queeny as I loved working with her, I still miss her now even though I know she is in safe hands in her home at the barracks!"

Linsey passed the course with flying colours gaining a vehicle search handler qualification to add on to her CV.



Private Linsey Furness and Queeny

## C Troop celebrates a year in Nottingham

A Reservist from Nottingham has explained his experiences during the first year of the Royal Artillery's return to the city and illustrates the opportunities available to those who join the Army Reserve.

C Troop, 210 Battery, 103<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Royal Artillery was established in Nottingham in 2017 and Warrant Officer Class 2 Jason King has been involved since the start.

He explained: "I live nearby and couldn't wait to assist in getting this Troop up and running. It has also given me a chance to use my experience of training to help others grow and progress within the Army Reserve."

Jason who works as a Residential and Commercial Property Manager in his civilian career served in 307 (South Nottinghamshire Hussars Yeomanry Royal Horse Artillery) Battery in Nottingham before it was placed into 'suspended animation' in 2014. Up until last year he commuted to Leeds to continue his service with 269 Battery, 101 Regiment Royal Artillery.

In the last year C Troop has grown rapidly, with members of 307 Battery re-joining and has attracted 12 new recruits. Jason added: "Members of the troop have been carrying out familiarisation training and testing on the light gun in



Reservists from C Troop touring the South Notts Hussars Museum

order to be able to fully carry out their roles when needed.

"We have also attended a camp at Otterburn Training Area where soldiers have developed new skills through a number of courses including Driver Training, Leadership, L118 Gun Training, Gun Line Section Commander and Signals."

The troop is continuing to recruit new reservists and hopes to take the new recruits on six firing exercises and a camp in Denmark in 2019.

Jason concluded: "C Troop is the only Royal Artillery unit in the East Midlands. We have many roles available including driver, medic, gun operator and communications specialist. The next year will be really exciting for everyone involved and I'm really looking forward to being fully involved in the many challenges that lie ahead of us.

"This unit is newly formed and is making history. Serving with us is a great opportunity to make friends, learn new skills and really challenge yourself in a completely unique environment."

## Supporting the Nijmegen Marches

An Army reservist from Leicester supported the 2018 Nijmegen Marches by manning a temporary hospital designed to provide care to cadets and military personnel walking 100 miles over four days.

Lance Corporal Hughie Levenie from the Army Reserve's 222 Medical Squadron, 254 Medical Regiment, also worked with two of his colleagues from Leicester to construct three rest stop areas at different locations throughout the march.

The Nijmegen Marches took place from 17 to 20 July with participants walking either 30km, 40km or 50km around the city of Nijmegen on each day. The event began as a way to promote healthy living and exercise but has grown into something much bigger.

It is the largest multiple day marching event in the world with more than 40,000 people taking part in recent years. The majority of the participants are now civilians but historically the marches were a military event.

Hughie helped to provide medical cover to more than 700 soldiers and cadets taking part in the march from across the UK. He said: "The exercise for me was a new experience as I hadn't been involved before.

"Using our medical skills we provided

foot taping, foot care and primary health care to regulars, reservists or cadets before, during or after the marches each day. Prior to us attending the marches we had a week of refresher training and specific skill training for medical issues that may have arisen during our time in Holland. The temporary hospital was based at Heumensoord Camp in Nijmegen but we also deployed our resources to three other rest areas throughout the event."

Working as a Shift Leader in a white goods warehouse in his civilian life, Hughie enjoys being able to take part in exercises like this that are completely different to his day-to-day life.

Speaking about why he joined the Army Reserve, he explained: "I joined 222 Medical Squadron in early 2012 as I was a Community Responder at the time and had a keen interest in helping people.

"I gained more medical skills through the Army Reserve as I undertook a number of different Combat Medical Technician courses. It's always a great



Lance Corporal Hughie Levenie

feeling helping people and the skills the Army has taught me allow me to provide more assistance than I ever could have in times of need before. I now also get to travel all over the world using these skills, which is great."

Private Lee Northam from 160 (Lincoln) Transport Squadron, 158 Regiment, also attended the event and provided live logistical support alongside 34 of his reservist colleagues.

Manning the first rest area on the walk Lee explained that around 1,000 men and women from the British and Canadian Armies were provided refreshments as they made their way through: "This was the first checkpoint for a lot of the troops having marched 25km up to this point with 10kg in their daysacks. We all had a lot of respect for those taking part in the marches particularly as the weather didn't drop below the high 20s each day."

## Driving towards qualifications

Driving is a skill that many of us take for granted but if you want to learn to drive different types of vehicles or turn driving into a career this can be very expensive, unless you are an Army Reservist.

In the last 12 months, eight reservists from 160 (Lincoln) Transport Squadron (Sqn) have gained new driving qualifications allowing them to legally operate the regiment's vehicle fleet including Landrover communication platforms and MANN Support Vehicles that are able to carry up to 15 tonnes of equipment on or off road.

160 Transport Sqn, 158 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (RLC), is a transport unit that is in place to provide diverse logistic support in operational situations around the world.

Reservists at 160 Transport Sqn come from a range of backgrounds including those that are full-time parents, chefs, taxi drivers and administrators but as soon as they put on their green uniform they become Army Reservists who each enjoy challenging themselves to achieve new skills and qualifications.

Husband and wife Private Andrew and Private Sonya Key have two children and both work full-time as taxi-drivers but wanted to make the most of their free time and put their team working skills to the test. Since joining the Army Reserve two years ago, the pair have gone on to achieve their Category C driving licence allowing them to operate vehicles over 3,500kg. They have passed their Category C+E licence meaning they can drive an articulated lorry in which the cab disconnects from the trailer.

Private Andrew Key, who has also achieved his Category D licence so he can drive any bus with upto sixteen passenger seats (with a trailer of up to 750kg), commented: "My wife Sonya and I wanted to complete the training to further our own driving licence acquisitions opening up more opportunities within the Army Reserve and in our own day-to-day lives. We both enjoy a challenge and personally enjoy being put in situations where we are no longer in our comfort zone. It is a unique experience being able to drive different sized vehicles on and off road."

Another reservist to undertake driver training at the unit is Private Tom Clancy. He explained: "When you join the reserves, you bring to the Army the experience you have gained in your civilian job – and the Army can give you experience and qualifications that will help you outside of the military environment.



Private Tom Clancy

"So far this year I have completed my Category C Heavy Goods Vehicle licence and my Class 3 Drivers course. Gaining my licence was great as I'm only 20 and you can't normally get it until you're 21, therefore, I will have a couple of years' experience of driving vehicles that my civilian friends will not.

"The Class 3 course developed my off-road skills and taught me the side of driving that only the Army requires you to do, which was a fantastic thrill. I hope to



Private Andrew Key

utilise my licence and experience in a couple of years when I apply for jobs driving in the civilian work environment".

Major Jim Hicks MBE RLC, Officer Commanding of 160 Transport Sqn, explained: "Since forming in 2014 the Sqn has been successful in self-generating it's manning numbers with new recruits that have effectively passed their initial training then transposed into training soldiers and becoming part of the unit's operational capability.

"Coupled with this is the requirement for Sqn personnel to continue their personal development in the form of driving licence qualifications. I am pleased to say we have great success in this area resulting in a significant increase in the Sqn's operational effectiveness."



The Royal Navy & Royal Marines  
**Children's Fund**  
Email: [rmchildren@btconnect.com](mailto:rmchildren@btconnect.com)

**The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Children's Fund has supported children whose parents work, or have worked, for the Naval Service for over a hundred years.**

In the last year alone, The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Children's Fund has supported over 1,500 children, but with over 40,000 servicemen currently in the Naval Service, it is keen to ensure that naval families know where to find us.

**How We Help**  
We provide direct support to children whose parents work, or have worked, for the Naval Service, in areas including childcare, special needs education and in-home support in times of crisis.

To reach as many children as possible, we take applications ourselves and from a number of other sources including The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust and The Royal British Legion. If a child's needs fall outside our areas of specialism, we also work with charities such as Royal Wansstead Children's Foundation to provide total care packages.

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**To make a donation, leave a gift in your will or simply to find out more about our work, please contact:**

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T: 02392 639534  
F: 02392 677574M; 07947 691 950

**Or visit our website at:**  
<http://www.mrmchildrensfund.org.uk>



## Students reflect on the Somme

Students from across the East Midlands have marked 100 years since the end of the First World War by participating in a battlefield study that focused on the Somme.

During their annual camp more than 100 Officer Cadets who are part of East Midlands Universities Officer Training Corps (EMUOTC) completed the study which aimed to give them greater insight into the tactics used during the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and how these changed for the battle at nearby Amiens in 1918.

Officer Cadet Shannon Hamilton from the University of Nottingham explained: "Being able to actually stand on the Battlefield and get a first person perspective completely changes the learning environment. As an Officer Cadet, we are encouraged to constantly develop our leadership and tactical skills, so being able to come to this place and learn from our predecessors is a great learning opportunity and privilege."

The Officer Cadets spent time learning about the Somme whilst on their annual training exercise in Lydd, Kent where they visited a replica trench system, took part in a living history demonstration and

carried out a literature study. They then travelled to Amiens where they stayed for the duration of the study.

Lieutenant Colonel Matt Ketterer, the Commanding Officer of EMUOTC, said: "I was delighted and extremely fortunate to have been able to take so many students and staff to The Somme.

"Battlefield studies are exceptional methods for learning from the past to inform the future. While you can read about battles of a bygone era in a book or online, the true value is in walking the ground, appreciating the context and the environment in which war was waged and then affording sufficient time to reflect and consolidate one's thinking."

In France the Officer Cadets travelled to war memorials around Amiens and the Somme Battlefield, where they were able to pay their respects to The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment), whose cap badge they wear with pride.



Officer Cadets pay their respect at the Somme memorial

They looked at the lessons learned from the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and how they were applied in Amiens in 1918. The aim of this was to show the Officer Cadets how to develop tactics based on previous experiences, learning from both successes and failures.

Officer Cadet James Molloy from the University of Leicester added: "We are very lucky to be able to be taught by military historians who have such a wealth of knowledge, not only with military history, but also from personal combat experience. This combination of knowledge provides an unrivalled learning experience which we have all enjoyed.

"The unit has not only found the trip educational, but profoundly moving. This has been my first trip to France, being able to visit the memorials, and it has been an experience that will stay with me forever. It is an opportunity that I have found extremely valuable, and would happily do again."

## "Joining the Army Reserve has made me more efficient"

Efficiency is important both inside and outside the military and one reservist from Lincoln has described how he is using his time more productively since joining the Army Reserve.

Private Sean Horstwood joined the Army Reserve after researching his Grandfather's Regiment and after completing his basic training in rapid time has found that time-management skills he has developed in the military have carried over into his civilian career.

Sean, who works as a Design Co-Ordinator for Lindum Group, explained: "I am using some of the prioritisation skills I have learned as a Reservist at work and I find my time management is more efficient.

"I have also learnt how to work more effectively as part of a team. I try to use the Army's ethos at work and so far it is working well for me."

Sean joined the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment after discovering that they train at the same barracks in Lincoln that his grandfather was stationed at with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

Attesting in July 2017 and completing his Combat Infantryman's Course in February 2018 means Sean has completed his training very quickly.

He explained: "I wanted to progress on to more advanced training as a rifleman so I thought it best to get through basic training as quickly as possible.

"My employer was very good and allowed me to take extra time off to complete my basic training. My line manager is very supportive of the Army Reserve and the transferable skills that are on offer."

Sean has been very focussed on training up to this point but hopes he can use what he has learnt in the future.

Sean added: "I am looking forward to deploying on exercise Roman Star in Italy and working with an Italian Alpine Regiment. It will be great to see how another country's Army works and to have a look at their weapons and equipment."



Private Sean Horstwood

## Learning to manage projects

**As an infantryman by trade, a reservist from Nottinghamshire has pushed himself out of his comfort zone to complete a project management course.**

Captain Jay Longmate, who is based at Bulwell Army Reserve Centre, has been serving as a reservist for two years and was a regular for 27 years, he has served all over the world with his regiment but wanted to take on a new challenge.

Jay, a reservist with the Army Reserve's 4 Mercian, said: "I have always had an interest in project management and although I am currently serving with the Mercian Regiment as a full-time reservist, in the future I may wish to branch out and get a new job as a civilian and I thought this course would help me to do this."

The course, that took place at The Defence College in Shivernam, was broken down into bitesize modules and could be either studied remotely online or by attending training sessions in person.

Jay continued: "The course has allowed me to work through a range of project based examples and discuss with classmates how events and tasks could be undertaken to achieve the best outcome. I'm really enjoying the learning process so far and when complete I will achieve an APM Certificate in Project Management that is internationally recognised.

"If you're after a quick fix this course is not for you as it takes time, however, if you are prepared to put in the effort the qualification could help you to find a new job or even help you to be promoted if you work in the right environment."

Over the course of his Army Reserve career, Jay has completed a variety of adventure training activities including mountain biking and mountain leader training.



Captain Jay Longmate

Speaking about why he would encourage others to join the Army Reserve, Jay concluded: "Being a reservist opens so many new opportunities for you. To be able to attend a project management course, such as the one I'm doing, at very little cost is great. If you are an active person who enjoys meeting new people and trying new things there is always something you can get involved in through the Mercian Regiment. I'd recommend becoming a reservist to anyone who wants to make the most of their spare time."



## NEED SOME ADVICE? POP IN FOR A CHAT

If you're currently serving or have ever served in the Armed Forces, The Royal British Legion can offer you and your family advice and support.

Visit [rbl.org.uk](http://rbl.org.uk), call 0808 802 8080 or visit your local **Pop In Centre**

**LIVE ON** 

Registered charity number: 219279

# A focus on: HMS Sherwood



**HMS Sherwood, the East Midlands' only Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) unit, is based in Nottingham but recruits from around the region.**

Its members include those who have previously completed full-time military careers and those who have no prior military experience at all.

Being a reservist means you can have the benefits of enjoying two separate careers – a military one that allows you

Freedom of the City is an honour reserved for very few military formations and gives the unit awarded an opportunity to march through the city awarding the honour, in this case in Nottingham on 2 June.

The parade saw reservists from HMS Sherwood march with local Sea Cadets, members of the Band of HM Royal Marines, Portsmouth (Royal Band) and veterans who have served with the Royal Navy in years gone by.

outlaw bands and the attacks of feudal lords. Bodies of armed men were often refused entry into the town unless the citizens were confident that they meant no harm.

The granting of permission for an armed body of men to enter a town became a mark of trust and confidence in which the citizens held the unit. To be granted freedom of a town or city is one of the greatest honours that can be bestowed on a unit within the Armed Forces.

Lieutenant Commander Rod Grant HMS Sherwood's Operations Officer helped to organise the event. He explained: "After many months of planning and coordination with Nottingham City Council and other agencies it was great to see the Ship's Company finally parade through the city which they have been based in for so long. Everyone was obviously enjoying themselves and they received a warm welcome from crowds that had taken the time and effort to support their region's own naval unit".



to specialise in a specific trade and a civilian one of your choice.

Reservists at HMS Sherwood come from all walks of life, being different ages, having different backgrounds and naval-knowledge.

Those currently training with the unit include full-time parents; a postwoman, council worker, A&E nurse and a school admin officer. However, they all have one thing in common when they put on their RNR uniform.

In June 2018, HMS Sherwood exercised its right to parade through Nottingham after being awarded the Freedom of the City by Nottingham City Council.

playing and colours flying, as members of the public applauded the spectacle

of the military parade as it made its way through the City's streets.

The tradition of conferring the freedom of a town or city dates from when fortress walls were necessary to protect its inhabitants from



# A focus on:

Reservists taking part in the Freedom of the City were honoured to be a part of the event. Here we find out more about a few of those serving with the unit.

**Name:** Able Rate Tristan King

**Age:** 27

**Civilian Occupation:** Higher Education Progression Partnership South Yorkshire Admin Officer at Outwood Academy Newbold, Chesterfield

Tristan is a part of the reserve Mine Warfare Branch at HMS Sherwood and enjoys embracing two completely different career paths. He explained: "Being a reservist is really different to working within a school environment but that is the best thing about it. I get to have a part-time military career and

continue to work with young people as part of my job at Outwood Academy Newbold.

"The students are always really interested to ask about different training activities I have been undertaking recently which is great. There are lots of transferable skills I've developed over the years too, such as problem solving, people skills and time management, all of which I can bring back in to my civilian work environment.

"I was really shy when I first joined HMS Sherwood so taking part in various reserve-based activities since then has really helped me to 'come out of my shell'. I now communicate with staff



Able Rate Tristan King

and students in the school environment much more confidently than I would have before too which has a positive effect on my life on a day-to-day basis."

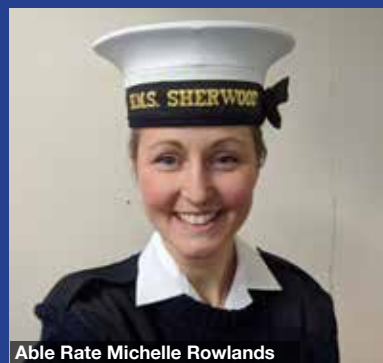
**Name:** Able Rate Michelle Rowlands

**Age:** 36

**Civilian Occupation:** Flexible Nursing Assistant at Royal Derby Hospital

Originally joining the reserves as a 17-year-old, Michelle spent two years in the service before she had to leave due to other commitments. However, in 2016, she decided to give her ambition of working with the military another go and hasn't looked back since.

As a busy working mum, it can be difficult to juggle your responsibilities to have time for yourself and to commit to being a reservist but Michelle says it is all about being organised. She explained: "In a short space of time my leadership and management skills have increased considerably which helps in all aspects of my life. Plus, joining the RNR has allowed me to improve my fitness levels and communication skills which are real benefits both in and outside of the military environment."



Able Rate Michelle Rowlands

**Name:** Commander Rob Noble

**Age:** 56

**Civilian Occupation:** IT Project Manager at Eclipse Group

Rob explained: "I have always enjoyed a challenge and working in two contrasting environments allows me to develop and put into practice a range of skills and transfer my knowledge into two completely separate fields. At HMS Sherwood I manage a team of 70 reservists and seven permanent staff and

this is extremely rewarding as each have different strengths and practical skills.

"The training that reservists, like me, receive would cost an employer thousands of pounds a year to provide, but civilian employers who employ reservists can take advantage of this for free. The main cross overs for me include the extra training I have received in management, leadership, organisation, communication and team building all of which are transferable to any place of work."



Commander Rob Noble receiving the Freedom Of The City of Nottingham

**Name:** Able Rate Stephen Dunkley

**Age:** 37

**Civilian Occupation:** Cleansing Manager in Environmental Services at a Local Authority

Stephen explained: "I always had an interest and desire to serve in the Royal Navy and at 18 I joined full time but left during basic training. This was my last chance to join although slightly differently. I love the challenge and opportunities and to be able to do it as part of a team.

The social aspect is fantastic and I have made so many new friends for life across the country and further.

"My experiences in the Royal Naval Reserve have worked hand in hand with progressing as a leader in my civilian career and hasn't had any negative impacts. I can bring new skills to both roles which helps my confidence and development. My employer supports reservists and so far the balance has worked really well."



Able Rate Stephen Dunkley





Recruit Lauren Jackson

## The Reservist Profile

**Name:** Recruit Lauren Jackson

**Age:** 31

**Military unit:** HMS Sherwood, Royal Naval Reserve (RNR)

**Civilian job:** Postwoman, Royal Mail

### **Q - When did you join HMS Sherwood and why?**

A - "My civilian boss is from a military family and knows a lot of people who have served with the Armed Forces so thought I should look into joining the Royal Naval Reserve on a part-time basis. He has known me for more than ten years so understands what I enjoy and that I like a challenge."

### **Q - There are lots of opportunities through the Reserve Forces in terms of both gaining qualifications and personal development. Did this appeal to you?**

A - "There are loads of opportunities in the RNR. Skills like First Aid, the ability to solve problems and work as a team can all be transferred back in to my day job, but I'm also excited about learning a new specialist trade."

*"...There are loads of opportunities in the RNR. Skills like First Aid, the ability to solve problems and work as a team can all be transferred back in to my day job..."*

### **Q - You joined the unit in 2017 so are in the early stages of your RNR training but do you have any highlights from your experiences to date?**

A - "After just months of joining HMS Sherwood I took part in the unit's Freedom of the City of Nottingham parade in the city's Market Square. I felt a huge sense of pride to be standing shoulder to shoulder with fellow reservists on parade and to march through the streets with members of the public cheering us on was amazing."

### **Q - Before joining the unit you had no prior military experience. Was this difficult for you in any way?**

A - "Everyone has been so welcoming to me; you really don't need to have any military experience as you can learn everything at your own pace. My reservist role fits around my role as a postwoman and I still have time to see my friends and family too. I wish I had joined a long time ago."

### **Q - Why would you encourage others to join HMS Sherwood?**

A - "I've met some great friends at the unit and a few of us are actually planning a holiday together outside of unit activities which is great. I'd recommend joining HMS Sherwood to anyone who is looking for a new challenge in their life."



# Employer Engagement

## Defence Employer Engagement

The Defence Employer Engagement strategy aims to develop links between Defence and private and public sector businesses and organisations in order to deliver a close and trusted partnership that is mutually beneficial to all parties.

The RFCA's employer engagement activities have a primary focus on

support to the recruitment and retention of reserves but it also supports the full spectrum of Defence personnel including: Service leavers; veterans; military families; and cadet organisations. We aim to develop and sustain positive, mutually-beneficial relationships with employers, to support Defence personnel, before, during and after their service.

Military units in the East Midlands have over 2,200 Reservists and the RFCA is engaging with almost 1,900 different employers with over 2,900 active employer contacts, to whom we provide information, guidance and advice on matters relating to Defence personnel, especially the employment of Reservists and Service leavers.

## The Benefits to Businesses and Organisations

By having a relationship with Defence, businesses can enhance their reputation and corporate social responsibility. Relationships will be mutually beneficial, developing skills together and sharing combined benefits without additional costs.

Employers who support Defence personnel through the Armed Forces Covenant and are recognised in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme will have access to a number of benefits.

Businesses will have the opportunity to attract highly skilled military personnel,

ex-Regulars or Reservists, acquiring a portfolio of skills and behaviours that are beneficial in the workplace. Such skills include recognised business and technical qualifications, as well as skills such as leadership, team-working, and problem-solving, proven in challenging environments. The Career Transition Partnership (CTP) provides a free of charge personalised service for employers to locate and employ Service leavers with the right skills.

Also available to employers are opportunities for staff personal

development training on free leadership activities with the Army and the Royal Air Force.

Employers can signpost apprenticeship opportunities through the Cadet Apprenticeship Scheme.

Businesses can expand knowledge of the Armed Forces with access to Land Combat Power and Air Power demonstrations.

Through the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, employers will have access to a variety of venues for hire, at discounted rates.

## The Armed Forces Covenant

The Armed Forces Covenant aims to ensure that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

The Covenant encourages organisations to develop a mutually-beneficial relationship with members of the Armed Forces community, including those who work in their business or access their products or services.

Over 2800 organisations have signed the Covenant and 281 are in the East Midlands. Further details are on the Covenant website [www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/](http://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/)

A list of companies that have signed the Covenant can be seen at <https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/get-involved/who-has-signed-the-covenant/>



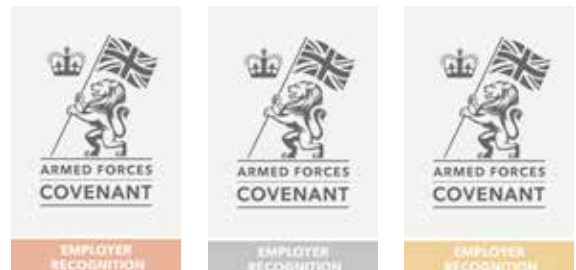
## Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS)

The ERS recognises and rewards employers for their support to Defence personnel. The scheme encompasses Bronze, Silver and Gold awards for employers who respectively pledge, demonstrate or advocate support. Employers who have signed the Armed Forces Covenant may self-register for a Bronze award; Silver and Gold awards are subject to an annual nomination and assessment process.

Awards for 2018 have recently been announced and in the East Midlands we have 33 x Silver and 3 x Gold: University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust; University of Lincoln and SkillForce. The Gold awards were presented at a prestigious event in London last year. The Silver awards were presented at a special regional dinner at Beaumanor Hall on 15th November.

Awards to East Midlands' employers now total: Bronze 170; Silver 118; Gold 6.

Details of the ERS are at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme)



## THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT:

### Pledging to support the Armed Forces Community

In the last 12 months 939 business organisations across the UK have pledged to support members of the Armed Forces community by signing the Armed Forces Covenant; 113 of them are in the East Midlands.

Employers have made a variety of pledges to support their employees who serve as reservists, who are veterans, cadet force adult volunteers and spouses from military families; supporting them in the workplace and, where appropriate, giving them the flexibility required to carry out their military duties.

#### What is the Armed Forces Covenant?

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

The Covenant encourages organisations to develop a mutually-beneficial relationship with members of the Armed Forces community, including those who work in their business or access their products or services.

Through the Covenant, businesses confirm publicly that they

recognise the value serving personnel, Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our country and that they will endeavour to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen
- in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.

Businesses of all sizes sign the covenant to pledge support across a range of important areas of activity, including recruitment and retention of reservists and cadet force adult volunteers; employment of Service leavers; resettlement of wounded, injured and sick; and spousal/partner employment.

Below we hear from a number of employers who have recently signed the Covenant:

#### Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) has marked Armed Forces Week by signing the Armed Forces Covenant.

LFRS understands that the skills developed through military training are beneficial in the workplace.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Richard Hall said: "We proudly support those who serve in Her Majesty's Armed Forces, sacrificing their own civil freedoms in helping make the world a safer and more secure place to live and work.

"In signing the Armed Forces Covenant, we're making a promise to all our reservists who serve or have served,

and their families, that they are treated fairly.

"We continue to support Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service employees who are currently Armed Forces Reservists, and in signing the Covenant, we hope to encourage more of our staff to make the same commitment to our country."



#### Walter Evans C of E Primary School in Derby held a public signing event this summer to declare their support for the Armed Forces.

Head teacher, David Brown explained: "Having a relationship with Defence is appropriate for this school. One of our teachers has served in the Royal Air Force and we have seen first-hand that her skills and behaviours, developed through her military training, have been very beneficial in the school environment.

"Furthermore, a number of our pupils are Service children so the relationship with the Armed Forces is important to us. We are pleased to pledge our support for the Armed Forces community through the Armed Forces Covenant."



# Employer Engagement

## Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure and Culture has publically demonstrated its support for Defence personnel.

Speaking about why the Trust is actively supporting the Armed Forces community, Doreen Stephenson, Chairman of Magna Vitae, commented: "As a Charitable Trust our mission is to provide an extraordinary range of cultural, leisure and health related facilities and services that allow local people to live a great life.

"By signing the Armed Forces Covenant we are actively encouraging members of the Armed Forces Community to participate in and benefit from

the tailored physical activity, culture and health intervention and support programmes that we provide." "We are also planning to support the Armed Forces to promote its recruitment opportunities by allowing temporary recruitment and information points to be provided, where practicable, in our venues."



## Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust also pledged to support their current and future employees who are a part of the Armed Forces Community.

Chairman of Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, John Rivers explained: "Military personnel, whether from cadet organisations, as reservists, veterans or service spouses and partners, play a huge part in the life of this organisation and the wider community.

"It is right, therefore, that in our role as a

corporate citizen, we support such individuals and do what we can to enable such individuals to participate fully, both in the Trust, and also in their military careers."



## Serving in the RAF?



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 ROYAL AIR FORCE Families Federation

Image: Members of The Royal Air Force Tug of War Team during a training session at Lincoln TA Centre. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

## Employers score gold: the interview

Three East Midlands' organisations have achieved a Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Award in 2018 for proactively demonstrating their advocacy for support to the Armed Forces community.

University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) NHS Trust, the University of Lincoln and Nottinghamshire based SkillForce have each received the top level award for supporting Defence and encouraging others to do the same.

These organisations have all pledged support for Defence personnel through the Armed Forces Covenant and employ

a mixture of veterans, reservists, spouses and partners, and cadet force adult volunteers.

Here we learn about each one and why they feel it is so important to support those who serve or have previously served in the Armed Forces.

### University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL)

UHL has become an advocate in its relationship with Defence in many ways, including its placement arrangement with military units: clinical placements from Army Medical Services and non-clinical placements from the Army's Royal Logistic Corps. Through this two-way scheme, Trust nurses have worked with the Army Medical Services in Kenya.

These arrangements have significantly strengthened the mutually-beneficial nature of the relationship which is vitally important. Additionally, the Trust has signed the NHS

Employers 'Step into Health' pledge and is working closely with the Regional Resettlement Centre in Cottesmore to support

service leavers and their families.

Karamjit Singh CBE, Chairman of UHL, said: "We are extremely proud to receive this prestigious award in recognition of our support for the Armed Forces community. It is important that we are able to meet the needs of this community, both as employers and in the services we provide. This accolade serves to underline our ongoing commitment to support those who serve or have served in our Armed Forces"



### The University of Lincoln

The University of Lincoln employs many members of the Armed Forces community including reservists, ex-regulars and spouses/partners of serving personnel. They are also actively engaged with the Career Transition Partnership to promote job opportunities for Service leavers.

It also promotes the diverse job opportunities in the Armed Forces as a route to employment for thousands of students and ensures that they are fully aware of the career opportunities, both regular and reserve. This is achieved through careers services, university events, internal newsletters, and open events attended by local military units.

Julian Free, Deputy Vice Chancellor of The University, said: "As a university based in Lincolnshire, surrounded by RAF stations, providing education to the Armed Forces and employing a number of ex-military personnel, it is tremendous news that our commitment has been recognised through the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme with a Gold Award. This has not been achieved by a university before, but this year Lincoln and two others have been recognised – another Lincoln first."



### SkillForce

SkillForce offers a unique programme helping and supporting veterans in the justice system, providing support for those who are struggling and in need of assistance. They have a veteran-to-veteran coaching and mentoring programme across the East Midlands, giving Service leavers an opportunity to engage with someone who understands their Service background and the issues they face in transition.

Ben Slade, Chief Executive of SkillForce, said: "We are delighted to receive the Gold Award for actively supporting the Armed Forces in our workplace and encouraging others to follow our lead. Our commitment to developing and supporting

our instructors, mainly former Armed Forces personnel and reserves, ensures that the very highest level of skills and experience are used in our school programmes to develop the character of the UK's most valuable asset, our young people. We are privileged to contribute to the support of our Armed Forces and proud to have our ongoing commitment recognised in this way by the Ministry of Defence."





# Veterans focussed education charity SkillForce awarded gold in the MOD Employer Recognition Scheme.

The award means that SkillForce has been recognised as one of Britain's top supporters of the Armed Forces and is among just 50 organisations to receive this status.

SkillForce employs predominantly ex-service personnel and trains them as instructors in its character education programmes. These are aimed at 6-14 year olds and are delivered in partnership with schools.

The flagship Prince William Award is the only award scheme in HRH Prince William The Duke of Cambridge's name. The award uses the skills and knowledge of former Armed Forces members to help children develop confidence, resilience and self-belief.

The gold award is a step up for the charity, which was awarded silver in last year's recognition scheme.

The scheme awards organisations and businesses which show continued support for the Armed Forces. The Defence Employers Recognition Scheme encourages employers to support Defence and inspire others to do the same. It encompasses Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to Defence and the Armed Forces community, and align their values with the Armed Forces Covenant.

SkillForce employs veterans from the Army, Navy and Air Force, giving them the opportunity to develop a new career after their service and become 'Heroes in schools'.



The education programmes usually run over the course of an academic year and involve well-researched activities and reflection designed

to help children and young people develop vital life skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, listening skills and resilience. The programmes are also geared around helping children to develop a good level of confidence and encouraging them to not only believe in themselves but to be happy and comfortable in their own skin.

SkillForce also runs a veterans support programme which gives help and advice to veterans who have come into contact with the criminal justice system or are in danger of doing so.

Celebrating SkillForce's Gold Award, CEO Ben Slade said:

*"We are delighted to receive the Gold Award for actively supporting the Armed Forces in our workplace and encouraging others to follow our lead."*

*"Our commitment to developing and supporting our instructors, mainly former Armed Forces personnel and Reserves, ensures that the very highest level of skills and experience are used in our school programmes to develop the character of the UK's most valuable asset, our young people."*



*"We are privileged to contribute to the support of our Armed Forces and proud to have our ongoing commitment recognised in this way by the Ministry of Defence."*

**For more information, see [skillforce.org](http://skillforce.org)**



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Employer  
Recognition  
Scheme

GOLD AWARD 2018

# FROM ARMED FORCES TO SKILLFORCE: **COULD THIS BE YOUR NEXT CAREER MOVE?**



The Prince William Award is delivered by some of the most positive role models in our society – former Service personnel, who exemplify the virtues of courage and determination.



**HRH The Duke of Cambridge  
KG KT**



Do you have the skills and enthusiasm to encourage young people to be their best selves? If so, we would love to hear from you!

We have exciting opportunities for experienced, high quality candidates to train as instructors in our teams across the UK. Instructors are responsible for delivering a range of qualifications and awards that allow our students to achieve their potential and progress. Instructors need to be able to motivate and inspire students, unlocking their potential and improving their life chances.

## **A CAREER WITH SKILLFORCE IS EXCITING AND REWARDING AND INCLUDES:**

- » Valuable work with children and young people age 6-18
- » Delivering a prestigious award programme in the name of our Patron HRH The Duke of Cambridge
- » The chance to work with other ex-Service veterans
- » A competitive salary of £23,456 - above that of a teacher's starting wage
- » Training programme with the renowned Cranfield University School of Management
- » Continuing Professional Development opportunities in a supportive environment
- » BUPA cash plan
- » Legal & General Private Pension
- » Full IT kit and uniform provided plus shoe allowance
- » A career within a values-led organisation - awarded silver in Defence Employer Recognition Scheme

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT A  
CAREER AT SKILLFORCE PLEASE GET IN TOUCH**

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