

THE MARITIME Reservist

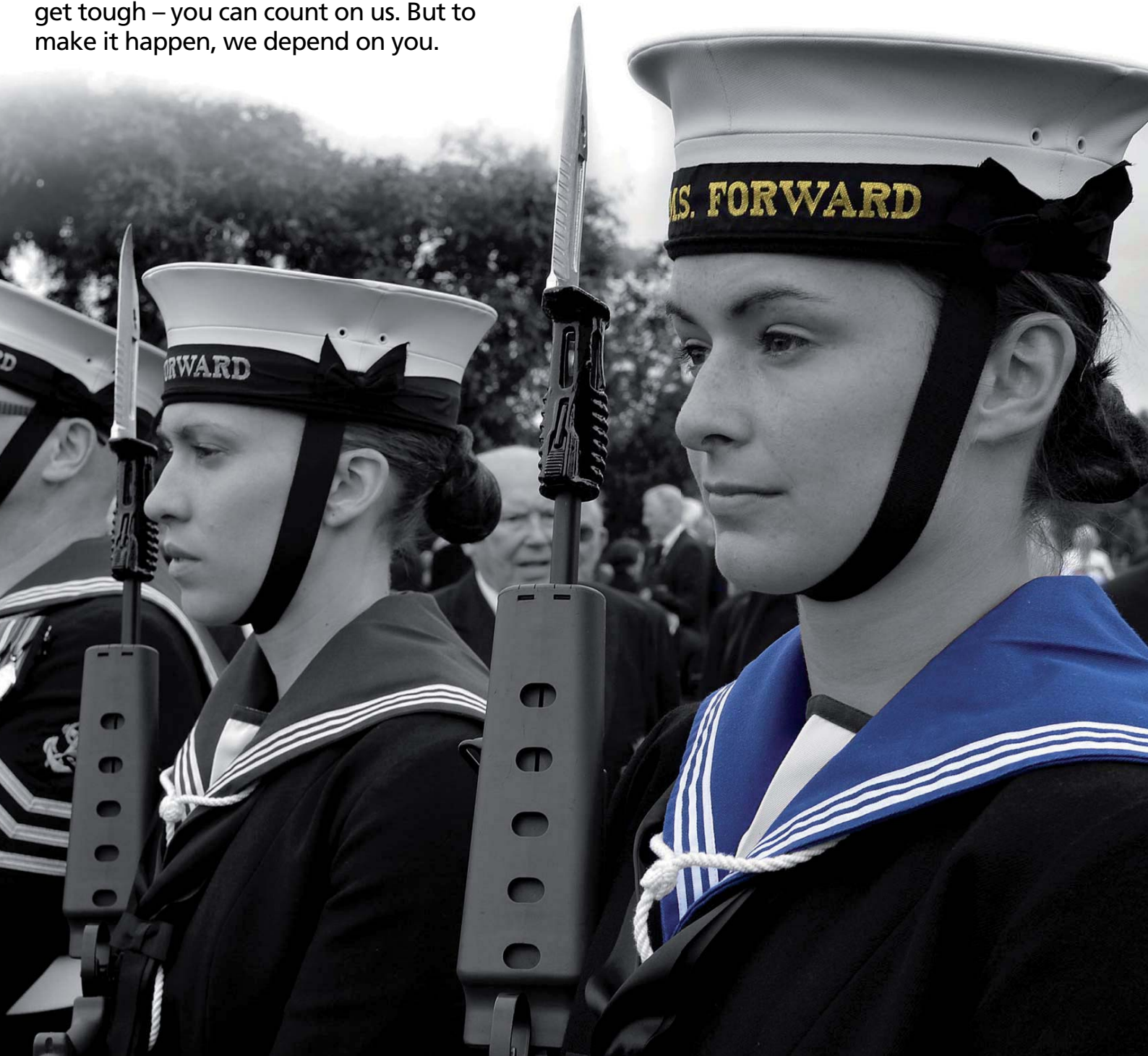
SPRING 2017

www.royalnavy.mod.uk/maritimereservist



WHEREVER YOU ARE, YOU NEVER STAND ALONE

Throughout your career, we're here to support you and your family through the ups and downs of Service life. From providing facilities that boost morale to offering practical help when things get tough – you can count on us. But to make it happen, we depend on you.



Let's work together – ask us for a grant or fundraise for us today

rnrmc.org.uk
023 9254 8128
theteam@rnrmc.org.uk

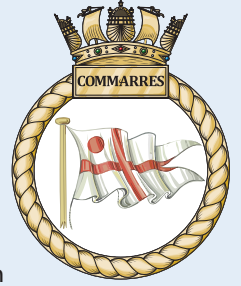


The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (no. 6047294) and is a registered charity (no. 1117794) and Scotland (SC041898).
Registered Office: Building 29, HMS Excellent, Whale Island, Portsmouth, PO2 8ER. URN14/011/01



WELCOME

By Commander Maritime Reserves



Since taking over as Commander Maritime Reserves last April time has flown by here in NCHQ, and now is the ideal time for us to present to you the next edition of the 'Maritime Reservist'. You have been busy training, exercising and deploying in support of operations and we, the HQ team, have been busy designing strategies, plans and structures that will allow us to deliver all of that capability on an assured basis from 2019 onwards. In this edition there is much to tell you about.

First and foremost I wish to say how delighted I was last spring to be selected for promotion to Commodore and appointed as COMMARRES. For me, as a Reservist, it is the signal appointment of a lifetime's service with the Royal Navy and the achievement of a long held career ambition. Thank you all for your good wishes and the support that you have given me. Now I need to do something for all of you, and that is to command and lead the Maritime Reserves the best way that I know how. This is my promise that I will do so to the best of my ability.

2016 was the year of our support to the UK Border Force in UK waters and it was a huge success, proving beyond doubt that Maritime Reservists are well suited to small ship routines and operations. At the same time we deployed engineers abroad to support frigates in maintenance, provided specialist support to two Exercise Joint Warriors, and in any week during the year we had on average 50 mobilised personnel deployed worldwide in support of operations. You were certainly busy!

2017 may not be quite as busy operationally but there will be other tasks to support such as the entry of HMS Queen Elizabeth into Portsmouth and new Reserve capabilities to develop such as the Battle Staff cadre. Delivery of core tasks also remain critical to enable our future success and our focus must therefore remain on our ability to recruit, train and retain. We must continue to recruit new entrants to each unit and our trainees must concentrate on reaching the trained strength at the earliest possible opportunity. Retention of qualified personnel is just as important if we are to make the required gains to the trained strength by 2019.

Looking beyond 2017 it is the Royal Navy's firm intention to further develop and deliver the inclusive Whole Force - and the Maritime Reserves are an integral and important part. That means downstream we might be asked to contribute more than we currently do and in different ways. For me that means that I will be working hard on your behalf to ensure that the future role of the Maritime Reserves is created through design.

I look forward to meeting many more of you as the year progresses but for now, enjoy this edition of the 'Maritime Reservist' - it is a great read and captures the very essence of what you all do so well.

Commodore Martin Quinn ADC
Commander Maritime Reserves



VIEW FROM THE HQ

Colonel Jeff Moulton
Deputy Commander Maritime Reserves

So much has happened both globally and domestically since the last edition of the Maritime Reservist, but through all of this rapid change there remain constants. The Royal Navy continues to operate steadfastly at the core of national interest and the MR activity in support of the RN's taskings continues on a daily basis. There is no doubt that 2017 will continue to herald changes that are as equally dramatic - and our task is to be prepared for this.

Operationally, there is no doubt that the highlight of the past year has been our work in support of the Border Force, which has done much to showcase the sea-going role that the MR is capable of providing. But there is also so much more critically important work that the MR delivers day-in and day-out, from enduring commitments in the Gulf to rather more short notice deployments in response to Defence and Fleet requirements. As a sense of this, it is routinely the case that people from the MR are actively involved in eight or more separate UK named operational taskings, entirely in keeping with the Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) ambitions.

These outputs do not happen in isolation and would not be possible without all of the hard work that happens across the MR in terms of recruiting and training our people. These efforts continue



to place us on the path to FR20 success, but there is little room for complacency here. With the need to be at a trained strength of 3,100 barely two years away the focus will become increasingly acute. We are already becoming a larger and healthier organisation, but restructuring will continue to be necessary in response to shifting Naval Service demands. Critically in support of this, the current Statement of Capability review will rebalance specialisation strengths. This will allow us to be confident in the future that there will be enhanced resilience in the areas where we know it will be required.

To put it in simple terms, much hard work remains if the MR is to continue to evolve into the modern, relevant, flexible and efficient Reserve Force that a world class Navy requires. I know that we can count on your support in achieving this ambition for the future and we are already well placed to deliver against this. I look forward to getting out to visit as many Units and Specialisations as possible to brief you on the way ahead, and I look forward to answering your questions on how we will respond to the future opportunities that we know the changing environment will continue to throw at us.

People and Policy

Captain Mel Robinson
DACOS (Reserves)

I'm delighted to be working in Navy Command HQ as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff (Reserves) and am playing an important role in bringing a professional, strategic and business focus to the Maritime Reserve personnel function. I work with a highly skilled, enthusiastic, globally disparate and diverse community. Together, we are playing a crucial role in contributing to the Naval Service's aspiration to advance 'whole force' thinking and application, as well delivering capability through a plethora of employment models every single day.

I start every working day asking myself 'what does CMR expect of me as a senior leader and DACOS in his organisation, and more specifically how I might influence the business functions I own to advance the core people focused activities that sit in my domain?'

The Maritime Reserve is enjoying an exceptional period of growth through the Future Reserves 2020 programme. To assure success in my tenure, I must respond to external and internal pressures that influence how I will deliver my people goals; an awareness of the competitive context in which I operate is challenging and is key.

I am inspired by CMR's Intent for the Maritime Reserves; it is ambitious and it brings clarity to my objectives, all of which aim to attract and retain ab initio and regular talent. My People Strategy, written to align with that Intent, must be visionary and facilitate

through HR practices, processes and policies, hugely exciting opportunities for those who choose to play a part in fulfilling the Future Reserves 2020 vision.

The plans that underpin the People Strategy will be driven through full time staff in CMR HQ as well part-time specialists in our virtual HQ. I must drive forward a team effort that understands the Reservists' perspective. I must also facilitate collaborative working, bringing together expert views from regular and reserve services staff.

In sum, I must deliver people focused initiatives designed to get the best out of our talented and highly skilled people, and I must deliver the best HR services to those people from my base within Navy Command HQ. This is what CMR expects of the DACOS in his organisation; I am enjoying delivering against the requirements of this exciting role every single day.

People are my passion. I'm flexible in my approach, and expect high standards from my team in the HQ to support and engage with you and your families effectively. My legacy from this role will be a culture that is truly inclusive and balances stimulating careers and opportunities with a need for a healthy Maritime Reserve force that celebrates our ethos of supporting each other and having fun.



The Way Forward

Delivering the Commodore's Intent for The Maritime Reserves

Just as the Maritime Reservist went to print, CMR held a significant Command Management Group with his unit Commanding Officers and Heads of Specialisations at NCHQ. This meeting was the culmination of a significant amount of staff effort which has triggered some fundamental changes to the way the Maritime Reserves conducts its business from 01 April 2017.

In the presence of FORes, Admiral Simon Williams CVO, the group were briefed by the Maritime Reserves' Senior Management Board on four key areas of note:

- The Business Plan 2017-20;
- The People Strategy;
- The Statement of Requirement 17;
- Structural management changes in order to bring greater cohesion and improved efficiency to the running and operating of the Maritime Reserves.

The Business Plan and People Strategy, in essence the way we will do our business and the support we will provide to our people, are available to read and all are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these important documents.

The Statement of Requirement will become the underpinning document that defines the operational requirement that the Maritime Reserves delivers to the Royal Navy. This work is currently undergoing endorsement and will be available to read in the forthcoming weeks. Much of it is a refinement of the current Statement of Requirement.

A significant change is the establishment of a stand-alone annex for the Maritime Battle Staff. The relationship that the

Maritime Reserves enjoys with this critical 2* HQ, charged with the Carrier Strike operational delivery, will become a key pillar of future Maritime Reserves output. Accordingly, whilst it will still be dependent on support from many other of the core capability specialisations, it will have its own SO1 and SO2, and also have a standing element of predominantly ex-regular Firefly individuals who may either not have natural home elsewhere in the Maritime Reserves, or indeed have key niche skills that the MBS would seek to utilise (more about the MBS on page 16).

Perhaps though the most immediate significant change will be the restructure that sees the dissolution of the two OF5 roles of Captains North and South. In future all RNR units will come under the central command of DCMR. DACOS (Res), the other full time OF5 in the HQ will now take on a much more business focussed management role. The loss of Captains North and South allows reinvestment in two new positions, Capt Standards, who will in time oversee a programme of assurance visits to units, and Capt Reserves Engagement, who along with his team will bring greater cohesion to the way the Maritime Reserves delivers its responsibilities for UK based engagement and employer engagement. Finally, the two roles of Capt OC 1+2 have been retitled Capt Ops/Eng (in charge of Operations and Engineering branches), and Capt Ops/Spt (in charge of Operational Support branches) respectively.

Units will provide more detail on all of these positive changes via briefing material released from CMR HQ.

Colonel Jeff Moulton

Deputy Commander Maritime Reserves

Commodore Martin Quinn, CMR, briefs the Command Group on the way ahead for the Maritime Reserves.



RESERVISTS SUPPORT QUEEN ELIZABETH CARRIERS

As the Royal Navy prepares to welcome the first of the nation's Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers into the Fleet, Royal Navy reservists have been busy providing niche specialist skills in support of the carrier programme.

Earlier this spring, members of the Media Operations Specialisation were welcomed on board HMS Queen Elizabeth to see the work that continues at pace in Rosyth to bring her to life ahead of her first entry to Portsmouth later this year.

Given the size of the ship – the largest ever built for the RN – and the UK's investment in her, plus her sister HMS Prince of Wales and the F-35B Lightning II jets which will fly from their decks, the Queen Elizabeth's maiden entry into Portsmouth

will be an event of national and international significance. Interest in her arrival is growing daily and the media specialists, together with other reservists in support, will help the Royal Navy mark this historic occasion for the nation.

Meanwhile out in the Pacific, Naval reservist and BAE Systems test pilot, Peter 'Wizzer' Wilson, has been putting the new fifth-generation F-35B through its paces. Based with the Air Test and Evaluation Squadron in Pax River in Maryland, he embarked the amphibious assault ship USS America for the third phase of developmental testing of the strike fighter.

The final phase of testing evaluated the full range of the aircraft's suitability and effectiveness on a sea-going carrier. The trial follows previous ones aboard the USS Wasp.

Other members of the RNR Air Branch have been busy putting the final touches to the doctrine for carrier operations, working on operating procedures and training requirements for air personnel, and working on the manning requirements for HMS Prince of Wales.

HMS Queen Elizabeth is due to embark her first F-35Bs in 2018. Meanwhile in Portsmouth, a £120m investment in infrastructure is preparing the base for the huge carrier's arrival through the construction of new power facilities, a reinforced jetty and dredging works in Portsmouth Harbour.



Award for Migrant Operations

Congratulations to Royal Naval Reservist Lt Ruairi Holohan, from HMS Hibernia, who won 'Best Reservist' at the Sun Military Awards in December for his work on board HMS Bulwark last summer helping to save countless lives in the Mediterranean.

Ruairi was one of the first Royal Naval Reservists to play their part in the Royal Navy's migrant operations in the Mediterranean. He was called up for duty for his linguistic skills and spent five weeks on board HMS Bulwark speaking French and Arabic to the thousands of migrants rescued by the Navy.

Ruairi was one of the first people to meet the migrants, travelling out on Royal Marines' landing craft to transport them from their sinking vessels to HMS Bulwark.

He used his language skills to reassure the migrants and to find out their basic personal information as well as details of any minor illness or injuries. Although he was deployed as a linguist, his civilian training working in residential units and family assessment centres became key as he helped to deliver primary social care to the migrants, including looking after unaccompanied children and even putting his baby bottle-making skills into action!

Commander Ian Allen, Ruairi's former CO at HMS Hibernia, said: "We are extremely proud of Ruairi. He represents a body of people in the Reserves across the country who are willing to put themselves forward to help others in need."



Ruairi receives the 'Best Reservist' award from Jeremy Clarkson.

Ruairi said: "It is fantastic to get recognition for my efforts, but I am just a representative for all the other people who have been working on the Mediterranean rescues, it was a team effort."



Ruairi helping in the reception area on HMS Bulwark.

Plans announced for new 'Reserve Hub' in Wales

Plans have been submitted for a new bespoke facility for reservists to be built in Cardiff Bay.

The £11 Million investment by the Royal Navy will provide a modern 21st century training establishment for the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR), Royal Marine Reserve (RMR) and the University Royal Naval Unit (URNU) that will meet the aspirations of the UK's Reserves Forces for the next 50 years.

The project will be delivered by the Reserve Forces' & Cadets' Association for Wales (RFCA) in partnership with the Royal Navy and Associated British Ports (ABP), who have offered the Navy a long term lease on the splendid waterfront site.

The new build will provide state-of-the-art training and classroom suites, accommodation, administrative services, as well as social and fitness facilities. There will also be access to the Waterfront and docking facilities for visiting warships.

Vice Admiral Jonathan Woodcock OBE, The Second Sea Lord, said: 'I am delighted to announce the development of a Reserve Hub in Cardiff Bay.

"The Royal Navy has a strong connection to South Wales and this investment reflects the Royal Navy's continued commitment to the area.

"This project reflects the high value we place on our Reserve Forces and an appreciation of the support the South Wales' communities give to our Armed Forces.'

The new site will provide shared accommodation facilities for three naval Units, the RNR Unit HMS Cambria, The Royal Marine Reserves Cardiff Detachment and the Wales URNU.

Commander Steve Fry, the Commanding Officer of the local RNR unit HMS Cambria, said: "We are very excited about this project.

"This significant investment by the Royal Navy in Wales will provide great opportunities for our Reservists and for anyone wishing to be part of the Reserve Forces.

"The site is the perfect location to meet our requirements and gives us real potential to grow and thrive."

Colonel Nick Beard, Chief Executive of RFCA for Wales, said: "This project demonstrates that the Royal Navy is fully committed to having a presence in Wales.

"We are delighted to work with the Royal Navy and ABP to provide the best possible facilities for our Reservists to work and train.

"This will be a state-of-the-art build which will locate three units in the same building, providing value for money, and scope for expansion and further development in the future."

James Cooper, ABP Chief Executive, said: "ABP's Port of Cardiff has a long association with the Royal Navy and we are proud to be chosen to develop a facility that will play such a vital role in the service's future.

"The port and its customers play a significant role in the regional economy, supporting 2,000 jobs, and there is considerable room for expansion.

"Thanks to a significant land bank, the port of Cardiff is ready to deliver further projects of this scale and beyond."

Work on the building will start next year, and aims to be completed by 2019.

With the new build to look forward to, all three units will be actively recruiting new members.

Commander Steve Fry said: "This move is testament to the high regard we have had representing the Royal Navy across South Wales for many years.

"I look forward to welcoming many more Reservists into our new site which will be a professional and welcoming environment for many years to come."



An artist's impression of HMS Cambria's new building.

SUPPORTING THE FIGHT AGAINST DAESH

Royal Navy reservists have been supporting UK Defence operations in Iraq and have been working hand in hand with our coalition partners on the fight against Daesh.

Lt Cdr Clint Darwen, who is a Media Operations Officer has just returned from Baghdad as the Deputy Public Affairs Officer (DPAO), has been working with the U.S. 1st Infantry Division who are leading the Coalition of 16 nations at FOB Union III (Baghdad).

Part of Clint's job has been to help mentor the Iraqi War Media Cell in order to improve the Iraqi Security Forces ability to defeat the ISIS narrative and propaganda. His role also involved travelling around parts of Iraq to support commanders on the ground when press are in the area.

Clint said: "It has been incredibly challenging professionally to find myself the DPAO in an Army HQ during a high intensity operation – it's pushed me to my limit. I had to learn quickly, the Command rightly needs you to achieve first time".

"The reward though has been that I am actively helping this country repel a common enemy. I've had the opportunity to be involved in some great projects, from organising the first Joint Press Conference between the ISF, Coalition and Peshmerga to show unity of effort to the world, to writing the lines before the battle of Mosul that were broadcast to people under ISIS occupation, giving them hope that they will be free again soon".



Lt Cdr Clint Darwen with the coalition press team in Baghdad.



COMMANDO RESERVISTS REFINE SHOOTING SKILLS IN GERMANY

COMMANDO reservists from across the UK have recently taken part in the largest annual exercise in the Maritime Reserve calendar.

Around 120 Reservists from all four Royal Marines Reserve (RMR) units deployed to Sennelager, Germany for Exercise Commando Phoenix.

Conducted over twelve arduous days, the exercise encompassed a variety of training including: a General Purpose Machine Gun Sustained Fire (GPMG SF) course; a Heavy Machine Gun (HMG) course; Assault Engineer (AE) training; 81mm Mortar dry training and live firing attacks from individual up to Company Group level. The exercise concluded with a Company Group advance to contact with direct fire support.

This was the culmination of 12 months training and was witnessed by a number of key personalities within the Corps including Deputy Commandant General Royal Marines, Deputy Commander 3 Commando Brigade and Deputy Commander Maritime Reserves, as well as the Minister for Defence Veterans, Reserves and Personnel.

Supported by elements of the regular Royal Marines including 43 Commando Royal Marines and Commando Training Centre Royal

Marines, the exercise aimed to improve individual and team battlefield skills in order to provide highly trained personnel for potential operations with the Royal Marines and wider Defence.

Marine Julian Kiley said: "Training doesn't really end when you get your green beret. The next challenge is to make myself more deployable and more of an asset to the Corps."

"I'm out here doing the Heavy Machine Gun course. It puts the onus more on a team, working together around one weapon system to become as accurate and efficient as you can."

Designed to be even more challenging than the previous year, the exercise also provided the opportunity for the Phase 2 Marines to conduct a survival training package, one of the key elements required to pass onto the trained strength of the RMR, after completing Phase 1 training and the Reserve forces Commando Course (RFCC).

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Maltby, Commanding Officer of Royal Marines Reserve Bristol, said: "The men are enjoying it immensely. Exercise Commando Phoenix provides an excellent opportunity for them to hone their live firing and fieldcraft skills, and the fantastic ranges at Sennelager offer a great location to conduct this training."





Mark Lancaster, Min DVRP, receives a brief from Lt Col Rich Maltby, CO of RMR Bristol.



Reservists Support Operations in the Gulf

Royal Navy media operations reservists, based with media teams in the UKMCC, Bahrain, and on board HMS Ocean and HMS Bulwark, the Royal Navy's helicopter carrier and amphibious assault ships, have been deployed to support Royal Navy operations in the Middle East and Mediterranean.

The media specialists' job is to explain the role of the Royal Navy and how it keeps some of the world's most vital shipping lanes open and safe to all. The past few months have kept them busy. HMS Bulwark led the Royal Navy's inaugural Joint Expeditionary Force (Maritime) deployment to the Middle East and the team's first task was to cover exercises with partner nations in the Adriatic and Arabian Sea.

Once in the Gulf, the media team had to cover the change of command ceremony for Commodore Andrew Burns, the Royal Navy's Commander Amphibious Task Group embarked in HMS Ocean, who took command of US Task Force 50 – the first time the Royal Navy has led a US Task Force in the Middle East.

The media team also supported several high profile visits to Bahrain. HRH The Prince of Wales opened the new welfare

building at the Mina Salman port, and Prime Minister Theresa May visited HMS Ocean in December during her visit to the Gulf Co-Operation Council Summit.

Lt Cdr Sacha Brooks, who has recently returned as the UKMCC SO2 Media Operations Officer, and is a marketing communications consultant at home, said: "Being in a position to support events like Prime Minister Theresa May's visit, and playing my part as a member of the Component Commander's core team when planning and executing operations is satisfying work. I'm learning every day while taking the opportunity to experience Bahrain. I enjoy using my civilian public relations and marketing skills and experience to benefit the mission here."

Lt Frances Mansergh, who is deployed as a Public Affairs Officer with the Combined Maritime Forces, and when at home is the communications manager for the Oundle International Festival, spoke about her mobilisation: "Media Operations ensures that moments like these are recorded and publicised for the enjoyment of the public. Raising the profile of the Royal Navy in the Gulf has been at times challenging but always rewarding."



The RN media team on board HMS Ocean - Lt Cdr Sacha Brooks, Lt Dom Simonis-Law, Lt Cdr Dusty Miller and Lt Frances Mansergh.

AIR BRANCH DELIVER FLIGHT DECK TRAINING IN OMAN

Three RNR Air Branch Aircraft Handlers (AH) who work at the Royal Naval School of Flight Deck Operations (RNSFDO) recently returned from supporting training in Oman. The trio of Chiefs, CPO AH's John Campbell, Paul Bryant and Mick Eley were working as part of an International Development Training package in the Gulf region.

The team delivered a Flight Deck Officers course to eight students from the Royal Omani Navy, utilising their own ships and aircraft.

"It's a great opportunity to standardise Flight Deck training with the Omani Royal Navy," said CPO John Campbell, who pioneered a similar training package in 2015. "With dedicated aircraft and ships we made great progress with the flight deck students. They are always keen to learn more and it's a real pleasure to pass on our own working knowledge to them."

During the course, they achieved 66 deck landings using The Royal Omani Police's AW179 and a Royal Air Force of Oman's Super Lynx helicopters. They also carried out three rotors running refuels, two static refuels and six emergency drills.

"The team returned after conducting a very successful visit, it is widely recognised that RNSFDO deliver 'World Class' Flight Deck training, and the standards expected of our international students are no different from those training in the UK", said Lieutenant Rich Turrell, RNSFDO Executive Officer.



CPO's Mick Eley (L), Paul Bryant (C) and John Campbell (R) with the Omani students.



Omani Super Lynx with the FDO course.

NEW RESERVE UNIT TO OPEN IN ROCHESTER

The Royal Navy has announced plans to build a brand new Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) training unit in the centre of the Medway town Rochester.

The new purpose-built building will be located at the Army Reserve Centre in Fort Clarence Barracks and will house Royal Navy reservists from the Medway Tender, a sub-unit of London-based HMS President, and who are currently lodging with the Royal Engineers in Brompton.

The new building will provide state-of-the-art classrooms and training facilities for the Navy reservists and they will share accommodation and sporting facilities with their Army Reserve counterparts.

The decision to move to Rochester is part of the UK Government's commitment to invest and expand the UK Reserve Forces under the Future Reserves 2020 programme.

Commodore Martin Quinn, Commander Maritime Reserves, said: "I am delighted to announce our plans to build a new Reserve unit for our Medway Tender in Rochester. The Royal Navy has a strong connection to the Medway region and the move to a prime city centre location in Rochester reflects the value we place on

our Reserves Forces. It is also a reflection of the strong support we receive from the local community and our commitment to invest in our Reserves across the region."

Captain Mark Wyatt, head of the RNR Infrastructure Programme Team, said: "This new unit will be a great opportunity for Navy reservists located in the Medway region. It will provide them with a modern fit-for-purpose training establishment with shared facilities with our Army Reserve colleagues. They have been very welcoming and we are already holding one drill night a month in Fort Clarence until the build is complete to encourage recruiting and integration."

Planning permission has been granted and work on the new build will commence in the spring. The new unit should open in late 2017.

Anyone interested in joining the Reserves in the South East can search Royal Navy Careers online or call 0345 600 3222.



Artist impression of Medway Tender's new building.



EMPLOYERS JOIN THE ROYAL MARINES IN NORWAY

Twenty-three employers, from various nationwide companies, joined members of the Royal Marines Reserve on their winter warfare training, 150 miles inside the Arctic Circle in northern Norway.

The four-day trip involved visiting RMR training courses, experiencing snow holes and shelters, preparing and eating cold weather rations and visiting the reservists under training. The employers also got to see the 'Ice breaker' which is the freezing cold practice of going into a frozen lake fully clothed and being able to get out.

Colonel Jeff Moulton, Deputy Commander Maritime Reserves, said: "It was a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness of the many benefits of the armed forces and the very positive effects that can come from having a reservist as a member of your staff."

Employer Mark Turner, a Director at the engineering company Patrick Parsons, was nominated by Leon Walsh, a senior structural engineer in their Newcastle office and a corporal in the Royal Marines Reserve.

Mark said: "It was a never to be forgotten experience, in the company of remarkable people who everyone in the UK can be proud to know are serving our country. I will be raising the issue of how we can better support reservists and veterans at our next Board Meeting. The Royal Marines, both regular and reserve, were a credit to their Corps and to this country; and I say that as a former paratrooper."

The trip was organised by Defence Relationship Management (DRM), an organisation set up by the Ministry of Defence to enhance the relationship between employers and reservists, and the Lowland Reserve Forces and Cadet Associations (RFCA). The campaign helps to improve awareness and develop a better understanding of the benefits and obligations associated with employing members of the Volunteer Reserve Forces.



Ayrshire Chamber of Commerces' David O'Neill hands over their signed Armed Forces Covenant to Lt Col Richard Maltby, Commanding Officer of RMR Bristol in the middle of the Asegarden Training Area.

Employers learn how to ski with the RMR under the northern Lights.



New Facilities for Northern Reserve Units

Two reserve units in Yorkshire and Tyneside have benefitted from the Government's continued investment and support to the Reserve Forces committed under the Future Reserves 2020 programme.

HMS Ceres

Early last year Leeds' first Royal Naval Reserve unit, HMS Ceres, was formally commissioned by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Ceres has existed in various forms as a naval establishment in Yorkshire over the past 70 years and was formerly a satellite unit of HMS Calliope on Tyneside. Now a successful Reserve unit in its own right, it is home to 80 reservists from Yorkshire.

Around £600,000 was spent refurbishing the existing building at Carlton Barracks, on the northern edge of Leeds city centre. A new two-storey wing and accommodation block was added, providing Ceres with new training and classroom facilities and 12 permanent bed spaces.

HMS Calliope

HMS Calliope, the north east's Royal Naval Reserve training unit based on Gateshead Quayside, formally re-opened after a £3.1 million upgrade and is now a major hub for Reserve Forces in the region.

Royal Marines Reservists from RMR Scotland (Tyne Detachment), who were previously based in Anzio House on the north side of the river, relocated into the building and, together with their colleagues from the Royal Naval Reserves, they now benefit from a new state-of-the-art fitness suite, climbing wall, boat store, improved classrooms and new office facilities.

Externally the building has received a facelift which includes better lighting and signage more befitting of its prominent Quayside location.

Commander Ian White, Commanding Officer of HMS Calliope at the time, said: "I am extremely excited by our new improved facilities, it is a visible sign of the Royal Navy's commitment to the North East and her Reserve Forces.

"It will help to train and equip our current and future Maritime Reservists to meet the demands of a complex and ever-changing world."

HMS Calliope also houses the Defence Training Undergraduate Scheme (DTUS), Northumbrian Universities Royal Naval Unit (URNU) and the Armed Forces Careers Office (AFCO).

HMS Calliope parade on Gateshead Quayside for their recommissioning ceremony.



AN ACCELERATED SUCCESS

Midshipmen from the Royal Naval Reserve successfully passed out from last summer's Accelerated Officer Programme (AOP), an eight-week intensive training course which turns new recruits into young officers.

31 officer cadets spent time at Britannia Royal Naval College, the Commando Training Centre Lympstone, RFA Argus and Portsmouth Naval Base to receive valuable Royal Navy training in leadership, core maritime skills and discipline.

The AOP, which was first trialled in 2015, took a mixture of new recruits and current RNR ratings from a variety of backgrounds. On completion of the course, the Midshipmen returned to their Units to continue their training in their chosen specialisation. This means they can get onto the trained strength as quickly as possible and are then ready to deploy with the Royal Navy on joint and international operations.

Col Jeff Moulton, Deputy Commander Maritime Reserves, said: "The training for officers in the Royal Naval Reserve usually takes two years on a part time basis. By committing to this intense programme over the summer, these young Midshipmen have completed it in eight weeks".

There were many highlights over the eight weeks which included boat work on the river Dart, a sailing expedition around the Isle of Wight, the infamous RM Commando endurance course and bottom field, along with time at sea on RFA Argus, HMS Monmouth and HMS Tyne.

Congratulations to Midshipman Natalie Tapley of HMS Wildfire who received the RFCA Sword of Honour for Outstanding Cadet.



Bergen packing for the officer cadets at BRNC Dartmouth.

Ex JOINT VENTURE

A Reservist opportunity

Reservists are getting more opportunities to serve with the Maritime Battlestaff (MBS), the Royal Navy's front line operational headquarters that can be deployed ashore or afloat, as the demand for reservists with specialist headquarter skills continues to grow.

The Maritime Reserves have an established history of supporting the MBS on exercises and operations over the past decade. It acts as the primary UK Maritime Component Commander (MCC) and a key part of the UK Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), and is working up its Carrier Strike headquarter operational capability for deployment on HMS Queen Elizabeth.

As the Royal Navy continues to move forward and develop its whole force delivery, the demand for reservists to support the MBS will increase. The Maritime Reserve are establishing a cadre of reservists who will be able to provide valuable niche skills to the headquarters, either through their specialist reserve training or valuable ex-regular experience. MBS opportunities will be of particular interest to ex-regular Firefly individuals who may not have a natural home elsewhere in the Maritime Reserves, or have key niche skills that the MBS would seek to utilise.

Commodore Martin Quinn, Commander Maritime Reserves, said: "As we move to a new future, support to the MBS will be one of the Maritime Reserves prime outputs. There can be no better purpose for the Maritime Reserves than being a key part of the carrier strike group 2* headquarters".

Exercise Joint Venture 17 is the tri-service UK JEF exercise that will test the MBS as a deployable MCC. The exercise takes place in summer 2017 and there are plenty of opportunities for reservists to take part in order to complete their branch/specialisation training. Interested Reservists should speak to their training officer to find out more about the opportunities to be part of this Royal Navy front line unit.



Reservists have plenty of opportunities to deploy with the MBS.



TRAINING DIVISION LAUNCHED

A new opportunity for RNR personnel to become part of the RNR Training Division has recently been launched.

The RNR Training Division is a new concept. In the past personnel have either transferred into the non-promotable New Entry Instructor Cadre or have had to deliver training output at the same time as contributing to their Specialisations. Reservists will now be able to temporarily step out of their Specialisation and into the vital role of training delivery which in turn will help ensure success of FR20. Volunteers will be able to specialise in Command Leadership and Management (CLM) or Initial Naval Training (INT) with a few specialising in Command & Staff Training (CST).

Just like the Regular service the RNR trainers will be assigned to the Training Division for a set period before returning to their Specialisation. A timeframe of three years has been decided upon to warrant a reasonable engagement period and avoid any potential career-fouling upon return to Specialisation. It is possible that some may wish to continue for longer in the Training Division assignments and this would be decided on a case-by-case basis. During the three year assignment individuals will receive full training in the form of the Defence Train The Trainer course, known as DTTTv2, and will be assessed accordingly. Trainers will be allocated additional Man Training

Days although the number required to achieve Bounty will remain the same.

HMS Sherwood's PO Derek Parsons has been training INT Officers and Junior Ratings for a year and will be assigned to the Training Division. PO Parsons said: "I get a lot of satisfaction from teaching new recruits the foundation skills which they will need on the Confirmation Course at HMS Raleigh or Britannia Royal Navy College. This will stand them in good stead throughout their naval career".

As a skilled Information Operations PO he recognises that the experience he has gives 'value-added' to the training he delivers, he says: "My role as a Training Division Trainer will provide me with the opportunity to give back from my operational experience the knowledge and understanding of the many training environments that new recruits will experience".

The Training Division will ensure that training delivery is by dedicated and qualified personnel and will provide the trainers with skills which they can use in their civilian roles. On top of that it will give the trainers broadening experience which should bring its own benefits in the military context, potentially including significant evidence of increased merit for promotion.

RESERVE ENGINEER ENSURES CREW DEPLOY ON TIME

Engineer reservist POET(WE) Jones was mobilised to provide Deputy Weapon Engineer cover on board HMS Cattistock to complete the last two weeks of operational sea training and Ex Joint Warrior prior to deployment to Bahrain.

During this time he was tasked as command advisor during a major incident exercise, providing important weapon and ship systems repair intentions and also carrying out important repairs to various systems including internal communications RICE and Sea Fox during Ex Joint Warrior.



Of his time onboard, PO Jones said: "I assisted the Weapon Engineering Officer to prepare 30mm GPMG and Minigun for firing serials and ensured daily maintenance was carried out under high readiness. I was involved during a very busy and important time for Crew 6 and HMS Cattistock and my timely arrival, with



previous regular RN experience, proved invaluable enabling them to complete operational training and deploy on time to Gulf".

London Royal Marines unveil new £200k urban combat and climbing training facility

Royal Marines Reservists based in the capital now have a unique climbing/urban combat tactical trainer to prepare them for battle.

The £200,000 facility at RMR City of London in Wandsworth can also be used by other military and the emergency services.

The Centre for Urban Tactics And Climbing – CUTAC – will prepare commandos for climbing up, abseiling down and storming buildings in towns and cities. The four-storey facility, unveiled by Vice Chief of Defence Staff – and Royal Marine – General Sir Gordon Messenger, has been designed, built and installed at RMR City of London’s HQ in Wandsworth in under ten months.

Although specifically aimed at honing the urban combat skills of commando reservists, plus any other military units which wish to use it, the facility has been designed from the outset with all three of the capital’s emergency services in mind to practise rescues in multi-storey buildings.

“This facility is a fantastic addition to our London base - without it we would travel for several hours to get the value of similar training,” said Lt Col Ed Moorehouse RM, previous Commanding Officer of RMR London.

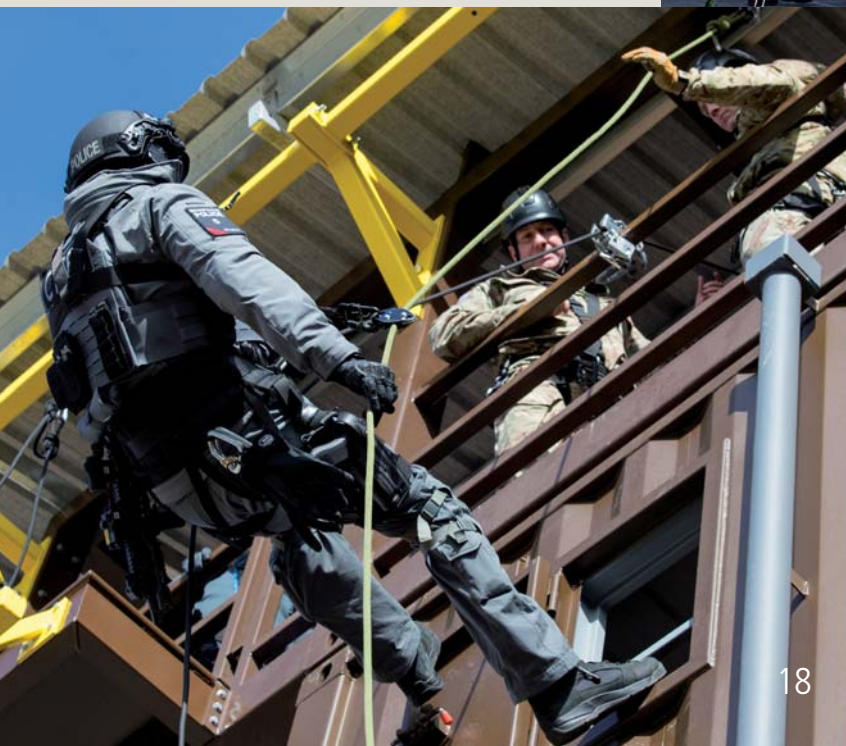
“It’ll prove to be an essential tool not just for Royal Marines but for all our military colleagues in and around London. Moreover, and just as importantly, the Blue Light services – giving us all a chance to train together, cross-pollinate and swap skills together as well as develop new tactics by sharing this facility.”



General Sir Gordon Messenger hears about the CUTAC from RMR London.

Among the RM reservists who’s been instrumental in the project from the outset is C/Sgt Dave Hill – he’s a London firefighter by day and, as a commando, a climbing instructor.

“So between rescuing people and a mountain leader in the Royal Marines, I’ve combined those skill-sets and helped produce what we have here today,” he explained.



ON TOP OF THE WORLD IN NEPAL

A team of reservists from RMR Merseyside have tested themselves against the most austere and challenging conditions known to man on a trekking expedition to Nepal.

Exercise Khumbu Commando saw fourteen Royal Marine reservists travel to the Everest mountain range, known locally as the Khumbu region, and trek for 23 days over its three highest alpine passes (Renjo La, Cho La, Kongma La), culminating in an ascent of Imja Tse (Island Peak) at 6,189m.

With temperatures as low as -21C, the team began with altitude acclimatisation and a recce of the first pass. Conditions were tough with strong winds, austere weather and the high altitudes to contend with.

With acclimatisation complete, the team split into two, with the High Altitude team summiting the Renjo La Pass and the Anchor Team trekking 21km to Namche. With the Renjo La Pass under their belt, the High Altitude Team had to trek for another 14 hours from Gokyo to Namche to link up with the rest of their team.

The marines then group trekked from Lukla (2,800m) to Namche (3,440m) via Ghat, Phakding and Jorsale, through worsening weather and fair amounts of snow, struggling with 65% oxygen levels and frozen water sources.

RMR Merseyside expedition members prepare for their next trek in Nepal.



Whilst recovering in Namche, the team visited some of the local magnificent monasteries and schools in the area, before waiting for a weather window to complete their final climbs.

Lt Col Paddy McCullough, Commanding Officer of RMR Merseyside, said: "Exercise Khumbu Commando has been the perfect way to embrace the tenets of

the commando spirit - courage, determination, unselfishness and cheerfulness. These are all qualities we expect in our Royal Marines and our Reserves, and having to face such harsh conditions in the Everest region will be a real test of strength and character for my reservists."



RESERVES STORM THE BOURNEMOUTH AIR FESTIVAL

Royal Marine reservists from RMR Bristol and RMR Merseyside stunned the crowds when they stormed Bournemouth beach during the town's annual air show last summer. The marines joined other reservists and service personnel as the Royal Navy entertained the public with amphibious beach landings, arial displays and band concerts.

The four day festival, which attracted over 700,000 people despite poor weather, provided invaluable training for more than 180 RNR and RMR personnel.

The green beret's Viking vehicles and landing craft took part in beach assaults whilst the Black Cats Wildcat and Merlin helicopters wowed the crowd with their aerial acrobatics. The Royal Marines Band from HMS Collingwood kept the music playing and beat the retreat each night up on the cliff top. Out at sea HMS Monmouth, RFA Argus, the patrol vessel HMS Tyne, the mine hunter HMS Grimsby, P2000s Smiter and Ranger, plus French minehunter Sagittaire all provided naval support to the festivities.



Marine reservists show the crowds how to storm Bournemouth beach.



Lt Col Richard Maltby, the Commanding Officer of RMR Bristol, said: "The amphibious demonstration provided an excellent opportunity to demonstrate to the public the impressive assets of the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines and how we link them all together in the sea, land and air".

Capt Ed Newman, the Officer Commanding the Poole Detachment of RMR Bristol, said: "This event is a good opportunity for us to demonstrate to both local public and those further afield the capabilities of the RMR and to raise awareness of the Reserve Forces in the local community".

Capt Si Smith, from the Commando Recruitment Team, said: "The beach demonstration went down incredibly well... it allows the younger audience to see for themselves the unique capabilities of a Royal Marine Commando".

Lt Martin 'Gunny' Heighway, from Portsmouth based HMS King Alfred, said: "We have a long and growing association with the Bournemouth Air Festival and it's a really enjoyable way to get the Royal Navy firmly focused in the public eye".

This year's Bournemouth Air Festival takes place from 31 Aug – 3 Sep 2017.



Reserve Diving Group

November saw the first deployment of divers from the newly formed Reserve Diving Group (RDG) to Gibraltar. 10 Personnel from the RDGs Reserve Diving Unit 1 undertook a week of training at the headquarters of the Gibraltar Clearance Diving Element under the expert guidance of diving instructors from Fleet Diving Headquarters.

The team refined their skills in maritime force protection by practising what to do if an underwater improvised explosive device (IED) was found.

Leading Hand Rob Powell commented: 'This exercise has brought together all the previous elements of our training to date, this all adds to the confidence that we feel in being able to execute the role that we have been trained for.'

*The Reserve Diving Group are (from left to right):
LH Rob Powell, LH Matt Williams, SLt Aaron Barrett,
CPO Rick Gannon, LH Stephen Cotterell, PO Tim Pearce,
Lt Adam Bolton, AB Simon Morgans.*

Exercise coordinator Lt Adam Bolton added: "It has been fantastic to see the clear integration between the staff from Fleet Diving Squadron and the RDG. It is via this kind of assimilation that our capabilities as Reservists become a valuable asset for use by the regular Royal Navy."



Reservist submarine controllers' skills put to test

Members of the Royal Navy Reserve Submarine Operations specialisation headed to Gibraltar for their Command Post Exercise (CPX16) – a high-tempo scenario designed to test future submarine controllers on how to command and control NATO submarines in an escalating operational environment.

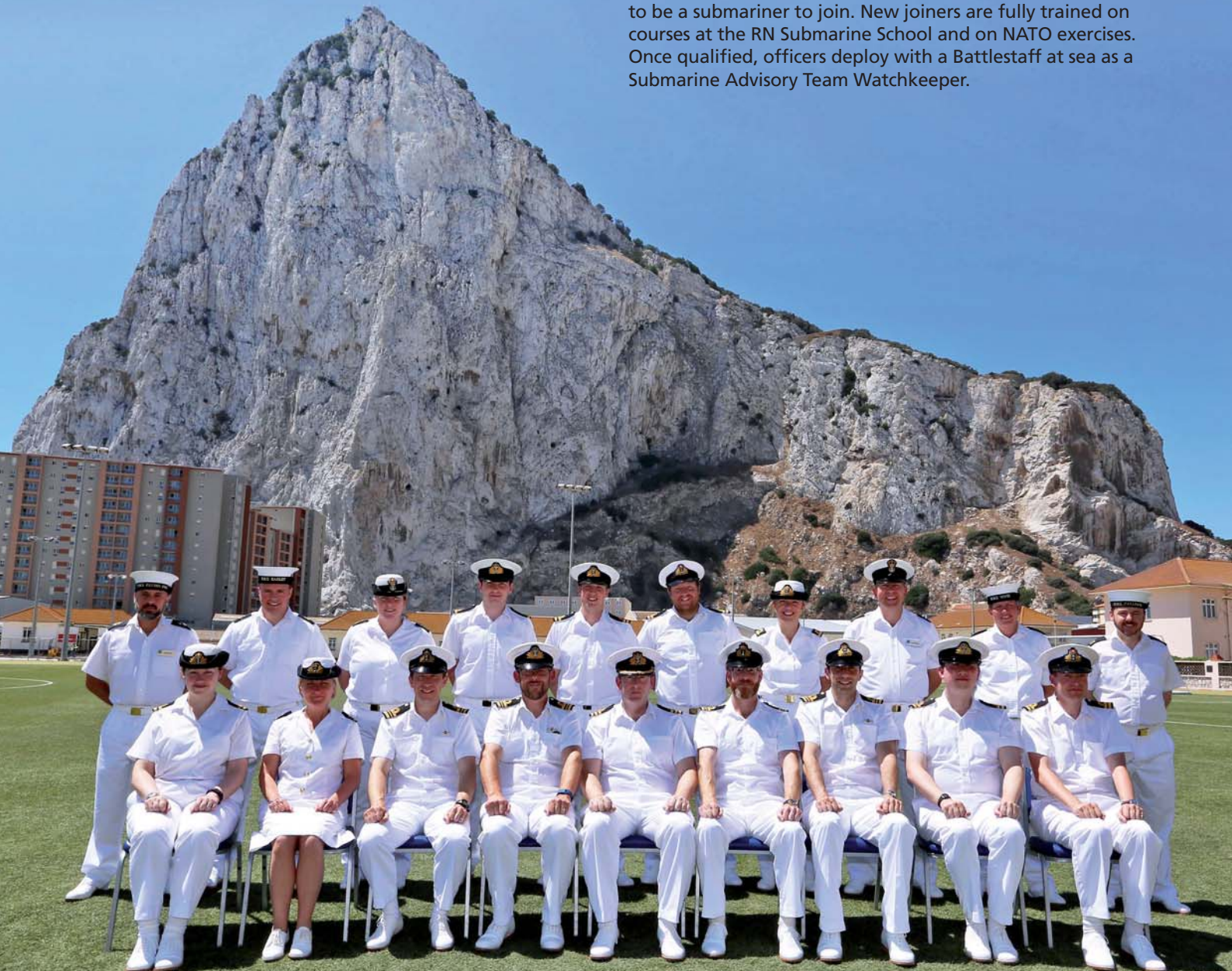
Based in RAF Gibraltar's headquarters, the submarine control officers were joined by communications and information systems (CIS) reservists to test their skills communicating and routing submarines, and what to do in a submarine emergency.

Head of the Submarine Operations specialisation, Commander Brian Ramsay, said: "CPX is our annual opportunity to train and

validate specialist submarine control personnel in a demanding, tailored exercise scenario. Travelling as a group to Gibraltar, with excellent operational and recreational facilities, was a great way for us to train together in a realistic environment."

Reservist Submarine Operations officers deploy both on shore and at sea to augment Battlestaff teams as skilled subject matter experts. Reservists are used whenever submarines are deployed with a naval task force – on NATO exercises or in a time of crisis - regularly deploying with multi-national task forces around the world.

The RNR Submarine Operations specialisation is open to all junior officers and ex-regular transferees - and you don't have to be a submariner to join. New joiners are fully trained on courses at the RN Submarine School and on NATO exercises. Once qualified, officers deploy with a Battlestaff at sea as a Submarine Advisory Team Watchkeeper.



Reservists from the Royal Navy Reserve's Submarine Operations specialisation take part in their annual validation exercise in Gibraltar to test their submarine command and control skills.

EX CROWBOROUGH CHALLENGE

2016

ASSAULT courses, wading through water, spending 24 hours living in the field – just a normal weekend for Maritime Reservists.

More than 200 personnel from RNR and RMR units throughout the country descended on Crowborough Army Training Camp in East Sussex for the largest Maritime Reserve exercise of the year designed to test and train personnel in a variety of challenging scenarios, ranging from logistics through to casualty evacuations.

Exercise Crowborough Challenge took place in the Pippingford Park training area, which consists of forest, hills and a lake and also included personnel from URNUs.

Mentored by Royal Marines from RMR London, personnel spent the night in a bivouac and survived on a 24-hour ration pack in order to learn how to live in the field and support land forces.

The exercise was supported by a Merlin Mk2 helicopter from 820 NAS and one of the squadron's Reserve pilots Lt Cdr Charlie Parrock said: "The squadron was delighted to support Maritime Reserves training and the Reservists learned a great deal about operating from helicopters.

"We managed to ensure that all participants achieved at least one familiarisation flight and had brilliant support from the aircraft maintainers."



Royal Navy Reservists undertaking challenges and leadership training.



The exercise scenario, called Operation Marathon, was based on Reservists providing force protection, logistics, intelligence, medical and media operations to support a major UK event threatened with disruption by a foreign power.

Commander Maritime Reserves, Cdre Martin Quinn, keenly observed the exercise, saying: "Everything that I saw was designed to instill confidence in integrating the Maritime Reserve component as part of a balanced force and to provide appropriate skills for delivery on operations."

The exercise also provided an opportunity for several employers of Reservists to see the work they do.

Director of Employer Engagement for Greater London Niall Ahern said: "Employers who attended this year came from a mixture of private and public sector organisations, varying in size from a small company right up to a multinational organisation."

"They were given the chance to interact with RNR and RMR Reservists and there was also an opportunity to hear from the commanding officers of HMS Wildfire and President, who briefed employers on the transferable skills that the Navy was getting from Reservists.

"All employers left with a much better understanding of what the Reserve offer is, the skills that would be useful to their businesses and lastly, each has gone away committed to supporting the Armed Forces Covenant."

CO of HMS President Cdr John Herriman, who acted as officer in charge of the exercise, said: "The word that sums up this training is exhilarating!"



Exercise Integrated Serpent 16

Leading Naval Nurse Fiona Simkins from HMS Ceres has been taking part in an exercise in California.

The Leeds based reservist and nurse took part in Exercise Integrated Serpent 16 working alongside US colleagues in Camp Pendleton, California.

The UK group of reservist and regular medical personnel built and equipped a tented hospital at the US Navy Expeditionary Medical Training Institute, at Camp Pendleton, California, and exercised a range of Field Hospital functions, alongside colleagues from the US Navy.

The UK group at Exercise Integrated Serpent 16, which primarily consisted of reservists from the Royal Naval Reserve, 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital, and 202 (Midlands) Field Hospital, exercised a range of scenarios including traumas from IEDs and burns.

"The exercise has been fantastic. We have integrated well and learnt how to deal with a challenging environment" said Fiona.

After the exercise Fiona also had the opportunity to undertake challenging adventurous training activities, including rock climbing in Red Rock Canyon, trail walking, kayaking on the Colorado River, and mountain biking.

"AT was a fantastic way to see Nevada and Arizona, good team building, and an amazing way to see a different country" she said.

Fiona abseiling at Red Rock Canyon.



RNR Medics at Camp Pendleton, From L-R, Cdr Bateman (HMS Flying Fox), LNN Simkins (HMS Ceres), Cdr Shelly (HMS President).

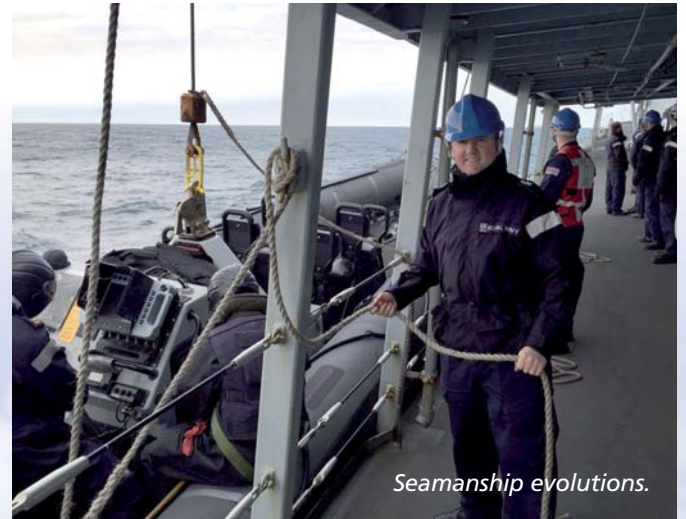
JOINT WARRIOR

A primary school teacher from Hampshire has spent time at sea on Exercise Joint Warrior, learning what life is like on an operational warship.

Midshipman Graeme Nolan gained invaluable experience in HMS Iron Duke as the Type 23 frigate took part in the bi-annual maritime exercise. Based in HMS King Alfred, Midshipman Nolan is training to be a RNR Officer and he got to grips with all of the elements that combine to make a Royal Navy warship function.

He spent time with the Marine Engineers maintaining diesel generators and time up on the Bridge witnessing live gunnery off the Coast of Cape Wrath. All in all he was able to experience a war fighting exercise where he witnessed the Royal Navy's capability against air, surface and sub-surface threats.

Speaking of his time on board Midshipman Nolan said, *"During Exercise Joint Warrior I have undertaken tasks throughout the ship with all departments on board. The opportunities provided have been invaluable. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the highly-trained chefs in the Galley, conducting Replenishments at Sea, conducting rounds with the Weapon and Marine Engineering departments, gaining an understanding of the Operations Room, keeping watch on the bridge and assisting with flight deck operations. The experiences gained will provide a solid foundation for the rest of my RNR career and will leave lasting memories."*



Seamanship evolutions.



Replenishment At Sea.



Mid Nolan taking a bearing.

GRADUATES EXPERIENCE A TASTE OF NAVAL LIFE

Two members of the MBDA Missile Systems Graduate scheme, Joseph Payne and Chloe Chilvers, spent time aboard HMS Defender as it carried out the Operational Maintenance and Repair (OMAR) Exercise 16, involving over 400 Service, MOD and Defence Industry Personnel.

MBDA, which is the prime contractor for Defender's primary weapon system, the Sea Viper, sent two members of its Graduate scheme to witness life in a warship. This had the added benefit of helping both graduates prepare for service in the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) within the engineering branch. Their recruitment is part of the Royal Navy's plan to build engineering experience within the Reserves. Chloe and Joseph are already technically knowledgeable about the Navy's complex armaments but enjoyed a detailed tour of the weapons systems in the navy's second newest ship.

Joseph Payne said: "You can't imagine what life is like onboard a Royal Navy Warship, there is no brief that prepares you for it, it has been such a great experience and I've met some really motivated and interesting people. I can't wait to join the RNR and be part of it."

Chloe Chilvers added: "I have had an amazing time both on RFA Cardigan Bay and HMS Defender, it was great to see all the Weapon Systems and see the pride the Engineers onboard take in their systems. I was really lucky as we also got a tour of the Engines spaces, which were fascinating."



Joseph Payne (MBDA) and Chloe Chilvers (MBDA) outside the Sea Viper Equipment Room in HMS Defender, termed by the Ship's team as the 'Viper Nest'.



Joseph Payne (MBDA) and Chloe Chilvers (MBDA) next to HMS Defender's oldest weapon system, the 4.5 Mk8 Gun. This gun design, although modernised, has provided Naval Gunfire Support since the late 1970's.

FORCE PROTECTION TRAINING IN CYPRUS

Royal Naval reservists headed to the summer heat of Cyprus for Exercise Helios Encounter, the leading training exercise for the RNR Seaman Branch held at the Island's two UK military establishments, RAF Akrotiri and Dhekelia Station.

The exercise delivered training in hot and arduous conditions in order to prepare seaman ratings for Ship's Protection Force (SPF) duties East of Suez. The culmination of the exercise was a 24-hour blank firing exercise in a purpose built forward operating base (FOB) inside the Sovereign Base Area at RAF Akrotiri.

The exercise provided a wide range of force protection scenarios and weapon handling skills, with marksman's badges being awarded to Able Seamen Dave Perrin and Alex Bennett from HMS President, amongst others.

Col Jeff Moulton, Deputy Commander Maritime Reserves (DCMR) said: "Helios Encounter provides the opportunity for over 100 SeaRes ranks to train and hone their skills in very demanding climatic conditions. Condensed professional and testing training of this kind is exactly what the modern Maritime Reserve should be providing to keep its people at a high level of readiness for use by the Royal Navy".



Reservists undertake weapon familiarisation training in Cyprus.



RESERVES DAY 2016

Reserves Day is a chance to focus the attention of the nation on the Reserve Forces, and the Maritime Reserves were there at the centre of the celebrations.

London-based reservists from HMS President and RMR London were joined by representatives from over 40 businesses at the Maritime Reserves Day launch event at HMS President, in the shadow of Tower Bridge, in September. The employer guests were hosted by the reservists as well as Minister for Defence Veterans, Reserves and Personnel, Mark Lancaster and Rear Admiral Simon Williams, Flag Officer Reserves. Following a breakfast networking session, they enjoyed a series of informative briefings from speakers from the whole ambit of the Defence Family.

Mark Lancaster (Min DVRP), who is also a member of the Reserve Forces, said:

“Reservists are a vital part of our Armed Forces and make a massive contribution to operations in the UK and overseas.

Being part of the Reserves has given me so many opportunities to challenge and stretch myself to develop and gain confidence.

All our Reservists give up their time to serve their country and it is an honour to celebrate the work they do.”

The day consisted of a series of informative briefings from speakers from across the Defence Family.

Reservist Petty Officer Natalie Corney is a Corporate Communications Manager, managing Public relations and marketing for Brent Council in London.

Natalie said:

“The management and leadership training I’ve received through the Royal Navy is second to none and I’m convinced that I would not be in my job if it were not for the Reserves.

Being part of the Reserves has given me so many opportunities to challenge and stretch myself to develop and gain confidence.

I’m able to work quickly under pressure, being adaptable, staying calm and focused even when everything around me is falling apart, finding solutions to problems and making confident decisions. Most importantly for me though, being part of the Reserves has given me the belief that I can achieve almost anything if I put my mind to it.”



AB Joe Middleton from HMS President brought his senior leaders from RBS to meet Boris Johnson, Foreign Secretary, at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office launch of the 2016 Reserves Day.



Mark Lancaster, Minister for Defence Veterans, Reservists and Personnel, with RAdm Simon Williams CVO, Flag Officer Reserves, and Cdr John Herriman, CO HMS President.



LH Jeremy Blackburn from HMS President and senior executives from RICS.



PO Natalie Corney from HMS Wildfire in her naval uniform at work at Brent Council.

ALL IN A DAYS WORK FOR BEAMISH RESERVIST

Beamish's own Reservist was ready for Reserves Day by shovelling coal one day and firing weapons the next!

Yvonne Golightly, from County Durham, combines life as a Navy Reservist at HMS Calliope with her day job at the Beamish Museum.

"My day job involves dressing up in period costume, engaging with visitors, working old coal-fired ranges and carrying out jobs in a traditional and authentic manner."

"I joined the Royal Navy Reserve as I felt like I could do so much more with my life. Some of my best experiences have been jumping off a ship, flying in a helicopter, my two week confirmation course, undertaking Exercise Helios Encounter in Cyprus for two weeks and receiving the award for Recruit of the Year at HMS Calliope. And of course the countless laughs and good times I have had with my shipmates!"

"In return I have learned some unbelievable skills, had some amazing experiences and gained new lifelong friends. I try to incorporate both jobs bringing skills I have learned from each of them into the other".



GLASGOW'S SAILORS CELEBRATE RESERVES DAY WITH EMPLOYERS

Members of HMS Dalriada, Glasgow's Royal Navy Reserve Unit, visited local employers Deloitte and V.Ships to thank them for their support to their Reservist employees and to recognise the unique and valuable skills Reservists can bring to their civilian workplace.

The Commanding Officer of HMS Dalriada, Cdr Lesley Stephen, said: "Employers are so important in supporting the members of my ship's company, enabling them to attend training and exercises to provide them with the skills they need to operate alongside our regular counterparts as an integral part of the armed forces."

Able Seaman Robert McLellan, who works at V.Ships, hosted senior naval officers at his employers to say thank you for their support. Joanne McCulloch, Purchasing Manager at V.Ships, said: "I have seen a marked increase in Robert's



l-r: Joanne McCulloch, Purchasing Manager, V.Ships - Cdr Lesley Stephen, Commanding Officer, HMS Dalriada - Col Jeff Moulton, Deputy Commander Maritime Reserves - Michelle Quinn, Senior Purchasing Officer, V.Ships

levels of confidence which has resulted in him being allocated more complex issues to manage."

Colonel Jeff Moulton, Deputy Commander Maritime Reserves, said: "Reservists are currently supporting a wide range of operations in support of UK Defence and this is only possible due to the dedication shown by Reservists and the support they receive from their families and especially their employers."



l-r: Cdr Lesley Stephen, Commanding Officer HMS Dalriada - Mr David Sweeney, Deloitte - Colonel Jeff Moulton, Deputy Commander Maritime Reserves - AB1 Fiona Thomas, HMS Dalriada Reservist and Deloitte Employee - Mr Peter Mackie, Deloitte - LS Kristopher Tosh, HMS Dalriada Reservist and Deloitte Employee - Mr Colin Gibson, Deloitte - WO1 Tony Morrin, Unit Warrant Officer, HMS Dalriada

Heavy Machine Gun Operators Course

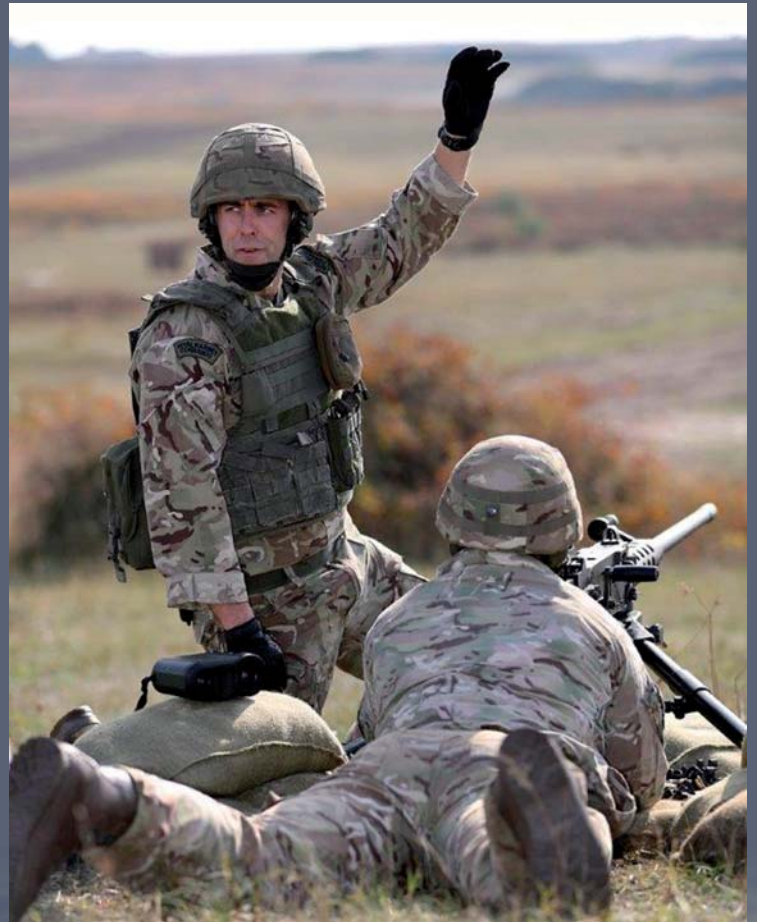
Corporal Chris Rowland from RMR Bristol gives us his thoughts on the Heavy Machine Gun Operators Course:

The course is progressive in its structure, and once you pass the Weapon Handling Test (WHT) and written progress test on day five, you are ready in all respects to start live firing. Day six was spent zeroing the weapon system and was our chance to experience firing the HMG for the first time.

Deploying to Germany and having the opportunity to train on a large, well laid out range was fantastic for the courses development on the weapon system.

The most memorable moment would have to be the HMG load carry or yomp. A 56kg bergan to be carried over rough terrain in three hours. We had to pack the HMG, carry the main body, two barrels, and ancillaries on top of the normal 40lbs of field equipment. Words to sum this up would be hoofing!

Overall, the HMG course was really interesting and hugely enjoyable. With continued engagement with the Regular Corps, I hope to be considered for future deployments and operations within a FSG role



A ROYAL THANKS FOR TYNESIDE SAILORS

The Honorary Vice Admiral of the Royal Naval Reserve – better known as HRH Prince Michael of Kent – dropped in on Gateshead’s unit to thank families and employers for their support and reward some stalwarts of the Service.

The Prince told all present at HMS Calliope that the ongoing encouragement, moral and physical support of loved ones and employers was key to enabling Reservists to carry out their important duties alongside their Regular counterparts in the Royal Navy.

During the reception at the establishment on the south bank of the Tyne, three Calliope officers who’d accumulated nearly 100 years’ service in the Reserve and Cadet Forces were presented with awards to mark their achievement.

Head of the Royal Naval Reserve Medical Branch (and a consultant general surgeon at Sunderland Hospital) Surg Cdr Peter Small, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, was presented with the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal (VRSM).

Lt Cdr Duncan Young was presented with a second clasp to his VRSM. An experienced mine warfare specialist who’s spent periods as a ‘full time’ Reservist working alongside his regular counterparts, Duncan is a resilience officer for Sunderland City Council during the week.

Lt Paul Ladislaus was presented with the first clasp to the VRSM. Paul is a Maritime Trade Operations Specialist and he has spent time in the Gulf supporting anti-piracy efforts.

Paul is a chartered chemical engineer with Thomas Swan & Co Ltd, an independent North East-based independent firm manufacturing speciality chemicals.



HRH Prince Michael of Kent with the HMS Calliope team.

He took his boss Dr Andy Goodwin to the reception to give him a greater insight into the RN. “It was a great opportunity to visit HMS Calliope and learn more about what Paul does when he goes away with the Royal Navy,” said Dr Goodwin. “We appreciate that he gains leadership skills with the Reserve Service which he brings back into our workforce and makes a positive impact.”

Calliope’s CO Cdr Ian Berry said: “We are very privileged that His Royal Highness was able to take the time to present these three individuals from very different civilian careers with their long service awards.

“However, we should also recognise that they could not have achieved this without the support of their employers, friends and families.”



Prince Michael inspecting HMS Calliope’s brand new gym.

STORYBOOK WAVES

Aggie's Storybook Waves is a free service that enables personnel serving in the RN, RM, RNR or RFA to record a bedtime story for their children, nieces and nephews or grandchildren whilst they are away. The service is available to all serving personnel, full-time and reservists, who are apart from their children through deployment, courses, weekending or long shift patterns.

The serving person can record a popular children's story at one of the recording centres which are based within the Chaplaincy at shore based establishments around the country at HMS Nelson, RM Poole, 40 Commando, RMB Chivenor, HMNB Clyde, HMS Drake, RNAS Yeovilton, RM Stonehouse, CTCRM Lympstone, RM Condor, RNAS Culdrose, HMS Collingwood and HMS Raleigh.

In addition, we currently have ten recording kits deployed across the fleet with more deployment kits being issued during the year.

The recording will take about twenty minutes and the story can be made personal with a special message to the child at the beginning and/or end of the story. The story is then edited, sound effects added and a high quality CD, or MP3file, is sent out to the child along with a Reading Force scrapbook and a copy of the picture book (subject to stock availability).

The child can then listen to the story whenever and wherever they like, ensuring that the serving person is kept at the forefront of the child's mind whilst they are away which helps to maintain the bond between parent and child and reduces separation anxiety and worry.

If you would like to take part in the service and record a bedtime story for the child in your life for FREE please contact your local recording centre, call Storybook Waves on 0300 30 20 183 or find us on Facebook.



The poster features the Aggie's Storybook Waves logo at the top left, which includes a Union Jack flag and the word 'Aggies' in a stylized font. To the right is a circular logo with three children's faces and the text 'STORYBOOK WAVES'. Below the logos is a quote: "When my Mummy or my Daddy are away they still read me a story every night". The central illustration shows a green car, a helicopter, and a submarine in a blue sky and sea. At the bottom, there is a red banner with white text: "Visit www.aggies.org.uk or call us on 0300 3020183".

Welfare and Charity

WO1 Jan Cox

Command Warrant Officer, CMR

It was an absolutely privilege to be given the baton as CWO early last year, and I was thrown straight into the job to plan the supersession of our very own CMR a few weeks later. With two new faces at the top, life was going to be interesting – and what a year I have had meeting our people, representing Reserve views and supporting our welfare and charity work.

My favourite part of my role has been meeting people and hearing how it is at the coalface. I've had a chance to see our Reservists at work at Crowborough, taking part in the Field Gun, in the units and at the Accelerated Officer Programme pass-out parade - what an absolute delight to meet our new officers, the future of the MR is in good hands.

In my job I spend a lot of my time representing the views of Reservists and spreading our influence far and wide. I recently delivered an update on our Fighting Arm at the RN Warrant Officers' (WO) Conference and I regularly brief new Executive Warrant Officers about the Reserves prior to them joining

ship. A highlight was our own recent MR WOs' conference which delivered continuous professional development (CPD) training to our WOs. I believe CPD is key and it is vital to ensure that our WOs are developed and well informed. It was also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the promotion of our new WOs – congratulations!

I also enjoy working with our charitable and welfare partners who give to the Reserve Forces - from the RNRMC and the Sir Donald Gosling Charity to the RNA and Union Jack Club. I am currently working on a new web page which will promote and inform the MR about all charities and awards that are available to you, so this will help you benefit from the support that is out there.

Thank you for making this such an invigorating and enjoyable year. I look forward to seeing you and meeting the challenges and successes that 2017 will bring.



Nottingham Council give a generous lift to HMS Sherwood Remembrance Service

Nottingham City transport, who employ two of our reservists PO Andy Maltby and AB2 Gary Slater, kindly gave us the use of their Poppy bus for the day to transport the Ship's Company to and from the Nottingham City Civic Service of Remembrance, so we were able to travel in style!

Thank you very much to Nottingham City transport for supporting our Reservists.



HMS Dalriada marks the Battle of Jutland

Members of Glasgow's Royal Naval Reserve unit, HMS Dalriada, headed north to Orkney, the main base of the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet in World War One, to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Jutland.

Fifteen officers and ratings visited sites that played key operational roles in the First and Second World Wars.

The Scapa Flow Visitor Centre on the island of Hoy provided a fascinating opportunity to learn more about the ships involved in the Battle of Jutland and latterly, the hunt for the Bismarck and the long-running Battle of the Atlantic during the Second World War.

While on Hoy, the reservists attended the Lyness Military Cemetery where they held a service of remembrance and laid a wreath in memory of all the Royal Navy sailors who lost their lives. The visit highlighted the number of Royal Navy sailors based in Orkney who perished at sea, sometimes with almost entire ship's crews being lost.

Leading Seaman Cartlidge, who laid the wreath, said: "The time at the cemetery allowed us the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by so many and, in particular, the contribution of our predecessors in the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve."

Back in Kirkwall, the St Magnus Cathedral houses the Ship's Bell of HMS Royal Oak, a Battleship sunk in October 1939 by German U-Boat U-47 while at anchor in Scapa Flow with the loss of 833 lives.

Midshipman Ryan Tumulty noted: "It was particularly sobering for the younger members of the group to learn that many of those lost were under the age of eighteen. This terrible loss led to the Admiralty discontinuing the tradition of sending boy sailors to sea on active service."



Maritime Reserves Sailing

The British weather couldn't dampen the spirits of our intrepid reservist sailors as they took to the water for the Maritime Reserves Sailing Championship held at the Royal Navy Sailing Centre in Portsmouth Harbour last autumn.

The weekend brought two very different sailing conditions - rain, wind, blue skies and then a light breeze - which provided a wide range of conditions for an even wider range of abilities amongst the reservists taking part.

Legendary sailor, long distance adventurer and Honorary RNR Captain Sir Robin Knox-Johnston presented the trophies to all the winners. A special congratulations and thanks went to Lt Cdr Carl Downing, from the RNR Air Branch, who won the Individual Men's Trophy again as he has done for many years and also for his considerable help organising the event for just as many.

Prior to the championships, novice and experienced sailors alike were able to gain dinghy sailing experience and RYA qualifications on a sail training weekend at HMS Excellent. Sail training weekends will be held in the summer 2017, so keep an eye out for details if you would like to take part.



RESERVISTS TAKE A LEAD ON ADVENTURE

The Navy Outdoor Centre in Germany has had its adventurous training instructor numbers boosted by Maritime Reservists.

Reservists from both the Royal Marines Reserves and Royal Naval Reserves have been enjoying the mountainous air of Bavaria whilst delivering skiing, climbing, mountain biking and kayaking

instruction at the Royal Navy's centre in the Alpine region of Germany.

The Navy Outdoor Centre Germany (NOCG) gives thousands of sailors and marines each year the chance to challenge themselves in adventurous activities whilst developing character and leadership skills. Currently there are two Royal Marine Reservists from RMR Merseyside working as staff on Full Time Reserve Service, but also reservists sampling NOCG for shorter periods like Lieutenant Niall Copeland RNR of the Media Branch, who takes student's through their paces as a skiing instructor.



Lieutenant Colonel Martin Price RM, the Commanding Officer of NOCG, stressed: "The RN place a very high priority on NOCG and the opportunities it offers our sailors and marines to access challenging and fun Adventurous Training, I am grateful to the Maritime Reserves for offering us great people and I am always on the lookout for more."

NOCG delivers adventurous training throughout the year. For more information on the courses, or for FTRS opportunities for Reservists, visit their website at www.nocg.co.uk and get in touch with the staff.

RNR NETBALL

Pictured are the FAA Netball Team being presented with the shield they won at the Navy Inter-Regional netball competition held at HMS Drake.

The team is captained and managed by Lt Cdr Debbie Sims RNR who works at RNAS Yeovilton as a member of the Air Branch and also delivers leadership training in her role as CLM SO2 Ratings Training.

All RNR personnel are now eligible to represent the service at sports and can search Navyfit for opportunities.



RNR Referees Take Charge

Two RNR Referees took part at the Annual Royal Marines Football tournament, the Tunney Cup.

AB Jon Batteson and AB Stephen Wells both took part in the week long tournament and had the honour of officiating in the Veterans and Tunney Cup Finals.

AB Batteson says "It is a privilege to be here representing the RNR at sporting tournaments for the RN and RM and to work with other officials from the fleet."

The Royal Navy Football Association run basic referee courses throughout the year and are available to Reserve Forces.



Canoe glory for Liverpool Reservist

Recruit Darren Bohanna, from HMS Eaglet, has been selected to represent the Tri-services Canoe Polo Team this summer.

Darren, who works for the National Grid in his civilian role, has been canoeing since he was 15. He said: "When I joined the Maritime Reserves, I was told that you could play over 40 sports in the Royal Navy alongside our Core Maritime Skills training. The 'Navy Fit' ethos appealed to me and I enquired about Canoe Polo and then made it into the team."

"In the Maritime Reserves sports are open to men and women, so the opportunities to travel, meet new people and learn new skills is fantastic. I'm basically being paid to play sports that I love; it doesn't get better than that!"



HONOURS AND AWARDS

MBE

Lieutenant Commander Alun Read, RN Air Branch
Warrant Officer 1 Logistics (Supply Chain)
Micheal 'Spike' Hughes

QVRM

Commander James Cohen, HMS President
Lieutenant Commander Alan Rogers, RN Air Branch
Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Davies, RMR Scotland

QCVS

Lieutenant Suzanne Lynch, HMS Cambria

Commendations

2SL Commendation

Lieutenant Commander Carl Loudon, HMS King Alfred

JFC Commendation

Chaplain M H Jackson, Command Chaplain Gibraltar

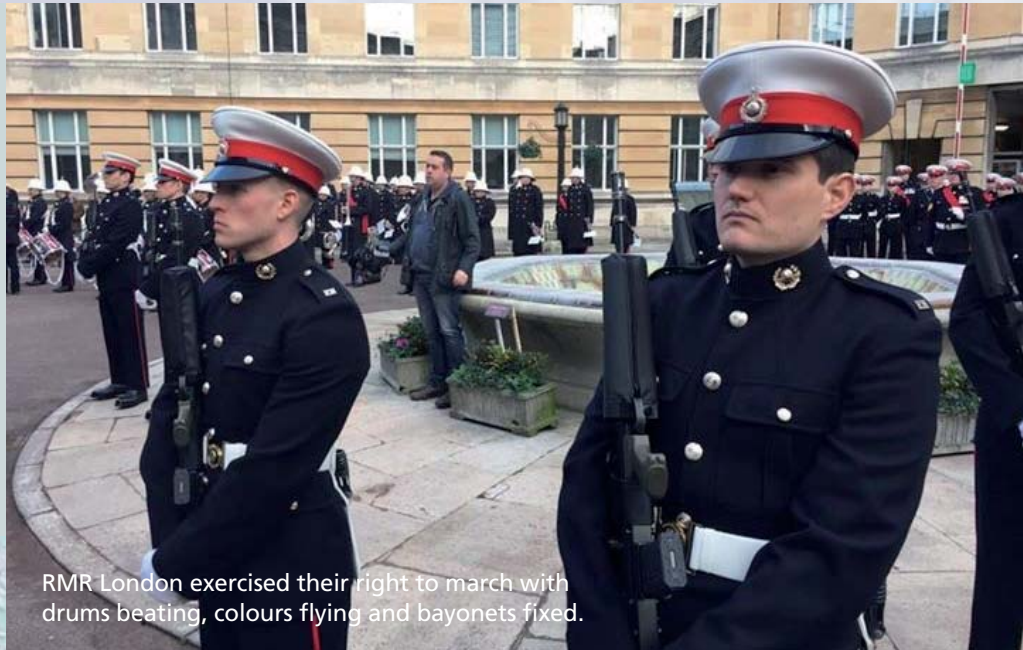
CMR Commendation

Lieutenant Commander Jonathan Hewitson, Royal Naval Staff Officer,
HMS Hibernia
Lieutenant Barry McWilliams, Initial Training Officer (Ratings), HMS Hibernia
Midshipman Joe Morrison, Recruiting Officer, HMS Hibernia

Civic Recognition

HMS President was presented with City Privileged Regiment Status by the Lord Mayor of London.

RMR London was awarded the Freedom of the Borough of Wandsworth.



RMR London exercised their right to march with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed.



The Scroll being presented to HMS President by Lord Moutevans at the Mansion House

TOWNLEY AWARD

Congratulations to Leading Engineering Technician (LET) Mark Webb from HMS Vivid who has been awarded the inaugural LET Dave Townley Memorial Award for his outstanding effort in support of the Communication and Information Systems (Reserve) (CIS) branch.

The Award was commissioned in recognition of the LET Dave Townley, HMS Eaglet, who was a loyal and committed member of both the RNR and CIS specialisation and sadly passed away in March 2016.

Cdr Tel Veneables, head of the CIS specialisation, presents LET Mark Webb with the Townley Trophy



CERTIFICATE OF VALEDICTION

At an awards evening in HMS Calliope, Petty Officer Jim Hudson received his Certificate of Valediction to mark his retirement after over 40 years of dedicated service in the Royal Navy.

Jim joined the Royal Navy in November 1975, well before many of HMS Calliope's current Reservists were even born! He said: "When I joined the Royal Navy in 1975, Queen's Bohemian

Rhapsody was topping the charts and platform shoes were in. During my time in the service I've made life-long friends and have been all over the world."

The Certificate was signed by the Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Jonathan Woodcock OBE and is the Royal Navy's way of formally bidding farewell and thanking its sailors when they leave the service.



PO Jim Hudson receives his Certificate of Valediction from Cdre Gary Doyle OBE RN, Naval Regional Commander.

INTERESTED IN BEING A MARITIME RESERVIST?

Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Marine Reserve units hold regular recruiting events up and down the country. 'RNR Live' and RMR Presentation evenings give people the chance to see first-hand what the RNR and RMR has to offer, get hands on with naval kit and meet some of the ship's company.

Some units hold special events for groups of interested people. HMS Sherwood in Chilwell, Nottingham, invited pupils from Chesterfield College, who are each studying a Uniformed Public Service Course, to take part in an acquaint visit.

Events included a presentation on how reservists work alongside their regular counterparts on operations, and practical demonstrations of the types of skills reservists can develop during sea survival, weapon handling and First Aid training.

Petty Officer Derek Parsons, from HMS Sherwood, who organised the event, said: "The event was a success, with many of the students learning about the Reserve Forces and our role for the first time."

Adam Godber, Career Pathway Leader for Public Services at Chesterfield College, said: "We've got students looking into careers in a range of public services, so today's event provided a great insight into the different roles available in the RNR. Some of our students may not have attended anything like this before."

Mitchell Wardell, aged 17, said: "I thought the event would be a great opportunity for me to broaden my horizons. I wanted



Potential recruits get hands on at a RNR Live event.

to look into joining the reserves as I cannot guarantee a full-time career in the military. I enjoyed learning about the Navy and seeing the different stands on offer."

Find your nearest recruiting event, search:

Online - RN Careers or Navy Reserves

Facebook - Royal Navy Recruitment or Royal Marines Recruitment

Instagram/Twitter - #everydayeveryday #Lifewithoutlimits #reservists

Telephone - 0345 600 3222



Thank You!

The Maritime Reserves are playing their part in the development of the 'Whole Force Concept' and we can expect to see even further integration and increased utility of the Maritime Reserve Force. In the future reservists will undertake many more new roles and we will see greater opportunities for the Maritime Reserve.


I would like to thank those present and those across the Fleet who continue to support the Royal Navy both here in the UK and deployed around the world. And, of course, I acknowledge the invaluable role of family, friends and supportive employers on Reserves Day.
Cdre Martin Quinn CMR.





Royal Navy and Royal Marine reservists working in full-time roles in Navy Command Headquarters.

Let's keep in touch

Navy News	Monthly including the Reserve Roundup page
Maritime Reserve Magazine	Annual
Internet	www.royalnavy.mod.uk/maritimereservist
Defence Gateway	Defence Connect - Maritime Reserves Pages

 Royal Naval Reserves
Royal Marine Reserves
RNR and RMR Unit Pages

 @royalnavalreserve
@royalmarinesreserve

 @RNReserve
@CommodoreQuinn
#RoyalMarinesReserve

Website www.royalnavy.mod.uk/rnr
www.royalnavy.mod.uk/rmr



Your Unit Here!

Maritime Reservist welcomes stories from Maritime Reserve units and personnel.

Correspondence and articles should be sent to the Editor Lt Cdr Jo Shipley at the email below:

Email us at maritimereservist@royalnavymail.mod.uk

Maritime Reservist is online at www.royalnavy.mod.uk/maritimereservist

Free Subscription

Copies of Maritime Reservist are issued through standard Royal Navy and Maritime Reserve internal distribution channels. If you are not able to receive a copy through these channels, please email the Editor and ask to be added to the postal distribution list.

Maritime Reservist is published by:

Commander Maritime Reserves
Naval Command Headquarters
MP3-4, Leach Building,
Whale Island
Portsmouth
PO2 8BY

Designed by:

Navy Graphics 16/1150
NCHQ
Whale Island



RESERVES
 LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS
 0345 600 3222
 SEARCH NAVY RESERVES

**BECOME A
 RESERVIST**



**ONLY 24 DAYS
 OUT OF 365**

FIND OUT MORE

Come along and meet us at a RNR Live event at a unit near you soon. Dates and locations available from your nearest unit. It's your opportunity to find out for yourself just what life in the Royal Navy Reserves is really like and whether it is for you. In a friendly and informal setting, you can ask us questions, chat about our day-to-day role and the commitment we ask.

You may be surprised what you find out – don't worry, we won't ask you to join up on the spot!

