



Surrey Civilian-Military Partnership Board

Agenda

MS Teams

2.00 pm, Wednesday, 20 October 2021

Please note this meeting is held in private and is not open for the public to attend. The papers are published on the website for information only.

Contact: Sarah Goodman, Community Protection Group, Surrey County Council, Tel 07581 337394 or email armedforces@surreycc.gov.uk

1	Welcome and Apologies	Chair	
2	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from Tom Gracey on support for service families • Employer Recognition Scheme Award Update for Surrey (attached) 	Chair Tom Gracey Peter Bruinvels	(Pages 5 - 12)
3	Support for Service Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Attainment – KS2 (attached) • MODLAP - <u>MOD Local Authority Partnership (MODLAP) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> • Early years support • Service Pupil Premium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>https://schoolsallianceforexcellence.co.uk/Supporting-Schools/Service-Children</u> ○ <u>Service Pupil Premium: examples of best practice - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> • School Admissions (attached) • Governor Training 	Peter Bruinvels Carol Savedra Peter Bruinvels	(Pages 13 - 16)
4	Armed Forces Covenant within Health	Tony Shipley	(Verbal Report)

5	11 Brigade Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 Brigade Changes • TFC/AFC relationship • Armed Forces Covenant Legislation • ATC Pirbright • Irish Guards 	Col John Baynham Lt-Col Shamus Kelly Major Richard Watkins	(Verbal Report)
6	Recognise and Remember Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembrance 2021 • Veterans Hubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Norbury Park 	Brig Paul Evans	(Verbal Report)
7	Covenant Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forces Connect • Adult Social Care (attached) 	Peter Bruinvels and Sarah Goodman	(Pages 17 - 18)
8	Surrey Armed Forces Covenant Conference 2022 Discussion around format and topics. Feedback from last year suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online work well and enabled greater attendance from a wider reach however some people missed the face to face networking • Prof Simon Denny from the National Cadet Training Centre suggested as a good speaker • Keep the wide range of topics with speakers with first hand experience 	Peter Bruinvels and Sarah Goodman	(Verbal Report)
9	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SERFCA Update • Agile Stance Campaign Plan (attached) 	Col Patrick Crowley	(Pages 19 - 20)
10	Date of next meeting 10am-12pm on Thursday 31 March at Woodhatch Place, Reigate	Chair	

Board Members

Helyn Clack	Chair
Col John Baynham	11 Infantry Brigade
Canon Peter Bruinvels	SCC Civilian Military Liaison Advisor
Col Patrick Crowley	SERFCA
Brigadier Paul Evans DL	Recognise and Remember Task Group
Jim France	Royal British Legion
Debbie Goldsmith	Garrison Representative
CLlr Tom Gracey	Surrey Leaders
Sqn Ldr Bryan Jones	ssafa
Lt Col Shamus Kelly	Army Training Centre (Pirbright)

Richard Moore	11 Infantry Brigade
Michael More-Molyneux	Lord-Lieutenant
Reverend Roland Olliff	Diocese of Guildford
Steve Owen-Hughes	Surrey Fire and Rescue
Louise Punter	Surrey Chambers of Commerce
Anthony Shipley	Surrey Heartlands
Major Richard Watkins	1 Battalion Irish Guards
James Whiteman	Surrey Chief Executives

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SURREY CIVILIAN-MILITARY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2021

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Mr Peter Martin	Chairman
Mr Michael More-Molyneux	Lord-Lieutenant
Sqn Ldr Bryan Jones	SSAFA
Col Patrick Crowley	SERFCA
Brigadier Paul Evans DL	Recognise and Remember Task Group
John Kingsbury	Veterans Rep
Steve Owen-Hughes	Chief Fire Officer
Lt Col Shamus Kelly	ATC (Pirbright)
Debbie Goldsmith	ATC (Pirbright)
Richard Moore	11 Brigade
Canon Peter Bruinvels	SCC Civilian Military Liaison Advisor
Jim France	Royal British Legion
Louise Punter	Surrey Chambers
Helyn Clack	Surrey County Council
Maj Richard Watkins	Irish Guards

Apols:

David Munro	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner
James Whiteman	Surrey Leaders
Col John Baynham	11 Infantry Brigade
Tony Shipley	Surrey Heartlands
Tom Gracey	Surrey Leaders
Rev Roland Olliff	Guildford Diocese

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES [Item 1]

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted. Introductions were made and special welcome extended to Maj Richard Watkins, Lt Col Shamus Kelly and to Helyn Clack who were new to the board.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING [Item 2]

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and completed actions noted.

Matters arising – Admissions and Transport

This item was deferred to next Board meeting as the officers from Surrey County Council Schools Admissions Team were extremely busy due to the recent announcement of primary school places for 21/22.

3 SUPPORTING ARMED FORCES FAMILIES [Item 3]

Canon Peter Bruinvels provided an update on the Living in Our Shoes report following the conference. It was noted that the Government had accepted 99 of the 106 recommendations made in the report about supporting armed forces families which should result in real improvements. In terms of one of the points made in the report, it was noted that Surrey schools welcome parents collecting their children wearing military uniform, which was found not to be universal across the country.

Following discussions outside the meeting with Tom Gracey, it was proposed that an electronic network of colleagues from across the county be created to aid the support of armed forces families. The collective experience and contacts on this group could help ensure the correct advice is given or resolution reached for enquiries in as timely a way as possible. It was agreed to explore the concept further with Tom Gracey and an update will be brought to the next meeting.

A discussion was held around Service Pupil Premium and how it is spent in Surrey. A meeting was proposed between Helyn Clack, the SCC Cabinet Member for Education, Sarah Goodman and Canon Peter Bruinvels to explore:

- Generating a report on how it is currently being spent in Surrey schools.
- Creating guidance for school Governors around good use of the Service Pupil Premium.

An update on this topic will be provided at the next meeting.

4 11 BRIGADE UPDATE [Item 4]

Apologies were received from Col John Baynham who had been called away at the last moment. Richard Moore gave the following update.

Key points:

- Prince Philip's funeral – noted the role of the armed forces and what a fitting tribute to a loyal servant of the Crown this was.
- Integrated review of the Armed Forces is ongoing. Not yet clear what impact this will have on 11 Brigade and HQ SE. The new Ranger Regiment formation will be a refinement to the specialised infantry concept and will include 2PWRR and 2 Lancs – it is not expected they will re-locate as part of this new role.
- Current operation to support the NHS on the Covid response will end at the end of April, although they will remain on stand-by.
- 1 Welsh Guards will deploy to Iraq this Summer.

Armed Forces Covenant Legislation

- A virtual update on the legislation currently going through Parliament will be given to Army Unit Armed Forces Champions on 5 May.

- 11 Brigade has been asked to run additional focus groups with local authorities on the legislation which will look at guidance and the Bill as it continues its journey through Parliament. It is anticipated that the first meeting will be held in June with a follow up in August/September.
- Hoped mature draft of legislation will be ready by the Autumn.

Armed Forces Covenant Fund

- [Force for Change programme](#) – grants of up to 10K for projects which reduce social isolation is now open. Round two closes 2 Aug 2021. Pirbright Cricket Club has submitted a bid to the first round. Surrey County Council Adult Social Care was recently successful in being awarded a grant of 20k to enable a one year pilot programme supporting veterans in residential and nursing homes.
- [Sustaining Support for Armed Forces Communities programme](#) – grants of up to 100k for existing charitable projects to sustain activities that people from Armed Forces communities use and value. Round 1 closes 4 June 2021.
- [NAFFI fund](#)
Will open May 2021 and will make grants to Armed Forces bases. Round one closes 14 July 2021.
- Strengthening Delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant grant - details will be circulated when made available.

The Board was urged to continue sharing details of the funds available with partners and colleagues and reminded that Sarah Goodman is always happy to provide advice and guidance around any bids.

Task Force Commanders

Lt Col Shamus Kelly – ATC Pirbright

Lt Col Shamus was welcomed to the Board and shared details of his background and what he hopes to achieve / be able to offer from ATC Pirbright. This covered the importance of networks to ensure output both within the base and in terms of offer to wider community, the re-establishment of community relationships coming out of Covid-19 and aiming to develop a programme of events to capture the enthusiasm of people to re-immers in society when able to do so.

Strategic vision going forward over the next 3-5 years:

- Over next 3-12 months developing mental health and resilience programme for ATC Pirbright. This will be ongoing. Will circulate the plan in due course, but would be keen for any help and support from the Board to enhance the package. This idea was fully supported by members of Board and will be added to the agenda for next meeting.
- Have re-invigorated basic training programme – now known as Creating Military Syllabus – CMS21. This is a 14 week programme developing core values and physical ability.
- As head of Armed Forces Jujitsu Team is organising a national competition between armed forces and blue light services to be held in Aldershot. Hoping to make it a big event with up to 200 competitors.

- Hoping to use sporting connections to provide an opportunity for inspiring young people to go in to schools, perhaps to do a presentation on the armed forces or some sporting sessions.
- Pilot on elections has had to be paused due to Covid but they are working to be able to add it to the CMS programme in September.

Maj Richard Watkins – Irish Guards

Maj Watkins was welcomed by the Board and provided an update regarding Irish Guards.

- Irish Guards were heavily involved in providing Covid-19 support. Now transitioning back to being a fighting battle group.
- Moving from Barracks in Hounslow to Aldershot in May / June 21.
- Will be with 11 Brigade until Jan/Feb 2022, then returning to London District and public duties
- Prior to that will be in USA on operation with an American Airborne Division
- Resource offer for community very limited until October

Sincere thanks from the board to the Irish Guards particularly for their assistance with Covid. The legacy of their input will have positive impact on Surrey way beyond the current crisis.

5 RECOGNISE AND REMEMBER - Update from Brig Paul Evans.

Task group

Group met 5 March 2021. Meeting was very well attended and valued by members.

Commemorations:

- VE Day 8 May – will be impacted by restrictions which will still be in force.
- Armed Forces Week – also at challenging time, though restrictions should be lifted at the start of this week. Service at Guildford Cathedral is scheduled for 11.30am on 20 June outside and will be restricted in numbers. No guidance has yet been received from MoD re Armed Forces Week.
- 15 May is the 100 year anniversary of The Royal British Legion and there will be small ceremony at Guildford Cathedral.

Veterans Hubs

Two online Veterans' Hubs were hosted by Surrey County Council in December 2020 and March 2021 as physical meetings were not possible. These will be developed more into supporting existing and new hubs as and when they are able to open to enable them to be able to share ideas and connect with experts such as Tech to Connect and bereavement services.

Thanks were extended to Surrey Fire and Rescue Service for their support reaching out to veterans and making their buildings available. Thanks also to the Armed Forces Champions for their commitment. The new Fordbridge Hub ready to go and looking forward to planning a physical launch.

The Chairman extended personal thanks to Brig Paul Evans for all his hard work and commitment.

6 ACTION PLAN UPDATE (ITEM 6)

Armed Forces Conference

- Feedback – a summary of the feedback received was circulated with the agenda which was universally positive. Range of speakers and topics well received. 80% of feedback received enjoyed the fact it was online as they were able to fit it more easily round existing commitments. People were able to join from across the country. Networking was missed, however and the potential of a hybrid model for next year was mentioned.
- New connections – very positive new connections forged, including with Ashford and St Peters' Hospital and KBR.

Annual Report

- The Board approved the annual report 2020/21 for publication.

Legislation

- Canon Peter Bruinvels has been appointed the Armed Forces Champion and Covenant Lead for the All Party Covenant Legislation Parliamentary Group and has recently give oral and written evidence to the Armed Forces Bill Select Committee.
- Strategic Guidance has been received in draft and will go back to the House of Commons in April.

Employer Recognition Scheme

- Surrey County Council's Gold status is up for review in 2021. Paperwork has been submitted to support this and the national review will take place on 21 June 2021.
- In Surrey there are currently 56 Bronze level organisations, 16 Silver and 9 Gold. Lots of applications have been received despite the challenges of Covid.
- Surrey County Council continues, with others, to mentor Surrey local authorities in their applications.

7 AOB (Item 7)

Col Patrick Crowley

- SERFCA will be running five Armed Forces briefings across the south east in June. Surrey and Berks will be via Zoom on 1 June 2021 at 8pm focusing on Engagement. Canon Peter Bruinvels will be speaking. Invitations to follow.
- Cadets – activity of the cadets is starting to wind up gradually. From Mon 26 April groups of 15 will be able to meet indoors with details being worked through. Annual camps are being planned.
- Defence Papers - as discussed a number of big papers have been published recently, Government Integrated Review, Defence Command Paper and Defence and Security Industrial Strategy. Still to come is Reserves Forces 2030 – may be published May. Many of the details from these papers are yet to be worked out so unclear quite how Surrey will be affected. Surrey's local regiment PWRR were not badly affected by the Defence Command paper.

2PWRR will become part of the new Ranger Regiment and 4PWRR goes from strength to strength.

- Welcome extended to Helyn Clack with an offer to provide and overview and update from SERFCA in due course.

Lord Lieutenant led thanks and applause from all members of the Board to Peter Martin for all he has done as Chairman of the Surrey Civilian Military Partnership Board as it was noted that he was stepping down from being a county councillor at the elections on 6 May 2021.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
10am on 6 October 2021

Surrey

Allianz Insurance	GU1 1DB	2021	Silver				*
Ashford and St Peter's NHS Foundation Trust	KT16 0PZ	2019	Silver				
Automatic Data Processing Ltd (ADP)	KT16 9JT	2020	Gold				
BAM Nuttall	GU15 3XW	2020	Silver				*
Capgemini UK PLC	GU21 6DB	2020	Silver				*
CGI IT UK Ltd	KT22 7LP	2019	Gold				
Combat Stress	KT22 OBX	R2020	Silver				
Compass Group	KT16 9BQ	2018	Gold				*
Crest Nicholson Plc	KT16 9GN	2019	Silver				
CSH Surrey	KT22 8SD	2019	Silver				
CVQO Ltd	GU16 7ER	2021	Gold				
Drumgrange Ltd	KT16 9JX	2017	Silver				
Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust	GU16 7UJ	2018	Silver				
Guildford Borough Council	GU2 4BB	2021	Silver				
ISS Facility Services	GU21 5RW	R2020	Gold				*
Jankel Armouring Ltd	KT13 8XR	R2021	Silver				
JTI UK	KT13 0QU	2021	Gold				
KBR Ltd	KT22 7NL	2019	Gold				*
Made to Measure Mentoring Ltd	KT23 4NW	2020	Silver				
NSC	GU15 3SY	2017	Silver				
Paratus Limited	GU3 3PE	2017	Silver				
Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust	GU2 7XX	2018	Gold				
Runnymede Borough Council	KT15 2AH	2021	Silver				
Southern Gas Networks Plc (SGN)	RH6 9HJ	2018	Gold				
Siemens PLC	GU16 8QD	2017	Silver				*
Surrey County Council	KT1 2DW	R2021	Gold				
Unum	RH4 3LZ	2021	Silver				
Veterans & Families - Listening Project	GU15 3SY	2021	Silver				

Wates Construction Ltd	KT22 7SW	R2020	Silver			
Woking Borough Council	GU21 6YL	2020	Gold			
AFC Total: 93				53	19	11

ERS Breakdown by County

	Bronze	SE Silver	DRM Silver	SE Gold	DRM Gold	AFC
Berkshire	40	13	5	7	5	95
Buckinghamshire	43	10	4	2	2	106
East Sussex	30	7	1	4	0	47
Hampshire	145	30	3	10	6	297
Isle of Wight	11	1	0	0	0	13
Kent	102	22	1	6	3	155
Oxfordshire	37	9	2	3	2	89
Surrey	53	15	4	8/9*	3	93
West Sussex	32	10	1	2	1	57
	493	117	21	42	22	952

Public Sector
Charity/Not for Profit
Private Sector
R = Revalidation

Spelthome
was **GOLD**
*Not
included

Ameliorating the COVID-19 Gap - Language and Literacy Strategy – an approach for disadvantaged including service children



We launched our work focused on improving literacy and language with a webinar led by the Education Endowment Foundation on effective learning and teaching practice in literacy and language (September 2000).

This was then followed by a second webinar (September 2000) which explored the implementation of these principles in Surrey Schools. It primarily focused on developing core classroom teaching strategies that improve the literacy capabilities of the whole class. With this in place, the need for additional support should decrease. Whilst Secondary schools do not tend to teach literacy specific lessons for all, we hoped that the best practice and learning that was shared would assist key Secondary professionals in their work (particularly at KS3) with children who would benefit from greater competence in literacy.

The additional funding SAFE provided to schools was aimed to support schools to implement one aspect of their audit. For example:

- Assessment – funding of a commercial programme to establish baselines.
- Staff Expertise – training/coaching/mentoring to support subject knowledge and deeper understanding of pedagogy
- Environment – developing provision to improve access to and effective use of high quality texts for disadvantaged children
- Parental engagement – supporting staff to create their own bespoke short video clips to empower their community's parents to support their children's reading and development of language skills

Findings from the project

In Autumn 2020, 195 schools received funding up to £600 to support literacy and language to ameliorate the impact of Covid-19 on pupils' learning. Schools chose to focus the catch-up funding on four areas:

1. Quality First Teaching/ Staff Expertise
2. Assessment and Benchmarking
3. Parental Engagement
4. Environment for Literacy

In the Summer term we asked schools to evaluate the impact of the funding against the expected outcomes. Many schools reported that the further school closures and period of remote learning in the spring term, had an impact on the implementation of the actions.

Most schools purchased resources to support the teaching of early reading and to train staff. Vocabulary development was also a focus.

Qualitative outcomes were reported in all schools including increased teacher confidence, pupil engagement, and increase access to resources to support learning. Quantitative measures were impacted on remote learning but many schools were able to demonstrate early impact on pupil outcomes. One school that implemented a new spelling and grammar programme to raise outcomes in writing of disadvantaged pupils reported an improvement from 20% to 100% disadvantaged pupils at expected standard in writing at the end of Year 2 and 0% to 60% of pupils at expected standard at the end of KS2.

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Surrey School Admissions: briefing for the Surrey County Council Civilian-Military Partnership Board, 20 Oct 2021

New round admissions

The application process is underway for Secondary (Year 7) for September 2022 entry, with a national closing date of 31 October 2021.

[Apply for a place at a secondary school - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

The application process for Primary (Year R and Year 3) for September 2022 entry opens on 01 November 2021, with a national closing date of 15 January 2022.

[Apply for a place at a primary, infant or junior school - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

In year admissions

As of 01 September 2021, there is a new DfE School Admissions Code (“the Code”), which has brought in changes to in year admissions. There is a particular emphasis on improving support for the in year admission of vulnerable children, with specific mandatory timescales to process in year applications and fewer grounds under which a school can lawfully refuse to admit a child.

Key changes to the Code include:

- the requirement for own admission authority schools to publish on their website how parents can apply for a place, and to provide a suitable form for parents to complete where the school manages its own in year admissions. The school must also set out when parents will be notified of the outcome of their application and give details of their right of appeal.
- the requirement for own admission authority schools to provide the local authority on request with details of the number of places available within 2 school days of a request, to enable the local authority to assist parents seeking a school place.
- clarification that a school cannot refuse to admit a child solely because information has not been received from their previous school.
- a new requirement that parents **should** be notified of the outcome of their application in writing within 10 school days but **must** be notified within 15 school days.
- a requirement that arrangements should be made for a child to start school as soon as possible (though no timescale is specified), particularly where the child is out of school.
- clarification that admission authorities can only refuse admission **in the normal admissions round or at any point in the normal year of entry (until the following July of Years R and 7, and Year 3 if there is an entry point)** if the PAN (Published Admission Number) has been reached; or the child has been twice permanently excluded and the last exclusion was within the last 2 years.
- confirmation that for in year admission, ie for non-normal years of entry, a place can only be refused if the child has been twice permanently excluded and the last exclusion was within the last 2 years; or the school is full and can demonstrate prejudice to the efficient education of the existing pupils or efficient use of resources; or the school is not full but the child meets the Code’s definition of challenging behaviour **and** the school has a high proportion of previously permanently excluded pupils or children with challenging behaviour compared to other local schools.

Aspects of the new Code specific to children of UK service personnel:

- confirmation that admission authorities must not refuse to process an application and must not refuse a place solely because the family do not yet have an intended address or do not yet live in the area.

- a requirement for admission authorities to use the address at which a service child will live, as long as the parents provide some evidence of the intended address; or to use a Unit or quartering address as the child's home address where the parent requests this.

The School Admissions team has amended its in year processes, guidance and application forms for parents to comply with the new Code.

[Apply for an in year school place - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

With regard to children of UK service personnel, we ensure that these are identified at the point of application (for those schools for which we manage in year admissions) and are prioritised to ensure the parent is given a prompt outcome – ie a place can be offered or not. All parents refused a place at a school have a right of appeal, and the refusal letter must set out why a place cannot be offered and explain how to appeal the decision.

Children of UK service personnel remain a permitted exception to the Infant Class Size Regulations, which means that a school can lawfully exceed 30 in a class for Years R, 1 and 2 to admit a child who comes under this category, where the child is top of the waiting list and so would be the next to be offered a place.

We provide all schools with guidance on the admission of children from overseas, and this includes a section on children of service personnel:

[Guidance on admission of children from overseas \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

This all means that as far as possible, we are satisfied that applications for children of service personnel are treated consistently across Surrey.

Parents should send admission queries to schooladmissions@surreycc.gov.uk, or they can call us via (0300 200 1004), Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

Janet Carless
Operations Manager, School Admissions Team

11.10.21

HAVE YOU SERVED?

➤ MESSAGE TO ALL VETERANS



Are you a veteran or do you know of any friends or family who have served in the Armed Forces (including national service and reservists/territorial army) and would like to make new friends?

We are developing some local mixed friendship groups for veterans in the Epsom and Ewell, Surrey Heath and Guildford areas and would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved. These groups are free to join, and we will be arranging some voluntary activities for you to take part in to create new friendships with people with shared experiences.

In recognition of their service, veterans will be offered the opportunity to record their life stories which will be transcribed into booklet for them and their loved ones and if agreed this can also be archived for future generations to access.

Please get in touch to find out more:

Epsom and Ewell

tracey.morris@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 07790 585352

Surrey Heath

mike.rowlands@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 07971 604497

Guildford

marne.stiles@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 07815 410205

 **THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST**



Item 7

HAVE YOU SERVED?



MESSAGE TO EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL

Have you previously/recently served in the British Armed Forces or do you know someone who has?

We are developing some local friendship groups for ex-service personnel in the Epsom and Ewell, Surrey Heath and Guildford areas and would love you to be involved. Please get in touch to let us know what type of activities you would attend locally so that we can tailor the new friendship groups to reflect your interests.

In recognition of their service, veterans will be offered the opportunity to record their life stories which will be transcribed into booklet for them and their loved ones and if agreed this can also be archived for future generations to access.

Please get in touch to find out more:

Epsom and Ewell

tracey.morris@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 07790 585352

Surrey Heath

mike.rowlands@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 07971 604497

Guildford

marne.stiles@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 07815 410205

 **THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST**



SE - Agile Stance Campaign Plan (ASCP)

Email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)**Ministry
of Defence****Sent on behalf of Defence Relationship Management (DRM)**

Good afternoon,

We have been asked to share the following information with you regarding Agile Stance Campaign Plan (ASCP) which involves Reservists employed by your organisation.

As part of the Agile Stance Campaign Plan (ASCP), there will be a F2F 'Muster' of Volunteer Reservists throughout October 2021. The 'Muster' is not a preparation for a specific mobilisation of Volunteer Reserves.

Key points to note:

a. Agile Stance Campaign Plan (ASCP) and the Reserves. ASCP is a four-year series of activities aimed at improving homeland resilience and our ability to mobilise rapidly to oppose any growing threat. The UK's Volunteer Reserve Forces will be involved in these activities which will test their roles in UK resilience and their part in supporting the UK's war-fighting capability through rapid mobilisation.

b. Reserves Forces Review 2030 (RF30). The Volunteer Reserves are changing. The recent RF30 review envisages a wider role for Defence Reservists that is more integrated into the Regular Force whilst still retaining its own unique character. Evaluation of the RF30 recommendations is under way but COVID 19 has restricted the ability of many of our Volunteer Reservists to begin this adaptation. Now that COVID 19 restrictions to Volunteer Reserve training are being gradually eased there is an opportunity to begin this transformation and the ASCP will play a part in this change.

c. Being Ready. ASCP will, over a period of 4 years, gradually build on today's ability of the UK's Volunteer Reserves to support Defence in a variety of potential conflict and UK resilience scenarios. The emphasis will be on overall 'readiness' with Volunteer Reservists trained and ready should there be a need to use them.

d. Face to Face 'Muster'. Following training restrictions imposed during COVID 19 the training 'habit' of our Volunteer Reserve forces has been eroded. In order to assess the current state of our Volunteer Reserves and begin returning to a culture a readiness a F2F 'Muster' of most Volunteer Reserves will occur during the month of October 2021. This will involve each Volunteer Reservist physically parading at an appropriate location to have their JPA records

updated. This will be conducted under their single Service or UKStratCom command and is likely to coincide with, or run in parallel with, an already scheduled routine training evening or event.

Kind Regards,

Andrew Gibbs, Leigh Thomas and Kate Lole - South East Regional Employer Engagement Directors

Mrs Nicola Harris | Regional Employer Engagement Administrative Officer | South East Reserve Forces' & Cadets' Association | Seely House | Shoe Lane | Aldershot | Hampshire | GU11 2HJ | Telephone: 01252 357624-| Email: se-reedao@rfca.mod.uk

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