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High-Light



THE TRI-SERVICE MAGAZINE OF HIGHLAND RESERVE FORCES' AND CADETS' ASSOCIATION



Ex Northern Lights
Pages 12 & 13

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Working hard through turbulent times

Welcome to Issue 16 of *High-Light*, which has been slightly delayed by General Election Purdah.

Regardless of the outcome the fact remains that we continue to work in a complex and challenging operating environment, subject to commercial uncertainty as experienced by the employers of our reservists, and characterised by constant downward pressure on our own finances.

HRFCA's access to employers' views and concerns is primarily via our Regional Employer Engagement Groups – the REEGs – who continue to provide us with wise counsel, particularly welcome during turbulent times, when the skills brought by reservists to their daily work are particularly important but conversely when employers have their eyes fixed on more pressing considerations.

Closer to home, we are still awaiting confirmation of this year's Grant in Aid allocation and the savings it may be necessary for us to make; with the public finances under ever-greater pressure we may well find ourselves with difficult decisions to make in the days and weeks ahead.

Whatever the challenges, you can be sure that we will continue to squeeze maximum value from the resources we have, as I hope is demonstrated in the following pages. From the new Gairloch Air Training Corps building, project-managed by our Estates team, to the Royal Gun Salute at Stirling Castle and the ongoing engagement with employers willing to commit to the Armed Forces Covenant, your Association is doing its very best to cover the ground.

A particular recent highlight has been the Annual Association Meeting and keynote address provided for us by Mark Lancaster MP. The Minister was particularly struck by the achievements of the Cadet Expansion Programme in Scotland, and the obvious benefits both to the cadets themselves and to their communities; this is all most encouraging and a real pat on the back for everybody who has

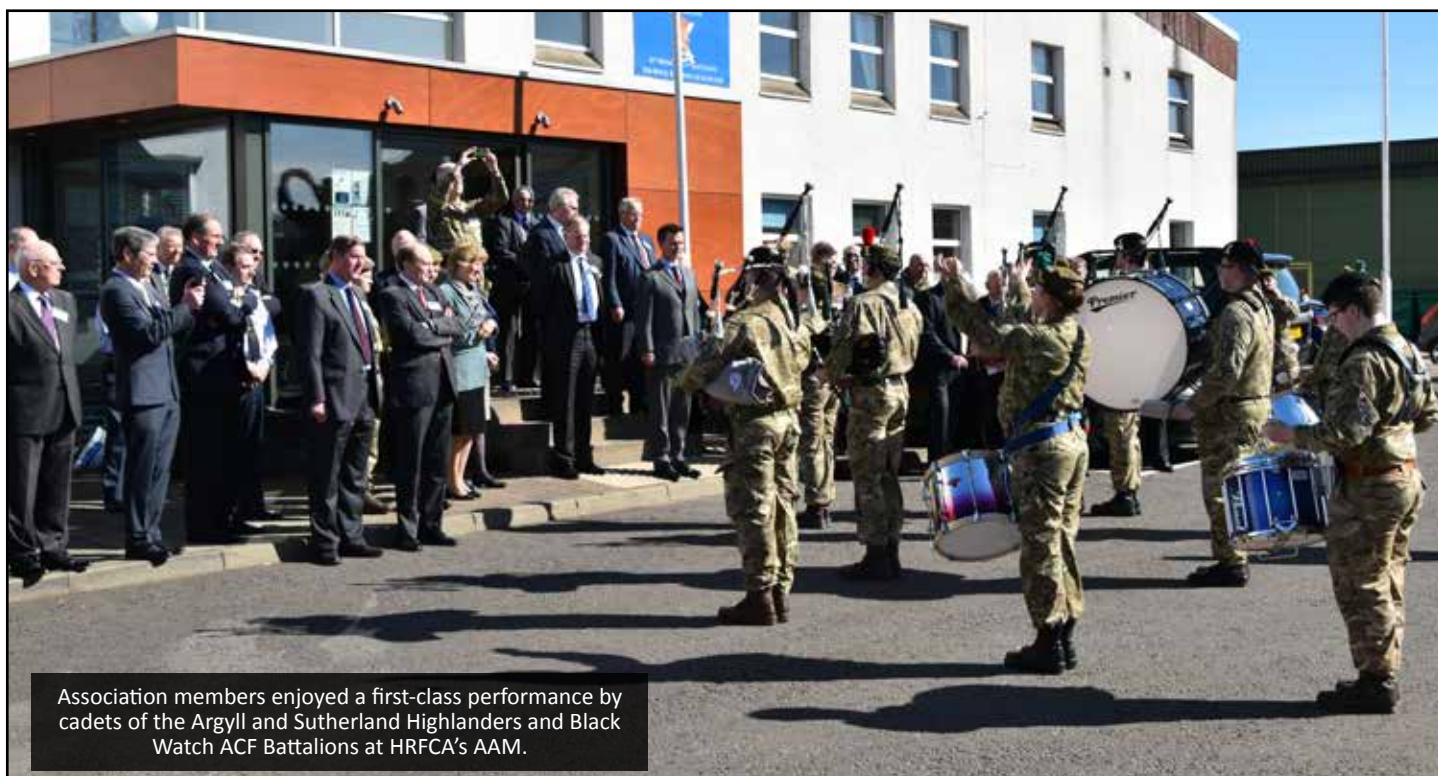
a role to play in its continuing success.

While we keep our sights trained firmly ahead of us, you will find the Association's Annual Report for 2016-2017 enclosed with this edition of *High-Light*. The Report provides what is I trust a succinct and informative review of the past year and, by saving on separate postage, offers further proof of our efforts to make every penny count!

Finally, as you may be aware, two distinguished airmen have passed away recently. Air Vice Marshal George Chesworth – a much-respected HRFCA President between December 1997 and June 2005, Honorary Air Commodore of 2622 Sqn RAuxAF and Lord-Lieutenant of Moray – died last month aged 86. He flew many sorties during the Korean War for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC). He also planned the Vulcan raids on Port Stanley.

April saw the passing of Perth resident Wing Commander Gerald Lane DFC after 101 years. An achievement in itself, but particularly pertinent to the Association as Wing Commander Lane had not only been a decorated Second World War bomber pilot but also from 1951 the Assistant Secretary to the TAFE for Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine, one of the antecedent Associations from which HRFCA evolved, and was the first airman to fill the post. Lane was subsequently closely involved in the restructuring of the Territorial Army for which he was appointed OBE.

Mark Dodson



Association members enjoyed a first-class performance by cadets of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and Black Watch ACF Battalions at HRFCA's AAM.

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Firms continue Covenant pledges

Driver Hire Dundee & Perth has signed the Armed Forces Covenant.

In doing so the firm made a commitment to support the country's servicemen and women wherever and however it can and to ensure no member of the Armed Forces should suffer any disadvantage as a result of their service.

The signing – by owner Roy McLellan – took place at Highland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association's Dundee HQ on 17 February with the document co-signed on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) by Lieutenant Colonel Al Jarvis RE, the commanding officer of Tayforth Universities Officer Training Corps (TUOTC).

Mr McLellan was also presented with an Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Bronze certificate for the Dundee-based firm which is part of the UK's largest specialist transport and logistics recruitment company. Driver Hire offers temporary and permanent driving jobs, non-driving work and Driver CPC training and has over 100 offices throughout the UK.

Also present at the signing was Driver Hire Dundee & Perth's Business Development Manager James MacKenzie.

ERS encourages employers to support defence and inspire others to do the same. The prestigious Bronze, Silver and Gold awards are for employer

organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to defence and the Armed Forces community, and align their values with the Armed Forces Covenant.

The event was organised by Highland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association and attended by Head of Engagement Dai John and Regional Employer Engagement Director Ron Macgregor. For more information on the Armed Forces Covenant and the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme contact Ron Macgregor on 01382 631026 or email hi-reed@rfca.mod.uk

■ One day earlier, on 16 February, Fife-based adventure holiday company Access to Adventure signed the Covenant.

The signing – by managing director and owner Steve Callaghan – took place at the company's HQ at Rosyth Business Centre with the document co-signed on behalf of the MoD by Commander Richard Moss, Chief of Staff to Naval Regional Commander for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Mr Callaghan was also presented with an Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Bronze certificate for the firm which delivers a range of exciting and accessible outdoor experiences across Scotland.

■ Arbroath-based Finesse Control Systems Ltd put pen



Roy McLellan (right) of Driver Hire Dundee & Perth signs the Armed Forces Covenant with Lt Col Al Jarvis signing on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.

to paper on their pledge on 8 March.

Signing on behalf of Finesse was managing director Fraser Dunphy with Major Lee Patchell, Battery Commander at 212 Highland Bty Royal Artillery, co-signing on behalf of the MoD. During the ceremony Mr Dunphy was also presented with the ERS Bronze Award for the firm.

■ The most recent signing took place at The University of the Highlands and Islands in Inverness on 20 April.

Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Clive Mulholland signed for the University with Wing Commander Dr David

Caddick RAuxAF, who is also a lecturer at the university's Inverness College campus, co-signing for Defence.

Professor Mulholland said: "As someone who has served with the armed forces, I know how important it is to support the people who serve our country. Many of our staff and students are part of the armed forces community and I am delighted to formalise our commitment to support them and to inspire others to do the same."

Professor Mulholland was also presented with a Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Bronze certificate.



Fraser Dunphy of Finesse Control Systems signs the Armed Forces Covenant with Major Lee Patchell signing on behalf of the MoD.



Steve Callaghan of Access to Adventure signs the covenant with Commander Richard Moss RN signing on behalf of defence.



Professor Clive Mulholland of the University of the Highlands and Islands receives the Bronze Award from Wing Commander Dr David Caddick following the covenant signing.



Lord-Lieutenant Mrs Janet Bowen opens the new centre.



New Gairloch Cadet Centre opened

The new Gairloch Cadet Centre was officially opened on 27 April by the Lord Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty, Skye and Lochalsh, Mrs Janet Bowen.

Dignitaries from RAF Air Cadets, Highland Council, and Highland RFCA, who project managed the building of the facility, were in attendance, as was the Scotland and Northern Ireland Regional Commandant Group Captain Jim Leggat.

The new building will be used by 832 (Wester Ross) Squadron of the Air Cadets and replaces their old facility which is adjacent to the new building.

The guests and cadets assembled inside the new building where Mrs Bowen inspected the cadet parade following which she gave a short presentation before unveiling a commemorative plaque celebrating the official opening of the building.

The event also saw Highland Wing Chaplain the Reverend Russel Smith performing a Dedication to the Unit, following which the Squadron Chaplain the Reverend Ron Whyte carried out an Induction Ceremony with new cadet squadron members.

Invited guests, including HRFCA Chief Executive Mark Dodson, were then able to speak to cadets and watch them taking part in a variety of activities, including them demonstrating their flying prowess in a flight simulator.



Mrs Janet Bowen chats to an Air Cadet.



Cadets prepare for inspection.

Multi-faith event at Scottish Parliament

HRFCA was at the Scottish Parliament on March 15 for a multi-faith event – entitled Exodus – which showcased diversity and community cohesion in Scotland.

Hosted by The Scottish Government Chief Whip Bill Kidd MSP, the wide range of speakers included Mr Shabir Beg, Chairman of the Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society, the society's Director General Imam Razawi, and Rose Fitzpatrick, Police Scotland's Deputy Chief Constable for Local Policing. The Armed Forces were much in evidence too, with representatives from Naval Regional Command Scotland and Northern Ireland, Army Headquarters Scotland and a number of its Reserve units, and the RAF. Thanks go to Shabir and his team for an excellent evening.



The Armed Forces were well represented at the Parliament.



Veterans' charity visits City of Discovery



HRFCA stopped by to say hello to our friends from Erskine who spent 17 March raising awareness of the charity and its activities at Tesco on Dundee's Riverside Drive.

They also took the opportunity to collect a bit of money while they were at it.

Michael Parkes, Community Fundraiser for the North of Scotland and his boss, Community Fundraising Manager Karen McBeath (pictured), were both keen to let people know about the charity and what it does – supporting UK veterans and their spouses since 1916 through world-class nursing, residential, respite and dementia care in its four homes across Scotland.

Karen said the good people of Dundee were very generous and welcoming – particularly appreciated on a cold and windy day!

To find out more about the organisation contact Michael.parkes@erskine.org.uk.

GCHQ expert at cyber security lecture

Abertay University hosted a cyber security expert from GCHQ at its fourth annual Walter McNicoll Defence Lecture.

The lecture is staged by each of the universities within Tayforth Military Education Committee – Abertay, Dundee, Stirling and St Andrews.

This year it was titled Cyber – A Complex World, and topics covered

included cyber security, encryption, intelligence and legal parameters. Leaders from both military and civilian roles provided an insight into their experiences in defence and an expert from GCHQ talked about cyber security.

Attendees also included academics and students from the four universities, members of Tayforth Universities Officers

Training Corps commanded by Lt Col Al Jarvis, East of Scotland Universities Air Squadron (ESUAS) commanded by Sqd Ldr Jonny Finbow and Paul Cunningham.

From left: Jonny Finbow (ESUAS), Paul Cunningham (ESUAS), Eddie Simpson (Tayforth MEC Convener), Al Jarvis (Commanding Officer, Tayforth UOTC), and Nigel Seaton (Abertay Principal).



Employees honoured at Civic Reception

Two employees of West Dunbartonshire Council were honoured with a Civic Reception hosted by Provost Douglas McAllister in Clydebank Town Hall on 21 February.

Danny Rainey was recognised for serving with the Army Cadet Force for over 50 years. The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Bn ACF Staff Sergeant Instructor has been a cadet adult instructor for 46 years following four years as a cadet. He was presented with gifts by HRFCA Deputy Chief Executive Andrew Macnaughton.

Danny said: "I feel very honoured to be given this recognition by the Council as to me I'm just doing something I really enjoy and I cherish every minute of the time I spend with the Cadets.

"The Army Cadet Force will continue to go from strength to strength, not just because there are more people like me who have many years service, but more importantly it's the young people who keep joining. By far the most important person in the Force is not me with all my years of service but the last recruit who joined, as without them, we cannot continue."

Also honoured was WO1 (RSM) Jim Easson. Jim is the only Reservist RSM in Scotland and this achievement was recognised during a presentation and speech by Major Derek Sorley (second in Command of the Army Training Unit in Edinburgh – and Jim's boss).

Jim said: "I thoroughly enjoy my work with the Reserves and I would like to thank my colleagues at the Council for their continued support, which allows me to maintain my position within the forces.

"I am very proud to serve my country and I am delighted that I am being publically recognised for doing a job I thoroughly enjoy."

Provost McAllister added: "This is a remarkable achievement by both our employees and a great example of how the actions of two men can benefit not only West Dunbartonshire but the whole country."

West Dunbartonshire Council was thanked for being a supportive employer to Danny and Jim. Among those present at the event was Rear Admiral Mike Gregory who, as well as being the HRFCA President, is also the Lord-Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire.



Above: Danny Rainey with Provost McAllister (left) and HRFCA's Andrew Macnaughton. Below: Jim Easson with the Provost and Major Derek Sorley (right).



Ministerial stamp of approval for AAM



Mark Lancaster MP with the Cadet Pipes and Drums at Queen's Barracks.

This year's HRFCAs Annual Association Meeting (AAM) took place on Saturday 25 March at Queen's Barracks in Perth.

Some ninety members resisted the alternative attractions of a perfect spring day and, following the formality of a brief business meeting and Chief Executive's annual report, were treated to a range of speakers.

Maj Gen Jamie Gordon, Chief Executive of the Council of RFCAs, kicked off proceedings. Gen Gordon underlined the unique contribution made by RFCAs across the country through their continuity and local knowledge, and stressed that despite some media reports to the contrary, recruitment into the reserve forces remains on track, with a number of specialisations already at or above their 2020 targets.

Gen Gordon was followed by the day's Keynote speaker, Mr Mark Lancaster MP, Minister for Defence Veterans, Reserves and Personnel – and a serving officer in the Army Reserve – who shared his thoughts and priorities on 'the best job in Government'. Touching on the Cadet Expansion Programme (CEP), Mr Lancaster congratulated those who were helping to make it such a notable success in Scotland,

transforming the lives of young people and helping them to realise their full potential. He also outlined the UK Government's defence estate strategy, through which rationalisation will allow investment in better infrastructure for regulars, reservists and cadets alike, with reserve and cadet units on those sites earmarked for closure to be provided for elsewhere. The Minister concluded by thanking Association members for their support to the reserves and the cadet organisations; in common with the reservists and cadet adult volunteers, he felt that the RFCAs and their members embody the volunteer spirit – and asking them for their continuing commitment.

After a first-class performance by cadets of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and Black Watch ACF Battalions, delivered in warm sunshine and followed by an opportunity for the Minister to chat informally to cadets and adult volunteers, he took advantage of a chance to meet members of 154 Transport Regt RLC in Dunfermline before returning to Edinburgh Airport.

Other speakers on the day included Lt Col Alan Middleton, the Schools Cadet Expansion Officer, who updated members on progress with the CEP, and senior officers representing each of the services who

provided individual updates. Cdr Richard Moss, Chief of Staff at Naval Regional Command Scotland and Northern Ireland, briefed on 2017 as 'The Year of the Navy' and on the New Maritime Strategy; Col Charlie Wallace provided the Army's perspective from his position as Deputy Commander 51 Infantry Bde, stressing the need for local communities to support the Army via the 'firm base' approach; and Gp Capt Derek Johnston, representing Air Officer Scotland, who provided a comprehensive briefing on current air operations and new and improved capabilities currently being acquired by the RAF, including the P-8 Poseidon squadron to be based at RAF Lossiemouth.

The AAM ended with a lively open forum and concluding remarks from Rear Admiral Mike Gregory, HRFCAs President and Lord-Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire.

The general consensus was that it had been a highly informative and thought-provoking day, and one that underlined the importance of all those involved in defence in Scotland, whether regulars, reservists, cadet leaders, advocates or supporters such as the RFCAs, working collaboratively, cohesively and with discipline, in order to secure the best outcomes for all.



Lt Col Piers Strudwick (CO 7SCOTS) shares a laugh with HRFCAs President Mike Gregory.



205 Field Hospital CO Colonel Helen Singh (right) and 225 (Scottish) Regiment CO Lt Col Sarah Lambirth.



Cdr Richard Moss RN updates members.



Group Captain Derek Johnston (left) and Lt Col Alan Middleton (second left) were among the other speakers.



HRFCA Chairman Nick Dorman (left) and (right) Chief Executive Mark Dodson.



Mark Lancaster MP addresses members.



Maj Gen Jamie Gordon (left) and HRFCA Chairman Nick Dorman.



Colonel Charlie Wallace.

21-Gun Royal Salute for The Queen



Officer Cadets conduct the fire mission.

Officer Cadets of Tayforth Universities Officer Training Corps (UOTC) fired a 21-Gun Royal Salute at Stirling Castle on 21 April to mark the 91st Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen.

Commanding Officer of Tayforth UOTC, Lieutenant Colonel Al Jarvis RE, said: "Participating in the Royal Salute at Stirling Castle is a great honour for the Officer Cadets at Tayforth UOTC.

"They have been conducting training with 105 Regiment

Royal Artillery, it involves: teamwork, concentration, nerve, skill and precise attention to detail – all the qualities which will serve them well in whatever careers they ultimately decide to pursue, whether within the armed forces or not. Being part of this prestigious event gives us a chance to celebrate our links with the City of Stirling and its university. Such a unique activity is typical of the variety of experiences our Officer Cadets enjoy during their time in the OTC."

The Officer Cadets were directed by 212 (Highland) Battery of 105 Regiment Royal

Artillery. The Reviewing Officer at Stirling Castle was Pauline Howie, Chief Executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service, with music provided by the pipes and drums of Scottish UOTCs.

Highland and Lowland RFCAs jointly hosted employers at the event. They were welcomed into the Regimental Museum of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders by Brigadier Mark Dodson, CE HRFCA.

A briefing on the naval origins of gun salutes by Major Lee Patchell, the Battery Commander of 212 (Highland) Battery, followed. Maj Patchell mentioned the

Troop Commander for the day, Captain Jock Mackay, recently commissioned and whose career as a gunner has seen him fulfilling every role in a gun salute.

As a highly experienced gunner the Salute was directed by Capt Mackay with polish and accuracy ('you can't go wrong with Gunner Time' observed one member of 212 Bty).

Following the successful firing – which was also watched by proud friends and families of the Officer Cadets – and inspection of the crews, guests returned to the museum for a light lunch.



Preparing for the Salute.



Three cheers for Her Majesty!



Guests included Michelle McKearnon (left) and daughter Ellie.



Major Lee Patchell addresses the guests.



Guests, including Pauline Howie (left), in the Regimental Museum of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.



Gun Salute hosts and guests.



Pauline Howie of the Scottish Ambulance Service was the Reviewing Officer.



Tayforth UOTC Officer Cadets.

New faces at 154, Tayforth and 225

There have been several changes of command to units in the HRFCA area.

Lt Col Gill Wilkinson handed over command of Dunfermline-based 154 (Scottish) Regiment RLC to her husband Lt Col Alan Wilkinson.



The exchange made the pair the highest-ranking couple to follow each other in a command role.

Gill, originally from Northern Ireland, was in the Army from the mid-90s but left when her two children were born.

She re-enlisted in the Army Reserve in 2003 and took command of the regiment in 2014.

Alan, who was also in the Regular Army before joining the Reserves, took on the role of main carer for their children when Gill became commanding officer. Alan, originally from the Borders, met Gill at Dundee University before joining the Army.

He joined the reserves in 2009. They have been married since 1998 and have two teenage children.

Lt Col Al Jarvis recently took over from Lt Col Gregor Lindsay as Commanding Officer of Tayforth Universities Officer Training Corps (TUOTC).

He oversees three detachments based in St Andrews, Dundee and Stirling. TUOTC recruits students from Abertay University and the universities of Dundee, St Andrews and Stirling.



He gained a first class BSc (Hons) degree and a Cert Ed teaching qualification at Brunel University where he studied Industrial Design & Education. He met his wife Alyssa (Aly) at Brunel and they have two boys Ben (13) and Guy (10).

On promotion to Lt Col he completed a staff role in Army HQ.

He has completed several tours to Northern Ireland, one to Bosnia, one to Iraq during the initial 2003 invasion and two in Afghanistan. On exercise he has deployed to: Poland, Oman, South Africa, Cyprus, the USA, Canada and Kenya. He is an experienced endurance athlete and has enjoyed several long-distance challenges as well as 199 freefall parachute jumps.

Lieutenant Colonel Sarah Lambirth has taken over command of Dundee-based 225 (Scottish) Medical Regiment from Lt Col Helen Smyth.

Lt Col Lambirth enlisted in 1990 into Edinburgh & Heriot-Watt University Officers' Training Corps (UOTC) as an Officer Cadet.



Prior to taking over at 225, Sarah was OC Support Squadron at 205 Field Hospital.

This role involved balancing the needs for ongoing Real Life Support at unit training events, whilst providing ongoing training for the Support Squadron staff. During this time, she was selected for and completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course (Reserve).

Sarah was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and took command of 225 (Scottish) Medical Regiment in October 2016.

Lt Col Lambirth works as a personal tax advisor for Williamson and Dunn, a longstanding independent accountancy practice in Aberdeen. She lives in the Moray Firth area, where she has a number of local interests. She is also a keen runner and novice triathlete.

NORTHERN IRELAND LIGHTS SCOTLAND **NORTHERN LIGHTS** SPORTS AND MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION



Officer Cadets warming up for a day of activities.

Tayforth University Officer Training Corps hosted Exercise Northern Lights at Leuchars on Saturday 25 Mar.

The event is a highlight of the UOTC calendar, providing a rare opportunity for all the Celtic UOTCs (Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Tayforth and Queen's in Northern Ireland) to come together in one place. This year the East of Scotland Universities Air Squadron (ESUAS) were also welcomed. Over 500 Officer Cadets took part in

various events including: Rugby, Football, Hockey, Duathlon, Orienteering, Tug of War, Traditional Dancing, Drill and the March & Shoot. Glasgow UOTC won both the Pipes & Drums event and were the overall winners.

Physical activity is a fundamental part of being in the military. Sport builds teamwork and competitive spirit, promotes health and fitness and requires dedication and practice.

The weekend also provided an opportunity to have fun and indulge in the

healthy rivalry that exists between units. To add to the festival atmosphere there were static displays from regular and reserve cap badges in Scotland, including 212 (Highland) Battery Royal Artillery and 32 Signal Regiment.

The activities were played out in glorious sunshine, which meant the free ice creams courtesy of BFBS were a real highlight particularly for the cadets from the Angus and Dundee Battalion of the ACF.

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Twenty-year-old Officer Cadet Amy MacDonald strikes a pose.



Army Officer Cadets enjoyed the March and Shoot.



Dancing with brooms!

Overall Team Results:
 1st: Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC
 2nd: City of Edinburgh UOTC
 3rd: Queens UOTC
 4th: Tayforth UOTC
 5th: Aberdeen UOTC
 6th: East of Scotland Universities Air Squadron



Taking a break from the March and Shoot.



Marching drill was one of the disciplines on show.



The Tug of War was a fiercely fought competition.



The rugby sevens were a highlight.

ACF on a high for Commonwealth Day

For the first time ever, members of the Army Cadet Force were asked to take the Commonwealth flag to the top of some of the highest peaks in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on Commonwealth Day.

Members of 1st Battalion The Highlanders ACF and Orkney Independent Cadet Battery took the flag to the top of Ben Nevis, the highest peak in the UK.

They were among communities and groups from around the UK and Commonwealth who raised more than 950 Commonwealth flags at 10am on 13 March.

The Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth initiative, now in its fourth year, again captured the imagination of thousands of participants from all walks of life.

As a collective public expression of commitment to the Commonwealth, the event enables participants to show appreciation for the values the Commonwealth upholds, and the opportunities offered for friendship and co-operation with fellow citizens.

The 1 Highlander team, consisting of Commandant Colonel Iain Cassidy, Ross Company Commander Major George MacDonald and Captain Tim Martin and Lieutenant Jamie Millar, who are both from the Battalion's Western Isles Company and Major Andrew Barton, Commandant of Orkney who led the team to the top, started their Ben Nevis ascent at 0500hrs.

A personal message from the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations,

The Right Honourable Patricia Scotland QC, and a specially written Commonwealth Affirmation, was read out at each ceremony before the raising of the Commonwealth flag at 10am. In a common act of witness around the globe members of this great family of nations reaffirmed the commitment of all Commonwealth member states to democracy, development, and respect for diversity.

Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR – Originator and Commonwealth Pageantmaster, of 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth', said:

"I am amazed how quickly this event has caught the public imagination in the UK and around the Commonwealth. We are only in our fourth year, and the involvement of the Army Cadet Force, along with the participation of so many people of all ages and from all walks of life, shows the enormous potential of this project and of the Commonwealth. It is a positive and uplifting way for people to link with and assist fellow citizens of the Commonwealth in a family that spans across oceans and continents. There is a real sense of promise, and hope for the future in this current troubled world of ours."

The ACF's Deputy Commander Cadets, Brigadier Matthew Lowe, said: "The Army Cadets is one of the UK's leading voluntary youth organisations with a mission to inspire young people – from all sorts of backgrounds – to challenge their limits, become more independent, confident and



The team from 1st Battalion the Highlanders ACF on top of a snowy Ben Nevis.

able to step up to any challenge. Many of our cadets go on to pursue civilian careers but they do so having taken on board the Army's values of selfless commitment, courage, discipline, integrity, loyalty and respect for others – great values for any citizen. Our cadets also develop a strong understanding of the importance of international peace and security which makes us especially proud to be playing such a key role in the Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth celebration."

The Ben Nevis flag was one of two raised by 1 Highlander and Orkney on Commonwealth Day. Staff Sergeant Instructor Leonard Cowieson from the Highlander's Moray Company and Staff Sergeant Instructor Catherine Browne from Orkney flew a flag at Ward Hill in Hoy on Orkney. The Orkney team had more sunshine than the Ben Nevis team, but had to deal with 60mph winds!



SSI Browne (left) and SSI Cowieson with the Orkney and Commonwealth flags at Ward Hill in Hoy, Orkney.



In the next edition of *High-Light*: Exercise Executive Stretch, Armed Forces Day events, Stirling Military Show and much, much more . . .



Rock climbing at Yesnaby, West Mainland.

During the Easter holidays ACF cadets from Orkney, Shetland and Buckinghamshire met on Orkney for Exercise Orcadian Sunrise 2017, their annual week-long exchange programme.

Each year cadets from Orkney Independent Battery and Bucks ACF meet, alternating counties visited each year. For only the second-time Orkney and Bucks were joined this year by Shetland Independent Battery.

Orcadian Sunrise saw the cadets undertaking challenging activities and cultural visits. In total 38 cadets and 13 adults took part.

Activities included rock climbing at Yesnaby; two-day expedition and overnight camping along the western coast; archery and laser clay pigeon visits to archaeological sites (Skara Brae and the Ring of Brodgar, and the Kitchener Monument); visits to WWII historical sites (Lyness Naval Museum, Commonwealth Cemetery Hoy, the Italian Chapel, Ness Battery, the Churchill Barriers); wreath laying at the Royal Oak Memorial and the Arctic Convoys Memorial.

Events were rounded off with a disco and barbecue.

The exercise was visited by Col O'Meara and Lt Col Smith from 51 Brigade.



A trip to Lyness Naval Museum, Hoy.

A great loss to the cadets

It is with deepest sadness that we report the passing of one of the Cadet Force's long-serving instructors. Captain Lloyd Burt, of 1st Battalion the Highlanders, passed away earlier this year at his home in Kyle of Lochalsh.

Lloyd (pictured, right) had been an instructor with the Battalion since 1989 with Ross Company where he was the Commander of Kyle Detachment.

Capt Burt joined the Army Cadet Force after a very long career in the forces with the Battalion's parent antecedent regiment the Queen's Own Highlanders – now The Highlanders (4SCOTS) – having joined them in 1965.

The funeral was attended by CFAVs from across the battalion past and present, as well as a number of former cadets that Lloyd had taught over the years.

A number of cadets from his Detachment in Kyle formed an honour guard outside the church for mourners as they left at the end of the service.

Lloyd was a much-loved instructor within the Battalion and will be dearly missed by all cadets and adults and the wider Army Cadet family.



Scotland & Northern Ireland Regional Commandant, Group Captain Jim Leggat, received his OBE from HRH The Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace on March 16.

Group Captain Leggat was appointed as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the 2017 New Year Honours List.

He was accompanied to the palace by his family (pictured).

Altcar Training Camp was the venue for this year's ACFA National Cross Country Championship and the National Six-A-Side Football Competition.

Cadets from all over the UK took to the start line for the cross-country. Those representing Scotland put in a strong showing with the Junior Boys third in the team event; the Senior Boys runners-up in their team event; the Junior Girls were third in the team event; Cadet Galesha Paterson (1HLDR) won the Individual title for Junior Girls; the Senior Girls team were class champions; SSGT Williamson and SSGT Gray were second and third respectively in the Senior Girls Individual; Overall ACFA National Champions were Eastern

England, with Scotland the runners-up.

Others taking part from Scotland included LCpl Giacomo Innes and Cdt Hugh MacKay, both from 1 Highlander.

The Six-A-Side National Football Competition also featured competitors from all over the UK.

Once again Scotland performed really well with the Seniors narrowly missing out on a place in the final after a narrow 2-1 loss to South East, who went on to scoop the Senior title.

The Junior title went to North East.



612 Sqn honours crash tragedy air crew

RAF Reservists from Leuchars-based No 612 (County of Aberdeen) Squadron travelled to Iceland to honour an air crew who lost their lives at RAF Reykjavik in 1942.

The Squadron was originally formed at Dyce on 1 June 1937. At the outbreak of the Second World War it was mobilised in an operational role in Coastal Command, subsequently deploying to Iceland in 1942. The period of operational deployment in the Nordic country, then under Allied Occupation, was among the most challenging and difficult of the war.

During this time there were a number of tragic losses of aircraft and crew. Notable among those was the loss of an Armstrong Whitworth Whitley Mk VII, S/N Z6807 which crashed on take-off at RAF Reykjavik with the loss of the crew of seven on 15 March 1942.

They were buried in the North Atlantic island nation's Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Fossvogur.

On the 75th anniversary of the crash, a small team from 612 travelled from Fife to Reykjavik to remember and commemorate their colleagues with a visit to the cemetery.

Leading the visit, Wing Commander Alan Cowan said: "Many of my team have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, but it is important for the current generation to remember the sacrifice made by those who have gone before them. In this case and on the 75th anniversary we simply wanted to make sure that our colleagues were not forgotten."

Now an RAF Medical Reserve Squadron, 612 recruits and trains medical professionals to serve with the RAF Reserves.



Above: Members of 612 Sqn make their mark.



Right: Wreaths were laid at the graves of the air crew at the Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery in Fossvogur.

Forthcoming Events

17 June
21 June
24 June
15 July
29 July
10 August
8-10 September

Stirling Military Show
Reserves Day
Armed Forces Day
Inverness Highland Games and Gala
Gordon Highlanders VC event (Buckie)
HRFCA XB Meeting (Murrayshall)
Highland Military Tattoo, Fort George



What do YOU want to see in your *High-Light*?

Contributions are always welcome from readers

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