

# HIGH-LIGHT



THE TRI-SERVICE NEWSLETTER FROM THE HIGHLAND RESERVE FORCES' AND CADETS' ASSOCIATION



Nairn Cadet Top Marksman



Highland Tattoo



Pipes and Drums play at Balmoral



New Honorary Colonel for 7SCOTS



## Editorial: Chief Executive's Introduction

As we head rapidly towards Christmas, it is a good moment to reflect on events over the year. We have just come to the end of the annual round of Area Meetings where amongst other things we reviewed the role of our membership and how it might be engaged more effectively in the future. This is linked to an expectation that the RFCAs will be sought by Defence to have a more active representational role as the Defence footprint becomes increasingly smaller. Our principal interest remains to ensure that the interests of our two constituencies - the Reserves and Cadets - continue to be at the forefront of our activities. But with the former being more closely integrated with their Regular counterparts under Future Reserves 2020 (FR20), raising awareness and interest of the wider security and defence interests is something we should support through our extended network and a more proactive role by the Area Committees will help achieve this.

Many readers will be aware of the very real concerns over the challenges to recruiting the new Reserve force - particularly the Army Reserves who have the lion's share. Whilst the numbers required is an undoubted challenge, there are very clear indications that the inflow over outflow is beginning to improve. Significant effort has been made to streamline the processes and there is, thankfully, increasing recognition that recruiting Reservists starts at the front door of the Reserve Centre - yes, national advertising and access to on-line applications have their place, but little can replace the impact of face-to-face contact. Significant recognition should be given to all of our units for the huge effort they are putting in - perhaps best now to let

them get on with it!

In parallel with this our role in Employer Engagement has changed substantially - on the one hand continuing to ensure that the interests of our Reservists' employers are looked after, and on the other that we break new ground. After a year it is time to examine what works and what does not work - perhaps the most important factor is to be cognisant of where this sits in terms of priorities for employers. The introduction of the Corporate Covenant and the new Employer recognition Scheme are all aimed to enhance the level of commitment and support for the future. NHS Scotland has been the recipient of the first Gold Award in recognition of being the exemplar of support for Reservists over many years. We look forward to making the first Silver Awards at a major event in Edinburgh Castle on 4<sup>th</sup> December, with VCDS as our principal guest.

In the meantime the RFCAs have been subject of a series of reviews coming in the wake of FR20. The Vice Chief of Defence Staff has commissioned the Paterson Review of the RFCAs which is due to report shortly. The purpose is to validate our role against the changes in FR20, and to ensure that we are properly fit and resourced for purpose. In parallel with this our role to continue managing the Volunteer Estate in the future under the Next Generation of Estates Contracts (NGEC) is being examined - internally under Project REVIVE to ensure we are compliant with the revised DIO procedures, and following this a value-for-money comparator. We are hopeful that the *status quo ante* will remain as the estate is pretty fundamental to our role in supporting the Reserves and Cadets - we believe that we have that important element of understanding that no contractor will deliver.

Since the last edition the Cadets have remained in the spotlight across the Highlands. Following a series of very successful summer camps, the Combined ACF and ATC Pipe and Drums were to the fore over a number of days in early August, beating retreat in Aberdeen ahead of performing at Balmoral before Her Majesty The Queen and other members of the Royal Family. They then went on to perform at the Service of Commemoration of the outbreak of the Great War that took place on Edinburgh Castle Esplanade. Many readers will be very sad to learn of the retirement from ACF Piping of Major Jim Stout, who for the last eight years has developed piping and drumming to a quite exceptional standard. He has done a remarkable job and deserves our recognition and thanks.

It now simply leaves me the task of thanking you all for your support over the last year and wishing you a very Happy Christmas and good fortune in 2015.



Her Majesty The Queen with Cadet Drum Major Matthew Moore of the Lothian and Borders Battalion Army Cadet Force

## New Regiment For Scotland: Scottish and Northern Irish Yeomanry

The Scottish & North Irish Yeomanry (SNIY) is the only new cap-badge to have been created as part of the ongoing re-structuring of the British Army. The new Regimental Headquarters has now taken under command three former sub-units of the Queens Own Yeomanry, based in Ayr, Belfast and Cupar respectively. It is also now in the process of raising a fourth Squadron based on the Lothian and Borders Yeomanry.

SNIY is a Combat unit mounted in lightly armoured Land Rover vehicles fitted with heavy weapons, and charged with the Army's new 'Light Cavalry' role whose aim is to find, understand and influence on the battlefield, fighting for information, if required to do so. Over the past 12 months its soldiers and officers have been involved in a variety of overseas operations and exercises, including Afghanistan, Cyprus, Germany and the USA. The Regiment offers a breadth of opportunity ranging from armoured vehicle drivers, commanders, heavy weapon gunners and telecommunication specialists, to doctors and medics, chefs and Human Resource specialists.

Lieutenant Colonel James Campbell-Barnard, the Commanding Officer of the Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry, said "This is a pivotal time for this new Regiment as we now look to formally start the process of raising the 'Lothian and Borders Yeomanry' Squadron in Edinburgh, to join those already established in Ayr, Belfast and Cupar. Anyone who does join, can expect to remain part of the wider regimental family long after they have concluded their reservist career."

## Nairn Cadet is Top Marksman 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force

Cadet Corporal Yann Cameron from Nairn Detachment, 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force has become one of The Top One Hundred Shots for 2014 within the Cadet Force Organisations after winning a national competition.

Yann attended the National Rifle Association's annual Inter-Services Cadet Rifle Meeting, in Bisley. He went down with eight cadets from the Battalion.

Cadet Corporal Cameron, came 69th in the Cadet 100. Cadet Corporal Cameron said of his experience at Bisley, "I was very excited to have been selected to represent my Battalion down at Bisley and did not even consider that being in the top one hundred was a possibility for me!"

A total number of 421 Cadets took part in the competition from across the UK, they were joined by a contingent from Canada. The Battalion's A and B Teams came 52nd and 56th in the competition respectively, out of 102 teams.



Out recruiting in one of the Regiment's Land Rovers

Trooper Robertson "Robbie" Durham (23), who has obtained both his car and truck driving licences with the Reserves, said: "I am currently employed by the regiment as a driver for the recruitment team during the week but I have been training on the heavy machine gun on the Weapons Mount Installation Kit Land Rover (WMIK). This change of role is good and will help me as I look to achieve promotion to the next rank." Robbie added: "I joined the Reserves during my college days to earn some extra money and have a stable part time job and being in the Reserves has definitely helped me become more disciplined and adopt a good working attitude."



Honorary Colonel Carolyn Caddick presenting Cadet Corporal Yann Cameron with his badge



## Arctic Star Awarded to the Sons of RNVR Veteran



Lieutenant Commander Keith Conway; Colonel AK Miller, Chief Executive HRFCA; Captain Chris Smith, Naval Regional Commander S & NI and, Michael Miller and Lieutenant Colonel Rich Parvin

Highland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association Chief Executive, Colonel A K Miller and his brother, Michael, were privileged to accept the Arctic Star on their father's behalf from the Naval Regional Commander Scotland and Northern Ireland, Captain Chris Smith at MoD Caledonia on 17th October.

Lieutenant Commander Alan Miller, of the Clyde Division Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR), who died aged 93 in 2008, was a destroyer commander involved in the most perilous sea passages of the 2nd World War – the Arctic Convoys - described by Sir Winston Churchill as 'the worst journey in the world'. He was born in Glasgow in 1914, attended Kelvinside Academy and later moved to Helensburgh. He trained as a marine engineer and worked in the family engineering business before the war. He was mobilised in May 1939, little knowing that he would then spend six years at sea. He wrote an account of his wartime experiences – 'Over The Horizon' – raising a considerable sum for the Erskine Hospital. He eventually retired to Crieff.

At the presentation Captain Smith said "The journeys undertaken by the men and their ships as part of the Arctic Convoys was fraught with danger. As well as an ever present threat of enemy fire from both surface ships, aircraft and U-Boats, the weather was a formidable adversary, casting up freezing conditions and mountainous seas. Many, many ships and aircraft were lost and thousands of sailors perished".

Alan Miller's early war was spent on HMS Dorsetshire in the Far East, South Atlantic and off the African Coast chasing German raiders and actions against the Vichy French in Dakar. He then moved to destroyers and was involved in the withdrawal from the St Nazaire Raid in March 1942, winning the DSC. By August Brocklesby was closely engaged in the action of the Dieppe Raid, nearly coming

unstuck as she went aground within 400 yards of the beach whilst giving direct support to the Canadian troops ashore and being peppered by fire from German 88mm. He spent much of the remainder of the war running out of Scapa Flow on convoy duties against the U-Boat threat in the North Atlantic and the Arctic, witnessing the sinking of the German Pocket Battleship Scharnhorst. His final act was to return home to the Forth escorting Hitler's yacht 'Grille' as a prize.

After the war he was one of the leading lights to establish 'The Carrick' as the RNVR Memorial Club (Scotland) buying the ship from the Admiralty for the princely sum of one Scottish pound. She lay alongside Carlton Quay in Glasgow from 1948-1991. In 2014 'The Carrick' readopted her original name 'The City of Adelaide' and is one of only four clipper ships remaining in the world. She has recently been moved to Adelaide for restoration. The renaming at Greenwich was undertaken by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and witnessed by Alan Miller's granddaughter.



Lieutenant Commander Alan Miller

## Successful Return for Highland Tattoo

### Featuring Reservists and Cadets From Across The Highlands



The Massed Bands at the Highland Tattoo

As part of “Homecoming Scotland 2014” the Highland Military Tattoo was held at Fort George near Inverness. Reservists and Cadets from across the Highlands were included in what was a very successful three days of performances playing to sell-out crowds of around two thousand guests.

The evening started with an RAF Typhoon flypast and included performances from 2622 (Highland) Squadron Pipes and Drums, who are this year’s World Pipe Band Champions. They joined Cadets and Adult Instructors from 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force to take part in the three-day event, which took place at Fort George. The Black Watch 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland; The Military Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland; Forres and District Pipe Band; The City of Inverness Youth Pipe Band and Gordonstoun School Pipe Band all also entertained hundreds of onlookers. Joining them were The Hellcats from Westpoint Military Academy, the oldest of its kind in the USA.

World Champion Piper, Cadet Sandy Cameron, Pipe Major at Dollar Academy CCF, closed proceedings before all of the performers left the arena.

The Cadets from 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force participated in the Massed Pipe band. Adult Drum Major Cameron MacIver was lead drummer, Cadet Corporal Aaron Robb was the lead bass drummer and Cadet Drum Major Saul Bruce was one of the three Drum Majors with the other two being from The Blackwatch 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland and The Highlanders 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

For Army Cadet Corporal Archie Drennan (Inverness Company) the final performance turned out to be extra special when the entire audience sang him “Happy



Drum Major Saul Bruce

Birthday” to mark the occasion of his 16th birthday!

Highland RFCA invited 40 employers to experience the Highland Tattoo, offering them a unique opportunity to see local and international acts as well as their own Reservists in a completely different situation. Highland Councillor and member of the REEG Carolyn Caddick attended the Tattoo and said, “It was a fantastic event, great to see so many people attending from the local area and tourists alike. The quality of the music and acts was outstanding and the whole Tattoo had an intimate feel about it.”

The Highland Military Tattoo replaces the Inverness Tattoo, disbanded in 2011. It is to be held annually until 2016 with the possibility of being made a permanent fixture.



Pipe Major Sandy Cameron from Dollar Academy CCF



## A Walk in the Valley of Souls near La Paz

### Senior Aircraftsman Burgess

Exercise Bolivian Venture 2014, led by the RAF Mountaineering Association (RAFMA) and open to all RAF Regular and Reserve personnel, was to be my first taste of long distance high altitude trekking and I soon realised it would be quite different and tougher than treks I had undertaken with RAFMA.

I was one of two reservists, out of a team of 28, financially supported through the generosity of the Ulysses Trust and the Sports Lottery. As part of a trekking team of seven, led by an experienced trekker-Wing Commander Norton, and assisted by our enthusiastic local Bolivian guide, Julia. We would be crossing the Andes in the Apolobamba National Park to complete what would be physically challenging eight day trek.

Our trip started with the trekking team landing at La Paz airport (at around 4500m, the highest in the world). Immediately landing at such an altitude was a shock to the system and as we negotiated the steep, bustling streets of La Paz city centre we noted the ease at which we became out of breath- a short climb seemed more like a one kilometre run. Headaches seemed to be a feature of this period of acclimatisation- with most of us suffering at one stage or another. After two days of short walks, we left La Paz and were driven to the beautiful and immense Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, and two days here involved a few more acclimatisation walks and a



The group take a rest during a trek

home-stay in a typical Bolivian rural house with a very hospitable family, although my rudimentary Spanish led to one or two misunderstandings and the prospect of being served guinea pig- the local delicacy, seemed an ever present threat!

Our trek proper started after a two hour hair-raising drive on crumbling roads through steep mountain passes. Our eyes didn't linger long on the road which seemed to disappear underneath us.

The trek began with a five hour hike up to a large valley where the mules carrying our equipment were waiting for us. During the trek we were walking between six and eight hours a day and en route we encountered many a curious llama and alpaca, ever present chinchillas, and on occasion, a majestic condor soaring in the thermals overhead. For most of us this was the most remote and wildest location we had ever encountered.

At the end of the eight days of trekking through spectacular mountain passes, around glaciers and lakes, and having climbed to over 5000m, we finally met up with the mountaineering team who regaled us with their feats and exploits in some of the peaks that rose around our camping area. On the final day of our trek Group Captain Tait took us for a trip to a glacier near our camping area and gave us invaluable instruction on how to safely traverse a glacier. We took in the stunning panoramic views that were on offer in what was a superb last day to cap off a memorable trek.

The Exercise had achieved all of its objectives in providing us with physically demanding, extreme, high altitude trekking in a remote location. I am indebted to Squadron Leader Percival, the expedition organiser who devoted a considerable amount of time to ensure the exercise was an unequivocal success.



The beautiful scenery in Bolivia



Walking on the glacier

## Cadets Assist at Naming of HMS Queen Elizabeth

### Sea Cadet Corps

The naming of Britain's largest ever warship marked a "new dawn" in Britain's Naval history. Her Majesty The Queen said that HMS Queen Elizabeth, should serve as a "source



Sea Cadets with HMS Queen Elizabeth towering above

of inspiration and pride" as she officially christened the vessel with a bottle of Islay malt whisky.

Northern Area Sea Cadets were honored to be involved in the ceremony. A total of 5000 guests attended, including the Prime Minister David Cameron and the (now former) First Minister Alex Salmond.

The Sea Cadets lined the route and even had the chance to speak with some of the VVIPs! Navy Board Cadet, POC Chris Davies, commented, 'It was a really special occasion to be involved in and worth all the practice and early wake-ups.' The VIPs were ushered into the registration area by Rosyth Sea Cadets from TS Fife who then enjoyed the whole of the ceremony from their fantastic viewpoint nearby.

## Exercise Stalwart Guardian

### 51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland



The 7SCOTS team at Niagara Falls

As part of a joint training exercise with 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders of Canada, eight personnel from 51<sup>st</sup> Highland, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (7SCOTS), flew out from Scotland to Toronto, Canada. The aim of the Reciprocal Small Unit Exchange was to build on the affiliations and conduct general infantry training.

Once arrived and settled in at Moss Park Armoury, the Canadian equivalent of an Army Reserve Centre, the group began a period of acclimatisation. This involved learning about and familiarising themselves with the weaponry and communication systems of their Canadian allies. After the brief introduction the eight then deployed into the field for seven days.

The field training exercise was set within a realistic contemporary operating environment in the vicinity of the Welland Canal and based primarily within the Niagara region of Ontario.

The Battle Group deployed within the grounds of



Major Barker receives a plaque from CO 48th Highlanders of Canada

Welland Rowing Club. This was a unique experience as none of 7 SCOTS had ever deployed on a field training exercise within such a close proximity to the local population. This proved to be somewhat of a challenge with the group always in the public eye; often members of the public would walk through the location, interested in their activities. Even the Battle Group was followed (at a safe distance)!

The exercise presented the opportunity to understand the training, tactics and procedures of our Canadian counterparts and afforded with some very good sharing of knowledge. After a trip to see some of the breathtaking scenery of Niagara Falls, it was time to return back home.

Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN 14 was a great success and playing a major part in strengthening the relationship 7SCOTS has with its allies. Every soldier enjoyed the exercise and returned with very valuable lesson learned.



## *The Service Cadets' Massed Pipes and Drums Beating Retreat Before Her Majesty The Queen*



The Service Cadets' Massed Pipes and Drums perform at Balmoral Castle



Cadet Drum Major Matthew Moore Lothian and Borders Battalion Army Cadet Force requests permission from Her Majesty The Queen to take leave



Her Majesty The Queen and Major Jim Stout, National Cadet Piping Executive Officer



Her Majesty being introduced to Brigadier Paul Harkness, Commander 51 (Scottish) Brigade), Colonel Martin Passmore ACFA, and Colonel David McFadyen, Cadet Colonel Scotland



Her Majesty The Queen talking to the Cadets



## Remembrance Across The Highlands



The Caird Hall lit up for the Dundee Festival of Remembrance



Brora Detachment 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force



2449 (Carnoustie) Squadron



865 (Portlethen) Squadron Air Training Corps



Senior Aircraftsman O'Brien, 612 (County of Aberdeen) Squadron Royal Auxillary Airforce at the parade in his hometown on behalf of RAF Leuchars



Portree Detachment, 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force, Cadet Sergeant Jefferson-Spear receiving a wreath from Coxswain Hamish Corrigan



## Introducing: Vice Chairman (Air), Wing Commander David Caddick

I joined the regular RAF Regiment in 1979 as a University Cadet and was sponsored to read for a degree for 3 years. Following graduation I served in the UK and Germany including 2 operational tours in Northern Ireland and detachments to America, Australia and Cyprus. I was privileged to command the Queen's Colour Squadron of the Royal Air Force and took part in many prestigious State and ceremonial events. However, having reached the point in my career where the future was going to be spent mainly in staff appointments in and around MOD, I left regular service and moved to Inverness with my family in 2001. I worked for a regional development agency as head of skills development for a couple of years before starting my own management development consultancy business.

In 2006 I got a call from my old boss in the RAF who asked me if I was "interested in a Saturday job". As a result of that phone call I joined the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and commanded 2622 (Highland) Squadron from 2007 to 2011 as a part-time reservist. I was mobilised in 2010 and commanded an Influence Team in Kandahar in Southern Afghanistan. Afterwards, I worked as a part-time staff officer for the RAF Force Protection Centre and was appointed as the Deputy Inspector of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force in 2013.

We have a bit of a reserve forces and cadets thing going on in our family. My wife Carolyn, who is a former Army officer, is an elected member of the Highland Council and currently is their Armed Forces and Veterans Champion. She is a member of the Highlanders Museum Board and the Honorary Colonel of 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force. She also works full time and it is just amazing how she fits everything in. My oldest son Angus was in 1st



Wing Commander David Caddick on tour in Afghanistan

Battalion Highlanders Army Cadet Force, becoming the Regimental Sergeant Major and the UK Champion Cadet in 2013. He is now at the University of Aberdeen and a member of the Army Reserve. My other son, Rory, was also in the ACF and represented the battalion at shooting at Bisley, but is now at the Defence Sixth Form College at Welbeck, eventually destined for the Royal Engineers.

I first got involved in the RFCA as the OC of 2622 (Highland) Squadron, and was a member of the Northern Area Committee until I took over as Vice-Chairman (Air) in March this year. The RFCA is a unique organisation that provides the 4 'Es' for the Reserve and Cadet community: Estates, Employer Support, Engagement and Expertise. In my experience there is no other organisation that could provide all these things in such a cost effective manner and the biggest challenge for the RFCA, in these days of austerity and reducing budgets, is convincing everyone else of that!

The most interesting aspect about Highland RFCA for me are the Cadet organisations. About a hundred years ago I was in the Air Training Corps and I went flying, gliding, parachuting, shooting, on an overseas camp to Malta and took part in the International Air Cadet Exchange to Canada. Coming from a fairly humble background there was no way that I would have done any of those things otherwise and I have always supported Cadets whenever I have been able to. Today, I see so many young people doing so many good things with all 3 Cadet Organisations and the young people I meet are all so confident and motivated it really makes you feel proud of them. Of course these things can only happen with the commitment, dedication and hard work of the Adult volunteers and I would like to say a huge thank you to them.



Wing Commander David Caddick, Honorary Colonel Carolyn Caddick, Officer Cadet Angus Caddick and Cadet Corporal Rory Caddick



## Highland RFCA Welfare Grants: *Keep Air Cadets Climbing*

The Cadets of the Scotland & Northern Ireland Regional Pipe Band were the first to use the harnesses and helmets that were recently purchased following a grant from Highland RFCA. The Cadets spent the day scaling the walls at Edinburgh's International Climbing Arena.

Indoor and outdoor climbing has been very popular in recent years with the equipment being used at various locations across Scotland, the updated equipment will be put through its paces frequently!

The Air Cadets have very strong links with Edinburgh's International Climbing Arena. As a result more than 850 cadets have completed levels in the National Indoor Climbing Award Scheme making them one of largest providers of the scheme in the UK. The support of Highland RFCA will ensure that this activity will continue to be delivered in the future.



Cadets climbing using new equipment bought with a grant by HRFCA

## Young Cadets Compete to Save Lives *Combined Cadet Corps:*

Uniformed young people from across all the cadet forces assembled at Strensall and the home of the Army Medical Services Training Centre to demonstrate practical first aid skills in the cadet forces national and inter services competitions. The competition is the UK's most ambitious first aid competition for young people and saw 38 teams take part including 14 from Dollar Academy Combined Cadet Force.

Over two days 18 scenarios, mostly in outdoor settings, tested the cadets with realistic emergencies aided by dramatic casualty make-up. For the first time the competition was supported by Army Medical Services (AMS) which enabled some unusual settings to be used; a Chinook helicopter simulation on Saturday and a mock up of an Afghan village on Sunday. AMS personnel helped with judging and casualty simulation. To keep the scenarios realistic, all team tests included a 'handover' marked by a paramedic. The teams also had the chance to practice CPR using a defibrillator.

The Dollar Army team CCF team, narrowly missed out on first place, by just three points! The team was made up of Duncan Smith, Christian Lao, Angus Clark and Scott Norval.

A special competition was held over both days to test (and educate) cadets in CPR and using a defibrillator whilst working together. The handsome glass trophy called 'The Cube' was provided by St John Ambulance from the former Young Grand Prior competition. St John Ambulance also provided the very handsome Jill Scott Trophy also used by the Young Grand Prior competition - to reward the best placed overall youth team in that event. For 2014 this was

awarded to Durham Army Cadet Force.

Prizes were presented on Saturday by Lieutenant General (retired) Louis Lillywhite, former Surgeon General and now Chief Medical Officer of St John Ambulance. Major General Chris Callow, late Royal Army Medical Corps and until recently Honorary Colonel of Yorkshire North & West ACF, presented the Inter Services trophies on Sunday. Lieutenant Colonel Alan Sharkey, ACFA's first aid advisor, said "this is not just another competition, training in practical scenarios is part of the system of effective first aid training and essential in giving Cadets skills and confidence in handling real life trauma". Colonel Sharkey added that some 60 cadets every year are recognised through ACFA for stepping forward and tackling real life emergencies".



Members of Dollar Academy Combined Cadet Force team at the competition

## Battlefields Study Trip

### 2nd Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force



2nd Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadets pose for a group shot

41 cadets and 18 adult volunteers from across the North East of Scotland and Shetland boarded a coach to learn about the Battlefields of France and Belgium.

Commandant Colonel Dave Chapman helped organise the trip and explained the rationale behind it: "With this being 100 years since the start of the Great War, I thought that we needed to mark this in some way that would impact on all of us. This year has seen both the Cadets and Adult Volunteers eagerly busy themselves with raising funds."

After an 18 hour trip, the weary travellers arrived at the first study site in Huchenville, the site of a World War II battle of 51 Highland Division. Now a corn field, the cadets were tasked to survey the land and compare WWI, WWII and modern tactics for the attempt to capture Hedgehog Wood. After a long day the Cadets saw their first war graves in the yard of a church still bearing its bullet holes.

Day two found the group in St Pierre-de-Vigers, where the Black Watch had defended the British Expeditionary



Brigadier Charles Grant educates the group about the sacrifices made

Forces. The guest speaker, Brigadier Charles Grant, spoke with passion of the sacrifices made. Padre, Major Tommy Bryson, delivered a service commemorating the fallen in the St-Valery-en-Caux cathedral. In what was a very emotional afternoon for the Cadets. Two of the cadets laid wreaths and every Cadet was given the opportunity to write a message on a cross and lay it at the grave of a fallen soldier. Cadet Jake Thain also of Vittoria Company summed up the trip, "It was an eye opener that all the graves were just everywhere, just so many of them."

The following emotional days were spent visiting the area, seeing cemeteries, battlefields and museums; enabling the Cadets to visualise just a little of the scale of the atrocities.

Cadet Lance Corporal Callum Hopkins of Vittoria Company also said, "[the trip was] really, really fun. It was one of the most incredible experiences of my life to see the cemeteries; it was really interesting to learn about all the things that people died for to allow us to now live the way live"

## Shetland and Orkney Join Together For October Camp

### 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force

Cadets from Shetland and Orkney took part in a week long shooting camp at the Cadet Training Centre in Boddam on the Aberdeenshire coast.

The senior cadets concentrated on shooting whilst eight "recruits" began their Basic Star training. The eight "recruits" completed training in drill, first aid, and weapon safety. They also learned to cook, and how to pack kit for living in the field and had the

opportunity to fire air rifles.

Prior to heading north on the ferry, the cadets visited the Gordon Highlanders museum in Aberdeen where they were treated to a very interesting tour.

All eight new cadets were awarded their Basic Star badges. It proved to be a fantastic opportunity for Shetland and Orkney Cadets to train together and make lasting friendships.



Cadets on the Black Dog range



## New Honorary Colonel Visits Reserve Centre

### 51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland



Brigadier Hugh Munro (right), Councillor Chris Tuke with Reservists and Regulars visiting Elgin Army Reserve Centre

**B**rigadier Hugh Monro CBE has recently been appointed as the new Honorary Colonel of 51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Recently, he was in Elgin to inspect the reserve centre,

along with Councillor Chris Tuke, of Moray Council. They met Reservist soldiers from C Company as well as some of their Regular colleagues from The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Brigadier Monro said: "Any young person who enjoys keeping themselves fit, likes to travel and wants to be part of an organisation that espouses teamwork, camaraderie and the values of respect and mutual trust should consider the opportunities that exist throughout the Army and the Army Reserve. "They [the Reserves] offer recruits the chance to learn additional skills, learn to drive, get a HGV licence, get a First Aid at Work qualification, Health and Safety courses, Personal Education and Adventure Training qualifications; the possibilities are endless."

The Army Reserve Centre in Elgin is being re-energised as a focal point for Army recruitment as well as being home to C Company, The Royal Regiment of Scotland. It will also have a weekly visit from a Careers Advisor able to advise anyone interested in a career as a Regular or Reservist soldier as to the challenging and rewarding Army roles available.

## Annual Training Makes a Real Difference!

### 71 Engineer Regiment



Building bridge abutments for the Orienteering World Championships

**R**oyal Engineers were joined by Engineers from the South Dakota National Guard to undertake civil engagement and construction tasks across the Highlands.

Each Squadron was given an Area of Operations for the Annual Training Event. The Reservists completed tasks in a number of areas: Glen Affric where The 2015 World Orienteering Championships will take place where a pedestrian bridge and a carpark were constructed; at The Highland Wildlife Park, a walkway and a viewing platform were built inside the polar bear enclosure; Rothiemurchus Lodge, used as a base for adventurous training by the military was upgraded; Garelochhead and Barnsford



Constructing an elevated walkway at the Highland Wildlife Park

Bridge where road was laid and training areas developed.

Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Mifsud, Commanding Officer 71 Engineer Regiment said: "These projects, involving a blend of Reservists from 71 Engineer Regiment, provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the depth and diversity of skills required to plan, resource, and deliver an ambitious plan in such short time.

This sort of work develops individual trade skills, inspires my soldiers and generates an enormous amount of interest from those who seek to add a new dimension to their lives as a Royal Engineer Reservist."

## Army Cadet Force Volunteer Wins Young Heroes Award

### Shetland Independant Cadet Battery

Shetland Islander and Army Cadet Force Volunteer, Jessica Bradley, was given a young heroes award in the First Aid category at the prestigious British Red Cross Humanitarian Citizen Awards at the House of Commons.

The British Red Cross Humanitarian Citizen Awards is an annual event, celebrating its 10th anniversary, recognising the achievements of young people under 25 in a range of achievements. These include fundraising as well as first aid.

22 year old Sergeant Instructor Jessica Bradley from Shetland Independent Battery was announced as the winner of the First Aid category and in the culmination of the afternoons events was then announced as the overall British Red Cross Humanitarian Citizen of 2014.

The incident happened when Jessica was walking home with a friend. Jessica heard screaming from a house. Inside she found 3 young men in distress, one with a very serious injury to his neck bleeding profusely. He had self-inflicted knife wounds to his neck causing him to lose huge amounts of blood. Jessica applied direct pressure, using a blanket, before the man became very distressed and she was forced to retreat. The paramedics told her that her swift action had saved the casualty's life.

Following the incident Jessica was nominated for the award

and yesterday announced overall winner. The 22 year old Army Cadet Force Instructor said, "Winning this award was great, but there's nothing to beat the feeling of knowing you have saved a life."

Jessica originally learned her skills as an Army Cadet but an illness meant she was unable to fulfil her ambition to become an army medic, she was determined to put her skills to good use and now volunteers with both the Army Cadet Force as an Adult Volunteer and with the British Red Cross.



Sergeant Instructor Jessica Bradley

## Lord-Lieutenant Opens New Cadet Centre

### Crieff Combined Cadet Centre Opens

A new Cadet Centre for the Army and Air Cadets in Perth and Kinross has been officially opened by Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross Brigadier Melville Jameson CBE, providing an excellent training environment for the cadets and paving the way for an expanded cadet presence in the area.

For many years the site was a single story building housing Crieff Detachment of The Black Watch ACF, whilst 1743 (Crieff) Squadron ATC were without a home of their own. The Centre will be home to over 50 Cadets from the two detachments.

Of the new building, Lord-Lieutenant Brigadier Melville Jameson said; "It has been a great honour to open this new Centre in Crieff and is wonderful to see the high standards set by the Cadets who are on parade. They looked both incredibly smart and extremely well motivated. It is a triumph that there is such a splendid building in Perthshire provided by Highland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association."

Colonel Angus Taverner, Chairman of HRFCA added: "We're delighted to provide this new Centre in the heart

of the Crieff community. It provides excellent facilities to enable the detachments to develop and prosper."

Of the new facilities, Crieff Air Cadet [Flight Sergeant] David Donaldson said; "The facilities are absolutely amazing, I couldn't have thought of anything better for the Cadet Organisations here."



Brigadier Melville Jameson opening the Crieff Combined Cadet Centre



## Morrison's Cadets Visit to Hardangerjøkulen

By Cadet Rebecca Prentice

In the very, early hours of the morning, eight Cadets from Morrison's Academy Combined Cadet Force boarded a plane to Oslo. After travelling most of the day we arrived at Haugastøl, the hostel which sat at 1000 metres above sea level.

Over the next two days we cycled the Rallarvegen. A path following the outskirts of the Hardangervidda Plateau which leads along the Bergen-Oslo railway line. The 80km ride initially saw us climb to a height of 1300m before descending down to the fjords to sea level in Flåm. The descent was keenly felt on the notorious 21 hairpin bends in the Flåm valley, a scary but incredible experience.

Finse, where we camped on the first and second nights, was our first glimpse of the Hardangerjøkulen. The next four days we walked over 60 km, following a Den Norske Turistforening route. It was a tough few days devoid of civilisation where we lived out of only the rucksacks and tents we carried. The cold nights and freeze dried food was made completely worthwhile by the views of the glacier. We navigated ourselves and managed to reach a suitable(ish) campsite every night.

We hiked to our highest and coldest campsite and the following day trekked another 10 km in the rain. The following day was spent scrambling up and down some very

steep mountainsides before we fell asleep to a beautiful pink sunset. The following morning was less serene; after a flyaway tent and an icy swim to retrieve the errant tent we set off again. We arrived to warm showers and pizza after one final windy evening.

After such an amazing experience we took the opportunity to visit the Fram Polar museum. This challenge taught us a lot about ourselves, and our limits. Whilst they were tested in many ways, with teamwork and motivation we got to the end, smiling.



Cycling the Rallarvegen

## Gold Duke of Edinburgh for Highland Cadets

1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force

Four Army Cadets from 1st Battalion the Highlanders Army Cadet Force recently completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition in Germany.

The region is known as the Allgäu (pronounced Olgoi) and lies in the south-western corner of Bavaria extending into Austria and Switzerland. The group settled into the Duke of Edinburgh lodge based in Ortswang. The Sunday consisted of an acclimatisation and familiarisation day followed by a planning of the expedition on the Monday. The following four days were spent climbing, hiking, sleeping and eating out in the Bavarian wilderness.

For Cadet Sergeant Major Sellkirk (Inverness Company) the trip was a great experience, "[It] was demanding but the feeling I got on completing the expedition made it all worthwhile. The trip allowed us to meet cadets from all over the UK who we could relate too, [it was a] great experience."

For Cadet Sergeant Major Davison (Ross Company) she had one favourite moment of the trip, "the best part of Bavaria was climbing Grunten on the first day, it was a good achievement and a great experience, I loved it!"

Cadet Sergeant Wineberg was very pleased to be given the opportunity to have the chance to do his qualifying expedition abroad. "Bavaria was a fantastic way to complete my Gold Expedition and I would highly recommend it to any cadet doing DofE. The scenery was amazing and the locals were very friendly. I would never have been able to have this great experience if it wasn't for the Cadet Force, thanks to everyone involved!"



Cadet Sergeant Major Sellkirk, Cadet Sergeant Major Davidson, Cadet Sergeant Wineburg and Cadet Corporal Holland

# New Cadet Presentation Team to Raise the Profile of The Cadet Experience Across Scotland

## Introducing Richard Pattison

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the newly appointed Cadet Presentation Team Leader. My task is to head up the strategic engagement with key stakeholders across Scotland, to inform them of the benefits of 'the cadet experience'. This is a joint initiative funded by Highland and Lowland RFCAs and inspired by discussions which have taken place at the cadet Tri Service Forum.

My remit is to spread the word pan Scotland, and to achieve this I am not only engaging on a one to one basis with key individuals, but also am forming the cadet presentation team made up of cadets and adult volunteers on a tri service basis, building a pool of individuals upon whom to draw from varying geographical locations. Cadets and Adult Volunteers will deliver an essential part of the "Cadet Experience" message. It is believed that the pool of potential speakers will develop a valuable life skill and will allow for wider use at a regional level.

The fundamental aim is to raise both the profile and understanding of the "Cadet Experience" and its benefits.

With joint funding from the two RFCAs, it has been possible for the recruitment of this new post- Cadet Presentation Team Leader. I was selected and am working on a part-time consultant basis. A former soldier, I'm an ordinary person who has had some extraordinary experience across the globe from the desert to the Polar Regions, on land and on the oceans with a strong interest in expeditioning, particularly at sea and in the high latitudes. Drawing on practical experiences gained and honed in difficult and sometimes dangerous and life threatening circumstances and underpinned by rigorous CPD and academic study, I will bring that hard won experience to life and make it relevant to the Cadet organisations.

Whilst his role will be functioning across the whole of Scotland, the "home base" is in Seathwood, Dundee. The role will be to engage with the wider community to highlight how young people benefit from their participation in the cadet organisations. Not just whilst as a cadet, but significantly how the attributes and experiences gained,



better prepare them for later life. The first opportunity to see the team in action will be at the Annual Association Meeting on Saturday 28th March.

The first selection/training weekend to identify this team takes place at CTC Arrochar in Feb 15. For any additional details of the project and for information on venues and you can contact me on [hi-cadetptl@rfca.org.uk](mailto:hi-cadetptl@rfca.org.uk) or Sarah Rawlings on [hi-cedep@rfca.mod.uk](mailto:hi-cedep@rfca.mod.uk)

### Forthcoming Events

Thu 5 Feb 15	Executive Board Meeting
Sat 28 Mar 15	Annual Association Meeting, Queen's Barracks, Perth
Fri 10 Apr 15	Dingwall Beating Retreat
Sat 11 Apr 15	Inverness Beating Retreat
Sat 2 May 15	Edinburgh ACFA Beating Retreat
Thu 21 May 15	HRFCA Council Meeting
Thu 21 May 15	HRFCA Council Meeting
Thu 20 Aug 15	Executive Board Meeting
Thu 6 Nov 15	HRFCA Council Meetings
Tue 17 Nov 15	Eastern Area Meeting
Thu 19 Nov 15	North-Eastern Area Meeting
Tue 24 Nov 15	Northern Area Meeting
Thu 26 Nov 15	Southern Area Meeting

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

Contributions are always welcome from anyone.

Contact: [hi-admin@rfca.org.uk](mailto:hi-admin@rfca.org.uk)  
or 01382 631027