



The new building in Banff.

NEW BANFF HUT OPENS

2nd Battalion The Highlanders' new cadet hut in Banff was officially opened by the Lord-Lieutenant for Banffshire Mr Andrew Simpson on 13 March.

The £400,000 modular building in Aberdeenshire forms part of Highland RFCA's £1.4 million programme of cadet building replacements. Similar buildings have also been installed in Newport, Bo'ness and Mastrick, Aberdeen.

The Lord-Lieutenant and guests were welcomed to the building by Battalion Commandant Colonel Gordon Rae.

He said: "Welcome to the Banff ACF detachment. This is a cracking facility and represents a significant investment, so thanks to Highland RFCA for the work they have put in to make this happen."

The Lord-Lieutenant then unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

He said: "It gives me the greatest pleasure to open this new hut for the Banff detachment of 2nd Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force."

"It is fantastic to see the local community in Banff benefitting from an excellent facility for some of our youth to enjoy and make the most of."

"My thanks go to Highland RFCA, who identified the need to replace the old cadet hut, gave it priority for funding, and then oversaw the design, construction and completion of the project."

The Lord-Lieutenant and guests were then given a tour of the facility, followed by a buffet.



The Lord-Lieutenant with 2 HLDRA ACF cadets and adult volunteers.

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Newsletter highlights



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HMS Montrose pays final visit to namesake town



Drill hall works continue at Boddam CTC





HMS Montrose makes farewell visit

Highland RFCA was welcomed aboard HMS Montrose for the Type 23 frigate's final visit to her namesake town on 13 March. The vessel's Commanding Officer, Commander Claire Thompson OBE RN, and Naval Regional Commander Scotland & Northern Ireland, Brigadier Andy Muddiman ADC, hosted a Reception and Capability Demonstration (RCD) onboard the Royal Navy Type 23 frigate.

Commander Thompson thanked the guests for all of their support throughout the years: "How special it is to visit our namesake town. You should be just as proud of this ship as we are."

Brigadier Muddiman came to mark the occasion, emphasising the ship's "recent extraordinary success" and the "deep connection with the communities and country we serve".

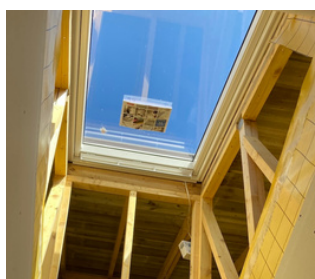
HRFCA's Employer Engagement Admin Officer Danielle Barclay, Communications Officer Annushka Bholai, Head of Engagement Michelle McKearnon and Regional Employer Engagement Director (REED) Ray Watt attended the event. All guests were given the opportunity to gain more insight into the ship's facilities, equipment and capabilities with a guided tour and a ceremonial sunset.

WORK AT BODDAM CONTINUING

Work to create a new drill hall and stores provision at the Boddam Cadet Training Centre is well under way.

The latest phase of the Highland RFCA Estates team's development follows the recent completion of £1.6 million works on the site to build a Tube Firing Range, a Parade Square, and refurbish the old Shetland Accommodation Block into an IT Suite and classroom space.

All the improvements to buildings at the 2nd Battalion The Highlanders ACF CTC, near Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, will enable the more than 300 cadets and 80+ adult volunteers from the Battalion to train and learn in the best possible conditions. The new IT Suite was used for the recent Company Weekends, and will be well-used during Annual Camp in the summer with Junior Cadets undertaking a range of activities over a two-week period in July.



HRFCA REED joins judging panel

Highland RFCA REED Roy McLellan (pictured) is proud to be one of the judges for this year's Scottish Veterans Awards.

The awards are sponsored by Joint Force Alba and are in association with ABF The Soldiers' Charity and take place on April 19 in Edinburgh.

They recognise veterans in business, fitness, sport and the wider community as well as Reservists doing great things and the companies that support the Armed Forces community.

There are a number of different categories, from Role Model of the Year to Contribution to the Fitness Industry.

There are five companies (all Armed Forces Covenant signatories and ERS Award holders) from the HRFCA-area that are shortlisted for awards. They are: EC Aluminium Ltd; NHS Golden Jubilee; Omniscient Safety Innovations; the Scottish Ambulance Service; and Trident Maritime Systems.

In addition, Robert Gordon's College Piping Instructor Jason Sumner has been shortlisted as a finalist in not one but two award categories. He has been nominated in the Role Model of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award categories.

