



RAF Regiment Gunners prepare to enter a building.

RAF RESERVISTS IN ACTION

HRFCA Head of Engagement Michelle McKearnon travelled to the Kirkcudbright Training Area on 19 September to see the RAF Regiment taking part in Annual Continuous Training.

The training in Dumfries and Galloway involved 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron and Lossiemouth-based 2622 (Highland) Squadron of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment. Visitors arrived at Dundrennan Camp before witnessing an exciting indoor Close-Quarters Battle (CQB) demonstration.

Following an outdoor lunch, the visitors were taken to the Capability Demonstration Area for a briefing before they watched the Reservists in action during an ambush demonstration. Other visitors in attendance represented organisations including Police Scotland and Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association.

Many thanks to the RAF for giving us an insight into the Regiment's hard work and training, as well as an opportunity to meet Reservists.



RAF Regiment Gunners refuelling following a demonstration of a Close-Quarters Battle.

OCTOBER 2023

Newsletter highlights



Meet new Deputy Finance Officer, Laura Scobie

11 organisations set to receive ERS Gold Awards at Scone Palace ceremony



Cadet Training Centre at Boddam officially opened



New HRFCA Deputy Finance Officer

Laura Scobie is the new Deputy Finance Officer for Highland RFCA. We caught up with her at our Dundee headquarters to find out more.

Hi Laura. Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

"I grew up in Monifieth so I'm a local! My background is in doctoral research, focusing on the material culture of contemporary Scottish whisky. Lots of history, and objects, and distilleries. I can't offer any freebies unfortunately, but I do love to hear about people's favourite drams! I've previously worked in museums and customer service whilst carrying out my university degrees."

What attracted you to a job with Highland RFCA?

"I came into the office to learn more about the job and that gave me the motivation to apply for the position. I knew I would enjoy learning the job and gaining new skills in what I could see was a supportive environment."

What's your role within the organisation?

"I am Deputy Finance Officer, so I assist the Head of Business Administration and Finance in providing efficient and effective financial and human resource outputs for Highland RFCA."

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

"I'm quite a homebody so I love reading, cross stitch, chilling with video games, and cuddling the cat. When it's not raining I enjoy a good walk, and I love driving so enjoy getting out to new places in Scotland to explore."

Thank you for chatting with us Laura. Welcome to the team. It's great to have you on board!



Laura Scobie



11 companies set to receive ERS Gold

On 9 November, 11 Highland employer organisations will gather at Scone Palace to receive their Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Awards.

The 11 are among 193 organisations from across the UK to have been awarded the prestigious Award for 2023.

The organisations have been recognised by the UK Government for their outstanding support towards the Armed Forces community. This is a record high since the Employer Recognition Scheme launched in 2013. The ERS Gold Award is the highest badge of honour and recognises the positive role that employers play in supporting the Armed Forces community.

The Employer Recognition Scheme, delivered by Defence Relationship Management, has a current total of 641 holders.

Organisations must reapply every five years to retain their Gold Award status.



Boddam CTC officially opened

The newly-refurbished Cadet Training Centre at Boddam was officially opened on 27 August.

The occasion was marked by a day of celebrations at the site near Peterhead in Aberdeenshire.

The £1.6 million two-phase redevelopment was completed earlier this year with the building handed back by principal contractor Morrison Construction on April 21 to 2nd Battalion The Highlanders ACF.

The first phase of the Highland RFCA Estates team's development saw the creation of a Four-Tube Firing Range, Parade Square, and the old Shetland Accommodation Block being refurbished into an IT Suite and classroom space (named the Ken Masson Learning Suite). Phase 2 added a new drill hall and stores provision. Ken Masson was, for nearly 20 years, the Cadet Executive Officer with the Battalion.

Dignitaries, including Highland RFCA Chair Captain (Retd) Nick Dorman and Deputy Chief Executive Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Andrew Macnaughton, were welcomed to the site by Battalion Commandant Colonel Gordon Rae.

Col Rae then introduced Deputy Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, Rear Admiral Chris Hockley CBE DL, representing His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire, who unveiled a plaque outside the Ken Masson Learning Suite to declare the centre open.



The opening was marked with a formal Battalion parade.

The Deputy Lieutenant said: "It is my pleasure on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant and His Majesty The King to declare this facility open."

A tour of the facilities followed before guests were treated to displays from all the cadet organisations present, and a demonstration of drill and a formal Battalion parade.

The Deputy Lieutenant then presented the Kaylee McIntosh Trophy to Cadet Corporal Natalie Cartney, for her outstanding commitment and endeavour as a cadet.

