

# E-Newsletter



The Princess Royal (centre) opened the new Regimental Headquarters of 154 (Scottish) Regiment RLC. © MoD Crown Copyright 2025

## Princess Royal opens new Reserve Centre

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal opened the new £10 million Regimental Headquarters of 154 (Scottish) Regiment Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) in Dunfermline on 26 September.

The Princess Royal – who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Logistic Corps – met members of the Regiment as well as the building contractors and Highland RFCA staff during her visit to the Elgin Street site.

The project consolidates the Regimental Headquarters of 154 (Scottish) Regiment RLC, 239 (Fife) Transport Squadron and the Dunfermline Detachment of The Black Watch Battalion Army Cadet Force into a single Army Reserve Centre (ARC) location.

The move streamlines operations, allowing for the disposal of a redundant site. This consolidation brings greater efficiency to the Volunteer Estate, providing the necessary space and facilities to enhance training and operational effectiveness.

The new-build project includes a large, open-plan office space, drill hall, mess areas, industrial kitchen, bathrooms and shower rooms, transit accommodation, server and plant rooms.

Sustainability has been a central consideration in the design. The facility features entirely electric infrastructure, including energy-efficient air source heat pumps, solar panels and electric vehicle charging points.

In 2022 Henry Brothers won the contract to design and build the new ARC and demolish the existing Bruce House with Mott MacDonald acting as the technical service provider, supporting the Highland RFCA Estates team. The project was Army-funded and demonstrates its ongoing commitment to its Reserve Forces and their important role in the UK's defence capabilities.



The Princess Royal met 154 Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Chloe O'Brien and (right) representatives from contractors Mott MacDonald and Henry Brothers.

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The Regiment marches through Lochgilphead.

## Freedom of Argyll & Bute for Regiment

**The Royal Regiment of Scotland has been granted the Freedom of Argyll and Bute.**

The honour is in recognition of the Regiment's service to the area and follows similar ceremonies in Aberdeenshire and the Western Isles in 2024.

Freedom of a Borough/County/City/Town is generally bestowed in recognition of the services of the Regiment, both in peace and war and is the highest honour the local authority can bestow. Argyll and Bute Council signed the Armed Forces Covenant in 2017 and is also a Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award holder.

Highland RFCA's Head of Engagement Michelle McKearnon was in Lochgilphead on 20 September to see more than 100 soldiers march through the town centre, with bayonets fixed and Colours flying, before gathering on the Front Green for the presentation of the Freedom scroll to Major-General Robin Lindsay CBE, the Regimental Colonel. Major-General Lindsay is an Invited Member of Highland RFCA in his capacity as Military Secretary and General Officer Scotland.

The Regiment's Shetland pony and mascot, Corporal Cruachan IV, was also in attendance at the parade.

# Return of Wet Kipper



RFCA staff, employers and Royal Marines.



Employers (above) traversing the River Braan and (below) enjoying the evening reception.



## Employers were once again put through their paces by the Royal Marines Reserve (RMR) Scotland during an exercise in Highland Perthshire.

Exercise Wet Kipper was jointly organised by RMR Scotland and Highland RFCA and held at Polney Crag and the River Braan, Dunkeld, on 17 September. The Employer Engagement exercise consisted of abseiling, a Tyrolean rope bridge traverse across water, and improvised carry and stretcher of simulated casualties. Participants came from a range of employers. For 2025 the event was enlarged to include employers from three additional RFCAs, namely Lowland, Northern Ireland and North of England.

All of the employer organisations have shown their support for the Armed Forces by signing the Armed Forces Covenant. They all also hold Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Awards at various levels. Following the activities, the participants were transported to Perth for a hot shower and change of clothes before heading to The Black Watch Castle and Museum for an evening reception.

This saw 'survival' certificates and framed photos presented to all participants. The event was rounded off with a buffet, networking opportunities and a chance for employers to catch up with the Royal Marines whose skills, expertise and good humour made the day such a success.



The group that visited HMS Mersey.

# Tall Ships event

Highland RFCA had the pleasure of attending Tall Ships Aberdeen: The Tall Ships Races over the weekend of 18 to 20 July, with the popular event returning to the city following a 28-year absence.

We kicked off a day early on 18 July – one day before the four days of official Tall Ships events got under way – with an Employer Engagement visit to a Royal Navy ship.

Selected local employers were invited to visit HMS Mersey, a Royal Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel berthed at Waterloo Quay in support of the event.

Guests enjoyed an informative tour of the vessel, with opportunities to interact with the crew and to discuss the importance of employers supporting Armed Forces personnel, including those who are members of the Royal Naval Reserve. 19 July saw us setting up the Highland RFCA gazebo at the event's Military Village situated at Union Terrace Gardens. There we joined static and interactive displays provided by the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force.

Despite the weather being a challenge over the course of the weekend, Saturday remained largely dry and saw thousands of visitors enjoying the Military Village.



The HRFCA gazebo at Union Terrace Gardens.

# Work on new JCC going well

## Construction of prefabricated units for the new Joint Cadet Centre (JCC) in Alness is well under way.

The project is part of the nationwide Reserve Estate Optimisation Programme and will be completed by Integra Buildings. The works will see the redevelopment of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets site currently used by 379 (County of Ross) Squadron.

The building footprint will be enlarged with a new extension of prefabricated modules that will allow it to be used jointly by the Air Cadets and Alness Detachment of 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force (ACF). A new store will also be built.

Consolidating the two cadet units will allow for the disposal of the standalone ACF building and return of the lease.

Groundworks for the £440,000 project started on 11 September.



The prefabricated units are being built off site.

