

# AGM 2010/11 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Wright TD DL

Most introductions of this nature start with the phrase 'This has been a busy year'. This year, I can make the statement without fear of rebuttal! The combination of the SDSR announcement, the concomitant Future Reserves 2020 study, Cadet150 celebrations, study into the restructuring of the Regional Force structure, studies into, inter alia, provision of vehicles and infrastructure for Reserves & Cadets and, above all, financial pressures have contributed to keeping all of us on our toes.

Clearly, overarching all of this has been the operational focus on Afghanistan and the ongoing campaign to bring peace and normality to that troubled region. Our Reserves have continued to support their Regular counterparts on operations – 3 PWRR, 7 RIFLES and 202 Fd Hosp are in the process of robustly recruiting to provide a significant contribution for future Op HERRICKs, while HMS KING ALFRED, 103 Bn REME, the Signals, the RE and the RAuxAF Squadrons are all deploying a steady stream of expertise as individual reinforcements.

The announcement of the Strategic Defence and Security Review took some by surprise by not including any decision on Reserves. Instead, it spawned an additional study entitled 'Future Reserves 2020' (FR20). FR20 is headed up by the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, ably supported by a former TA Infantry Officer, Julian Brazier TD MP. There is a strong Reserves presence on the study team, plus a number of known supporters so, at the very least, we are confident that the Reserves voice will be heard. The team will report later this year. FR20 is organised into three phases. In Phase One, the Study is developing a common understanding of the context in which Reserves will be used in future and will define the strategic principles around which the balance between Regular and non-Regular manpower should be designed. Phase Two will focus on options for Reserve Force structures needed to complement the Regular Force and meet operational requirements. In Phase Three, the Study will develop a detailed concept and outline plan for implementing new single-Services Reserves' structures.

Project Avanti, a study into future Regional command structures, will have impact on



Tri-Service Cadets at Reed House, Bicester.

Reserves and Cadets. It has recently been announced that the current Regional Divisions may be replaced by one 'Super' Division based in Aldershot and the 10 Regional Brigades probably reduced in number. In the South East, 2 (South East) Brigade may merge with 145 (South) Brigade, with the HQ being based in Aldershot.

A number of other studies will have, or have potential to have, impact on Reserves and Cadets in the South East:

- Project Phoenix is a study into provision, by one Agency, of the white vehicle fleet nationally to the Army as a whole. This has raised a number of concerns that the Cadets will lose the flexibility they currently enjoy with the provision of SE RFCA resourced vehicles. Consequently, CRFCA is seeking exemption for RFCAs from this arrangement, at least for the first year until we can see how effectively the project is working; Wessex RFCA is leading on this.
- The ongoing Volunteer Estate Modernisation Team (VEMT) seeks to rationalise the volunteer and cadet estate. Pressure is being exerted to delay any decisions on this until the laydown of the Reserves is known post-FR20.
- MoD Reserve Forces & Cadets is currently investigating a new model for delivering a future policy for employer engagement. A composite employer/community/National Employer Advisory Board/Armed Forces in Society model under a joint engagement umbrella may emerge.
- One Army Recruiting has been put out to tender for provision by one, commercial, organisation under a Recruiting Partnership Project.

Undoubtedly, one of the key high spots of the year has been the huge success of Cadet150 in the South-East. It would be

iniquitous to highlight any particular event; without exception, the Counties pulled out all stops to create memorable events and enhance the cadet experience for their Cadets and Adult Volunteers. We hope to maintain this momentum into the next training year, especially as we can link it with the 70th anniversary of the Air Training Corps.

You will be aware that Defence as a whole, in common with the majority of the rest of the Country, have been subjected to severe financial pressures. Inevitably, these have begun to impact on RFCAs and the situation is anticipated to deteriorate further into the next financial year. SE RFCA is in a stronger position than most due to greater opportunity to generate income through commercial leases and lettings. SE RFCA is planning to put in place mechanisms to maximise this commercial potential. I wish to thank the SE RFCA permanent staff for their efforts this year, particularly Col Amédée Miéville who hands over as Deputy (West) after 8 years of excellent work, to Lt Col Chris Booth.

Looking forward to 2012, not only will the Armed Forces be adjusting to the post-SDSR and Avanti structure, but we also have HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics. We anticipate another busy year.



Col Stephen Oxlade is presented to HRH The Duchess of Gloucester at the Cadet150 Parade in Aylesbury.

## PERFORMANCE AND PEOPLE



### THE PRESIDENT HANDS OVER

Mrs Sarah Goad JP, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, joined the old South East Territorial,

Auxiliary & Volunteer Reserves Association in 1997 as Vice President for Surrey. She became President in Apr 2000, handing over on the merger of the South East and East Wessex Associations in Oct 2000. She returned to the role of President in 2006. Despite all her many other commitments, she has found the time for the military elements of the County, and further afield throughout the South East. Since 1997, Mrs Goad has been a staunch supporter of the Reserves and Cadets, and a source of invaluable advice for a number of Chief Executives and County Chairmen. SE RFCA thanks her for all the tremendous support, work and dedication she has put into the Presidency over these years and looks forward to her continued Association membership as Vice President of Surrey.



Maj Gen Martin White CB CBE JP, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, takes over as President. He was commissioned into the RASC in 1964. Among

his appointments during his service are Commander Force Maintenance Area during the Gulf War, Director General Log Support, Colonel Commandant Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) and Honorary Colonel 165 Port Regiment RLC and Southampton UOTC. He was Vice Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight from 1999 until being appointed Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant in 2006. The Association welcomes him into his new role.

### PERFORMANCE

The MoD is committed to a one-third reduction in administrative costs over the planning round period. In addition, it expects to save at least £3 billion in efficiencies by 2014/15 (8% in real terms) through further improvements in areas such as Defence Equipment; work examining the use of Service personnel; reviewing procurement; the management of the Defence Estate, as well as other opportunities presented in the Defence Review. Clearly the current financial position, and necessary restrictive measures imposed as a result, has impacted on the

ability of the Association to deliver against the core outputs of:

- Recruiting Support for Reserves.
- Support to Employers.
- Administration of the ACF and CCF.
- Provision of Property and Facilities Management for the TA and all Cadet Forces.
- Support to the Regional 'Firm Base' through Community Engagement (CE); Support to Cadets & Youth; Support to Veterans; Support to injured soldiers and Personnel Recovery Unit (PRU); Informing and Influencing.

The Treasury has imposed a ban on using external marketing agencies for recruiting. With both 7 RIFLES and 3 PWRR trying to build up strength, this has presented a number of challenges. Nevertheless, both Battalions continue to increase in strength by dint of imagination, hard work and by positioning TA Liaison Officers in Army Career Information Offices within key major conurbations.

The significant cut to the SaBRE budget for Employer Support events has impacted severely on external activities such as Employers Abroad and Executive Stretch. SE RFCA activities, however, have continued with little reduction, funded by Regionally Generated Income. Until the laydown of the Reserve Forces is known following FR20, there is an understandable reluctance to expend resources on improvement to the Reserves estate (other than statutory, mandatory, health & safety and security measures). The emphasis this year has therefore been on improving the two worst Cadet centres in each County. There have also been a few late notice new builds of Cadet Centres.

The Cadet outputs have, generally speaking, not been adversely affected by financial stringencies. The paid training days situation has improved this year and support to the Cadet estate continues unchanged.

Support to the Firm Base is a real growth area for RFCAs, particularly in the overlapping

areas of CE, support to the PRU, support to injured soldiers and support to Veterans. The UK concept of Firm Base can be defined as "a secure environment that sustains the Force, enables training for, and deployment on, operations and ensures the consent and support of the public". This is an area in which the Association membership can be of real and tangible benefit.

### PERSONNEL – FAREWELLS

**Colonel Piers Bateman TD, Vice Chairman Hampshire and Isle of Wight**, has been involved with the Reserve Forces since 1968 when he was commissioned into the Royal Hampshire Regiment. He left in 1974 and in 1984 was commissioned into the Wessex Regiment. His appointments include CO 2 WESSEX, Dep Comd 145 (HC) Bde and Colonel TA, HQ Inf. Piers succeeded Colonel Bill Stevens OBE as Vice Chairman in 2002.

**Commander Philip Yetman RD RNR, Vice Chairman Navy**, joined the Royal Naval Reserve in 1974 and was commissioned in 1975. During his career, he served in HMS WESSEX and was CO of HMS KING ALFRED for two years from 2001. In 2004 he succeeded Commander David Belfield RD as Vice Chairman Navy.

**Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Willis TD, Vice Chairman Berkshire**, commenced his TA service in 1974 with the RE (V). He has seen service with the Royal Hong Kong Regiment, the Sultanate of Oman and with 12 Engr Bde. In 1997 he was appointed SO1 (Engrs) HQ 4 Div and Vice President of the Territorial Commissions Board. Andrew succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Clive Ainsley TD as Vice Chairman in 2004.

**Group Captain Mike Bruce FRAeS RAF (Retd), Vice Chairman Air**, joined the Royal Air Force in 1964, training as a Navigator. He has served in a variety of roles, retiring from the RAF in 1996. He held appointments with DERA and BAE Systems from 1996-2001 and in 2002 established his own defence consultancy. He was Vice Chairman NW and IoM RFCA from 2002-05, and succeeded Group Captain Bob Dixon OBE as Vice Chairman Air in 2008.



Air Cadets parade through Oxford.

## ESTATE AND PR

### ESTATE, WORKS AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

This year saw a directive that restricted funding on the TA Estate to Health & Safety, Statutory & Mandatory and Security Work. All other funds went to improve the Cadet Estate. The CE directed that the two worst cadet huts in each county would be prioritised for improvement. Following a request to DInfra, SE RFCA were permitted to upgrade and/or re-provision three Cadet ACF Dets at Aldershot (moving from Parsons Barracks to form joint accommodation with the ATC), Farnham (extension to provide accommodation to scale) and Wolverton to form joint accommodation with ATC. Other upgrades/ improvements completed within the financial year include ACF Dets at Witney, Wheatley, Headington, High Wycombe, Wallingford, Fareham, Romsey, Hove, Farncombe, Fordingbridge and the ATC at Swanley. New Projects completed in year were the joint ACF/ATC Centre at St. Mary's Bay (Dymchurch) and an ATC Activity Centre in Crowborough Camp. For the coming FY we are currently planning new projects at William Ramsey School (ATC), Willink School (ATC) and TA Blighmont (joint ATC/ACF). Finally, RFCAs have been chosen as the conduit to adapt the homes of injured soldiers, in conjunction with PRU, and have just received the first adaptation task in Milton Keynes.

In May 10, the new Prime Minister directed all Government Departments to reduce energy consumption by 10% within this FY. Due in part to a number of spend to save and energy efficiency measure introduced within SE RFCA Estate in 2009/10, and the enthusiastic support of both Reservists and Cadets at all our sites, SE RFCA is on target to meet this 10% reduction target. Combined consumption is currently running at 11.4% reduction across the estate. Following Energy Reports, a number of sites have now completed a full energy efficiency



Edward Brooks Barracks, Abingdon.



The first Solar PV powered cadet hut in the UK at the Banbury joint Sea and Army Cadet Detachment.

upgrade. This has included additional insulation, lighting/heating upgrade, automated controls and installation of renewable energy. Sites with work complete are the joint SCC/ACF Hut Banbury, ACF Witney, ACF Wheatley, ACF Winchester, Jersey Camp IoW, Southampton TAC, ACF Farncombe, Ashford TAC, CTC Dibgate and CTC Crowborough. Energy Reports have been completed on most TA Centres, including OUOTC and work will start on these sites as funding allows. In some cases energy efficiency measures have resulted in a 60% reduction in energy consumption. We now have renewable energy installed in the form of Solar Thermal, Solar PV plus Air Source Heat Pumps at five locations with a 6kW Wind Turbine at Dibgate in Kent. These installations are not only reducing the energy we need to buy in but also producing an income from the Governments FITs payment scheme that can help fund future initiatives.

### PUBLICITY AND RECRUITING

Since our last AGM, SE RFCA has had a very successful year. We continue to fund and assist in Marketing and Recruiting for both Reservists and Cadets. The SE RFCA PR Agencies DBA and BCP have attended Cadet150 Events, Open Evenings, Annual Camps, Employer Support and Lord-Lieutenant Award's ceremonies. They have, over time, developed good relationships with local media throughout our region and are available should units wish to use them for any local recruiting initiatives. At present they are not working with Commander Regional Recruiting (S&SE) as his budget has been severely cut and a freeze placed on hiring external contractors. However in the meantime some of the highlights have been:

An Open Evening for 655 Squadron Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop which received 22 expressions of interest, translating into 15 confirmed Recruits. A similar event is planned for Mar 11. 655 Sqn are currently at 19% of their full establishment.

An IT Campaign to assist in recruiting ACF Adult Instructors, using websites such as Monster.co.uk and jobs.co.uk. This campaign did raise some recruits, but emphasis continues on local initiatives rather than Regional or National campaigns.

A targeted recruiting campaign for both 3 PWRR and 7 RIFLES, including leaflet drops, email links on Monster and local boy stories in the local media. A series of open evenings for both units are currently being organised.

Set up online media pages such as Facebook, Twitter and the SE RFCA website to assist in Tri-Service Recruiting as well as to inform the community of future events. Sharepoint is also in place to inform all, and an online newsletter will soon be published to allow us to inform and influence a greater audience.

128 Field Company REME at the Southsea Show – an Armed Forces Day event. This proved to be a huge success, allowing Veterans and Reserves to be recognised by the community.

HMS KING ALFRED has had a successful recruiting year, running its own recruiting evenings every 4 to 5 weeks, achieving 12-15 potential applicants each time.



A recruiting event at the newly formed 655 Squadron Army Air Corps (V) at Middle Wallop.

103 Bn REME has 70 recruits in the pipeline. Assuming successful completion of training, this will bring the Battalion to nearly 70% manning. Good publicity was also received from the presentation of a SaBRE certificate to the supportive employer of one of their HERRICK-bound JNCOs.

There remains a concern over TA Officer recruiting, but uptake is expected to increase following the National Regular Officer Campaign being run by the Regional Marketing Manager.



266 (Southampton) Port Squadron recruiting event.

# CADETS

## CADETS

The highlight of 2010/11 has undoubtedly been Cadet150 – the 150th Anniversary of the Cadet Force Movement, which proved to be a great success. It provided a platform for all Cadets and Adult Instructors to reflect the Movement’s spirit of fun, excitement, adventure and community service. The reputation of the Cadet Forces has been enhanced, recruiting improved and its profile significantly risen across the region.

Three National events of particular note have been: The London Guildhall event of 2 Jun 10, primarily for Adult Volunteers; the Cadet Parade and March down the Mall and



Chief of the Defence Staff – General Sir David Richards KCB CBE DSO with Eastbourne CCF.

the Buckingham Palace Garden Party; the Cadet150 Expedition to Lesotho, supported by the Ulysses Trust, where a number of Cadets from across the SE Cadet Forces were selected to participate. All National events received good PR coverage, especially by BFBS, and the Garden Party was thoroughly enjoyed by all those in attendance. It was particularly pleasing to see all Cadets mixing together in one place, showing solidarity and a sense of pride for the occasion. Many of the high profile events were shown to be very effective in gaining recognition and acknowledgement of the role of the Cadet Forces; for example the parading with Veterans, serving personnel and Cadets on Armed Forces Day, had a tremendous impact on the community. Local and County Councils were fully behind the Cadet Movement, offering messages of support and resources.

The Joint Service Cadet Committees coordinated the County events ensuring all Tri-Service Cadets, including CCFs, were in a position to share resources and work together. As a result, many Cadet150 events were able to be held, in addition to routine cadet training which continued; it has been a very busy year! Lord-Lieutenants, High Sheriffs and other dignitaries attended numerous events and were hugely supportive



Cadets from ACF 11 Platoon (Arborfield) proudly wear their Blue Berets.

of the anniversary. As a consequence, Cadets took much pride in these events, recognising that the public was behind them and that they were receiving respect and acknowledgement. This in turn has had a direct effect on profile, retention, Tri-Service teamwork and cooperation. All of this was publicised by much excellent local PR coverage, with all possible media outlets being used to maximise publicity and awareness, resulting in more dynamic, cohesive press releases and a tangible feeling of true inter-Service cooperation. Finally, a range of mementoes such as Cadet150 Commemorative coins, t-shirts, banners, flags and commemorative brochures were produced to mark the overall celebrations for all concerned.

## OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST

The MoD Youth Engagement Study is now well underway and is examining how Defence engages with youth and whether our cadet services can be better organised and structured. The findings are expected to be published in late summer of 2011.

**A2 Rifle.** The issue of the new A2 Rifle is almost complete, although there have been delays due to provision of the weapon sights. In addition, a review of secure storage of these weapons have been carried out, necessitating upgrades to many of our secure storage facilities to meet the stringent security requirements concerning this weapon.

**County Cadet Training Centres.** These are the focus at present of a study into the provision of additional bedspaces to Regular and Reserve Forces, whenever there is spare capacity and it is appropriate to do so.

**Westminster Management and Cadet Resource (Calculator) System.** This system now enables the chain of command to predict and allocate resources to all cadet activities based on the numbers of cadets parading, including rations, ammunition,



Celebrating Cadet150 in Chichester Cathedral.

transport, adult pay, etc. This system is now common to the CCFs, SCC & RMCs and the ACF. The ATC continue to use the BADER system.

**Cadet Accommodation.** Despite ongoing restrictions of maintenance and new projects funding, a number of projects have been completed and a small number of new builds are in planning for the next financial year. There are a number of sites that need upgrading but these are being tackled via a priority system, as funding becomes available.

**Community Links.** SE RFCA continues to build links with the other regional youth

organisations, by supporting OUTREACH, Skill Force, the Military Preparation College, and many other civilian youth organisations, as part of the MoDs and Government’s Youth Agenda. Each of the County Joint Cadet Committees is actively engaging with Council and Borough Youth coordinating officers, by co-opting key officers onto the committees wherever possible. Finally, links with the many charitable organisations, at both national and local level, continue to be very strong with Cadets supporting all manner of events across the region on a regular basis.



The Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Major General M S White CB CBE JP planting a tree at Jersey Camp to commemorate Cadet150.

# FINANCE AND EMPLOYER SUPPORT

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND POSITION

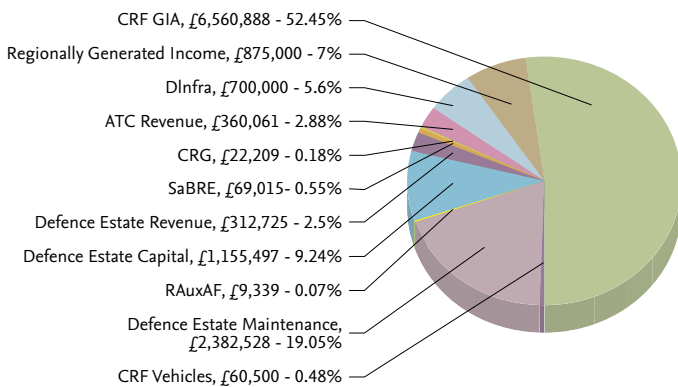
Grant in Aid (GIA) funding has been cut by £218k (3.2%) which necessitated the use of Regionally Generated Income (RGI) funds to cover the ACF Consolidated and TA Establishment Grant costs of £85k, leaving the balance to be absorbed by continued efficiency drives within the GIA area. Despite the GIA cuts, we anticipate continuing to carry forward to the following year a small reserve of £100k (1.5%), which is within the 2% constraint allowed and caters for some flexibility. Vehicles necessitated a lengthening of the replacement cycle for minibuses from 4 to 6 years but generally the funding will be adequate to meet our needs.

Although the Estates funding has been cut by £177k (6.9%) it is felt that this reduced figure is sufficient to maintain the vast majority of the estate in a condition which will continue to conform to the stringent legislative requirements. Additional funding has been received for new builds at ATC Hove, Penn and Crowborough as well as ACF Wolverton, Aldershot and Farnham. These new builds should be largely complete by the end of the year. SaBRE and RAuxAF funding was insufficient and had to be supplement from RGI by £19k.

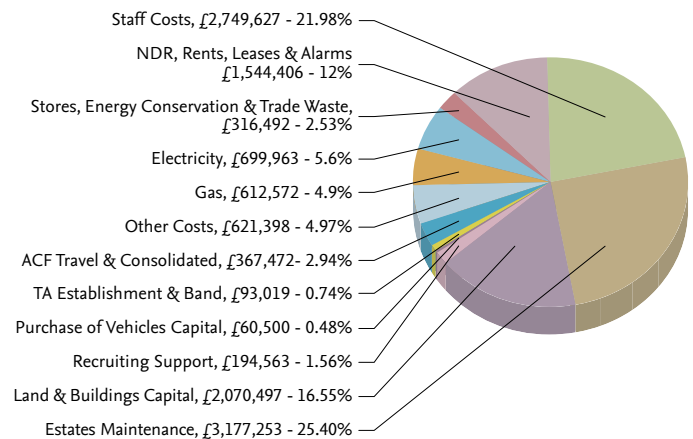
The RGI has been expensed broadly as follows:	£k
ACF Consolidated shortfall	25
TA Establishment/welfare shortfall	60
Recruiting support	75
SaBRE/RAuxAF	19
Capital works projects	215
Supplementary works improvement projects	481
<b>Total</b>	<b>875</b>

The two charts below show the areas of funding received and the main categories that it has been expensed under.

## Funding Sources



## Expenditure Categories



## EMPLOYER SUPPORT REPORT

The pace of mobilisation across the region over the last year has continued with units providing individual reinforcements for operations; predominantly in Afghanistan. Management of mobilisation remains problematic, not least as most Fit For Mobilisation (FFM) Reservists have been

deployed at least once; current legislation (RFA96) states that a Reservist may only be mobilised for 12 months in every five years, unless he/she volunteers. With the economic difficulties of the recession, there has been an increase in Reservist queries about their employment, not least in respect of redundancies not covered by the Safeguard of Employment Act 1985.

Work continues to convert more employers to supportive status, to establish more organisations on the Supporting Britain's Reserves and Employers (SaBRE) website listing and to maintain the good employer relationship we enjoy. Our targeted events this year have included a Reception on HMS VICTORY and most recently a reception at HMS KING ALFRED and a tour of HMS DARING – the latest Type 45 Destroyer. We also invite employers to attend wider events

such as Lord-Lieutenants' Award Ceremonies, Post Operational Presentations and numerous Army Presentation Team Events throughout the Counties.

Since April 2010, 176 supportive and support unknown employers and guests attended events and 56 SaBRE Certificates were presented. We have engaged with 281 new employers of Reservists, as well as with numerous other employers from the region at employer networking events.

Success continues in meeting SaBRE targets; the full year targets for FY2010-11 have been met in all but one area (web site listings); we fully expect to meet this target by the end of year. As a result of some hard work by Fleur Thomas, the Regional SaBRE Campaign Director (RSCD), we are starting to see results in terms of revised policies and statements of support.



SaBRE Certificate of Support presentation at Dover Castle.

At a recent RSCD Workshop, it was advised that targets would be removed for future years and that future direction would incorporate a wider digital strategy to engage with employers. The RSCDs were encouraged to engage more with Chambers of Commerce and other employer networks; a supportive employer marque (which can be used on employer stationery and websites) is being reconsidered as a tool for use by RSCDs, and this is to be welcomed. The SaBRE Marketing Plan is awaited; it is in first draft and due to be discussed at the ESEC on 8 Mar 11.

## PERSONNEL RECOVERY UNIT

Operations in Afghanistan and Iraq have left soldiers with life-changing injuries. The limitations for employment of these soldiers put pressure on the Army, which has a finite number of personnel available to deploy in support of the Government's foreign policy. Currently some 10% of Army personnel are unable to be deployed on operations and a further 13% have limitations on their deployability.

The Army Recovery Capability (ARC) was announced by the Chief of the General Staff in Feb 10; its key aim being to deliver "improved support, care and management of the Army's injured, wounded and long term sick personnel". A coordinated network of 11 Personnel Recovery Units (PRUs), each commanded by a serving Lieutenant Colonel and based regionally, provide support and guidance to personnel on a recovery pathway and their families. The PRU modus operandi is best summarised as "within a conducive military environment, to enable the swiftest return to duty or smoothest transition to an appropriately skilled and supported civilian life for all seriously wounded, injured or long term sick service personnel, irrespective of cause, in order to maximise deployability."

The 145 Brigade Personnel Recovery Unit formed on 1 Sep 10 in Aldershot. It has also taken responsibility for delivery of



1 Signal Squadron Annual Camp.

ARC outcomes for 2 (SE) Bde, expanding its area of responsibility to the 9 SE RFCA Counties, Nepal and Brunei. The PRU effectively coordinates rehabilitation and resettlement services, bringing together a range of separate services into a single coherent programme. This service aims to offer an array of medical, pastoral and welfare support to serving and ex-serving personnel through the medium of a specially tailored Individual Recovery Plan (IRP). The IRP is developed at initial assessment and co-ordinated and managed by a Personnel Recovery Officer (PRO), assigned to each individual. This ensures recovering personnel, and their families, are able to access the very best support they need at each stage of their recovery and IRPs will be tailored to suit personal ambition, jobs market needs, personality traits and skills. The process can take years, and the emphasis is to ensure that the individual leaves the Army in a timely manner – but only once the right skills, housing (including disability adaptations where appropriate), vehicles, financial support and suitable employment (if relevant) are in place.



Kent Cadets at a Reunion Day chatting to Alex Marsh, who was a Cadet in 1949.



A soldier from 103 Battalion REME on Exercise Dark Pony.



A Personnel Recovery Centre.



A group of Employers visit HMS Daring.

## TRAINING AND CONCLUSION

### NEWTOWN RANGE AND JERSEY CAMP

The Newtown Range, Training Area & Jersey Camp bookings for 2010 have been good with an average of 64 units using the camp and training area, mostly from cadet organisations. Some TA Units have conducted their Annual Camp there, with the Medical and Royal Signals services being regular customers; as are the Royal Marine Landing craft units who find the creek and surrounding area a perfect training ground. Special Forces, Danish and Swedish Marine units have also used the training area within the last 12 months. Sea Cadets units from the Mainland make use of the local Sea Cadet unit in Cowes for seamanship training, whilst using Jersey Camp as a base.

Assistance to non military units and organisations include the Police, CID (special ops) for drugs and tracker dog training, the Prison Service for drug and passive search dog training, as well as Youth Groups and the Girls Venture Corps. The training area has also been used for the Wight Challenge, a charitable triathlon type of event in Sep, and the local Rifle club use the range on Sunday afternoons once a month.



TA Soldiers Training at Jersey Camp.

Conservation and environmental issues are key areas for Jersey Camp. Local groups carry out surveys on flora and fauna, assisting the thriving conservation group with records of their surveys. The AGM of the conservation group took place in November with the new chairman Lt Col Chris Booth; certificates of thanks from Defence Estates were presented to Sue Blackwell and Lee Glover for their dedication to conservation on the estate, and the group said farewells to the outgoing Chairman, Col Amédée Miéville.

The Camp has been converted to solar energy for hot water systems and is able to produce electricity via solar panels. Better controls of the under floor heating and new energy saving light fittings have been

installed and this has attracted interest at council leadership level. Money will be saved and an income generated from the government grant for environmental schemes.

In May the annual open day took place with about 100 visitors being shown around by our conservation group members. Green Winged Orchids used to grow quite profusely on the ancient range meadow but, in recent years, their growth has been diminishing. VIP visitors have included the Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight (with his connections in the local TA unit and cadets, he is a regular visitor) and the Leader of the Isle of Wight Council who visited to study how the solar systems might be used in council buildings on the Island.



Helicopter landing at Jersey Camp during Annual Camp.



Cadet150 Parade in Aylesbury.



7 RIFLES Annual Camp.



Berkshire ACF Cadet raising money for the ABF.

### CONCLUSION

We have achieved a tremendous amount this year, despite facing tremendous financial pressures. The financial situation is going to get worse before it gets better and, from a resource perspective, we must be prepared to face some fairly taut years. FR20 must deliver an enduring and properly resourced Reservist community. Above all, the evident public support for the Armed Forces and evidence from the FR20 dialogue indicate that the Reserves and Cadets are still a hugely valued part of the Nation's fabric. Connected with this, while we go about our business, both personal and Association connected, let us not forget our many deployed Reservists, and wish them a safe return to their families.

I would wish to thank our President and Vice-Presidents for all they do for the Association. Sarah Goad, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, steps down this year after many years as our President and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her, from all of us, for her thoughtful, effective support and sage advice during that time. We welcome Major General Martin White, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, as our new President. Finally, may I thank all Members of the Association for their continuing support, and for the immensely important part they all play in ensuring that SE RFCA continues to deliver.