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*the magazine for
defence equipment
and support*



**DE&S oversee record
Atlas cargo drop trials**

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Foreword

"Each year Remembrance Sunday brings into sharp focus for me the importance of what we do – provide safe equipment and support to today's armed forces"



By Sir Simon Bollom, CEO

I was delighted the Ceremony of Remembrance at MOD Abbey Wood was so well attended and know all our DE&S sites will have also paid their respects in their own equally poignant way.

Each year Remembrance Sunday brings into sharp focus for me the importance of what we do – provide safe equipment and support to today's armed forces.

Our dedicated workforce's determination to do that, I'm pleased to say, has seen some of our teams recognised at this year's Minister for Defence Procurement Awards.

Well done to the Chinook project team, who were the overall winners, and to all our teams that enjoyed success – you thoroughly deserve it and your incredible efforts are hugely appreciated.

It is another success this year for Mark Geoghegan, the Chinook team leader, who also featured in a national newspaper extolling the exciting nature of project management at DE&S.

Back to business, our continued achievements are reflected this month in the significant news around F-35, including the delivery of the 17th aircraft, and news that the UK has purchased a further 17 of the cutting-edge fighter jets.

Elsewhere, a state-of-the-art Chinook Mk6 synthetic training facility that will help Chinook crews rehearse missions has been officially opened at RAF Odiham.

Engineers on board HMS Prince of Wales have turned on its diesel generators for the first time – another significant step in delivering the UK's second new aircraft carrier.

We have overseen record-breaking trials where an

RAF Atlas delivered a cargo load weighing 23 tonnes by parachute over Salisbury Plain and confirmed the aircraft's ability to do so without needing to land.

And DE&S has provided significant support to Exercise Trident Juncture and ensured that the biggest NATO training exercise for many years was a success.

There have been individual triumphs too, with Lucy Finch winning her category at the prestigious Women in Defence UK awards and DE&S apprentice Phoebe Loveridge, who has been named the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) Apprentice of the Year 2018.

While Phoebe has just finished her apprenticeship, Desider has a fascinating story this month around one of our more recent starters, who says he is thoroughly enjoying life at DE&S.

Craig Hamilton served with the Royal Marines for 23 years before changing track and joining us, in his 40s, as an apprentice. His life experience and understanding of equipment will be invaluable and proves that our apprentice scheme attracts a wide range of talented people.

I am sure the great work we do to promote DE&S, such as our employees who supported the London Science Museum's 'We are Engineers Family Festival' and were able to engage with thousands of schoolchildren, will ensure we continue to recruit such talented people.

And finally, thank you to all those who made the effort to attend the funeral of RAF veteran Frank Cox following his wife's heartfelt appeal. She was clearly very touched by your kind efforts.

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Photo courtesy of QinetiQ

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Air Vice-Marshal Graham Russell, Director Helicopters, talks to Desider about his role, the importance of safety and a better future for DE&S



I have been honoured to be the Director of the Helicopters Operating Centre (OC) for just over two years, leading the OC responsible for the MOD's owned and leased helicopter types; from our biggest fleets – Chinook, Merlin and Apache – to small, single aircraft contracts. While large acquisition projects often get the headlines, our in-service support activity is equally important. One of the most rewarding parts of my role is to witness enhancements in availability and reliability and reductions in cost which have been won by the in-service teams through dedication and hard work. Such hard work doesn't often hit the headlines but is essential in delivering effective operational support.

An important aspect of my role is to deliver helicopters which are safe to fly and provide a high level of protection to their occupants. The focus on safety over recent decades has delivered a step-change in safety levels, with aircraft accident rates a fraction of those achieved historically due to better design, testing and safety systems. However, we can't rest

on our laurels and I frequently work with the Helicopters delivery teams to ensure that new aircraft and equipment are safe when they enter service and remain safe throughout their life. The recent safe rundown of the Lynx and Sea King fleets to their out of service dates has been an essential, but frequently overlooked, part of our role.

A key focus for my team is delivery of the remaining elements of transformation and the delivery of DE&S@21 – our vision for DE&S. In considering our future, we should also remember our transformation journey. Consider what we have achieved together over the past few years and you cannot fail to be impressed. Through professionalisation and the use of effective tools, we are becoming a truly intelligent customer, holding our contractors to account in a much more effective way and ensuring delivery to time, cost and quality. Increasingly, we are spotting risks and delays in projects before our contractors do; driving more effective resolutions, saving time and money and delivering a better product. Consequently, our teams

To aspire to be the best and continue delivering for our armed forces we cannot afford to stand still and need to look for the next opportunity

and individuals are winning awards, including national industry awards – a real sense of pride for us all.

Of course, to aspire to be the best and continue delivering for our armed forces we cannot afford to stand still and need to look for the next opportunity. For me, the adoption of Smart Working is that opportunity. When I introduced elements of Smart Working in a previous role the trust in everyone to deliver to their objectives led to increases in output, flexibility and morale. It's less about "time at the office desk", it's more about the positive effect you are having. We have a great opportunity; we must seize it, as part of DE&S@21.

Many of the changes we are seeing will make DE&S more effective and a more rewarding place to work. It is difficult to remember that when today's problems appear difficult. However, problems are there to be solved and if we focus as much on our successes as we do on our challenges then the vision of DE&S@21 will become a self-fulfilling prophecy. The future is ours to own and is achievable if we work together.

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Eventful end to year for UK F-35 Lightning programme

Pictured: An F-35B Lightning II jet onboard HMS Queen Elizabeth (Picture by LPhot Kyle Heller)



DE&S was involved in several important UK F-35 Lightning milestones towards the end of 2018, including an order that will double the fleet to 35 aircraft.

The 17 new F-35B jets, which will be delivered between 2020 and 2022, will complement the 17 British aircraft currently based at RAF Marham and in the US, as well as one additional aircraft already on order.

Overall, the UK has committed to procure 138 aircraft over the life of the programme.

Sir Simon Bollom, DE&S CEO, said: "As the largest operator of F-35s outside of the US, the acquisition of 17 more Lightning aircraft underscores our commitment to the programme. This new contract demonstrates how our armed forces are equipped by DE&S with the latest equipment and support."

The 17 jets being ordered are part of a \$6 billion contract for 255 aircraft being built for the global F-35 enterprise. This is good news for the UK economy, as British companies are building approximately 15 per cent by value of all 3,000-plus F-35s planned for production.

Mark Thornton, Lighting

This new contract demonstrates how our armed forces are equipped by DE&S with the latest equipment and support

Sir Simon Bollom, DE&S CEO

Delivery Team Leader, DE&S, added: "The team is now turning to delivering these aircraft and to achieving other important milestones, foremost the achievement of Initial Operating Capability."

In 2018, the UK took delivery of three F-35B aircraft – the last of which took place on November 15. The jet flew into Beaufort, South Carolina, and will arrive at RAF Marham next year.

Another key milestone is the completion of phase one of First of Class Flight Trials on HMS Queen Elizabeth. The trials took place off the US east coast, and successfully demonstrated how aircraft and carrier can operate safely together.

Two jets and four test pilots, based at the Integrated Test Force (ITF) at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland, joined the carrier in late September. Over a two-month period, they performed 200 short take-offs, 187 vertical landings, 15 'rolling' landings and dropped 54 dummy bombs into the Atlantic.

The carrier is now spending time in Norfolk, Virginia, offloading the ITF team and their equipment before heading back to Portsmouth in time for Christmas.

The success of the deployment

allows the ship to move on to operational trials next year with British-owned F-35s flown by Naval and Air Force aviators based at RAF Marham.

Separately, the MOD has awarded a £160 million contract to Kier VolkerFitzpatrick to deliver infrastructure to ready RAF Lakenheath for two squadrons of US F-35s. The Suffolk airbase will be the first permanent international site for US Air Force F-35s in Europe and continues the base's long and proud history of supporting US Air Force capability in the UK.

State-of-the-art Chinook simulators ready for training

Pictured: A pilot using the Chinook Mk6 synthetic training facility at RAF Odiham (Picture courtesy of Lockheed Martin UK)



A new, purpose-built facility procured by DE&S that uses cutting-edge technology to replicate real-life operations for Chinook helicopter crews has been officially opened.

The Chinook Mk6 synthetic training facility was built following a £53 million contract with Lockheed Martin UK, Rotary and Mission Systems. It is housed at RAF Odiham in Hampshire – home of the Chinook Force, a key component of the Joint Helicopter Command.

The augmented reality technology will help Chinook crews train and prepare for missions as a whole-crew in a synthetic environment for the first time in the 40-year history of the UK Chinook Force.

Russ Cole, Flight Simulation and Synthetic Trainer team leader at DE&S, said: “For the first time we are able to connect the pilots and rear crew so they can work and train together as a whole crew.

“This is supplemented by augmented reality technology, which means not only can they see what is physically there, but we are also able to project the outside world that isn’t there, providing a realistic and absolutely fantastic view of the world synthetically.”

The technology we have been able to deliver is a tremendous success and seeing it in action is a real boost to the team

Russ Cole, Flight Simulation and Synthetic Trainer team leader at DE&S

The team at DE&S have been working on the project for almost five years, with many of them seeing it from start to finish.

“It’s really great to see that we are delivering something that is absolutely cutting-edge for the air crews to train in”, Mr Cole added.

“We have had our successes and our challenges to work through, but the technology we have been able to deliver is a tremendous success and seeing it in action is a real boost to the team.”

The state-of-the-art technology includes two cockpit simulators, a rear cabin device and a suite of computer based training equipment. It will train crews on how to work together in specific flying, emergency and mission capabilities of the Chinook Mk6 aircraft, such as relocating troops and equipment around the battlefield or evacuating citizens from dangerous conditions in national and overseas environments.

This highly realistic and immersive environment allows the aircrew to undertake high risk training operations, such as a battlefield re-supply or a medical evacuation in an urban area, from the safety of a simulator.

The contract with Lockheed

Martin UK will now see the company provide a 10-year service package to the Chinook Mk6 Synthetic Training System, which will deliver around 4,000 simulator hours each year, ensuring crews are at a permanent state of readiness to deploy.

Adrian Baguley, Director Air Support at DE&S, said: “DE&S is proud to be providing this new state-of-the-art Chinook training facility for the Chinook Force that draws on cutting-edge technology, including augmented reality, to give the whole of our Chinook crews a new immersive synthetic training capability. This new world-class facility will enable the crews to prepare for missions across the globe.”

Bonus content at
www.des.mod.uk





DE&S staff honour RAF veteran

A contingent of 26 RAF personnel serving at MOD Abbey Wood made their way to a veteran's funeral after his wife made a heartfelt appeal for people to attend.

Francis Raymond Cox, known to his friends and family as Frank, passed away on October 24 from vascular dementia at the age of 92.

Having lost touch with friends his wife Jennifer feared not many would attend his funeral and was particularly keen that some military attended to recognise his service in the RAF during the 1940s.

To his family's delight, following an appeal from Veterans Honoured, more than 150 people crammed into All Saints' Church in Winterbourne Down on Monday, November 20, for the service.

Flight Lieutenant Karla Vaile, who coordinated the DE&S attendees, said: "We felt it was important to recognise and honour the service that Mr Cox had given to his country and we were delighted to give him the send-off he deserved."

Francis' widow, Jennifer, said: "I have been completely overwhelmed by the support we have had."

JAMES Modern launched

A critical engineering and asset management system for land equipment all around the world has been upgraded to ensure an enhanced user experience.

JAMES provides engineering and capability management information for over 1.6 million pieces of equipment across the Land Environment, including small arms, parachutes and plant equipment.

The new system, JAMES Modern, gives users an enhanced experience with easier navigation, a new layout and responsive dynamic content.

The JAMES project team, together with Lockheed Martin, were able to effectively make the upgrade because the introduction of MODNet allowed the team greater flexibility to overhaul the software.

Chris Whiting, JAMES Delivery Team Leader, said: "Keeping our asset and engineering records up to date is imperative, not only for the life of the equipment, but for ensuring it continues to serve the needs of those on the front line."

The new system launched on November 28. Visit www.james-project.rmil.uk

Julie wins prestigious award for outstanding service

DE&S employee Julie Jefferies has won a MOD Finance Award for her outstanding service and dedication to the Finance Function.

Julie, who has worked in the MOD for more than 30 years, has been at DE&S since it was founded in 2008, working at first as a Planning/Finance officer for the Fleet Plans office.

Julie works in Joint Enablers and remains in the domain having taken partial retirement in August.

Of her award Julie said: "I was very shocked and surprised to have won, but also honoured. Many of us come to work to do the best we can, without looking for reward or recognition, so when it does happen, with such a high award as well, it's very uplifting."

Julie travelled to MOD Main

Building for the awards ceremony, which she described as being a "very exciting and thought-provoking day."

She added: "DE&S has given me opportunities to develop a successful career by being very supportive, encouraging training and providing access to professional qualifications. The organisation has also been very helpful now of my taking partial retirement, recognising I still have skills and experience that I can continue to use and pass on to newer members of the organisation."

Others recognised included Jayne Norman from DE&S Ships, who won the Outstanding Contribution to the Finance Function, and DE&S Apprentice Dominic Brown, who received a commendation in the Emerging Talent of the Year category.





Hundreds of DE&S staff came to a standstill at MOD Abbey Wood to observe the traditional silence in memory of UK Service personnel who have fallen in combat around the globe. The ceremony, led by DE&S Padre Wing Commander Andrew Jones, saw CEO Sir Simon Bollom lead a party of senior DE&S officials in laying a wreath in the centre of the central piazza alongside Mr Alan Grey (Trade Unions) and local MP Jack Lopresti.

PM pays respects to Jeremy Heywood

Prime Minister Theresa May paid tribute to Jeremy Heywood, who died on November 4, just days after retiring as Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service.

Lord Heywood, who held numerous senior roles within government and was appointed Head of the Civil Service in September 2014, was 56 years old.

The Prime Minister said: "Jeremy worked tirelessly to serve our country in the finest traditions of the Civil Service and he is a huge loss to British public life.

"I will always be grateful for the support which he gave me personally and will remember his achievements across his career as we regret that he did not have the chance to offer his talents for longer in retirement."

Sir Mark Sedwill, Lord Heywood's successor as Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service, said: "Jeremy considered it a privilege to lead the hundreds of thousands of civil servants up and down the country, and across the world, who work day after day to make people's lives better."



Phoebe lands apprentice award

DE&S apprentice Phoebe Loveridge has been named the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) Apprentice of the Year 2018.

Phoebe, who recently took up a full-time position at HMNB Devonport for the Submarine Delivery Agency (SDA), was recognised for her outstanding engineering and technical understanding as well as her work as a role model to young women looking to get into engineering.

Phoebe said: "This award means so much to me. I feel proud to represent Women in Engineering and show the

opportunities and work that gets undertaken down in the South West at HMNB Devonport."

The IET said that, during her apprenticeship, Phoebe stood out from her peers, always ready to volunteer for STEM events in local schools and working with children during a six-week STEM event to encourage women in engineering within the local area.

"I want to continue to act as a role model for females in Engineering and encourage young individuals to start their careers through apprenticeships", she added.





“Everybody was on their hands and knees searching for my nose. I needed eight hours of plastic surgery!”

After 23 years of active service with the Royal Marines, Craig Hamilton decided it was time for a change. He swapped protecting Royals and dignitaries for a place on the DE&S engineering apprentice scheme – and he’s loving every minute. Craig spoke to Desider editor Tom Morris

“Bodyguarding is not about throwing yourself in front of bullets – contrary to what Hollywood would have you believe”, Craig Hamilton tells me with a wry smile.

“Your sole purpose is to protect the individual and draw fire away from them – and that’s towards you instead if necessary.”

Craig knows what he is talking about, having served several of his years with the Royal Marines in Close Protection in Afghanistan, assuring the safety of, amongst many others, Prince Charles, politician David Miliband and former UK Ambassador to Afghanistan Sir Mark Sedwill, who was appointed as Head of the Civil Service in October.

“In Kabul the British Embassy was a prime target and, frankly, anything or anyone British was considered fair game by the Taliban and Al-Qaeda,” Craig, 45, said.

“Improvised Explosive Device attacks and being shot at were regular occurrences and there were a few very close shaves, but that’s what we were trained to do.

“I got a real buzz from it but, when you are constantly perceiving threat and having to operate on a different alertness level, it’s almost impossible to switch it off – which can be pretty frustrating.”

Craig had decided to join the Royal Marines after realising a life in retail was not for him.

After completing his training with distinction, he was posted in 1996 to 45 Commando in Arbroath, where he was immediately dispatched on jungle training in Brunei.

After a brief secondment to London, Craig spent six years with the Royal Marines Police, where, while on the front line in operations including Operation Telic in Iraq, he was responsible for investigating disciplinary matters, both minor and major within

the Royal Marines.

Craig said: “I had an interesting time there. On one occasion the vehicle I was travelling in on a night convey flipped six times end over end and when we stopped bullets were raining down on us.

“We were sitting ducks but somehow we got out of there, but to this day we don’t know what happened and the guys who recovered the vehicle couldn’t believe we had survived.”

He adds casually: “I was pretty lucky with injury really. To be honest, my worst was when I was disarming a weapon and, through my own stupidity, the recoil spring shot out and ripped my nose apart.

“Everybody was on their hands and knees searching for my nose and I took it up to the medics who sowed the flap on inside out and upside down. I needed eight hours of plastic surgery!”

After a few years further service, Craig started to assess his next move in life.

“I was a Sergeant by this point and given the option to extend a further five years, which would have taken me through to 50, but decided it was time for a change”, he said.

“My wife saw the DE&S apprentice scheme on social media and said it sounded perfect for me and I had to agree. One of the attractions was that I may get the opportunity to help shape the thinking process around kit so we can provide the very best to the armed forces.

“I’m of course a lot older than many of them and that did make me wonder whether it was the right thing, but I have loved every minute. I genuinely look forward to going to work every morning.

“It’s been a great decision.”

Interested? Visit www.des.mod.uk for details of Apprentice and graduate schemes.

DE&S' Lucy Finch triumphs in 'emerging talent' category at Women in Defence UK awards 2018

Pictured: Lucy Finch receiving her award from Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson (Picture courtesy of Women in Defence UK awards)



DE&S employee Lucy Finch has said she was 'deeply honoured' to win the 'emerging talent' category at the prestigious Women in Defence UK awards.

Lucy, of the DE&S International Guns Missiles and Rockets team at MOD Abbey Wood, picked up the award presented by Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson during a glitzy ceremony held at The Imperial War Museum in London.

The 25-year-old, who has a degree in engineering and a post-graduate diploma in explosive ordnance engineering, was nominated for her work as the Lead Weapons Integration Engineer delivering Paveway IV Mk2 laser-guided bomb onto the UK F-35 aircraft.

Lucy, who took up engineering because of her love of problem-solving, said: "The award ceremony was incredible and I'm deeply honoured to be considered amongst a field of such talented women from across defence."

Lucy, who started working at DE&S four years ago, was

The award ceremony was incredible and I'm deeply honoured to be considered amongst a field of such talented women from across defence

Lucy Finch, winner (emerging talent) at Women in Defence UK awards

commended for how she manages and engages with stakeholders such as the US Government and industry partners and is happy to challenge the status quo or the general consensus if she believes that an approach can be improved.

"It was very encouraging to see such strong support for developing diversity in the sector and I left the event inspired by what others were achieving within their own areas", she added.

"I'd encourage others to nominate those they work with for next year's awards, as we do some amazing work at DE&S that deserves to be recognised."

Also shortlisted for an award was DE&S employee Lorna Stubbs, the Engineering Trainee Development Manager at Devonport, who was nominated in the 'Unsung heroines' category.

The duo were amongst finalists in 10 categories chosen from more than 300 entries from across the Defence community, including the armed forces, Civil Service, GCHQ, MI5 and defence industry.

Lorna said: "It was a real surprise and honour to be

even nominated for this award, specifically as the nomination was made by the Submarine Delivery Agency, who benefit greatly from the apprentices that I manage."

Women in Defence UK aims to inspire women to succeed, share experience, build networks and encourage talent at all levels to join the defence sector.

Angela Owen, founder of Women in Defence UK, said: "We're delighted to have seen such an inspiring and diverse list of finalists during this special year marking the centenary of suffrage. Each finalist should feel rightly proud of their exceptional achievements and recognition within the defence community."

UK Atlas breaks parachute delivery record during DE&S cargo drop trials

Pictured: The DE&S cargo drop trials over Salisbury Plain (Picture courtesy of QinetiQ)



An RAF Atlas delivered a cargo load weighing 23 tonnes by parachute over Salisbury Plain in a record-breaking test of the transport aircraft's next-generation capabilities.

The drops, representing the heaviest overall load ever air-dropped by a UK aircraft, took place as part of trials overseen by DE&S in partnership with the RAF, the Joint Air Delivery Test and Evaluation Unit and Air Warfare Centre, QinetiQ and Airbus.

The trials confirm Atlas' ability to deliver heavy loads, such as military equipment, supplies and humanitarian aid, without needing to land.

DE&S Atlas A400M Delivery Team Leader James Dowson said: "These successful trials – involving the largest load ever air-dropped by a UK aircraft – are an impressive demonstration of A400M's ability to deliver essential cargo to where it is needed.

"This has been a fantastic team effort, bringing together staff from DE&S, the RAF A400M community at Brize Norton and

This has been a fantastic team effort, bringing together staff from DE&S, the RAF A400M community at Brize Norton and our industry partners

James Dowson, DE&S Atlas A400M Delivery Team Leader

our industry partners to mature tactical capabilities for front line use in RAF operations."

DE&S personnel set the engineering requirement and ensured the aircraft was airworthy for the trial.

Atlas allows the RAF to deliver heavier loads by parachute than ever before. By comparison, the maximum cargo weight deliverable via the Container Delivery System from a C-130J Hercules is approximately 15 tonnes.

The UK's Atlas fleet is being developed to complement the Hercules fleet in support of transport operations all over the world. Atlas is currently in service with 24 and 70 Squadrons, based at RAF Brize Norton.

Wing Commander Ed Horne, Officer Commanding 70 Squadron, said: "Atlas has already proven itself on active service, including in medical evacuation and humanitarian relief roles.

"These trials confirm the RAF has one of the most capable transport fleets in the entire world and are a significant step forward in qualifying Atlas for even more operations."

Results from the trial, which took place last month, will now be fed back into the Atlas development programme, which is qualifying the aircraft to perform such operations in active RAF service.

The international Atlas programme, delivered by Airbus, is supporting around 8,000 jobs in the UK. In total, the UK has ordered 22 Atlas aircraft, all of which are expected to be delivered to the RAF by the early 2020s.





On challenges, team pride and making a difference

Vikash Patel is team leader of the Special Projects Communications and Force Protection (SPCFP) delivery team at DE&S, delivering life-saving equipment

What does your role involve?

As SPCFP team leader, I am accountable for leading a team of over 110 staff comprising civilians and military personnel to deliver and support Specialist Communications and Force Protection Electronic Counter Measures (ECM) to multiple front line commands. We deliver truly life-saving capabilities by enabling front line troops to communicate effectively in the most demanding of environments, as well as being able to detect and/or defeat the growing threats such as improvised explosive devices.

What about your role is exciting, rewarding or interesting?

I have a fantastic team that delivers over 45 projects and service delivery activities. Due to the breadth and the fast-paced nature of our business, every day presents a different challenge and I very much value the diversity that my role brings. Given the specific requirements of our specialist customer base and the smaller nature of some of our projects, we also see very active deployment of existing equipment we support and regular delivery of new equipment into service. Knowing we are making this very real and tangible difference is incredibly rewarding.

How important to you is teamwork?

Teamwork is fundamental to achieving success in our line of work and I am fortunate enough to have a team that prides itself on effective teamwork, which extends beyond the walls of the floorplate. We try to ensure that we have strong and effective relationships across other areas

within DE&S, our customer base and our suppliers. This collaborative approach is a key enabler to translating some of the excellent new ways of working in DE&S to deliver real benefits to our customers. Over the past two years we have worked closely with our Army HQ customer and the Defence Electronics and Components Agency to develop a new ECM support solution that will maximise equipment availability and has saved Defence many millions of pounds in the process.

What is your view on transformation?

Although it has been challenging – changing the way we work, the processes we follow, and the tools we use – transformation is bringing a real sense of control back to the various projects within SPCFP and provides me with the intelligence I need to assure delivery on promises. Individuals across the functions, having established a solid professional focus and understanding, are now starting to optimise the way they work together to deliver the necessary outputs and provide assurance of success while doing so.

Why did you choose to pursue a career in DE&S?

The initial draw was the incredible graduate training scheme on offer – including that all important overseas placement. However, having now spent several years working across the MOD, the thing that has always kept me close to DE&S is the sense of achievement I get from practically supporting our armed forces and equipping them with the best equipment for the best

price. Although an engineer by education, I am a very much a project manager at heart and DE&S, as one of the largest project delivery organisations across Government, offers huge diversity and opportunity.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

As I have already mentioned, I am motivated by delivering equipment capability for our armed forces, but in doing that, I really enjoy working with and alongside my fantastic team. They are a hugely diverse group of committed, focused and hard-working people.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

In my spare-time I enjoy cycling and wielding a cricket bat. I used to be fairly good at cricket and represented the district and county at youth level. I now enjoy spending time conversing about the finer points of the game with my 8-year-old son, teaching him all the things not to do!

What might surprise people about you?

I like to do some charity work and have in the past supported several charities in terms of their Management and Business Governance. Most recently I was the vice chairman of a local charity that supported the victims of inequality and especially race-hate crime. It is a subject I feel strongly about and I hope to take some of my experience to add value on this front across the DE&S through representing the Joint Enablers domain on the DE&S Multi-Cultural Community Network.

DE&S employees grasp golden opportunity to inspire young minds about science and engineering

Pictured: DE&S Senior Fellow Dr Eluned Lewis during the London Science Museum's 'We are Engineers Family Festival' (Picture courtesy London Science Museum)



DE&S employees engaged with thousands of schoolchildren in support of the London Science Museum's 'We are Engineers Family Festival'.

The team of five attended three days of a week-long event to showcase body armour and helmets and talk about the science and engineering behind the life-saving protection.

With the museum drawing in around 15,000 visitors per day, the event provided a huge opportunity to reach out to the next generation of innovators and problem solvers and talk about the work that DE&S does to support the armed forces.

Dr Eluned Lewis, DE&S Senior Fellow in Personal Ballistic Protection and the Deputy Technical Discipline Lead for Science in the Engineering Function, spotted the call out for volunteers from the museum and felt it was an excellent opportunity to "give something back".

She joined hundreds of engineers who applied to lead activities and was pleased to hear her idea was one of the ones chosen as an "exciting engineering activity".

"I wanted to inspire the next generation of engineers and scientists into STEM and Defence-related careers", she said.

"I realised this was a huge opportunity to reach out to thousands of visitors and tell them about the great work we do at DE&S to deliver equipment to the armed forces."

The Science Museum was hosting the family festival and other activities for schools in support of the Year of Engineering campaign and wanted to showcase unusual and exciting fields within engineering.

Other activities on show included trying your hand at welding edible chocolate creations, controlling your friend's muscles using electric currents and racing to the top thanks to the power of gears.

The event also provided an opportunity for the team – which included James Davis from the Technology Office and Barbara Clarke, Greg Stafford and Callum Partridge from the Soldier, Training and Special Projects Team – to talk and share their stories of engineering to show that

I realised this was a huge opportunity to reach out to thousands of visitors and tell them about the great work we do at DE&S to deliver equipment to the armed forces

Dr Eluned Lewis, DE&S Senior Fellow

it can be a career for everyone.

Dr Lewis said: "Working with body armour is an unusual and exciting career and I am passionate about STEM engagement. Having been involved in Families Days at MOD Abbey Wood, there has always been huge interest from children and parents alike about body armour and helmets, trying it all on and taking pictures of themselves wearing it.

"This was an opportunity to take the MOD Abbey Wood Families Day 'on the road' and it went down really well. The children were really excited and loved finding out about how and why military body armour has changed over the years and also loved trying it all on."

Prince of Wales fires up engines for first time

Pictured: HMS Prince of Wales in build at Rosyth dockyard in May (Picture by Andrew Linnett)



The UK's second new aircraft carrier has reached another significant milestone after her engines were fired up for the first time.

Engineers on board HMS Prince of Wales turned on the diesel generators – a key milestone on the road to sending the 65,000-tonne warship to sea in the second half of next year.

In the bowels of the carrier – in the later stages of fitting out at Rosyth dockyard near Edinburgh – there are four Wärtsilä diesel generators, each capable of producing more than 11 Megawatts of power – enough to support a town of 25,000 people.

Collectively, these four diesels generate 40 per cent of the total power produced by the carrier; the Rolls-Royce MT30 main engines which drive the ship through the water account for the rest, but they have yet to be switched on. When they are, each can meet the electricity needs of Burnley or Guildford.

Firing up the Wärtsiläs marked the culmination of years of planning, installation, wiring, testing and finally commissioning.

Director Ships Acquisition for DE&S, Henry Parker, said: “The running of the diesel generators is another important milestone

This significant step forward has been achieved through effective collaboration and hard work between industry, Government and the Royal Navy

Henry Parker, Director Ships Acquisition for DE&S

in bringing HMS Prince of Wales into service.

“This significant step forward has been achieved through effective collaboration and hard work between industry, Government and the Royal Navy. I look forward to seeing the second of these impressive aircraft carriers join her sister ship, HMS Queen Elizabeth, in the Fleet.”

A 40-strong team of Navy and civilian engineers were briefed, and an announcement made throughout the ship before, with the press of a button, the first of four diesels roared into life.

Lieutenant James Sheridan-Browne, the carrier's power and propulsion engineering officer, said: “With the first run of HMS Prince of Wales' diesel generators now complete, the ship is truly coming to life on its own systems.

“The running of diesel generators will now continue to provide a steady drumbeat to sailing the ship to Portsmouth in 2019.”

Simon Lister, managing director of the Aircraft Carrier Alliance, added: “To all involved – and that is a large proportion of the entire workforce – my thanks and congratulations on achieving the first diesel start.

“This has seen focused effort,

great innovation, real perseverance in the face of setbacks and a commitment to quality that has been truly impressive.

“These are becoming the hallmarks of HMS Prince of Wales. Great teamwork from a large number of groups and individuals.”



Pictured clockwise from top: Chinook Delivery Team, Special Projects Search and Counter Measures Team, Air Defence and Electronic Warfare Systems, Fixed Wing Contract Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Team, Future Submarines Team (Pictures by Owen Cooban)

DE&S teams rewarded for their dedication at Min DP Acquisition Awards

DE&S enjoyed well-deserved success at the Minister (Defence Procurement) Acquisition Awards, with the Chinook Delivery Team securing ultimate glory as overall winners.

Now in their 16th year, the awards recognise teams from across defence for their exceptional performance, innovation, effort and commitment in the field of acquisition.

Stuart Andrew MP, the Minister for Defence Procurement, presented eight awards during the annual ceremony on November 19 at Main Building in London.

This year's big winners were the DE&S **Chinook Delivery Team**, who, in addition to their Acquisition Award, walked away with this year's Overall Winner Award.

The team was praised for delivering a range of projects and in-service support arrangements to deliver technical and safety enhancements to 60 Chinook helicopters to meet urgent operational needs, humanitarian relief and a deployment to the South Atlantic islands.

Also highlighted were their professional planning, outstanding collaboration and highly effective delivery, which allowed the team – and wider stakeholders – to deliver a myriad of safety and capability enhancing modifications to ensure the Chinook helicopter force remains at the forefront of the UK's Defence Capability.

Mark Geoghegan, team leader of the Chinook Delivery Team, said: "It was a privilege for us to receive such high recognition for the team's sustained effort in delivering outstanding support to the Chinook Force, in the UK and overseas – I am extremely proud of the boundless energy and commitment they continue to demonstrate in all that they do."

Another winner for DE&S was the **Special Projects Search and Counter Measures (SPSCM) team**, which sits under the Soldier, Training and Special Programmes (STSP) umbrella.

They were praised for their highly innovative approach to delivering a new contingent bomb disposal robot (the Harris T7) under Project Starter. The team's absolute commitment, intelligent approach, masterful negotiation skills and sheer hard work were also highlighted.

Lieutenant Colonel Thornton Daryl Hirst, Section Head of Remote Controlled Vehicles within DE&S' SPSCM team, said: "I was delighted that the team driving Project Starter has won this award. Their hard work, dedication and determination is a source of great pride and this recognition is thoroughly deserved."

The DE&S **Air Defence and Electronic Warfare Systems (ADEWS) team** were recognised for Programme Tartarus, which ensured a £10 million RAF radar facility was installed on a remote Scottish island in order to track unidentified aircraft.

Based at RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire, the team were tasked with an urgent requirement to restore an Air Defence radar capability at Saxa Vord in Shetland.

Their 'outstanding teamwork, innovation, pragmatism and total commitment' to the programme were noted, as well as delivering Initial Operating Capability 17 months ahead of schedule despite the complexity of the infrastructure work and atrocious weather.

Dave Braun, ADEWS Team Leader, said: "This award reflects the efforts of our team, customer and industry partners to deliver in often extreme conditions and under trying circumstances – I'm really proud of what the whole Tartarus team have achieved together."

Also rewarded was the **Fixed Wing Contract Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance team**, which comprises DE&S, Joint Forces Command and other MOD staff.

They were recognised for taking on an extremely challenging, unbounded requirement, directed by the National Security Council to deliver critical life-saving Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance services in support of two active operational theatres.

The team overcame significant commercial difficulties and moved at tremendous pace to conduct contract negotiations in three months – six months ahead of schedule – whilst also delivering significant savings.

Finally, the **Future Submarines team**, now within the Submarine Delivery Agency (SDA), were recognised for an exceptional year.

The team not only achieved 'approval' for the next phase of the continuous at sea deterrent Dreadnought Programme, but successfully negotiated risk pricing and robust incentivisation – an unparalleled achievement for a first of class submarine – into Design and Build Contracts.

This was in conjunction with standing up the new SDA, a fundamental shift in construct and behaviour, so establishing excellence in Defence Acquisition.

Stuart Andrew MP said: "These winning teams exemplify the deep strengths and innovative thinking within our wider Defence acquisition community – in capability development, delivery under contract, direct support to military operations, and the provision of infrastructure and science and technology."

Other winners

The RAF Rapid Capabilities Office won the Special Award alongside their Acquisition Award for repeatedly challenging traditional practice and looking to develop new innovative ways of working, to enable the successful delivery of 19 key equipment capability projects in a year.

Programme **Nelson** has rapidly accelerated the exploitation of Artificial Intelligence in the Royal Navy and in under a year delivered three AI-powered apps to Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Her Majesty's Ships and were praised for being at the forefront of innovation and operational change.

The Carbonite-2 Operational Concept Demonstrator, a joint Dstl and RAF team, were recognised for delivering at pace the Carbonite-2 small satellite platform on-orbit as a capability demonstrator within eight months from concept to launch at a fraction of the typical cost of such ventures.

Owen achieves his ultimate goal by swimming English Channel

Pictured: Major Owen Larsen during his cross-channel swim (Picture submitted)



An Army major based at MOD Abbey Wood has achieved his “ultimate goal” by swimming the English Channel – one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes.

Major Owen Larsen (pictured bottom right), of the DE&S Artillery Systems team, spent two years training in swimming pools, lakes and the sea building up stamina for the epic challenge.

And at 2.30am on September 30 Owen, slathered in Vaseline and udder cream, set off from the beach at Sapphire Hoe (just outside of Dover) to secure his place in Channel Swimming history.

His determination to complete the swim was buoyed by the fact he was raising money for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Disorder Charity Appeal, The Wallace & Gromit Grand Appeal Children’s Hospital and the Helen & Douglas House Children’s Hospice Appeal – three charities that provided incredible support and care to the children of three of his close friends in recent years.

Swimming alongside his safety boat, Owen made good progress in the darkness for four hours, but

It was fascinating to look up to see the huge ferries, cargo ships and tankers all in relatively close proximity to me; the scale of them is simply awesome

Major Owen Larsen

was relieved to see the sun rise so that he felt less disorientated.

He said: “It was fascinating to look up to see the huge ferries, cargo ships and tankers all in relatively close proximity to me; the scale of them is simply awesome.”

Conditions got tougher for Owen when the wind increased and made the sea choppy.

He said: “My regular feeds (every 45 minutes, lasting a maximum of one minute and consisting of jelly cubes, tinned

fruit and bananas) were passed to me by my support team via a feeding stick and water bottle on a three-metre string.

“Despite practicing this many times, the feeds became tricky due to the waves and I seemed to swallow a lot of sea water. The lack of nutrition started to have an effect and my legs started to cramp.”

However, Owen overcame these difficulties and continued to make good progress.

After 11 hours, the French shoreline seemed just a few hundred metres away, but the strong tides meant Owen spent the next three hours making little headway.

“I essentially spent this time swimming parallel to the shoreline within two miles of the French coast. Which was an incredibly disorientating and confusing experience”, Owen said.

Luckily his support team – wife Sarah, and good friends Major Christopher Postlethwaite and Captain Ali Nicol – kept his spirits high by passing him frequent messages of encouragement.

“I finally waded out of the shallow water of Wissant Bay,

France, after 15 hours 10 minutes and 37 miles of swimming, and was greeted by a lovely passer-by called Frederic”, Owen said.

“He warmly congratulated me on the swim, while in the distance the safety boat sounded its horn and my wife and friends cheered.

“On reflection, I feel very humble to have secured a place in Channel Swimming history.”

In total, at the close of the 2018 swimming season, there have only been 1,568 successful solo English Channel swims under the Channel Swimming Associations rules.

To support Owen’s charities, visit www.justgiving.com/teams/owenschannelswim



60 second spotlight

"I worked on one of the first airborne computers which had 4Kb of memory and was the size of a Samsonite suitcase"

Peter Robinson

Job

Apache Mk1 Certification Manager co-located with Leonardo Helicopters in Yeovil, Somerset

Your route into DE&S?

I joined the MOD as an avionics apprentice on September 3, 1968, at the Aircraft and Armament Experimental Establishment at Boscombe Down, meaning in September 2018 I completed 50 years service with the MOD. I worked on one of the first airborne computers which had 4Kb of memory and was the size of a Samsonite suitcase. Nowadays I have 256 million times as much memory in my mobile phone. I flew hundreds of hours doing various flight trials in the Nimrod MR2 both in the South West approaches and the USA. After 25 years, in 1993 I took promotion to London before being relocated to Abbey Wood in 1996 and finally to Yeovil in 2007. In February 2019 I will complete 21 years in the Apache Delivery Team.

Your claim to fame?

I used to order a 3* General around on a Saturday afternoon. As captain of my cricket team General Sir Mark needed putting in his place when fielding! I am a keen cricketer and started playing men's cricket at age 13. I represented Wiltshire U14s, Wiltshire 50+, Wiltshire 60+ and now I am the youngster playing for Wiltshire 70s, who won the league title in 2018.

Your advice to anyone?

Take up skiing. I got the opportunity to learn with the

Army but not until I was 53-years-old. Since then I have skied every year twice a year and always with one new resort each year. It's great fun, gets the adrenaline flowing and keeps you fit. Skiing has taken me to nine different countries and I have made many new friends.

What do you do when you're away from work?

I am a passionate supporter and volunteer at my local football club. I hold a personal licence and manage the bar at the club. I spend many hours volunteering, which include applying my project management, IT and DIY skills as well as cutting the pitch and driving the team bus to name but a few.

What are you most proud of?

I am extremely proud to have had four short tours in Afghanistan to deliver training to Apache and Tornado aircrew and introduce new capability, but the travel was challenging to say the least. I once drove to Brize on Boxing Day only to be bounced off the flight. I twice had overnight stays in a tent in Kandahar with 11 complete strangers because aircraft unserviceability caused delays. And one time I arrived in Theatre at 2am to find my bunk occupied, with no front desk or reception to call! However, it was a fantastic life experience.

If you were sent to a desert island, what three things would you take with you?

A karaoke player so I could sing along without annoying the neighbours. A plentiful supply of Merlot. I'd also take a clarinet because I have always wanted to learn to play it since my school days.

What irritates you the most?

Inconsiderate motorists!



What is your favourite place in the world?

Old Town Scottsdale in Arizona, which is an old Western town blessed with a wonderful climate. The authentic Rusty Spur saloon with live country music and the Grapevine karaoke bar are great.

What would surprise people about you?

I ran a half marathon dressed as Donald Duck for the very first Children in Need and raised more than £500. I've also held the Ryder Cup in unusual surroundings – the back of a Globemaster aircraft at 30,000ft which was also carrying Ryder Cup captain Colin Montgomerie!

Do you or someone you know deserve their 60 seconds in the spotlight?

Email
tom.morris114@mod.gov.uk



Pictured: Exercise Trident Juncture saw 50,000 participants from 31 nations travel to Norway to take part in the largest collective NATO defence exercise since the Cold War (Pictures by Ed Low and Corporal Ben Beale)

DE&S plays key role in huge NATO defence exercise

"It was only through the collaborative working of all teams involved at DE&S and the front-line commands that we were able to ensure that this exercise was a resounding success"

Colonel Ian Skipper, DE&S' DSCOM Operations team

DE&S teams have played a key role in the success of a huge NATO training exercise featuring 250 aircraft, around 50,000 participants from 31 nations and 10,000 military vehicles.

UK personnel from the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force travelled across Europe by ferry, road and rail to take part in Exercise Trident Juncture in Norway – the largest collective NATO defence exercise since the Cold War.

They trained alongside their Danish and Polish counterparts in freezing conditions integrating their equipment, drills and personnel to become a multinational, 2,500-strong combat ready brigade before ultimately defeating an acting enemy force of Norwegian, German and Swedish forces.

The triumph, during a week-long culmination of the exercise, vindicated the principle of collective defence that has been at the very heart of NATO for almost 70 years and proved that in an ever-changing world with emerging threats, together we are stronger.

DE&S played a major part in the exercise with staff from Defence Supply Chain Operations and Movements (DSCOM), Support Enablers Operating Centre (SEOC), Land Equipment and Team Leidos working with the front-line commands to ensure its success.

Colonel Ian Skipper, of DE&S' DSCOM Operations team, said: "This was an incredibly complex operation and it was only through the collaborative working of all teams involved at DE&S and the front-line commands that we were able to ensure that this exercise was a resounding success."

In July this year, after months of planning between Team Leidos, DSCOM and HQ Field Army, Team Leidos were commissioned to provide a commercial, fully-serviced rail move of a representative Company Group of Army protected mobility vehicles from the

UK to Norway.

This resulted in 32 military vehicles departing from Folkestone on October 7 and arriving ahead of schedule at Elverum, a NATO controlled Railhead (pictured bottom left), having passed through France, Belgium, Germany, Denmark and Sweden.

A further 5,300 tonnes of freight were despatched by sea from Sea Mounting Centre in Southampton to Fredrikstad, while more than 1,200 tonnes of freight deployed through arrangements with commercial freight transportation companies.

In total, the DE&S effort also ensured that 586 personnel and an additional 20 tonnes of freight were transported by air.

Elsewhere, the DE&S Contingent Operational Stocks and Sustainability Assessment Cell (COSSAC) within the DE&S Land Domain used the exercise to trial Standard Stock Modules (modules of stock including items like rations, clothing, fuel and vehicle spares) that are then used to assemble Priming Equipment Packs that are delivered to a unit when it has been warned for operations.

The intent was for troops deploying on the exercise to make no demands and instead all stock to equip and sustain the force for the duration of the exercise was to be issued to them by DE&S and Team Leidos before deployment.

Major Tom Ritchie, COSSAC SO2 Ops, said: "Our involvement in this exercise has been invaluable and has identified several valuable lessons that will inform how Defence and DE&S will outload stock at pace in support of future contingency operations."

The deployment concluded with the Field Army conducting a road movement of 360 vehicles and 784 personnel some 1,816 kilometres across Europe. This was supported by Team Leidos who delivered materiel to four Convoy Support Centres in Germany, Denmark and Sweden.

Innovation, wellbeing and sporting success at DE&S



An innovative approach to career progression has resulted in the Chinook fleet at RAF Odiham benefitting from 13 more Incorporated Engineer (IEng) professionally-accredited engineers.

In 2014, Boeing Defence UK and DE&S formed the Chinook Support Centre (CSC) to provide engineering support and advice to the Chinook fleet.

When Mark Goodger, a career Civil Servant with 30 years' experience of working in the military rotary wing environment, arrived in November 2015 as Officer Commanding he had to attain professional accreditation to IEng status as part of DE&S' drive to assure professionalism.

He quickly realised that, as a career engineer but with no supporting degree-level

qualification, he was in the same position as the rest of the outstanding CSC team, both military and industry.

Mark approached the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and interested parties from around RAF Odiham took the opportunity to join the IET Group Registration Scheme.

Almost three years later, with much-appreciated help from IET staff and volunteers and a lot of hard work, a total of 13 DE&S team, RAF Odiham Squadron and Boeing Defence UK members have celebrated getting IEng accreditation with IET.

Mark said: "Not only does this give us a great professional platform to work from, but the entire process has also been a huge 'team-mentoring' activity."



Members of the DE&S workforce helped a MOD team secure the Civil Service Sports Club basketball tournament trophy.

The team, named DSRA 1 after the Defence Sports and Recreation Association, was one of nine teams that travelled to Cardiff hoping to make their sporting dream a reality.

Over a gruelling two-day competition consisting of 10 games, DSRA 1 came out on top. Despite losing two of the first three matches, they went on to win five straight, qualifying for the semi-finals.

The athleticism and tenacity of the

tournament's 'Most Valuable Player' Matthew Ward and a game-changing shot from Amelia Leslie then saw DSRA 1 through to the final against reigning champions Newcastle.

DSRA 1 stepped up to the occasion with Gary Richards launching a series of strong drives to the basket, Stephen Porteous landing shot after shot from 3-point territory and Ginny Gallen delivering the game-sealing shot which secured a 27-17 victory.

DSRA 2 also put in some strong performances against more experienced opposition but were unable to make the knockout stages.



Employees in the Air Support Multi Mission Aircraft programme area have been taking part in a wellbeing initiative to promote physical and mental wellbeing.

Members of the P-8A and the Fixed Wing Manned Airborne Surveillance delivery teams have been taking part in an organised 30-minute weekly walk around MOD Abbey Wood.

The walks are aimed at getting people up and moving more regularly, to get light exercise and refresh the mind. It is hoped the initiative will help address the impact of the office environment, whilst improving team cohesion by facilitating conversations between different people.

Oli Shearn, P-8A Team wellbeing champion, said: "DE&S has a key role to play in proactively encouraging healthy habits to the benefit of individuals and the organisation. Simple initiatives such as the weekly walk can make a difference in supporting these habits."

Devonport Deeds of Apprenticeship

DE&S Devonport Apprentices have attended their Annual Deeds and Awards Ceremony.

The ceremony recognised the continued success of the Devonport Scheme with a record number of apprentices being awarded their Deeds of Apprenticeship this year.

Commodore Peter Coulson, who awarded the Deeds to the new intake, said: "We all look forward to working with them over the next three years to develop their full potential."

As well as new-starters, the ceremony celebrates DE&S apprentices coming to the end of the programme with Dr Jonathan Cook, Head of the DE&S Engineering Function.

They will now go on to work within the engineering function with teams at DE&S or within the Submarine Delivery Agency.

The ceremony culminated in the award of two special awards this year, with Phoebe Loveridge receiving an award for Devonport's Apprentice of the Year nomination and Daniel Renshaw for his academic achievements.

Dr Matt Darkin, representing DE&S Ships, said: "The ceremony showcased the variety of opportunities available to the new intake, as well as the opportunities available beyond the apprenticeship within Abbey Wood Ships and DE&S."

MOTTO the MOD Lottery August winners

- £10,000** Thomas Pratt, Andover
- £2,500** Gary Clarke, Marham
- £1,000** Stephen Lancaster, Salisbury
- £500** Angela Sullivan, Pewsey
- £250** Louise Davies, ABW
- £100** Wendy Hayes, Hereford
- Stephen Bonner, Faslane
- Anthony Simpson, TBC
- Jessica Hopkinson, Exeter
- Richard Burdess, Plymouth
- Paul Wright, Shefford
- Christina Mapp, London
- Ernest Knox, TBC
- Angela Witham, Tidworth
- Helen Tandy-Rackham, Winchester
- Robert Parkhouse, ABW
- Lynne McGreary, Peterborough
- Patrick Wattam, Lincoln
- Fiona Sheridan, Lisburn
- Lindy Godfrey, Catterick
- Sharon Rhodes, Brandon
- Luke Somerville, ABW
- Errol McCammon, Huntingdon
- Kevin Raeburn, ABW
- Tracey Southall, Blandford



Last month's missing word was:

Teamwork

Word Search

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Arizona | Dockyard | Programme |
| Award | Engineer | Safety |
| Basketball | Finance | Talent |
| Bodyguard | Harris | Training |
| Chinook | Lightning | Wales |
| Collaborative | Marines | Wellbeing |
| Defence | Parachute | Yeovil |

Find which word or name is missing from this wordsearch.

Note - they may appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forward or backward.

E J P X D A O K L L Y D W M H J F L
T V U D K N O R L U D T A A L T Z C
N U I M Z O X G A T F R E I L L Y D
E C K T N Z E W B P I I V F I E R P
L X E I A I Q U T N A O N L A A S R
A C H O M R O S E E E R K A U S W O
T C R Z T A O S K Y G Q A G N E E G
D E F E N C E B S C U N Y C L C N R
R E E N I G N E A N X D I L H W E A
S I R R A H H W B L O N B N P U P M
L I G H T N I N G B L E L F I F T M
A W A R D W X R W F I O E E Q A F E
E J Q O I G D E S N A H C F A V R A
Z F C Y I D Q T G X M Q X I A D H T

Case Study

Jacob Parsons, Engineer within the Defence Ordnance Safety Group, gives his insight into some of the benefits of working for the organisation

Name

Jacob Parsons

Job title

Engineer within the Defence Ordnance Safety Group (following DE&S Engineering Apprenticeship)

How long have you worked for DE&S?

Nearly three years

Why did you choose to pursue a career in DE&S?

I basically joined the advanced engineering management apprenticeship by accident! I had planned to go to my local sixth form, but applied for the apprenticeship to get some experience with interviews etc. However, I made it through and was offered a job. I'm so glad that I accepted the offer and joined DE&S. The apprenticeship has allowed me to gain a Higher National Certificate (HNC), National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) and other qualifications, whilst also gaining experience with different project teams at DE&S.

What does your role entail?

As an apprentice, you spend the first year at college studying full time. After this you have four six-month placements in different project teams gaining experience. During these four placements, you also study part time gaining the HNC and level 3 NVQ.

What are the opportunities to develop and progress within your function?

The apprenticeship itself is a fantastic way to develop and progress into an engineering role on completion

of the three years. During the apprenticeship, there are many opportunities to attend courses, go away on trips and experience work placements – this allowed me to go to Defence Munitions Beith in Scotland, which was an amazing experience.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

I enjoy the chance to work in a team while developing academic and engineering skills at college. It is a great way to start working and all the project teams are welcoming to apprentices. We also have the chance to go on trials, and work with kit that most people have never even heard of!

What's your ambition?

I recently finished my apprenticeship and have started in an engineering role at MOD Abbey Wood within the Defence Ordnance Safety Group. I am interested in completing courses that are available and relevant to my new role. I am also keen to continue studying and am going to try and apply to top up my HNC into a degree.

What's your greatest achievement to date?

Finishing the apprenticeship has been my greatest achievement. Having completed three years of study and four work placements where I built and gained experience, I have now got an engineering role. Completing the apprenticeship has given me skills and qualifications while also being a very rewarding experience.

Why would you recommend DE&S to others as a great place to work?

There is a good amount of opportunities for development, and a range of different places/teams to work with, so there is something for everyone.

What are the social benefits of working for DE&S?

Working for DE&S means that you can join the Civil Service Sports Club which gives you savings on shopping, sports and leisure. As an apprentice, you also get the chance to go on the Tom Nevard competition. This is a DE&S wide apprentice competition – on a team and individual level – where apprentices come from Abbey Wood, DM sites across the UK and other MOD establishments. The year I went we had to build a remote-control bomb disposal robot! It's a great week to meet other apprentices and have some fun.



Picture: Jack Eckersley

WORK FOR DE&S

For more info and job opportunities visit:
www.des.mod.uk



Civil Service

Here are six great reasons to work for DE&S



Bonuses & Recognition

Annual bonus and one-off payments based on performance for going above and beyond



Pension

Our Alpha pension is conservatively valued at 21% of your salary. Most private companies only offer 6-12%



Flexible Working

Balancing work and life, various working patterns



Professional Development

Choose a career path that's right for you



Holiday

25 days rising to 30 days after 5 years



Facilities

We provide a modern, safe and convenient work environment

For even more reasons see our 'Little Book of Big Benefits' at

www.des.mod.uk

Future Vacancies

SDA Service Delivery Manager SDA

HMNB Clyde | £19,000 - £28,000pa | Senior Administrator/Specialist

Estimated timeline: 10 December 2018 - 2 January 2019

Post type **Permanent**

Job Description: As one of our Service Delivery Managers, you will deliver an In Service Support or Logistics execution activity of limited complexity, you will monitor forecast and report the costs of service delivery to the customer and maintain the highest of service level. You will be working within the Submarine Delivery Agency and have the opportunities to learn and progress.

Business Support Administrator DE&S

Bristol | £17,000 - £19,000pa | Administrator/Specialist

Estimated timeline: 18 January 2019 - 3 February 2019

Post type **Permanent**

Job Description: As one of our Business Support Administrators, you will provide pivotal administrative support to the Corporate Services Function on a day-to-day basis. You will be regularly interacting with stakeholders at all levels across the business, commonly providing support and information for those within your defined area. You will be mostly responsible for your own work, with the ability to develop and learn whilst in post.

IT Administrator DE&S and SDA

Bristol & Warminster | £17,000 - £23,000pa | Administrator/Specialist

Estimated timeline: 18 January 2019 - 3 February 2019

Post type **Permanent**

Job Description: We will be recruiting a number of IT Administrators to provide accurate and timely administrative support to various areas of DE&S. You will regularly interact with and support colleagues within their specialist areas, in addition to engaging with internal IT and IS users. Successful candidates will manage information storage, as well as receive and action requests from the Business. These posts enable DE&S to become a more digital business whilst giving ambitious and motivated candidates an opportunity to start an exciting career.

WORK FOR DE&S

For more info and job opportunities visit:

www.des.mod.uk



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