



11/11

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

NOV 11

POSTINGS

1. Regimental Headquarters has been informed of the following postings:
 - Col SW Carver DSO from Comd BATUS to Col Trg RMAS wef Aug 12
 - Lt Col STH Andrews from SO1 Plans Land JFC HQ Lisbon to MA to Comd NRDC HQ Turkey Istanbul wef Aug 12
 - A/Lt Col (for Lt Col 12) OCC Brown from ACSC Student to MA to COMARRC wef Jul 12
 - Maj (A/Lt Col) PS Leslie from Dep Ch Pol and Plans HQ EUFOR to Chief JIOC HQ EUFOR Sarajevo wef Nov 11
 - WO2 David to be RSM 2 R ANGLIAN
 - WO2 Dyson to be RSM Cambridge UOTC
 - WO2 Hopkins to be RSM 3 R ANGLIAN
 - WO2 Vazquez to be RSM 3 PWRR

2. **1ST BATTALION**

'Busy' is an often used term in these reports, but having conducted a unit move to Bulford, concurrent to the ongoing Mission Specific Training (MST) for OP HERRICK 16, the Vikings have a fair claim to say November and December have been a *busy* time.

November saw the end of 'cascade' training with the commanders of the Battalion instructing the soldiers on theatre-specific drills and tactics. The culmination of this training was a 36 hour CO's exercise in Longmoor. For this the companies, operating out of the patrol bases, were put through their paces in a variety of patrolling scenarios and targeted strike operations. Based on the lessons learned from this period, the companies set about putting the finishing touches to their cascade training. In comparison to the equivalent stage in the build up to Ops HERRICK 6 and 11, the companies are at a far more advanced level of training, as would be expected from the much developed MST programme, which bodes well as we move into the New Year's collective MST exercises.

In the last week of November, having temporarily downed our operational tools, the time came to execute the unit move. After almost eight years of being told the Battalion was moving to Bulford, we were indeed finally moving. Notwithstanding a significant short-notice delay in the roll-out of the new Canadian Estate, which has caused no small amount of frustration, the vast majority of the single soldiers and families have now moved into their new accommodation. The response to the new facilities on offer has been overwhelmingly positive and our soldiers and, most importantly, our families, are happy in their new homes.

The programme for the New Year sees the Battalion on exercise for a total of four weeks in the first two months on Stanford, Castle Martin and Salisbury Plain training areas. This fast paced run in to operations, combined with some pre-deployment leave, will set the conditions for deployment which looks set for mid March.

3. **2ND BATTALION**

The Battalion started the month welcoming the new Commanding Officer, Lt Col Nigel Johnson,

who took over command just as the Battalion was transitioning from its Theatre Reserve role to delivering security duties around Cyprus.

C Company have provided the first rotation of men to this task of safeguarding the vital communication sites across the island and have been exemplary in their determination to ensure that the Poachers deliver this responsibility to the highest standards. Similarly, B Company has been no less vigilant in their task of remaining at 24 hours notice to move ready to support the Sovereign Base Police should they be needed.

This does not mean that training has taken a back seat. B Company pioneered the Battalion's first 'Escape and Evasion' exercise for their men which had them navigating in small teams throughout the night to reach a secure rendezvous, assisted by secret collaborators en route and evading a determined hunter force armed with tracker dogs and helicopters. One team successfully evaded capture throughout the entire exercise but had a close call when picked up in a helicopter's searchlight before managing to lose their pursuers once more in the dark.

Meanwhile, D Company has begun its long-awaited series of tough and arduous training courses to select the next generation of support weapon soldiers from the Battalion. The soldiers and NCOs have been testing soldiers hopeful to join their Company in the rigours of working as a sniper, mortar man, reconnaissance soldier, machine-gunner or anti-tank operator. With the Company deploying on exercise to the Falkland Islands in March next year, those young soldiers selected will have plenty of opportunity to practice their new skills.

The Battalion's standing within the British Forces in Cyprus has been enshrined after our triumphant victory against stiff competition in the Commander British Forces' Sports Competition. In a single week, the men of the Battalion played against their counterparts in the other units across the island in football, hockey, rugby, cross-country running, orienteering, tug of war, tennis, golf, volleyball, squash and swimming. In the closest of finales, with a tie-breaker hinging on Capt Chris Hughes' tug of war team, the Battalion was announced the winner and came back with an exceptionally sized trophy which now has pride of place in the new CO's office.

But the single event which has caused the biggest burst of excitement across the Battalion has been the much anticipated confirmation that we shall be moving into RAF Cottesmore after our time in Cyprus has come to an end. With other possible locations being rumoured to span from Pirbright to Scotland, the announcement that we will be coming to a place so close to the homes of so many of our soldiers has been met with satisfaction and eagerness by the whole Battalion. Public reaction to the news has been equally buoyant and the people of Cottesmore and Rutland have voiced a warm welcome to the Battalion.

With the Christmas period fast approaching, the men are making their own and collective preparation to spend it either here or back home with their families. But whether they are on duty or back in the UK, the soldiers of the Poachers are as determined as ever to enjoy their second Christmas and New Year in Cyprus.

4. **3RD BATTALION**

The month of November has seen the 3rd Battalion continue in its core mission of providing support to operations, while raising the Regimental profile in the local community.

Those who had spent the summer months on Op TOSCA have now finished their POTL and returned to the normal, hectic, routine of a Battalion supporting Op HERRICK 16. Spearheading the first of two tranches that total 37, 17 volunteers left for RTMC in late November and will be with our sister Battalion by the start of December. They are to be followed shortly by a set of dedicated individuals for whom the post-tour leave from TOSCA will be their only break from operations in over 12 months. For some, this mobilisation has opened some unexpected doors in the form of opportunity and variety that has included the re-rolling of some of our people onto the UK main

effort - that of training and mentoring the Afghan Army. When else would a Reservist SNCO get the chance to shape the next generation of Afghan Army leaders as an instructor at the Afghan Officer Academy?

Far away from Afghanistan, preparations for the Army's support to the Olympics (imaginatively called Op OLYMPICS...) continued with a week long Brigade-level contingency planning exercise providing useful insight to both likely roles and responses for the Battalion. The end of the month also provided an opportunity for the OCs to attend an excellent session with DCLF, Maj Gen The Duke of Westminster, detailing the positive impact and very real responsibilities for Reservist personnel under Future Army 2020.

As is only right and fitting, the Battalion played a large part in the yearly Festivals and Services of Remembrance, with each of the companies representing The Regiment throughout East Anglia and beyond as well as at the Regimental Service at Duxford. In recognition of the outstanding contribution of the Lord Mayor and the City of Leicester to our Regimental Benevolent Charity, the CO was honoured with an invitation by the Lord Mayor of Leicester to the City ceremony and to take the salute at the march past.

As part of our ongoing community engagement activity, the Battalion briefed Suffolk employers on the changes in the Army and the role of Reservists on Op TOSCA over breakfast at the Athenaeum in Bury St Edmunds. It was a highly successful morning with over 35 employers tucking in to a Full English while (hopefully) listening to what we got up to in Cyprus. We have been busy socially too with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess holding their winter function in Norwich along with a series of Op TOSCA welcome-back events at the company locations.

5. **DIARY DATES 2012 (Amendment)**

Diary Dates 2012, circulated with the last edition of Royal Anglian News, contained an error. Both the Regimental Council Meeting and Officers' Dinner at the Army and Navy Club, London, are on 2 Nov 12 and not 4 Nov 12. Diary Dates 2012 should be amended accordingly.