



JULY 2026

# Pulling Together

INSIDE:

Meet the 'Hoof Guy' - helping us go viral

Going Underground at the Army's secret exercise

KGA by royal approval!

Training for the RA Gunner Championships

# GUNNER

#FINDandSTRIKE

The Larkhill based team that supplies you Gunner.

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# GUNNER



## JULY 2026

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Tug of War training for the RA Gunner Championships

Photograph: Bdr Ben Watson

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## Donate to our brilliant Charities





# People, purpose, progress

By  
WO1 Keith Fisher

“It’s a great honour to introduce myself as the 20th Royal Artillery Sergeant Major.

I have spent most of my service with 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, working in Fire Support Teams and completing three tours of Afghanistan, before more recently returning as its Regimental Sergeant Major.

Along the way, I’ve also had the privilege of instructing at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and the Royal School of Artillery - roles that allowed me to help develop the next generation of both soldiers and leaders.

My first few weeks in post have provided a vivid reminder of just how much the Royal Regiment is evolving. We have seen the formation of 9 Deep Recce Strike Brigade, the announcement of a new Deep Fires Regiment (39 RA), and confirmation the Remote Controlled Howitzer 155 will begin arriving in 2028.

At the Regimental Selection Board at Sandhurst, it was encouraging to meet Officer Cadets eager to lead within the Gunners, and all inspired by the professionalism, and passion they saw during their regimental visits.

It was also a particular honour to host King Charles III, our Captain General, at the King’s Gurkha Artillery formation parade. His visit - the third to the Royal Regiment in just 12 months - reflects the vital role the Royal Artillery and our people continue to play in the UK’s defence and operational success.

We find ourselves at a significant moment in the Regiment’s history, with many units either receiving new equipment or preparing to do so, while maintaining a demanding operational tempo, with personnel deployed on many operations – while simultaneously undergoing significant structural changes to adapt to future challenges.

While waiting for kit can be frustrating, it is important to remember it is people who ultimately win wars and we have exceptionally good people. We are fortunate to have talented and committed people right across the Regiment - and the new kit is coming.

As Gunners, we must be physically prepared and, as recent events in Ukraine have shown, it is equally as important that we are mentally ready to conduct industrial-scale destruction of our enemies.

One of the constants of the Artillery, has been our ability to adapt. Our values, standards and esprit de corps have carried us through periods of huge change before, and they will continue to do so now.

The Army’s increasing focus on Recce Strike and long-range effects shows a welcome recognition of the expertise Gunners bring to the fight. In my 23 years of service, I have never seen the wider Army place such emphasis on what the Royal Artillery delivers - and rightly so.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the next two years, hearing your stories, understanding your challenges and celebrating your successes.”



Gunner magazine has been bringing you the narrative since 1919



## Career-long pension guidance is a click away. Join us. Job done.

Many of those serving have little idea of the real value of their Armed Forces pension, or how much they would need to pay into a private pension to gain a similar income. As an example, a fixed annual pension of £20,000 would cost around £400,000 at current values. What’s more, your service pension rises in line with inflation. And, of course, the longer you serve, the greater its value. That’s why we caution anyone thinking of leaving, to find out the facts before they decide. Staying for the optimum period and choosing the right point in time to leave can make great difference to your future pension income.

So join us now and find out how to build your pension value.

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As an independent, not-for-profit organisation, our membership subscriptions help to fund our support for the Veterans’ Community, our Roadshows and Webinars, our attendance at CTP Employment Fairs, plus our vigilance in challenging governments whenever we spot unfairness or injustice in the system.

And importantly, we provide the whole military community with a voice that counts, on the representative bodies for Armed Forces and Public Sector Pensions.

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# Ubique...even underground at the Army's secret exercise

**Gunners from the newly-formed 9 Deep Recce Strike Brigade were pivotal at this command post hidden in plain sight beneath one of the world's busiest cities.**

They were part of Exercise Arrcade Strike - one of the most ambitious military exercises in a generation. And not in barracks, a field, or even a warehouse, but in the disused platforms of Charing Cross Underground station in London, in the same tunnels that have doubled as Hollywood film sets for blockbusters like James Bond.

Arrcade Strike was run by the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), NATO's premier deployable corps headquarters, led by the British Army, and now home to 9DRS HQ.

9 DRS exists to find the enemy at long range and destroy them before they can act. It commands surveillance drones, long-range rocket systems firing up to 150km, and one-way attack drones with ranges out to 600km.

The exercise tested the ARRC's ability to plan and command large-scale military operations

involving around 100,000 personnel drawn from the UK and its NATO allies.

From this hidden underground location, the headquarters coordinated activity not just on land, but across sea, air, space and cyberspace.

### Commuters in the dark

The exercise was set in a fictional scenario based in 2030, because that's when military planners believe the threat from Russia could be at its most serious.

But the capabilities being tested are very real, and very much needed today.

The war in Ukraine has reminded the world of a hard truth: threats to peace in Europe are not distant or theoretical. Russia has mobilised its entire economy, industry and military for war. The security of every NATO country is at stake.

Deterrence requires more than words. It requires demonstrated, credible military capability. And that's exactly what Arrcade Strike was designed to show.

Behind a nondescript grey door in a Tube corridor, there was a hive of activity that no

ordinary commuter could imagine. Up to 500 staff worked to plan and execute operations, processing more than ten terabytes of data every single day, the equivalent of nearly three months of non-stop high-definition Netflix.

A key part of making it all of this work was the cutting-edge digital system Project Asgard, an AI-powered headquarters platform that pulls in data from sensors, satellites, and intelligence feeds across the battlefield, helping commanders make faster decisions than the enemy can respond to.

### Unmarked civilian convoy

The operation required careful planning.

The team used an unmarked civilian van convoy to move all the equipment to Ruislip in north London at 1:30 in the morning, where it was transferred onto a specialist Transport for London engineering train, a cargo version of a normal Tube train fitted with a small crane.

From there, it was brought straight to the platform at Charing Cross, where a week of construction followed, including

the installation of all the communications networks.

### No trace

Arrcade Strike is a milestone, not a finishing line. The ARRC will continue to rehearse this underground model across the UK and Europe over the next two years, steadily building towards the goal of a fully mission-capable Strategic Reserve Corps by 2030.

The investment needed is significant, more rocket launchers, more munitions stockpiles, more one-way attack drones, a fully built-out digital backbone. But the direction of travel is set.

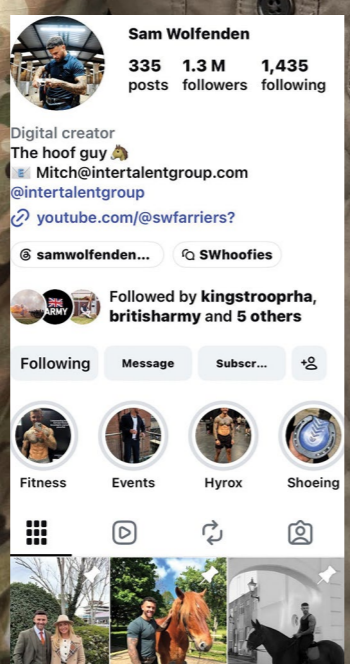
As the exercise's message makes clear, deterrence is not passive. It has to be demonstrated, exercised, and believed by allies and adversaries alike.

Somewhere beneath the streets of London, hundreds of soldiers - and our brilliant Gunners - are making sure it is.

*When they finish and head back up to the surface, no one will ever know they were there. But the message they've sent will have been heard.*



# How the 'Hoof Guy' sent the Artillery viral



We all know the Gunners offer some great opportunities, whether that's through sports, lifelong learning, overseas travel, courses or apprenticeships.... but telling people outside the RA about them isn't always easy.

Until you discover 'Sam The Hoof Guy'!

A bold DM to social media influencer Sam Wolfenden led to a great comms campaign for the Royal Artillery, which has pushed what we offer to audiences way beyond our own echo chamber.

Sam, a professional farrier (circa 2m followers across multiple platforms), spent the day with King's Troop RHA learning about the saddlery and farrier apprenticeships offered there – and was incredibly impressed.

He brought along with him ITV's This Morning and while the TV package was focussed largely on the King's Birthday Parade preparations, our hugely successful social media collaboration which ran alongside, was wholly about the opportunities offered by the Gunners (and the wider Army) and concentrated purely on the farrier apprenticeship which was our aim for it, so a win!

### Instagram

At the time of writing, it was sitting at around 220k views with a high engagement and watch time rate (much greater key metrics than views), on the Royal Artillery Instagram channel, and into the many hundreds of thousands for Sam.

Sam read a voiceover script written by our comms team, and published the caption

unedited, which highlighted Army sign-up opportunities, routes to "earn while you learn" and talked about the course being "just one of many civilian-recognised courses soldiers across the Army can do".

Communications are no longer a nice-to-have in the British military – they are part of the operating environment.

### Story telling

Public perceptions directly affect recruitment, retention and wider confidence in the Artillery as a modern warfighting institution.

If we don't tell our story, someone else will – and they won't necessarily get it right.

Without a deliberate and coherent approach to communications, the Regiment risks being defined by outdated stereotypes rather than by current capability and professionalism.

Speaking with external influencers, new media such as podcasters, as well as legacy media - TV, radio and newspaper journalists – spreads the word beyond the military that we are a modern cap badge, with hugely diverse roles, and a strong future.

Please let [Claire.Hills105@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Hills105@mod.gov.uk) know if you have a media or comms idea – big, small, military-focussed or of a more human-interest angle.

We have such brilliant stories to tell in the Royal Artillery. There are many bright, incredible people doing amazing things – we need to shout about them.



For the first time ever, Gurkhas are serving in their own dedicated Gunner unit - the King's Gurkha Artillery. And who better to make the KGA official than our Captain General, His Majesty King Charles.

He recently met with many of our new KGA soldiers and their families, receiving a traditional Nepali greeting, and inspecting our troops, at our home in Larkhill, Wiltshire.

Around 4,000 Gurkhas serve across the British Army. All are recruited from Nepal, with thousands competing annually for a limited number of places.

KGA is a wonderful new chapter for the Gunners and a proud moment for the Gurkhas: Two proud legacies blending culture, history and an unshakeable fighting spirit.

# History is made!



# A Royal Tour of Duty

By Lt Georgia Laurie RA

Temporarily exchanging their guns for rifles and bayonets this summer were 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery whose soldiers formed an exemplary Public Duties Reinforcement Company.

The regiment met the demanding standards of the Fit For Role Inspection at Wellington Barracks, earning the rare distinction of guarding the Royal Palaces for just over two months. A task traditionally reserved for the Household Division, this deployment showcased the Regiment's discipline, precision, and adaptability as they guarded Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, The Tower of London, and Windsor Castle.

A Battery (The Chestnut Troop) Royal Horse Artillery under Major Rob Wills was faultless at the forefront of British 'Soft Power' on the world stage.

And as the Regiment's reach extends beyond the British Army, Captain Simonds

of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery joined them, reinforcing the enduring UK-Canada partnership, as well as proudly representing his nation.

## Historic ceremony

1RHA also marked an historic first - at the Tower of London, they delivered the Ceremony of the Keys with an all-female detachment - the first in more than 700 years. It was a moment of quiet significance, recognised with due ceremony and fully worthy of the Regiment's history and heritage.

Standards have remained uncompromising throughout. The Regiment was honoured to provide the King's Guard at Buckingham Palace during The King's Birthday Parade, standing on the forecourt as the Red Arrows and the RAF memorial flight flew overhead.

Away from the ceremonial duties, the regiment has continued to drive modernisation efforts. The regiment has also



Captain Simonds of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery

The historic ceremony of the keys

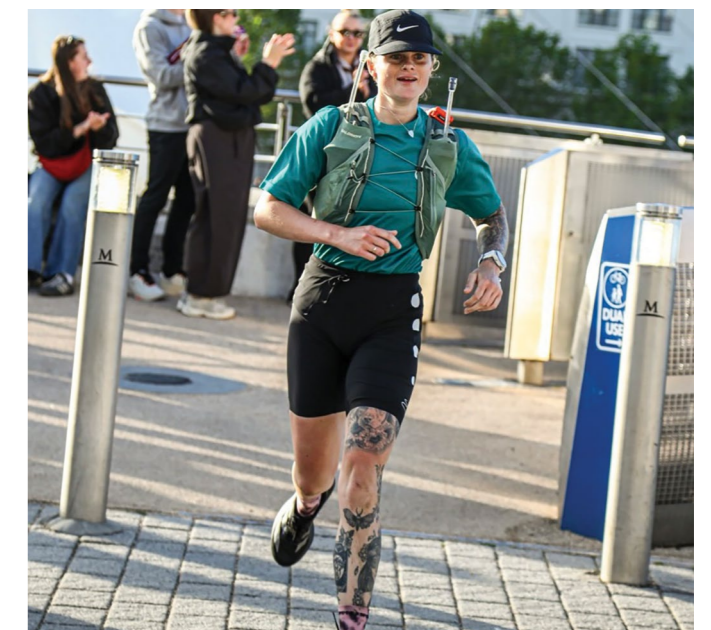
hosted. As the unit is marked to receive the first RCH155 guns, we hosted KNDS and the AHQ Mobile Fires Platform teams, ensuring we know who will build our equipment of the future.

## Excellence

The regiment has also hosted the Commander of the General Staff, a delegation from the UAE, and has turned out to salute the President of Ireland and President of Ghana. Our BK, Captain Gareth Mansfield, even got to have an audience with His Majesty the King!

Individual excellence in other pursuits has been equally evident. Bombardier Wood's completion of the 70-mile "The Wall" ultramarathon, while deployed on high-tempo public duties, reflects exceptional resilience and leadership - embodying the Army's ethos to "Be the Best".

As the commitment draws down, the regiment looks ahead with confidence,



Bombardier Wood smashing 'The Wall'

including an all-ranks dinner in Woolwich - the historic home of the Gunners - which has been made possible with funding from the Royal Artillery Association.



# Making waves:

## Gunners hit the water for Exercise Congreve Boardslide

By Capt Thomas Chinnery RA

LBdr Sadier, 16 Regt RA

“This is the first time I have ever tried wakeboarding or waterskiing. I definitely preferred wakeboarding and I am going to continue doing it after this week”

Soldiers from across the Royal Artillery gathered in Bedford for one of the most popular events in the Regimental sporting calendar – the Wakeboarding and Waterskiing Grassroots Training and Selection Camp.

The four-day event at Box End Park marked the start of the Royal Artillery Wakeboard and Water Ski Association's 2026 season, bringing together soldiers of every ability, from complete beginners to experienced riders looking to secure selection for Gunner and Army teams.

The annual camp has become the foundation of the Regiment's success in the sport. Previous courses contributed to the Royal Artillery success at the 2024 and 2025 Army Championships. It provides structured coaching aimed at progressing individuals from recreational participation to competitive readiness - and

plays a vital role in strengthening the Regimental wakeboarding squad and broadening engagement across the Royal Regiment.

For many attending, it was their first experience with the sport.

### The team

Gnr Stanmore, also from 16 Regiment, admitted the sport was unlike anything he had expected. "I found it very enjoyable... I found it difficult to get up on the waterskis but once I was up it was easy to develop."

Others emphasised rapid progression and encouragement to persist. LBdr Riley, of 1 RHA, said: "I preferred wakeboarding as I found it easier to develop... I would encourage everyone to have a go and stick with it."

LBdr Buckley from 103 Regt agreed: "I had a really fun week as a complete novice and was able to hit some of the features by the end of the week."

### The heat level

The camp was helped by exceptional conditions, with temperatures topping 30°C and warm water throughout. But beyond the sunshine, however, Ex Congreve Boardslide continues to prove its value by widening participation in adventurous sport, strengthening the RA wakeboarding squad and giving soldiers the opportunity to discover a new passion that could ultimately see them representing both the Regiment and the Army.

Next year's grassroots camp is 1-4 June 2027. Those interested in taking part should register their interest using the event QR code.

Sign up for updates and express interest using the QR code on the opposite page.





# FORWARD INTO THE FIGHT - KENYA EXERCISE PUTS RECCE STRIKE TO THE TEST

By Maj S Smith RHA

The vast and demanding terrain of Kenya's Laikipia training area provided the backdrop for Exercise Haraka Storm – a demanding exercise conducted by the British Army and the Kenya Defence Forces.

N Parachute Battery (The Eagle Troop), 7 Para RHA, operated forward and integrated, embedded within Task Force Hannibal, alongside 1 R IRISH Battlegroup during Kukri Battlegroup's validation exercise, which provided a valuable opportunity to operate within the evolving Recce Strike construct under realistic conditions.

The Battery rapidly integrated with 1 R IRISH during the preparation phase at BATUK, which focused on building relationships across the battlegroup and aligning drills and procedures, while simultaneously refining core skills such as communications, target indication, and dismounted patrolling.

These early activities ensured the FSTs were well-positioned to operate seamlessly alongside infantry elements ahead of the field phase.

The main effort centred on a 23-day free-play Field Training Exercise in Eastern Laikipia, where Task Force Hannibal operated against a thinking and adaptive opposing force, replicating contemporary threat tactics.

## Offensives

The battlegroup conducted a broad range of tactical activity, including the construction and defence of Main Defence Areas (MDAs), delay operations, company-level attacks, and the deployment of Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) screening forces across a wide battlespace.

For N Battery, the deployment was defined by persistent forward employment. FSTs were closely embedded with 1 R IRISH, operating predominantly within the ISR screen, often ahead of the main body. In small, self-contained teams, they contributed directly to reconnaissance, target acquisition, and the development of battlespace awareness, while maintaining the ability to coordinate and deliver effective fires in support of manoeuvre.

Working within the Recce Strike framework, the exercise demonstrated the expanding role of FSTs beyond traditional fires coordination. Teams played an active part in identifying and tracking targets, supporting the battlegroup's understanding of both terrain and enemy activity. Operating in dispersed locations over extended periods required adaptability, resilience and a high degree of independence at the lowest level.

## Technology

Observation and reporting were central to this effort. FSTs established a series of observation posts across key terrain, enabling persistent surveillance and contributing to the wider intelligence picture. The use of digital enablers such as Android Team Awareness Kit (ATAK)/Experimental Dismounted Situational Awareness (eDSA) and allowed information to be shared effectively across Task Force Hannibal.

Mobility remained critical throughout. Teams were required to reposition frequently

-often under cover of darkness - to maintain low signatures and respond to the evolving tactical situation. Operating alongside 1 R IRISH Recce Platoon and rifle companies, N Battery personnel functioned as part of tightly integrated teams, combining fires expertise with broader tactical contribution on the ground.

## Resilience

Ex Haraka Storm 26 was a demanding and productive deployment and provided an excellent opportunity to operate at the forefront of battlegroup activity, demonstrating the battery's ability to integrate, adapt, and deliver in a complex and realistic training environment.

As the Regiment looks ahead, the experience gained reinforces N Battery's role as a forward, adaptable fires element, well aligned to the demands of contemporary operations and the continued development of the Recce Strike concept.





# No hotels, No excuses: Breaking point in Greenland

By Capt Simon Middleton RA

## Capt Smith hunting down kilometres!



Two captains – one of them a Gunner - have taken on one of the most gruelling endurance events known: A Nordic race over 160km of snow-capped Greenland mountains.

Here, Capt Simon Middleton, based at HQ Land Special Operations Force recalls the battle against mind and spirit, and the lack of RAF-style overnight hotel cheats...

“With the isolated nature of the race, the austere environment, and the demand of the task, me and Aled Smith R WELSH (Fd Army HQ) had to prepare thoroughly to minimise the risk posed to us during the race and demonstrate we were fit enough to undertake such an arduous race.

Our rigorous training plan (less so for Aled, an Army triathlete with a 2’35’ marathon to his name) comprised of long

runs to simulate the race itself and included upwards of 30kms on three consecutive days as well as multiple 50km runs.

### Bambi on ice

The next problem to tackle was while we both Nordic ski, it wasn’t since 2019 either of us strapped a pair of planks to our feet! Arriving two days before the race, we dusted off the skis and tried to find our balance and look less like Bambi on ice.

**We soon felt like seasoned ultra runners to rival the lore of Chariots of Fire!**

After a few 10km shake-outs we decided it would be best to conduct our final preparations in the waxing room. Upon entering the wax hut, we were met by three athletic individuals all sporting Olympic



tattoos – it is now H -12 hours, and it has only just dawned upon us the true magnitude of the race ahead. With skis waxed, all we could do before stepping off was last minute carb loading and rest!

### It’s a marathon, not a sprint

And so, it was on a crisp Arctic morning, we took our places on the starting grid and placed our skis into the tracks ready for the mass start.

Bang! After the starting gun was fired we set off on the first of three stages; 50.5km, 60.2km and 49.3km respectively. Whether by design or coincidence the race starts with a loop of the local downhill ski slope providing a great watch for the locals: 120 participants battling for early position with many picture-perfect wipe outs – luckily neither of us were caught up with the Wacky Racers!

After the 1.2km loop (also the point at which I lost Capt Smith into the horizon like an Oasis mirage) it was up into the mountains and into camp for the night.

**But this is no ordinary race, so it was not back to hotels a-la-RAF style. Instead, we administrated ourselves from tents and tried to fuel up on Arctic rations.**

The icy night fell and soon the morning came around to signal the second stage which started and finished at the camp and included two laps of what the locals call ‘the labyrinth’ – a Sisyphian-inspired 16km seemingly never-ending loop.

### Yesss, hip flexors

The final stage began earlier and retraced the route from the first stage, without the added dreaded ski slope! This included a few mandatory skis-off sections for the steep downhills that we fought up during the first stage - a welcome relief for the hip flexors!

Endurance of mind and body prevailed, and both of us finished tired yet elated.

Capt Smith placed 14th with a time of 16hrs 13 minutes while I placed 46th in 21hrs and 38minutes of a field of 80 highly trained male competitors. Capt Smith also placed 2nd within the 30–39 age category, becoming the first Brit to receive a medal!



It was also brilliant to compete alongside friends from the Danish Arctic Kommando Force.



*For those interested in this incredible event in the future, please reach out to me. It is also worth noting that there is a slightly more inclusive 100km. We could not have done any of this without the support of TeamForces and the Army Sports Lottery who massively stepped up to the plate and committed £5,460. Our huge thanks go to them both.”*



# KGA knocking it out of the park

## AAPTI course

Gunner Tendi Sherpa and Gunner Milan Kishan success



Congratulations to Gunner Tendi Sherpa and Gunner Milan Kishan, from 34 (Seringapatam) Battery, the King's Gurkha

Artillery, for successfully completing the All Arms Physical Training Instructor (AAPTI) Course in Grantham.

Gunner Tendi Sherpa, who distinguished himself by being awarded Academic Top Student among a cohort of 90 students – an exceptional achievement reflecting outstanding intellectual application, commitment, and professional excellence.

Both showed high levels of determination, resilience, and soldierly discipline throughout the course, meeting and exceeding the demanding standards required of a Physical Training Instructor – making them a credit to themselves and the Regiment.

## Trophy haul

Lance Bombardier Sawahang Rai delivered an exceptional individual performance, securing the prestigious Champion Skill at Arms Trophy, alongside the Whitehead Trophy, RA Rifle Association Attack Match Trophy and RA Fleeting Encounter Match Trophy. His marksmanship and composure set the benchmark for excellence across the competition.



Despite a demanding tempo of trade training and the inherent challenges of establishing the newly formed King's Gurkha Artillery. Under the decisive leadership of Lieutenant Chloe Cowan, the team engaged in a fiercely contested field against the Corps' most proficient units, tactical and competence and collective resilience.

Collectively Team KGA achieved:

- Highest Scoring Pistol Team
- Runner-up Minor Unit Overall Scores
- Officer Challenge Cup - Runner-up (Major Unit Category)
- Winners of the Falling Plate Competition

These results are a testament to the Regiment's professionalism, relentless training ethic and uncompromising pursuit of excellence at both individual and team levels. On their inaugural appearance at CORPSOC, KGA has not only proven its professional credibility but also established a formidable foundation for future success.

Well done and congratulations to all ranks involved.



Gunner Subsh Ghale with the charge



Gunner Shiu Narayan Tharu with the GPMG



Gunner Sameer Rai

34TH BATTERY, 14TH REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY



**SLAINTE GOLF BRANCH**

The Slainte Golf Branch proudly held its 26th Annual Golf Event at Belton Woods Golf Resort. While the event marked another successful gathering of friends and comrades, it was particularly significant as the first annual meeting since the Slainte became an official Royal Artillery Association Branch.

What began 26 years ago as a small gathering of serving, and retired father-and-son Gunners has steadily grown into a well-established annual event. Today, the weekend brings together serving personnel, veterans, and honorary members from across the wider Gunner family, maintaining the camaraderie and friendships that have been at the heart of the competition since its inception.

This year's competition was won by John Westerman, who emerged victorious after an enjoyable and closely contested weekend of golf. However, the event was also one of reflection and remembrance. 2026 marked the 10th anniversary of the passing of Craig Johnson, who sadly suffered a cardiac arrest during the Slainte Golf Competition at Belton Woods in 2016. In a fitting tribute at the same venue, members gathered to unveil a memorial plaque in 'Jonno's' honour and raised a toast in his memory, ensuring he remains an enduring part of the branch's history.

The generosity of those attending was once again evident, with £880 raised during the weekend. The proceeds have been shared equally between the British Heart Foundation and Royal Artillery charities, supporting causes that are both meaningful and closely connected to the branch.

As another successful chapter closes, attention now turns to next year's event, which is scheduled to take place in Cheshire in June 2027. The Slainte Golf Branch looks forward to continuing its traditions of friendship, remembrance, and healthy competition for many years to come.



**BIRMINGHAM BRANCH**

The very best of Birmingham. At the recent Birmingham Council's Annual General Meeting, prestigious awards were presented by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Mr John Dolphin was honoured alongside co-founder of Black Sabbath, Tony Iommi, recognising the outstanding contribution and exceptional service in the city of Birmingham.

On behalf of the Royal Artillery Association thank you for everything you contribute to the Royal Artillery Association and the wider veteran community, we are hugely proud of your achievements and congratulations on your Award. The Lord Mayor said "It is wonderful to celebrate their achievements and thank them for the impact they continue to have on our great community".



**BIGGLESWADE BRANCH**

Biggleswade Branch celebrated their 80th Anniversary with a Garden Party attended by 62 members and guests. Brigadier Mark Pountain CBE, RAA Chairman, attended to present the Royal Artillery Association Medal to Teddy Mckenzie and the Certificate of Merit to Terry Harragan.

**The Royal Artillery Association was established on 26 May 1920 by the RA War Commemoration Fund**



**BURY ST EDMUND'S BRANCH**

Members of the RAA and RBL held a Summer Lunch at the Risbygate Sports and Social Club, followed by a game of outdoor bowls.



**ROYAL ARTILLERY AFGHANISTAN VETERANS**

Having widened its membership to 200 veterans, an inaugural event to mark the official establishment of the RAAV was held, the event was supported by the Salisbury Plain Military Wives Choir, 19th Regiment RA and The King's Troop RHA. If you wish to be part of this growing network and supportive community for veterans and their families, please do get in touch with the Royal Artillery Afghanistan Veterans on Facebook or please reach out to [raafghanistanveterans@outlook.com](mailto:raafghanistanveterans@outlook.com)

**RAA BATTERY GRANTS**

One of the charitable objects of the Association is to promote comradeship, fostering esprit de corps and preserving traditions. Each year the Association makes funds available to Batteries in the form of annual grants to help fund Battery events, improve conditions for members of the Battery and their dependants. Find out more from [carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk) or through your chain of command.



**F (SPHINX) PARACHUTE BATTERY  
7 PARACHUTE REGIMENT ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY**

Officers' and SNCOs' from F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, RHA recently gathered to formally bid farewell to WO2 (BSM) Murphy at a dinner held aboard HMS VICTORY.

Following the tour, Officers' and SNCOs' moved into the Mess onboard, where a formal dinner was held. During the evening, SSgt Jackson888 delivered a fitting farewell speech, recognising WO2 Murphy's service and contribution to the Battery. The address was well received and added real meaning to the occasion.

The successful delivery of the evening was supported by a £500 contribution from the Royal Artillery Association.



**KING'S TROOP ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY**

An all-ranks dinner was held in the Officers' Mess for those currently serving in the King's Troop RHA. The evening was a chance to bring the Regiment together, fostering esprit de corps ahead of the ceremonial season. It was also an opportunity to introduce new members of the Troop to Mess traditions and heritage.

The evening was made possible through generous support from the RA Association and the King's Troop Foundation.



5 (GIBRALTAR 1779 - 1783) BATTERY  
19 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY (THE SCOTTISH GUNNERS)

During a recent deployment to Edinburgh on Ex GIBRALTAR SALUTE, personnel from 5 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Battery, 19th Regiment Royal Artillery (The Scottish Gunners) had the privilege of undertaking a varied and rewarding week that combined adventurous training, cultural engagement and ceremonial duties, culminating in an all-ranks dinner. Much of this activity involved integration with the 5 Battery Branch of the Royal Artillery Association and continued to reaffirm the close ties the Battery holds with its veteran community. The all-ranks dinner was made possible through the generous support of the Royal Artillery Association, whose contribution helped to ensure this was provided at no cost to the serving and veteran community, maximising attendance and significantly increasing cohesion and esprit de corps.



K (HONDEGHEM) BATTERY  
5 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

Personnel from K Battery, 5th Regiment Royal Artillery travelled to Hondegghem to commemorate the actions of K Battery during the Battle of Hondegghem in May 1940. The delegation consisted of soldiers from across the Battery, representing both current serving personnel and the wider regimental family, with the aim of honouring those who fought with courage and determination during the withdrawal to Dunkirk. For many, seeing the ground on which their predecessors fought brought history to life and fostered a greater appreciation of the legacy they now uphold as members of K Battery.

K Battery is extremely grateful for the continued support of the Royal Artillery Association and for its commitment to promoting regimental heritage, welfare, and the development of serving soldiers.

**Please donate to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund & Association**

**More than £1m is granted annually – and you only need to have served for one day in the Royal Artillery to be part of our family for life; “Once a Gunner, always a Gunner”.**

**Donate at [racf.enthuse.com](http://racf.enthuse.com)**



34 (SERINGATAM) BATTERY, KING'S GURKHA ARTILLERY  
14 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

The battery organised a Families Day at Larkhill entertaining more than 300 serving UKTAP & GURTAP soldiers and their families. The event featured a wider range of activities, culminating in military displays, sports and cultural celebrations.

34 (Seringatam) Battery are grateful for the grant from the Royal Artillery Association, helping to make the Families Day a fantastic success.



24 (IRISH) BATTERY  
14 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

24 (Irish) Battery RA and the Royal Artillery community came together recently to celebrate the official opening of the Cusack Club, an event made possible through the generous support of the Royal Artillery Charities. The occasion marked a significant milestone for the unit, providing a modern and welcoming space designed to enhance welfare, cohesion, and social engagement for all personnel. The Cusack Club will serve as a focal point for the ITT activity, offering a place to unwind, build camaraderie, and strengthen the bonds that are central to regimental life.



11 (SPHINX) BATTERY  
16 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

The Battery celebrated its 225th birthday, commemorating the Battery's distinguished connection to the 1801 Egypt campaign against Napoleon's forces, from which it earned the Sphinx badge and the battle honour "Egypt".

In recent years, the Battery has continued to uphold its proud tradition of service through deployments on Op LUMINOUS, Op STIFFTAIL, Op LEADPROOF, and multiple operational tours to the Falkland Islands.

This year, in a departure from tradition, the Battery chose to mark its anniversary by giving back to the local community. Three teams deployed from the Battery's home at Baker Barracks, Thorney Island to support organisations that rely heavily on volunteers and charitable donations to sustain their vital work. The chosen locations were St Wilfrid's Hospice in Bosham, the Cat and Rabbit Rescue Centre in Sidlesham and LifeHouse, a homeless shelter and community kitchen in Southsea.

Battery personnel undertook a wide variety of tasks including serving hot meals to those in need, cleaning and maintaining animal accommodation, and dismantling and disposing of surplus PPE delivered during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the work differed at each location, a common theme united every effort: service to the local community. Staff and volunteers at all three organisations expressed immense gratitude for the support provided, with some noting that several of the completed tasks may otherwise have taken years to accomplish.

continued overleaf



Following the completion of the volunteering activities, all teams returned to the café at Baker Barracks, where food and refreshments were provided in a relaxed setting. This gave members of the Battery an opportunity to reflect on the day's achievements and the positive impact of their efforts. The occasion also included a short presentation by three of the Battery's most junior soldiers, who spoke about the history of 11 (Sphinx) Battery and the importance of remembering those who have served before us.

This concluding event was only made possible through the generous support of the Royal Artillery Association (RAA), whose donation funded the gathering and helped make the day a fitting celebration of both the Battery's heritage and its commitment to service.

**GUNNER LOTTERY**  
**JOIN TODAY**  
 CASH PRIZES UP TO  
**£25,000**

Supporting those who serve  
 Supporting those who served

For every £1 entry, at least 50p goes directly to Royal Artillery charities.

2025 RAA TROPHY WINNERS

- MANSERGH MEMORIAL AWARD**  
 LBdr T Radinivugalei, 3 RHA
- RA ASSOCIATION MEDAL**  
 Mr Teddy McKenzie, Biggleswade Branch
- CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**  
 Mr William Morrison, Edinburgh Branch  
 Mr Anthony Triscott, Plymouth Branch  
 Mr Terence Harragan, Biggleswade Branch
- BURTON CUP**  
 Most money per capita to Heritage  
 Norwich Branch
- ARTILLERY HOUSE CUP**  
 Most money raised overall by a Branch for RACF/RAA  
 Norwich Branch
- CATERHAM CUP**  
 Runners-up to Artillery House Cup  
 Bolton Branch
- EIRE CUP**  
 Most effort & Support to its branch throughout the year  
 Newbury & District Branch
- RA ASSOCIATION CUP - REGIMENTAL**  
 Action or achievement of particular merit  
 105 Regt RA
- RA ASSOCIATION KERR CUP - BATTERY**  
 Action or achievement of particular merit  
 43 Bty (Lloyds Company) RA
- UBIQUE CUP - NATIONAL BRANCH**  
 Artillery Clerks' Association
- UBIQUE CUP - National Branch**  
 Artillery Clerks' Association
- RA ASSOCIATION ABU KLEA TROPHY**  
 Best Turned-Out Standard Bearer  
 Mr Alan Wright, Stockport & District Branch
- STANDARD BEARERS' COMPETITION**  
 Mr William Morrison, Edinburgh Branch
- RA ASSOCIATION PRIZE FOR TROOP COMMANDER**  
 2Lt S Wilkinson RA



# Once a Gunner, always supported



Unexpected life events, money worries... need financial help? Reach out to the RACF, helping you and your fellow Gunners through those difficult times.

Since the last issue of this magazine, the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF) reflects on support provided to our Gunner family; the team have helped with 346 individual needs, delivering a total spend of £345,000. On average that is £997 per case. The RACF are here to help, do you know someone, someone part of your RA Association, a Gunner Veteran or Serving friend going through a difficult time, could we help them?

Rising case numbers include 53 cases for serving soldiers and their families providing £70,000 of

much needed support. The RACF have spent on average £1,321 per soldier. Some key areas include 3 cases for those soldiers in Personnel Recovery Units who require help adjusting to civilian life, helping with mobility items, household repairs, and goods. We also frequently help with costs associated to hospital visits such as accommodation, food, and transport to be with loved ones.

'The RACF are here to support those in need - Serving, Veterans and their dependants. We can provide help towards critical household arrears, helping towards utilities and food costs when money is tight. So please get in touch. 'We cannot however help with private medical or legal fees'.

We can be contacted by email: [RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk) or via the website - <https://www.thegunners.org.uk/charities/royal-artillery-charitable-fund-racf/>

## THANK YOU

'You have made a genuine difference for this family, at pace, and you should collectively be deeply proud.' **Commanding Officer**

'I am constantly amazed how much the Regimental Family leans in to help us when we need it.' **Commanding Officer**

'Once again, thank you for your support. You always support the need of our people at their darkest hours. Thank you for agreeing such a generous contribution and in such quick time.'

**Unit Welfare Officer**

# EVENTS

<b>JUL</b>		<b>4</b>
NMA SERVICE	STAFFORDSHIRE	
<b>OCT</b>		<b>1</b>
ALANBROOKE LUNCH	LONDON	
<b>OCT</b>		<b>8</b>
RA AWARDS DINNER	LARKHILL	
<b>OCT</b>		<b>14</b>
RAA NEC MEETING	LARKHILL	
<b>OCT</b>		<b>23</b>
ALAMEIN DINNER	LARKHILL	
<b>NOV</b>		<b>5</b>
FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE	WESTMINSTER ABBEY	
<b>NOV</b>		<b>8</b>
RA CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE	HYDE PARK CORNER	
<b>NOV</b>		<b>18</b>
RA CITY AND INDUSTRY DINNER	HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY	
<b>DEC</b>		<b>6</b>
ST BARBARA'S DAY	LARKHILL GARRISON CHURCH	
<b>FEB</b>		<b>18</b>
RA GOLD CUP	SANDOWN	
<b>MAR</b>		<b>18</b>
RA BOXING FINALS	LARKHILL	
<b>MAR</b>		<b>19</b>
GUNNER 27 CONFERENCE	LARKHILL	
<b>MAR</b>		<b>19</b>
SPRING DINNER 27	LARKHILL	
<b>MAY</b>		<b>26</b>
ARTILLERY DAY		



## LAST POST

### Notification of Death:

Major John Austin Barrat 15 May 2026  
 Bombardier Nadine Askew May 2026  
 Major Jack William Lewis May 2026  
 Phil Barrett May 2026  
 James John Storey May 2026  
 Carl Jordan June 2026

**AYERS** - Lt Col Roger Charles Ayers OBE died peacefully on 16th April 2026. Loving husband of the late Lesley Anne Ayers (née Bush). Beloved father to Mike, Suzy, Tim, Judy and Wendy. Grandfather to 17 and great grandfather to 16. Donations, if desired, to salisburyhospice.org.uk

**WILLIAM** - Capt (Retd) Anthony William died peacefully at home on 18th June 2026. Darling husband of Johanna and beloved father to Toby, John and Hannah, father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather.

## SUBSCRIPTION PRICES FOR OUR SISTER PUBLICATION THE JOURNAL

To addresses in the UK and BFPO:  
 The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £10

To addresses in Europe:  
 The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £14

To addresses in the rest of the world:  
 The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £17

## RA Historical Society 2026 Programme

DATE AND TIMINGS	EVENT	SUBJECT	LECTURER/ LEAD	BOOKINGS CLOSE
Friday 18 to Sunday 20 September	Historical Field Tour to Dieppe	The Dieppe Raid 1942. Request Prospectus from Secretary	Maj Magnus Thompson RA	Places available Book now
Friday 23 October 1045 to 1600 hrs	Shrapnel Lecture Day, Artillery Centre, Larkhill	4 Lectures on Operation SEALION 1940, Defeating the V1, the Cold War and Nuclear Confrontation	Dr Spencer Jones, RA Regimental Historian and other notable speakers.	Friday 09 October

These events are open to all Gunners. To register please email Lt Col Clayton, RAHS Secretary: richard.clayton312@gmail.com by the dates shown

All Gunners are eligible to join the Society. Please contact the Secretary for details.



## Lance Bombardier Ciara Sullivan - a brilliant soldier, gifted horsewoman and “bright light”



Born on 9 Dec 2001, she joined the Army in November 2020 attending the Army Training Centre in Pirbright before joining The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery in June 2021.

Lance Bombardier Sullivan loved horses and had a natural affinity for them. She had been involved in Ceremonial Operations since joining The Troop, taking part in multiple Royal Gun Salutes in Hyde Park and Green Park.

She deployed on both Op BRIDGE, the state funeral of Her Majesty the Queen in 2022, and Op GOLDEN ORB for the Coronation of Their Majesties The King & Queen in 2023.

She had recently qualified as an Advanced Regimental Riding Instructor and particularly enjoyed

training the Military Working Horses and developing young horses, utilising her equine skill set.

She also enjoyed delivering riding lessons to the Mounted Gunners within her Sub-Section and was frequently nominated to instruct the officers of The Troop.

Additionally, Lance Bombardier Sullivan was routinely involved with delivering the Mounted Gunner Courses to qualify the next generation of King's Troop soldiers for Ceremonial Operations.

She was enthusiastic about everything to do with The Troop and participated in every extra activity available including show jumping and The Troop Race.

**Her Commanding Officer, Maj Luke Wadman, said:**

“Lance Bombardier Ciara Sullivan, ‘Sully’ to her friends, was to all who had the privilege of serving alongside her, a bright light in any room she entered.”

**Enthusiasm for riding**

“An immensely professional soldier and an exceptional jockey, she approached every day

within The Troop with an infectious energy — the kind that lifted those around her without effort or intention — and was unfailingly present for her comrades in both the small moments and the hard ones.”

An outstanding soldier and a role model to many she worked with. She was fearless and gifted horsewoman, having ridden since childhood and having competed in the showjumping ring before joining the Regiment; it was this natural courage that made her always the first to volunteer to ride the most demanding of horses.

**Fitness prowess**

Beyond her equestrian talent, she was a soldier of remarkable breadth. A skilled footballer, a dedicated presence in the gym who pushed herself and quietly brought others along with her, and someone who found cause to celebrate the smallest daily victories in those she served with.

**Helping others achieve**

A natural leader and instructor, she won the respect of all who had the privilege of working with her, and her patient coaching has helped



many Mounted Gunners within the Unit fulfil their potential.

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery has lost not only an accomplished soldier and horsewoman, but the kind of person who made the Regiment, and the world, a better place simply by being part of it.

The thoughts of every member of The Troop and The Gunners are with her family at this tragic time.

**Lt Gen MR Elviss CB, MBE, COMARRC and Master Gunner St James Palace:**

“The shock of LBdr Ciara Sullivan's loss is profound. A fine soldier, she died doing a job she loved surrounded by people who held her in the highest regard. A dedicated, committed and highly respected junior commander; she will be sorely missed.

The Royal Regiment of Artillery and the wider British Army is a lesser place without her.

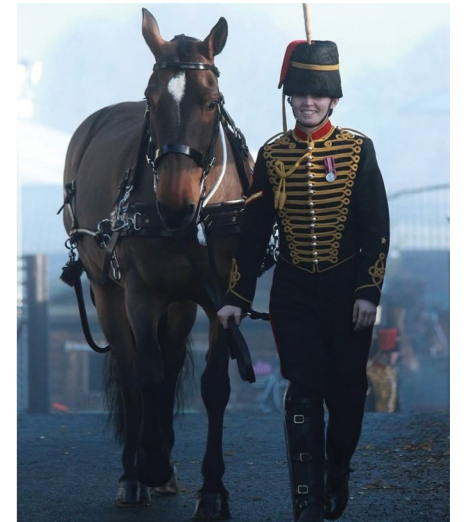
I could not be more sorry nor saddened by her loss and my thoughts, prayers and condolences are with her family and friends.”

**Ubique.**

**Defence Secretary John Healey MP said:**

“Lance Bombardier Ciara Sullivan was a brilliant young soldier who served our nation with dedication. We're all deeply shocked and saddened by her death.

My thoughts are with Ciara's family, loved ones and colleagues at this devastating time.”





## REUNIONS

**103 REGIMENT ROYAL  
ARTILLERY: ST BARBARA'S  
DINNER 26**

On **5th December**. At 208 Battery, 103 Regt RA, Aigburth Road, Liverpool, L17 9PH. Open to officers of 103 Regiment RA, serving and retired, and their guests. For places, please apply to [Alexander.Lane102@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Alexander.Lane102@mod.gov.uk)

**5TH REGIMENT ROYAL  
ARTILLERY (THE YORKSHIRE  
GUNNERS): OFFICERS' MESS  
REUNION**

On **Friday 4th September** 5RA will host a reunion. The event will take place in Marne Barracks, Catterick. This will include a Regimental update focussing on our return to warfighting (including individual Battery stands), food, live music, but most importantly a focus on good conversation between old friends. Invitations will be sent out in due course, but those interested in the event should email [5RA-OMReunion@mod.gov.uk](mailto:5RA-OMReunion@mod.gov.uk) or reach out to Maj Josh McAleer, BC P Battery"


**THE 36TH REUNION OF THE  
ROYAL ARTILLERY BOYS  
AND JUNIOR LEADERS'  
ASSOCIATION**

The 36th reunion of The RA Boys and Junior Leaders' Association will take place at the Holiday Inn Coventry M6 Junction 2, over the weekend of **2-4th October**.

Full details, contact the **Secretary, Ted McKenzie**, on [exboysra.tm@gmail.com](mailto:exboysra.tm@gmail.com)

## EVENTS

**ALANBROOKE LUNCH**

The next Royal Artillery Officers' Alanbrooke Lunch is on **Thursday 1st October** at the Army & Navy Club, St James's Square, London. Our guest speaker at this lunch is the Minister for Veterans and People, Louise Sandher-Jones MP.



Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke

Drinks 1200. Lunch 1245. The Alanbrooke Lunch Club is open to all Gunner officers, Regular and Reserve whether serving or retired. The lunch is £80 per ticket. The price includes pre-lunch drink, wine and port. A cash bar is available after lunch. The dress code for this event is lounge suits or equivalent. To attend the lunches you must be a paid-up member of the Alanbrooke Club. There is an annual membership fee of £10 but this is waived for serving officers. To join the Club, please contact [carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk) Do spread the message among your Gunner friends, and of course you may bring a guest (who may be non-military) or a group of friends you served with. Commanding Officers are asked to encourage and facilitate attendance by their officers. To purchase tickets:


**ALAMEIN DINNER**

The Alamein Dinner 2026 will be held on Friday, 23rd October at the RA Mess, Larkhill, 1900 for 1930. The dinner will take the form of a Regimental Guest Night with partners and is open to officers of the Royal Regiment, serving and retired, and their guests. There will also be some regimental guests.

Dress for the serving officers is Mess Dress – Full Ceremonial Evening, (stiff shirts) decorations. For retired officers/civilians it is evening dress (white tie) with decorations. As this is a formal occasion, long dresses would be the appropriate style for ladies.

The cost of the tickets will be £75 per head. For places apply to Jenny McGrath by email: [jennifer.mcgrath924@mod.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.mcgrath924@mod.gov.uk) / 0300 1623966 and payment can be either:

BACS: RAI, 30-11-75, 00957269

(Please prefix payment reference with AD26)

Cheque: made payable to the Royal Artillery Institution.

Please note a first come first served basis applies.

Applications for double bed, twin or single accommodation in the RA Mess should be sent to the Mess Secretary, Mrs Lucy Evans [lucy.evans544@mod.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.evans544@mod.gov.uk)

Please note that accommodation will be in short supply. Requests for double and twin rooms will be added to a waiting list, and allocations will be made on the 2nd October 26.

In the event that no further single rooms are available in the main Mess building, applications for standard accommodation can be made through the Central Accommodation Booking Service (CABS) at: [DIORDPFI-PACSLAMISTeamGpMail@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DIO RD PFI-PAC SLAMIS TeamGpMail (MULTIUSER)@DIORDPFI-PACSLAMISTeamGpMail@mod.gov.uk)



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## 7<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

All former Airborne Gunner and 7 RHA Officers

We are looking to reconnect with as many past officers that may have lost contact with the community

Please follow the QR code and fill out your details if you are currently not part of the Airborne Gunner and 7 RHA past Officers mailing list. Or alternatively get in touch via [7RHA-AGRDMailbox.mod.gov.uk](mailto:7RHA-AGRDMailbox.mod.gov.uk)

Or search Airborne Gunner Reunion Dinner on LinkedIn

It would be great to see as many past members as possible at the 65<sup>th</sup> Airborne Gunner and 7 RHA Reunion Dinner





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To join us, volunteers must successfully complete the Surveillance and Reconnaissance Patrols Course (SRPC).

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Contact us: 4/73 (Sphinx) Special Observation Post Battery

Email: 5RA-473Bty-Ops-Team@mod.gov.uk Tel: 07773 978878

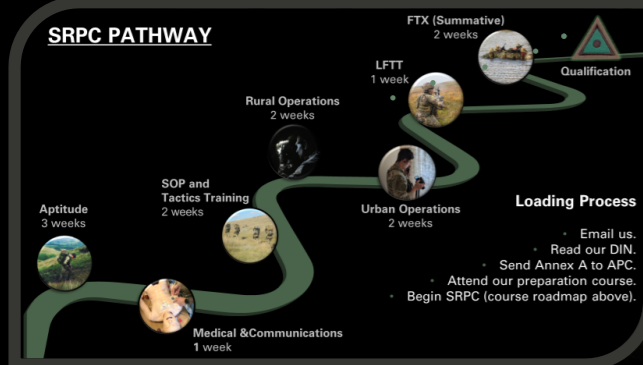


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Mentee Form



Mentor Form



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29 COMMANDO REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

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1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery guard Buckingham Palace