

The Defence Training Review Rationalization Programme

In 2001, the MOD published a report entitled 'Modernising Defence Training'. The report highlighted that:

- future Defence Training needed to be more integrated;
- training needed to be managed on a Defence-wide basis to better support the increasing move towards joint deployments;
- that the training estate needed investment and rationalization to ensure that our facilities were used efficiently and were fit for purpose.

These recommendations are at the heart of the Defence Training Review Rationalization Programme – a large and complex 'Public-Private Partnership' (PPP) project seeking to transform the way we deliver six types of specialist training in the future. Under a PPP contract the Partner will be responsible for the design and delivery of the majority of the training but the MOD, via senior military officers, will command and retain overall responsibility for the effectiveness of this training. This strong military presence will be maintained to provide skills training and ensure that operational experience is shared with students and military ethos is upheld.

Invitations to Negotiate were issued for the Programme in November 2004 for two contractual packages, the first (Package 1) covered the provision of training for Aeronautical Engineering, Electro-Mechanical Engineering and Communications and Information Systems. This is currently delivered at nine locations and involves about 3500 military and civilian staff providing instruction and support to 6500 Defence trainees at any one time. Package 2 contains more diverse specialist training with 618 courses affecting nearly 6000 students. It consists of Logistics and Personnel Administration, Joint Service Police, Ministry of Defence Police, Security and Guarding, Languages, Intelligence and Photography training.

Following a detailed evaluation process, the bid from the METRIX consortium has been judged to offer the best prospective value for money to the DTR requirement for Package 1. Their proposal plans to rationalize the estate on which the training is currently delivered, over a 5 year transition period, to initially 2 major sites, St Athan and HMS SULTAN, before further consolidating on a single main campus at St Athan. For Package 2, METRIX was judged as offering the best technical solution but the proposal is currently unaffordable. Significant further work is required with our future partner (METRIX) and until this work is complete the MoD will not be in a position to confirm any eventual outcome or site impact until Summer 2007.

The METRIX proposal, for the Army, will involve all REME, R SIGNALS, RLC¹, AGC(SPS), AGC(PRO)² and Int Corps³ Phase 2 & 3 Training. Currently our training is located at:

| Capbadge | Current Training Location | METRIX proposed move |
|------------------|--|---|
| PACKAGE 1 | | |
| R SIGNALS | Defence College of Communications and Information Systems (DCCIS), Blandford | Move to St Athan |
| REME | Defence College of Electro Mechanical Engineering (DCEME) Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering (DCAE), Bordon & Arborfield | Move to St Athan REME Recovery training will remain in Bordon |
| PACKAGE 2 | | |
| RLC | Defence College of Logistics and Personnel Administration (DCLPA), Deepcut & satellite sites | Deepcut & West Moors relocate to St Athan. Leconfield, Bicester & Marchwood remain insitu. Ashchurch moves to Leconfield. Army Defence Movement School (DMS) element to relocate to Brize Norton. |
| AGC(SPS) | Defence College of Logistics and Personnel Administration (DCLPA), Worthy Down | Move to St Athan |
| AGC(PRO) | Defence College of Policing and Guarding (DCPG), Southwick Park | Move to St Athan |

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| Int Corps | Defence College of Intelligence (DCI), Chicksands & Beaconsfield | Chicksands will not move, Beaconsfield will move to St Athan |
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The programme aims to create 'Centres of Excellence', and reduce the number of sites used for specialist training. The Army intends to build on its excellent training record. Anticipated benefits include:

- Better use of modern training techniques.
- Modern accommodation - provision of SLA fully to scale.
- Modernised technical training facilities.
- A rationalised estate.

Under the METRIX proposals our Phase 2 & 3 training within the scope of DTR will be delivered in the following locations:



¹ Less Defence Explosives Munitions & Search School (DEMSS)

² RMP training only.

³ Less training currently carried out at Repton.

The METRIX Consortium

A major new investment is being offered by the METRIX consortium (comprising QinetiQ, Land Securities Trillium, Raytheon and others) to create a new world-class Defence Training Academy at St Athan, in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Academy will sit alongside the Aerospace Centre of Excellence being developed by the Welsh Assembly Government on the site of the former RAF Station, a location that has a proud history at the forefront of providing training to deliver a skilled workforce – it was, for many years, the largest RAF station in the UK. As one of the largest single investment projects in Wales, the proposal will provide a major boost for the local community, for the whole of Wales and the M4 corridor. The METRIX plans enjoy cross-party support from local, regional and national stakeholders. The proposals will result in very many civilian jobs being created at St Athan. Many more jobs are likely to be created outside the site as a result of the increased economic activity generated by the new Defence Training Academy.

Non-Project Units (NPU)

DTR will not just impact on the existing Defence Colleges and their staff, it will also affect NPUs including Homes of Corps at various sites; those units concerned will receive detailed briefings from the Chain of Command in due course. The Army's position on the Homes of Corps is that they should remain co-located with their respective training units. An outline of the future of each site is covered below:

Bordon/Arborfield: It is intended for most REME Home of Corps units (HQ DEME(A), Museum, REME Arms School, Corps Officers and Corps WO and Sgts Messes) to be collocated, during the transition period, with the mass of REME training at St Athan. The solution for REME CVHQ, 104 Bn(V) REME and the REME Band is yet to be confirmed. The solution for the location for ATIL is also yet to be determined but it is likely to move in the same timeframe as SEAE and SEME.

Blandford: With the proposed move of DCCIS to St Athan during the transition period, options for backfilling the Blandford Camp are being assessed. Further discussion is required before a final decision is taken as to the location of HQ SOinC(A) and its various branches, including the White Helmets, Corps Band and Museum but other non-project units will most likely remain in Blandford.

Deepcut/Leconfield: Under the Metrix proposal logistics training at Deepcut is due for relocation to a new build facility at St Athan by the end of the transition phase. Under METRIX proposals HQ DRLC, the RLC Museum and Band will also move to St Athan. Driver training is planned to remain at Leconfield as a DTR satellite site. The future locations of 8 AEC and AWS are still to be finalised. No moves are currently anticipated before 2011

and any moves will depend upon the outcome of wider Package 2 negotiations.

Chicksands: Chicksands will remain a satellite site where current intelligence and applied language training will continue. All Chicksands NPUs will remain in situ.

Beaconsfield: Language training is planned to relocate to a new build facility in St Athan by the end of the transition phase. No moves are currently anticipated before 2011 and any moves will be subject to the outcome of wider Package 2 negotiations.

Worthy Down: Under the Metrix proposal PA training is due to be relocated to a new build facility at St Athan by the end of the transition phase. SPSTS, RHQ AGC (including museum band, recruitment, liaison and TDT) under the METRIX proposals will also move to St Athan. DSPS(A) will move to the HQLF site under Project HYPERION. The future location of the Army School of Education is still under review. No moves are currently anticipated before 2011 and any moves (including the future of all other current site NPUs) will be subject to the outcome of wider Package 2 negotiations.

Southwick Park: Police and Guarding training is currently planned to relocate to the new build facility at St Athan again by the end of the transition phase. Under METRIX proposals RHQ RMP, the RMP Museum and Chapel and SPCB will relocate to St Athan. No move is anticipated before 2011 and again the move will depend on the outcome of wider Package 2 negotiations.

The Future

Contract Signature for the Packages is not expected before Summer 2008. Following Contract Signature, a 5 year transition period is proposed in which the majority of our training will move to the new site at St Athan and it is planned to modernise most existing sites that will be retained under DTR. It is now planned to take forward negotiations with the METRIX Consortium. However, this remains a complex and challenging PPP programme. A number of key issues still need to be resolved; for example, while we have greater certainty over Package 1 we have yet to determine whether Package 2 can be made affordable. We have also to address, among other things, the design and implementation of course change, confirm staff-student ratios and examine what synergies might arise from the single site at St Athan. The MOD will work with METRIX over the coming months to resolve them, but until these have been addressed satisfactorily with the Bidder there is no certainty on the final Package 2 approach that the MOD will take and how it will affect the Army. It is by no means certain that every aspect of the Programme will go forward as currently envisaged. A further announcement on the way ahead, including clarification of the future, is anticipated in late Summer 2007.



DEFENCE TRAINING REVIEW

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