

DEFENCE TRAINING ESTATE

Annual Report 2005/6



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DEFENCE ESTATES
Delivering Estate Solutions to Defence Needs

PREFACE - THE DEFENCE TRAINING ESTATE (DTE)

2



Col James Pollock MBE
Director Defence Training Estate

On 1st April 2006 a new organisation based on the former Army Training Estate (ATE) was formed to take responsibility for all of the MoD's training estate. This is the DTE, which is now part of Defence Estates' (DE) Operations Directorate. It currently consists of the old ATE sites with a 'purple (tri-Service) veneer' of facilities from the Navy, RAF and Defence Logistic Organisation (DLO). In tandem, a new 'Purple Customer' has been established within the Land Warfare Centre (LWC) to identify the total demand for training. Over the next 12-months it is intended to incorporate the remaining Defence training facilities into the new DTE organisation.

Currently DTE includes all the former ATE sites (the majority of the training estate in the UK) and a 'purple veneer' from across the MoD including the following sites:

- Royal Navy Air Station (RNAS) Yeovilton's Langport Range
- RAF Air Weapons Ranges at, Donna Nook, Holbeach, Pembrey Sands, Tain and Wainfleet
- Thetford Range and Barnham Training Area from the RAF
- The Defence Logistics Organisation range and training areas at Cape Wrath and Aultbea

DTE is now responsible for providing training estate and facilities for the Armed Forces. To meet the training requirement effectively with the most suitable, available and affordable solutions requires a clear understanding of the military need which I will provide. My integrated military and civilian team draws on considerable experience from within the former ATE and fully understands the needs of the military 'customer'.

DTE's mission is clearly stated:
To provide and develop a safe and sustainable training estate and facilities to meet the training requirements of Defence.

During 2006/07 work will continue to incorporate additional training areas and ranges including those at the following MoD facilities:

- Royal Marine Commando Training Centre
- Northern Ireland Training Areas

- Army Recruitment and Training Division sites at Bassingbourn, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Lulworth and Bovington
- RAF Spadeadam

A study is also being completed into how the MoD's training estates in Europe and the rest of the world should be incorporated into DTE.

We are acutely aware that much of the land we occupy for the important task of training troops for operations is precious and has to be managed intelligently, respecting the views of all of our stakeholders. We will continue to work, as before, with statutory bodies, non-Government organisations and other interested parties that share our concerns over the proper, sustainable use of the DTE. Their help and professionalism is highly regarded and we all benefit from such input.

Without the help of so many dedicated and knowledgeable stakeholders the DTE would not be in the condition that it currently enjoys; rated, for example, in English Nature's recent condition assessments of our Sites of Special Scientific Interest as generally ahead of national targets for improvement.

I am especially grateful for all of the excellent work underway to enable sustainable military training on Dartmoor to continue through renegotiation of our licences. The process we are establishing is inclusive and transparent and is intended to provide a better way of reaching consensus. The words of Graham Taylor, Chief executive of Northumberland National Park Authority in ATE's last Annual Report were especially welcome following the public inquiry over military training in Otterburn:

"In general I think the Army and Defence Estates can be proud of their record of responsible day-to-day management of the training areas in National Parks."

Jim Woollcombe's foreword in this report provides me with comfort that, with goodwill and hard work all round, an agreement acceptable to all parties will be reached on Dartmoor. For as long as it remains necessary to put British troops at risk around the world's many trouble-spots, I am convinced that sustainable military training in the UK must continue so that they are properly prepared.



Defence Training Estate - Assistant Directors:
Lt Col Felix Spender, Staff Officer 1 Operations
Dr David Henry, Business Management
Ms Jane Hallett, Training Estate Delivery



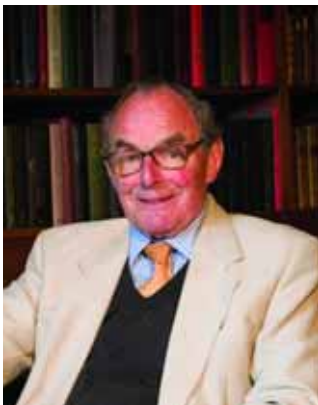
CONTENTS

2	Preface – Col James Pollock	13	DTE South East
3	Contents	14	DTE South West
4	Foreword – Mr Jim Woollcombe	15	DTE Wales and West
5	Dartmoor Training Area	16	Finance and Commercial
6	DTE East	17	Landmarc
7	DTE Home Counties	18	Environment
8	DTE North	19	TAS and Targetry
9	DTE Otterburn	20	Regional Summary
10	DTE Pembrokeshire	21	Regional Summary
11	DTE Salisbury Plain	22	Useful Contacts
12	DTE Scotland	23	Useful Contacts



FOREWORD - THE DARTMOOR STEERING GROUP

4



Jim Woollcombe CBE
Former Chairman of Dartmoor
Steering Group

The Dartmoor Steering Group was established in 1976 under Parliamentary authority following a report from Baroness Sharp on military training on Dartmoor. It seeks to resolve potential conflicts by bringing together representatives of all those Statutory Bodies with an interest in Dartmoor to improve safe public access and reduce any inconvenience caused by military training.

It is a privilege to be asked to write the Foreword to the DTE Annual Report. Having fairly recently retired as the independent Chairman of the Dartmoor Steering Group I hope I am still reasonably up to date with the vexed question of military training in National Parks.

My experience of the Steering Group indicates that a deeply held conviction that military training and National Parks are in principle incompatible need not prevent a sensibly conducted working relationship with the armed forces which recognises that the defence needs of the nation may override the ideal, at least for the immediate future.

The Park Authority itself and the environmental organisations which form part of the Steering Group would all like to see military training ended on Dartmoor, some of them more urgently than others, but so long as the world remains a dangerous place the characteristics of the National Park landscapes which attract the MOD will continue to do so.

Over the years the conflicting pressures have led to changes of attitude, not least on the part of the military authorities who have more and more come to recognise the need to do all they can to safeguard and even enhance the landscapes which they use. They aim to reduce military activity in the Parks to the practical minimum, eliminating so far as possible those activities which can endanger people or places. Live firing of all kinds has been progressively restricted and high explosive shells are no longer used in these exercises.

The restrictions on public access which accompany live firing nevertheless still worry those who have the fundamental purposes of a National Park at heart. Of course in an ideal world no such restrictions would be imposed, but in the world we live in a choice has to be made. So far the balance has been in favour of meeting the defence needs of the country even at the expense of the ideal.

This Report from every sector of the DTE demonstrates the serious attention given to the environment in the conduct of its affairs inside and outside the National Parks. It shows that military training and care for the landscape can work together to a very significant extent.

Nobody can deny that occasional unfortunate

incidents occur, nor suggest that military training can be entirely without adverse consequences to the landscape. On the other hand public access itself is inevitably accompanied by damage and litter and it is probably unwise for either side to point a finger at the other in this respect.

In the four years in which I chaired the Dartmoor Steering Group harmonious relations were maintained throughout, even though there were clear differences of opinion and aim between different organisations on matters of considerable importance.

In the case of Dartmoor at least the argument reaches wider than the simple question of whether or not military activity is tolerable in the Park. The stationing of military and naval forces in the Plymouth area has a very considerable impact on the economy of the entire South West, and if the training facilities on Dartmoor were to be abandoned there would be no obvious reason for keeping a significant part of those forces permanently there. This consideration will inevitably influence decisions about the future.

Fortunately I never had to preside over any serious dispute within the Steering Group because all parties recognised that a balance has to be struck and that if the ideal cannot be immediately realised the next best thing is to manage things so as to get as close to the ideal as possible in the circumstances. This

Report, it seems to me, shows that the MOD recognises its part in this and is genuinely trying to accommodate its activities to the essential purposes of the National Parks.

It is extremely unlikely that these efforts will ever be completely successful in the eyes of all concerned, but the fact that they are being made deserves to be recognised. To reduce the area of conflict to a minimum (probably another unattainable ambition) requires a stern respect for facts on both sides of the argument. No case is strengthened by distortion and misrepresentation and it is to be hoped that this will be understood at critical moments such as the forthcoming negotiations for the renewal of the Dartmoor licences.

Meanwhile with the changes and improvements foreseen in this Report one can only wish those who manage the newly formed Defence Training Estate a successful future and expect continued cooperation with those whose objectives and interests may be different from theirs but with whom they must perforce continue to work.

2 JUNE 2006

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Woollcombe', written in a cursive style.



DARTMOOR TRAINING AREA

Sustainable Military Training On Dartmoor

Lt Col (Ret'd) Tony Clark OBE

In Napoleonic times, the large garrison at Plymouth fired and manoeuvred across Dartmoor, the Princetown Jail guard practiced and the militia gathered on wild Dartmoor for its training. More occasionally, large exercises were held such as that of 1873 when over 10,000 men and horses gathered in torrential rain. Artillery at that time was fired in London or into the Thames Estuary but it needed a better location and in 1875 a land range on Dartmoor was licensed from the Duchy of Cornwall. Batteries of guns visited during the summer months, improving their skills against an increasingly realistic portrayal of the enemy. So successful was the training ground that a permanent camp for horses and men was built at Okehampton between 1893-5. To support the large Plymouth Garrison, an infantry training area was purchased and ranges constructed between 1906 and 1912. At the outbreak of the 2nd World War all of Dartmoor was used for military training.

Today, about a quarter of Dartmoor's open moorland continues to provide training facilities for light Armed Forces; principally the Royal Marine Commandos based in the South West close to their shipping harboured in Plymouth. Other troops also train here to face the challenges and variety of its wild, remote landscape. Activities span individual skills through adventurous pursuits to team skills with up to a battalion of 650 men being pitted against an opposing force. Modern training involves fast moving exercises over large distances where Dartmoor may provide one area in a manoeuvre encompassing rapid troop movements by helicopter to other training areas throughout the country (and reflecting the operations reported in the nightly news bulletins from Iraq or Afghanistan).

Dartmoor is managed with care for the environment and consideration of other users, thereby supporting the National Park's purposes. Several studies (for example, by English Heritage, a National Vegetation Classification, a breeding birds survey by the RSPB and a socio-economic survey by Tourism Associates) have already been conducted to ensure that Dartmoor Training Area's Environmental Management System is robust. Recognising the need for public scrutiny, the many processes that MOD uses locally to ensure that its activities are compatible with the National Park's purposes are being drawn together in a coherent manner.

Several of the licenses that the MOD has for military training on Dartmoor are due for re-negotiation by 2012. Learning from previous expensive and contentious negotiations into military use of designated landscapes, the MoD is keen for the Dartmoor process to be open. Statutory and non-statutory bodies as well as interested members of the public will be consulted. A non-statutory Environmental Appraisal will be used as the framework for the consultation, mirroring the Environmental Impact Assessment used in the planning process. The opinions gathered will be considered by the Dartmoor Steering Group, a body formed by the Government in 1977 to resolve potential conflicts locally between military activities and the National Park's purposes. It is composed of representatives of the Commons Council, Countryside Agency, DEFRA, English Heritage, English Nature, regional government, the Dartmoor National Park Authority and the MoD all under an independent Chairman. This will allow full and open consideration to be given to all views expressed and for a consensus to be found. The Secretaries of State for Defence and the Environment will then be informed of any outstanding irreconcilable issues so that they can decide on the balance to be struck between national defence and other public interests.



Balancing Training And The Environment Lt Col (Ret'd) Tony Powell MBE

We have been fortunate this year as a number of environmental projects have been equally beneficial for military training during a period when the tempo of operational and general military training has been high.

Gorse Clearance & Bracken Control.

One of the major difficulties of the sandy soil of the Brecklands is the prolific growth of gorse and bracken creating large areas of heath land that is virtually impassable to troops and it is particularly troublesome to paratroopers. Extensive control of gorse was undertaken within the impact area and the Battalion 'Drop Zone'. With the use of an Armtrac, blast proof tractor with a mulcher/flail, we were able to operate successfully on the worst areas of gorse within the impact area. Bracken, which is far more invasive, demanded a different approach and the aerial application of Asulox was undertaken last June. The results are now beginning to show.

Pond Reinstatement.

A large area around Tottington Village has become impassable over recent years because poor drainage has created an area of marsh. A collection of small existing ponds have been cleared of silt to enhance drainage and revitalise the wildlife in the

area. This action will not only improve training it will also encourage the expansion of the existing amphibian populations and provide an attractive habitat for dragon flies and the like.

Heath Clearance.

Bridgham Heath is an area of approximately 480 acres of acid grass heath land which is designated a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). In 2005 the 4th annual tree and scrub removal programme was completed; the purpose is to reduce tree and vegetation cover across the heath. This operation is at the request of English Nature and is necessary to change the present SSSI status of 'improving' to 'favourable'. Eleven acres of trees and scrub were felled. A 'box burning' technique was used on the waste utilising a large fire-brick lined steel box fitted with a fan which produces a high pressure vortex. Temperatures reach in excess of 2,000° C and results in an almost completely smokeless burn. This was one of the main reasons for using the technique as Bridgham heath is sandwiched by the A11 road and the main Norwich to London railway line, both of which must be kept free of smoke. A flat site, free from any obstacles was left to regenerate with acid grass and heather.



DTE HOME COUNTIES

Lt Col Andy Westcott

With 1.15 million man training days in 8,000 bids, this was a busy training year for the Army but it is "other" things that have taxed our ingenuity and inventiveness. While they are not directly in support of military training they are essential for the maintenance and sustainability of the training estate:

Fleet Pond.

For many years there has been controversy surrounding the silting up of Fleet Pond, the popular assumption being that silt has been washed from the DTE Long Valley driver training area over the Fleet road, under the Basingstoke canal, into the Gelvert Stream (which has been artificially straightened to facilitate local housing) and finally into Fleet Pond. We employed the environmental consultants Entec UK who conducted a comprehensive study and recommended a clever network of preventative works in Long Valley. These were implemented last autumn and are much more compatible with the environs than previously recommended major engineering works (and at a tenth of the cost). Early indications, after a winter's monitoring, suggest that the works have been successful to the extent that it is now feasible for the Council to allow the dredging of the Pond without it being a wasted effort.



The feature film 'Sahara' being made at Hawley Lake

SSSI Improvements.

Following last years work on heathland clearance in the southern sector, this years' works have focussed on Ash and Aldershot where a further 300 hectares have been mechanically cleared by contractors managed by our commercial partner, Landmarc. The

emphasis is now on maintaining the good work to date and the accepted wisdom is that this can only be done by grazing the areas; the original method of heathland maintenance as a by product of farming. Cattle are now roaming the Longmoor Range Danger Area and we are pushing forward the programme for fencing on the Aldershot and Ash areas. This all requires careful management between the needs of military training and meeting Government obligations to have the SSSIs in a favourable condition by 2010.



The provision of cattle and management of directed grazing is not easy and to facilitate this we have entered into an agreement with the Hampshire and Surrey Wildlife Trusts for a 10 year project to graze the training estate. They have registered some 600 hectares for the Single Payment Scheme. This is an exciting project that will require considerable liaison and mutual understanding for all the interested parties to benefit.



Brunswick Refurbishment.

After many false starts, a partial refurbishment of the "temporary" accommodation built in the early 1900s at Brunswick Camp is underway. Re-development of the Army Training site at Pirbright barracks is the catalyst for this progress. A major effort from DTE Core staff, Landmarc and the Army Training Regiment has resulted in the rapid submission of a £2.5M project to refurbish four 'spider' blocks (half the Camp) managed by a Core staff member on secondment to Landmarc. The Carbon Trust has also been intimately involved to ensure that environmental considerations are given due weighting. This development is a considerable achievement that was long-overdue.



'Prime Suspect 7' and 'James Bond' being filmed at Longmoor



What A Difference A Year Makes Mr Graham Newcombe

The clearance of large areas of windblown timber has subtly changed the landscape around Catterick opening up new views of previously hidden horizons; the clearance of whole woodlands proceeded at a considerable pace following the severe storms that hit the training area in January 2005. Tree clearance used to be a long and laborious process using chainsaws and hand tools but with modern mechanised clearance, entire woodlands are now felled and removed in a few days rather than many months. This dramatically emphasises for DTE North the concept of change and the speed with which it occurs.

Military users have had to cope with the loss of woodland cover since the storms and the inevitable change and adaptation needed to their training programmes. Key training facilities were lost and it will be some time until the replanting programme has been completed and the new plantations become established. An important tool in achieving this regeneration is the Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP). The original ILMP is now five years old and a complete revision has recently been undertaken. Reviewing the previous plan confirmed its value because, over the five years, almost all the necessary actions had been achieved. The rewrite is due for publication in summer 2006 and will lead to additional ideas and enhancements to benefit the training area.

The expansion of Catterick Garrison to 'Super Garrison' status and the proposal to accommodate at least four additional major units will have a significant impact on the training areas in DTE North. The expansion plan is well developed and the implications for the training estate, its tenants and stakeholders should not be underestimated. To help assess the impact and consider the best way forward, an extensive consultation exercise was undertaken. A comprehensive and far reaching Statement of Requirement was produced by the project steering group and the recommendations will ultimately shape and change Catterick Training Area for many years to come. In February 2006 the final report was completed and the recommendations delivered 39 separate proposals. The future challenge will be to deliver these changes which will ensure military training objectives can be met in a sustained and consistent manner over the next 20



years. This plan is the basis of the commitment of DTE North to embrace change and positively manage it for the benefit of all who train here.

Climate change is very much in the spotlight at the moment and unfortunately considerably more difficult to manage. DTE North experienced snow in March which reached depths of over four feet on Feldom Training Area, creating difficulties for our local tenant farmers during lambing time. For agricultural tenants the future remains an area of concern and the increase in military training and the impacts of the Mid Term Review will require careful thought and team work.

More immediately, during the last year at DTE North a new headquarters building for Catterick Training Area was completed providing a 'one-stop-shop' facility for the Training Area. This change also facilitated the reorganisation of the DTE North Headquarters enabling co-located partners to work even more effectively than we might have considered possible before.

The old adage "a change is as good as a rest" comes to mind as DTE North is about to discover whether a lot of change is therefore as good as a lot of rest!



The Apache Attack Helicopter (AH)

Lt Col Paul Rennie MBE

Apache is one of the most valuable MoD procurements in recent years allowing the Army to fulfil key requirements for more mobile and deployable firepower. It will, however, only be as good as its pilots and the training they can carry out, particularly live firing: Much of the UK-based live firing is being conducted at DTE Otterburn (DTE O).

Apache fires Hellfire missiles, CVR7 rockets and 30mm cannon. The Hellfire weapon danger area template is too large to allow firing in the UK, so it will be fired overseas. Only CVR7 - practice rockets and Multi-Purpose Sub-Munition Practice variants - and 30mm cannon are fired at DTE O. Pilots fire from the hover and whilst on the move, at both static and moving targets. With its large impact area, DTE O provides excellent arcs of fire and more air manoeuvre space than any other range in the UK. With its highly sophisticated target acquisition systems, many of the Apache live firing practices can take place at night. The exceptionally low levels of ambient light in North Northumberland make DTE O an ideal night firing training area for AH.

A major element of all such training is the back-up support required and this mirrors what would deploy on operations. Regiments deploy a Forward Operating Base (FOB) to the DTE O Harrier Airstrip. This provides firing support operations and valuable ground crew training. The FOB comprises the vehicles and personnel necessary to arm, refuel and maintain the aircraft during training and includes fire fighting vehicles, aircraft re-fuelling tankers and many utility vehicles. Environmental protection is provided during re-fuelling through the provision of separator tanks. A major new workshop facility, recently completed for AS90 artillery pieces, is sufficiently large to enable Apache to be worked upon indoors if necessary.

As DTE O is part of the Northumberland National Park, and Apache represents the introduction of a new weapon system, the MoD undertook to conduct an Environmental Appraisal (EA). The topics considered within the scope of the EA were: cumulative use of DTE O, noise, air quality, landscape and tranquillity, ecology and nature conservation, traffic, hydrology and ground conditions. In addition, DTE O was used as the basis for a study to assess the potential impact of AH training on certain bird species for the North York and North Pennine Moors Special Protection Areas. The findings from both of these studies are still being assessed by the relevant statutory bodies. From the MoD's perspective, the impact of AH training at DTE O is minimal and within acceptable limits.

Since AH training commenced in 2004, Apache has successfully completed 7 two-week periods of live firing practices. While there are still uncertainties over the future levels of training, the precise targetry requirements and the final responses to the EA, it is likely that AH will continue training at DTE O for the life of the aircraft.

DTE PEMBROKESHIRE

10

A Year Of Consolidation Lt Col Johnny Rogers OBE

With Armoured Fighting Vehicles and Small Arms ranges, an ex-RN Rotary Wing Air-Door gunnery range and facilities that are frequently used for amphibious landings, the acquisition of the Air Weapons Range at RAF Pembrey Sands in April 2006 has reinforced DTE P as a full-blown Tri-Service (purple) live-fire training area.

A new Booking Cell was established in the early part of the year and it has become the 'engine house' of DTE P. Its reports revealed that troops occupied 88,400 beds over the training year which was a drop of 9% over the previous year.

A new trench clearing facility was built by 23 Pioneer Regiment in June and July and represents a major achievement in an area adjacent to a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). Noise has continued to be monitored closely at Castlemartin and the ongoing planning process to restart night firing at Manorbier Range has been progressing.

Built Estate.

Landmarc had budgeted last year to spend £702k on DTE P but actually implemented works to the value of £719k. With expenditure of this size being invested in DTE P's infrastructure over the past 3 years there can be no doubt that Project Vanguard has led to not only maintaining the status quo but has put in place measures that will benefit the Estate in the long term. Work has also started on two new projects:

The first, with the support of the Army Infrastructure Organisation and the Forestry Commission, is the installation of a Biomass Boiler system for the accommodation blocks at Merrion Camp. This is currently seen as a trial site, and the intention is to install a system in FY 2006/7 although much work is still to be done. Potential advantages in the future are a reduction in the use of fossil fuels, cheaper heating, and possible use of combustible material produced by local farmers.

The second project is the running of a waste management trial. This involves separating waste, reducing its bulk and, where possible, recycling it. There will always be a requirement

to send waste to landfill sites but early indications are that there is potentially a significant reduction in the number of skips that require to be emptied for all wastes – a situation that is both economically and environmentally attractive and also conforms to the Government's policy on Sustainable Development.

Rural Estate.

DTE P's allocation for rural work for 2005/06 was £168k. Some outstanding work has been completed in establishing a scrub management regime to meet military, agricultural, nature conservation, archaeological and landscape requirements. This work, together with the existing Woodland Management Plan, has formed the basis of a 5-year Rural Management Plan and the completion of the first major review of the Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP) since its inception in 2001. It has highlighted priority areas for clearance, much of which was achieved over the Christmas-New Year period resulting in areas on Castlemartin Range becoming useable once again for dry training. DTE P was delighted to receive a Sanctuary Award Commendation for its conservation work at Castle Lady Fort. We also hosted a Welsh Conservation Management Field Trip for some 200 delegates, which took place on 15 March 2006.



DTE SALISBURY PLAIN

Lt Col Roger Fellowes

The volume and variety of training on Salisbury Plain reflects the scope and complexity of the wide range of operations and roles at home and overseas for Britain's Armed Forces.

The emphasis over the past year has been in preparing troops for deployments abroad but a great deal of important background training at every level has also been achieved. Several important equipment trials, including a major multi-national friend-or-foe identification trial, have filled any gaps.

The work to expand the training facilities at Copehill Down Village is nearing completion, alongside a small handful of other initiatives to improve training facilities across Salisbury Plain. The most notable of these is the project to improve the infrastructure on the eastern side of the area; funding has been earmarked for initial engineering and environmental appraisals for a new track to connect the various sub-areas, some additional training features, a number of hard-standing areas and upgrading tank-crossings. The project is likely to take 5 years to complete.

The imperative to train our troops is thoroughly supported by the stakeholders on Salisbury Plain but the management of that training must take account of the extraordinary wealth of environmental and archaeological assets in this region. Sustainability is the watchword and considerable effort goes into finding and developing ways to increase the Plain's sustainability without compromising military training. Despite the busy training schedule the government initiative to improve the condition of the 50,000 acres of sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) is well on target and good progress is being made in meeting a number of important undertakings to Statutory Bodies.

The work by Major Nigel Lewis, a retired Army officer aged over 70 who has spent the past 22 years providing nesting habitat for owls and raptors on Salisbury Plain and a large swathe of the surrounding area, has been recognised through the prestigious award of joint runner-up for the coveted Silver Otter Award. His vision and extraordinary personal commitment has lifted the population of Barn Owls on this training area from just a handful to around 2% of the British population, and has also significantly boosted the Small Owl and Kestrel numbers.

The EU supported initiative by 'Sustain the Plain' to reintroduce the Great Bustard to Salisbury Plain continues to attract considerable interest. Precise details of the project's status are hard to determine as a number of radio-transmitters have been lost from the birds. A considerable number of the 2005 batch flew as far as the Loire Valley, Dorset and Somerset. Some have returned and at least one young cock bird has displayed – fuelling hopes that at some stage breeding will commence rather earlier than anticipated. It is hoped that Avian Flu will not impact heavily on the project.

11



The Barry Buddon Cycleway

Capt (Ret'd) Tom Graham

Barry Buddon is a triangular shaped foreland dune area covering some 2,600 Acres used by all forces as it is has 22 ranges with 6 dry training areas, a grassed airstrip, woods, bivi sites and the infrastructure to accommodate 507 personnel. In 2004 the local council proposed a cycle path from east to west between Carnoustie and Monifieth covering some 4Km to continue the coastal paths being constructed around the country. Problems beyond those of a conventional civilian project, included security risks, access control, explosive ordnance clearance and ensuring live firing and troop movements were not interrupted.

The first meeting took place in January 2005 to define the works and the way ahead. Until that time the northern edge of Barry Buddon had always been delineated by two major features that had effectively restricted access to the area: The main line Railway from Aberdeen and the local Golf Course.

The fact that the area could now be visited by anyone who decided to cross the 4Km fence was a growing concern for staff. Equally, the Military had been on Barry Buddon since the 18th Century and the clearance of explosive ordnance from the ground was a significant concern. When that clearance was complete, the area had to be purchased and Scottish National Heritage had to give approval, all of which took approximately twenty weeks before the contractor could start work.



Filming 'Fooling Hitler' at Barry Buddon



Security issues with contractors had to be addressed, communications cables to sentry posts had to be diverted or additional forms of communications provided in conjunction with Landmrac who would take over maintenance at the end of the project. The location of the path required all of the flag poles, night warning lights, range notice boards and by-law signs to be moved; everything relating to the safe, functioning and operation of the Ranges required revising within the standing orders.

Two of the main problems encountered were the realigning of the road along the North of the area and the building of a track alongside the main railway line. The road in part is a single track road with passing places used not only by the MoD but by Council skip lorries, caravans moving to and from the caravan

park and all the delivery vehicles supporting it. The control of this stretch of road was at times fairly difficult but the building of the track next to the railway line was even more so as Network Rail imposed many safety restrictions.

In summary the building of the cycle path was a significant project that required considerable time and effort from the many organisations involved but was successful and worthwhile in order to provide even more access to the DTE for the people of Angus and Dundee and hardy cyclists from even further afield.

DTE SOUTH EAST

Lt Col Guy Bettesworth

This report concentrates on an unexpected occurrence that demonstrated how quickly emergency repairs to the sea defences at Hythe Ranges can be implemented.

The sea defences at Hythe are dependent upon the protective nature of shingle which absorbs the destructive power of wave action, stopping it from eroding the main defensive bank which in Hythe's case is formed by a combination of rock revetment, sand and shingle. Groyne fields trap the shingle to prevent it from washing away.



In early December the coastline of Kent was battered by heavy storms and, combined with unusually high tides, resulted in a dramatic reduction in the amount of shingle being retained. If a massive breach was to be avoided emergency repairs were required as a matter of urgency.

Without delay an emergency plan was put together under the expert guidance of a marine consultant. Time was critical and the only opportunity to complete the work was over the Christmas break before the next period of high tides. Added to which was a busy firing programme for units on pre-deployment training and any interruption would have had serious operational implications. Landmarc was tasked with completing the emergency works against a tight and almost impossible deadline. Defence

Estates was involved in liaison with the Environment Agency to determine responsibilities. Concurrently funding was being sought from HQ DTE to meet the emergency.



There are a total of 45 groyne bays along the frontage at Hythe which were already the subject of planned repair work.

Repairs were completed by Mackley Construction who had to work around the tides by day and night. During the process of excavation to lay the all important 10 ton 'toe' rocks, enormous voids were discovered under the wall. Experts confirmed that a major breach could have occurred within a matter of weeks. The implementation of this highly successful project saved Hythe Ranges and the local community from the threat of flooding.

To the east and west of Hythe Ranges the Environment Agency is involved in a massive project to increase coastal protection as part of a much grander strategy. In the longer term DTE SE's frontage will be absorbed into that scheme.

Heavy plant machinery was used to lift rocks weighing up to ten tonnes in the reconstruction of an effective rock armour defence. Fortunately, DTE SE had a suitable stockpile of rocks.



DTE SOUTH WEST



14

...“Oh I do love to be beside the seaside...”

Maj Harry Reddick

Several camps and training areas in the South West lie near to the sea. One is Wyke Regis Training Area (WRTA) in Dorset, close by the holiday resort of Weymouth. It provides training for all Armed Services and essential pre-deployment training. The training area specialises in the provision of mobility, counter-mobility and sustainability training, not just for the Royal Engineers but also for other arms (both Regular and TA).

The wide variety of facilities conveniently located nearby offers first class training, while the hatted accommodation at Chickerell Camp, located adjacent to an 8-lane small-arms range, allows all-year-round training. The margins of this range can also be used for basic fieldcraft and patrolling exercises, and is particularly suitable for cadets. Meanwhile the Bridging Camp offers 'dry' (i.e., without explosives) bridge demolition training as well as all forms of bridge construction, including both the spanning of gaps and the crossing of water obstacles



by pontoons. The pontoon work is greatly assisted by the fact that the Camp is built on the banks of the Fleet: a tidal lagoon ideal for teaching basic watermanship, improvised raft construction and the use of assault boats.

Directly across the narrow Fleet lagoon is Chesil Beach, a World Heritage Site. Indeed, much of the training area is in, or close to, a site of special scientific interest (SSSI), and this juxtaposition of ecology and military training sits particularly well at Wyke Regis where the MoD places great emphasis on conservation. Evidence of this can be seen in improvements in the state of the SSSI being made each year: The active programme of support work to improve the status of the grasslands at Tidmore Point and the ferns and lichens of Verne Yeates, both of which were in decline after years of neglect. While this work takes time to bear fruit, there has been a broad spectrum of support and praise from conservation bodies. This year staff at WRTA worked closely with the Marine Conservation Society and Dorset Wildlife Trust to assist in the conservation of pink sea fern, a rare and endangered species.

Finally, visiting units enjoy the close proximity to Weymouth and the chance to sample the joys of a thriving holiday resort. We maintain a close liaison with the local community in order to identify ways in



which Weymouth might benefit from the presence of units under training. On one occasion each year a training exercise is arranged to take place on the main beach close to the town centre. Last year this took place during the Weymouth Veterans Week and featured a combined sea and air assault leading to the speedy construction of a Medium Girder Bridge on the beach. Holiday makers had a great chance to see the military in action, while the several thousand veterans – still watching with critical eye - all took the opportunity to point out how it should really be done!



DTE WALES AND WEST

Maj (Ret'd) Howard Vaughan

On the first of April 2006 DTE Wales and DTE West Midlands merged to form DTE Wales and West and became one of the largest geographical areas within the estate. In total the region provides over 200,000 bed nights and 250,000 fed days without compromising the need for sustainable management of the estate. The main projects over the past year have been:

Epynt Way.

The Epynt Way is now open and we are very proud that on the 21st October 05 the Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans, Don Touhig MP, presented the much coveted Silver Otter award to the members of the Epynt Way volunteers and forum members for this imaginative project in which the MoD, Landmarc and volunteers have all worked together to mobilise and co-ordinate land access and financial resources provided by local and regional stakeholders.

The Epynt Way will enhance access and tourism in this under-developed area and will provide benefits to the local economy.

The Usk Project.

The Sennybridge Training Area on the Epynt range is, in common with many MoD ranges across the UK, a stronghold for a large number of species that don't like humans and especially our modern intensive agriculture. A map rapidly confirms that this is one of the most important areas in the country for rivers. Every gallon of water from the Epynt flows into a river



Before work to restrict access

designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). To the North and East flows the Wye SAC whilst the Tywi SAC drains the forests of the western edge. The five streams that drain the heart of the range form an integral part of the Usk SAC and are important for a number of its designated species including Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*), Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*), Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*), and also have small populations of the rapidly disappearing White Clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) and Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*)



After access restrictions

In the last 20 years there has been a marked change in fortune for Salmon across Western Europe. The three SAC's rivers draining the range were until recently amongst the most significant salmon rivers in the world. Now, despite recent signs of a recovery, salmon populations remain at a very low ebb. Annual catches are measured in the hundreds, compared to thousands only a couple of decades ago. With the exception of a few rivers recovering from the recent grip of industrial pollution, this decline has been mirrored, to a lesser or greater degree, across the UK. The decline has been caused by a number of factors as diverse as a change in the frequency of storms in the North Atlantic to the Common Agricultural Policy. The wide range of problems mean that many are beyond the control of individuals but that does not mean we should not tackle those that are within our grasp.

Now, thanks to an innovative partnership between the MoD and the Wye and Usk Foundation (WUF)

the life of Usk salmon has just been made a little easier. In 2004 the Foundation put together a £0.9m partnership project to enhance the conservation and economic value of the Usk. This was called the Usk Project and subsequently shortened to UP! It was not envisaged that one of the many presentations the Foundation gave during the course of the year detailing the Usk project, would lead to a £40,000 + project to improve the streams on the range. Following that meeting a partnership was set up between DTE W&W and UP that would use the resources and expertise of the Usk Project combined with monies from the DTE environmental programme to improve the condition of the streams on the range. In the course of the work the DTE funds would help draw down over £300,000 of further funds to be spent on the rivers outside the range.

Information on the Usk and Wye Foundation was provided by Simon Evans



Commercial Issues

Angela Hannam, Senior Commercial Officer

The Partnering Arrangement with Landmarc is just reaching the end of its 3rd year. During that time the commercial branch has been involved in a myriad of procurement activities ranging from the negotiation of 88 change enquiries with a total value of £16.5M including the provision of world wide targetry costing £14M and 56 minor new works projects totalling £5.5M. Income generating schemes raised some £300K and settlement of the Estate rationalisation plan was worth £16.7M. Most recently we have put in place a 12-month trial on DTEs' Otterburn, Salisbury Plain and Home Counties for the delivery of Rural Defence Estate Maintenance (RDEM) by Landmarc to be more in line with other contract deliverables.



The income generation schemes approved by our team within HQ DTE are in addition to those arranged locally by regional staff. Proposals have ranged from simple requests for permission to do observational and natural interest filming to more complex demands for use of the estate for filming reality TV shows such as 'The Farm', 'Bad Lads Army', 'Top Gear' and beer commercials.

The success of the Partnering arrangement has been manifest in the area of projects. During the year Landmarc successfully completed a major and complex refurbishment ahead of schedule of the Joint Counter Terrorist Training Advisory Team facility. Meanwhile significant works at Brunswick Camp in Pirbright will enable the Army Training and Recruitment Division to temporarily accommodate recruits whilst permanent accommodation is re-provisioned nearby, through another major initiative,

the Single Living Accommodation Modernisation project. Most notably and in the run up to Christmas, Landmarc undertook significant emergency repairs to the sea defences at Hythe and so ensured the protection of the ranges and targetry (and villages) over the winter months.

Our challenge for the coming year will be the smooth integration of the new contracts and commercial arrangements for new sites within the DTE. Our small commercial team is a finite resource and we wait with interest to see how arrangements for further expansion will be managed alongside the increasingly robust processes, executed by ourselves and Landmarc.

DTE Funding Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-06

Penny Mundy, Finance Controller

Overall operating expenditure increased by 7% between FY 04-05 and 05-06, however overall expenditure at regional level increased by over 18%. These increases can be explained by factors affecting both financial years but training activity was not a major factor as both were full operational training years and any differences in activity were marginal.

In explanation, there was a general increase in FY 05/06 that reflected expected inflationary increases leading to a general rise in the cost of goods and services. Together with an increase in the amounts of receipts received in FY 04-05, this led to most of the difference in spending levels between years.

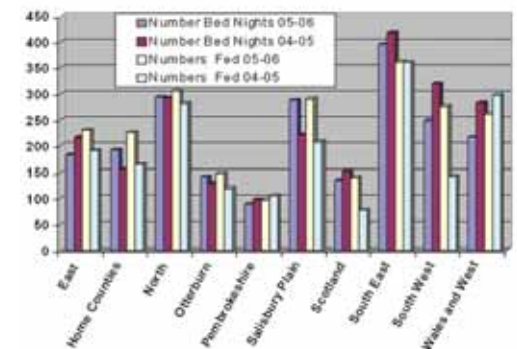
In more detail, the 05-06 increase in costs were due mainly to utilities, petrol, oil and lubricants and the Uniform Business Rate (UBR) charges reflecting the general increase in fuel and energy in period. In addition, there were several residual contractual issues to be resolved as a result of partnership with industry which included the settlement of a due diligence claim relating to the Tenanted Estate of £284K. The larger receipts received in FY 04-05 were UBR rebates due to foot and mouth relating to the period when the estate was unavailable for training.

There was also a considerable investment in the built estate, this included £2.3M worth of works at Brunswick Camp, DTE Home Counties, to improve the standard of accommodation.

DTE Region	FY 2005-06	FY 2004-05	FY 05-06 to 04-05 % Change
East	£9.8	£7.3	34%
Home Counties	£8.3	£6.9	20%
North	£10.5	£8.7	20%
Otterburn	£5.7	£6.0	-5%
Pembrokeshire	£6.3	£5.2	21%
Salisbury Plain	£12.6	£8.9	41%
Scotland	£8.1	£6.9	17%
South East	£10.4	£9.9	5%
South West	£9.8	£8.3	18%
Wales	£10.9	£9.8	11%
TOTAL	£92.5	£77.9	18%
HQ Level Costs/ Transition Costs	£0.5	£8.7	
Total DTE Costs	£93.0	£86.6	7%

The table shows the operating cost for each region and the % change from FY 04-05 to FY 05-06. The DTE once again received a considerable transfer of £0.8M to improve Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in line with highly successful efforts across the DTEs to meet targets agreed with statutory bodies.

Numbers Bed and Fed (2005-06 & 2004-05) / 000s



Landmarc Delivering

Brian Talbot

Landmarc Support Services Limited has almost completed three full years of its contract with the MoD providing key support services to DTE across the UK and overseas. Significant changes have been made to align resources and working practices to meet the needs of the DTE and the military end users. Throughout the DTE, Landmarc staff, and its partners have embraced the changes that have been necessary and are now working to more clearly defined objectives and performance targets, with service performance levels currently at their highest since the beginning of the contract, coupled with an increase in service demand of 4.5% from 2004.

Key Usage Statistics 2005-06

Number of days fed 2,527,850
Number of bed nights 2,350,570
Man Training Days (Ranges) 1,783,653
Man Training Days (Training Areas) 5,815,334

Partnering For Success.

During 2005, the AS90 Training Area Development project at DTE Otterburn was completed and handed over for operation and maintenance to Landmarc. The project provided many challenges and opportunities and was a very good example of how partnering can be the ideal vehicle for project success.



Dan and Peter Snow filming 'Twentieth Century Battles' on DTE Salisbury Plain for the BBC.

Also in 2005, Landmarc established a new partnership with the RNLI to support their Crew Training Campaign to 'Train One, Save Many'. Okehampton Training Camp in Devon was chosen to announce a fundraising initiative that will benefit the charity's Crew Training Campaign by at least £50,000 from staff and local community fundraising initiatives. Landmarc staff from across the south west were present when an initial donation of £5,000 was given to the RNLI to mark the beginning of the company's support.



Sea defence repairs at DTE South East.

Changing Times.

The formation of DTE and the principles used to establish the organisation, notably separating the functions of supply and demand, created for the first time an integrated supplier organisation that has intelligent capability in all service categories delivered by Landmarc. This should result in a common set of strategic objectives whereby all service availability is aligned and prioritised to meet the demand set by the customer.

This presents exciting and challenging times ahead. Landmarc looks forward to continually supporting and providing or developing safe and sustainable training estate and facilities to meet the training requirements of the future.

Sanctuary Awards 2005

The Sanctuary Award Board met in July 2005 to consider applications for the award. The judges thought that the spread of nominations covered well MoD's work relating to nature conservation, public access and heritage protection. The aim of the award is to encourage group and individual efforts that benefit wildlife, archaeology or community awareness of conservation on land that the MoD owns or uses in the UK or overseas.

The winner for 2005 is 'The Epynt Way' on Sennybridge Training Area, part of DTE Wales and West. This is an imaginative project to construct a 90km permissive bridle path to encircle the Sennybridge Training Area in mid-Wales. The great majority of the route is now open, with some sections suitable for disabled people. The Board was impressed with the scale of the achievement, in particular the way in which MoD staff and volunteers have worked together to mobilise and co-ordinate land access and financial resources provided by local and regional stakeholders. The Epynt Way provides links between existing paths that currently stop at the MoD boundary, creating a new series of circular routes. The project will enhance tourism in this under-developed area and will benefit the local economy. The Board thought that the environmental, social and economic outcomes from this project will be long lasting and had no hesitation in awarding it the coveted 'Silver Otter' trophy as outright winner.

A joint Runners-Up award is made to both the Imber Conservation Group (with special mention of Maj (Ret'd) Nigel Lewis) on DTE Salisbury Plain for the Raptor and Owl Nestbox Project, and to the Lulworth Conservation Committee for their achievements in Heathland Restoration and Heritage Protection.

Maj (Ret'd) Nigel Lewis conceived his project in 1983 and his meticulous records show a significant increase in breeding pairs and chicks. In 1987 he recorded one Barn Owl with 3 owlets. In 2003 he recorded 73 breeding pairs and the 1000th Barn Owllet was ringed. The records now cover Barn Owls, Tawny Owls, Little Owls and Kestrels

The Board awarded a Highly Commended certificate to the Conservation Group at DTE Pembrokeshire for its work to get invasive scrub removed at Bulliber Camp, an Iron Age fort within the danger area of the range. It has probably been hidden from view under

scrub for 100 years. Bulliber Camp is now 'on view' as a landmark in the middle of the range. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority now includes it as part of a 'Range Walk' that takes place at weekends throughout the year.

Condition Assessment Of Designated Sites Of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) Lt Col (Ret'd) Richard Rimmer OBE

The MoD has undertaken to improve the condition of Designated Sites to 95% 'Favourable' or 'Unfavourable Recovering' by 2010, with an interim target of 68% by 2006. These English designations are all sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) under National Legislation but include Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservations, and Ramsar agreement (wetland) sites. The UK Regulator is English Nature, soon to become Natural England.

Significant investment has been made on DTE's SSSIs through both DTE's funding programme and also DE's SSSI Condition Improvement Funding programme as follows:

- In fiscal year 2004 - 05 the combined spending on DTE SSSIs was £2,585,000.
- In fiscal year 2005 - 06 the combined spending on DTE SSSIs was £1,807,150.
- In fiscal year 2006 - 07 the projected spending on DTE SSSIs is £800,000 and an additional £870,370 has been requested.

For all this outpouring of cash specifically to improve DTE's SSSIs, English Nature's latest available assessment of their condition is as follows:

DTE	Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering (ha)	Unfavourable No Change, Unfavourable Declining or Part Destroyed (ha)	Total Designated Area in the DTE (ha)	Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering as % Total	Comparative % Figure as at Jun 04
East	16,684	1,989	18,673	89 %	96 %
Home Counties	2,862	3,033	5,895	48 %	42 %
North	6,406	2,604	9,011	71 %	ATE NE was 68%, and ATE NW was 62%
Otterburn	1,280	809	2,090	61 %	37 %
Salisbury Plain	18,944	1,129	20,073	94 %	83 %
South East	1,647	463	2,110	78 %	70 %
South West	2,072	1,502	3,573	58 %	38 %
Wales & West (Note: The old ATE Wales had one SSSI in England)	1,209	100	1,309	92 %	ATE Wales was 100%, and ATE West Midlands was 39%
TOTAL	51,104	11,632	62,736	81 %	75 %

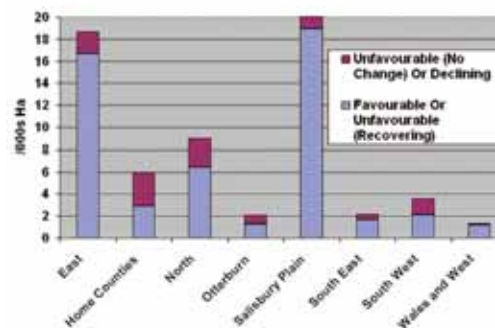
This figure covers only those areas in DTE Wales covered by English Nature. New areas absorbed into ATE on the formation of the DTE predate this analysis.

Some of the English Nature assessments are up to 5 years old and some caution is required in interpreting this data. SSSI improvement programmes involve a lot of maintenance work and funding yet only one region showed a decline, and this probably relates to dated assessment details.

The DTE, and other environmental funding programmes are having a beneficial effect on SSSI condition.

Finally a note of caution. Achieving 81% against the 2010 target of 95% is very creditable, however, the final 14% will be much more difficult to achieve. It will involve significant continued funding and almost certainly an operational penalty, both of which will need to be assessed in due course. The creation of the DTE, incorporating new sites may also have an impact as inherited designated sites may be in a variety of conditions.

ASSESSMENT OF THE CONDITION OF DTE'S SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST



Gunnery Thermal Camera Maj (Ret'd) Mike Griffin

The Defence Training Estate has installed new thermal cameras at some ranges. The thermal cameras were bought from FLIR Systems and enable range staff to view tank targetry at night. These cameras are installed at four locations; Castlemartin, Lulworth and Warcop in the United Kingdom and the Sennelager Range complex in Germany.

Modern battlefield weapons such as Challenger 2 and Warrior have sophisticated sighting mechanisms which operate in both the visual and thermal wave bands. Realistic thermal targetry to test both the crews and weapons systems has been developed to allow exercises to be conducted by day and night. The problem that had to be overcome was that at night, while the gun crews had an excellent view of a target, the Range Officer did not. Range staff also needed a method of confirming that thermal panels on the targets were working prior to the start of the exercise.

The thermal camera is secured to a mast on the control tower and is mounted on an electric pivot head. The camera is linked to a lap-top which controls camera movement by joy stick and displays the image captured on the screen. Operators are easily able to record still pictures or movie clips. The facility will certainly enhance night-time thermal gunnery training.



Thermal Camera image of 30mm round hitting the target at Castlemartin ranges

Technical Advisory Section - Royal Engineers (TAS(RE))

Maj (Ret'd) Frank Compton

In 1862 the Royal Engineers set out the first formal ranges at Hythe in Kent. Safety was soon recognised as an important consideration in range design and was enshrined in a quotation from 'Musketry Instruction of the Army' dated 1 Mar 1870:

"Every range is to be carefully and accurately measured by an officer of the engineer department....."

The role of TAS (RE) has not changed; it continues to provide advice and support to the MoD, Home Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and others on all aspects of small arms and Infantry support weapon ranges and on all land range danger areas.

TAS (RE) holds the national archive for small arms ranges and is the technical author of UK policy for the regulation of small arms ranges. TAS (RE) is the subject matter expert for the design, construction and maintenance of all UK and UK MOD overseas constructed live firing ranges. TAS (RE) is part of DTE and no longer designs ranges but regularly assists consultants and contractors in the development of new and modified ranges providing safety assurances to MoD staff.

Recent work includes:

- Advice to UK operational ranges in southern Iraq.
- Support to MoD in work with Kuwait armed forces ranges.
- Development of new more efficient range materials.
- Developing understanding of environmental and sustainability issues relating to ranges and ensuring people involved in potentially hazardous environments are properly trained and qualified.



REGIONAL SUMMARY

20

DTE East

- Pre-operational training has attracted a broader range of organisations notably specialists without prior infantry training such as vehicle anti-ambush drills, weapon training and similar training.
- High operational tempo has resulted in 15 weeks of the year being devoted to immediate operational training in addition to the more conventional training; Beckingham and Colchester have been very heavily used.
- One problem with such a high level of operational training commitment has been the turbulence in the booking system caused by late notification or changes to training dates.
- Two commercial films were made. 'Fly Boys' is due for release this year depicting the actions of the Royal Flying Corps in WW1. The second was a WW2 TV film about rear gunners in bombers.

DTE Home Counties

- Man-training days totalled 1.15 million: 18% of the DTE total.
- There were 8,065 training bids: 21% of the DTE total.
- Over 300 hectares of heathland was cleared as part of an SSSI improvement project.
- Grazing Agreement with Hampshire and Surrey wildlife Trusts. Six hundred hectares Registered for the Single Payment Scheme.
- Refurbishment project valued at £2.5M for half of Brunswick Camp; Carbon Trust involved.
- Economic and environmental friendly anti-silting works undertaken on Long Valley to protect Fleet Pond.

DTE North

- New Headquarters for Catterick Training Area.
- Thorpe Edge permissive footpath and Downholme viewing point opened.
- Pinsent Way at Warcop tarmaced.
- Management of the MoD's response to the Commons Bill and its implications for DTE Warcop continued.
- Close-quarters combat range constructed through self-help at Feldom.
- Scoredale archaeological survey completed.
- Management and Development Plan produced for Catterick Training Area.

DTE Otterburn

- Completion of the AS90 / MLRS infrastructure project by Mowlem Plc in July 2005.
- Due to operational commitments AS90 and MLRS usage has been less than anticipated but other major users have been making good use of new facilities.
- A 12-lane, 600m Electric Target Range is being constructed.
- DTE Otterburn is the main live firing area for Apache Attack Helicopter training in the UK and several successful training packages have taken place during the year.
- In addition to enabling many units to train for Iraq and Afghanistan, DTE Otterburn also hosted 3 major Belgian Army units, generating £450K.

- Duncan Glen, DE Conservation Officer at DTE Otterburn, received a national award from English Nature in recognition of good management practices leading to a significant improvement in DTE Otterburn's 13 SSSIs.
- Approximately 200,000 native, mixed trees have been planted in newly fenced off conservation areas (part AS90 mitigation works, part farm stewardship schemes).

DTE Pembrokeshire

- Castlemartin Range now has a Trench Clearing Facility. High Velocity Missile (HVM) crews from the Air Defence Range Manobier (ADRM) have used RAF Pembrey Sands to practise tracking RAF aircraft.
- At Templeton, improvements include the fencing of the Royal Engineer bridging pit.
- Planning application submitted to resume night firing at ADRM and for installation of a biomass boiler to heat the Castlemartin accommodation blocks.
- Use of the Adventure Training (AT) facilities at Castlemartin, with qualified AT staff and pre-positioned equipment, has increased considerably.
- The 5 year Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP) review, the drafting of a 5 year Scrub Management Plan, the integration of the Woodland Management Plan and the production of an Integrated Rural Management Plan for Templeton has contributed to a successful year on the Rural Estate.

DTE Salisbury Plain

- The Eastern Infrastructure Project, a major initiative to improve the training infrastructure in the east of DTE Salisbury Plain, was launched in March 2006.

REGIONAL SUMMARY

- Conducted the first UK field firings of the Javelin Anti-Tank Missile over a 2-day demonstration period.
- Combat Coalition Identification (Friend or Foe) Trial was conducted over a 3-week period; 12 nations participated.
- Achieved major dispensation, in conjunction with NFU and DEFRA, in enabling tenant farmers to apply for the Environmental Entry Level Scheme grant.
- Achieved 94.5% of the 95% government target for SSSI in “favourable” and “unfavourable, recovering” condition.

DTE Scotland

- The construction of 400m electronic target range at Garelochhead was completed as was the provision of 3 new dismantled close combat trainers (small arms simulators) at Garelochhead, Barry Buddon and Kirkcudbright.
- Improved access and signage for the public to DTE Scotland training areas, under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, has been agreed. The required work has been undertaken in 3 out of the 5 major DTE sites with the rest to follow early in the next financial year.
- In conjunction with Angus council, the public access footpath at Barry Buddon, linking the council’s coastal route has been completed, opened and improved.
- Comprehensive Environmental Management System to stage 6 was completed for all DTE sites in Scotland and successfully taken over by Landmarc Support Services for day to day management.
- Work on the formation of DTE Scotland was undertaken enabling the transfer of Cape Wrath (DLO, RN), Aultbea (RN) and Tain (RAF) on 1 April 2006.

- Barry Buddon continues to see the benefits of the injection of SSSI improvement funds from Defence Estates. This culminated in a very successful visit by the Tri-lateral Environment and Range Management Conference delegates in June.
- Garelochhead has seen further benefits of the unique timber management and harvesting regime, which includes the maintenance of the extensive roads and tracks in the area.

DTE South East

- Design and build of a centre for the Joint Counter Terrorism Training and Advisory Team was completed on time and in budget.
- Lydd and Hythe hosted 338,001 personnel of whom 15,300 were on pre-operational training and 5,370 were from various police forces.
- Total beds used for all camps (including cadets) reached 392,709.
- Second PUS and all members of the Defence Estates Committee enjoyed practical sustainable development on the Defence Estates Bio-Diversity Day.
- Army Orienteering Championships held at Pippingford Park and Ashdown Forest.

DTE South West

- Familiarisation visits and other studies successfully completed in preparation for taking control of Langport Range and Training Area, Yeovil on 01 April 2006 from the RN.
- Work is nearing completion at Chickerell Camp on a new 400 person capacity dining hall and kitchen designed to allow most units to feed in one sitting, together with a new armoury and ablutions block.

- At Penhale Camp an under-utilised vehicle hangar was converted into a gymnasium funded by Commander Regional Recruiting (Wessex).
- Considerable ecological work is underway or planned in support of the Dartmoor Training Area Environmental Management System (EMS) and also the re-negotiation of licences to continue military training. Studies include: Agriculture and Land Use Management; Archaeology; Vegetation; Ecology and Landscape; Tourism and Socio-Economics; Birds; Noise and Vibration.
- Following a decision in principle to re-open the accommodation at Tregantle Fort, preparatory work has been undertaken.

DTE Wales & West

- More units training on the estate mainly due to pre-operational training and the doubling of students by the Individual Training Group Phase One Adventure Training based at Sennybridge Camp.
- Foreign Forces training on the estate have included French, Dutch and Iraqis.
- All Sites of Special Scientific Interest are now in an improving favourable or favourable condition.
- Partnering with the Usk and Wye Foundation to improve the breeding tributaries for the Atlantic salmon and other key species completed.
- Access remains a priority with the 90Km permissive path around the Sennybridge training area known as the Epynt Way being awarded the prestigious Silver Otter award by The Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans, Don Touhig MP.
- Third Party Revenue increased through events such as the BBC production ‘Johnnie and the Bomb’ and the Welsh Rally GB, part of the world rally championship.

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DTE Salisbury Plain

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Garelochhead

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Mil 9 4568 8127

Inverness

Civ 0131 310 8115
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Kirkcudbright

Civ 0141 224 8503
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DTE South West

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