

14 Company

# In The Loop



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## A Constructive Night Out



Near the end of February, I had the privilege to be selected to attend the Livery and Awards Dinner of The Worshipful Company of Constructors with our OC, which was hosted at the ornately decorated Goldsmiths' Hall.

While this environment was not one I was previously accustomed to, I made my best effort to 'blend in' with the other guests. During the dinner, 14 Company was presented with a cheque to signify the Constructors' support and this money was able to go towards purchasing new training aids.

Throughout the night, I interacted with people from a variety of different backgrounds - from some being those working in construction to guests from the Armed Forces and pharmaceutical companies - as well as the Master of the Company (who some of you may have met on our previous Christmas camp).

I found the experience to be very enlightening as I was able to hear people's stories and successes all ranging from different walks of life. Overall it was a great experience; any cadet who is offered the chance of an opportunity like this should surely take advantage of it.

:: The Worshipful Company of Constructors is a modern City of London Livery Company for professionals working in the construction industry. Each year there are three formal dinners. These are held in the City's splendid halls and are an excellent opportunity to entertain clients, colleagues, friends and family.

Sjt Brown-Senior 149 The Rifles Cadet Detachment



## Same High Standards, Different Badge

Congratulations to the Cadets and Staff of 145 Scots Guards Cadet Detachment following their rebadge parade. Cadets and staff at the detachment have now swapped their London Scottish Tam O'Shanter in favour of the khaki beret of the Scots Guards.

Why the change? Well 145 was closely affiliated with the London regiment in St John's Hill which had a London Scottish Company. The London regiment was disbanded and re-roled as the London Guards. The company 145 is affiliated with then re-roled as Scots Guards and so 145 followed suit.

The Scots Guards is an infantry regiment steeped in history, with soldiers renowned for their discipline and courage in battle. In addition to its combat role, the regiment's ceremonial company has the special honour of acting as guards at royal residences such as Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace. Its traditional uniform – a red tunic and bearskin cap – is famous the world over.



## Leadership Focus On Iraq War Veterans

### Cadets

143 PWRR Detachment have successfully completed the CEO's leadership project by focusing on two soldiers who displayed heroism during the Iraq War, Sergeant Michelle "Chuck" Norris and Colour Sergeant James Harkess.

Sgt Norris is a medic who was noted for heroism in Iraq and is the first woman to have been awarded the Military Cross. She was awarded her medal personally by Queen Elizabeth II on 21 March 2007 as the result of her actions on 11 June 2006 while attached to The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in Iraq, the cap badge proudly worn by 143 cadets.

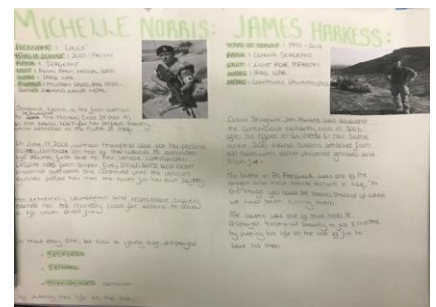
CSgt Harkess was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross in 2006 for his heroic actions in Iraq, notably during the battle of Al Amarah, near Basra, when he helped fight off more than 200 enemy forces from the Mahdi Army militia group. CSgt Harkess was commanding a Warrior

Infantry Fighting Vehicle when he and his comrades came under attack from sniper fire, RPGs and hand grenades. The six-hour battle was one of the bloodiest engagements of the Iraq conflict.

The PWRR's motto is to train hard, fight hard and be courageous under fire. The unit, whose nickname is The Tigers, prides itself on being a flexible, fighting regiment which thrives and delivers excellence on complex, tough operations.

143 DC 2Lt Mark Ridley explained how the cadets had chosen two people who displayed inspiring leadership qualities that all cadets should follow as an example. The project was a collaborative effort, but special mention goes to LCpl Anthea Bianco.

Meanwhile, three members of 143, Corporal Neo and Cadets Atigla and Streek, have received their Basic and 2 Star ACS certificates, so well done to them for passing these important phases of their respective cadet training.



## In The Spotlight: SSgt Lee

In this issue we're focusing on one cadet who really deserved her recent promotion, Staff Sergeant Lee from 146 Royal Logistic Corps Cadet Detachment, who was presented with her 4 Star ACS Certificate by the Deputy Commandant, Lt Col Mark Purse.

To complete the 4 Star award takes a great deal of time and dedication and very few cadets manage to achieve this. And straight after the award presentation she got her promotion from Sergeant to Staff Sergeant.



Detachment Commander SSI Miranda Welham said: "SSgt Lee is a dedicated cadet who always puts herself forward for everything. She has a positive attitude and works hard at the unit and on camps. SSgt Lee has taken it upon herself to help the other cadets coming through the ranks by letting them know what they need to do and by mentoring them."

SSI Welham spoke to members of the unit about SSgt Lee and was given the following feedback:

:: She is a great team player and will always get involved rather than tell other people to do it

:: She is a great role model and very approachable

:: She is a great teacher and is very patient with the cadets, and if anyone doesn't understand she will find a different way of teaching them.

Well done from everyone at 14 Company SSgt Lee!

## New Officer On Parade!

Congratulations go out to 2Lt Shrinarine on his promotion, which was presented to him by the Commandant, Colonel Jones. Second Lieutenant Shrinarine tells us more about the ACF commissioning process:

I had started my journey to become an officer in November of 2022 when I expressed my interest to the OC. It was a fitting position to take as it structurally made sense as a DC of 145 Detachment.

Many parade evenings on a Tuesday at St John's Hill were undertaken by myself and a number of other Potential Officer Candidates. Everyone was given the best advice possible from Major Sneed, who serves as a Vice President of the Army Cadet Commissioning Board (ACCB).

I was assessed and deemed capable of applying for my Board. What I wasn't aware of was how difficult it would be to book an actual board date. The ACCB was backlogged with applicants and short staffed with assessors. Something all CFAVs know all too well is the short staffing in the ACF. However, with the diligence and persistence of the SWL ACF Headquarters Training Team, I saw my first opportunity to sit my Board in Gloucester on a recent Saturday.

Sooner than I realised, I was off to Gloucester wearing my finest suit to sit my Board. It was interesting to see different ACF Training Centre and staff

members with such an array of cap badges and patches of counties that I was not familiar with. All of the candidates were numbered and split into syndicates and a briefing was quickly given by the Board President, a Colonel of the Royal Irish Regiment.

The day was intense and the process lasted the whole day. There was barely enough time to meet some of my fellow candidates and find out where they were from. I was surprised to see that there were candidates from all over the country that had travelled to be part of this particular Board. I was relieved not to be the only candidate from outside the local County!



After final interviews with the ACCB President and Vice President, I was advised that I would be informed of the result by Monday. It was a worry for me as I had a big ceremony that I was conducting on the Monday which would have seen various VIP personalities including the Colonel of SWL ACF. It would be a shame to have that many people there and me delivering news that I was unsuccessful.

However the letter came through and I found out I had passed! The biggest surprise being that the Colonel was well prepared for this and decided to promote me right then and there and grant me my commission.

### Delivery Of Wooden L98s Begins

The Coy have been very lucky to have been gifted 50 new Wooden L98 training aids to help in the units. These have been gifted from the Worshipful Company of Constructors

Wooden L98s that can be used to help teach Fieldcraft, Skill At Arms, the Marksmanship Principles and Rifle Drill have begun being issued to detachments across 14 Company.



The wooden rifles, which were kindly provided to 14 Company thanks to the generosity of The Worshipful Company of Constructors, will prove a huge asset for the training of cadets, especially those units that have limited access to live fire or DP L98s.

The wooden rifles are life-sized and feature all the typical components and controls of the real L98 A2, including sling fittings. These practice rifles need to be oiled, varnished or painted before use, with the proviso that they are not painted black and green, or any other colours that make them look like a real weapon as they are practice aids only. Lifelike as they are, they must not be mistaken for the real thing!



## Messages from Captain Tester

I know there are limited spaces on events we are running, there isn't much I can do about that at the moment. I always check the names I have received by the deadline and then assess who needs to attend more.

If you miss out, keep putting your name forward as it puts you up the list! But if your name is on and you don't attend, that will put you lower on my list as it's not fair to those who have missed that place.

- February MCTW- 24-26 Feb
  - I hope all those who attended had a great time, the vibe was very positive. Well done to all those who passed.
- 2 Star Exped/Bronze DofE Exped 01-02 April
  - Good luck to the 12 of our cadets who are attending this event. Don't get lost!
  - This should also see a big part of your Bronze DofE passed off if you're signed up for the award.
- 2 Star Range Day 25 March
  - Names are selected and uploaded to Westminster and DCs were informed on 01 March.
  - PIL and Consent are on the portal.
  - Be at 14 Coy HQ Mitcham Road by 07:30.
- Annual Camp Names by 01 April!
  - Names should be on Westminster (tell your DC) by 01 April if you are wishing to attend Annual.
  - The cost of camp varies if you are there for one week or two, and if you're Free School Meals (FSM).

- 1 Star Cadre - Week 2 only - is £35
- 2, 3 and 4 Star Cadre - Both weeks - is £75 or £45 if you're FSM.

- April MCTW is changing to a LCTW 22 & 23 April
  - This is due to staffing numbers.
  - The current new plan is for local training at 14 Coy HQ in Mitcham Road.
  - Still limited on numbers for cadets, let your DC know if you're interested.
  - What is on offer?
    - Basic- SAA and Shoot - 2 Cadets per Detachment
    - 1 Star A - SAA L98- 2 Cadets per Detachment
    - 1 Star B - Drill, CIS, Scorpion Shoot - 3 Cadets per Detachment
    - 2 Star - Drill - names to DCs who will send to me for company prioritising (I will be taking 16 spaces overall - max)
    - 2/3 Star Exped Planning - those attending May Exped.

## Other Notices

After an MCTW or Annual Camp, once the passes have been uploaded check your portal to make sure and then address it there and then if you've not got the passes you've been told you received.