Drumbeat

Issue 119 Tidworth, Netheravon & Bulford Community Newsletter April 2007

1 (Mech) Brigade deploys ...

2 R WELSH

2 RTR

4 RIFLES

Soldiers from 1 Mechanized Brigade have been training on the Salisbury Plain Training Area prior to their deployment to Iraq on Operation TELIC 10.

Many of the units that make up the Brigade come from Tidworth and Bulford. These include The Kings Royal Hussars, 1st Royal Horse Artillery and the 2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh, all based in Tidworth, and 4th Battalion The Rifles from Bulford. Also joining the Battlegroup is the Irish Guards from Aldershot and a Squadron from 2Royal Tank Regiment, currently in Germany but due to move to Tidworth in July.

Others deploying include elements from: 215 Signal Squadron and 16 Close Support Medical Squadron from Tidworth; 22 Engineer Regiment from Perham Down, 3 Logistic Support Regiment based at Abingdon, 158 Provost Company (3 Regiment Royal Military Police) from Bulford and a squadron from the Household Cavalry Regiment from Windsor.

1 (Mech) Brigade will be taking over from 19 (Mech) Brigade in Basra.

1 RHA

KRH

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Cllr Gareth Neale CBE, visiting 2 R Welsh during the exercise

1 RHA

16 CS Med Sqn

19 Tk Tptr Sqn with KRH

16 CS Med Sqn

New Service Housing Helpline

On 1st April, Defence Estates is launching a new network of seven 'Housing Information Centres' (HIC) across Great Britain. The HICs will replace the service currently provided through local housing offices and will provide one single point of contact for all housing services OTHER THAN repairs and maintenance.

Staff in the HICs will allocate houses, arrange moves in and out, arrange pre move-out visits and handle any general enquiries about Service housing in England, Scotland and Wales. BUT, for repairs and maintenance, you should continue to call the MHS Helpdesk.

The big difference is that instead of visiting a local housing office, you simply need to call the HIC network through a single national number : **0800 - 169 6322**. The HICs will be open from 0800 - 16:30 hours Monday to Friday and will be manned by experienced DE housing staff. If your enquiry is of a general nature, it will be routed to the first available person at any of the 7 HICs. This is because general enquiries, such as the implications of leaving theServices or learning about your entitlement to housing, can be answered by any of our staff wherever they are. But if your call is specific to a particular location - such as the need to arrange a move in or out - you will need to select the relevant HIC from the options offered. Tidworth, Netheravon, Bulford and Perham Down are in the Southwest Region (green area) adminstered from Warminster.

Remember ! From 1st April 2007 :

Repairs & Maintenance :
Call MODern Housing Solutions on **0800 - 707 6000**

All other Housing Services :
Call the Defence Estates HIC Service on **0800 - 169 6322**

News from 19 Tank Transporter Squadron

19 Tank Transporter Squadron has been preparing for OP HERRICK 6 and 7, by organising a 'Safe and Skilled Driver' Competition as a fun and effective way for all involved to put their driver skills to the test. The event comprised a number of tests : reversing whilst being guided, width appreciation, speed estimation, a highway code and road safety quiz and reversing with a trailer.

It was a close contest, but C Troop were the overall winners, with the best individual performance coming from LCpl Smith who consistently performed to a high standard across the board. Prizes were presented by the Commanding Officer of 27 Tpt Rgt, Lt Col Lewis, who congratulated everyone for their efforts during a fun and useful training day. Many thanks to Cpl Lord and all those who helped set up and run the event.

Then, in February, most of the Sqn found themselves deployed to Cyprus for an 11-day stint to cover QRF commitments in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area. It interesting for us to deploy 'out of role' and we made the most of training opportunities on the island - including the local meze washed down with a bottle or two of Keo !

Once back in Bulford, it was straight into preparations for Exercise Desert Dragon, the 1 Mech Bde confirmatory exercise before they deploy to Iraq in May. 19 Tk Tptr Sqn were tasked to transport the KRH across Salisbury Plain. The "drag" involved a night move where a number of scenarios that were thrown at the Sqn, from IEDs to disabled vehicles and CASEVACs. The lads proved to be on top form as they reacted to the serials and not even the wind and snow could dampen their reactions!

The Tidworth Equitation Centre

Phase One of Tidworth's new Equitation Centre will be completed this month - the first stage in a project which will soon be providing some of the best facilities the Army has to offer for horses and riders.

This first part of the project consists of two state-of-the-art stable blocks and the considerable associated underground work neccessary to provide stabling for 55 horses, replacing stables which will be lost inside the barracks as the Project Allenby building work progresses.

Overlooked by the Old Stables belonging to Tedworth House, (above), the new Equitation Centre is being built in the 5-acre old walled garden and it will be used in the first instance by the Saddle Club and the Polo Club.

"There are several sustainable features to the build", Project Coordinator David Horne told Drumbeat. "For example, rain water will be collected and used for watering and washing down the horses".

An indoor riding school, an outdoor arena, a dressage ring and a tack shop are planned for Phase 2 of the project, once Phase One is 'up and running'.

On a day when the weather varied between sunshine and snow, Major General Andrew Farquhar, GOC 5 Division,

visited the Equitation Centre, seen here with Project Coordinator David Horne and Brig (Retd) John Wright, its first Chief Executive.

News from the Garrison Saddle Club

The good news for all those wishing to learn to ride in the Garrison is that the Garrison Riding Club is starting up again, 6 days a week. As a temporary measure, before the completion of the Equitation Centre, the Club will be meeting at the Cholderton Equestrian Centre in the beautiful grounds of Cholderton House, which is the first house on the right hand side of the A338 as you enter Cholderton, on your way from Tidworth to Salisbury.

We have great plans for having fun with the ponies and horses and will be running a full range of instruction and activities for tots, children and adults in the wonderful indoor school, so why not come and have a look ! Call us first to arrange a time - and if we are out, just leave a message with your name and number and we will get back to you.

The Garrison Riding Club at Cholderton Equestrian Centre
Cholderton House Cholderton SP4 0DW
01980 629615 07719 476576

It's time to give up !

This was the message promoted by the Army Primary Health Care Service amongst Garrison Units on 'No Smoking Day' last month.

6Bn REME took up the challenge and LCpl Dixon, LCpl Coulson and LCpl Harraway are pictured here with the Health Improvement Team from the APHCS, carrying out carbon monoxide monitoring to demonstrate how this poison can build up in the blood stream as a result of smoking.

Help to quit is freely available at your Med Centre or Doctor's surgery.

Thank you ...

Col Tony Moorby accepts a donation of almost £2000 from Sgt Craig Marshall and Sgt Billy Bremner, from 206 Signal Squadron in Bulford who, together with Cpl Briony Wheal and LCpl Mark Jackson, formed a 4-man team at the MNCI UK Signals Detachment in Baghdad.

They raised the money from a series of curry nights, quiz nights, a charity auction - and by Sgt Bremner dressed in a Scooby Doo suit standing outside the American cookhouse with a collecting bucket - very hot work in the heat of Baghdad, but very popular with the Americans !

Garrison Easter Services

Tidworth

St Michael's Garrison Church Beth 2326

01 Apr	10:00	Family Palm Sunday Service
2,3 & 4 Apr	19:00	Holy week meditations
05 Apr	19:00	Maundy Thurs Last Supper Communion
06 Apr	13:00	Good Friday Meditation on the Cross
	14:15	Good Friday Walk
07 Apr	20:00	Easter Vigil & renewal of baptism vows
08 Apr	10:00	Easter Day Communion

Catholic Garrison Church of St Patrick & St George

06 Apr	15:00	Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
08 Apr	11:00	Easter Day Mass

Bulford

St George's Garrison Church

01 Apr	11:00	Palm Sunday Service Family communion
06 Apr	12:30	Good Friday Service
08 Apr	11:00	Easter Day Service Holy Communion

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

02 Apr	19:30	Service of Reconciliation
06 Apr	11:00	Children's Stations of the Cross
07 Apr	20:30	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil & Mass of the Resurrection
08 Apr	10:15	Easter Day Service

Larkhill

St Barbara & St Anthony Catholic Church

05 Apr	19:30	Maundy Thursday Easter Triduum Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet
08 Apr	09:00	Easter Day Mass

Local Easter Services

Holy Trinity, Tidworth

01 Apr	11:00	Palm Procession
06 Apr	12:00	Good Friday Service
08 Apr	11:00	Easter Sunday Service

St James's, Ludgershall

01 Apr	12:00	Palm Procession
05 Apr	19:30	Maundy Thursday Service
06 Apr	14:00	Good Friday Service
08 Apr	09:30	Easter Sunday Service

St Peter's, Shipton Bellinger

01 Apr	11:00	Palm Sunday Procession & Family Service
06 Apr	12:00	Good Friday Meditation on the Cross
08 Apr	09:30	Easter Celebration

New Opening Times for the Army Learning Centre at 10AEC

From Mon 2 April 2007, the new opening times will be :

Monday	08:30 - 20:00
Tuesday	08:30 - 17:00
Wednesday	08:30 - 20:00
Thursday	08:30 - 17:00
Friday	08:30 - 14:00

Farewell ...

Three Commanding Officers and over 60 colleagues, both military and civilian, came along to wish Barbara Williams, an Admin Officer in the Garrison Support Unit, a happy retirement after working for the Civil Service for 36 years... and it would have been 42 years if she had not taken a 6 year break to have children !

Barbara's wealth of knowledge and invaluable assistance will be sorely missed by all those with whom she has come into contact. She is now looking forward to devoting more time to her family and her many hobbies and we all wish her well in her retirement.

Community Area Awards 2006

At a ceremony held at the Chute Club on 7th March, Community Awards were presented by the Lord Lieutenant, Mr John Bush OBE, to all those nominated for their endeavours to improve or benefit our community area in 2006. Personnel from several Garrison Units were among the recipients, including 4 Rifles, 158 Pro Coy RMP, 10 AEC and 6Bn REME. The Lord Lieutenant praised our community spirit and the Community Awards, saying that he believed them to be replicated nowhere else in Wiltshire. He went on to present Shields to those whose efforts were considered to have made the most impact :

Mike & Janet Gingell : the Environment Shield for using their gardening expertise to look after the church grounds & green public areas in Collingbourne Ducis;

John McConnell : the Paul Oatway Shield, for long term impact on youth in the community;

The Castledown Radio Volunteers : the Community Shield for significant involvement in the community;

Sue & Anthony Foster : the TCAP Shield for their considerable contribution to the local community in many ways over many years;

Ken Beard : the Tidworth Development Trust Shield for outstanding contribution to the community over many years.

Red Nose Day Fundraisers !

(Below) The girls from 43 (Wessex) Brigade who raised over £400 from everyone in Picton Barracks ...

... and the children and staff from Clarendon Junior School who wore red to school and raised over £250.

Well done Everyone !

Plastic & Cardboard Rubbish Collections

It has long been a bone of contention that it has not been possible for Tidworth Residents to put plastic or cardboard rubbish into their alternate week black recycling rubbish boxes. It still isn't, but read on ...

In the financial year starting this month, thanks to the Town Council, recycling skips will come to Tidworth's Wylye Road Community Centre car park for residents to dispose of their plastic and cardboard rubbish.

The skip driver will arrive at 10:00 stay on site to ensure that only plastic and cardboard are put in the skips, leaving at 12:30 - or as soon as the skips are full.

These are the dates for your calendar :

Wed 4 April 2007	Wed 19 Sept 2007
Wed 2 May 2007	Wed 17 Oct 2007
Wed 30 May 2007	Wed 14 Nov 2007
Wed 27 Jun 2007	Wed 12 Dec 2007
Wed 25 Jul 2007	Wed 23 Jan 2008
Wed 22 Aug 2007	Wed 20 Feb 2008

Easter Rubbish Collections

All refuse and recycling crews are working normally on Good Friday and Easter Monday. There will therefore be no change in the published calendar of waste collections during the weeks beginning 2nd & 9th April.

Wheeled bins must be positioned by the kerbside by 07:00 on usual collection day, with lids firmly closed and no side waste. Waste presented incorrectly will not be collected.

Kennet District Council Tel. 01380 - 724 911

New Venue for Bluez 'n' Zuz Disco

Now at Clarendon Junior School
Tues 10 April 19:00 - 21:00

Prizes & Competitions as usual

Come dressed for Easter (optional) and there will be prizes for the best costumes !

Everyone aged 11 - 15 welcome ! See you there !

Clarendon Hockey Success ...

Clarendon Junior School took two teams to the Tidworth Oval Hockey Festival early in March.

Both teams performed extremely well, both reaching the finals - where they had to play each other !

Team A won and have been invited to attend the Wiltshire Youth Games in July.

The Staffordshire Phoenix stoops

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment on tour in Basra have uncovered a significant arsenal of ammunition, weapons and bomb-making equipment, in a search and detention operation code-named Operation PHOENIX.

The raid was launched following an attack on Basra Palace earlier in the day and the weapons, which were found hidden in a vehicle at the property they were searching, included a 107mm rocket, 6 Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs), some of which were still in their primary packaging, a mortar launcher and a number of 60mm mortars. One of the bombs had to be blown up where it was found because it was considered too dangerous to move.

"We have no doubt that a find of this scale will mean we have saved the lives of other soldiers in the future," said Captain Alex Hodges, the Officer Commanding Support Company. "It will also mean that there are fewer weapons on the streets, which in turn can only make the streets safer for the people of Basra".

Caption: Pictured Left to Right: LCpl Pete Matthews, LCpl Padelus Sutherland, Cpl Sean Macleod, WO2 Simon Jones, Major Giles Woodhouse, WO2, Matty Bourne, Cpl Wesley Sutherland, Pte Anthony Lane, Pte Dan Hennesey

Potential Recruits visit Bulford

The Rifles Recruiting Team brought a group of potential recruits to Bulford last month on a "Look at Life" Work Experience Course designed to give those who are thinking about joining The Rifles a taste of what it's like to be a Rifleman ! The group ranged in age from 14 to 31 and came from all parts of the country, recommended to come by Army Recruiting Offices.

During the week they spent with the Recruiting Team, the 70 potential recruits were shown the vehicles and weapons systems used by the Rifles as well as taking part in team building exercises. Day 4 saw them visiting the Army Development and Selection Centre and on Day 5 they travelled to Catterick to watch a Passing Out Parade.

The week is designed to show potential recruits what life in the Army is like, without any commitment to join - although some do !

Welsh Winners !

On Thursday 15 March 2007, 2nd Bn The Royal Welsh faced 23 Pioneer Regt RLC in the Aldershot Military Stadium for the Army Rugby Cup Final.

After an exciting and exhilarating match, the final score was 22-12 to the Royal Welsh and the Stadium resounded to Welsh cheers as skipper LCpl Cunvin lifted the Army Cup for the Regiment's 22nd victory in the competition.

LCpl Balfrey was named man of the match for his exemplary kicking and direction of play.

Sponsored Bike-athon

In aid of SSAFA Forces Help

15 April 2007 26, 18 or 13 miles on roads & tracks in the Tidworth to Netheravon area - or a 6 mile walk around Tedworth Park for non-cyclists. All day BBQ. Call Capt Rick Young on 07789 - 541126 for more information and sponsor forms, etc

Aspire Defence opens new Business Centre

The new Aspire Business Centre was officially opened on 29th March by Commander Regional Forces, Lt Gen John McColl, who has had close involvement with Project Allenby throughout his time as CRF.

The opening of the new Business Centre provides the opportunity to co-locate the Project Allenby MoD Central Management Team with the three arms of the Aspire Defence business and some of their supply partners, all under one roof.

"With a 35 year programme of development ahead, Aspire Defence is committed to providing an environment which will help facilitate collaborative working, effective management and good communication", Peter Smart, Chief Executive of Aspire Defence, told Drumbeat. "The Aspire Business Centre will provide this and support us in delivering the best possible service for our customer, the Army".

The Aspire Business Centre, formerly Tidworth College, was purchased from the Royal British Legion last year.

Drumbeat Noticeboard

B F B S Forces Radio
Radio requests & dedications
Call : 08701 20 21 21
(calls are charged at the national rate)
Website : For overseas commands and Northern Ireland visit **www.bfbs.com** and go to the "Dedications" page.
Or by email : **requests@bfbs.com**
Now on Sky Digital, Channel 0184

Garrison 106.8 FM
Broadcasting to Tidworth, Netheravon, Bulford and Larkhill from the studio in The Old Armoury at the top of Ordnance Road
Call 01980 - 602277 or Email : spgarrisonfm@btconnect.com

Castledown Radio
Broadcasting to the Tidworth Community Area on **104.7 FM**
email : studio@castledownradio.info
or call: 01264 - 84 1047

E Blueys
Log on to www.bfpo.com

Tidworth Residents' Forum
Mon 16 Apr 07 19:30
Wylye Road Community Centre
Come and hear the latest news about projects which will affect the future of Tidworth. Everyone welcome.

Plastic & Cardboard Rubbish
Skips will be in Wylye Road Community Centre car park
10:00-12:30 4 April & 2 May

Car Boot Sale
28 Apr Upavon Air Field 12:00
In aid of Chatterbox Preschool & ABF
Details: Steven Turner 07920 - 545 523

Career Transition Partnership
RRC Tidworth : 01980 - 602689

SSAFA Forces Help
Call 01980 - 670540 or 01980 - 670345

Job Vacancies
Grooms for Tidworth Polo Club
Full or part time. Must be able to ride
For details : 01980 - 602508 or 846705

Sodexho Defence Services
Job vacancies : Catering & Cleaning
Call 01980 - 656 026

AWS Job Vacancies
Full & part time Childcare job vacancies in the Garrison
Call Chris on 01980 - 673379

Aspire Defence Helpline (24/7)
(Mil) 96340 2300
(Civ) 0845 168 2300

Repairs to Army Quarters (24/7)
MODern Housing Solutions Helpline
Call 0800 - 707 6000

Emergency Numbers :
MDP : 01980 - 60 3099
RMP : 01980 - 67 2251 & 67 2334
Wiltshire Police : 0845 - 408 7000
Police Emergency : 999 or 112
Crimestoppers : 0800 - 555111

Tidworth Leisure Centre
TLC Opening Times

Monday - Friday	09:00 - 21:00
Saturdays	08:00 - 19:00
Sundays	08:00 - 21:00

Telephone : 01980 - 847 140
General Manager : 602030
Outside Pitch Bookings : 603416

Library Opening Times :

Mon	10:00 - 17:00
Tues & Thurs	14:00 - 19:00
Wed & Fri	10:00 - 17:00
Sat	10:00 - 13:00

Call: 01980 - 843460 or 602568

Oasis Café Opening Times :

Mon - Fri	09:00 - 17:00
Sat & Sun	10:00 - 16:00

Tidworth HIVE Opening Times :
Mon - Fri 09:00 - 15:00
Call Carol Morris : 01980 - 602224
Website : www.hive.mod.uk

Purity Beauty Salon :
Mon-Sat 9:00 - 20:00 Call 07958-911928

Physiotherapy & Sports Injuries :
Physiotherapy : 07768 - 737 646
Sports Therapy : 07796 - 230 571

AWS Families Centres
Ordnance House, Tidworth: 602398
at Tidworth Leisure Centre : 602191
The Beeches, Bulford 01980 - 672342
AWS Main Office : 01980 - 672105

Bulford HIVE at The Beeches
Open Tues & Thurs 9:00 - 13:00
Call Tracey O'Neil on 01980- 672109
Email : bulford@hivegb.co.uk

Army Library at 10 AEC
Candahar Barracks, Tidworth
Mon-Fri 09:30 - 13:30 Tid Mil 3043
Bulford Army Library
Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp
Mon-Thu 9:00-16:30 Fri 9:00-12:30

Zouch Parade Shops, Tidworth
New Hairdresser now open
Call Scizzor Sisters on 01980 - 847327

Thrift Shops
Tidworth : Mondays 9:00 - 14:45
Zouch Parade, behind Londis shop
Bulford : Thursdays 9:30 - 13:00
At The Haig Centre
Come & see our spacious new lay out !

Tidworth CAB
Wylye Road Community Centre
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 - 14:00
Call 01980 - 843377 or 01380 - 728771

Aldershot Army Show
14 & 15 July 2007 10:00 - 18:00
More details : www.armyshow.co.uk

Uniformed Youth Groups
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers & Explorers
Call Arthur Kendrew 01980 - 597 341
Guides, Brownies, Rainbows
Call Connie Patrickson 01980-845715

T 2 A Adventure Sports Club
Wall climbing, orienteering & mountain biking for 11 - 18s
For details call TLC 01980 - 847140

Tidworth 5-8s Youth Club
Ordnance House, Tidworth
Term time Mondays 17:00 - 18:30
Call Claire Davies on 01980 - 602398

Tidworth 8-12s Youth Club
AWS Community Hall at the TLC
Tues 18:00-20:00 Call Jimi 07810-771630

Tidworth Youth Centre
Tues & Thurs 18:30 - 21:00 13+
St Andrew's Hall opposite the Oval
Call Sarah Fanshawe 01980 - 842748

Netheravon 13-19s Youth Club
Tues 19:00 - 21:00 Phoenix Hall
More details from 01980 - 671325

Bulford Youth Club
The Beeches Families Centre
Mondays 5-8s 16:30 - 18:00
Wednesdays 9-12s 18:00 - 20:00
Call Tonia Hopkins on 07785 357065

Tidworth Garrison Football Club
Boys 9-14, Girls 11-14
For details, call Chalky Wiltshire
01980 673956 or Ian King 01980 672083

"Bluez 'n' Zuz" Youth Disco
10 April 19:00 - 21:00
Clarendon Primary School, Tidworth

St James Church, Ludgershall
20 Apr 19:30
Church Benefice choir and Helen Chadwick Quartet in concert
Tickets from Rector on 01264 - 791 202

Storybook Soldiers
Being deployed ? Record a story for your child to listen to while you are away. Phone Helen at 10AEC : 01980 602234 (Tid Mil. 94342 2234)

FREE Riding !
Help exercise the polo ponies.
Polo experience is not necessary.
We also need helpers at the stables.
For details : 01980 - 602508 or 846705

Army Families Journal
Spring edition out now !
Are you getting your free copy four times a year ?
01980 615518 www.afj.org.uk

Stay with the beat !
Deadline for May 2007 issue : 10 April 2007
Drumbeat, 10 AEC, Candahar Barracks, Tidworth, SP9 7AY
Call Rosemary Meeke on 01980 - 602980
or email : drumbeat_tidworth@hotmail.com
Website : www.drumbeat.org.uk

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