

# THE POSTHORN

Addition 27

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## Brief History of Armed Forces Postal Service

In 1533 Henry VIII had military posts between London and his Armies, consisting of horsemen established at 20 mile intervals "by means of which, travelling at the utmost speed and no passing their respective limits" (or Posts) dispatches were carried between the King and his Armies "200 miles in two days". Thus the Army Postal Service can claim to be one of the oldest units of the British Army.

In the Nineteenth Century the British Army depended upon the civilian postal services. The only exception to this is the Crimean War (1854-56) when the British troops relied on the French Army Postal Service. The first British military postal organisation was formed in 1882 when a Royal Warrant authorised the formation of the Army Post Office Corps from part of the 49th (later 24th) Middlesex (Rifle) Volunteers. As telegraphs became an increasingly important method of communication the Army postal service came under jurisdiction of the Royal Engineers. During the First World War the 24th Middlesex were still recruiting for the Post Office Rifles but they were now a separate unit to the official army postal service.



### Formation of the Royal Engineers (Postal Section) and (Army Postal Services) 1913

On 28 February 1913, forty-six years to the day after the first recommendation to establish a military postal unit, the Army Post Office Corps and proposed territorial Army Postal Service joining the Royal Engineers' Telegraphers when they were formed into the Royal Engineers, Special Reserve (Postal Section) and the Royal Engineers, Territorial Force (Army Postal Services) respectively. The Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Service was formed in the 1950s when the postal service amalgamated with the courier service



### The Royal Logistic Corps

The Royal Logistic Corps was formed on 5 April 1993, amalgamating the Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps, Army Catering Corps and the Postal and Courier Service (Royal Engineers) PCS RLC was formed at this time in line with The Royal Logistic Corps, a natural formation encompassing the support elements of the British Army.

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# BFPO Naples

## Brief History of AFSOUTH



### AFSOUTH POST---The Beginnings

The installation now known as **AFSouth Post** had its beginnings in 1932, when it was designed to provide a home for the orphans of Naples, including orphans of Italian sailors--a function it never served.

Funding was contributed by the Foundation Bank of Naples to celebrate its 400th anniversary, and construction began in 1936. It was completed in 1939 by the Cidronio firm, which worked on a commission from the Bank of Naples. The institute was named "**Istituto Figli del Popolo**". The original installation was designed and built to house 5,000 orphans in the main buildings, with smaller buildings designed as support areas, such as kitchens, bakeries, administrative offices, etc.

The formal inauguration of the facility, under the name "**Collegio Costanzo Ciano della Gioventu' Italiana del Littorio di Napoli**" took place on 9 May 1940, by Vittorio Emanuele III, King of Italy. The obelisk which is prominently situated in front of Building "O" is a stylized rudder, which was to be the symbol of this compound. Tunnels were constructed at the same time as a result of a law which had been passed requiring air raid shelters for each new construction.

The German Army occupied the installation from 1941 to 1943. As the fortunes of war changed, so did the residents and the Allied Armies used the facilities from 1943 to 1947. From July 1947 the post was used by various refugee organizations to house displaced persons until 1952 when it was returned to the Foundation Bank of Naples. The AFSOUTH HQs was initially established on USS "Mount Olympus", moored in Naples.

The first inadequate ashore facility was inaugurated on 1 September 1951, in a building in the Posillipo area. On Oct 3, 1952, AFSOUTH signed an agreement to rent the facility, providing a **headquarters for AFSOUTH, AIRSOUTH and STRIKFORSOUTH**. The first AFSOUTH unit to occupy the post was the Carabinieri who moved into Building "E" in January 1953. On April 10, the Headquarters Commandant assumed command of the post when troops moved into Building "D", on May 1, 1953, the transmitter and receiver sites, constructed at Licola and Lago Patria, were operational. AIRSOUTH completed its move from Florence on May 18, occupying Building "O". After serious structural damage was discovered in some of the AFSOUTH buildings, considerable correspondence took place between NATO and Foundation in an attempt to procure repairs.

The problem was resolved through the Prefect of Naples and the Ministry of the Interior by attributing the structural failures to war damage, in order to receive government reparations. However, another cause was the use of poor construction materials, since they were the only ones available at the time. The Italian government contributed Lira 973,000,000 for renovations, while NATO paid Lira 423,000,000 for adoptions to be made for AFSouth's purposes. Additionally, the construction of the transmitter and receiver sites cost Lire 106,000,000. The Commander-in-Chief and his staff moved to AFSouth Post in early March, 1954, from which time the post has served at the home of Headquarters, **Allied Forces Southern Europe**. The official inauguration took place on 4 April 1954.



## The Birth of AFSOUTH



Adm. Robert B. Carney, the first CINCSOUTH, with Capt. Olivieri (ITA) on board USS Mount Olympus, the first AFSOUTH Headquarters

In May 1951 Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote a letter to the Standing Group proposing the appointment of U.S. Adm. Robert Bostwick Carney as Southern Commander, with headquarters in Italy. As a consequence, Naples was a quite obvious choice, in order to allow Carney - who had the national duty of Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, with headquarters in London - to use fleet support for his new headquarters. In a press conference in Paris, on 19 June 1951, Gen. Eisenhower formally announced the appointment of Carney, with effect the same day.

A communiqué' stated that the location for his allied headquarters was to be agreed upon by Italian authorities. His mission, as Commander-in-Chief, **Allied Forces Southern Europe (CINCSOUTH)**, was to defend Southern Europe; but without interfering with the Western Mediterranean commanders, nor with Greece, Turkey and

Yugoslavia while initiatives were in progress to consider admission of these countries into the Alliance. Adm. Carney would have also assumed duties as Commander, **Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe (COMNAVSOUTH)**, with a separate staff.

Carney's area of responsibility, therefore, extended from the Western Mediterranean - except the Balearic Islands and Malta - to a line in the Adriatic from Trieste (Italy) to Cape Matapan and to the Tunisian waters. Responsibility to protect the sea lines between France, Corsica and Algeria remained with the French. Similarly, the Italian Navy was in charge of protecting the communications between Italy and her islands.

With the appointment of CINCSOUTH, two other nominations were announced: Italian Army Lt. Gen. **Maurizio Lazzaro De Castiglioni** was to be Commander, **Allied Land Forces Southern Europe**; and **Maj. Gen. David M. Schlatter**, USAF, Commander, **Allied Air Forces Southern Europe**. Both would be subordinated to Carney. The same



communiqué stated that the above decisions had been taken "in the light of the traditional interests and responsibilities of France, Italy and Great Britain, and without any prejudice about the institution of a command system which may be adopted for the whole Mediterranean theatre."

Adm. Carney flew to Rome, where he met the Defence Minister, Mr. Randolfo Pacciardi, and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Carlo Sforza. The morning after, 21 June 1951, he raised his flag on the U.S.S. Mount Olympus, at anchor in the Bay of Naples. During a brief ceremony on board his flagship, Carney read the letter of appointment received from Gen. Eisenhower. He concluded by saying, "Our duty is to protect and safe-guard freedom. We accept this duty with confidence, well conscious of our responsibilities." A twenty-one gun salute from the ship was echoed by the same number from the Italian Navy artillery, marking the marriage between Naples and AFSOUTH -- a marriage blessed by the Italian Premier, Alcide De Gasperi, on whom Carney paid a call the same day.

Adm. Carney had, as he said, great responsibilities, but no organisations to accomplish his mission. The only force available to him for combat was the **U.S. Sixth Fleet**, put under his operational control as COMNAVSOUTH. Together with his two designated subordinate commanders, his first task was to build a structure able to co-ordinate and control also the other available forces: what remained of the Italian armed forces and some French forces.

The first stone laid in his organisation was the activation, in Verona, of the **Headquarters Allied Land Forces Southern Europe** (LANDSOUTH), on 10 July 1951. Some three infantry divisions and three brigades were the only forces available to this command to defend north-eastern Italy.

Next was the air headquarters, **Allied Air Forces Southern Europe** (AIRSOUTH), set up in a temporary facility in Florence, on 5 August. Italian, American, French and British personnel staffed this headquarters. Forces available included an Air Tactical Group of the Italian Air Force, equipped with F-47 Thunderbolts and F-51 Mustangs. The group was later dissolved in November 1951 and the 56th Tactical Air Force was established in Vicenza, under the operational control of AIRSOUTH. Its strength consisted of 132 aircraft.

Adm. Carney and his staff could not co-ordinate the growing organisation from the operational rooms of a ship. A temporary home - in an apartment building - was found in Naples, on the hill of **Posillipo**; and the headquarters opened on 1 September 1951. A symbol of the new Allied command was also selected, the "**Lion of Saint Mark**", the traditional symbol associated with the ancient Republic of Venice. At the flag dedication ceremony, later that year, Adm. Carney explained the reasons for his choice. "*The insignia of the flag is that of the Lion of Saint Mark, a design old and honoured in the Mediterranean, with the design of power - holding open 'the book of peace.'* However, the Lion has a sword poised, indicating that he is willing to maintain that peace."

Originally, Allied Forces Southern Europe was **one of two major NATO commands in the Mediterranean area**, the other being Allied Forces Mediterranean based on the island of Malta, responsible for naval activities in the region.

Some of the first exercises of the new command took place in 1952. **Operation Ancient Wall** was a series of military manoeuvres involving ground small unit tactical training, land-based tactical air support, and carrier-based air support.

The drawdown of the British Mediterranean Fleet, the military difficulties of the politically-decided command structure, and the withdrawal of the French from the military command structure forced a **rearrangement of the command arrangements in the southern region**. Allied Forces Mediterranean was disbanded on 5 June 1967, and all forces in the south and the Mediterranean assigned to AFSOUTH.

The Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces Southern Europe has always been a **United States Navy Admiral**, based at Naples, who also holds the national appointment of Commander-in-Chief United States Naval Forces Europe.

From 1967 the overall shape of AFSOUTH did not significantly change until the command was renamed in 2004. There were **five principal subordinate commands (PSCs)**. The number rose to six when Greece was taking part in the military structure; Greece withdrew from the NATO military structure after the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, and after some behind the scenes negotiating by NATO officials, returned in October 1980.

**Two land commands**, Allied Land Forces Southern Europe and Allied Land Forces South-eastern Europe, were tasked to defend Italy and Turkey respectively. Each was directly responsible to Commander-in-Chief, AFSOUTH, and supported by a tactical air force, 5th Allied Tactical Air Force in Italy and 6th Allied Tactical Air Force in Turkey. The two allied tactical air forces were under an overall air command, Allied Air Forces Southern Europe, headquartered at Naples in Italy under a United States Air Force officer, ComAirSouth, responsible himself to CinCAFSOUTH.



**Due to political considerations, command of the naval forces in the region was split.** Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe, at Naples, operated most of the NATO allies' naval forces in the Mediterranean under an Italian admiral. But due to the U.S. desire to retain control of their nuclear-armed naval forces, the United States Sixth Fleet reported directly to CinCAFSOUTH, supported by a separate headquarters named Naval Striking and Support Forces Southern Europe or STRIKFORSOUTH. The sixth command was an Allied command responsible for the land defence of Greece, named Allied Land Forces South-Central Europe or LANDSOUTHCENT. Below these PSCs were smaller headquarters such as Maritime Air Forces, Mediterranean, at Sigonella, Sicily, responsible for coordination of the aerial anti-submarine effort, Submarine Forces, South, and the Naval On-Call Force Mediterranean, a multinational escort squadron activated at intervals.

## The Mediterranean, a Sea Of Crisis

A change in Malta's foreign policy was the origin of a major change in AFSOUTH's organisation. Acceding to a request by the Maltese government and following an Italian invitation, NAVSOUTH was moved to Naples in 1971, to facilities on the little island of Nisida previously occupied by the Italian Air Force Academy. Notwithstanding the withdrawal of the headquarters from Malta, NATO signed a seven-year agreement with that government on the use of certain facilities.

Another period of serious tension in the Mediterranean made evident the **need for NATO Allies** to keep a close watch on events which, even if not in the area covered by the Treaty, were taken by the Soviets as opportunities for military build-up. During the **Yom-Kippur War**, in October 1973, Soviet Navy units in the Mediterranean were doubled, reaching a peak close to 100 units.

The oil price war that closely followed the end of the fourth Arab-Israeli conflict was a further factor for **political instability** in the whole area. Against this disturbing background, NATO Ministers had to stress once again the importance for the Alliance to maintain its defensive and deterrent capabilities.



USS Missouri in the bay of Naples

In July 1974 a coup d'etat in Cyprus and a Turkish military action on the island marked a serious crisis in Greek-Turkish relations. A new Greek regime eventually decided to withdraw its forces from the NATO integrated military structure. While the solution of the Cyprus problem, as such, was a matter for the United Nations; the Atlantic Council made every effort to bring about **reconciliation between the two NATO allies**.

The withdrawal of Greek forces from the integrated structure left the Southern Region's eastern commands with responsibilities over mainly Turkish Forces. It was therefore natural to reinforce the existing co-ordination between NATO and national chains of command, by assigning command responsibility to Turkish officers. On 30 June 1978, the Commanders of Allied Land Forces South-eastern Europe

and the Sixth Allied Air Force, both U.S. officers, were replaced in Izmir by colleagues of the hosting nation. Efforts by the Allies to improve the dialogue between Greece and Turkey continued and Greek forces returned to the NATO integrated military structure in October 1980, as the result of a proposal developed by **Gen. Bernard W Rogers**, the **Supreme Allied Commander in Europe**.

The year before, NATO's Southern Region had to face a new problem, the expiration of the agreement on the use of military facilities in Malta. British forces had to move off the island and a compromise solution was found, thanks to an Italian mediation. Italy pledged to guarantee Maltese neutrality, while at the same time providing the island with economic assistance. Neutrality meant also denial of access of Soviet warships to Maltese shipyards. Only two years later, in 1981, Malta signed an agreement with the Soviet Union for the use of the oil depots previously used by NATO countries. In 1984, while negotiating the renewal of the treaty with Italy, Malta signed an ambiguous agreement with Libya.

Despite the several crises which have affected the Mediterranean area since that time, for many years the Western Allies did not have any reason to further modify their common defensive organisation in the area. Improvements obviously were made, however, to maintain the necessary level of deterrence. Particularly significant has been the acquisition by NATO of the **Airborne Warning and Control System**. A force of 18 E-3A aircraft with its long-range airborne radars and the use of three forward deployment bases in the Southern Region covered the gaps in the air defence radar system. This was a significant improvement because the air threat had always been one of the most dangerous for the Southern Region.



**NAVOCFORMED in 1977,  
during its 16th activation**



**Fighter aircraft over Turkey  
during a NATO exercise**

Another significant change in the Southern Region's contribution to European defence was the deployment in Sicily of cruise missiles. In 1979 the Alliance had to realise that Soviet development of missiles such as the SS-20s and bombers like the nuclear-capable Backfire, were reinforcing the Warsaw Pact superiority in long-range nuclear forces. NATO adopted the so-called "dual track," to modernise her intermediate nuclear forces by deploying Pershing and cruise missiles and withdrawing a great number of older nuclear weapons. NATO also offered nations the opportunity to negotiate a verifiable agreement on armament reduction, which would have made the actual deployment of the new western missiles unnecessary. Italy, as well as

other allied countries, accepted her share of the burden of hosting of some of these missiles. Since 1983, a part of this new deterrent arsenal was deployed in the AFSOUTH area, but this headquarters had no direct control over these weapons, eventually dismantled under the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty.

A sign of the changing times in the 1980s was the new growing threat posed by international terrorism. AFSOUTH itself was directly affected with the kidnapping of a senior officer of the LANDSOUTH staff, Brig. Gen. James Lee Dozier, in 1981. The Italian Police rescued Brig. Gen. Dozier 42 days later, but it was clear that an **international escalation of terrorism** was in progress.



**B.Gen. Dozier**

This escalation eventually led to the **U.S.-Libya confrontation** in 1986. That confrontation included an event which in theory created the conditions for Italy to claim the application of the provisions of the North Atlantic Treaty, when SCUD missiles were fired with the improbable intent to hit a U.S. Coast Guard communication facility on the island of Lampedusa. Italy chose not to call for a NATO response.



The Alliance policy was to deem any terrorist action a threat against its citizens which may jeopardize democratic institutions as well as normal international relationships -- a threat which required a new type of allied co-ordination. This policy was a sign of the changing roles of the Alliance, gradually shifting towards broader transatlantic co-ordination also in matters not directly affecting common defence.

The line of determination always followed by the 16 NATO nations has not always been easy to maintain, but has paid in tremendous dividends. The Euro missiles dispute was a case in

point. We now know that the political risks taken, at a moment of Alliance fragility, to continue the deployment of INF missiles was the winning card which caused the collapse of the Soviet long-term strategy.

The international security situation, fostered by decades of NATO unity and Western economic progress - as compared to the internal Soviet economic drama - created the conditions for the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1988 and Gorbachev's era of transition from confrontation to co-operation with the West.

The second half of the 1980's also saw some clear improvements in NATO's capabilities in the South. Spain became the 16th member of the Alliance and, even if not integrated into the military structure, started its military co-operation and participation in Southern Region exercises. These exercises, also strong catalysts for co-operation, started to often see participation by half of the NATO allies.



Eventually the improving co-operation with Spain led to the assignment (on 5 April 1990) of a **Spanish Liaison Officer to AFSOUTH**. There had also for years been a French Military mission - led by a Rear Adm. - and a Portuguese Liaison Officer.

During the 1980's, modernisation programs developed by all the regional countries significantly improved overall defence capabilities. Even though in several areas still years behind the Central Region in terms of modern forces, the situation was so improved that it allowed a Commander-in-Chief to suggest a "**strategic leverage**" role for the Southern Region. This referred to the pressure he would be able to exercise against the Southern Soviet Union, in the event of a Soviet aggression against Central Europe.

## The New NATO Strategy

While AFSOUTH was concentrating on its deterrence mission, the European transition towards a new security environment continued. By March 1991 all Cruise and Pershing II missiles were removed from Europe. In May, the Yugoslav Defence Minister declared that his country was in a state of civil war. Albania's communists decided to authorise political opposition. The Balkans gradually became the focus of international attention.

As a direct consequence of the experience from Southern Guard, more nations decided to be represented at **AFSOUTH**. First, The Netherlands, which opened a liaison office on 30 September 1991, eventually followed by Germany and Canada.

The AFSOUTH headquarters was at the time closely following the evolutions of the situation in Yugoslavia while it had launched a very ambitious co-operation program with **Central and Eastern European** non-NATO neighbours.

A new NATO strategy was formally adopted in Rome on 7-8 November 1991, where Heads of State or Government issued a formal **Declaration on Peace and Co-operation**. Later in the year the **North Atlantic Co-operation Council** was activated, with participation initially of nine non-NATO countries. Adm. Mike Boorda, as **CINCSOUTH**, visited Bulgaria on 1 February 1992. This was the first of a series of contacts which quickly moved from senior to intermediate level and involved other nations like Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Albania.

The new strategic concept called for stress to be put on multinational forces. The first concrete step was made in Naples on 30 April 1992, when the **Standing Naval Force Mediterranean** (STANAVFORMED) was activated, replacing the old on-call force, **NAVOCFORMED**. Comprised of eight frigates or destroyers (from Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States) this force is part of NATO's immediate reaction forces and operates mainly in the Mediterranean Sea.

## From The Successes of 50 Years To Prospects For The Future

It was impossible to predict how long AFSOUTH would have to cope with the Balkan problems. It will be "as long as needed". Meanwhile, the headquarters remained projected towards its normal long-term basic commitments: to be

able to defend peace while projecting stability. Exercise programs therefore could not lose their momentum and continued along a pattern of effectiveness and with the increased involvement of non-NATO partners. To be able to cope with the new complex array of commitments, **AFSOUTH** was also planning for construction of a new facility, where a state-of-the-art headquarters will guarantee all the needed working command, control and communication resources while providing much better quality of life. AFSOUTH celebrated its 50th Anniversary on 21 June 2001. After 50 years of a happy marriage with the city of Naples, the headquarters was preparing to move a few miles west, in a compound called AFSOUTH 2000.

Fifty years represented more than two generations for the AFSOUTH staff. The first generation is to be credited for having built a credible defence structure from nothing. This structure contributed to deterrence when a new war in Europe was a concrete possibility. The second generation had the difficult task of continuing with the pattern of deterrence through preparation; even if AFSOUTH remained a neglected southern 'flank' and NATO resources continued to concentrate on central Europe. At the same time, command and control technology was changing at growing speed, leading to a widening gap with the rest of NATO. Notwithstanding that, NATO's overall defensive capabilities in the south continued to increase, up to a point where AFSOUTH could offer '**strategic leverage**' to the main NATO defences in central Europe. However, it was only with the end of the **Cold War** that the Alliance acknowledged that all the warnings received from AFSOUTH about the many endemic sources of instability in the south were well founded. These anticipated challenges became a reality only NATO was capable to cope with.

With progressive acceleration, AFSOUTH capitalised on the attention received during the first out-of-area crisis, the **Gulf War**, to demonstrate its capability to plan and conduct large-scale operations, to protect peace and help manage a major international crisis. It was no accident that the Gulf War did not spill into the Mediterranean. Soon after, countries like Germany, The Netherlands and Canada - which had not been present in the southern command - decided to extend their **NATO** commitment to AFSOUTH. In a few years the Naples headquarters saw the number of nations represented on its staff to grow from five to 14 and more came afterwards.

The main credit to be given to the current generation of AFSOUTH leaders and staff members was that they had kept the momentum going - even at times leading **the Alliance** toward its new roles. They had shown that that old taboos (like out-of-area operations) were a relic of the past. All the major missions which were envisaged by the new NATO strategy had been tested at AFSOUTH: the new relationship with the **United Nations**, **OSCE** and **WEU**; peace missions in support of the international community; **humanitarian operations**; the openness with which non-NATO members have been progressively associated as real partners in these activities.

Unfortunately, on 11 September 2001, whilst AFSOUTH was proudly looking at the results achieved in five decades, the news of the absurd terrorist attacks in the United States suddenly changed the international scenario. The evil forces which many times AFSOUTH planners had indicated as an emerging major threat to peace and stability hit with inconceivable barbarism.

The Alliance's reaction was well in proportion, with a display of cohesion, firmness and unanimity with no precedence. AFSOUTH stood ready to take its share.

## Deactivation of AFSOUTH

2004 began with the initial transition of AFSOUTH towards the new organization and the new mission which the Headquarters was to pass to its successor headquarters, **Joint Force Command Naples**. Selected staff members began to assume new responsibilities to parallel their duties in the anticipated new structure and - as a very symbolic introduction of a transition into the future - a ground breaking ceremony was conducted on 28 January 2004 at Lago Patria, some 20 kilometres west of Naples, at the site where a completely new facility will be built to host Joint Force Command Naples.

The impact of the new NATO Command Structure on AFSOUTH - which, together with AFNORTH, comprised NATO's second level of command - was the conversion to a **Joint Force Command (JFC)**, responsible to establish a **Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF)** HQ for its expeditionary missions. These NATO-dedicated force headquarters would mount a smaller **Deployed Joint Task Force (DJTF)** as the "seed" for larger command and control formations which various missions may require. As part of the conversion, **NAVSOUTH** was to become the **Maritime Component Command (MCC)** as CC-Mar Naples and remain in Naples; a **Land Component Command (LCC)** was to be established in Madrid, Spain as CC-Land Madrid; and **AIRSOUTH** was to convert to the **Air Component Command (ACC)** and relocate to Izmir, Turkey as CC-Air Izmir.

With the establishment of the CC-Air Izmir, the **Combined Air Operations Centers (CAOCs)** at Poggio Renatico, Italy and Larissa, Greece, will remain in operation while those at Eskisehir (Turkey), Monsanto (Portugal), and Torrejon (Spain) will close as NATO CAOCs.

The Joint Sub-Regional Commands that were established in 1999 at Izmir, Turkey, Larissa, Greece, Madrid and Verona, Italy are to stand-down.

The **NRF** was officially activated on 15 October 2003, with rotational command responsibility assigned to **AFNORTH**, to be relieved by **Joint Force Command Naples** on 1 July 2004. The close deadline imposed an acceleration of the preparations to meet the associated DJTF responsibilities as DJTF members must be able to report within 48 hours and to deploy within five days. DJTF Staff, totalling 90 personnel, were identified within the AFSOUTH functional areas and started their training, especially planning and **Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team (OLRT)** procedures. Several training opportunities and exercises were scheduled, or adapted to the additional training objectives. Initial training at AFSOUTH began 6 October 2003 with Dynamic Action, a two-week staff writing program and seminar. During the first week, a series of workshops developed the standard operating procedures for the development and deployment of the **Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team**, DJTF and CJTF. Week two featured a series of seminars for NRF orientation, the operational planning process and the development of vignettes and operational scenarios. Battle staff training followed from 24 November to 4 December and eventually continued with deployment of the DJTF staff to the Joint Warfare Centre at Stavanger, Norway in early February.

The AFSOUTH compound at Bagnoli was formally activated on 4 April 1954, the day of the 5th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty. Nearly fifty years later, on 2 April 2004 a ceremony at Bagnoli marked the deactivation of Allied Forces Southern Europe and the activation of Joint Force Command Naples, effective 4 April 2004. Nearly fifty-three years after Adm. Carney assumed duties as CINCSOUTH on 21 June 1951.

More than half of a century during which AFSOUTH HQ moved from being the headquarters of the so-called soft underbelly of the Alliance to becoming the spearhead of NATO's transition into the new operational missions which make the Alliance more relevant than ever to peace, security and stability for the entire world, well beyond the area defined by Article 6 of the Treaty.

Always ready to assume new missions and responsibilities, AFSOUTH was for many years the spearhead of NATO's initiatives and changes along the pattern which assured peace, stability and growing prosperity to the whole NATO's southern region. Through its engagement activities it projected its values beyond borders, wherever there were people who ready to share with AFSOUTH the essential goal of assuring a better and more peaceful and prosperous future to the next generations. This is the heritage the AFSOUTH staff proudly left with the Joint Force Command Naples.

## NATO takes ownership of new JFC Naples headquarters

LAGO PATRIA, Italy - The keys of the new Allied Joint Force Command Naples headquarters in Lago Patria were officially turned over to NATO at a signing ceremony held at the new site May 23, 2012.

The formal transfer of the new site from the Host Nation to NATO was met with distinction and professionalism. Col. Luigi Bodini, JFC Naples Post Commander, a participating signatory in the transfer of possession of the site, added that the new Lago Patria headquarters is the perfect prequel for future civil and military partnerships.

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"Built to support more than 2,000 NATO staff members and three separate commands, the new Lago Patria site is a superb operational headquarters location," said Bodini. "Lago Patria is the ideal place for future NATO growth and regional development."

The new NATO headquarters is located just outside of the town of Lago Patria in the region of Campania and will be the home of NATO's Allied Joint Force Command Naples. The site, more commonly referred to as "Lago Patria," promises to propel the Alliance's Naples-based command into the future by providing a bold and technologically savvy home for one of NATO's most visible commands.

"This new headquarters will provide the services and facilities required by a headquarters which has been assigned challenging and important missions within the future NATO military command structure," said Bodini.

As nearly six decades of NATO in Bagnoli comes to an end, Dr. Diana Sodano, the command's community relations officer, emphasized the rich history and magnificent community of which NATO has been a part.

"We can all be proud of our command's accomplishments," said Sodano. "Looking forward to the horizon at our future service at Lago Patria, we can be equally proud and excited about the next six decades and beyond."

Once NATO assumes full control over the new site, NATO officials will make a future announcement regarding a formal "opening ceremony" at the Lago Patria headquarters

## Relocation

### Environmental Facts

The buildings are designed to make the maximum use of natural sunlight in order to limit the use of artificial light and therefore excessive energy use, and enhance the quality of life for staff members. In the same way, the buildings' exteriors will incorporate sunshades in order to limit the need for air conditioners.

The parking areas will be paved with hollow hexagonal tiles in order to allow grass to grow through them, thus ensuring that the rain water is not wasted and is drained away effectively, and increase the attractiveness of the exterior area.

The new facility will provide JFC Naples with a **much-needed modern, flexible and secure facility**. This new headquarters will provide the services and facilities required by a Headquarters which has been assigned challenging and important missions within the future NATO military command structure.

### Figures

- 2100 Military personnel in the HQ
- 350 Civilian personnel
- 85000 sm Gross floor space
- 600 km Cabling
- 2000 Computer systems
- 2227 Parking spaces
- 3 km Perimeter fencing
- 400 People provided meal services at any one time in the International Mess
- 30000 sm Designated as 'Green Area'
- 90000 m2 Grass Land
- 300 Seat Auditorium



Cutaway of the new Headquarters building

## **Sultanate of Muscat and Oman**

**John Jackett (1959 – 1981), served at FPO Salalah in Dhofar province**

*A fuller version of this article, with more photos, appears on the following websites – [http://www.tafsc.com/postal\\_courier.htm](http://www.tafsc.com/postal_courier.htm) and the FST (RAMC) at: <http://www.pcsbranch.org.uk/> [http://www.55fst-ramc.org.uk/FRONT%20PAGES/FP\\_LINKS/FP\\_LINKS.html](http://www.55fst-ramc.org.uk/FRONT%20PAGES/FP_LINKS/FP_LINKS.html)*

*Postal support within Oman, during the 1960s and up to 1977, was divided into two FPOs, Masirah was BFPO 65 and Salalah was BFPO 66. Mails would have circulated under the local Postal control, initially from the UK through Aden – which closed in November 1967, then Bahrain and finally Cyprus – I am grateful for help with FPO staffing information, not only from those listed as being stationed there, also from many of the “ Gulf Couriers ”, who followed the routes mentioned by Graham Warden below.*

*The closure in Bahrain / Sharjah of 261 PCCU RE in 1971 and to the conclusion of our BFPO service in 1977, via Cyprus – sometimes on the twice weekly “ Veg run ” but more often direct to Masirah and then local flights, probably by Andover aircraft, to Salalah. PCS control remained then with 275 PCCU RE in Cyprus. Posties going to Oman from 1976 had to report to South Cerney for briefing and the closure of both FPOs in 1977 also involved that location, control having now passed to: UK (Sp) PCCU RE. By mid 1975 Peter Redfern instigated the routing of airmails to be by Gulf Air via Muscat, the rundown of RAF Salalah together with the monsoon season offered a mere 3 / 4 weekly flights. Following the March 1977 official closure, RAF direct flights into Salalah became fortnightly, bringing in surface parcels, together with re-supplies of freight and of course medical needs up until the winter of 1978, when the last FST pulled out of the Dhofar region.*

### **RAF Masirah**

*Masirah is an island approximately 40 miles long by 10 miles wide at its maximum point. On plan it is shaped like an hourglass, being five miles wide at its narrowest point. It lies approximately 15 miles off the Oman coast, to which it belongs politically. It is about 225 miles due south of Muscat and 400 miles southeast of Salalah. The RAF had a base on the island until March of 1977 when it was closed down. There were facilities for a sea plane base in a bay south of the present base.*

*A narrow gauge railway existed on this little Island, with low gravel hills in the south, rocky hills up to 900 feet high in the centre, and a flat gravel plain at the northern tip. In order to handle the large quantities of supplies landed by ship a narrow gauge railway was built, serving dispersed fuel dumps and supply compounds. Resurrected by the British servicemen as a spare time activity in 1969, trains continued to run until 1977, when the airfield was handed over to the Sultan of Oman's Air Force.*

**2011 – February / March Update.** *Harry and Eileen Eagle re-visited Masirah with a great deal of help from Pete Braithwaite, who was working at Muscat at the time. They were able to get onto the Island by ferry, staying in a very posh hotel for just one night, even with local contacts they were not able to visit the entire RAF site that Harry remembers, however they enjoyed a stroll around the old haunts.*

### **RAF Salalah**

*RAF Salalah, was a staging post in the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman and lay in the fertile coastal plain of Dhofar, 650 miles from Aden. The climate could be said to have been generally good with the possible exception of the May - September period. During this time, the normally arid Arabian Waste was affected by the South-West monsoon and a strip of 100 miles either side of Salalah was*

subjected to periods of continual although light rain and complete cloud cover. There was an excellent Rediffusion system “ **Radio 219** “ and this is without doubt the piece de resistance of Salalah leisure-time enterprise, providing up to nine hours daily of entertainment from 14:30-23:30 hours. Posties rang extension 219 and the arrival / departure time of Mail planes was relayed to one-and-all, so that collection of inward mails was timed to be about an hour after the scheduled arrival, enabling the Posties to get the mail back to the FPO and get it all sorted – to the benefit of all concerned. In earlier years, outdoor sports centred mainly on football fixtures between the various sections on the station and matches against the Sultan’s local Army unit, the Dhofar Force. The Sultan, who lived in Salalah, was particularly keen on fostering a spirit of sporting competition between this Unit and those on the RAF station and contributed trophies for the various sporting activities.

### “ Postie ” Memories –

**Dave Gladwin recalls of his first tour:** Let me try and bring you a few things that happened while I was there Feb 69 to Nov 69, I can’t remember the exact months. The 6 hole golf course was built by DOE and any other service man. **First man to the moon:** so in the hobbies club we built **UK 69 rocket** out of 50 gall drums and it was placed outside SHQ. The Firemans club was renamed the Wobbly Wheel and I think I’m right in saying the last LSL Sir Bedevere came in, which we unloaded on the maxi float. Medway the SOAF station some 30 miles away was renamed Thumrait, Jet Provost replaced the ageing prop Provost to SOAF. Giro in-paying from NAAFI was done with the BFPO. Later in the year RAF Regiment rock apes were deployed as trouble was brewing in the region, the lookout towers were built along with lots of other safety precautions. In November the Camp was hit by mortar fire. The WO i/c at Bahrain was Joe O’Toole I think he only visited once, that was only to do monthly FF26 check and to see if I had any stamps with no Queens head on. Monthly visit was made by RAF doctor, on his visit he would be taken to Sultan Said bin Taimur at his palace in Salalah, the Sultans son used the FPO quite regularly and I was also able to visit the Palace during this first tour and also when I came back in 1977. I think I was the first Postie to get the Dhofar GSM.

**August 1977** when I came back again, to formalise the closure, we were initially going to do that as soon as the major celebrations of the birthday of Sultan Qaboos bin Said was over on 18<sup>th</sup> November. The Holiday Inn [ **now The Crown Plaza** ] was home to King Hussein of Jordan - guest of honour, plane loads of UK personnel were flown in, including The Red Arrows and The White Helmets display teams. However our leaving was all delayed to support BATT, the Captain RE was appointed OC and disappeared on a ‘Swanee’. I retained the certificate, of formally transferring the FPO building and some postage stamps etc over to SOAF on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1977. Dave Wrigglesworth, the Capt RE and myself flew up to Muscat and then by 1<sup>st</sup> class on British Airways, arriving Heathrow just before Christmas. Living close to South Cerney, a vehicle arrived over the next few working days and transfer of all FPO “remaining bits” was made.

**Ron “Paddy” Hawthorne recalls that in 1971 on detachment from 275 PCCU RE in Cyprus** I’ve got a short story of my time in Salalah I think I had been in camp for a couple of days when the attack alarm went off. I was in the FPO on my own, the Sapper had popped out. I had never been briefed, so did not know what to do to find a shelter. I locked up the FPO and ran blindly looking for somewhere to hide. I spotted what I thought was a shelter and ran towards it, only to find that it was locked. As this was the first attack on the camp since I had arrived, I did not want to run around too much looking for the proper thing, as I did not know how bad it got. So I stayed put till the all-clear was given. On arriving back at the office, my Sapper – name forgotten but a good worker, was waiting to get in. He asked me where I had taken shelter during the attack, I replied that I had sat by a locked door to a shelter about fifty / sixty yards around the back of the office. He laughed his head off and told me that door I had taken shelter by, was the door to the ammunition bunker. I did laugh eventually and I did find out the proper procedures after that –

*just in case. Happy Days!*

**John Jackett remembers: from 1971 - 72 :-**

*Lyneham to Akrotiri and then on to Masirah was a very long flight over 2 days in a Hercules! RAF Sgts Mess etiquette was no different from the Army, their SWO took precedence over the two WO 1s of the RE and RA. We enjoyed 3 or 4 film shows a week, **The blue jobs** took great pride in abusing **the brown jobs** for the screening of **Zulu**, and we of course had our own back when **Battle of Britain** arrived. With one reel at a time, on only 1 projector, the more reel changes - the more trips to the bar. A 3 ton Bedford RL trundled down to the beach several afternoons a week - particularly on Fridays, complete with armed guard, it made a change from the camp pool. Cricket was played on a matted strip, 5 a-side soccer on the tennis courts, so we kept ourselves fit. By invitation of the RE / DOE, we could dine at the Indian Club, fantastic curries are well remembered as a large part of a well enjoyed brown-knees outpost. We were looking forward to the Mess Christmas Draw, the local prevailing winds got up that week and finally subsided that very morning, leaving the outer mess accommodation several inches deep in "Dust" - many hands made light work and a great night was enjoyed by all. **Joe Brown and the bruvvers**, complete with crumpet backing group, made a very welcome and brief appearance in May in the big hangar, no aircraft stayed on the ground for very long, between the rows of protective oil barrels. Lt Col [later Brigadier / Controller PCS], **Don London** flew in from Cyprus and carried out an FF 26 check of accounts, he had been my OC at Mill Hill for 3 years back in the 1960s. Being in a permanent black-out state, all roads and paths were lined by white-painted stones to help guide walkers at night, safe transfer from the **Wobbly Wheel** all ranks club, or in our case Sgts Mess over to the Officers Mess can be and was - quite tricky, even in the moonlight! Those departing "next month" were dined out "**Maas Salaam**" during the previous month, so (along with several others) 8<sup>th</sup> of June '72 was "farewell" for me. The "**Green Archer**" warning siren of possible attack, had been sounding on and off all day, those in the open would find their nearest bunker, those in a brick building - down on the floor against a wall, until the all-clear sounded. Assuming **planters order**, starting traditionally with drinks at the bar, we had just finished our first course of soup - **Green Archer!** Second course - **Green Archer!** Sometime later three mortar rounds crashed very loudly onto the base, accompanied by violent blue / white flashes. As a result of some injured servicemen being reported by the Press upon their repatriation firstly to Cyprus and then UK, RAF Salalah in Dhofar province was admitted by the MOD as being a "**military scene**". With the FST (all RAMC during my tour) occupying the buildings to the side of the Sgts Mess accommodation, the starting of the genny for the cold store, indicated a death in our midst. The Medic lads in the Mess were great company, when something happened - they were on call. "**Yimkin Airways**" were subject to weather vagaries, "**Any planes expected with mail today? Yimkin (Maybe)**", off to the beach for a swim was cancelled when the aircraft was heard from wherever you were, **back to work!***

*Graham Warden recalls Posties and Military Units present: firstly as a Gulf Courier in Bahrain (1970-71), then at Salalah in the summer of 1974 -*

*Three of us (myself, Tony James & Harry Wylie) flew out together to Bahrain for a 9 month tour and on arrival at 261 PCCU ( OC Maj Gratwicke and 2 i/c Capt St Ruth - who was stationed at Sharjah) Tony James learnt that he was going to Masirah and Harry Wylie to Salalah. I used to see them almost fortnightly - myself, Sgt Malcolm Hill and Sgt John Bailey used to share the routes which also included Majunga monthly and Kuwait frequently. Muscat town occasionally. The Bahrain - Sharjah - Masirah - Salalah - Masirah - Bahrain courier schedule was twice weekly, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The reason I recall travelling with Tony & Harry was that, although I was the senior Sgt by at least 10 months, Maj Dunkeld on our farewell interview (I staged at HPCCD from BAOR) took exception to the jacket I was wearing. A lightweight three colour (American brand) three quarter check jacket with a zip up the front. He said to me haven't you got a proper jacket (the other two were dressed in suits!!) I replied I thought this was suitable for*

flying in and he replied, he decided what was suitable, looked at Tony James and said you are I/C Party. All of us had a good laugh about as we left the building!!!!!! I just about recall Sam McNally arriving in Bahrain as I was due to depart for BAOR where I met with Tony & Harry again. Sultan Said bin Taimur was exiled to BRIGHTON after the rebels came into Salalah town and captured the palace and he flew with his entourage on a RAF Britannia from Masirah to UK, after arriving at Masirah from Salalah on an Argosy. I was a courier at Masirah [ **July 1970** ] when the incident took place (from Bahrain). There were often incidents at Salalah during 1970/71. His son Qaboos bin Said took over as Sultan, he had previously served as a Major in **The Cameroonians**.

**In 1974** the RE Det, was known as DOE Salalah with an RE Major (?), 2 Staff Sgts and five or six L/Cpls and Sprs. – the DOE also had a large Indian civilian artisan contingent of approx 100.

The RA unit was a Det of 94 Locating Regt RA (from Celle) with a Maj Det Cmdr, a WO2, four or five S/Sgts & Sgts etc. SOAF had increased its helicopter flight to include Bell Hueys; quite a number as I can recall; the jets were Hawk trainers converted to operational role. (Similar to those that the Red Arrows used then). The RAF Helicopter flight was there with 4 Sgts and a WO plus officer pilots.

### **Jack Griffiths reminisces – Salalah 1975:**

I arrived in Salalah in mid Jan 1975 flying in via Cyprus and Masirah. At Masirah the usual RAF proficiency prevailed. Coach at bottom of exit steps organised and shepherded by a number of Snowdrops moved to movement control etc. On arrival at Salalah had to rummage round in the hold of the Hercules to find my case and then bum a lift off the aircraft pan to camp!! This was Salalah with a very much laid back attitude but still with the underlying self discipline which made it a different but enjoyable experience. At this time we were a Det of 275 PCCU RE at Cyprus and had a visit once a month or so from an officer of the unit to audit the books. I took over from Graham Warden and 'inherited' Clive Jones as my Cpl, a great character and a joy to serve with.

Every day life was very much dictated by incoming flights for mail etc, there seemed to be no formal pattern and when word went out, usually Radio 219 'flight incoming' everybody required (including a postie) rounded up transport and went out to meet it and did what was necessary to sort and distribute the mail straight away, no matter what time!

The RAF was predominant on the base, the leader being a Wing Commander Gilliat who was my boss in Salalah and very much a gentleman. There was a Det of 94 Loc Regt RA commanded by a Major who also liked to think he was my boss! Also the RAF Regt who manned the Hedgehogs. A small group of RE's led by a Clerk of Works WO2 and a few NCO's acted as a DOE unit and employed quite a number of Indian civilian labour and looked after the infrastructure of the base and all the energy facilities etc (including the important swimming pool). Down the road in UAG (Camp) was based the SAS contingent; also before I forget one of the most important units 55 FST RAMC. This unit was positioned just behind my Twyneham living accommodation and could get very busy with helicopters if there was a push up in the Jebel.

There were also various civilian elements, Taylor Woodrow and Airworks who looked after the SOAF aircraft. Also down the road from the camp was the Dhofar Brigade with its Desert Regt etc who conducted the campaign against the Adoo (enemy).

During my time there 94 Loc Regt RA was withdrawn and went back to Celle in Germany. It was at this time that I procured a set of wheels for the postal unit. I was good friends with the QM of 94 Regt and as their vehicles were going to be desert dumped, I demanded a 'Gizit' a form of recognised trading of goods in Salalah. I got the Land Rover albeit a bit battered, the RE lads serviced it and supplied the fuel and the post office bike was redundant. No more waiting for a lift out to the aircraft pan!

*The RAF Regt was also withdrawn. This was replaced (I say that loosely) by a contingent of the Iranian Army. At that time the Shah was in power and everything they had was of American military origin and we thought the yanks had invaded. Among other things they took over camp perimeter security and it was not healthy to be loitering near the perimeter fence after dark! The RA Regt procedure, after having a contact on the Thermal Radar system was to put up a Paralume and see what's out there, normally a dog or camel. The Iranians would put out 2 or 3 mortar rounds and then see what they had got in the morning!!*

*I also saw the arrival of the first Hawker Hunter Jets given as a gift from the King of Jordan. I think these were initially flown by Jordanian pilots and then by SOAF. On the whole, camp life in Salalah was pretty good, a very good social life in the mess and Wobbly Wheel Club. As the only other REs on the base beside the DOE contingent, we were granted membership of the Indian Club. If you were into curry this membership was invaluable and a curry in their mess hall was a great way to start the weekend. If we had a visiting officer from 275, for the price of a bottle of whisky, a curry would be laid on for several people. My tour of duty was only for four months (the new period of a tour) but the RAF was still doing nine which didn't go down too well when somebody already there, could still be there when I left!! Then again, Germany to the RAF was still an overseas tour so you cannot have it both ways. I left Salalah in May 75 and look back on this 'experience' as one not to be missed and still talk about it today.*

#### **Near closure – John Douglas was there as the RAF departed –**

*Having been a Gulf courier through Salalah weekly back in the 1960s from 261, then Chief Clerk of 275 at Cyprus earlier in the 70s, I finally arrived in January 1977 to actually do my tour. It was very evident that the RAF were soon to depart. The Mess dining out evening in March concluded with the erection of the **Sgts Mess headstone**, which Brian has a photo of.*

*An amusing moment occurred when some old rifles disappeared from the Mess walls, we were asked if any suspicious parcels had been handed in, we surrendered the same and they were once more put on display, all kept "within house" but an RAOC Sgt was never left alone again with brown paper and string! To keep the accommodation for a few more months, all the remaining Cpls were offered rooms, a most unusual event. **Cash to bank** became a chore, transfer now to the RE Field Sqn, thank goodness that we still had some independent transport.*

*I also recall a visit from a very large and hairy Camel Spider, somehow it got into my room, the FST captured and then preserved it. I always made sure I had something rolled up, to close the gap at the bottom of my door, after that little scare!!*

#### **Brian Felks also recalls : -**

*I still have my invitation dated 10th March 1977, to farewell drinks and buffet etc held at the Taylor-Woodrow recreation centre to formally declare the closure of RAF Salalah. The camp became a Sultan of Oman Air Force (SOAF) base.*

*It was a bit of a tear jerker watching the last RAF Personnel leaving and the Hercules doing a low level fly past. The only regulars left behind were 2 Posties, 2 RAOC Butchers and the RAF FST. There was also half a Sqn of REs a couple of miles down the road. All the other non Omanis were either seconded on twice our pay, or contract soldiers (mercenaries) who were on four times our pay. Although a ceasefire had been implemented, a couple of daily unclassified sitreps that I retained dated June 1977, indicate regular skirmishes. With a distribution to 35 addressees, amongst them: 11 Fd Sqn RE, Bde Wksp, UAG Hosp, 55 FST, BATT (SAS of course) - indicates that a wide military presence beyond SOAF, remained there. The second of these on the 9th June, noted 3 minor casualties and small arms damage of vehicles during the previous night*

# **Minutes of Annual General Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

1. The President brought the meeting to order and welcomed all those present at 1030hrs at the "The Village Hotel" Leeds. 56 Members attended including committee.
2. The President read out the Old Comrades lost to the branch since the last meeting.

**Ann Appleby, Dennis Bertie, Vanessa Bellamy, Donald Calder, Ray Fenn, Nick Ingleby, Julie Jack, Ted Jenkins, Bob Moonie, Joe Norwood, Reende O Grady, John Pickford, Gordon Pulley, Freddie (Bunny) Rae, Dave Robinson, Ron Stratton, Rod Tipton (TA), Alan Yates**

A minutes silence was held in memory of members who had passed away in the last year.

3. Minutes from previous meeting read out and confirmed as true.

Proposed By: Norman Harman

Seconded By: Gez Hernandez

4. Apologies.

Pete Braithwaite (Overseas), Eric Brice, John Douglas, Reg Foulks, Pete Holman, Andy Ingram, Mike Lambert, Dave Milstead, Rod Norman, Doug Swanson and Dave Tedder.

5. Financial summary.

Treasurers report given and financial statement for the year subject to audit. Thanks were given to the ladies on the raffle committee for the efforts in increasing the branches funds from the Raffle held on Saturday night.

## **Income/Expenditure 2011**

### **Expenditure**

Wreaths/Flowers                    £164.98  
Admin/Newsletter/Website        £574.19  
Annual Reunion                    £528.90  
(Wine £328.80 Disco £200.00)

Total £1268.07

### **Income**

Subscriptions                    £1025.00  
Raffle profits                    £75.00  
Bank Interest                    £0.24

Total        £1100.24

Bank Balance as at 31 December 2011    £2855.03  
Fixed Assets Branch Standard.            £650.00  
Branch worth as at 31 December 2011    £3505.03

Proposed by Lou Lister

Seconded by Mick Atkinson

6. Committee.

The committee offered up their posts for re-election and after a vote the same members were confirmed.

President:

Col. (Retired) Peter Wescott RE (Seeking a replacement next year)

Chairman:

Maj. (Retired) Brian Felks RE

Treasurer:

Maj. (Retired) Chris Connaughton RE

Secretary:

Larry Peacock

Committee assistant Member.

Mr Mick Atkinson

7. Matters Arising.

Chairman spoke on the following

- a. *Chief Royal Engineer:*  
The Royal Engineers are due to lose the position of Chief Royal Engineer (CRE) as part of the current defence review.
- b. *Remembrance Sunday Cenotaph Parade*  
Lou Lister spoke on this subject. A year's notice needs to be given to attend this parade. Therefore members need to notify the Secretary if they wish to attend for next year 2013 Parade before next annual meeting. The Posthorn will mention the need to inform the secretary if anyone wishes to parade.
- c. *Mill Hill Vets (LAM).*  
Lou Lister mention details of the yearly meeting of the Mill Hill Vets will be held again in Grimsby 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012. Lou spoke of a possible visit to BFPO London Northolt as the current RSM J. Crilley is willing to arrange one. They will also be celebrating 40 years of holding a reunion and are planning to hold an event in the Victory Services Club London on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013.  
Details available In Posthorn and Website.
- d. *Website*  
A vote of thanks was given to Sue Harman & Simon Fenwick for the work done in up grading the Website along with the input onto the site from Eddie Rae.
- e. *President*  
Thanks were also given to Peter Wescott for his work as branch president and the branch wished Margaret Wescott all the best
- f. *Great Escape.*  
The chairman informed the branch of £17,000 raised for charity by Dave Muckle on his sponsored motorcycle ride "The Great Escape" going from London to the site of prison camp that the film is based on. Details have also been published in the April 2012 Sapper magazine.

8. *Proposal for the location of the next year's Event.*

After a discussion and vote the location was decide to be The Marriott Hotel Swindon on the weekend 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Hotel has been provisionally booked by Eddie Lyons and the treasurer will find out the details which will be published on Website and Posthorn.

9. *Any other business.*

- a. *A proposal from the floor that in future the speaker on the evening should be drawn from Ex WRAC then Friend, partner or widow of member.*

*Proposed by: Eddie Lyons  
Seconded by: Pete Stoddard  
A vote was taken and proposal carried.*

- b. *Absent friends should be read out at the start of the Evening meal and Annual meeting.*

*Proposed by: Gez Hernandez  
Seconded by: Graham Meacher.  
A vote was taken and proposal carried,*

- c. *The secretary informed the branch that the centenary of the Postal Section Royal Engineers is due on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013. It was proposed that a ceremony be held at the National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas Staffordshire on the weekend nearest to this date and a tree planted to commemorate this centenary. Pete Redfern offered support as he has contacts at the NMA with view to the cost and details in liaison with the secretary.*

*There being no other business the meeting ended at 1110hrs*

## POSTNOTES

### The Ghost of Mill Hill Barracks

Has anyone else noticed how popular Mill Hill Barracks is with TV and Film companies?

I've seen the barracks in the TV series "The Inbetweeners" where they have used the old Officer's Mess as a Foreign Hotel in one programme. (The entrance way and front garden). Then the internal ground floor rooms as an old people's home. (I'm not saying anything?)

The comedy show. "The really Fast Show" two old Jewish men in a car. On the road between the top camp's A Block (or is it B Block the one that was left standing after the bombing) and the QM's.

Followed recently in the film "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy". They used the bungalow between the male and female's sergeant's messes, as the holding building where Colin Frith is eventually shot. The assassin used the large tree not far from it, near the fence, to rest his rifle on it, before he shot him.

I can also remember it being used as a working barracks in one episode of "New Tricks".

Many moons ago I recollect the series "The Fenn Street Gang" filming with the character called Frankie ("Mummy's little soldier?")

The scene was that he had joined the army and had to cut the grass with a pair of scissors at the back of the then RHQ Building between the two male accommodation blocks. (1970-71?). About the same time Tommy Cooper came to film at the entrance to the officer's mess. The film company produced a sentry box, as I can't remember us having one. Tommy was to be a guardsman and two hippies were supposed to chat to him. They didn't use it though. As I think Tommy got wasted in the Sergeant's mess and couldn't film, as he was 'tied and emotional'.

If anyone else has seen the barracks being used this way then please let me know.

Larry Peacock.

In the beginning was the word, and the word was God.

In the beginning was God, and all else was darkness and void, and without form. So God created the heavens and the Earth. He created the sun, and the moon, and the stars, so that light might pierce the darkness. The Earth, God divided between the land and the sea, and these he filled with many assorted creatures.

And the dark, salty, slimy creatures that inhabited the murky depths of the oceans, God called sailors. And He dressed them accordingly. They had little trousers that looked like bells at the bottom. And their shirts had cute little flaps on them to hide the hickeys on their necks. He also gave them long sideburns and shabby looking beards. God nicknamed them "tars" and banished them to a lifetime at sea, so that normal folks would not have to associate with them. To further identify these unloved creatures, He called them

"petty" and "commodore" instead of titles worthy of red-blooded men.

And the flaky creatures of the land, God called soldiers. And with a twinkle in His eye, and a sense of humour that only He could have, God made their trousers too short and their berets too large. He also made their pockets oversized, so that they may warm their hands. And to adorn their uniforms, God gave them badges in quantities that only a pick 'n mix shop owner could appreciate. And He gave them emblems and crests... and all sorts of shiny things that glittered...and devices that dangled. (When you are God you tend to get carried away.)

On the 6th day, He thought about creating some air creatures for which he designed a postman's uniform but in a fetching shade of sky-blue especially for Air Force flyboys. But He discarded the idea during the first week, and it was not until years later that some apostles resurrected this theme and established what we now know as "crab-air"

And on the 7th day, as you know, God rested.

But on the 8th day, at 07:30hrs, God looked down upon the earth and was not happy. No, God was not happy! So He thought about His labours, and in His divine wisdom God created a divine creature. And this he called Sapper. And these Sappers, who God had created in His own image, were to be of the air, and of the land, and of the sea. And these He gave many wonderful uniforms. Some were green; some were blue with red trim. And in the early days, some were even a beautiful tan. He gave them practical fighting uniforms, so that they could wage war against the forces of Satan and evil. He gave them service uniforms for their daily work and training. And He gave them dress uniforms... sharp and stylish, handsome things... so that they might promenade with their ladies on Saturday night and impress the hell out of everybody! He even gave them jack-knives, so that people who were not impressed could be dealt with accordingly. And at the end of the 8th day, God looked down upon the earth and saw that it was good. But was God happy? No! God was still not happy! Because in the course of His labours, He had forgotten one thing: He did not have a Sapper uniform for himself. He thought about it, and thought about it, and finally God satisfied Himself in knowing that, well... not everybody can be a Sapper!

(Internet)

### Committee Members

*President:*

Col. (Retired) Peter Wescott RE

*Chairman:*

Maj. (Retired) Brian Felks RE

*Treasurer:*

Maj. (Retired) Chris Connaughton RE

*Secretary:*

Larry Peacock

Committee Members  
Mr Mick Atkinson

### Secretary details

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REDCAR  
TS10 4 AE  
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01642-476380  
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### Membership Eligibility

If you have served in the RE (PS) or (PCCU) or (PCS) you are eligible to join the PCS Branch of the REA. (Any other H.M. Armed Forces (Royal Navy and Royal Air Forces) member who has served with or associated with Postal & Courier Units then you can join as an Associate Member). If you served in the ATS or WRAC and were trained as a Postal & Courier Operator you are entitled to join the PCS Branch as an Associate member. Subscriptions £5 per year. Please make cheques payable to:

“The Treasurer PCS Branch REA”

### Lost & Found

Members, who have lost contact (LC) with the branch, wish to leave (WL) and those that are over three years behind in their subscriptions (BS):

Kevin BINGHAM (BS), John BLEASDALE (BS) Garry BOSHER (BS), Robert BENNETT (BS), Christine BURTON (BS), Jean DAVIES (BS), Alexander HORSBURGH (BS), Darrell LLOYD (BS), Stephen LYTHGOE (BS), James MCEWAN (BS), Stephen PALMER (BS), Darren WILKIE (BS) Jed WRIGHT (BS),

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
1	Brian	ANDERSON	2013
2	James	ANDREWS	2014
3	Peter	ASKEW	2008
4	Michael	ATKINSON	2015
5	Mark	ATWELL	2011
6	John	BAILEY	2010
7	Ralph	BAKER	2009
8	Terence	BAKEWELL	2013
9	Alan	BARKER	2014
10	Martyn	BARRETT	2013
11	Douglas	BAXTER	2015
12	Joseph	BEEDELES	2011
13	Melvyn	BELLAMY	2014
14	Christopher	BENNETT	2012
15	Gina	BERTIE	2015

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
16	David	BINNINGTON	2011
17	Reg	BLACK	2010
18	David	BLANE	2014
19	John	BOWMAN	2014
20	James	BRADSHAW	2014
21	Peter	BRAITHWAITE	2012
22	George	BRETT	2016
23	Eric	BRICE	2012
24	David	BROWN	2013
25	Elizabeth	BROWN	PNSR
26	Anthony	BRYAN	2015
27	Richard	BULLOCK	2011
28	Mark	BURTON	2010
29	William	BUTT	2015
30	Karen	CALDWELL	2011

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
31	Stuart	CAMBRIDGE	2012
32	Donald	CAMPBELL	2009
33	Alexander	CARSON	2010
34	Terence	CHADWICK	2010
35	George	CHANDLER	2013
36	Douglas	CLARK	2011
37	George	CLEASBY	2011
38	Nicholas	CLIFTON	2013
39	Tilly	CLIFTON	PNSR
40	Peter	CLIFTON	2010
41	Leslie	CLYDESDALE	2015
42	Gilbert	COLE	2009
43	Adrian	COLLINS	2013
44	Thomas	COMPSON	2015
45	Christopher	CONNAUGHTON	2015

Welcome to new and old branch members:

Pete ASKEW (Returned from Spain), Rebecca HART, Mary HOGG, Ian HUMPHRIES, Kerry JAMES, Arthur KERR, Sharon PROWSE, Elizabeth SAMPSON, Stewart WRIGHT

### Last Post



Over the year the following members are no longer with us and have moved to a higher association.

**Ann Appleby, Dennis Bertie, Vanessa Bellamy, Dave Bowers, Donald Calder, Gary Copson, Ray Fenn, Jack Griffiths, Nick Ingleby, Andrew Ingram, Julie Jack, Ted Jenkins, Bob Moonie, Joe Norwood, Reende O Grady, John Pickford, Gordon Pulley, Freddie (Bunny) Rae, Dave Robinson, Ron Stratton, Rod Tipton (TA), Graham Warrick, Alan Yates.**

### Membership Subscription List

Listed below are the current details of all members subscriptions, paid up to the date shown. Any concerns about the dates then please contact me Larry Peacock and I will make the correction or confirm the details are correct.

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
46	Donald	COOPER	2011
47	John	CORRIGAN	2011
48	Alasdair	COWAN	2013
49	Carl	COX	2009
50	Stuart	CRAIG	2014
51	Neil	CRAWFORD	2014
52	Audrey	CROOK	2014
53	Jean	CROOK	SR
54	Humphrey	CRYER	2013
55	Michael	CUMMINS	2010
56	Anthony	CURTIS	2013
57	Peter	CUSSONS	2014
58	Stephen	DARRAGH	2009
59	Gerald	DAVEY	2010
60	Alan	DAVIES	2016
61	Joan	DAVIES	PNSR
62	Anthony	DOHERTY	2012
63	John	DOHERTY	2012
64	John	DOUGLAS	2014
65	Henry	EAGLE	2014
66	Dennis	EASON	2012
67	Patrick	ELLIOTT	2010
68	Derek	EWAN	2013
69	Brian	FELKS	2017
70	Simon	FENWICK	LIFE
71	Frederick	FERGUSON	2009
72	Jeremy	FIELD	2016
73	Andrew	FLOOD	2010
74	David	FOULKS	2012
75	Don	FOWLER	2009
76	Christine	FRETWELL	2012
77	Ronald	FULTON	2014
78	John	GADSBY	2011
79	Paul	GAFFNEY	2013
80	John	GALLAND	2013
81	Albert	GARRIOCK	2010
82	Alistair	GEE	2014
83	Ernest	GENT	2011
84	Michael	GIBERTSON	2013
85	Christopher	GOODWIN	2013
86	Margaret	GRANT	2013
87	Robert	GRAY	2019
88	Patricia	GRAY	2015

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
89	Peter	GRIFFITHS	2012
90	Norman	HARMAN	2012
91	Brian	HARRIS	2013
92	Rebecca	HART	2012
93	John	HARVEY	2011
94	Andrew	HAWKESWORTH	2014
95	William	HAWKINS	2012
96	William	HEATH	2012
97	Dwight	HEDDLE	2012
98	Gerald	HERNANDEZ	2013
99	Simon	HEYS	2018
100	Geraldine	HIGGINS	PNSR
101	Mary	HOGG	NEW
102	Stephen	HOGG	2009
103	Pete	HOLMAN	2013
104	Clifford	HOWES	2011
105	John	HUDSON	2014
106	Rita	HUDSON	PNSR
107	Howard	HUGHES	2019
108	Jacqueline	HUGHES	2013
109	Roger	HUGHES	2010
110	Terry	HUGHES	2014
111	Yvonne	HUGHES	2011
112	John	HUMPHRIES	2011
113	Colon	HUNTER	2013
114	Pat	HYNES	2013
115	Peter	IVE	2012
116	Adam	JACK	2009
117	John	JACKETT	2017
118	John	JACKSON	2018
119	Kerry	JAMES	2012
120	Raymond	JENNINGS	2022
121	Ronald	JESSIMAN	2011
122	David	JOHNSON	2014
123	Michael	JONES	NEW
124	Samuel	JONES	2014
125	James	JOWETT	2014
126	Joseph	KELLY	2014
127	Neil	KELLY	2011
128	William	KENEFEC	2011
129	Colin	KENNEDY	2016
130	Ian	KENNEDY	2014
131	Donald	KENT	2011

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
132	Arthur	KERR	2013
133	Mavis	KIRK	2012
134	Julian	KOSTYSZYN	2010
135	Cyril	LACEY	2013
136	Frederick	LATHAM	2013
137	Gerald	LAUDER	2014
138	William	LAWRENSON	2011
139	Frank	LEA	2012
140	Harry	LEES	2012
141	Jean	LEGG	2012
142	Richard	LEGG	2012
143	Herbert	LEIGHTON	2016
144	Kathleen	LEIGHTON	PNSR
145	Alistair	LENNIE	2011
146	Brian	LEVEY	2013
147	Barry	LINDEN	2012
148	Ian	LISTER	2012
149	Kevin	LIVESEY	2009
150	Herbert	LOCKWOOD	2010
151	Norman	LOCKWOOD	2012
152	Marian	LOVERIDGE	2012
153	June	LOWE	2012
154	Raymond	LYALL	2012
155	Edward	LYONS	2012
156	George	MADGIN	2012
157	Gerald	MAGUIRE	2014
158	Geoffrey	MANNING	2015
159	Patrick	MARSHALL	2011
160	Peter	MASLIN	2010
161	Victor	MATTHEWS	2009
162	Mary	MCCABE	2013
163	Sean	MCCARTHY	2012
164	John	MCGOVERN	2015
165	Robert	MCKEEVER	2014
166	Billy	MCLEOD	2011
167	Ann	MCLEOD	2011
168	Adam	MCQUILLAN	2015
169	Charles	MEACHER	2011
170	Lara	MEACHER	2011
171	Graham	MEACHER	2017
172	Raymond	MILFORD	2009
173	David	MILSTEAD	2010
174	Raymond	MITCHELL	2011

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
175	Marie	MONAGHAN	2010
176	Paul	MORRIS	2015
177	David	MUCKLE	2010
178	Ronald	MURREY	2013
179	Christopher	NEILL	2009
180	Christopher	NELSON	2011
181	Rodney	NORMAN	2013
182	Tom	O GRADY	2011
183	Neville	ORTON	2010
184	Keith	OXER	2018
185	John	PALMER	2011
186	Steve	PATCH	2009
187	Lawrence	PEACOCK	2012
188	Gillian	PEACOCK	PNSR
189	Lennox	PERKINS	2013
190	Adrian	PROSSER	2011
191	Sharon	PROWSE	SR
192	Ronald	PYNE	2012
193	Eddie	REA	SR
194	Edward	REARDON	2013
195	Ella	REAST	2012
196	Peter	REDFERN	2015
197	Gary	REES	2009
198	Arthur	ROBINSON	2012
199	Robert	ROBINSON	2011
200	Joan	ROUND	2013
201	Jack	ROUS	2010
202	Bryan	ROWNEY	2009
203	Carmino	RUGGIERO	2009
204	Geoffrey	SALMON	2013
205	Elizabeth	SAMPSON	2012
206	John	SAMUEL	2016
207	Valerie	SANDERS	2012
208	Howard	SCOTT	2013
209	James	SEAR	2010
210	Mark	SEARLE	2009
211	Aidan	SHOEBRIDGE	2015
212	John	SHOULDER	2013
213	Ian	SILK	2009
214	Richard	SILSBY	2014
215	Neil	SIMS	2013
216	Sam	SINGLETON	AWRUK
217	William	SKEEL	2013

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
218	David	SMITH	2009
219	Gordon	SMITH	2017
220	Ian	SMITH	2010
221	Kenneth	SMITH	2012
222	Alan	STANDING	2010
223	James	STEER	2012
224	Paul	STODDART	2012
225	Edward	STUART	2012
226	Norman	SUSSEX	2014
227	Pamela	SUSSEX	2013
228	Douglas	SWANSON	2012
229	Gordon	TAIT	2011
230	David	TEDDER	2013
231	Ivor	THOMAS	2011
232	Frederick	THOMPSON	2012
233	David	THORNTON	2011
234	Charles	TIMOTHY	2011
235	Ken	TREVOR	2012
236	George	URBAN	2011
237	David	VAUTIER	2013
238	Maurice	VESSEY	2012
239	Roy	WALKER	2014
240	Albert	WALL	2011
241	Douglas	WALTER	2012
242	Gordon	WARDELL	2012
243	Frances	WARDELL	2012
244	Derek	WATT	2012
245	Margret	WATT	2012
246	Richard	WEBB	2009
247	Peter	WESCOTT	2015
248	Stephen	WHITE	2014
249	Michael	WHITEHEAD	2013
250	John	WHITTAKER	2011
251	Dennis	WHITTALL	2014
252	Barry	WILDING	2011
253	Robert	WILLIAMS	2011
256	William	WINFIELD	2011
255	Edward	WOLTON	2015
256	Edward	WOOFITT	2012
257	Stewart	WRIGHT	SR
258			
259			
260			

**POSTAL & COURIER SERVICE BRANCH ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION  
REUNION**

To be held at the

Marriott Hotel Swindon  
Pipers Way  
Swindon  
SN3 1SH

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

**Booking Advice**

Accommodation Rates: -	12 <sup>th</sup> April	13 <sup>th</sup> April	14 <sup>th</sup> April
Twin/Double Per Room B & B only	£62	£62	£62

**Notes**

There is no dinner included for your stay or a single room rate for this arrangement.

It is suggested that you place a notice on the PCS REA Website that you are willing to share and arrange with someone in similar circumstances.

## **Important Notice**

**The Saturday night meal is £25 per person to be paid to Chris Connaughton by 9<sup>th</sup> March 2013. You cannot book this meal through the hotel.**

You can only book by phone to the Marriott Hotel:-

01793 512 121 (Room booking option 1 Then again 1 and quote the Rate Code R23R23A)