



# THE WARRIOR



Newsletter for ESVH & the Military Community In East Sussex

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[www.eastsussexveteranshub.co.uk](http://www.eastsussexveteranshub.co.uk)

17 AUGUST 2021

## SPECIAL BULLETIN

Recent events in Afghanistan have unfolded at an extraordinary pace, the world has been shocked as the Taliban have taken control. There will be many within the Armed Forces Community for whom the fall of Afghanistan is particularly hard to take.

Over the last two decades members of our community have spent years separated from those that they love, many have suffered injuries that have changed their lives completely, and 457 tragically lost their lives leaving behind devastated families.

The professional efforts of those in uniform contained the Taliban threat allowing over 4 million refugees to return to the country whilst stimulating dramatic economic progress, significant improvements in health care, education, and freedom of speech. Unfortunately, political progress and the fight against corruption did not match the achievements in other areas of Afghan society.

When the international presence withdrew, the fragility of the Afghan state, and by extension the security forces was revealed; progress had been made but not enough to be self-sustaining. The Armed Forces Community, those in uniform, veterans and their families have invested a huge amount in the future of the Afghan people.

We served believing that we were doing the right thing in support of a just cause, helping the Afghans rebuild their nation and reducing the risk to the UK of terrorist attacks such as 9/11. The British forces in Afghanistan served with honour, professionalism, bravery and distinction in extremely difficult circumstances. It is a record to be proud of.

Families who provided support for over twenty years, experiencing the loneliness and worry of separation, raising children on their own for extended periods, and for some enduring the pain of loss, should also be recognised.

COBSEO (Confederation of Military Charities) have been in touch with MPs, and Ministers through the Office for Veteran's Affairs, to try to ensure that they highlight the extraordinary nature of that service in their communications as the situation develops.

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### Support Services Telephone Contact Numbers

**NHS 111** Any suspicion of coronavirus, ring 111 IMMEDIATELY, for advice. Some GPs have a telephone triage service as well. Also ring 111 for veterans' mental health service HIS.

**ESVH** 07884263824/01424 446292/Freephone 0330 1077 808

**STAR** Freephone 0300 303 81600

**ESRA** 01424 435318

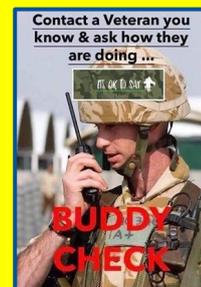
**Seaview** 01424 717981

**Job Centre Plus Hastings** 0800 169 190

**Samaritans Hastings** Freephone 0330 094 5717

**Bexhill Caring Community** 01424 215116

**Hastings Covid-19 Community Support Hotline** 01424 451019



**East Sussex Veterans Hub 99/100 Group, 5 Harold Place. Hastings TN34 1JA**  
01424 446292 Email: [ESVH99100@esvh99100.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:ESVH99100@esvh99100.onmicrosoft.com)

Registered with Charity Commission 1183583



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The political decision to leave Afghanistan to the Taliban will generate a mixture of emotions: anger, frustration, and a strong sense of being let down. It will be a particularly difficult time for those who have given the most. There will also be real concern for those left behind who served with the international community as interpreters and support staff, and their families. The UK must provide sanctuary for those under threat and will be judged in the eyes of the world and by our community accordingly.

Extract from a communication by General Sir John McColl KCB CBE DSO Chairman COBSEO

### Note from Editor:

I know many of our Group served in Afghanistan and will have mixed feelings about the outcome following two decades of conflict and operations, of which they played a part.

Do not let any commentary or discussion take away from you or your comrades, the justifiable feeling of pride you should have for being there when it really mattered, making a direct, on the spot, contribution to the Afghan communities you protected.

Remember, when you were on operations, you were confronting the challenges of the day, not the politics of the time or future, and you did!

Everyday, your presence gave hope and safety for many. You will have seen the results on the ground. This lasted continuously for the time you served in theatre. You then passed that responsibility over to other comrades in arms.

Those lost or injured, including some of our friends, must be remembered, or reassured, that the whole military community know they did a good job, as professionals, and part of one of the best armed forces in the world.

We have always known the armed forces are a tool of government, that is an accepted part of our

democracy. Similarly, we have always responded to the challenge of operations that demand dedication to the task, loyalty to our arms, regiments, but more important our comrades.

Afghans will and do thank you for your service and the world knows this sad milestone is absolutely no reflection on HM, US, or other allied forces deployed over the years.

History will expose those responsible for this sad situation in Afghanistan today, and its people. Feel proud you served, and for many Afghans you made their lives better, whilst there.



Armed Forces Network  
@SussexAFN

Some of our #ArmedForces Community may be struggling due to the current events in #Afghanistan Please reach out; talk to mates, family, colleagues or contact NHS #OpCOURAGE or 24/7 support @CombatStress 0800 1381619 Veterans & families. 0800 3234444 Serving personnel & families

**OpCOURAGE**

**How to contact Op COURAGE: The Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Service**

North of England: Call 0800 652 2867 or email [VTLS@cntv.nhs.uk](mailto:VTLS@cntv.nhs.uk)

The Midlands: Call 0300 323 0137 or email [mevs.mhm@nhs.net](mailto:mevs.mhm@nhs.net)

East of England: Call 0300 323 0137 or email [mevs.mhm@nhs.net](mailto:mevs.mhm@nhs.net)

London & South East England: For services in London, Sussex, Surrey or Kent, call 020 3317 6818 or email [cim-tr.veteranstilservice-ise@nhs.net](mailto:cim-tr.veteranstilservice-ise@nhs.net)

South West England: Includes Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Call 0300 365 2000 or email [gateway@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:gateway@berkshire.nhs.uk)

**Should you feel you need support call in the office or contact the Op Courage team.**

**ESVH 99/100 Group will be holding it's first post Covid session on Saturday morning 10am to 2pm**

**You may also pop in for a coffee on Mondays 10am to 2 pm (Veterans Drop In) or give us a call.**