



# THE WARRIOR

Newsletter for ESVH & the Military Community In East Sussex



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

NOVEMBER 2021



# New Boss for Armed Forces



First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sir Tony Radakin took over from General Sir Nicholas Carter on November 30th. The Queen approved his appointment.



Tony Radakin was appointed First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff in June 2019. He was born in Oldham and made in the Royal Navy.

Commissioned in 1990, his operational service has involved the Iran/Iraq Tanker War, security duties in the Falklands, NATO embargo operations in the Adriatic, countering smuggling in Hong Kong and the Caribbean, and three command tours in Iraq – both ashore and at sea. He has commanded from Lieutenant to Rear Admiral of ashore, afloat and international forces. This includes HMS BLAZER and Southampton URNU, HMS NORFOLK, the Naval Training Team in Iraq, the Iraqi Maritime Task Force, Portsmouth Naval Base, and Command (2016 Commander of UK Maritime Forces and NATO's High Readiness Maritime Component Commander).

His staff appointments have predominantly been in either Joint or Defence roles, including: operational planning at PJHQ, two tours as a Military Assistant, and two tours involving financial, capability and strategic force development. More recently, he was Chief of Staff of the Joint Forces – 2018) and Second Sea Lord (2018 – 2019).

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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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His education includes: reading law at Southampton University, qualifying as a barrister, an MA in International Relations and Defence Studies, the Higher Command and Staff Course, and the London Business School's Senior Executive Programme. He has also graduated from several US courses including the US Combined Forces Maritime Component Course, CAPSTONE and the inaugural UK/US Future Leaders' Course.

He lives in Hampshire with his wife and four sons (born between 1998 and 2005). He plays squash and enjoys sailing, mountain biking and skiing. He is president of the Royal Navy Squash Association and the UK Armed Forces Tennis Association.

A spokesperson for Radakin, Commander D J Mason OBE Royal Navy, commented: "I am looking forward to working further with The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP and the rest of the department's senior leadership team as we modernise the armed forces and implement the Integrated Review.

"The government has given us clarity and additional resource to counter the threats we face as a nation. It is now time to get on and deliver."



**Blind Veterans UK  
Sign AF Covenant**

**Military charity Blind Veterans UK has signed the Armed Forces Covenant at an event hosted by the Ministry of Defence and Defence Relationship Management in October 2021.**

The Armed Forces Covenant is a pledge that together we acknowledge and understand that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives.

Chief Executive of Blind Veterans UK, Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB said:  
"We are extremely proud to be joining the wonderful

family of organisations that have signed the Armed Forces Covenant."

As well as signing the covenant the event was an opportunity for a number of speakers to talk on the theme of resilience, both in the field of defence and security and personally.



Hugh Tatton

-Brown, Head of Cyber Strategy & Architecture, Ministry of Defence, spoke on the topic of cyber resilience and MoD strategic thinking. Blind veterans Alan Lock and Simon Brown also spoke on personal resilience and their journeys through the armed forces and since losing their sight.

Blind veteran Alan Lock said:

"It was an honour for Simon and I to speak to this group about our journey as blind veterans, the challenges as well as the achievements that could only be realised with the support of Blind Veterans UK.

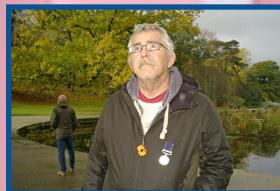
Blind Veterans UK provides through life support to over 4000 blind veterans aged 29 to 106. The charity's work continues, through specialist rehabilitation to promote independence and build resilience of those who have served and lost their sight.

The charity has also set out an ambitious goal for Blind Veterans UK, and blind veterans themselves, to be a force for good in wider society.

Blind Veterans UK was founded more than 100 years ago to support those blinded in the First World War. Now, the charity supports veterans regardless of when they served or how they lost their sight.

Throughout the pandemic the charity has supported veterans, particularly those who are most vulnerable; whether they need food delivered, medication from their pharmacy or a friendly voice over the phone.

# We Remembered Them 2021



**Kevin**



**Buzz**



**Mike H**





## 1 Scots to be First Rangers

**Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has announced that Belfast-based 1 Scots — The First Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland — will lead the Army's new Ranger Regiment.**

The Government said it was a boost for Northern Ireland and comes as part of 'Future Soldier', which it described as the most radical military transformation in over 20 years, with sweeping changes to pave the way for a "leaner but more productive" Army.

Based out of Palace Barracks, 1 Scots will become 1st Battalion, The Ranger Regiment and will operate alongside three other battalions.

Mr Wallace also said that The new Ranger Regiment will form part of the newly established Army Special Operations Brigade, which is expected to be deployed alongside allies to counter extremist organisations and hostile state threats.

Mr Wallace said: "Future Soldier is reinforced by the ambition outlined in the Defence Command Paper to transform the Army into a more agile, integrated, lethal, expeditionary force."

"Our army will operate across the globe, equipped with the capabilities to face down a myriad of threats from cyber warfare through to battlefield conflict."

This shift to a globally engaged posture will mean more personnel are deployed for more of the time, with a new network of regional hubs based on existing training locations in places such as Oman and Kenya.

The Ranger Regiment's cap badge will take its inspiration from the peregrine falcon and everyone will wear a metal badge, irrespective of rank. A unique gunmetal grey colour has been chosen for the regimental beret and stable belt, taking inspiration from the raptor's grey plumage.

Meanwhile, the Irish Guards based out of Aldershot,

Hampshire will form part of the new Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFA Bde) based on the old footprint of 11 Light Brigade.

It will support the Army Ranger Regiments in preventing possible future conflicts.

The 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment will return to service within 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team, forming a part of the Global Response Force and can look forward to a move to Edinburgh later this decade.

Mr Wallace told MPs that a restructuring and reorganisation of units will take place in the coming years, with the regular Army standing at 73,000 by 2025 — a reduction from 82,000 although 500 higher than the initial target.

This will be combined with an Army reserve of 30,000.

Tobias Ellwood, Conservative chairman of the Defence Committee, said: "As we wisely fine-tune our ability to fight, this is not the time to cut the defence budget or reduce our tanks, our armoured fighting vehicles and our troop numbers as we are doing."

Challenged on whether the reduction in the size of the Army will discourage people from choosing it as a career, Mr Wallace said: "I think it will be flexible and I think it will be an Army that will retain people because it will give them an exciting career and it will make sure that their families are properly looked after."

**Twitter response:** Some commentors have compared the new Ranger cap badge with that of the NAZI eagle, it was also suggested it resembled the badge of the Selous Scouts, a South African Apartheid era special forces unit.



CARE Navigation  
First Floor, 5 Harold Place,  
Hastings TN34 1JA  
Ring : 07869688038



## Ready to Counter Blockades

**The Royal Navy and Royal Marines carried out training to help break up any potential French port blockades amid rising cross-Channel tensions over migration and fishing rights, recently.**

“Exercise Joint Blockade”, held in November, was designed to simulate a blockade of a port such as Guernsey by French fishermen.



Simulated Blockade of Channel Ports

Leading figures in France’s maritime industry have accused the UK and the Channel Islands of failing to give their boats proper access to British fishing waters, which they say is guaranteed in the Brexit deal.

In recent days fishermen have blockaded a number of French ports including St Malo and sought to stop UK-registered boats from picking up or dropping off their catch. British military is unable to intervene in these protests, because they cannot enter French waters without permission. But if the fishing fleets switch their focus to the Channel Islands or even the English mainland, ministers and Border Force chiefs want to be able to stop them from disrupting normal trade.

The exercise took place in the waters near Weymouth in Dorset, and saw military personnel join border officers in small boats to test whether they could break up a blockade.

A Royal Navy spokesperson said: “The Ministry of

Defence (MoD) is working with the Home Office to understand and agree potential requests for military support.

“The MoD routinely supports the Border Force and has provided specialist training, military planners, surveillance aircraft and accommodation in the past year.

“MoD ministers and officials continue to attend cross-Government meetings and will support civilian agencies wherever possible.”

The dispute over fishing has centred around 150 applications to fish in British waters, mostly around Jersey and Guernsey, which have not yet been approved because the UK and Channel Island authorities say the applicants cannot prove they have habitually worked in the area before Brexit. This has been exacerbated by tensions over migration, particularly after almost 30 people drowned in the Channel late November, when their boat sank.

The Royal Navy is not expected to join the Border Force in patrolling Britain’s waters looking for migrant boats because it does not have the legal authority to pick up migrants and take them to the shore for processing.

## CORONAVIRUS PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

### Latest Covid Changes

**New measures in response to the Omicron variant, including face coverings in shops and on public transport, PCR tests on or before day 2 for all international arrivals and self-isolation for contacts of suspected Omicron cases, including for those who are fully-vaccinated.**

**Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all educational settings by staff, visitors and pupils, or students in year 7 or above, unless they are exempt. All other regulations apply outside educational premises (see above).**



## Why?

**Ministry of Defence has denied compensation for 1,000 war veterans amid PTSD epidemic.**  
**It is reported that data shows the number of claims rejected by the Ministry of Defence has increased tenfold since 2015.**

More than 1,000 war veterans have been turned down for mental health compensation in the past five years.

Data shows the number of claims rejected by the Ministry of Defence has increased tenfold since 2015.

Then the MoD made payments to some 555 with mental health issues – and just 30 applications were rejected.

By last year, payouts were made to 425 but rejected claims soared to 295. This figures come amid concerns over an epidemic of post-traumatic stress.

One ex-corporal said the figures showed defence chiefs are failing to get a grip.

Jason Wilkes, who served in Iraq with the Royal Engineers, fought for years before he got a payout.

Jason, 48, who survived a suicide bomber in 2006, told us: “Anyone medically discharged with a mental health disorder will have to fight for compensation and help.”

“There is a major difference in the way the Ministry of Defence treats a mental health injury compared with a physical injury.”

“It took me six years before I was diagnosed with PTSD. I then had to appear before 10 separate military tribunals.”

**The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) is administered by Veterans UK and paid by the MOD. If you have had an illness or injury caused or made worse by service in the Armed Forces on or after 6 April 2005, then you may be able to make a claim. Visit the Veterans UK website for a detailed guide on Armed Forces**



## Government Thank Armed Forces



**Armed Forces personnel who helped evacuate British nationals and vulnerable Afghans from Kabul this summer have attended an event at the Palace of Westminster, as Parliament came together to thank them for their service.**

120 members of Armed Forces personnel from the Royal Navy, British Army and RAF attended a reception in Westminster Hall hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Armed Forces. Also in attendance were 30 guests representing the contribution of other Government departments and civilian authorities.

The military personnel marched in procession from Wellington Barracks to New Palace Yard, before attending a reception in Westminster Hall. The parade was escorted by The Central Band of the RAF.



Operation PITTNG is the name for the military operation established to support the evacuation of British nationals and vulnerable Afghans from Afghanistan in summer 2021. It was the largest and fastest humanitarian evacuation operation in recent history; seeing Armed Forces personnel support the relocation of over 15,000 people to safety in the UK, in just over two weeks.

Although Operation PITTNG has ended, the Ministry of Defence continues to support the relocation of vulnerable Afghans and enable their resettlement by making hundreds of surplus service family accommodation properties available to local authorities for short-term lease to house Afghan families.



**Milo Asks:  
What's Been Going On**



**Office shaping up...**



**Robyn & Gary  
making a video  
for the ESVH/  
ESCC  
Innovation  
Project**



**ESVH Programme of  
Meetings**

**99/100 Group  
Saturday December 11, 18  
Office**

**Christmas Celebrations TBA  
Subject to Covid**

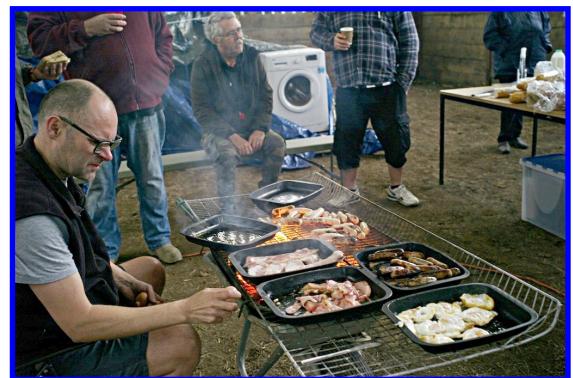
**Veterans' Weekly Drop Ins  
Monday December 6, 13, 20,  
27. 1000 - 1400 hrs**

**Rural Activities  
Family walk in the woods  
TBA**

**On the Farm**



**Breakfast to start with!**



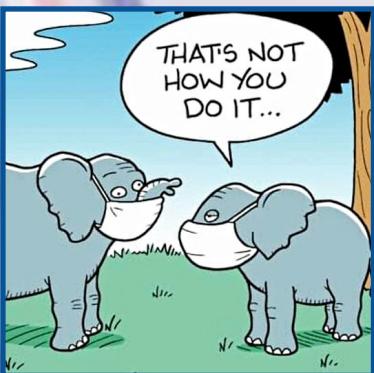
**Steve delivering again...  
Ignore washing machine,  
storage only!**



**Recce of new wood**

A Full Page Of

LOL



**A WISE MAN ONCE TOLD HIS WIFE  
NOTHING, BECAUSE  
HE WAS A WISE MAN**



**A truck loaded with Vicks vapor rub overturned on the highway.  
Amazingly, there was no congestion for eight hours.**

