

News story: Brave World War 2 Halifax crew buried in dignified ceremony in Albania

Seven crew members of 148 (special duties) squadron RAF have been laid to rest almost 75 years after they were killed in World War 2.

Press release: Dutch Royals welcomed to London for their first state visit

Their Majesties King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands come to the UK on 23 and 24 October for their first state visit.

News story: Armed forces pay award 2018 – extra payments for personnel that left the armed forces after 1 April 2018

Former service personnel who left service after 1 April 2018 may be entitled to arrears of pay following the 2018 pay increase. To ensure that any arrears of pay are received, bank account and address details must be kept up to date and the JPAC centre informed of any changes on 0800 085 3600.

Background

The Armed Forces' Pay Review Body's (AFPRB) recommendation for 2018 was a 2.9% increase in pay for all personnel up to 1-star level (Commodore, Brigadier and Air Commodore) and the Senior Salaries Review Body's (SSRB) recommendation was for a 2.5% pay increase for all officers of 2-star rank and above.

The first part of the pay increase is 2% pensionable pay which was paid in September salaries backdated to 1 April 2018 for officers up to 1-star level

and officers ranked 2-star and above will receive their 2% pensionable pay increase in November salaries.

The second part of the pay increase is the bonus element which is 0.9% for officers up to 1-star level and 0.5% for officers ranked 2-star and above. This element will be delivered in two lump sum payments one in November 2018 and one in March 2019

All personnel who have left the service after 1 April 2018, or will do so before March 2019 will receive pro-rata payments for the period of service that they completed.

It is vital that bank account and address details are kept up to date for these payments to be made

News story: Armed forces pay award 2018: extra payments for personnel that left the armed forces after 1 April 2018

Following the 2018 pay increase some service personnel who left service after 1 April 2018 may be entitled to arrears of pay.

News story: Royal Marines to stage demonstration on the Thames for Netherlands state visit

As part of the state visit, King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima will attend the Dutch ship HNLMS Zeeland which will be anchored next to HMS Belfast.

They will join The Duke of Kent on board and will be given a 10 minute display of the Royal Marines and Royal Netherlands Marines staging a joint on water capability demonstration.

Blank ammunition will be used during the display, which will take place on the morning of October 24.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

Our forces have worked closely with the Netherlands amphibious forces for more than 45 years, demonstrating world-class military integration.

Right now, our Royal Marines are working alongside their Dutch counterparts in Norway as part of the Defence Arctic Strategy, which shows our deep shared commitment to European security.

This state visit allows us to take stock and celebrate an enduring alliance with one of our closest defence partners.

Colonel Simon Scott OBE, Commanding Officer 1 Assault Group Royal Marines, said it would provide a realistic portrayal of a joint amphibious capability.

The display will be a short, sharp, clear demonstration of the joint amphibious capability provided by both 1 AGRM and the commandos from the Royal Netherlands Marines Corps.

We train and operate extremely closely with our Dutch counterparts and are well practiced in our collaboration.

The Royal Marines and Royal Netherlands Marines have a long history of serving together on operations across the globe, most recently offering humanitarian support to islands affected by Hurricane Irma in the Caribbean.

This year also marks the 45th anniversary of the UK/NL Amphibious Force, comprised of commandos from both nations, which acts as a single entity deployed in times of crisis across the globe.