

Record year for Armed Forces Day 2017

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The RAF made a full show of force with multiple displays, performances and public engagement at the Armed Forces Day 2017 National Event. Hosted by the City of Liverpool, the event led the nation in the annual opportunity for members of the public to say thank you to the entire Armed Forces community for the outstanding work they do. All three Services were represented along with reserve and cadet forces plus members of the veteran community.



This year was a record Armed Forces Day with over 300 events being held across the UK and overseas. In Liverpool the Lord Mayor highlighted during his closing address that an estimated 200,000 people had visited the Armed Forces National Event over the weekend. This level of support from the public shows their appreciation for those serving personnel who dedicate their lives to defending our country and keeping British people safe. It also demonstrates the public's gratitude to the veterans who in their turn gave so much.



In Liverpool more than 300 RAF personnel were involved with the event. The Queen's Colour Squadron marched in the grand parade accompanied by the Band of the RAF Regiment and flypasts were performed by the Typhoon, the Red Arrows and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. On the ground the 'RAF Military Village' was sited in a prime location on the Pier Head in front of Liverpool's three iconic buildings and was visited by the Earl of Wessex, the Prime Minister, the Defence Secretary, VCDS along with the Lord Mayor of Liverpool and many other local dignitaries. The RAF Village, manned by 90 personnel, was an extremely vibrant place to be and here visitors could get a close look at the equipment currently used by the RAF plus the public also had the chance to talk to serving men and women from the RAF and RAuxAF.



Wing Commander Chris Lindsay, the RAF lead for the National Event, said "I am so proud of everyone who took part. The people of Liverpool have made us all feel very welcome and valued for what we do".

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Speech: RUSI Landwarfare Conference

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CONSTANT COMPETITION

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Yet, if we really want to understand what the phrase means, we need to take a step back.

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Our deterrent relied not just on nuclear submarines, or NATO partnerships, but also we shouldn't forget the physical presence of our troops, ranging ever ready along the frontiers of the iron curtain.

Yet globalisation and the relentless advance of technology are today posing our nations a very different set of problems.

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Westminster, Manchester, London Bridge and Finsbury Park.

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It has always been, it always will be a question of prioritisation.

Thanks to the delegated model Service Chiefs have responsibility, accountability and authority for their own budgets.

And I know that the Army feels incentivised to review its processes and structures to find more efficient, smarter and more productive, ways of doing things so they can reinvest in new projects to keep us on the cutting edge.

At the same time, the Service Chiefs know that delivering some programmes will be contingent on making efficiency savings.

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The investigation is on-going but we are determined to get to the bottom of this tragic accident because our people are our greatest asset.

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So we will maintain an Army that remains one of the very few nations in the world capable of fielding that warfighting Division.

And when it comes to Reserves our confidence in our Reserves plans is reflected by the fact that the Infrastructure and Projects Authority has recently taken the Army Reserves Programme off its books – the only programme to be so assured in the last 5 years.

But, in a more competitive labour marketplace, it becomes even harder to retain, retrain and recruit the right people with the right mix of skills.

So let me say a word on each of these.

On retention – our flexible engagement reforms championed by Sir Nicholas Carter...are key. Our new legislation will be published tomorrow.

We are going to make it easier for personnel to temporarily change the nature of their service, to give them a chance to work part-time or be temporarily protected from deployment to support an individual's personal circumstances where operational need allows. That's retention.

On to training.

The battle for information and influence will increasingly matter, so our soldiers will need to have a raft of new skills.

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More aware of what that information means.

More able to make swifter, better informed decisions

And we will need to increase our training in counter reconnaissance, because the information environment is far from being a passive space is now a hotly contested battleground, where we are constantly competing to correct the false narrative of our adversaries with a faster truth.

For that to happen, the Army will need to keep adapting its structures.

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The question is how do we attract that element in the new generation?

Let me put forward a few initial thoughts to frame your discussions.

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Second, we must also be more open to challenge from the younger generation

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I'm glad that in the earlier session we laid down a marker here by inviting our juniors delegates to come up and show us a thing or two.

3. PARTNERSHIPS

My final point is that an agile Army of the future requires strong partnerships sharing the burden of complex global challenges.

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But we need to take the public with us on this journey.

Since the end of our Afghanistan and Iraq fighting campaigns, the public no longer has the same level of awareness about what our Armies are up to.

As the threats become ever greyer and murkier, as our responses necessarily become sometimes more opaque, as our adversaries become ever more effective at using misinformation to play upon public fears, it's all the more incumbent on us to shine the light of transparency.

On this new greyer dawn, reassuring people that we're on the case, showing them we do have the means to respond, that there is not simply a cost but a real value to what we do.

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A century ago, after years of stalemate, that Mark IV tank burst through the Hindenberg Line.

An event that wouldn't just lead to the Allied Armies winning the war but to war itself being transformed.

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[News story: Judicial Review supports Brighton Marina licence decision](#)

A decision by the Marine Management Organisation to grant a marine licence relating to development in Brighton Marina has been upheld in the High Court following a Judicial Review.

On Friday 23 June the Hon. Mr Justice Holgate handed down his judgement at the High Court, London, following a hearing which took place on 22 and 23 March 2017. In doing so he concluded the MMO had fulfilled its obligation under section 69(1) of Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the 2009 Act) 'admirably'.

In bringing a Judicial Review lawyers acting on behalf of a local resident

challenged the way in which the MMO reached its decision in February 2016 to grant a marine licence for phase 2 of the development under section 71 of the 2009 Act.

Lawyers claimed that MMO had acted unlawfully in giving consent to the Brighton Marina Company Limited whose subsidiary, the Outer Harbour Development Company Partnership LLP, is carrying out the development. In particular they argued that MMO failed to consider whether phase 2 of the Brighton Marina development would amount to an actionable interference with public rights of navigation.

They also claimed that in instances where works unlawfully interfere with public rights of navigation MMO is not empowered to issue a marine licence unless a harbour revision was also made, extinguishing public navigation rights or permitting interference with the same.

The judgement

In his judgement Mr Justice Holgate stated that ‘the Claimant’s argument involves a fundamental misunderstanding of MCAA 2009, and of section 69(1) in particular...’ finding that MMO had gone to ‘substantial lengths to collect evidence on the relevant navigation issues’ and ‘had consulted and re-consulted on the relatively narrow points raised by the claimant’.

The judgement made clear that the MMO’s decision that the proposed activities would not interfere with navigation or safety of navigation in the entrance to the marina so as to justify refusing the application was a correct application of the relevant legislation. It also set out that ‘there was no statutory requirement or need to consider whether the effect on public rights of navigation would also be actionable’.

The judge also denied the claimant the right to appeal the judgement.

More information

The marine licence and related documents are available to view on the [public register](#) (case reference MLA/2015/00349/2). The MMO has also updated the relevant [selected cases page](#) of its website.

The Judicial Review process considers the lawfulness of a decision or action made by a public body. They are a challenge to the way in which a decision has been made, rather than the rights and wrongs of the conclusion reached. More information about the Judicial Review process is available on the [Courts and Tribunals Judiciary website](#).

Press release: 18th century drawing of Schmadribach Waterfall at risk of leaving the UK

A drawing of the Schmadribach Waterfall is at risk of being exported from the UK unless a buyer can be found to match the asking price of £68,750.

Arts Minister John Glen has placed a temporary export bar on the drawing, by Austrian Romantic artist Joseph Anton Koch, to provide an opportunity to keep it in the country.

The preparatory study was made for J.A. Koch's most celebrated composition, The Schmadribach Waterfall near Lauterbrunnen, which is famed for its spectacular scenery.

Dating from around 1793, the work is typical of the highly precise studies Koch made for compositions, using black chalk and heightening the contours in black ink.

The drawing is an important work by a major figure of early 19th century painting. Koch's depictions of Switzerland were extremely influential and helped to popularise Alpine scenery among European artists.

He was especially popular with British collectors during his lifetime, but only seven of his drawings remain in UK public collections.

Arts Minister John Glen said:

This striking study for Joseph Anton Koch's most celebrated landscape shows why this leading Romantic painter was so highly regarded by British artists.

I hope that a buyer comes forward to help keep it in the UK so that more people can learn about this artist's creative process and the development of his art.

The decision to defer the export licence follows a recommendation by the Reviewing Committee on the [Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest \(RCEWA\)](#), administered by The Arts Council.

RCEWA member Lowell Libson said:

Joseph Anton Koch is a pivotal figure in the European Romantic movement at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and enjoyed a significant relationship with British patrons and

collectors who particularly appreciated his 'heroic' Alpine landscapes.

Very few of Koch's many important works originally in British collections now remain in the UK. This unusually highly elaborate drawing was made in preparation for the painting that is considered to be his masterpiece.

The retention in this country of this beautiful and important drawing would greatly add to the way in which British institutions can tell the story of European Romanticism and of the development of British taste and patronage.

The RCEWA made its recommendation on the grounds of the drawing's outstanding significance for the study of Romantic landscape art and Swiss scenery.

The decision on the export licence application for the drawing will be deferred until 27 September 2017. This may be extended until 27 December 2017 if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase it is made at the recommended price of £68,750 (plus VAT of £2,750).

Organisations or individuals interested in purchasing the drawing should contact the RCEWA on 0845 300 6200.

An image of the drawing can be downloaded via our [flickr site](#)

ENDS

For media information contact: Yasmin Kaye Communications Officer Department for Culture Media and Sport Tel: 0207 211 6489 Email: yasmin.kaye@culture.gov.uk

Notes to editors

1. Details of the drawing are as follows: The Schmadribach Waterfall near Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland A faint sketch of a mountainous landscape Black chalk, pen and black ink, lightly squared in black chalk, indented for transfer, 44.3 x 35.8cm (17 ½ x 14 1/8 in.) Dated around 1793 The drawing is un-faded and in good condition for a work of its date and technique
2. Collection of Brian Sewell (1931-2015); his sale, Christies, King Street, London, 27 September 2016, lot 60 (estimate £20,000-30,000); sold at £68,750.
3. The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest is an independent body, serviced by The Arts Council, which advises the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on whether a cultural object, intended for export, is of national

importance under specified criteria.

4. The Arts Council champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. www.artscouncil.org.uk.