

THE WESSEX WORD

Staff Newsletter for Wessex RFCA



WHAT'S NEW:

- Armed Forces Day Roundup
- New Director Reserves Incoming
- Armed Forces Covenant signings

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Wessex Word 86.

Get ready to dive into the highlights of the unforgettable Armed Forces Day held in Falmouth. Discover the inspiring stories of the newest signatories of the Armed Forces Covenant, and get an insight into the pivotal role of the Director Reserves, as we gear up to welcome a new Director in October.

As always, we encourage you to share any interesting news or updates. Contact Cheryl at wx-commsasst@rfca.mod.uk or Siobhan at wx-comms@rfca.mod.uk. Until next month, stay dry!

Cheryl Grimes

ARMED FORCES DAY ROUNDUP

Armed Forces Day and the week around it finished with a bang! It was a fantastic week and thousands of people visited the numerous events held both in Falmouth and more widely across the country. There were also two Armed Forces Covenant signings by South West Water and Falmouth University, onboard HMS Richmond. Check out our [Facebook feed](#) to see the many videos and photos.



NEW DIRECTOR RESERVES INCOMING!

John (Mark) Lancaster, Baron Lancaster of Kimbolton assumes the role of Director Reserves in October 2023 in the rank of Major General.

The Director Reserves' role is to optimise Reserve utility, talent and societal networks through Army HQ strategy, policy and Engagement and Communications (E&C) outputs. The role delivers this through: the provision of advice across the 4* HQ on all Reserve policy matters; fostering the development of Reserve strategy; ensuring cross-stakeholder Reserve matters are coordinated; and the reinforcement of Reserve E&C. As the senior Army Reservist, Director Reserves also works with the Deputy Chief of the General Staff and the Assistant Chief of the General Staff to champion a Whole Force Approach across all Army activities.

Mark served on a gap year commission in the Army between 1988 and 1990. He was a company director for the family fireworks firm, Kimbolton Fireworks, before he was elected to Parliament and continues to serve in the Army Reserves as a Colonel; this has included operational tours in Kosovo (1999 to 2000), Bosnia (2001 to 2002) and Afghanistan (2006).

Read the full bio at - <https://www.gov.uk/government/people/mark-lancaster>



ARMED FORCES COVENANT SIGNINGS

During June and July, many organisations have signed the [Armed Forces Covenant](#), a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly.

These signings have been witnessed by individuals including business leaders, local civic dignitaries and even the Archbishop of Canterbury!

Click the photos to read the individual stories.

