



The Bugle Call

The Newsletter of Durham Army Cadet Force



Commandant's Address

Hello Team - I hope you and your families are safe and well. Welcome to the second edition of the Bugle Call and thanks to those who have contributed written pieces of work for your perusal.

Despite no face to face (F2F) training there are still lots of really good work going on across the County, some great individual achievements and recognition at national level.

It was really pleasing to see Northfield Gardens recognised by Regional Command on twitter, Durham ACF having the most participants in the Brigade in the virtual mile and the winner Cdt J Shefford being one of our own. We have also seen a move in a positive direction of participation in the IDEA award scheme and an increase in Duke of Edinburgh award passes that have surpassed last year's figures which is a great achievement and good for those who have gained the award at whatever respective level as this looks well on any CV.

I was honoured to be asked to present/recognize (virtually) some fantastic achievements at the Band Awards Evening- well done to all who received the well deserved recognition for all your hard work.

As I write we are still waiting for a decision from Regional Command reference the return to F2F training and I expect that decision to come on 3-4th August, once we have the decision we can action our plans that were shared with the Senior Leadership Team by the County Training Officer at the Commandants conference this week.

It is with great pleasure that I can finally announce the winner of the Commandant's Coin Competition. The quality of entries was fantastic, and I had a very difficult time selecting just one as the winner. After much back and forth I have finally decided on my coin which was heavily influenced by the winning design. I can therefore announce the competition winner who will receive the first coin once they are minted. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Corporal Faith Inglis of Horden detachment for her winning coin design.

Commandant's Coin

FRONT



REAR



Finally, I have also decided to implement a two week stand down or leave period for all CFAV/Cadets from 10th to 24th August which will give everyone a well-deserved break as we all know there has been an incredible amount of hard work going on since March and everyone deserves time away to literally "do their own thing"

Please enjoy your stand-down period whatever that is or wherever it takes you,

Yours and stay safe

Lt Col Neil Foster, Commandant

HUNT THE PRO -

The County PR Officer is hidden somewhere in this newsletter. Can you find him?

Things to do until face to face training resumes

**Virtual Training
Nights**

iDEA

DofE

An update from The Band and Bugles of Durham Army Cadet Force

Despite lockdown, the band and Bugles have been busy performing as usual, putting together in a virtual way. We decided that it would be appropriate for us to recognise the great work by the NHS and put together our first Virtual Video in honour of their work. We decided that Local Hero was a good way of showing our respect to the local people who work in our hospitals and completed this as a tribute to their work. A nice message of thanks was given by our honorary Colonel, Lorraine Kelly and featured us on her morning breakfast show and we had over 30,000 views on social media.



Our next Virtual Video was with the American Band from Smyrna, Delaware. The band is hopeful that it will still be able to visit Delaware in the future, but in the mean time we worked together with the "Smyrna Hose Band" which rehearses in a fire station in Smyrna and worked with us to produce " Can't take my Eyes off You" a good old Frankie Valli number. This was introduced by Pam Royal from ITV local news.



Freedom parades were booked to take place throughout the county in June culminating in a Proms in the Park concert with the band and Bugles of Durham ACF and the regular Band and Bugles of the Rifles. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions, these were cancelled. The Rifles office asked the band if we could do something to recognise that this was taking place and we put together a virtual Marching Display which was sent out to all the counties who would have had the Freedom Parade. It was also used for the Yorkshire Armed Forces Day and was put on Leeds and Barnsley's council page.



The Virtual Videos were recorded by the band members in their own homes and then put together by our technical genius, Sjt Kyle Davison whose brilliant creative work was appreciated by everyone concerned. Well done Kyle

It just goes to show that here at Durham Army Cadet Force, the band will continue to play and rehearse despite any obstacles which come our way and we are now working on our next venture.

All our virtual Videos can be seen by clicking on the link below

**Major Colin Miller. (B.A.hons Mus.Ed.)
Director of Music**

Local Hero - <https://youtu.be/Q0JzoaNdyc>

Can't Take My Eyes Off You
- <https://youtu.be/gJJD8IGULWs>

Rifles 2020 - <https://youtu.be/vT50rockQpE>



DofE Corner

Despite Covid-19 Durham Army Cadet Force has had a fantastic year for DofE passes with a total of 51 passes. DofE passes Nationally were just over 200 so this is a fantastic result for Durham ACF. A huge shout out to Lt Shefford the County DofE Officer for all her hard work and to all the cadets who have put in all the hard work to get these passes.

An update from Major Gowland, OC C Company, Durham Army Cadet Force

Hello Everyone, I hope you are all managing to stay safe and well. We have passed the 100-day mark in terms of lockdown where we have seen face to face training suspended and the cancellation of our Company Weekend, Annual Camp and the 2 overseas trips. At first glance it can all appear a little bleak but let's look back at some of the things we have achieved during the same period.

We have made a start at the Duke of Edinburgh award with 2 Bronze Awards over the last month and a host of other Cadets are now only waiting for an expedition later this year to complete their Bronze or a Silver Award. This is great news and I'd like to see more Cadets signing up. Don't forget my pledge - if you sign up and complete your award the company will refund your enrolment fee.



We continue to lead the way across the County with iDEA Awards. We have cadets from every detachment participating in this exciting and useful award and together we have completed over 1100 awards Awesome Effort! I completed my Bronze

and Silver Awards last year and I'm really looking forward to Gold being released later this year. Don't forget that you can also use your iDEA award as your DofE skill so in effect you're doubling up!

Suspension of face to face training doesn't mean that we can't recognise Cadet achievements, leadership and contributions. So here is a quick shout out to our newest junior NCO's Lance Corporals Martin Lee Joicey and Cameron Borthwick. We also saw Cadet CSM Gowland promoted to the post of Cadet RSM, I am sure he will do a great job of representing C Company. Well done on your promotions gentlemen.

The Staff of the Company have been hard at work trying to make sure there are interesting, varied and challenging ways to stay engaged and as a result we've held several competitions and activities including our C Coy Sleep Out, Easter Egg Decorating (I was robbed - just saying), Ration Master Chef and C Coy has definitely Got Talent. We also stepped up to take part in the ACF Sports Virtual Mile which generated a healthy amount of competition amongst Cadets and Staff alike. I really hope we can get the 2IC a badge for her effort. Don't forget, winners of these competitions don't go away empty handed, the Company have funded prizes for the winners.



OC C COY and the Cdt RSM Sleep Out



Lots of the cadets and even some pets camped out

Early in the lockdown we decided to centralise training so that cadets weren't being overloaded by competing demands to spend time in front of a computer. As the schoolwork is tailing off now and it looks as though restrictions are being gradually lifted we have decided to make another change in the training regime so that each week there will be a detachment call hosted by your DC or a member of your detachment staff, we expect all cadets to attend these meetings. In addition, we will run a star group lesson each week. Cadre Commanders will clear which cadets need to attend this session in order to receive the specific lesson for that week and be tested. The responsibility for your progress rests with you, if you choose not to attend then you could fall behind your friends in terms of APC progress. This system seems to be working for us as we have clocked up 22 subject passes in a short time. Don't miss out!

Looking to the future, we still have at least a couple of months of lockdown remaining before we can resume face to face training. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and we can all start to get outside a little bit. Use this time to take part in regular exercise, even if it is just going for a walk or a short run. You might want to run through the PATs exercises a couple of times each week, some of the Adults are taking part in Coy PT led by SSI Pearson and it really does help to connect socially and to be active for half an hour. You'll also find that after some exercise you'll be mentally refreshed and ready to take on another iDEA badge or work on your DofE skill or APC Google classroom.

Let's make sure we achieve as much if not more in the next 60 days.

My Experience on the CYBER DEFENDER COURSE by RSM Joshua Gowland



Last year I was lucky enough to be selected as one of the 12 candidates for the Cyber Defender Course which is run out of Blandford Camp in Dorset. This is the Regimental Headquarters for the Signals Regiment and home to their museum (which you'll get to visit during the course).

The Cyber Defender Course is aimed at candidates that have an interest in IT so it would be suitable for Cadets already attending or looking to attend College to study an IT related course. If you have enjoyed the iDEA award then you'll love the Cyber Defender Course. (If you haven't started your iDEA Award, why not?! It is fun, educational and you can use it as a DofE skill)

Cyber Defender is a very hands on course and while there you'll learn about how to secure your social media accounts and IT Devices against attack but you'll also get to try out some of the techniques for yourself and take over a target device.

We learned and applied some programming to control remote cameras and simple robots, we also built local area networks and encrypted traffic to protect information while it was transmitted over the network.

Because this is a national course you'll meet cadets from all over the country, it's a great chance to make new friends and if you are a gold DofE participant you could use this as your residential as well.



I enjoyed my week in Blandford so much that I went back to complete my 4* signals course. I can't recommend these courses enough as a way to learn new skills that will come in useful in the real world while making new friends.

If you are interested, then get in touch with your detachment commander.

SHOUT OUT CORNER

A huge shout out to Northfield Gardens detachment who have been an extremely active detachment during Lockdown. Not only did they have their Tour de A Company but have now successfully completed a Virtual walk to Annual Camp. The distance from Northfield Gardens detachment to Warcop which would have been our Annual Camp location is 62 miles and the cadets aced the challenge covering 78.23 miles in just 10 days.

Well done to all the cadets, and to their adult instructors for coming up with such interesting challenges. Durham ACF is proud of you all.

Keep your eyes peeled for our next issue which will have all the latest Durham Army Cadet Force News. If you have a news story for us then please get in touch.

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