

## **A NOTE FROM BRIGADIER DAVID ALLFREY ON RELINQUISHING COMMAND**

It is my proud duty to have commanded 51 (Scottish) Brigade for the last 3 years.

Over the period, we have sought to close with the challenges of training for operations, training to sustain, raising awareness of the Army and our place in society, building a stronger interest in our vocation, values and standards and, securing commitment to enlist, to enable Reserve service or simply to support our people - Regulars, Reserves, our families, Veterans or Cadets. Latterly, we have worked hard to remain balanced, effective and efficient in the face of fierce financial and business pressures.

All the while, we have looked to meet the highest standards of propriety, behaviour and professional conduct and, live up to the military core values of: Courage, Discipline, Respect for Others, Integrity, Loyalty and Selfless Commitment. Our civil service staff have worked as hard, with the same focus and to their own - but similar - values: Integrity, Honesty, Objectivity and Impartiality. Together, we have placed special emphasis on presenting a singular message through our own conduct and in Recruiting, Communications and Community Engagement: "It is fine and honourable to be a Scottish soldier".

The challenges of the moment have demanded huge focus and imagination; a great endeavour by many people, both military and civilian, including those that deliver the routine bits of our business through to the commanders and line managers in their positions of responsibility and authority. I am particularly thrilled with the achievements with Youth, in Veterans' affairs and in the 'Firm Base'. The latter, in particular, represents a sturdy frame on which so much can be built.

From my visits to military establishments, from my touches with Society and the reports that come into the Headquarters in Forthside, it is clear that this collective effort has borne a rich harvest. We enjoy the consent and support of a Nation which, while not always wholly supportive of policy, nonetheless increasingly understands the Military Covenant and its demands.

During my tenure, I have learned a great deal about Scotland - a rare and privileged insight that will influence all my future undertakings and those of my family. We have shared in a wonderful sense of history and tradition, been shown tremendous welcome, real warmth, unfettered kindness and that special honesty that is unique to Scotland. I have also been able to enjoy some of the most remarkable places on the planet - both rural and urban - all within a few hours travel of Stirling.

Above all this, I have been treated to the trust and energy of everyone that has worked in the Brigade - and many others besides. For this, I am profoundly grateful. All best wishes for the future and thank you for everything that you have done for the Army in Scotland over my tenure as Commander.

Brigadier H D Allfrey MBE

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