

**Minutes of All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Reserve Forces and Cadets Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Committee Room W4 on 15 June 2015 at 1530 hours**

**AGM Attendance:**

Madeleine Moon MP – Chair Stella Creasy MP Jim Fitzpatrick MP Lord Freeman James Gray MP Dr Julian Lewis MP  Matthew Ward - Researcher, Parliamentary Office of Madeleine Moon MP  <b>Clerks:</b> Colonel (Retd) Hugh Purcell GL RFCA (Honorary Clerk) Kate Peyton GL RFCA	
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**The Chair** welcomed all to the meeting.

**Item 1 - Apologies.**

1. There were none.

**Item 2 - Election of Officers**

2. The following was agreed:

Chair: Madeleine Moon - Lab

Officers : Dr Stella Creasy - Lab  
Dr Julian Lewis - Con  
Jim Fitzpatrick - Lab  
James Gray – Con  
David Crausby – Lab  
Robert Ffello – Lab  
Lord Freeman

**Item 3 - Minutes of the Last Meeting**

3. James Gray noted in the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2014 that James Arbuthnot was missing 'Rt Hon' before his name and Andrew Selous' surname had been misspelt. There were no other comments.

**Item 4 – Chair's Report**

4. The Chair reported that there had been two meetings the previous year. Major General John Crackett, ACDS RF&C, (the senior reservist officer in the MOD) and David Watson, a civil servant in No 10, had addressed Employer Engagement in Future Force 2020 in July. Commodore Jonathan Fry, Head of Capability & Cadets RF&C, responsible for youth and cadets in the MOD, had addressed the Cadet Expansion Programme and CCF funding in December. Since this meeting the CCF funding issue had been settled.

**Item 5 - Further Actions and Next Meeting**

5. The next meeting would involve hosting an event entitled 'Reserves and Cadets in a Modern Society' in the

Jubilee Room on 29 June 2015 between 16.00 and 18.00. This 'pop in' event would provide an opportunity for MPs to meet Reservists, Employers, Cadet Force Adult Instructors and Cadets who would be coming from across the UK. The Chair would be welcoming the Minister for Reserves, Julian Brazier MP, to open the event.

6. It would be the first visit to Parliament for many of the delegates, who would welcome the opportunity of a tour of the Palace with their MP or one of their staffs. Having been introduced to their local delegate(s) there would be an opportunity for a more intimate conversation about their work and the role an MP could play in promoting the Reserve and Cadet forces.

7. The Chair's office would send out invitations on the Whip which would be mirrored in the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Associations (RFCA) regions and each RFCA would communicate directly with their MPs to pass over the details about the delegates from their area. Meanwhile the RFCAs had produced a new list of MPs who were known to have some interest in Defence and these would be encouraged to attend. Every MP attending would be given a handout with the Reserve and Cadet numbers within their region and RFCA contact details.

**Afternote:** This event was well attended with the four countries well represented by employers, their reservists and MPs.

8. A discussion followed on next meetings that the Group should hold and it was decided that it would take evidence in late October, before the publication of the SDSR, as to whether or not Reserves 2020 was working. It would then produce a short report. There was some scepticism that the military capability, a combination of Manning, Equipment, Training and Sustainment, underpinned by a common ethos, as envisaged by the Independent Commission's Report, would fully deliver and the Group should therefore attempt to pull together some proof and put this to the relevant people at a meeting. The Clerk would help with advice on who should be asked to appear before the meeting.

**Afternotes:**

- Work on the 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review including public engagement is under way <https://surveys.mod.uk/index.php/424914?lang=en> It is expected to be published by the end of the year.
- This meeting will now take place in late November/early December.
- Reserve and Cadet statistics can be found at - [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/435444/20150615\\_TSP7Apr15-O.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/435444/20150615_TSP7Apr15-O.pdf)

9. The Chair had been putting questions to Ministers on Reserve and Cadet Issues and it was decided to hold a meeting on Cadets in late November that would bring four strands together – Sea, Army/CCF, Air and the Schools Cadet Expansion Programme. This meeting would be briefed on the current state of play in each organisation, their future plans and deficiencies in areas such as adult instructors. A copy of the situation with London's cadets showing the deficiency in adult instructors is attached for information – a similar situation is likely to pertain elsewhere.

**Afternotes:**

- The Government has announced that the Cadet Expansion Programme is to continue with LIBOR funding and instructions on its delivery are expected in September
- This meeting will take place in late October.

10. To gain a broader understanding of the role of Youth United and regional networks such as Youth Organisations Uniform (YOU) London, Lindsay Levkoff Lynn, the Chief Executive of the former would be invited to brief the Officers at the earliest opportunity in the autumn. A snapshot of YOU London activity is contained in the attached newsletter; it included a piece on Youth United.

**Item 6 – AOB**

There was none.

Col (Retd.) Hugh Purcell OBE DL, Honorary Clerk to the APPG RF&C.