



Presentation
of
Certificates and Awards
by
Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant
of
County Durham
Mrs S Snowdon

28th February 2017

*The Aycliffe Armoury
Northfield Way
Newton Aycliffe*

LORD-LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATES FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

The Lord-Lieutenants of the four Counties in the Association area present Certificates annually for good service to officers and members of Independent and Specialist Units of the Reserve Forces and to adults of the Sea Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps. Those nominated must have at least 7 years outstanding service and be serving on the day the recommendations is made.

MRS A SMITH – 102 BATTALION, ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Mrs Alison Smith has been a civil servant for over 31 years. She has been in her current role as Finance and Systems Administrator in 102 Battalion REME since June 2000. The cornerstone of continuity within the Unit, Mrs Smith has been at the forefront of outstanding support to military and civilian personnel in the Battalion for 16 years. From daily routine management to preparation and mobilisation of personnel for operations, it is her diligence and thoroughness that constantly instils confidence in the unit management processes.

Mrs Smith's ever burgeoning knowledge and experience is routinely sought by those in the Unit and regular requests for support are received from many external organisations. Her influence extends far beyond that of her immediate roles and responsibilities, with expertise in civilian staff management. Her understanding of the Civil Service administration processes is without parallel. This coupled with a genuine concern for the welfare of all the civilian staff has been a pivotal factor in the maintenance of morale during periods of turbulence and uncertainty.

Mrs Smith has consistently shown a focused determination to ensure that all personnel receive timely and accurate pay and allowances, even if it means her voluntarily working extended hours. She has completely and successfully established standards of administration that are benchmarks for others to emulate.

Mrs Smith has always maintained a helpful and totally professional attitude. Few people deserve the sobriquet of "Faultless;" but Mrs Smith is a clear exception to that rule. For her genuinely selfless performance since joining the Civil Service, but more importantly her support to 102 Battalion REME for over 16 years, Mrs Smith is awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service.

MAJOR C E CONNOR – BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL, COMBINED CADET FORCE

Major Connor has served in the Barnard Castle School Combined Cadet Force as Contingent Commander since she joined the school in September 2009.

Major Connor is a full-time member of staff at Barnard Castle School where she is a Biology subject teacher and form tutor. She also an exam board marker for A Level Biology papers.

Major Connor spent 3 years in Liverpool University's Officer Training Corps where she won best officer Cadet in 1997. She then joined 96 Signals Squadron (TA) while working at Bablake School in Coventry before setting up the school's first CCF contingent which she commanded from the outset in 2002. She simultaneously ran the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at bronze, silver and gold levels, coordinating training and running expeditions. She was selected to be HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's Equerry at a Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award ceremony at St James's Palace.

Major Connor currently leads a contingent with both Army and RAF sections, of around 140 cadets and two adults, planning annual camps and adventure training exercises as well as range days and field training days.

In addition to commanding her own contingent Major Connor has overseen the partnership between Barnard Castle School CCF and Polam Hall School, providing training for Polam Hall pupils which they would otherwise not have been able to experience. The two schools are 20 miles apart.

For her dedicated and committed service over and above what would normally be expected for her rank and appointment Major Connor is awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service.

SERGEANT (SCC) P R HUME – TS TRINCOMALEE, SEA CADET CORPS

Sergeant Paul Hume is currently serving with Hartlepool Sea Cadets and has been with the unit for over 11 years. He has also spent 2 years with Cleveland Army Cadet Force as an Adult Volunteer

Outside of The Sea Cadets, Sergeant Hume is a store manager with McColl's Retail Group, where he manages a busy store in Darlington. This is a very time consuming job, but Sergeant Hume chooses to dedicate what spare time he has to The Sea Cadets.

Sergeant Hume is not only a pivotal member of Hartlepool Unit, but of the wider troop, and indeed company. He remains one of the few qualified trainers whose job is to ensure new volunteers to the organisation get the knowledge they need to be able to provide the cadets with the best possible experience.

Sergeant Hume regularly goes above and beyond the call of duty. His commitment and dedication to the cadets has ensured countless activity weekends have taken place that would have stalled without his input. Many of these has seen Sergeant Hume jump in in at the last minute, to facilitate the activity.

Sergeant Hume is the person anyone can rely on to always be there, always offer his support, and always make a positive impact in any situation.

For his selfless commitment, unquestionable determination, and inspirational dedication, Sergeant Hume is awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service.

CAPTAIN N ARMSTRONG – DURHAM ARMY CADET FORCE

Captain Armstrong is in his second period in the Army Cadets as an adult volunteer, both of which have been with Durham Army Cadet Force.

Originally a cadet he became an adult instructor in 1991, commissioned in 1992 and remained with the County until 1999, when family commitments saw him leave.

During this time he has been the Detachment Commander at both Ushaw Moor and Houghton-le-Spring detachments and lastly Darlington detachment.

Captain Armstrong returned to the fold 10 years later in 2009 and has become an experienced and well respected Officer throughout the County. He now deftly juggles a pressured occupation as a Policeman, family commitments and his passion as an ACF Officer.

Captain Armstrong has remained within D Company since his return in 2009. For 6 years was the Detachment Commander of the Darlington Detachment which reached record numbers of active cadets year on year and was the biggest detachment in the County throughout those 6 years, often parading 50+ cadets.

Like all voluntary organisations the Army Cadet Force is personality driven. A vibrant detachment is a reflection of the adult leader in charge and it is to Captain Armstrong's great credit that Darlington Detachment led the way for the 6 years he was in charge.

He is now the training officer for the County's southern company.

His family's commitment to the ACF has good roots and his son Joshua will be installed as a Lord Lieutenant's cadet at the end of this ceremony.

For Captain Armstrong's commitment, service and diligence he is awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious service.

CAPTAIN E LANNON – DURHAM ARMY CADET FORCE

Capt Lannon joined Durham ACF as an Adult Volunteer in October 1973 after serving as a cadet from the age of 14.

He started as an Instructor at Chester le Street Detachment serving for 9 years until June 1982. During this time the Detachment was consistently graded “Above Standard” at its Annual Inspection.

He was then posted to Stanley Detachment as Detachment Commander (DC) and promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major Instructor (SMI). He held this appointment for 10 years passing on his experience to ensure the cadets at Stanley made the best possible use of any opportunities that came from being a cadet.

Captain Lannon was commissioned to 2Lt in 1985 and continued at Chester le Street until November 1998 over his 6 year period as DC the Detachment was graded as above standard each year at its “Annual Inspection” and continued to produce Senior Cadets, retaining them to progress through the full range of Cadet activities

Over the years between 2004 and 2010 Captain Lannon held numerous appointments within the company and county. In 2010 he was promoted to Lt Col and took up the post of Deputy Commandant (Training) a post which he held for 4 years

During his time at County HQ he planned and delivered the training for 6 Annual Camps, implemented the introduction of a national adult recruiting, selection and induction training package. Senior Cadet training at County level hit new heights under his tutelage and attained the highest 4 Star pass percentage in the UK. The County had continuous success at the Brigade and National ACF competitions.

In 2011 he put into place a six year plan to ensure Durham ACF had a team compete in the 100th Nijmegen March in 2016. IN this time he planned, trained and delivered DACF team participation every year with over 25 adult team leaders and 250 Cadets attending this International Event.

Although in April 2014 he was appointed as a member of the Permanent Support Staff he willingly resigned his appointment as Deputy Commandant with a reduction in rank to Captain.

Captain Lannon stands here with 44 years of continuous involvement with Durham Army Cadet Force, and is an exemplary example of one individual's voluntary, selfless contribution to youth.

For this dedication to the adults and cadets in Durham Army Cadet force for over 30 years Captain Lannon is awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service

CAPTAIN LANNON

SECOND LIEUTENANT D MEASOM – DURHAM ARMY CADET FORCE

2Lt Measom joined Durham ACF as an Adult Volunteer in November 2009 after enjoying 5 years as a cadet. He commanded several detachments within central Durham County before transferring to the Norther Company in 2013 where he successfully commanded Alamein Detachment, Northfield Gardens and, most recently, Jarrow detachment.

This particular detachment had been a failing for a number of years; indeed it has spent long periods of time in mothballs. 2Lt Measom was given the task to resurrect it. His enthusiasm, diligence and imaginative activity programme has led to the detachment numbers growing to a staggering 32 cadets from nothing in 6 months. This is the perfect example of the difference the right adult can make in a youth movement.

2Lt Measom is a first-class instructor having armed himself with an array of key qualifications which he utilises at all levels including County events. His passion is First Aid and he qualified as a first aid trainer in October 2014, since then he has trained dozens of cadets to become competent lifesavers should they ever be required to act.

In April 2015 2Lt Measom's found himself confronted by a very serious life threatening situation himself. His quick thinking and first aid skills resulted in him saving the life of a 13-month-old baby with CPR and rescue breathing. His expertise ensured that the toddler stood a fighting chance of survival with the skills he performed. 2Lt Measom's actions were recognised when he was awarded the Royal Humane Society Resuscitation Certificate in 2016.

2Lt Measom has given so much to the cadets of Durham ACF. For his enthusiasm, effort and resilience to give nothing but the best to those cadets he has led 2Lt is awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service.

WARRANT OFFICER D A SLONE – DURHAM/NORTHUMBERLAND WING, AIR TRAINING CORPS

Warrant Officer Deborah Slone joined the Air Training Corps as a cadet in 2001 and rose steadily through the ranks finishing her cadet service with the rank of Cadet Warrant Officer. On reaching the upper age limit for a cadet she became a Civilian Instructor in September 2007. Entering uniformed service as a Sgt in 2008 and promoted through the ranks to Warrant Officer in 2016.

Deborah works full time as a Sales and Marketing advisor for Utilitywise, North Tyneside.

In her role as Civilian Instructor, she worked within a small team to turn round a struggling squadron, 36 (Hetton-le- Hole) Squadron. Cadet numbers grew and remain healthy. In addition to her squadron duties as Squadron Training Officer, Deborah was appointed to the Wing Hockey Manager and Deputy Sports Officer.

On entering uniform service, she took on several challenges, increasing her already large workload, and completed Range Conducting Officer's qualification, to become a National Rifle Association rifle coach.

WO Slone was appointed as a Sgt in 2008 and posted to 1338 (Seaham) Squadron. Here she gave cadets the opportunity to compete at national level and through gaining an expedition leaders qualification she was able to expand the offer for adventurous training to cadets.

Deborah's leadership and skills were rewarded with her being appointed Sector NCO to help eleven squadrons whilst still retaining her squadron position.

In 2015, Her squadron 1388 (Seaham) Squadron was awarded The Marshall Trophy, a national trophy presented to the squadron for being the most improved squadron in the Corps over a 3-year period. In 2016 The Squadron was judged to

be the best performing Squadron in the Wing. In 2016 she was also promoted to Warrant Officer.

Warrant Officer Slone has demonstrated great dedication and motivation in her roles in supporting cadets and to the Air Training Corps. For her dedicated and committed service not only to his squadron but also to the Wing, WO Slone is awarded the Lord Lieutenants Certificate for Meritorious Service.

RECIPIENT OF THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 1 M LIGHT, 102 BATTALION, ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

With 24 years Colour Service, the career of Warrant Officer 1 (Artificer Sergeant Major) Light is abundant with impressive and diverse operational success. Most humble in his manner, he has achieved outstanding results and set standards for others to emulate without any hype or fanfare and willingly shouldered responsibilities far in excess of that expected from his rank.

During Operation Banner, employed as the sole Lance Corporal REME fitter in support of a bomb disposal detachment, Warrant Officer 1 Light was solely responsible for planning and completing the maintenance activity for response vehicles in 2 separate locations. Additionally, he developed, with the detachment's Number 1 Ammunition Technical Officer, bespoke tools to meet a specific bomb disposal requirement. The resulting 'off-the-shelf' equipment procurement, based on his technical input to and evaluation of the project not expected from a Lance Corporal, met an Explosives Ordnance Disposal life-saving requirement.

During Operation TELIC 1, he was part of the crew of a General Support bridging vehicle at the main crossing point for the Armoured Spearhead. The bridged gap was at the very limit of the equipment, with a high probability that heavy and prolonged use could compromise the crossing point. Seizing the initiative, Warrant Officer 1 Light utilised hand-held equipment to secure the bridge. Employing a simple, yet novel solution, his initiative, technical knowledge and quick actions ensured that the crossing point remained viable for the initial ground assault of the Operation.

His technical planning acumen is exceptional, producing ground-breaking solutions. He held the key planning role in the first iteration of Operation SILVERSTONE, regenerating some 45,000 small arms and associated optics following the Mission Rehearsal Exercise for Operation HERRICK 12. In spite of minimal available

resource, he executed his plan for the inspection, refurbishment and reconditioning that returned vital equipment to the hands of the training audience. Considered as best practice, his work defined the model for the regenerating all equipment following subsequent Operation HERRICK Mission Rehearsal Exercises. When employed in Headquarters Joint Force Support, Warrant Officer 1 Light planned and executed specific aspects of the drawdown of Operation HERRICK. He defined the standard for 'Proof of Good Order'; the preparation standard for equipment recovering from the operational theatre. In spite of operational degradation of the fleet, he maintained and ensured the standard for some 440 vehicles to operate legally on United Kingdom roads following disembarkation.

The 24-year career of Warrant Officer 1 Light is more than littered with operational success; it is strewn with endless instances where his significant engineering knowledge, leadership and innate ability to plan has had the most positive impact on those around him as well as on operational capability. He is the example that REME soldiers aspire to; a genuine force multiplier, but with a self-effacing attitude, unwilling to accept plaudits that are rightly attributed to him. His long and distinguished career is most richly deserving of permanent and public recognition and he is awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

RECIPIENT OF THE VOLUNTEER RESERVE SERVICE MEDAL

LANCE CORPORAL C SMITH, 102 BATTALION, ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Lance Corporal Smith enlisted into the Army Reserve in April 2006 as a Vehicle Mechanic, the role which he holds today. Throughout his career he has been part of 102 Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) based in 147 Field Company, in Scunthorpe.

In 2008, the then Craftsman Smith deployed on Operation TOSCA, as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. He was attached to 32 Signal Regiment as a Rifleman, working alongside Argentinian, Slovakian and Hungarian forces. On his return, he re-embarked upon his technical trade career path, attending the reserve Vehicle Mechanic Class 3 Junior course in December 2009 and progressing to Class 2 Vehicle Mechanic status in November 2010. In 2011, he deployed on Operation HERRICK 14, Afghanistan as an attached vehicle mechanic craftsman to Commando Logistic Regiment Royal Marines. During the six-month deployment he worked on heavily damaged vehicles in Camp Bastion and within some Forward Operating Bases. Throughout his career he has assisted with maintenance of vehicle fleets whilst on exercises in Kenya (3 times), Germany (4 times) and in Canada where he worked on the Armoured Vehicle repair line for 1 Battalion REME during the Annual Winter Repair Programme.

To supplement his engineering skills, Lance Corporal Smith volunteered to attend the pilot Army Reserve Apprenticeship Training Scheme from July 2012 to February 2013 where he developed his trade proficiency studying alongside Regular soldiers at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in Bordon. Upon returning to the Unit, he was deservedly promoted to his current rank in March 2013. He has further expanded his skills by completing BOWMAN training with 1 Battalion REME and deploying to Warminster to repair returning vehicles from Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Smith is an outgoing and confident character, an ambassador for the Company and an excellent team member. He adds genuine value to all Unit

training as an instructor in Battle Casualty Drills and Counter Improvised Explosive Device training and thrives in passing on his mechanical and military experiences to the newer members of the Unit. Omnipresent in all activity, including the 102 Battalion Shooting Team, he highly deserves recipient of the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal.

RECIPIENT OF THE COMMANDER FIELD ARMY COMMENDATION

CAPTAIN K YARKER, 102 BATTALION, ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Captain Yarker has committed a period, spanning 5 decades, to the Army, both in Regular and Reserve Service. Serving 19 years in the Infantry and completing 5 tours of Northern Ireland, Captain Yarker's Reserve Service far eclipses all that he achieved as a Regular Soldier. At the age of 60, having now completed 23 years of Reserve Service, he shows no signs of slowing down and has the desire and drive to serve well beyond his 60th birthday.

Captain Yarker has had a meteoric rise through the ranks during his career in the Territorial Army and Army Reserves. Enlisting as a REME Regimental Specialist, responsible for military training, his well-honed infantry skills were in high demand in all individual and collective training activities, where Battalion personnel benefitted from his knowledge and experience. Whilst in the appointment of Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant, he was diagnosed with bowel cancer. Tackling the illness head-on, he consciously maintained his health and fitness as well as continuing to meet the demands of the appointment. During his treatment, which included emergency surgery and chemotherapy, Capt Yarker maintained his characteristic unswerving commitment to the Unit, with many of his peers oblivious to his condition. Since his Commission in 2006, following 5 years as the Battalion's Regimental Sergeant Major, Captain Yarker has undertaken numerous Company and Battalion appointments. As the Permanent Staff Administration Officer in 124 Recovery Company, his ever-present hand provides valuable, yet un-obtrusive continuity.

Modest and unassuming in his exceptional commitment to Military Service, he has lived all the changes to, and within, the Army Reserves. Adaptable and resolute in equal portion, he was at the vanguard in changing the ethos of the 'old and bold' Territorial Army Soldier to that of a capable and professional Army Reservist. He

continues to command respect from all, ranging from the most recently enlisted soldier to the oldest members of the Company.

Captain Yarker is one of the very few with the accolade of wearing the Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals. His Commanding Officer, in recognition of Captain Yarker's performance on his Junior Non-Commissioned Officer Cadre Course, made the award of the Silver Jubilee Medal.

Captain Yarker has maintained close links to Newton Aycliffe, his hometown and the home of 102 Battalion REME, for the duration of his Reserve Service. He is part of the fabric of the community and his name is synonymous with the Battalion. He tirelessly contributes to events in support of Army Veterans, both in the organisation and raising charitable funds for The Army Benevolent Fund and The Royal British Legion. He works closely with Civic Officers, routinely supporting Civil Engagement and is the military lead for the Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Day Parade in the town; his standards in hosting local dignitaries are legendary.

After 42 years of faultless commitment and dedication to the Regular Army, the Territorial Army and the Army Reserves, Captain Yarker is very much the epitome of Reserve Service. Providing essential continuity and management, he is the example to all through his energy and passion for his Unit and his Corps. An exceptional individual, he is most richly deserving of formal and public recognition and he is awarded the Commander Field Army Commendation.

HER MAJESTY'S LORD-LIEUTENANT'S CADETS FOR 2017

The Lord-Lieutenant of Durham has approved the appointment of Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets to represent their Cadet Force and to assist her with her official duties for one year. The Cadets have been chosen by virtue of their outstanding performance, personal qualities and contribution to the aims and spirit of their respective Cadet Force.

**CADET CORPORAL SAMUEL MILLS,
TS TRINCOMALEE, SEA CADET CORPS**

Sam has been a cadet for 3 years at the TS Trincomalee Sea Cadet Unit; in that time he has attained the rank of Cadet Corporal in the Royal Marine Cadets, quite an achievement. He joined the cadets for the challenges and the camaraderie and has found the experience lived up to expectation. He cites the community work he has done through the Royal Marine Cadets and the biggest reward he gets from Cadets. Last year he was awarded the James Atkinson Award in his Cadet unit for helping people in distress in his community.

Outside of cadets Sam is a keen cricketer. He is an all-rounder in his Club, Oxbridge Cricket Club. He also played basketball and rugby.

Sam wishes to join the Royal Marines following his studies at school and aspires to be in basic training by September 2017.

**CADET COMPANY SERGEANT MAJOR HARVEY DUFFIELD,
NORTON RE DETACHMENT, CLEVELAND ARMY CADET FORCE**

Harvey is now in his 5th year as a member of Cleveland ACF. He has been a committed member of the Hartlepool Engineers detachment for that time and see his promotion to Cadet Company Sergeant Major as a significant achievement. Harvey aspires to be the County Cadet RSM and pass the Master Cadet Award this year. He was particularly proud winning the Community Engagement award as part of the NE RFRCA Cadet PR Trophy award in 2016. He recently completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award and is commencing the Gold award presently.

Following his studies at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College Harvey wishes to go to university to study Engineering before entering the defence engineering industry.

**CADET STAFF SERGEANT JOSHUA ARMSTRONG,
DARLINGTON DETACHMENT, DURHAM ARMY CADET FORCE**

Joshua has been in Durham ACF since the age of 12, over 4 years ago. He is a committed member of the Neasham Road Detachment where he leads by example and his skills and dispositions have been praised by his Detachment Commander. Joshua complete the Master Cadet Course last year and is aspiring to become the Cadet Company Sergeant Major and if time permits the County Cadet RSM. His current highlight in cadets was attaining top grade on the Master Cadet Course last year. Joshua has completed the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's award and has commenced the journey to completing the Gold award. Joshua has applied to be selected for a Canada exchange this summer.

Outside of Cadets Joshua plays second row for Darlington Mowden Park Colts. The most memorable moment last year for the team was winning the County Colts Cup, quite an achievement considering the standard of rugby in the county.

Joshua is currently studying for A Levels. Post these he aspires to stud medicine to become a trauma surgeon. He is considering applying for an Army medical scholarship.

**CADET FLIGHT SERGEANT SCOTT BURGESS,
NUMBER 234 (CITY OF DURHAM) SQUADRON,
DURHAM/NORTHUMBERLAND WING, AIR TRAINING CORPS**

Scott has been a member of the Durham Squadron for 5 ½ years, over which he has made the effort to take up as many opportunities as he can. He has been on camps in Akrotiri, Cyprus and at RAF Odiham, Hampshire. This year he is applying to attend the Air Cadets Canada Exchange. As a staff cadet Scott is very much into developing his leadership skills and sees mentoring and leading the younger cadets in the Squadron as an important part of his development.

Scott's most memorable achievement in cadets was the completion of the 2016 Nijmegen Marches with the Cadets. He was proud with how he rose to the challenge that tested his personal skills and resilience.

Outside of Cadets Scott plays first violin in the Durham County Youth Orchestra. The Snowman Concert they performed in January 2016 was a particularly memorable performance with the orchestra. He also played at the Sage concert in April 2016.

Scott is currently studying A levels and has applied for a place on the Year In industry Scheme run by the engineering Development Trust, before studying aerospace engineering at university.

**CADET SERGEANT CHARLOTTE MOLE,
NUMBER 234 (CITY OF DURHAM) SQUADRON,
DURHAM/NORTHUMBERLAND WING, AIR TRAINING CORPS**

Charlie has been in the Durham Air Cadet Squadron for 3 ½ years, as she puts it a late starter. Since joining she has not looked back and has thoroughly enjoyed the experience to date. Her particular favourite activity is Fieldcraft and has previously attended the wing Fieldcraft camps at Warcop. A particular highlight was raising £500 for Teenage cancer trusts by courageously having her head shaved and running coffee mornings. Last year Charlie was on the Squadron expedition to the Pyrenees. She is currently completing her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

Outside cadets Charlie is active and participated in running and hockey. She also dabbles in playing the flute.

When she completed her college courses Charlie wishes to work as a teaching assistant in young offenders' institutions.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Award of the Medal requires good, faithful, valuable and meritorious service with conduct judged to be irreproachable throughout. The Service Boards look for evidence of particular achievements, whether in the course of military duty or in extra mural involvement which benefits the service or the public in the field of sport or such things as charitable work. To reinforce the special character of the MSM, limits are placed on the number that may be awarded annually. No more than 89 may be awarded annually in the Army, though historically many fewer than these numbers are actually awarded.

CADET FORCES

The Sea Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps are voluntary youth organisations sponsored and funded by Ministry of Defence. There are some 5,000 cadets and over 1,300 adult volunteers throughout the North East. The three Cadet Forces need adult men and women as leaders and potential officers. Military experience is not required, although it does help, and adults receive all the training they need.

ARMY CADET FORCE FOUR STAR PROFICIENCY AWARDS

Cadet activities are Army orientated and both male and female cadets are trained by means of the Cadet Syllabus, or Army Proficiency Certificate. The APC is completed in four stages and at each stage of completion Cadets are awarded a 'star' badge to wear on their uniform. The syllabus contains subjects such as field craft, map reading, compass skills, shooting, range safety, care of weapons, first aid, life-saving skills and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. 4 Star Cadets also have to obtain an Essentials of First Aid Certificate and must complete a 20-mile foot expedition.

BTEC FIRST DIPLOMAS IN PUBLIC SERVICES

Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) First Diplomas are administered by the Cadet Vocational Qualification Organisation (CVQO), which is a registered charity, accredited by Edexcel, City & Guilds and the Institute of Leadership and Management, responsible for managing internationally recognised Vocational Awards for members of all of the Cadet Forces. CVQO is dedicated to helping both cadets and instructors of the cadet forces get ahead personally and professionally. The qualifications on offer have been designed to show employers and educators the wide range of skills that young people and adults learn in the Cadet Forces and mix theory and practical elements with an emphasis on leadership, teamwork, communications, problem solving and fitness. The First Diploma for cadets is equivalent to 4 GCSEs standard grades at A* to C levels', which are now being recognised by colleges and universities, and AIs can gain up to the equivalent of a Level 6 Graduateship Award.

HER MAJESTY'S LORD-LIEUTENANT'S CADETS

The Lord-Lieutenants of Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and North Yorkshire have approved the appointment of Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets to represent their Cadet Force and assist with Royal and other official duties for one year. One or two Cadets are selected from each of the three Cadet Forces in the County – the Sea Cadet Corps, the Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps – depending on the anticipated number of duties. The Cadets have been chosen by virtue of their outstanding performance as a cadet, personal qualities and contribution to their local communities and the aims and spirit of their respective Cadet Force.