

## HEADQUARTERS NORTH BRIEFING NOTE

Recipient:	<b>Educational Senior Leadership</b>
Reason for briefing note:	Update on Importance of Cadets activity and priorities in the region
Communication Officer:	Lt Col Andy Black
Date:	01 September 2025



**Purpose: To make the military community in the North the best it can be.**

### HEADQUARTERS NORTH UPDATE FROM COLONEL PETER STITT, COMMANDER NORTH



Since our establishment on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024, Headquarters North has delivered significant progress across our responsibilities: resilience operations, societal engagement, cadet support, and improving military community life.

We certified as a Joint Military Command, leading Defence contributions to regional resilience efforts in the form of Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA). This included supporting police with specialist capabilities, providing additional armed security at MOD sites, contributing to the Afghan resettlement programme, and

exercising contingency operations to support multi-agency partners.

We hosted Royal Gun Salutes and organised key visits to strengthen partner understanding of the Army, showcasing our junior soldier training at the Army Foundation College Harrogate and Ukrainian recruit training operations. We supported three Reserve Forces and Cadets Associations, helping employers recognise the value of service and cadet experience, and we backed the launch of three Regional Defence and Security Clusters to connect Defence with innovation and industry.

We have focused on improving the lived experience of the military community in the North, refining infrastructure management and aligning people-focused support under the Armed Forces Covenant.

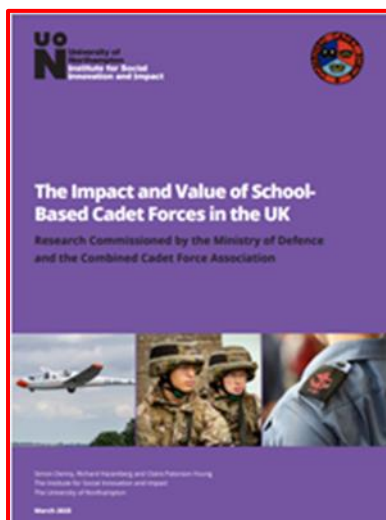
These successes reflect the hard work of our team and the invaluable support from partners across Defence, resilience, government, education, and industry. Looking ahead, our focus is on four strategic priorities:

- **Improve our Volunteer Estate** - Working with the Reserve Forces and Cadets Associations, we aim to improve facilities for our Reserves and Cadets, ensuring the estate supports recruitment, retention, and development.
- **Expand Sport Engagement in the North** - Sport offers a powerful route to connect with society. We will deepen partnerships, especially with the Rugby Football League, and expand the Army Sports North programme. A regional facilities investment will include a new rugby centre of excellence at Catterick.
- **Transform Catterick and York Garrisons** - We will support delivery of the £1.5Bn infrastructure investment to provide modern, high-quality accommodation for future generations of soldiers.
- **Developing Resilience Operations** - We will continue to work with regional partners to provide MACA assistance, ultimately standing shoulder to shoulder when directed. We have specialist niche capabilities as well as the capacity to generate workforce at mass and often in a reduced timescale.



*HQ North is home to 15,000 Regular soldiers, 15,000 Reservists and 15,000 cadets and adult volunteers.*

**Cadet Force:** Cadets are aged 12 – 18 years and operate in community based (ACF) and schools based (CCF) units, led by volunteers the curriculum is a structured programme of life skills, including leadership, teamwork, STEM, and resilience whilst having fun, building friendships and experiencing adventure. Our return in investment to society are better educational outcomes, improved mental health, cadets are less likely to enter the justice system, better job prospects, building a future societal resilience in your community.



*The University of Northampton studies show: Schools reported positive outcomes associated with the CCF contingent, with all schools, whether independent or in the state sector, noting that their CCF was an excellent way of reinforcing the values and standards of the school.*

'The Impact and Value of School-based Cadet Forces in the UK'

**Summer Camps 2025:** This year, CCFs in the North region have delivered fantastic summer camps, giving circa 2500 cadets the opportunity to develop further all the skills mentioned above. This is only possible due to the drive and commitment from the adult volunteers and training teams that support these young people. Looking forward there are two noteworthy events planned for later this year:

- Regional Shooting Competitions Sept 25
- Ex Merlin Manoeuvre 2-5 Oct 25

#### CCF Headteachers' Seminar – Mon 10 Nov

- Online via Teams starting at 1800hrs.
- Registration is [online via the event page](#).
- Theme is how we can better attract, support and develop our CFAVs.
- Please encourage your CCF head teachers and senior leadership teams to attend.
- Recordings will be available for those unable to attend on the day.

#### SPORT IN THE NORTH

Army v RAF Rugby League – 28 Sept Craven Park Stadium. Three high impact fixtures. Early Bird discount available, using QR code and **ARMYRLEARY** for 50% discount on adult tickets until 31 August. Cadets can attend FREE in uniform, contact OC CTT in your region for detail on how.



**SUPPORT – OUR ASK OF YOU:** We are grateful for the immense support we get from our partners, and the inspiring work of the volunteers. As we look to the future, our challenges are clear and here might be where you can have greatest impact by helping us grow cadet numbers, including adult volunteers.

We are your Army. Like your organisations, we represent the whole of society. We are an inclusive employer that supports its people. We are proud to serve, and hope you are equally proud to continue to support.

#### HQ NORTH POINTS OF CONTACT FOR CADETS TRAINING TEAMS (CTT):

OC CTT NW – Major Alex Saunders. OC CTT NE – Major David Prew.

If you're contacting us for the first-time, please Email: [northhq-ihub-mailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:northhq-ihub-mailbox@mod.gov.uk) and the team will connect you.

Use QR code or search Headquarters North on LinkedIn, Facebook, X or Instagram

