

The Royal Army Medical Service

SWAY Edition 4: May 25

Brig Carter, Head Army Healthcare / Head RAMS

The Royal Army Medical Service is now six months old, and a number of Soldiers and Officers personnel have passed out from training and joined its ranks since 15 November 2024. Our newest officers and soldiers will drive our cultural change, because their reality is a single team of Army healthcare professionals with the skills, knowledge and training to deliver care in the most demanding of environments. They have known no different. For those of us that lived through the past, served in conflicts now finding their way into the history books our children study, we must find a way of sharing our experience that supports this enthusiastic group of new medics doing what we used to do; because we know that it is kneeling by a casualty or approaching a patient's bedside or standing scrubbed in an operating theatre that our jobs are hardest and it is these times when we need colleagues, friends and teammates, near and far, supporting us.

Delivering medical care in the land environment is an incredibly complex task. It requires courage, skill, determination, and compassion. It requires us to be STEADFAST. But steadfast is more than just a motto, it is a promise. It is a promise to all our future patients that we, the RAMS, will be there when they need us. We will treat them when they are sick, we will talk to them when they are sad, and we will repair them when they are injured. We will be, steadfastly, on their side.

Col Winder, Corps Colonel RAMS / Chief Nursing Officer (Army)



Welcome to the 4th RAMS Update. I can't believe it's been three months since the last one.

During this time significant progress has been made and it has been an incredible journey for the team introduced in the last edition.

One of the significant highlights on a personal level has been the opportunity to meet so many members of our new Corps. This has permitted an opportunity to gain valuable insights into the broadest outputs of our organisation and develop a deeper understanding of the dynamics of the supporting and supported relationships. I believe this face-to-face engagement has proven invaluable in fostering collaboration and enhancing our collective understanding and must remain a priority activity.

In addition to strengthening relationships, I believe we have made some significant strides in developing the fundamental infrastructure required to support the new Corps. Our focus has been on establishing a robust communication network to effectively integrate the contributions of our regular, reserve, and veteran community, whilst progressing work on the new Charity.

As we continue on our journey to Full Operating Capability in Mar 27, we remain committed to building a sustainable and responsive Regimental support system. This will require support by us all in order to create a basis that will serve the needs of our community in the near term, whilst setting the conditions for the years to come.

We look forward to continued collaboration and further positive progress on the key work strands through the next phase of our journey together.

Col Clarke VR, Deputy Corps Colonel RAMS



I'm delighted to step into the new role of Deputy Corps Colonel for RAMS, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and share a bit about what I will be focusing on.

As a proud member of the Army Reserve, I will be working to ensure Reserve personnel across our Units are well represented, supported, and heard. I am here to help champion the fantastic contribution the Reserves make every day, and to make sure their perspectives are part of our ongoing conversations and decisions.

Alongside that, I am committed to promoting the AMS ethos—putting people first, supporting professionalism across every level, and encouraging a culture of mutual respect and collaboration. I'll be working closely with the Corps Colonel, RHQ staff, and all of you to continue building on the strong foundations already in place.

It is a privilege to take on this role and I am genuinely excited about what we can achieve together. I am always keen to hear from colleagues, so please do not hesitate to reach out.

Introducing the new RAMS CRSM- WO1 (CRSM) Jamie Loy



It is with great pride and a deep sense of duty that I write to you in my capacity as the Corps Regimental Sergeant Major.

Across every rank, every posting, and every speciality, you represent the very best of what our Corps stands for: professionalism, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to providing care to our comrades in the most challenging environments. The Royal Army Medical Service will always be defined by its people—by those who deliver care under fire, maintain discipline in adversity, and uphold our traditions with determination.

As your Corps RSM, I am here to represent you and to uphold the highest standards of conduct, discipline, and soldiering. My responsibility is to ensure that our values are not only maintained but strengthened; that our soldiers are heard, supported, and empowered to deliver excellence, both on operations and at home. I will be engaging regularly with units across the Corps to listen to your concerns, understand your challenges, and reinforce our shared commitment to excellence. We must continue to train hard, think critically, and support one another - because the success depends not only on our clinical skills but on our cohesion, discipline, and collective spirit.

The RAMS does not operate in isolation. We are integral to every element of the British Army's mission. Our medics, clinicians, and support personnel continue to serve with distinction across the globe. Wherever there is risk, there is need for care. And where care is needed, the RAMS is present.

To those currently deployed: stay focused, stay safe, and uphold the RAMS standard. To those preparing to deploy or returning from operations: thank you. To all: take pride in what you do and remember that you carry a legacy of courage and care that stretches back over a century.

Behaviours and Values of the RAMS

Inclusion:

The RAMS is a diverse organisation, and all personnel are encouraged to commit to developing a workplace environment where people's differences are celebrated.

We must ensure that our people feel valued, respected and accepted.

Behaviours:

We must ensure that courtesy and politeness are the minimum standard expected, treat each other with kindness and with dignity. All personnel must feel safe to challenge others and express themselves.

Personnel should be valued by their strengths, be listened to and their experience sought after and acknowledged.

News from the Corps



At the Sovereign's Parade on 11 Apr 25, history was made. In the presence of HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh, the first ever all female Banner Party carried the Sovereign's Banner. The party was made up of CSM Brunton (RAMS Nurse), SSgt Bradley (RAMS Paramedic) and SSgt Lewis (RAVC).

As non-combatants RAMS personnel do not carry bayonets, but on this historic occasion, SSgt Bradley carried a rifle with fixed bayonet to protect the Sovereign's Banner.

Special permission for this was granted by the Corps Col and CRSM RAMS.



The first Royal Army Medical Service Turning of the Pages was held on the 5 April.

Carrying out the Turning of the Pages was a RAMS Troop from the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine.



In March Corps Col RAMS welcomed the newest Officers into the Corps following their Pass off Parade on the Commissioning Course Short at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.



Welcoming our newest Recruits into the Corps at Army Training Regimental Winchester, in March, following their Basic Training. All will now move onto their Initial Trade Training.



Home Command ROC Drill April 2025



The inaugural Royal Army Medical Service Dinner Night was held on the 21 March. This Nursing sponsored dinner night welcomed all Officers of the RAMS and beautifully set up the standard for the rest of the professions to follow over 2025.



The three Services alongside Greta Westwood the CEO of the Florence Nightingale Foundation, alongside a broad representation from across the RAMS community at the Florence Nightingale Service at Westminster Abbey 12 May 25



Deputy Colonel Commandant RAMS, Col Andrea Lewis, and Nursing personnel from across the RAMS paying their respects at the grave of Florence Nightingale



3 Medical Regiment delivered ALDP at Warcop Camp

RAMS Events Programme 2025

RAMS Events 2025					
Month					
May	12: Florence Nightingale Service WA				
Jun	4/5/6: RAMS Dental Study Period Prize Giving	5: RAMS Dinner Night (Blue Book)	5: Founders Day RHC	6: RAMS Sports Awards	24: Corps Day
Jul					
Aug					
Sep	18-19: HCM / AHP Study Period Prize Giving	18: RAMS Dinner Night (Blue Book)			
Oct	9-10: RAMS MO Study Period Prize Giving	10: RAMS Dinner Night (Blue Book)	16: RAMS Nursing Sponsored Drink Reception (Blue Book)	21-23: Land Medical Function Conference	RAMS Dinner Night (Blue Book)
Nov	5: Duchess of Edinburgh Competition	Field of Remembrance / RAH / Cenotaph	9: Service of Remembrance (Blue Book)		
Dec	1: RAMS Briefing Day (SLT/Hon Cols/Affiliations)	1: RAMS Supper	2: RAMS Award Giving		

RAMS Provisional Events Programme 2026

Proposed RAMS Events 2026					
Month					
Jan					
Feb					
Mar	RAMS Nursing Study Period Prize Giving	RAMS Dinner Night (Blue Book)			
Apr					
May	RAMS Dental Study Period Prize Giving	RAMS Dinner Night (Blue Book)	Florence Nightingale Service WA		
Jun	RAMS MO Study Period Prize Giving	RAMS Dinner Night (Blue Book)	Founders Day RHC	RAMS Sports Awards	Corps Day
Jul					
Aug					
Sep	HCM / AHP Study Period Prize Giving	RAMS Dinner Night (Blue Book)			
Oct	RAMS Drink Reception (Blue Book)				
Nov	Land Medical Function Conference	RAMS Dinner Night (Blue Book)	Field of Remembrance / RAH / Cenotaph	Service of Remembrance (Blue Book)	
Dec	RAMS Briefing Day (SLT/Hon Cols/Affiliations)	RAMS Award Giving	RAMS Dinner Night (Blue Book)		

VE Day 80th Commemoration

A poem for VE Day written by the Master General Medical, Colonel Commandant RAMS

HIP-HIP HOORAY, IT'S VE DAY!

BY TIM HODGETTS

Sliced Dundee cake and Earl Grey tea,
We're having a party for Victory.
The bunting's up, and so's the mood,
An end to rationing of our food!

The children home, in their own beds,
No nightly bombs for them to dread.
The streets are clear of brick and glass,
Now castles are our homes at last.

Returning soldiers join the throng,
With ticker tape, and beer, and song.
The country celebrates relief,
With hopeful hearts—in peace, belief.

For some men yet the war's not done,
Embark a ship bound for Japan.
Four more hard months of fighting there,
Before they're freed from war's despair.

But countless men's war did endure,
Experience their prisoner,
Replayed each night in restless dream,
Though bottled up, so normal seemed.

We tell ourselves, "Never again
We'll tolerate this World War pain!"
But history knows different:
Peace an ephemeral intent.

Today we think of those alive
On 8th of May in Forty-five,
Re-living joy and hope we say:
"Hip-hip hooray, it's VE Day!"

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Benefits of Pj VICTORIA: Thoughts from the Regimental Board

On behalf of the Reserve, the formation of RAMS has come at the right time. The three-antecedent corps, whilst rightly having their appropriate place in history, have not held as important a position in Reserve life versus the Regulars. A reservist, bar 10%, invariably spends their whole career in a single unit with groups and friendships born out of unity rather than corps. They have had very little to do with corps specific issues such as appointments, placements and corps social engagements. Therefore, the one corps philosophy perfectly fits the Reservist narrative focussing very much on collective functions and the collegiate approach. This applies to healthcare and leadership. In addition, given how close the Reserve is to the NHS i.e. mostly in it, they have the greatest opportunity to understand the value of those non-traditional CEGs that Army is slow to recognise and exploit. The one corps concept facilitates this personnel area of innovation drawing from NHS experiences. I see this as being critical to our operational and firm base outputs as we head into a very uncertain future. I see RAMS empowering Reserves with greater opportunities. **Brig Banerjee, Head RAMS Reserve**

The political and societal context, healthcare profession and military profession have all evolved since the Childers Reforms of the British Army in 1881. What was achievable and logical now exceeds what was achievable and logical then. So it is right that we move forward together, building on, and respecting the individual and collective successes of the past so that we, and the next generations have the will, spirit and compassion to serve humanity in crisis and conflict as we tackle the next challenges together.

Brig Johnson, Col RAMS

RHQ Defence Connect Page

The Defence Connect page for the RAMS has been completely revamped and will now become the central point of contact for all communication promulgated by the RHQ:

[Group: RHQ Royal Army Medical Service | Defence Connect](#)

The RAMS Online Shop

The only officially accredited site for the purchase of anything RAMS can be found at this link:

[RAMS Shop](#)

The RHQ has been made aware that there are multiple sites out there selling unauthorised items at over inflated prices. The items on the RAMS Shop are being sold with very little mark-up, and a percentage cost of certain items sold is being donated back to the RAMS Charity. All personnel are strongly encouraged to use the official shop.

Update of the formation of the RAMS Charity

The Governing Document of the RAMS Charity has now had legal clearance and is currently at the Charity Commission awaiting approval.

Once approved, and a Charity Number allocated to it, the RAMS Charity bank account will be established.

Update on Service Day's Pay Giving (SDPG)

Currently, those Service Personnel (SP) who have signed up for Service Day's Pay Giving pay their subscription into one of the three antecedent Corps. Once the RAMS Charity bank account has been established, all SP, regardless of whether they already subscribe to SDPG will be contacted as to what happens next.

Until then, the antecedent Corps have agreed to continue to support all SP in matters of benevolence and welfare.

Read-out from the 1st RAMS Dress Committee

The first RAMS Dress Committee was held on 28 April 2025. The Dress Committee consists of representation from across the RAMS, Regular and Reserve, Field Army and the joint space. The RAMS Dress Regulations are currently being finalised before going to the Army Dress Committee for ratification.

CRSM RAMS is preparing to deliver to Units an aide memoir which will highlight the requirements for all Soldiers and Officers going forward.

Direction for OF5s and above will follow shortly in a directed letter from the Corps Colonel.

Dress Fielding Plan

As of the date of the release of this SWAY, RHQ RAMS has fulfilled 62% of the roll-out of kit to the serving population, an amazing achievement considering the Corp's size of seven and a half thousand personnel.

The roll-out continues, please be patient, if you have not already received it, your kit is coming.

Funding for No1 Hats for previous QARANC and RADC Officer Personnel

Funding for **Officers** of the antecedent RADC and QARANC Corps only, was sourced via DRes on the initial Implementation Order for Pj VICTORIA. The direction was that the RHQ would inform those Officers when they could claim back costs on JPA.

This direction is expected imminently, more to follow from the RHQ. The green light to claim will be promulgated via your Professional Leads once the RHQ has been cleared to announce.

ORs will receive their No1 Hat via the G4 chain as these are already in the system as RAMC No1 Hats.

How can you play your part in the progression of the RAMS going forward?

RAMS Charity Committees

The RAMS Charity is in the final stages of its formation with the Charity Commission. Once formed the Charity will consist of a Board of Trustees who will oversee a number of committees. To ensure appropriate representation RHQ RAMS is looking for support to fill these committees. The committees seeking support are as follows:

- Benevolence
- Finance
- Regimental Amenities
- Education, Awards, Prizes and Academic

This is a unique opportunity to shape the Corps in the future, ensuring that the voice of the serving personnel (Regular and Reserve) is fully represented.

Applications are invited from all ranks; Chain of Command support and agreement is required, on application. No previous experience on committees is required. The calling notice for the committee positions is circulated with this SWAY via your Chain of Command / Professional Head.

RAMS Communication Working Group

RHQ RAMS is seeking to develop a communication strategy going forward. To that end, it needs your help to shape what this should look like.

- Should we have a magazine, if yes should this be paper or electronic?
- Are we using social media platforms appropriately?
- Instagram or Facebook?
- Are we communicating too much or too little?
-

RHQ RAMS is holding a Communication Workshop with an external SME.

If you feel you would like to be part of a this, please email the Change Team on one of the following addresses:

SO1 Change: jan.dodd307@mod.gov.uk

SO3 Change: Andrea.Fullerton157@mod.gov.uk