



A message from Maj Gen Carter, Head RAMS

To the soldiers and officers of the Royal Army Medical Service and those that served in its antecedent Corps,

As I step down as Head of the Royal Army Medical Service, handing on the baton to Brigadier Huw Thomas OBE, it is perhaps appropriate that I do so between two events at which both Huw and I were and will be present.

The first was a visit to 215 Multi-Role Medical Regiment, supported by other units from 2 Medical Group and Joint Hospital Group, on exercise at Copehill Down. Huw and I met a brilliant team of proud, committed, highly capable medics, representing many of our trades. They demonstrated that they very well understood today's challenges in delivering hospital support on the contemporary battlefield. Minimising movement and signature; conducting resupply in a difficult environment; and managing patients through a dispersed hospital complex, they were still focused on delivering the best possible care – collaboratively designing their way out of difficulty – testing and innovating. It was a modern multidisciplinary group of Regulars and Reservists working as a single team and I know this level of dedication and professionalism is replicated throughout the RAMS.

The second will be the Remembrance Service at Westminster Abbey where we will remember the sacrifices of previous generations from the Army Medical Services. As we focus on readiness today, we mustn't lose the lessons from yesterday. Delivering high quality care on the battlefield has always been complex, physically demanding and mentally exhausting. It has also always been hugely rewarding. It is a calling. It demands the same fortitude and courage today as it did in past conflicts. It's why our Veterans' stories, told by them or for them, must always be part of our conversation and why we should support attempts to connect Veterans from our antecedent Corps to those just like them who are serving today.

Our motto of 'Steadfast' is a promise to future patients that we will be there for them and it builds on the reputation set by our forebears.

I have been hugely privileged to have represented the RAMS as its Head, and I will continue to support the Corps and its people through new roles, but, as I move on, I know you will provide Brigadier Huw with the same support you have all provided me.

Steadfast!

Phil