



The Royal Army Medical Service

Corps Newsletter Edition 6: Jan 26

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

On behalf of the RAMS Regt'l HQ, welcome to 2026 and our 6th SWAY update.

2026 has commenced at pace and I sense already it will be packed with progression and opportunity as we continue our journey to Full Operating Capability in Mar 27.

This SWAY provides key dates and opportunities for us to come together through year to mark our progression, by means of a number of establishing mechanisms.

But before we dive into building our near term future, it is worth investing a little time in celebrating the activity our Corps and it's truly amazing people have undertaken over the last Quarter - the building of our early past; and whilst not exhaustive, the gallery provides representation of key RAMS Regimental activity.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success through 2026 in all that is important to you.

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.

Update on Service Day's Pay Giving (SDPG)

All RAMS Service Personnel (SP) both Regular and Reserve have been contacted on Army Mail, with the update on Service Days Pay Giving (SDPG).

Please note that if you are already currently subscribing to the RAMC, RADC or QARANC SDPG Scheme then there is no need to use the QR code, the transfer will occur automatically.

From the February 2026 Pay Run, those SP who were previously subscribing to their antecedent Corps will now have their SDPG paid into the RAMS Charity.

RAMS Reserve SP have been contacted to ask them if they wish to join the scheme, as they were not previously offered subscription.

All the detail on SDPG and what this means to you as a RAMS Officer or Soldier, can be found on Defence Connect.

For those SP on an FTRS Contract, more information and detail will follow shortly, please keep a watch on your Army Mail account.

The RAMS Charity

The RAMS Charity was formally registered with the Charity Commission on the 28 Nov 25.

The Board of Trustees are now working hard to develop the policies, procedures, practices and governance to ensure the new Charity is fit for purpose for all RAMS Service Personnel.

Interim Operational Capability for the Charity is expected to be 1 April 2026 with Full Operational Capability to be achieved no later than 31 March 2027.

The Board of trustees and RHQ RAMS are working alongside the RAMC Charity and the QARANC Association to ensure that our links with our antecedent Corps continue and that support to our personnel both Serving and Retired is maintained.

Please remember that the main source of income for the RAMS Charity is Service Day's Pay Giving, therefore your support in contributing to the scheme is vital.

The RAMS Association

What is a Regimental or Corps Association and what does it do?

Most, if not all, Regiments and Corps of the British Army have an Association attached to them, for some this is part of their Charity, but for the RAMS it will be a separate organisation.

The purpose of an Association is to promote the Corps by fostering friendship, comradeship and a feeling of belonging. It is there to maintain an awareness of Corps traditions and act as a link between serving and retired members of the Corps. Branches are established in towns, districts, or units of the Corps and are administered by elected Branch officials. Each branch is responsible

for organising social events, maintaining links in their own areas, participating in Remembrance activities, providing social support and a sense of community for both Serving personnel and Veterans.

Serving personnel are automatically members of their Association if they pay into the Service Pay Giving Scheme, but can also become a member via a subscription, the latter especially applies to Veterans. You can be a member of more than one Military Association.

The amalgamation of the three Antecedent Corps (the RAMC, RADC & QARANC) has presented the RAMS with the opportunity to form an Association which reflects its Serving personnel and that of its Veterans who have retired since 15 Nov 24.

A message from the co-Chairs of the RAMS Association, Maj Gen Carter and Maj Gen Finn:

A key element of the transition to our new Regimental organisation is establishing a Royal Army Medical Service Association. Building on the success of our antecedent Associations, we want this new Association to be a modern, dynamic and responsive organisation that meets the needs of its members. As an indication of importance and intent of this work, we are combining our energy and working together on your behalf to ensure that this is a success. To assist us in delivering an Association that is right for you, please take a few minutes to complete the form below. Thank you for your support.

News from the Corps

Senior Officer Appointments



Col Helen Winder has been appointed as the next Head Defence Medical Services Regulator in the rank of Brigadier from April 2026.

RHQ RAMS Briefing to the DMS Director Medical Personnel and Training - Maj Gen Finn



On 12 January 2026, Corps Colonel and the RHQ Team had the privilege of updating Maj Gen Finn on all things Personnel Policy and RAMS Regimental.

The General took the opportunity to inspect the new RAMS Corps Engagement Team vehicle which has been funded via Op INVECTOR. The Army's programme to increase the number of applications from potential recruits, improve conversion rates from application to training start, and enhance training throughput to produce more qualified soldiers.

Duchess of Edinburgh Competition 5 November 20205



Pirbright Passing Out Parade 19 December 2025



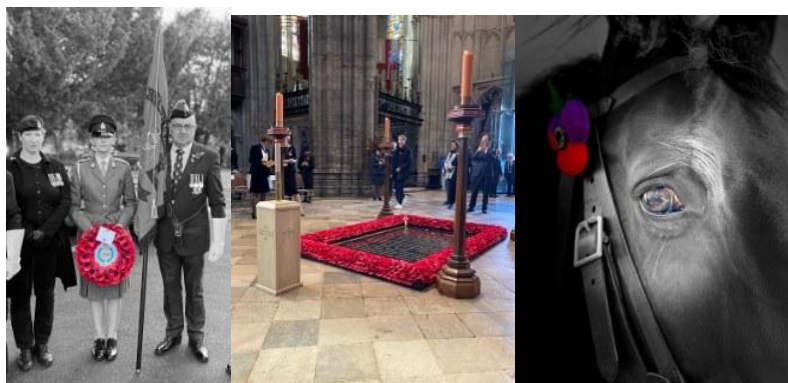
Sovereign's Parade December 2025



256 MMR - Turning of the Pages at Westminster Abbey



Remembrance 2025 from across the Corps and Beyond



RAMS Ski Meet December 2025



RHQ RAMS Affiliation Briefing Day 2 December 2025

Building on existing, and creating new, relationships with our affiliated organisations:

- Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners
- Samuel Brothers Tailors
- Worshipful Company of Nurses
- Florence Nightingale Foundation
- Society of Apothecaries



Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners

Represented at the event by their Master Daren Marston, the WCEC have donated a sum of £3000 to the Corps and have commissioned a new annual award.

Samuel Brothers Tailors

Master Tailor, Lee Dawson, reaffirmed the commitment to the RAMS of donating a proportion of the money earned from sales through the RAMS Shop and presented the Corps with a cheque for £3110.28.



Inaugural RAMS Awards Ceremony 2 December 2025



Pooley Sword of Excellence - donated annually to the Corps from Robert Pooley, CEO of Pooley Swords. Presented to WO2 Wrigley.

Pooley Sword of Excellence Highly Commended Winner: Lt Col Mike Stacey, presented with a Master General Coin.

Major Adam McDonald presented with a Master General Coin in recognition of his outstanding actions at the scene of a multiple Road Traffic Collision.

Dates for your Diaries.

- **CNO(A) Symposium:** 19-20 Mar 26
- **CDO(A) Symposium:** Date TBC (May)
- **CMO(A) Symposium:** 3-4 Jun 26
- **RAMS Sports Awards:** TBC (Jul)
- **Chief HcM Symposium:** 23-24 Sep 26
- **Chief AHP/TT Symposium:** 24-25 Sep 26
- **Land Medical Conference:** Date TBC
- **RAMS SLT Event (by Invitation):** 7 Dec 26
- **RHQ Briefing Day (by Invitation):** 8 Dec 26

Corps Day: 24 Jun 26

Turning of the Pages at Westminster Abbey:

- 4 Apr 26
- 4 Jul 26
- 5 Sep 26
- 3 Oct 26
- 5 Dec 26

All personnel are permitted and highly encouraged to attend the Turning of the Pages at Westminster Abbey.

For details, please contact the Regimental Secretary: Marie.Ellis542@mod.gov.uk

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.

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.

RAMS Dress Update

FORMER RADC AND QARANC OFFICERS ENTITLEMENT TO CLAIM FOR A RAMS NO1 CAP

Please note that Officers are only entitled to claim back the cost of a No1 Cap if they have an EED of greater than 12 months **at time of claiming**, not at the date of the Information Note. This is to ensure appropriate use of public money.

A full update on RAMS Dress will follow the next Dress Committee due to be held by the end of Jan 26.

Apprenticeship Awards

Following on from the success of last year's inaugural DMS Apprenticeship Awards conducted Apr 25. It is intended that we showcase the range of Services and trades engaged with Apprenticeships within the DMS. The central focus will be the Level 3 Senior Healthcare Support Worker. This event will celebrate outstanding apprentices, apprentice champions, and others who support apprentices. The Awards seek to acknowledge and celebrate the exceptional contribution made by an apprentice to the workplace, and those who have provided support to apprentices above and beyond that expected of their job role. An Internal Board to consider all nominees will take place early February. Award winners and runners up will be notified by the end of Feb 26 and announced at the Apprenticeship Awards event 17 Mar 26.

Closing date for nominations is Friday 30th Jan.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please direct these to the points of contact below:

Maj Brad Sutherland
bradley.sutherland281@mod.gov.uk

WO2 Dave Beal
david.beal240@mod.gov.uk

The Strategic Management and Leadership Practice (Level 7)

Course Details: The Strategic Management and Leadership Practice (Level 7) is a 'Pilot' Rosalind Franklin 1 year programme partnering with the NHS Leadership Academy with an embedded nationally recognised accredited CMI qualification as part of your studies. This programme is designed for HcMs wishing to develop professional management and leadership practice, and who will have the knowledge, skills and behaviours to drive business activities in a senior management and leadership role.

Further detail can be found on the RAMS DC Page: [The Strategic Management and Leadership Practice \(Level 7\)](#)

Calling All Wargamers

The RAMS Wargaming Association is looking for new members, for further information please contact:

Capt Antony Bull: Antony.Bull890@mod.gov.uk

