

UK NATIONAL DEFENCE ASSOCIATION



President: Winston S Churchill

Patrons:

Admiral Lord Boyce GCB OBE DL
Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell CBE QC MP
Marshal of the RAF Lord Craig GCB OBE MA DSc
General Lord Guthrie GCB LVO OBE
Rt. Hon Lord Owen CH

Chairman & CE: Cdr. J L Muxworthy, RN

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Web-site: www.uknda.org

2 Jan 08

Dear Patrons, Vice Presidents, Members and Registered Supporters,

I write to highlight the main issues we intend to address over the coming year. Our main aim now is to increase our membership numbers as rapidly as possible because in that way we will strengthen our influence and ability to achieve the purpose of the Association. Our ongoing task is to publicise our existence and our purpose. This we shall do by improving our web-site and reaching out to the public and to politicians of all persuasions in a variety of different ways, informing them about the challenges faced by our Armed Forces – the fundamental problem being chronic under-funding for the tasks they have been set. Details of how we plan to do this will come to you by e-newsletter after our next Board meeting in mid February.

In the coming months we will start two pilot 'projects' to establish a nationwide network of County or Area branches of the UKNDA. We will need senior representatives throughout the UK to act as a focal points of contact. Any of our Vice Presidents willing to consider such a representative role for their County or area are invited to write to us at the above address and we can then discuss details with you directly. To that end we ask that anyone who has not yet signed up and registered as members please do so now on our web site so that we may have your contact details.

2007 saw the birth of the UKNDA and an exciting start it was too. **2008** must see us establish a firm administrative and executive structure to lead and manage this expanding Association efficiently, economically and effectively. We will keep you informed about our progress via our web-site and monthly newsletters (see January's offering attached to this message) and we shall look to you all to help us in this task. With our very best wishes to you and your families for 2008..... Sincerely

John Muxworthy
Chairman & CE UKNDA

Chairman's web-site message for 2008 – The UKNDA's Year.

This time last year the UKNDA was, after a two year gestation, struggling into existence. In February 2007 our first introductory web-site was launched, and in June the UKNDA opened its doors to subscribing membership. Mr Winston Churchill agreed to be our first President and the rest, as they say, is already history. Our hugely successful formal 'launch' on November 8th was followed just a few weeks later by the now famous House of Lords' debate on "Defence". Five former Chiefs of the Defence Staff (three Patrons and two Vice Presidents of the UKNDA) spontaneously and to great effect spoke about the condition of our Armed Forces and the effect on the Defence of this Nation. The UKNDA, having been born, was already making its voice felt.

Now we must make even greater progress. Let us all make 2008 the UKNDA's year.

Over the Festive Season I gave considerable thought to our 'way ahead'. I made some notes on my "thinking board" – a large whiteboard in my study – which I now reproduce here.

At the top I wrote **KISS**. This not only stands for a popular activity, but in this context means: **KEEP IT SIMPLE – STUPID!** A robust statement – but good advice for anyone starting up any venture, great or small.

Ten Commandments for the UKNDA:

1. ***Maintain the AIM.*** A tried and tested military maxim meaning that, in all that you do, never forget what is your main aim – what it is you seek to achieve. For the UKNDA our purpose is:

To campaign for sufficient appropriate and fully funded Armed Forces that the Nation needs to defend effectively this country, its people, their security and vital interests wherever they may be.
2. ***Work as a Team.*** Working together is far more effective than individuals working alone.
3. ***The Task, the Team, the Individual.*** This is the ideal arrangement. Always remember the task in hand. Work together – but remember always that the Individual is important.
4. ***Co-operate.*** No inter-service squabbling – it is entirely counter productive.
5. ***Be Positive.*** Onwards and upwards.
6. ***Be Inventive.*** Observe the masses and do the opposite.
7. ***Be Pro-active.*** Seize the initiative. Don't wait for things to happen – MAKE them happen.

8. ***Be Persistent.*** When bashing your head against a seemingly unbreakable brick wall, persevere. At least you'll loosen a few bricks, and, with perseverance, the wall will fall down (though you may acquire a headache on the way). (*With apologies to the late Admiral of the Fleet Viscount Cunningham of Hyndhope – then better known as “ABC” whose saying I have plagiarised*)

9. ***LISTEN to others*** – take wise counsel.

And finally – and above all – as Sir Winston Churchill said when asked what was the secret of success:

“NEVER GIVE UP!”

Happy New Year.

John Muxworthy

Chairman & CE UKNDA

1 Jan 2008