

UKNDA – MAY/JUNE 2008 NEWSLETTER

Dear Patrons, Vice Presidents, Members and Registered Supporters,

Having just now returned to recover from a most enjoyable holiday in Texas & New Mexico (7,000+ feet left me breathless) I am now back in harness. I must first of all thank our PRO, Andy Smith, and our Secretary, David Robinson, for the excellent newsletter they produced in my absence. This newsletter will be brief but carries with it particularly urgent and important news and requests.

POSTPONEMENT OF OUR GRAND RECEPTION/BEAT RETREAT

Please note that **the Grand Reception/Beat Retreat planned for 5th September at the Royal Chelsea Hospital has been postponed until the Spring/early Summer of 2009**. The reasons behind this decision include the facts that 5th September is 'out of season' for many potential attendees, our currently limited funds and other resources need to be focussed on the autumn Political Party Conference Season, and there are more pressing demands on our resources from other projects. We now have a full year to plan what will hopefully be a larger and Tri-Service event in 2009, details of which will be publicised as they evolve.

THE URGENT NEED FOR MORE MEMBERS & FUNDS.

The UKNDA is 'in the black' and has no outstanding debts. However, in order to be able to implement all our plans and projects (as outlined in previous newsletters) and be ready in all respects to exert a really effective influence on politicians of all parties before the next general election (only 18+ months from now) we need urgently to at least triple our current membership that, as at today's date (27 May) now stands at:

Active (i.e. paid up) members:	1132
Inactive (not yet paid) members:	218
Registered supporters:	940

TOTAL: 2290

We have costed all our plans and when we achieve 3,000 **subscribing members** we will be able to make a good start on most of our plans and 'break even'. With 6,500 such members we will be able to accelerate our progress immensely.

Therefore, if everyone reading this newsletter brought in just one or two (ten would be much better) new members, and if many of our Registered Supporters, having now had time to take a good look at us, were to sign up as subscribing members, then we will really acquire 'flying speed'. At the moment while we are definitely 'on the runway' we are rather 'trundling along', which isn't good enough if we are to make really significant progress.

PROMOTING & DEVELOPING THE UKNDA
LOCALLY, REGIONALLY & NATIONWIDE

We are already into the season of Military Displays, Shows, Events, and other such activities where it would be greatly to the UKNDA's advantage to have a desk or a stand where information about the UKNDA can be given out to people attending such functions. A number of members have already contacted us asking if we can provide brochures or handouts at such events. This then is our request to you:

1. Please contact us: secretary@uknda.org and copy to me: ceo@uknda.org and tell us about any military or related event in your area providing date(s), times and location and relevant information, and saying if you can, together with other members or friends in the area, man a stand at such events. Please give us as much notice as possible.

We now have available to provide volunteers with:

- i. a large vertical banner (2' 6" wide x 7' high) in a small light carrying case.
- ii. A supply of UKNDA one-page information sheets
- iii. A supply of forms for Membership Registration
- iv. Our "Support Our Armed Forces" campaign Car Stickers
- v. UKNDA Business cards

and, when we have completed their design and production, also a supply of 'glossy brochures' about the UKNDA, A4 size folded in three.

We require a volunteer to be the **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER for the UKNDA**. The task is to develop, manage and assist in the operation of local branches of the UKNDA throughout the nation. Given the present state of our finances only expenses and a token honorarium of £100 pcm can be paid at present but with the firm intention that, as our numbers (and thus our finances) increase, a salary will be introduced appropriate to the workload involved. Applicants please send their names and a one-page (!) CV to me as soon as possible. (ceo@uknda.org). Anyone who has previously contacted us on this subject, please re-apply now.

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Having said that this newsletter would be particularly important, urgent and to the point, I shall stop there.

If you are a Member – please 'recruit' some more members now.
If a Registered Supporter please consider becoming a subscribing member now.
EVERYONE – Please let us know about events in your area and say if you can help. If you feel you have the necessary experience, enthusiasm and commitment – please contact me about the position of **National Development Manager** for the UKNDA.

Thank you in anticipation.....

Sincerely –

John Muxworthy

Cdr. RN CEO UKNDA

28 May 2008