

The RA Reserves Conference

On 15 and 16 February, Larkhill played host to the RA Reserves Conference and National Artillery Association (NAA) Dinner. Targeted at Reserve officers and warrant officers, the audience included all the Reserve COs and RSMs, and their paired Regular regiment counterparts. Newcome Hall was near capacity with 151 attendees.

The conference followed a similar format to the RA Conference run in December however, they are distinct events. Seamless Regular/Reserve integration remains our aspiration and the Reserves Conference provides a forum to focus on Reserve matters. Half the presentations given were by senior Reservists, at the Gunner 'home' – which is rarely seen by many RA reservists; all combined with the NAA prize-giving and dinner.

The packed programme covered RA Transformation and a Capability update, followed by a very good Reserves Training brief. Employer Engagement presentations from Army HQ preceded Maj Gen Ranald Munro's address (as Deputy Commander Land Forces) and Maj Gen Simon Lalor's exposé of the work of the Parliamentary

External Scrutiny Team (providing independent oversight of the Future Reserves 2020). The day one finale was the NAA prize-giving run by Brig John Thomson, Chairman of the NAA. The prizes, presented by Maj Gen Munro, were:

- The NAA Challenge Cup (1937) for best MLRS Detachment was awarded to Bdr Ferron of 203 Bty, 101 Regt RA.
- The National Artillery Association Cup (1896) for best UAS Battery was awarded to Maj Arundel of 211 Bty, 104 Regt RA.
- The Thales Trophy for best Air Defence Detachment was awarded to Lt Chappel of 457 Bty, 106 Regt RA.
- The NAA Challenge Cup (1930) (competed for by 103 and 105 Regts RA) was awarded to a composite battery of 105 Regt RA. Capt Wardle collected the cup.

The NAA Dinner Night took place in the RA Mess, presided over by Brig Thomson with a speech from our guest, Brig Karl Ford, CRA 3 (UK) Div. The Royal Artillery Sergeant Major hosted the warrant officers in the RA Central Mess.

Day two concentrated on personnel and

regimental matters from the Army Personnel Centre and Regimental Headquarters RA. The weekend was very well received by all attendees, with the employer support and career management briefs attracting especial praise. Deputy Commander Land Forces's participation gave the Reserves a great opportunity to speak with the Army's senior Reservist, and Gen Munro relished the chance to gain views from units.

With a glimpse of sun starting to show the conference closed at 1230hrs and participants dispersed ready for the start of the working week. The intention is to hold the next RA Reserves Conference over the weekend of 6-8 February 2015.



The NAA Challenge Cup: Maj Gen Munro and Bdr Ferron