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LWC DGTS 1380

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USE OF THE ARMY TRAINING ESTATE - DIRECTED TRAINING

1. **Introduction.** Since Jul 03 the Army Training Estate (ATE) has entered into a commercial partnership with Landmark Support Services (LSS) under the Project VANGUARD contract. The contract is based on a series of agreed outputs - ranges, training areas, specialist training facilities, training accommodation and catering - which are coordinated and monitored by ATE core staff. This fundamentally changes the underlying the way that the Army Estate is managed and in turn dictates the ways that training is supported.

2. **Rationalisation of Training Accommodation.** Prior to the contract being let, it was established that some 20% of the training accommodation was rarely used. As a result, the contract provides for only 80% of the training accommodation to be fully maintained by LSS. In time the balance of the accommodation will be mothballed, closed or passed on for disposal. In order to improve training efficiency and achieve the associated mandatory saving of £16M over 10 years, rationalisation of training accommodation is now being implemented. A plan has being drawn up which takes account of historic tri-Service usage, the requirements of the Army basing policy, the current Formation Readiness Cycle, the agreed cadet annual camp site list and the Core Site initiative. Whilst cutting out spare capacity enables financial savings to be made, there is inevitably a reduction in the ATE's ability to offer choice and provide flexibility. The aim remains to maintain ATE training accommodation that reflects strategic and regional training requirements, allows for UK operational contingency accommodation requirements and is affordable.

3. **Directed Training.** Additional efficiencies can be achieved, based on the VANGUARD contractual charging mechanism for catering and accommodation, without detriment to training. The charging mechanism consists of fixed costs for guaranteed levels of use and marginal rates for use over the guaranteed levels. The objective is to remain within the guaranteed usage levels, these reflect historic usage, and avoid liability for marginal costs. To ensure the savings the following steps will be taken:

- a. Units must make maximum use of local ranges rather than travelling to major range complexes where catering and accommodation are required. To support this initiative HQ ATE will be seeking to automate a number of regional ranges to optimise throughput and obviate the need for units to have to travel to heavily used specialist range complexes for routine firing.

b. Where necessary and appropriate, units using the training areas may be directed to use the increasing numbers of "stone tents" out on the areas, rather than using training camp accommodation. In order to ensure that this form of direction is kept to a minimum, formations and units are to:

(1) Stop double booking facilities and training accommodation on different training areas pending commanders' decisions. The introduction of an electronic ATE management information system, along with standardisation of booking procedures, is enabling improved scrutiny and monitoring of bookings, and thus gives visibility of double bookings for the first time.

(2) Provide ATE with more accurate figures for their planned accommodation and catering requirements. These should be updated as plans are refined and actual usage can be confirmed.

c. It is likely to be necessary for the ATE, on receipt of training bids, to enter into discussion with units to identify opportunities to exploit minor programming changes that can avoid the requirement to pay marginal rates by advancing or slipping bookings into under utilised periods or switching training locations. Pre-Operational training will of course continue to be given the highest priority.

4. TA and Cadet Training Camps. The programming of TA and cadet camps alongside regular training will continue to develop and the prescriptive list of locations, as agreed with Cadet Branch, will continue to be used.

5. Summary. The ATE's resources need careful management if best value for money and mandated savings are to be made. In the worst case this may result in units being directed away from heavily used facilities. However, the extent to which this direction will need to be employed lies largely in the hands of formations and units; those who make maximum use of local facilities and become more precise in predicting their requirements when booking facilities will generally get what they want where and when they need it.

(Original Signed)

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