



The Royal Army Medical Service

Update from the RHQ



Foreword by Brig Phil Carter, Head Army Healthcare / Head RAMS

Whilst most of the discussion has, perhaps inevitably, been about uniform, and I am pleased to report that uniform roll out is moving at pace with boxes of berets, TRFs, belts and rank insignia beginning to arrive in units, Project Victoria was actually about modernising our institution.

What we had was three under-resourced Corps HQs attempting to manage the vital 'People' aspect of the Army's medical capability and a slightly odd HQ Army Medical Services attempting to bring coherence but challenged by the fact that the Army, constitutionally, recognises Corps and Regiments, and the 'AMS', despite a long and glorious history together, was neither. This led to QARANC, RADC and RAMC personnel deploying together but being supported differently. Modern healthcare is defined by multidisciplinary teams and modern healthcare practice by the needs of the patient not the initial training of the clinician. Like many, I would like to see the benefits of Pj Victoria deliver faster. It is important to our ethos and esprit de corps that our people feel the benefit of being RAMS as soon as possible. But the timeline for the amalgamation was dictated to us, and the team have worked incredibly hard to prioritise the myriad of issues that arise when attempting something as significant as the formation of a new Corps.

With the coming together of the three Corps' activities under a single, properly constituted RHQ RAMS, enabling the Corps Colonel to optimise the way in which our people team in Camberley support the Army's operational effectiveness, and through a strengthening of the voice of serving personnel in how our Corps is run, we are now in a much better position to modernise our capability and face the operational challenges of tomorrow.

I look to all those with leadership roles and those with influence who care about the quality of medical support we provide to soldiers now and, in the future, to support our RHQ in ensuring that this amalgamation is a success, that it strengthens our multidisciplinary teams, and that all the benefits, not just the new TRF, are delivered.

Introduction from Col Helen Winder, Corps Col RAMS



I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new RAMS and RAVC Corps Colonel and to share my excitement about assuming this role at such a critical and dynamic time for our new organization and everyone in it. It is an absolute honour to work with, and for, such dedicated and talented people, and I am eager to work alongside you as we navigate the Regimental opportunities and challenges ahead.

With People recognised in Defence as the foundation on which our strategic advantage is built and the providers of our competitive advantage in the Army; never has there been a better time to hold this unique role.

Whilst this quarterly update marks the beginning of a new chapter for me, it is moreover a Regimental update. I am confident that, together, we will continue to progress the key work strands in support of the organisation and the people in it.

I look forward to collaborating with you, leveraging our collective strengths, and driving forward with energy and commitment, the progressive next steps in the Regimental journey I hope we will travel together.

What are we?



The Royal Army Medical Service is the British Army Corps consisting of all medical personnel, regardless of trade or profession.

The RAMS was formed on 15 November 2024 from the three antecedent Corps of The Royal Army Medical Corps, The Royal Army Dental Corps and The Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

Colonels in Chief



The Royal Army Medical Service is proud to have:

HRH The Duke of Gloucester as Colonel-in-Chief,

and TRHs The Duchesses of Gloucester and Edinburgh as the Deputy Colonels-in-Chief.

Dress



Update from the Corps SM on the RAMS Dress Fielding Plan:

- The fielding plan is underway, however there has been a delay in the delivery of Soldiers accoutrements. This is having a knock on with issuing to organisations that are a priority (Deploying Units etc).
- As soon as kit (Beret / TRF / Stable Belt / Rank Slides) deliveries are accounted for we are looking at fielding it.
- Principally it is the CRSM and Staff assistant accounting for deliveries, amongst BAU. Can we ask that Units remain patient while this takes place.
- The kit issue must be done as a whole and not partially to any Org/Unit – there is no G4 mechanism in place and the only way to manage the roll out is to issue complete, this will stop any delta being left and people without kit.
- Dress Regulations – These have had the final scrub from the multicultural networks and a final review with the tailor. The first RAMS Dress Committee will form up at the beginning of March.
- Thanks to both SJC(UK) and 1UK XX (pictured) for offering to support the distribution of the kit.

The timeline with Team LEIDOS, our business partners, is out to 18 months before the G4 chain has been fully established, thank you in advance for your understanding through this transitional period.

Please be patient and remember to be kind, everyone is doing their very best.

The Royal Army Medical Service Online Store

There is now an online RAMS Store accessible to all at the following link:

[Royal Army Medical Service Store](#)

At present a lot of items are on back order due to the amount of RAMS SP requiring the appropriate dress and accoutrements.

The shop has been designed in such a way that a quarterly donation to the RAMS Charity will come in from the supplier from the sale of every item. It is also the only official site for accoutrements.

There are a number of sites on the internet who are selling RAMS Dress and Accoutrements. It is recommended that SP do not purchase items from unofficial sources as they are likely to fall below the standard expected for such items.

General Staff Dress

Confirmation of GS Dress order for RAMS Officers at OF5 and above:

If you were a GS Officer prior to the formation of the Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS) on 15 Nov 24, you will remain "Late" of your antecedent corps and will continue to wear GS Dress. This is regardless of whether you have specific Corps OF5+ dress or wear the Army's GS uniform. There will be no funding to change to RAMS GS, any changes will be at personal cost.

For those individuals who promote to OF5 after 15 Nov 24, the following dress direction applies:

Working Dress:

- RAMS Beret
- Victoria Green Backing to GS Capbadge.
- GS TRF.
- GS Stable Belt if personal choice is not to wear a non-issued belt.
- RAMS Rank Slide (preferred) or the standard issue.

No 1 Dress:

- GS Buttons on Jacket and Cap.
- Dull Cherry Facing on Cap.
- GS Embroidered Capbadge on Navy Blue Backing.
- Dull Cherry Gorgets.
- Trousers – Dull Cherry Stripe.
- Skirt -no change.
- No Croix de Guerre.

No 2 Dress:

- GS Buttons on Jacket and No 1 Dress Cap.
- Dull Cherry Facing on No 1 Dress Cap.
- GS Embroidered Capbadge on Navy Blue Backing.
- Dull Cherry Gorgets.
- Trousers / Skirt – No Change.
- No Croix de Guerre.

Mess Dress:

- GS Mess Dress jacket and waistcoat (if worn).
- Trouser Version: GS (red stripe) Trousers.
- No Croix de Guerre.
- In time there is the intention for a unique identifier and will be pursued by RHQ RAMS.

It will take up to 18 months for Leidos to provide all dress and accoutrements via the G4 chain, for now it is advised that anyone seeking RAMS GS Dress should contact Samuel Brothers Tailors only. In time, newly accredited tailors will be added to the RAMS Dress Regulations, this is to ensure that quality control is maintained at all times.

RAMS Charity

The RAMS Charity Board of trustees has formed:

Chair: Maj Gen Carmichael

Members:

- Maj Gen Hawley
- Col K Davies
- Col Winder (Ex Officio)
- WO1 (CRSM) Wilson (Ex Officio)
- Maj (Retd) Ellis (Ex Officio)
- Secretary – Assistant RAMS Regimental Secretary (Non-Voting)

The 1st Board of Trustees Meeting sat 16 Jan 25.

Timeline:

• Q4 24/25:

- The Charity's Governing Document is currently with the Legal SMEs.
- The next stage will be to submit the document to the Charities Commission.
- The Charity will be made up of sub committees.
- Serving Personnel (Reg & Res) and Veterans will be invited to participate and sit on these groups.

• Q1 25/26:

- Charity number allocated from the Charities Commission.
- RAMS Charity bank account established.
- RAMS Charity launched.

Service Day's Pay Giving:

- Work on this continues.
- At the appropriate time all Serving Personnel (Regular) will receive information on how this will work going forward.
- Work has also commenced on how the RAMS Reserve Force could be invited into the scheme in the future.

In the meantime, the three antecedent Corps' Charities will continue to support all RAMS personnel, and their Veteran forces.

Benevolence Update from the Regimental Secretary

Benevolence Update

Continues to be managed, during the transition, by the antecedent Corps' Benevolence Committees.

We offer support to Serving, Retired (Veterans) Regular and Reserve, who are all eligible for financial assistance if they have completed one day's service and that their request fits and fulfils the Benevolence committee criteria. We do not take any cold cases nor direct requests. All cases are referred to us by our partner organisations TRBL (The Royal British Legion), OA (Officers' Association) and SSAFA via a Dimensions System incorporating COBSEO (Combined Service Charities).

Our Trained Benevolence Manager has sole access to this secure system and will set up cases and control the cases throughout the system including their appearance at the Corps' Committees.

In the last calendar year, the RAMC, RAVC, RADC, QARANC has seen approximately 320 cases in total and financially supported 280, the remainder did not fulfil the criteria.

The total amount of money granted in 2024 amounted to £200K.

Trends continue to show a rise in serving soldier cases. Each case is dealt with on a need and case by case basis and with equity of treatment.

Some of our recent cases involve a lack of funds and we expect to see this continue with the cost-of-living increases.

For further information, on process or indeed to chat about any potential problems where you may be experiencing hardship, please contact ramsbenevolence@hqrams.org.uk

You will always be treated with confidentiality, respect, and kindness.

RAMS Events Schedule 2025

Meeting RHQ, Hd RAMS, Chiefs: 31 Jan 25:

- Each Profession to have 1 x Study Period / Symposium / CPD Event for 2025. Followed by a social event.
- Nursing sponsored RAMS Cocktail Party Oct 25.
- Land Medical Function Study Period requested for 21-23 Oct 25.
- Westminster Abbey Service now all RAMS inclusive.
- SLT Event incorporating RHQ RAMS Awards Dec 25.

Blue Book remains the platform – agree to addition of RAMS Sports Awards Dinner & Past and Present Dinners.

Booking for all events for 2025 will be made by the following link:

[RAMS Blue Book](#)

Pj VICTORIA Activities Through Transition

There remain a number of tasks for the Pj VICTORIA Team:

Q4 24/25:

- Books of Remembrance.
 - Work is ongoing with the antecedent Corps to establish what is the best way forward for the resting place of our Books of Remembrance.
- Affiliations
 - The RHQ is carrying out a piece of work to understand our National and International affiliations, as well linking into the network of Honorary Colonels.

Q1 25/26:

- RAMS Association
 - The intent is for the RAMS to build its own national Association. Work on this will mature over the next few months as we await the outcome of the intent of the antecedent Corps.
- HQ Officers' Mess
 - Linked into the work on the Service Day's Pay Giving, the RHQ is actively seeking to consider the implementation of a RAMS HQ Officer's Mess. More to follow.
- RAMS Journals / Magazine.

Communication

RHQ RAMS has established a regular battle rhythm for communication:

- Monthly meeting RHQ with Commanders medical.
- Bi-annual F2F meeting RHQ with COs, RSMs.
- Quarterly SWAY Update to all RAMS personnel.
 - SWAY 4 will give more of the background for Pj VICTORIA focussing on the benefits of the amalgamation.
 - Newsletter to Veteran communities.
- Monthly Corps Col DOWNLOAD to all Regular / Reserve Units & Personnel (except when SWAY takes precedence).
- Bi-monthly DOWNLOAD to the Veteran communities.
- Unit Visits by the Regimental Board to facilitate two-way conversation.

RAMS Sports

The RAMS Sports Union is now fully established.

All RAMS Sports Leads are to comply with the following direction from the CRSM:

- All sporting leads to complete the mandatory End of Year reports and new financial applications for the sporting year 25/26. Please ensure when completing the application, you fill all fields with as much detail as possible.
- The form has been emailed to you and must be completed and returned to Sgt Bates (Asst Secretary) **NLT 28 Feb 25.** William.Bates101@mod.gov.uk

- The End of Year reports are also due and must be completed in addition to the financial application) **NLT 28 Feb 25.**
- Please note that the RAMS Sports Directive has had significant updates to Parts 1 and 2, all applications must be compliant with the directive.
- In preparation for the RAMS Sports Awards and Dinner Night, nominations for Colours and Awards must now be submitted by the Sports Leads by **31 Mar 25.**
- All colours' applications are done in line with the directive, if Sports leads are unsure on dates of last awards, please engage with the RAMS Secretary who can answer.

Project ALBERT: The move of the Museum of Military Medicine

- The MMM has been issued its Notice to Vacate, which sees it moving out of Keogh Barracks by 26 Nov 25.
- This date sees the MMM packing and preparing to move from April 25.
- DMS(W) has been identified as the preferred location going forward.
- The Army has agreed to relocate the MMM.
- Work continues, coordinated by RHQ RAMS with Army Infra, UK Strat Com and the MMM.

Request from Chair of the MMM Board of Trustees Maj Gen Hawley:

If any RAMS Units or personnel have artefacts that they feel should / could be exhibited, donated or loaned to the MMM, please reach out to the Director, Jason Semmens:

director@museumofmilitarymedicine.org.uk