

# CHAPLAINS TO HER MAJESTY'S FORCES

May 2009

## PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

### The General Assembly:

1. Receive Report
2. Affirm the support and thanks of the Church for all who serve in Her Majesty's Armed Forces as Chaplains and thank them for their spiritual and pastoral care of sailors, soldiers and air personnel and their families.
3. Affirm the commitment and support of the Church to our continuing Chaplaincy of Word and Sacrament in the Armed Forces.
4. Encourage the Church to uphold in prayer those who face particular danger and separation during service on Operational Duties, particularly in Afghanistan.
5. Commend to Ministers of the Church consideration of service in the Royal Navy, Naval Reserve or Sea Cadets, Regular Army, Territorial Army or Army Cadet Force, Royal Air Force or Air Training Corps.
6. Note with thanks service to both the Church and the Royal Air Force of the Reverend Peter Mills QHC and wish him well in retirement as Chaplain in Chief and Principal Chaplain Church of Scotland and Free Churches.

## REPORT

### 1. Introduction

**1.1** Ask a group of military Chaplains to complete the sentence, 'Chaplaincy is .....

and their replies might include: 'being alongside others wherever they are in their lives'; 'being a walking sacrament'; 'being the servant where others, not the Church, sets the agenda'. Military chaplaincy is many things: the personal, the pastoral, the institutional and often with those who have little or no faith. It demands that the Chaplain is immersed in the community he/she serves. Chaplains often wear the same uniform as their parishioners, share the same tensions, dangers and celebrations for, where their parishioners go, they go – be it to war or other duties. Like everyone else in the Forces, they never stay in one place for very long. Their work is infinitely varied and can be immensely rewarding. The Chaplain is called upon to be priest, pastor and prophet; standing alongside soldier, sailor, marine and airman/woman in critical solidarity and pastoral availability as counsellor to the powerful and advocate for the powerless. Chaplains nourish communities of worshipping Christians with Word and Sacrament, yet spend much of their time with people who usually never

come inside a church, helping the human spirit to develop. Ministering in the constant tension of being disciples of the Prince of Peace while living as members of the military community, Chaplains bring 'humanity to an often inhuman situation'. Therefore, in our Report, the General Assembly's Committee is honoured to pay tribute to all who serve the Church of Scotland and our Country in military chaplaincy, both regular and volunteer, for their faithfulness, humanity and dedication.

### 1.2 Recruitment

**1.2.1** The potential recruitment of a Chaplain for regular service with the Royal Air Force is welcome news. The footprint of the Church of Scotland in RAF Chaplaincy is currently much diminished from former years and a matter of concern for the Committee, especially as forthcoming retirement will affect present numbers even more. Since last Assembly, the Rev Hector McKenzie and the Rev Dr James Francis have been inducted to regular chaplaincy with the Army and we look forward to a third entry later in the year. The Rev Alison Britchfield has left

the Royal Navy in order to become Minister at the Parish of Lecropt near Stirling. We thank Alison for 16 years of distinguished service and wish her and her husband, Mike, well. The Rev Dr Scott Shackleton has also come to the end of 16 years service and, along with his wife Gillian, returns to parish ministry in Scotland, having been called to Downfield South Church in Dundee. The Committee greatly appreciates the dedication and service given over those years and wish them well.

**1.2.2** Applications made for service with the Territorial Army have been well received by the Committee as have those for the Army Cadet Force and Royal Naval Reserve. However, there continue to be vacancies for eligible Chaplains in each of these organisations. Ministers considering such application should please contact the Convener on 01698 853189 or by email, [jamesmgibson@msn.com](mailto:jamesmgibson@msn.com) or Douglas Hunter, Secretary, Exchange Tower, 19 Canning Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EH, telephone 0131 228 2400 or email, [dhunter@hbj-gw.com](mailto:dhunter@hbj-gw.com).

**1.2.3** During last year's Assembly, commissioners again enquired why no mention is given in the Committee's Report to chaplaincy in the Air Training Corps. This is because Chaplains in the ATC do not hold the Queen's Commission and, therefore, do not come under the remit of the Assembly's Committee. Nevertheless, the Committee gladly commends the invaluable work of ATC chaplaincy to the Church's ministers.

### **1.3 Interdenominational Advisory Group**

The Interdenominational Advisory Group (IAG) is usually an annual meeting of senior representatives from the five groups of Sending Churches – Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist Church, United Board and Church of Scotland and Free Churches. Over the past year however, various meetings have been held to discuss a Roman Catholic proposal to introduce Lay Chaplaincy to the military to ease their increasing difficulty with the recruitment of ordained priests. The adoption of such a proposal would have fundamental consequences for

the future nature of military chaplaincy for all Sending Churches and so discussions are ongoing. The Committee is grateful for advice given by all specifically consulted and, in particular, by retired senior Chaplains, the Executive of the Ministries Council, the Church's Chaplaincy Task Group.

### **1.4 Visits and Events**

**1.4.1** During the past year, the Convener represented the Committee at the Service of Thanksgiving held at the Armed Forces National Memorial, Alrewas, Staffordshire for all who had served in the Bosnia Campaign; attended the Commemoration Service held in St Paul's Cathedral for the end of 'Op Banner' (Northern Ireland); attended the annual Armistice Day Service held at the Scottish National War Memorial, Edinburgh Castle; visited Chaplains at Aldershot and at York; preached at the annual St Andrew Patronal Service in the Garrison Church, Aldershot and at an Interdenominational Service of Thanksgiving held in the Kirk of the Holy Rood, Stirling for the lives of all Scottish servicemen and servicewomen who have died or been injured while on Active Duty in Iraq or Afghanistan; and attended the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service for 'Combat Stress' held in St Giles' Cathedral. The Vice-Convener represented the Committee at a service to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Clement Danes Church London being dedicated as the church of the Royal Air Force.

**1.4.2** The Committee is indebted to the Right Rev David Lunan, Moderator of the General Assembly for attendance at military events held over the past year and for his official visit to the Royal Air Force with his wife, Maggie.

### **1.5 Changes in Senior Posts**

**1.5.1** The Committee notes the retirement later in the year of the Rev (Air Vice-Marshal) Peter W Mills, QHC BD RAF from the post of Chaplain-in-Chief, Royal Air Force and Principal Chaplain (Church of Scotland and Free Churches). Pete will be much missed for his forthright manner, ready humour and caring humanity. Supported by his wife Sheila, he has served within the RAF with great distinction. The Committee is particularly pleased to note

the conferment on Pete of a Doctorate of Divinity degree by the University of Aberdeen. We extend to them both our thanks for all he has achieved in his chaplaincy and our best wishes for whatever their future may hold.

*In the name of the Committee*

JAMES M GIBSON, *Convener*  
ANDREW V M MURRAY, *Vice Convener*  
DOUGLAS M HUNTER, *Secretary*

## APPENDIX 1

### REPORT ON CHAPLAINCY IN THE ROYAL NAVY

#### **The Naval Service – A Force for Good**

It has been another busy year for the Naval Service. (Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary). Our primary aim remains to support the UK's contribution to the continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For the last three years we have had significant numbers of personnel in Afghanistan, and 2008/09 was no different. The Royal Marines, Naval helicopters, Harriers from the Naval Strike Wing, Naval Special Forces and numerous augmentees from logisticians, engineers, medics and Chaplains, and both Royal Naval and Royal Marines Reserves are or have been taking part in demanding and intensive operations; 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines are back once more for the winter deployment. Yet again, we are providing the lead and majority of UK military forces in southern Afghanistan. We must not forget the true cost of these operations and tragically, a number of our Servicemen have paid the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan; with Church of Scotland Chaplains being involved in the care of the bereaved, both in theatre and with the families in the UK.

In Iraq, a Royal Marine General is commanding the Divisional HQ at Basrah, and the Naval Transition Team at Umm Qasr is training the Iraqi Navy and Marines,

supported by training in the UK for Iraqi Navy officers. It is also very pleasing to see that the Iraqi Navy's ability to defend the two offshore oil terminals is maturing.

Away from combat operations, the surface flotilla, submarine service, Fleet Air Arm, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary all continue to contribute to the defence of the UK, protecting our maritime trade across the world, reassuring legitimate users of the sea, exerting influence on behalf of the UK Government through a programme of engagement and presence, and building trust, co-operation and friendships.

Our maritime security patrols have enjoyed conspicuous success through the year in the Arabian Gulf, North and South Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Pacific, restricting piracy and disrupting weapons smuggling, human trafficking and the drugs trade. Our counter-narcotics successes in the Caribbean are well publicised, but we have also had a good measure of success off Africa and in the Arabian Gulf.

Admiral Sir Jonathan Band, the First Sea Lord, said recently, "It has been a tough, busy, even challenging year. None of the activity and operational success would have been possible without the professionalism and dedication of the 34,500 men and women of the Naval Service, who continue to display outstanding resilience, courage and pride on all the operations we are engaged in. The 'fighting spirit' within the Service is as strong as ever. Our people have made a significant contribution to the defence of the United Kingdom. We cannot take this for granted, however, and we will need to work hard to recruit and retain our people without forgetting the utterly vital contribution their families make in support. We owe much to the men and women of the Naval Service and their families and this reinforces our resolve to look after them in the manner they deserve".

Naval Chaplains, both Regular and Reserve, continue to serve in the front line, at sea and on land operations.

It is our privilege to take the ministry of the church, and indeed the message of the Gospel, to the Service community wherever they are serving in the world today. Naval Chaplaincy continues a long tradition of care for the seafarer, and in being the friend and adviser to all onboard.

I am grateful to the Church of Scotland Committee on Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces for their support through the year, their wise counsel and ongoing pastoral care of Chaplains and their families.

The number of Church of Scotland Chaplains in the Navy today is critically low. Any Minister who would like to explore this area of ministry, either full-time or as a Reservist, please do make contact with me or with the Convener. We can normally recruit up to age 49 on an initial commission of 6 years, but there is flexibility too. ([scott.brown943@mod.uk](mailto:scott.brown943@mod.uk) or call 023 9262 5552).

## CHAPLAINS SERVING TODAY IN THE RN AND THE RNR

### **The Rev Scott J Brown QHC Royal Navy**

I continue to serve in the Navy Command Headquarters as the Principal Church of Scotland and Free Churches Chaplain (Naval) and as Director Naval Chaplaincy Service (Capability). I am based in Portsmouth.

### **The Rev Alison E P Britchfield Royal Navy**

Alison left the Royal Navy in April 2009 after 16 years of loyal and fruitful service. She finished her career as the Chaplaincy Team Leader at Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde at Faslane. We wish Alison and her husband Mike every blessing back in parish ministry.

### **The Rev Dr Scott J S Shackleton Royal Navy**

Scott left the Royal Navy in April 2009 after 16 years of loyal and faithful service, much of it spent in the Royal Marines community. We wish Scott, Gillian, and their family, every blessing in parish ministry.

### **The Rev Stan Kennon Royal Navy**

Stan continues to serve in HMS RALEIGH, the Royal Navy's initial training establishment which is situated near Torpoint in Cornwall, a short ferry ride across the River Tamar from the city of Plymouth. As Chaplaincy Team Leader, he teaches and offers pastoral support to new trainees whilst co-ordinating the work of the Chaplaincy Department, one of the busiest in the Royal Navy. Church of Scotland worship takes place every Sunday in St Andrew's Church within the establishment and is attended by around seventy trainees who come from Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist and also non-Christian faith backgrounds and many who have none at all: an eclectic and energetic mix. With an average age of nineteen, they generally appreciate Church as a time in the week where they have a special space to become 'human again' amid their frenetic military training.

### **The Rev Mark Dalton Royal Navy**

Mark Dalton has been kept busy throughout the year at a large naval air station. Earlier in the year he took up a new appointment to face the challenges of a training establishment and he very much looks forward to returning to sea sometime in the future.

### **The Rev Stevie Thomson Royal Navy**

"HMS SULTAN continues to be a challenging environment at the forefront of a caring, teaching, and pastoral Ministry to all personnel, whether civilian or military, who live and work on the establishment. We have a pastoral oversight of military nursing staff at Haslar Royal Hospital, together with that of the Armed Forces Pay and Pensions organisation at HMS CENTURIAN and the Fleet Manpower and Supply Unit at Gosport. "On a personal note during May 2008 I was persuaded to attend "Bavarian Surprise", the Royal Navy Adventurous Training week in Germany, where I surprised myself by Kayaking, White Water Rafting, Rock Climbing, Abseiling and Kletterstieging (Climbing up cliffs on wires)".

At the time of General Assembly Stevie will be on Exercise LONG LOOK in either Australia or New Zealand, a 4 month

exchange programme with the Royal Australian or Royal New Zealand Navies. He will return to sea-going ministry later in 2009.

### **The Rev Alen McCulloch Royal Navy**

Alen completed an operational tour of Iraq in May 2008. He passed on to the RN, Army and RAF personnel in the Contingency Operating Base at Basra the prayerful best wishes of many congregations and individuals across the Kirk, as well as the large number of boxes of biscuits they donated. This support was very much appreciated by all. He then began a new assignment with the Commando Logistic Regiment Royal Marines (CLR), a large unit based at Chivenor in North Devon. After going on the 3 Commando Brigade RM Mission Rehearsal Exercise on Salisbury Plain in July, he flew to Afghanistan in September. As Chaplain to CLR he deployed on a Combat Logistic Patrol to two of the Forward Operating Bases in Helmand Province; as Garrison Chaplain for Camp Bastion he began a congregation in "Bastion 2" for the large number of UK personnel who live there. The British Chaplains enjoy fellowship there with Chaplains from the USA, Denmark and Estonia. The last two months of his tour were spent as Garrison Chaplain for Kabul. He expects to return to sea in March 2009 on frigates based in Devonport, initially in HMS PORTLAND, and then in HMS MONMOUTH and HMS SUTHERLAND.

### **The Rev Dr Marjory MacLean Royal Naval Reserve**

Marjory passed the Advanced Command and Staff Course (Maritime Reserves) at the UK Defence Academy in summer 2008. In addition to her pastoral care of reservists at HMS SCOTIA in Rosyth and Dundee, she has served as Staff Officer for Operational Capability of Chaplaincy in the Maritime Reserves, an appointment within the RNR command which doubles as Chaplaincy Team Leader (Maritime Reserves) within Naval Chaplaincy Service management.

### **The Rev Ross McDonald Royal Naval Reserve**

Ross continues to serve the men and women of the Naval Reserve at HMS DALRIADA in Greenock. The Reserves play

an increasing role in operations, with the RNR Chaplain playing a key role in their care and the care of their families.

SCOTT J BROWN QHC, *Principal Chaplain*

## **APPENDIX 2 CHAPLAINCY IN THE ARMY**

Church of Scotland Chaplains exercise their ministry within the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in all categories: as Regular Chaplains, as Chaplains to the Territorial Army and to the Army Cadet Force, and as Officiating Chaplains. The continuing operational commitment of the Armed Forces means that this ministry is in acute demand, both with soldiers deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere and also with units and families who live with change and uncertainty at home. Recruiting to the Department remains a priority if these challenges and commitments are to be met. The past year has been encouraging for recruiting, with candidates emerging especially for Regular and ACF Chaplaincy, but vacancies remain in every category. Prospective applicants for this rewarding and exciting ministry are most warmly encouraged to contact the Convener or Secretary of the Committee. There is always a requirement for new Regular Chaplains, and specific vacancies within other categories are identified in the list below.

The new Chaplain General, the Ven Stephen Robbins QHC, assumed post in June 2008. The Rev Dr David Coulter QHC continues as Principal of the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre at Aport House. Dr Coulter is now Denominational Representative Chaplain for the Church of Scotland, in which capacity he organised an excellent Denominational Chaplains' Conference in early December. The Rev Peter Eagles continues as Assistant Chaplain General 2<sup>nd</sup> Division with overall responsibility for recruiting, provision and administration of chaplaincy across Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland.

The military ministry of the Rev Alex Forsyth concluded this year, after 26 years of service to the TA and 25 years to the Cadets. Recruits to the Department included the Rev Dr Jim Francis and the Rev Heather Rendell as Regular Chaplains, the Rev Christopher Rowe to the Territorial Army, the Rev Messrs Roderick MacDonald and Fraser Stewart to the Army Cadet Force and the Rev Neil Gardner as an Officiating Chaplain. Another candidate for Regular Chaplaincy is currently in process.

The celebration of the Centenary of the Territorial Army included a sequence of public services of worship with military involvement across Scotland. Military Chaplains were able to participate and to preach, and this was a reminder not just of the unity of the Regular and the Territorial Army but also of our roots as soldiers and Chaplains in the community and in society. Our ministry as Chaplains is both immediate and universal, and perhaps this is best illustrated in the following narrative, a conflation of Chaplains' diaries for this year:

'As the Battalion Chaplain my role was one of sharing in the varied experiences: the incredibly hot days, the dust, the anxious moments of waiting for a Chinook to take me to my next location, the danger, the presentation of new colours to the Battalion by HRH Prince Andrew, the solemn and dignified repatriation services of fallen soldiers, the times of laughter and good humour. The Church at Camp Bastion was used on a daily basis, and many soldiers visited to light a candle or enjoy the peace and quiet of its surroundings. Since then it has been a time of transition with our emphasis on quality of life including sport and adventure training and also daily routine. A successful multi-cultural evening included foods from Fiji, South Africa, Ireland and Scotland, with pipes and drums, gaelic singing and Fijian dancing. On the horizon is the summer exercise in Kenya. This is a tremendous opportunity to train ... (last time) a few members of the battalion ran a marathon, which included crossing the equator, for the rescue centre for street children. In the brigade, Chaplains have this

year produced a Chaplaincy Bulletin and resources for Remembrance for civilian parishes and run an open day for interested clergy. I have attended most of the (Army Cadet Force) Company weekend camps, exercising a ministry far beyond the traditional muster parade worship on a Sunday morning. At the Army Training Regiment, we saw just under three thousand recruits last year; a surprising number choose to attend Church on a Sunday morning, and there is opportunity to encourage those who come with Christian faith and to welcome those for whom meeting an Army Chaplain is their first real contact with the Church. This brings to me most of all a deep sense of gratitude to God for the privilege of serving Him in such a rewarding calling.'

This reflects the work of chaplaincy over the year. Although the Regular Army, the Territorial Army and the Army Cadet Force will all have their own specific context, the challenges and opportunities are the same. The conclusion of the paragraph above defines the ethos of military chaplaincy.

### **CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ARMY CHAPLAINS – FEBRUARY 09**

Rev B J A Abeledo	2 Bn The Royal Regiment of Scotland (RHF) Glencorse Barracks Milton Bridge Penicuik EH26 0NP
Rev J W Aitchison	HQ 101 Log Bde Buller Barracks Aldershot GU11 2BY
Rev D Anderson	Bn The Royal Regiment of Scotland (BW) Fort George Ardersier Inverness VI 2TD

Rev D Connolly	27 Regiment RLC Travers Barracks Aldershot GU11 2BX	Rev D J MacPherson	Assistant Chaplain RMA Sandhurst Camberley Surrey GU15 4PQ
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Rev Dr D G Coulter QHC	AFCC Ampport House Ampport AndoverHants SP11 8BG	Rev D K Prentice	3 RIFLES Redford Barracks Colinton Road Edinburgh EH13 0PP
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Rev J C Duncan  
2 MERCIAN  
Holywood Palace Bks  
BFPO 806

**Also serving from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland**

Rev D V F Kingston  
CSFC Chaplain  
RAF Akrotiri  
BFPO 57

Rev N G McDowell  
Senior Chaplain  
ITC(C)  
Vimy Barracks  
Scotton Road  
Catterick Garrison  
North Yorks  
DL9 3PS

Rev H MacKenzie  
4 SCOTS & 2BN REME  
St Barbara Barracks  
BFPO 38

Rev Dr S P Swinn  
JSC & SC  
Defence Academy  
Shrivenham  
Swindon  
Wilts  
SN6 8LA

Rev C A MacLeod  
DACG  
HQ 15(NE) Brigade  
Imphal Barracks, York  
YO10 4HD

Rev M Henderson  
British Forces Episkopi  
BFPO 53

Rev J MacGregor  
5 Regiment RA  
Marne Barracks  
Catterick  
DL10 7NP

Rev S L Mackenzie  
ATR  
Bassingbourn Barracks  
Royston  
Hertfordshire  
SG8 5LX

Rev S W Van Os  
DST  
Normandy Barracks  
Leconfield  
East Yorkshire  
HU17 7LX

Rev R N MacLeod  
1 Bn The Royal Regiment of  
Scotland (RS)  
Dreghorn Barracks  
Edinburgh  
EH13 9QW

**Location of Territorial Army Chaplains**

6 Bn The Royal Regiment  
of Scotland      Rev S A Blakey

7 Bn The Royal Regiment  
of Scotland      **vacancy**

Queens Own Yeomanry (V)	Rev Dr J Francis	2 Bn The Highlanders	Rev I A Sutherland Rev T Bryson
105 Regiment Royal Artillery (V)	Rev D J Thom	Orkney (Independent) Bty	<b>vacancy</b>
32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V)	Rev C Rowe	Shetland (Independent) Bty	<b>vacancy</b>
71 Regiment Royal Engineers (V)	Rev R R Adams (Baptist Church)	Lothian & Borders Bn	Rev A Hughes (C of E) <b>vacancy</b> <b>vacancy</b>
Scottish Transport Regiment (V)	Rev J Smith, MBE, TD (Congregational Church)	West Lowland Bn	Rev D M Almond <b>vacancy</b> Rev R Macdonald
225 GS Med Regt (V)	Rev Miss N Frail	Cumbria ACF	Rev D J Thom
225 GS Med Regt (V)	<b>vacancy</b>		
225 GS Med Regt (V)	<b>vacancy</b>		
205 (Scottish) Field Hospital (V)	Rev L Kinsey, TD		
205 (Scottish) Field Hospital (V)	<b>vacancy</b>	Rev Canon D McAlister (SEC)	Resident Battalion, Fort George
205 (Scottish) Field Hospital (V)	<b>vacancy</b>		
		Rev Dr I C Barclay	Aberdeen Universities Officer Training Corps
<b>Location of Army Cadet Force Chaplains</b>			
Angus & Dundee Bn	<b>vacancy</b> <b>vacancy</b>	The Rev Dr J Walker	Tayforth Universities Officer Training Corps
Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Bn	Rev R D M Campbell, OSTJ, TD <b>vacancy</b> <b>vacancy</b>	Rev A R Mathieson	Resident Battalion, Dreghorn & Glencorse Barracks
Black Watch Bn	Rev Dr I C Barclay, MBE, TD <b>vacancy</b>	Rev N Gardner	Edinburgh Universities Officer Training Corps
Glasgow & Lanark Bn	Rev J E Andrews <b>vacancy</b>	Rev S Blakey	HQ 51 (Scottish) Bde and Glasgow Universities Officer Training Corps
1 Bn The Highlanders	Rev I C Warwick, TD Rev F Stewart	Rev T A Davidson Kelly	Army Personnel Centre, Glasgow

### APPENDIX 3 CHAPLAINCY IN THE RAF

The Royal Air Force continues to deliver capabilities to the UK's operations around the world with 7.2% of its strength (2860 personnel) deployed at the time of writing. For the last 17 years the Air Force has been continually engaged in operations in the Middle East, with some personnel on their twentieth deployment to the region. There are few parts of the front-line that are not feeling the pressure of such sustained commitment and the Chief of the Air Staff recently highlighted the contribution of the Air Transport force, the helicopter squadrons, the Tornado, Harrier and Nimrod forces and the Royal Air Force Regiment. Additionally, the Royal Air Force operates a number of Critical Care Air Support Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan, a unique medical asset, responsible for the repatriation of the most critically ill and injured from the battlefield to the field hospitals.

Approximately 7% of Royal Air Force Chaplains are also deployed on operations at any one time and they provide vital support to personnel undergoing the mental, emotional and spiritual rigours of deployment. At the same time, Chaplains provide vital support to families in the UK and to those feeling the pressure of such prolonged exposure to the operational tempo. Of note is the additional burden placed upon the chaplaincy team at Royal Air Force Lyneham where the dead are repatriated and most weeks, sometimes more frequently, ceremonies are held where families receive the bodies of their loved ones. Chaplains, as well as those from the units involved (Navy, Army or Air Force), are always present with each family before and during the ceremony and then afterwards for those who wish to spend time in a purpose built chapel of rest.

Recruitment remains a challenge and currently there are vacancies for both full-time and part-time Chaplains. When the Rev P W Mills retires from his current post as

Chaplain-in-Chief later this year, there will be only 2 full-time and 1 part-time Church of Scotland Chaplains left in the whole of the Royal Air Force. This cutting edge ministry of spiritual leadership, moral guidance and pastoral care is as challenging as it is rewarding. It demands sacrifice and a mixture of robustness and godliness, but every so often one has to stop and marvel at the extraordinary opportunities and encounters that are the bread and butter of Armed Forces chaplaincy.

#### **Church of Scotland Chaplains**

The Rev P W Mills is Chaplain-in-Chief and is responsible to the Chief of the Air Staff for the delivery of all chaplaincy throughout the RAF.

The Rev G T Craig is Director Chaplaincy (Training and Operations) and is responsible to the Chaplain-in-Chief for training and operational policy and for the station level and operational delivery of all chaplaincy throughout the RAF.

The Rev S Munro is the Force Chaplain at Mount Pleasant Airport in the Falkland Islands.

The Rev I McFadzean is a Reserve Chaplain who has a yearly commitment of 29 days. He is currently engaged in raising the profile of RAF chaplaincy among Church of Scotland clergy.

#### **Presbyterian Church of Ireland Chaplains**

The Rev D Edgar is the RAF Director at the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre at Aport House. He works as part of a Tri-Service chaplaincy team under the leadership of the Principal, currently an RACHD and Church of Scotland Chaplain.

The Rev J Wylie is the Church of Scotland and Free Churches Chaplain at RAF Support Unit located at the USAF base in Ramstein, Germany.