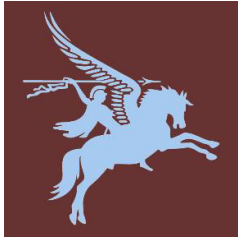


From Major L T Crane R SIGNALS



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All Airborne Signals Veterans

Date: 23 May 23

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*Dear Airborne Signallers,*

### **AIRBORNE SIGNALS REUNION: 1-3 SEPTEMBER 2023**

I am privileged and immensely proud to be writing to our community to invite you to celebrate the Airborne Signals Reunion at Caythorpe. The Squadron has continued its high performing outputs into 2023, punching well above its weight on exercise and operations. Our soldiers and officers have underpinned the collective successes over the past year, and I know they are very much looking forward to sharing their experiences with the airborne community at Caythorpe. This event is a vital part of our Squadron heritage and provides a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our shared ethos.

It has been another impressive year for 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team Headquarters and Signal Squadron (216) since our last reunion. The theme of global instability has bridged into 2023, with the war in Eastern Europe attracting significant Defence resource and focusing the minds of those who serve. The Brigade has continued to demonstrate its ability to operate anywhere in the world at extremely high readiness, delivering the highest standards on multiple operations and exercises. I write this letter following back-to-back Squadron deployments to Germany, Belize, Sudan and Salisbury plain, with contributions ranging from delivering communications support to our second Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation within as many years, to supporting the successful validation of the entire Brigade securing license to operate for the next two years.

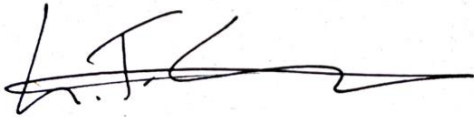
In September we deployed collectively to Germany as part of a 3 (UK) Division exercise to validate its Brigade Combat Teams. The Squadron delivered 'best in class' communications support to the BCT and was recognised by the Land Warfare Centre and General Officer Command of the Division for innovation and significantly improving the survivability of the headquarters. The ability of the Squadron to rapidly apply lessons from Eastern Europe coupled with the application of cutting-edge technology is now driving change across the Army and informing Fd Army 'How We Fight 2026' concepts. The Brigade's Tactical HQ was transformed into an Audi Quattro, enabling the Commander to Facetime the General at SECRET on the move, hiding both physical and electromagnetic signature – an impressive achievement. The deployment to Belize on Exercise MERCURY CANOPY will be a career highlight for many providing a unique opportunity for a R SIGNALS unit to deploy independently overseas. For those who have not seen the media coverage, the Squadron (with additions from Pathfinders, 14 (EW) Sig Regt, Army Special Operations Brigade amongst others) deployed for six weeks to Belize to undertake arduous jungle training and experiment with the latest communications technology. The freedoms associated with being the primary training audience optimised our organisational learning and enabled us to push the bounds of what is technically possible under canopy. We were able to stream secure Full Motion Video from a Pathfinder Observation Post back to the Commander in Colchester to enable an arrest operation; a significant technical achievement for our technical operators. We now

possess a generation of 216 soldiers equipped with the 'alliest' webbing and bergans across the Corps. You can see the video at the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXxunv7FvS8>

The village fete will run on Saturday with the Airborne Signals Reunion Dinner at Caythorpe Court that evening. On Sunday the serving Squadron members will march through Caythorpe, joined by our veterans, prior to the remembrance service.

I am immensely proud of our Squadron and all that it has achieved. It is our people who make the Squadron such a special place to serve, with outstanding leadership at all levels, a ruthless will to win and total professionalism. I hand over to Major Pete Stradling in July, so he will be in Command during the Caythorpe weekend. I wish him the best of luck as I pass the log and I have no doubt he will be an exceptional Squadron Commander. I hope you and your families are keeping well. Please mark the Caythorpe dates (1-3<sup>rd</sup> September) in your diary. As ever, Margaret will keep us all informed with the detail accompanying this letter.

Go to it....

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. J. K.' followed by a long horizontal flourish.