



MILITARY CIVILIAN INTEGRATION PARTNERSHIP
(INCORPORATING WILTSHIRE'S COMMUNITY COVENANT PARTNERSHIP)

Issue

The significant military presence in Wiltshire is changing. The development of Britain's first 'Super Garrison' in the Salisbury Plain area, closure of RAF Lyneham and move of Defence Technical Training to the site, development of the Personnel Recovery and Assessment Centre at Tedworth House, and the Government announcement on Transforming the British Army (known as [Army 2020](#)) will have far reaching implications for local communities across the county for the foreseeable future.

Although there is an awareness of these changes taking place in the Defence community, [Wiltshire Council](#) working with [43 \(Wessex\) Brigade](#) and partners needed to assess what this means in terms of infrastructure, impact on the economy and delivery of services. Therefore, the Military Civilian Integration (MCI) Partnership was set up to shape and positively influence these changes, where possible.

The work of the MCI Partnership is based upon what is known as the Army's Firm Base¹ policy and the Wiltshire Community Plan².

Aim

The aim of the MCI Partnership in Wiltshire is to optimise the *economic* and *social* benefits of the military presence in the county. In turn, such integration will benefit Armed Forces personnel, their families, veterans, and local communities.

Objectives

The MCI Partnership has 7 main objectives:

- To identify and respond to the changing military 'footprint' in Wiltshire
- To quantify and maximise the economic contribution of the military to the county
- To enable the realignment of service provision by the Council and its partners to meet the changing needs of the military, their families and veterans
- To capitalise on opportunities for regeneration and building sustainable communities in areas with a military presence
- To ensure the county continues to remain an attractive location for our Armed Forces and long-term investment by the MoD
- To encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces through the Wiltshire Community Covenant
- To assist Service leavers, and redundees in particular, in career transition and into employment in Wiltshire, helping soldiers back into society

¹ The 'Firm Base' describes a secure environment, at home and overseas, that sustains the Army, enables training for, and deployment on, operations and ensures the consent and support of the public and host nations. Most of the activities required to support soldiers are linked – welfare and accommodation being good examples. The delivery of these services, therefore, requires working closely with the community (Source: MoD).

² People, places and promises, The Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026.

Partnership Activities

Currently, there are 8 'live' projects in the MCI Partnership:

1. Salisbury Plain Super Garrison: The Salisbury Plain Super Garrison is the 'core' project in the partnership. It focuses on plans for the future MoD use of the Salisbury Plain Training Area. Super Garrisons are also being developed in Aldershot, Catterick and Colchester.

2. Lyneham Steering Group: The [Lyneham Steering Group](#) brings together community groups affected by the closure of RAF Lyneham and transition to [Defence Technical Training](#) to provide a 'voice' for their concerns and resolve issues, where possible. The RAF will leave Lyneham at the end of 2012, and it is anticipated that Defence Technical Training will transfer to the site in a series of phased moves.

3. Defence Technical Training Planning: The purpose of this project is to manage the MoD/Wiltshire Council Planning relationship, working with the [Defence Infrastructure Organisation](#), for the move of Defence Technical Training to Lyneham from 2013. It is anticipated that a Planning Application will be made in early 2013 and training will start at Lyneham by 2015. The aspiration is for Defence Technical Training to be fully established on site by 2020.

4. Community Covenant: [Wiltshire's Armed Forces Community Covenant](#) was launched in August 2011. The aim of the Community Covenant, including the grant scheme, is to encourage local communities to support the Service community and nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community. Also, Wiltshire launched its [Armed Forces Veterans Charter and Action Plan](#) in December 2011.

5. Land Use Planning: The purpose of this project is to manage the MoD/Wiltshire Council Planning relationship involving MoD sites across the county, including building sustainable communities. One of the main objectives of this work is to positively influence and inform military estate management and investment to achieve the maximum impact for Wiltshire. This work includes housing and builds on an earlier study, partly funded by [Plain Action](#) and the [Homes & Communities Agency](#), to improve the understanding of existing communities in the context of the Super Garrison development.

6. Joining things up: The purpose of this project is to ensure effective service delivery to military families, including veterans, by statutory and voluntary agencies including NHS Wiltshire. As part of this work Wiltshire Council is supporting the development of the [Personnel Recovery and Assessment Centre](#) (PRAC) at Tedworth House, with its 'Support Hub', funded by [Help for Heroes](#) and [The Royal British Legion](#)

7. Employment & Enterprise: This is a new project (currently under development) to assist Service leavers, including redundees, in career transition. It will fit with Wiltshire's wider work on business start-up and enterprise support.

8. Research: The evidence base for the partnership is derived from:

- [Military Presence and Economic Significance in the South West Region](#) This report examined the military presence in the South West (March 2009)
- [Envisioning the Future](#) This report provided a comprehensive assessment of the military presence in Wiltshire (July 2009)

To stay up-to-date, core data has been refreshed (due for publication in November 2012).

Partnership Organisation

The MCI Partnership Board provides strategic direction and guidance to the partnership and MCI Delivery Group in particular.

The Board comprises: The Leader Wiltshire Council, Commander 43 (Wessex) Brigade, Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Strategic Planning, Corporate Director, Service Director Economy & Regeneration, Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership representative, Community First/Plain Action, Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Defence Technical Training, Homes & Communities Agency, and project leads as necessary. The Board meets every 8-10 weeks.

Further Information

For further information, please contact: Ian Cambrook, MCI Manager, Pidela Consulting Ltd, at ian.cambrook@googlemail.com or go to the [MCI pages](#) on the Wiltshire Council website.

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