BRITISH FORCES

LEAD ARMoured BATTLE GROUP
YORKSHEIRE REGIMENT IN POLAND
4 [GBR] MULTINATIONAL BRIGADE
ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT IN SPAIN

rations: razione viveri da combattimento
5.11 Tactical Rush 72 backpack S5L £140.00

BLACK
- Fabric Type: 1050D nylon with water-repellent
- Adjustable, dual density closed-cell foam shoulder straps with Duraflex hardware.
- Closed-cell foam back padded hydration pocket with two back-to-back zippered pull tabs.
- Nametape and flag holders
- Top grab handle
- Generous web-platform on three sides with additional attachment points.

5.11 A.T.A.C. 6" Boots £90.00
5.11 A.T.A.C. 8" Side Zip Boots £100.00

The full grain leather toe offers a high-shine polish, while the nylon upper offers rugged resilience and breathability that stands up to harsh operational environments. The moisture wicking lining and extensive dual density foam cushioning offer support and comfort, the oil-resistant no-squeak outsole ensures stealth and stability. Shock Mitigation System maximizes compression and rebound, increasing your speed, stamina, and traction over any surface.

HUGE STOCKS OF 5.11 TACTICAL CLOTHING AT OUR STORE IN LONDON E1 4PE

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE & ORDER ONLINE

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE AT OUR STORE 422 MILE END RD, LONDON E1 4PE

Opening Times: Mon - Friday 09:00 - 18:00 • Saturday CLOSED • Sunday 10:00 - 13:00

Tel: 020 77 900 900 or Order Online @

www.SILVERMANS.co.uk
Page 09 Alliance Forces - DRAGON '15
Carl Schulze reports from near Poland’s eastern borders on the multinational armoured exercise

Page 16 British Forces - 1 YORKS BATTLEGROUP
Carl Schulze reports on the 3 [UK] Division LABG deployed on NATO Reassurance Measures

Page 22 Outdoor Survival - BUSH MEDICINE
Jason Polley explains some of the risks and discusses how to counter them

Page 28 Alliance Forces - TRIDENT JUNCTURE
Bob Morrison reports from Iberia on the British-led Multinational Brigade and on 1 R IRISH

Page 35 UK Armour - FOXHOUND LPPV
Bob Morrison focuses on the British Army’s Light Protected Patrol Vehicle on NATO exercise

Page 42 Armour Focus - ITALIAN VEHICLES
Bob Morrison photographs tracked and wheeled armour deployed by 8th Bersaglieri Regiment

Page 46 Marching Ammo - ITALY’S RVDC
Bob Morrison photographs the current issue Razione Viveri Da Combattimento in the field

Page 51 Armour Focus 2 - BOXER AMBULANCE
Carl Schulze introduces us to Germany’s unique Schweres Geschütztes Sanitätsfahrzeug

Page 58 Kit & Camo - MULTI-TERRAIN PATTERN
Bob Morrison focuses on a Company Sergeant Major from the Royal Irish Regiment

Page 63 Outdoor Gear - TRIED & TESTED
Mike Gormley trials a jacket, socks, gloves, a day sack, a Leatherman and a Kestrel wind meter

Page 70 Scale Models - BOXERS & CHIEFTAINS
Ian Young introduces us to new Revell wheeled armour and new Tacom main battle tank kits

Page 05 Comms
Page 57 Security
Page 68 Reviews
The month of December - I am penning this just before the Christmas shut-down to meet print schedules around the holiday period - is traditionally a quiet spell for the military, excepting those on guard duties of course, as units and garrisons gear up for annual leave. As a result there is very little of note to report other than that our friends deployed aboard HMS Bulwark for COUGAR '15 and TRIDENT JUNCTURE '15 made it home in time for Christmas.

One interesting story which broke early in the month, just after we went to press with last month’s issue, was the MoD announcement that “the largest military parachute drop in the UK in more than a decade” took place on 8th December. According to the official communiqué released at the time: “Some 200 Regular and Reserve soldiers from 16 Air Assault Brigade jumped from four RAF C-130J Hercules transport aircraft onto Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire.”

It would have been nice to have been invited to cover the exercise, but unfortunately we were only told afterwards. The reason we would have liked to have been there is not because of its scale as, having both watched almost 600 US Paras jump into Zaragoza recently after them flying overnight across the Atlantic from their US bases and been on 15-ship missions in the past where a full battalion-sized UK Lead Airborne Battle Group dropped in with vehicles and artillery, 200 Paras descending is not really a major spectacle. However, as this was said to have been the first major jump since 16 Air Assault Brigade adopted the iconic Pegasus badge, which originated in WWII and was proudly worn by predecessor 5 Airborne Brigade until it was merged with 24 Airmobile Brigade, it would have been great to witness Bellerophon in the air once again. Call me an old softie, but I have fond memories of those old days when the RAF could regularly put fifteen C-130 Hercules transport aircraft into the air to support the Paras.

Another subject close to my heart is the military Land Rover Defender and its predecessors, which have kept me snapping and scribbling away for three decades. Unfortunately all good things must come to an end, and many will tell you just how good the Land Rover is as a military Light (D90) and Medium (D110) Utility Truck. Although the last Defenders will shortly roll off the production line at Solihull, bringing to an end 68 years of manufacture, the British military fleet is expected to remain in service until the end of the next decade so the old girls should still be a familiar sight on exercises and minor deployments for a while yet.

Turning to next month, unfortunately it looks like the ever-increasing price of paper may force us to increase cover price slightly. Bearing in mind that it is five and a half years since the last increase (remember that classic cover image of French Pathfinders in contact in Afghanistan taken by the late Yves Debay?) it really is well overdue.

Of course one excellent way of beating an impending price increase is to sign up for an annual subscription - see Page 62 or combatandsurvival.com - and, as a bonus Postman Pat should deliver the magazine through your letterbox before it appears on the shelves of your local newsgagent. Not only that, but when you take out a great value 12-month subscription you will get a FREE Survival Kit comprising: a water-resistant Survival Case with Signalling Mirror; a Reflective Survival Blanket; an olive green Para Cord & Flint Bracelet, with integrated flint, steel and whistle; and an SOS Compass!

While on the subject of Survival, in the next issue we will be bringing you a free extra Preppers / Survivalists supplement, penned by Jason and Bob who both have internationally published Survival books to their name. On the cover of both magazine and supplement you should hopefully spot the new HIT Media corporate logo, which makes its début on this month’s cover, and which should help readers to easier spot both C&S and its sister titles on the newsstands.

Lastly, young Ashley Lockwood who has designed C&S since the August ’14 issue has left us to go to university, though he has laid out three of the last four articles this month. We sincerely wish him well in the future. To compensate for losing Ash we are getting back Neal Molyneaux, who designed this magazine until August 2000 before being moved sideways to one of our sister titles. Welcome back, Neal.

BM
Remember how cold you were? Armadillo next-to-skin garments are soft, warm, don’t melt/drip or stink

saving your skin
+44 (345) 4 MERINO
www.armadillomerino.com

OUT AND ABOUT WITH TILLEY
All our Hats are guaranteed for life. They provide UPF50+ sun protection, clean in the rain, float, and are water resistant, keeping you covered wherever your adventures take you.

www.tilley.com T: 01326 574402

GOT YOUR WINTER KIT SORTED YET?

SJ-6 SOFTIE® JACKET 6
WITH A-TACS AU CAMO
ADVANCED TACTICAL CONCEALMENT SYSTEM

FEATURES:
SNUGPAK EXCLUSIVE SOFTIE PREMIER INSULATION
PARATEX MICRO OUTER WATER RESISTANT MAIN ZIP
VELCRO ARM PATCHES ROLL AWAY HOOD
WWW.SNUGPAK.COM
VISIT US AT HEINNIE.COM
OVER 17,500 PRODUCTS ONLINE

NEW PRO SERIES PROFESSIONAL SURVIVAL KNIVES
- Laminated cobalt steel
- Thicker 7mm blades
- Zytel sheaths
- DC4 whetstones
- Shock-resist.
- Waterproof boxes

F1 PRO
Price: £210.95

S1 PRO
Price: £247.95

A1 PRO
Price: £295.95

CLAWGEAR
MKIII COMBAT SHIRT
Price: £67.95

SPECIAL FORCE 100
Price: £499.95

CORDURA BASELAYER
Price: £34.95

CLAWGEAR
GP GREEN MICARTA
Price: £158.95

LTC SERIES (LEGAL TO CARRY)
Price: £55.95

PXL GREEN MICARTA
Price: £254.95

FALLKNIVEN
FRIENDLY
Price: £20.95

LUNA AID
FLOATING SOLAR LED
Price: £20.95

LUNA AID
MILVAGO FLEECE HOODY
Price: £79.95

LUNA AID
SOLAR LED LANTERN
Price: £19.95

CLAWGEAR
SOLAR LED LANTERN
Price: £19.95

FENIX
HIGH PERFORMANCE LED LIGHTING TOOLS
- PD12 XML2-T2
Price: £34.95
- TK35 XH
Price: £89.95
- LD09 XP-E2 R3
Price: £32.95
- TK32 XM-L2 U2
Price: £69.95
- TK61 XM-L2 U2
Price: £109.95

Prices correct at time of press and may be subject to change. Please check heinnie.com for latest prices.
It’s 21st October, circa 08:30, Orzysz Training Area, Eastern Poland: The attack of the enemy armoured forces had been blunted on the well-prepared defences of the British Lead Armoured Battle Group (LABG) from the 3rd [UK] Division, reinforced by a company of German Panzer Grenadiers from Panzer grenadier bataillon 212. Minefields had channelled the leading enemy armoured elements into a pre-planned killing area, where its advance had been stopped in its tracks by concentrated artillery fire and well aimed gunfire from British Challenger 2 and German Leopard 2A6 main battle tanks, as well as British Javelin LFATGW and German MILAN anti-tank missiles.

The time was now right for the commander of the 17th Mechanised
Brigade (17. Wielkopolska Brygada Zmechanizowana) to unleash a pre-planned counter-attack in order to destroy the enemy before he could refresh his attack by deploying reinforcements. Only minutes after the order for the counter-attack is given, columns of large numbers of KTO Rosomak wheeled armoured infantry fighting vehicles from the 1st Motorised Infantry Battalion (1. Batalionu Piechoty Zmotoryzowanej Ziemi Rzeszowskiej) can be seen emerging from wooded areas and deploying into attack formation.

On the right flank the mechanised infantry is supported by a company of Leopard 2A5PL MBTs from the 1st Tank Battalion (1. Brabancki Batalion Czołgów) of 34th Armoured Cavalry Brigade (34. Brygady Kawalerii Pancernej). Simultaneously with the initial advance of the armoured assets, engineers using mine clearing line charges prepare gaps through the minefields in order to clear the way for the counter-attack.

The mine-clearing devices go off in lines of fireballs, accompanied by massive bangs and the ground heaving almost like an earthquake. The sudden counter-attack of the defenders is also supported by heavy artillery fire provided by 152mm AHS (Armato-Haubica Samobieżna) Dana wheeled self-propelled howitzers and 122mm WR-40 Langusta self-propelled multiple launch rocket systems that have a devastating effect.

The overwhelming firepower of the all-arms force soon has its effect on the enemy forces, who begin a hasty withdrawal. Blocking an enemy attack and conducting a counter-attack was only one of the scenarios trained by the NATO force in eastern Poland. Others were, for example, to conduct delaying operations, to
The latest evolution of the exercise, controlled by the General Command of the Polish Armed Forces (Dowództwo Generalne Rodzajów Sił Zbrojnych) which was formed in January 2014, was the first one conducted since the command and control system of the armed forces of Poland was restructured.

Unlike earlier exercises in the series, the latest also saw special attention being paid to the preparation of armed forces in the run-up to a crisis. As part of this, the mobilisation of selected units of the Polish Army Reserves was conducted for real, with reserve soldiers being called in to take over vehicles and equipment and then deploy into the field.

**Primary Training Audience**

Key player of Exercise DRAGON

**LATEST IN A SERIES**

**Exercise DRAGON ‘15** was the latest in a series of exercises conducted by the Polish armed forces every two years. It took place between the 13th and 23rd of October on the Orzysz Training Area in Masuria in northeastern Poland, south of the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad and around 100km west of the Belarus border. The latest evolution of the exercise, controlled by the General Command of the Polish Armed Forces (Dowództwo Generalne Rodzajów Sił Zbrojnych) which was formed in January 2014, was the first one conducted since the command and control system of the armed forces of Poland was restructured.

Unlike earlier exercises in the series, the latest also saw special attention being paid to the preparation of armed forces in the run-up to a crisis. As part of this, the mobilisation of selected units of the Polish Army Reserves was conducted for real, with reserve soldiers being called in to take over vehicles and equipment and then deploy into the field.

**Primary Training Audience**

Key player of Exercise DRAGON
'15 was the 11th Armoured Cavalry Division (11. Lubuska Dywizja Kawalerii Pancernej) with its subordinated brigades. This formation, which is also known as the 'Black Division', is the only armoured division of the Polish land forces. The aim of the exercise was to validate the abilities of the division to conduct combat operations while acting as reserve for a Land Component Command during a defensive operation.

In addition, the exercise was conducted to allow the troops of the division to train for operations in a multinational joint combined environment. While major parts of the exercise were conducted as command post exercise, the DRAGON '15 also saw the 17th Mechanised Brigade (17. Wielkopolska Brygada Zmechanizowana) conducting field training, including a two day live-fire package. For this the brigade was reinforced by divisional troops of 11th Armoured Cavalry Division, such as the 23rd Artillery Regiment (23. Śląski Pulk Artylerii) and the 4th Anti-Aircraft Regiment (4. Zielonogórski Pulk Prezeciwlotniczy).

The Polish brigade was also reinforced by elements of the 34th Armoured Cavalry Brigade (34. Brygady Kawalerii Pancernej). It also gained command of the Lead Armoured Battle Group of the 3rd [UK] Division; this formation was centred around the 1st Battalion of The Yorkshire Regiment and reinforced by a company-size task group from the German Panzer grenadier bataillon 212.
Elements of the 25th Air Assault Brigade (25. Brygada Kawalerii Powietrznej) of the Polish Army also played a role in the exercise, which was set in a hypothetical crisis scenario that saw two blocks of states clash after an argument erupted over natural resources and then diplomatic efforts failed to solve the issue.

**DRAGON ‘15 NUMBERS**

The exercise involved some 7,000 troops, of which 800 were British, 180 German, 40 American and 12 Canadian. The troops deployed on exercise with some 1,150 wheeled and tracked vehicles.

Major fighting vehicles employed by the Polish forces of the 11. Lubuska Dywizja Kawalerii Pancernej and its subordinated 17 Wielkopolska Brygada Zmechanizowana included 14 Leopard 2A5PL, 66 KTO Rosomak wheeled armoured infantry fighting vehicles in different variants, six 122mm WR-40 Langusta self-propelled multiple launch rocket systems and four 152 mm AHS Dana wheeled self-propelled howitzers. On the aviation side, 21 rotary and fixed wing aircraft supported the exercise including several Mil Mi-24W Hind attack helicopters and Mil Mi-17 Hip tactical transport helicopters.

**NATO ASSURANCE MEASURES**

The deployment of the British, Canadian, German and US troops on the exercise was conducted as part of the NATO Assurance Measures programme triggered by the Ukraine crisis and Russia’s quite aggressive
role in it. The aim of these assurance measures is to assure the Alliance’s eastern allies of its assistance in case of any further Russian expansionism.

The British troops participating in the exercise belonged to the Lead Armoured Battle Group (LABG) of the 3rd [UK] Division, centred around the 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment and accompanied by a Combat Service Support Group (for more see the separate article starting on Page 16 of this issue). Germany participated in the exercise with a company-size task group centred around one company from Panzer grenadier bataillon 212 of Panzer brigade 12 ‘Lipperland’. This task group also included a tank platoon from Panzer bataillon 203.

The platoon of US paratroopers participating in the exercise belonged to the 173rd Airborne Brigade ‘Sky Soldiers’, based in Vicenza in Italy. Canada participated in the exercise with a sniper and reconnaissance detachment from the 3rd Battalion, Royal 22e Régiment (3 R22eR) based at Valcartier Garrison, Quebec in Canada.

For the troops involved, Exercise DRAGON ‘15 was a good opportunity to conduct training in a multinational combined and joint environment. Major issues they had to cope with during the exercise were the usual ones regarding the compatibility of communication equipment and the language barrier that still exists at all levels, even with English being the language of choice of NATO. They also had to deal with different tactics and procedures employed by the varied forces of the different nations.

From the British point of view Exercise DRAGON ‘15 offered the benefit of exercising the deployment capabilities of the LABG, while from the Polish point of view the participation of multinational forces in the exercise was a great opportunity to allow the elements of the 11. Lubuska Dywizja Kawalerii Pancernej to train in a multinational environment.
KNIFE & TOOL CLEARANCE
The participation of British troops on the multinational DRAGON '15 exercise was conducted as part of the NATO Assurance Measures, which were initiated in May 2014 after relations with Russia had deteriorated in the wake of the Ukraine crisis.

During 2015 a total of some 5,000 British troops from the British Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy participated in several NATO Assurance Measures deployments aimed at reassuring NATO’s eastern allies such as Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia of Alliance support in case of a wider Russian
expansionism. The participation of the LABG, and other Allied forces, on DRAGON ’15 was therefore a demonstration of the Alliance’s political will and military capability to defend its allies against any threat.

FROM DARSKO POMORSKIE TO ORZYSZ

The deployment of the British formation to Poland started on the 7th of September. While the troops were flown out to Poland, their vehicles and equipment took to sea by means of a roll-on/roll-off ferry. In total some 800 troops with 157 tracked and 315 wheeled vehicles were deployed.

Training in Poland was divided into two main phases. Phase 1 saw the Lead Armoured Battle Group (LABG) with assigned Combat Service Support Group (CSS Group) conducting continuation training on the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area (DPTA) in western Poland between the 21st of September and the 2nd of...
October. The bulk of the forces were then deployed by rail from DPTA to Orzysz Training Area in north-eastern Poland, where they took part in the actual exercise DRAGON '15 between the 13th and 23rd of October.

During this multinational exercise the LABG was assigned under command of 17th Mechanised Brigade (17. Wielkopolska Brygada...
LEAD ARMOURY

ARMOURY

LEAD ARMOURED BATTLE GROUP

Under the new Army 2020 restructuring, the Lead Armoured Battle Group is the armoured spearhead of the British Army. Kept at high readiness, it can be deployed within short time on operations anywhere worldwide; for example in reaction to an emerging crisis. The task of providing the LABG is rotated between the brigades and battalions of the 3rd [UK] Division; at the time of exercise DRAGON ’15 the LABG was centred around the Warminster-based
1st Battalion of The Yorkshire Regiment (1 YORKS) which is a component of the Bulford-based 12th Armoured Infantry Brigade.

During deployments the LABG is supported by a Combat Service Support Group formed by various units of the Aldershot-based 101 Logistic Brigade, as well as units of the Force Troops Command.

In the case of Ex. DRAGON '15 the following units belonged to the LABG and CSS Group, or assigned detachments to them:

1. 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment
2. C Squadron, The King's Royal Hussars
3. 8 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 35 Regiment RE
4. 28/143 Battery (Tombs's Troop), 19th Regiment RA
5. 4 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
6. 10 Armoured Company, 4 Armoured CS Battalion, REME
7. 80 Squadron, 29 Regiment, RLC
8. 4 Armoured Medical Regiment
9. 174th Provost Company, 3rd Regiment RMP
10. 16th Signal Regiment
11. 4 Military Intelligence Regiment
12. 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment RLC

**A BUSY YEAR**

For the troops of the 1 YORKS Battle Group and the CSS Group the deployment to Poland marked another highlight in a busy year, which saw the unit taking part in Exercise TRACTABLE in March and April. Then from May onwards it provided a Short Term Training Team (STTT) to Ukraine under Operation ORBITAL. However, for the troops Ex. DRAGON ‘15 was still a welcome opportunity to test their rapid deployment skills as well as to improve their experience operating in a combined environment.
The LEVEL 7 is lightweight winter jacket which provides insulation and protection against frost, wind and light showers. Climashield® Apex™ provides thermal insulation and ultimate warmth. Two chest pockets are lined with fleece to provide protection against frostbite. The hood can be easily adjusted without removing hands from the chest pockets via two drawstrings located there.

Climashield® Apex™ insulation (grammage: 100g body; 67g hood).
Medical courses must form part of your survival training. You must undertake regular refreshers to keep knowledge and skills usable. A basic First Aid course is the minimum; get on to specialist courses aimed at outdoors people and do some background reading - rust never sleeps.

Build yourself a customised medical kit suited to your circumstances, foreseeable medical issues, and taking into account the terrain and climate. Make sure you know how to deal with things like pain, serious cuts, infections, burns, insect stings, fractures, as well as sickness and diarrhoea.

If you are leaving the UK, you may also need to know about snake bites and tropical diseases such as malaria. Do your research, seek expert advice from the likes of MASTA, the travel health advisers (masta-travel-health.com / tel. 0330 1004200).

**BUSH MEDICINE**

You need to know how to improvise and deal with medical problems if you do not have any medical supplies with you. Also, if you are in a country...
where medical supplies are scarce or of dubious quality, you need to know how to treat yourself using local produce. For example:

**Constipation** – a cup of slightly diluted lemon juice, or a teaspoon of olive oil in the morning will help. A hot tea made with dandelion leaves is pretty effective as well. High fibre foods like nuts, fruit, beans and drinks of just plain warm water will also get things ‘moving’.

**Diarrhoea** – stop eating for at least 24 hours, but take regular drinks of mint tea and/or strong black tea. Avoid fruit, beans, spices and stick to plain soups and BRAT foods. Bananas, Rice, Apples (grated up) and Toast.

**Sickness** – treat like diarrhoea, but also drink bits of charcoal mixed with water as this can absorb poisons that you may have taken in. Ginger suppresses nausea - grate some up and make into a hot drink, but take it in any form you can get it, the stronger the better.

**Pain** – try drinking a tea made with the leaves of either willow or birch. For sore throats, gargle on warm salty water or a tea made with sage leaves. Ice or cold water numbs, and will relieve the pain from insect bites and burns. Although pain can often be tolerated and put out of your mind, it can be an irritation and affect concentration and performance.

**Bleeding** – although compression is the first thing to do, blood coagulation is improved if you take in vitamin K, found in green leafy vegetables such as spinach and cabbage.

**Infection** – wash the wound with clean water first. Natural antiseptics include lavender oil, the juice from onions or garlic, or tea made with thyme. Re-wash and re-apply antiseptic a few times a day where possible. Remember:

**“BUILD YOURSELF A CUSTOMISED MEDICAL KIT SUITED TO YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES, FORESEEABLE MEDICAL ISSUES, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TERRAIN AND CLIMATE.”**
infections can kill, and may spread rapidly if left untreated. **Fungal infections** — those around the feet can be countered with regular washing and exposing the feet to strong sunlight. A foot bath made by boiling up marigold flowers is particularly effective; dry thoroughly afterwards. Where possible, reduce your intake of sugar and alcohol, as these help fungal infections spread. Earache — drip onion juice into the ear and take something for the pain.

**INSECTS**

Insect repellents are a form of preventative medicine because some insect bites pass on disease, induce anaphylactic shock, hurt like hell, and at the very least can be a distraction that could lead you to making mistakes.

Apply whatever repellent you have, or smear exposed skin with one of the following every couple of hours:

1. Anything unsweetened and strong smelling, e.g. crushed garlic, onion juice, pepper, lemon thyme, wet tobacco or crushed lavender flowers
2. The liquid created from boiling up pieces of oak bark
3. Mud.

Wear a long sleeved shirt and long trousers. A head-net or something improvised is beneficial. Insects hate the wind and smoky fires. Dusk can be feeding time for mosquitoes and other smaller biting insects, so be prepared.

Treatment — Do not scratch as this exposes you to infection. Cooling the bite with anything cold helps. Carefully remove the sting if left behind, wash with soap if you have any, and then either dab with vinegar if a wasp or hornet, or smear with baking soda (found in some
toothpastes) if a bee sting or ant bite.

**WOUNDS, SPRAINS AND FRACTURES**

**Wounds** – stop the bleeding by applying pressure to the wound. Use a field dressing or similar. Once bleeding is under control, clean and apply antiseptic. Dress the wound. Change the dressing daily and keep the wound clean; apply more antiseptics. Larger wounds might need closing; improvise using sticky tape, even glue, to draw the skin together.

**Sprains** – remember RICE? Rest the wound, apply Ice to counter the swelling, Compress by wrapping with a crepe bandage, and Elevate the affected part where possible. Take painkillers, which will also help with the swelling. Do this for the first 48 hours, after which substitute the ice for heat to help heal the damaged tissue.

**Fractures** – in the field it is not always easy to tell a nasty sprain from a fracture, so take seriously. Treat as for a sprain, but immobilise the affected part by bracing with a splint and supporting bandages. Again, take painkillers to enable movement and to control the swelling.

**RESOURCES**

Read up on the likely health conditions that may affect you and be your own medic. Pocket First Aid and Wilderness Medicine, Dr Jim Duff and Dr Peter Gormly Medicine for Mountaineering, Dr James Wilkerson US Army Special Forces Medical Handbook (Manual ST 31-91B), Glen Craig The Rough Guide to Travel Health, Dr Nick Jones

“INSECT REPELLENTS ARE A FORM OF PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE BECAUSE SOME INSECT BITES PASS ON DISEASE, INDUCE ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK (AND) HURT LIKE HELL...”
The end may not be nigh. There may be no apocalypse.
The banks may never fail. We don't provide answers.
We provide preparations.

www.preppersshop.co.uk
BRITISH FORCES

TRIDENT JUNCTURE ‘15, BILLED AS BEING THE LARGEST EXERCISE CONDUCTED BY NATO SINCE STRONG RESOLVE IN 2002, WAS BOTH THE ALLIANCE’S MOST IMPORTANT TRAINING EXERCISE OF THE YEAR AND A FLAGSHIP ACTIVITY FOR ITS CONNECTED FORCES INITIATIVE. RANGING FROM SICILY IN THE EAST TO PORTUGAL’S WESTERN COAST, IN ADDITION TO A MULTI-LOCATION COMMAND POST EXERCISE (CPX) IT ALSO ENCOMPASSED A LIVE EXERCISE (LIVEX) FOR TACTICAL LEVEL TROOP ENGAGEMENTS INVOLVING NO LESS THAN FOUR BRIGADE-LEVEL MULTINATIONAL LAND FORCES FORMATIONS, ON TRAINING AREAS IN ITALY, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, PLUS TWO AMPHIBIOUS TASK GROUPS OPERATING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND ATLANTIC OCEAN.

C&S joined the British-led Multinational Brigade at the Spanish CENAD (Centro Nacional de Adiestramiento or National Training Centre) Chinchilla, near the city of Albacete and a couple of hours drive inland from the port city of Valencia, for much of their final exercise phase at the beginning of November before driving six hours north to cover a demonstration by the Spanish-led Multinational Brigade on the 4th.
Designated 4 [GBR] Multinational Brigade or 4 MNB, the NATO formation on the Chinchilla Training Area was led by 4th [UK] Infantry Brigade Headquarters, the Black Rats, commanded by Brigadier Gerald ‘Gez’ Strickland DSO MBE, who commanded 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles when it was part of the former 4th Mechanized Brigade in Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK XVII.

Although the Headquarters of 4th Infantry Brigade, based in Catterick and formed on 1st December 2014 by the merger of 4th Mechanized Brigade and 15th (North East) Brigade as part of the new Adaptable Force under ARMY 2020 restructuring, led the Chinchilla brigade not all of the British Army units under its command were actually drawn from its order of battle. The British battalion-sized battlegroup was formed around 1st Battalion of The Royal Irish Regiment, now part of 160th (Wales) Infantry Brigade and
operating in the new Light Protected Mobility role, with The Light Dragoons, a Light Cavalry regiment now subordinated to 4th Infantry Brigade, operating with Jackals in the recce role. Other major British units participating in 4 MNB included 6th Force Logistic Regiment of The Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) which provided integrated Combat Service Support, Host Nation Coordination and the UK National Support Element, and 1st Close Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME), both from 102 Logistic Brigade.

The two other battalions which formed 4 MNB were 2nd Armoured Infantry Battalion, the Jutland Dragoons Regiment, of the Danish Army and the 8th Bersaglieri (Sharpshooter) Regiment of the Italian Army. Our time with the British-led brigade was limited to
less than three days in the field, as during the five days of the final LIVEX phase we wanted to also spend a day up north in Zaragoza with the Spanish-led MNB and then the following day with the British-led Amphibious Task Force on Portugal’s Tróia Peninsula to try to bring readers maximum coverage of TRIDENT JUNCTURE, so we were unable to devote much time to the Jutland Dragoons or the Bersaglieri who were operating in different areas of the vast CENAD training area but we were able to photograph some of their key equipment.

The Jutland Dragoons are an Armoured Infantry formation who form the core of the Danish Reaction Battlegroup with two armoured infantry companies equipped with the CV 9035 Infantry Fighting Vehicle supported by a tank platoon equipped with the Leopard 2AS5DK Main Battle Tank plus an armoured
engineer troop and logistic elements. The 8th Bersaglieri is a heavy mechanised infantry regiment from the Garibaldi Brigade equipped with tracked Dardo and wheeled Freccia Infantry Fighting Vehicles (see page 42). Combined with the Royal Irish Regiment battlegroup, operating with FOXHOUND Light Protected Patrol Vehicles (see page 36) and a Norwegian JTAC (Joint Terminal Attack Controller) team, which we will cover in a future Kit & Camo article, calling in supporting airstrikes from NATO aircraft operating out of Albacete Air Base, the British-led 4 MNB offered a potent mix of mechanised and armoured infantry for the NATO commanders to train with.

As explained last month, in the first part of what will be a series of articles on TJ15, although it could be presumed that this long-planned exercise was aimed at training commanders, headquarters, units and troops to be ready to deal with any further westward expansion by by Russia, in reality the setting and the scope of its SOROTAN scenario deals with a very unstable region (dubbed Cerasia) which is under mounting political, military and civil pressure and has water, or the lack of it, as the actual catalyst for the notional conflict. The comparatively (it was hit by an unexpected massive rainstorm at the start of the exercise) arid and barren CENAD training area with its rolling hills and challenging unfamiliar terrain for operating armoured vehicles proved to be excellent for the British-led multinational brigade to test its troops and procedures.

To be continued.

13. REME mechanics from Gutersloh-based 1st Close Support Battalion kept the fleet running by repairing breakdowns and accident damage at the Brigade Support Group.

14. The Brigade Support Group was based in a mothballed cement works - here a fuel tanker crew check tank levels before a refuelling task.

15. Danish and British refuelers with their MAN SV tankers - under 4 MNB three different nationalities worked side-by-side on logistic support tasks.

16. A squadron of Light Dragoons formed into five fighting sub-units deployed on Trident Juncture - both of this pair have 12.7mm HMG main armament.
IN AFGHANISTAN FOXHOUND PROVED ITSELF TO BE COMPETENT, SO IT WAS LITTLE SURPRISE WHEN THE MOD ANNOUNCED IN JANUARY 2014 THAT, ONCE NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR OPERATIONAL SERVICE, IT WAS PLANNED TO BRING THE NIMBLE LITTLE UOR VEHICLE INTO CORE FLEET
Much maligned in the mainstream media on account of the number of soldiers’ lives lost in Iraq (Op. TELIC) and then Afghanistan (Op. HERRICK) as a result of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks, even though the lightweight composite armour construction of the ‘Snatch’ possibly saved more lives in strikes than were lost in the vehicle, it

For around three decades until 2012 the British Army mostly, with the exception of the lightly armoured Saxon ‘battlefield taxi’ personnel carrier, had to rely on tracked armoured vehicles for infantry patrol duties as the UK MoD, unlike many of its NATO allies, had not adopted a dual approach and procured wheeled armoured vehicles as well. The downside to this shortsightedness was that the Land Rover CAV-100 Internal Security Vehicle, nicknamed ‘Snatch’ as its initial role in Ulster was to snatch ringleaders during urban disorder, was the only light armoured high mobility vehicle on the inventory for Operations TELIC and HERRICK.

By Bob Morrison
It was patently obvious that it was over-matched by the threats and a purpose-designed wheeled light protected patrol vehicle needed to be speedily procured as an Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR). The problem UK MoD faced, however, was that the only off-the-shelf solutions available at the time, although they offered the level of protection required, were both too...
heavy for the terrain in Afghanistan’s
Helmand Valley and insufficiently
compact and manoeuvrable for
operating in and through medieval-
like villages of walled compounds.

In 2008 a quantity of 4x4 RIDGBACK
variants of the 6x6 MASTIFF was
procured from US manufacturer
Force Protection Inc. under the
UOR process to provide a temporary
solution but, although both shorter,
narrower and lighter than MASTIFF,
the RIDGBACK was still too large and
too heavy for many infantry patrol
tasks in Helmand Province. To solve
the dilemma the Protected Mobility
Team at DE&S (Defence Equipment
& Support) invited industry to
suggest new solutions and in 2009
two proposed new designs emerged
which showed potential.

Supacat (now SC Group) who
manufacture the in-service JACKAL
4x4 reconnaissance vehicle and
its COYOTE 6x6 tactical support
vehicle sibling offered their SPV
400, which was a clean sheet design
in conjunction with NP Aerospace.

Force Protection Europe, a British-
based subsidiary of the producer of
MASTIFF and RIDGBACK, teamed
up with Ricardo’s Special Vehicles
military design team, responsible for the evolution of the Land Rover Defender WMIK family of conversion and other military specials, to offer their equally clean sheet OCELOT design.

Orders to produce a pair of prototypes for full evaluation were placed with each manufacturer in April 2010 and invitations to tender for a production contract were sent out to both within a few weeks. Such was the urgency to procure a new Light Protected Patrol Vehicle (the peak years for fatalities and serious injuries on Op HERRICK in Afghanistan were 2009 and 2010) that by the September the MoD had opted for OCELOT and in the November they placed an initial contract for 200 vehicles with Force Protection Europe.

Subsequently named FOXHOUND by the MoD, the OCELOT design required more design work before being declared ready for bulk manufacture and the first examples equipped to Theatre Entry Standard.
TES) would not arrive at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan until June 2012. In that year serious injuries had dropped to about a quarter of those in the peak years and combat fatalities had dropped to around a half plus it was becoming clear that drawdown was on the cards; indeed just six months after FOXHOUND went operational on Op. HERRICK it was formally announced that UK troop levels would drop by roughly half in 2013 with the intention of ceasing combat operations in Helmand Province entirely by the end of 2014.

Despite its relatively short operational use in Afghanistan, OCELOT/FOXHOUND proved itself to be a competent vehicle with very good off-road manoeuvrability, courtesy of its independent suspension and 4-wheel steering plus good ground clearance. It was therefore little surprise when the MoD announced in January 2014 that, once no longer required for operational service, it was planned to bring the nimble little UOR vehicle into Core Fleet along with the rest of the new generation of wheeled armoured vehicles procured primarily for Op. HERRICK.

Under the initial ARMY 2020 restructuring it was decided six infantry battalions would eventually...
operate in the Light Protected Mobility, four in the UK as part of the Adaptable Force and two with British Forces Cyprus. The FOXHOUND, of which orders totalled 375, has been deemed as ideal for this role and in October 2015 for the first time an LPM battalion equipped with this nimble 4x4 armoured vehicle deployed one of its companies on a multinational NATO exercise.

Recognising the significance of this deployment, C&S made it our priority when covering *Ex. TRIDENT*

**JUNCTURE** to photographically document the WOLFHOUND fleet taken out to Chinchilla by 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment. Previously 1 R IRISH were part of 16 Air Assault Brigade, operating for many years in the heliborne infantry role, but under ARMY 2020 restructuring they have now taken on the Light Protected Mobility role. All but one of the images on the first five pages of this brief feature are of FOXHOUNDS used by B Company 1 R IRISH.
Although the third, the LINCE or LYNX, should be familiar to our UK readership as it is the elder sibling of Britain’s PANTHER Command and Liaison Vehicle, the DARDO (DART) and FRECCIA (ARROW) Infantry Fighting Vehicles will be less familiar as only the Italian Army uses them.

### DARDO IFV

Turning first to the DARDO, ordered in 1999 with the first production vehicle being handed over to the Italian Army in May 2002, this tracked infantry fighting vehicle is produced by the IVECO Fiat - Oto Melara consortium which is part of Finmeccanica. Dimensionally similar to Britain’s FV510 Warrior and weighing roughly the same, around 25 tonnes, though only able to transport six infantry rather than seven in addition to its three-man crew, the DARDO has a welded aluminium hull and turret to which supplementary armoured steel panels are added. There are two firing ports in each side of the upper hull and one in the door in the rear ramp which allow the infantry squad to fight from the vehicle.

Its primary armament is a 25mm Oerlikon KBA automatic cannon in a two-man HITFIST turret, similar
to the one on Poland’s ROSOMAK though that vehicle uses a 30mm Bushmaster cannon, secondary armament is a 7.62mm coaxial machinegun, and a second 7.62mm machinegun can be fitted on a pintle mount on the turret roof for close air defence; known as the Beretta MG 42/59, these machineguns are licensed copies of the German Rheinmetall MG3. Either TOW or SPIKE anti-armour missile launchers can be added each side of the turret, but these were not fitted to the examples we photographed in Spain.

The DARDO has operationally deployed on Op IRAQI FREEDOM and with ISAF in Afghanistan, plus has served under UN colours in Lebanon with UNIFIL. In total 200 were originally ordered with plans to increase the fleet to 500, but defence cutbacks in the middle of the last decade limited total numbers and infantry brigades. Like DARDO, it has a 25mm main armament and a 7.62mm coaxial machinegun in a HITFIST turret to provide support for its dismounted infantry section, plus a pintle-mounted Beretta MG 42/59 in front of the commander’s hatch for close air defence. Those vehicles used by the Fire Support companies have Israeli SPIKE anti-armour launchers fitted either side, but we did not spot any of these variants at Chinchilla.

Being wheeled, FRECCIA can travel faster and further on roads and tracks than its tracked equivalent and with less maintenance being required; tracks offer better off-road performance than wheels but require constant attention and mechanical wear out much faster. Top road speed is quoted as being 105km/hr, off-road speeds of 25-30km/hr are possible and operational range is out to 1,000km on-road or 800km off-road.

Although FRECCIA is classed as an Infantry Fighting Vehicle rather than an Armoured Personnel Carrier, it does not have any firing ports in the sides to allow the infantry to fight
from the vehicle, though of course the turret with 25mm cannon and 7.62mm coaxial machinegun allow the crew to engage attackers. There is, however, a large rectangular roof hatch behind the turret which allows soldiers to provide top cover during patrols if the vehicle is not batten down to protect against shrapnel and CBRN threats.

The original Italian Army order for 249 IFVs plus four ambulances is now close to completion and a second order has been placed for 381 more vehicles to enter service over the next decade. It is hoped that this latest generation IFV will serve the needs of the modernised Italian Army through to the middle of the 21st Century.

**LINCE VTLM**

Manufactured by Iveco, the LINCE Veicolo Tattico Leggero Multiruolo or LYNX Light Tactical Multirole Vehicle is possibly the most successful European vehicle in its category. Usually described as the Iveco LMV, in addition to a couple of thousand already in service with the Italian Armed Forces, well over 2,000 more have entered service with other nations including Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, and the United Kingdom, plus Lebanon and Tunisia, with even the Russians now fielding both Italian-made and licence-built versions. The Ukraine also ordered a small number of LMVs just prior to the Russian-backed insurrection in its eastern provinces. Known as the PANTHER CLV (Command & Liaison Vehicle) in UK service, where it is configured to carry four plus a BOWMAN communications package, the LINCE is a five-man light armoured utility vehicle with a combat weight of around 7 tonnes which can be up-armoured with composite panels to provide protection against mines and heavier infantry weapons. The vehicle has been deployed operationally in Afghanistan by Italy, Norway and the UK, plus the Italians have also used it on United Nations service with UNIFIL.

Powered by an Iveco F1D engine developing 185hp, through a six-speed automatic gearbox, the LINCE has a road speed in excess of 125 km/hr and a range of 400km. In addition to driver plus four troops in its armoured crew compartment, which sits inside the wheelbase for landmine blast protection, it can also carry a small payload in a hard top cargo compartment over the rear wheels with accessible lockers both sides and to the rear.

Dimensionally the LINCE is reasonably similar in height and length to a Land Rover Defender 110, but it is about 250mm wider and it weighs twice as much. Like the British, the Italians use the LMV/CLV as a protected vehicle performing tasks which previously would previously have been undertaken with unarmoured Defenders (the Italians use a large number of Defender 90s which they call AR90) but which now need to be carried out in armoured vehicles due to the often asymmetric nature of modern conflicts.

As and when space and time permit we will try to take a more in-depth look at the IVECO LMV/CLV in British service.
Lowa Z6 GORE-TEX® Brown
4 season multi-functional hybrid military boot

The Lowa Z6 GORE-TEX® builds on the success of the highly rated Lowa Zephyr as a tactical lightweight military boot. After receiving requests from military personnel that needed a boot capable of a number of different tasks & functions that sat between a traditional Combat boot and a multi-functional military boot. The result is a hybrid lightweight boot that still retains stability and the characteristics of a lightweight hiking boot but offers the support and protection found in a tactical boot.

Lowa Zephyr GORE-TEX® Brown
4 season tactical lightweight boot

- Lowa ‘Cross’ Sole unit
- Comfort & breathability
- Lowa climate control system
- MTP & Multicam® compatible
- GORE-TEX® Performance comfort
- Durably waterproof and breathable

Lowa Innox GORE-TEX® Coyote Tan
4 season tactical lightweight boot

- Lowa ‘NXT’ sole unit
- Comfort & breathability
- Lowa climate control system
- MTP & Multicam® compatible
- GORE-TEX® Performance comfort
- Durably waterproof and breathable

For More Information & Stockists Contact:
Task Force Distribution Ltd.
Unit 1, Burrington Business Park, Burrington Road, Plymouth, PL5 3LX
T: 01752 704522 F: 01752 773727
W: www.lowamilitaryboots.com E: sales@taskforcedistribution.co.uk
I had my first taste of an Italian Armed Forces ration pack while sitting in a meadow alongside the Tejo (Tagus) River near Tancos in Portugal during a memorable lunch break in an ACE Mobile Force artillery heli-mobility exercise in 1992. Some of the gun crews from the various nations participating, on spotting that I had not been issued a ration pack, offered me spare items from their own cartons. There was a fair bit of banter at the time about which country served their troops the best rations, with Italians and Spanish arguing theirs were the best; I was too much of a

It has been said a million times before, and it is very doubtful that Napoleon Bonaparte was the first to say it, but an army really does march on its stomach. On the modern battlefield there is even less chance of living off the land in the way that Napoleon’s troops’ opponents were often expected to do, so the individual combat ration pack is an essential part of the kit carried by almost every frontline soldier today, be that in or on his vehicle or in his pack and webbing.
The diplomat to pass an opinion and just mumbled platitudes.

The Italian rations today have not changed very much from those issued in 1992, though the current pack configuration appears to have been instigated around 1996/7 and has been tweaked a little every few years since. As far as I can determine, the last technical specification (316/U.I.) for the Razione Viveri Da Combattimento (Combat Food Ration) was issued in June 2012 and the Module G ration I photographed out in Chinchilla in November is to this spec.

A total of seven different 24-hour packs, one for each day of the week, consisting of Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner courses packed in individual white cardboard cartons in a tough green foil outer pouch are issued. Each Menu, which the Italians call a Module, bears a letter between A and G and each is also colour coded;
in addition to a large circular spot on the foil outer pouch, the label on each inner carton is the same colour. The ration photographed here is Module G, colour-coded blue, and it appeared this was the only menu being eaten by the crew of the Freccia IFV I chanced upon one lunchtime during TRIDENT JUNCTURE.

As the troops were out in the field for several days and only had sufficient ration packs for the duration, I was not able to liberate one but I did photograph the contents of one pack which they specifically opened for me. The Breakfast carton, which is the smallest of the three meals, also contains the Accessories and the Lunch carton is the largest of the three; in the Mediterranean region where a siesta is often the norm it is lunch, rather than dinner, that is often the main meal of the day.

Many NATO countries have gone over to retort pouches, or freeze-dried packs if operating under Alpine or Arctic conditions where water is freely available, but the Italians still include a number of tinned products. This makes their 24-hour packs heavier than the UK equivalent, and most references put them as being around 2.8kg for the full daily complement.

Module G tins include Tortellini al Ragù (ring pasta in meat sauce) and Wurstel (small Vienna sausages) plus Macedonia (fruit salad) for lunch. The tins for dinner are Tacchino (Turkey) and Insalata di Riso (a rice salad dish containing ham or tuna plus olives). Sweet biscuits are included for breakfast and savoury crackers for the other two meals. A large boxed tube of sweetened condensed milk paste comes in the breakfast carton and this is intended to last all day, both as a creamer for coffee and a spread for the crackers. Two packs of fruit jelly sweets are also issued for breakfast, as is a bar of dark chocolate, bran tablets and multivitamins are issued for lunch, and an energy bar is issued for dinner.

The only drinks are one powdered coffee sachet per meal, with one sugar sachet for each. Three disposable toothbrushes are included in the Breakfast carton, as are a field cooker with fuel tablets and matches, one spoon, two cutlery sets and six napkins. As is to be expected, each Module varies slightly in food contents, but in essence all are quite similar to Module G and I suspect meals might get rather boring after a week or two in the field.
UK TACTICAL.com
WWW.UKTACTICAL.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/UKTACTICAL
+44 (0) 1642 612524

Elastic Mag Pouches
Single/Double/Triple MC/CT/BLK/A-TACS FG

Hook
Now Available

Pathfinder Chest Rig
To fit the Covert Plate Carrier

Pentagon
Pentagon Artaxes SF Jacket Level V

Nexus SF Helmets
With or Without Rails

Warrior
Covert Plate Carrier

Crye Precision
Combat Pants and Shirts and IFC

Source Hydration

Clawgear
Multicam Apparel

Tactical Gloves
Full Range of Mechanix and Oakley

Tactical Lights
From Princeton Tec, Petzel and Streamlight

Weapon Sights
From Eotech and Aimpoint

Polymer Quick Release Mags
In Black and Dark Earth

Weapons Holsters
From IMI, Fobus and Blackhawk

Warrior Bags

Clawgear
Coyote/G3 Green Apparel

Warrior Belts

Warrior Recon Plate Carriers

FREE UK MAINLAND DELIVERY


WWW.UKTACTICAL.COM
app out now on android, kindle & apple
issues from £2.49
search ‘combat & survival’ or scan the code below
The Gepanzertes Transport-Kraftfahrzeug Boxer is a modern 8x8 wheeled armoured personnel carrier in service with the armed forces of both Germany and the Netherlands. Germany fields Boxer in infantry section vehicle, command post vehicle, armoured ambulance and driver training vehicle configurations.

In this feature, intended to complement Ian’s Scale Models column starting on Page 70, we will take a brief look at the GTK Boxer schweres geschütztes Sanitätsfahrzeug A1 variant.

With modern forces increasingly operating in environments with asymmetric threats where the status of marked ambulance vehicles is no longer taken for granted, it has become necessary to field medical vehicles with the same level of protection as fighting vehicles. The medical service of the German Armed Forces.
Forces therefore fields a full range of armoured ambulances, including: the Eagle IV Beweglicher Arzt Trupp (BAT), which weighs 9,500kg and allows its crew to provide emergency care to one patient; the Yak BAT, which weighs 13,500kg and allows its crew to provide emergency care to one patient on a stretcher and, in addition, to transport two seated patients; and the Transportpanzer 1A8A2 Fuchs BAT, which weighs 22,500kg and allows its crew to either provide intensive care for one patient on a stretcher or alternatively emergency care for two patients on stretchers and in addition transport one seated patient. The best-protected, and most capable, but also the heaviest, armoured ambulance in service is the GTK Boxer schweres geschütztes Sanitätsfahrzeug (sSgSanKfz).

**DRIVE MODULE AND MISSION MODULE**

The GTK Boxer family of vehicles features a modular design. All variants consist of the common drive module and a mission module that is mounted onto it. By 2016 Germany will receive a total of 272 of the GTK Boxer, of which 72 will be fitted with the ambulance module.

First series production GTK Boxers were delivered to the Bundeswehr in November 2010, and the first GTK Boxer sSgSanKfz ambulance variant entered service in late 2011. Since then they have already seen extensive service with the German ISAF contingent in Afghanistan.

The GTK Boxer sSgSanKfz is in service.
in three different variants, with the A0 being the one initially produced. The A1 variant features several improvements over the basic model: its drive module features improved mine protection and an upgraded electrical system. Also new is that the vehicle is fitted with the CG-12 RCIED ECM system, Optronic Co-Driver’s Sight system, BGAN Explorer 727 SatCom system and TETRAPOL radio system. Externally these versions can be identified by the new style Red Cross markings that are now situated on plates that can be folded away.
The A1+ features many small modifications such as an edge protection for the power operated four movement stretcher platform and a new storage concept.

**MEDICAL STUFF**

The primary role of the GTK Boxer sgsKfz is to transport wounded personnel from the point of injury to Role 1 or Role 2 medical facilities. Its high mobility and high level of mine and armour protection, means the vehicle can operate alongside mechanised and armoured formations, even in high threat areas.

The on-board medical equipment allows the three-man crew of...
the vehicle, among them an emergency physician, to provide emergency and even intensive care. Dependent on the situation, the vehicle can transport either seven seated patients or three patients on stretchers or two patients on stretchers and three seated patients or one intensive care patient.

The vehicle is kitted out to allow its crew to perform virtually all advanced cardiac and trauma life support as well as to deal with airway issues and intoxication issues. In addition to standard materials that are found in the first responder emergency medical pack, the onboard medical equipment includes: an intubation kit, three threefold syringe pumps, an Accuvac exudate suction pump, two Propaq 106 EL vital-signs monitors, a Zoll M defibrillator, medical anti-shock trousers, two Lifebase III oxygen resuscitation apparatus, four oxygen bottles, two spine-boards, a scoop stretcher, some pulse oximeters, an emergency kit for heart and cardio treatment, a refrigerator and three vacuum mattresses.

Centrally mounted in the mission module is a power-operated four-movement stretcher platform that can be moved to the left if required. In case intensive care has to be applied to a patient he is placed on this platform. The tray of the platform can be pulled out to allow easier loading and unloading of patients.

Along the left and right side of the hull two additional stretcher platforms are situated. These can be folded away when not needed. For transporting seated patients seven mine protected suspended strap seats can be mounted under the roof of the mission module.
TECHNICAL DATA

GTK Boxer schweres geschütztes Sanitätsfahrzeug A1

Crew: 3 (driver, vehicle commander and emergency physician) plus up to 7 patients
Manufacturer: ARTEC GmbH, a joint venture of Krauss-Maffei Wegmann GmbH & Co. KG, Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles GmbH and Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles Nederland B.V.

- Length: 8,330mm
- Width: 3,000mm
- Height (top of roof): 3,360mm
- Ground clearance: 500mm

Gross vehicle weight: 36,500kg
Combat weight: 34,850kg
Payload: 1,920kg
Military Load Class (MLC): 42

- Maximum speed: 103km/hr (statutorily regulated to 85km/h)
- Minimum speed: 3km/hr
- Maximum gradient: 60%
- Maximum side slope: 30%
- Trench Crossing: 2,000mm
- Step climbing capability: 800mm
- Road range: 1,050km
- Fording: 1,200mm

Engine: MTU 8V 199 TE20 8-cylinder V turbocharged diesel engine developing 720hp at 2,300rpm
Transmission: Allison HD4800SP automatic transmission with seven forward and four reverse gears
Drive configuration: permanent 8x8 drive with four axle differentials and two inter-axle differentials
Suspension: independent suspension with two suspension units per wheel-station, each including a large coil spring and a hydraulic shock absorber
Steering: hydraulic assisted power steering working on the two front axles
Brakes: pneumatically actuated hydraulic dual circuit brake system, incorporating disc brakes on all wheels
Wheels and tyres: flat base rims fitted with Michelin 415/80R 685TR XML TL tyres with Hutchinson run-flat inserts

Other systems: Smoke grenade discharger system, Central Tyre Inflation System (CTIS), overpressure type NBC protection system, air conditioning, GPS based navigation system, Optronic Co-Driver’s Sight (OCDS) system, rear view camera, Sanitätsdienstliches Führungs- und Einsatzsystem (SAFES) medical service command and control system and communication suit (including vehicle intercom, SEM80/90 VHF radios, BGAN Explorer 727 SatCom system and TETRAPOL radio system).
When we look at the current character of conflict, in some circles called hybrid warfare, we see that a force can go from fighting a traditional state-on-state high intensity battle and then, within a limited geographical space, go to dispensing aid to displaced people, all under the eyes of journalists and the population instantly uploading everything the force does to social media. The current use of asymmetric tactics to offset the technological advantage of high intensity forces means that governments have to keep force structures and capabilities to tackle conflict across the whole spectrum and accept a certain amount of risk in where they prioritise those capabilities. At the moment since it is perceived that there is less risk from state-on-state high intensity warfare and more likelihood of having to fight asymmetric conflict, most nation’s forces are restructuring and equipping for that.

But is the likelihood of state-on-state conflict on the rise? Can Western forces maintain the technological advantage that they enjoy when it comes to high intensity warfare? One pressure that might cause conflict between states is that of a rapidly growing population which will strain resources. The global population is likely to grow by up to 10 billion by 2045 due to increased life expectancy and increased birth rates in developing countries. Add to rapid urbanisation (70% of the global population is likely to live in cities by 2045) and a growing youth population in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa (which might become disaffected) and the fact that they are migrating in huge numbers to developed countries and one can see the potential for conflict.

Increasing access to the internet will allow, indeed is allowing, migrants to remain more closely connected to events in their native countries which could mean that conflicts are brought back to the host countries they are residing in. It could also mean that the migrants could affect the ability of the host nation to take military action against their country of origin if it was required. There will also be increased tension with large numbers of migrants if they fail to integrate with their host nation.

The migration and growing numbers of people will lead to increasing strain on city infrastructures around the world and climate change will add to the strain, especially if the cities are near the coast. Whilst there will be an increasing demand for food some countries will suffer from a significant decline in agricultural productivity and the climate change will add to water shortages which will not only lead to social tensions and conflict but also make humanitarian crises even greater in magnitude.

Increased globalisation and interdependence means that the impact of any disasters or conflict will affect far beyond where any disaster has occurred and yet the evolution of information technology and increasing computing power will allow people to more accurately predict the impacts of climate change and even crime hotspots. It will become harder to remain anonymous and not be electronically tracked and the increased access to data will raise education levels.

Travel and military technology will become increasingly automated and the numbers of countries which will use advanced military technology will increase. Insurgents already have access to advanced anti-tank capabilities, including missiles and explosively formed projectiles in IEDs, and at the other end of the scale state military forces are building fifth generation stealth fighters such as China’s J-20 or J-31 and Russia’s Sukhoi T 50.

Having the edge in military technology is one thing, but there is also the issue of numbers. Even if Russian and Chinese stealth fighters weren’t as capable as US ones, they could build higher numbers of them and this might prove to be the winning advantage in any future conflict, especially in regional conflict with neighbours such as Taiwan.

Over the next 30 years Chinese defence expenditure will rival that of the US and the two countries will account for almost half of the world’s defence spending. Other countries will rise in prominence through increased technological capacity, including India, which is a major customer for Russian technology including the Sukhoi T 50 in which it has invested half of the development costs with the Russians. Although Russia will also increase its defence expenditure it will not be able to keep up with China or India.

Other countries, such as Brazil and Mexico, will increase their military capacity and move their forces onto the global stage. Security forces will use increasing numbers of women in frontline roles, and more unmanned systems too, but then so will insurgent and terrorist groups. The increased magnitude of humanitarian disaster brought on by the climate change means security forces will have to also increase their capability to support their own governments in disaster relief and to provide a deployable capacity to help other less developed countries.

By Robert Shaw

Robert Shaw of Optimal Risk Management Ltd. (OptimalRisk.com) is a former British Army ATO and IEDD/ WIS Operator turned EOD Threat and Counter-IED Trainer and Consultant.
The 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment [1 R IRISH] is one of the UK’s six new Light Protected Mobility infantry battalions formed as part of the ARMY 2020 restructuring. Numbering approximately 600 personnel when at full establishment, the battalion operates primarily from FOXHOUND Light Protected Patrol Vehicles as part of the Adaptable Force commanded by Headquarters 1st [UK] Division. Formerly part of 16 Air Assault Brigade, it has recently been assigned to 160th Infantry Brigade & Headquarters Wales though on its recent TRIDENT JUNCTURE deployment it operated under HQ 4th Infantry Brigade (see page 28).

Initially 1 R IRISH were reassigned under the ARMY 2020 restructuring programme to 7th Infantry Brigade but it was subsequently decided to keep them based at Tern Hill in Shropshire under 160th Infantry Brigade so the CSM wears the red on green Tactical Recognition flash, of what was formerly the Welsh Border Brigade, on his upper left arm below the small Union Flag. On his upper right arm he wears the shamrock green over black Drop Zone Flash of the Royal Irish Regiment and on his helmet the green on black Shamrock cap badge, also sported on bush hats (as seen above).

The uniform worn by B Company’s CSM is, as is only to be expected, manufactured from Multi-Terrain Pattern (MTP) camouflage fabric which was speedily introduced in 2010 for operational service in Afghanistan’s Helmand Province and was subsequently adopted for general service. A skilful rework of Crye Precision’s commercial MultiCam pattern incorporating elements of Britain’s DPM camouflage without losing the general colours and effects of the well-proven American camo, MTP has these days replaced both Woodland and Desert variants of DPM pretty much across the board; though, as can be seen in the upper left corner of the images on page 59, some items of DPM kit such as rucksacks and pouches can still be spotted in use.

For those interested in firearms, the CSM carries an SA80A2 assault rifle fitted with an Elcan SPECTER sight, a Laser Light Module Mk.3 mounted on the right side, Picatinny rails and a vertical downgrip. His service footwear is the standard issue Boot Combat High Liability (the Alt-Berg Defender version) in MoD Brown.

Images © Bob Morrison
Badger Tac
Bldg 350, Westcott Venture Park,
Westcott, Aylesbury,
Bucks HP18 0XB
01296 658600
enquiries@badgertac.co.uk
www.badgertac.com
Established 2009

TACTICAL
Wide range of tactical gear, clothing & equipment.

AIRSOFT
The experts in airsoft based training platforms.

CORPORATE
28 acre training venue, with available for private hire. Including, 20+ buildings, woods & road system...

BRITISH TACTICAL
WWW.BRITISHTACTICAL.COM
DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED IN THE UK
VISIT WEBSITE FOR DETAILS OR CONTACT 0208 501 6803

6 point Yoke - Wear over and under armour with no loss of comfort

MOLLE BELTS - So many options you’ll think they’re tailored

CREATE YOUR COMPLETE MOLLE BELT ORDER

Utility Pouches
Extensive range with variety of options

Triple Universal Ammo Pouch
Accept 3 x 5.56 or 2 x 7.62

NEW Fold out IFAK
'simple yet brilliant design'**

*Customer review, check site for full and more reviews

Materials & Hardware available to purchase

*Black|*Molle|*Olive|*Multicam|*Scorpion
FREE SURVIVAL KIT
with every 12 Month Subscription courtesy of militarykit.com worth £16.50!

CLAIM YOUR FREE KIT NOW, INCLUDING:
• Reflective Survival Blanket
• Olive Para Cord & Flint Bracelet – (with integrated flint, steel and whistle)
• SOS Compass
• Water Resistant Survival Case with Signalling Mirror

For many more great products, visit militarykit.com

SUBSCRIBE & SURVIVE!!

PLUS
Save 10% off cover price

PLUS
Free delivery to your door*

Sub rates: 12 Issues
UK: £42.66
Europe (Airmail): £49.95
Worldwide (Surface Mail): £49.95
Worldwide (Airmail): £55.95

How to subscribe...
Online at combatandsurvival.com
Telephone: call 01484 437319
Post: return the form below

COMBAT & SURVIVAL - LOW PRICE SUBSCRIPTION OFFER (1 YEAR ONLY + FREE GIFT)

T&Cs Apply.
Principally aimed at the more active user, this is a slim fit lightweight jacket using Polartec Alpha insulation. Designed specifically for use with a rucksack or harness it has no lower pockets but does have two reasonable size chest pockets, though these are not able to take a normally folded OS map.

There is a good sized inner pocket, which is able to take the whole jacket if you want to pack it away into a small space. The armpits have special stretch inserts to allow for extra breathability and flex when required. The permanent hood is a nice one and volume-adjustable. I had cause to be glad of it on a couple of cold windy days. Elasticated cuffs also help to keep the wind out.

One real word of warning on this jacket reference sizing. It does state it is a form fitting design but I requested an XL to review as I am normally an L, but even then this is quite a ‘snug’ fit. [Or is this the result of too many pints of Otter Amber, Ed?]

This sizing caution aside, the Bormio is a really nice comfortable, cosy, breathable jacket. Of note, this is one of Vaude’s Green Shape environmentally-friendly products.
EDZ have an ever-expanding range of gear which now includes Merino wool; this wool from a breed of sheep of southern Portuguese origins is very soft and fine with high lanolin content which gives it antibacterial properties.

Their Comfort 5000 Socks are well named. Designed for colder conditions and well padded for comfort on long days on your feet. I have used them on milder days out on the moors and found them to be very comfortable and will most certainly take them on planned trips to the Arctic where I think they will be very good to go in ski boots. Being Merino-based they can be worn for days without washing.

Merino Wool Gloves are seamless for added comfort and also work very well as liner gloves for the likes of waterproof mitts which, for me, make a great combination. These have a good long cuff to prevent that annoying cold spot around your wrist. I have used these as stand-alone gloves and they work well for this so, all in all, these are a good practical solution to cold hands.

Now here is something different, and new, from Leatherman. For a start this tool has no blades.

I can think of a close mate of mine who should have this one, having recently stabbed his own hand with his Leatherman. Oooops! He is a C&S reader as well. Darby, you know who you are.....

On the more serious side the TREAD looks a bit like a section of tank track. In most cases each link has three individual tools, including two drivers and a hex key. Links can be added or taken off so as to personalise the tool and/or make it fit. Yes fit. This is a wearable Leatherman, as it works as a bracelet. It can also be used as a strap for a Leatherman Watch. Not only this, it is currently acceptable to take onto commercial aircraft, so if you are flying hand luggage only you can at least take some tools with you. However, being solid stainless steel it should get the scanner going if you forget to put it in the box at Security.

The TREAD is quite chunky to wear but if you want tools to hand this is no bad place to have them. Certainly different and I am sure it will have its place in the market as it has the expected credentials of a Leatherman being well made and, I am sure, long-lasting.
A while back I covered the Kestrel Drop, which is quite a simple yet effective device. The Sportsman is a quantum leap forward in technical ability. In fact it is a bit like having the Met Office in your pocket.

Kestrel amounts to a handful of compressed technology. Sometimes I wonder if perhaps the weather forecasters should have a Kestrel in hand and just pop outside a few times a day. Perhaps I should be careful here as my neighbour works at the Met Office in Exeter. (So does my son-in-law, Ed.)

It is difficult to know where to begin with this as it is just such a comprehensive device. I would normally direct readers to a website as a top-up for info, but with the Kestrel Sportsman it is really the only place to look. The Sportsman will do a great deal for you and is quite task-specific in detail and far more than I could ever deal with in my small space here. In reality if you have any interest at all in the outdoors or the weather or both this will be of interest. If you depend on knowledge of weather-related info, from wind speed and direction to a whole raft of statistics from temperature to pressure and elevation, the Kestrel will help you. Since I first became aware of these I have seen them in use by various people on TV and of course many military specialists, from snipers to JTACs, use Kestrel meters.

The pictures here and this somewhat simplified review are based on the Kestrel Sportsman model. As you will see from the website, there is a wide range of variants so suit both pocket and needs of the end user. Of specific interest to some readers here, I am sure, is the ability of the Kestrel to assist with ballistic information. It can be matched to a number of specific weapons. If you fly, walk, ski, climb, get out on the water or just want to know the wind speed, this device will have a place in your kit.

It is remarkably light and robust for its capability. As you will see from the photos this unit has its own wind vane gives wind direction as well as a lot of other information.

I caught the Tilley bug eight or nine years ago... from my son, Bruce. So that puts to bed that these are ‘old folks’ hats. Bruce was seldom without his Tilley on his worldwide expeditions, and especially when trekking in the Himalayas, but in the end his original Tilley finally gave up and had to be replaced.

It was my 2007 Everest Base Camp trek that saw me with my first and only Tilley. Since then there are few trips where it has not been with me. It has been to many countries, stuffed in numerous rucksacks, and has been washed many times. Over the years it has appeared with me countless times on the pages of C&S, so as I planned our trip to Africa I decided it was time for Jean to have one too, because there is really no better hat for such a trip.

Our trip was going to be hot, dusty, sunny and perhaps wet, with a whole lot of travel also involved where it would need to look decent straight out of being stuffed into the daysack. Jean chose the TS MO Organic Airflo model, which was perfect for this trip as it is vented; being a hot-headed lass, she needs venting! Tilley now have a huge range to choose from, which I got to see on a recent visit to the Tilley Den in deepest Cornwall. It is worthy of note that although these are not the cheapest hats in the world, their Canadian manufacturer is happy to stand by them not to wear out for life, and they are insured against loss for two years and with 50% discount against ‘all perils’. Not bad really. Highly recommended.
We all need a decent daysack. It may be for just day-to-day transport of our gear for work or around town, or perhaps on our travels, but also for days out on the hill. Ideally we need one that will do all these things.

Size is always up for grabs and often very personal. Some prefer a very small backpack on the assumption if you can't get much into it will be lighter. Others, perhaps where I stand on this, prefer something a bit larger. You don't have to fill it up but it is good to have a bit of spare capacity if you need it. Vaude have this argument covered with the Brenta range as it covers from 25 through to 50 litres. On this occasion I have had the smaller 25-litre to try and have not been disappointed at all.

For a relatively small backpack the Brenta has plenty of useful, practical features.

The lid has both inner and outer zipped pockets for those small items you need to hand. There are good size drink bottle pouches on both sides (often these are too small and bottles fall out) as well as provision for a hydration bladder. Straps are good and not bulky and the waist strap has zip pockets for munchies. Above all the buckles are good ones. They have not 'bitten me' as some do and they work with gloves and one-handed. The back is adjustable (Aerolex Easy Adjust) and also has a tensioned mesh panel to allow your hot back to breathe so reducing that nasty 'sweaty back' syndrome. Just to cap things off, when it's raining there is a removable hi-viz cover tucked away in the base.

For a small rucksack the Brenta has a lot to offer and is comfortable to carry.
From the end of the millennium the US Army and US Marine Corps started to make extensive use of the MOLLE system and shortly afterwards the UK and several other NATO nations armed forces’ adopted it on vests, packs and load-carriage belts. It did not take me long to pick up on how this system could make my life much easier on military (and off-road desert racing) photography assignments which often require me to travel with a lot of kit but then speedily reconfigure my load to split it into living and working packs.

This dual travelling configuration is most important when I am flying commercially and need to separate valuable and relatively fragile camera and computing equipment to transport it as cabin baggage in a limited size and weight pack, with my less critical kit travelling as hold luggage which is likely to be dropped and maybe even soaked between drop-off and luggage reclaim belt. By carrying MOLLE pouches inside my bergen rucksack I can comparatively speedily reconfigure my (usually 55x40x20cm and 10kg compliant) daysack to allow me to carry up to 20kg of easily accessible cameras, lenses, accessories and a laptop or netbook with peripherals.

Ilford-based British Tactical not only manufactures a wide range of standard pouches which are compatible with UK MoD issue kit, and with POUCHES & ATTACHMENTS

In the middle of the 1990s the US Army’s SRD+EC (Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center) at Aberdeen Proving Ground (part of SSC Natick) developed the Modular Lightweight Load-Bearing Equipment (MOLLE) system “designed to enhance the survivability and lethality of the modern soldier and marine”. A replacement for the 1970s all-purpose lightweight individual carrying equipment (ALICE) system, MOLLE combat vests and load packs utilised the distinctive Pouch Attachment Ladder System (PALS) consisting of inch-wide (25mm) parallel horizontal straps onto which components with similar vertical straps could be laced to allow the user to vary configuration to suit personal operational requirements.
MOLLE/PALS systems used by many other military plus police users, but they also produce their own designs of load belts, yokes and harnesses as well as a number of unique pouches and bags. In addition to bulk manufacturing standard designs, which are mostly made to order, they also regularly produce specials and even one-offs as well as configuring their standard range to suit customers’ specific requirements; for example, if a unit or individual needed a very small number of, say, non-standard ammo pouches to suit specialist magazines their bespoke manufacturing process is adaptable enough to cope with this without incurring massive cost penalties or requiring large numbers to be produced to make unit cost acceptable.

Although I mostly wanted my Grab Bag as a second item of carry-on luggage (not only do budget airlines keep C&S travel costs down but they often get us to airports that the more expensive carriers fail to reach) I also wanted to be able to fix it to my main rucksack to leave my hands free (I carry my SOURCE daysack/camera bag on my chest when travelling). The simple solution to this was to use two pairs of Straps with UK military specification ITW NEXUS quick-release buckles and National Mouldings T-mounts either end. As BritTec can supply T-mounts on tapes fitted with high quality D-ring, Square Ring, Ladder Lock, Tri-glide, or Split Bar (male or female) Side Release furniture to suit customers’ precise requirements it only took a couple of minutes on the phone for Dave to suggest the combination I needed.

I also have a couple of stand-alone equipment pouches with PALS tapes, or laser-cut slots, which from time to time I need to sling over my shoulder rather than strapping to my daysack or bergen. Using a short tape with a T-mount on one end and a D-ring on the other allows me to use a removable camera case or laptop case strap with these pouches. For better illustration I have fitted a military colour combination to a black pouch.

If the illustrations on these pages trigger an idea or two and you cannot find precisely what you need on the BritishTactical.com website, though there are plenty of options on there, give Dave or his team a ring on 0208 501 6803 and seek advice. There is bound to be a solution and, even though all fabrics and components used are to genuine military specification, prices will not break the bank.

COMBAT & SURVIVAL | 69
This month I’m looking at some of the recently released kits relating to modern tanks and armoured vehicles being offered by Revell and Takom. First off we have a number of new kits from Revell, including 1/35th scale and 1/72nd scale examples of the German Bundeswehr GTK Boxer. Revell have, quite rightly, gained a reputation for their 1/72nd scale military vehicles thanks to the superb quality of the detailing and moulding; this new Boxer is no exception.

The level of detail is quite superb for what is, after all, a relatively small model that measures just 11.1cm in length. The kit itself (Ref. 03209) is moulded in dark green plastic with a comprehensive instruction booklet and decal sheet included in the box. The model retails at around £11.99, so if you like modern German armour it’s well worth a look.

Sticking with the same subject but moving up in scale, we have a 1/35th kit of the GTK Boxer sgsSanKfz battlefield ambulance (Ref.03241). Once again the mouldings are supplied in dark green plastic but, unlike the smaller cousin, this kit provides separate moulded rubber tyres for the wheels. The quality and fit of the parts is excellent and easily matches anything the Far Eastern companies can supply but, unlike their competitors, the Revell kits are significantly cheaper with this particular model retailing at around £26.99, whereas it would be close to double that from other manufacturers.

The level of detailing, especially around the suspension area is superb and interior detail...
is included for the driver’s compartment, though not for the separately moulded mission pod at the rear. Markings and details of camouflage schemes are provided for two ambulances, one of which served in Afghanistan with ISAF in 2013. For alternative paint schemes turn back to Carl’s article on page 51 of this issue.

Once again Revell have released a great model of a popular subject at a sensible price and that is bound to ensure it sells in great numbers, especially as it represents fantastic value for money.

Our final new releases from Revell this month go down in size considerably, being moulded to 1/144th scale. The two sets, Bundeswehr Vehicles (Ref. 03351) and US Army Vehicles (Ref. 03350) each provide six vehicles in the box; in case of the Bundeswehr set there are two M47 tanks, two HS30 infantry carriers and two MAN cargo trucks, while in the case of the US Army set there are two Sherman tanks, two M8 Greyhound armoured cars and two GMC cargo trucks.

The individual vehicles are tiny, just 4.8cm in length at their largest, but the detailing is reasonable considering their size, if a little simplified compared to larger models. The models should be fairly quick to put together and are clearly aimed at wargamers but, as with other Revell products, they represent good value for money at just £8.99 each.

Revell model kits are available from all good toy and model retailers. For UK outlets visit: revell.de/en
MODERN ARMOUR

Takom Chieftains

By Ian Young

Also new this month is a trio of 1/35th scale Chieftain tank models from Takom. The first model represents the Mk 5/P (Ref. 2027), the earliest of the marks from Takom and includes optional parts and decals to allow the builder to create either the British Army Mk 5 or the export model. As such it's a much improved model compared to the much older Tamiya offering, but in saying that it also costs more than twice as much as the Tamiya kit so a lot depends on just how much you value the accuracy and detail of a model kit.

Not content with releasing one new Chieftain model, Takom have also released kits of the later Mk 10 and Mk 11 versions of the Chieftain MBT (Ref. 2028 & 2026 respectively), both of which are fitted with the Stillbrew armour package, something that has only been available up until now as an add-on package to fit the old Tamiya kit. Once again the kits are beautifully detailed, though I personally feel that they haven’t quite captured the look of the Stillbrew armour on the turret, and may have gone a step too far in providing separate track pads for the individual link tracks, which could drive you to distraction if you don’t have the patience of a saint! Photo etched brass parts and clear moulded parts for the lights are also included along with decals for several vehicles.

Left: A peek inside the Mk.11 box - parts are moulded in light grey plastic

No doubt time will tell as to how well these new kits are received, but with a typical retail price ranging anything from £40 to £60 depending on where you buy them from, they’re no small investment.
WELCOME TO
www.armysurplusandtoys.com
HERE IS A £10 OFF VOUCHER
CODE: army10
WHY NOT HAVE A LOOK OR CALL
US TODAY ON: 0787504970

ARMY SURPLUS
AND TOYS

PENCARI
Bespoke training solutions to
prepare today’s specialists for
tomorrow’s uncertainties.
www.pencari-training.com

SEE YOUR ADVERTISEMENT HERE!
Call 01484 437319

Combat & Survival
FREE
Leder Gris Wax Oil
with Altberg
militarykit.co.uk

Established in 1945 we offer the very best prices for
your outdoor survival & military needs
Forces Discount

Leith Army Stores
7-10 Brunswick Place, Edinburgh, EH7 5HW
0131 556 2337

Combat & Survival is now...
Download all your favourite
features, kit tests, kit reps,
survival tactics & forces profiles
direct to your computer every month.
Visit: www.combatandsurvival.com
to buy your copy today.

Turn this advantage in
space to your
Survival
Digital

Classifieds: Call Fran Smith on 01484 437319 or email fran.smith@hitmedialtd.com
Next month we will continue our TRIDENT JUNCTURE coverage by focussing on NATO’s Spanish-led Multinational Armoured Brigade in action at CENAD San Gregorio, up north near Zaragoza, where nearly 600 Paras from the 82nd Airborne Brigade dropped straight into the battle after flying overnight across the Atlantic from three different bases in the United States. Carl has just finished working with elite Canadian snipers in Poland and will be bringing us an exclusive feature on the men and their weapons.

On the operational side, Erwan de Cherisey has been on patrol with MINUSMA in Mali and we will be bringing you his report on the Bangladeshi Battalion operating out of Gao. It had been our intention to bring you Part 2 of Bob’s feature on the UK Combined Arms Manoeuvre Demo this month but as we ran out of pages it is being held over until the March issue. We will also have a PREPPERS SPECIAL next month, written by Jason and Bob who both have internationally published Survival books with their name on the cover, but as there is so much going into the main magazine we will have to put that in a Free Supplement.


Contents may change subject to operational developments!
FixnZip

- Easy to apply
- Small, medium & large
- Repairs tooth & coil, metal & plastic zippers
- Non corrosive surface
- No tools or sewing needed
- Starts anywhere on the zipper
- Durable, reusable & interchangeable

Order online now from www.niton999.co.uk

BlueLight Direct...

BlueLight Direct are actively seeking UK stockists for the FixnZip product line. If you are interested in stocking the FixnZip please call 01293 402025 or email sales@bluelightdirect.co.uk for trade prices.

www.bluelightdirect.co.uk