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21 January 2009

Jean Rhodri

ARMED FORCES DAY – 27 JUNE 2009

I am writing to inform you about our plans to hold the first Armed Forces Day on Saturday 27 June this year.

As you will be aware, we announced our plans to hold an Armed Forces Day when we published our response to the Report of Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces in October last year.¹ I was grateful for your support in preparing that response. The intent behind Armed Forces Day is to provide an occasion during which the whole nation has the opportunity to show their appreciation for the contribution made to society by all those who serve and have served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

The title "Armed Forces Day" has been chosen to reflect the wider Armed Forces family of serving personnel (both regular and reserve), veterans and the cadet forces. This sense of inclusiveness is reflected in the strapline for the Day: "Honouring Britain's Armed Forces, past, present and future."

¹ The Government's Response to the Report of Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces, October 2008.

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
Office of the First Minister
Welsh Assembly Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ


Building on the success of previous Veterans Day celebrations, we plan to mark the occasion with a wide range of community-led events taking place in towns and cities around the country. Last year, we supported over 100 such events, which in Wales included events in Cardiff and Caernarfon. I was heartened by the incredible response from local councils, ex-Service organisations and schools that organised Veterans Day events. With the move to Armed Forces Day, we hope that events will attract an even greater level of support this year given the evidently strong public support for our Armed Forces.

To provide a focus for national recognition, we also intend to support a UK national event and a number of local authorities and other organisations have also submitted bids to be the national event host. There were a number of compelling bids that offered excellent prospects to host a prestigious and fitting event (including from Cardiff City Council), but against stiff competition, we have selected Chatham Historic Dockyard to be the host for the 2009 national event as it offered the best prospect for meeting our overall requirements. The Veterans Minister will be announcing the winning bid with a written statement to Parliament and at a press facility when he visits Chatham on 22 January, and we plan to embargo the announcement until then.

I have no doubt that there will be a vast range of initiatives from public, private and third sector organisations seeking to contribute to the Day, including from those in the education sector and from the sporting, entertainment and leisure industries. We will be keen to support these wherever we can, but we do not wish to add unduly to the burden of our hard pressed Armed Forces given their current level of commitment, so the engagement of serving personnel (regular and reserve) in events may necessarily be quite limited this year. That said, we hope that they will participate where possible and we hope that many events will be characterised by the presence of veterans, serving personnel and cadets standing side by side.

I would be grateful if you and your Ministerial colleague could do what you can within Wales to support the Day and help use the occasion to raise public consciousness of the vital role that our Armed Forces, past and present, make and have made to our security and well being.

Your officials can contact the Armed Forces Day Project Director, Air Commodore Martin Sharp who will be pleased to give whatever help and advice he can (Tel: 0207 8078212; email: Martin.sharp449@mod.uk). I am copying this note to Paul Murphy.

Yours


JOHN HUTTON



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**From: Bruno Peek, OBE, MVO,
On behalf of The Ministry of Defence**

Reply to:

Armed Forces Day
'Fly A Flag For Our Armed Forces'
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8 May 2009

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
Office of the First Minister
Welsh Assembly Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

13 MAY 2009

Dear Mr Morgan

Further to our letter of 9 March 2009, we have pleasure in confirming that the Local Authorities we approached in Wales have all agreed to participate and will 'Fly A Flag For Our Armed Forces' at 10.30am on Monday 22 June.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and assistance in achieving this unique situation, honouring Britain's Armed Forces past, present and future.

Yours faithfully

**Bruno Peek, OBE, MVO
Pageantmaster**



20 MAY 2009
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From: Bruno Peek, OBE, MVO,
On behalf of The Ministry of Defence

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'Fly A Flag For Our Armed Forces'
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Rt. Hon. Rhodri Morgan
Office of the First Minister
Welsh Assembly Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

16th May 2009

Dear Mr. Morgan,
RE: 'FLY A FLAG FOR OUR ARMED FORCES - 22ND JUNE 2009.

You will be delighted to learn that ALL the local authorities approached within WALES to take part in 'Fly A Flag For Our Armed Forces' from 10-30am on 22nd June through to Monday 29th June 2009, have agreed to take part, 'honouring Britain's Armed Forces, past, present and future'.

We would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous support, in assisting us in achieving this undertaking by all those taking part, and God willing, look forward to working with, and having the pleasure of meeting you one day.

Thank you again for your.

Yours sincerely,
Bruno Peek
Bruno Peek OBE MVO
Pageantmaster

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PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS

D/MSU/4/8/3/1/is

15th June 2009

Dear Rhodri.

ARMED FORCES' DAY – JUNE 2010

I was pleased to learn that Cardiff Council have agreed to host the Armed Forces' Day national event next year, which will be the first in our new format of rotating the event between the nation's capitals and other major cities.

I know that Cardiff have planned an excellent event to mark this year's Armed Forces' Day and I am confident that the longer planning time will enable us to work together to lay on something really special next year. I recognise that hosting the national event is a major commitment for the Council and for the Welsh Assembly Government, so the offer is appreciated. I am sure, like us, you would wish to embargo any announcement about this until we make a formal announcement at this year's Armed Forces' Day event on 27 June.

The MOD Armed Forces' Day project team and I very much look forward to working with you and your officials, together with those of Cardiff City, as we plan for next year's event.

I am copying this letter to Peter Hain.

22/6/09

KEVAN JONES MP

ps: I know you will agree great news for Cardiff.

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
Office of the First Minister
National Assembly for Wales
Cathays Park
Cardiff
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