

**DEFENCE CONTRIBUTION: TERRITORIAL ARMY UNIT  
(P.124/97) - REPORT**

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**Presented to the States on 3rd February 1998  
by the Defence Committee**

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**STATES OF JERSEY**

**STATES GREFFE**

## REPORT

### Introduction

1. On 18th September 1997, the States approved a proposition (P.124/97) of Deputy T.J. Le Main of St. Helier concerning the resourcing of, recruiting to, and assistance from the Territorial Army Field Squadron, Royal Engineers since 8th December 1987, the date the States agreed to fund the establishment of the Squadron in Jersey. The proposition required the following issues to be addressed -
  - (a) the full costs for resourcing the Squadron over the period;
  - (b) accommodation provision for non-resident permanent staff;
  - (c) annual manpower levels over the period;
  - (d) a report from the appropriate authority of Her Majesty's Government on the Squadron's contributions to the United Kingdom and its future commitment;
  - (e) instances the Squadron has rendered assistance to the Island in a civil emergency; and
  - (f) whether to continue with the present method of contributing to the United Kingdom's defence costs.

### Background

2. The report accompanying Deputy Le Main's proposition provides a good resumé of the events leading up to the funding of a Territorial Army Field Squadron as the Island's defence contribution. The States agreed that the Island should make a voluntary contribution to the United Kingdom's defence expenditure as early as 28th January 1986, but nearly two years elapsed before the nature of the contribution was determined.

2.1 The Special Committee that was charged to investigate the matter recommended consistently that the contribution should take the form of a Royal Naval Reserve Unit supporting a minesweeper. When the matter came forward for final consideration, Deputy D.A. Carter of St Helier lodged ‘‘au Greffe’’ on 25th November 1986, a proposition asking the States to approve the funding of a Territorial Army Unit as the Island’s defence contribution. The proposition was debated on 24th February 1987, and the States voted to -

- (a) reject - an amendment of Deputy R. Rumboll of St. Helier to include as an option ‘‘a contribution towards the military costs of providing rescue helicopter coverage in the English Channel, the South West Approaches and the Channel Islands Area’’;
- (b) agree - ‘‘that the Island should make (for 1987) an immediate voluntary contribution of £800,000 towards the defence expenditure of the United Kingdom’’. (The figure of £800,000 plus inflation, provides a valid bench mark against which to compare future Defence Contributions); and
- (c) agree - that discussions should start with the Her Majesty’s Government authorities about the establishment of a Territorial Army Unit, based on the estimates of £1.5m capital and £500,000 annual revenue, plus inflation, over the ten year period and report the findings back to the States Assembly.

A key argument influencing the States’ decision was that the establishment of a Territorial Army Unit would revive the long-standing tradition of service represented by the Jersey Militia and carry that much respected tradition forward into the military service requirements of the modern era. There was also strong support for the idea of a personal service commitment by individual Islanders as well as a collective financial contribution by Island taxpayers.

On 8th December 1987, the Defence Committee reported back with a proposition; ‘‘to establish in the Island a Territorial Army Royal Engineer Field Squadron’’ and ‘‘to authorise the Finance and Economics Committee to make available the necessary funds in 1988’’. The proposition was approved by the States Assembly. Contained in this proposition were considerably enhanced estimates compared with those in paragraph 2.1.c. above. The revised estimates were -

- (a) £2m spread over 1988 and 1989 for capital;
- (b) £1.036m a year for revenue; and
- (c) that all accommodation, both barrack and domestic, to be provided separately from the defence contribution by the States.

### Costs

3. Below is a table showing the yearly allocations and expenditure of the Defence Contribution since 1987 for establishing and maintaining the Royal Engineer Field Squadron. It should be noted that the period covers nine years and not 10 years; the 1987 Defence Contribution of £8m was a direct payment to Her Majesty’s Government.

Year	Allocation		Expenditure (£m)
	Capital (£m)	Revenue (£m)	
1988	1	1	2
1989	1	1	2
1990		1	1
1991		1	1
1992		1.7	1.7
1993		1	1
1994		1	1
1995		1.43	1.43
1996		0.956	0.956
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10.086</b>	<b>12.086</b>

- 3.1. It will be noted that the total expenditure in the table is significantly lower than the £16m referred to at the bottom of page 4 in Deputy Le Main's proposition. Even after deducting one year's allocation of £1.6m, to bring the periods into line, the margin remaining is still considerable.
- 3.2. It will be also noted an inflation factor has not been generally applied to the figures in the table throughout the period. Had this been necessary the total expenditure figure would have increased by a further £3m, having made allowance for the £700,000 and the £430,000 additional expenditure in the years 1992 and 1996 respectively. This freed £3m to be redistributed elsewhere within the States budget.
- 3.3. The annual revenue estimate of £1.036m, agreed by the States on 8th December 1987, has been devalued in real terms by 40 per cent. The present revenue estimate is now about 28 per cent lower than would have been the Cash Option based on the 1987 benchmark of £800,000, plus inflation. States Members should be warned, however, that the break even point is near, when the value of the Defence Contribution, still at £1.036m after nine years, will need to be protected by applying an inflation factor.
- 3.4. Considerable savings have also been achieved by the prudent use of the Defence Contribution. As mentioned earlier, the estimates on which the agreement was based made no provision for accommodation, either barrack or domestic, as these should have fallen as additional costs to the States. However, the £3.5m needed to purchase, develop, refurbish and subsequently maintain the undermentioned accommodation is being carried by the Defence Contribution -
  - (a) the Le Quesne Centre at Mont Bingham; plus
  - (b) four domestic units of accommodation to quarter the non-resident permanent staff of the Field Squadron.
- 3.5. It is important at this stage to match the modest estimate of £6.5m (£1.5m capital and £500,000 annual revenue) quoted in Deputy Carter's proposition and also referred to in Deputy Le

Main's proposition, with the generous estimates of £2m capital and £1.036m approved by the States on 8th December 1987. By deducting £3.5m for accommodation from the total expenditure figure in the above table, and adding the inflation factor to the modest estimates in Deputy Carter's proposition, a reconciliation of the two estimates is achieved, as shown below -

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Deputy Carter (Estimate(£m))</b>	<b>Expenditure (Actual over period(£m))</b>
Capital	1.5	2.0
Revenue	7.1*	10.1
Property		(3.5)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>8.6</b>

\* adjusted for inflation

- 3.6. To summarise, the Squadron has through prudent resource management over the nine years achieved a -
- (a) £3m saving for the States by not having to increase the Defence Contribution for inflation;
  - (b) 40 per cent reduction in the value of the current revenue estimate; and
  - (c) £3.5m saving to the States by carrying the costs for all accommodation within the defence contribution.
- 3.7. The reasons for being able to realise these savings is that the estimates submitted by authorities from the Ministry of Defence and approved by the States on 8th December 1987 were generous in the early years of the programme. This was due to -
- (a) the assumption that the Squadron would be at full strength with all its vehicles and equipment from day one;
  - (b) the revenue estimates contained provision for replacement of vehicles and equipment which had only recently been purchased with the capital allocation;

- (c) recruitment falling short of the full Squadron complement; and
  - (d) a significant reduction in usage of vehicles and equipment due to -
    - (i) the part-time nature of a Territorial Army Unit,
    - (ii) the limitation of exercise areas in Jersey, and
    - (iii) the purchase of the latest models.
- 3.8. The reasons why Her Majesty's Government has been able to accept these exceptionally favourable terms which Jersey enjoys are -
- (a) the States agreeing to establish and resource a Territorial Army Unit has meant that the Ministry of Defence has been able to make compensating reductions from its Regular Army structure. Regular Army Units are much more expensive in comparative terms and therefore the reduction in Regular Army commitments multiplies the savings potential of Jersey's defence contribution;
  - (b) the estimates accepted by the States were presented by the Ministry of Defence and therefore the Island is meeting its obligations; and
  - (c) by contributing personnel as well as finance, Jersey's defence contribution is likely to receive more respect as it provides a moral commitment as well as a resource contribution.
- 3.9. A further hidden advantage to the Island under the present arrangement is that the Squadron spends the majority of the Defence Contribution locally. This is because the Squadron is labour intensive (the Squadron employs about 100 soldiers and civilians) and because most of its requirements for goods and repair services are not complex (i.e. not like a minesweeper or helicopters) and are thus able to be provided in Jersey. This

means between £650,000 and £750,000 of the 1997 allocation of £1.072m will be returned to the Island's economy.

### Manpower levels

4. The Third Report by the Special Committee of the States observed that to maintain a complement of 100 soldiers by a Territorial Army Unit might prove difficult. This indeed has been the case. The Ministry of Defence also accepted this situation and in their report attached to the Defence Committee's proposition approved by the States on 8th December 1987, recommended that the barracks should be developed for about 100 all ranks; irrespective of whether the unit was Infantry, Medical or Engineer.
- 4.1. It was the aspiration of the Royal Engineers, who with 30 Jersey men already serving elsewhere in the Territorial Army Reserve (some may have been born in Jersey with no intention or opportunity of returning to the Island) that there was a chance of achieving a Squadron complement of about 130 all ranks. This predictably did not happen.
- 4.2. As the Ministry of Defence accepts a complement of less than 100, it is encouraging to note the manpower levels of the Squadron have occasionally exceeded 100 and rarely fall below 85 fully trained soldiers, as shown in the table below. If the Squadron was recruited to full strength it would cost the States a further £50,000 each year at today's values.

Year	Complement	Remarks
1988 to 1992	25 < 40	Squadron initially accommodated at old Northern Telephone Exchange where there was insufficient room for more than 40 all ranks.
1993	40 < 100	Move to Le Quesne Centre
1994	100 < 110	
1995	110 > 90	Purge against bad attendees failing to meet the criteria.
1996	90 < 98	



- 4.3. States members will be aware that the Army has a well established reinforcement plan to make good shortfalls in unit complements. Under these arrangements the balance of the Squadron's complement will be supplied, along with many similar requests from most other Territorial Army Reserve units throughout Great Britain. Since its formation the Squadron has added over 200 soldiers to the Army's reserve of which it is understood 50 per cent still reside in Jersey.

### **Staff accommodation**

5. As mentioned previously, the agreement required the States to provide units of accommodation for permanent staff from the Ministry of Defence. This has involved four soldiers.
  - 5.1. The non-residential permanent staff of the Squadron are assessed as '(j)' category for purposes of accommodation. The total additional cost to the States of providing partly furnished rental accommodation at today's rates would be about £56,000 a year. These costs have been negated by the Defence Contribution carrying these costs indefinitely having acquired, refurbished and subsequently maintained the necessary units of accommodation.

### **The continuing relevance of the defence contribution**

6. The United Kingdom will spend 2.7 per cent of its GDP on defence compared to the average of its NATO European Allies of 2.3 per cent. In comparison Jersey's annual Defence Contribution of £1.036m amounts to .07 per cent of the Island's GDP which in 1996 was £1,350m. Jersey's case for seeking a share in the "windfall dividend" following the collapse of the Soviet bloc appears extremely weak.
  - 6.1. The United Kingdom is attaching greater importance to their Reserve Forces in an effort to save money on their Defence vote. The valuable contribution Reserve Forces are making is demonstrated by their provision of support to their Regular counterparts in the Falklands and on peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia. Seven soldiers of the Field Squadron

have so far been involved; one female on a six month operational tour of duty in the Falklands, and six on peacekeeping duties in former Yugoslavia. The wider geographic role which the Squadron now has significantly increases its chances of being deployed. It is understood that the new United Kingdom Government, although likely to make considerable reductions of the Territorial Army Reserve, is intent to retain units with specialist skills such as Royal Engineers. This suggests there will be an ongoing role for the Squadron and Her Majesty's Government may be reluctant to change the present method of our contribution.

- 6.2. A vital element of the Ministry of Defence's plan is for the wider use of the Reserves in future. The recent Reserve Forces Act, introduced into Parliament in November 1996, brings the United Kingdom law governing Reserves up-to-date and ensures that arrangements are in place to permit more flexible use of reserve soldiers. Jersey requested Her Majesty's Government, on the 19th February 1997, that this Act be extended to the Bailiwick.
- 6.3. The Defence Committee has received a letter from the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor addressing the views received from appropriate authorities of Her Majesty's Government on Jersey's contribution to the United Kingdom's defence. The letter covers an assessment of its future value in the light of possible changes of emphasis arising from the recent changes in government and the potential modifications to the role of the military, following the collapse of the Soviet bloc. In summary the letter advises that -
  - (a) there is an ongoing operational requirement to retain the Jersey Field Squadron in the foreseeable future which the forthcoming Strategic Defence Review of the United Kingdom is expected to confirm;
  - (b) the conclusions of the Strategic Defence Review are unlikely to be published before the first part of 1998. Meanwhile the Island should adjourn any further

consideration concerning the shape of their contribution until the conclusions of the Review have been published;

- (c) the MOD has investigated reducing the current charges in respect of the Jersey Field Squadron's activities and do not believe further reductions could be justified; and
- (d) the suggestion that Jersey's contribution has not reflected the benefit of force reductions arising from the ending of the Cold War does not bear examination. This suggestion presupposes that the burden of defence expenditure in the United Kingdom and in Jersey is roughly equal, which is not the case. Jersey's per capita defence expenditure is way below that the United Kingdom. The Island also benefits directly from the skills acquired in Squadron training, both through the development of its soldiers concerned and the military aid to the civil community described in paragraph 7.1 of, and Appendix 2, of this report.

6.4. **Appendix 1** contains briefing notes for the President of the Defence Committee by the Officer Commanding of the Squadron. The brief is comprehensive and elaborates and extends on the issues contained in this report.

### **Rendering assistance to the civil community**

7. Since the formation of the Squadron there has not been a civil emergency declared. Had the Squadron been in existence when the Great Storm of 1987 struck their contribution would probably have been significant. Arrangements have been made with the Emergencies Council for the involvement of the Squadron in any future emergency where the Squadron's resources and skills would be of value.

7.1. The Squadron has carried out many tasks of benefit to the local community, a list of which is set out in **Appendix 2**. The Squadron also provides advice, equipment and vehicles to many visiting Army units undertaking similar community projects requested by the Island's civilian and youth institutions. Many

of these units only come to Jersey because of the support they can rely on from the Squadron and their soldiers, apart from assisting with community project spend considerable sums, both personally and on administration, whilst in the Island.

### **Whether to continue with the present method of contribution**

8. In the report accompanying his proposition Deputy Le Main asked whether the Defence Committee intended to seek the approval of the States to continue with the present method of contributing to Her Majesty's defence costs. The fact of the matter is that the States have concluded a formal agreement with H.M. Government regarding a defence contribution. The agreement is expressed to last for a "minimum of ten years" but otherwise has no termination date. There is, therefore, no requirement for the Defence Committee to seek approval from the States to continue the present method of contribution provided that the Defence Committee and the Ministry of Defence are satisfied that the current arrangements are mutually beneficial and acceptable both to Her Majesty's Government and the States of Jersey. The Defence Committee is of the opinion that the present arrangements, which have been developed and established in partnership over nine years with the appropriate authorities of Her Majesty's Government, is mutually beneficial and conforms to the statement accepted by the States in 1985 (paragraph 23 of P.137/85 quoted below for the benefit of States Members) and used by the Special Committee as their criterion -

"23. ... the different ways in which the Island has contributed in the past to its own defence have several features in common; they were strictly practical, by the standard of the time, and they all contributed a net addition to the defence resources deployed by the British Government, however small they were in relation to those resources. It is clear that the instinct which guided our predecessors in this direction still guides their successors. We have been impressed by the number of people who have expressed the view that, while we cannot shirk our obligation to contribute to our defence, this obligation would not

appropriately be met by the writing of a cheque in favour of Her Majesty's Government. We believe that the instinct which guided our ancestors was sound, and that consistency with the dignity and constitutional status of the Island requires that our response to the present obligation should be distinct and recognisable, and that it should constitute an addition to what H.M.G. is already doing. In short, we believe that our contribution should be a contribution in kind''.

- 8.1. The Defence Committee remains open to well-researched and practical suggestions for changing the method of contribution but advises that proposals would warrant serious consideration only if they satisfy the following criteria, that is to say that they -
- (a) provide the opportunity for the maximum number of local persons wishing to serve the interests of both the Crown and the Bailiwick;
  - (b) avoid funding another significant outlay in capital/start-up costs, including unit and domestic accommodation;
  - (c) introduce a significantly more cost effective and beneficial arrangement to both Her Majesty's Government and the Bailiwick than the existing arrangement; and
  - (d) contain the demand on the Island's scarce resources, particularly land and housing stock.

Finally and most important, any new arrangements would require a fresh agreement with H.M. Government which would have to be negotiated and accepted by both parties.

## **Conclusions**

9. Jersey has, through a process of default, acquired exceptionally beneficial terms regarding the delivery of its Defence Contribution. The approved arrangement; meets the bilateral obligation, is established and operating satisfactorily, and

safeguards the wider interests of the Island as reflected in the following conclusions from this report.

- 9.1. Over the nine year period, the Field Squadron, Royal Engineers has become an effective additional force, accepted by the authorities of Her Majesty's Government. Since 1988, seven members of the Squadron having been deployed on operational and peace-keeping duties. The establishment and subsequent maintenance of the Unit has been achieved well within the limits of the defence contribution, including the purchase and refurbishment of the Le Quesne Centre and four domestic units of accommodation both of which should have been funded separately by the States. Through prudent resource management, annual defence contributions have not been increased for inflation over the nine year period, and forecasts are unlikely to exceed the bench mark of £800,000 set in 1987, plus inflation.
- 9.2. Jersey's annual defence contribution in relative terms is less than that paid either by the Isle of Man or Guernsey. Should Jersey be encouraged to pay a comparable amount to its European Allies in terms of GDP the yearly bill would exceed £30m. The bill would be even higher if the contribution was required to match that of the United Kingdom. An attempt by Jersey to achieve a share of the "peace dividend" resulting from the collapse of the Soviet bloc may alert the new Government of Her Majesty to the Island's very favourable arrangement.
- 9.3. The Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, is the only government organisation in Jersey committed to an international role. The Unit identifies with Jersey through its Militia linkage, contributes a net addition to the defence of the Crown, and provides opportunities for many Islanders wishing to serve in Her Majesty's Forces from a base within the Bailiwick. Although the Squadron may be slightly under recruited, this causes no concern to the Ministry of Defence as they have plans to cover these eventualities.

- 9.4. By selecting the Territorial Army Unit option, Jersey ensured that the majority of its defence contribution is spent locally; the balance partly offset by personal development, training and the many and varied tasks being undertaken by the Squadron in support of local institutions.
- 9.5. There are public concerns, particularly about costs, which this report has sought to clarify and address. There was a disproportionate amount of funds available in the early years within the approved level of the defence contribution. This surplus was used to defray additional expenditure which should have been met by the States outside the defence contribution. The annual funding now available to the Squadron is in proportion to comparable units of the Territorial Army Reserve.
- 9.6. The Ministry of Defence is solely responsible for ensuring that the Squadron is “battleworthy” for its operational tasks at all times, both individually and collectively. Since being declared fit-for-role in 1989, the Squadron has never failed to satisfy the requirements, including the manpower levels at which it operates.

## APPENDIX 1

## DEFENCE CONTRIBUTION: TERRITORIAL ARMY UNIT

## BRIEFING NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE

1. Deputy Le Main has asked the States to consider whether they are of the opinion that the Defence Committee should present to the States no later than 31st January 1998 a report providing a variety of information.

## COSTS

2. **Year By Year Costs.** Year by year costs can be produced, broken down into the various areas of expenditure. As previously stated, the budget currently runs at just under £900k, approximately 65 - 75 per cent which is recycled into the local community. The majority of the UK expenditure is to pay for courses, which are of direct benefit to Squadron personnel.

3. **Efficiency.** Due to the efficiency of a locally managed budget, the running costs have consistently fallen below those predicted in 1988. Figures for 1996 show -

1988 forecast:	£1,305,000
1996 allocation:	917,000
1996 expenditure:	879,000

Part of the saving is due to allocation being based on a manning level of around 100, as opposed to a full establishment of 140. However, a fully manned Squadron would only result in a £50,000 increase in pay - all other costs would remain roughly the same. The real savings are due to the ability to use local contracts for spares and equipment, rather than the more expensive military system. The Jersey Field Squadron is seen by Army accountants as one of, if not the, most cost effective sub-unit in the TA.



3. **Permanent Staff Accommodation Costs.** Initially the Regular Army members of staff were accommodated in rented accommodation, which cost approximately £1000 per house per month. The four permanent staff are now accommodated in States owned houses. These houses are likely to remain appreciating assets; effectively there are no ongoing costs in accommodating the permanent staff other than building maintenance.

4. **Alternative Costs.** States members should be fully aware that a cash contribution would be the only viable alternative to a TA unit (figures have been produced to show that this could be in the region of £2.3m). The following should be noted in regard to the popular helicopter option:

a. At least 3 helicopters would be required (one on a permanent stand-by, another under routine maintenance and the third undergoing deep maintenance or used for training). The States would have to buy these helicopters, as the RAF has no 'slack'. They cost several million pounds.

b. Permanent staff manpower would increase dramatically. There would have to be at least three 4 man crews, together with engineering and other ground staff. Not only would they have to be paid, but also accommodated. There would be limited local involvement compared to a TA unit.

c. Infrastructure would be required at the airport to house the aircraft and crews. Again, this would entail substantial expenditure.

d. The RAF does not believe that air sea rescue helicopters are required in Jersey. Jersey probably has better cover than most of the UK, with RAF, French and the Barclay brother's helicopter all available.

## **MANPOWER LEVELS**

5. **Accountability.** The Defence Committee should not have to account for manning levels either now, or over the past nine years. It is a matter for the military chain of command to decide whether or not the

Squadrons manning and level of training is satisfactory for such a sub-unit. It is important to note that the Regular Army's manpower problems are well known, and the Corps of Royal Engineers is particularly stretched with their commitments in Bosnia. If the Ministry of Defence did not believe that the Jersey Field Squadron was a worthwhile contribution, they would be keen to bring the officer and 3 SNCOs back into the mainstream.

- a. The Commanding Officer of 73 Engineer Regiment is happy that the Squadron can meet his operational requirements.
- b. He has approached 12 Engineer (Air Support) Brigade, the next level up, to get their endorsement.

The Army has a popular saying - 'If it isn't broken, don't fix it'.

## CONTRIBUTION TO DEFENCE

6. **Re-Role.** The Squadron has already undergone a major change as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Bloc. This was the re-role from a general field squadron at CVHQ, to a specialist air-support squadron held at a higher readiness state than most TA units. The RAF sees the Royal Engineer Air Support Squadrons as vital in their plans for rapid deployment to undeveloped overseas airfields. The Jersey Field Squadron now has a much more credible 'New World' role than it did when it was formed.

7. **Individual Deployments.** It should also be noted that the concept of deploying formed sub-units of the TA is regarded as highly unlikely. This would only happen in general war (it did not happen even during the Gulf crisis), the possibility of which is presently extremely remote. Under such extreme circumstances, TA reserves (those who served with the TA and left would be called up; sufficient people have served with the Squadron to bring it up to full strength.) The current view is that the TA's most valuable role is to maintain a pool of highly trained personnel who can volunteer as individual reinforcements to Regular Army operations such as Bosnia. A sub-unit such as a field squadron is the ideal size for efficient training. The Jersey Field Squadron has deployed one officer and six soldiers on

operations in the last year. This is a record that the Island should be proud of.

### **CIVIL EMERGENCY**

8. As far as I am aware, a state of civil emergency has not been declared since the formation of the Field Squadron. However the Squadron has always responded to requests for assistance, be it snow clearance, community tasks or assistance at fetes etc. It is important that States members are fully aware that this is done over and above the already heavy training commitment that the volunteers sign up to. A list of Squadron tasks (by no means comprehensive) is attached.

9. In the event of a civil emergency the Squadron could provide -
- a. Trained, disciplined manpower (all soldiers are first aid trained).
  - b. Plant.
  - c. Heavy vehicles.
  - d. Equipment (trackway and bridging for site access, helicopter landing sites).
  - e. Island-wide communications.
  - f. Secure accommodation (for use as a mortuary or incident headquarters).

### **GENERAL MATTERS**

10. **TA Centre.** There is constant criticism that the '£5M' TA Centre (TAC) is underused.

- a. **Cost of Refurbishment.** The actual cost of refurbishment was just under £2.6m. The contract came within budget. The cost was high due to strict guidelines imposed regarding the quality of renovation of the listed buildings.

b. **Facilities.** There is occasional criticism of the level of facilities at the TAC. These have been provided to set scales for a unit of this size - it is what the unit is entitled to and not unnecessarily luxurious. Whilst it might appear spacious, there is insufficient room for the Squadron to purchase and hold its full scaling of vehicles.

c. **Permanent Staff.** There are 11 permanent staff working at the TAC during the week, 7 are local people. They do the day to day administration required in any TA unit as well as repair and maintain stores and plan training. In addition there are usually 2 or 3 TA soldiers who are between employment. They are used on the planning and running of community projects and a hidden benefit is that they do not claim off the welfare system.

d. **Security.** Although Jersey is seen as a safer place than the mainland, military units live under a constant terrorist threat, and entry to the TA Centre has to be controlled (the recent bomb in Ireland highlights the problem of fanatical splinter groups). In addition the Centre holds £2m of specialist equipment as well as weapons and ammunition. It cannot become some sort of community centre.

e. **Other Users.** The Squadron would have been happy to see the Seas Cadets move into the TAC, and supported the formation of an ACF. Both of these would have seen greater uniformed use of the Centre. Members cannot criticise the Defence Committee for not trying to encourage better usage. In reality the Squadron opens its doors to more users than is normally the case on the mainland. This includes the police for specialist training, the States health and safety courses (which use the TAC about 20 weeks a year). The classrooms have recently been upgraded and will be offered to all States departments for courses and lectures. This may also be extended to Highlands College on a controlled basis.

f. **Contingency Plans.** In the last 20 months both the Prison and Fire Services have been in discussion with the Squadron regarding use of the TAC in emergency situations. Due to its

security and infrastructure it is probably the only location on the Island that could be used in such circumstances.

11. **Benefit of Visiting Units.** Few people are probably aware of the number of visiting military units to Jersey. This is typically in the order of 6000 bed nights per year. Many of these units only visit because they can call on the Jersey Field Squadron to assist in planning, administration and the provision of a secure location for vehicles and equipment. We are also able to lend tool kits to enable them to do community tasks. This is of great benefit to the community, both in terms of the money the visitors spend (and most spend a great deal) and the tasks they carry out. Guernsey, which does not have a TA unit, does not get anywhere near the same number of visitors.

12. **Personal Development.** Much of the Field Squadron's training is aimed at instilling confidence, discipline and developing leadership abilities in the soldiers who join. These qualities are of direct benefit to local employers. The Jersey Defence contribution is really an investment in local people and not military hardware.

13. **Fairford International Air Tattoo.** The Squadron was selected to construct a Harrier hide complex and two landing pads at the 1996 Fairford Air Tattoo. This event is visited by thousands of people and broadcast all over the world. The Jersey Field Squadron was chosen because they consistently produce work of an extremely high standard.

14. **Pollution.** If the Squadron were disbanded, another use would have to be found for the Mount Bingham site. It is worth noting that the Squadron regularly suffers from severe pollution problems from La Collette power station (corrosive deposits from the chimney) which results in damage to vehicles and equipment. Several private cars have had to be resprayed as a result. This could limit its usability by other agencies.

## **ENDORSEMENT**

15. No other unit in the British Army exists under the conditions experienced by the Jersey Field Squadron. It should be noted that the Squadron has reached its existing high level of training and cadre of

loyal members despite both political and public attitudes that have generally been at best apathetic and at worst hostile to it. Despite recent publicity the morale of members has remained high, but it has become clear that many potential recruits are not coming forward to join an organisation they believe may not have a future.

16. I believe that the Jersey Field Squadron represents the best possible option for a Defence Contribution.

- a. It is a valuable contribution to the TA, proven by the soldiers who have deployed on operational tours.
- b. It is source of manpower and equipment that can be called on in the event of emergencies.
- c. It is an investment in local people.

17. However, if the Squadron is to continue to grow and develop further generations of recruits, it needs some form of public endorsement from the States. The continual threat of political review needs to be removed.

18. I do not believe that the States would want to disband the Squadron, as the cost is comparatively low and there are numerous benefits from having the trained manpower and equipment on the Island. What the Squadron deserves is an open commitment, with the safeguard that the Ministry of Defence will advise the States if they no longer believe the Squadron to be:

- a. viable, due to manning difficulties.
- b. required, due to TA restructuring.

## **SUMMARY**

19. The Squadron has always operated well within the published, forecast budget. There can be no inference that it costs more than had been predicted in 1988. Indeed, costs are significantly down on the forecast. Alternative contributions would be significantly more expensive with no direct benefits to the Island.

20. It should not be for States members to question the viability or operational capability of the Squadron due to a shortfall in manpower. This assessment is made by the military chain of command, which is happy that the squadron is a valuable contribution to the overall structure of the Air Support Brigade. An officer and 6 soldiers have deployed on operational tours, testament to the level of training and commitment.

21. The Squadron provides a source of manpower, equipment and accommodation for use in emergency situations.

22. The training develops valuable skills that members put to use in their civilian occupations.

23. No other unit has to deal with the political debate experienced in Jersey. If the States endorse the continuation of the Squadron, it must be with full and unconditional support, balanced by some form of agreement with the MoD that they will inform the States of any concerns regarding the unit.

C.M.H. TETLEY

Major

Officer Commanding

**APPENDIX 2****JERSEY FIELD SQUADRON TASKS 1988 - 1997****CONSTRUCTION**

The award winning Oran-Utang enclosure at Jersey Zoo.  
 The square at Greve de Lecq Barracks was dug up and relaid.  
 Flight of concrete steps at Bouley Bay.  
 A skip site and gardeners access paths at Clarkson House Cancer Hospice.  
 Repair of the waterway at Quetivel Mill.  
 Stairs and paths for the Janvrin School nature trail.  
 Laying an aggregate track to Victoria Tower for the National Trust.  
 Pot hole repair at Haut de la Garenne.  
 Entrance Arch and tracks at the Country Show.  
 Refurbished the Aviemore swimming pool.  
 Crabbé range repairs.

**MILITARY AID TO THE AUTHORITIES**

Snow clearance and transport in 1996 and 1997.  
 Assistance to the Police in the recovery of the Newall's bodies.  
 Exercise with the other services at the airport.

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

Moving and laying granite plaques to mark the new donation of land to the National Trust on the north coast path.  
 Removing a concrete cap from the command bunker at Noirmont and assisting in the positioning of the range finder.  
 Digging out of gun bunkers at Les Landes for the Occupation Society.  
 Recovering a propeller from Elizabeth Castle to the Maritime Museum.  
 Removal of underwater obstacles from St. Catherine's Reservoir (including use of divers).

**CEREMONIAL**

Honour Guard for the Queen's visit.  
 Government house beating retreats.



Castle hand over ceremony.  
Island Games ceremonies.

### **SUPPORT TO ISLAND ACTIVITIES**

Signals and safety vehicles for the Battle of Flowers.  
Signals for half marathons.  
Transport for the Petit Port remembrance parade.  
Transport and signals support to the Island Games.

### **COMMUNITY**

Displays (Sport for All, Gorey Fete).  
Equipment and manpower support to Project 2000 activities.  
Catering at various events including firework displays and Parish fetes.  
Children's assault courses at fetes and activity weekends.  
Provision of tents.  
Fixing lights on trees at the Clarkson House Cancer Hospice.  
Teams entered into various charity and fund raising events.