

From: Lieutenant General N R M Borton DSO MBE
Colonel of The Regiment
The Royal Regiment of Scotland



Regimental Headquarters
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Dear Angus,

1. In March, the Government announced the Integrated Review (IR) which set out a vision for promoting Global Britain in a more competitive age. Over the coming years the British Army will experience considerable change as it transforms to meet future challenges. Concurrent to the early implementation of the IR, The Royal Regiment of Scotland has conducted a strategy review to: provide our soldiers and officers with through-life support; future proof the Regiment; and ensure we benefit from the changes below, whilst remaining at the forefront of UK Defence; and ensure that we preserve the proud heritage of our antecedent regiments and look after our veterans.
2. The formation of the RANGER Regiment is a significant step for the Army and will see 1 SCOTS take their place at the vanguard of this new concept. This is a positive step for the Battalion, and the Regiment, offering a new role and unique opportunities for our soldiers and officers. While they will adopt a different cap badge they will, for the foreseeable future, continue to wear the ceremonial uniform of the Regiment; display their antecedent property; and recruit from the wider Regiment. This will ensure that the Battalion continues to honour their forebears, dating back to 1633, while pioneering the British Army's newest concept. To ensure the heritage of 1 SCOTS is taken forward by the whole Regiment, we will adopt the black hackle as our Regimental hackle. It will be worn by all those not at Regimental Duty; the remaining Battalions will continue to wear their current hackles.
3. 2 SCOTS will remain a fully manned Light Infantry Battalion. They will maintain their steady tempo of training exercises and operational deployments. In terms of historical representation, they will continue to address their Jocks as Fusiliers and parade the Assaye Colour.
4. 3 SCOTS will become a Security Force Assistance Battalion and will specialise in providing training to indigenous forces across the world, a much sought-after role. The Battalion

will restructure to meet the requirements of this new role. Despite this, the Pipe Band will remain fully established and, along with the Battalion's messes, will be the custodians of the rich antecedent history of the red hackle.

5. 4 SCOTS will become a Light Mechanised Infantry Battalion. Already a Mechanised Battalion they will maintain a similar establishment to what they currently hold. This will be an easy transition as most of the Battalion deployed on Op TORAL 10 in a mechanised role. The rank of Highlander will remain along with the blue hackle.

6. Balaklava Company will continue to be based in Edinburgh; under 51 Infantry Brigade and Headquarters Scotland. This is a positive move increasing the Regiment's profile in Scotland; the Company will be provided with a more defined purpose for ceremonial, while retaining their core soldiering skills.

7. 6 SCOTS and 7 SCOTS will continue to represent us in the Lowlands & Central Belt and the Highlands respectively. They will continue to work hard to enhance the Regiment's local engagement and ensure we maintain our rich and historic connections to Scottish communities. The IR will further underline the importance of the Reserves supporting the regular battalions for operations and training. In recognition of the significant support our reservists provide to the whole Regiment, they will both adopt the black Regimental Hackle. They will then wear the hackle of the regular Battalion they are attached to for exercise or operations.

8. The Regimental Strategy review offered the opportunity to restructure the way we command the Regiment. We will remove the formal ties the Deputy Colonels have to individual Battalions and centralise their efforts to the benefit of the whole Regiment. Each Deputy Colonel will lead a Line of Operation to ensure that we recruit quality; manage our people so they can fulfil their potential; help them to leave and transition into civilian life in good order, and engaging with the general public to promote a positive Regimental image. Fifteen years after our formation there is a growing number of SCOTS veterans who have never served in our antecedents. As a result, our Regimental Headquarters is in the process of setting up a Regimental Association, which will work closely with our existing Associations. This, along with our Lines of Operation, will allow us to provide a lifelong package supporting our Regimental Family from cradle to grave.

9. The Royal Regiment of Scotland is therefore in a strong position and the IR provides us with great opportunities, which we will exploit. It will offer our soldiers and officers exciting career prospects; operational experience, and professional fulfilment. Through this modernisation, the longevity of the Regiment will be guaranteed and, in turn, our antecedent regiments and Scottish martial history will be preserved. As Associations and veterans of these antecedent forebearers, I ask that you do all you can to support The Royal Regiment of Scotland as we go forward.

*yours agx,
Nick*