

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by the Executive Member for Customer, Democratic and Legal Services, Councillor J Walker)	Council	19/12/06

FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To seek approval to:
 - the Freedom of the Borough being granted to the 5 General Medical Support Regiment on Saturday 9 June 2007.
 - the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment exercising its Freedom of the Borough by marching through the Town Centre in Summer 2007
 - the establishment of a Member/Officer Civic Events Working Group
 - the commencement of arrangements to commemorate the Falklands 25th Anniversary

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The proposed granting of the Freedom of the Borough upon the Regiment will support the Council's corporate priority of "involving people in their communities".

RISK ISSUES

- The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy		Information	
Reputation	✓	Regulatory/Legal	✓
Financial		Operational	✓
People	✓	Other	

- The arrangements for the proposed events will be coordinated by a Member/Officer Working Group to address the risk considerations involved with the organisation of the events.

BACKGROUND

- The Council has the power under Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 to grant the Freedom of the Borough to persons of distinction who have in its opinion rendered eminent services to the Borough. The Freedom of the Borough is one of the highest honours that the Council can bestow on an individual or organisation and the Act provides that:



- A special meeting of the Council should be convened with the specific objective of passing a resolution to grant the Freedom of the Borough to a person or organisation;
 - The resolution should recite the grounds upon which the Council have come to their decision and details of the public services rendered by the recipient and the resolution shall be passed by not less than two thirds of the members present at the special meeting.
6. The practice of granting the 'Freedom of Entry' upon military units is rooted in the history of local government. During the Middle Ages, formed bodies of troops were not allowed to march through a town or city without the permission of the Council. Permission to enter came to be granted 'in column form', and there arose the practice of conferring upon individual Regiments the right "to march through the town or city on ceremonial events with drums beating, bands playing, colours flying and bayonets fixed" in recognition of the confidence, trust and friendship existing between the citizens and soldiers. Such permission is usually accompanied by a sealed and illuminated certificate, which is presented at a formal parade where the Mayor inspects the assembled troops and then invites all involved to a reception.
 7. The Freedom of the Borough was previously granted to the Queen's Lancashire Regiment and its successor Regiment (now the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment) on 16 April 2005 in the light of the long and close association between the Borough and the Regiment.

5 GENERAL MEDICAL SUPPORT REGIMENT

8. 5 General Support Medical Regiment, which is part of the Royal Army Medical Corps was formed on 1 December 1999 and is based at Fulwood Barracks, Preston. The roots of the Regiment span back to the First World War and 5 Field Ambulance which was formed in Aldershot on 14 August 1914. The Regiment does however have notable ties both modern and historical with the North West in general and with Chorley in particular.
9. From its origins in the First World War, 5 Field Ambulance had a distinguished career and in 1993, during the restructuring of the British Army of the Rhine in Germany, the Unit moved to Preston where it re-rolled as a Wheeled Field Ambulance and was subsequently reformed as the 5 General Support Medical Regiment in 1999.
10. As the Regiment recruited heavily from the North West this repatriation was to many Service Families a welcome 'coming home' and the start to the burgeoning and fruitful relationship which the Regiment now enjoys with the Lancashire Community.
11. The Regimental association with Chorley was further strengthened in 2001 with the raising of a Detachment of Medical Volunteers in the Drill Hall at Devonshire Road rejuvenating an illustrious history of Territorial Volunteers in Chorley a move for which there was and remains unequivocal support from the local and Civic Community. In December 2006 Chorley Detachment was raised to Squadron status and became C(64) Medical Squadron (Volunteers).
12. Although firmly a part of 5 General Support Medical Regiment the numerical numerator of 64 for the new Chorley based Medical Squadron is derived from 64th Field Ambulance which was raised in 1914 and provided divisional medical support to East and South Lancashire Regiments throughout the First World War.
13. Further details of the historic background of the Regiment are set out in the Appendix to this report.

PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS / PROGRAMME

14. In view of the public service given to the Borough by the 5 General Medical Support Regiment, it is proposed that the Freedom of the Borough be given to the Regiment on Saturday 9 June 2007. The draft programme for the event is as follows:
 - Special Council Meeting in the Council Chamber, Town Hall
 - Service at St Laurence's Church
 - Mayor to present the 'Freedom Scroll' to the Regiment on St Thomas's Square, St Thomas's Road
 - Regiment to exercise its 'Freedom' by marching through the Town Centre with drums beating, bands playing, colours flying and bayonets fixed.
 - Civic Reception in the Lancastrian Suite, Town Hall
15. The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (formerly the Queen's Lancashire Regiment) wishes to exercise its Freedom of the Borough by marching through the Town Centre on a date to be determined during Summer 2007 as part of a visit to all the towns in the North West Region who have granted the Regiment the Freedom of the Borough. A buffet luncheon would be provided in the Lancastrian Suite.
16. The Ministry of Defence has announced that the Falklands 25th Anniversary commemorations will take place from Thursday 14 to Sunday 17 June 2007 and the Member/Officer Civic Events Working Group will be requested to determine the arrangements for the local commemoration of the anniversary.
17. It is also proposed that a Member / Officer Civic Events Working Group is established to co-ordinate the arrangements for the Freedom events and also oversee arrangements for other ad-hoc major civic events, as and when they arise, comprising of:
 - Executive Member for Customer, Democratic and Legal Services - Councillor J Walker
 - Executive Member for Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment – Councillor E Bell
 - Shadow Executive Member for Customer, Democratic and Legal Services – Councillor D Gee
 - Assistant Head of Democratic Services
 - Civic Services Manager
 - Mayor's Secretary
 - Regiment Representative(s)
18. As and when necessary, the following officers will be requested to attend meetings of the Working Group:
 - Senior Legal Assistant
 - Streetscene Area Manager
 - Highway Services Manager
 - Communications Manager
 - Police Representative
 - Church Representative
19. The estimated cost of the two events is £8,000 which will need to be financed from existing budgetary provision.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

20. There are no HR implications arising from this report.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

21. The report outlines the estimated cost of the two events totalling £8,000. Currently no budgetary provision exists for either item and the sum would therefore need to be taken account of during budget setting for 2007/08.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

22. The Council is requested to give approval to:

1. Arrangements being commenced to enable the Freedom of the Borough to be granted to the 5 General Medical Support Regiment on Saturday 9 June 2007 in accordance with the programme set out in this report
2. That the resolution to be submitted to the Special Council meeting on 9 June 2007 be as follows:

“That this Council wishes to place on record its high appreciation of, and the debt of gratitude of the Borough to the Officers and Soldiers of 5 General Medical Support Regiment and, in the light of the long and close association between the Borough and the Regiment, resolves that the Freedom of the Borough be conferred on the Regiment and that they be granted the right, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of Chorley on all ceremonial occasions with drums beating, bands playing, colours flying and bayonets fixed”.
3. That a Member/Officer Civic Events Working Group be established to co-ordinate the arrangements for the two Freedom events, the commemoration of the Falklands 25th Anniversary and other ad-hoc civic events as set out in this report.
4. That the costs of the events be met from existing budgetary provision.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) (If the recommendations are accepted)

23. To recognise the public service given to the Borough by the Regiment.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

24. None.

DONNA HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Steve Pearce	5196	15/11/06	ADMINREP/93758LM

THE HISTORY OF 5 GENERAL SUPPORT MEDICAL REGIMENT**5 GENERAL SUPPORT MEDICAL REGIMENT**
MISSION STATEMENT

To prepare, maintain and when ordered, deploy medical capability at graduated readiness in order to contribute to the Land Component capability.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

5 General Support Medical Regiment Royal Army Medical Corps traces its antecedents to 5 Field Ambulance, formed in Aldershot on 14 August 1914, the Regiment does however have notable ties both modern and historical with the North West in general and with Chorley in particular.

From its origins in the First World War, 5 Field Ambulance had a distinguished career and in 1993, during the restructuring of the British Army of the Rhine in Germany, the Unit moved to Preston in Lancashire where it re-rolled as a Wheeled Field Ambulance.

As the Regiment recruited heavily from the North West this repatriation was to many Service Families a welcome 'coming home' and the start to the burgeoning and fruitful relationship which the Regiment now enjoys with the Lancashire Community.

The Regimental association with Chorley was further strengthened in 2001 with the raising of a Detachment of Medical Volunteers in the Drill Hall at Devonshire Road rejuvenating an illustrious history of Territorial Volunteers in Chorley a move for which there was and remains unequivocal support from the local and Civic Community. In December 2006 Chorley Detachment was raised to Squadron status and became C (64) Medical Squadron (Volunteers).

Although firmly a part of 5 General Support Medical Regiment the numerical Indicator of 64 for the new Chorley based Medical Squadron is derived from 64th Field Ambulance which was raised in 1914 and provided divisional medical support to East and South Lancashire Regiments throughout WW1.

A Lancashire Medical Unit - The Soldiers of 64 Field Ambulance were commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel and consisted of 10 Officers and 224 other ranks. They had 66 Horses, seven carts, six wagons and a bicycle. Divided into three sections, each having a stretcher bearer and a tent subsection – The unit also had ten horse drawn ambulances. Moving with the Division 64 Field Ambulance established its various assets in locations not far behind the Infantry Brigades. Wounded Lancashire Soldiers having received initial first aid at their Regimental Aid Posts in the trenches were moved rearwards where Medical Aid was administered by the Field Ambulance; this is where the horror of the Great War wounds was seen at its worst, with the Field Ambulances carrying out operations on very severely wounded men as well as patching up the less badly hurt for treatment elsewhere.

64 Field Ambulance saw action in support of Lancashire Regiments in many WW1 Battles including:

The Battle of Mons

Battle of Somme (phases 1, 2, 6, and 7);

The Arras Offensive;

The Battle of Ypres;

The Retreat to the Hindenburg Line;

The Battles of Scarpe, Passchendale, Bapaume; St Quentin Canal, Selle and the Battle of Cambrai.

At this time 5 Field Ambulance first saw action with their responsibility to receive casualties from the battle of Mons on 23/24 August 1914.

Unquestionably the most notable member of 5 Field Ambulance was Lieutenant Colonel Sir Arthur Martin – Leake. The first soldier to be awarded the bar to the Victoria Cross (VC) medal. As a Surgeon, Captain Martin-Leake won his first VC in South Africa during the Boer War. The bar (one of the earliest citations in the Great War) was awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Martin-Leake for his bravery and conduct during operations in the Ypres Salient in the Autumn of 1914. 5 General Support Medical Regiment are justifiably proud of his achievements.

In the modern Army of today the historical concept of Medical Support for Soldiers on Operations whilst clearly more sophisticated in nature than that described above, remains similar in formation to our early predecessors and of the highest priority at every Military, Civic and National level.

Almost as soon as the Regiment established itself in Preston in 1993, the Unit deployed to Croatia on Operation HANWOOD. There it provided medical support to the United Nations Protected Areas. The Unit then deployed on Operation GRAPPLE in the former Yugoslavia. Again it provided medical support to the NATO peacekeeping forces in the former Yugoslavia, in the Implementation Force Operation Resolute (IFOR) returning in July 1996.

5 General Support Medical Regiment formed on 1 December 1999 and characteristically saw an early deployment to Kosovo. Based in Pristina, the regiment provided medical, dental and veterinary support for both British and NATO troops and on many occasions' seriously ill and wounded civilians. Whilst in Kosovo the Unit also provided medical support to other formations over in Bosnia, Slovenia and Macedonia.

Over the last 6 years, characteristically for the Unit, the Regiment has been heavily committed to operations. The Unit, with notable and strong representation from our Territorial elements, has contributed to medical support to Operations in Iraq, OP TELIC's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8. The Regiment has recently concluded its commitment to supporting operations in Iraq and the Pan Balkans.

The Regiment and its Volunteers have been warned for Regimental Deployment to support operations in Afghanistan in 2007 and this like all the previous deployments noted herein will mean that both Regular and Territorial Soldiers from Chorley and its surrounding areas will be doing their duty and providing Medical Support to soldiers and civilians in dangerous and challenging environments.