

## **Military Affiliates Luncheon – 28 June 2017**

The Company held a luncheon in London on Wednesday, 28 June, to recognise our Service Affiliates during Armed Forces Week. This was the first major Company event for our new Master, Air Commodore Stephen Anderton who was installed on 7 June. This now annual luncheon is designed to celebrate our close and much cherished affiliation with the military units of our three Services: the Royal Navy - HMS Severn; the Army - 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), the Royal Military Police and 3 Military Intelligence Battalion (3MI); and the Royal Air Force - the RAF Regiment and the RAF Police. The event was extremely well supported with 82 people attending Worship Street, the Headquarters of 3MI.

After a delicious lunch, the Master thanked the Commanding Officer 3MI, Lieutenant Colonel Nik Fairweather for hosting the lunch and MasterChef Karen Dobson and her team for preparing and serving it. He welcomed the principal guest, Colonel Mark Proctor ADC, OBE, Colonel Intelligence Corps and the other senior Service Representatives, Brigadier David Neal, Provost Marshal (Army), Group Captain Richard Langley OBE (Chief of Staff RAF Force Protection and Deputy Commander of the RAF Regiment) who also represented the Provost Marshal (RAF), Lieutenant Commander Hugh Harris (Commanding Officer HMS Severn) and Major David White, representing the Commanding Officer of 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal). The Master gave particular thanks to Axis Communications, <https://www.axis.com/gb/en/>, for their generosity in sponsoring the lunch. In his speech, the Master outlined the tremendous work conducted by our Armed Forces in protecting the United Kingdom and its interests around the globe and the exceptionally close relationship that has been forged between the Company and its affiliated Service units.

The Master bestowed Honorary Freedoms on the Commanding Officer HMS Severn, Lieutenant Commander Hugh Harris and Commanding Officer 3MI, Lieutenant Colonel Nik Fairweather.

The Master presented two awards: the RAF Police "Securing the Skies" trophy, to Corporal Robert Alexander for his work, as the lead JNCO at the Air Warfare Centre for their bespoke and highly classified IT systems, in improving their governance and assurance system; and the RMP's "Colonel Herring Trophy for Excellence" to Sgt Ryan Ellis for his example and selfless commitment on an 8-month tour as the Close Protection Team leader to the UK's Deputy-High Commissioner in Karachi.

Colonel Mark Proctor responded on behalf of the guests. His thought-provoking address challenged the accepted definitions of security and where responsibility for security lies in the UK.