

Press Release
Tuesday July 10 2007



Weymouth & Portland Veterans Awareness Week (9th to 15th June 2007).

BIGGEST BEACH ASSAULT EVER

Weymouth and Portland Veterans Awareness Week recognised and supported by the Ministry of Defence as one of the Official UK Regional “Veterans Day” Flagship events” has been heralded as a magnificent success by many local veterans and associations. The seven day event attracted over 40,000 visitors including 2,500 veterans who took part in the Service of Remembrance and Parade.

The traditional launch of the Veterans Awareness Week in Weymouth and Portland was the magnificent Beach Assault and Bridge Building Demonstration. Over 2,000 spectators joined the Mayor and Mayoress of Weymouth and Portland and special guest Major Harry Reddick as the Royal Engineers put on one of the largest and most impressive displays ever seen on Weymouth Beach.

The Assault consisted of Landing Craft, rigid inflatable boats, armed divers and assault team creating a sensational and realistic assault on an enemy beach. A highly professional and effective Bridge Build followed with several heavy duty vehicles parading over the bridge with a huge cheer from the crowd. Special guests then met the soldiers and had their photograph taken on top on the bridge.

Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, Leisure, Tourism and Community Facilities Brief Holder, Cllr Kate Wheller said,

“The Royal Engineers provided a stunning showcase, demonstrating a high degree of skill and professionalism. A first class example of the quality of our serving armed forces. We would like to express our great gratitude to the Royal Engineers and Major Harry Reddick and WOII Bill Partridge for their incredible hard work and support for the Weymouth and Portland’s Veterans Awareness Week”.

Major Harry Reddick said, “The Defence Training Estate at Wyke Regis is honored to have supported the Royal Engineers who provided the assaulting troops on the opening day of Weymouth and Portland’s Veterans Week. Our thanks go to 17 Port and Maritime Regiment for providing the Landing Craft and to 51 Squadron of 23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault) who provided both the attacking and defending troops this year. The Air Assault Regiment is an extremely busy unit who are deploying to Belize in July and are preparing for a regimental operational deployment in March 2008. The Royal Engineers enjoy their training visits to Weymouth and Portland as they are provided with both excellent training facilities and outstanding hospitality from our borough.”

Ends

Notes to Editors:

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For further information on this project and many other events supported by Weymouth and Portland’s Tourism and Leisure Services Unit, please contact:-

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