

Media Release



from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Ref:03/SS/D&M/01

Tuesday 5th January 2010 – For immediate release

Army parade in Southend

A major Army parade is planned in Southend later this year for the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment to exercise its Freedom of the Borough.

This awe-inspiring event is set for Thursday 17th June 2010 just ten days before Armed Forces Day celebrations take place throughout the town.

Detailed plans for the spectacular parade are currently being drawn up.

The Worshipful the Mayor of Southend, Councillor Brian Smith says: "We are thrilled to host this parade which is a great honour for all of us. I am sure the people of Southend will give a heroes welcome to the Battalion – known as the Vikings.

"This is our local regiment. They recruit from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex and will return from their third tour of Afghanistan later in the year.

"During those three tours the 1st Battalion has sacrificed much, having lost 12 soldiers and taken over 100 casualties, the latest fatality being 19-year-old Private Robert Hayes, who died on Sunday 3rd January.

"We feel these losses and want to show our appreciation for their continued efforts."

Major Tony Jones from the Royal Anglian Regiment says: "We are delighted to have been invited to exercise The Freedom of the Borough which was granted to the Regiment back in 1946 and last exercised in 1998. Plans for the march are underway. Around 200 soldiers are expected to take part with colours flying, band playing, drums beating and bayonets fixed."

MORE FOLLOWS

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Ray Lixenfield, from the Naval and Military Club says: “The Naval & Military Club was formed back in 1920 with the sole purpose of providing support and comradeship for The Armed Forces returning home after the Great War of 1914 – 1918.

“We have proudly carried on this objective since those times and, together with Canon Stephen Burdett of St John’s church, our own chaplain, will be honoured to welcome the Vikings for refreshments following the parade.”

ENDS

For more information about this media release please call the press desk on 01702 215000 ext 5505 or email media@southend.gov.uk