



Media Release 1 December 2017

Army top brass has it covered

The Executive Committee of the Army Board (ECAB), comprised of the senior UK Army commanders (including the Army Sergeant Major), assists the Chief of the General Staff (CGS) in discharging his executive responsibilities for the delivery of coherent military capability, the current and future fighting effectiveness and efficiency of the Army and the morale of the Service.

In December this year, ECAB will convene its 500th meeting since its formation in 1964. To mark this milestone BFPS, in conjunction with ECAB, has produced an official commemorative cover to be released on the 14th December 2017.

The cover images depict contemporary soldiers and their respective kit from 1964 and 2017. This serves to illustrate the advancement of the modern soldier both in uniform and equipment that they use. All of this comes under the jurisdiction and remit of ECAB. A personalised Smiler[®] stamp featuring the official Army emblem of crossed swords will be cancelled by the special handstamp BFPS 500.

Versions of the cover include:

- Standard unsigned version for £7.50 each.
- Limited edition version at £15 each. Signed by the Chief of the General Staff.

Also available will be a few sheets of the personalised Smiler[®] stamps (20 per sheet) used on the cover, priced at £38 per sheet (whilst stocks last - limited numbers available).

Covers and stamps may be ordered from the BFPS shop (www.bfps.org.uk/shop) and by post by sending a cheque (payable to 'BFPS CIC') to BFPS The Old Post Office, Westerlea, Links Place, Elie, LEVEN KY9 1AX.

Ends

An image of the commemorative cover is attached.

About BFPS

The British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS) fundraises for Service charities through philately and is a not-for-profit organisation run by a small team of volunteers, all of whom are Veterans. BFPS was specially set-up to ensure that the Forces Philatelic Bureau survives and thrives. BFPS is a registered Community Interest Company (CIC) working closely with the British Forces Post Office (BFPO).

The BFPO has had responsibility for all aspects of military mail, including philatelic matters, since its formation in 1882. More recently, as part of a Strategic Defence and Security Review, BFPO was reorganised and as a result of this the Forces Philatelic Bureau was transferred to BFPS, which was specially set up, as the sole authorised body empowered to deal with all matters concerning the Forces Philatelic Bureau. BFPS is officially licensed by the UK MOD.

BFPS is managed by two retired career Army officers, each of whom has had extensive experience working within the BFPO in general and the Forces Philatelic Bureau in particular. The third member of the management team is an ex Royal Engineer Warrant Officer who has a passion for Forces philately. All are volunteers and are dedicated to keeping the Forces Philatelic Bureau alive and are working hard to ensure the future of this unique area of BFPO operations is secure and flourishes.

Links:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/british-forces-post-office-services>

<http://www.royalmail.com/personal/stamps-collectibles-gifts>

<http://www.postalmuseum.org/>

Contact:

Lt Col (Retd) Graham Meacher MBE MInstRE

Tel: 01333 330 525 Mob: 07713 682 873

E-mail: graham.meacher@bfps.org.uk

Web: <http://www.bfps.org.uk/>

BFPS fundraises for Service charities through philately and is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) limited by guarantee. Registered No 417647.

Registered address: The Old Post Office Links Place Elie Leven Fife KY9 1AX