

ARE YOU UP TO THE TASK?

Women encouraged to participate in this year's tough International Mönchengladbach Military Competition



IT'S been dubbed the Formula One of NATO skills – the International Mönchengladbach Military Competition (IMM) celebrates its 32nd anniversary in June and British Army units are invited to take part.

Any unit, including TA units, can take part in this very challenging and popular multi-national event, which requires brains, brawn and stamina in equal measure.

The organisers are particularly keen to recruit more female teams to the competition, which takes place on Saturday, June 20 in Mönchengladbach-Hehn. Each team of four must pay an entry fee of €30.

Some 38 teams from 13 NATO nations and Mongolia participated last year in what is the oldest and longest running international military contest in Europe.

The IMM again comprised of a wide range of tasks including shooting, marching, navigation, military vehicle and equipment recognition, dinghy course, first-aid, obstacle crossing and general military knowledge.

The one-day competition is being organised by the Landeskommando NRW, Düsseldorf and will be run by the German Reservists Association with the aim of promoting and enhancing links between different NATO and neutral forces.

The event, which is supported by the Technisches Hilfswerk (technical emergency corps), the fire service and the Red Cross was launched in 1984 and is open to both active and reserve members of the Bundeswehr and other NATO forces.

DEADLINE

There are a number of prizes up for grabs, including first, second and third places overall, best mixed team, best non-German active and reserve team, best German active and reserve team; best mixed teams (male/female), best female teams, best mixed NATO teams, best team of every nation and best team of local police, federal police and more.

As the field in the ladies competition is likely to be narrower, any units thinking of entering an all-female team will have a very good shot at winning the ladies' cup. Deadline for entries is May 31.

In his foreword to the 2014 event programme, Supreme Allied

Commander Europe, Gen Philip Breedlove, said the IMM will test the limits of participants' abilities in a challenging and competitive environment while embodying the warrior spirit and dedication to military service.

"The International Mönchengladbach Military Competition has rightfully earned its prestigious reputation as a platform of professionalism, sportsmanship and friendship. It continues to make vital contributions to the strengthening of our alliance and camaraderie among our allies and partners."

IMPROVE

Maj Gen John Henderson, the then GOC BFG, added in his foreword: "This is a fantastic opportunity for you to display the qualities that unite us as NATO partners.

"Since the last event and developments in Eastern Europe, the importance of training alongside one another and utilising opportunities such as these to share knowledge, improve understanding and develop interoperability have been brought into stark focus.

"The Internationaler Mönchengladbacher Militärwettkampf will allow you to compete, learn and improve."

Information for competitors

The event will start at the youth centre in Hehn, Heiligenpesch 75, D-41069 Mönchengladbach. The competition starts at 7.30am on June 20, with teams setting off at six-minute intervals, and finishes at 5pm. Prize-giving is at 9pm.

Competitors will start in teams of four, in either male, female or mixed teams. The composition of a team can be multinational. The organisers will team up single applicants.

Uniform must be worn according to participants' national regulations and should reflect weather conditions – all other necessary equipment will be provided at the relevant stations during the competition.

Accommodation for Friday/Saturday and Saturday/Sunday is available in a large gym, but is limited and reservations must be indicated on the application form.

Participants should bring sleeping bags and towels. The participation fee is €30 per team, to be paid on arrival.

Teams will receive a written confirmation with a reporting time towards the end of May.

● For entry forms, visit: www.imm-bundeswehr.de or contact Helmut Michelis at helmut.michelis@googlemail.com

● If you're up for the challenge why not take part in this year's event? Deadline for entries is May 31



● Last year's IMM overall winners – RK Marbach, with 104 points



● The IMM is the longest running international military contest in Europe

NEW COLOURS FOR WELSH GUARDS

Queen presents new Colours to 1st Battalion Welsh Guards as they celebrate their centenary year



● The Queen at the ceremony where she presented 1st Battalion Welsh Guards with their new Colours

Photo: Sgt Rupert Frere RLC

THE Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, has presented new Colours to the battalion in a ceremony which took place on April 30.

The Prince of Wales, Regimental Colonel, was also in attendance, as were the Duke of Edinburgh and Duchess of Cornwall, who, along with the Queen, joined the regiment and their guests at a regimental garden party in the grounds of Windsor Castle.

This is the eighth set of Colours that have been presented to the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in their 100-year history.

The Queen's Colour of the Welsh Guards carries a red dragon above the motto "Cymru Am Byth" in the centre, while the Regimental Col-

our carries a company badge. Both carry the most notable of the regiment's battle honours.

The new Colours for the Welsh Guards carry 21 out of their 47 Battle Honours, the last being Falkland Islands 1982. Since then the Welsh Guards has served operationally in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan in 2009 and 2012.

As the battalion, resplendent in ceremonial red tunics and bearskins stood to attention in the quadrangle of Windsor Castle, the Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Duchess of Cornwall, was met by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Maj Gen Robert Talbot Rice, and the Regimental Adjutant, Col Tom Bonas, and the Old Colours were marched off the parade.

The Prince of Wales is the Regimental Colonel of the Welsh Guards, a position he

has held since March 1, 1975. As Colonel, the Prince has taken a great interest in the Welsh Guards participating in ceremonial events such as presentation of new Colours and Trooping the Colour, and he supports the regimental family by discussing and highlighting military issues, such as welfare and veteran support.

PRESENTED

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh then arrived at the state entrance and were met by the Prince of Wales in his role as Colonel of the Regiment.

The Queen, who inspected the front rank of the battalion, while the Prince of Wales inspected the rear rank, then presented the new Colours after a short service of prayers and consecration.

Following the march past, the regiment and their guests moved into the grounds of the

castle for formal photographs and the regimental garden party.

Maj Gen Talbot Rice said: "This a very special day in a unique year. Marking the centenary of the regiment reminds us of the extraordinary achievements of those who have gone before us, who established the reputation for excellence of which we as a Household Division Regiment are so proud.

"It emphasises our duty to build on that reputation in all that we do whether here at home, or on operations around the world.

"The colours presented to us today represent our pride in past achievements, and our steadfast loyalty to the Crown. They embody the resilient Welsh Guards' spirit which holds all of us together as a tight-knit family, and will be carried forward with great pride."