



**Headquarters Land Forces
Trenchard Lines
Upavon
Pewsey
Wiltshire SN9 6BE**

Telephone: 01980 615404
Military Network: Upavon Military Ext 5404
Facsimile: 01980 615408
DII: LF-DGPers-MA

See Distribution

Reference: AG/3-15

14 Aug 09

VISITS TO PERSONNEL BEING TREATED AT SELLY OAK HOSPITAL

1. You will be aware of the levels of operational casualties and the fact that the majority are treated at Selly Oak Hospital, mainly on the military ward, S4. Comdt Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) oversees all aspects of their treatment. This includes maintaining a control over the numbers of visitors to military patients. In S4, only 3 persons are allowed at any one time at the patient's bed during visiting hours. With the best of intentions from all concerned, numbers of visitors have increased considerably recently and a degree of control is required in order to support the patients and the nursing staff.

2. Soldiers look forward to visits from family and friends. They also value the visits of their close chain of command – UWOs, OC Rear Parties and similar, particularly as they can keep them abreast of Regimental matters. They also see the relevance of visits by senior members of the chain of command, including Colonels of Regiments. But others with less immediate connections, Regimental Associations for example, are seen as less of a priority.

3. Therefore, given the current pressures on S4 and until further notice, I would ask that visits are limited to:

- Those with an immediate connection to the casualty – UWOs, OC Rear Parties.
- Direct chain of command – CO and or RSM, Bde Comd.
- Senior visitors (2* and above) who should continue to be coordinated by Comdt RCDM

I would particularly ask Regtl HQs to inform their Associations – whilst appreciating their intentions, not to visit Selly Oak. Should Comdt RCDM identify a patient or family who would benefit from a visit from a Regtl HQ or Association, an approach would, of course, be made.

4. In asking for your support, Comdt RCDM assures me morale on the ward amongst patients and staff remains high and our wounded soldiers very much appreciate the superb support that has been shown by so many visitors in the past. I recognise that such visits may be welcome at RCDM again but for the moment the needs of the patients must come first.

DG Pers