

## Glasgow Gunners Strengthen Bonds Through Community Engagement

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The 207 (City of Glasgow) Battery of the Army Reserve showcased its artillery and spoke with residents during a Family Fun Day in Cambuslang Park, offering a close look at military equipment and life as a reservist.

The unit, part of the 105 Regiment Royal Artillery, displayed a Pinzgauer High Mobility All-Terrain Vehicle towing a 105mm L118 Light Gun at the

community event. Soldiers explained the role of mathematics in artillery operations, described their training, and discussed balancing civilian jobs with part-time military service.

According to George Allison, who has a degree in cyber security from Glasgow Caledonian University and a keen interest in naval and cyber security matters, the battery was formed in 1967 as an air defence unit, later transitioning to field artillery in 2006. Today, it provides mobile fire support and performs ceremonial duties, including firing Royal Salutes at Edinburgh Castle and marking anniversaries at Glasgow Green and Dumbarton Castle.

Based in Scotland, the regiment plays a dual role, fulfilling operational responsibilities while contributing positively to the community through outreach, educational initiatives, and public engagement.

Community involvement has long been part of the regiment's ethos. By participating in local events, hosting open days, and engaging directly with schools, the Glasgow Gunners provide the public with an insight into Army life. These efforts help bridge the gap between the military and civilians, building trust and awareness about the Armed Forces' work both domestically and abroad.

The regiment's presence at community gatherings allows members of the public to meet soldiers face-to-face, ask questions, and better understand the realities of military service. Such events often showcase artillery equipment, offer interactive experiences, and provide opportunities for young people to learn about potential careers in the Army, Allison wrote in a guest post published on *The UK Defence Journal*

on 9 August. These personal connections have proven effective in countering misconceptions and generating interest in the Armed Forces.

Beyond public displays, the Glasgow Gunners maintain ties with local charities, veteran support networks, and youth organisations. Their involvement in fundraising and awareness campaigns highlights their commitment to service beyond operational duties. By supporting initiatives that assist former service personnel, the regiment reinforces the Army's dedication to the welfare of its people, both during and after their careers.

In addition to their community role, the 105th Regiment remains an operationally capable unit, trained and prepared for deployment when required. Balancing these responsibilities demonstrates the versatility and adaptability of today's Armed Forces. The regiment's engagement activities are not a distraction from its core mission but rather a complement to it, enhancing morale and strengthening public support.

Commanding officers have noted that positive interaction with the community fosters a sense of pride among soldiers. By representing the Army in local settings, personnel gain valuable communication skills and a deeper appreciation of the public they serve. In turn, communities benefit from increased awareness of national defence efforts and the individuals behind them.

The Glasgow Gunners' approach reflects a broader recognition across the military that public engagement is vital for sustaining support for defence. In a time when recruitment and retention are ongoing challenges, initiatives that promote understanding and mutual respect are increasingly important. By investing in community relationships, the

regiment ensures that its presence is seen not only on the parade ground or in training exercises but in the everyday lives of the people it serves.

From school visits to charity partnerships, the Glasgow Gunners exemplify how military units can maintain operational readiness while actively contributing to civic life. Their continued efforts underscore the importance of connection, service, and shared commitment between the Armed Forces and the communities they protect.