

TFL DELIVERS BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS TO BRITISH ARMY

Soldiers can now keep in touch with families over Christmas and beyond

Soldiers of the British Army's 14 Signal Regiment (EW), based at Cawdor Barracks near the remote community of St David's in west Wales, are now enjoying state-of-the-art broadband access following the installation of a high-speed wireless broadband connection from local wireless telecommunications specialists, TFL.

TFL's wireless connection is allowing the 350 soldiers at the remote camp - formerly an RAF training base - to stay in touch with friends and relatives using the kinds of modern communications technologies which they can already take for granted during their service or professional careers.

14 Signal Regiment (EW), Royal Corps of Signals, is one of the British Army's most technologically-advanced regiments, currently engaged in supporting information-gathering operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. However, the regiment's attempts to obtain a broadband service from BT were thwarted when it became clear that the global telecoms giant was unable to provide them with the basic communications infrastructure they needed.

"It is fair to say that our troops on deployment in Iraq or Afghanistan probably found it easier to connect to broadband than we did here in west Wales," commented regimental administrative officer, Captain Reg White. "However, TFL's wireless broadband technology has provided us with a simple and highly-effective method of delivering a broadband service to all soldiers' accommodation on the base, without the need for any major civil engineering work or infrastructure changes," he added.

TFL's wireless broadband service is being introduced into the regiment as part of 'Operation Tangible Change' - an ongoing initiative led by the Regiment's commanding officer, targeted at improving overall quality of life on the camp. The wireless broadband service is initially being installed throughout soldiers' barrack blocks, before the service is then extended to NCOs' and Officers' accommodation. TFL will

also be installing multiple 54Mbps wireless 'hotspots' across the camp, enabling service personnel to access the internet service from almost anywhere.

"The wireless broadband service has really caught the soldiers' imagination," continued Capt White. "We are in a remote part of the country, but that should not prevent us from delivering first-class telecommunications services to our soldiers - and with TFL's help we now have a high speed, broadband service which has made a big difference to life on the base," he concluded.

"It has been a pleasure for us to provide such a desperately-needed broadband service to the British Army at Cawdor Barracks," commented TFL Group director Jonathan England. "Pembrokeshire remains one of the most poorly-served regions of Wales for receiving conventional broadband services and in most situations, wireless broadband is the only viable option - offering simple, quick, cost-effective delivery with minimal disruption," he added.

According to TFL, wireless delivery of broadband services to Wales' 'notspot' areas remains the only realistic alternative for households or businesses that cannot already receive a broadband service via their local BT exchange. TFL is the only communications provider in Wales to own its own wireless communications tower infrastructure, which places it in an ideal position to deliver cost-effective wireless broadband services to those areas of Wales who are unable to access broadband services via conventional means.

About TFL

Established in 1983, TFL Group is firmly at the forefront of wireless communication provision in Wales. The company offers a portfolio of services ranging from professional 2-way radio communication systems through to wireless broadband delivery and wireless local area network (WLAN) design and installation.

With clients including petrochemical companies, local authorities, emergency planning units, construction, engineering and security businesses, TFL is the only communications business in Wales to own and manage its own communications tower infrastructure.

The company is based at 66 Honeyborough Business Park, Neyland, Pembrokeshire SA73 2DS, tel: 01646 601411. For further information, visit www.tfl-group.com