



Gaza Barracks, Catterick

THE TASK

Gaza Barracks in North Yorkshire is part of the Catterick Garrison which is the largest military base in Europe. The Barracks is shared with other units but was designated as the base for 3 Medical Regiment who provide medical care in combat. The project was to give a proper identity with a consolidated base to overcome the fragmentation of the regiment, previously accommodated in a number of disparate locations.

The existing facilities at Gaza Barracks date from the 1930s, ranging from a fine Officers' Mess to more recent stores and workshops. Previous developments were poorly co-ordinated; the parade ground had been built upon and the road network had become complicated.

THE DESIGN AND THE SERVICE

To achieve the requirements of the Strategic Brief, rationalisation of the building stock, including demolition, was necessary in addition to providing new buildings. The Regiment operates a large fleet of vehicles from Landrover based ambulances to the modern MAN fleet of military vehicles introduced during the construction phase. The whole fleet vehicle management system reduces the number of military vehicles held in the barracks. Nevertheless, two large vehicle garages each with a 3300 m² gross floor area were briefed in addition to a Light Aid Detachment vehicle workshop and support troop garaging.

PROJECT PROFILE



CLIENT

Defence Estates

PROJECT VALUE

£53m

SERVICES

- Architectural Design
- Structural Engineering
- M&E Engineering
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Infrastructure Design
- Land Surveying
- DREAM

TYPE

Defence

COMPLETION DATE

March 2009

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During the construction period the brief was expanded to allow for an additional regiment – 5 Medical Regiment. The building proposals were revisited and amendments incorporated. Changes included additional floor levels for personnel facilities and offices in the HQ building. A revised Planning Approval was obtained. Construction was completed within the original programme and 3 and 5 Medical Regiments now share the facilities which include the new Regimental Headquarters overlooking the main entrance to the Barracks.

The final, updated, brief consisted of 17,000 m² of new-build accommodation in 9 buildings. The accommodation includes a Regimental Headquarters with training wing, vehicle workshop, garaging, troop stores, offices, armoury and sports training centre. The new quartermaster store is 2000m² of accommodation provided in a refurbished facility. Externally a new parade ground, military vehicle hardstanding, private vehicle parking and fuel store were provided. The site works also included site clearance and preparatory works with services for subsequent developments.

TPS carried out the full multi-disciplinary design of the buildings and the site works, including masterplanning the Barracks, additional roads, site lighting, hardstanding for military vehicles and new drainage attenuation. Innovative design solutions were provided, for example the high strength, hard wearing joint free grouted macadam surface to the vehicle yards and the air source heat pump system for the HQ building, giving enhanced fuel efficiency.

THE RESULT

The phased construction programme commenced in November 2006; the first handover being the new parade ground completed in March 2007. Although the brief was increased to include the additional Regiment, an accelerated programme was agreed. The RHQ was the final building to be handed over in March 2009, still some 6 months ahead of the original programme. The integrated team approach allowed flexibility and efficient design, achieved to time and cost.

Both Regiments are delighted to be occupying their new purpose built accommodation. The enhancement to the barracks has raised morale for the troops and the status of the barracks within the local community. The feedback for the new facilities is positive. The building solutions are being adopted by the MOD as models for the future.

Referring to the project, on completion of the first phase, the Catterick Garrison Commander Colonel Nick Millen said: "This is an important project, the completion of which provides facilities that are not just modern and well laid out so as to enable efficient vehicle and equipment maintenance, but also a fabulous working environment".



FURTHER DETAILS

Please contact
TPS
Commercial Quay
86 Commercial Street
Leith
Edinburgh EH6 6LX

T: +44 (0) 131 561 2600

F: +44 (0) 131 561 2601

info@tpsconsult.co.uk

www.tpsconsult.co.uk