

Association Award

Col Duncan Parkhouse OBE QHP FRCA FFICM L/RAMC



During his long and extremely active career Col Duncan Parkhouse has made a hugely valuable contribution to the Defence Medical Services as a whole and Defence Anaesthesia in particular, culminating in his recent leadership of the tri-service anaesthetic cadre through his role as Defence Consultant Adviser (DCA) and his work with the Association. Undertaking the DCA role for the last 3 years, he has applied his gravitas, unfailing enthusiasm and tireless work ethic to this demanding role. His tenure has been defined by a thoughtful and visionary approach in a tri-service and civilian environment, and a willingness to engage at all levels of seniority and across all the services. Of particular note is Col Parkhouse's push to more involvement with the Association of Anaesthetists through his membership of Council, not only on military related topics, but bringing his wider experience to a breadth of issues to the mutual benefit of all. The result has been a strengthened bond between the civilian and military anaesthetic worlds with cross pollination of ideas and introduction of best practices whilst making huge a contribution to UK healthcare and deployed operational medicine.

Col Parkhouse joined the Army as a medical cadet whilst studying at University College London, and after house jobs he undertook general duties tours to Belfast, Norway and Bosnia. His anaesthetic training took place predominantly in the South East with a fellowship in Australia. Much of his early consultant work was in Chelmsford, close to Colchester where he was integral to the airborne medical teams in support of the parachute regiments. His clinical leadership nurtured the development of small surgical team support to the UK small operations environment and for this, he was recognised with the award of an OBE for services to the development of deployed trauma care. Following this Col Parkhouse and his wife, Helen, moved to Plymouth where he currently works and was appointed as Honorary Queens Physician and Military Clinical Director for the South West. From this post he was appointed as overall head of military anaesthesia and intensive care.

Of note are Duncan's involvement and hugely beneficial contribution in the areas of safety and standards in anaesthetic practice committees and his working group activities on check lists, pre-hospital care, suicide prevention and return to work. His work within these groups has extended into aspects of maintaining high quality military anaesthetists ready to deploy and the opportunities to promote safe anaesthesia delivery in austere environments. This work strand is developing to the benefit of both hosting countries and UK anaesthesia

Col Parkhouse is approachable, discrete, and huge source of common sense and intelligent advice to all his colleagues. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the military system and his ability to tease out complicated issues has brought measurable improvements in readiness and service delivery. Military anaesthesia remains in the best professional state in a generation and, with greater threads into the civilian medical practice the Defence Anaesthesia brand has become part of the wider medical conversation within civilian practice

Directly involved in virtually every operational campaign over the last 25 years, he commands the highest respect across all three Services and across all levels of rank, stemming from his vast clinical experience in a variety of roles from clinician, Clinical Director to head of the cadre and Chairman of the UK military medical equipment group. His military service has seen him deployed to the most arduous and remote environments in some of the most challenging situations encountered by any of his generation, a testament to his own personal courage and unflappable demeanour. His confidence and competence permeates through the team that he works with.

Dedicated, experienced, hugely productive and universally respected, Colonel Parkhouse has been the perfect ambassador between the military and the civilian anaesthetic worlds, where there are many shared challenges. He goes beyond the call of duty to listen, advise and support and is an invaluable member of any organisation in which he becomes involved. He enjoys the complete confidence of his peers. His formal recognition by the Association of Anaesthetists is a fitting tribute to his outstanding career so far.

Surgeon Captain Steve Bree RN
Consultant Anaesthetist



**Association
of Anaesthetists**