

The Defence Technical College

– a commitment to innovation and excellence which will make St Athan proud and will be a model for technical trade training the world over

Of the thousands of young men and women who will be coming to St Athan to train in such vital skills as communications, aeronautical and electro-mechanical engineering, the skills that they learn and hone at the Defence Technical College (DTC) will be of immediate importance to their role in the UK's Armed Forces.

Whatever corner of the globe they find themselves in, or whatever they might be confronted with, the training provided to the future servicemen and women at St Athan will greatly underpin operational capability.

Another operational benefit will be that the efficiencies brought about by the DTC will help release 1200 servicemen and women to the front line, thus significantly benefiting the Services' operational commitments at home and abroad.

Beyond their time as servicemen and women these future DTC trainees will eventually move on to develop careers in the civilian employment marketplace where it is fully expected that they will find their civilian career prospects enhanced. It is worth reflecting that even today 70% of those leaving the services are in employment within 1 month, and 94% within 6 months. The Metrix vision for the DTC at St Athan is that we will improve on these statistics and produce people with highly desirable and readily transferrable skills in the civilian marketplace.

Indeed, we will have some of the best resources on hand to make it happen. The fact that the DTC will produce men and women with valuable skills which are highly prized in both the military and civilian world is of course a principal goal for Metrix and the MoD. However, arguably of greater importance is that the DTC is that it has the real potential to become a model for training in this country.

How do we intend to do this? In short, by ensuring that we are always at the leading edge of technology in training delivery and by motivating and inspiring young learners. The DTC will contrast significantly with the 'chalk and talk' classroom environment that so many of us have grown up with.

The DTC promises to breathe life into the much talked about and discussed classroom of the future model which has for many years now been anticipated by futurologists and thought leaders in the education community.

Implementing new technology into the facility for teaching purposes is a major priority for Metrix. DTC classrooms will incorporate e-learning, training simulations and hand-held on-the-job training technologies. Closely aligned modern workshops will fully integrate the classroom work with the teaching of essential hand skills and operating techniques that are required to operate and maintain the military's hi-tech equipment.

Modern video and projection equipment will be installed and trainers will be coached in making the maximum use of the new media. Training courses can be web cast on the internet allowing the training to be "sent" to the trainee, rather than always having the trainee travel to the DTC. Some training material may even be sent to trainees' mobile devices, such as iPods, in order to facilitate further study outside of the classroom. .

Most importantly Metrix's commitment to a wholly new training system provides greater flexibility to pass better trainees faster through to front line commands. Combined with training conducted in a joint environment, it will improve the British Armed Forces' ability to respond readily to changing requirements.

The DTC is an exciting venture and it is the firm belief of Metrix and the MoD that St Athan will become, we believe, an educational and training model which will ultimately produce, in the words of Sandy Leitch in his report, Leitch Review of Skills, "... a world leadership in skills which will enable the UK to compete with the best in the world."

- David Anderson, Managing Director of Metrix Training



The Metrix Training Team