



NEWS RELEASE

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ADVICE TO VETERANS ATTENDING ARMED FORCES DAY LIVERPOOL 2017

Organisers of the Armed Forces Day National Event in Liverpool on June 24th are issuing advice to veterans coming to the city and in particular to those who wish to march in the veterans' contingent of the parade.

As important members of the Armed Forces Family past, present and future, veterans are invited to form a contingent to march alongside their active service and Cadet Force counterparts in the Armed Forces Day parade through the city of Liverpool, culminating in a royal salute on the waterfront.

Working closely with the police and Highways Agency, the event organisers have put in place a number of measures to mitigate the prevailing threats, a key requirement being to ensure that a reasonable limit is placed on the number of marching personnel so that the parade can remain under control and protection. In order to meet the security requirement whilst ensuring fair and balanced representation and providing a grand public spectacle, the active service and veterans contingents will both total 300 marchers.

Whilst this requirement necessarily limits the number of marching places available to individual veterans' associations it is expected that Armed Forces veterans, more than most members of the general public, will understand that the safety and security of those participating and spectating on the day is of paramount importance, particularly in the current security climate.

In addition to the restriction on numbers, ensuring reasonable pace and progress of the parade represents a further means of limiting unnecessary exposure to any threat. Any veterans considering taking part in the parade must therefore be prepared to maintain the normal, measured marching pace of a parade.

There are, of course, no restrictions on any means of assistance used to maintain the pace, including wheelchairs, mobility scooters and assistance from helpers. The veterans' contingent will be falling in with the parade on the march for the final leg of the parade route and will join the line immediately after the active service elements. The 150-strong Cadet Force contingent will bring up the rear after the veterans have joined the parade.

Liverpool City Council working with Veterans' organisations is managing the allocation of places in the veterans' parade contingent. For those associations wishing to apply for places, either click the link at the bottom of the following web page: <https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/get-involved/afd-national-event/> or request one by contacting cultureliverpool@liverpool.gov.uk

All forms should be returned to Pamela Brown whose details are on the form. If posting, please address to Armed Forces Day Parade, Culture Liverpool, 4th Floor, Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool L3 1AH.

The outline parade timings are for marching veterans to muster in Castle Street at 1010 for a briefing at 10.30am by WO Billy Jones the veterans' parade contingent commander who will form up the parade in time for it to join the parade on the march at 11.10am. The parade dispersal point will be at Area 11 at the end of Princes Parade.

All veterans and their families are very welcome to come to Liverpool to enjoy the attractions on offer and meet their serving colleagues and cadets on Liverpool Waterfront.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR ARMED FORCES DAY NATIONAL EVENT 2017 IN LIVERPOOL

The parade of 1,000 Armed Forces serving personnel, veterans and cadets will commence at 11am at St George's Hall, marked by a Typhoon fly-past over the city centre and a heavy gun salute on the waterfront. It will end on Princes Parade approximately 40 minutes later after a salute to high-profile VIPs coinciding with a fly-past by the Red Arrows.

From 11am Navy, Army and RAF personnel will be manning displays and interactive activities in their Service 'villages' along the Waterfront where fighting vehicles, aircraft, equipment and weapons can be seen in close-up.

A Royal Navy Type 23 Frigate will be open to visitors from 12.30pm until 4pm. Meanwhile from 12.30pm in the dynamic display arena sited in the Pier Head Cruise Liner Terminal car park, an action-packed programme of events will take place featuring unarmed combat and gymnastic displays, field gun races, combat engineer bridging demonstrations and performances by military bands and local singer Danielle Thomas.

The RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight of Lancaster Bomber, Spitfire and Hurricane will conduct fly pasts at 1.50pm after which Dragon Boat racing and Cadet rowing competitions will run in Princes Dock from 2.15pm.

The day's events will conclude at 5pm with a military massed bands finale followed by the Royal Marines Band Beating the Retreat and Ceremonial Sunset ceremony on board the destroyer overflowed by the Royal Navy Historic Flight's Swordfish aircraft in formation with the latest Wildcat helicopter.

For more information visit the Armed Forces Day website <https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/>

The Armed Forces Day National Event 2017 programme will close officially with a church service hosted by Liverpool City Council and the Lord Mayor at 2pm on Sunday 25th June at the Church of Our Lady and St Nicholas followed by a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor in Liverpool Town Hall. Invitations are being managed by Liverpool City Council.