

THE COMBINED ARMED FORCES FEDERATION UK



EST 2004

Secretary General
David Robson
Registered Office:
34 Daynes Road, Lee-on-the-Solent,
Hampshire, PO13 9AL
Tel/Fax: 023 9255 2661

SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR WEALTH!

General Sir Michael Jackson said in his 2009 Dimbleby Lecture:

"We need to restore the 'Covenant' between the Armed Forces and the British Public"

The Prime Minister, David Cameron said recently at the 70th Anniversary of VJ Day:

"It's time for this generation to show gratitude for what was achieved."

One important way to act upon the first of these aspirations would be to give the 'Other Ranks' of the Armed Forces a 'Voice' and Statutory recognition, as with the 'Other Ranks' of The Police Federation, established by Act of Parliament in 1919.

Until March 2004 when this Federation was inaugurated and entered the Public Domain the Other Ranks of the Armed Forces had no means of collective representation or Voice, in order to express dissatisfaction over conditions of service when problems arose.

The Federation's overall policy and objective is to provide past and present members with independent and impartial advice on legal and financial issues in particular as they effect service personnel. There is no remit, wish or ambition to become involved in the day to day 'Operational Decision Making Processes'. These the Federation regards as the total responsibility of superior officers of whatever rank and ultimately Government Ministers.

There are two legal issues we are pursuing at present. One is the outstanding and long overdue payments of Occupational Pensions and Gratuities to members of the armed Forces for their years of service prior to 1975. The other is the refund of contributions to the Principal Civil Service Widows Pensions Scheme. This is due to the Breach of Contract by the Government in 1978 when previous contributions to the Scheme were disregarded.

These issues have left most of our members with no 'disposable' income in their retirement and Civil Service Widows with considerably reduced pensions.

The previous Government's Defence policy of withholding these pension benefits is illegal, contrary to existing legislation and an unacceptable injustice. It is also a matter of serious Parliamentary wrong doing and an abuse of power. Claims for payments by the Federation's members have been met with misinformation, spin, false pretences and an overall departmental cover up of pension deficits. Longstop excuses claiming payment of these pensions would be simply unaffordable could be more than equally applied to Parliamentary and Civil Service funding of pensions.

They put their lives on the line protecting the country's interests in Palestine, Malaya, Korea, Cyprus, to name but a few, and stood guard against the Communist threat during the 'Cold War'. They carried out their duties so that this Nation could sleep safely in their beds at night. Now is the time for it to show the gratitude the Prime Minister referred to.

There are three legal claims to these pension rights for service prior to 1975. There is the legal requirement in accordance with the Parliamentary Command 945 which became law in April 1959. This allowed veterans subsequently employed as Civil Servants to include their years of service in the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme. A Statutory Duty requirement in accordance with the Social Security Act 1973 Schedule 16, which includes retrospective service prior to the 'Appointed' day i.e. April 6th 1975. (This contradicts the High Court and Appeal Court decisions of being 'Non Retrospective' in the case of Hudson & Others V MOD & Treasury.) Also a requirement for pre 1975 Armed Forces years of service to count when subsequently entering Civil Service employment in accordance with Reconstruction Competitions.

If all their years of Government employment had been undertaken in the comfort of the Civil Service these pension rights would have been paid at the age of 60 with no questions asked! The present situation is totally unacceptable. Payment of these pensions now will give further impetus to the recovery from the economic downturn, especially at local levels.

The Federation already enjoys the support of many Members of Parliament over these issues. You are also requested to give support if you have not already done so.

David Robson, Secretary General

Two copies of the Federation's Researched Report and Addendums on this issue are available in the House of Commons Library. Further copies are available from the Secretary General. See also the Web-site – www.caffuk.org.uk



CHAIRMAN - CHRIS WATKIN
TREASURER - MICHAEL KENNEDY I.F.A.
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - W. O. FRANK DIXON BEM
TEL:- 01980 842402



SOLICITORS - WHITE SIDE & KNOWLES - MORECAMBE
FINANCIAL ADVISOR & PUBLICITY:- T.B.A.
WWW.CAFFUK.ORG.UK

