

Regimental Associations Nepal



25 April 2023

MINUTES OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS NEPAL BIANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT BGK ON 19 APRIL 2023

1. ATTENDANCE

[See group photo](#)

a. RAN Members

Ser	Particulars	Appt/ Regiment
1	Maj Bhimbahadur Gurung MVO MBE QGE	Chairman RAN
2	Maj Haribahadur Gurung MVO MBE	2GR Rep
3	Capt Padambahadur Gurung	6GR Rep
4	Capt Sivakumar Limbu	7GR Rep
5	Capt. Amritkumar Rai	10GR Rep
6	Maj Surjabahadur Thapa MVO	Chairman QGE
7	Capt Benindra Limbu	QGS Rep
8	Maj Kajiman Limbu MVO	Chairman QOGLR
9	Capt Bhojraj Gurung	RGR Rep
10	Insp 2 Bhogendra Gurung	Chairman GC Assn
11	Insp CB Gurung	GCPF
12	Maj Balkrishna Rana MBE	President QOGLR /General Secretary RAN

b. HQ BGN/GWT (N)

1	Col Paul Smith Late QOGLR	Comd BGN/Defence Attaché/ Dir GWT Nepal
2	Maj Ranjankumar Badgami RGR	Gurkha Major
3	Maj Manbahadur Gurung GSPS	Head of Veterans Services

c. By Video (Teams)

1	Lt Col Matt Hing QOGLR	Fd Dir GWT Nepal
2	Lt Col Yambahadur Rana QGS	Dep Fd Dir GWT Nepal
3	Capt Bishnukumar Rai MVO	Gen Sec Dharan

Agenda Discussed

Ser	Subject Discussed	Key Person
1	<p>Opening Address & Updates by Comd BGN</p> <p>a. The Comd welcomed everyone attending the meeting and wished all a happy Nepal New Year. The visits by the VIPs went very well and the HMA was kept very busy with their visits and meetings with the GoN counterparts. The Minister for Defence People Veterans (DPV) went with a firm idea about the money, visa and medical for those of you in Nepal. He has taken advice from many sectors and seen first-hand the situation/welfare of the British Gurkha veterans in Nepal.</p> <p>b. The Minister is very busy on the bilateral talk. He and the Nepali Ambassador in London have agreed on an agenda for a meeting to be held this afternoon there. The Minister DPV, the Nepali Ambassador and the Gurkha reps are meeting today. The outcome will be out by tomorrow. He is expected to announce something definitive out of the bilateral talk by next week, but he did not wish to give false hopes whilst in Nepal. He expressed difficulty of retrospection action on service sector pensions.</p> <p>c. The new cost of living allowance (COLA) of 7.38% is announced for the Gurkha Pay Scheme (GPS). It is based on the Nepal Rashtra Bank's inflation report.</p> <p>d. He has also taken compassionately the long outstanding RAN's request of settlement visa for those made redundant before their initial four-year service contract completed.</p> <p>e. The Brigade has been actively engaged although there are no shooting wars. Many individuals are deployed throughout Europe in close support of the UK roles to the NATO.</p>	<p>Comd VIPs</p> <p>G2G</p> <p>COLA</p> <p>Visa For RD</p> <p>Bde</p>
2	<p>Address by Chairman RAN. The Chairman welcomed all and encouraged all regimental Chairmen to attend where possible. He expanded the concept of East/ West quota using his long experience of it agreed that it is moving ahead on the right direction. He also requested all to be brief and to the point when speaking at the meeting.</p>	Chairman
3	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting. The minutes of last RAN Meeting were read off the video screen. Since many of the points were in the agenda again the reading was quickly completed.</p> <p>..</p>	Gen Sec
4	<p>The East/ West Recruiting Quota.</p> <p>The Comd pointed out that this topic was often discussed in the past during RAN meetings. The Council of Colonels took the decision that 50/50 would apply through the registration and regional selection phases. The 50/50 rule was applied right up until the final selection phase. 420 potential recruits (PR) were selected, evenly split two East/ West, along the traditional lines of phase three. Out of those 420 the best 204 were taken. Because there are people that have been traditionally disadvantaged, they were given better opportunity to the selections. The removal of East/ West 50/50 only at the</p>	Recruiting Policy

	<p>final selection resulted in 95 potential recruits (PR) being selected from the West which is 47%, and 109 PR's being successful from the East, which is 53%. And there was a total of 216 potential recruits that were deselected. So that's sort of the total 204 that we selected. Never been completely even. Both sides have very good results. Frankly, all of them meet the British Army standard. This year we got very good selection processes in place. We could have taken 420 this year. And one thing the Council of Colonel have said we can maintain a maximum of 5% leeway.</p>	
5	<p>Is recruiting done from Kathmandu/Bagmati zone?</p> <p>Ans: Not strictly by the old rules, but this year there were 80 applicants from Bagmati. They were registered from Dhading. Of them eight made to the final selection and one got through.</p>	GM Bagmati Recruiting
6	<p>Update by GM BGN.</p> <p><u>a. Rects Intake 2024 timetable as follows.</u></p> <p>i. Apr 23 RI24 Advertisement. ii. Jun 23 Phase 1 (Surkhet, Dharan and Pokhara), Math test included. iii. Sep 23 Phase 2 in Pokhara. iv. Jan 24 Phase 3 (attestation 01 Feb 24, Circa 200 pax).</p> <p><u>b. Visits.</u></p> <p>i. Feb 2023 was very busy with recruiting and VIPs. Col Comdt BG (Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw), D Comdt BG (Brig Lord Lancaster) came at the same time as the Minister DPV Dr Murrison. Col BG was also present throughout this visit. ii. Mar- Apr 23 - CO 2RGR, 16X Comd/ COL QGS/ Log Sp Brigadier/ Col RGR /Col GSPS/ Comd & GM QOGLR.</p> <p><u>c. Gurkha Veterans Advice Centre (GVAC).</u> GCAV Offices in BGK and other key AWCs are up and running.</p> <p><u>d. BGN CE.</u> 7 minor projects across the country</p> <p><u>e. Repatriation.</u> BGN had sad experience of repatriation of bodies of Cpl Nabin Thapa 1RGR and Rfn Shambu Shrestha 2RGR and counselling the bereaved families.</p> <p><u>f. Marriage Registration.</u> More than 120 Marriage registration of serving were carried out in last 4 months.</p> <p><u>g. Other activities.</u></p> <p>i. The BGK Dining Hall has been name after the Capt (QGO) Ram Bahadur Limbu 10GR. Because he was ill his wife, Punimaya Limbu, did the opening ceremony.</p> <p>ii. 13 Apr 23 Nepali New Year Celebration.</p> <p>iii. 6 May 2 Support the Coronation party at Embassy plus street festival at BGN</p>	GM Intake 2024 Visitors GVAC Projects Repatriation Registration Miscellaneous

	<p>iv. 22-26 Apr 23 BGN Contingency exercise.</p> <p>v. 23-25 Mar 23 BGN Team Bonding exercise</p> <p>vi. 11 Mar 23 BGN Families MANAKAMNA temple visit</p> <p>viii.. 24-26 Mar 23 BGP Families activity</p> <p>h. 20 Jun 23 HMA Farewell. <u>HMA Nicola Kathryn Pollitt</u> was appointed her Majesty's Ambassador to Nepal in November 2019. She is credited for obtaining considerable bilateral aid for Nepal including Covid-19 vaccines.</p> <p><u>i. UK Events:</u></p> <p>i. Jun 23 Bde_Week.</p> <p>ii. 08 Jul 23 Bde Bhela</p> <p><u>j. VIP Visits Nepal.</u></p> <p>i. 16 - 20 Jan 23: GOC RC, Maj Gen Jon Swift OBE</p> <p>ii. 01 Feb -12 Feb 23: Col Comdt/ Dep Col Comdt BG</p> <p>iii. Duty Trek in Mar- May: 16X Comd, CO 2RGR, Col RGR, Col GSPS Comd & GM QOGLR</p> <p><u>k. Further Update of the Brigade Units is at Annex A.</u></p>	<p>Farewell British Ambassador</p> <p>Bde Week</p> <p>Bde update</p>
7	<p>GWT Nepal Update</p> <p>a. Both Fd Dir and Dep Fd Dir attended the meeting via video conference. Fd Dir thanked all for the feedback. He assured all that the GWT Nepal doing everything possible to fine tune the services provided and procedures of refund claims.</p> <p>b. Fd Dir mentioned GWT Nepal is currently coping with a budget deficit of two million. Hence until further funding is received, we will have to cope with some shortfalls in benefits. He also mentioned of a sad loss of life among GWT doctors during the recent tragic air crash in Pokhara.</p> <p>c. The GWT 2023 Annual conference is to be held at Pokhara during 16-18 May 2023. See detailed instructions.</p> <p>d. Answers to specific GWT issues in the agenda are from serial 14.</p>	<p>GWT Nepal</p> <p>Feedback</p> <p>Budget Casualty</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>
8	<p>Update by Head of Veterans Services</p> <p>GVAC. Head of Veteran Services updated the meeting with the following key points. .</p> <p>a. Pension Payment. During March 2023, a total of NCr 1,346,696,784.70 (£8,469,098.66) pension was paid to 11,886 SP and 6,793 Families by GVACs in Nepal. 112 Pensions were held up for a variety of reasons, and one of them is due to lack of Life Cert.</p>	<p>GVAC</p> <p>GPS</p>

	<p>b. Life Cert. A new format of the certificate is introduced, its replica at Annex D. Fillable form is at form at link. Duly completed forms can be emailed to respective PPO.</p> <p>c. UK Settlement Visa. During the last twelve months 332 applied fresh visas. A total of 475 individuals applied for NIC fast track before leaving for the UK. It is possible some 500 individuals went to UK during this period. Many apply themselves and do not inform for NIC. Further breakdown can be seen at Annex B.</p>	<p>All Pensioners</p> <p>All</p>
9	<p>UK Settlement Visa for less than four-year service redundant.</p> <p>This has been considered a high priority request from RAN and given all the necessary support. The recent VIPs have taken the matter to the UK government. It is noteworthy that MOD has no sway over the Home Ministry which controls immigration issues.</p>	<p>RD Pers</p> <p>Visa</p>
10	<p>Update Points by GWAC UK</p> <p>GWAC stresses that anyone in receipt of social security aids is to report to the respective aids paying offices if they are leaving UK for any duration. Further details are in Annex D.</p>	<p>GWAC</p> <p>All</p>
11	<p>Chairman GBA Visit The Chairman GBA, Col David Hayes CBE, will be visiting the veterans by key locations as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Kathmandu 25 April 2023 Ridi Lounge Jwalakhel 1130 hrs b. Pokhara 26 April 2023 BGP camp c. Dharan 28 April 2023 Sainik Bhawan 	<p>Gen Sec</p> <p>Kathmandu Pokhara Dharan</p>
12	<p>Coronation Celebrations The GM outlined the arrangements made for the Celebrations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 5 May British Embassy for Dignitaries and some veterans. b. 6 May BGK – Street Festival for local dignitaries and some veterans. c. Dharan Veteran community to be given some financial aid so that they can hold a separate event as they did the Memorial Service to Queen Elizabeth II. 	<p>Coronation of King Charles III</p>
13	<p>Cost of Living allowance – COLA 7.38% on GPS & CPI 10.1% on AFPS. The rate is based on the Nepal Rashtra Bank's inflation report.</p>	<p>Pension Upd</p>
14	<p>Assistance at Key hospitals. Could a guide be arranged for assisting infirm patients visiting hospitals at Key places like BP</p> <p>We have been in liaison with BPKIHS for quite some time for li</p>	<p>Hosp Guides</p> <p>GWT</p>
15	<p>Emergency Report. Reporting by the patients or escorts within stipulated time limit is impractical and hence the time should count after the AWC starts work, after weekends or holidays. Current report receiving process is not reliable. For example, in Pokhara a Rifleman has incurred huge expense for an operation</p>	<p>RAN/QGE</p>

	<p>which he wanted to avoid to the last moment. The argument is why not trust the patient who was compelled to a dangerous operation that he was not trying to cheat the GWT.</p> <p>GWT Response: Emergency reporting time has extended to 48 hrs to facilitate the beneficiaries. This should cover the weekend and bank holidays. One has to only report by phone to the AWC and this should not be that difficult.</p> <p>We have looked into the case of the claimant mentioned above and he will be reimbursed majority of expenses as they are genuine and only small claim of Rs 7000 was rejected and informed him as such. There seem to be a misunderstanding between the individual and the AWC when he was told his claim was rejected whilst the majority of his claim was still going through the approval process.</p> <p>After meeting note: DFD spoke to the son of the claimant, and he confirmed that no one from the AWC told him that all of the claims have been rejected. He was told that his first claim was rejected however he may have misunderstood that all of his claims are rejected which is not the case.</p>	GWT N															
16	<p>Banding for reimbursement</p> <p>a. Can the banding be more generous or scrapped altogether? More funding is required from the UK Government, as well as from the Singapore for GC patients who are continually increasing. On the other hand, the BG patients are decreasing. Unfortunately, it is not possible to be more generous on banding system at present as the current fund is not enough to cover all the medical cost for Service Pensioners and their families. Since last year, Singapore Police welfare provides funding to cover the expenses incurred by the GCSPF. Although the numbers of BG personnel are decreasing, they are getting older requiring more medical treatment.</p> <p>b. Can dental and eye treatment be included as general illness when combining for MRR. Currently they are limited to Rs 20,000 each a year. Dental and eye treatment are the latest addition to the portfolio of services provided therefore there is no further scope to increase this facility until we have more funding available which is uncertain. Rs 20,000 is outside of MRR.</p> <p>c. Current banding as follows wef 1 July 2022 Maximum Refund Rate (MRR) = NR 2,30,000 Annual/ Dental NR 20,000 maximum out of MRR 2,30,000</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="191 1612 1416 1801"> <thead> <tr> <th>Band</th> <th>Pension category</th> <th>Self-Contribution less MEP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Band 1</td> <td>Welfare Pensioners</td> <td>Nil Contribution</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 2</td> <td>NR 48,726 pension</td> <td>5% of total bills within MRR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 3</td> <td>NR 48,727 - 97,453 pension</td> <td>15% of total bills within MRR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 4</td> <td>NR 97,454 pension</td> <td>20% of total bills within MRR</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Band	Pension category	Self-Contribution less MEP	Band 1	Welfare Pensioners	Nil Contribution	Band 2	NR 48,726 pension	5% of total bills within MRR	Band 3	NR 48,727 - 97,453 pension	15% of total bills within MRR	Band 4	NR 97,454 pension	20% of total bills within MRR	<p>QGE</p> <p>GWT</p> <p>QGE</p> <p>GWT</p> <p>Info To All</p>
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17	Doctor Appointment.	RAN															

	<p>Still taking far too long almost, 10/12 days to wait to see doctor. Can the doctor examine more patients than the current daily quota? Before the ISOS guidelines the AWC doctor examined all the patients who came to AWC. If some patients needed to see the doctor more urgently the AWC staff facilitated this with the cooperation of others in the queue. A typical Gurkha kaida did work then and will work again. Current target time for doctor's appointment is 7 working days and it is rarely that this threshold is breached when it is then additional measures are taken to bring the waiting time down. At present:</p> <p>Butwal: 1-2 days, Pokhara: 3 days, Bagmati: 3-4, Singpoly: 5 days, Dharan: 5 days and Damak: 5 days.</p>	<p>Dharan QGE</p> <p>GWT</p>
18	<p>Secondary Treatment Medical Claim Process</p> <p>a. Payment SMC Reimbursement is still taking much too long.</p> <p>b. GWT Response: We are overhauling the whole claim process under new management; Management has now moved from the medical to accounts cell and we are already beginning to see the difference. After one of the participants in the meeting said his SMC claim is outstanding for seven months already, the Comd directed the GWT N to prioritise the bills clearance.</p> <p>c. Can the claimant know if his application is drastically reduced?</p> <p>d. Ans: If you mean the claim time, then we are hopeful that it will be reduced soon. Number of claims have increased significantly over the last year which is a major factor in delaying the claim time.</p> <p>e. .It is felt that disproportionate amount is spent paying the staff compared with the medical benefits of the Veterans/ families.</p> <p>Ans: In order to provide better services appropriate number of staff are required; e.g. to reduce the doctor's appointment times and speed up the SMC claim etc.</p>	<p>RAN QGE</p> <p>GWT Prioritise</p> <p>RAN</p> <p>GWT</p> <p>QGE</p> <p>GWT</p>
19	<p>Kathmandu Eye Clinic at Lagankhel.</p> <p>Could this clinic be approved for SMC. Normally we prefer hospitals rather than a clinic because it has multi-disciplinary treatment options in case of emergency etc. Our medical team will look at this clinic in the future. Please note that any approved facility needs to be beneficial for the majority but not only for the few,</p> <p>Scan Claim documents rather than require photocopies of medical reports.</p> <p>Ans: Whilst this is possible at rural AWCs it is impossible in key AWCs due to sheer volume of the document requiring photocopy without increasing the number of staff.</p>	<p>QGE</p> <p>GWT</p> <p>QGE</p> <p>GWT</p>
20	<p>Ortho Dental Clinic, Lalitpur</p> <p>It is highly popular among veterans and request to be included in the GWT accepted hospitals. It is set up by retired NA Medical Brigadier who took training in BMH Hong Kong.</p>	<p>QGE</p>

	Ans: Same as above.	GWT
21	<p>Frequency of RAN Meeting. It should be held on quarterly basis as in the past. There are so many issues pending from long time ago.</p> <p>Answer. The BGN is very busy and the availability of the Comd and key head of departments are difficult to be free together. The next meeting will be in September before the recruiting commitments heat up.</p>	<p>QGE</p> <p>HQ BGN</p>
22	<p>BFBS Support for Regimental anniversaries in Nepal. The 6GR Memorial Dedication Day event held at Pokhara could not get the full coverage from BFBS Nepal.</p> <p>Answer. The current BFPS regulations do not authorise the extra expenditure of this nature.</p>	<p>6GR</p> <p>BFBS</p>
23	<p>Burma Star Memorial Fund (BSMF) Scholarship is available to Nepalese/ Gurkha children. The completed forms to go direct to the BSMF contact:</p> <p>MarkCann - markcann@bff.org.uk Background information is in this link.</p> <p>3 Applicants have applied so far. Application Form Link.</p>	<p>GBA</p> <p>Regts</p>
24	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a. Vote of Thanks. To the Outgoing Gurkha Major. The Chairman thanked the Gurkha Major for his devoted assistance to the RAN throughout his tenure. Sadly for RAN, he is departing in July back to UK.</p> <p>b. Coronation celebrations - out location. Could funding be made available for outside ESAs like Dharan. They have no BG camps celebrations to join.</p> <p>Answer: The BGN will look into what support it can provide.</p> <p>c. Coronation Medal. A commemorative medal can be bought online.</p> <p>d. Could BFPO service be available to BG veterans in Nepal for delivery of above medals.</p> <p>Answer. The BFPO current regulations and budget do not allow service to veterans.</p> <p>e. Could recognised long term sick (LTS) patients with cardiology, renal, paralysis disease be allowed to visit hospital doctor when the AWCs are closed? And treat it as Emergency case.</p> <p>GWT Response: This is already happening. If someone need treatment when AWC is closed, then they can visit hospital and inform the relevant AWC within 48 hrs for claim purposes.</p>	<p>RAN</p> <p>Dharan</p> <p>BGN</p> <p>All</p> <p>6GR</p> <p>BFBS</p> <p>QOGLR</p> <p>GWT</p>

	<p>f. Dharan Sainik Bhawan Repair Fund.</p> <p>Dharan appealed for aids for the maintenance expenditure of the Dharan Sainik Bhawan. It was constructed by Canadian aid projects and now falling disrepair.</p> <p>The Comd kindly assured for seeking aids both from GWT and GBA.</p> <p>g. Any other points by regimental associations?</p> <p>Nothing additional points from the Regiments except mention of illness of some key veterans who are in serious conditions. See below.</p>	<p>Dharan</p> <p>BGN</p> <p>RAN All</p>
25	<p>Deepest Condolences</p> <p>After Note: Capt Rambahadur Limbu VC MVO MBE 10GR passed away, aged 87, at Medicit Lalitpur in the early hours of 22 April 2023. He will be interned in his hometown Damak, after dignitaries of VC fraternity from UK and Commonwealth countries arrive.</p> <p>After Note: A memorial service is being held at the British Camp Kathmandu on 28 April 2023 at 0800 hrs. All RAN members are welcome. The body will be moved to Damak on 29 April 2023. The funeral service will be held there on 30 April 2023.</p> <p>For quick profile in the news.</p>	<p>Chairman on behalf of RAN</p> <p>All</p>
26	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be scheduled by the GM sometime in September 2023. RAN members can request help or information if urgently needed from HQ BGN or HQ GWT Nepal.</p>	<p>GM All</p>
27	<p>Conclusion.</p> <p>The Chairman concluded the meeting thanking all for their feedback and cooperation.</p>	

Signed
Maj (Retired) Balkrishna Rana
Gen Sec RAN

Annexes

A: BG Units update.
B: GVAC Update
C: Life Cert revised
D: GWAC Update

Distribution: (Through Emails)

Comd BGN
Col BG HQBG
Fd Dir GWT N

Dep Fd Dir GWT N
GBA Secretary
RAN Committee Members
COS / GM
HVS (Records Officer)
DCOS/Adjutant/Staff Capt BEK

Annex A - Brigade & BG Units update

1	<p>1RGR Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 Jan to 03 Feb 23 • 16 Jan – 11 Mar 23 • 23 Jan – 10 Mar 23 • 18 Jan – 19 Feb 23 • 24 Jan – 28 Jan 23 • 07 Feb – 23 Mar 23 • 17 Mar 23 • 17 Mar 23 <p style="margin-left: 40px;">RI22 Induction (57 Pax) BATUK FP JLC in New Zealand intake 20 OTIC Trg Col RGR visit EX ATAP HURDLE SP RI22 Kasam Khane pde Army Volleyball champion</p>
2	<p>2RGR Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 09 -19 Jan 23 • 23 – 27 Jan 23 • 29 Jan – 10 Feb 23 • 11- 14 Mar 23 • 06 – 17 Mar 23 • 20 Feb – 08 Mar 23 • 08 Apr – 15 May 23 <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Imphal Shooting Mini Cast (BG PLANEX) Bn LFTT Otterburn Ex COBRA WATRRIOR Tank Strike Ex ORION, France Ex WESSEX STORM</p>
3	<p>Ranger Company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Jan – Jun 23 • 16 Jan – 09 Feb 23 • 05 – 20 Mar 23 • 20-24 Mar 23 • 22-26 May 23 <p style="margin-left: 40px;">OP INTERFLEX EX APPOLO SABRE EX TIGER GREY HIMAL Battlefield study in Spain Sniper Refresher</p>
4	<p>QGE Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 Mar 23 • 15 Jan – 06 Apr 23 • 16 Mar – 06 Apr 23 • 21 May – 02 Jun 23 <p style="margin-left: 40px;">76 Trg Party Attestation Parade EX SAILFISH EX NORTHERN NODDY HIMALAYAN Col QGE, CO, GM, RSM Duty Trek</p>
5	<p>QGS Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01 Mar 23 • 06- 17 Mar 23 • Apr 23 <p style="margin-left: 40px;">RI22 attestation and Commissioning Pde Corp Comdt and GM Nepal Trek Ex Hopton 23 Apr 23</p>
6	<p>QGS Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OP TOSCA 23 • OP CABRIT 23 • RI 22 Induction • 15 Apr 23 <p style="margin-left: 40px;">76 Trg Party Attestation Parade Op TOSCA Medal Parade</p>
7	<p>ARRC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan – Feb 23 • Feb – Mar 23 • Mar 23 • TBC • Apr 23 <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Ex KRONUS HUNTER, Cyprus Ex FLYING JAVELIN, UK EX DYNAMIC FRONT Monastery Opening Ex ARCADE LEDGER 23</p>
8	<p>GSPS Update</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mar 23 • Apr 23 • May 23 • 9 Mar 23 	<p>G1A BFB Col GSPS , SO2 GSPS visit Nepal AGC Triple crown Ex KHUKRI LEADER, UK</p>
9	<p>GC Mandalay Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 Jan 23 • 24 -25 Jan 23 • Feb 23 • Mar – Apr 23 • Mar 23 	<p>Armed Forces Parliamentary Visit CAM Road Show Support Op ORBITAL Support to PSBC< SCBC Cse Support OP INTERFLEX</p>
10	<p>GC Traveleto Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 – 26 Mar 23 • 25 May 23 • 26 May 23 • 29-31 May 23 	<p>Ex SAMJHANA BIRSHANA GCT ACMT Inter PI M&S Comp Inter PI Sports Comp</p>

Group [Photo](#)





Annex D - GWAC Update

Apr 2023

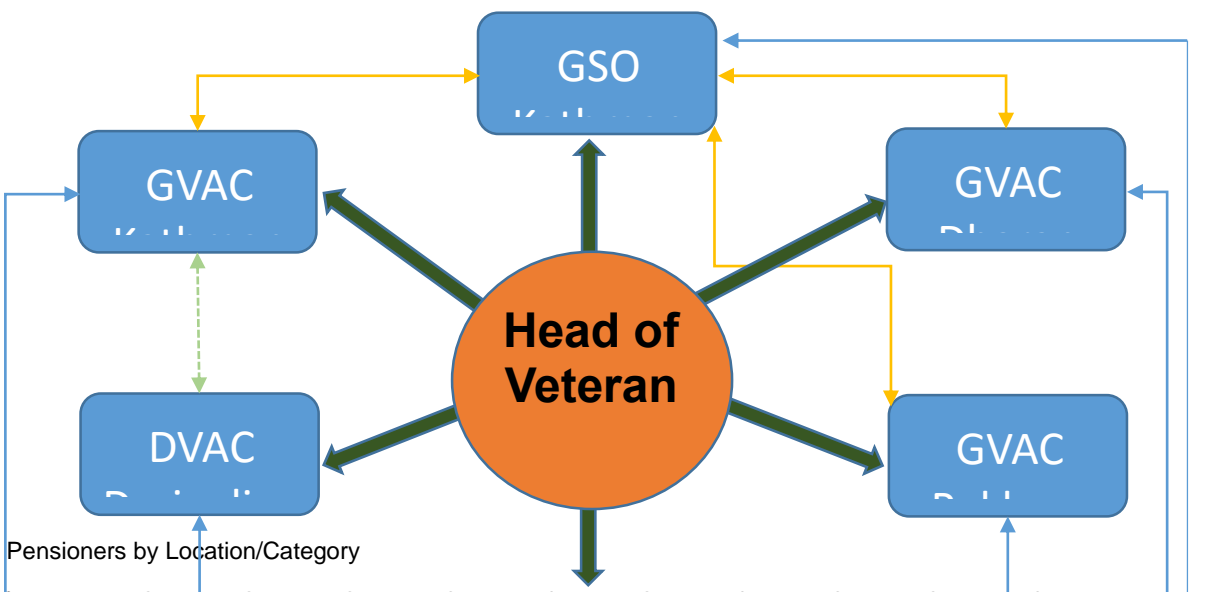
Salient Points for RAN Meeting on 19th April 2023

1. **Failure to Disclose Service Pension** – it has come to our attention from the cases we are dealing with that individuals (Gurkha veterans, widows) are not divulging the receipt of their service pension they receive in Nepal when claiming benefits. Our close working relationship with DWP has meant that we're getting more and more requests from them for our clients' Service Pension Statements spanning as far back as 7 years. Many are being caught out when their Pension Credit (PC) are stopped and contact our office. Individuals must pay back all the overpayments accrued from the time they received their PC. We robustly advice our Gurkha veterans and widows on a regular basis that it is a fraud if they fail to disclose their service pension when claiming benefits.
2. **Failure to Inform DWP/GWACs When Going Abroad and Overstaying** – more and more of our people are being caught out for failing to inform the DWP or GWAC when going abroad and overstaying more than their entitled 28 days leave. Again, we robustly advise them that failure to notify DWP is a fraud and if found out, their PC will be stopped, and they'll have to pay back all the overpayments they have accumulated. If they can't inform the DWP themselves, all they need to do is to contact our office and we'll inform DWP. We have been doing this for those who contact us when going abroad.
3. **Not Using the Excellent Service Provided by GSO** – it is sad to find out that some new arrivals are coming to the UK without using the excellent free service provided by GSO. Those using outside agencies in Nepal not only pay an exorbitant amount of money for the service provided but also arrive here without the right supporting documents and not knowing who to contact in the UK including our GWAC offices. They only contact us by accident or through the help of friends who are registered with us. As they come without registering for their National Insurance Number (NINO) at GSO, many waste their valuable time in futile attempts to obtain their NINO or to claim eligible benefits through other outside sources. I must underscore the point that passage of information in our communities are very much lacking.
4. **Facing Dire and Critical Situation** – those that come to settle in the UK without their dependents are the most vulnerable as they have no one to help or look after them. Language, digital exclusion, and their lack of understanding the UK benefit system is one big hurdle for them to negotiate. This sort of situation normally occurs when the parents and their children over the age of 30 apply together for the UK Settlement Visa and their children's visa are then rejected by UKVI. Consequently, the parents, who are normally older age people with age related illnesses or disability, must travel by themselves to the UK within 90 days otherwise their visa becomes void. They also are under the impression that their lawyer could present a stronger case for them to obtain visa for their children if they are suffering and living alone in the UK. Point to note is that each case is decided on the merit of the application and visas are issued on a case-by-case basis. One cap does not fit all.

5. **Claiming Personal Independence Payment (Disability Benefit)** – those that come with their disabled children to the UK are under the impression that they can claim Personal Independence Payment (PIP) upon their arrival here. They are unaware that disabled people can only claim PIP if they have been living in the UK for 2 years (does not have to be for continuous two years) of the last three years. This is why it is ever so important for those wishing to settle in the UK to visit our GSO office. If GSO do not know the answer, they'll obviously seek advice from us as they have been doing since its inception. In order to be eligible to claim PIP, they must:
- be 16yrs of age or over
 - have a long-term physical or mental health condition or disability
 - have difficulty doing certain everyday tasks or getting around
 - have difficulties to last for at least 12 months from when they started
 - also be under State Pension Age (which is now 66) and must not have received PIP before.

Annex B – GVAC Update

Organisational Chart.



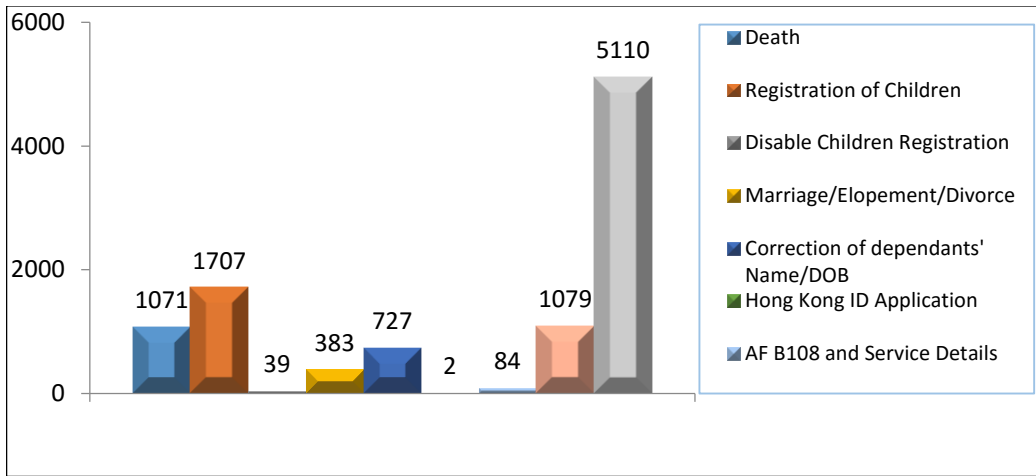
Pensioners by Location/Category

GVAC	Type of Pensioner and Method of Payment											
	Service Pensioner				Family Pensioner				GCSPE			
	On Hold No Life Cert	Bank	AWC	Total	On Hold No Life Cert	Bank	AWC	Total	On Hold No Life Cert	Bank	AWC	
Pokhara	15	4,055	-	4,070	44	3,256	-	3,300	5	159		
Dharan	7	3,060	15	3,082	19	2,240	28	2,287	2	87		
Kathmandu	3	4,756	-	4,759	24	1,269	-	1,293	8	573		
Total	25	11,871	15	11,911	87	6,765	28	6,880	15	819		
	112	Held up/No LC										
		Total	11,886	SP		6,793	Family					

Breakdown of Payment					GAR for Jan 23:
Location ↓	BRITISH ARMY PENSIONERS		GCSPF PENSIONERS		Visitors, Queries and Service Provisions (Numbers)
	NCRS	Pound Sterling	NCRS	Pound	
Pokhara	₹ 483,469,022.10	£3,040,437.08	₹ 16,633,473.88	£104,604.49	772
Kathmandu	₹ 438,308,347.36	£2,756,430.90	₹ 68,897,858.94	£433,284.44	846
Dharan	₹ 330,853,858.83	£2,080,671.76	₹ 8,534,223.59	£53,669.97	898
Total	₹ 1,252,631,228.29	£7,877,539.75	₹ 94,065,556.41	£591,558.91	2,516
Grand Total	NCRs	₹ 1,346,696,784.70			
	in £	£8,469,098.66			

Settlement Visa / National Insurance Application through GSO – Below

Settlement Stats (Last 12 Months)	Fresh Visa	Returning Residence	National Insurance	Vignette Transfer	Loss
April 2022	56	12	32	0	
May 2022	18	13	14	0	
June 2022	27	22	14	0	
July 2022	30	12	46	0	
August 2022	18	18	31	0	
September 2022	35	7	55	0	
October 2022	19	4	36	0	
November 2022	40	5	49	0	
December 2022	42	4	33	0	
January 2023	27	10	49	2	
February 2023	9	1	52	4	
March 2023	11	13	64	1	
Total	332	121	475	7	



Annex C – Life Certificate

**GURKHA VETERANS' ADVICE CENTRE
SELECT GVAC LOCATION**

PENSIONER'S LIFE CERTIFICATE

Once a year, a Life Certificate is required in order to prove that the pensioner is still alive. Pension payment will stop if a signed Certificate is not received by Gurkha Veterans' Advice Centre (GVAC) before its expiry date.

Part 1: To be completed by the Pensioner (Please read notes before completing)

I, Number..... Rank Regt

Name: declare that

- I am still alive and entitled to my pension.
- I understand that providing misleading or false information regarding my status on this form could lead to a criminal prosecution.

My address is as follows:

Village/ House No		Ward No/Street	
GP/NP/Town		Post Code	
Dist/Country		Pradesh/Country	
Tel No		Email Address	

Signature		Date	
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Part 2: To be completed by the Witness (Please read notes before completing)

The witness can be a serving/retired Gurkha, or a staff (Grade E1 and above) employed at AWC/GWAC/ GVAC. Alternatively, other persons who qualify to witness this declaration are listed overleaf.

I, Number. Rank Regt

Name:confirm that the above pensioner is alive, and he/she has signed the declaration in my presence and my address is:

Village/ House No		Ward No/Street	
GP/NP/Town		Post Code	
Dist/Country		Pradesh/Country	
Tel No		Email Address	

Signature		Date	
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Notes:

Please return this form to your pension paying GVAC address. Alternatively, scanned copy of the Life Certificate can be emailed to the relevant GVAC as follows:

- GVAC Kathmandu, Nepal, BFPO 4 Email: BGN-VS-GVAC[K]-GroupMailBox@mod.gov.uk
- GVAC Pokhara, Nepal, BFPO 4 Email: BGN-VS-GVAC[P]-GroupMailBox@ mod.gov.uk
- GVAC Dharan, Nepal, BFPO 4 Email: [BGN-VS-GVAC\[D\]-GroupMailBox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:BGN-VS-GVAC[D]-GroupMailBox@mod.gov.uk)