

The Army Operational Legacy Branch

The Army Operational Legacy Branch (AOLB) was established to support investigations, inquests and inquiries into past operations such as Op BANNER, Op TELIC and Op HERRICK. One of AOLB's fundamental roles is to provide welfare support to any veteran who has become involved in the legal process related to a legacy operation, and currently, AOLB supports over 60 Northern Ireland (Op BANNER) veterans due to a wider effort to address the legacy of 'the Troubles'.

For many veterans the first thing they know about their involvement in this process is when they receive a letter from the coroner or a phone call from the MoD's Directorate of Judicial Engagement Policy (DJEP) informing them that they are required to give evidence. This can be a protracted and stressful process so AOLB's Veteran Visiting Officers (VVOs) are here to help.

The VVOs are fulltime reservist captains with a wealth of experience: they understand the legacy processes; have a background of service on operations and possess significant experience in welfare support. The VVOs provide 'End to End' support to the veteran to explain and support them throughout the process. This includes assessing the needs of each individual and referring them to other specialist welfare organisations where necessary. The VVO support includes regular home visits and 'check-ins' to reassure and guide the veteran through the legacy process; coordination of any broader welfare or administrative support they may require; as well as matters such as accompanying them to give evidence in court where necessary. Throughout the process, the VVOs work closely with the Regimental Headquarters / Regimental Associations to ensure there is a strong network of pastoral support in place so that the longer-term needs of the veteran are also captured and met beyond the duration of the legacy process.

Legal Support. Free legal support is available to all serving personnel and veterans being investigated or prosecuted for allegations relating to legacy operations, however, this is coordinated and arranged through DJEP. **AOLB does not provide legal support or advice but can help you to make contact with DJEP if you are unsure how to do so.**

If you have been contacted in relation to an operational legacy issue or are aware of someone who has and may need support, please contact the AOLB on the following means:

During normal working hours:

Telephone: 0300 1534300

Mobile: 07813 007392

Email: APSG-AOLB-Legacy-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Postal Address:

Army Operational Legacy Branch

Army Personnel Services Group

Ramillies Building

Army Headquarters

Monxton Road

Andover

SP11 8HJ

The VVO based at RHQ Para in Colchester is:

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