

9th July 2007

LOCAL CHILDREN EXPERIENCE HANDS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The doors at Fort Halstead were opened to the staff's children today as part of 'Bring Your Child to Work' day. Fifty employees' offspring from the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) and QinetiQ enjoyed a fun packed day of science and technology.

As part of a wider scheme, Dstl is encouraging all members of staff to bring their son or daughter to work, so they can gain an understanding of what Dstl does and experience their parent's work place for themselves.

The children, aged between 8 and 16 were invited to take part in the following activities:

- Launching missiles from a rocket launching system (missiles were aerodynamic bottles designed by work experience teenagers the previous week).
- The chance to learn about mine detection and sweeping operations.
- Hands on experience of remote controlled vehicles and robots.
- A tour of the Dstl forensic laboratory where children were shown how materials are analysed and identified.
- The 5th Scots Regiment demonstrated modern weaponry and showed the children how to paint their faces with camouflage cream and they were also allowed to sample soldier's ration packs.

Penny Newton brought her son to work. She said, "It was a day that Thomas and I will remember for a long time with great enthusiasm. With the usual restrictions at Fort Halstead lifted, it was fantastic that our children were able to join us for a day full of informative and hands on experiences. Thank you to the organisers for such a memorable event."

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors,

Dstl

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is a centre of scientific excellence for the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Its 3,500 strong workforce includes some of the nation's most talented and creative scientists with the brief to ensure that the UK Armed Forces and Government are supported in-house by the very best impartial scientific and technological advice. Dstl's position at the heart of the MOD means that its advice is trusted by governments, academia, industry and international partners. It offers timely and accurate advice at all levels of military planning and operations, both overseas and on the home front. For more information please visit www.dstl.gov.uk