



The Armed Forces regularly undergo training exercises to test strategies to ensure the readiness of Forces personnel. Despite all of the training, regulations and equipment checks, accidents unfortunately do happen. When they occur, DMWS offers a medical welfare service, with Welfare Officers providing practical and emotional support to ensure that no family goes through the worry of injury or illness alone.



1. During a training jump in the USA, RAF Corporal Matthew collided mid air with a colleague. Their parachutes entangled and he plummeted 800ft to the ground.



2. Matthew suffered extensive spinal injuries and was taken to a US hospital where he received emergency care, before he was stable enough to be flown back to the UK for further treatment.



3. Once Matthew arrived in the UK on an Emergency CCAST flight, he was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. DMWS was informed of the patient arrival and liaised with his unit and family.



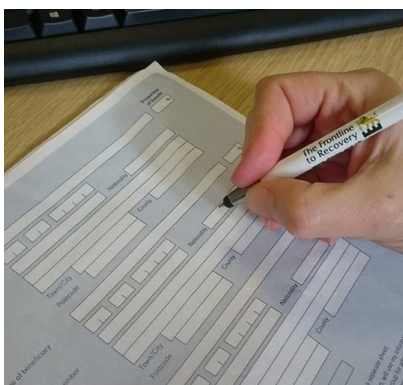
4. DMWS met his wife at the airport and accompanied her to the hospital where she was informed that Matthew would need extensive treatment. His injuries resulted in him being paralysed.



5. Our Welfare Officers facilitated his wife to stay at Fisher House (purposely built accommodation for family members of injured or sick Service Personnel while they are in hospital) so that she could be close to him.



6. After a lengthy period in hospital and rehabilitation, Matthew went on a recovery course where he was given time to adjust to his physical injuries. DMWS Welfare Officers were on hand to support and motivate him.



7. DMWS not only provided emotional support but also offered practical advice such as referring Matthew to other support agencies, help with filling in forms and sourcing mobility equipment.



8. DMWS has an extensive partnership network which ensures our Welfare Officers deliver the best possible support for our Service Users from the Armed Forces community.

*"The comfort and support you provide at such a difficult and emotional time is priceless. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your time and dedication."*

*Wife of a wounded soldier*