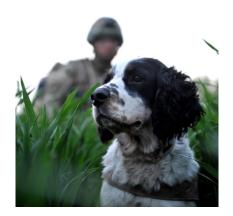A typical day in Camp Bastion: A tannoy cuts through the general hustle & bustle announcing Op MINIMISE; the non-essential communications with the outside world have been suspended. The ambulance siren is heard as it races to the Helicopter Landing Site next to the hospital. All appropriate staff take up their positions ready for action stations… there has been an incident and casualties are inbound…

1. Dog handler Sergeant Richard was on a routine patrol in Afghanistan when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonated injuring three men.

2. Richard attempted to administer first aid to a colleague when another IED went off and critically injured Richard.
The casualties were evacuated to Camp Bastion hospital by helicopter.

3. At Camp Bastion surgeons stabilised Richard enough to get him on an Emergency CCAST flight to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in Birmingham.

4. DMWS Welfare Officers offered emotional support to the comrades of the casualties when they were updated on the condition of their colleagues who had been brought into the hospital.

5. At a distressing time for the troops, DMWS were able to provide the soldiers with some privacy in the Welfare Department, where they were able to gather their thoughts and reflect.

6. UK based DMWS Welfare Officers met Richard's family at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and accompanied them to his bedside in the Critical Care Unit, offering moral support and a listening ear.

7. Sadly Richard passed away a few days later as a result of his injuries. DMWS supported his family during this highly emotional period and also referred them to other specialist support agencies.

8. Our Welfare Officers often come from a military or nursing background and have experience in helping families come to terms with life changing injuries and bereavement of their loved ones.

DMWS
The Frontline to Recovery

"Thank you for the wonderful care and dedication you gave us in support of our son.

A battle he fought but sadly lost. Words cannot express our thanks."

Parent of deceased soldier