



## ROLE DESCRIPTION - AFF TRUSTEE

### Introduction

The Army Families Federation (AFF) is a registered charity, formed in 1982 to provide a two-way communications link between the Army and its families.

AFF is governed by a Board of Trustees, made up of nine Trustees, one of whom represents the interests of overseas families. The Board is governed by the Chair of Trustees, who oversees and directs the work of the Board.

### The Trustees' Role and Responsibilities

The role and responsibilities of AFF's Trustees can broadly be grouped under four main headings; to **provide strategic guidance**, **ensure compliance**, a **duty of prudence** and a **duty of care**.

- **Provide strategic guidance**
  - Setting and maintaining vision, mission and values
  - Setting overall policy and developing strategy
  - Defining goals, setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- **Ensure compliance**
  - To ensure that the organisation complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
  - To ensure that the organisation pursues its objects as defined in its governing document
- **Duty of prudence**
  - To ensure that the charity remains solvent
  - To ensure that the organisation uses its resources wisely and exclusively in pursuance of its objects (the charity must not spend money on activities which are not included in its own objects, no matter how worthwhile or charitable those activities are)
  - To protect and manage the property of the charity and to ensure the proper investment of the charity's funds

- **Duty of Care:**
  - To safeguard the good name and values of the organisation
  - To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation
  - Sourcing professional external help as necessary
  - Selecting and supporting the Chief Executive

In practice, much of the work of Trustees is conducted at the 3-4 meetings held each year, usually around Andover or London (some of which will require an overnight stay). Attendance at Trustee meetings is crucial. Preparation in advance of meetings will also be required. Between meetings, Trustees will have reading and may also be asked to contribute to individual projects.

In addition, attendance is expected, where possible, at twice yearly staff training events (usually held in Andover or London).

## Person Specification

Aside from specific skills and/or knowledge which we may seek with individual appointments, what we look for on the Board is someone with:

- **Strong communication skills**
  - Willing to contribute relevant views and knowledge, and to question and challenge effectively
- **Commitment to the organisation**
  - Willing to devote the necessary time and effort to AFF
- **Capacity for teamwork**
  - To work effectively with the board and with the AFF staff team
- **Integrity**
  - Understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
  - To maintain confidentiality of Board business
- **Strategic vision**
  - Strong, independent judgement
  - Ability to think creatively

## Further Information

AFF Trustees are unpaid. However, accommodation and travel expenses will be paid; there is a subsistence allowance for expenses incurred in the course of fulfilling the duties of the post.

## AFF - Background information

The Army Families Federation (AFF) was created in 1982 to address the acknowledged disadvantages that Army families face in many areas. AFF is often pivotal in achieving improvements for Army families such as changes to Government and military policy and changes to the delivery of how things are provided for families.

We are an **independent** and **confidential** charity which provides a unique two-way communication channel between families and the Army. AFF represents all members of a soldier's family, and is funded by a combination of public and non-public funding as well as outside sponsorship raised for one-off events and projects.

AFF's Chief Executive and Branch Directors work at a strategic level to highlight families' concerns to Army command, Government and the media. The work of AFF is used to demonstrate the needs of the Army family and influence or bring about changes to relevant policy areas.

AFF works at a local level with Army families and the chain of command, using Specialists (subject matter experts on key issues) and a network of Co-ordinators based across the UK and overseas (including Belgium, Brunei, Canada, Cyprus, Germany and Kenya). Where possible, issues are dealt with locally, either by empowering families to help themselves or by advocating on their behalf.

All reported concerns and enquiries are collated twice yearly in a statistical quantitative report, Families' Concerns, which is sent to senior Army command, Defence Ministers, Members of Parliament and the media. It is available on our website at [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk). This evidence is used to underpin our position as an expert witness on Army families' issues and form the 'AFF View'.

AFF conducts research on specific areas of concern and assesses the impact of policy changes so that we can comment on behalf of families. AFF surveys are conducted face to face and via the internet to ensure the widest possible input from Army families.