



EJSU TORREJON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



SUPPORTING BRITISH PERSONNEL, EJSU STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES

EJSU Madrid, CAOC Torrejon, BFPO 56

EMAIL: HELEN.WARREN100@MOD.GOV.UK

CLO INTRODUCTION

As we move into spring, things hopefully start to look brighter as the days get warmer and the sun makes more of an appearance. That brings with it more optimistic feelings about the prospect of being able to mix and move around more freely within our region and (fingers crossed!) the rest of the country!

Thanks to everyone that took part in the community needs survey, as a result we now have a Spanish course organised. A date set for the first CLO virtual catch up and below you will find lots of information on career/business support for British military spouses. I hope from this you feel a little more supported here in Madrid.

If you would like to see something specific in the upcoming newsletters or have a community event, group or recommendation to advertise or maybe you require some assistance, then please get in touch.

Wishing you a very Happy Easter

Take care and stay safe

Helen



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Head of Location (HOL) - Spike McKee	672883624 919 073 164
J1 JNCO - Mark Solomon	919 073 163
Community Liaison Officer (CLO) - Helen Warren	919 073 163
Host Nation Liaison Officer (HNLO) - Cristina Atienza	919 073 162
DIO Estates Manager - Lucia Lumbreras	919 073 162 681 045 359
EJSU Area Welfare Officer - Chris Jones (Available 24/7)	+32 478 970 280
Healix - Health line	+44 208 481 7800

If dialing from a UK number, remember to prefix with +34 unless otherwise stated.

CLO Working Hours are as follows

Tuesday & Thursday: 1000-1500.

Wednesday: 0930-1530



["CLO Community Information"](#)

EVENTS AND GROUPS



BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR GUARANTEED FUN!

HELP ORGANISE GROUPS, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, CULTURAL EVENTS AND MORE.

LEARN TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

AQUIRE AN UPTODATE DBS

OBTAIN SAFEGUARDING QUALIFICATIONS

GAIN OFFSITE ACTIVITIES TRAINING

ATTEND VOLUNTEER WORKSHOPS AND MORE.

DO YOU HAVE SKILLS TO SHARE AND TIME TO SPARE?

The British Community is looking for volunteers to join the EJSU Registered Activities Group Torrejon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

HELEN WARREN

helen.warren100@mod.gov.uk

**CLO VIRTUAL CATCH UP
THURSDAY 4TH MARCH**

@ 1100

VIA GOOGLE MEET



To join look for the google meet link on the

[CLO Community Facebook group](#)

Join in for a jam-packed evening of entertainment with an exciting line-up of familiar faces coming together to raise money for soldiers, veterans and their families.

Date: 05th March

Time: 1820 - 2030

Price: £10

To register click [Here](#)



CAREERS INFORMATION FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

From the results of the community needs survey 68% of you wanted some more information about, online courses, business advice and career support for military spouses, here are some really great places to start...

[The Milspo Network](#) started as [The InDependent Spouse® podcast](#) - a series of fun, informative weekly podcasts which explores the world of running a business by chatting to inspiring military entrepreneurs.

Aimed at enterprising Milspo's, each episode is full of useful tips and amusing anecdotes, many of which will be familiar to those trying to create their successful businesses while living the 'magnolia wall life'.

The Milspo Network launched shortly after in early 2019. It now has over 800 military spouses, partners, and other-half members connecting, networking and building successful businesses whilst living the modern military life.

Hand in hand with the community The Milspo Network delivers monthly networking groups, online training from experts and a safe space that supports. The Milspo Business Network is for ALL military spouses, partners, other halves in business and does not discriminate on gender, rank or location.

[SMSpouses](#) Is a free social media training programme for military spouses. The social media training is an 11-week course which is completed from home, using a combination of online learning tools, social media and mentoring to provide first-class course content.

[Recruit for Spouses](#) Recruit for Spouses is an independent social enterprise dedicated to supporting, championing and finding gainful employment for an untapped talent pool of spouses and partners to members of our Armed

[Forces Military Coworking hubs](#) are a growing network of shared office spaces in or near military bases in the UK for spouses to work in and share ideas. This may not be relevant now, but it's a good one to know when back in the UK.

['Supporting the Unsung Hero'](#) Business Start-Up Program has been developed specifically for Armed Forces families to provide them with the transferable skills and support required to start and maintain a business. They aim to make the course as much fun and as relaxed as possible to encourage you throughout the program. They deliver training online and in MOD bases across the UK and overseas throughout the year.

[RAFBF](#) - The new program, THRIVE, aims to help partners increase the employability of those who are looking for paid employment, further the skills of partners who are already resourceful, explore alternatives to paid employment, improve overall wellbeing and emotional resilience. reduce social isolation and more.

Thrive workshops will run across the RAF using online platforms and these will be led by qualified coaches who themselves have served or are partners of the serving RAF.

To register your interest, simply [fill in the online form](#).

[Dot project](#) - Support organisations across the social, public and education sector to be their digital best. They coach organisations and people to explore how they can harness their unique organisational fabric, their morale, their capabilities and strengths to harness the potential technology provides in order to thrive in a world that is constantly changing.

[LifeWorks Families](#) is a support service (at zero-cost to the participant) to help military families get the job they want. It's available to the immediate family of any veteran or serving member of the British Armed Forces. The course is funded by organisations keen to support military families.

The [CTP](#) are delighted to announce the launch of their brand-new Partner Career Support Program - providing exemplary career support to spouses and partners of members of the UK Armed Forces.

Whether you're already in employment, have been out of work for some time, or are based overseas and are looking to understand your suitability for a UK based role, they are here to help you find a future career that suits your individual needs and experience. Better yet, the program will be entirely accessible online, meaning you can begin planning for your dream future career, from anywhere in the world, at a time and pace that suits you.

[Step into Health](#) is an initiative that connects employers in the NHS to people from the Armed Forces community, by offering an access routes and career development opportunities.

Step into Health is open to all service leavers, reservists, veterans, Cadet Force Adult Volunteers and the families of all of these.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS IN MADRID

Due to COVID-19, any events and activities that are allowed to go ahead will fully comply with [current health protection regulations put in place by the government](#).

From Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, thousands of people flock to the city to attend the numerous processions that take place on the streets of Madrid. The atmosphere created by the rolling drums, trumpets and the hundreds of religious worshippers' in bright and colourful attire is the hallmark of Easter in Madrid.

Madrid commemorates the Passion and death of Jesus Christ with a packed programme of events. Churches and basilicas schedule religious music concerts, whilst numerous brotherhoods take part in processions, they have been preparing for all year long. The city's best restaurants, cafés and cake shops serve traditional Easter dishes, such as torrijas (French toast) and potaje de garbanzos (chickpea stew).

Processions (28 March to 4 April)

During Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter Sunday, carved images and sculptures, which spend the rest of the year housed in basilicas and churches, are adorned with candles, flowers, and richly embroidered shawls. Accompanied by dozens of penitents and borne aloft by *costaleros*, members of different religious guilds, they are taken on processions through emblematic places such as the Paseo del Prado, Calle Alcalá and the Plaza Mayor.

Particularly noteworthy processions are two held on **Palm Sunday** (28 March) [Nuestro Padre](#)



[Jesús del Amor \(La Borriquita\)](#) and [Santísimo Cristo de la Fe y el Perdón \(Students\)](#), and one on **Holy Wednesday** (31 March): [Nuestro Padre Jesús de la Salud](#) and [María Santísima de las Antiguas \(Gypsies\)](#).

The processions held during the **Easter Triduum** are those with the most recognition and followers, as they commemorate the death of Christ. The most popular ones are: [Nuestro Padre Jesús del Gran Poder y María Santísima de la Esperanza](#) (1 April), [Jesús Nazareno y la Virgen de la Soledad](#) (1 April) and [Divino Cautivo](#) (1 April, with the famous carving by Mariano Benlliure), all of which are held on Holy Thursday, [Jesús Nazareno de Medinaceli](#) (2 April), [María Santísima de los Siete Dolores](#) (2 April) and the **Santo Entierro** (2 April), all on Good Friday, and, finally, the [Virgen Dolorosa](#) and [Soledad](#) on Holy Saturday (3 April).

The **Hermandad del Silencio** procession sets out on the evening of Good Friday (2 April) from the Literary Quarter, and in it, a group of *costaleros* carry the Santísimo Cristo de la Fe through historic places like Plaza de Matute, Plaza de Santa Ana, Calle Echegaray, Calle Cervantes, and Calle Lope de Vega.

Sacred Music and *La Tamborrada*

Easter in Madrid would not be the same without music. The [Religious Music programme for Easter](#) is filled with concerts that include the [Young Performers Cycle](#), the [concerts of the Madrid Choral Federation](#) and [traditional saetas](#). They all take place in churches across the city, such as the Royal Basilica of Our Lady of Atocha, the Chapel of Our Lady of Almudena Cemetery, the Royal Collegiate Church of San Isidro and the Royal Basilica of San Francisco el Grande. The city's cultural centres also offer their own concert series: [Conciertos en los Distritos](#), and the [Organ Cycle in San Ginés](#) features concerts by well-known organists.

On Easter Sunday, it's time for the [tamborrada maña](#) drum parade. Various brotherhoods carrying drums of different sizes set off from Madrid's Plaza Mayor and stroll towards Plaza de la Villa as they play music to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, three days after his death.

Gastronomy

It is common for religious celebrations to feature traditional fare, and Easter in Madrid is no exception. [Dishes](#) enjoyed at this time of year range from **Soldaditos de Pavía** –crispy fried chunks of cod, **Potaje de garbanzos a la madrileña** (chickpea stew, with spinach, cod, potatoes and hard-boiled egg) and **croquetas de bacalao** (cod croquettes) to **torrijas**, Spain's answer to French toast.

SUPPORT/WELFARE



If you are experiencing Violence during Covid-19



Reach out: to supportive family, friends or neighbours



Call: a hotline or access information online if possible

If you would like to talk, below are agencies that are available to offer support and advice.

British Forces Social Work Service (BFSWS) Central Referral Team +44 (0) 808 168 3111

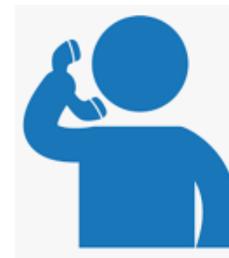
Local Welfare Unit or AWS Intake and Assessment Team on: +44 1904 88 2053/2054

Women's Aid +44(0)808 2000 Male Victims +44(0)808 801 0327

Male/Female Perpetrators +44(0)808 802 4040

Men's Advice Line 0808 801 0327 www.mensadvice.org.uk

Rape Crisis (England and Wales) 0808 802 9999 www.rapecrisis.org.uk



COVID UPDATE

GENERAL MEASURES

A curfew is in place between 2300 and 0600, Businesses cannot accept new customers after 2200 including food and drink establishments, however food delivery services can continue until 0000.

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR MEETINGS, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

Meetings inside homes with members other than your household are banned. Social gatherings in public food/drink establishments is limited to four people indoors and Six outdoors, however face masks need to be

worn continuously unless taking food or drink.

SAFETY MEASURES FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The use of a face mask is compulsory on all means of public transport for everyone aged six years or over.

AREA RESTRICTIONS

As of midnight from 01/03/2021 Alcobendas and other restricted areas have lifted, meaning you can now travel to any unrestricted area with Madrid community. Some regional and local restrictions are still subject to a perimetral lockdown, meaning residents cannot leave or enter the area unless it is for essential reasons, such as for work, to access to school, care services or in the case of an emergency. To view restricted areas follow this link - <https://www.comunidad.madrid/gobierno/actualidad/datos-coronavirus>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON COVID AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS SEE THE LINKS BELOW:

<https://www.comunidad.madrid/covid-19>

<https://english.elpais.com/news/society/>



UPDATE FROM THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Motor Insurance

All service personnel are reminded to check the small print of their vehicle insurance policies. **Some companies have introduced clauses which exclude driving on MOD sites and military bases.** If living on base, it is important that insurance companies are made aware of this. Companies might refuse a claim if it transpires that someone has used a parental address rather than the SLA address. A person's address is an important aspect of the insurance quote, failure to declare the correct address can be perceived by your insurance company as misrepresentation giving them sufficient grounds to either delay/reduce/refuse your claim or apply additional terms such as increasing your excess or adding an additional premium. If your insurers fail to accept liability you could be legally responsible for any damage caused.

If you are unsure there are specialist Military Insurance providers who can advise you on this matter.

Vehicle Finance

A new protocol is being developed to try and ensure that Service Personnel do not sign up to car finance products that might be unsuitable. We continue to see cases where an overseas move has resulted in the Service Person having to return the vehicle or pay a significant amount to extract from a contract. When looking at finance options, it is really important that the finance company is aware if you have a liability to service overseas. For the avoidance of any doubt, personnel are advised to keep emails or messages which can be used to prove that the possibility of overseas postings were discussed.

I will raise these at the next gathering of our contacts in the Financial Services industry, in March. If recipients have any other issues to do with financial services, please let me know.

COVENANT LEGISLATION

Parliament watchers will have noticed that the Armed Forces Bill 2021 has started its journey through parliament. It will become law later in the year and, among other things, will require public providers of healthcare, education and housing to give **due consideration** to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant when making decisions.

Not about the Covenant, but it is, nevertheless, useful...

BFPO UPDATE

BFPO customers in EU locations are advised that mail subject to recent delays is continuing to work its way through an extremely busy civil mail network system. Additionally, BFPO have successfully trialed a number of alternate mail conveyance methods which are now working in most areas. Customers are, at this time, still advised that a return to normal service frequencies is not yet possible and transit times will be affected until new systems fully bed in.

BFPO have experienced an interruption with deliveries to, and UK return services from, BFPO Naples, Milan and Torrejon. BFPO customers in these locations are advised that BFPO parcel services and UK return services via the Naples Forces Post Office and BFPO 56 **are temporarily suspended** with immediate effect. Customers in these locations are to cease mail order activity and inform family/friends to delay sending items larger than letters (up to 100g).

While we are working hard to rectify the issue, the suspension may result in the return of all items destined for Naples/Milan/Torrejon which do not comply with International Mail Import/Export Regulations introduced on 1 Jan 21, this includes items currently being held at BFPOs Northolt site. BFPO will capture data of all items which are returned to assist customers in providing a proof of return, should this be required. BFPO will issue customers further guidance on claim submission if it becomes necessary to do so.

BFPO customers in Naples, Milan and Torrejon are advised that efforts to unlock the current local customs issues are ongoing at the highest level and BFPO will continue to dispatch letter mail (official/private) to Naples, Milan and Torrejon UK defence locations.

And finally, as ever, if you feel that you have been disadvantaged because you are in the Armed Forces, or you have any queries about the Armed Forces Covenant, contact the team. Covenant-mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Sent on behalf of -

Cdr Bill Lauste RN | Armed Forces Covenant Team| Covenant Engagement|AFP Support



Ministry
of Defence

Civilian Housing Options for HM Forces Personnel

Joint Service Housing Advice Office

JSHAO briefing dates

Date	Start Time	End Time	Location
12/01/2021	10:00	11:30	CIVILIAN HOUSING OPTIONS
20/01/2021	14:30	15:30	TALKING MORTGAGES
			WORKSHOP
28/01/2021	14:00	15:30	CIVILIAN HOUSING OPTIONS
09/02/2021	10:00	11:30	CIVILIAN HOUSING OPTIONS
			WORKSHOP
18/02/2021	14:30	15:30	TALKING MORTGAGES
25/02/2021	14:00	15:30	CIVILIAN HOUSING OPTIONS
09/03/2021	10:00	11:30	CIVILIAN HOUSING OPTIONS
17/03/2021	14:30	15:30	TALKING MORTGAGES
			WORKSHOP
25/03/2021	14:00	15:30	CIVILIAN HOUSING OPTIONS

Regardless of how long you have served, or how long you have left to serve, it is important to understand the available housing options.

The presentation will provide the following:

- Purchasing and Renting property
- Affordable home ownership schemes
- The Lifetime ISA
- Forces Help to Buy - update
- MoD Referral Scheme
- Social Housing
- Information from Independent Mortgage Advisors

To register your attendance please email:

If you have any questions, please email: RC-Pers-JSHAO-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT EJSU NET?

THE WEBSITE IS THERE TO SUPPORT SERVICE PERSONNEL, CIVILIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES SERVING WITH NATO, THE EU AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE AND TURKEY.

THERE YOU WILL FIND AN ABUNDANCE OF INFORMATION RELEVANT TO YOUR POSTING.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)