

PM praises city MP after TA question

The Prime Minister has paid credit to Mark Lancaster as he quizzed him during the debate on defence cuts.

David Cameron was answering a question on military reserves this afternoon (Tuesday) following his statement outlining the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

The MP for Milton Keynes North, who is also a serving Territorial Army officer, sought the Government's stance on the greater use of specialist reserves.

He is particularly keen to maintain support for E Company The Rifles based at the TA centre in Blakelands.

He has since pledged to play a key role in the review of the reserve forces which was announced today.

There were noises of agreement in the House of Commons as Mr Cameron said: "The honourable Gentleman himself has served in Afghanistan and has expertise in bomb disposal and we should pay credit to him for that."

He added: "It's right to try and develop units where we put military and civilians together."

Afterwards Mr Lancaster added: "Given the commitments made by the Prime Minister I'm optimistic about the outcome of this review, locally and nationally, but intend to get involved in the process myself to ensure this."