

## **Armed Forces**

### **1992 Conference Report**

#### **Review our service work in relation to members of the Armed Forces with a problem of alcohol abuse and make recommendations.**

Region 15 appears to have had most success with the Armed Forces, the Services there found that it cost too much to lose trained personnel and that it is cost effective to rehabilitate them.

Most Clergy, Medical Officers and Commanding Officers are convinced that AA works. Also there are non-alcoholic people of high rank who are also pro AA.

Generally, most other Regions felt that AA is more accepted in the US and Canadian Forces rather than British Forces who often deny that there is a problem.

Owing to objections from certain members of the Committee to the term "Alcoholic Abuse", the Committee decided to interpret this term to mean "Alcoholism".

Recommendations:

1. The experience of Region 15 could play a great part in making high level contact with the forces stationed here in collaboration with the General Service Board.

2. Out approach to the Armed Forces should be on three levels: firstly Heads of Personnel, then the Medical Director General of each service and finally to the Commanding Officers of individual bases. Our approach should be purely informative as to what we do and do not do.

3. Command and Medical Officers of local units to be invited to all Public Meetings and Forums held in their area.

Our experience shows that this can be an effective means of contact.

4. Follow-up visits after meetings

5. AA posters and contact cards to be placed on unit notice boards.

6. That the editors of "Navy News", "Soldier" and its RAF equivalent be contacted with offers of help as regards articles, interviews and details of AA in the area.

7. Target establishment and unit broadsheets. Each army unit has its own "in house" bulletin.

8. The personal touch AA service personnel should be encouraged to share their AA experience with members of their old units or service. Successful contacts have been made through members' relatives or friends in the services.

### **1997 Conference Report**

In the experience of the Fellowship it appears little has changed since Conference considered its relationship with the Armed Forces in 1992. Again, most Regions felt that AA is more accepted in the US and Canadian Forces than in the British Forces.

This Committee recommends:

a) that the GSB approaches the Armed Forces/Government at the highest appropriate level regarding how AA may be of Service and be contactable at local and regional levels. The GSB will report its progress to Conference 1998. Existing contacts at the level of Group, Intergroup and Region should be maintained.

b) The pamphlet 'AA and the Armed Forces' be reviewed and updated by the Literature Committee and report back to Conference 1998. A draft revision presented to this Committee will be forwarded to the Literature Committee.

### **2008 Conference Report**

#### **Discuss and share experience as to whether AA is in communication with the Armed Services at all levels in the most effective manner possible?**

This Committee recognises that, through the hard work being undertaken by the Armed Services Sub-Committee of the General Service Board, that Alcoholics Anonymous is developing effective communication with the Armed Services at national level.

The experience shared in Committee Five suggests that there is limited local communication with the Armed Services. However, where the existing service structure engages in this 12<sup>th</sup> Step work, communications are effective.

In areas where members of the Fellowship with a military background have participated in this service discipline, their experience has proved invaluable.

### **2009 Conference Report**

We have created lots of interest and enthusiasm for 'Carrying the Message to the Suffering Alcoholic' serving or having served in the

Armed Services. The forecast for the next twelve months is that there will be even more work to be carried out.

WE NEED TO HAVE A STRONG STRUCTURE OF COMMUNICATION TO BE ABLE TO FULFIL OUR COMMITMENTS.

I therefore put to Conference 2009 the following proposal:

**THAT WHERE THERE IS A PRESENCE OF MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS OR FAMILIES OF SERVICE PERSONNEL INTERGROUPS AND REGIONS APPOINT AN ARMED SERVICE LIAISON OFFICER.**

*Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority vote.*

We present to Conference, *AA and the Armed Services* – six shares from members, who found recovery while serving in the Armed Forces, combined with *Who Me* and a *Message for Professionals*. These form the literature portfolio.

*Conference approved the above proposal unanimously with the amendment to remove place names of bases.*

### **2011 Conference Report**

#### **Review new Guideline No. 21: 'Armed Services Guideline'.**

From Armed Services Sub Committee, to Literature Committee.

The Committee accepted Guideline 21 with the following recommendations:

The word "there" to be removed from section "Making Contact", paragraph 1, line 2.

Add "AA Comes of Age" to the reading list

Unanimous