

# TANDBERG CUSTOMER PROFILE



## UK Military Court Service

*The Military Court Service relies on TANDBERG video systems, including the TANDBERG 6000 MXP*

- **CLIENT:** The U.K.'s Military Court Service, a civilian body that administers courts martial and other proceedings for army, air force and navy units around the world
- **ACTION:** Installed 10 powerful TANDBERG 6000 MXP video communication systems in court martial centres across the UK and Germany, and supplemented them with compact MXP systems like the TANDBERG 2000 and TANDBERG 1000
- **RESULT:** Quicker judicial review of far-flung custody cases; enhanced ability to hear testimony from distant witnesses; more systematic application of prescribed military-law procedures

### **MILITARY JUSTICE: VIDEO AROUND THE WORLD**

Ethics and discipline loom large in the British armed forces, and violations of law are prosecuted to the fullest. The Military Court Service sees to that. It administers more than 600 criminal courts martial per year around the world.

For the court service, it's important to keep all the proceedings moving ahead smartly. Wherever on earth a detainee is stationed, he or she must be brought before a civilian judge advocate for custody review within 48 hours of arrest. With the clock ticking and justice in the balance, the Military Court Service (MCS) increasingly relies on high-quality "virtual" courtrooms where far-flung defendants, judges, prosecutors and defending officers are brought together using TANDBERG video communication technology.

"The Army, the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force are scattered about the world, so video-teleconferencing is the optimal way for us to keep legal channels open," says David Rainey, the Executive Officer of military court services.

### **FROM IRAQ TO THE FALKLANDS**

The use of video communication in military courts was enshrined in the U.K.'s Criminal Justice Act in 1996. Initial problems with quality and reliability were eventually solved by migrating from another manufacturer's equipment to a network of TANDBERG 6000 MXP video communication systems. There is now one such unit at each of nine court martial centres across the UK and Germany, and there is an additional unit at the court service's headquarters in Upavon, Wiltshire. From there, Mr. Rainey and his colleagues administer the high-bandwidth network and set up outside links as necessary through Ministry of Defence satellites.

"We can bring in military units wherever they're deployed," he says. "That could be Iraq, the Falkland Islands, Brunei or any other theatre of operations. Whether an individual is taken into custody or just giving evidence, we need the capability of extending British legal norms to that person."

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**DAVID RAINEY  
MILITARY COURT SERVICE**



*A British military courtroom*

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## **TOP-QUALITY VIDEO, EASY TO USE**

Outside the court service's own high-speed network, transmission quality can vary. But the rollout of TANDBERG equipment has eliminated a key variable in providing military justice by video, Mr. Rainey says.

"People's confidence is much improved," he says. "The new equipment is intu-itive and much better to use, with excellent screen quality and far greater functionality."

The British Army, too, he says, is in the process of a global upgrade of video communication equipment, installing TANDBERG endpoint systems in place of another manufacturer's.

## **SEAMLESS**

Despite the widely dispersed nature of British military obligations, most court procedures take place at one of the five court martial centres on UK soil. Yet even those are often video-dependant. A judge advocate may sit in Aldersgrove or Colchester while a prosecutor makes his case from Bulford and an accused soldier participates along with his defending officer from a third location, all bridged seamlessly.

At Mr. Rainey's hub in Upavon, the TANDBERG 6000 MXP's video address book contains hundreds of frequently used numbers. In addition to army, navy and air force units abroad, the list includes the Office of Constitutional Affairs in Chancery Lane, London, and many individual judges who have installed compact video systems in their homes to hear after-hours custody cases.

"The feeling is that the best evidence is given in person, but that video communication is a close second," Mr. Rainey says. "It is a good way for the court and jury panels to see a witness's movements and facial expressions while hearing what everyone has to say. For that reason, we like the video links to be very, very high quality."

## **ABOUT TANDBERG**

TANDBERG is a leading global provider of visual communication products and services. The Company has dual headquarters in New York and Norway. TANDBERG designs, develops and markets systems and software for video, voice and data. The Company provides sales, support and value-added services in more than 90 countries worldwide. TANDBERG trades publicly on the Oslo Stock Exchange under the ticker TAA.OL. Please visit [www.tandberg.net](http://www.tandberg.net) for more information.



*The new, video-equipped Bulford Military Court Centre*



*TANDBERG 1000 MXP*