



## PRESS RELEASE

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### FALKLAND VETERAN RETURNS TO A&P TYNE

A&P Tyne Ltd, part of A&P Group Ltd, has been awarded the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) refit contract on RFA Fort Austin for the UK Ministry of Defence.

The contract is to carry out a significant amount of planned maintenance and capability enhancements to this auxiliary fleet replenishment ship, built on the Clyde in 1975.

The vessel arrived in Tyneside and moored alongside the Bede Quay at the Hebburn yard on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007 and successfully docked down on August 15<sup>th</sup> 2007. The total contract period is 103 days and will employ at peak over 400 personnel with an A&P core workforce of approximately 200.

RFA Fort Austin has been in continuous service with the RFA Flotilla since 1978 and has seen service in the Falklands war in 1982, the 1<sup>st</sup> Gulf war in 1991, the conflict in Bosnia in 1994, Operation Telic (2<sup>nd</sup> Gulf war) in 2003 together with humanitarian relief operations in areas such as Sierra Leone in 2000.

The scope of A&P's work involves upgrades to the internal and external communications fits, new bridge and command arrangements, improved helicopter landing aids and improved fire suppression systems. The project also involves increasing the capability of the ship by fitting a variety of defensive weapons systems, together with a large amount of planned maintenance work to ensure the ship continues to operate efficiently and remains within Lloyds Register Classification.

Dave Skentelbery, Managing Director A&P North East Businesses, commented,

*"This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive refit for RFA Fort Austin by A&P Tyne over the last ten years and we welcome the return of this important national strategic asset for what will be a very demanding and intensive refit period. Success on this project will be assured by all the major contributors i.e. the RFA, ship staff, A&P and our major sub-contractors working together as an integrated project team with one sole objective, the redelivery of the ship to the Flotilla."*

For further information please contact Dave Skentelbery on +44 (0)1914308600 or email [dave.skentelbery@shipcare.co.uk](mailto:dave.skentelbery@shipcare.co.uk)

#### Notes to Editors:

A&P Group Ltd are leading contenders of European Shiprepair, Conversion and Marine Services. Owing facilities strategically located around the UK, we are within easy access to customers operating in North West Europe. With extensive drydock, wharfage and fabrication facilities; combined with a strong project management and engineering team you can expect safe, timely and cost effective solutions from A&P. Visit us online @ [www.ap-group.co.uk](http://www.ap-group.co.uk) for further information.

Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007

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