

Wing Commander Teresa Griffiths: When the hospitals closed, military hospitals closed, basically military personnel were moved to the five or six different locations around the country so you have got a unit in Derriford, in Northallerton, in Frimley Park, in Peterborough and Portsmouth so the nurses and medical staff are integrated into that hospital to get the appropriate medical training for their operational role. Now Birmingham does do that, that's one of its roles but the significant role that Birmingham does that differs from the others is that is called the role 4 and role 4 is the end of the evacuation chain for our casualties from operational theatres and that we actually deliver care that cannot be delivered in an operational theatre because it is going to take too much time or that the injuries are so significant that they are going to need more specialities that they don't have in places like Afghanistan and Iraq so Birmingham is half of it and it's the acute care clinical unit and Headley Court provides the rehabilitation focus. So whilst we have patients coming back from Afghanistan and other operations, we are also the hub and spoke for all aeromed [aeromedical] activity wherever military personnel are deployed across the world so if you are on a ship in the Caribbean and you are injured and need to come home you will first come back to RCDM [Royal Centre for Defence Medicine] in Birmingham.