

Parents glowing tribute to 'irrepressibly vibrant' son



MARINE IS KILLED IN TRAINING ACCIDENT

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Herald Reporter

TRIBUTES have flooded in from across the globe for a Plymouth Royal Marine killed instantly when a Land Rover overturned during a training exercise.

Jamie Hutton, 23, of 42 Commando, died in the incident at Lulworth firing range, near Weymouth, Dorset, on Tuesday. Another man is in hospital with serious injuries.

Family, friends and colleagues have paid tribute to a 'dynamic and passionate soldier' and an 'irrepressibly vibrant' man who lived every moment to the full.

More than 700 people from around the world have joined a memorial website created by his brother Ewan, many posting messages and images.

Jamie spent much of his youth in Plymouth and attended Hooe Primary School.

He was among 18 marines from 42 Commando who last year received campaign medals for service in Afghanistan.

Parents Jim, a serving Brigadier, and Sally Hutton, along with brother Ewan, issued the following statement: "Our lovely lad, full of the joys of life, irrepressibly vibrant, kindness personified and friend to all has gone - but he will never be forgotten.

"That he packed so much into his short life is a lesson to us all. He lived at full throttle, always on the move, dreaming up his next plan.

"Failure was never an option for Jamie; but when it came, he just shrugged and moved on with a smile.



'LOVELY LAD': Top left, Royal Marine Jamie Hutton on holiday and, above, with his father, Brigadier Jim Hutton

"He saw positive from every negative and his charm offensive never disengaged.

"He was a proud Marine, hard as nails but with a soft heart; we all wanted a part of him, and he gave it gladly.

"We have shed many a tear since his passing but we see and hear him everywhere.

"He touched so many people and

we are all glad for that. See ya, pal!"

Now living in Naples, Italy, his family have frequently lived near Westcountry military bases as Jamie's father is a Royal Marines brigadier.

Jamie joined the Corps in 2005 at the age of 20. He finished training having won the Charnock Shooting Trophy and earned himself the nickname of 'The Colonel'.

He joined K Company 42 Commando RM in May 2006, with which he deployed to Gereshk, Nowzad and Kajaki in Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel Charlie Stickland, commanding officer of 42 Commando Royal Marines, described the death as a 'tragic, tragic loss'.

He said: "Marine Jamie Hutton was the type of dynamic soldier and personality every organisation needs - a surfer, a rugby player, a friend to all and an outstanding operator.

"The world was at his feet - marked out as a man for the future with his new found expertise as a sniper and gaining command of an expert Recce Team.

"His passion for his profession and his lust for life were infectious to all. 'The Colonel' was a force beyond his years."

Among the tributes on social networking site Facebook, Sam Taylor, from the University of Plymouth, wrote: "Jamie will always be remembered as the life and soul of everything he was involved with. Love you mate going to miss you."

Lisa Hocken added: "Us guys from Plymstock all knew Jamie from his stint at Hooe Primary School in Year 6. He was such great character that we still remember him and talk of him today, 12 years on."

The family said they plan to celebrate Jamie's life on Friday with full military honours in Plymouth.

The incident is being investigated by the Army's Land Accident Investigation Team and the Royal Military Police.

A spokesman said: "There were five people in the Land Rover. One was sadly killed and another was seriously injured and taken to hospital."