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Welcome to the March/April edition of the Insight magazine. I have taken over from Sqn Ldr Si Nevin, as the Editor and I look forward to working with the Insight team to continue to bring you a magazine that is relevant to the Waddington community.

In this month’s edition we have articles on squadron participation in Ex Red Flag, the origins of 1 ISR Wing, and visits to the Station by the Jon Egging Trust, Project X – The School Engagement Team, and updates from a number of sporting events and teams.

As always this magazine relies on your stories and articles. Please forward any ideas, articles and photos to WAD-InsightEditorialTeam@mod.uk; photos between 250Kb to 1Mb are ideal. The deadline for the next edition is Thursday the 6th of April.

Keith

From the Editor

Sqn Ldr Keith Bissett

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With BOLTHOLE complete and the runway very much back in use, it has been great to see all Waddington Squadrons operating from home base during the early months of 2017. Whilst the operational tempo continues and many will still be required to deploy overseas or work hard at home, I hope that the increased stability that the post-BOLTHOLE set-up provides will be of benefit to all and better respite when not deployed.

Whilst much of our output will remain focused on Op SHADER, I do anticipate a greater demand for operational missions flown from the UK this year, be they in support of NATO or other tasks. However, what we can be sure of is that our politicians and senior military commanders will ask us to deliver as much as we possibly can across all our capabilities. Hence we need to be careful that we offer a rate of effort that we can safely deliver on an enduring basis, rather than being tempted to agree to an unsustainable level of output.

As well as operational output, this year will also see participation in numerous exercises both overseas and in the UK. No V(AC) Squadron, 51 Sqn Squadron and 1 ISR Wing have already had a very successful deployment to Nevada for Exercise Red Flag, arguably the most advanced air exercise on offer in the world, with over 100 aircraft participating. Throughout the rest of the year, we expect to take part in Exercises Cobra Warrior, Virtual Fury, Maple Flag, Rising Panther and many more, to provide the right opportunities to sustain and develop the very best crews, operators and support staff to deliver the ISTAR Force’s mission.

However, 2017 must be about far more than operations and training for operations or contingency. We are planning several specific Station-level social events, to include: a Summer Families’ Day; a Station Awards Dinner to recognise the achievements of personnel of all ranks; and a whole-of-Station Post-BOLTHOLE Hangar Party. Details and dates will be published very soon, but I hope that these events will provide some opportunity to unwind and enjoy time with colleagues, friends and families, in addition to the numerous events arranged by individual messes, squadrons and sections.

Finally, we also look forward to exercising our Freedom of the City of Lincoln again this year. For those that are not directly participating, the offer is open for personnel, families and friends - indeed the whole Waddington community - to join us in Lincoln and watch the parade on the 7th of April.

Group Captain Al Marshall

A recent addition to RAF Waddington but a long time part of the RAF’s ISTAR Force, 1 Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Wing (1 ISR Wg) may not be familiar to many RAF Waddington personnel.

The Wing was established on 1 April 2016 as a combination of the personnel and capabilities of the Tactical Imagery Intelligence Wing (TIW) at RAF Marham, 54 Signals Unit at RAF Digby and the Imagery Analysts from V(AC) Sqn, at RAF Waddington. The Wing is undergoing further change as elements are in the process of relocating to the Pathfinder building at RAF Wyton.

The role of 1 ISR Wg is to conduct all processing, exploitation and
Formation of 1 ISR Wing

dissemination of information collected by RAF No.1 Group intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft, in order to provide operationally relevant intelligence products to decision-makers. 1 ISR Wg currently comprises just over 300 personnel across 4 UK locations, with its headquarters recently established at RAF Waddington as part of the ISTAR Force Headquarters.

A detachment of 1 ISR Wg personnel are permanently deployed to RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, providing round-the-clock support to the RAF Fast Jets and intelligence collection aircraft committed to Operation SHADER. Other elements of 1 ISR Wg also provide 24/7 support to overseas operations from their permanent base locations within the UK, utilising sophisticated communications systems to relay information to and from the theatre of operations, and providing vital intelligence support to UK and coalition forces.

In addition to continuous support to current operations, 1 ISR Wg is also looking to the future of RAF intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations. Personnel have been involved in numerous trials with industry partners to develop and refine the next generation of RAF sensors, set the requirements for more capable ground-based analytical computer systems, and radically re-think and improve the existing doctrine and processes by which intelligence support to RAF assets is conducted. Personnel from 1 ISR Squadron have continuously expanded their support to the RAF’s Remotely Piloted Aircraft System squadrons, whilst 2 ISR Squadron personnel have driven new and innovative solutions to maximise the ability of their analysts to gather valuable intelligence data from a wider range of aircraft than ever before.

1 ISR Wg has also continued to build professional relationships with imagery analysts from across NATO, hosting visits by analysts from the Belgian Air Force and planning for a joint exercise with analysts from the Polish Air Force in 2017.

The Wing has also deployed personnel in support of numerous UK-based and overseas Exercises, as well as actively supporting events such as the Royal International Air Tattoo and the Royal Norfolk Show, both of which provided excellent opportunities to engage with the public and enhance the reputation of the RAF.

The Wing would not be able to provide its high standard of support without the efforts of RAF Intelligence Reserve personnel. 7010(Volunteer Reserve) Squadron have mobilised a number of personnel, both short and long term, in support of 1 ISR Wg at RAF Marham, as well as deploying with regular personnel in support of the 1 ISR Wg RAF Akrotiri detachment.
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CLOSE to 2000 recruits have completed Basic Training in 2016 at Recruit Training Squadron (RTS), RAF Halton, but who are the men and women behind that transformation from civilian to service person in ten short weeks? The answer, all trades across the RAF including, Aircraft Engineers, Non-Commissioned Aircrew, Personnel (Support) and Regiment Gunners; all dedicated JNCOs and SNCOs who have risen to the challenge to take up a Phase One instructional post.

Corporal Laura Quilliam, Registered Nurse, who alongside five other JNCOs within her team looks after up to 120 recruits said: “The job is diverse! You have to be agile and able to deal with both discipline and welfare issues. As an instructor, I make decisions about my own career and time management and as a JNCO it’s nice to have people to manage (something which I have never done before). Overall, it’s a fantastic job and would recommend to anyone who wants to do something different.”

The Basic Recruit Training Course is split into three modules. Module 1 concentrates on military essentials, kit and uniform preparation, foot drill and physical training. The recruits, supported with RTS staff also undertake a week’s training at Force Development Training Centre (FDTC) Crickhowell “Module 1 is hard work as it involves long hours, however it is the most enjoyable part of the course as this is where the majority of the instructor’s teaching takes place. For me, this is the reason for coming to RTS as it provides the greatest reward,” said Sergeant Dan Allanson, WSOp (Crewman).

During Module 2, the recruits spend four weeks with Initial Force Protection Training (IFPT), here they undertake training on First Aid, Chemical Biological Radioactive Nuclear (CBRN) training and weapons training which culminates in Ex BLUE WARRIOR which is where confirmation of practical training takes place. “During Module 2 there are opportunities to take stand down and annual leave. Says Cpl Quilliam, The hours reduce in Module 2 as the majority of teaching is done by the IFPT staff; however, maintaining a good relationship with the IFPT staff is essential so that the recruits remain supported.”

Module 3 mainly consists of final testing and Graduation Parade practice for the recruits, behind the scenes the RTS staff are making sure the Graduation Parade will run smoothly. Sgt Allanson said: “Module 3 is another enjoyable part of the course as it involves preparation for the Graduation Parade which is a career highlight for the recruits. Piecing all the admin together and meeting the families who see the changes in their sons and daughters gives me a massive sense of pride.”

When asked what the best bit of the job is, Sgt Allanson, said: “The advantage of the job is the ability to plan your life outside of work. I came from a role where last minute changes to manning meant that the shift pattern regularly changed as a result weekends and events were regularly missed. At RTS, I know what I am doing and what weekends I am working up to a year in advance meaning that I can plan genuine quality time with my family knowing that it is very unlikely to change.”

Cpl Liam Jones, Logs (MTD) who is newly promoted and one of the youngest members of the instructional staff at RTS believes the role is developing him as a JNCO in a variety of ways, “The qualifications that you gain and experience of managing recruits, combined with the opportunities for Continuous Professional Development is of huge benefit.
for onwards employment and when retuning to trade”. When asked about RTS in comparison to his previous roles he said: “I get to have a direct influence on the future of the RAF, the reward of seeing civilians with different experiences and backgrounds on Day one then coming together to become Airmen on Graduation Day is fantastic. I am also applying the full roles and responsibilities of a JNCO, in my previous role I managed process and here I manage people, whether that is as a locum parents, councillor, lecturer, disciplinarian or Drill Instructor.”

Sgt Lee Hale, Eng Tech W, who left RTS on promotion to RAF Marham and received a CAS Commendation for his efforts at RTS, has reflected on his time at RTS and when asked what skills he had taken away and used in his current role on Op SHADER said: “Emotional intelligence, learning to stand back and listen and assess the people I work for, or more importantly who work for me and how to look after them and make them feel appreciated.”

The task of transforming civilians to servicemen is no easy task; it is challenging but rewarding and relies on a team of dedicated and professional General Service Instructors, working alongside the Regiment Instructors, Physical Training Instructors and Support Staff. However, the job is like no other the RAF can offer, it is simply unique, the instructional role at RTS is inherently a proud one where they develop themselves personally and professionally and while doing so make lifetime friends.

If you would like to know more about RTS feel free to book onto a RTS Open Day, by contacting Fg Off Perry 95237 6917 / 01296 656917.

For further information contact the RTS Engagement Coordinator Fg Off Perry, HAL-RTSAdjt@mod.uk or telephone 01296 656917.
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Project X is a ‘MoD to Schools’ initiative that allows key engagement between the local catchment area schools and RAF Waddington. Each participating school is allocated an RAF Ambassador whose role is to work with the assigned school and empower their students to get involved with a task that encapsulates the theme of: Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). The ambassadors work with the students in supervised sessions with a task aim of delivering vital stores and equipment to downed Airmen in two remote locations either side of a mountain range; the stores have to be delivered by an aerial delivery system from a student-designed and manufactured aircraft.

The ambassadors give much of their own time to guide the students – their air-centric skillset provide the school groups with an excellent mentor to provide guidance during the design and development phase. This phase proves particularly fun for all those involved as it involves a lot of trial and error, often leading to some amusing results!

Project X culminated in a competition which was hosted at the station gym (thank you to the PTIs) and all of the schools were invited. The stage was set and the ambassadors teamed up with their schools to practice using their aerial delivery systems. The schools also pitched their ideas to a mock Dragons’ Den team, headed up by Group Captain Mark Hodge. This was a hugely enjoyable aspect of the day and the enthusiasm generated some Oscar winning pitches from the students. After every team had pitched their ideas they used their systems to transport the sensitive equipment (eggs) and they were soon geared up for the final run.

The enjoyment of the whole event was captured in the assessed final run which was adjudicated by personnel from Northrop-Grumman and senior engineering and logistics representatives. Every team channelled a positive competitive spirit and although there could only be one winner, the sense of all-round achievement and the pride in the teams’ air vehicles was palpable. The Station Commander, Group Captain AI Marshall, attended the event to present the winning three schools with their rewards: 1st Lincoln Christ’s Hospital School; 2nd LSST; and 3rd were Kesteven & Sleaford School.

The thanks of the School Engagement Team go to: the Station Commander, Group Captain AI Marshall, Group Captain Hodge and Northrop Grumman in actively supporting the event; all of the Project X Ambassadors for their involvement over an extended period and to Sgt J Harvey, Sgt A Jackson, Chf Tech A Thomas for arranging and managing the event on the day. Reflecting on the event, I can honestly say that the teachers did a brilliant job at directing the students, while the Herculean task was greatly assisted by the teamwork generated through the RAF Ambassadors’ stewardship and mentoring.

MAdr B O’Sullivan, School Engagement Team
The world’s premier air combat exercise took place in January and February this year in Nevada, with the Royal Air Force (RAF) playing a major role alongside American and Australian counterparts. Set at Nellis Air Force Base, Red Flag pits ‘Blue’ coalition forces against hostile ‘Red Force’ aggressors, mirroring real-life threats in air-to-air, air-to-ground, space and cyber warfare. Red Flag’s live element took place over the US Air Force’s premier military training area in Nevada; over 15,000 square miles of airspace and 2.9 million acres of land – an impossible scale to achieve overland in Europe.

From RAF Waddington, 3 Force Elements were able to take part this year, V(AC) Sqn with the Sentinel, 51 Sqn with the Rivet Joint, and No 1 ISR Wing. Group Captain Graham Pemberton, RAF Detachment Commander for the exercise, said: “Red Flag replicates truly challenging, high-end warfare – from realistic aerial combat to emerging cyber and space threats. It’s as close as we can get to the real thing. Testing ourselves against highly capable enemy aggressors is hugely beneficial and improves and readies our personnel – from pilots to those in crucial support roles – for real-world operations. It’s a privilege for us to work with our US Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force counterparts and to cement our relationships with them at an exercise of this scale.”

This was the first Red Flag outing for the UK Rivet Joint, which is a force building from an Initial Operating Capability toward Full Operating Capability. 51 Sqn deployed and was supported by 54 Signals Unit (an element of No 1 ISR Wing) from RAF Digby. The exercise at Nellis AFB provided a number of excellent opportunities for the Rivet Joint SIGINT platform during the 4 weeks of the exercise; participating in full spectrum ‘warfare’, exploiting information and passing it our allies in real time in a contested environment.

The wide area Synthetic Aperture Radar and Moving Target Indicator capabilities provided by Sentinel were critical to extracting maximum utility from the various scenarios. By using a combination of the different modes, the 5AC Sqn crews were able to provide either ISR detections for investigation by others within the constellation, or as direct tasking to strike assets. The variety of roles within the scenario allowed the Sqn to glean significant training value which will be of direct utility within both enduring and contingent operations.

Red Flag is without doubt some of the highest quality training crews can achieve anywhere in the world. Making it an ideal place to test and integrate the full spectrum of capabilities with our allies.
The JOSCAs took place on the 7 Dec 16 in the Air Warfare Centre to recognise those individuals, or teams that have made innovative or significant contribution to the productivity, process and outputs of the JEWOSC enterprise. There were 4 categories of award this year:

a. The MASS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Electronic Warfare Operational Support.

Awarded to Flight Sergeant Mike Childs, for his tireless work supporting the toolset that delivers vital information to the front line; self-training himself and then his team in the dark arts of web site support and maintenance. FS Childs is the complete manager and leader who delivers rapid successful solutions not problems. He has and continues to, make an excellent contribution to operational support accordingly I present him to the board for consideration of receiving award of the MASS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Electronic Warfare Operational Support.

b. The Leonardo Award for Innovation.

Awarded to Mr Jim Watson for his significant technical contribution to the delivery of extensive IT infrastructure improvement projects, allowing the processing of data from new platforms, reducing the costs faced by defence, and improving the resilience of the JEWOSC systems. The CIS Squadron commander directly credits Mr Watson for significantly improving the way the JEWOSC delivers CIS infrastructure programmes, with a rationalised process and the introduction of new design documentation and implementation. He therefore justly deserves the Leonardo Award for Innovation for his outstanding efforts to the JEWOSC enterprise.

c. The CGI Award for All-round Contribution to JEWOSC.

Awarded to Corporal Tom Routledge for his outstanding contribution to all aspects of his work in the JEWOSC. From becoming a subject-matter expert on a new test rig vital to a new RAF platform's operation, to his remarkable charity activities in the local community – he has impressed his Superiors within the Service, representatives from the PT, industry executives through to members of the local community. Consequently the profile of the JEWOSC has been raised both on and off base. He is an exceptional JNCO who the Service can be proud of. He is deserved of the CGI Award for All Round Contribution to JEWOSC.

d. The JEWOSC Executives Award for Best Sports Person of the Year.

Awarded to Staff Sergeant Andy Little for his inspirational performance both on and off the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) mats. In March 2016 he won the Army BJJ Championships, which he then followed up with an amazing performance, winning another Gold Medal at the British Open in May and yet another Gold Medal at the Surrey Open in July. However, his greatest performance came at the end of August 2016 when he deployed with an Army Team of 10 men to the IBJJF World Masters Championship in Las Vegas. In the biggest event in the IBJJF calendar, with over 4000 competitors the prospect of winning a medal was always slim considering this was the team’s first exposure to a world class competition. If that wasn’t enough of a challenge he also deliberately entered in a lower age division, against even more talented competitors.

After winning both the Army Winter Championships and the RAF Invitational this October Andy has once again been selected to represent the British Army at the IBJJF European Championships in January 2017.

2016 has been an amazing year for Andy. His achievements in the sport of BJJ and his dedication to developing sport are most worthy of the title of JEWOSC Sports Person of the Year.
I'd spent the most part of my early life only wanting to join the Royal Navy and given little consideration as to what I would do if that career path were no longer available to me. I had decided however that whatever that something else was I'd like to give it a go on my own terms, thus wanted to try self-employment and the path of the entrepreneur.

I was both fortunate and unfortunate in the fact that I knew my career was coming to an end in 2014 due to an underlying medical issue I'd picked up in service getting worse to the point where it would never enable me to go and do the job I had trained to do. Having been fully immersed in the institution that is junior officer training for a good few years I'd had little opportunity to give the rest of the world much thought. I'd already filled in one job application and that hadn't ended up as planned so thought that now I needed to take control of my destiny a little more. A friend of mine had got involved in some entrepreneurial project with Virgin Start Up and, probably out of sympathy for my unhappiness at the time, asked me if I could hobble along and help. I wasn't much use but it forced me to track back and think about what I'd seen done well on the outside and had made money. I'd been backpacking on a trip around India before joining up and seen these guys called 'Dabawhallas' (essentially lunch delivery men) and thought I could make a go of it in the UK.

Having left the Navy I gave it a crack and to cut a long story short it didn't work out after having spent a fair amount of money getting it started. Sitting back now I am able to reflect on why that was, but for now I will briefly sum it up as lack of understanding on what the market wanted combined with my inability (mostly through no fault of my own) to give the company what they required who knows?

Perhaps I wouldn't be fortunate enough to be sat where I am now? However I wouldn't have known unless I had tried.

I still wasn't very well at this point either physically or mentally but I hadn't yet learned about the latter. That being said; having had something to get up and go at for so long I simply couldn't sit down and wait to get better. I had to do something. Thus a very brief career in estate agency begun before coming to the realisation that wearing a suit and sat in an office waiting for 5PM each day whilst still hobbling around on crutches (and being deeply unhappy) wasn't the way to live life. I had to take control of my destiny now I had the privilege of being able to. Back to the drawing board……

So by this time I had learned that you have to be physically and mentally fit enough to start a journey in order to see it through to success; with neither of these journeys had I started in such a position or even benefitted from such gifts in the process of doing them. We'd moved to a really beautiful place in the countryside and realised there wasn't much access to Fish & Chips (or any takeaway food) unless you wanted to drive a good 30 minute round trip to get it. I assessed this and thought; well hold on I am not the only one experiencing this, there are a lot of places outside these delivery catchment areas right on my doorstep. Before I joined up I worked in a busy Fish & Chip shop (and loved it) so thought why don't I find a Fish & Chip van and start doing a few evenings a week in these villages to get me back on my feet?

I soon got busy but realised I just didn't have the right kit to give the market what it wanted and the skills I had learned in a shop didn't prepare me well enough for the unique environment of mobile frying. What had kept me going was what one Chief Petty Officer once surmised as ‘the greatest strength being your greatest weakness – a singular mindset to get the job done but without
THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE (RFL) PRESIDENT’S BALL 2017

The RFL President’s Ball was held on 7 Jan 17 at the Queens Hotel, Leeds. The Ball is an annual Black Tie and Posh Frock event with the purpose of raising funds for the RFL Benevolent Fund which supports players whose lives have been affected by serious injuries while playing rugby league.

Air Commodore Dean Andrew – ISTAR FC, is the current President high up in the RFL, who gave an inspiring speech on the night. He is also the President of Royal Air Force Rugby League and Chief Executive Officer of United Kingdom Armed Forces Rugby League (UKAFRL).

Also in attendance were numerous military personnel, including whilst still being a young company with limited access to growth funding. Had I known this was achievable I would have done this in the first place and saved myself 6 months on the journey to where I am now but without that experience it would have been a very unwise move to have made. A decision I am sure anybody reading this would have felt tetchy about making.

Some parts of this journey have been painfully frustrating and the learning curve has been steep yet rewarding in the experiences it has given me. The culture change in regular financial support being there has however been dramatic and sadly the private sector loses a lot of talent from Veterans to the point of simply not considering becoming their own boss. The holistic skills that a career in the Military develops are key stones in building a successful business but the gap needs to be bridged and Franchising is that bridge. There are hundreds of franchises out there but what I am now making exclusively available to veterans like yourself is a Franchise built by an ex-serviceman exclusively for ex-servicemen and women. My company Flipping and Frying wants to give Veterans the opportunity to become self-employed but to leap frog the pain I have encountered in getting where I am today and earn £30,000 PA from home within a 40 hour week that comes with all the guidance and training to make it work. Unlike other Franchises who would recruit you from a huge market of enquiries I want to meet you and take some time to give you a clear insight into what self-employment after service in the military potentially entails. Something I just didn’t receive during resettlement and today remains a closed resource. I am therefore running Seminars (not death by power-point) which are free to attend and are split into two parts. Part 1 goes into a little bit more depth on my journey since my TX date and really is a full and frank disclosure of what I’ve made and lost in business so far. If you just want to come and have a listen before you start your own journey as an entrepreneur you are free to do so and toddle off if you’ve heard enough. It covers a lot of the things I could have done with knowing and training to make it work.

By the end of the night, we helped to raise over £20,000 for the RFL Benevolent Fund. The Ball was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and our assistance was fully appreciated by all of the guests. Many of them engaged in conversation with us throughout the evening, making us feel valued and welcome. It was a proud moment for us all, an excellent opportunity and an experience to remember.
When you think of the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) you probably think of home baking and hospital cafes, but the RVS are much more than that. In 2013, WRVS became Royal Voluntary Service to better reflect the work they do in assisting a growing older population with very different expectations from previous generations. Lincolnshire has a long and proud military history and is home to many veterans who are often forgotten. In the hope of rectifying this, RVS Lincolnshire have secured funding and turned their focus to the older veterans around our county that are in need of assistance. With the funding in place, two new services have now been established to enhance the lives of the older veterans and their families around Lincolnshire.

Loneliness is on the increase amongst the over 55’s, with over 2.5m experiencing some form of loneliness. It is particularly prevalent in over 75’s with 60% admitting they are lonely and 83% saying that a face to face chat reduced their loneliness significantly. With the majority of veterans falling into this age category, this is where the focus of the projects lies.

The first project is called Veterans in the Community. The project is aimed at ensuring older veterans and their families avoid social isolation and loneliness through a free befriending service. This could include a visit to the veteran by a volunteer in their home for a cup of tea and a chat or a visit to the shops. The volunteer will visit for a 12 week period for at least one hour a week with the main objective being to re-integrate the veteran back into the community.

The second project has the same aim and is called Veterans – the old, the new and the future, known as Camaraderie Clubs. A club opened in Lincoln last year and has proved hugely successful. As part of the new project a social club in Sleaford opened in February with clubs in Coningsby, Grantham and Spalding following later in the year. The club is supported by volunteers who themselves are ex or currently serving military personnel with all members being veterans.

The RVS are looking for volunteers to help with both of these projects as well as veterans and their families who can benefit from these services. If interested or know a veteran that needs help please contact lincolnshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk or telephone 01522 305313 for more information.

“Too many people think of volunteers as a means to an end, as cheap labour. True voluntary service is nothing of the kind. It is, in fact, the gift of a thoughtful person of their skill, their energy and their time” Lady Stella Reading, Founder, WVS
RAF Waddington recently hosted a group of young people who are part of the Jon Egging Trust “Blue Skies” programme. The trust – established in Lincolnshire in 2012 – supports young people to help them overcome adversity and achieve their full potential. Today’s visit was held at RAF Waddington’s Fire Section.

Participants were given various activities to challenge their thinking, encourage them to communicate effectively and to work as part of a team.

For more information on how the Jon Egging Trust is helping local youngsters follow the link http://www.joneggingtrust.org.uk/lincolnshire/case-studies/
Monday 10th October was a cold, yet dry morning for the 7am meet we had pre-arranged outside Logs Sqn at RAF Waddington for the drive over to the Humber Bridge in order to commence with the walk back to Waddington along the Viking Walkway, aiming to cover just over 90 miles (which ended up being more like 110) in 4 days. This challenge had been set out and arranged by SAC Brett Foulds and also undertaken by myself, SAC Scott Burdekin and Corporal Paul McCormick, all of whom work within Tech Stores in Main Supply.

The challenge was all in aid of Young Minds, a children’s mental health charity with all proceeds raised going to them. Our initial aim was to raise £500; however we surpassed this, raising a final figure of £730. Brett’s organisational skills were put to good use with him advertising with a pre-recorded message via BFBS radio and creating a Just Giving page which was pushed through social media.

The aim was to cover an average of 23 miles a day over rough terrain, heading towards pre-arranged checkpoints otherwise known as pubs so we could use their facilities prior to bedding down for the night. The generosity we received from Flight Sergeant Andy Haynes of RAF Brize Norton was unprecedented, pitching the tent for our arrival and taking it down and moving it to the next checkpoint to start again.

A usual day would start with Brett waking us up about 2 hours before we needed to be, giving us plenty of time to get our moaning out of the way about who was aching the most and how terrible sleep was with the rocks beneath the tent. A Michelin, 5 star breakfast, with the choice of Muesli, All Day Breakfast or Chilli Con Carne would be next on the cards, courtesy of the first rate ration packs. Once our stretches were done to relieve the DOMS and the heaps of Vaseline on the old nether regions, we would waddle off feeling the blisters on our feet where we forgot to place the compeeds on.

Day 1 began south of the river in Hull with the Humber Bridge marking the start point. A few miles in, the bridge was still dominating the view as we began to question our direction of travel as it looked like we were heading back for the bridge. Turns out the Vikings didn’t like to walk in straight lines. The day passed with no major issues apart from my choice of footwear being issued Altbergs causing me to walk through field’s bare foot due to the pain of my feet. We finally finished the day off at the Salutation Inn at Nettleton almost 2 hours behind schedule and in the dark; we headed straight inside for something to eat and straight to bed with normal walking already being massively difficult.

Day 2 was probably the most rewarding not taking long for us to stretch our legs out and pick up a good pace, walking along the Lincolnshire Wolds with its picturesque views and ever increasing rain. Most of the day was spent guessing if we were going the right way, taking it in turns to turn our phones on to check our location. Upon arrival at the checkpoint for the night, we were greeted with open arms at the village pub of Scamblesby called the Green Man. A strange atmosphere and a little behind the time, the family running the business spent most of their time drinking the profits and were definitely some relation to the Clampett family.

Day 3, physically the hardest day of them all, we ended up being chased by some angry bulls and nearly ending up in a stagnant pond (good times). Once we had made it passed the bulls, it was pretty straight forward right up until the end of the day that was. The giant sugar factory of Bardney seemed so close yet so far with the next night stop being just down the road. The closer we walked to the factory in the distance, the further away it appeared to be but we eventually made it in one piece but yet again in the dark and a little behind schedule.

Day 4, the finish line was almost upon us with Lincoln Cathedral in the distance. Upon making it into Lincoln and circling around the Cathedral we knew we still had
Upon completion of the walk, all 3 of us were glad for it to be over but thoroughly enjoyed it along the way. We would like to say a special thanks for everyone who helped make this happen; The Squadron Warrant Officer Sandra Flatt for allowing us to have the time off for the fund raiser, Flight Sergeant Andy Haynes for driving us to the start at the Humber Bridge and taking down and pitching the tent at every checkpoint, all the pubs for letting us bed down in their backyards and use their facilities, and to everybody who was kind enough to donate. We were all very humbled with the amount of support we received enabling us to raise much needed funds for a great mental health charity that is YOUNG MINDS.
SAC Daniel Bournes and SAC Kate Edwards first impressed RAF Rugby Coaches after completing Phase 2 Trade Training at DCAE Cosford before being posted to RAF Waddington early in 2016.

Bournes, 22, who plays both codes of the sport has unsurprisingly been snapped up by both Union and League teams within the RAF. Danny was selected and has represented the RAF Rugby Union U23 Squad for the last two seasons. He has competed in two Inter Service Championships, the first in which, he had only been out of Basic Training for two days. Last years champs saw the U23 side draw against a strong Army team and go on to lose in a narrow defeat against an impressive Navy side. Danny has now been selected for the 2017 UK Armed Forces U23 Squad. Not only that but Bournes plays regional level in both codes representing the RAF Eagles and Heritage squads. In League, Bournes has played in the 2016 Academy Team where they came away with a win against the Navy and defeat against the Army. Danny also represents RAF Waddington ‘Hornets’ (both Union and League) and was part of the team who won the Station Shield and Station Cup last year.

Edwards, 26, who plays for the RAF Rugby Union Women’s 1st XV luckily finished training and moved to 8 Sqn just before the final Inter Service warm up game against the UK Fire & Police Service Team. Kate was named Player of the Match and made a clear impression on the coaching staff as this led to seeing her with a starting role in the ladies 2016 Inter Service Championship campaign. The first game against an undefeated Army side proved Waddington again too much for the team as they walked away with another defeat. Kate however scored the only RAF try of the game and made it 2 out of 2 receiving the Player of the Match Award. The Ladies didn’t let that result phase them and went down to Portsmouth to face the Navy squad and came away with a historic 47-0 win. After making a huge contribution and showing great experience, Kate was then selected for the 2016 UK Armed Forces Squad who faced her own national squad, Wales Women. Undoubtedly, a huge honour for the Welsh Airwoman, the match was played on and for Remembrance Day at BT Sport Cardiff Arms Park - all funds raised went to the Royal British Legion. To top off a memorable first year in RAF rugby for Edwards, she went on to win two awards at the end of season awards night which was held at Halton House Officer’s Mess. Unfortunately, Kate was unable to attend as she was out of area on Op Shader at the time; however she was named Player’s Player and Best Newcomer respectively.

Both Airmen have led a very successful civilian rugby career prior to joining up so perhaps it came as no surprise to them to be chosen to represent their sport at Station, RAF and Combined Service levels respectively. Both have proven to be invaluable to their teams and great additions, bringing their experience and skill to the teams. Bournes and Edwards now have their sights set into the new season and hope to get that all important win over the Army.

Air Warfare Centre

Football Tournament 8 Feb 2017

On a brisk afternoon, members of the AWC at RAF Waddington took part in a charity football tournament. Having wrapped up warm, grown men attempted to cover ground chasing spherical leather with the aim of getting it past some posts. The aim was to raise awareness of the RAF Benevolent Fund & what it provides to our forces family, along with raising some money for the charity. Overall, the day was a tremendous success without any injuries! A total just shy of £100 was raised to go directly to the charity.

Teams from computer geeks, database trawlers, bosses, adminners, MT and the strange world of cyber defence attended the day, with the eventual spoils of cake going to the database clan after a rather lengthy but enjoyable day.
CLEAN SWEEP FOR
WADDINGTON CC

After a disappointing season last year, RAF Waddington Cricket Club had a lot to prove. This year’s squad of players provided the ideal mix of talent, experience and determination.

Kicking the season off with an away fixture against RAF Digby in the East of England Cricket League (EECL), Waddington started how they meant to go on with a record breaking performance. Batting first, Waddington scored a mighty 382 runs for the loss of 7 wickets from their 40 overs. Young talent Alex Beeson top scoring with 198 not out followed by an invaluable 115 from Ryan Watson. The performances didn’t stop there though as pick of the bowlers, Chas Gimenez, produced a spell binding 4 overs taking 4 wickets and conceding just 18 runs as Waddington won by 279 runs. A fitting last match for the winners. Waddington beat Coningsby with the final match determining the EECL continued and was closely fought throughout the season for a wet pitch to dry out. With Kendrew having comfortably beaten Coningsby, it was now Waddington’s turn. Losing the toss, as per usual, Waddington bowled first and restricted Coningsby to 83 all out from 18 overs. Pick of the bowlers Carl Walton with 3 wickets for 2 runs from his 4 overs thanks to his well disguised ‘quicker’ ball. Waddington’s openers then made light work chasing down the target without the loss of a wicket. The second game against Kendrew proved to be challenging. Bowling first, again, Waddington restricted the Kendrew batsmen to 101 all out from 17 overs. The run chase started well but as victory approached, a flurry of wickets fell taking the side from 83 for 3 to 99 for 6. In the end, Harry Cross with his quick fire 26 not out from 11 balls and Carl Walton, scoring back to back fours, saw the side over the line in style and to another trophy.

Next in the calendar was a trip to RAF Vine Lane to play for the RAF Cup against a strong RAF Benson side. Batting first, Waddington made 210 for 7 from their allotted 45 overs. Top scorers were Ross Diver with 37 and Jez Parker with 40 Not Out.

Batting second, Benson were never allowed a foot in the game as wickets fell at regular intervals. The game ended in the 41st over as Benson were bowled out for 147 runs, thanks to some excellent glove work by keeper Harry Cross making the game look simple.

This ended a highly successful and memorable year with Waddington winning all of the 5 available RAF trophies. An end of season presentation was held with Station Commander, Gp Cpt Al Marshall, doing the honours and presenting the trophies to the Waddington team. A further three awards were given to Batsman, Bowler and Player of the year. Ryan Watson secured batsman of the year with an average of 39 from 10 games. Carl Walton earning bowler of the year with an average of 7.5 from 11 games. Finally, Harry Cross named player of the year for his batting average of 28 and his superb wicket-keeping taking 12 catches. Also, a special award was made to the Fixtures Secretary, Al Johns, for his outstanding efforts in raising a team every week enabling the Club to fulfil every fixture, and for his excellent contribution all round.

A big thank you to all those involved in making the season such a success. We now look forward to the 2017 season with indoor netting held at the Stn Gym every Tuesday from 1700 hrs. All abilities are welcome, contact details can be found on the station cricket MOSS page for all who would like to get involved.

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