



Summer is Here

Issue 1 - July 2019

FOREWORD BY THE WING COMMANDING OFFICER

I am delighted to be writing this forward to this new eNews letter to Plymouth & Cornwall Wing, our first new communication piece in quite a long time. In three weeks', time I will have completed my second tour as your Wing Commander.

It's been a real privilege to serve the organisation and the Wing and I delighted to have been reappointed for a third and final tour from July 19.

During this period, we have seen enormous change in the organisation in how we do our business on a day to day basis, paper has virtually gone as reporting and communication tool and electronic methods of working are here and very much will the way forward in the future. This will take many forms from online systems that we use to manage our daily business such as the Bader suit of tools including eMail, SharePoint and Squadron Management System (SMS) and new and exciting additions to these tools will be the Cadet Portal that will give cadets access to their own data to keep this up to date including their own record of service and be able see what activities are available to them online and apply there and then if eligible

There is a lot happening over the coming months as we move into the camp season, more adventure training and shooting both full bore, small bore and air rifle shooting as some of the difficulties around how we deliver small bore (.22) shooting are cleared. We have been allocated an additional two new air rifle ranges and rifles for squadron that don't currently have them, funded from the RAF Charitable. 3 AEF returned to St Mawgan at Easter to fly cadets and I very much hope that we can over come some logistics issues in order for them to return this summer for five weeks.

Lastly armed forces week in Plymouth saw a number of Armed Forces Day events in both Cornwall and Plymouth on the Saturday. Those who attended were smart and a credit to your uniform, your squadron and the Air Training Corps and those who attended the Plymouth event there was the opportunity to catch a selfie with your Commandant Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty.

Francis Reis
Wing Commander RAFAC





Welcome to the first edition of the Plymouth & Cornwall Wing newsletter. Each edition will cover what has been happening in the Wing and upcoming events. The newsletter has been created to be read on various devices including mobile devices. On the cover of this first edition is the Royal International Air Tattoo to reflect the start of the RAF Camps for 2019. Last year as part of RAF 100 the camp saw over 1000 cadets and 250 staff at the RIAT Camps. This year there are two camps at the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT), the Extended Camp and the Main Camp with Plymouth & Cornwall Wing receiving an allocation of 1 staff + 8 cadet places for the Extended Camp and 3 staff + 33 cadet places for the Main Camp.

In addition to the camps at the RIAT the Wing will be attending RAF Odiham for two one week camps. RAF Odiham is the home of the Chinook squadrons. On the last camps at RAF Odiham the cadets visited many of the stations units as well as external visits including to the Farnborough Air Show. The fast pace of the camp program included a visit to the stations karting track.

Prior to camp at RAF Odiham there is a Super Camp at West Tofts Camp. Camps are not exclusive to RAF Stations as Adventure Training Team are again running a camp at the Fairbourne with many activities set to be on the programme. The camps will conclude with Autumn camp at RAF Cosford, Shropshire in October.





WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



Shooting

The Cadet Small Bore Target Rifle, the L144-A1, which replaces the 70 year old No.8 rifle has been received into the Wing inventory. Following a number of Range Conducting Officers undertaking conversion training some cadets have been trained on the new rifle. Before shooting is recommenced in full at the shooting hubs the hubs will have a security upgrade.

Full bore shooting continues with monthly L98-A2 Initial Weapons Training followed by full day shooting available for all qualified cadets.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The DofE Expedition season started in April with a full capacity expeditions at all three Award levels in West Devon. Unfortunately due to the numbers of cadets applying for the activity exceeding the maximum capacity it was not possible to accept all cadets. Additional expedition places were offered by Devon & Somerset Wing in May.

There are planned expeditions for Bronze and Silver levels both in July and October with Bronze Expedition being run in August. Gold Award participants will be able to undertake their qualifying expedition in Cumbria.





WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

Air Experience Flying

During the Easter holidays 3 Air Experience Flight positioned their Grob Tutor aircraft to RAF St Mawgan together with their flying and ground support staff for a total of three weeks. During their stay Air Experience Flying sorties of up to 24 cadets a day were made shared between Plymouth & Cornwall Wing, Devon & Somerset Wing and the RAF Section of the Combined Cadet Force.

3 AEF will be returning from 22nd July to 21st August during the summer holidays to again offer air experience flying to cadets to put the Air in the Air Cadets.



Sport

The Wing Athletics Trials returned to Par Stadium this May with representation of cadets from 21 of the 23 of the Wing's Squadrons, competing in both track and field events. Topping the Squadron table was 730 (Truro) Squadron with 1387 (Liskeard) Squadron coming runners up.

The event, organised by the Wing Sports Officer, Warrant Officer Liz Barnes, is used to select cadets for the Wing team who will travel to the South West Regional Athletics Trials.





WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

Ten Tors

After months of preparation, the planning of which started last August and saw cadets commence training for the event last October, the annual Ten Tors Challenge took place in May. The event which, saw 2400 young persons navigate across Dartmoor visiting ten tors over 35 to 55 mile routes, was this year in near perfect conditions. The Wing had six teams of six cadets covering all three route distances which had been selected from a large team of cadets who took part in the training for the event.

Training through the winter months is always a challenge which this year saw training through officially named storms. However cadet safety is always paramount so alternative plans were implemented to avoid dangers.



Royal Cornwall Show

The County Show took part over four days in June with 16 cadets from the Wing once again playing a part in the show assisting the organisers including in the main arena rebuilding fences. This is a physically demanding event requiring selected cadets to be fit to undertake this strenuous but rewarding activity.

The Royal Air Force have a strong presence at the show with a display village as part of their community engagement.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

Armed Forces Day

A year after the Plymouth & Cornwall Wing's Formal Review at the Armed Forces Day on what was the hottest day of last year, the RAF Air Cadets again paraded on one of the hottest days so far this year. The Commandant of the RAF Air Cadets, Air Commodore Dawn McCaferty attended. As part of the Air Cadets involvement in this year's Armed Forces Day in addition to the formal parade and the laying of the wreaths, the Wing Continuity Drill Team, comprising 18 cadets including the current Lord Mayor's Cadet, Sergeant Nathan Cooke, performed a display of drill movements without



CADET NEWS

Congratulations

Cadet Sergeant Thomas Sandle of 339 (South Dartmoor) Squadron and Cadet Flight Sergeant Ethan Treloar of 3 (Helston) Squadron who have successfully completed the Junior Leaders course. The course sees the cadets attend several weekends over a number of months to learn advanced skills in leadership and fieldcraft. During their training they complete their method of instruction training. The course culminates in a graduation ceremony where the successfully qualified cadets receive their maroon lanyard.

Congratulations are also in order to Cadet Corporal Adam Rigler and Cadet Shannon Beveridge who have both completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Appointments

Cadet Sergeant Nathan Cooke of 2339 (Plymstock & Mount Batten) Squadron has been appointed as the Lord Mayor's Cadet. Sgt Cooke was appointed following a selection process including an interview board chaired by the Wing Commander. In his role as Lord Mayor's Cadet, Sgt Cooke will accompany the Lord Mayor on official duties.



STAFF UPDATES



Appointments

As highlighted earlier congratulations are in order to Wing Commander Francis Reis who has been re-appointed by the Regional Commandant as the Officer Commanding of the Wing for a further term after selection procedure with two other candidates including a formal interview board.

This will be Wing Commander Reis's third term as Officer Commanding Plymouth & Cornwall Wing which, although not unheard of, is an unusual appointment as Wing Commanders normally serve no more than two terms of four years. In being re-appointed Wing Commander will be able to ensure that the Wing continues grows to his vision.

Wing Commander Reis is a regular attendee at most cadet activities and was instrumental in ensuring the Wing was integral to the RAF 100 celebrations culminating in the formal Wing Review on Plymouth Hoe.

Post Changes

Squadron Leader Pete Ward has taken post as the Deputy Wing Commander as Squadron Leader Tim Johns leaves the post to concentrate on his Wing Shooting Officer and Wing Health & Safety Officer roles.

There has been a change of Wing Sports Officer, Flying Officer Jon Dicken has stood down in the role to concentrate on rebuilding 1876 (Kingsbridge) Squadron in his role of Officer in Charge. Fg Off Dicken has already seen an increase in cadet numbers from 6 to 20. Warrant Officer Liz Barnes has been appointed as the Wing Sports Officer. WO Barnes was previously the Deputy Wing Sports Officer so has plenty of experience for the role. The Wing Sports Officer can be contacted on sport.pcw@aircadets.org



Farewells

In common with nearly all organisations the Wing has a turn over of staff as they retire or leave to concentrate on other ventures. In February the Wing Media Communications Officer, Squadron Leader Phil Boorman, has retired, again, after 31 years in the light blue uniform of the Royal Air Force and latterly the RAF Air Cadets. Squadron Leader Boorman was a regular contributor to the RAF St Mawgan magazine, Vigila, ensuring the good work of the cadets and staff were published in every edition. Flight Lieutenant Adrian Corfield has been appointed as the new Wing Media Communications Officer to add to his portfolio of Wing Webmaster and Officer Commanding of 339 (South Dartmoor) Squadron.



In May the Wing has said farewell to Mrs Sandra Cooper who served two years at Wing Headquarters as Admin Assistant.

Also leaving in May was Flight Lieutenant Chris James who had been with the Air Cadets for a total of 26 years. Flt Lt James was the Squadron Commander of 197 (Devonport) Squadron and had previously been the Wing Fieldcraft Officer and Sector Commander in Plymouth before increasing work commitments meant that it was necessary to curtail his Air Cadet commitments. Flt Lt James not only takes many fond memories of activities from the RAF Air Cadets but also his wife Jemma who he met through the RAF Air Cadets when Jemma served as the Squadron Commander of 2174 (North Plymouth) Squadron.



The Wing Civilian Committee comprises of a officers and members primarily of Chairpersons of the Wing's 23 Squadron Civilian Committees. They are responsible for not only the administration of the Wing funds but the welfare of the Wing cadets and staff. Like Squadron Civilian Committees they meet regularly to discuss matters affecting the Wing and the raising and spending of funds for the benefit of the cadets.

L-Birds to Normandy

1876 (Kingsbridge) Squadron Civilian Committee Chairman, Reg McCornish, was one of 48 pilots of L-Bird aircraft which crossed the English Channel on 6th June to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the D Day landings. Like during the D Day landings the weather played its part resulting in a number of the planned 74 planes having to abort the crossing. The planes from 14 nations included the only flying Burma Auster Mark III, Piper L-3, Piper L-4 and the only flying Piper L-5 from Madrid. Reg, 82 years young, piloted his 1942 L-3 plane from South Devon and formed up in the air to cross the channel to Normandy. On landing in France



there was a reception held as part of the D Day commemorations to acknowledge the role the L-Birds played during the war. The planes described by the Germans as the American secret weapon was used primarily as a reconnaissance aircraft looking for the German artillery and troops however it was also used for transporting senior officers and casualties to and from the front line. Reg, a former Air Cadet and member of the RAF and Royal Navy, has been flying for 64 years. Reg returned to the UK on 9th June.



UPCOMING WING ACTIVITIES

13-26-Jul — RIAT Extended Camp
14-Jul — Cadet Method of Instruction Course
18-23-Jul — RIAT Main Camp
19-21-Jul — L98 Initial Weapons Training Cse
20-22-Jul — Bronze & Silver DofE Expeditions
21-Jul — Full Bore Shooting
27-Jul-03-Aug — Summer Camp — RAF Odiham
week 1
03-10-Aug — Summer Camp — RAF Odiham wk 2

09-11-Aug — L98 Initial Weapons Training Course
11-Aug — Full Bore Shooting
17-18-Aug — Bronze DofE Practice Expedition
24-31-Aug — AT Camp — Fairborne
06-08-Sep — Caiels Trophy Weekend
14-15-Sep — Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition
19-21-Oct — Bronze & Silver DofE Expeditions
10-Nov — Remembrance Sunday

USEFUL INFORMATION

All enquiries should be initially made through
Squadron staff.

Contacting Wing Headquarters
Email General Enquiries: ACO-WHQ-AllUsers-
PlymCornwall@mod.gov.uk

Website: www.pcw-aircadets.co.uk
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Instagram: www.instagram.com/pcwaircadets

Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this publication please report any errors to media.pcw@aircadets.org

AND FINALLY

Further congratulations to Wing Commander Francis Reis who is one of only ten persons who have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours' List receiving the Air Officer Commanding 22 Group's Commendation. Forming part of Air Command RAF 22 Group is responsible for RAF Training Policy and controls the RAF College at Cranwell. The current commander of 22 Group is Air Vice Marshall Warren James.