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Provost Marshal (RAF) and Commander RAF Police

Gp Capt Bailey

Winston Churchill said, “to improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” He had a point and we must always be ready and willing to make change in order to become better.

In the HQ, we have been progressing change throughout this year with the aim of producing a RAF Police that is able to meet our commitments, without excessive strain upon individuals, the organisation or homeland security. I am pleased with the progress we are making and we are near completion of our change programme. One of the most significant changes occurred in June when elements of No 3 Police Wing relocated from RAF Henlow to RAF Honington. The move was a credit to 3 Wing being completed stoically and expeditiously without impact on operations. The final flourish was two excellent formal parades to march-off Henlow and to march-on at Honington.

As part of the RAF Police Morale Strategy, July was an extremely busy month for very positive reasons. On 4 July there was a most enjoyable RAF Police At Home Day followed the next day by a successful RAF Police Dog Trials, making a return after an absence of five years. Both events were a success and I congratulate No 1 Police Wing who organised them. At the same time, HM the Queen visited 603 Sqn in Edinburgh. This historic event marked the 90th Anniversary of the formation of the Sqn. This was the first visit by HM to a RAF Police Reserve Sqn and allowed us to demonstrate our contribution to integrated Force Protection. On the subject of reserves, I was delighted that Cpl David Derbyshire of 3 TPS was awarded a MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours in recognition of his support to operations. Meanwhile, 3 TPS provided superb police and security during the Royal International Air Tattoo.

In September, AOC 2 Gp, AO FP and I attended a formal dinner to mark the start of the Great Air Tattoo. The dinner and staff ride were educational and inspirational. We have continued to be significantly committed to operations. These include support to our enduring commitments, where despite some rationalisation we retain the highest percentage of any trade on operations with approximately 60 officers and NCOs deployed. This remains a concern and work is ongoing to reduce this commitment and increase the use of reservists for deployment to the Falkland Islands and the Middle East. Our Contingency Force remains extremely busy and we are deploying on average 18 personnel per-day on short-term tasks around the globe. This is an impressive achievement for such a small Force, but I am mindful of the need to minimise disruption to individuals, families and units. To mitigate the impact of deployed operations on UK security, we have mobilised reservists to back-fill UK posts and have implemented a Special Constabulary Relationship at five units where locally-based reservists routinely provide support to the RAF Police Flight. In the UK, we have commenced a number of deliberate operations designed to enhance security and threat awareness across AIR in support of the HQ AIR Security Campaign Plan.

Work continues on a new operating model. This includes the re-brigading of our resources to optimise our capability to meet demand by reducing staff levels on some units to create larger flights on other units and thereby providing greater resilience in our structure. These larger units are responsible for providing police and security support to their neighbouring smaller units as part of a ‘hub and spoke’ system. In tandem, we continue to work towards greater professionalisation. This includes, increasing our digital forensics staff, re-introducing dedicated investigators onto units, re-launching community policing and creating more protective security posts. We are introducing more Service Police Dog teams and creating a Provost Marshall’s Dog Unit. The new Dog Unit will provide our high-end, high-readiness dog capability, while also providing the nucleus of the RAF Police Dog Demonstration Team. Work has been started to enhance our Special Investigation and Intelligence Branch, including creating an intelligence capability, creating specialist teams and enhancing counter intelligence. In tandem, HQ 2 Group staff has commenced work to improve career management and to provide greater stability within sub-specialisation.

Without change, nothing improves and for the RAF Police this year has been a time of constant slow but steady change for the better. This change has been completed while we continue to deliver our operational outputs and undertake demanding high profile investigations. I think we can all reflect that 2015 was a demanding, but ultimately rewarding year for the RAF Police. Well done!
So, here we are again, the Provost Parade! It only seems like a week or so ago that we took delivery of the last edition and I want to thank all of you for submitting your articles. In fact, we had a surplus so apologies to those who had taken the time to write something which did not make the final edition. Please don't let this deter you from submitting articles in the future.

I consider the Provost Parade to be an internal publication. However, my aim is to produce a magazine that can be picked up and enjoyed by anyone, whether military or civilian - so you will note that acronyms are at a minimum throughout.

I continue to find my feet as SO2 Engagement and have enjoyed escaping the desk to meet you. I know we're all tied together via email and telephone, but for me, there is no substitute for meeting people face to face and having a cuppa to establish relationships – mine is a white tea with none please! I'd certainly like to continue to do this, so when you have a gap in your diary, I'd really appreciate an orientation visit to your unit to meet you, understand your role and to explore how we can better achieve engagement linked to this. I bet there are some great stories waiting to be written.

I hope you enjoy this edition and its varied stories which cover the RAF Police in the UK and overseas, at work and on expeditions and exercises. Again, I feel it encapsulates the breadth of the activities that you undertake and shows respect for the history, ethos and values that underpin the Force.

Please keep the articles coming in for the next edition at anytime, there is no need to wait for the calling notice and this of course means articles will be written when facts are still fresh in your mind. As a reminder, photos should be attached separately as jpegs (300 dpi), not embedded within your document and captioned accordingly.

Finally, please send in any feedback you have regarding the Provost Parade. It's good to know if we're hitting the mark or whether we need to make any adjustments.

Enjoy!

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In early June, Number 3 Police Wing (3PW) was officially welcomed at RAF Honington by the Station Commander, Group Captain Mick Smeath...

The parade saw approximately 50 personnel from 3PW march in formation, through the main gate as a symbolic gesture to coincide with its relocation from RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire. The move saw the number of personnel at RAF Honington swell by approximately 300.

On taking the salute and formally welcoming 3PW to the station, Group Captain Smeath said: “It is an honour and privilege to welcome the personnel from 3 Police Wing and their families to Royal Air Force Honington. The Wing has a long and distinguished history, dating back to 1946, and is an integral part of the Royal Air Force’s protection capability.”

3PW joined RAF Police colleagues at the Integrated Force Protection Headquarters in a move that creates greater operational efficiency and more opportunity to work collaboratively with the RAF Regiment. The nurturing of this relationship was evident as 3PW’s marching contingent passed and paid respects to the RAF Regiment’s memorial for their fallen.

“Relocating 3 Police Wing from Henlow to Honington will enable better collaborative working with sister units already based here. Importantly, the Station has excellent welfare and social facilities that will be of great benefit to the families, while supported by a local community with which we have exceptionally close ties”, said Group Captain Smeath.

The highly trained men and women of 3PW provide deployable capabilities in support of operations both in the UK and overseas for the RAF and Defence as a whole. Their responsibilities include cyber defence, forensics, aviation security, flying complaints investigation, security consultancy, intelligence and specialist law enforcement.

Leading the formation was Officer Commanding, 3PW, Wing Commander Jan Knight, he said: “It was a real honour to lead...
As well as wearing the usual stab vests, baton and cuffs, the RAF Police at Cosford now include Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras as part of their routine patrol equipment.

This technical capability has already proven to be invaluable in gathering evidence and has been used at domestic violence incidents, on a walk-through of a crime scene for SIIB and as a briefing tool for a surveillance application for covert law enforcement. The cameras were also used at an arrest and search on behalf of the Lincolnshire Police Internet Child Exploitation Team and on an attempt to locate vulnerable missing persons, plus numerous arrests as part of normal policing duties.

The camera has enhanced the professionalism of the RAF Police who are aware that all actions are being recorded and therefore the procedures and processes undertaken are beyond reproach. In addition, the footage provides a superb briefing tool for supervisors who aren't necessarily on the ground during an incident, but are subsequently presented with an opportunity to identify other potential lines of enquiries that may have been originally overlooked.

The 2" LCD display on the rear of the unit means that any footage recorded can, if required, be reviewed at the scene of an incident. The footage, including audio, can be used to identify suspects or to confirm verbal communication at a scene, including significant statements and unsolicited comments. We have also found it to be an extremely beneficial tool for the investigator to review the wording used at the point of arrest in order to correctly record the details in a s9 statement.

RAF Cosford Police Flight obtained station funding to purchase three BWV units enabling the recharging of units and their continuous use within 24/7 policing. We were also provided with a vehicle dash mounted system.

For the 'techno geeks' out there and those that enjoy browsing in Maplins electronic stores, the camera specifications are:

- Internal memory – 16GB.
- 8meg infra-red camera lens.
- Recordable footage in 1080P resolution.
- Operates for over 11 hours in standby mode, with 7.5 hours continuous recording time.
- Fitted with a 2" LCD screen for immediate playback of video and audio.
- Weather proofed.

The BWV Camera is password protected and it retains the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the data therefore, it is evidentially sound and data protection compliant. The user is not able to delete footage directly from the file storage facility; this can only be done once connected to a PC and is then password protected.

We have found the cameras to be a great addition to the police flight and their success has created an opportunity for expansion. They have also been utilised by the Military Provost Guard Service and the Station Guard Force personnel at RAF Cosford and have proven extremely useful in gathering vital information on suspect individuals and vehicles, enabling the guard to keep their hands free whilst accumulating all the required information for onward reporting.

"It was a real honour to lead my wing onto RAF Honington and make our home amongst airmen, airwomen and civilians similarly dedicated to protecting Air power wherever it serves."

"This technical capability has already proven to be invaluable in gathering evidence and has been used at domestic violence incidents, on a walk-through of a crime scene for SIIB and as a briefing tool for a surveillance application for covert law enforcement."

"Smile - You’re on Candid Camera!"
Two RAF Police veterans who served at the time of the post WWII investigation into the German captors who shot dead 50 allied airmen after the ‘Great Escape’ attended a special dinner at RAF Halton…

Retired Flight Lieutenant Ted Squires (92) and retired Corporal Denzil Flew (87) joined personnel from the RAF Police Special Investigations and Intelligence Branch (South). Together they marked the 70th anniversary of the commencement of the investigation into the murders of the 50 allied airmen following their escape from Stalag Luft III. This atrocity was committed at the behest of parliament. In June 1944 the Foreign Minister Anthony Eden announced the intention of the government to bring to ‘exemplary justice’ those guilty of what they believed to be a war crime.

Flt Lt Francis McKenna was originally charged with responsibility for the investigation and he flew to Germany on 3rd September 1945. Ted Squires knew both Flt Lt Francis McKenna, who led the original investigation, and Wing Commander Wilfred Bowes who commanded RAF Special Investigation Branch (SIB) at the time.

Francis McKenna would often stay with Ted Squires at Hamburg whilst he was conducting the investigations and passed on accounts of how the trial progressed. Recalling this period of time within his 21 year RAF career, Ted said: “I met Francis McKenna in the mess where he stayed during the trials, he was an ex-Blackpool policeman who flew occasionally as a flight engineer.”

“Retired Flight Lieutenant Ted Squires and retired Corporal Denzil Flew joined personnel from the RAF Police Special Investigations and Intelligence Branch (South). Together they marked the 70th anniversary of the commencement of the investigation into the murders of the 50 allied airmen following their escape from Stalag Luft III. This atrocity was committed at the behest of parliament. In June 1944 the Foreign Minister Anthony Eden announced the intention of the government to bring to ‘exemplary justice’ those guilty of what they believed to be a war crime.”

“Retired Flight Lieutenant Ted Squires and retired Corporal Denzil Flew joined personnel from the RAF Police Special Investigations and Intelligence Branch (South). Together they marked the 70th anniversary of the commencement of the investigation into the murders of the 50 allied airmen following their escape from Stalag Luft III. This atrocity was committed at the behest of parliament. In June 1944 the Foreign Minister Anthony Eden announced the intention of the government to bring to ‘exemplary justice’ those guilty of what they believed to be a war crime.”

The escape, having been immortalised in the film ‘The Great Escape’, is a famous piece of WWII history, yet the post war investigation by the RAF Police is arguably lesser known. It was instigated at the culmination of the war at the behest of parliament. In June 1944 the Foreign Minister Anthony Eden announced the intention of the government to bring to ‘exemplary justice’ those guilty of what they believed to be a war crime.

Despite the difficulties of conducting enquiries in an occupied country and the significant efforts of those involved to evade justice, the team eventually identified 72 men guilty of murder or conspiracy to murder, of whom 69 were accounted for. Thirteen former Gestapo officers were found guilty and subsequently hanged with lengthy prison sentences given to the remaining surviving offenders.

The 70th Anniversary dinner, attended by the Veterans, serving RAF Police and VIPs recognised a significant period in the RAF Police’s history and the justice secured on behalf of the allied nations who had lost airmen. Reflecting, Denzil concluded: “The work we did was no massive challenge as the British Government had everything in place to make sure the trials went smoothly.”
New RAF Police Memorial Stones Dedicated at National Arboretum

RAF POLICE and the RAF Police Association members came together on 23rd June at the National Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire, for their Annual Remembrance Parade…

This year saw the dedication of new memorial stones which had been laid at the foot of the current, dual-faced RAF Police and RAF Police Association memorial. These special pavers were commissioned to honour individuals who have served.

29 engraved stones were formally blessed by the Reverend Jeremy Safford in the presence of their families or representatives. In dedicating the stones, the Revd Safford said: “Almighty God; in this place we lay the plaques that honour those whom we have loved and lost and who served in the Royal Air Force Police.”

Two of the stones represent RAF Policemen who have died in Service, Corporal Brent McCarthy and Corporal David Shepherd. Corporal McCarthy, who died in Afghanistan in May 2012, was represented by his parents, John and Sarah McCarthy who live in Telford.

Mr McCarthy said: “Both of us are still numb, even after three years but we have been really well looked after by the RAF Police and we feel part of them. This memorial stone is nice, not only for us, but for our extended family and friends as they can come at anytime to see it. It shows that Brent is recognised and not forgotten.”

The special pavers were the brainchild of the RAF Police Memorial Committee and a way for friends and families, who pay a modest amount, to have lost loved one recognised alongside their comrades. New stones laid throughout the course of the year will be blessed at future remembrance parades.

The joint annual remembrance parade saw a contingent of RAF Police from No 1 Tactical Police Squadron join with members of the RAF Police Association and families. The parade, which takes place each year, marks the anniversary of the 2007 formal dedication of the RAF Police memorial.

Taking the salute was the RAF Provost Marshal, Group Captain Kevin Bailey, he said: “The annual parade is always a special event and gives serving RAF Police a chance to honour those who have gone before and a way to interact with members of the Association and families.

“The memorial stones are particularly poignant; to see names etched into the stone is a permanent and very personal reminder of the sacrifices made.”

Photographs taken by SAC Joshua Dines
The RAF Police have worked in conjunction with the RAF Movements and Aeromedical team for just under two decades at Hannover. In the early years, Airport Unit (APU) Hannover, as we know it today, never existed and the RAF Police supported deployments from RAF Bruggen. A team would travel to Hannover and return troops from America.

When RAF Bruggen closed in early 2002, Hannover Airport transformed a hangar and created a general purpose terminal (Terminal D) to provide a service for military flights. This was occupied by the Royal Air Force and shared with the German Air Force. Hannover airport staff also use Terminal D to provide a service for immigration flights into Germany from Syria.

Our main role here at Terminal D mirrors that of RAF Brize Norton. We process outbound passengers and freight, passengers transiting through Hannover and returning troops from exercise or deployment. APU Hannover deals with an average of ten to 150 passengers per flight.

Movements staff provide the necessary support required to handle various aircraft into Hannover from the C-17 Globemaster to the new A400M ATLAS. We’ve also handled a Russian Antonov carrying 50 tonnes of freight heading to America.

Adjacent to the main airport in Hannover, the terminal itself can hold up to 800 passengers and has plenty of entertainment for the troops passing through, from Xbox to Sky TV. It’s a professional setup with good working relationships with the Hannover Airport staff and Bundespolizei. The Airport Bomb Disposal Team also uses the terminal as a training area for their working dogs and general training. It is also a staging area for any major incidents that may occur at the airport.

Since April 2013, the APU has come under the command of 1 Air Mobility Wing (AMW) and is placed alongside five other permanent air movements detachments worldwide. Through 2015 and 2016 there is a requirement for the APU to provide movements (Movs), air transport security (ATSy), subject matter experts to MOD Air Transport, air to air refuelling and charter tasking across Europe.

The primary task is to assist with Ops; the secondary is to support British Forces Germany (BFG) movements, fast jet trails and Defence exercise planning from a variety of front line commands. Ultimately, we provide highly skilled air Movs and ATSy support whenever and wherever tasked.

From May through to July 2014, APU Hannover supported the Relief In Place of Op HERRICK and various exercise flights leaving and entering Hannover. On average 400 passengers flew out of APU Hannover, as well as looking after 650 troops returning from deployment or exercises and a further 1000 troops transiting through back to the UK. The items the RAF Police were finding and confiscating ranged from the standard gas canister/ HEXI, prohibited knives, the odd house brick to the extreme of a tazer disguised as an Apple iPhone.

The role of the RAF Police within BFG is to provide assistance to BFG customs and immigration staff in order to identify items subject to customs checks arriving into Germany. We also deploy to other airheads in Germany as contract supervisors and provide a service consistent with that at APU Hannover, supporting troops deploying on exercises around the world.

As of the 31st December 15, the permanent RAF Police staff will be withdrawing from APU Hannover back to the UK. The RAF Police involvement with APU Hannover has seen many people come and go and over time and section numbers reduce. Now, as BFG is preparing to implode and relocate back to the UK, the workload has slowly decreased.

Over the years, the APU Staff have embraced the German culture and have conducted various force development and adventure training activities. We’ve skied in Bavaria and at the Snow Dome, Bispingen and visited concentration camps - notably Bergen-Belsen, which was the first concentration camp to be liberated by British Forces in 1945.

The APU has taken part in many charity events. Cpl Wayne Rogers organised a team of six to run the Hannover Marathon in April of this year as a relay. The 42 km route was divided into six segments allowing for various levels of fitness with distances ranging from 4.7 to 9.7 km. After each stage, members were presented with their own medal, achieving a collective time of 3 hours and 53 minutes.

Joining Cpl Rogers were, Sgt Phil Swarbrick, Cpl Sean Fullen, SAC Liam Ford; all APU and APU ATSy personnel.

For a few members of the APU, the relay Marathon wasn’t enough and so they participated in the 100K London to Brighton race in June, raising money for the Blind Veterans UK charity.

With the drawdown almost complete it will be a sad farewell to APU Hannover and indeed Germany as a whole.
RAF Policewomen Help to Celebrate 100 Years of History

RAF Policewomen helped to make history in August when they joined colleagues from around the world at the International Association of Women Police Conference which was held in Cardiff.

The International Association of Women Police (IAWP) is celebrating a very special year as 2015 marks its centenary and this training conference brought hundreds of members from 77 countries together. A milestone year for women in policing, 2015 also marks the 100th anniversary of the first women joining the British Police.

Six RAF Policewomen were in attendance at the Conference which was the biggest event in the IAWP’s calendar. It not only recognised the contribution that women make towards policing, it afforded an opportunity to hear from global police leaders on a wide variety of topics. It also promoted the sharing of best practice and discussions of cross-cutting, local and international issues amongst delegates. It was all geared towards professional development.

The Conference opened with a VIP ceremony which saw The Provost Marshal (RAF), Group Captain Kevin Bailey in attendance, he said: “It was an inspiring occasion and one that provided a good opportunity to engage with the civilian Police, particularly at Chief Constable level.”

The highlight of the opening ceremony saw the centre of Cardiff graced by the presence of over 600 female police officers adorned in their uniforms from around the world as they paraded through the Welsh capital. The ‘Parade of Nations’ commenced under grey skies, yet the inclement weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of the participants as they wound their way through the City Centre to the delight of the crowds that lined their route. An awards lunch followed recognising outstanding efforts.

Flight Lieutenant Chrissy Siczowa, Operations Officer, No 4 Protection Wing, at RAF Brize Norton attended the Conference for the first time. She headed up the exhibition stand for the RAF Police that promotes life in the RAF and used to aid the recruitment of reservists, she said: “It’s an absolute honour to represent the RAF Police at this year’s IAWP Conference. Having never attended the Conference previously, this is my first experience of the Association and I am eager to showcase the RAF Police and learn from other organisations”.

Accompanying Flight Lieutenant Siczowa for this Cardiff deployment were Corporal Rhi James from RAF High Wycombe, Flight Sergeant Angie Young from RAF Henlow, Corporal Adele Logan from RAF Halton and Acting Corporals Jess Feeley and Alycia Wood, both stationed at RAF Honington.

Flight Lieutenant Siczowa concluded: “It’s a fantastic opportunity for myself and the team to demonstrate the high calibre of female police personnel that currently exist within the RAF.”

The many nations gather together - The ‘Snowdrops’ included!
Royal Air Force Police from all over the UK are deployed in the Falkland Islands (FI) as part of British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI). Their mission is to protect UK military infrastructure and personnel in the region.

Sgt Walker from RAF Waddington, and Cpl Corlett from the Defence Animal Centre, deployed to the FI as IC and 2IC Military Working Dog (MWD) Section ahead of six months working with a very junior team. Most of the handlers in the FI are on their first deployment and many of those deployed are within a year of graduating police training at the Defence School of Policing and Guarding. Following the drawdown from Afghanistan, the FI is one of the best places for handlers to gain experience of working overseas in an environment that lends itself to first-rate MWD training.

The tour started with a three-day exercise on Saunders Island, situated off the West Coast of the mainland. The initial test for all handlers was to travel with their dogs by helicopter. Following this, a wide range of dog work was carried out both day and night utilising scenarios devised by Sgt Walker and Cpl Corlett. The work was physically demanding.
demanding, assessing the MWD teams’ ability to perform on arduous terrain with the aim of improving their skills and capability. This provided the first opportunity to see the strengths and weaknesses of each dog and plan training for the forthcoming months. It also reinforced the challenges that come with working in one of the harshest, yet scenic, parts of the world.

Widely recognised as a vital asset to the Unit, all MWD teams subsequently found themselves deeply involved in the bi-annual unit exercise, JOINT GUARDIAN. In a challenging set of scenarios MWD assets were frequently called upon to exercise crowd control, protection of the main entry point and area clearance. In particular, Cpl Shannon, RAF Waddington, and MWD Shadow, the section’s only Black Malinois, successfully supported the Theatre Reserve in locating personnel fleeing a road traffic incident. The speed in which the team was able to locate the absconders was a relief to all as darkness and the unforgiving winter weather set in. The performance of the team drew praise from the Unit hierarchy as the value of MWD assets as a force multiplier became apparent.

The vast majority of the work carried out up until this point was in preparation of the Unit Technical Evaluation. Provost Marshal’s Dog Inspector, FS Sargeant, travelled from the UK to formally assess the MWD teams over a selection of ordeals, conducting inspections of the section, dogs and handlers in the process.

It was time for the handlers to put into practice the lessons learnt over the previous months as they competed in the various disciplines. Impressing throughout, Cpl Nicholls from RAF Northolt was the overall winner with MWD Elana. Cpl Stewart from RAF Waddington placed second with MWD Flint and Cpl Smyth, RAF Brize Norton, and Cpl Hedges, RAF Northolt, came in joint third. The performance of all those involved was highly commendable as their skills were tested in a water logged area with lashing wind and rain throughout.

FS Sargeant was subsequently recruited to partake in the charity FI Mid Winter Swim. The weather in the FI is enough to test anyone’s character with wind chill often dropping into the minus figures. However, joined by Sgt Walker, Cpl Corlett, Cpl Noble and Cpl Williams, the group spent as long as they could in the icy cold South Atlantic Ocean at a chilling 4°C. The competition to stay in the longest was won by Sgt Walker and Cpl Noble, their bravery winning them the bragging rights and a brush with hypothermia.

In the months that followed the MWD teams faced the Joint Service Police and Security Unit held MWD Trials which were timed to coincide with those in the UK. Here, the handlers faced a wider range of situations aimed at testing the handlers Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Rules of Engagement.

All teams were required to take part in hangar and compound searches not featured in the Techeval process. Guest judge, FS Matty Chapman, from RAF Benson balanced his responsibilities as SNCO IC Security Section to assess the handlers skills throughout the trials. The most arduous ordeal was undoubtedly the aptly named ‘Endurance Race’. This saw the teams racing against

continues over page >>
each other over a set course with a series of challenges along the way. This included a knowledge check of MWD SOPs and a test of courage for their dogs as they were required to dive into a large pool of water to attack Cpl Corlett representing the criminal.

The oldest competitor by some distance, Cpl Shannon was the race winner as he claimed the title of overall 'Trials Champion' with MWD Shadow. Fully aware that time was of the essence during the endurance race, Cpl Shannon leapt in to the water after his dog which undoubtedly bought him time. Cpl Tanner, RAF Lossiemouth, came in a close second overall with MWD Zak in what was a commendable performance given that he was only teamed with this dog two weeks prior. Sadly, his previous partner Air Dog Blue succumbed to ill health and passed away at the age of nine.

The Section successfully re-homed MWD Ordy who failed to meet the standards required of a MWD. She can now enjoy a well earned retirement and a pampered life living in the West Country.

For all, the FI winter of 2015 (that's the UK summer period) proved to be a highly successful six months in developing both handlers and dogs alike, many of which will return and pass on their experience to the next generation.

Over the past few months, dog handlers from RAF Marham Police Flt have been providing specialist input to RAF Regiment Gunners during their Close Quarters Battle (CQB) training course, headed up by Sgt Neil Furniss and Cpl Nathan Watson.

The CQB course is designed to teach the Gunners the skills and drills needed to effectively gain entry and clear a building or compound. It was identified that a dog could assist with the clearance of the target building or compound. The dog would search a building or room, indicating the presence of any person within, bite an aggressor - or perform a stand-off if the person is passive.

Police dog assets were originally trialled due to their high level of training included within the specialist police dog used. However, there was a problem. A police dog is trained to react to aggressive behaviour and when the Gunners followed up behind a dog and were shouting, shooting or throwing grenades, the dog would react to this believing them to be the aggressor.
Sgt Furniss, SNCO IC RAFP Dog Section at RAF Marham was approached and asked to provide a dog able to perform to the required standard for CQB. Cpl Watson and Air Dog Dixi, who is one of the Patrol Arm True (PAT) dogs on the Section, were chosen. Training began by teaching Dixi a standoff which is unusual as a PAT dog does not do this as part of their ability in their specification. Once the standoff was mastered by Dixi, she was moved off the padded sleeve used for bite training and onto a concealed suit, which would be used by the criminal in a CQB scenario.

She was then taught a building search to hunt for the criminal. It was identified that a PAT Dog could be used because of the drive they have to find the criminal and Dixi was chosen because of her temperament. She would not react to the Gunner’s behaviour and would remain focused on the criminal.

The next stage was to take Dixi to the CQB facility at RAF Honington and begin battle noise indoctrination. This would get her used to the sounds she would experience while embedded in the patrol. Dixi took to this quickly and Cpl Watson was able to start using Dixi for the Gunner’s training. Cpl Watson was embedded in the patrol, known as a stack, and was utilised during the clearance of the compound. Dixi was used to perform room clearances so that Gunners would not even have to go in to a room. She let the stack know if there was someone in the room by biting them, or performing a standoff, or, if the room was empty, she returned to Cpl Watson.

Dixi was mainly utilised for apprehending unarmed and aggressive occupants of a room as the Gunner’s could not utilise lethal force to deal with them. These types of situations could otherwise result in a number of the members being used to take down and apprehend the person, reducing the effectiveness and manning of the team when clearing the compound. In a CQB situation, a dog team is a proven force multiplier and an asset that can be used to great effect, reducing the risk to those performing a CQB clearance. So, what is the future for dogs in this role? It has been identified by those on the course, that a dog could be used to gain an effective intelligence picture of the inside of a compound. If a camera was fitted to a harness on the dog, the picture could be streamed live to a tablet or phone providing intelligence and allowing personnel to effectively enter and clear the building.

RAF Marham Dog Section is also now in the stages of training more dogs to perform CQB drills after these successful trials.
What are the three main areas you intend to focus on?

I only have one aim, but it is a broad one - the RAFP have come a long way in the last few years but there remain a number of areas where the force needs to develop, as it adapts to the areas where 1PW, as part of the wider force, continues to develop, to adapt to the needs of the RAF. So my primary focus being to provide the direction, leadership and top cover necessary to maintain the momentum of travel, in a whole host of areas.

What has impressed you most about 1PW so far?

The people. I have been impressed with everyone I have come across. In particular, I command some very junior NCOs and officers who are consistently performing way above the levels I and my peers were expected to do, back in my day.

What do you think your biggest challenges will be?

The RAF Police are extremely busy, dealing with a range of tasks across the spectrum. This is a real success story for the Force and on ACSC, we would have described this as demonstrating 'relevance' to Defence. But of course the consequence of this is very busy people. So I think my main challenge is to ensure that we best meet the needs of the Service, whilst also ensuring that we maintain a sustainable work-life balance.

Who has influenced you most in your career?

I am not sure there is a single individual. I have been led and managed by lots of people with very different styles. I have adopted some of the traits that I was more impressed with and vowed to stay away from some of those I was less enamoured with. I would like to think that all of these experiences have helped to shape who I am today.

If you had to describe your leadership style in three words, what would they be?

Grounded & emotionally intelligent. I have always believed that if you can maintain a proper sense of your own relative importance in the scheme of things as well as the impact that your decisions, good and bad, can have, then you can't go wrong. That doesn't mean that your decisions will always be welcomed, but it does mean that they will have been made for the right reasons.

And now for some fun!

If you were to tell us you had to leave the RAF tomorrow (this is a purely hypothetical question – I promise), what is your single best memory of your time serving?

It’s the people again - the banter and humour which sustains morale in some very serious and stressful situations. It's a vital characteristic of military life, given the unique expectation placed on the Service.

If you had a dinner party with five guests - living or historical, real or fictional – who would you choose and why?

I am an avid follower of UK politics, so I would start with two of the recent Prime Ministers, who resided over remarkable periods of social, political and economic change, that I would have many questions for - Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher. Just to liven things up, I think I would also invite Jeremy Corbyn, so I could sit back and watch which former PM gave him the hardest time. As a life long Evertonian, I would also have to invite one of my boyhood heroes and most successful manager in our history, Howard Kendall. The final guest would naturally be my wife - however, given the nature of the other guests, I suspect she would be under-whelmed by the invitation.

What's in the number one spot on your bucket list?

Touring the US with my family. We have been waiting for our kids to become old enough to appreciate some of the things the country offers, so we have plans to visit various states over the next few years.

Sunbed or skis?

Ski definitely. I can't actually ski (it's on the bucket list) but I can't sit still for more than about 5 minutes without getting bored.
RAF Halton Police and Security Flight Tested During Mass Casualty Exercise

Flight Sergeant Dawn Bellingham provides us this report on her team's involvement in their Station exercise…

RAF Halton's Police and Security Flight played a highly significant role in the station exercises, conducted as part of the main Exercise FIVE ARROWS.

The morning of 28th April saw the reporting and reaction processes put to the test in an aircraft crash incident on the Airfield. The Emergency Response Plan was initiated by the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) and all necessary personnel contacted to attend the incident. The cordon and forward control point was immediately put in place by the MPGS, whilst the RAF Police reacted by setting up incident control point with Bronze Command.

The second half of the day saw the Police and Security Flight tested to the full with a Mass Casualty exercise. The scenario was based around a primitive attack at the exit gate involving a vehicle colliding with flight of marching Airmen. The MPGS received the report and were first on the scene providing regular situation reports so the response services were alerted to the incident.

RAF Police arrived on scene minutes later with Flt Lt Cotton, OC Police as Bronze Commander, who took full control of the incident. Triage was carried out on all injured individuals and passed to the Senior Medical Officer and Regional Medical Centre staff so that they could assist the local Ambulance staff on arrival.

Even with varied amounts of experience on the Flight, Medical Services commented as to how professional the RAF Police's assessment of the scene had been. This is testament to the training and experience we have accumulated during the years of support to operations.

It was a busy day for the Station and provided an ideal opportunity to demonstrate how effectively the MPGS and RAF Police operate together in response to such incidents. Personnel Management Squadron personnel worked long into the afternoon to complete the Casualty Notification Procedure; a process supported by the information gathered at the scene.

The requirement to collate accurate detail and to preserve life and evidence puts the RAF Police at the core of the provision of Force Protection in the Royal Air Force.
Blind Veterans Visit

Staff Sergeant Mark Beckett is Platoon Commander for the Military Provost Guard Service at RAF Valley and recently coordinated volunteer efforts for Blind Veterans UK. He describes how he got involved:

Being based at RAF Valley and seeing the multitude of collections being raised at work and at home, I often pondered at the idea of providing some manual assistance during these frugal times to a worthy cause.

Mentioning this to the Local SAAFA representative over a hot brew one day, he asked if I’d thought of contacting Blind Veterans UK. “Never heard of them”, I replied. He promptly provided me with a contact number and directed me towards Llandudno, which is one of only three sites in the UK, the others being Brighton and a smaller site at Sheffield.

The next day I spoke with the Rehabilitation and Training Manager who suggested we meet to discuss what we could do for each other. It transpired they were clearing a wooded area within the site. This was to provide a trail and sensory garden for the veterans under their care who had lost, or were losing their sight and was a way for them to enjoy getting out and about.

Returning to Valley, I immediately set about requesting volunteers to provide some muscle for a day to help complete this valuable area for those who have served. Within a day, 15 members of the MPGS had volunteered to give up their own time to assist and on arrival at the site; all were amazed at the training and rehabilitation given to those coming to terms with their condition.

Split into two groups, we enjoyed a grand tour by Billy Baxter, a blind ex Royal Horse Artillery SSgt who lost his sight whilst serving in Bosnia. Blind archery and a tandem bicycle with the passenger being blindfolded followed. It was then time to roll-up our sleeves and get to work moving and distributing 3-4 tons of woodchip, planting, and moving a workshop within the wooded area. We enjoyed the staff’s hospitality throughout, being amply fed and watered.

I am Sergeant Ian Lapping, a RAF SIIB investigator deployed on Op KIPION as the 83 EAG Crime Manager. The London to Brighton cycle ride is significant to me because both my parents died from heart related conditions. Dad died in 1983, days after I turned 18. Mum died two weeks before I deployed.

London to Brighton is an annual 54 mile cycle ride organised by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) which starts on Clapham Common and finishes on the Brighton Sea Front. Riders leave at 30 minute intervals from 0600 to 0930, the challenge being to get to Brighton in one piece and to raise money for the BHF. Heart disease is still the single biggest killer in the UK and is indiscriminate. Young and old, seemingly healthy or obviously sick, it claims many lives each year. My motivation is obvious. Many are similarly motivated, some enter just for the challenge.

I arrived in Qatar in mid Feb with the intention of competing, however, I was carrying a calf muscle injury so my training was delayed and completed entirely in the gym. Forty plus miles, twice a week on a spinning bike is far from ideal!

Sunday June 21st - R&R. 0630 and I was waiting at the local Rail Station, close to where Mum lived, for the transport to London. There was a coach but no lorry for the bikes which was worrying when some of us were due to start at 0800. 0700 saw the lorry arrive and after loading the bikes, we departed for London, arriving at Clapham at 0830. I had missed my start time so collected my bike and eventually crossed the start line at 0850.

At the start, the anticipation was etched on the faces of the riders. Looking at the wide variety of bikes, clearly some were in for a long day. The course takes you through Central and South London, then into the Surrey and Sussex countryside. The terrain was challenging enough with a mix of flat and undulating roads with varying qualities of surface. There were opportunities to open up the legs’ and get some speed down and from time to time, due to some of the narrow country roads, we slowed as we began to catch up the early starters.
On 2nd June, we were invited to the grand opening of the wooded trail and met other volunteers who had given up their time to help this wonderful organisation. For the MPGS, we built empathy for those coming to terms with such a debilitating condition, realising that it becomes more common with age and realising that ultimately, any one of us could end up relying on Blind Veterans UK to help us out.

The RSPCA Benefits from the RAF Police at Halton

The RAF Halton Police Flt supported local charities in June as they carried out a series of collections on the main and Swann Rd gates in aid of the RSPCA. National RSPCA week ran from 1 – 7 June 2015 and included collections across the county of food and money.

Cpl Dan Hill and his retired RAF Police dog Frisco, collected at the main gate with Cpl James Bowers, while FS Dawn Bellingham and her Labrador Charlie and Sgt ‘Dally’ Pollard with Border Collie Dylan, collected on the Swann Rd VCP. The dogs worked very hard and it was noticeable how much the RAF Halton staff appreciated them. The aim was to raise £100 for this exceptional charity.

In the early morning sunshine, the collection teams were well-received with loose change from down the back of passenger seats or lunch money donated to this worthy cause. After the gate collection, Cpl Dan Hill and Cpl Will Hughes, with Sweep, his Vehicle Search Dog, walked around station so any personnel who had missed out could donate – in exchange for a cuddle with Sweep! They were only too happy to take time away from their work and talk about dogs and the animals in care at Blackberry Farm.

RSPCA Blackberry Farm opened in 1997 in Aylesbury and is a Head Office run centre. This means that running costs are met by the RSPCA, but they also have a local fundraising effort and a group of staff and volunteers who raises funds for the centre. The K9 sensory garden is an example of local fundraising efforts and is where RAF Halton’s donation would be used, giving the dogs in care new areas to exercise, relax and act on their normal instincts away from the kennel environments.

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The majority of animals come in via their Inspectorate, often as a result of cruelty or neglect. The RSPCA spend time rehabilitating them, behaviourally and with veterinary treatment until they are ready for putting up for adoption.

The Centre in Aylesbury can hold up to 57 dogs, 96 cats and various small animals – such as rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, chinchillas, goats, chickens and ducks. They can take a maximum of 200 animals, depending on the animal species but on average, they have around 130 animals on site, at any one time.

On Thursday 11th June, the RAF Police took a trip to Blackberry Farm with their dogs to meet the centre manager, Julie Allen and present a cheque for £207.08. This was over double the amount the team initially hoped to raise and was received with gratitude for all who had donated at RAF Halton.

On 2nd June, we were invited to the grand opening of the wooded trail and met other volunteers who had given up their time to help this wonderful organisation. For the MPGS, we built empathy for those coming to terms with such a debilitating condition, realising that it becomes more common with age and realising that ultimately, any one of us could end up relying on Blind Veterans UK to help us out.

The real challenge lies on the outskirts of Brighton; Ditchling Beacon. The road is just wide enough for two cars to pass, and the ascent covers twisting sharp bends and a distance of roughly 1 km to the summit, one of the highest points in the county at 650m above sea level. The left side of the lane was taken up by ‘the walkers’, with the right hand side being used to test those who felt they could make it to the top without stopping. Unfortunately, both my quad muscles cramped and I was brought to my knees, literally to relieve the pain; left lane it was then.

After a short rest, I walked to the top, climbed back on the bike and had a pain free descent into Brightons where we were greeted by a packed crowd at the sea front. Thousands had turned out see the riders to the finish. Not quite the Champs Elysees, but a welcome sight nonetheless. The weather was very kind to us, the atmosphere was fantastic with a genuine rapport between the riders which helps when you are struggling. Crossing the line was brilliant. 54 miles in just under 4 hours.

I am nearing 50, so clearly you don’t need to be an Olympic athlete to take part, nor do you need a quality bike, though it helps. If you have the will to challenge yourself and raise some much needed money, give it a go. Further details of this and other rides can be found at www.bhf.org.uk.
First RAF Police Dog Trials For Five Years

In the heat of the July Lincolnshire sun, RAF Police Military Working Dogs and their handlers from across the UK fought it out to determine who was ‘top dog’.

Royal Air Force College Cranwell provided the prestigious backdrop for the Military Working Dog Trials, an event that had not taken place for five years due to operational commitments. With an audience that included the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford, the pressure was certainly on for the competitors.

The trials were the culmination of months of technical evaluation carried out across the UK by the Provost Marshal’s Dog Inspectors, with only 12 patrol dogs and their handlers making the grade to compete at these national finals.

Flight Sergeant Steven Hancox, Provost Marshal Dog Inspector, had been up and down the country from February onwards leading the technical evaluations, he said: “This year is particularly special as we haven’t had the trials for a long time. It takes a lot of hard work to be selected to compete, so this event means an awful lot to everyone taking part. To win it is truly special.”

Three days worth of heats saw the dogs and their handlers put through their paces in three different disciplines - wind scent exercises, obedience and obstacles plus criminal workouts. The outcome of these heats whittled the 12 competitors down to five for the final day.

In the arena, each pair set aside their nerves and exemplified the
special bond that a dog and its handler shares and spectators were left in no doubt of their professionalism.

Following the months of preparation and the pressure of the finals, it was Corporal Stacey Graham and Air Dog Demon, stationed at RAF Coningsby, who took the coveted top spot as champions. Corporal Oli Griggs from RAF Brize Norton was runner-up with Corporal Sam Plant from RAF Waddington taking third place.

A clearly delighted Corporal Graham said: “It feels fantastic! Being UK Champion is literally the one thing I’ve wanted since being on dogs – I’m really happy. I just burst out crying when my name was called and I heard all the cheers. I was massively overwhelmed - I still am!”

The RAF Police took the opportunity to present a host of other military working dog related trophies at the awards ceremony. The recipients of these awards were identified by the Provost Marshal Dog Inspectors through stringent assessment over the past year.

The Lady Kemball Trophy, for the top Arms and Explosives or Drug Detection Team was awarded to Corporal David Hoy and Air Dog Shane, based at RAFC Cranwell.

The Drissell Trophy, for the Best Police Dog Team was awarded to Corporal Shaun Perkes and Air Dog Tacko, from RAF Brize Norton.

The Vehicle Search Trophy was awarded to Corporal Emma Blackburn and Air Dog Burty, stationed at RAF Marham.

The Prestige Trophy, for the best UK Dog Section was awarded to RAF Northolt for the second year running.

The Tosh Thomas Trophy, for the Most Outstanding Contribution of the Year went to RAF St Mawgan’s Dog Section – Corporal Tim Cayless.

With his closing remarks, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford said “My one question is why has it been five years since the last dog trails? Please don’t leave it so long next time!”
The Nepal Earthquake Fundraising Efforts

The April 2015 Nepal earthquake killed more than 9,000 people and injured more than 23,000. Hundreds of thousands were made homeless, with entire villages flattened across many districts of the country. This tragedy had significant impact upon the large contingent of Gurkha Soldiers who serve within the MPGS and was felt across the wider Force.

A lot of international aid has been poured in to support the victims. Simultaneously, almost all Nepalese living in the Diaspora have been active in their own way by collecting donations to support their motherland and fellow countrymen and women...

At RAF High Wycombe, it was decided that the MPGS Company would hold a charity fund raising event in order to support the Nepal Earthquake Appeal. On 7 May 15, a renowned ‘Ghurkha Curry’ was served up for the station populous in exchange for charitable donations. The team immediately set about organising this event at extremely short notice and the raft of publicity resulted in an overwhelming response and heart-warming support from the station. This included substantial logistical support including MT vehicles, tents and significantly, the use of the WOs’ and Sgts’ Mess kitchen to prepare ingredients and cook the curry on the day.

A traditional Ghurkha Curry Lunch menu was served comprising a Chicken or Lamb Curry with Basmati rice and a free bottle of water for those whose mouths weren’t quite ready for those spices! To partake in the Gurkha Curry, personnel were asked to contribute £5 towards the appeal fund. However, it has to be said that donations in excess of this figure were contributed by the vast majority of personnel who turned out in large numbers to support the event. As well as the Gurkha Curry Lunch, the RAF High Wycombe fire section made a huge contribution, organising and selling tickets for a raffle which raised a total of £400.

In addition to this event, the WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess hosted a function on 6 May 15 in support of the fund raising effort and was kind enough to allow a team of MPGS Khukuri Dancers to perform for the patrons. The dance was well received by mess members who made substantial donations. These were bolstered by the local Wheel Public House who had also been collecting toward the fund. A further ‘Khukuri Dance’ was performed for the Station Commander and guests from the local Rotary Club before another Gurkha Curry served up.

In all, the RAF High Wycombe events raised in excess of £3500 in an incredibly short timeframe due to the overwhelming support of volunteers and their families who helped to deliver them so successfully.

At RAF Benson, a combined 429 miles were cycled to raise money for the Nepalese Earthquake Appeal. The members of the Military Provost Guard Service were inspired by Nepalese ex-Gurkhas in their platoon, who have family and friends in the country.

Lance Corporal Dean Millward, and Privates Michael Russell, Dil Subba and Bikram Gurung took to their static bikes at Didcot’s Orchard Centre. They cycled for six hours and raised more than £1,000 from shoppers to help relief work.

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RAFP Overpowers RMP to Reclaim the Korea Cup

On 29 Jul 2015 the RAF Police golf team took on the Royal Military Police at Southwick Park Golf Club for their annual match, competing for The Korea Inter Services Golf Cup. This competition dates back to 1986 and is one of which the RAFP have dominated. The 2014 match ended a four year RAFP winning streak, leaving the team determined to win the Cup back in 2015.

The weather had been kind for the morning matches which took the form of a four ball better ball match play competition over 9 holes of the course. After the morning matches, the RAFP had established a lead of 2.5 to 1.5 setting up an exciting afternoon of individual challenges to regain the Cup.

With a point lead, the RAFP were feeling confident heading out after lunch. The individual match play matches began in glorious sunshine with the captains leading the field, as the weather took a turn for the worse it favoured the higher handicaps of the RMP.

The RAFP team fought hard through the varying conditions to emerge with a 7.5 to 4.5 victory, regaining The Korea Cup.

The RAFP GA team consisted of:
- Sqn Ldr Dave Morris, 3 TPS (RAFP GA President).
- Flt Lt Frank Munro, AWC (RAFP GA OIC).
- Flt Lt Andy Malpas, RAF Waddington.
- WO Peter Gilpin, 7 Sqn HQ.
- WO Joe Duncan, 3 PW HQ.
- FS Lee Close, FP HQ (RAFP GA Captain).
- Sgt Andy Ackers, 1 PW HQ (RAFP GA Treasurer).
- Sgt Danny Hutton, FIB (RAFP GA Vice Captain).
- Cpl Harry Nicholls, RAF Wittering.
- Cpl Chris Prior, RAF Waddington.

RAF No 6 RAFP Sqn Team:

CORPORAL JACK LOWE IS ON NO 6 RAFP SQN AT RAF COSFORD. HE REPORTS ON THE RECENT 6-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT PLAYED AT SOUTHWICK PARK…

The Defence School of Policing and Guarding (DSPG), Southwick Park, held a 6-a-side football tournament on 4 September 15 for all service police. No 6 RAFP Sqn was keen to enter a team and it was my responsibility to look after the administration and organisation.

I trawled the sqn looking for the fittest and finest players I could muster, but as you can see from the photo, none of them were available! I wasn’t disheartened though and with 14 in the squad I thought we were sure in with a chance.

The trade group is busy as ever and due to injury, illness and other commitments, the numbers dwindled steadily to the point where I only had five players for a 6-a-side tournament, with two of those only ever planning to make up the numbers and shout from the side-lines. We were very fortunate that on arrival, and after an emotional drive, we were given an extra player from DSPG which at least meant we had the number required to compete if nothing else.

The first game was against RMP(T) who were a strong, young team with pace and who played a high tempo game. We defended hard as we got used to the pitch and style of play from the opposition. There were a few chances created by both teams with each pushing for a win in the final few minutes of the game. The match ended dramatically at 0-0.

Next up was 160 Pro Coy RMP, a team with a lot of experienced players who held the ball up and spread the play around. We struggled to get possession and worked hard in defence however, a lack of experience in the back line allowed a two-on-one situation result in a goal by 160 Pro Coy mid-way through the first half. From this point on, we were chasing the game, trying to put pressure on, but their defence was too good and they held out for the win with a 1-0 score line.

The last group game was against DSPG, the hosts of the tournament. They were a good team with some skilful players who passed the ball around with precision and a fast tempo. However, DSPG sat back and allowed us to create good attacking chances as the game progressed. We missed a glorious one-on-one opportunity, which frustrated the team and resulted in DSPG hanging on to a 0-0 draw.

With two draws and a loss, we were unable to qualify from the group, however, it was a valiant effort from the lads and the team was unfortunate not to get into the knockout stages.

We thoroughly enjoyed the tournament and have already started our training and recruiting campaign for next year’s competition, DSPG. Standby!
Although the 2015 summer won’t go down on record as one of the best, it was during a spell of exceptionally warm weather that this year’s ‘At Home Day’ took place at RAFC Cranwell. Flight Sergeant Tony Duckett reports…

It was in the depths of winter when the committee met for the inaugural meeting at RAF Henlow and the term ‘RAF Police At Home Day’ was muttered for the first time. The concept was as simple as it was awe inspiring, get as many RAF policemen and women together for a celebration of the Force’s achievements post TELIC and HERRICK.

An Inter-Squadron sports competition would form the basis for the day and the idea started to grow. The committee, ably led by Flt Lt Forbes, was to organise the sports, a social event and accommodation, as well as securing ‘buy-in’ from a historically sceptical audience - the rank and file RAF Police.

On the day of the event the committee met at RAFC Cranwell where the weather gods were smiling on us with glorious sunshine. As the crowds starting converging I bumped into friends and colleagues I had not seen for 10 years or more. Typical of the Trade, we caught up with a lot of light-hearted banter. It wasn’t just the old-sweats who were meeting up with old friends; in my party there were some LAC Acting Corporals who were just as excited to meet up with their former course mates and some of the staff from DSPG.

The opening address in the gym was from the Provost Marshal. He outlined the concept of the day and during a poignant moment, asked we take a minute to remember all colleagues, both human and animal, that had been injured or killed whilst on duty throughout Op TELIC and Op HERRICK.

The action then moved to the sports pitches, where personnel from all three Wings were participating in tag rugby, volleyball, and football. Some very competitive displays were seen out on the pitches and at the end of the day; the winners of the various competitions were as follows:

- Football – 3PW
- Volleyball – 4 Sqn
- Rugby – 7 Sqn

The day ended with a Tug of War competition, with the final keenly fought out between 7 Sqn and 3 PW. 3PW were victorious and awarded the Tug of War trophy and when added to their football success saw them crowned the RAF Police At Home Day overall winners.

At the conclusion of the day the Provost Marshal presented the trophies plus a special award to the person he felt was the best overall sports individual. This award went to Cpl Callum Hales, for what was described as his heroics and competitive spirit on the rugby field.

The day ended on a high note, with everyone involved enjoying a social evening which saw the camaraderie flowing. This marked the end to a very successful event which saw over half the Force attend and partake.

I’m aware that some people were unconvinced about the day, especially being on a Friday, however, for me, the day spoke for itself - when have we ever tried to get as many personnel from the Force together in one place for a social gathering?

The bar has been set for whoever picks up the ‘RAF Police At Home Day’ baton next. I wish them well!

Fiat Justitia
FS Tony Duckett
Not the normal type of order that comes down the chain of command even on your worst day! Yet this was the message Lieutenant General Percival, General Officer Commanding (GOC) Malaya received as he faced an unstoppable Japanese Invasion Force that had swept down the Malayan Peninsula in weeks destroying all Allied Forces which opposed it, and now had entered Singapore and was closing in fast. But it did get worse…five days later, Percival was forced to surrender thereby completing what Churchill described as the “worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history”.

73 years later, the RAF Police returned to Singapore and the Malaysian Peninsula to review the events in the Far East from 1941 to 1960 as part of a 22 Group sanctioned Staff Ride called EX Far Eastern Griffin. EX FEG, as it would be known, was a key component of the RAFP Commander’s Morale Strategy and designed to give the RAFP an opportunity to explore the past and present and project into the future with a wide variety of airpower related themes and RAFP specific scenarios.

The team, comprising 14 volunteers from across the RAFP force, led by Project Officer, Squadron Leader Craig Teasdale and his deputy Sgt Duncan Lilwall, departed Heathrow on the 11 September for Alor Setar in Northern Malaysia. On arrival, they were transported to one of the key historical sites where the Japanese Invasion force led by Lieutenant General Tomoyuki Yamashita “The tiger of Malaya” first gained a foothold on the Malayan Peninsula.

Over the next 14 days the team followed the route forged by the Japanese 25th Army down the west coast of Malaya, across the causeway and into Singapore, stopping at all the pivotal battle sites which lead the end of the British Empire in the Far East. After a hard earned break, the team picked up on post WW2 events, heading back across the Johor Straits - and in complete contrast to the failure of Singapore, examined the unparalleled British success during the Malayan Emergency. This success has defined counterinsurgency warfare to this present day.

Security is tight at some locations in Singapore. Even now, a conviction for drug trafficking results in a mandatory death penalty.

There must be no thought of sparing the troops or population; commanders and senior officers should die with their troops. The honour of the British Empire and the British Army is at stake.”

Winston Churchill

A statue of the “Tiger of Malaya” General Tomoyuki Yamashita. The master general that conquered Malaya and Singapore in only 70 days. He was later tried for warcrimes and hanged.

EX FEG covered over 1500 miles and included 36 stands where the history of the region was explored, translated for the present and projected toward the future. The questions were demanding, required significant research with in depth analysis and involved challenging projections based on the individual’s own judgement and experience. Topics ranged from the future of cyber, resurrection of UK maritime air power, growth of UAVs and contemporary military leadership. Each presentation was followed...
The Benefit of a Private Water Supply

The Cost of Water

There can be many reasons why a property would benefit from private water supply and/or if one already exist one maximize the benefits from ownership and/or reduce the costs of it’s operation. Water cost from approximately 90p to 160p per m3. At 10 m3/day, cost varies from £3285 to £5256/yr or £16425 to £29200 over 5 years.

Low Pressure and/or Flowrate

By law, the water companies only have to deliver a flow of 9 lites per minute at 1 bar (10m head) pressure at the boundary of a property. Consequently, there may be problem with low flow rate and/or pressure, especially where the property is 100s of metres and at an elevation of 10s of metres above the boundary.

If one is planning improvements to a property, it is important to assess whether there is an increase in the peak hourly demand, such as from:

• The use of power showers.
• Construction of additional bathrooms.
• Irrigation.
• A pond and/or swimming pool.
• Stable or livery yard.

Hosepipe Bans

Services Offered

• Hydrogeological surveys for water supply boreholes, springs and river abstractions
• Designing and supervising the construction of water supply boreholes, including pumping tests and abstraction schemes from rivers
• Advising on water supply issues with regard to Private water Suppliers Regulations.
• Applying for EA abstraction licences and discharge consents.
• The location of cesspits/pools, septic tanks and small sewerage plants.
• Assessing water quality and designing remediation measures to treat pollution.

by an intense Q&A where issues were dissected in greater depth by the audience.

Despite the long and challenging days, the team had some time to soak up the local atmosphere and enjoy the magical sights, sounds and tastes of the Far East. Participants experienced the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur which, standing at 452 metres, forms the 7th tallest building in the world. Other key sites visited included: Alexandra Hospital, Adam Park, Gemas Birdge, Fraser’s Hill - where Sir Henry Gurney was assassinated, Sarim bun Beach - where the Japanese first set foot in Singapore, the Malaysian Police Museum and a private tour of the Fort Canning Bunker which is preserved exactly as it was when abandoned in 1942. A trip to Singapore would not be complete without a visit to the iconic Raffles, home of the world famous Singapore Sling.

Upon returning to Heathrow in the early hours of 25 September, all EX FEG participants had a greater knowledge and understanding of the tragedy of the Far East and the outstanding successes behind the Malayan Emergency. The lessons from these campaigns are no less relevant today as they were then and this RAFP team were fortunate enough to visit the sites where these lessons were so bitterly learnt and brilliantly displayed.

Destroyed but not defeated…the error of the past is the wisdom and success of the future.
- Hemingway

Yield Centre for Agriculture.

A memorial in Ipoh, Malaysia to the POWs and Labours who were used to construct the Thailand to Burma Death Railway. Many of the 61,700 Allied POWs used to build the railway were captured during the fall of Singapore.

Kampar Hill – the site of the Battle of Kampar where relatively small Allied Force occupied the high ground and managed to halt the Japanese advance for 2 days. It was the first defeat for the Japanese since the invasion was launched.
In the early hours of 3 April, 10 personnel gathered at RAF Henlow and began a pilgrimage to the adventurous training and mountain bike Mecca, that is Moab in the State of Utah, USA. The team comprised of novices who were outdoor first aid trained, mountaineers and mountain bike leaders.

After 13 hours of flying we arrived in Salt Lake City via Dallas. The next morning we drove 300 miles to the Moab KOA campground and then into Arches National Park, to hike the Devils Garden Trail. Temperatures were in the low 70s; just as well as the breathtaking scenery was challenging on rock and sand with technical ascents and descents throughout. This proved to be an amazing acclimatisation hike, pushing individuals into stretch from the start.

The following morning involved an incremental increase across all physical elements of the adventurous training as we drove to Canyonlands National Park and completed the 9 mile Syncline Loop Trail, descending 1700 ft into a canyon, following the contour of the wash and ascending back to the rim. The views were exhilarating along this lonely trail, with little shade and a strong breeze, we soon consumed 4 litres of water and a kilogram of trail mix. We carried out micro navigation and map reading training along the route and by end of the trail, we felt a great sense of achievement.

We concluded our journey with a 10 mile hike in Canyonlands National park on the Murphy trail. The trail was akin to hiking the Grand Canyon, then into nowhere, contouring a wash and back out of the Grand Canyon, (on a slightly smaller scale, but just as exhilarating).

The expedition was a total success; we had maximised stretch, developed navigational skills, mountain bike skills and empowered personnel - reinforcing the RAF’s ethos, core values and standards. Leadership qualities had been identified from organisational tasks, confidence levels had increased, and communication skills and teamwork had developed to the fore. Moreover, due to our operational footprint; morale, a key component, was intensified to the next level.
We had maximised stretch, developed navigational skills, mountain bike skills and empowered personnel - reinforcing the RAF’s ethos, core values and standards.
Personnel from 3 FP Wg HQ, RAF Marham, attended the Joint Services Adventurous Sail Training Centre (JSASTC) and embarked on a week’s sailing around the Solent waters. For some it was an introduction into the basics of sailing and being part of a crew, for others it was a chance to put their qualifications and skills to the test.

The week started with a Sunday night stay at Fort Blockhouse, where words such as ‘heads’ and ‘cabins’ were the order of the day. With views of Spinnaker Tower and the port entrance, it was the perfect way to get into the spirit of what was to come.

Monday morning consisted of health and safety training, boat
The event is proving increasingly popular in the Moray calendar and raises money and awareness for the Make a Wish Foundation charities. To coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, teams were encouraged to produce rafts and wear fancy dress in honour of 'The Few.'

As the teams made their way to the start line, it would prove challenging for some as their maiden voyage marked the first time their rafts had been water tested. The spectators' enjoyment was evident as some teams took an early swim without starting the race.

The next test was the traditional barrage of eggs, flour and water bombs from competitors' rafts, all in a bid to destabilise them and indeed for some, these tactics proved successful.

It was the Commanding Officer from RAF Lossiemouth, Group Captain Mark Chappell who sounded the starting horn and this marked the scramble to get rafts underway in conditions made even more challenging by high winds.

The RAF Police emerged from the onslaught of eggs and flour to take an early lead, assisted by the capsizing of the Steamboat Inn team - a team that has won the event many times before and who struggled to gain momentum after this early race mishap.

Battling the strong currents and the wind, the RAF Police team headed to the turning point and it looked like they would struggle with the team from Moray Firth Radio (MFR) taking the inside line. However, the MFR team did not take into account the shallow depth of the river on the inside of the bend and ran aground, but they managed to regain motion in deeper water.

With the wind and the tide against everyone from the start, only five teams were able to complete the race with some sinking, some capsizing and some succumbing to such challenging conditions.

The final battle back to the finish line saw the RAF Police take the top spot, the MFR team taking second place and the favourites going into the race, the Steamboat Inn team, recovering from their early capsizing and taking third spot.

It was with weary arms and smiling faces that the victorious RAF Police team received the coveted 'Toilet Seat Trophy' for their efforts, presented to them by Group Captain Chappell.

AT LOSSIEMOUTH RAFT RACE

AT LOSSIEMOUTH RAFT RACE
A RAF Police Reservist has been awarded an MBE at Buckingham Palace by HM The Queen following two operational tours in Afghanistan.

Corporal David Derbyshire (56), from Nottingham, has served with Number 3 Tactical Police Squadron since 2008 and was deployed to Afghanistan in both 2013 and 2014. On his first tour he was employed with the RAF Police at the Main Entry Point at Camp Bastion where he worked alongside the US Marines, returning to operations a year later as part of the RAF Police flight line security team at Camp Bastion Air Terminal.

Receiving the news that he was to be awarded a MBE came as quite a shock for the Corporal and he said: “I have always considered myself really fortunate to have been part of the RAF and able to make a constructive contribution to the Service. It has been a complete privilege to meet and serve with every single member of the services, including those from other nations.”

Going to Buckingham Palace on a sunny October day, Corporal Derbyshire and his wife Catherine enjoyed the enormity of their palace adventure, citing the professionalism of the staff and the company of the fellow recipients as making their day one to remember.

Corporal Derbyshire, who works for the YMCA as front of house security and out of hours management for a homeless accommodation facility, concludes: “My memories of the day and my complete service with the RAF Police will stay with me forever. I will always have at the forefront of my mind though, the thoughts of all those service men and women who have given so much more than myself, and their families.”

603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron Visited By Their Royal Honorary Air Commodore, Her Majesty The Queen

By WO N Davenport, 603 Squadron

603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron is in the unique position of having a Royal Honorary Air Commodore (HAC). Her Majesty The Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, became our HAC on 1 July 1951 and expressed her wish to remain our HAC when she ascended the throne. Along with all other RAuxAF flying Squadrons, we were disbanded on 10 March 1957. However the Sqn reformed on 1 October 1999 and Her Majesty graciously resumed the title of HAC on 11 December 2000.

This uniqueness was enhanced when The Right Honourable Lord Selkirk of Douglas was appointed by Her Majesty to assume the role of HAC, as her representative, to fulfil the day to day duties of an HAC on her behalf. He continued until standing down in April of this year at which point, Air Marshal Sir David Walker was appointed to take on the day to day duties of HAC.

2015 sees the 90th Anniversary of the creation of 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron, having formed on 14 October 1925. This provided an opportune time to invite Her Majesty to share this auspicious occasion. Her Majesty chose to visit the Squadron’s Town Headquarters (THQ) on July 4th which marked the end of Edinburgh Royal Week.

Her Majesty and Prince Philip were met by Group Capt Kemp, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and Sqn Ldr Riley, the Sqn OC, together with Ms Mhairi Hastie. The Royal Party were reacquainted with Air Marshal Sir David Walker, who had worked in the Royal Household for many years before meeting a number of key personnel and specially invited guests.

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When the opportunity to deliver the bulk of the security coordination and RAFP effort at the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) was offered to 3 Police Wing, it seemed like an ideal opportunity to hand Part Time Volunteer Reservists (PTVR) a task where they could deliver effect to the RAFP.

RESERVES AT RIAT

This 15 person, two week, general police duties detachment, reduced the burden on the regular force considerably, especially when factoring in the planning and logistics stage needed to enable it.

RIAT, the worlds largest Military Air Tattoo, is held annually at RAF Fairford over a three-day weekend in July, attracting some 160,000 visitors and aircraft from about 30 nations. The USAF loans the site temporarily to the RAF Charitable Trust (RAFCTE) for the event. RAF Fairford’s footprint is such that a plethora of local authorities, emergency services and military stakeholders all come together to ensure the success of the show in a safe and controlled environment.

Utilising Reservists is not without its challenges, such as a civilian employer being forced to cancel leave at the last minute or a family emergency curtailing attendance. It can be more challenging to generate a replacement than with regular personal. However with careful planning, a degree of flexibility and by building in some additional resilience, most occurrences of this nature can be overcome.

Due to the complex nature of RIAT, there is a joint security protocol between the various stakeholders - RAFCTE, USAF, MOD and Glos and Wilts Police. A formal handover of responsibility for the safety and security of the public from the RAF to Glos Police takes place each morning the general public are admitted. This is handed back after the Glos Police Silver is satisfied that the vast majority of the general public have departed the venue.

The RAFP team was drawn from the two RAF Reserve Sqn; 603 (City of Edinburgh) and 3 TPS. The search dog handlers, by nature of the role, were all regulars and mainly from Brize Norton under Sgt Kev Brown. The essential oversight from the regular perspective was provided by A/WO Gaz Edwards, who would start a new career as the FTRS Training Sgt with 3 TPS shortly after RIAT and was able to see what may lay in store when working with the Reserves.

The RIAT security force peaks over the show weekend at about 650 personnel - 450 Phase 3 RAF Engineers from DCAE Cosford, 150 contracted security personnel and 20 RAF Police. They, along with the other RAF medical and fire personnel, come under administrative command of the OC RAF Deployed Personnel, who is generally the Wing Commander from RAF Cosford. However, for security functions, the security detachment is under the command of the RAF Gold for the event, this year the Deputy Principal Security Adviser, Wg Cdr Adrian Gillespie.

Due to a change in the USAF infrastructure at RAF Fairford since the 2014 event, the traditional crypto storage area became unavailable and a rapidly arranged survey was conducted by 3 PW Specialist Capabilities Squadron resulting in another post, Crypto Custodian, coming online. This additional post provided another opportunity to train a PTVR in a live environment and build in additional robustness.

Reservist Weekend Training
One of the highest accolades in Military Piping is to be appointed the Lone Piper at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. This year, the honour went to Cpl Stuart Hunter, RAF Police, RAF High Wycombe. He was the first ever serving RAF Serviceman to be broadcast worldwide on television in the prestigious Lone Piper role.

The annual Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, with the spectacular backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, is attended by a 220,000 strong multi-national audience and attracts a further 100 million through its global television coverage. Performers from over 48 countries have taken part in the Tattoo and this reinforces the event’s unique ability to bring thousands of people together for this celebration of music and entertainment.

The tattoo traditionally starts with the Lone Piper reciting a Gaelic Toast “Ceud mìle fàilte dhuibh uile, gu baile Dhùn Èideannm, agus chun a’ Chaisteil. Mòran làithean sona dhuibh is sìth. Slàinte don Bhànrigh! Slàinte dhuibh uile” which translates as “One hundred thousand welcomes to you all, to the city of Edinburgh, and to the Castle. A long happy life and peace to you all. Health to the Queen! Health to you all!” This is followed by a ceremonial Quaich of whiskey with the Saluting Officer.

The Lone Piper also brings the tattoo to a close by playing a lament high on the ramparts of the Half Moon Barrier of
Edinburgh Castle. This year ‘The Piper of Loos’ was chosen as the lament, marking the 100th Anniversary of Piper Daniel Laidlaw VC piping his company out of the trenches during the Battle of Loos in The Great War.

Cpl Hunter was selected for the role of Lone Piper following a rigorous and highly competitive audition process. Pitched against nominees from a raft of military pipe bands, he was selected as one of four pipers to play throughout the 24 performances of the tattoo. He also performed throughout the event with the Massed Pipes and Drums, formed from 14 Regimental and Commonwealth bands, comprising of 250 pipers & drummers tuned to perfection and turning on the style with matchless displays.

He also played with the RAF Pipes and Drums, which is led by Pipe Major Ian Hughes, RAF Central Scotland. This Band comprises serving personnel and civilian volunteers from Pipe and Drum Bands based at RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Central Scotland, RAF Waddington and RAF Halton and performs at various tattoos and high profile events in the UK and worldwide throughout the year.

Originally from Dunoon, a small town on the West Coast of Scotland, Cpl Hunter has played the bagpipes for over 16 years, winning many solo and pipe band competitions. He has been recognised as the best piper in the RAF for two consecutive years after winning the RAF Solo Piping Championships, and it is this success which supported his nomination for the esteemed Lone Piper role.

Cpl Hunter is enormously honoured to have been awarded this incredibly prestigious and historic role as the result of his significant talent and immense dedication - bringing him to the pinnacle of his piping career to date.
Advanced Training Squadron

RAF Police Officer Course (RAFPOC)

On 4 May 15, eight graduates from Initial Police Training (IT) at RAF College Cranwell converged on DSPG to form RAF Police Officer Course (RAFPOC) No.001/15

Ahead lay 20 weeks of core trade training comprising a blend of classroom based lectures and practical reinforcement of the subjects taught. During the 11 weeks of the course, the RAFPOC students are taught police legislation alongside their Royal Military Police (RMP) and Visiting Officer counterparts before moving onto the seven week, Protective Security (PS) element. The remainder of the course is dedicated to an operational phase - culminating with a graduation ceremony.

We asked our students to give us some feedback on this course and some insight from their perspective. We've amalgamated these responses...

Legislation Phase

The initial 12 weeks of the course was to build the foundations of law and general police duties. It was split into three phases; legislation learning, personal safety training (PST) and finally putting everything into practice during environmental training. This part of the course presented the RAFPOC with the opportunity to learn alongside our RMP colleagues, as well as receiving lessons delivered by instructors of all three services, giving us good initial insight into how the common and different approaches of the three services merged together.

A particular highlight was the PST, which took us out of the classroom environment and whilst physically demanding, gave a real practical grounding to the potential physical challenges of the job.

The course was not all classroom based. Visits included an opportunity to experience a court martial, providing an insight into what you could call the ‘end product’ of police work. It also gave an eye-opening opportunity to witness a post-mortem at the local hospital. We were also lucky to receive briefs from the Close Protection Unit, Defence Source Unit and the Service Prosecution Authority, all of which helped grow our knowledge of the Service legal process.

Protective Security (PS) Phase:

Once the legislation phase had concluded, we parted ways with our RMP colleagues and moved into the nine week protective security (PS) phase of the course. Whilst from the outside most people will have a basic awareness of the RAPF’s policing remit, this was considered by some on the course much more of a dark art! Moving at a brisk pace through areas as diverse as cyber defence, the Official Secrets Act and Countries to which Special Security Regulations Apply, it was an intense learning phase, but one that was punctuated with numerous practical exercises and regular group revision sessions which helped turn the sometimes daunting theory into real world scenarios.

The culmination of this phase was a particular highlight – designing and delivering the mandatory annual security briefing to students from the Initial Training Squadron.

Visits

Interspersed with the PS course delivery were talks by the course and visiting speakers. Visits were made to HQ Air Command, which included meeting the PSA, RAF Henlow to learn about the Special Capabilities Squadron as well as a trip to the Police Flight at RAF Odiham. The visits and capability briefs were invaluable during the course. Having the opportunity to meet station personnel and be exposed to the dynamic elements within the RAF Police, in real time, has been hugely beneficial to my learning experience.

"It is fair to say that I didn’t appreciate just how diverse and multifaceted the RAF Police branch was until I undertook the RAF Police Officers’ Course here at DSPG Southwick Park."

“As a direct entrant to the RAF, who is about to embark on a first tour as OC Police Flt on a busy flying station, I am hopeful, but also confident that my 20 weeks of in-depth training has adequately equipped me with the knowledge and skills to constructively oversee and contribute to the day to day policing and security demands on my new unit.”

Graduation

The RAFPOC course culminates with a ceremony comprising a service in the Memorial Chapel during which graduating officers are presented with their warrant cards by PM (RAF), Gp Capt Bailey and addressed by Cmhd DSPG, Wg Cdr Bland. The celebrations move onto the Officers’ Mess with a reception for graduates, their invited families and other guests plus a visit to the D-Day map room.

Cmhd DSPG is reliant on number of staff to contribute their subject matter expertise in the delivery of the RAFPOC course. A tri-service combination of trainers from across DSPGs, under the course directorship of FS Dave Donnelly, from the Volume Crime Investigation Course, Serious Crime Investigation Course and Security Training Flight, is integral to the successful delivery of the course.
Exercise Southwick Salient

Initial Training Squadron

Since the last Provost Parade, ITS has graduated the following A/Cpls and we welcome them into the RAFP family:

**DEBDEN – Graduated 25 May 15**

- Annett TPS
- Armer Waddington
- Cain Northolt
- Dawson Brize Norton
- Dunlop Wittering
- Harm Coningsby
- Hughe Northolt
- Jordan Lassiemouth
- Lowe Cosford
- Reynol Marham
- Sheas Wyton
- Stuart Brize Norton
- Tittensor TPS
- Uren Cosford
- Van-Burren TPS
- Warrell Northolt
- Whittle Cosford
- Yull Boulmer

**NEWTON – Graduated 10 Jul 15**

- Newlyn-Byer TPS
- Cole Brize Norton
- Jones TPS
- Mansell Honington
- Sarin Leeming
- Thompson TPS
- Duffin TPS
- Grose TPS
- Hamilton TPS
- Hart Honington
- Jane Honington
- Knowles TPS
- Lydon Marham
- Matthews Marham
- McMeakin Northolt
- Morin Marham
- Oakley Waddington
- Parker Lassiemouth
- Powney CIPU
- Prior Halton
- Reburn Waddington
- Scott Northolt
- Silence Brize Norton
- Sweeting TPS
- Williams Lassiemouth

On 25 August, 35 air cadets and staff from the Warwickshire & Birmingham Wing attended a week-long camp at DSPG - the second time the school had hosted such a camp. The programme covered many aspects of the RAF Police training and was designed to showcase the varied roles and responsibilities undertaken and included off/site visits too.

The week started with a visit to Fort Nelson, giving the cadets an insight into the military history of the area. Back at DSPG, they were given lessons in civil and service law, including when and how to conduct an arrest, followed up by personal safety training. Protective security lessons followed, highlighting the downfalls and risks associated with using social media. This was an eye-opener for many as most had no idea how much information can be harvested from their social media accounts.

The cadets gained an insight into the physical demands of RAF Police training when they undertook the RAF fitness and swimming tests. There were some very good efforts, with many of them passing the required standards and some achieving exceptionally high scores.

With access to DSPG’s training police station, mock court martial centre, and an aviation security training facility, their knowledge continued to grow. The aviation security check-in proved to be a highly amusing activity, with each cadet having a go at the different aspects of the check-in process and using computer simulators to see what the X-ray machines can really do. The focus then shifted to crime scene investigation training, covering many aspects of this specialist role, from collecting samples, fingerprinting and DNA to photography - a visit they all found exceptionally interesting.

*continued over page*
Towards the end of the week, visits out included the Close Protection Unit at Longmoor, who covered the close protection role and the RAF Police Flt at RAF Odiham, which allowed cadets to see a working RAF Police section and included a display from the RAF Police Dog Section. On their return to DSPG, they were given field craft training and a night exercise to round off a very busy day.

It was apparent the cadets had no idea of how diverse the RAF Police role was and the camp was certainly an eye-opener for them and the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. At the beginning of the week there were a handful who were considering the RAF Police as a career; however, by the end of the week, that had changed to the majority.

The dedication coincided with the national commemorations to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, a date chosen specifically to highlight the crucial role that RAF Debden played in WWII defending the South East and London.

The role of RAF Debden changed after the war but retained a RAF presence for many years with the RAF Technical Training Command located there from 1946-1960 and the RAF Police Depot taking residence from 1960-1975.

The unveiling was performed by Mr William Clark, a WWII veteran who learnt to fly the Hurricane at the base. The Deputy Provost Marshal (RAF), Wing Commander David Wilkinson, formally represented the RAF at the event, laying a wreath in unison with a USAF Officer.

Following the event, Wing Commander Wilkinson said: "It is an honour to be part of this event and to share time with some veterans and their families. RAF Debden is not only an important piece of history for the nation, but it forms a large piece of RAF Police history too. It’s wonderful to have this permanent memorial to all who have served here and I feel grateful to those who have worked so hard to make this happen."
Following the passing of Buster earlier this year, it was directed by HQ RAFP to explore the idea of designing and erecting a permanent memorial that would commemorate all RAF Police Military Working Dogs who have served so admirably, saving numerous lives.

At the time of writing, these discussions continue and we are engaging with the RAF Police Association to ensure they are fully immersed in the project. It is hoped to site the memorial at the National Arboretum and currently, we are keen to formally dedicate this at the Annual Remembrance Parade on 23 June 2016, assuming plans come to fruition by this time.

Further details will be disseminated across the Force as soon they become available. We wish to work together to appropriately recognise all of these special companions who are no longer with us.
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