

# Honington

The Magazine of RAF Honington

# Herald

 **ROYAL  
AIR FORCE**  
**Honington 85**

Summer 2022



**SUFFOLK SHOW | HONINGTON MILITARY WIVES CHOIR | GRADUATION NEWS**



**RAF Honington - **SETT** the FP Force for Success**



**Support**



**Equip**



**Train**



**Think**

# OLD BUCKINGHAM HALL SCHOOL

# FORCES MUTUAL





## Editorial Team

**Editors:**  
Sqn Ldr Mark Fixter  
Ext 7176

and

Stn MCO Victoria Quamina  
Ext 7577

**Image Editor:**  
RAF Honington Station  
Photographic Team  
Ext 7318

**Distribution:**  
Media and Engagement Office  
Ext 7577/7176  
Email: hon-heraldgmb@mod.gov.uk

The Honington Herald is published by kind permission  
of the Station Commander, Royal Air Force Honington,  
Group Captain Piers 'Dutch' Holland MBE MA RAF.

## Submission Deadline for Articles

Summer 01/08/2022

All articles to be submitted to:  
HON-HeraldGMB@mod.gov.uk



**Designer:**  
Jo Glen

**Advertising:**  
Jayne Bailey  
Tel: 01536 334219

**Published by:**  
Lance Media Group Ltd,  
1st Floor, Tailby House,  
Bath Rd, Kettering, NN16 8NL

Tel: 01536 334222



Station Commander's Foreword .....	5
Support Wing News .....	5
Ex Bletchley Encoder .....	6
This is me - WO Paul "Jerry" McGuire.....	8
USAFE Leadership Connect Programme .....	8
Honington Military Wives Choir news .....	9
STEM challenge .....	10
HIVE news.....	11
Community Project with Salalah Flight.....	12
Honorary Commanders Program .....	12
Honington Spring Clean .....	13
Q&A with Alan Fairbairn .....	14
From Still to Summit .....	15
Suffolk Show .....	16
Training Wing .....	18
Graduations .....	20
Force Protection Centre .....	22

## Unit Updates

1 Sqn .....	24
No. 3 RAuxAF Police Squadron .....	26

### RAF Honington - **SETT** the FP Force for Success

**Support**

**Equip**

**Train**

**Think**

# Station Commander's Foreword

Group Captain Piers 'Dutch' Holland MBE MA RAF

## Four themes for me to cover in this foreword to the Honington Herald, in this our 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year: time; community; change; and celebration

**Time** – it seems to go by ever more quickly and we'll be half way through 2022 by the time you read this. I hope that you are all planning to take some family time and a break from work during the Summer months, recharge your batteries and have some fun! The Autumn will certainly be another sprint and it will be Christmas before we all know it! I hope that you are all enjoying your time at RAF Honington and key to this is my next point.....

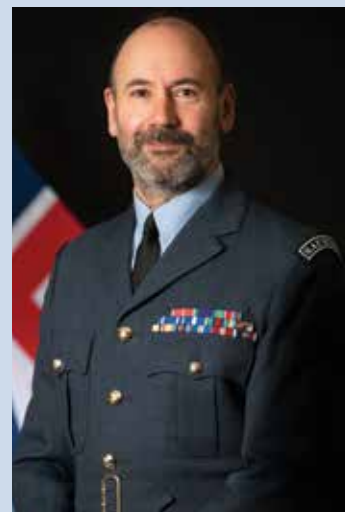
**Community** – I sense that we are still repairing our Community after the damage inflicted by

Covid; particularly while 1 Sqn remain deployed in Cyprus, we need to come together as a broad RAF Honington Community and support each other through the good times and bad. I urge everyone to get involved in the Community programme running throughout the year, but particularly in the Summer months. The 'offer' is good, please take advantage of it. Community is like life itself – the more you put in the more you are likely to get out of it. But as always, things don't stand still.....

**Change** – the only constant! There will be changes to RAF Honington and the units located here from many different sources, but particularly from the Air Command Operating Model; as I write, I don't know what all these changes will look like in detail and therefore I can't tell you what particular impact these changes might have on you. What I can definitely tell you is that when I relinquish command of the Stn at Christmas time, I will

not handover the Stn to another RAF Regt Gp Capt, but rather this great responsibility and honour will go to OC Support Wing's post and (like all smaller Stns) a Wg Cdr will command the Stn from then on. Some may find change unsettling, and I understand this – for me too – and key to this is good communications So: follow me on Twitter (@StnCdrHonington); follow the various Stn Social Media pages; seek out community info through the HIVE; and if you are still not sure – 'Ask Dutch!'

**Celebrate** – We have many reasons to celebrate this year - Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> May marked the Stn's 85<sup>th</sup> year and it is also 50 years since we were awarded the Freedom of the borough of Bury St. Edmunds (now West Suffolk). We celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RAF Regiment and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armoured Car Companies with a service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral and Dinner in the Officers' Mess on Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> May; there are still many opportunities to



join in celebrating Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee events throughout June. Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July is the charity Cricket Match and family fun day at Walsham-Le-Willows and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July is the Station Families Day – let's all enjoy some down time to recharge over the Summer period! See you all there!



ON THE COVER AND LEFT: Station Commander, accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk Lady Clare, carries the Torch for Suffolk during the 2022 Festival of Suffolk Queen's Jubilee Celebrations.

Honington Herald is now available online:

<https://www.rafmags.com/magazines/>





## RAF/USAF JOINT LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT FORUM

By Cpl Ashley Lewis, JNCO Station Armoury

**O**n the 12th of May 2022 I, along with a group of 18 Sergeants and Corporals from RAF Honington, travelled to RAF Lakenheath to take part in a leadership and management forum organised by the USAF.

TSgt Stefan Watkins-Krokowski (USAF) and I organised the event to allow NCOs from both Forces to sit down and compare different techniques used within the respective services.

The hope was that each person would be able to learn new techniques that could help develop them as NCO's.

The day started out with a history brief from the 48th Fighter Wing historian who told us about the complete history of RAF Lakenheath as a camp, explaining that it was originally set up as a decoy installation during World War 2 with the hope that the Germans

would attack it instead of RAF Mildenhall which was the active airfield.

We then travelled across camp to the Liberty 5/6 club which is the private organisation for the NCO cadre of the USAF. There we sat down to an incredible buffet lunch put on by the catering staff at the club. Southern Fried BBQ. I think this was the highlight of the day for most people!

Following lunch we had introductions whereby each person took it in turns to stand up and say a little bit about themselves. This was an eye opener for some of the RAF personnel, just to see



the amount of different trades within the USAF compared to the RAF. This was followed by a non-stop discussion for around 2 hours on how we manage things differently between the 2 services and between different trades.

Undoubtedly I think people may have strayed off topic a bit and turned to more informal discussion, however I think this made the event even more successful. In fact I think the biggest success for me was that people were exchanging contact information with their counterparts which was my biggest goal for the event.

Hopefully this was a good starting point for what will become a long and enduring friendship between RAF Honington and RAF Lakenheath. Next, we hope to host the USAF here at Honington for a similar event with new people from both services.

From the feedback I have received so far, I would consider the day to be a huge success.





# Ex BLETCHLEY ENCODER



Station personnel have once again taken advantage of the Force Development opportunities available to them, this time to Bletchley Park where they will have learnt the significant part it played in the Second World War.

## THE AIM?

1: Identify and explore the lessons learnt from codebreaking during WW2 in order to apply them to today's operations.

2: Explore the wider aspects of the operations at Bletchley Park including leadership, welfare and Whole Force co-ordination, and how these apply to the RAF today. They explored the buildings and grounds and learn about the morale, courage and fighting spirit of the codebreakers.

Station personnel interested in organising a trip should contact the Learning Centre or check the Force Development page on Sharepoint for more information. Pre-approved days include:

Battle of Britain Bunker  
Bletchley Code Breaker  
Churchill War Room  
Discover Duxford  
Hillside Explorer  
Imperial War Museum



# STANTON PREP SCHOOL

## EASTER 50 CHALLENGE

By Chris Pattle, Civil Servant, Logistics Support Flight



For this year's Easter 50 Challenge hosted by Action Challenge, my family and I decided to take up the 25K walk for our chosen charity; Guide Dogs for the Blind. To get our challenge off to a good start, a bake sale was held in the RAF Honington Community Centre on 8th March. To raise the profile of Guide dogs and how much they matter to people with sight loss we were fortunate enough to be joined by members of the Bury St Edmunds branch of Guide Dogs.

The numbers were drawn in by no other than our very own four-legged cheerleader, a former Guide dog courtesy of owner Geraldine from the local branch.

Our efforts were rewarded with cash being splashed in purchasing delicious home baked goodies. The proceeds from our bake sale notched up a total of £150 for Guide Dogs.

This is all thanks to our bakers, Es Pattle, Carol Pattle and Geraldine from the Bury branch. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Warrant Officer Mark Steward and Mrs Amanda Bailey for their warm welcome and support in our endeavours.

On Saturday 9th April, my family and I joined 3,500 other participants at Windsor Great Park to take part in the 25k challenge. Against the stunning backdrop of Windsor, we set off from the start line in good spirits sharing encouragements with fellow walkers doing their bit for good causes. With a blend of tough cross-country challenges, we all managed to complete our walk in five and a half hours crossing the finish line at Windsor racecourse. As a former Guide dog owner myself, I am extremely proud of our achievements and for that we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who kindly sponsored us achieving a grand total of £954 raised for Guide Dogs.



Images courtesy of Chris Pattle and WO Mark Steward



# THIS IS ME!

## WO Paul 'Jerry' McGuire, RAF Honington Station Warrant Officer

**It is an honour to have been selected by The Station Commander to be the Station Warrant Officer at RAF Honington. I look forward to spending my first few weeks meeting as many of you as possible and learning the inner workings of the unit.**

As a Logistics (Driver), I hope to bring new ideas and solutions to the Station using the personalities across all ranks and services to



develop and plan for the future of RAF Honington by developing ASTRA initiatives that fit the unit's Mission. RAF Honington has great potential and a huge array of talented people; I hope to identify these personalities and draw them forward for the betterment of the whole community.

Originally from Grimsby in North East Lincolnshire, I joined the Royal Air Force in 1998 and have served at Coningsby, Stafford, Wittering, MoD London, Scampton and Leuchars. My last five years have included a tour as MTO Tactical Supply Wing, a brief training role at 504 RAuxAF and then onto a 5th tour with 2 MT Sqn at RAF Wittering. I have served on many OOA commitments such as MPC Falklands, Kuwait (Air Ops Iraq), Iraq (Op TELIC), Afghanistan, (Op HERRICK), Iraq (Op SHADER) not forgetting duties all over Europe on convoys as far as Bulgaria and Estonia and more Military Aid to Civilian Authority tasks than I can remember. I have been honoured to have been awarded AOC Commendations on HRH Queen Elizabeth, Birthday honours in 2009, 15 and 20.

My hobbies include playing the guitar (not so well) and watching and playing football (also not so well these days). I enjoy running, kayaking, cycling and taking long hikes across the peak district. I look forward to engaging in similar activities along the beautiful Norfolk and Suffolk coast. I dispose of most of my payslip on my boat which is moored in the Brayford Pool (Lincoln). I can be found on leave periods catching the sun and relaxing on the bow with a nice glass of red.

I have two Children, Grace (16) and Bailey (11) who also like to help me reduce my payslip. I look forward to undertaking this role at a unit with such an illustrious history, in this its 85th year.



**ABOVE:**  
Jerry and son Bailey (11)

**LEFT:**  
Jerry and daughter Grace (16)



Images courtesy of WO McGuire

## USAFE Leadership Connect Programme

Squadron Leader Rich Maughan

The USAFE Leadership Connect programme is sponsored by Col Camilletti, CO 48<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and US Country Representative and sought to provide the participants (USAF, DoD civilians, UK Fire Service, and Squadron Leader Maughan) access to leading figures within East Anglia's industry, local government, emergency services and academic institutions to discuss leadership.



Images courtesy of USAFE 48<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing

Each event included a tour and brief of the organisation and then most importantly the leadership discussion that allowed learning from each presenter and others within the programme. With visits to Norwich City Football Club, Suffolk County Council, Lotus Cars, Addenbrookes Hospital as well as an Emergency Services Day and many more, the programme provided an insight across a wide and diverse range of topics and operations.

Whilst the programme didn't offer any "silver bullets" to leadership, or more accurately being a good leader, the period of learning from the experiences of others

and reflecting on my own leadership was hugely beneficial. If I were to give you a few of the key takeaways they would be as follows:

- Transparency - providing this at all levels
- Explaining the "why" to our people
- Promoting the right culture (more on this later)
- Taking care of yourself as a leader
- Communication at all levels (dare I say it, face to face)





Photo courtesy of Honington Military Wives Choir

## Honington Military Wives Choir join Katherine Jenkins at Sandringham and sing for the Queen

The Honington Military Wives Choir joined Marham and Wattisham choirs at Sandringham as a lucky pick from 70 military wives choirs across the UK. They were joined by 4,000 attendees and of course not to mention Katherine Jenkins who they were lucky enough to sing with too.

Debbie Bates of the Choir said: "Honington Military Wives Choir is celebrating it's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. During this time we have had many exciting opportunities including recording three albums, being part of the Military Wives Film and performing in both local and national venues. As part of the Jubilee celebrations Honington,

alongside Marham and Wattisham Military Wives Choirs had the honour of singing at Sandringham with Katherine Jenkins. This was an amazing opportunity with much excitement leading up to the event. We learnt a variety of songs from traditional through to pop and performed a 45 minute set prior to Katherine and then joined her

for the finale of Dancing Queen and Last Night of the Proms. It really was a memorable evening. We have several events planned for later in the year including the Bury beer festival, the Military Wives Choirs tour in St Albans and charity events.

We welcome all women whose lives are currently impacted by their military connection; our network supports each other and forms life changing friendships that lead to new and uplifting experiences through singing. With no auditions and no pressure to perform, the Military Wives Choirs gives its members the opportunity to spend time with women that truly understand the challenges associated with military life. We rehearse on a Thursday evening 19:00 – 21:00 at the Station Church, we would love to welcome new members, please contact [Honington@militarywiveschoirs.org](mailto:Honington@militarywiveschoirs.org) for further information."



Photo courtesy of Honington Military Wives Choir



Above 3 photos and left: Copyright of Stephen Daniels of DANPICS







# STEM

## RAF Honington hosts Robotics Challenge Regional Final

Once again RAF Honington hosted school children from across the region on 11 May to take part in the annual Robotics Challenge competition.



The event is run by Engineering UK but Station STEM Ambassadors from Cyberspace Communications Flight host and assist with the event and finally judge the overall competition. The national event is attended by high school children in Y7-9 who are interested in engineering and looking to choose STEM subjects. This year saw 6 schools attend the regional final at RAF Honington from across the East of England. All preparations for the event including the building and coding of the Lego robots is completed by the school teams at after school STEM clubs. Students then attend this annual event to put their robots into practice on a challenge mat where they have to be able to move their robots around in autonomous fashion and retrieve items. They also take part in teamwork challenges and present informative briefs on innovative solutions to environmental and energy efficiency problems.

This year the RAF Regiment Training Wing attended the event with the new VR Headsets currently being trialled for simulation weapons training and of course the high school STEM teams had great fun trying this out too.

The Royal Air Force sponsored event is a great initiative to harness the enthusiasm of the next generation in the hope that one day they will join the Royal Air Force as an engineer.

The Winners of the event; St Albans Secondary School and the City of Norwich International School will now go on to compete against the other regional winners at the Big Bang UK event held at the NEC on 22-24 Jun 22. We wish them the best of luck!





# HIVE

## information

Supporting the Service Community

**RAF Honington HIVE is located in the Community Centre**

**Email:** HON-SptWgHiveOff@mod.gov.uk **Phone:** 01359 268610



<https://www.facebook.com/RAFHoningtonHIVE1>



<https://www.twitter.com/rafhoningtonhi3>

RAF Honington is a busy operational station but a welcoming one that has a great deal to offer whether you are working on camp, living nearby, or exploring local towns or countryside.

RAF Honington has a history of being a major flying base that dates back to the 1930s but which today is the RAF's main centre of Force Protection.

The Station boasts approximately 1800 permanent service and civilian personnel but also accommodates a high number of personnel undergoing training at any one time.

**1937** - Station founded

**1942** - Station handed over to the United States 8th Army Air Force and the Advanced Air Depot

**1946** - Station returned to the RAF

**1994** - Station became the home of the RAF Regiment.

	Drive through Mon - Sat 0700 - 2000 Sun 0800 - 1930	Bury St Edmunds IP33 1JZ Approx 11 miles from Station
	Mon - Sun 1200 - 2100	Bury St Edmunds IP33 3BA Approx 12 miles from Station
	Drive through Mon - Sun 1100 - 2200	Thetford IP24 3QL Approx 6 miles from Station
	Tue - Thu 1630-2230 Fri-Sat 1630-2300 Sun 1630-2230	Bury St Edmunds IP31 1ED Approx 3 minutes from Station Tel: 01359 269933

## RAF Honington Arrivals Information

Station Guide & Shop

Station Overview

Station Overview

Station Overview

## RAF Honington Deployment Support

Service Charters

Deployment Overview

Deployment Overview

Deployment Overview

ROYAL AIR FORCE



# COMMUNITY PROJECT WITH SALALAH FLIGHT

During a very warm Saturday in the month of May, Trainee Gunners from Salalah Flight, RAF Regiment Training Wing, transformed the grounds of nearby Blackbourne View as part of their Community Project.



Blackbourne View provides specialist housing, care and support and is located in the local village of Ixworth. The trainees worked their way through weeding, cutting and painting to give the residents a beautifully refreshed court yard and grounds just in time to enjoy the summer weather. The project was aided by a very kind and generous donation of plants and flowers from both Woolpit Nursery and Hillcrest Nursery. The project was overlooked and diligently supervised by Sgt Sims, Cpl John and Cpl Bowser of Salalah Flt.



Before



After

Photos courtesy of Blackbourne View

## Honorary Commanders Program #StrongerTogether

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Michael Venning, 100th Air Refueling Wing command chief, welcomes Warrant Officer Ian Danks, the new honorary commander of the 100th ARW, during an honorary Commander's Induction ceremony at Apr. 25, 2022, at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England. The Honorary Commanders Program brings civilian leaders from the local community together with military leadership in an effort to enhance community relations and assist commanders with networking in the local community.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tarelle Walker)





# Honington Spring Clean

**RAF Honington personnel have been getting their hands dirty over April and May to contribute to the Great British Spring Clean, a nationwide event sponsored by the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign.**

Identifying that the path on Green Lane between the RAF Honington shops and the Service Families Accommodation at Woodside View was in desperate need of attention, the Support Wing team worked together to provide a wide, safe and litter free path for all who use it. The path had been so reduced by the amount of vegetation, leaf mulch and tree and hedge growth, it was absolutely the right time to act! The collaborative Station team spent a rainy afternoon in April and a windy afternoon in May

completing the task with many Support Wing personnel and some very enthusiastic children. The great support from our contractors Tivoli, namely Carl, John and Aaron, enabled the Whole Force team to remove the waste using industrial equipment and increased the morale along the way. Alongside this community effort off-Station, members of Training Wing have been helping to clear waste from the CAGE Training Area, Force Protection Centre have been clearing litter from the fence



line around the Station and No. 1 Squadron RAF Regiment personnel have been completing litter picks around the single living accommodation. Honington's Great British Spring Clean efforts certainly cannot be described as 'rubbish' or a 'waste' of time! The results speak for themselves and will help both the community and the nature and wildlife within our ecosystem.



'Clean for the Queen' - photo courtesy of Rachel English.





# Q&A

## With Transport Manager and newly appointed Co-First Responder; Alan Fairbairn

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING AT RAF HONINGTON?

I first worked at RAF Honington 2005-2011, as a SNCO within the Royal Tank Regt, left the Army in 2011 and commenced employment for DHL on the NHS Supply chain contract, delivering medical goods all over East Anglia and Central London, additional responsibilities included covering for the three shift supervisors-when on leave or attending a training course, as well as being the on-site Induction Trainer for new members of staff.

I left DHL and commenced employment as the Transport Manager here at RAF Honington as a Civil Servant (CS) in March 2015.

### WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME A CO-RESPONDER?

During the time in the Army and with DHL I've had to on occasions administer first aid to fellow colleagues and other road users. It was during the pandemic that I really wanted to lean in and help the NHS in whatever capacity I could, unfortunately following CV19 protocols & guidelines all Co First Responder (CFR) recruiting was stopped. In 2021 I was successfully

enrolled onto a CFR course at RAF Henlow, I was the only CS on my course, the remainder of the course (16 pax) were made up of service personnel from RAF Honington, RAF Marham and RAF Wyton.

### HOW EASY WAS IT TO DO?

The CFR course is delivered over a two week period by a host of individuals from NHS East and these individuals all bring their own unique teaching experiences and diversity which enables you to grasp what it is your learning and what they do on a daily basis. You get taught skills that you may be required to perform on Adults and young children, that range from performing CPR using the corpus machine which also monitors and records Electrocardiograph (ECG's), Blood oxygen levels, body temperature and heart rhythms.

You also get taught how to remove blockages that may restrict an individual's airway, apply bandages and splints, then assisting in the transportation from the scene to a Hospital or specialist practitioner.

Week 1 consists of Basic Life skills followed by Week 2 Advanced



life skills, there are a number of assessments (written and practical) that you must complete in order to progress (should you fail one of these assessments you will be given the opportunity to undergo additional training and be re-assessed).

### WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SO FAR IN THE CO-RESPONSE ROLE?

To date I've completed three shifts, subject to your working hours you generally start shift at 1700 where

you meet up with your shift partner, you start by inspecting the Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) the Air ways radios and the various items of equipment that we are required to carry to ensure they are all ready to go in a moment's notice, once you are happy and logged on with NHS control they will generally send you towards an Ambulance Station at BSE, Thetford, 5 Ways to await further taskings.

My first shift I was paired up with SAC Georgi McMinn of the RAF Honington Medical Centre. We were on route to BSE when a call came through moments later; after assessing the display screen to get a brief outlay of the individual's injuries and location, we were off sirens were screaming the blue lights flashing, cars moving over to allow you to pass, before arriving at the location and responding to the individual's needs.

In total we had two calls that night, both calls were completely different and unique in their own ways, Georgi took the lead and correctly diagnosed the signs and symptoms that were being displayed, before calling for additional resources to provide back up, then despatching these individuals to West Suffolk Hospital for further treatment.

My aspirations are to fully enjoy what I'm doing whilst learning and most importantly helping the NHS.





# From Still to Summit

**O**n Saturday 4th June hundreds of people in Fort William

decided to capitalise on the glorious weather and climb to the 4,413ft to the summit of the UK's highest peak, Ben Nevis. Among those setting out that day was a team of four from RAF Honington, but their climb would involve a bit of a twist. The "From Still to Summit" team would attempt to carry a whisky barrel from the Ben Nevis distillery (the still), in Fort William, to the top of Ben Nevis (the summit), and back down to raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

The team, consisting of Flt Lt Stu Clark, Flt Lt Campbell Steel, Flt Lt Bobby Holmes and Sgt Michael Smyth assembled in front of the distillery with the towering, snow capped, summit of 'The Ben' clearly visible behind them. At 08:30 they set off to the bewilderment and beeping horns of tourists and drivers driving along the A82. After around 40mins the team reached the path at the foot of Ben Nevis. Among the throngs



*Images courtesy of Flt Lt Clark*

of slightly confused walkers, they steadily clocked off the distance and the climb to the summit. Despite the heat and rough terrain the team worked slickly together, changing over on the barrel with an efficiency any F1 pit crew would be proud of. The meltwater pouring down the Red Burn offered a refreshing stop at around half way before tackling the 'zig zags' and over the scree to the

summit. After approximately 4hrs and 50mins (and a particularly slippery patch of snow) the team reached the top, to spectacular views and a round of applause from everyone watching the strange sight of a whisky barrel arriving at the top.

influence of gravity that was keen to go down quicker than it went up took some doing. But steadily the bottom of Glen Nevis got closer, and with it the distance to the Ben Nevis Inn and well-earned pint reduced.

After a rest and standing in the queue for a photo by the trig point (yes, really) the barrel was hefted back onto shoulders for the descent back down. In some ways harder than the way up, as trying to control a barrel under the

In total the team covered the 13.12 miles, climbing 4511ft, in 8 hours and 40 mins carrying the 52kg barrel and frame, a unique achievement not to be underestimated and not attempted before as far as a quick google search could tell.



**Their fundraising efforts have raised over £1600 so far for the RAF Benevolent Fund and the Just Giving page will take donations until the end of the month should you feel their efforts are worth recognition.**



**Royal Air Force  
Benevolent Fund**





# SUFFOLK SHOW

## QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE MILITARY PAGEANT

**R**oyal Air Force Honington was delighted to partake in the tri-service military pageant at the Suffolk Show on 1 June in conjunction with HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Station personnel joined Suffolk's Armed Forces from the Royal Navy, Army and United States Air Force, as well as the Emergency Services, Cadet forces, youth organisations and Veterans resulting in a magnificent parade to celebrate the Queen's 70-year reign.

Station Commander Group Captain Dutch Holland said: "In its 85<sup>th</sup> Year, RAF Honington is privileged to represent the RAF in Suffolk and proud of its long association with the County. We wish Her Majesty the heartfelt congratulations of all personnel at RAF Honington as we

help to celebrate this auspicious occasion of her Platinum Jubilee." Army personnel from 28 Engineer Regiment, currently based at RAF Honington, joined RAF personnel from the Station in support of the wider parade with over 800 personnel at the pageant in front of the Lord Lieutenant Lady Claire, Countess of Euston, and wider military and civic dignitaries.

The parade was led by the RAF Honington Voluntary Band comprising of civilian and military personnel from all backgrounds who come together because of former military musician service or are long-standing members of the local community.

*Pictured below: Bandmaster Mr Paul Jackson is no stranger to performances such as this from his time as Director of Music for the Band of 150 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps. Mr Jackson said: "It's an honour to be able to represent RAF Honington and the wider RAF at this special event to celebrate this momentous occasion."*











**T**he RAF Regiment Training Wing at RAF Honington is responsible for Phase 0 (Attract & Select), Phase 2 (Role Specific Training) and Phase 3 (Leadership, Command, Continuation and Specialist) training for RAF Regiment Gunners and Officers and delivers safe, realistic, robust and operationally focussed training to over 2000 personnel per year.

Instructors are selected from amongst the best in the RAF Regiment and empowered by strong leadership, humility, trust and respect. They give the trainees expert duty of care alongside high quality teaching and mentorship. Spring and early summer have been exceptionally busy and has seen continued delivery across the vast majority of RAF Regiment Training Wing's 28 different courses. Remarkably, there has been a record number of graduations from various courses culminating in the almost simultaneous graduations of both Regular and Reserve personnel from 6 courses. Here is just a short look at some of what we've been up to since the last edition of the Honington Herald. During March, 30 students attempted the punishing Pre-Parachute Selection Course. This physically and mentally challenging course aims to prepare, condition and select RAF Regiment personnel for Airborne Specialist roles. It tests their physical aptitude, endurance, determination, and fitness to carry out military tasks when subject to rigorous physical hardship and stressful conditions, consisting of numerous loaded marches, runs, circuits, log runs and stretcher events. Taking place at Honington and on Sennybridge Training Area the students must complete every test within the allocated times, even in unique environmental conditions the Welsh countryside has to offer! By the end of 'Test Week' 16 students remained, with The Force Protection Force Commander, Air Commodore Jamie Thompson, as the Reviewing Officer for the graduation. These



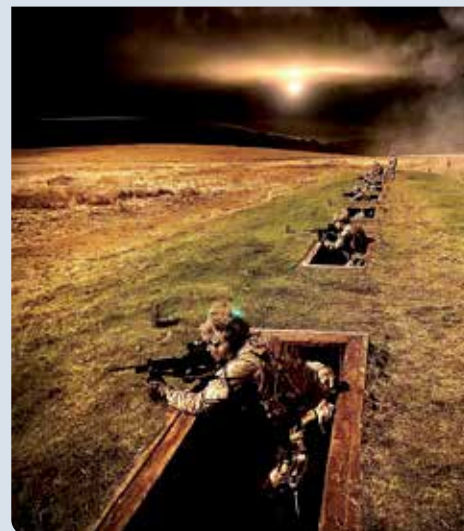
individuals have now earned the right to progress on to military parachute training (earning their military parachute wings) and apply for specialist roles within the Tri-Service community.

Junior Regiment Officers' Course 127 began in May, with 29 UK students and 1 Sierra-Leonian student facing the challenges of the 29-week long Course include considerable time spent deployed on exercise. However, the newly introduced Officers' Awaiting Trade Training Course is designed to bridge the gap between the junior officers leaving RAF College Cranwell and the start of the Junior Regiment Officers' Course. It aims to develop student's physical, mental and conceptual planning attributes. JROC 127 began

In the February El Alamein Flight deployed to Thetford range complex to complete their Marksmanship training package before continuing with the fieldcraft elements of training. At the same time Salalah Flight, were closing in on graduation, but not

before completing their final exercise, OMEGA, at Sennybridge Training Area, swiftly followed by live Field Firing. When they finally graduated on 31 March there were 32 Gunners on Parade. The Squadron had the privilege of hosting Air Commodore Simon Andrew Harper, Assistant Chief of Staff Training, No 22 Group, as the Reviewing Officer for the graduation. The weather was not kind but the Jimmy James hangar was back in action after essential maintenance works, so the parade proved a great spectacle with two flights and the Queen's Colour for the RAF Regiment standing proudly on parade.

Taking a break from overseeing physical training to our training courses, Sergeant Paul Savage from Formal PEd Flight completed his Level 3 Certificate in Emergency



Response Ambulance Driving at the East of England Driver Training Unit located at Barton Mills.

Sergeant Savage is part of a team of 12 volunteers from RAF Honington who act as Co-responders to assist East of England Ambulance Service Trust in dealing with a broad range of medical emergencies. The 4-week course consisted of driving theory and law exams, as well as some highly challenging driving practices and tests including high speed driving, reverse slalom and driving at night for prolonged periods. The RAF Honington Co-responders provided significant support to the National Health Service during Covid Lockdown 1. After just 2 days on task were called to a number of Cat-1 (life-threatening) emergency calls along with several Cat-2 & Cat-3 calls, including an urgent patient transfer. The Royal Air Force Honington Co-Responders spent 4400 hours on call in 3 months and responded to 350 Emergency Calls.





# ORWELL MOTORCYCLES

ELLISONS  
SOLICITORS

# GRADUATIONS

## GRADUATION OF TRAINEE GUNNER COURSE 4-21

Congratulations go to the 32 members of Trainee Gunner Course 4-21, Salalah Flight; the newest members of the RAF Regiment to have graduated here at RAF Honington recently.



Each graduate is welcomed into a family which is constituted a Corps, styled a Regiment, and truly dedicated to the delivery of Force Protection to Royal Air Force assets on a global scale.

The snow flurries forced the parade into the Jimmy James Hangar today whereby new graduates were joined by friends and family. Squadron Commanders and Warrant Officers from RAF Regiment Units receiving the new Gunners met and welcomed new arrivals and their families after the event. They are on hand to answer any questions that the graduates or families might have before they arrive at their new Squadrons.

Reviewing Officer Air Commodore Simon Andrew Harper OBE MA RAF joined the Royal Air Force in November 1988, having served over 2 years in the Royal Navy

as a General List Seaman Officer. Having completed initial training at the Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth and fleet training in HMS Brereton and HMS Illustrious, before transferring to the 'light blue'. In January 2020 Air Commodore Harper's role as Director Ground Training transitioned to become Assistant Chief of Staff Training.

On graduating from this course, the Aviator 'Gunners' are posted to either 1 Squadron RAF Regt here at RAF Honington, 2 Squadron RAF Regt (RAF Brize Norton), 15 Squadron RAF Regt (RAF Marham), 34 Squadron RAF Regt (RAF Leeming) 51 Squadron RAF Regt (RAF Lossiemouth) or Queens Colour Squadron (63 Squadron RAF Regt, RAF Northolt). They will be trained to such a level that they can immediately commence Mission Specific Training for contingency operations.





## Further congratulations go to the Prize Winners:

### FRANK SYLVESTER TROPHY:

LAC Lennon

To commemorate her late husband's dedication to the Corps and in particular to the training of young Gunners, his widow presented the Frank Sylvester Trophy for award to the best all-round Trainee Gunner of each course.

### THE RAF REGT ASSOCIATION TROPHY FOR DRILL AND DEPORTMENT:

LAC McLaren

This award is made to the Trainee Gunner who has developed an excellent military deportment, assessed both on and off duty, on the parade square and, most importantly during field exercises

### WO RAMSEY PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT CUP:

LAC Gunter

This prize is awarded to the Trainee Gunner who achieves the greatest improvement during the physical development course.

### LAC BEARD RECRUITS' TROPHY:

LAC Smith

This trophy is awarded to the Gunner who has been voted by his peers on the Course as the most inspirational and supportive member of the Flight. The recipient of this trophy has provided loyalty, dependability and motivation to those around him during the toughest moments of the training

### SAC LUDERS CHAMPION

Shot Trophy:

LAC Curtis

This prize is awarded to the Trainee Gunner who has shot consistently well throughout the course. He would also be the student who has shown consistent military awareness, on battle and field-firing exercises, in the selection of his shooting positions and use of cover. He would also be one who has demonstrated consistently a high standard of weapon handling and safety awareness throughout the course

### CPL BRADFIELD TROPHY:

Cpl Walker

The Corporal Bradfield Trophy preserves the example of the past embodied by Corporal Bradfield, in the standards set by the JNCOs of today. It is awarded to the Corporal Instructor who has displayed leadership, motivation and above all else has set an exemplary standard for the recruits to follow.





**The Force Protection Centre has moved from a busy 2021 into a demanding 2022 against the constant drum beat of Collective, Generalist, and Specialist course delivery. Work has continued to develop the Force Protection Force's organisational learning, as well as capabilities and concepts whilst continuing to deliver vital Counter-Threats advice to UK Defence, cross-Government and international partners.**

During the last quarter, Flight Lieutenant Tom Edbrooke, Flight Lieutenant Stephen Price and Corporal Mike Cornell were selected to take part in the Percy Hobart Fellowship for Innovation. The immersive 12-week course looks to develop an understanding of innovation through lectures and practical elements, whilst also joining a technology start-up company for a 10-week placement. Talks by military and civilian industry innovation leaders provided an insight into what can seem a complex landscape. The many practical sessions allowed the Fellows to get to grips with skills such as computer app making, marketing, problem identification, business case formation and presentation skills whilst providing the opportunity to explore emerging technologies that pave the way to future ways of working. Subject matters including big data science, data analytics, virtual reality and additive manufacturing offered exciting outlooks in what the coming years may bring. In the final stages of the fellowship each student developed their own innovation project before presenting them in a "Dragons' Den" style pitch in London, which was opened and attended by Assistant Chief of the Air Staff, Air Vice-Marshal Edwards. The Fellows will now join a growing pan-Ministry of Defence alumni network. Successful completion of this fellowship demonstrates that RAF Honington and the Force Protection Centre are committed to embracing and developing innovation and progressive ideas.

The Air Force Protection Development Squadron Counter-Threats team recently travelled to Germany to the



**Mike Cornell receiving his Certificate - Photo credit: PUBLIC**

Objektschutzregiment der Luftwaffe which conducts a very similar role to the RAF Regiment. The German Air Force Regiment undertakes a myriad of Force Protection tasks including seize airfields and preparing the defences required for it to safely accept aircraft. The exchange of experiences and knowledge with another partner force is essential and the constant interaction is key to ensuring our ability to operate cohesively within a NATO construct. The Force Protection Centre has its own German exchange officer, Oberleutnant Alistair Dieterich who joined the Development Squadron Concepts Team in January 2022 and has most recently been heavily involved the experimental Defensive Tactics programme. This programme seeks to provide the Force Protection with a less-than-lethal hand-to-hand combat skillset, one which will enhance the Force's fighting capability.

The Force Protection Force is speeding ahead with the trials of innovative capabilities

through the Force Protection Experimentation programme. Given that recent and current conflicts have demonstrated that rapidly deployable Remotely Piloted Air Systems are a critical part in maintaining awareness of the security situation within an operational area, the Development Squadron Concepts Team are currently preparing to travel to Cyprus to further develop the Remotely Piloted Air Systems programme. The Force Protection Force have successfully operated systems at larger RAF Air Fields in the UK for perimeter patrols and intruder detection, but the next generation of system will provide greater capability through the integration of Artificial Intelligence and additional safety features. In another FPX work strand, the Centre is currently working with the Institute of Naval Medicine on experiments to monitor the real-time temperature of an individual during physical training. This equipment will be worn during arduous phases of FP training, allowing real-time performance

tracking that will seek to decrease the risk of heat related injuries.

The Air FP Training Squadron has continued to lead with the modernisation of Individual Reinforcement Training for the RAF. This modernisation seeks to exploit the Defence Learning Environment for theory and revision lessons, maximising the ability of the students to conduct the training anytime, anywhere. The face-to-face training element then maximises the time spent on practical skills such as weapon handling and marksmanship. A trial has recently been commenced at RAF Coningsby and RAF Northolt, with highly positive feedback. This modernisation is another way in which the FP Force is embracing new technology and teaching methods suited to the next generation Air Force.

In some much-needed respite from the Centre's demanding day-to-day work, a number of personnel have continued to train for and participate in RAF representative sports. Flight Lieutenant Tom Penny recently supported the RAF Elite Boxing Team, providing coaching in their preparation for the UK Armed Forces Boxing Championships that were held at RAF Halton in March 2022. Meanwhile, Warrant Officer Ady Hoyle recently attended the British Army Grassroots Mountain Biking series, a programme that aims to make competitive cycling more accessible across the whole of UK Defence. Looking into the future, he is preparing for an arduous 12-hour cross-country mountain biking race and the National Championships towards the end of May. I'm sure you'll join us in wishing him the best of luck!



**Combat – RAF Honington Photography**



**RAF Boxing Team**





Come along for an afternoon of fun

# Families Day

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022

THIS EVENT IS NOT OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Sign up via [Honington Homepage](#) and [News](#)

## Main Attractions

- ★ Falcons Parachute Display Team
- ★ Typhoon Fast Jet Display ★ Apache Helicopter
- ★ Military Vehicles and Displays
- ★ Military Charity Stalls
- ★ Food and Drink (or bring your own picnic NO BBQs)
- ★ Music ★ Ice creams ★ Pocket Money Toys
- ★ Tuck Box Sweets ★ Archery ★ Face Painting
- ★ Kids Entertainment ★ Soft Games Area
- ★ Bouncy Castle

AND MUCH MORE

SORRY DOGS NOT ALLOWED

ROYAL  
AIR FORCE  
TYPHOON  
DISPLAY TEAM

ROYAL  
AIR FORCE  
FALCONS  
Parachute Display Team

Generously Supported by The Royal Air Forces Association





1 Sqn

# 1 Squadron RAF Regiment



## 1 Squadron RAF Regiment has now deployed to Cyprus to assume responsibility for delivery of Force Protection in the Sovereign Base Area and the specialist Air Force Protection of RAF Akrotiri.

After a successful build up training package in the UK the Squadron deployed on mass with 118 personnel of both gunners and supporting trades. This is the first time an RAF Regiment Squadron has deployed on overseas operations since the end of the Afghanistan campaign in 2014.

Upon arriving in Cyprus, the Squadron was quickly put to work, beginning the comprehensive Receipt, Staging and Onwards Integration package almost as soon as the plane touched down. After several days of security briefs, Air Safety briefs, tours around the area, and shadowing of what they would be responsible for, the Gunners were ready and eager to begin the task at hand.

The Squadron was also required to complete Heat Acclimatisation Training. This consisted of daily physical exercise in the intense

Cypriot heat. Starting off with short distances, wearing running shorts, t-shirts, and trainers, but building up to several hours whilst carrying water, wearing boots and PCS uniform. A very good way to build up a sweat and begin getting in the right mindset for the task ahead!

Just prior to the handover and before the task was officially ours, Squadron Leader Jay Algar, Officer Commanding 1 Squadron RAF Regiment, took the opportunity to get the Squadron together to deliver final confirmatory orders and mark the occasion with a Squadron photo. This was an important moment before the first flight of Gunners began delivering specialist Air Force Protection for arguably one of the most strategically important RAF Stations and UK Defence Establishments.



Having been on task for almost a month now the Squadron has got into the swing of things and has even begun improving upon what we took over. Gunners have begun getting additional taskings, ranging from increasing intelligence patrols up to identifying weaknesses in the current security structure around RAF Akrotiri. We have also began building a closer relationship with the other units around the station, with the aim of being able to combine assets and create a greater presence around the peninsular. For example, working with 84 Squadron and

their Griffin Helicopters to give the Gunners the ability of Aerial reconnaissance and patrolling. We are also working with RAFF Military Working Dogs to aid us in our work and Royal Logistics Corp, 17 Port and Maritime Regiment to conduct boat patrols, increase their understanding of the new terrain and increase their capability in depth.

1 Squadron has met the new Force Protection tasking head on and plans to only improve further from here!

Arkish Surrish- Swift and Sudden



HOMETYRE

THETFORD  
GRAMMAR

TASSEL ROAD  
DAY NURSERY

MORETON  
HALL VETS

# No. 3 RAuxAF Police Squadron

**M**y name is Alastair McKenzie, I'm a RAF Police Reservist with 3 RAuxAF Police Squadron based at RAF Honington and have been for about four years. Prior to this, I was a RAF Regiment Gunner Reservist with 2623 Squadron, RAF Honington.

In my civilian life, I am a Line Information Specialist on The Bakerloo Line, London Underground. Day to day I work in a control centre in central London, my remit is to collate, filter and disseminate real time information to various stake holders. The role is office based; therefore, I don't get outside much during the working day.

London Underground is a world-renowned public transport provider.

I initially joined the Reserves after meeting some RAF Personnel at an air show in Clacton. They encouraged me to attend a 'look at life' day which involved demonstrations and PowerPoint presentations. I was really interested. I worked hard to get



into shape to meet the fitness requirements and spent my first year undertaking a compressive and challenging training regime to become a member of the squadron. During this time, I cemented lifelong friendships and learnt a huge amount about the RAF, teamwork and overcoming adversity to achieve my goals. I joined the RAF because it was always my hope to serve in the military as a boy but for one reason or another it didn't happen. On reflection I wish I had joined much earlier.

After finishing my training, I was accepted into the ranks with other service personnel and this is where opportunities came through thick and fast. As well as comprehensive

training with vehicles, radios and weapons I took part in multiple adventurous training around the UK.

I was deployed to the Middle East which was phenomenal, I went mountain biking in Canada which was a superb experience. I deployed on security to Sweden which was an incredible experience. I have been deployed with the Police to the Falkland Islands most recently for six months. In all instances I have been afforded the opportunity to integrate with members of the regular force. I have attended RIAT multiple times in the capacity of security and policing which has allowed me to enjoy the air show at no cost as well as hone my skills in general policing.

My family and employer alike are very supportive of my career with the RAF.

I have recently been accepted on the Special Constabulary Relationship at RAF Honington. This agreement means I can work out of the Police Flt as an additional body and help to bolster the existing team. This is very flexible so I can attend by mutual agreement with the Police Flt.

In addition to this we have a regular training calendar throughout



the year on Squadron and I can attend courses as and when the opportunities present themselves. Finally, there is assisting with training new recruits. All in all, there is lots of work to do.

Aside from the aforementioned, I've been able to fly in various helicopters and air frames, took part in exercises, been places and learnt things I don't believe I would have ever achieved without the support of the RAF. I am proud to be a RAF Reservist.

**ROYAL AIR FORCE** Police  
REGULAR & RESERVE



*Photos courtesy of Alastair McKenzie*





GORDON SCHOOL

# EASY RESETTLEMENT



# CULFORD SCHOOL

ROAD RUNNER

TRAQUINAS  
CHILDCARE



# LVS ASCOT SCHOOL

ABEL HOMES