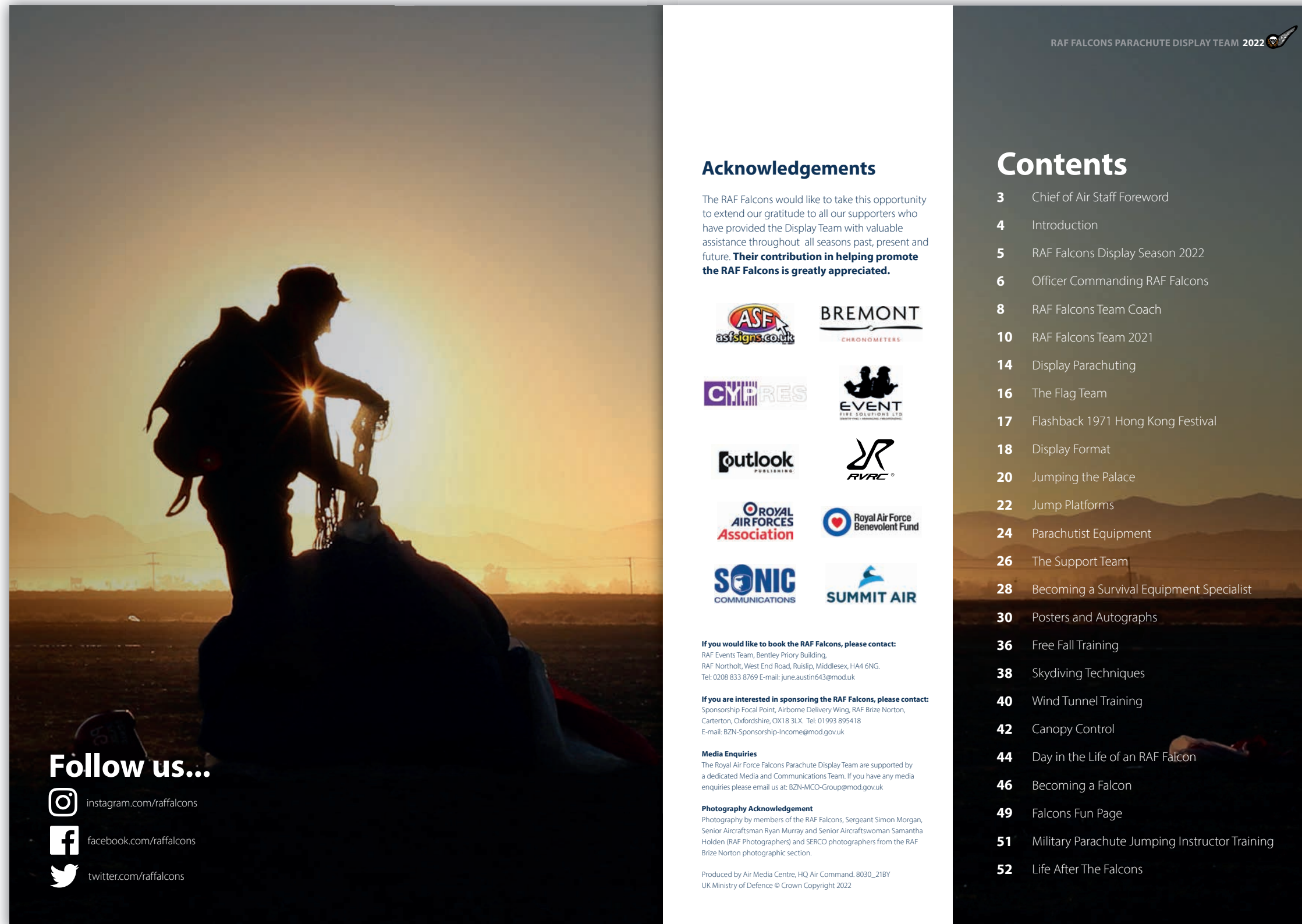


RAF Falcons Brochure 2022

Prepared for: Sgt Rob Menarry | RAF Falcons | Airborne Delivery Wing | RAF Brize Norton
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"I am delighted to announce the return of the Royal Air Force Falcons Parachute Display Team for the 2022 display season. Once again, we will see the team's time-honoured red, white and blue canopies thrilling crowds around the world with their breath-taking displays."



Image on the front cover A fantastic snapshot of the Falcons flying the Sabre Chase seconds before touchdown. Wowing the crowds at the British F1 Grand Prix, in their thousands.

Foreword

I am delighted to announce the return of the Royal Air Force Falcons Parachute Display Team for the 2022 display season. Once again, we will see the team's time-honoured red, white and blue canopies thrilling crowds around the world with their breath-taking displays. The team is proud to welcome several new members this season, each playing a dynamic role in the displays, with intricate manoeuvres that require technical precision and excellent teamwork. The Royal Air Force Falcons Parachute Display Team is supported by a dedicated team of people - regulars, reserves and civil servants - all of whom play a key role behind the scenes of every spectacular display.

This programme will tell you about the team members, who they are, their exciting and rewarding careers in the Royal Air Force, and their work at the forefront of military parachuting. This is just one example of the wide range of career opportunities available in the Royal Air Force, for more information follow us on Twitter at @RoyalAirForce or visit our website www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment.

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2022 Royal Air Force Falcons Parachute Display Team.



Air Chief Marshal
Sir Mike Wigston
KCB CBE ADC

Introduction

The Royal Air Force Falcons Parachute Display Team 2022

Widely recognised as the UK's premier military parachute display team, the RAF Falcons, based at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, display at venues all over Britain and Europe throughout the year.

As an official display team for The Royal Air Force they showcase defence by demonstrating military parachuting capability and engaging with the UK public and other international audiences.

The RAF is responsible for training and supporting all UK Airborne Forces. As well as providing a distinctive demonstration of free fall and canopy skills during the display season, each Falcons team member undertakes continual advanced training as Parachute Jumping Instructors, in preparation for future employment in support of the Parachute Regiment, the Royal Marines and other specialist units.

RAF Falcons Display Season 2022

	Date	Event		Date	Event
April - May	26 April	RAF Falcons Launch Day	July	18 July	Farnborough Airshow
	29 April	Twin Town Challenge		19 July	Royal Welsh Show
	1 May	Truckfest		19 July	Farnborough Airshow
	5 May	MIOTC 11 Graduation		20 July	Royal Welsh Show
	19 May	Shawbury Landowners		20 July	Peterhead Week
	19 May	John Egging Trust		21 July	Royal Welsh Show
	21 May	Cognac		22 July	Farnborough Airshow
	22 May	Cognac		23 July	RAF Northolt FCD
	28 May	MOD Corsham Families Day		28 July	Commonwealth Games
	31 May	Suffolk Show		28 July	RAF Marham
June	2 June	Midlands Air Festival	August	28 July	RAF Honington
	3 June	Midlands Air Festival		30 July	Old Buckenham
	4 June	Midlands Air Festival		31 July	Old Buckenham
	4 June	Bournemouth 7's		6 August	RAF Apprentices 100
	5 June	Sandringham Show		11 August	RAF Valley FD
	9 June	Royal Cornish Show		11 August	RAF Shawbury FD
	10 June	Royal Cornish Show		12 August	Shrewsbury Flower Show
	11 June	Royal Cornish Show		13 August	Shrewsbury Flower Show
	11 June	Teesside Airshow		17 August	York Racecourse
	12 June	Cosford Airshow		18 August	York Racecourse
	18 June	Duxford Summer		18 August	RAF Benson FD
	18 June	Weymouth AFD		19 August	RAF Odiham FD
	19 June	Duxford Summer		20 August	Poland Gdynia
	19 June	Redcomb Air Pageant		21 August	Poland Gdynia
	22 June	Lincoln Show		23 August	Belgium
	23 June	Lincoln Show		26 August	Belgium
	23 June	MIOTC 12 Graduation		27 August	Slovakia
	24 June	Royal Highland Show		28 August	Slovakia
July	25 June	NAFD Scarborough	September	2 September	Norwich
	25 June	Lowestoft AFD		3 September	RAF Digby
	29 June	Royal Norfolk Show		3 September	RAF Brize Norton
	29 June	RAF Brize Norton AFD		8 September	RAF Cosford
	30 June	Royal Norfolk Show		10 September	Abingdon
	1 July	Silverstone F1		15 September	HQ ARRC
	2 July	Wales Air Display		15 September	RAF Northolt
	3 July	Wales Air Display		24 September	Sywell
	9 July	Tatton Park		25 September	Sywell
	18 July	Royal Welsh Show			



RAF FALCONS DISPLAY SEASON 2022

Officer Commanding RAF Falcons

Flight Lieutenant Philpott

Hello and a warm welcome from the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team. This year, I have the pleasure of leading the Team during our 61st year, a year in which we are going to attempt to deliver the most displays we have ever conducted in a single season.

During the off season, the Team and I have been working hard to continue to develop and improve our display, to ensure we stay at the forefront of display parachuting and are able to continue to thrill and entertain spectators and crowds from all over Europe. A brand new element for this season will be the addition of a completely new landing pattern, enabling the entire Team to land simultaneously, which I am confident you will find particularly spectacular.

We are Royal Air Force's only air display Team that are able to conduct our display and immediately engage with the public, more often than not still covered in our famous red smoke. So please do come up and speak to us after the display, be it on the Drop Zone or during the parachuting packing demonstration, for a great insight into the varied paths we have taken to get to this point.

The RAF Falcons are not just composed of regular service Parachute Jumping Instructors and Survival Equipment Technicians but also reservists that provide us with essential continuity as Team members leave and re-join wider military parachuting delivery. If you are interested in becoming an Royal Air Force Falcon please come and talk to us or visit www.RAF.mod.uk/display-teams/falcons/ to find out more.

A huge thank you must go to all our loyal sponsors and to our Chain of Command, who have supported us along every step of the way, without which we wouldn't be here today.

I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you on the ground at one or more of our many displays this year.



"A huge thank you must go to all our loyal sponsors and to our Chain of Command, who have supported us along every step of the way, without which we wouldn't be here today."



Team Coach

Flight Sergeant James Bruce

The role of Team Coach for the RAF Falcons is diverse, varied and extremely rewarding. It is instrumental in the success of team training and displays carried out during the year. I took on the role of Team Coach in November 2019 and will continue to showcase the excellent work of the Team, maintaining the success of the RAF Falcons' and representing the RAF at events throughout the year.

This year's new members were officially welcomed to the Team in October and I'm responsible for preparing the Team for the next display season whilst preparing jumping members to achieve the coveted Military Free Fall Instructor, High Altitude Instructor and Military Tandem Master qualifications. During the close period, we prepare for the season by conducting two overseas training exercises over eight weeks, completing 250 descents, training on advanced canopy piloting skills that are unique to the RAF Falcons and continually developing them throughout the year.

During this period, I will monitor each team member's ability to become competent, effective and above all safe display parachutists. As the lowest man in the patrol, I have the responsibility of leading the Team into varied arenas around the UK and overseas. I use a specialist helmet mounted communications system to guide the rest of the patrol safely into the Drop Zone.

I had the distinct pleasure to serve as an RAF Falcon during the 2010-2012 seasons and am immensely proud to be the Team Coach and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at one of the displays during 2022.



"I had the distinct pleasure to serve as an RAF Falcon during the 2010-2012 seasons and am immensely proud to be the Team Coach and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at one of the displays during 2022."



RAF Falcons Team 2022



Flight Lieutenant Stuart Philpott

Stuart was born in London in July 1985, joining the RAF in 2010 as a Physical Training Instructor, completing his first tour at RAF Benson. After supporting a number of detachments to the Middle East with the Joint Helicopter Command, he took his commission and began Initial Officer Training in 2015. Following this, he was posted to RAF Brize Norton to command the Physical Education and SERE (Survive, Evade, Resist and Extract) Flights, before being selected for Parachute Jumping Instructor (PJI) duties in 2018. After completing the PJI course, he was posted into Parachute Training Squadron, where he was responsible for delivering global exercises and continuation parachute training for UK Airborne Forces. On completion of this tour he was then selected to represent the RAF Falcons. A keen sportsman, Stuart played professional rugby before joining the RAF and spent time living in New Zealand.



Flight Lieutenant Mike Reeve

Mike was born in Norwich, Norfolk in 1992. He was educated at Aylsham High School before studying Sport Science at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU). He then went onto qualify as a Physical Education Teacher at the University of East Anglia (UEA). He joined the RAF in 2017 as a Personnel Training Officer. After Initial Officer Training at RAF Cranwell Mike was posted to RAF Wyton as the Station Training Officer (STO). He was selected for Parachute Jumping Instructor Officer duties in 2019. On posting to Parachute Training Squadron (PTS) he has worked on a number of Static-Line and Free Fall courses supporting training to the Airborne Forces. He plays rugby at Norwich Rugby club, enjoys rock climbing and skiing.



Warrant Officer Paul Floyd

Paul was born in Warrington, Cheshire and joined the RAF in 1980. After qualifying as a Physical Training Instructor, he completed tours at RAF St Athan, RAF Laarbruch and RAF Cosford. Paul completed the Parachute Jumping Instructor (PJI) course in 1988 and served with the RAF Falcons as a display parachutist from 1990 to 1993. Paul subsequently completed numerous PJI tours with airborne units, trials establishments and the Joint Services Sport Parachute Centre. Overseas tours include Germany, Afghanistan and the Falkland Islands. After retiring from full time Service in 2013 in the role of the Airborne Delivery Wing Warrant Officer, Paul took up the post of RAF Falcons Team Manager as a Full Time Reservist the same year.



Flight Sergeant James Bruce

James was born in Portsmouth in August 1984 and was educated at The Blandford School before studying Sports Science at Weymouth College. He joined the RAF in 2003 and trained as a Physical Training Instructor. After completing tours in the gymnasiums of RAF Halton, RAF Benson and a detachment to Kosovo he was selected for Parachute Jumping Instructor duties and qualified in 2007. He served on Military Training Flight, training low level parachutists before being selected for the RAF Falcons in 2009. On leaving the team in 2012, James has worked as a Military Free Fall Instructor and High-Altitude Despatcher at units around the country. The 2021 season will be his first year as the RAF Falcons Team Coach. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf, watching american football and fitness training.



Sergeant Gary Nicholson

Gary was born in Consett, Co.Durham in 1981 and attended Blackfyne Comprehensive School. After joining the RAF in July 2000 as a Physical Training Instructor and completing tours at RAF Uxbridge, RAF St Mawgan, RAF Halton and an Overseas Detachment in the Falkland Islands. He was selected for Parachute Jumping Instructor Duties in 2007. He served on Military Training Flight, training low level parachutists, before being selected for the RAF Falcons in 2010. On leaving the team in 2013, Gary has worked as a Military Free Fall Instructor and High-Altitude Despatcher at units around the country, most recently with Instructor Training Flight at RAF Brize Norton. Gary has represented the RAF at football, which he still plays in his spare time, he also enjoys watching american football and keeping fit.



Sergeant Bobby Menarry

Bobby was born in Sheffield, South Yorkshire in 1988. He was educated at Cromwell Community College, where he studied both GCSE's and A Levels. He joined the RAF in 2010 as a Physical Training Instructor, completing tours at RAF Halton, RAF Honington and a detachment to Oman. He was selected for Parachute Jumping Instructor duties in 2016 where he delivered static line parachuting to Airborne Forces upon completion of his instructor course. A keen sportsman, he has represented the RAF in cricket and boxing, with an aim to add golf to the list of represented sports.



Sergeant Ben Sammut

Ben was born in Wegberg, Germany in September 1980. His father was in the RAF and he spent a lot of his youth moving around the UK and Germany. His family finally settled in Corsham in 1991 and he attended Corsham Comprehensive School. He joined the RAF in 2003 as a Physical training Instructor and has been posted to Halton, Brize Norton, Valley, Akrotiri, Manston and St Mawgan. During this time, he has completed detachments to Afghanistan and other areas of the Middle East. A keen sportsman he has represented the RAF at football and enjoys keeping fit.



Sergeant Paddy Guillois

Paddy was born in Oxford in 1994. He lived in Carterton where he studied his GCSE's at Carterton Community College. He then moved on to study Sports Coaching and Fitness at Witney and Abingdon College. He joined the RAF in 2014 as a Physical Training Instructor where he completed a tour of RAF Brize Norton Gymnasium before being posted to Airborne Delivery Wing where he delivered static line parachuting. He has also completed a detachment to RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus. Growing up he competed in boxing and football, now he enjoys keeping fit.



Sergeant Doug McAll

Doug was Born in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, in 1986. He attended schools in Worcester before moving on to study at Worcester College of Technology and the University of Worcester. After joining the RAF in 2013 as a Physical Training Instructor he completed assignments at RAF Cosford, MOD Stafford and a detachment to the Middle East. In 2018 he was selected to undertake Parachute Jumping Instructor training to prepare him to work with UK Airborne Forces. In 2020 Doug was selected for display parachuting duties. He enjoys keeping fit and has represented the RAF in the sport of judo.



Sergeant Sean McCabe

Sean was born in East London South Africa in 1987. He emigrated to the UK in December 2000 where he finished off his studies. He joined the RAF in November 2008 to firstly start his career as a Firefighter. Completing three deployments to the Falkland Islands and Afghanistan and seven years of service he wished for a change. He re-mustered to a RAF physical Training Instructor in 2015 and completed a tour of RAF Honington before selecting Parachute Jump Instructor as a career path in 2018. He has delivered Static Line parachuting to Airborne Forces for 3 years before joining the RAF Falcons Display team. A keen sportsman has seen him represent the RAF and Combined Services in cricket for over 12 years.

RAF Falcons Team 2022



Sergeant Owen Collins

Owen was born in Hayes, Middlesex in 1990. He grew up in Witney, Oxfordshire and was educated at The Henry Box School where he completed his GCSE's. He then moved onto complete an NVQ in Carpentry before Joining the RAF in 2014. After completion of his Physical training Instructor course He was then posted to RAF Brize Norton Gymnasium before starting his Parachute Jumping Instructor Course in 2017. Within Airborne Delivery Wing he has completed tours at Parachute Training School delivering Static line parachute training and worked closely with UK Special Forces delivering Parachuting capability to all 3 services. Owen's favourite sport is football and he has played for teams at both county and semi-pro levels.



Corporal Joe Finch

Joe was born in Oxfordshire, studying at St Birinus School in Didcot, gaining his GCSE's. He then went on to achieve his Level 3 Personal Training qualification, where he worked at a gym in Reading for 2.5 years. At 19, he joined the RAF as a Physical Training Instructor. After graduating, he was posted to RAF Scampton, working closely with the team and pilots that made up The Red Arrows. In 2018, Finchy joined PTS where he worked with 16X Air Assault and MAB Delivery Units instructing static line parachuting, onto land and water. Playing and enjoying numerous sports throughout growing up, athletics was the main focus, having competed at county and national level.



Corporal Ross Gill

Ross was Born in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, in 1989. He attended Corbet School in Baschurch. After joining the RAF in 2008 as a Survival Equipment Technician his first and only assignment was to Parachute Engineering Squadron at RAF Brize Norton in support of UK Airborne Forces, during this time he completed a deployment to the Middle East and a multitude of Detachment in America across his 10 years. In 2020 he was fortunate enough to be selected for the Display Team. He enjoys keeping fit and has represented the Station, RAF and combined Services in hockey.



Corporal Gav Wright

Gav was Born in St Asaph, North Wales in 1986. He was educated at Eirias High School, where he studied GSCE's. In 2003 and aged 16 he joined the RAF as a Survival Equipment Technician, he has completed tours at RAF Lyneham, RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Brize Norton, and 4 tours of Afghanistan. He was selected to become a trade instructor in 2018 where he has been responsible for delivering parachute maintenance training packages to various trades and branches of the Armed Forces. A family man with a love for almost anything outdoors, in his downtime he will often be found mountain biking or hiking in Snowdonia.



Corporal Dan Edwards

Dan was Born in Bangor, North Wales in 1989. He attended Ysgol Bontnewydd, Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen and Completed an Automotive Engineering Advanced Apprenticeship at Coleg Menai in Llangefni. Joining the RAF in Early 2009 as a Survival Equipment Technician he has completed assignments at MoD Boscombe Down, RAF Henlow, including two full assignments at Parachute Engineering Squadron, supporting UK Airborne Forces. During his career in the RAF, he has Deployed to the Falkland Islands, USA, Canada, Middle East and Europe. In 2022 he was selected for the RAF Falcons Display Team. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family, mountaineering, and watching rugby.

RAF Falcons Team 2022 Commentators

RAF FALCONS DISPLAY SEASON 2022 



Master Aircrew Gareth (Gaz) Attridge

Gaz started his Royal Air Force career in 1988 as a Gunner in the RAuxAF Regiment before being selected in 1990 for Non-Commissioned Aircrew as an Air Loadmaster. He has amassed over 6000 flying hours on the C130 Hercules and as a Weapon Systems Operator (Crewman) on Merlin and Puma helicopters. During 32 years of regular service, he has deployed all over the world including numerous frontline operational tours of Northern Ireland, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan. He is currently based at RAF Benson as a Mobile Air Ops Team Leader on the Joint Helicopter Support Squadron and joins the RAF Falcons for his second season as a Team Commentator. Recently awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Gaz counts one of his proudest moments as leading out the Armed Forces contingent at the 2012 London Olympics Closing Ceremony.



Sergeant Georgie Smith

Georgie was born in Shrewsbury, Shropshire in 1979. She studied at Wigmore High School followed by higher education at Ludlow College, leaving education and joining the RAF as a Personnel Operations Specialist in 1998. She has completed assignments at RAF Innsworth, The War Office in London, RAF Brize Norton, AFCO Swansea/Cardiff, MOD Worthy Down, MOD St Athan and AFCO Bristol. She has also deployed overseas on operations to the Falkland Islands, Bosnia and Afghanistan. Georgie has two Sons, one of which is serving in the RAF Regiment. In her spare time she enjoys training, socialising and walking.



Sergeant Simon Morgan

Simon was born in Nottingham in 1988. He grew up living in Germany, Holland and RAF Brize Norton before settling in Newquay, Cornwall. In his early 20s he spent time lifeguarding the beaches in Australia before joining the RAF in 2011 as a Physical Training Instructor, completing postings at RAF Brize Norton and RAF St Mawgan PED Flt's. He also completed a 6-month detachment to the Falkland Islands. Simon has represented the RAF in 4-way Parachuting for RAFSPA which helped him make his decision to become an RAF Parachute Jumping Instructor in 2018. Simon enjoys surfing, travelling and spending time with his family. He is looking forward to commentating for the RAF Falcons during the season of 2022.



Corporal Jacqui Wellington

Jacqui was born in Southend-on Sea, Essex in 1970. After completing O'Levels in 1986 she started her career in finance at the London Stock Exchange. Moving to banking in 1988 she held roles in team management, internal communications and web content management spanning 28 years. Jacqui joined the RAF part time as an Auxiliary in 2015 with 600 Sqn at Northolt, transferring to regular service in 2019. After several squadron roles with C-17 and Voyager aircraft, she now works in Air Traffic Control at Brize Norton as an Air and Space Operations Specialist. In her free time, she can be found hiking and enjoying the countryside with family and friends.



Alex Gill

Alex is a radio presenter with the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) on the station at RAF Brize Norton, presenting breakfast and reporting on the role of the RAF. He has worked with the RAF Falcons for several years giving the worldwide BFBS audience a glimpse into the life of the team during training and displaying. Alex joined the commentary team in 2019.

Display Parachuting

Prior to the start of the display season, the RAF Falcons leave the inclement weather of the UK behind them and head for parachuting locations in California to complete much of their display parachute training. On their return to the UK the Team undertake a further period of training, adjusting to the UK's unpredictable weather conditions. The aim of the training is to teach the first year Team members all aspects of display parachuting and integrate all the RAF Falcons into a close-knit Team, ready for the forthcoming season.

“During training the Team is initially broken down into small groups, consisting of varying experience levels. Group sizes are gradually increased, culminating in the full Team performing high, mid and low altitude displays.”

Although experienced instructors, display parachuting is alien to the new Team members, offering them many new challenges. The training consists of numerous modules, which include various written and practical assessments. The training is both mentally and physically demanding. The Team complete eight descents per day and pack their own parachutes. Due to the progressive nature of the training, the Team is initially broken down into small groups, consisting of varying experience levels. Group sizes are gradually increased, culminating in the full Team performing high, mid and low altitude displays. The finishing touches are then introduced with smokes and life jackets being worn and advanced manoeuvres performed.

RAF FALCONS DISPLAY SEASON 2022





Flag Team

The flag team comprises of 2 - 4 parachutists and will normally be the last to land as part of the display. They follow the main display, which gives a finale to the Falcons demonstration after watching the initial smoke-filled sky.

Each team member takes it in turns to jump the flag. It is often a privilege given to one of the Falcons if they are from the area the Team are jumping into on a specific display day.

The added weight and size of the flag can be a little tricky to get used to, so all team members train to understand the effects it can have on the parachute's performance and landing characteristics.

The team jump with the Union Flag and Royal Air Force Ensign, as well as the flags of sponsors.

Flashback 1971... Warrant Officer Doug Peacock

The final act of Falcons '71 was played out the same as the first, many leagues from home. We had been invited to Hong Kong to participate in the 1971 Festival, a ten-day trade and cultural pageant which engendered massive local publicity.

The centrepiece of these demos was the Government Stadium, set in a natural bowl with steep cliffs on three sides and a main highway on the fourth. Six times we were to jump there and P hour was to be 2200hrs, therefore being our first night demos. The met man told us that the winds at two thousand feet would be in the region of twenty knots, and that anabatic and katabatic turbulence within the bowl was likely to be pronounced. We nodded sagely in agreement, then went away to find out what he meant (updraughts and downdraughts). We went to look at the place the next morning and, as can be seen in the photo, this first viewing provoked some thoughtful expressions among the brethren. Before we did any jumping, however, we also decided to recce and photograph all the Drop Zones from the air at two thousand feet; as usual it all looked easier from upstairs. The only proviso we decided was to put an eight-hundred metre minimum altitude limit for night jumps.



This is my recollection of the first jump, I was spotting from the lead chopper. "We waddled out to the choppers at Kai Tak at about nine o'clock in the evening for our first demo, festooned with 'chutes, life jackets, smoke brackets, torches to illuminate the canopies when they were open, lights to illuminate the altimeters - all the paraphernalia pertaining to a night demo close to deep water. As the aircraft flew over the harbour towards Hong Kong the view from the open door was dramatically spectacular. The whole waterfront of Wan Chai was ablaze with lights with bejewelled towers jutting up from the illuminated ribbons that were the main highways, while the totally black mountainside of the 1600ft peak loomed in the background."

"From the lead chopper I could see at least six floodlit stadiums. Which was mine? I hoped the pilot knew... Then I recognised it as he made straight for it. I started my stopwatch as I left the aircraft over the mountainside about 800 metres past the



Government Stadium from 2,000 feet. Victoria Park DZ on the waterfront is top centre.

"As the aircraft flew over the harbour towards Hong Kong the view from the open door was dramatically spectacular. The whole waterfront of Wan Chai was ablaze with lights with bejewelled towers jutting up from the illuminated ribbons that were the main highways, while the totally black mountainside of the 1600ft peak loomed in the background."

stadium, tucked up into fast fall, and ready to pull on exactly eleven seconds. As the canopy came out, I saw the shape of Snowy going past me, still in freefall. He should have been above me. He opened below me and started flying toward the stadium, with the smoke from the sodium flare blowing towards us. By then I was right over the stadium at 1000ft, facing into the upper wind and being blown backwards towards the harbour. Worrying moments, but all at once, as we came below the level of the ridgeline, the 20-knot uppers decreased to zero and we were left with a gentle approach into the bowl, being able to steer our parachutes wherever we wanted. As we came into the radius of the stadium lighting we pulled more smokes and slid comfortably one after the other into the centre circle of the soccer pitch. Judging by the noise of thirty thousand highly vocal locals, I could tell they thought it was magic. In fact, we were a bit impressed ourselves!"

Display Format

The Hybrid

From an altitude above 7,000ft the RAF Falcons will leave the Aircraft, free-falling down to 5,000ft before deploying their parachutes. Once open, the team will form the Snake, before turning 180 degrees to the left.

After heading back to the drop-zone and assessing the teams position above the ground the Coach will call for the Heart. Once complete, and back in the Snake, odds will turn 180 degrees to the left, evens will turn right.

Here the team will prepare for the now famous 'Criss-cross into Carousel'. During the 'Criss-cross' parachutists will close in to each other at approximately 45mph.

Exit Altitude
10,000ft



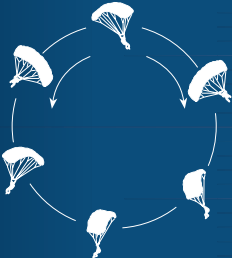
Snakes and Ducks

Team Turns/Snakes and Ducks – In either formation (single line, loose patrol) the call from the Team Coach will be to initiate a left or right turn in unison to form "ducks" where each Falcon will fly side by side and "snakes" to reform the single line/loose patrol formation. This manoeuvre is used to position the patrol for other elements of the display. In a first for 2022, on larger drop zones the team are able to land in ducks.



The Heart

Formed whilst flying in 'Snakes', on the command of the Coach, odds and evens will split, turning 180 degrees in opposing directions. At this point, each team member will look across to their opposite numbers, assessing their relative position and flying the parachute to ensure they slot in to their correct slot, back into 'Snakes'.



The Low Show

Occasionally, when the weather dictates, the RAF Falcons will bring the drop height down to a minimum of 2500ft. Given the lower altitude, the team are afforded less time under canopy, thus having to tailor the display accordingly. During the 'Low show', the team form the Snake behind the Team Coach, who then leads the team directly into a Carousel, turning to the right. The team will remain in the Carousel until the coach exits leading the team into the landing pattern.

2,500ft



RAF FALCONS DISPLAY SEASON 2022



Did you know?

The 'Heart' is one of the Falcons favourite canopy manoeuvres, it's very complex requiring precision accuracy with all members completing 230 degree turns.

Jumping the Palace... Sergeant Alex Williams

During the build up to the 2017 season we heard rumblings that the first display of the season could be a display that we thought would never be possible, let alone actually happen. The display to kick off the 2017 season would be into Buckingham Palace in front of HRH the Duke of Cambridge, the Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke of Sussex, who were hosting a garden party for the families of personnel who had given the ultimate sacrifice and been killed on the frontline defending the country.

A few months earlier, on Ex Falcon Stack, team coach Warrant Officer Ceri Marshman told us about the potential display but not to get our hopes up as nothing had yet been confirmed. Needless to say, this is all we talked about. All RAF Falcons will verify, the first display on the Team is a nerve-racking experience but for the three first years, Sergeant Lee Coonan, Sergeant Dan Cartwright and Corporal Dom Hodge this would be their very first public display on the grandest of stages.

Upon our arrival back to the UK, the team began training on the CH47, as nobody on the Team had jumped the 'Chinook', for a couple of years. Concurrent to the Parachutists getting to grips with the CH47, the RAF Falcons management were conducting DZ reces, meeting with the CAA, as well as managing all required tasks, unique to jumping over Central London. In short, a display unlike any other.

We woke up on 13th May 2017. It was time for the biggest display of our lives and one Drop Zone everyone would love to have in their PJI Logbook... the Palace.

During the build-up, everyone became a weatherman. In terms of displaying, the weather was 50/50. What does this mean? It means we were flying regardless. We just weren't sure if we were going to be able to jump in or not. Tensions were high. The build-up had gone completely to plan, however, there was a very unique 'buzz', in the air.

Once our morning briefs had been completed, we made our way to the airfield. To help project the magnitude of the display 2 x CH47s arrived, ensuring the RAF Falcons would have a fully serviceable Aircraft at their disposal. We made it on to the Aircraft. Rotors already turning. It was time. A short transit to London and we would be jumping into Buckingham palace.

Whilst in transit, the Falcons gathered their thoughts. As per every other display, the Team Coach and third years were receiving weather updates from the Drop Zone, to ensure we exited the Aircraft at the correct point. Once over London we were all up taking in the views, as we knew this would probably be a once in a lifetime opportunity. We went into the hold over Lords cricket ground and everything looked good. Go time.



We made our way down the Heli lanes in London, buzzing the Shard, London Eye and London Bridge. To name a few, at 2000ft. Due to excruciatingly tight time restrictions, we knew once we got to the Mall, we had seven minutes to make the jump, the time London Heathrow, one of the World's busiest airports, could close its runways for 'cleaning'. This ensured both the CH47 and RAF Falcons Parachutists would have clear air, and the disruption to London's airspace was held to a minimum. The Aircraft ran down the Mall (not a view you look at everyday) and the green light came on. Under the command of the coach, 'SMOOOOKKKKEESS, Ready, Set, Go.' We made our exit and formed the RAF Falcons canopy stack from 2500ft over the top of Buckingham palace and became the first and only parachute team to ever jump there.

The display was amazing, a thrill no one could ever replicate. As always, we landed and were called into the line-up where members of the Royal family came to greet us. We then met the children and families and it was one of the most humbling experiences I have ever had. We chatted to them and even took the children for some practice parachute rolls on the lawns!

The day will go down as one of my 'pinch me' moments. One of my best days and memories that will stay with me forever and I can tell my grandkids. It was just one of the many opportunities that during my time on the Falcons and during my time in the RAF I am thankful for. An opportunity I don't think any other job could come close to giving me.



Jump Platforms

Being a military display team, the RAF Falcons are very fortunate to have use of various military aircraft as jumping platforms. These aircraft not only make the display more interesting, but also remind the viewing public that parachuting is a vital and very real asset to British modern military airpower. However, due to operational requirements, it isn't always possible to use military platforms. In such cases we use a small selection of civilian light aircraft.

Dornier 228

The newest aircraft in the RAF Falcons fleet and our primary jump platform, provided by Summit Air this dual engine, side door exit provides everything that the RAF Falcons need to produce the exciting show you will see today.



Length: 16.56m (54ft 4in)



Wingspan: 16.97m (55ft 8in)

Crew: 2 pilots
Capacity: 19 passengers
Payload: 5,158 lb (2,340 kg)
Powerplant: 2 x Garrett AiResearch
TPE-331-5-252D turboprops, 578 kW (776 hp)
Maximum speed: 370 km/h, 200 knots
Range: 2,700 km (1677 miles)

Skyvan SC7

This is used as our secondary jump platform, once again provided by Summit Air and adds something different with a tailgate exit. This is also used as Airborne Delivery Wings parachuting platform.



Length: 12.21m (40ft 1in)



Wingspan: 19.78m (64ft 11in)

Crew: 1 - 2 pilots
Capacity: 19 passengers
Payload: 5,160 lb (2,340 kg)
Powerplant: 2 x Garrett AiResearch
TPE-331-201 turboprops, 533 kW (715 hp)
Maximum speed: 325 km/h, 175 knots
Range: 1,117 km (694 miles)

Hercules C-130J

Known as 'Fat Albert' by her crews, the Lockheed Martin Hercules is a very stoic and versatile aircraft. Historically the RAF Falcons used the Hercules as their primary jumping platform.



Length: 29.79m (97ft 9in)

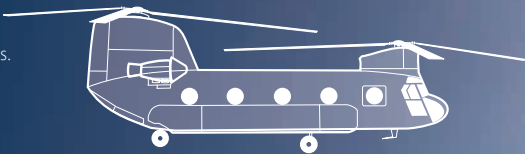


Wingspan: 40.41m (132ft 7in)

Crew: 3 (2 pilots + 1 loadmaster)
Capacity: 92 passengers
(64 airborne troops)
Payload: 42,000 lb (19,050 kg)
Powerplant: 4 x Rolls-Royce AE 2100D3
turboprops, 3,458 kW (4,637 hp)
Maximum speed: 671 km/h, 362 knots
Range: 3,334 km (2,071 miles)

Chinook HC2 | HC2A | HC3

A deceptively manoeuvrable support helicopter, the Chinook has proved its worth in the harshest environments. The RAF Falcons jumping from the Chinook provides a real spectacle.



Length: 30.1m (98ft 9in)



Rotor diameter: 18.3m (60ft 0in)

Crew: 3 - 4 (2 pilots + 1 or 2 loadmasters)
Capacity: 55 soldiers + equipment
Payload: 27,550 lb (12,500 kg)
Powerplant: 2 x Textron Lycoming
T55-L712F turboshafts, 2,347 kW (3,148 hp)
Maximum speed: 296 km/h, 160 knots
Range: 1,382 km (858 miles)

Parachutist Equipment

1. Jumpsuit

The RAF Falcons jumpsuits are specially made by 'Liquid Sky' in the famous Falcons colours and have fire retardant material on the legs, giving protection from the smoke canisters.



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2.



6.



2. Goggles

The goggles are worn to protect the eyes whilst in free fall. These can also be tinted to protect from the sun's glare.

3.



7.



3. Helmet

The helmet is worn mainly as protection for the head whilst in free fall and on landing. It is perfect for display parachuting as it is open face. This is a requirement for all military parachutists.

4. Video Camera

The camera is used by all team members and can be worn on the helmet, or chest mounted, to give a different aspect of the display. The primary use of the camera is to review the display and debrief individual performance.

5. Radio

Each Team member wears a radio provided by Sonic Communications. This allows the Team Coach to talk to all Team members and give them information on when to turn, the landing direction and when to pull their smokes. The radios are worn inside the jumpsuit with the earpiece running up inside the helmet.

6. Audible Altimeter

The audible altimeter is worn inside the helmet and next to the ear. At pre-set altitudes, a series of warning noises will sound informing the parachutist of their height, these can be set for heights onboard the AC, in free fall and under canopy. The audible altimeter is used in conjunction with the visual altimeter.

7. GPS

The Falcons Team Coach and No 2 in the canopy stack use a GPS to ensure that the Team are exiting the aircraft at the correct position to enable the stack to land safely in the display arena, given the weather conditions on the day.

4.



8.



5.



9.



10.



8. Smoke Canisters

Dependent on the exit altitude for the display, each team member will wear 2 smoke canisters. The smoke canisters weigh 3 kg each and are placed in a bracket and worn above the ankle. The Team Coach is clearly visible as he wears white smoke, the remainder of the Team use red smoke; creating a spectacular visual display both in free fall and under canopy. Smokes are also used on the DZ as a wind indicator enabling the Team to land in a safe direction into a head wind.

9. Digital Altimeter and Gloves

The digital altimeter is worn on the left wrist. It is used to indicate the parachutist's height above the ground. It has a digital screen for ease of use and an exact altitude reading. The team wear our famous red gloves these are used as protection from the smoke canisters as they can reach temperatures of over 100 degrees celsius.

10. Parachute Assembly

The parachute assembly consists of 2 square canopies; a main and a reserve. The main canopy is called a Silhouette; it is 210 sq ft and red, white and blue. The reserve is called a Raven 3; it is 249 sq ft and white in colour.

The Support Team

The RAF Falcons are renowned for their aerial displays, but the Support Team is the back bone of the Team and without these highly trained personnel the RAF Falcons couldn't exist. From parachute packing to setting up the Drop Zone, these professionals are a vital asset for each and every parachute descent. The Team's Survival Equipment Technicians for this display season are Corporal Ross Gill, Corporal Gav Wright and Corporal Dan Edwards. They are responsible for the repair and maintenance of all parachutes and ancillary equipment used by the Display Team.

It's also their role to assist the DZSO in the setup of the Drop Zone for the Team. This includes the tracking of a weather balloon, gathering wind speeds and directions whilst also igniting ground smokes as a wind indicator for the Coach. This allows him to have constant knowledge of the wind speed and direction on the ground for landing.

Other duties include the overall safety and clearance of the Drop Zone. They are responsible for supervising the Team in re-packing all parachutes ready for the next display.

The Team Manager

The Team Manager's position, currently held by Warrant Officer Paul Floyd, provides the important link between the Team and event coordinators, sponsors and charities. Additionally, he is responsible for all operational matters in terms of securing the necessary air assets and associated logistics to ensure each display runs smoothly. WO Floyd is also qualified as a DZSO and in some cases will fill this position on busy display days when the Team are jumping at different venues. As a Warrant Officer, he has a responsibility for overall standards and discipline; still a vital part of today's RAF. As a previous display parachutist himself, he brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Team.



The Drop Zone Safety Officer (DZSO)

The DZSO will arrive at the Drop Zone two hours before a display to gather information on wind and weather conditions. This information will then be passed to the Team Coach on board the aircraft. The DZSO ensures that the DZ area is correctly marked and safe for the Team to land in and all support personnel are in attendance. Only when all checks have been completed will he allow the Team Coach to carry out the display.

The Team Commentator

The Team Commentator's role is an extremely important aspect of the display. The Team Commentator is there to enhance the public's experience of the display, promote the Royal Air Force and explain the role that the Parachute Jumping Instructors perform at Airborne Delivery Wing. They describe how each display is carried out and how each manoeuvre is performed precisely by the Team, whether they are jumping from 2,500 ft or 12,000 ft. They will travel with us to all our displays either in the UK or overseas. All the Commentary Team are volunteers with an enthusiastic appreciation for the RAF Falcons displays.

Did you know?

The Drop Zone Safety Officer will arrive at the Drop Zone two hours before a display to gather information on wind and weather conditions.



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Becoming a Survival Equipment Technician

Being a Survival Equipment Technician on the Falcons is a challenging and diverse job that allows you to test your abilities and expand your knowledge.

Once you have become a Survival Equipment Technician, you may aspire to join the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team as the Team's 'Squipper', you would be required to carry out a tour at the Parachute Engineering Squadron (PES) at RAF Brize Norton.

Whilst working at PES you will be trained on how to carry out maintenance on various parachute systems used within Airborne Delivery Wing. These systems include; static line, free fall and tandem parachute systems. Once you are fully qualified on all systems, have been promoted to the rank of Corporal and have gained enough experience whilst operating on exercises overseas, you can apply for a position on the Team. An essential part of being on the Team is taking on the role of Drop Zone

Non-Commissioned Officer (DZNCO), this role requires you to assist the Drop Zone Safety Officer (DZSO) in the correct gathering of Meteorological data which will be relayed up to the Team Coach prior to the Falcons carrying out a display. Whilst on the ground as a DZNCO you will be expected to set up the Drop Zone correctly; this will give an indication to the Team in the aircraft above the wind direction and speed.

You will continue to monitor wind direction and speed throughout your time on the ground and pass on any changes to the DZSO. You will also be responsible for the correct marking out of the Drop Zone and the ignition of any ground flares or smokes to be used to indicate wind direction during the display. Once the parachutists are safely on the ground, you will join them in the line up and take the salute. When all the Public Relations commitments have ceased, you will then supervise the parachutists in the packing of their parachutes and complete all necessary documentation.

Age 16-47

Qualifications GCSEs at Grade C (Grade 4 to 5 with effect from August 2017) or above in English Language and Mathematics or SCE Standard Grades at Grade 2 or Scottish National 5 (Grade A – C) or above in English and Mathematics.

Recruit Training

Your career will start with a 10-week Basic Recruit Training Course (BRTC) at RAF Halton. The course is designed to help you to adjust to a military environment. As well as fitness and military training, you will also learn about life in the RAF.

Additional Opportunities on Completion of Specialist Training

You will be enrolled on an Advanced Apprenticeship, where on completion you will have gained an NVQ Level 3 in Aeronautical Engineering (Component) Maintenance, a Technical Certificate Diploma Level 3 and will have completed Functional Skills Level 2 in Mathematics and English.

Specialist Training

The next step is a specialist training course at Defence School of Aeronautical Engineering Cosford, which lasts 29 weeks. The course will provide you with the underpinning knowledge of Survival Equipment and Aircrew Equipment Assemblies used in a military environment. On successful completion of trade training, you will be promoted to Leading Aircraftman (LAC) and posted to your first unit.

Your First Tour

You will be assigned to a UK unit where, under supervision, you will apply your newly gained skills in a live environment adding immediate value to the RAF. Once your experience builds and you demonstrate the required competence levels, supervision will be reduced and promotion to Senior Aircraftman (SAC) can be achieved.

RAF FALCONS DISPLAY SEASON 2022



"My role within the Team is extremely enjoyable, fulfilling and important to ensure all parachutists are safe on every descent they complete throughout the display season.

Another part is I love being on the ground at displays where I can interact with the public answering any questions they might have whilst trying to inspire potential future RAF Falcons."

Corporal Ross Gill



Start your journey now...

More information can be found at www.raf.mod.uk/careers

ROYAL
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FALCONS
Parachute Display Team





ROYAL
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Parachute Display Team



Flight Lieutenant Stuart Philpott



Flight Lieutenant Mike Reeve



Warrant Officer Paul Floyd



Flight Sergeant James Bruce



Sergeant Gary Nicholson



Sergeant Bobby Menarry



Sergeant Ben Sammut



Sergeant Paddy Guillois



Sergeant Doug McAll



Sergeant Sean McCabe



Sergeant Owen Collins



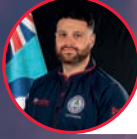
Corporal Joe Finch



Corporal Ross Gill



Corporal Gav Wright



Corporal Dan Edwards



Free Fall Training

For the last 12 years the RAF Falcons have embarked upon pre-season exercises that focus strongly on close proximity free fall flying. Team members receive a period of prolonged exposure to advanced skydiving techniques. In addition to preparing them for displays, the aim of the training is for each team member to attain the coveted Military Free Fall Instructor qualification. By doing this they gain the knowledge required to provide our airborne soldiers with world class instruction. On their free fall training exercises, the Falcons undergo intense instructor training, developing their ability to jump with first time military students.

The Team Coach is pivotal in this, producing Military Free Fall Instructors to directly support UK Airborne Forces. These techniques see the Team undertake a variety of skydives. Included in this is 'dirt diving', a technique for rehearsing a skydive on the ground before performing it in the air. Full video debriefing allows the team members to assess their performance and improve highlighted areas. This process not only helps develop their skydiving skills, but also allows them to identify areas of weakness and improve on them. These are skills fundamental to being good free fall instructors.



RAF FALCONS DISPLAY SEASON 2022



Did you know?

Prior to each descent, the Team will perform a 'Dirt-dive'. This is a walk through whereby each Parachutist fully understands their role within the display. Throughout the season, the individual role of the Parachutists may change regularly, so the 'Dirt-dive', becomes an essential part of the preparation.

Skydiving Techniques

The Exit

It is necessary to present the body to the relative airflow created by the slipstream of the aircraft to ensure you exit in a stable position, ready to begin the free fall exercise immediately. This is especially important during the low shows, where the pull will be initiated by the Team Coach very quickly.

Side Slipping

By changing the position of an elbow and knee on one side a parachutist can move sideways.

Turns

By moving elbows and knees you can turn on the spot, as airflow is deflected around the body. It is important that turns are made in place, turning around a central point.

Formation Skydiving

This is the general term used for all the combinations of skills needed to link together and produce different formations in the sky. The art of linking together to make formations in free fall demands a high degree of skill and expertise. To create aerial formations, the parachutist must learn to control their rate of descent and movement across the sky in relation to other parachutists.

Tracking

To move diagonally across the sky or 'track', the parachutist extends his legs, straightens his arms and pulls them in to his side making the body more aerodynamic. The result is that the parachutist can cut through the air and reach speeds of up to 120 mph.

The Pull

At a determined height, the parachutist must operate the throw-away pilot chute to deploy the main canopy

Did you know

Whilst in free fall a RAF Falcon can cut through the air and reach speeds of up to 120 mph!



Wind Tunnel Training

The Falcons utilise Vertical Wind Tunnels in the UK and USA to enable training in various skydiving techniques. It is widely accepted that the wind tunnel simulates almost identical conditions to skydiving without the expense of aircraft and the obvious timescale and risks associated with skydiving. This is a useful tool to keep the Team sharp throughout the season when their schedule is busy.

Did you know?

Spending 20 mins in a wind tunnel is equivalent to 26 skydives from 12,000ft.



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Parachute Display Team

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SECURE AND OUT OF SIGHT.

RUGGED LEAD TO PTT BUTTON
WHEN THE FREE-FALLER WANTS
TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIS TEAM,
HE PRESSES HIS PTT BUTTON.

MICROWAVE RECEIVER
TRANSMITS REAL-TIME FREE FALLERS
FOOTAGE TO OUR TRANSPORTABLE
RECEIVER.



HOW SONIC COMMUNICATIONS HELP



STAGE 1
Radio check is complete by the
Drop Zone Safety Officer and
wind conditions are relayed up
to the Team Coach on board the
aircraft.



STAGE 2
Team Coach spots the Drop Zone
and informs the Safety Officer that
the Team are ready to jump.



STAGE 3
The Team receive final instructions
from the Coach and prepare
themselves for the display.



STAGE 4
The Flag Man receives the
command to jump, proceeding
the Falcons stack.



STAGE 5
The Coach relays information to
all Team members throughout
the entire display.



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Canopy Control

How Does a Parachute Work

A parachute works by forcing air into the front and creating a structured 'wing' under which the passenger can fly. Parachutes are controlled by pulling down on steering lines which change the shape of the wing, causing it to turn or to increase or decrease its rate of descent.

Modern skydiving parachutes are referred to as 'square canopies' - to look at, they're more like rectangles. This is different to other types of military parachutes which are round in shape.

The change in shape has enabled skydivers to have much more control over their parachutes. Today, parachute pilots can turn their parachutes, change their rate of descent, and flatten their glide and lots more to make parachute landings more accurate than ever.



How Parachutes Fly

Parachutes are a 'semi-rigid wing'. This means that, while they are flying, they are pretty much solid - in fact, skydivers are able to bump their parachutes against each other and even walk over the top of them in canopy relative work.

If you looked at a parachute from the front, you'd see it is made up of nine 'cells'. Essentially, the full parachute is actually a series of separate chambers, all of which catch air and work together to make the full wing.

The front of each 'cell' is open and this is where the air enters. As the parachute is flying forwards, air is rammed in through the front and caught inside the cells, giving the parachute its shape. Modern parachutes are also referred to as 'ram air parachutes' for this reason.

How Parachutes Open

The first step to successfully piloting a parachute is to have it open in the first place! Parachutes are packed into their containers in such a way that the cells are pointing forward as the parachute deploys, allowing air to rush into it straight away. This process means parachutes open efficiently and, usually, on heading. Slight variances in the way it is packed can result in off-heading openings, but the design of the parachute means it will always fly front first.

How Parachutes Turn

Parachutes are connected to their containers by lines, which are basically strong string or rope which attaches at various points across the parachute's underside. The steering lines are situated to the back of the parachute. Their purpose is to allow the pilot to pull down on one side or both to make the parachute turn.

Pulling down on the right steering toggle will make the parachute turn right, pulling down on the left makes it turn left and pulling both makes the canopy slow its rate of descent by flattening it out.

The steering lines have 'toggles' attached to the bottom of them, giving the pilot handles on which to hold for ease of control.

How Parachutes Descend

The design of parachutes means they descend at a manageable rate toward the ground. Flying a parachute feels like gliding through the air, always getting lower but doing so in a calm way that makes parachute flight a very relaxing experience. That's assuming we're not doing anything to change that flight characteristic. When a pilot uses the toggles to pull down on the steering lines to make the parachute turn, it descends a little faster. Much more advanced parachute pilots use riser techniques to change the rate of descent (ROD), using front risers to increase the ROD and rear risers to reduce the ROD.

How Parachutes Land

As the pilot comes into land, they use the steering toggles to steer them to the safe landing area. At this point, they need to slow the parachute's descent rate to its minimum, meaning they are able to gently touch down on the ground. To do this, they pull down on both steering toggles in a controlled yet assertive manoeuvre called 'flaring'. This pulls down on the back of the parachute, causing it to flatten out and reducing its descent rate to almost nothing. Touchdown is usually a gentle step forward, and the parachute then collapses to the ground as the air stops rushing into it.

RAF FALCONS DISPLAY SEASON 2022



Did you know?

While flying, parachutes are pretty much solid. In fact, skydivers are able to bump their parachutes against each other and even walk over the top of them in canopy relative work.

A Day in The Life

The Lead Falcon for the display gives a detailed 'parachutists brief' to all of the other Team members, covering weather conditions, Drop Zone (DZ) hazards and type of display that will be conducted. The Team will also watch a video of the DZ which is recorded by the Drop Zone Safety Officer (DZSO) during the DZ recce. This gives each parachutist a mental image of the area they will be dropping into.

- 1 The Team Coach leads all of the parachutists on a walk through on the ground covering exactly what is expected of them in the air, from exit to landing. This is also known as the 'dirt dive'.
- 2 Once the Team take off, they start preparing for the display; this includes the fitting of smoke brackets and checking each other, ensuring all parachute equipment is fitted correctly. During the flight, the DZSO will send actual wind measurement through to the Team Coach who will then calculate the new release point to ensure The Team lands at the target. This is especially important during high winds.
- 3 4 When the aircraft is approx. 2 minutes from the DZ, the Team Coach will request directional control of the aircraft to ensure the Team exit at exactly the correct point in the sky. Depending on the weather conditions and type of aircraft, the Team either begin their display from the ramp or side doors. The Team exits the aircraft in a predetermined pattern to ensure the correct set up for the display; this is all done at speeds of up to 120 mph.
- 5 6 The despatch height will dictate the formation of the team after opening. Once under canopy, the team will either form directly into the Sabre Chase, or the Snake. The Team Coach will then direct the Falcons movements via in helmet comms.
- 7 Throughout the season the RAF Falcons will complete displays onto many challenging DZs. The Team land on the restricted DZ within the display arena, which is marked out by the Support Team and can be as small as 75 x 75 yds.
- 8 As soon as the Falcons land, they remove their equipment and wait for the call of the Drop Zone Safety Officer. On hearing the call, the Team run to the line-up and are called to attention ready for the salute and to meet the VIP.
- 9 After the line up the Team are ordered to fall out and now can take the opportunity to meet the public. This gives the Team the chance to sign autographs, have pictures taken and answer any questions.



RAF FALCONS DISPLAY SEASON 2022

Becoming a RAF Falcon

The RAF offers its people an exciting and rewarding career and is still actively recruiting for a wide number of roles and specialisations. As with any career in the RAF, the journey begins by visiting your local Armed Forces Careers Office. Offices are located all over the country; further information can be found at www.raf.mod.uk/careers

In order to become an RAF Falcon, you must apply to join the RAF as either a Physical Training Instructor (PTI) or a Personnel (Trg) Officer.

RAF Physical Training Instructor (PTI)

The RAF PTI is in a unique position in Defence. The RAF is the only Service that adopts a direct entry scheme for this role. The mainstream PED functions, whilst providing a critical output to RAF operational preparedness, also develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes for all PTIs to train as either Parachute Jumping Instructors (PJIs), Force Development Instructors (FDIs) or Exercise Rehabilitation Instructors (ERIs). The PTI trade is a very diverse and exciting career choice with opportunities also available in Survival training, Training Consultancy and Leadership development.

RAF Personnel Training Officer

The Training Specialisation offers a range of opportunities with an aim of maximising the potential of RAF personnel in order to ensure the Service delivers its operational capabilities. Training Officers are engaged in a wide variety of roles from providing specialist training advice & consultancy for individual & collective training, course design, governance & assurance through developing programmes that enhance human performance, to operationally vital employment in flying training development, parachute training for the UK's Airborne Forces, Defence Survival Evade Resist Extract training and Force Development including adventurous training. Given the variety of roles within the Training Specialisation, Training Officers have opportunities to lead, develop and manage training on RAF and MOD Units throughout the UK, on overseas bases, and on exercises and operations around the world.

Start your journey today...

www.raf.mod.uk/careers

Entry Requirements

RAF Physical Training Instructor

Age 16-47

Qualifications GCSEs at Grade C (Grade 4 to 5 with effect from August 2017) or above in English Language and Mathematics or SCE Standard Grades at Grade 2 or Scottish National 5 (Grade A – C) or above in English and Mathematics.

Other Must be able to swim.

RAF Personnel Training Officer

Age 17½ - 47

Qualifications Minimum of 5 GCSEs (or acceptable equivalents) at a minimum of Grade C / Grade 4 to 5, including English Language and Mathematics or Scottish National 5 (Grades A – C) in 5 subjects including English Language and Mathematics and 2 A2 Levels/3 Highers at Grades C or above (excluding Gen Studies or Critical Thinking) which must total a minimum of 64 UCAS points.

1

Step 1

Once a meeting has been set up with the **RAF representative at the Careers Office** you will be assessed for suitability to Service life before completing an aptitude test. In order to become an RAF Falcon, you must apply to join the RAF as either a **Physical Training Instructor (PTI)** or a **Personnel (Trg) Officer**.

2

Step 2

After submitting a successful application, PTI candidates attend a **two day specialist interview at the RAF School of Physical Training**, based at Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering (DCAE), RAF Cosford. Officer candidates attend a **two day selection centre at RAF College Cranwell**.

3

Step 3

On successful completion of the interviews, all applicants **attend Basic Military Training**. PTIs undertake their training at RAF Halton (10 weeks) and Pers (Trg) Officers at RAF College Cranwell (24 weeks). Physical fitness, general service knowledge and initial military ground training are examples of the elements covered.

4

Step 4

After graduating from basic training, all PTIs **attend Specialist Trade Training** at the RAF School of Physical Training. The course consists of several modules including anatomy and physiology, coaching and teaching techniques. During the teaching phase, PTIs gain the **Personal Trainer Award Level 3** and obtain the **National Pool Lifeguard** qualification as well as a number of other civilian recognised qualifications.

5

Step 5

After completing professional training, PTIs will **complete at least one tour of duty at a station gymnasium**, developing their instructional and leadership skills. All PTIs and Pers (Trg) Officers may be selected for Parachute Jumping Instructor (PJI) duties at Airborne Delivery Wing, RAF Brize Norton.

6

Step 6

The PJI Course begins with a three week **Basic Military Parachuting Course**, working alongside other airborne units such as the Parachute Regiment and Royal Marines. Following this, the prospective PJIs undergo an **intensive training package** consisting of jumping several static line and free fall parachutes and learning to teach basic static line parachuting. On completion of the PJI Course, candidates are **awarded the coveted PJI badge**.

7

Step 7

After serving at least one tour teaching static line parachuting, PJIs are able to volunteer for selection in display parachuting duties, which consists of a **continuous assessment throughout the year**. Every jump is critiqued and the individual debriefed on their free fall skills, canopy control and accuracy on landing. Candidates must also **complete the High Altitude Parachutist Course** before the final selection phase. Prior to selection, candidates are then required to demonstrate **teamwork, leadership** and the potential to become **Military Free Fall Instructors**. Once selected, new team members complete a **Display Parachutist Course**, usually in California, USA. The course consists of up to 140 descents. They will learn and refine the skills required to become a **fully qualified RAF Falcon**.

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RAF FALCONS DISPLAY SEASON 2022

Falcons Fun Page Spot the Difference

They look identical... but they're not!
Can you spot 10 differences in the photos?

49



Life After The Falcons

Parachute Training Squadron (PTS)

After completing a tour with the RAF Falcons, the Parachute Jumping Instructor (PJI) may be selected to serve on PTS. Their job is to instruct airborne soldiers undertaking the Basic Parachute Course as beginners and keep those already trained current, to a high level of readiness to parachute. This role also involves despatching parachutists at very low level using the Low Level static line parachute system, or from an extremely high level using the BT80 Multi Mission System in both static line and free fall modes.

Military tandem parachuting is a specialist method of insertion and it is the PJIs role to train all users who require this skill. Furthermore, the Royal Navy drops a variety of boats from the back of aircraft followed by specialists, all despatched by the PJI.

Instructor Training Flight (ITF)

The primary role of ITF is to instruct the 6-month PJI training course which qualifies selected Personnel (Trg) Officers and Physical Training Instructors as well as Foreign and Commonwealth Forces in the basics of static line parachute jumping instruction. Additionally, ITF is responsible for the professional development training of qualified PJIs.

RAF Falcons Team Coach

Having been employed previously on the Display Team, PJIs may be selected to return to the Falcons as the Team Coach. Flight Sergeant (FS) Bruce was employed on the Team during the 2010-2012 seasons. Since then he has conducted tours at a number of specialist units before being promoted to FS and selected as Team Coach.

Joint Air Delivery Test & Evaluation Unit (JADTEU)

JADTEU is a Tri-Service unit based at RAF Brize Norton. The Unit is primarily responsible for the test and evaluation of everything that is carried in or under an aircraft and anything that is delivered from an aircraft by parachute (stores and men). The Parachute Test Team (PTT) is responsible for the personnel parachute element of this task.

RAF FALCONS DISPLAY SEASON 2022





"My role within the team is extremely enjoyable, fulfilling and important to ensure all parachutists are safe on every descent they complete!"

Thinking of joining of the RAF Falcons, start your journey now...
More information can be found at www.raf.mod.uk/careers



Time to up your Urban Streetwear game?

For*Star Clothing 1972 is an apparel company supplying urban streetwear. Owned and operated by Veterans, the designs are actually created by a Veteran who spent years in the Canadian military!

We're a diverse and inclusive company aiming to supply quality gear worldwide and have teamed up with New Era and Bella + Canvas as our eco friendly manufacturers.

As well as selling and distributing our cool streetwear, we also recognise the need for continued mental health awareness and suicide prevention for all people. We donate a contribution from every sale to 'Tough Enough to Care' and continue to work alongside other companies to spread the word. Everyone has a story, let's listen to them.

Visit us on Instagram to see out latest gear

 [instagram.com/forstar.clothing](https://www.instagram.com/forstar.clothing)









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Our Charities for the 2022 Season

The RAF Falcons are proud long-standing supporters of the Royal Air Force Association and Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, each year we also pick additional charities to raise donations for. This year we have picked the MS Society in recognition of one of our regular team commentators Sgt Georgie Smith.

Georgie comments "I joined the RAF in September 1998 as a Personnel Support Specialist. My service to date has been full of adventure, excitement and lots of opportunities; including assignments across the UK and operational tours of The Falkland Islands, Bosnia and Afghanistan. In 2015 I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, during that time I was unsure of how my career would be affected and what the illness would become to me and my family. With the support of the RAF, Help for

Heroes and the MS Society, I have learned to manage my illness through sport and adventure training which the RAF affords me the opportunity to participate in and have competed at international level in many new sports. I still serve in the RAF as a Sergeant, have become an RAF Advocate for the Chronic Conditions and Disability in Defence Network and commentate for the RAF Falcons in my spare time.

Research and funding is vital to the continued study of MS and I thank the RAF Falcons for selecting this charity on my behalf".

In addition, we have also decided to pick a local charity to RAF Brize Norton, Homeless Oxfordshire, all proceeds from the 2021 display season will be split equally between the four Charities.



MS Society

STOP MS

DAY 7349

The moment I was diagnosed, my world began to shrink. My job, my car, my ambitions – over 20 years, multiple sclerosis took them all away. And now those links are broken, I do all I can to stay connected.

My laptop is my lifeline. Through it, I can still help my local support group and see the progress research is making towards stopping MS. It's clear that one day soon, no one will have to go through what I have. And if I can do anything to help bring that day closer, I will.

Together we can stop MS.

Donate at mssociety.org.uk/stop

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Homeless Oxfordshire

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NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO SLEEP HERE

A cold hard bench is not a place to call home. Your donation can provide a safe place to start a new life

<https://homelessoxfordshire.uk>

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Finding it tough?
~~MENTAL WELLBEING~~
COURSES

ROYAL
AIR FORCES
Association
The charity that supports the RAF family

Struggling
~~Coping~~ with
life's ups &
downs?

We can help.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We offer help and support to anyone, male or female, regardless of your industry or background. We offer support and guidance to those indirectly affected by Mental Health issues; people who care for those who are struggling need support too, we are here for you.

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

- Online friendly help and advice
- Online peer to peer networks
- Weekly male support groups
- Mental Health First Aid training
- Work place employee drop-in sessions
- Sports club Mental Health team chats
- Motivational and self help talks
- Employer Mental Health support guidance

WOMEN'S WELLBEING CLUB

A peer to peer community support group run for women by volunteers. The clubs are free and anonymous with no booking needed and no obligation.

To find your local club, visit:
www.womenswellbeingclub.co.uk

Tough Enough To Care

MENTAL HEALTH IS
NOT A SECRET,
MAKE IT A
CONVERSATION,
NOT AN ISSUE.

WE HAVE PROUDLY SIGNED THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

REGISTERED UK CHARITY: 1187404

THE FACTS

- Twelve men a day complete suicide in the UK.
- 84 UK male suicides every week
- For every 1 completed suicide, there are 20 attempts made
- Every suicide is avoidable
- The single biggest killer of men aged 45 and under
- 1 in 4 people experience Mental Health issues each year
- Care and support will change these statistics

HOW TO CONTACT US

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