







Royal Air Force Brize Norton



BRAVOS AWARDS 2020 Brize's Recognition Awards for Valued and Outstanding Service



Guests of Honour



Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston KCB CBE ADC RAF



Air Officer Commanding 2 Group Air Vice-Marshal Alan K Gillespie CBE MA BSc RAF



Air Mobility Force Commander Air Commodore David Manning MA CMgr FCMI RAF



Station Commander Group Captain Emily Flynn OBE ADC MA MENG CENG FIET RAF

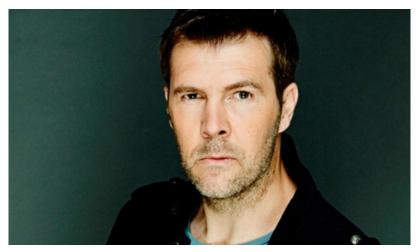


Commander Air Wing Group Captain Simon Blackwell OBE BEng (Hons) MA FIKE



Chief of the Air Staff's Warrant Officer Warrant Officer Jake Alpert MBE

Compère – Rhodri Gilbert



Rhodri Paul Gilbert is a comedian and television & radio presenter who was nominated in 2005 for the Perrier Best Newcomer Award. In 2008 he was the winner of Time Out 'Comic of the Year'.

Rhod appears on television and radio panel shows, has performed stand-up on the Royal Variety Performance and hosted a weekly show on BBC Radio Wales. He has presented *Never Mind the Buzzcocks* and has deployed out to Afghanistan and Iraq to entertain and support our troops on operations.

Foreword by the Station Commander



Group Captain Emily Flynn OBE ADC MA MENG CENG FIET RAF

As we look back on what has been an extraordinary year, it is clear that Royal Air Force Brize Norton remains at the forefront of Defence's activities. That throughout the global pandemic the Station was not only able to sustain but actually increase its output is remarkable, and moreover allowed the continued delivery of essential equipment and personnel to the UK's current operations, delivered support to the UK's Covid-19 pandemic response and the continued growth of Air Mobility capability. As ever, the team at RAF Brize Norton responded superbly to ensure we remained capable of supporting all eventualities. Highlights of the year include: casualty evacuations from remote UK locations, performing the strategic insertion of airborne forces into Eastern Europe as part of Op SOLIDARITY and enabling the rapid global delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine. Personnel from across the Station have continued to excel, and I was delighted that their contribution was further recognised through the award of the prestigious Firmin Sword of Peace.

The pace of life and rate of change at RAF Brize Norton remains relentless; however, I continue to be buoyed by the progress being made in key projects across Station, most importantly improving the living standards in accommodation, and instating modern facilities and amenities. ASTRA has provided a solid platform from which we can build our next generation air base, with a number of exciting initiatives now delivering tangible effects across Station. Operationally, our number of established and unestablished commitments continue to grow, yet, thanks to the personnel of RAF Brize Norton, we continue to deliver to an impressive standard. It is therefore essential that we recognise the dedication and achievements of our people and all those who support them.

The BRAVOS, now in their 7th year, are intended to be one of the ways of recognising these achievements and saying 'thank you' regardless of whether you are a regular, reservist, MOD civil servant or contractor. It is of course saddening that we could not present the 2020 awards in October last year, and that even now we cannot do so in person; however, please do not let that detract from the significant contribution made by all nominees and the winners. I must also highlight that these awards can only happen with the efforts of an enthusiastic committee, the very generous support of all of our sponsors, and all those who took the time to submit nominations. I thank you all for your continued hard work and commitment to RAF Brize Norton, and wish all the nominees the best of luck tonight.

BRAVOS Sponsors

Thanks and recognition must go out to tonight's sponsors without which, events like this would not be possible. This year BRAVOS is sponsored by four sponsors and is representation of the areas we draw support from. Thank you.

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From the Sponsors

BFBS is delighted to once again sponsor the Bravos Awards this year and celebrate all those who have given outstanding service at RAF Brize Norton, and in the local community. From our broadcasters based at BFBS Brize Norton and other UK bases, to our overseas stations in places like Cyprus and the Falkland Islands, we are proud to live and work as part of the community with those we serve, as we entertain, inform, connect and champion the Armed Forces and their families.

At BFBS Brize Norton our Presenter/Producers Alex Gill and Jo Thoenes bring you the latest music, local news and features. Listen to Jo and Alex on 106.1FM, on the BFBS app, or online www.forces.net/radio/stations/bfbs-brizenorton. Email them on bfbsbrizenorton@bfbs.com and connect via social media @bfbsbrizenorton.

We wish all award nominees the very best of luck. For features from around the forces world go to www.forces.net.

Boeing is delighted to once again support the BRAVOS Awards and we are proud to be the named sponsor for the 2020 Operational Safety award.

The outstanding efforts of the nominees for this award represent the very best of today's Royal Air Force; serving personnel, civil servants and industry partners committing selfless acts of kindness, ingenuity and resilience, often in the face of adversity.

Safety is and always will be our top priority in all that we do at Boeing. We are committed to strengthening our culture of safety in support of our products and services, and through continuous improvement, learning and innovation. It is that ethos that we have brought to bear for over two decades in support of the RAF's C-17 fleet at RAF Brize Norton. Since the first C-17 arrived in the UK in 2001, we have grown to over 80 Boeing employees at RAF Brize Norton, supporting every aspect of the C-17 mission as part of the Whole Force approach.

Boeing's longstanding partnership with the UK began just before the Second World War and over that time our UK workforce has grown to 2,500 employees. We remain committed to our long-term support for the C-17s, contributing to the fleet's overall mission readiness and preparedness. The UK's C-17 fleet has been recently joined by new Poseidons based at RAF Lossiemouth, Wedgetail conversions taking place in Birmingham and Chinooks undergoing major upgrades at Boscombe Down further strengthening our partnership. Find out more at www.boeing.co.uk or follow us on Twitter @BoeingUK.

ACS Office Solutions are proud to be sponsoring the Valiant Volunteer Award at the delayed 2020 BRAVOS Awards.

Our dedicated MOD team have built a long-term relationship with the Royal Air Force and are committed to supporting them in overcoming the business challenges they face today. We thrive on building unified partnerships with our clients and believe innovation underpins this success.

ACS is a blended business model providing Technology, Cyber Security, Communications and Interiors with associated support and services. We specialise in combining best of breed IT solutions with inspiring workplace environments and for over 25 years have delivered tailored solutions including engineering resources, secure logistics and secure engineering services to support clients with higher level security requirements.

We wish all the nominees in each of tonight's categories the very best of luck and we hope everyone has a fantastic evening. To find out more please visit www.acs365.co.uk. You can also contact our MOD team MOD@acs365.co.uk or Jason Carver,

our Head of Security & Defence, directly on 07593 580914 or Jason.Carver@acs365.co.uk.

SNC Mission Systems UK is delighted to support the BRAVOS Awards and we are proud to be the sponsor for this year's Top Team award.

An effective team works as a collective unit by utilising the skills and talents of each team member to support and achieve a common goal. In simple terms, teamwork is when a group of people combines individual skill sets to produce amazing outcomes. We have first-hand experience of working as a team with the RAF, in particular the team at Brize Norton to achieve these outcomes and common goals and whilst we recognise the individual awards for BRAVOS, we would also like to thank the entire organisation for the 'get it done' attitude that ultimately allows us to support our war-fighters that are deployed.

We here at SNC feel that we share many of the values the RAF holds important. Our Mission at SNC is: Dream, Innovate, Inspire and Empower the next generation to transform humanity through technology and imagination. We breed a culture that takes an entrepreneurial approach to meeting our customers' needs by developing innovative technological solutions in a rapid and agile production environment. For our employees, SNC strives to cultivate professional growth at every career stage. We believe in positive attitudes, sense of urgency, team-play, purpose, fire-in-the-belly passion, work-life balance, collaboration, humility, persistence, discipline and trust as accelerators of productivity and fulfilment.

We congratulate all of the nominees in every category recognised by the BRAVOS this evening and we look forward to working closely with you all in the future.

Top Team Award

Awarded to the team who have made a significant contribution to the generation, operation or sustainment of Air Mobility, as a result of collaborative working.

Mobility and Medical Supply Flight (MMSF)

In the UK's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Defence was directed to provide a deployable capability to deliver specialist medical support to personnel overseas. Creating a brand-new deployable medical facility (the Hospital Staging Unit - HSU) in conjunction with increased aeromedical evacuation activity, the team identified shortages in the procurement and delivery of equipment. This required the team to process over 5,000 individual orders for medical modules, intensive care units and electrical medical equipment. Working 24/7 they ensured full compliance for distribution of all assets and equipment. During this period MMSF supported over 75 civilian and military aeromedical and casualty evacuation missions, many at very short notice. Without their ongoing support and expertise, essential medical capabilities simply would not have been available.

Survival Equipment Section (SES)

The Survival Equipment Section is responsible for the technical maintenance of survival equipment fitted to all aircraft at Brize Norton. Responding to the pandemic, SES's Whole Force approach, innovation and altruism led to locally implemented safeguards, including the restructuring of the split shift system. At the height of the pandemic SES were requested by AOC 11 Gp to produce 175 organic face-coverings to be issued to RAF personnel deployed at short nitce. Despite an extremely tight time line to manufacture and deliver, the team displayed selfless commitment, working extended hours and cancelling leave in order to cover essential maintenance and other routine tasks to support the additional task line. SES has displayed exceptional forethought, commitment and professionalism in the face of adversity. This teamwork has seen the section through a difficult and unpredictable time with unwavering positivity.

Voyager Force Support Human Resources

Voyager Force Support Human Resources (VFSHR) team are at the heart of the Voyager Force, responsible for the administration of over 500 RAF personnel comprising of Regulars and Sponsored Reservists. During the pandemic, the team seamlessly adopted essential new working practices. In a short timeframe they developed a new remote HR platform, allowing personnel to access key documentation and deliver numerous new tasks. These tasks included COVID-19 testing, tracking, welfare and waiver requirements alongside the management of rapidly changing mandatory regulations. This ingenuity demonstrated an example of best practice across the Station. VFSHR's hard work, commitment and collaborative professionalism underpin much of Voyager's success.



Top Team Award Proudly Sponsored by SNC







Valiant Volunteer Award

Awarded to the individual who has made an outstanding contribution through voluntary service at RAF Brize Norton or within the local community.

Senior Aircraftsman Graham Darkins

As the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) ambassador, Senior Aircraftsman Graham Darkins has coordinated many interactive visits for school and youth groups, championing the importance of these subjects in industry. His passion has undoubtedly inspired many students to embark on a career with STEM. His outstanding personal dedication has positively contributed to the standing of the Station within the local community, as well as playing an active part in enhancing STEM initiatives. This in turn will help overcome a national shortage of STEM professionals and promote career opportunities in the RAF.

Sergeant Louise Muzzlewhite

Throughout the COVID pandemic Sergeant Louise Muzzlewhite selflessly volunteered to support the South-Central Ambulance Service as a full-time responder. Her commitment and willingness to help others in a time of national crisis is impressive, all the while enhancing the reputation of the military and its personnel. In addition, Louise volunteered as a Befriender in the local area, contacting isolated elderly people to contribute to their mental health and wellbeing. She is also a mentor for young people, supporting them through challenging periods in their lives. With her altruistic outlook, many have benefited from her dedication; Louise is an outstanding example for others to follow.

Sergeant Vinnie Vunivalu

Sergeant Vinnie Vunivalu's contribution to supporting the RAF Fijian Community Network is impressive. A driving force, her organisation of the committee, development of new networks and essential support to mentoring those members who are striving to integrate into British society is incredible. Further, she volunteers in helping the homeless, engaging with local companies to provide contributions and regularly gives up weekends to deliver food and essentials to the less fortunate. Notably this was all achieved whilst supporting the COVID-19 pandemic response as a front-line paramedic. Vinnie's generosity of spirit and action inspires commitment from all she works with. Her dedication of time, energy, spirit and morale to supporting a huge variety of people in need is simply outstanding.

Valiant Volunteer Award **Proudly Sponsored by ACS25**





Connecting your workplace and workforce





Group Captain Robinson DSO MC DFC Memorial Award

Awarded to the individual who has displayed excellent strength of character, hard work and dedication to the Service, positively raising the profile of RAF Brize Norton and the Royal Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Louise Waterhouse

Flight Lieutenant Louise Waterhouse has spent the past 6 years working on the Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) whilst also continuing in her normal role as an Air Traffic Control Officer. The process to create a new airspace design, fit for current operations, has been a major task. It has required liaison with airspace users including National Air Traffic Services, the Civil Aviation Authority, Oxford Airport, Little Rissington and the General Aviation Alliance. Louise has dedicated many hours of hard work in collaboration with these groups, trying to ensure that the final design is fit for purpose fulfilling the original aims of the project. Louise's dedication and tireless effort is truly noteworthy.



Senior Aircraftsman Mark Malone

Senior Aircraftsman Mark Malone was given the responsibility of Acting Corporal, employed as the Head Chef commanding the Warrant Officer and Sergeants Mess Kitchen; displaying his outstanding culinary acumen, he led the team in delivering 17 formal and private events, most notably the 600-guest strong Christmas Draw lavishing diners with a multitude of culinary delights.

Over and above this, he has utilised his experience to coach junior chefs for the Royal Air Force Culinary competition which saw award winning results for his team.

Mark has taken every opportunity to go above and beyond his day to day tasks. His drive and determination to see subordinates succeed highlights him as an outstanding leader who is an exemplar to the Next Generation Chef.



Flight Sergeant Craig Curtis

Flight Sergeant Craig Curtis works in Parachute Engineering Squadron within the Airborne Delivery Wing, managing a workforce of over 40 personnel in support of UK and overseas parachute exercises. This role requires him to balance the provision of parachuting output whilst ensuring correct Engineering standards. His moral integrity saw him challenge the status quo which resulted in the Squadron re-evaluating its working practices. Throughout this period, Craig was inspirational in leading evolution. His energy and intelligent use of personnel has bought about a remarkable improvement in the efficiency of the Squadron which has quickly rebuilt the Squadron's reputation and made improvements to the service delivered to its customers. Craig's immense work ethic and commitment to the job has engendered willing followership and highlights him as an outstanding role model for us all to aspire to.



Sporting Achievement Award

Awarded to the individual or team who have achieved or promoted the most positive attitude in sport at RAF Brize Norton and their local community. This includes those who during the COVID crisis have used sport to raise money for charity and other good causes such as RAFBF.

Senior Aircraftsman Alex Stallworthy

Senior Aircraftsman Alex Stallworthy is a committed member of the RAF and UK Armed Forces Volleyball teams. The 2019/20 season saw Alex voted 'Most Valuable player' within the UKAF squad where she has been a regular competitor in the National Volleyball League. As 'Players Representative' she is the pivotal link ensuring communication between committee members and players.

Awarded the accolade of 'Player of the Tournament' at the recent Inter-Services tournament, Alex was subsequently selected to play in the 2020 Allied Air Command Inter-Nation Championships. Here she was an exemplary representative for the Service competing alongside Air Forces from the USA, Germany, Poland, Netherlands and Belgium.

Alex's enthusiasm and love for the sport has seen her committed to weekly coaching sessions with the RAF Brize Norton Volleyball Club giving personnel of all abilities the opportunity to take part in recreational sport. Alex's selfless contribution to volleyball and her achievements at the highest levels are exceptional. She is an outstanding Ambassador to the Royal Air Force and an inspiration to us all.



Astra Award

Awarded to the individual who has contributed the most to RAF Brize Norton through driving innovation or promoting change.

Flight Lieutenant Rob Kemplay

Flight Lieutenant Rob Kemplay identified an opportunity to change the way in which Aircrew Documentation is managed; his vision was to digitalise all the data onto an iPad. Creating a bespoke programme, Rob transferred many pages of text and flight planning tools onto the system. Rob's inventive thinking has created a military specific product that brings us in line with the civilian authorities, allowing automated updates to flight documentation and real time access to airport data thus enabling a concise mission planning tool. In addition, he was a key enabler in the redevelopment of the online pre-flight planning tool known as STARS, streamlining the system making it more user friendly and easier to identify availability of personnel. He expanded this initiative creating a bespoke C130J Hercules SharePoint site, putting all mission critical planning data in one area leading to improved efficiencies in the mission planning process. Rob's template has enhanced transparency for supervisors and has been adopted throughout the Air Mobility Force as best practice.



Flight Lieutenant Peter Kennedy

Flight Lieutenant Peter Kennedy's innovative work has generated several new concepts which have the potential to drastically change how the Air Mobility Force operates. Firstly, he developed MERTZ, a computer-based trend analysis programme which focuses on historic and current air safety occurrence reports, looking for themes to identify where lessons could be learned. This gained understanding has the potential to improve safety analysis across the military; in the future it could lead to a better understanding of why errors have occurred and what mitigations we can put in place to prevent them. In addition, Peter developed a mobile application for high altitude parachuting calculations. His solution offers an improved understanding and algorithm assurance over the current spreadsheet version, increasing efficiency and crew safety during airborne tasks.

XXIV Squadron Atlas MTS Team

The MTS Training team are responsible for the delivery of all specific to type Engineering training for the A400M. With an already substantial training schedule consisting of 184 weeks of training per year, the team were requested deliver a new course to streamline learning. With limited experience in course design they used the varied skillsets of the team to create a bespoke package. The way in which they approached this challenge enabled them to identify efficiencies within the current complex training system (a hybrid of civilian and military systems). The streamlining of the course has meant the duration of the training package is reduced by 4 weeks resulting in the engineers being released to operate on the front-line Squadron in a much shorter timeframe, thus improving operational output. It has also created an improved overall understanding of training needs, adding value to all courses the team run.





Operational Safety Award

Awarded to the individual or team who have made the greatest contribution to the safe delivery of rapid, global Air Mobility in support of operations and exercises.

XXIV Squadron Atlas Flight

XXIV Squadron Atlas Flight are responsible for the safe delivery of training courses for A400M aircrew. Despite restrictions to flying hours undermining crew competency and currency, Atlas Force was required to grow, introduce new capabilities and undertake post-graduate courses. In response to the pandemic, the team reconfigured recurrent training, emphasising the use of Flight Data Monitoring analysis. This has enabled training to be focused on the current needs of the crews who had suffered from poor continuity, maximising front line crew currency within restricted hours. Atlas Flight's unwavering dedication to ensure continued delivery of training during this period has been exceptional.

Flight Lieutenant Caroline Martland

Flight Lieutenant Caroline Martland is the primary Senior Error Management System Co-ordinator (SEMSCo) within the Air Safety Cell. Human Factors (HF) failings can result in significant losses of operational output and are often a main causal factor identified by safety investigations into serious incidents. As COVID restrictions came into force, Caroline predicted the impact this would have on training delivery, and used her vast experience to produce a virtual HF package; a highly innovative solution enabling over 120 personnel across 15 units to receive training, ensuring there was no gap in its delivery. Concurrently, she drove the development of the Station 1st Party Assurance programme, providing the Delivery Duty Holder with a concise assessment, showing the efficacy of the safety management system. Caroline's outstanding initiative, determination and dedication to Flight Safety has delivered an impact felt throughout the Service.

Sergeant Brian Wright

Sergeant Brian Wright operates as an Air Despatch Equipment and Airborne Forces Equipment Occurrence Manager within the Air Safety Cell; an extremely demanding and critical role which includes investigating safety issues for the parachute community. In addition, he covered two vacant WO roles for 6-months providing vital Duty Holder support and Occurrence Management activity. During this time, he conducted an in-depth analysis to ascertain the risk of conducting parachuting activity at US Airfield Blythe. In this role, Brian acted as the focal point for the Delivery Team, the Continuous Airworthiness Management Organisation and Airborne Delivery Wing; he was instrumental in the development of the Blythe Advice Note and management of appropriate recommendations such that activity at Blythe was safely resumed. His outstanding contribution to the Air Safety of military parachuting has ensured the community operates in a safer manner, whilst ensuring no loss to output. Brian's first-class performance during an extremely challenging period has been exceptional.

CONTRACTOR Operational Safety Award **Proudly Sponsored by Boeing**









Flight Lieutenant Lord VC DFC Memorial Award

Awarded to the individual or team, who through their actions, have made a single outstanding contribution to the output of the Station during the year.

Senior Aircraftsman Bethan Brown

Senior Aircraftsman Bethan Brown was selected to support the RAF Brize Norton Station reporting cell. This involved recording data for those personnel who were isolating due to COVID. At one point the cell was responsible for managing the isolation requests for over 900 personnel which was no small task and to which Bethan's contribution was essential. In addition, they were tasked with producing statistics to provide the Chain of Command with access to information on pinch points allowing enhanced management of risk in critical areas where output may have been affected due to numbers in isolation. Responding rapidly to shifting parameters and changing demands, she received recognition from Air Command to the accuracy and breadth of the information provided in the statistics. Notably, this was all done whilst continuing to maintain administrative support to Voyager Squadron personnel, many of whom were working from home with limited access to deployment paperwork. Her positive attitude and keenness to support personnel is noteworthy with her contribution to the COVID support effort receiving praise at all levels.

Sergeant Luke Waterfield

Acting Sergeant Luke Waterfield was initially deployed to Minhad Air Base to maintain the Atlas transport aircraft in support of Middle East operations. However, in response to COVID-19 the detachment was relocated at very short notice to RAF Akrotiri. This move required the establishment of a full engineering detachment; normally led by a Flight Sergeant or a Junior Officer, this fell to Luke. Unfazed and thriving on the need to accomplish the task, Luke set about forming the foundations of what is now a hugely effective Squadron engineering detachment. Luke's actions belied his experience; he required minimal support from the UK, constantly impressing his chain of command with his appetite to get the job done. His actions enabled seamless Atlas operations, ensuring continued unfaltering support to the Middle East.



Clothing Stores

The unwavering support to Station from the Clothing Stores team throughout the pandemic has been exceptional. The deployment of over 140 Station personnel in support of COVID related duties resulted in an 80% surge in clothing stores kitting requirements. Similar to many units across Station, the team split into a shift system, working extended hours to ensure people received the correct clothing and equipment as expeditiously as possible. Always looking to improve the system, the team established an online QR code focused 'Click & Collect' system to streamline the service. The system has now been shared RAF-wide and is being trialed at multiple units. The work ethic, determination and innovation shown by Clothing Stores has undoubtedly benefited all on the Station.





Station Commander's Award

Awarded to the individual or team who are most worthy of special recognition in the course of daily life at RAF Brize Norton.

Mr Stuart Slee

Mr Stuart Slee has supported essential course design for A400M pilot and air loadmaster training on XXIV Squadron since June 2015. He has faced many challenges that have required a complete overhaul of the training, including the creation of numerous courses from the gualified Flying and Rear crew Instructor courses to a re-write of the Pilot Operational Conversion Course. Simultaneously, Stuart has worked tirelessly to transfer the entire A400M training system onto Vista enabling A400M aircrew instructors to work from home during the COVID pandemic. Stuart's display of unwavering dedication to A400M aircrew training has had a significant impact on the entire air loadmaster cadre; he is an example to everyone around him

Corporal Andy Petrie

Employed as a Logistics Supply Instructor on 501 Squadron training Part-Time reserves for the last 6 years, Corporal Andy Petrie has performed outstandingly delivering training not just to 501 Squadron personnel but to the wider Royal Air Force Reserve community. Over and above this, he has selflessly contributed to the wider community at Royal Air Force Brize Norton as a member of the Heritage Centre Team- a project that he has supported for over 4 years. Andy has devoted his spare time to make significant improvements to the building including a rebuild of a Tristar Flight Deck. His determination and dedication ensured that the Heritage Centre is now at a stage where it can be re-opened to visitors. Andy's unfaltering dedication to wider station life is due to his devotion to the Service. His contribution has been exceptional; he is a role model to all Regular and Reserve personnel.

Corporal Isla Cudlip

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Assisting with the oversight of discipline and standards at Royal Air Force Brize Norton, Corporal Isla Cudlip was awarded Acting Sergeant due to the deployment of her Senior Non-Commissioned Officer. The additional responsibility saw her assisting in high level ceremonies including the Firmin Sword Parade ensuring the parade was conducted to the highest standards with station wide media coverage in place; simultaneously assisting in the organisation of the team for an Operation PABBAY – a sensitive ceremony involving the repatriation of a fallen service person.

Outside of her primary role, Isla joined the Shadow Command Board this year supporting ideas in line with ASTRA. She has used the opportunity to lead on a project to renovate the Common Room supporting the wider service community but specifically, the unit's junior ranks. Isla's military ethos, bearing and selfless hard work epitomises what is expected of a Junior Non-Commissioned Officer and she is an outstanding role model to her peers.











We thank our sponsors for their support

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RAF Brize Norton

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Mission: Prepare for and deliver global Air Mobility Operations

Vision: A next generation Air Mobility Base



We look forward to seeing you for BRAVOS 2021.







