

RAFALO UPDATE – JANUARY 2016

Happy New Year. This is the latest edition of the RAFALO Update, which includes information on changes to the Service. If you have anything you wish me to cover, please advise in the usual way via Adrian.morris941@mod.uk

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS LIST

Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach GBE KCB ADC DL is to be appointed **Chief of Defence Staff** in succession to General Sir Nicholas Houghton GCB CBE ADC this summer.

Michael Fallon, Secretary of State for Defence, said:

“I am delighted to announce that Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach will assume the role of Chief of the Defence Staff this summer when General Sir Nicholas Houghton retires. Sir Stuart has been an outstanding VCDS and I look forward to working closely with him in taking the fight to Daesh and ensuring we have the best Armed Forces to keep Britain safe.”



*Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach
GBE KCB ADC DL
[Crown copyright]*

Acting Air Commodore S E Reeves was promoted Air Commodore on 25 November 2015 and will be appointed Deputy Director Joint Warfare in Joint Forces Command in June 2016 in succession to Brigadier P S Cameron OBE Royal Marines.

Acting Air Commodore S R Thornber CBE was promoted Air Commodore on 16 October 2015 and will be appointed J2 Deputy Director Mission, Headquarters US Central Command, Tampa with effect from 19 March 2016 in succession to Brigadier N A Baker OBE.

Group Captain P J M Squires OBE to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Commandant Royal Air Force College Cranwell in August 2016 in succession to Air Commodore C J Luck MBE ADC whose next appointment is yet to be announced.

Flight Lieutenant His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge, KG KT ADC to be promoted to the substantive rank of Squadron Leader with effect from 1 January 2016.

GENERAL

New Pay Model. It is important that the “offer” we make to our Service men and women is sufficiently attractive to recruit and retain the right people to deliver our operational capability. While that offer is very broad, it is no surprise that pay is a key element, and an important consideration for Service personnel, their families, and for Defence as a whole. Over the years, Service personnel have highlighted concerns with the current pay model to the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB). The New Employment Model (NEM) has therefore reformed the core pay model for Other Ranks and for Officers up to and including 1 Star (Air Commodore). It will go live on 1 Apr 16.

What will the NEM pay model look like? Defence staff have worked with the Service Chiefs to establish a new pay model that addresses Service personnel’s concerns whilst continuing to meet the needs of the Armed Forces. The new pay model was also discussed during the recent Strategic Defence and Security Review; it was agreed that the military pay model would be protected, that existing pay resources would be rebalanced and that it would not become a savings exercise. Rank continues to be the primary determinant of pay; incremental progression has been maintained. In addition Other Ranks will receive a trade-related supplement to pay, with placement in supplements based on extensive Job Evaluation evidence. This will provide a pay model that is simpler and more transparent than Pay 2000, is able better to target pay, and is more efficient. It also addresses key areas of Other Ranks’ dissatisfaction with the Pay 2000, including elements known as ‘flip flop’, ‘pay overtaking’, and ‘overlap’. Retargeting resources within the pay structure has required some difficult decisions. Defence has recognised the need to protect those whose pay might otherwise decrease immediately on transition to the new model; additional investment has therefore been allocated to provide pay protection for at least 3 years. In the long term, the through-career pay for approximately two thirds of Other Ranks will either increase or remain broadly the same relative to Pay 2000.

EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER

Final Chinook Mk6. The RAF's 14th and final Chinook MK6 helicopter has rolled off the production line and will soon be delivered to the UK. The completion of the order fell on the 35th anniversary of Chinook operations in the UK – the first 30 MK 1's entering service at the end of 1980. The Chinook Mark 6 helicopters were first ordered in 2011 by DE&S as part of a £ 850 million programme. The Mark 6 helicopters will significantly enhance our existing heavy-lift helicopter and Special Forces capability. Our overall fleet of 60 Chinooks will support our frontline troops in current and future operations.

33 Sqn Marks 100 Years of Service. Jan 16 marked 100 years since the formation of [33 Squadron](#) and the iconic day was commemorated with a formal parade in the hangar that has been their home since 1997. The Squadron was formed in Filton on 12 January 1916 as part of the Home Defence and has continued to contribute to combat and humanitarian operations around the globe over the past century. Currently 33 Squadron A Flight are deployed in Afghanistan in support of Operation TORAL, the ongoing NATO training mission.

The Squadron is no stranger to serving overseas, having spent many years much of World War II operating over Europe before moving to the Far East. From operating the Bristol F2b as part of the world's first dedicated Night Fighter Force during World War I to flying the iconic Spitfire during the later World War II years, the Squadron has continued to deliver excellence with the most capable aircraft. They currently operate the extensively upgraded Puma 2 helicopter, which provides essential lift capabilities for combat, training, disaster relief, humanitarian and air security missions.

Squadron personnel were joined today Michael Percifull, a former member of the Squadron who was also celebrating his 90th birthday. Following the parade there was a short memorial service in the hangar where all those who have served on the Squadron over the past century were remembered, particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice. A centenary painting was also unveiled, taking pride of place in the main entrance to the Squadron.

Group Captain Simon Paterson, Station Commander at RAF Benson where the Squadron is currently based, said: "I was delighted be part of the historic centenary parade for 33 Squadron today. It is not often in your career you can say you've been part of such a significant event. The Squadron has such a colourful and extensive history that it is only fitting their centenary was marked with such gravitas, particularly as they continue to deliver excellence on operations in Afghanistan."

2016 also marks the centenaries for RAF Marham and Wittering.

As ever, if there is anything you would like information on, please e-mail me or send your correspondence via the Area Director or BSO.

Yours, In friendship

Ady Morris