

RAFALO UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2017

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.gov.uk

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS LIST

Air Commodore J Philliban to be promoted Acting Air Vice-Marshal and to be Senior Directing Staff (Air) at the Royal College of Defence Studies in October 2017. This is a new post. Acting Air Vice-Marshal Philliban will relinquish his Regular Commission in December 2017 and be promoted Air Vice-Marshal in the Royal Air Force Reserves.

Air Commodore R Hill to be Head Defence Logistics Operations & Capability in the Ministry of Defence in September 2017 in succession to Commodore A J Kyte.

Group Captain C C Coton to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Head Air Resources & Programmes, Headquarters Air Command in September 2017 in succession to Air Commodore R Hill.

Group Captain R D Moir to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Air Officer Battle Management & Battle Management Force Commander, Headquarters Air Command in September 2017 in succession to Air Commodore A K Gillespie whose appointment as Head Transformation, Headquarters Air Command has previously been announced.

Group Captain P A Godfrey OBE to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Head Carrier Enabled Power Projection in the Ministry of Defence in October 2017 in succession to Air Commodore J C Prescott OBE who is leaving the Service.

Group Captain J P Sutton OBE to be Officer Commanding Northwood Headquarters in April 2018 in succession to Captain K N G Shaw.

GENERAL

EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER

CHINOOK - ACAS I thought ACAS was all about arbitration and conciliation, but it appears to have taken on a new guise in the RAF – it is also the Airborne Collision Avoidance System! The DE&S Chinook team have achieved Initial Operating Capability (IOC) on a new system from Boeing defence UK which will “Significantly reduce the risk of mid-air collision”. Currently fitted to 50 of the 60 Chinook fleet aircraft it has taken 3 years of hard work and should achieve Full Operating capability up to 10 months early. Earlier than when? No idea.

£260 MILLION DEAL FOR IFF DE&S has awarded the contract to provide the next generation of secure Identify Friend or Foe (IFF) technology to the UK-based Leonardo. The system, called Mode-5 uses advanced cryptographic techniques and world-leading electronic technology to allow UK land, sea and air units to quickly identify friendly forces and operate safely alongside NATO allies across any battlefield. The contract will allow Leonardo to install the system in more than 350 units ranging from Royal Air Force's Sentry aircraft to the Royal Navy's Type 45 destroyers and the British Army's High Velocity Missile (HVM) multiple launcher system. The new contract will cover the installation of Mode-5 on pieces of equipment that are in service already with the UK. New platforms coming into service in the future, including the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers, F-35 Lightning II combat aircraft and the new Apache AH64E Helicopters, are being fitted with Mode-5 under separate contracts over the course of their construction.

A400M – BEACH LANDING TESTS An RAF A400M Atlas transport aircraft successfully completed a series of spectacular test landings at a beach at the Pembrey Sands Tactical Landing Zone in South Wales. The trial landings were organised by the DE&S A400M Project Team, based at MOD Abbey Wood in conjunction with Airbus and the Royal Air Force and tested whether the A400M can use sand surfaces - all part of a programme expanding the aircraft's ability to operate from unprepared runways with significant amounts of cargo

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION – SUPPORTING RAF LOSSIEMOUTH WELFARE FLATS



Picture: Members of the RAF Lossiemouth Contact House and RAFA committees with Wing Commander Dan Lunnon-Wood, Officer Commanding Base Support Wing (standing centre); Flight Sergeant Steve Brothers, RAF Lossiemouth RAFA Liaison Officer (right of Dan); and Mr Dave Mowatt, RAFA Scotland Branch Support Officer (left of Dan).

On a welfare front, one of the main areas that RAFA assists the Serving community is the provision of furnishings and other comforts that ensure the station welfare houses (known as contact houses) are maintained to a high level of provision.

RAF Lossiemouth have a small committee made up of volunteers who ensure the smooth running of one contact house and 6 contact flats located in nearby Lossiemouth. Over the years the contact house committee have relied heavily on the kind gesture of RAFA who have provided amongst other items white goods, microwaves, kettles, toasters, beds, and sofas. Not only does the organisation provide such items they will, subject to approval of funding bid, replace them as and when they are no longer fit for purpose.

Mr Dave Mowatt the RAFA Branch Support Officer for Scotland visited the station recently and provided more good news to the base, with funding now being approved to landscape the rear garden of the flats. The contact house committee have been in negotiation with local gardeners for some time with a view to upgrading the existing tired looking patio area and the news that RAFA will support the venture is one that is welcomed by all at the base.

There is a priority system for the use of the accommodation with extreme welfare cases taking precedence. Moreover the flats are also used by serving parents who may have separated and only have access to their children at weekend. Many of these personnel live in single living accommodation during the week which is simply not suitable for children so the flats provide an environment that both parent and child can enjoy. For many, Lossiemouth can be many miles away from loved ones, the flats are also utilised by personnel who have wider family visiting the area.

Of course the RAF are keen to show their support to their charity and there is also a RAFA committee on the base which is headed up by Flight Sergeant Steve Brothers. The volunteers will actively get involved in fundraising events whilst raising awareness of the fantastic work the organisation do.

Wing Commander Dan Lunnon-Wood Officer Commanding Base Support Wing commented that “without the continued support from RAFA it would be difficult to continue to provide such an excellent welfare provision to our personnel and their families, moreover our servicemen and women who give up their spare time to support both the running of the contact houses and the RAFA organisation should be proud of their contribution in support of welfare to the station.”