

22 (Sandy) Squadron  
Air Training Corps  
Officer Commanding  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### DROP off point for Cadets

Recently, Cadets from 22 (Sandy) Squadron were guests of 201 (Bedford) Transport Sqn Royal Logistics Corps, who are based at the TA Centre, in Kempston.

On arrival, they were met by Capt Jake Baker who had arranged the visit, and after a short welcome brief they were handed over to Sgt 'Hattie' Jaques and Pte French, who would be looking after them for the remainder of the visit. Sgt Jaques took the cadets to the vehicle park and after a safety brief explained the role of the unit and their main vehicle - the DROPS lorry. DROPS, standing for Dismounted Rack Off-load Pickup System, is a 16 tonne 2.5m high and 8.89m long lorry used by the Sqn to supply and transport equipment to the British Army. It can carry its own weight and lift up to 12 tonnes and can still be driven at 50 mph. Quite an impressive set of figures and a good reason to stay well away from it when it is dropping off its load !!!

After the outside tour of the DROPS, Sgt Jaques split the cadets into groups of 4 and took them into the cab to explain how the system works before the cadets took it in turns to operate the racks off-load and pick-up system. Whilst Sgt Jaques was showing this to the cadets, Pte French explained about his life as a new recruit to the Sqn and the training he has undertaken.

For CI Rowland it was a chance to get reacquainted with the DROPS as he had worked with it whilst serving with D Sqn Royal Yeomanry when it performed the NBC Decontamination role for the British Army back in 2000.

Both Sgt Jaques and Pte French kept the cadets entertained for the duration of the visit and were thanked by the cadets and staff at the end of the evening for making the visit worthwhile.

22 Squadron are actively recruiting Cadets both male and female age 13 plus, log on to the website at [www.sandy-aircadets.org.uk](http://www.sandy-aircadets.org.uk) or ring 01234 307776 for further information.

by CI Nigel Rowland. Photo by F/S Henshaw.



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