



31st October 2006

Testing Times

Shooting is ranked as one of the most popular activities available to cadets at 134 (Bedford) Squadron and with two qualified Range Officers, the Squadron shoots on average at least once a month.

As with all the activities undertaken by the Squadron, safety is given the highest priority and there is a requirement for all cadets to be proficient in the safe handling of weapons.

Over the weekend of Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th October 2006, three quarters of the Squadrons cadets successfully completed a Weapons Training Weekend held at the units Headquarters in Shortstown, Bedford.

The cadets were given detailed instruction in the safe handling and correct firing drills for the L98 A1 and No8 cadet rifles. They were then put through a vigorous and robust series of weapons handling tests for both weapons where they were required to demonstrate their competency with the weapons. Cadets have to be trained and tested every 12 months to ensure that their skills are current and cannot fire the weapons unless they have successfully completed a weapons handling test.

Adult Warrant Officer Paul Taylor, the Squadron's qualified Weapons Instructor said, "Our cadets are recognised as having some of the best weapons handling drills in the Wing and this is testament to their hard work during weekends such as these. We take safety very seriously in the Corps and I am pleased that as a result of this weekend our cadets remain safe to handle and fire weapons for the next twelve months."

The cadets who successfully pass their weapons handling tests will be able to put their new and refreshed skills to good use when they attend the next Squadron shooting day on Saturday 25th November 2006.