

22 (Sandy) Squadron
Air Training Corps
Officer Commanding
Flt. Lt. M J Bell RAF VR(T)
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PRESS RELEASE

“Coppers, Choppers and Cadets”

Many people give up their time doing voluntary work as an aside to their normal employment. In the Air Cadet Organisation (ACO) we are fortunate to have many Civilian Instructors and indeed Uniform Staff who give up their time to train and teach the young people in the community, and many of them are Police Officers.

22 (Sandy) Squadron Air Training Corps (ATC) in Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Wing is no different. One of the Civilian Instructors (CI's) is a Police Officer in London and a CI during the evening with a Squadron of Air Cadets, and he also undertakes extra curricular activities on some weekends. PC Nigel Rowland used to be an Air Cadet with 1237 (North Kesteven) Squadron in Lincolnshire, he heard the Air Cadet Organisation advert for Adult Staff on the radio last year as part of the ACO Adult Recruiting Campaign, and decided to “give something back” as a result.

Nigel who has been a Police Officer for 16 years is attached to the specialist operation department in London. During this time he has also amassed 10 years service in the RAF Auxiliaries, with 2729 Squadron at RAF Waddington, 606 Squadron at RAF Benson, and 2 Territorial Army Units. Nigel puts his people skills, communication and leadership qualities down to being a Police Officer but he stated “I couldn't be a Civilian Instructor with the Air Cadets without the support of my wife and the Police, they have been brilliant.”



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Charity Exemption W182/00

On 13th February Nigel was on Air Cadet duties with the Squadron when they visited RAF Coltishall for the day. He along with the rest of the team thoroughly enjoyed the day, and felt very privileged as the Squadron was the last Cadet visit before the Station closure next month. He stated “It had given the Cadets a chance to get hands-on experience, watching the Cadets plan a sortie in flight planning and visiting the Air Traffic Control they were able to see the taxi ways, arrester hooks and the layout of an airfield, which is being taught back at the Squadron as part of their basic training, this has got to be good, it is a much better way to learn than standing there and teaching them in a classroom environment”.

Nigel’s duties at 22 Squadron involve teaching the basic cadets, green exercises and first aid. He said “It’s nice to be in an environment where Cadets want to be here and learn, if anyone has some spare time they should give it a go and see how much they get out of it and they will be surprised, if you put maximum effort in you get the maximum reward, and its fun too”.

Nigel will be awarded a Chief Superintendent’s Certificate of Commendation in March for an incident in Kensington Gardens London in July last year. Congratulations!

Margaret Bell

Flight Lieutenant
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