

22 (Sandy) Squadron  
Air Training Corps  
Officer Commanding  
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Date: 14 Feb 06

## PRESS RELEASE

### **"The Last Goodbye"**

An early start on February 13<sup>th</sup> saw 22 (Sandy) Squadron Air Cadets and Staff take to the road and head for RAF Coltishall. Sandy Cadets were joined by 2500 (St Neots), 104 (City of Cambridge) and 1094 (Ely) Cadets on a "last goodbye" visit to the Station, courtesy of the Station Commander.

On arrival they found the Station fog bound with the cloud base down to 100feet, so no flying was seen during the early morning. However around noon, three Jaguars from 6 Squadron took off for a sortie, which heralded the rest of the Squadron's departure on their sorties.

It was a packed programme for the Cadets, who had the chance to visit the Ops Room, Fire Section, Aircraft Maintenance Flight, 6 Squadron Hanger, Armament Engineering and Survival Equipment, where they learned about the aircraft's chute deployment, the Pilot's parachute deployment and the contents of the survival kit should he or she have to bail out. They also had an in depth presentation by the RAF Regiment, which proved very informative and produced many questions from the Cadets.

The Cadets all from Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Wing felt very privileged as they were the last Cadets permitted to visit before this historical Station, which opened in 1940 closes next month. There was a decided sadness about the Station compared to 2003 when Cadets attended their Annual Camp there. The "buzz" had been replaced with a quiet poignant and resigned calm that had descended since the known closure. With 54 and 16 (R) Squadrons which disbanded in March 2005 and 41 Squadron overseas, 6 Squadron was all that was left, and they will be relocating to RAF Coningsby in a few weeks.



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E-mail (22Sqn@BedsCambsWgATC.org ) Website: [www.sandy-aircadets.org.uk](http://www.sandy-aircadets.org.uk)

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It was natural for the personnel to be saddened by the forthcoming closure, this was apparent, as most spoken to had amassed over 20 years service with the RAF, and for some Coltishall was their only home. They had forged relationships with the local community, made friends and neighbours on Station and their children had attended the local School.

The Jaguar aircraft will be kept in service until around 2008. I do hope they will keep at least one for display purposes.

With grateful thanks to the Station Commander and the ACLO for this excellent visit. Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Air Cadets that attended wish all personnel good luck with their re location.

## Margaret Bell

Flight Lieutenant  
RAF VR(T)  
OC 22 Sqn

### Distribution:

Biggleswade Chronicle  
The Comet  
Air Cadet Magazine/website  
RAF News  
RFCA Press  
Wing Webmaster  
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Encls: Fire Section – Cdts F/S Jeffrey Henshaw, Cpl Alex Turtle, Cdts Akeel Shaikh and Jade Mullens  
Flight Planning – Cdts route plan for a sortie – pictured Cdts Robert Hubbard and Hadliegh Spicer



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