



**21<sup>st</sup> August 2007**

### **He Who Dares**

'Looking up... Go!' With these words Cadet Warrant Officer Antoni Otulakowski, 19, jumped out of an aircraft with nothing more than a parachute on his back.

CWO Otulakowski from 134 (Bedford) Squadron was one of the lucky 60 Air Cadets who were selected for the Air Training Corps Parachute Course, held at RAF Weston-on-the-Green, near Bicester.

The course consisted of training delivered by RAF Physical Training Instructors, and a static line jump from 3,500 feet.

The 60 cadets travelled from the four corners of the UK to Bicester Garrison on Sunday 12th August, where they were hosted for the duration of the course. Once the paperwork was completed, the cadets were split into six syndicates for training purposes.

Monday saw the parachute training start early at Weston-on-the-Green, with a highly experienced parachuting instructor training each group in the variety of disciplines required for the static line jump that the cadets would be participating in.

Accidents due to parachute malfunctions are incredibly unlikely, the chance of both the main canopy and the reserve canopy failing was over one in a million, yet the students were trained to be able to recognise and understand the corrective procedures for each type of malfunction.

After the intensive six hours of training, it was time for the test. A multiple choice paper had to be answered by each student separately before they were allowed up in the air. Then it was the time that everyone had been waiting for; the jump.

The cadets were individually fitted a parachute for their weight and height, and then sent up in lifts of ten people.

CWO Otulakowski, who was in the last lift, watched on as the other parachutists landed in the Drop Zone, or DZ, before it was finally his turn to jump.

After landing safely in the centre of the DZ, he said 'That was fantastic, the most thrilling activity of many that I have done within the Air Cadets. I can't wait to do it again now.'

Bedford Squadron is currently recruiting new cadets and staff members, if you are interested please contact [www.134.org.uk](http://www.134.org.uk) and get in touch with us.