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Wing Media Communications Officer

Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing
Air Training Corps



See Distribution:

Date: 19 Aug 07

PRESS RELEASE

“The Buzz” at RAF Uxbridge

With no runway at RAF Uxbridge, it didn't stop thirty nine Air Cadets and Staff on Camp from flying, they just travelled to RAF Benson, and had a great days flying experience in the Grob Tutor Aircraft, Puma and Merlin Helicopters.

The Cadets from 104 (City of Cambridge), 460 (Dunstable), 2523 (Linton), 2484 (Bassingbourn), 2524 (Oakington), 2500 (St Neots) and 2461 (Sawston) Squadrons in Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Wing undertook a weeks Annual Camp last week and undertook various activities including Orienteering, Command Tasks, Shooting, off Station visits to the Imperial War Museum, Runnymede Air Forces Memorial and an on station visit to HQ 11 Group Bunker and the RAF Regiment GDT Section.

The highlight though of the week had to be the day visit to RAF Benson. All Cadets flew in the Grob Tutor at 6 Air Experience Flight on Station, and they also had “bonus opportunity” flights in the Puma and Merlin. Cadets Flight Sergeant (F/S) Sophie Cracknell, Corporal Taylor Allison, Corporal Lorraine Shaw and Corporal Joe Marr undertook a 1½ hour flight in a Puma low level flying across Hampshire and Hertfordshire, along with other Cadets from Wales in another Puma, who were on a Camp at RAF Benson. On landing F/S Cracknell said “It was brilliant the best ever experience of flying yet”, Cpl Marr also stated “It was so much fun it was brilliant”. Still “buzzing” from the flight, the Cadets also undertook a 30 minute Air Experience Flight in the Grob Tutors along with the other Cadets, and then a 10 minute flight around the Station on a Merlin.

Meanwhile back at RAF Uxbridge Cadets had been practising all week for their Drill Competition, which was due to be marked by SAC Ian Graham from the Queen's Colour Squadron. Very nervous flights of Cadets stood by as SAC Graham approached for the Inspection and Drill sequence, as the Queen's Colour Squadron Drill is exemplary and their reputation goes before them. Both Flights combined Drill and a continuity Drill sequences. Following the Drill SAC Graham spoke to the Cadets about their Drill, Dress and Deportment, he felt A Flight were first overall on their Inspection, but awarded the Drill Competition to B Flight for their overall continuity Drill performance. He congratulated both Flights, and told them to keep up the good work and practice.



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With a full weeks programme coming towards the end, it was time for a "fun night" and paper plates awards before final Parade and awards the following day. The Cadets all received attendance certificates. The Best Shot on Camp by one point gaining Squadron and Region Marksman was awarded to Cpl George Blackwell from 2461 (Sawston) Squadron. The Inter-flight Competition was awarded to A Flight, B Flight won the Drill Competition, and the overall Best Cadet on Camp was awarded to Cpl Max Avard from 2523 (Linton) Squadron who was given a certificate, an engraved tanker with the Uxbridge crest and a RAF Cap. T Shirts were also awarded to Cadet Warrant Officer James Thorne from 2523 (Linton) Squadron for his exceptional duties as IC Flights, and both Flight Commanders for their untiring efforts.

It proved to be an enjoyable Camp with many friendships made and many memories that will last. It was sad to think though, that this historic Station will be closing in 2009.

Grateful thanks to the Station Commander at Uxbridge, the ACLO, all the hosts on Station, plus 28 and 33 Squadrons, and 6AEF at RAF Benson.

Most of all, thanks to all the Cadets for their excellent behaviour, Dress and Department during the week, making it a brilliant happy Camp, and also to the Staff for their hard-work and effort.

Margaret Bell

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Merlin 1 – Cadets and Staff boarding for their flight.

Puma 1 – Cadets in double take off

Puma 2 – Cpls Marr and Allison in the Puma

Cadets 1 – Fun Night

Merlin - Cadets ready for take off. *Photo courtesy of CI Ian Griffiths.*

QCS Inspection – Drill Inspection.. *Photo courtesy of CI Ian Griffiths*



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