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Air Cadets take off

Thirty Air Cadets and Staff from 1406 (Spalding), 511 (Ramsey), 2331 (St Ives) and 2430 (Holbeach) Squadrons in Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Wing returned from RAF Lyneham on Saturday after a exhilarating and hot week on a very busy RAF Station.

The highlight of the week had to be a local 2 hour trip in a Hercules on a very windy day at low level. The views from the rear of the Hercules were spectacular, as the ramp was down, and visits to the flight deck impressed all. As the crew were practising take offs and landings we had a couple of very bumpy landings and although three Cadets were ill, they all tucked into dinner later.

The Cadets were kept very busy during the week with a Night exercise, Arms training and shooting, Bowling, visits to the Fire Section, Air Traffic Control, Simulators, Engineering Squadrons, Medical Wings and Movements to name just a few. Outside visits included the RNAS at Yeovilton, Swimming and Air Experience Flying at Colerne in the Grob Tutor. The Staff also had their fair share of fun, especially for the Padre, Rev Roy Muttram who turned his hand to the fire hose at the Fire Section, but Cadets were on their guard and soon scattered.

On a sadder note the Station had two repatriations during the week. The day before it was fitting and apt to have a short service led by the Regional Padre, Rev Roy Muttram, which took place in the Memorial Garden for them and also for the 47 Squadron crew and passengers of Hercules XV179 who were lost in enemy action in Iraq on 30 January 2005. The youngest Cadet on Camp, Cadet Nicholas Fletcher from 1406 (Spalding) Squadron laid a poppy cross at the base of the Memorial to the crew on behalf of all the Air Cadets and Staff from the Wing.

The Drill Competition winners were A Flight, and the Best Cadet on Camp was won by Cdt Nicholas Fletcher from 1406 (Spalding) Sqn. The week ended with a Disco, where the Camp Commandant had her own "close protection squad" of four Staff, who looked like a cross between the Blues Brothers and "the heavy mob", which proved a great hit and much laughter from the Cadets.

It was a very successful happy week, thanks go to all the Staff and Cadets for making it such fun. Also to the Station Commander Group Captain Neville, his ACLO team, the Regiment and all others involved for hosting us. Margaret Bell

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