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*Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing
Air Training Corps*

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Date: 4/11/08

PRESS RELEASE

The Air Training Corps (ATC) is all about aviation. From its very beginning back in the February of 1941, the ATC has been founded upon knowledge of all things to do with flight. In the modern ATC, this has not changed at all and Cadets are trained in various subjects from how an aircraft actually flies, to navigation and even different types of aircraft and how they are built to suit a role.

Having recently tutored the Cadets in such subjects in preparation for their bi-annual exams, the staff of 207 (Cranfield) Squadron decided to arrange a trip to RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire to show the theories in practise.

First stop on base was No 99 Squadron, who operate the mighty C17 Globemaster aircraft and are a front-line strategic airlift Squadron, meaning they are responsible for the transportation of vast quantities of troops and massive cargoes (including tanks and helicopters) to and from warzones. The Cadets were given a short introduction to the Squadron's history and role before being taken on a detailed tour of the aircraft itself. Being shown the versatility of the aircraft, the rear ramp was lowered to reveal a crew preparing to fit a new type of cargo into the aircraft. The cadets were astounded at the efficiency with which the cargo was loaded and secured, as the job was completed in less than 10 minutes!

Next was a trip to the other side of the airfield where they cadets met the team responsible for preparing such loads and working out how to securely fit new loads that have never before been airlifted. On arrival, the cadets witnessed the delivery of sections from a Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft that only the day before, 99 Squadron had retrieved from the USA. They were shown the giant 'mock-up' body sections of the aircraft used by the RAF for airlifts and showed us examples of some of the more complex loads they had been responsible for, including managing to fit an entire Chinook helicopter inside the C17 that not half an hour before, the cadets had been standing in.

Before lunch was a visit to the RAF Police dog section where they learned about the life of a police dog and got to meet one of the section's oldest dogs.

Then followed a visit to No 101 Squadron, who operate the VC10 aircraft. Their role is to provide transport to smaller numbers of troops but mainly to provide mid air refuelling capabilities to other aircraft. A short presentation on the history of 101 Sqn was followed with a very informative walk around the aircraft itself, bringing to life the theories that the cadets had seen in their lecture books and presentations back home in Cranfield.

The final visit of the day was to No 216 Squadron who also provide refuelling services and transportation for RAF troops, operating the Tristar aircraft.



Flying Officer Matt Dolton RAFVR(T), an instructor at Cranfield commented: *'When we organised the trip, we simply wanted the cadets to see some of the aircraft they had been learning about. We had no*



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idea that the representatives from each of the RAF Squadrons would put in so many hours preparation and give such thorough talks to the cadets. As for the aircraft- it is always great to get onto one, but for they guys to have pulled so many strings to give the cadets total access to all 3 aircraft was incredible. The cadets really learned a lot today and I am confident that this practical knowledge of their subjects will prove invaluable when the exams arrive. We really appreciate the effort and support we have received from the RAF today, in particular Flight Lieutenant Steve Mickelwright for liaising between our own Civilian Instructor Chris Dougherty and the Squadrons ant Brize Norton.'

207 Squadron are now recruiting new cadets from the age of 13 to 18. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Squadron on 01234 752030 or call in at their Headquarters off Merchants Lane, Cranfield between the times of 7:30pm and 9:30pm on a Monday or Thursday evening.

By Flying Officer Matt Dolton
SMCO 207 (Cranfield) Sqn

Notes to Editor

- Attached photo #1: 'DSC00033.jpg'
 - 'The cadets with C17 Globemaster No ZZ172 of No 99 Squadron RAF'
- Attached photo #2: 'DSC00036.jpg'
 - 'Cadets watch on as an enormous C17 Globemaster from No 99 Squadron RAF passes'
- Attached photo #3: 'DSC00020.jpg'
 - 'Cadets get some hands on experience of the vast interior of the C17 Globemaster'
- All pictures are subject to Crown Copyright.



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