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*Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Air Cadets Celebrate Success**

At the end of September, 207 (Cranfield) Squadron hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual awards evening to recognise the successes of the Air Cadets over the past year.

After weeks of careful planning, the event took place at Cranfield Lower School in front of the Cadets' parents and friends and a handful of invited guests. A number of awards were given out by members of the Squadron's staff, but not before a few extra presentations including 207's first Radio Operator's Certificate to Cadet Corporal Tom Harris, 17, an appointment to Civilian Instructor for Mr Chris Dougherty and a plethora of swimming competency certificates for almost each cadet on the Squadron.

Following this, 5 of the Squadron's newest cadets were officially enrolled: Scott Baker, Thomas Connolly, Daniel Palmer, Sharley Randall and Christopher Slaney all making their parents proud.

Then came the formal presentation of awards, chosen by staff at 207, and one (Cadet's cadet) being voted for anonymously by each cadet. The awards were as follows:

Super star award – Corporal Sam Balmbra for 'best impersonation of a member of staff'.  
Attendance award – Corporal Claire Shiner, who achieved over 90% attendance over the year.  
CO's Achievement award – Cadet Sharley Randall, for showing the greatest improvement and determination.  
Cadet's cadet – Cadet Elliot Edmondson.  
Best kept uniform – Cadet Shaun Robinson  
Community cup - Cadet Sharley Randall, for collecting the most sponsorship money at a single event.  
Best newcomer – Cadet Shaun Robinson  
Sports award – Corporal Sam Balmbra  
Education award – Flight Sergeant Lauren Dougherty  
Best flight – 'B' Flight for overall achievement.  
NCO of the year – Corporal Claire Shiner.  
Cadet of the year – Corporal Sam Balmbra.

In addition to these much coveted awards, the Officer Commanding Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing, Wing Commander Paul Bower, was invited to perform some promotions within the Squadron. Corporals Aaron Gadsden and Sam Balmbra were promoted to the rank of Sergeant and Cadet Elliot Edmondson was promoted to Corporal. Although the standard of cadets throughout the Squadron is very high, it was felt that these 3 had excelled themselves throughout the year and should be given a chance to lead the cadets as they continue their successes.

Of the evening, Flight Lieutenant Paul Weston, Officer Commanding 207 (Cranfield) Sqn said: *'It is great to be able to give out so many awards, recognising so many fantastic achievements for the cadets. To be able to invite the parents along also makes it very satisfying. The cadets have once again proved themselves this year and I hope they continue to do so as the squadron continues to grow.'*

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: 'Gadsden Sgt.jpg'
- 'Aaron Gadsden receives his Sergeant stripes from Wing Commander Paul Bower'
- Picture is subject to Crown Copyright.



Squadron HQ, Off Merchants Lane, Cranfield, Beds MK45 0AD

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