

1220 (March) Squadron
Air Training Corps
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See Distribution

PRESS RELEASE

AIMING HIGH AND HITTING THE TARGET

On the last weekend of half term, 5 cadets and 2 staff members of 1220 (March) Sqn ATC, attended the Cadet Inter Service Skill At Arms Meeting (CISSAM) at Pirbright. This was the squadron's first ever attendance at this event and is a shooting competition involving the Air Training Corps, Army Cadet Force and Sea Cadet Corps.

The team was made up of 4 marksman cadets; Sgt Alex Ogden, Sgt Daniel Woods, Sgt Simon Foster and Cpl Daniel Lowe, 1 cadet to perform butts marker duties; Cdt Sophie Radley and coaches Adult Warrant Officer Tammy Curwen and Adult Sgt Brian Goodall.

Throughout the 4 days the team competed in many different types of shoots aiming at targets over various long range distances. Different practises were fired including a deliberate shoot where they aim to get as close to the centre of the target and snap where the targets are only on show for a short period of time.

In addition to the main competition shoot, each day there was a pool bull competition which the cadets entered on the Saturday. Each individual paid 50p for 3 rounds and then aimed at a 1 inch orange disc on a target 300m away. Those that hit the target on the day took a share of the overall prize fund. Cpl Daniel Lowe was the only person to hit the disc and went home with the full prize £35.50.

After the first three days the team competition was finished with the results to be announced at the end of day four. Day four was the tri-service cadet competition where each cadet service selected a team from the best of the individuals and competed against each other. Two of 1220's Cadets were placed in the top 12 of all Air Cadets and represented the Air Training Corps earning a Corps Blue. The Air Training Corps were placed second to the Army Cadet Force but the competition was closer than on previous years. Sgt Simon Foster and Sgt Daniel Woods were presented their Corps Blues by Air Commodore Russ Laforte.

At the results ceremony 1220 Sqn were amazed and pleased to hear that Sgt Simon Foster was the second best air cadet and placed equal tenth overall. Sgt Daniel Woods was placed 11th overall and as they were both in the top fifty of over 200 cadets they were awarded a cadet 50 badge which they are entitled to wear on their uniform. They are the only cadets in Beds and Cambs Wing to hold this award.



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Finally, the team results were announced and 1220 Sqn came second out of over twenty Air Cadet teams and a very impressive fourth place overall. Beds and Cambs Wing Shooting Officer Flight Lieutenant Matthew Turner praised the team on their excellent result. He said "Prior to the competition we had no expectations and were expecting to gain valuable competition experience for future years. To do so well at the first attempt is unprecedented and congratulations go to the cadets and staff that have encouraged them through the year."

On hearing the news Regional Commandant Group Captain Brett Morrell passed on his congratulations and commented "Such a performance can only be realised through strong self-discipline, dedication, hard work and of course talent. Please pass on my congratulations to your teams for this great feat: your cadets competed against the very best and, in doing so, become the same - very well done and do keep it up!"

For further information on 1220 log onto the website at www.1220atc.org.uk .

Kirsty Burnham

Flt Lt
OC 1220 Sqn

Attachments:

cissam.jpg – the shooting team. Back row left to right: Sgt Simon Foster, Warrant Officer Tammy Curwen (RCO), Cpl Daniel Lowe. Front row: Sgt Alex Ogden, Cdt Sophie Radley, Sgt Daniel Woods.

CISSAM1.jpg – Sgt Simon Foster receives his medal and Corps Blue from Air Commodore Russ Laforte, RAF Regiment

CISSAM1.jpg – Sgt Daniel Woods receives his Corps Blue from Air Commodore Russ Laforte, RAF Regiment

Editors note: for the purposes of the main photo the rifles were made safe and no magazines fitted.



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