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The Panther

The official newsletter of 146 Northwich Squadron



Summer 2014 Edition

New Staff at 146

In the recent months, 146 has welcomed many new uniformed staff members: Officer Cadet Moores, Officer Cadet Ross and Sergeant (ATC) Quayle. Off Cdt Moores and Off Cdt Ross had been cadets and then Civilian Instructors before deciding to apply for a commission. Sgt (ATC) Quayle transitioned straight from Cadet Warrant Officer to Sgt (ATC) upon reaching the age of 20.

All new uniformed staff members have to attend a gruelling course at RAF College Cranwell, in which their drill, dress and leadership skills are tested to the limit. All of the 146 contingent passed their courses with flying colours. Sgt (ATC) Quayle also had to take part in a six month placement at 1966 (Wavertree) Squadron, during which he learned new leadership skills and instruction methods.
CWO McGough

Rounder's Competition

On the 31st of May the Squadron took part in the annual Wing rounders competition. This event is new to the Wing and despite this only being our first time entering the competition, we did extremely well, coming second overall, just losing out on first place by a single point.

This was a fun day for all the cadets who attended and many are looking forward to attending next year. In a similar manner to other ATC sporting events, the atmosphere was friendly and encouraging, and as it was a no-experience-required day, everyone was able to join in, no matter their level of sporting ability.

In the end, everyone who took part played well, and we even walked away with medals.
Cdt Snelson



146 Squadron at 75

On Friday 13th of June, 146 Squadron celebrated the 75th anniversary of its creation. 146 (Northwich) Squadron Air Defence Cadet Corps, the forerunner of the ATC, was formed on 13th of June 1939 under the command of Flt Lt F Dutton, parading at Darwin Street Primary School. Cadets and staff members past and present remembered the date with a dinner dance at the Oaklands hotel.

The theme of the evening was 1940s dress, and cadets and staff were very inventive with their outfits, from evacuees to downed pilots. Cadets had been given dancing lessons, and these certainly paid off! Former commanding officer Flt Lt Hornby put the cadets to shame, however, still dancing at the age of 93. Entertainment was provided by the civilian committee, treating the squadron to a live band, who played classic songs from 1939 to today. A delicious three course buffet dinner was also on offer, followed by a "birthday" cake, cut by the oldest and youngest cadets present, Eric Lare, cadet in 1941 and Cdt Roucoule, who joined in 2014.

There was even a photo booth, where cadets and staff could take fun photos!

The dinner dance was a great way to celebrate 75 successful years of 146. After 11 commanding officers, thousands of cadets and countless memories, the Squadron looks forward to another 75 years of service to the community and its members.

CWO McGough



Other News

Promotions:
Flt Sgt McGough to CWO

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www.facebook.com/atc146

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Editor
Plt Off Moores
Writers
Plt Off Moores
Cdt Everall
Cdt Snelson
CWO McGough

On 24th of March, Cpl Neild and Cdt Overall had the opportunity to spend 10 days at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus. This is Cdt Overall's report on her experiences there:

RAF Akrotiri report 2014

After weeks of counting down days (Amy), and last minute replacements (me): we found ourselves amongst fifty five other cadets on the Annual Easter Air cadet Camp to Royal Air Force Akrotiri. RAF Akrotiri is one of last full-scale Royal Air Force stations left outside of the UK, located in the Western Sovereign Base Area on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. Controlled by the British, it acts as a gateway for troops into and out of Camp Bastion located in Afghanistan (all of which we were told by a very chatty woman on the plane).

After a long 13 hour day travelling, we eventually arrived, tired and exhausted, not knowing what treats would lay ahead. When on camp, we were greeted by the RAF Military Police Dog unit which searched for drugs and tobacco; as this is a huge problem for troops out in Cyprus due to the very cheap prices. After being cleared we were then shown to our 'basic' accommodation hoping to get a good night sleep. However this was not the case.

Ten minutes after we were acquainted with our rooms we were in full uniform ready to meet our Camp Commandant and Sergeants. Sgt Scholes, a PTI in the RAF, would act alongside Sgt Bell as our two camp Sergeants, organising and running activities for the next ten days, and much to everyone's surprise they started that evening with a quick change exercise. We were instructed that we had to run back to the accommodation block, change into our DPM uniform and get back on parade in less than five minutes. Once the whistle was blown, frantically we all attempted to run back, unpack our suitcases, and find our uniform and change. It was no surprise to the officers that all cadets managed to get back in fifteen minutes changed and in correct uniform; however to Sgt Scholes' disappointment we failed the task. We were then made to do this, alternating between different uniforms until we could get back on parade in less than five minutes for the rest of the evening. Eventually at 11:30pm local time we fulfilled the task, and were allowed to go to bed aching and exhausted and to the disappointment that Reveille was at 6:00am the next day.

Despite the ridiculous Reveille; we were in good spirits as the sky was clear and the sun was shining (well, rising...). The first day involved presentations on health and safety from different sections of the camp, a camp photograph and a FAMEX (familiarisation exercise) so we could get an understanding of where everything was located on camp. We then were treated to an evening on the beach, making new friends and eating amazing barbecued food.

The next few days involved various different activities such as force development where we could improve our leadership skills, inter-flight competitions where we were challenged on both mental and physical skills, bowling, swimming and one of the best go-karting races ever! This was all followed up by great meals in various different restaurants located around Cyprus.

We then had the opportunity to visit the resident No.84 Squadron (Search and Rescue) and Operation 'Olive Harvest', formally known as the 9th Reconnaissance Wing of the United States Air Force operating U-2 Spy planes, which was a once in a lifetime experience (or twice in a lifetime for me having been last year)!

However, one of the biggest highlights of the camp was the opportunity to travel across to Paphos for the day and spend the evening on a Wavedancer boat on the Mediterranean, being introduced to traditional Greek cuisine and dancing. After this we had a long walk into the Troodos Mountains to spend the night at RAF Troodos. The Troodos mountain range is the highest in Cyprus and that evening they recorded an air temperature of minus two.. having packed all summer clothes, it was a tough night!

To everyone's disappointment we only had a few days left and it was up to the Sergeants to cram in as much as possible. This is exactly what they did! The activities included: rock climbing, DCCT (dismounted close combat trainer), banana boating, Waterworld Waterpark, visit to the American 'civilian' helicopters and a party on the beach!

Although all of these activities we great fun nothing could beat the afternoon we spent with the Red Arrows: every day we were privileged enough to see the Reds fly three times, training for their yearly display season.

To conclude the camp we had a great Awards evening with karaoke and dancing with DJ Squadron Leader Hillman taking centre stage we were also presented with our paper plate awards based on our characters on camp, Amy got 'most gullible' and I got 'best impressionist' for one impression in particular... We were also given the results on the recent inter-flight competition and sadly Poseidon flight (our flight) came a very close second place losing to Zeus flight by only one point.

The camp was (again) the best Air Cadet camp we have ever been on; we did so many once in a life time things, had unforgettable experiences and made the most amazing friends!

Cdt Overall

