

OUTLET

NEWSLETTER – November 2015 Edition

The newsletter of the Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second 2015 edition of the Outlet newsletter. It has been produced to capture all the news articles submitted since the January 2015 publication. 'Outlet' publicises the excellent work DFRMO does to promote its prevention, protection and response successes and to recognise the important contribution our staff make to DFRMO and to Defence. My sincere thanks go out to all those who took the time to produce articles.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and hopefully it will inspire you to submit articles for future editions. We aspire to produce at least 2 editions a year and more if demand requires but its success depends on you taking the time to produce and submit articles of interest.

Finally, there continues to remain many misconceptions about DFRMO and its role within Defence and how successful it has been since its formation in 2006. So please do take the time to promulgate this newsletter far and wide to as many of our customers as possible so that they can enjoy the articles and in so doing promote our organisational achievements.

Phil Salt

Chief Fire Officer
Head of DFRMO

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL AIR TATTOO (RIAT) 2015

The annual Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) took place during July 2015 at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, and once again DFRMO played a major part in the planning and delivery of the event. Programmed as the worlds largest military air show, the now three day event attracts huge crowds to witness displays both in the air and on the ground from many of the world's air arms.

Thirty plus members of the RAF Fire & Rescue Service as well as personnel from the Defence Fire & Rescue Service provided the Response, Prevention and Protection capability to the event as part of the DFRMO assurance delivery. The event which required DFRMO to deploy to Fairford over a ten day period gave all involved an opportunity to develop and experience operational interoperability skills while working alongside numerous emergency services as well as having a unique opportunity to gain operational experience working closely with aircraft from air arms from around the world.

During the build up to the weekends event crews took part in the multi agency major incident Exercise Winged Warrior which is designed to fully test and demonstrate the interoperability of all emergency services.

Fine weather, a full and varied flying programme and the appearance of many airshow favourites guaranteed a sell out crowd on all three public days. The Red Arrows, the first European appearance of the Kawasaki P1 maritime patrol aircraft, and the last RIAT appearance of the Vulcan bomber before its retirement all did their part to thrill the crowds.

The event passed reasonably uneventful from a response perspective with crews responding to a small number of incidents including bird strikes on an Alpha Jet and a Mirage a selection of hot wheel incidents and a car fire within the car park enclosures.

Plans are already at an advanced stage preparing for RIAT 2016 in which DFRMO once again hopes to play a major part.





Major Martin Hess of the Swiss AF aerobatic team was given a time honoured salute by the RIAT fire crew to celebrate his retirement.

DFRMO MOVES TO PERSONNEL & SUPPORT COMMAND

DFRMO has been the centre of attention as we re-grouped on 7 September 2015 at Initial Operating Capability (IOC) from Adjutant General to the newly formed Commander Personnel and Support Command (Comd PSC). HQ PSC has now assumed delegated responsibility for DFRMO's fire risk management delivery services. HQ PSC is located on the second floor of Montgomery House in Aldershot and provides the Army's personnel and institutional support. In order to achieve this it has assumed operational command (OPCOM) of the Army Recruiting and Training Division (ARTD), Army Personnel Centre (APC), Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS), Regional Command, London District (LONDIST) and other formations / staff branches including DFRMO and the Directorate of Children & Young People (D CYP).

To ensure both Comd PSC Lt Gen James Bashall CBE and our 2* Director Mike Cooper were well briefed on our roles and responsibilities a visit programme was arranged. Comd PSC had an enjoyable visit to AAC Middle Wallop where the CFO and the Directors briefed on and presented DFRMO. A visit to the fire station followed where Comd PSC met the duty crew, had a tour of the fire station and then participated in an aerodrome exercise riding with the crew on the RIV.

Mike Cooper our 2* Director visited both RAF Brize Norton and AAC Middle Wallop. At Brize Norton Mike observed an airfield incident, a heat and smoke training exercise and had discussions with the fire station managers and crews. At Middle Wallop he was treated to seeing DFRMO respond to an actual fire (!), took part in an aerodrome exercise and had discussions with the duty crew.

Comd PSC has since chaired the DFRMO Management Board, met a number of DFRMO staff during his PSC visits, held weekly meetings attended by the CFO and is now becoming more familiar as to the uniqueness and complexities of DFRMO with its pan-MOD responsibilities and the various Fire & Rescue Services that make up DFRMO.



GIBRALTAR

Personnel from the Defence Fire and Rescue Service have been officially transferred from the Ministry of Defence to the Government of Gibraltar.

The new service will be known as the Gibraltar Airport Fire and Rescue Service (AFRS), following a memorandum of understanding signed recently by the MOD and the Gibraltar Government.

On 1 October 2015 the Chief Minister Fabian Picardo, Commander British Forces Gibraltar Commodore Ian McGhie, CFO Phil Salt and DCFO Joel Gray all attended a Vesting Day Ceremony at RAF Gibraltar to mark the occasion.

Mr Picardo said: "After many years of trying, we have today transferred the Defence Fire & Rescue Service from the MOD to a wholly owned company of Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar. I promised the great people who make up the DFRS and their representatives from Unite that this would happen and we have achieved it."

AFRS is jointly funded by the Government and MoD and will continue to provide fire cover at Gibraltar Airport during its operational hours as its primary role but will also act in support of the Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Service and MOD as and when required.

Commodore McGhie also addressed attendees at the Vesting Day Ceremony and said: "I am delighted to be here on vesting day to witness the transfer of the provision of Airfield Fire and Rescue Services from the Ministry of Defence to Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar."

"A lot of hard work has been undertaken by both parties in the last 12 months to fully realise this commitment. These new arrangements will support and enhance the continued development and operation of this airfield, which remains key to our collective interests."

As part of the transfer, and in consultation with Unite the Union, AFRS will now consist of two operational watches working on shifts and a number of day staff support personnel. Gibraltar Air Terminal Ltd, a Government owned company, which currently operates and manages the Air Terminal, will carry out the administrative support and facilities management of AFRS. Terence Lopez, Air Terminal Director and CEO of the AFRS said: "I am extremely pleased that this moment has finally arrived, and would like to warmly welcome the AFRS workforce. I am confident that with the professional expertise and experience that the firefighters bring with them we will be well equipped in the future to ensure that the Gibraltar AFRS will continue to provide a high standard of safety and operational capability and look forward to working with them".

The hard work of the men in the fire department and the impact their work hours have on their families were touched on in the Chief Minister's speech. Mr Picardo, who was wearing his AFRS tie with pride, said: "It's been hard work. There have been ups and downs but everyone has shown huge determination to achieve this in the best interests of all parties but, in particular, the people we rely on to ensure our safety on the runway and their families."

In addition, he thanked the families of Gibraltar's firefighters for their support and patience especially when members of the team have to work on days that most people are off, such as National Day.

Mr Picardo also said that the Government would be working together with the MOD and others like the Gibraltar Defence Police and Water Section to see whether it can also transfer those services using the blueprint of this merge.

"As 2017 approaches, I am also very conscious of the need to work to secure the jobs of all others who work for the MoD in Gibraltar and I will be raising these issues with the Minister for the Armed Forces when I meet her shortly," he said.

The Government also announced that it will shortly be going out to tender to procure new Fire Fighting Vehicles.

CFO Phil Salt in his speech referred to the fact that the transfer was made all that more memorable recognising that this year was also the 150th Anniversary of the

formation of a Fire Service in Gibraltar. He went on say that the MOD itself has a long history of providing Fire & Rescue Services in Gibraltar and that he looked forward to a continued close and professional working relationship with the Government of Gibraltar, British Forces Gibraltar and RAF Gibraltar under the new governance and ownership arrangements. After the ceremony the CFO presented certificates of service to all AFRS personnel.



FIRE SAFETY WORKSHOP

During October DFRMO Central Fire Safety Cell hosted a Fire Safety Workshop at the new Cadet Training Centre at Yardley Chase, Northants. The workshop was well represented by Fire Safety Practitioners from across the DFRMO Central region. In the morning we had fire safety updates and practitioners also had the opportunity to share best practice. In the afternoon we had guest speakers from the Fire Door Inspection Scheme and the Defence Safety Authority Defence Fire Safety Regulator who provided continuous development for the teams operating within the Central Area.



APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

RAF Fire Fighter Wins An Apprentice Of The Year Award At The House Of Commons:

SAC Josie Clarke, 26, based at RAF Brize Norton was awarded the Intermediate Apprentice of the Year from People 1st in the Passenger Transport category at the House of Commons on 26th Feb 2015. MP Mike Freer opened the awards ceremony

and stated the importance he saw in apprenticeship schemes. SAC Clarke was singled out for praise due to her commitment and dedication in completing the majority of her apprenticeship whilst deployed to Camp Bastion during the last operational tour of duty by British Forces. The apprenticeship programme is designed to be delivered within the UK as the support mechanisms are in place but due to short notice requirements of operations this was not possible. Normally in this situation an apprentice would be withdrawn for the duration of their tour but SAC Clarke was determined to continue and she received considerable support by her assessor, Cpl Chris Kench, RAF Wittering and the RAF Fire & Rescue Service Accreditation Centre who are committed to provide apprenticeships for all recruits through the Apprentice Management Team. In addition they also develop and deliver Trade related courses to all ranks within the Trade allowing them to use these 'Transferable Skills' after leaving the Service.



DEFENCE FIRE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (DFTDC) MANSTON CIVIC RECEPTION ON 17 SEP 15

On the evening of 17 Sep 15 the Officers', Warrant Officers' and Senior NonCommissioned Officers' Mess at the DFTDC Manston hosted a Civic Reception for local Civic Dignitaries to thank them for the support given to DFTDC Manston by the local community. The guests included Sir Roger Gale MP, Mayors of Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Margate and representatives of local parish councils; members of

the Chambers of Commerce, representatives from the Royal British Legion, Soldiers Sailors Air Force Association, and Royal Air Forces Association. The reviewing officer was Air Vice-Marshal Malcolm Brecht CBE MA FRAeS RAF.

The venue for the occasion was the Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum Manston and our thanks go to the Manager and Trustees of the Museum for allowing DFTDC to hold our Civic Reception at such an appropriate location. 2015 is the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and to mark this historic event a group of World War 2 re-enactment enthusiasts manned a replica of the Bentley Priory Operations Room, complete with plotting table, and a Dispersal Point with pilots waiting for the call to “scramble”.



Guests were given the opportunity to see the displays and talk to DFTDC Manston personnel. It was interesting to talk to those who live close to our community and to hear their enthusiasm as they spoke about Manston. The continued support which DFTDC receives, and which is greatly appreciated by those working here, was key to the Commandant's speech in which he briefed the community of the challenges and changes ahead, thanked them the support given to DFTDC and their forbearance with the plumes of black smoke that regularly emit from the burning ground.

The catering for the Civic Reception was managed by Aramark, DFTDC's Soft Facility Management Industry Partner, who provided a scrumptious selection of canapés, Pimms and soft drinks. These were served by Aramark staff ably assisted by Phase 2 Recruits who were a credit to DFTDC as they moved amongst the guest delivering nibbles and answering questions.

With the venue being held at the Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum there was ample room for an area to be available to members of the public who wished to view proceedings. These were kept clear of the Reception area by a blue line of Phase 2 Recruits who acted as extremely good natured “bouncers”. The area for the public was greatly appreciated by those who came along to see DFTDC's event.

The weather during the evening was warm with a light wind. This was particularly important as the RAF Falcon Parachute Display Team performed their final display of the season at the Reception. The clear skies meant spectators could see Falcons exit the aircraft and the light wind meant the coloured smoke coming from the parachutists heels did not disperse, thus the intricate patterns formed by the manoeuvring parachutists hung in the sky. Thanks must be given to Thanet District

Council for permitting the road to be closed for safety reasons and to the DFTDC Military Police Guarding Service for executing and enforcing the road closures.



The evening ended with a Sunset Ceremony during which a 31 Sqn Tornado timed a fly past which coincided exactly with the lowering of the Ensign. The low-level flight, with afterburners lit and subsequent barrel roll (with after burners) was a fitting end to an extremely enjoyable event.



CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS COMMENDATION D04 FYLINGDALES

The CFO attended D04 Fylingdales on Wednesday 18th March 15. Part of the scheduled visit was to make a presentation to the duty crew who were on duty during

an incident on the night of 24th June 14. The duty crew was White crew and during their night shift they attended a Medical emergency within the Solid State Phased Array Radar building. A member of staff required urgent medical assistance and the duty crew performed life saving treatment until the arrival of the local ambulance service which was approx 20 minutes away. An Automated External Defibrillator was used during the emergency treatment which resulted in the patient being transferred by SAR Helicopter to a specialist hospital. The actions taken at the time by the duty fire crew ensured that the patient survived and has now made a full recovery after life saving treatment in hospital.

The CFO commented “without their quick response and professionalism, the situation and outcome could have been very different. The crews are on 24 hr readiness and this is a good example of supplementary core activities”.

Wg Cdr Dave Keighley, Stn Cdr RAF Fylingdales commented, “the Station prides itself on leading the way on working as a team as we have a unique mix of staff of Military, Ministry of Defence Civil Servants, Police and Guard Service, Defence Fire and Rescue and Contractors and this recognition highlights the commitment and professionalism within the Station”.



Pictured from right to left are: FF's John Hodgson, Alistair Dean, Robert Corney, CFO Phil Salt, CM Charles (Tich) Harland, FF Robert Russell, SM Jim Davis and SDM Alex Middleton.

FIREFIGHTER DAVE KIRK RETIREMENT D04 RAF FYLINGDALES

After over 40 years service with the RAF Fire Service (20 years) and DFRS (20 years) FF Dave Kirk retired on 27th May 2015. Dave was innovative in the creation of

a Web Site for the Fire Section at Fylingdales long before the introduction of MOSS which was utilised by many fire stations to access many fire related documents. Dave had been a keen First Aid instructor during his career and influenced the First Aid training at Fylingdales including specialist AED training. SDM Alex Middleton attended the Fire Station on 7th May where a letter of appreciation from the CFO was presented. A retirement function was held at Whitby Rugby Club on 29th May 15 which was attended by family, friends and work colleagues both current and old where Dave was presented with an engraved Hip Flask and vouchers for golf equipment.



Pictured are: SDM Alex Middleton with Dave and SM Jim Davis



Pictured are: Dave with his crew mates from L to R: FF Dan Watson, FF Martin Harrison, FF Dave Kirk, CM Mark Storr and FF Paul Hutchinson.

LONG SERVICE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL PRESENTATION

Firefighter David Kirby has received his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Area Manager Alex Middleton visited RAF Leconfield Fire station to present David Kirby with his medal. An emotional day was had by all, as the 31st March 2015 was

the last full day of DFRMO providing operational fire cover for the RAF Search and Rescue Sea-Kings of E Flight 202 Squadron. The RAF have operated SAR at Leconfield since 1957 with DFRMO (in one shape or other!) present almost as long.



Pictured are: Ff Dave Kirby receiving his certificate from SM Justin Weston.

RAF FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE MEMORIAL



National Memorial Arboretum

The national memorial Arboretum is situated in Staffordshire on the edge of the National Forest and is the UK's year-round centre of Remembrance. The memorial grounds are set in a woodland landscape and is home to over 300 memorials including the Armed Forces Memorial. Each of the Armed Services has its own area where trade and squadron memorials are placed for family, friends and colleagues to have a place to remember their loved ones.

In 2008, WO Martin Harris came up with the idea to create an RAF Fire & Rescue Service memorial within the RAF section of the memorial grounds. There is a set of hedges made to look like an SAC rank and the RAF Regiment and RAF Police have

a memorial each using 2 parts of the propeller and the idea was to have the third as RAF Fire & Rescue Service memorial meaning of course that the 3 elements of trade group 8 (TG8) had memorials together.

Fund raising started and around £6,800 was raised by serving members of the trade and over the last 2-3 years members of the RAF & Defence Fire Services association have raised a further £3,300 bringing the current raised funds to £10,030. The account itself is in the process of moving across to Lloyds bank where it will attract more interest than the current account (increase from 0.25% to 1.75%).

The potential costs of the memorial have increased since the idea was born and the initial £20,000 cost has increased to nearer £30,000 for a plot, memorial stone and lifetime maintenance fee. With that FS Steve Pickston has recently taken on the role of lead serving member to work alongside Mr Trevor Hayes from the RAF & Defence Fire Services association and is in the process of forming a committee with members from each TG8 fire station elected to drive the project forward towards its target.

We plan a number of charity events and initiatives to raise the funds as soon as possible. We have started a just giving crowd funding page for ad-hoc donations and hope soon to have standing order scheme where persons can donate a small amount each month for continued funds to roll in. A 3 monthly update is also to be produced to keep everybody informed on how the project is looking. For any details or if you would like to help please feel free to contact FS Steve Pickston on 07770721144 or email bzn-tacatfiremgr@mod.uk.

The link for the just giving page is:

<https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/raffrsmf>



If you haven't visited the memorial it's a special place to visit, with a number of touching memorials, both Military and Civilian based in beautiful surroundings. The memorial wall from Camp Bastion has recently been relocated to the memorial site and as most will know the RAF Firefighters who served in Afghanistan met and carried almost every wounded casualty to leave the battlefield from their aircraft so this is a particularly special place for those personnel but equally a place

for all to reflect on those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their Country. Group visits are welcomed and the visitors centre has excellent facilities.

RAF LECONFIELD SEARCH & RESCUE FIRE COVER

The 31 March 2015 was the last full day of DFRMO providing operational fire cover for the RAF Leconfield based Search and Rescue Sea-Kings of E Flight 202 Squadron. The RAF have operated SAR at Leconfield since 1957 with DFRMO (in one shape or other!) present almost as long suffice to say it was an emotional day for all.



CHARITY EVENT CAR WASH

A charity event car wash took place on 8 April 15, the event saw several members of the DFRS F03 Kinton Fire Station taking part in a combined charity event which raised £71 for the Fire Fighters Charity and £71 for the Sodexo Stop Hunger Charity. The event started at 1230 and finished at 1400. We had a total of 16 cars come in various shapes and sizes. The New RCWO volunteered his services on his very first day (thanks very much). The team pulled out all the stops to support this event



Thanks for all your hard work guys, you did your charities proud.

NATIONAL ARMED FORCES DAY – 27 JUNE 2015



A team of RAF Trade Group 8 Fire fighters from RAF Northolt and RAF Odiham attended the National Armed Forces Day Event on the 27 June 2015. The aim was to demonstrate to members of the public the capability of the RAF whilst also raising the profile of the Service. The team sourced an RIV and a multitude of operational equipment coupled with specialist equipment recently returned from Op HERRICK; further Assistance was provided for the event by the DFRMO South Area Management Team who organised DFRMO merchandise and fire safety literature thus enabling the delivery of community fire safety at the same time as highlighting the work that DFRMO carry out.

It was abundantly clear that the RAF Fire Service stand was the most popular of the day with significant numbers of people queuing to look around the appliance and speak to the NCO's and Airmen about their experiences. One interested individual was the Prime Minister who took the time to speak to Sgt Ciaran Dineen asking him various questions on deployment locations and the capabilities of the RAF Fire Service. The event was a resounding success and the team involved did an exceptional job at raising the profile of not only the Service but the Trade Group and DFRMO.

The Team that attended the event were as follows;

RAF Northolt

- Sgt Ciaran Dineen
- SAC Jonathan Tilley
- SAC Pete Wellington

RAF Odiham

- SAC Josh Palmer
- LAC Antony Roberts

CHAINSAW TRAINING AT RAF SPADEADAM

[City & Guilds NPTC Level 3 Level 3 Award in Preparing and Agreeing Emergency Tree work Operations Incorporating, safe access to casualties trapped in vehicles hit by fallen trees - article by FF Ross Brunton].

In December 2014 a business case was raised by FSM Steve Bray highlighting the need for RAF Spadeadam's Fire Service to be trained in emergency tree removal from vehicles.

Every year in the UK motorists are killed by being crushed and trapped by falling trees. One case in particular a Local Authority fire crew took over 70 minutes to remove enough of the tree to be able to commence extraction of the casualty. Due to the length of time it took to gain access to the vehicle using standard rescue equipment, the motorist unfortunately died. Later findings reported that had the Fire Service been able to remove the casualty sooner they could well have survived. Because of this, a specialist chainsaw course was designed teaching quick safe methods of accessing vehicles covered by fallen trees.

Fortunately, to date, there have been no incidents of any vehicles at RAF Spadeadam being hit by falling trees, but, last year alone on and around the unit, around 30 trees that had to be removed by the fire service that had fallen onto the roads and forest tracks. With this in mind, chainsaws in hand, three brave Fire fighters from RAF Spadeadam, CM Liddle, FF Brown and myself, were enrolled onto the specially designed 3 day course held in the Lake District on the Edenhall estate.

Day one was aimed at building on previously learning skills and qualifications. Working on advanced assisted felling techniques for trees weighted against a given felling direction. This was achieved utilising a variety of different pieces of equipment. The first tree to be felled was assisted using a piece of kit which is at this time unavailable for DFRMO, a hydraulic wedge, which when pumped gradually took the weight of the tree and forced it over. The second tree was assisted over using equipment that we carry on Spadeadam's fire appliance, a Tirfor winch with strops. The third technique for assisted felling saw us creating a 4:1 mechanical advantage system using two lengths of rope, karabiners and pulleys, again equipment that is routinely carried by us on the fire appliance. Although similar equipment is carried on the appliance, it is part of the working at height equipment; none at this time is carried specifically for assisting in the felling of trees.



Day two was based around breaking down the crown of an open spreading broad leaf tree. It taught us how to risk assess and identify which branches of a felled tree could be easily removed and which ones to leave bedded into the ground as anchors for safety and stability. It also showed us assessing and cutting techniques used to safely remove dangerous branches that were under severe tension or compression. If cut incorrectly these branches can spring back violently onto the chainsaw operator, breaking bones, or worse. The new skills learned would be vital for the following days exercise.

Day three saw us gain safe access through the crown of a fallen tree to casualties trapped in a motor vehicle. A large multi limbed fir tree, very much like the ones found on and around RAF Spadeadam, was chosen by the instructor and expertly dropped on top of a sacrificial car. Under the watchful eye of the instructor we were left to our own devices to utilise our new knowledge and skills. CM Liddle took charge, as he may well have to do at a similar incident on unit, and between us we assessed and quickly removed the minimum number of branches needed to be able to gain safe access to the outside of the vehicle. This took us no longer than 15 minutes. On unit at this point hydraulic cutting gear carried on the fire appliance would be employed to enter the vehicle and remove the casualty.



We found this course to be interesting, very testing and rewarding. Hopefully we will never have to use these skills in a real life situation but are now confident we would be able to do so and complete a rescue in a quick and safe time frame.

DFRMO CYPRUS COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY - FIRE SAFETY WEEK 2015

DFRMO Cyprus Area Manager Martin Millar and Station Manager Aristos Aristidou on the 20 April 15 attended the opening ceremony of the Fire Safety Week 2015 in Nicosia. The event was held at the new building of CNP Insurance Company, the sponsor, of the Fire Safety week.



The event began with a press conference with the Fire Safety Week message «Prevention is everyone's responsibility», which was under the auspices of the Minister of Justice and Public Order Mr. Ionas Nikolaou for the 14th consecutive year organized jointly between the RoC Fire Service and the CNP Insurance. During the event, two Communities, Peristerona and Moniatis were awarded for their contribution to the foundation of new Fire Stations in their communities.



The Fire Safety Week provided an opportunity for Fire & Rescue Services and interested organisations to collaborate in addressing fire safety issues, which affect their communities. This year's DFRMO Fire Safety Week run from 20 – 27 April and was running in line with Republic of Cyprus Fire service.

DFTDC AT THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

From 14-18 May 15 the Commandant DFTDC, Wg Cdr Chris Thorpe, and course instructors Sgt Matt Gorfin and Sgt 'Bomber' Lancaster accompanied the fourteen recruits of Firefighter Course 06/14 on the International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes in the foothills of the Pyrenees in France. The Pilgrimage, begun as an act of reconciliation between French and German troops after WWII, is instigated each year by the French Minister of Defence and comes in the form of an invitation from the French Chief of the Defence Staff to the British Chief of the Defence Staff to engage in an act of international fraternity and celebration. It is attended by national military contingents from across the world totalling in excess of 25,000 military personnel and dependants.

Lourdes has been an important site of pilgrimage, particularly for Roman Catholics, since the Marian apparitions seen by a young peasant girl, Bernadette, in 1858. The town now hosts approximately 6 million visitors every year from around the world. The British contingent is formed of groups from within all 3 services and this year totalled approximately 250 personnel including the Band of the Parachute Regiment. It has no requirements of religious belief for those who join it; the focus is on fraternisation between services and nations and on reflection on the particular challenges of military life by individuals. However, members of the British contingent are required to attend all formal services and ceremonies.

The group was accommodated with the majority of the British contingent at the very comfortable Hotel Alba on a full board basis from where the contingent marched with the Band through the town to formal events. Over the long weekend there was an historical tour of the town, daily Mass, a Penitential Service, Stations of the Cross, participation in the Torchlight Procession and the colourful opening and closing ceremonies. The undoubted highlight for the young recruits was the opportunity to socialise with other Military personnel from around the world, often long into the night. The Commandant and Sgts were also to be found engaging in similar activities!

DFTDC Manston was the second largest group after the Band. The recruits, in particular, were congratulated by many on their turn out and their willingness to immerse themselves wholeheartedly into all aspects of the Pilgrimage. They were a credit to Manston, DFRMO, the RAF and the British Military.



RUNNING FOR ROBBIE

Article by Cpl Sven Blomquist

On the 26th of September 2015 a group of serving RAF Fire Fighters came together to complete a running event to raise awareness and money for an injured colleague. Cpl Robbie Lynch broke his back in 3 places whilst serving on operations in Bastion Afghanistan responding to a state 2 incident in 2014. After months of care from the Military, civilians and charities alike, Robbie was put under the care of staff at Headley Court Rehabilitation Centre. He can (much to the amazement of medical personnel) use his legs again, but has remained in a lot of pain with many complications.

It's been a hard long road for Robbie with his recovery, and he wanted to thank and praise the smaller charities that did so much for him and his family during the tough first few months of recovery. After a conversation with him about what four particular charities did (Fisher house, Troop aid, Cakes for Casualties & RAF Benevolent fund) and the care and support they showed him, I decided to organise an event that would raise awareness and some money to give a little back to those who helped one of our own.

Four events to be completed at the same time in 4 different locations around the globe would be a great way to complete our "Running for Robbie". A half marathon assault course "Tough Mudder" here in the UK, and 3 half marathons to be ran where we had troops in the trade; Minhad UAE, Mount Pleasant Complex Falkland Islands and RAF Akrotiri Cyprus.

In total 10 serving Fire fighters began training for the event and spread the word about the lesser known charities raising money along the way. Bright and early SACs Richard Draper and Gaz Robberts ran their 13.1 miles in Minhad and Akrotiri, whilst Sgt Ant' Lydon did the same in MPC Falklands. On hearing about the event SAC Mark Henderson in Akrotiri decided to run a full marathon the day before the events on a treadmill, displaying the team spirit often seen throughout our trade.

In Winchester FS Leon Thrussell, Sgt's Jim Graves and Alex Wiggin teamed up with Cpls Atkins and myself with SAC's Steve Barrick and Steve Dunks to run the "Tough Mudder" course.

All events went to plan and so far a total of £1800 is still growing. Robbie and his fiancé Louise attended the Tough Mudder to laugh at us all getting covered head to toe in mud and sweat. They were shocked to receive complimentary tickets, T-shirts and head bands which the company donated after they heard about Robbie's story.

Robbie remains a big part of the Fire Section at RAF Marham and has worked with 100s of our trade both Military and Civilian over his 17 years service. I hope people can find it within them to support his cause and spread the word of these wonderful charities and if they want to donate to the event they still can by following the link below:

www.justgiving.com/teams/running4robbie

Robbie is the 1st Fire fighter to be so seriously injured on Ops doing his job in a long time and he needs plenty more support and care from within the trade. Unfortunately, due to his injuries, he will have to leave the military, much to his disappointment. 'I miss him lots and I know all the lads at Marham and the trade wish him well'.



SAC Gaz Roberts (Minhad)



SAC Richard Draper (Akrotiri)



At the start of "Tough Mudder"
 FS Leon Thrussell, Sgt's Jim Graves &
 Alex Wiggin, Cpls Atkins & Blomquist with
 SACs Steve Barrick and Steve Dunks.
 Cpl Robbie Lynch (kneeling)



Upon completion



Beer Time! Robbie still looking good.

THE EMERGENCY SERVICES SHOW 23-24 SEPTEMBER 2015

DFRMO was again represented by its members at the Emergency Services Show (ESS) two day event. The aim of the attendance was to enhance public and industry awareness of DFRMO. AM Barry Lewis was the appointed Executive Officer with GM Paul Slack the nominated Project Officer. The ESS was a major success again this year with many exhibitors from around the world taking part.



BRITISH FORCES GERMANY (BFG)

The withdrawal of British Forces from Germany continues at pace. JHQ at Rheindahlen closed in the summer of 2013 and this summer (2015) we saw the

closure of the Bergen Hohne Garrison and the departure of approx 10,000 military personnel and their families.

As the BFG footprint reduces, sadly, so does DFRMO. This September both Elmpt and Fallingbostel fire stations were closed thus reducing the DFRMO presence in Germany to just 2 fire stations (Gutersloh and Sennelager).

The fire station at Elmpt was sited within Javelin Barracks and was once an Airfield Crash Rescue station. Javelin Barracks used to be known as RAF Bruggen. The RAF withdrew in 1999 and the fire station changed role to provide domestic cover. Elmpt is sited in a rural area and the local volunteer fire services did not have the resources to cope with providing fire services to the population that had been introduced by the military.

When the DFRMO fire station in Rheindahlen closed in 2013 the DFRMO fire training school was relocated to Elmpt. We have therefore moved the school to Sennelager so that DFRMO BFG can continue to provide outreach military fire training.

The fire station at Fallingbostel was first set up in 1949. In 1963 the first civilian Station Manager was appointed and the station was then permanently manned by Locally Employed Civilians (LEC). From 1963 until closure in 2015 the station only saw 3 FSMs!

After 66 years the Station closed on Sep 25th 2015 and a closing down ceremony was held. Guests included the Burgemeister (Mayor) of Oebke, the Chief of Staff from Bergen Hohne Garrison and one particularly special guest, Herr Hans-Martin Voss. Hans was employed at the station from the beginning in 1949. He retired in 1992 and was there for the closing ceremony some 66 years after he first put his fire kit on.

BFG is now reduced to one Garrison which covers Paderborn, Bielefeld and Gutersloh. Strategic Defence Security Review 2015 will likely give us fixed closure dates for the remainder of the sites. DFRMO BFG still provides a fire safety delivery service to the European Joint Support Unit (EJSU) and to other isolated detachments within Germany. This means there is still a considerable amount of travelling for the Area Management Team in BFG.





DFTDC MANSTON GRADUATIONS

Recruit fire-fighter graduations are a highlight for everyone at DFTDC and all welcome the opportunity to celebrate the hard work and achievements of new, motivated fire-fighters along with their families and friends.

Graduation Day starts with a now traditional breakfast for the recruits with their course instructors and the Commandant. Families and friends start arriving at the Blues & Twos Club from 9am before proceeding to the Cinema for an introduction. Afterwards, once they are seated in the Vehicle Bay, the Reviewing Officer joins them to observe 2 practical demonstrations of skills learnt on the various phases of the course. The first demonstration is a road traffic incident involving a Full Access Extraction of a live casualty, from initial deployment of the Appliance through the various stages of rescue, using a team approach and utilising E-draulic Rescue apparatus and other associated equipment with the eventual Roof Removal and casualty extraction. They then conduct a high level fire fighting exercise where recruits will deploy with 3 vehicles and deploy 13.5m ladders and hose lines making entry at height to premises also incorporating Water Relay from Appliance to Appliance. After a short break the graduating course forms up in the vehicle bay for the presentation of course certificates and the award of the Ewen Garwood Memorial Axe to the best recruit.

The Reviewing Officer then has the opportunity to address the recruits and always thanks the families, in particular, for their support. Following the Fire fighters' Prayer, led by the padre, there are formal photographs after which buses transport guests to the Fire Ground for the undoubted highlight, the crash demonstration.

The crash demonstration involves an ICAO 8 fire crew responding to a worst case scenario involving a simulated wide bodied Aircraft Crash with a Large Live Fire bund. The crews deploy major and rescue vehicles and the Students carryout rescue procedures and extinguish the flame mass ensuring survivable conditions are created within the allocated 3 minutes time frame. This all takes place within an environment where flames can reach up to 30 meters high and extreme temperatures can be felt by the onlookers.

The Reviewing Officer, staff and Guests then move to the Combined Mess for a buffet lunch. After a quick change the now graduated recruits are marched to the Mess by the winner of the Axe where they are greeted by the Reviewing Officer before joining their families and friends. The Reviewing Officer always takes this opportunity to meet as many recruits and families as possible.

A successful initiative has been to invite representatives from the recruits' receiving units to the graduations. This gives them the opportunity to witness their new firefighters graduating, to meet them and to provide some reassurance prior to their important move to their first fire fighting jobs. DFTDC is always happy to welcome DFRMO staff from across the organisation to graduations.

The Commandant is grateful to the following senior officers who have given their time generously to be the Reviewing Officer at recent graduations:

RF03/14 Gp Capt Paul Atkinson, Gp Capt Operational Training, HQ JFAC

RF04/14 Gp Capt Mark Smith, OC Specialist Training, 22(Trg) Gp

RF05/14 Air Vice-Marshal Andy Turner, AOC 22(Trg) Gp

RF06/14 Gp Capt Martin Johnson, Director National Air Defence and Space Operations, 1 Gp

RF 01/15 Air Cdre Malcolm Crayford, Service Complaints Team, HQ Air Cmd

RF02/15 Air Cdre Al Gillespie, Air Officer Battlespace Management, 1 Gp



Picture: RF 02/15

MANSTON GETS FIRED UP FOR FAMILIES DAY

Article by SAC(T) Jack Savage Project Officer for Families Day

The Defence Fire Training and Development Centre at Manston took the opportunity this summer to give the families of all those integral for the running of the Centre of Excellence an opportunity to see what goes on behind the unit's fence line.

On the first Saturday of August we were gifted with a beautiful British Summers day, the first tick in the box on a check sheet for a smooth, fun packed and enlightening day. The fires were prepped ready for the displays that would provide the wow factor, the magazines were loaded ready for the aspiring marksmen to make their marks on their targets and the BBQ's were lit ready to fuel the families and friends for the day's events. From Welly Wanging, Hose Football, Bouncy Castles and Gladiator Duelling for the kids (mostly) to firing a Light Support Weapon on the range, there was entertainment and some healthy competition for all ages.

With over four hundred people attending the day there were plenty of enthralled faces as the Multi Sim and Bund were lit and extinguished in a flurry of blue lights and consummate professionalism as the fire crews doused the roaring flames to be left with only the sound of applause from the crowds.



That wasn't it on the fire front though, as the enthused crowds also made their way to a backdraft demonstration which was sure to raise, if not singe, a few eyebrows. Again more applause and a deepened respect for what these guys do on a day to day basis was palpable in the air.



Added to all that was going on; a demonstration of how a crew would approach a Road Traffic Accident. This had all those in attendance in awe of the power of the cutting equipment that could dice a car into pieces and have the occupants out and off for potentially lifesaving treatment in no time at all. An eye opener for all present and a reminder of road safety for everyone!

One of the most popular events of the day though had to be the chance to lay down behind one of our rifles and squeeze off some rounds. As the air filled with the sound and smell of expended ammunition it was an adrenaline hit for anybody who hadn't fired before and a guaranteed ear to ear smile for those lucky enough to get a slot. A small taste of the Armed Forces and a chance for some old dogs to relive the glory days.



After a day of hot fires and peaking testosterone on the range there was the chance to cool off with a nice cold drink in The Blues & Twos Club, take a relaxed walk around a few stands and take a look at a few old and new military vehicles kindly provided for the day. RAAFA were also present on the day, upon request, as well as collections for Cancer Research. Both raising money and awareness for worthy causes in line with Manston's ongoing efforts to give something back.

For those who weren't ready to call it a day, of which there were many, the Blues and Twos Club hosted a disco to keep the stragglers entertained and all those who had been working hard adequately refreshed. The cheers of satisfaction could be heard from Minster as those working in the heat finally got the 'cold one' they'd been working towards all day.

A thoroughly enjoyable day that would not have been possible if it wasn't for the time and efforts of all those involved. Thank you to all those who attended and a huge thank you for all of those who went above and beyond in helping make the day possible.

“OUTLET” NEWSLETTER

Thank you to all those who took the time to submit articles for this edition of 'Outlet' as always it is very much appreciated. It is extremely important that we capture and record the excellent work DFRMO does and the enormous part it plays in supporting Defence and wider communities, saving lives and protecting Defence assets.

We are always grateful to receive “Notice board” type items relating to wider DFRMO activity for dissemination within the “Outlet” newsletter. All articles should be sent to DFRMO-HQOUTLET@mod.uk.