

RAFALO UPDATE – MAY 2016

This is the latest edition of the RAFALO Update, which includes information on changes to the Service. If you have anything you wish me to cover, please advise in the usual way via Adrian.morris941@mod.uk

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS LIST

GENERAL

Air Vice-Marshal S D Atha CB DSO to be promoted to Air Marshal and appointed Deputy Commander Operations, Headquarters Air Command, in June 2016 in succession to Air Marshal G J Bagwell CB CBE, who is leaving the Service.

Air Vice-Marshal S K P Reynolds CBE DFC to be promoted to Air Marshal and appointed Deputy Commander Capability, Headquarters Air Command, in May 2016 in succession to Air Marshal Sir Barry North KCB OBE, who is retiring from the Service.

Air Vice-Marshal S C Evans CBE to be promoted Air Marshal and to be Deputy Commander Allied Air Command, Ramstein in August 2016 in succession to Lieutenant General D de Longvilliers.

Air Cdre G M Mayhew CBE to be promoted AVM and to be AOC No 1 Group with effect from 28 Apr 16.

Air Cdre M Quigley to be promoted Acting AVM and to be Director Technical in the DE&S organisation with effect from 1 Apr 16.

Acting Air Commodore L J Bennett was promoted Air Commodore on 5 April 2016 and will be appointed Assistant Chief of Staff Operations at Headquarters Air Command in September 2016 in succession to Air Commodore J J Stringer whose appointment as Air Officer Commanding No 83 Expeditionary Air Group and United Kingdom Air Component Commander, Al Udeid, Qatar has previously been announced.

Air Commodore W A W James CBE to be Director Ground Training and Senior Air Staff Officer No 22(Training) Group, Headquarters Air Command in July 2016 in succession to Air Commodore C R Elliot CBE whose appointment as Chief of Staff Personnel and Air Secretary has previously been announced.

Air Commodore J B Portlock to be Chief of Staff Air Command with effect from 6 June 2016. This position was vacated by Air Commodore I F Vallely OBE whose appointment as Commander Joint Cyber Electro-Magnetic Activities Group, Joint Forces Command has previously been announced.

Group Captain R P Barrow OBE to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Air Commodore Air Staff in the Ministry of Defence in June 2016 in succession to Air Commodore D J Toriati OBE whose appointment as Executive Co-ordinator International Military Staff at Headquarters NATO has previously been announced.

Group Captain R C Maddison OBE to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Head Capability Joint Plans in the Ministry of Defence with effect from 15 July 2016 in succession to Air Commodore A D Wallis OBE, who is leaving the Service.

Group Captain S M Miller to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Assistant Commandant (Air) at the Joint Services Command & Staff College in November 2016 in succession to Air Commodore A J Byford, who is retiring from the Service.

Gp Capt J P Wariner to be promoted Air Cdre and to be AO A6 and A6 Force Commander, HQ Air with effect from 1 Apr 16.

Gp Capt D C Tait MBE to be OC RAF Honington in Dec 16.

EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER

Zephyr 8. A contract has been signed to build two cutting edge Zephyr 8 Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in the UK for testing by the MOD. The £10.6 million contract with Airbus Defence and Space (ADS) was signed last month as part of a commitment to provide next generation battlefield intelligence capabilities to the UK Armed Forces. Although a UAS, Zephyr is referred to as a High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS), reflecting the fact the aircraft flies above the troposphere at 70,000ft – almost twice the altitude of commercial airliners - and well above disruptive weather systems that can ground or limit other aircraft. The 60kg aircraft can stay airborne for 30 days, travel up to 2,000km a day, and is closer in capabilities to space-borne satellites than a conventional UAS but costs just a fraction of the price. Powered by two electric motors during the day it has a 25 metre wingspan that is covered in solar panels and houses the high performance batteries that keep the aircraft flying at night. It is envisioned that HAPS could be a persistent presence over the battlefield and provide useful intelligence for far longer than previously possible. This contract will allow the UK to conduct an Operational Concept Demonstration programme, to understand whether HAPS can fulfil a requirement for persistent surveillance capability as announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) 2015. The first Zephyr 8 should take its first flight in 2017.

Lightning Force HQ Development and Transition. From 1 Apr 16, the following actions will occur:

- The UK Lightning Force begins to form at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina, USA.
- The formal handover of relevant sites at RAF Marham to building contractors, marking the beginning of the execution phase of infrastructure redevelopment at the future home of the Lightning Force.
- The Lightning Force Headquarters will begin to transition from HQ 1Group, RAF High Wycombe to RAF Marham.
- Air Commodore Harvey Smyth OBE DFC MA RAF will be appointed as the Lightning Force Commander.
- The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has announced contracts worth £167 million to upgrade and build new facilities at RAF Marham, the future home of the UK's F-35B Lightning II squadrons. The contracts, which will create 300 new jobs, will allow for the addition of maintenance, training and logistics facilities to the station in East Anglia, all of which will be dedicated to the next-generation fighter aircraft.

Hawk TMk1 and TMk2. The Ministry of Defence has committed £372 million across four five-year support contracts for the continued in-service support of the the fleet of Hawk TMk1 and TMk2 Hawk.

Establishment of 1 Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing. The current 1 Gp ISTAR Force Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination (PED) elements will converge under the command of No. 1 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (1 ISR) Wg on 1 Apr 16, in order to deliver a more coherent and sustainable organisation that integrates all 1 Group generated platform and sensor agnostic PED into the UK Single Intelligence Environment

As ever, if there is anything you would like information on, please e-mail me or send your correspondence via the Area Director or BSO.

Yours, In friendship

Ady Morris