

## RAFALO UPDATE – JULY 2017

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](mailto:Adrian.morris941@mod.uk)

### SENIOR APPOINTMENTS LIST

**Air Vice-Marshal G D A Parker OBE** to be Head British Defence Staff (United States) and Defence Attaché Washington in August 2017 in succession to Major General R J Cripwell CB CBE.

**Group Captain A S Burns** to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Assistant Chief of Staff Manpower Requirements & Recruitment, Headquarters Air Command in July 2017. This is a new post.

**Group Captain R J Paul** to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Assistant Chief of Staff Career & Talent Management, Headquarters Air Command in July 2017 in succession to Air Commodore P N Oborn CBE who is retiring from the Service.

**Group Captain R D J Withnall** to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Medical Director, Headquarters Surgeon General in September 2017 in succession to Brigadier T J Hodgetts CBE.

**Group Captain T D Neal-Hopes OBE** to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Head C4ISR Joint User in Joint Forces Command in February 2018 in succession to Air Commodore J Philliban whose next appointment is yet to be announced.

**Group Captain H Edwards** to be Officer Commanding No 6 Flying Training School, Royal Air Force Cranwell in March 2018 in succession to Group Captain A Dickens OBE.

**Group Captain A R Franklin** to be Commandant Central Flying School, Royal Air Force College Cranwell in June 2018 in succession to Group Captain J F Monahan OBE DFC.

**The Reverend (Group Captain) J R Ellis QHC** to be promoted to the relative rank of Air Vice-Marshal and to be Director General Chaplaincy Services, Headquarters Air Command and Chaplain-in-Chief (Royal Air Force) in July 2018 in succession to The Venerable (Air Vice-Marshal) J P M Chaffey QHC who will retire from the Service.

**Group Captain O R J Barnes** was promoted Air Commodore and appointed Head Helicopters 3 in Defence Equipment & Support with effect from 8 June 2017 in succession to Air Commodore S A Moss MBE who has retired from the Service.

**Group Captain P E O'Neill** to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Head Defence People Strategy in the Ministry of Defence in January 2018 in succession to Brigadier F H Gardner CBE.

### GENERAL

**Reformation of 601(County of London) Sqn RAuxAF.** 601 (County of London) Sqn RAuxAF has been reformed under the command of ACAS as a specialist Sqn in support of CAS and his leadership of the RAF. Its three principle roles are: to provide advice to CAS and the SLT, to provide access to new networks and to develop advocates for the RAF. The Air Force Board Executive has agreed to reform the unit as a new hybrid Sqn to provide closer and more formalised links between the wider professional community and the RAF. Sqn members will provide expertise in areas from outside the RAF and will offer a fresh perspective to hone and improve the RAF's thinking.

### EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER

**Aircraft Carrier Jetty Refurbished and re-Named** – Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal officially named the recently refurbished Jetty which will house the two new aircraft carriers "The Princess Royal Jetty". She commented that the Queen Elizabeth class carriers, together with our F-35 jets, will transform our ability to project power around the world.

**F35** The US Air Force has sent several of its F35 fighters to the UK as part of an initiative to reassure Europe in the face of Russian aggression. A handful of F-35A jets from Hill Air Force Base in Utah landed at RAF Lakenheath over the weekend for what the Pentagon said would be several weeks of training with other US and Nato military aircraft. The deployment would allow the US Air Force to "further demonstrate the operational capabilities" of the stealthy fighter jet, the Pentagon said.

**A400M** visit to New Zealand. The ATLAS A400M visited New Zealand as part of its visit to Australasia and made its debut appearance at the RNZAF 2017 air tattoo. Discussing Atlas, Air Chief Marshal Hillier said: "It's a fantastic capability for the RAF, showing our ability to deploy all the way from the UK to the other side of the world. The New Zealanders were suitably impressed and envious!"

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