

RAFALO UPDATE – FEBRUARY 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

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS LIST

GENERAL

Air Commodore D J E Cooper CBE to be promoted Air Vice-Marshal and to be Air Officer Commanding No 2 Group in June 2017 in succession to Air Vice-Marshal G D A Parker OBE whose next appointment is yet to be announced.

Air Commodore W A W James CBE to be promoted Air Vice-Marshal and to be Air Officer Commanding No 22 (Training) Group in July 2017 in succession to Air Vice-Marshal A M Turner CBE whose next appointment is yet to be announced.

Air Commodore A Mardell to be promoted Air Vice-Marshal and to be Director Legal Services (RAF) in April 2017 in succession to Air Vice-Marshal L J Irvine CB who is leaving the Service.

Air Commodore S F Lushington CBE to be Deputy Commander NATO Air Command - Afghanistan in April 2017 in succession to Acting Air Commodore A P T Smith whose next appointment is yet to be announced.

Air Commodore G A Opie was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff Personnel Delivery, Headquarters Air Command with effect from 11 October 2016. This is a new position. Air Commodore Opie will relinquish his Regular Commission on 8 May 2017 and continue to exercise his responsibilities as Assistant Chief of Staff Personnel Delivery as a member of the Royal Air Force Reserve.

Air Commodore S P Rochelle OBE DFC to be promoted Air Vice-Marshal and to be Chief of Staff Capability, Headquarters Air Command with effect from 21 April 2017 in succession to Air Vice-Marshal M A Brecht CBE whose next appointment is yet to be announced.

Acting Air Commodore C D Da'Silva to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Defence Attaché Moscow with effect from 28 April 2017.

Acting Air Commodore A P T Smith was promoted Air Commodore on 27 January 2017 and is appointed Head Air Manoeuvre Capability, Headquarters Army in April 2017 in succession to Air Commodore R D Mason OBE whose next appointment is yet to be announced.

Air Commodore H Smyth OBE DFC to be Combined Air & Space Operations Centre Director, Al Udeid, Qatar in July 2017.

Group Captain M A Jeffery OBE was appointed Head Royal Air Force Safety Centre, Headquarters Air Command in the rank of Air Commodore in the Royal Air Force Reserve with effect from 19 September 2016. This is a new position.

Group Captain D A Stamp CBE to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Air Mobility Force Commander and Air Officer Air Mobility, Royal Air Force Brize Norton in June 2017 in succession to Air Commodore S F Lushington CBE.

Group Captain I J Townsend to be Officer Commanding Royal Air Force Marham in September 2017 in succession to Group Captain R A Davies ADC.

Group Captain L Turner to be Officer Commanding Royal Air Force Odiham in October 2017 in succession to Group Captain P J Robinson OBE DFC.

Group Captain M J Smeath MBE to be promoted Air Commodore and to be the Chief of Defence Staff's Liaison Officer to the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington in July 2017 in succession to Commodore I S Lower.

Group Captain J P Brayshaw was appointed Officer Commanding Royal Air Force Halton with effect from 28 November 2016.

Group Captain M H G Carver to be Officer Commanding Royal Air Force Northolt in July 2017 in succession to Group Captain D P Manning ADC.

Group Captain J D Ball OBE to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Assistant Chief of Staff Capability Development, Headquarters Air Command in April 2017 in succession to Air Commodore S P Rochelle OBE DFC.

Group Captain A J Beasant to be promoted Air Commodore and to be United Kingdom National Military Representative, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe with effect from 24 April 2017 in succession to Air Commodore W J Millington whose next appointment is yet to be announced.

Group Captain D C McLoughlin OBE to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Inspector General, Headquarters Surgeon General with effect from 27 March 2017 in succession to Commodore I J Kennedy CBE QHNS QARNNS.

Group Captain J E Savage OBE to be promoted Air Commodore and to be Assistant Chief of Staff Infrastructure, Headquarters Air Command with effect from 18 April 2017. This is a new position.

Group Captain A J Baker OBE to be Commandant Defence School of Aeronautical Engineering and Officer Commanding Royal Air Force Cosford in July 2017 in succession to Group Captain M Hunt OBE.

Group Captain A C Keeling OBE to be Officer Commanding Royal Air Force Wittering and Commander A4 Force Elements in June 2017 in succession to Group Captain R D Pratley ADC.

Wing Commander J R E Walls to be promoted Acting Group Captain and to be Officer Commanding Royal Air Force Lossiemouth in November 2017 in succession to Group Captain P A Godfrey OBE.

Group Captain E P Moriarty to be Commandant No 3 Flying Training School, Royal Air Force College Cranwell in December 2017 in succession to Group Captain J D Milne DFC.

EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER

The F-35 (Lightning) Program Office has selected the UK as a global repair hub. This will generate millions of pounds and support thousands of high tech jobs in North Wales, where components for hundreds of European-based F-35 aircraft will be serviced and maintained. Over its lifetime, the programme has a potential to unlock more than £2 billion of future F-35 support revenue. The work will involve maintenance and repair of systems for the F-35 aircraft, including electronic and electrical components, fuel, mechanical and hydraulic systems, and ejection seats. It will be centred at the UK Government-owned Defence Electronics & Components Agency (DECA), based at MOD Sealand, in North East Wales. It will be undertaken by an innovative partnership enterprise alongside BAE Systems and Northrop Grumman, supported by key F-35 Original Equipment Manufacturers. The new global avionic and aircraft component repair service is expected to be operational from early 2018.

The Air Launched Anti-Radar Missile (ALARM) has completed its Disposal phase with all missiles being safely disposed, marking the end of an era for the unique capability. Previously carried by Tornado GR4 and designed to target Enemy Air Defence Systems, it was introduced during the Gulf War in 1990 and extensively used in Op Granby and Op Telic in Iraq. The missile had been due for disposal in 2013 but Air Command had requested it be retained on a short term basis. Disposal was completed in September.

New Fixed Wing training Aircraft The first pair of Grob 'Prefect' next generation aircraft, which will train newly recruited military pilots, have landed in the UK. The aircraft flew into the home of Elementary Flying Training, RAF College Cranwell, then continued on to RAF Barkston Heath. They will now undergo some modification before they begin providing the first stage flying training to Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force pilots. The aircraft are being delivered by Affinity through the MOD's £1.1 billion contract with Ascent Flight Training to deliver the Fixed Wing element of the UK Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS). The Prefect aircraft, which have turbo prop engines, fully digital cockpits and retractable undercarriage, will be used to prepare the next generation of military student pilots for front line operations.

The Merlin Life Sustainment Programme (MLSP) has achieved another significant milestone with the first flight of a Merlin Mk4. This is the first of type which now enters a significant flight test and qualification

programme covering 25 Merlin aircraft, 19 Mk3 and 6 MK3a, aiming to deliver capability with the required clearances in early 2018. The endorsed requirements cover obsolescence removal, upgrade and ship optimisation of the former RAF operated assets to provide the capability required by the Commando Helicopter Force (CHF). The fitting of a folding main rotor head, modification to the undercarriage, inclusion of a new radio and fast roping beam all formed part of this interim package allowing the aircraft to operate from ships.

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