

What a Day for New cadets at 487 (Erdington) DF

It was their first GIC experience at RAF Little Rissington, for three new cadets Cdt Savanna Palmer, Cdt Ziaul Islam and Cdt Sanuel Islam. They had seen the video at school; they had heard cadets talk about it. They had even seen pictures of the vigilant. But today was different. They were actually going to fly in one. Not only that, they heard they might even get to take control, once airborne.



Cdt S Palmer Ready for Flight



Cdt Z Islam

Each cadet waited patiently until their time was due. They had their briefing; they tried putting on the parachute. They tested the pull strength of the ripcord, and they were weighed. The short journey in the school's land rover took them to the caravan on the airfield. Where they disembarked and sat eagerly waiting. The tension and excitement was building up. Then came the call! Cdt Palmer your next. This was it; Savanna got up and started to walk towards her aircraft. She stopped and was told to get into the land rover? What was this for she thought? Is this GIC? No it was her aircraft needed fuel so she was being taken over to the refuel point so she could get in it after refuelling, to save time.



She carefully gets in under the careful watch of Flt Lt C. Bell. Not long to go. This has been what she has been waiting for.



All ready to go. No problem "give me the works" she thought. No maybe not just a nice little flight at first maybe.

Next was Cadet Ziaul Islam, weighing in at 40 kg he was the lightest of our three pilots. He keenly walked over to his aircraft, got onto the wing and carefully stepped inside the aircraft and was ready for action.



Finally it was Cadet Sanuel Islam turn he had seen the others, so this was going to be a walk in the park. He gets in the aircraft, straps in and the aircraft taxis to the end of the runway. This is it. The aircraft takes off and cadet S Islam climbs up into the blue yonder, to carry out his GIC lesson



Each cadet had a 20 minute sortie, in a vigilant ZH123. There pilot was Fg Off Pringle of 637 VGS school.



Taxiing back from a successful trip.

By the end of the day the cadets had a great time. They all got a flight; they had their GIC certificate, and actually got air time logged in their 3822 log book. The cadets and staff thanked the CO and staff for their time, and service. Then set back for home.

Submitted by

Flt Lt P. Parsons RAFVR (T) July 09