

15 February 11

OC Squadrons

WING ADV TRG / DOFE OFFICERS REPORT
OC'S CONFERENCE 25 FEB 2011

1. As in previous years, this report is prepared and circulated to units, in advance of the OC's Conference, in order that the contents can be understood and any necessary questions considered for presentation at the Conference. Sqn Ldr ILES the WATTO will be preparing and circulating a separate report covering BELA, Llanbeddr, N Yorks and Staff Qualifications / DofE Expedition Assessors scheme etc. Sqn Ldr Martin will cover Fieldcraft matters. The figures quoted are therefore up to date of this letter, and cover the period 1 April 10 to that date. (This is due to the Adv Trg and DoE years being almost fiscal ones) .

2. **ADVENTURE TRAINING & FIELD CRAFT TRAINING APPLICATIONS (Paper)**
Since 1 April 10 the Wing has submitted only 72 (far less than last year) separate applications for Adv Trg from only **20 units**.(None from 121, 165, 198, 480, 495, 2030, 2438). The aim is for every unit to submit their own applications and do Adv Trg each year. New system of local authorisations seems to be working well but still allow 3 weeks (Wing approval) and 4 weeks for RHQ approvals(Minimum) prior to activity. (**2 FULL COPIES OF APPLICATION PACK TO BE SUBMITTED**). **It is acknowledged that multi unit camps are not reflected in totals.**

Wing Adv Trg Staff have arranged camps as shown:

	DATES	ACTIVITY	CDTS	STAFF
1.	4-7 Apr 10	Elan Valley Wg Exped	25	6
2.	11 Apr 10	Adv Trg / DofE Conf	0	25
3.	18 Apr 10	IDOFE Cse	0	25
4.	23-25 Apr 10	HMS Bristol	40	8
5.	21-23 May 10	HMS Bristol	40	8
6.	20 Jun 10	EAS Cse	0	25
7.	7-14 Aug 10	Llanbeddr	44	9

Activities that are being planned for 2011:

1.	Feb 11 - Oct 11	BEL Cse 5 weekends	0	25	
2.	20-24 Apr 11	Wg Exped Elan Valley	30	6	
3.	17 - 19 Jun 11	HMS Bristol		40	10
4.	14-19 Aug 11	HMS Bristol	40		10
5.	20-27 Aug 11	Llanbeddr	30		6
6.	28-30 Oct 11	HMS Bristol	40		10
7.	TBC	IDOFE Cse	0		20
8.	TBC	EAS Cse	0		20
9.	TBC	Adv Trg / DOFE Off Conf	0		30
10.	TBC	EAS Ass weekend	0		30

3. DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

The Wing has gained the following awards as of the date of this letter:

BRONZE	121	Excellent year 3rd highest ever! Last year 99
SILVER	25	(+ 2 pending) Below Average year Last year 58
GOLD	8	(+ 1 pending) Below Average Year Last year 21

Total awards are thus 154 + 3 pending = 157 . Last year 176 . At time of report 8F are the highest with 18 awards, 2nd is 480 & 2028 & 163 with 14 and 3rd is 2504 with 12.

We do not have such a good performance as previously with **6 units** not gaining any awards since April 10. (165, 487, 497, 1289, 2438 & 493 (4th year running)). All WILL have deficiencies raised by WSO's as their cadets are missing out!!.

DofE NEWS:

- a. HQAC subsidy for Bronze Record Books continues till 31 Mar 11. BUT maybe not after. Recently circulated, making Bronze award Books effectively free to cadets – although units will still pay £7.00 per book and get that back when they submit books for award. System working well, but of the 357 books sold under this, only 148 have been submitted and got their refund – get them in to claim yours!. This bonus will end at some time!!.
- b. DOFE EXPEDITION ASSESSORS - 1 Apr 11
Units are to note that as of 1 Apr 11, any assessed expeditions (only!!), MUST be signed by an accredited DOFE Assessor, and they MUST show their Assessor number on the appropriate pages. (Any expeditions that have taken place prior to 1 Apr 2011 do not have to comply with this).
- c. EDOFE - Sqn Ldr Flynn will make a presentation at conference for this and this is the opportunity for you to raise queries. It is NOT compulsory and units will have that option. A PowerPoint presentation is on the Wing web site and the Wing Bader site for you to view, and see if your unit wishes to take it up. I am bound to register each unit so that option is available to you! - I am still awaiting several OC's returns for your DofE Officers and emails addresses etc - already circulated. Units that do not reply will face the OC being named using Bader address (and more work needed by them to alter it).

4. V AWARD

This scheme will cease as of 31 Mar 11 as previously notified. Last date for submission of record books as circulated is OC's Conference. (Bring with you if need be!). It will be too late after as V Scheme have directed that all awards need to be in by 28 Feb 11

5. ADV TRG APPLICATIONS – UPDATE - BADER

As per recently circulated letter Applications for Adv Trg at both Wing and Regional Level can and should be submitted via Bader very soon. Date will be advised once a few snags have been sorted. A presentation will be given to OC's at Conference and also to Adv Trg Officers at the Adv Trg / DofE Conference which will follow shortly afterwards. A power point presentation is available on how to use the wizard will be placed on Wing Bader page under Adv Trg. This means that when live applications can be submitted NOT LESS THAN 2 WEEKS prior to the event for Wing and STILL 4 WEEKS for RHQ via Bader. Paper applications have old rules as mentioned in para 2.

6. BLOCK CLEARANCES FOR 2011

Units are reminded that Army Block Clearances are calendar years, and so far I have only had 1 for 2011. If you use a site more than once a year, it is worth the effort to get block cleared. (Note 143 Brigade have recently issued new Landowners Consent Forms on web site, same form for 49 Bge). **ONCE YOU HAVE A BLOCK CLEARANCE IT IS DOWN TO YOU NOW TO INFORM 143, OR 49 WHEN YOU USE THE BLOCK CLEARANCE!**. (They can't refuse but must be told) . **UPDATE NO site fees will be paid any more.**

7. RECENT CIRCULATIONS / POINTS OF INTEREST;

a. DoE RECORD BOOKS - PRICES

As you are aware the current prices for DoE Record books are £7.00p for Bronze, (IF HQAC SUBSIDY REMOVED THEY WILL BE £12.00)£12.00p for Silver and £18.00p for Gold. (DofE will increased prices as of 1 Apr 2011 – but with our stock we will not need to increase prices for some time. I will advise when prices increase).

b. HMS BRISTOL CAMPS 2011

1. 17 - 19 June 11
2. 28 -30 Oct 11

Details of these 2 weekend & 1 week camps have recently been circulated. Dates are as shown above, and on Wing diary. HMS Bristol is now back on station after refit . Allocations will be requested in March for the 2 weekends , but units are likely only to get places at 1 weekend camp or the other – resulting in larger allocations and less hassle(and cheaper) for travel.

HMS BRISTOL WEEK CAMP 14 - 19 Aug 11 already circulated and bids requested. OC Wing has directed that this will not be viewed as an alternative annual camp, and as such unit allocations to annual camps will not be affected by their bids for this camp.

c. HQAC have been advised that All High Ropes courses (except at Llanbeddr and at RAF stations) are now NOT covered by Insurance. Parachuting and Paragliding are also affected. HQAC are taking this matter further but Civilian High Ropes now not covered by ATC Insurance.

8. CONCLUSION

This year has seen the Wing maintain its good performance in many areas:

- a. Our Adv Trg record is good, but there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of applications submitted since 1 April 10. This deficiency must be overcome and assistance will be offered to those units who have in the past submitted applications but not this year!. I am aware that several OC's have blamed this on the closure of the Elan Valley site, but that is a short sighted and a poor excuse, as there are numerous other options available.. However this decline has not stopped a very good increase in total of DOFE Bronze awards this year - but may well impact on next year!.
- b. Our DoE Results are consistently good, and we continue to be in the top 5 of the Corps. (last year we were 3rd best in Corps) . Disappointing figures for Gold and Silver this year.
- c. There is no doubt that we shall have to run both Introduction to the Award & Expedition Assessors courses during 2011 and onwards to keep abreast of developments within the DofE scheme, and train staff on the incoming EDOFE.

Original Signed

Bryan Coats
Squadron Leader
Wing Adventure Training Officer
Wing Duke of Edinburgh's Award Officer
Wing V Award Volunteers Award Officer Redundant soon
HMS Bristol Project Director. (SNACLO)
Wing Staff Officer
Email : B@bcoats.freeserve.co.uk

Copy to

OC Wing
Wing Chairman
WSO's

Note to Units; If you require DoE Record Books to be brought to the conference please let me know beforehand , I will then bring books with me - and units must have the appropriate cheque available for payment. Cheques made payable to Warwickshire & Birmingham Wing ATC).