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WBW/70/60/ORG

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**WING HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT 2008**

When I was given the responsibility by OC Wing for H&S this time last year I believe my first priority was to identify my "Terms of Reference". I started by reading the ACP 5 from cover to cover (impressed eh!) which clearly stated the responsibilities from OC Wing through to the Squadron H&S Officer My next plan was to see how other Wings carried out their responsibilities you know "best practice stuff". After exchanging information with staff from Trent and South East Midland Wings, and attending a few of these courses I was charged up with enthusiasm and ready to inflict and bombard you with H&S info!

I felt that the starting point was to organise some Cascade Training, last done in 2003 using the HQAC training package which I found eventually on a disc covered in dust, there tells a story! No man is an island therefore I trawled the Wing for help in presenting this training. WO Ariss and WO Hibbit who are professional and qualified H&S advisors in their day job agreed to help. May I put on record my personal thanks to both of them for there help and guidance.

After series of meetings we planned to deliver the package between us selecting what we felt most relevant for our staff, plus delve into the WO's expertise / experience to expand and hit home the responsibilities of H&S that have an impact on all of us. Eventually we were able to confirm 2 dates that we could commit to.

We are an organisation of volunteers and our staff commit many hours to the numerous activities that make our Wing function. I was fired up with the new role and the challenges that lay ahead. I was possibly a little naive to think an additional days training was a mere formality and staff would "flock in their dozens" on a wave of enthusiasm....not!...I was mistaken after organising venues handouts, PowerPoint presentations the response was, well, disappointing, culminating in cancelling both courses, however, after this harsh reality check, what now? Was it me? ...**panic!** and then just over the horizon like in the old westerns the "US Cavalry" charged in waving their sabre's with bugles blowing and rescued me, well the **HQAC H&S CD ROM** did.... bringing with it a mandate for Squadrons to take on the responsibility to train at local level, was this the solution, we will see.



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I have endeavoured to emphasise the need to use the disc for awareness and refresher training. Having visited a number of Squadrons and spoken to the CO's and nominated HS staff when requested. I have issued locally produced folders (extra copies of the HS discs including GRA's for a wide range of activities) for recording and storing H&S information used in conjunction with ACP5, furthermore OC Wiing, WAdO and all the WSO's now have their own personal copies for reference.

I have not totally ruled out formalised Wing H&S cascade training however, for now I am concentrating on H&S training at the Staff Development Courses and Ints Cadet Courses as part of the overall Wing training syllabus linked with my current DWTO responsibilities **(4 courses during 2007 and a further 5 planned in 2008).**

In March I was given the responsibility for authorising and administering Squadron Training Activities in a Local Area. (Based on AT format i.e. appropriate RA's etc). To date I have issued over 25 approvals ranging from public service visits to drill, Ice skating and various types of training outside the Squadron. It's given me the opportunity to understand the need for a thorough RA to be conducted and I hope, if nothing else its enabled our staff to focus on the required safety elements of their chosen activity. This maybe reviewed during 2008.

The goal for any H&S Officer when talking "stats" is not to have any! Well no accidents, injuries or sickness anyway! We will of course, by the sheer nature of our activities, have incidents. In the main they will be in the form of injuries/sickness. To date we have recorded 12 injuries (I have a break down of these copies reports etc if required) again ranging from a sprained wrist to back pains and the majority of the injuries sustained whilst on various Camps.

Finally, it would be unforgivable to end my report without recognising the continued effort put in by our staff in maintaining the standards in which they carry out their duties and responsibilities. The relatively low statistics I have available bare testimony that you have H&S and the welfare of our members at the forefront of the activities. May I commend you all for that.

## **"SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT"**

R W Foster  
Flt Lt  
Wing H&S Officer

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