



Warwickshire and Birmingham Wing Squadron Commanders Conference 2006



Wing Radio Officer's Report

News

200 Free Radios For The Wing.

The major event of this year was the donation of 200 UHF handheld radios from Northants police. They are being distributed around the Wing to Squadrons with suitably qualified Staff and Cadets as fast as the team can tune them. Other equipment was also donated and these are being evaluated before issue.

Do Not Use Channel V4

A reminder that Victor 4 has been permanently withdrawn from the ATC and must not be used. A new frequency and channel designator (V15) has been allocated as a replacement. There is no budget for re-tuning old radios.

Radio Training Web Site.

www.alphacharlie.org.uk is a new web site being set up by the regional radio officers specifically for radio training in the Corps. It will contain radio news, training exercises and details of future events.

MRE Prefix Callsigns Are No Longer Valid

At the last HQAC TG3 committee meeting we revoked all of the MRE prefix callsigns. These are the ones used by off-squadron radio engineering facilities. Contact me if you are currently using one and need it re-issued.

Summary of 2005

- Courses have been run for:
 - 2 * ATC VHF Provisional, 15 new operators
 - 1 * ATC VHF Full, 5 new operators
 - 3 * RSGB Foundation, 10 new operators
 - 1 * ATC Datacomms
- 497 (Daventry) Sqn took 1st place in the 'receive only' section of the ATC National Radio Field Day that put them in 11th place out of 22 overall. For the next one we will use a real antenna and our points should go up drastically.
- Numerous Staff and Cadets from 1368 (Warwick) Sqn completed a CAA radio operator's course.
- The Wing provided radio operators to support Regional Training Day, Sutton Coldfield scouts at Sutton Park and Daventry District scouts at Hellidon, The Danetre Dawdle long distance walk plus other smaller events.
- 12 sets of UHF radios have been issued out to Squadrons and Wing HQ.

Radio Officers Comments

After the progress with cadets over the last few years, this year we concentrated on getting equipment for Cadets and to get more staff qualified to teach courses and conduct examinations and assessments locally.

We have at least 6 members of adult staff spread all over the Wing that are suitably qualified to teach and assess VHF radio operators. This increase in training staff along with more equipment gives us the ability to run more localised courses and should lead to a greater take up by Cadets.

The Wing is now directly represented on the HQAC TG3 radio committee and we have an input into the updates of ACP44. AL1 for ACP44 should be with you very soon if it has not already been received and this provides a greater detail for the training of all of the radio syllabus subjects. This will make it easier for cadets to know which subjects to study and for staff to know what teaching skills are required.

The training and assessment for VHF Provisional Operator is now being coordinated as a national level to provide a consistent level of training over the whole Corps. This Wing is at the centre of specifying it.

New information will include

- Training Progress chart
- Practical assessment checklist
- Provisional level 'Open-Book' exam paper

These will be distributed as soon as they are approved.

In order to keep their qualifications current, all staff and cadets who operate radios will need to complete the open-book examination, which on completion forms part of their registration as an approved operator.

Finally, I would like to thank the uniformed staff who have either been on courses, arranged them or have just hosted one of the Wing ones on their premises. Thanks to Flt Lt Broom OC 497 Squadron who lets me use his radio room as a Wing workshop and storage area.

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