



The Royal Air Force Servicing Commando and Tactical Supply Wing Association

Representing a Common Heritage



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NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2008

INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN

Once again I am heading up the Newsletter but of course cannot take much of the credit for its content! Credit is due to your excellent committee and of course Tactical Supply Wing.

We favour communication by electronic means for a number of reasons. We are of course conscious that some members can only receive "hard copy" so this Newsletter is delivered by both electronic and postal services.

Two principal advantages of electronic communication are speed and economy. The web site is regularly updated with news and information by our able "web master", Tim Newstead. For those of you who do not have access to the internet at home (or work!) a visit to your local library offers free access. Do not be afraid to ask for help if you are unsure how to use the internet and visit our web site at www.tswscdoassn.co.uk.

I am aware that a number of you are cautious of setting up Standing Orders for annual payment of Subscriptions. However, can I make a plea for you to do so? Not only does it save Tim Newstead

the hassle of chasing outstanding subs, it reduces our postal costs and, of course, payment ensures you are kept in touch with events.

Turning now to future events, **please put Saturday 30th May 2009 in your diaries.** This is the date for next year's get together. Further details will be released early next year, but given the economic climate you will be pleased to know we are confident of keeping prices down without degrading the value of activities!

The rest of this Newsletter is filled with more interesting information than the ramblings of your Chairman (however well intentioned!).

It covers the President's Award, as well as the AGM and Dinner and TSW News. We are also pleased to provide updates on three initiatives. The first concerns a permanent display at the RAF Museum for TSW and the Servicing Commandos. The second relates to changes to the Servicing Commando Plinth at the National Arboretum. Finally, there is detailed information (and an order form!) regarding the Association tie and some news about the website.

I would like to take the opportunity of introducing our new Membership Secretary – Martin Williams. His contact details are at the Letterhead and on the web site. He replaces Steve "Tigger" McTigue who, unfortunately, has had to resign on health grounds. Many thanks are due to Tigger for his energy and enthusiasm in helping set up the new Association.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD



SAC Dutch Holland receives The President's Award for 2007 from Dr Tim Leverton, Head of Engineering at JCB, and our President ACM Sir Joe French

An integral element of our Articles of Association is the fostering of support and esprit de corps for those serving on TSW to-day. As part of our approach to this important work, in partnership with JCB,

we now sponsor the annual President's Award for the best "Young Airman" (or Airwoman!). The inaugural award was won by SAC Neil "Dutch" Holland.

Extracts from his citation are given below; the full version can be read on the Web Site.

"Whilst operating forward in the desert on an aviation support task, he was involved in an incident where his team leader was injured during the rapid offload from a Hercules transport aircraft. His team leader had to be evacuated, but SAC Holland was able to remain and assumed command of the team, setting up the refuel site and ensured the task continued with maximum output and full efficiency. In doing so SAC Holland exhibited tremendous leadership and acceptance of responsibility when confronted with an extremely challenging situation. Whether on operations, exercises, or at MOD Stafford, SAC Holland has consistently displayed an exemplary, proactive, determined and wholly professional performance in all his duties, and as a result has gained an enormous amount of respect on TSW. Indeed, he meets all parts of the RAF acronym RISE; Respect for others, Integrity, Service before self and Excellence. As a result of his exemplary performance, SAC Holland has been selected to be the first recipient of the RAF Servicing Commando and Tactical Supply Wing Association President's Award"

Well done Dutch!

We look forward to reading and hearing about the 2008 candidates.

THE AGM AND DINNER – 9 JUNE 2008

The outcome of the AGM is summarised on both the website and as an attachment to this Newsletter. The meeting was held in the Sergeants' Mess which provided an excellent lunch and, for those so inclined,

very good value drinks at the bar! For those who feel they need a copy of the full Record of Decisions, please send an SAE of A4 size to the Chairman.



Peter Berry the RAF Museum Project Team Leader now realises he volunteered too quickly!

Following the AGM, TSW again laid on an excellent Families' Day. The Association focal point was much enhanced and we can use some of the material on future occasions. Many thanks are due to the Families' Day Committee for their help. Of course, the Wing Warrant Officer – Bob McBey – was also an essential pillar of support!



Robin Springett, Mac McQuillin, George Revell and Gwyneth Pritchard at the RAF Servicing Commando plinth at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas; the Armed Forces Memorial is in the background

For those who did not look in on the Families Day a visit to the National Arboretum and Armed Forces memorial at Alrewas was arranged. We may well offer the same next year.



Dinner at the Tillington Hall Hotel

On the Sunday morning a short service of commemoration and re-dedication was held in St Chad's Church, MOD Stafford, led by the Officiating Chaplain Revd John Davis MBE. The service saw the handing over of the Servicing Commando standard to St Chad's for safe keeping.



David Orr, ably assisted by Des Peters and Joe Ronan, attempts to draw the Chairman's winning raffle ticket – to no avail!

THE RAF MUSEUM AND NATIONAL ARBORETUM INITIATIVES

Thanks to the top level support of our President, Peter Berry has been able to work effectively and energetically in moving forward our proposals for a permanent display for TSW and the Servicing Commandos at the RAF Museum, Hendon. Many thanks Peter!

By the time many of you will have received this Newsletter, the display will be complete and ready for public viewing. It will be perfectly located in front of a WWII Typhoon (The Servicing Commando identity) and alongside the helicopter displays depicting the TSW relationship. You have all been remembered!

As a result of the debate at the AGM following the extensive discussions over the last few years regarding a Servicing Commando memorial in Normandy, we are pleased to confirm changes at the Servicing Commando Memorial at the National Arboretum.



The plinth will now be altered to name all Servicing Commandos who lost their lives in action during WWII.

SERVICING COMMANDO MEMBERS

We have been delighted to receive letters and calls from many Servicing Commando members from around the

world. Although age is restricting the mobility of many, it is clear that their hearts still burn bright for the Association. Some years ago, Servicing Commando members appointed Liaison Members to represent the interests of the 15 individual SC units and the 3 Servicing Parties. While one or two Liaison members are very active, others – due to the inevitability of time – are less so and there are some vacancies; moreover, we seem to have lost contact with those shown with an asterisk (*) in the list below. If any SC members know the whereabouts of these “missing” Liaison Members or would like to take on the role on behalf of their own unit’s members, please let Tim Newstead know. On the other side of the coin, we were very pleased to welcome Ken Nelson – ex 3207 SC – to the Association; Ken now resides in South Yarra, Victoria, Australia. It just goes to prove that it’s never too late to join!

The list of current Servicing Commando Liaison members is shown here:

3201 SC:	Mr Charles Creasey*
3202 SC:	Mr Ted Dale
3203 SC:	Mr Les Baker
3204 SC:	Mrs Elizabeth Dodd*
3205 SC:	Mr John Marsh
3206 SC:	Mrs Gwyneth Pritchard
3207 SC:	Mr George Revell
3208 SC:	Mrs K Aldridge*
3209 SC:	Vacant
3210 SC:	Mr Dougie Blair
3225 SC:	Mr Sandy Ellis*
3226 SC:	Vacant
3230 SC:	Mr Ken Sturgeon*
3231 SC:	Mr Albert Hayes
3232 SC:	Mr Jeff Davies
SPs:	Vacant

OUR HISTORY

Following last year’s plea, much information has already been given to the committee, but we would welcome more – particularly photographs and memories

of your service; please do not be concerned about spelling or grammar, we just need to capture your thoughts and memories. Jim Coleman, one of our stalwarts, is also looking for any information to help him in his continuing project to draw up and publish an authoritative history of TSW. He can be contacted through Peter Berry, the Association's Historical Focal Point, at PWBerry132@AOL.com.

TACTICAL SUPPLY WING NEWS

New Faces

Both of TSW's Squadron Leaders have recently changed posts. Officer Commanding Tactical Fuels Squadron, Sqn Ldr Greg Waterworth has moved to Air Command (formerly Strike Command) to be replaced by a former TSW Ops Officer, Sqn Ldr Andy Males. Sqn Ldr Craig Veitch has also moved on, to fulfil an operational appointment in Afghanistan. Craig is replaced by former TSW Flight Commander, Sqn Ldr Johnny Andrews who will also take responsibility as President of the Mess Committee for the MOD Stafford Officers' Mess during the coming months.

Freedom of Stafford Parade



On Parade. Wg Cdr Nick Atkinson takes command of the TSW contingent

On a blustery Saturday in April, TSW along with 22 Sig Regt were granted the Freedom of the Borough of Stafford as individual stand-alone units at MOD Stafford. Following the presentation of the Freedom to OC TSW, Wing Commander Nick Atkinson MBE, personnel from both units paraded through the town centre with swords drawn and bayonets fixed to the beat of the Royal Air Force Band.



OC TSW prepares to exercise the right of Freedom of the Wing by marching through the town with bayonets fixed and drums beating

This was a magnificent day for TSW as a unit, rather than an RAF station, having the unique honour of receiving the Freedom of a Borough, and it firmly brings together TSW and the local community. The many guests included former OCs TSW and TSW Wing Warrant Officers who enjoyed catching up with the old days and who were delighted to see TSW in such good health.

Operations in Iraq

A total of 10 Wing personnel remain deployed on Op TELIC, providing fuel support at the Combined Operating Base at Basrah International Airport, and the Wing eagerly looks forward to the PM's promised drawdown next year to see if this event brings some respite from its heavy operational commitments. In addition, TSW have continued to provide fuel support to multinational aviation assets within Iraq.

Earlier in the year, TSW's high readiness team deployed to Iraq to support coalition ground vehicles operating in Basrah city in conjunction with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). All personnel were recovered to the UK on completion of the activation, following the successes of the ISF in securing the city from further insurgent activities.

Operations in Afghanistan

A team of 18 personnel deployed within the Helmand Province continue to provide aviation fuel support at Camp BASTION and Forward Operating Bases at PRICE, DWYER and, most recently, EDINBURGH, in what is an extremely and challenging operational environment. Personnel have conducted a number of operations outside of the Forward Operating Bases within the Helmand Province supporting multinational aviation assets. These missions have seen personnel deploy for up to 2 weeks at a time operating in austere and, often, hostile environments.

Falkland Islands

TSW has continued to provide personnel to manage 2 outlying sites within the West Falkland Islands at Hill Cove and Fox Bay. Six TSW personnel provide round the clock assistance to helicopters including SAR cover operating out of RAF Mount Pleasant. They also lend a hand to the locals, including repairing fences, sheep shearing, herding, and – most importantly – socialising in the settlement community hall on a Saturday night! This has hugely benefited both the civilian community and deployed personnel who learn quite a lot about life in their remote settlements and, most importantly, how to look after themselves in such a harsh environment. The team self-caters so the budding chefs in them have a chance to show their skills. Bread baking and roast dinners are high on the agenda. The weather is ever challenging with 4 seasons in one day from horizontal

blizzards to sublime warm sunny days. Recently, Sqn Ldr Craig Veitch and WO Bob McBey paid the troops at both sites a welfare visit. This was planned to take a week but due to the bad weather ended up being 2 weeks, as they were stranded at Hill Cove. However, this enabled them to visit Port San Carlos which was the first area TSW landed at during the Falklands conflict of 1982. Much to Bob's amazement the original fuel bunds were still in-situ, including bund liners and hoses. I wonder how Jim Coleman wrote these off?!



WO Bob McBey inspects a bund liner



Sqn Ldr Craig Veitch with a 1982 fuel hose!

TSW Friends & Families Day

The 2008 TSW Friends & Families Day pulled in a huge amount of support, raising in excess of £1000 for Katherine's Hospice and Help for Heroes. The

unfortunate cancellation of a Chinook to provide rides for Service family members did little to dampen spirits as visitors clambered on the inflatable obstacle course, tested their mettle on the rifle range, “test flew” a Phantom jet and visited stalls from SSAFA and RAFA to name but a few.

RAFA Visit to TSW

TSW played host to members of Northern Region of the Midland section of RAFA. Members were given presentations from personnel recently returned from various theatres and given an insight into their experiences. Insights ranged from coping with the extreme cold of the Arctic while training in Norway to working in the blistering African heat on exercises in Kenya. The visit was showcased with a trip for members in a Chinook around the Stafford area during a day that will surely live long in the memory.

THE ASSOCIATION TIE

The design of the tie agreed at the AGM has now been finalised. Our thanks are due in particular to Des Peters and Tim Newstead in moving this project forward to the stage that we can now accept orders! A design example is shown here and the all important order form is enclosed below

The design depicts in prominent fashion the Servicing Commando Badge and TSW Crest on an RAF blue background with diagonal silver blue and red stripes in surround. Repeats of the Badge and Crest are given in background embossing throughout the rest of the tie.

Prices have been kept low and include postage. Cheques and orders to Des Peters please!

THE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

Webmaster, Tim Newstead, is in the process of re-vamping the Association’s website. A new addition will be a members list to enable old buddies to get and keep in touch. Contact details (e-mail addresses and/or ‘phone numbers) will be included – but only with individual members’ express agreement. Please let Tim know at newstd@btinternet.com if you are happy for your contact details to be published.



In Remembrance

We record with sadness the passing of the following members:

3202 SC	Mr C Kimber	Died August 2007
	Mr Jim Maggs	Died December 2007
3206 SC	Mrs Dorothy Buckley	Died August 2007
	Mr Fred Giffin	Died 15 August 2008
	Mr K Hudson	Died 2007
	Mr J G Mackie	Died 2008
3207 SC	Mr George Rawlins	Died 1 June 2008
	Mr Albert (Ricky) Rickards	Died 26 April 2008
	Mr Ken Tulloch	Died September 2007
3208 SC	Mr W K Sanders	Died 23 March 2008
3209 SC	Mr Ron Cox	Died 7 September 2007
	Mr Gwyn (Tich) George	Died October 2007
	Mr Vic Poynting	Died 30 September 2007
	Mr J G Williamson	Died October 2006
3226 SC	Mr Arthur Cotton	Died 13 September 2007
	Mr Jock Henderson	Died June 2007
TSW	WO Adam Byers	Died 23 June 2008

Main Points arising from RAFSC&TSW Association AGM held at the Sergeants Mess Stafford on 7th June 2008

The main points arising from the AGM were as follows:

- The meeting paused to remember those Members who had passed away and for the serving TSW members presently on duty in the Front Line.
- One item remained outstanding from the 2007 AGM Actions - the possibility of organizing a "mid year" outing. The initiation of the President's Award sponsored by JCB had been a great success.
- The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Association to the Wing for all the support offered throughout the year. Special thanks were due to Craig Veitch and Bob McBey. OC TSW, Wing Commander Nick Atkinson, offered a historic perspective of the previous 12 months' activities.
- The Treasurer's report for the year 2007 was accepted. In view of the healthy state of the Accounts, members were requested to forward ideas for the use of funds for the benefit of members and/or TSW. Current paid up membership stood at 81 Servicing Commandos and 124 TSW members.
- Volunteers were sought for the vacant post of Membership Secretary. After the meeting Martin Williams offered to take on this role.
- Peter Berry offered a detailed brief on progress with the RAF Museum project, which was going well. It was hoped to have a "grand event" at the RAF Museum once the display project was complete.
- The meeting agreed that the Normandy Project would not be progressed further by the Association. However, further investigations would be undertaken as to the most appropriate place to record the names of the 17 Servicing Commando members who had lost their lives in WWII.
- The Welfare and Publicity member presented proposals for the new Association tie as a first step in developing a range of commodities. A tie design was agreed.
- It was agreed that the next AGM and social gathering would be held in June 2009; however, the precise dates would need to take account of 65th anniversary of D-Day commemorations elsewhere.

Association Tie Order Form

From:

Name

Address

Tel No:

To:

Des Peters
57 Douglas Road West
Coton Fields
STAFFORD
ST16 3NX

Please Supply Qty (1) tie to value £ 9.45 (including VAT and postage).
Cheque enclosed and made payable to "*RAFSC&TSW Association*"

Signature:

Date: