



**The Royal Air Force  
Servicing Commando  
and  
Tactical Supply Wing Association**



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All Members

*Dear Member*

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2010 AGM AND DINNER**

This note is a blend of News and notification of the arrangements for the 2010 AGM and Dinner. First, a reminder; this year marks the 40th Anniversary of the formation of Tactical Supply Wing. In recognition of this historic milestone this Newsletter includes extensive narrative of the activities presently undertaken by the Wing. They do us proud.

We endeavour to communicate electronically with members. Not only is this more efficient it saves a deal of money! This Newsletter is being distributed by "snail" mail and the distribution costs will be in the region of £100. So why are we sending information this way on this occasion? There are a number of reasons. First, we wish to ensure that it gets to all members as a reminder to update their contact details. Secondly, a Membership Card is enclosed. This will provide a ready aide-memoire for members when they are asked about the Association. It will also act as a ready means of identification for "preferential" offerings over the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> June and subsequent events.

**PEOPLE AND PLACES**

A recent round-robin message to members threw up a number of rejections of e-mail addresses. PLEASE ensure that you let us know of any changes of e-mail address or postal address so that we can do our best to keep you properly informed. Thank you. The following members have gone electronically AWOL!

*Ken Adamson, Barbara Munns (SCdo), Dave Natrass, Gabriel Sexton, Alec & Michael Sharp (SCdo), Dave Thompson.*

Also, we are anxious to trace the anonymous member who paid his/her £10 subscription to the Association by Standing Order on 1st June 2009. Unfortunately, a name was not included with the payment and we have, thus, been unable to credit the payment to the member! So, if you know of someone who paid their subscription by Standing Order on 1st June 2009 and they are wondering why they have not heard much since, please ask them to get in touch - with details of their bank (we know which bank and branch - just don't know the subscriber's name!) - and we will be able to credit the subscription accordingly.

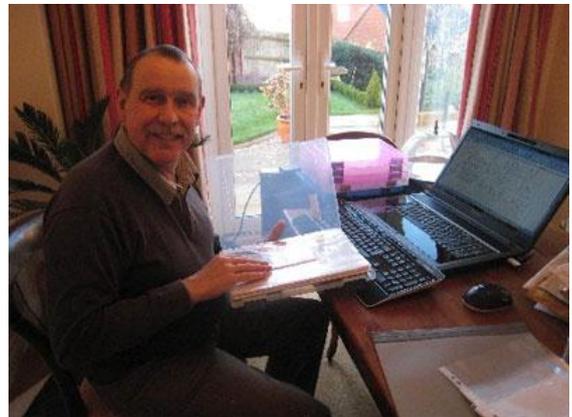
### **A Scotsman in the Balkans**

We are of course always pleased to hear from members in faraway places. David Orr, one of the TSW stalwarts, reports from Bosnia where he is serving as the UK National Representative with the European Union Forces in Bosnia. There have been no diplomatic incidents so far -in spite of David attending a Burns Night in Sarajevo! On posting for his six month tour, he had taken the precaution of utilising some of his meagre baggage allowance to bring the full highland ensemble; and so resplendent (if a tad chunky), he reports, he hardly put his hand in his sporran all night and reeled and whooped into the very "wee sma` hours" with 200 bemused Bosnians and Expats various. Ever the politician and conscious of his great responsibility as a UK Representative, he invited as his guests at the event the Professor of English at the University of Bosnia-Herzegovina and his wife; he American, she Georgian (ex USSR as opposed to US State). Neither of them understood a single word that was said, but were entranced by the flow of the evening - poetic and liquid; and both have now applied for membership of the growing band of revellers that is the Caledonian Society of Bosnia-Herzegovina!

### **A Thank You to Peter Berry**

Following the 2007 AGM, Sqn Ldr Peter Berry very kindly volunteered to become the Association's Historical Focal Point - we wonder if he knew the work he was volunteering for!! His first task was to lead the very successful project which culminated in the opening of the display at the RAF Museum Hendon in October 2008. The wealth of information that Peter had collected soon made him realise the need to properly catalogue and protect this precious material and so he set about the archive project. Though not particularly difficult, the task has been very time consuming sifting through all the information and collating it

into some sort of order. Peter has placed the items into protective plastic wallets which are then collected together in document boxes for storage, each with a referenced contents list. As with all projects, there is more work still to do to improve subject/contributor/date/theatre grouping, but now that all the items are protected, this can be done in slower time. We are very grateful to Peter for his hard work - particularly as he also has a full-time job which takes him away from home for a couple of days or more each week - if you want a job doing well, give it to a busy man....?! Very many thanks Peter!



Peter, as ever, still smiling!

### **Presentation of White Goods**

At the 2009 AGM it was decided to offer a sizeable sum of money to the Wing for a major investment for the benefit of Wing personnel. It was subsequently agreed that the Association would fund the purchase of kitchen appliances for use in the snack preparation areas of the TSW barrack blocks at MOD Stafford; the Association purchased 3 table-top induction hobs, 3 combination microwave ovens and 2 large freezers. The picture below shows the presentation of the goods to TSW barrack block residents.



Standing L to R: Des Peters (Welfare & Publicity), Cpl Dave Richardson, Duncan Grant (Chairman)

Kneeling L to R: Cpl Dave Averall, SAC John Mason

### Chairman Places Poppies at Servicing Commando Memorial for Armistice Day 2009

On the occasion of the 25th year since the formation of the Servicing Commando Association, the Chairman placed a Remembrance set of Poppies at the Servicing Commando Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum during Armistice Week.



### Tactical Supply Wing News

Operations

Op HERRICK (Afghanistan)



TSW continues to provide support to operations in Afghanistan. The team of 22 have been kept extremely busy providing aviation fuel support to all coalition Battlefield helicopters on Camp BASTION and beyond. The well publicised Op MOSHTARAK provided an additional challenge and saw a significant increase in workload for the team and the quantity of fuel issued. Recent changes have also seen the closure of Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) PRICE & DWYER; however, TSW personnel are still providing key support at FOB EDINBURGH.



Morale remains high despite the challenges that this environment brings and as ever, the

Detachment have found the time to improve their basic living and working conditions and to make best use of the gym facilities. Furthermore, a recent Detachment initiative raised over £3000 for Help for Heroes through gym challenges.

#### Falkland Islands

The 3-man TSW team continue to operate from Fox Bay on West Falkland, providing support to Search and Rescue (SAR) aircraft and British International aircraft operating from Mount Pleasant Airfield (MPA). The TSW operators remain on call around the clock for the duration of their deployment and are well supported by MPA with regular deliveries of rations, mail and cook books for the budding Jamie Olivers. Over the years, the Detachment has become an integral part of this small community, often assisting the locals with repairs and farm work in return for freshly baked bread and cakes. In January this year, OC HQ Sqn, Sqn Ldr John Andrews and the Wing Warrant Officer, WO Mark Farrell, visited the Falkland Islands. Though restricted by the weather (even in the Falklands summer), they visited both helicopter refuel sites at Fox Bay and Hill Cove and even managed a short Battlefield Tour of Goose Green where they experienced the renowned 'Cake Factory' at Darwin House!

#### OP GIRAFFE

In November last year a small team from TSW were activated at very short notice and deployed to Cumbria in order to support aviation assets during the worst phases of the Cumbrian floods. Having received the initial telephone call at about midnight, Readiness State 1 personnel and vehicles left MoD Stafford at approximately 0230 hrs and were issuing fuel to SAR helicopters operating from Penrith Rugby Club by 0600 hrs. TSW were present in the area for around three weeks supporting the SAR helicopters

and aircraft ferrying the Royal Engineers tasked with carrying out bridge surveys.

#### Events, Exercises and Charity

Since TSW's withdrawal from Iraq last year, there has been no let-up in the tempo of operations or exercises. There are currently personnel on exercise in Norway and Kenya. A Detachment is preparing to go to Oman and significant numbers of personnel are deployed to the four corners of the UK. Requests for TSW support continue to be received on a daily basis showing that the service TSW provides is still very much in demand. The TSW members are always keen to strengthen links with the local community and provide support organisations and charities where they can.

#### RAF Museum Hendon Tactical Fuel Handling Equipment Project (TFHE)

Following the unveiling of the RAF Servicing Commando and TSW 'Toblerone' display at the RAF Museum Hendon in October 2008, the TSW Engineers undertook a project to refurbish a selection of scrapped TFHE to be donated to the Museum. After many hours of preparation, repair and re-painting the TFHE display was presented to the Museum in December last year.



*WO Andy Ellison (TSW WO Eng) and the Engineering Team can be seen presenting the equipment to the Museum Exhibits Curator*

## A Works Outing!

Building on TSW's excellent relationship with local Staffordshire manufacturer JCB, 15 members of the Wing spent an extremely enjoyable afternoon on 17 Nov 2009 on the JCB demonstration ground. Aply hosted by Neill Eltringham, the JCB Export Controls Compliance Manager, the Wing members were given free rein on a wide selection of JCB earthmoving equipment, excavators, back hoes and the extremely versatile Groundhog all-terrain utility vehicle. After a brief introduction, safety brief and instruction on how to operate the various vehicles, they were left to explore the capabilities of each of the vehicles (under the watchful eye of a couple of the JCB Demo Drivers). Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience and thankfully there were no accidents or injuries!



Squadron Leader Johnny Andrews  
A Thank You

Amongst all the activities Johnny faced as OC Headquarters' Squadron for the last two years, as Association LO, he has also had to deal with the challenge of supporting the Association. He always undertook this work with equanimity and a sense of humour and never let slip his true feelings! We wish him and his family well as he moves to take up a new appointment in the South West.

Johnny's replacement is Sqn Ldr Tom Stevenson who arrived on 8 Mar 2010.

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2010 AGM AND DINNER – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010

### A TSW Member's View

*(Originally posted on the Web Site Guest Book)*

***"We've had a great time the previous few years and its like walking into a time warp, getting together with old mates and colleagues, having a beer, a laugh and boring the \*\*\*\* off each other with war stories which sound even better when you embellish them..... Life is pretty short, so get yourselves down there to Stafford and let your old friends and colleagues know about it. The more the merrier! See you there."***

### The Evening of the 4th June

For those members and guests planning to travel on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>, once again we have made arrangements with the Tillington Hall Hotel to offer a preferential accommodation rate (quote Ref BK02348) in your direct booking with them). Their Tel No is 01785 279307. We have also laid on a buffet supper (starting at 2000 hrs). We have retained the same buffet price and accommodation rates as last year.

### The AGM

The Agenda for the AGM is at Enclosure 1. Should you wish to have specific items considered please include them in the Remarks block of Enclosure 2. The AGM itself will start at 1100 in the Sgts' Mess with coffee being served from 1030. As last year, the AGM will be followed by a buffet lunch in the Sergeants' Mess hosted by Association funds. Transport for those who require it will leave Tillington Hall at 1015.

## Afternoon Events

All are very welcome to join in the TSW Families Day activities during the afternoon. As in previous years there will be a number of displays and activities to interest and amuse. To mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wing members are invited to make their way to the Association Hospitality area (white mini marquee and signs will make it stand out!) at the rear of HQ TSW. On production of the Membership Card enclosed with this Newsletter, members will be offered free drinks (no spirits!). For those staying at Tillington Hall, Transport will leave the Wing at 1630.

## The Dinner

Through the good offices of the Wing, we have once again managed to arrange the dinner in the Sgts' Mess. To accommodate those members who also wish to attend the TSW Hangar Bash later in the evening, Dinner is timed at 1830 for 1900. Transport to and from Tillington Hall will be arranged for those who require it. The Sgts' Mess offers the opportunity for a better service, enhanced catering and of course better value for money! In an effort to give something back to you, our Association members, we have, this year, managed to reduce the cost of the

4 course Dinner (for members and first guest only), including drinks, to £10 - less than half what you paid last year! Any member wishing to bring additional guests will be required to pay the full price of £13 for each additional guest. Guest seats will, of course, be subject to availability of places. Furthermore, the Mess bar facilities will be on offer with all the attraction that holds for the wallet!

Bob McBey has kindly agreed to help in the pre-dinner admin this year. Accordingly, please return your completed Application Form and cheque to him by 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at the latest. His address is shown on the Form. I and your Committee look forward to seeing you in June.

Kind Regards



**Enclosure:**

**1. AGM Agenda.**

**Encl 1**

**AGENDA FOR THE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE  
SERGEANTS' MESS BEACON BARRACKS STAFFORD AT 1100 ON 5 JUNE 2010**

1. Reflections
2. Matters Arising from 2009 AGM
3. Election of Committee Member
4. President's Award 2009
5. Tactical Supply Wing Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Membership Update
8. Arrangements for 2011