



MERSEYSIDE WING ADVENTURE TRAINING

NEWSLETTER – JAN/FEB/MAR 07

Introduction

The New Adv Trg year has starts on 1st April, and many of you have sent in applications already. This is absolutely great. It shows a lot of squadrons are already planning the year ahead. The Wing Commander has again set targets of 3 Adv Trg activities per squadron and 2 qualified staff per unit by the end of the year. Don't forget you can still do AT without squadron qualified staff by either buying in instructors i.e. Indoor climbing at Awesome Walls, North West Face etc or undertaking some jointery with a neighbouring squadron.

Awards & Qualifications

Congratulations to CI Andy Davies (1438 Prescot Sqn) who has just recently passed his Archery qualification, CI James Gerrie (2369 Kirkby Sqn) upon gaining his Single Pitch Award (SPA) and Flt Lt John Kendal (OC 610 Sqn) and A/Sgt Danny McKeown (1966 Sqn) for becoming Obstacle Course Instructors. Well done to you all!

Several members of the Wing are undertaking assessment for indoor climbing next month at Awesome Walls. I would like to wish them the very best of luck.

Adv Trg Applications

Some units are still a little confused on what they should be sending in with an Adv Trg form, so let me clarify. Firstly, I need the Adv Trg form correctly completed (with signatures from activity leader and OC unit), with the activity leaders contact telephone number on the top of the form. Then a map of the route and / or programme of the activity.

I do NOT need a copy of the army application form (unless I ask for it) or a copy of a generic risk assessment (GRA's). If you make amendments to the GRA's, then send me a copy otherwise it's a complete waste of paper, time and effort!

As mentioned at the OC's conference, I am willing to accept electronic versions of the Adv Trg application, so you can e mail me both the form and the route for actioning. Electronic signatures are acceptable for this (For those who are worried about their signature being copied, then put it in italics or a different font.)

The army application forms for 160 and 42 brigades will shortly be available on web forms to download. If there are any other brigade forms that staff would like uploading, then please contact me ASAP.

Swimming Certificates

It has now been confirmed that the basic swimming certificate has been changed to reflect progression through the levels, so therefore following are to be applied with immediate effect (amendments to ACP's with be promulgated in due course)

- 1 The total length cadets need to swim is 50m (NOT 100m as before), this means there is progression from basic (50m), to intermediate (100m) and finally advanced (150m). This also means that (in theory) you should be able to get double the amount of cadets through in a specific time period.
- 2 The requirement for cadets to exit the pool remain the same i.e. not using the steps or ladders but greater discretion is allowed due to many pools differing in height from water level to pool edge.

3 Although a qualified life guard MUST be on duty at all times, the staff member supervising the session may sign off their successful cadets, no independent witness is necessary (for BASIC only), there are no changes to intermediate or advanced certificates.

Please note that a basic swimming certificate is necessary for all water based activities e.g. kayaking, canoeing, raft building etc. (Please see latest CRO's for details)

Items For Sale

If there are any units that have any Adv Trg equipment they wish to sell, then why not advertise in this newsletter? (Thanks to Flt Lt Lee Southern for his suggestion)

[Brand New & Unused Montane Venture Jacket \(Size XL- 46" \(114cm\) Chest\) Grey/Black colour £95.00 onono...See WATTO for details](#)

Expeditions & Adv Trg Activities

The Wing will be trialling kayak and indoor climbing sessions for all squadrons this year in a bid to help units who do little Adv Trg throughout the year. Please take full advantage!

HQAC have introduced a new course at Llanbedr NACATC for instructor cadets only! The course has been designed to encourage instructor cadets to experience and develop their Adv Trg skills, so please sell it to your cadets, don't let them down!

The new HQAC Adv Trg course list came out in Nov, to date I have not received any interest from the Wing. Please ensure these courses are advertised on your squadron notice boards. The courses are excellent value for money!

Annual Review Forms & Annex G's

The Annual Review forms are due in by 31st March 07. These are required by all Adv Trg qualified personnel (Staff & instructor cadets alike) who must have completed 3 leads per qualification they hold, to remain on the Wing and Regional list. Newly qualified staff must complete an Annex G and forward it together with a copy of a current first aid certificate to me asap.

Late forms may result in that individual (or even squadron) being suspended from the register until the information requested has been received. Again, I will accept electronic versions of these forms that have been e mailed out to all sqns and are also available on www.merseysidewing.org/webforms.

This is a necessary process that enables the Wing and Region to update our records.

Memory Map

The uploading of this software is ongoing and to date I have only 7 squadrons left to do. If any OC's or SATTO's have any preference of dates, whether they be parade nights or weekends, please let me know asap

Wing Adv Trg Equipment

The Wing has invested quite a bit of money into its Adv Trg Kit. It even has a new 40ft long home at WHQ. Any squadron may borrow this equipment at any time (subject to first come first served basis).

The booking policy is simple: e mail me your requirements, No e mail, no kit! All Wing equipment is to be signed for on a 668 form and it may be collected on a Thursday before the activity and returned the following Thursday after the camp.

Some individual squadrons are not returning the kit in a quick enough time frame and this can affect other squadrons who wish to borrow these items. If kit is not returned on time then that squadron will be banned from using it.



DoE Matters

With immediate effect Flt Lt Dave Wells assumes the post of Wing DoE officer re Sqn Ldr Routledge becoming the new Wing AdO. Congratulations to both of them!

Flt Lt Wells is contactable on djwells@blueyonder.co.uk or mobile number 07990 890 784

If anyone has any constructive comments about this newsletter, then please contact the undersigned.

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