



MERSEYSIDE WING ADVENTURE TRAINING / FIELD CRAFT AND DoE **NEWSLETTER – JULY & AUG 07**

Introduction

Welcome to the AT Newsletter. This edition includes information on the new ACP 16 Field Craft Training manual which came into force early this month. Again please encourage staff and cadets to read this publication by placing on your squadron notice boards. (It will also be available on the AT pages of the Wing website at www.merseysidewing.org).

Awards & Qualifications

Congratulations go to Flt Lt Tim Mathews (OC 472 Sqn), Fg Off Phil Brown (90 Sqn), and Plt Off Chris Jacob (1123 Sqn) who have just completed their Indoor Site Specific Climbing Course at Awesome Walls Climbing Centre, Liverpool. This brings the total number of Wing indoor climbing instructors to six.

Also well done to Plt Off Bohanna (90 Sqn) who has recently gained his 3 star (kayaking) at the Friends of Allonby Canoe Club based at the Albert Dock, Liverpool and finally congratulations to Flt Lt Kendal (OC 610 Sqn) who has just successfully completed his Mountain Leader Training course at the National Mountain Centre at Plas Y Brenin, North Wales.

Wing Approved AT Kit List

Enclosed is a copy of the only Wing approved AT Kit List. It is available on web forms (www.merseysidewing.org/webforms) and should be used for all squadron and wing AT/ DoE expeditions.

Permit 19 / Minibus Drivers

Just to reiterate the E mail sent out by the Sqn Ldr Routledge (Wing AdO) 11th Jul 07 regarding the above, currently our personnel can drive 'military' vehicles without a Class D Licence on a Permit 19 (military vehicle being MOD, leased, hired, contract-hired vehicles).

This practice has been withdrawn with immediate effect. However, it has been argued that with regards to annual camps, pre-arranged flying and gliding, using 'MOD' vehicles and has been agreed that Permit 19 holders who are required to drive under the above circumstances can be covered if:

A list of their names is submitted to WHQ giving the reason for the extension, i.e. driving at camp. This restriction does not apply to SOV's as they are insured by the squadron. If there are any problems, the please call the Wing AdO. Apologies for short notice, but we need to act quickly, if you want to use your Permit 19 discs up to the end of September, driving 'military' vehicles.

Also drivers, please be aware of driving / on duty times. It can be quite easy to be on an activity all day then drive home after a long weekend. BE CAREFUL!

Wing Nesseliff AT Camp 21-26 Oct 07

Bids have been sent out for this camp by the Camp Adjutant, Sqn Ldr Sarsfield, along with a flyer advertising the camp. This year activities include clay pigeon shooting, archery (subject to equipment), sports, shooting, climbing, obstacle course, land yachting and much more...

Please don't let your cadets down, especially as our annual camp numbers are so low for the Wing. Don't forget though, no staff member means no cadets. This ruling was introduced so that cadets would always have a friendly face to turn to if ever necessary.

This year, our guest of honour will be the Commandant of the Air Cadets, Air Commodore Moulds MBE RAF.

Important! - Adv Trg Applications

Adv Trg forms are still coming in (great), but mostly still in paper form. I did state at the OC's conference that I would accept electronic copies and only a few squadrons have done so, so far. Also a lot of applications are coming in with only a month's notice, some with even less notification; remember the minimum notice period is **6 weeks; as per ACP17**. Failures to meet the minimum notice period may result in exercises being cancelled.

As a result of several late forms, I will now expect all forms to be sent to me either by post:

- Marked for my attention to Merseyside Wing HQ, RAF Woodvale, Formby, L37 7AD, or
- Electronically to watto@merseysidewing.org

I will send an e-mailed acknowledgment of receipt of the form (within 7 days) back to the squadrons concerned. If you do not receive this reply, then please check with me to see if I have received your application.

ACP 16 & Field craft skills

By now you should have all received a copy of the ACP16 Field Craft Manual. I also have sent out a copy of what qualifications are needed by staff to be able to teach this subject. (See Memo sent 10 Jun 07, e-mails sent 26 & 28th Jun 07 and reminders sent 04 Jul 07 and also there is a list of example courses that staff should have undertaken to teach Field Craft on page 5 of ACP 16).

If Staff or Instructor cadets are eligible then please complete an annex G form (amended to read ACP 16 – see enclosed)

Memory Map

According to my records there are only 2 squadrons that have not yet had Memory Map installed onto their computers 969 and 1128 Sqns. I will endeavour to complete this tasking by the end of August 07. If anyone is having difficulty e-mailing routes then probably the best way of sending them via e-mail is to save them as a PDF file.

If funding comes through from Region, then I do intend buying the upgrade disc for Memory Map and installing it throughout the Wing, so watch this space...

Reminder

All AT qualified staff must have a current first aid certificate to maintain their AT qualification. Failure to keep current will result in suspension from the Wing AT Authorised List.



DoE Matters – Wild Country Applications

Please remember that all expeditions in "wild country" must be authorised by the appropriate wild country panel. Any expeditions (including practices) are **not valid** unless approved in this way. Panel reference numbers must be included in record books. I have had more than one book submitted recently with invalid reference numbers which cannot be authorised until this is resolved.

The number must be quoted under "Operating Authority Reference (*if required*)". and is needed for **all levels**, not just gold as many people seem to believe. If the expedition is not in wild country then the HQW&W Regional adventure training reference number should be inserted here. A list of expedition panels and contact details can be found at the following address:

<http://www.theaward.org/leaders/index.php?ids=1664,1887&id=87>

A copy of the wild country expedition application form is attached.

Assessors

Just a reminder that assessors for DoE expeditions need to be qualified. Bronze expeditions may be assessed by a qualified member on the same squadron. At Silver level the assessors needs to be from another squadron and for Gold, the assessor needs to be a wild country assessor (in our Wing Flt Lt Lee Southern (1908 Sqn)) or an operating authority assessor (Sqn Ldr Routledge, Sqn Ldr France and Flt Lt Dave Wells)

If anyone has any comments, queries or suggestions then 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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