



May 2017

1 (FIGHTER) SQN ASSOCIATION UPDATE

After a successful and exceptionally busy 2016, the Sqn has much to be proud of from the start of the New Year. From supporting Ex Red Flag this January, to deploying on exercise in spring, there's the promise of another rewarding year for the Sqn.

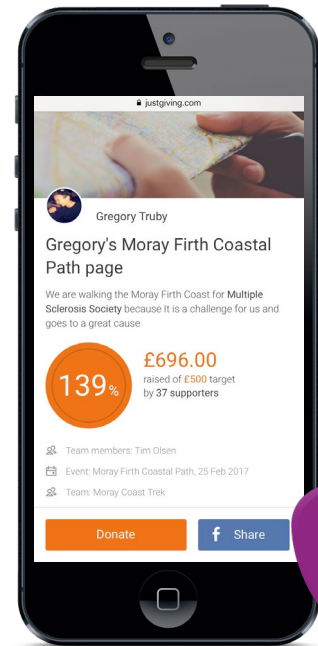


A 94th Sqn F22 lands in front of a 4 ship of Typhoons

A brief look back to the closing months of 2016 saw us return from the Far East and work alongside 6 Sqn on Exercise TARTAN FLAG, based at RAF Lossiemouth. Although not planned to be on the same scale as previous years, the Ex enabled both Sqn's to complete valuable training before the festive break. However, before we could ring in the New Year, there was the small matter of the Pilots Lunch of the Year to confront.

Not to be shackled by the dress code of 'Events of 2016', 20 Super

Army Soldiers painted and adorned in suitably green clothing arrived en masse at the Officers' Mess. Of note, several individuals delivered a superlative laden performance, resulting in a few early bed times! More broadly speaking, the highlight was undoubtedly the song book; a bumper year of hits enabled us to eloquently engage in a 'call and response' session with the other sqns, suffice to say the responses soon dropped off.



Apart from the flying and socials, 1 Fighter has always had an outstanding history of supporting charitable causes and the superhuman effort shown by the Moray Coastal Walk Team typifies the attitude on Sqn. Spearheaded by Greg Truby the team raised money for several charities by completing the arduous 50 mile route inside of 24 hours. They are still accepting donations online.

VIEW THEIR PAGE HERE.

No sooner had the Christmas break been and gone, the Sqn were sending four of its finest across to the West Coast of America with 6 Sqn, in support of Exercise Red Flag. The Ex is still regarded as the premier multi role, multi nation training exercise and the experience they gained will no doubt prove to be invaluable as the progress through their careers.

An outstanding effort from the engineering community saw the very same jets used on Red and then Green Flag, stage across the continent, arriving on the east coast in late March to be used on Ex TRILAT. The sense of pride taken by the team has been palpable and had a hugely positive impact on the Typhoons performance on the Ex. It hasn't gone unnoticed by the other nations that we are consistently turning up every morning to find a **line full of serviceable jets**. A very enviable position to be in and one that we certainly don't take for granted, it has been a dedicated and professional performance from all the support staff.



94th Sqn Patch, 'Hat in the Ring'

We have been fortunate to be hosted by the 94th Fighter Squadron, part of the 1st Operations Group based at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. Much like 1 Fighter Sqn, the 94th is one of the oldest Sqn in its respective Air Force. The 94th can trace its roots back to Kelly Field,



Heading back to Langley after 1v1 with a FAF Rafale

Texas but gained true notoriety in April 1918. Under the command of Major Gervais Raoul Lufbery the Sqn became the **first American Air Force presence on the Western Front in France**. The boxing phrase 'Hat in the ring' was adopted by the Sqn alongside a striking graphic channelling the now iconic Uncle Sam posters. The combination providing an eye catching and unique Sqn emblem that has stood the test of time. Of interest, the bonds between our Sqn's are especially strong: a previous commander of 1 Fighter Sqn, Brig Gen Robin Olds, was once a DO on the 94th; the current DO on the 94th is a previous QWI from 1 Fighter Sqn.

The first week of flying saw us engaging our allies in the visual combat arena. It was particularly pleasing that the **Typhoon came out on top against the F-22 and Rafales of the FAF**. Apart from a few sore necks the week has been very successful and provided a solid foundation on which to build on as the Ex developed. After the initial week, the three nations worked together to combat a determined and credible adversary – 14x F-15E and

8x T-38. TRILAT was conceived less than five years ago and already we are seeing it develop substantially, both in terms of the assets that are assigned to the Ex and in mission complexity.

Understandably the profile of the Ex is growing, interest is being shown all the way up to Number 10 Downing Street. Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshall Sir Stephen Hillier visited the detachment on 21 April with several key messages. **His primary focus, out to 2040, is the interoperability of aircraft platforms and the continued strengthening of the alliance with partner nations**. He emphasised the importance of learning as an Air Force and a coalition, to efficiently operate fourth and fifth generation aircraft together. Tactics evolved and developed on the Ex will pave the way for the integration of the Typhoon with the RAF's very own F35's when the UK begins to take delivery next year. Before departing, he wished the Sqn well for the upcoming operational deployment to SHADER and expressed his wish to hopefully visit RAF Lossiemouth before we deploy.





'Soccer' team posing for a photograph

Intertwined with the flying program has been a full programme of Force Development activities which included a weekend in Washington DC and hosting the other nations for a ahem, knees up in a brewery. The Sqn were invited to a Lockheed Martin demonstration centre to receive a presentation on the F35 and F22 and the rare chance to

operate the respective simulators. Opportunities have been available to get out and about in the local area for a whole range of activities including climbing, sea kayaking and mountain biking. **These opportunities serve to fortify the cohesion in the unit and maintain the unique team spirit here on 1 Fighter Sqn of which we are so proud.**



First refuelling bracket after departing Lajes on the trail home

When we return home from the States, focus will shift to the impending handover of operations in Cyprus with II(AC) Sqn at the back end of the summer. This will be the second deployment for the Sqn on the Op and as such will mark the start of the second rotation of Typhoon Squadrons in theatre. With Combat Ready sorties to complete for the new faces on the team, alongside several pairs and fours leads upgrades for the more experienced pilots, the period will no doubt see everyone's hand on the grindstone.



The class of TRILAT 2017

Photograph credit: Jamie Hunter (Aviacom Ltd)

