

From: Wing Commander M J E Sutton MA BA (Hons) RAF



**OFFICER COMMANDING
1(FIGHTER) SQUADRON**

Royal Air Force Lossiemouth
Lossiemouth
Moray
IV31 6SD

Officer Commanding 1(F) Squadron Handover

It is a great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Officer Commanding 1(F) Squadron and a real privilege to lead a Squadron with such a glorious and proud history. I am delighted that we are supported by such a strong and thriving Association and I look forward to strengthening and deepening that relationship with you in the coming years.

You will be aware that we have recently moved from our temporary base at RAF Leuchars to our new home at RAF Lossiemouth, and due to an excellent effort from all of the Squadron and Station personnel we are now well-established and contributing to Quick Reaction Alert Operations, 24 hours a day. We now have a varied and exciting few months ahead of us. The focus of RAF training remains the preparation for contingency operations, and for the multi-role Typhoon Force this means a wide span of potential operational employment. In parallel we are leading the tactical integration of Paveway IV onto the Typhoon, an operationally proven 500lb guided weapon that will form the mainstay of the RAF's precision attack capability in the coming years.

The Squadron training programme for the year ahead will provide excellent preparation for our operational readiness, with planning already underway for Exercise RED FLAG in January. This detachment will provide us with full spectrum multi-role mission training, and the opportunity to work closely alongside the USAF F22 Squadrons with which the Typhoon Force has built a strong relationship in the preceding few years. This integration with 5th Generation aircraft is a priority for the Squadron, as the RAF looks forward to the introduction of our own Lightning II in the coming years. Later in the year we will be detaching to Turkey on Exercise Anatolian Eagle, before deploying to Malaysia to take part in Exercise Bersama Lima as a key part of the Five Power Defence Arrangement. While these training opportunities will enable the Squadron personnel to sharpen and hone their tactical skills, they also offer the opportunity to build military and cultural relationships with key partner nations and to hone our interoperability and joint understanding. I am also delighted to announce that 1(F) Squadron will shortly be twinning with an illustrious Army Regiment – more details to follow in the coming weeks – which will be a fitting means of strengthening and formalising our links with the Land Forces into the future.

1(F) Sqn personnel are extremely proud of our heritage and history, yet committed and ready for the challenges ahead, and you can be assured that they are maintaining the high standards and finest traditions of those who have gone before. Thank you for your continued support to the premier Squadron in the RAF, and I very much look forward to meeting you at the next Association event. If you are passing please do drop in, you will always be assured of a very warm welcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ E Sutton', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

In Omnibus Princeps