

RAF SHAWBURY REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS – APRIL 2023

RAF Shawbury's mission is to deliver world class Air Operations and helicopter crew training for defence.

During February 2022, the helicopter element of the UK Military Flying Training System (UK MFTS) achieved the significant milestone of 50,000 flying hours on its fleet of Juno and Jupiter helicopters. In addition, RAF Shawbury was selected to be the first military unit to receive a new Air Traffic Management System as part of Programme Marshall. This system will transform air traffic management in the UK and is designed to ensure safe and resilient military flying operations.

The Station comprises 531 military personnel (of which approximately 200 are trainees), 43 Civil Servants, and 500 contractors. Despite its relatively small size, the tempo, operational effectiveness, and community engagement is very impressive.

The base hosts 2 meetings each year of the Helicopter Noise Liaison Group, which are attended by 30 local Parish Council representatives and Shropshire Council's Public Protection Officer. The aim is to raise awareness of the requirement for low flying, and to promote mutual co-operation and support from our neighbours. This group has opened communication routes with local communities by addressing their concerns about noise and enabling discussion.

As the Be Seen, Be Safer campaign finishes its 8th year, the aims were to establish a close relationship with local riders, to promote the wearing of high-visibility kit and to develop a safety culture and greater awareness of the risk to riders in our aircrew community. RAF Shawbury has continued to work closely with The British Horse Society (BHS), which has provided advice and attended our annual Rider Awareness Days.

Throughout 2022, the base hosted over 150 visits; in addition, personnel carried out liaison visits across Shropshire and beyond, delivering presentations to community groups, including local Rotary Clubs, RAFA veterans' groups, riding clubs, and youth organisations. No. 1 Flying Training School provided 18 flypasts at various community events, (including local Platinum Jubilee celebrations and Armed Forces Day), and 9 sessions of Air Experience Flying (AEF) for cadet and University Air Squadrons; the unit also supported a 4-week long air cadet summer camp, providing AEF for 24 cadets per week. Our community support teams worked closely with Shropshire Council and local businesses to support the Armed Forces Covenant and the thriving Shropshire Veterans' Outreach Programme, including the Veteran's Breakfast Club. Our popular Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) school outreach programme enabled STEM Ambassadors to deliver static helicopter visits to 22 schools and colleges throughout Shropshire, Staffordshire and the North-West.

During 2022, RAF Shawbury raised a total of £18,712 for charities. Additionally, personnel played a key role in the Shrewsbury Royal British Legion (RBL) Poppy Appeal in November 2022, helping to raise £15,149 for the Royal British Legion.

Corporate Engagement Relations Office