

208 Squadron 'Valley Wings' Article January 2015

A Happy New Year to you all from the merry crowd of 208. The storms that raged the 13/14 Christmas decided to take a slight delay before their annual destruction of Valley; the airfield still remains the Bluest in the UK although you can do much at 60kts!

Our guests from overseas; returning from their leave in the warmth and calm of Kuwait, have been subjected to brief after brief after brief on 1 vs 1 Air Combat. guys I hope all that info on Rate, Radius, Min Sepping and all other new jargon has stuck, that's all you'll be hearing for the next few months!

V149 have completed their AFT course and are now in the early stages of TW. They are however, one course mate down. Lt Tim Preece is departing 208 and the UK to take up FJ training in the US of A on the Goshawk before he moves on to the F-18. Tim, good luck on this exchange (no-one is jealous at all!) and congratulations on your shotgun+wedding in January, so that your lovely wife Jess can accompany you to the States. To the rest of the course, enjoy the range in sunny South Wales!



Preecey prepares for his US Navy exchange.

V150 have raced through the beginning of the course, achieving their 1st Solos before Christmas, along with their instrument flying rating and some night flying. The strong winds have hampered their progress recently but they are well on track for Prog Check in the next few weeks before they tackle the advanced phases of the course.

Frenchie is now at the end of his AFT work up and will hopefully be qualified to instruct again in the next few weeks. After achieving, singlehandedly, 10,000hrs hawk flying in the last year, Dan Arlett has been ~~sent to~~ given a brief rest bite down at the JSCSC Shrivenham. Enjoy your 3 months of briefs, talks, service knowledge and all the other information imparted on the ICSC. at least we all know you'll ace the service writing and grammar tests!

We also welcome SAC Rob McGonagle who joins Sean and Finn as our new Ops Assistant.

What's on the horizon for the boys and girls of the mighty 208? We are: continuing to support IDT and RAF FJ training; refreshing pilots for 100 Sqn and 208 Sqn (including 208 Desig, Wg Cdr Chris Kidd, and CFS agent, Flt Lt Keith Fruitbat-Frewin . more info in the next article!); and a limited det to Solenzara Corsica in March for AFT. We will also be losing Flt Lt Neil Battersby, who'll make the long, treacherous journey across the dispersal to 4 Sqn. Neil, I would say it's been a pleasure, but you're an AD/ EV bounce so I would be lying. After 5 years on the T1, spread across 19 The Fear+and 208 Sqn, your experience will be a notable loss to the fleet. Enjoy the T2 and Happy Four.+

Last but by no means least; we wave a fond farewell to the female Irish contingent of 208 Sqn. After 3½ years of solid programming, Sgt Lesley Palmer (soon Flt Sgt Palmer . congrats!), bids goodbye to the sunny Isle and ventures down south to Northolt.



Severe sickness strikes Mostyn again