



# **317 SQN NEWSLETTER**

## How'd this help our NCOs?

This course is designed to strengthen our squadron's NCO team and improve leadership effectiveness. By participating, NCOs can reflect on their roles, share knowledge with peers, and develop strategies for managing parade nights, leading cadets, and supporting staff. The non-assessed format allows participants to engage openly and honestly, building confidence without the pressure of formal evaluation.

## Course Goal

The NCO Development Weekend is all about building a strong, confident, and unstoppable NCO team! Participants will not only sharpen their leadership skills but will also have fun, connect with fellow NCOs, and gain practical tools to make their squadron duties smoother and more enjoyable. By the end of the weekend, every NCO could say they feel empowered, motivated, and ready to take their role to the next level!

The squadron looks forward to welcoming all NCOs to this important and rewarding weekend. - 317 Staff team



## Skills Gained

- Briefing large groups and refining information.
- Effective session planning and task-focused working.
- Problem-solving and initiative development.
- Resilience and confidence in role.
- Quality communication and Presentation skills.
- Delegation versus abdication.
- Basic drill instruction.
- Priority and urgency management (Eisenhower Matrix).
- Constructive accountability.
- Self-reflection to identify personal strengths and weaknesses.



# NCO DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND



## What is the NCO Development weekend?

The 317 Failsworth Squadron NCO Development Course is a two-day intensive programme specifically designed for the Junior and Senior NCOs of the squadron. The course provides an opportunity to develop confidence, leadership skills, and practical squadron knowledge in a supportive and non-assessed environment. Sessions are led by experienced Squadron CFAV staff and include discussions, practical activities, and real-world squadron scenarios.

# All ABOUT 317's ARCHERY

16th January 26



Archery at our squadron is different—and for good reason. Thanks to our highly trained staff team, we're able to cover a wide range of archery content, with our Civilian Committee providing the funding that supports its delivery to a very high standard. The success of this approach is clearly demonstrated through our cadets' exceptional skills.



## BACK TO THE BASICS

**Stance** - Feet shoulder-width apart, body side-on to the target, balanced and relaxed.

**Load** - Arrow placed on the string, bow held correctly, eyes focused on the target.



**Draw** - Pull the string back smoothly using back muscles, elbow high and in line with the arrow

**Aiming** - String drawn to a consistent anchor point on the face, aim steadily at the target.

**Release** - Relax fingers to release the string cleanly, bow arm steady, maintain posture until the arrow hits.

## The dedication of our Staff

The staff at our squadron undergo extensive training to ensure that we are even able to take part in activities like archery. Without the dedication and commitment of our staff, these opportunities simply wouldn't be possible. They complete a significant amount of specialist and safety training to make sure every activity is delivered safely, professionally, and to a high standard.

All of this training is undertaken for the benefit of the cadets, allowing us to access a wide range of activities in a safe and supportive environment. The care, time, and effort our staff invest is a key reason why events such as archery can take place within our squadron.



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# THE DOFE JOURNEY



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH FRAMEWORK DAY

**Route Planning** Participants plan safe and achievable routes by considering distance, terrain, and navigation skills. They practise map reading, estimating travel times, and preparing for potential challenges to ensure a successful expedition.

**Equipment Preparation** Cadets organise all necessary kit, including tents, cooking equipment, personal gear, and safety items. Proper packing and knowing how to use all equipment is essential for a smooth expedition.

**Meal Planning and Cooking** Teams plan balanced and nutritious meals, considering dietary needs, portion sizes, and cooking methods suitable for outdoor conditions. This ensures participants have the energy and sustenance needed for the journey.



**Navigation Skills** Participants develop their ability to use maps and compasses to follow the planned route, practise situational awareness, and adapt to changing conditions during the expedition.

**Teamwork and Leadership** Successful expeditions rely on effective communication, problem-solving, and shared responsibilities. Team members support each other and make collective decisions to achieve their goals.

## Where did it take place? Components of the L98

L98A2 Shooting Weekend took place at RAF Shawbury, which is an amazing base providing great opportunities for cadets to participate in. Aside from the shooting, this RAF base gave cadets insight to everyday life on a base, and what it could offer. RAF Shawbury provides world-class training to around 900 personnel a year, from the UK Armed Forces and international partners. It is also the number 1 Flying Training School trains helicopter aircrew for the Armed Forces.

Barrel - guides the round and gives it accuracy

Bolt - chambers the round, locks, fires, extracts, and ejects

Body / Receiver - the main frame that holds everything together

Magazine - feeds rounds into the rifle

Trigger - releases the firing mechanism

Safety catch - prevents the rifle from firing

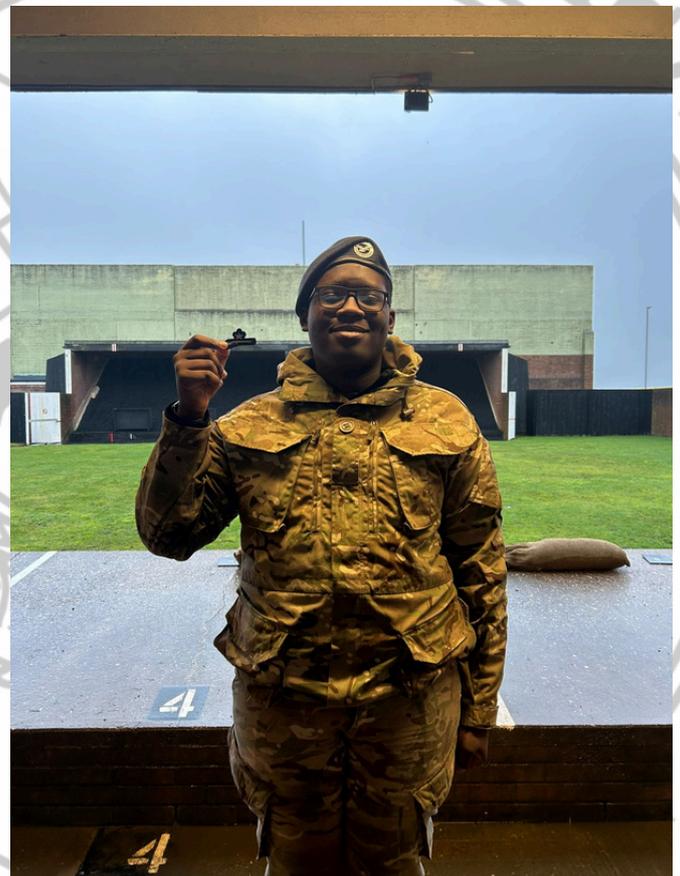
Sights (front & rear) - used to aim accurately

# L98 Shooting Weekend

Saturday 31 Jan - Sunday 01 Feb

## Some feedback from our cadets!

The L98 experience wasn't just about shooting; it was about pushing past limits. Yeah, my first shot gave me a forehead smack from the recoil, and the flinching was real. The cold was brutal, and I'm currently rocking a fever, but here's the thing: every challenge was a lesson. Remember, discomfort is temporary, but the stories and skills we gain last forever. It taught me resilience and focus. As they say, 'The pain you feel today will be the strength you feel tomorrow.' So, embrace the bruises, remember the chill, and share your stories. I didn't just complete a course; I conquered it! - Corporal Malik



# DEVELOPING OUR STAFF

## Road Marching Team Leader

The Road Marching Team Leader (RMTL) course began with a busy and demanding first day as cadets arrived ready for their first real experience of road marching. While cadets prepared to complete a 12km march towards their Blue badge, RMTL trainees headed upstairs to focus on what it truly means to be a team leader on the march.

All three members of staff from 317 Squadron CI Stone, CI McDonald, and CWO Tyrell were placed in the same team. This allowed them to support one another and observe different leadership styles in action. CI McDonald led the first leg of the route, followed by CI Stone, with CWO Tyrell taking responsibility for the final section.



## RMTL COURSE: LEADERSHIP ON THE MARCH

The first day of the course focused on essential knowledge, including road marching safety, the responsibilities of a team leader, correct foot taping, and an overview of road marching levels and major events such as Cosford and Nijmegen.

The second day was the assessment phase, beginning with an early briefing before trainees led cadets on a 15km Blue badge walk. Trainees took turns leading while being assessed on leadership, decision-making, and maintaining safety on the march.

Although the event was not a race, the team finished second overall. More importantly, all three 317 Squadron staff members successfully passed the RMTL course. This achievement means the squadron now has four qualified Road Marching Team Leaders, placing 317 Failsworth Squadron in a strong position to grow road marching opportunities and work towards having one of the highest numbers of road marching cadets in the Wing and potentially even the Region.

## A CADET'S MARCH

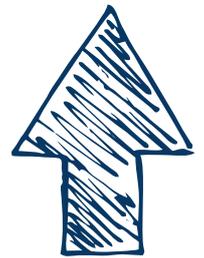
Joining a road march at 317 Failsworth Squadron is a real test of endurance and teamwork. Carrying your Bergen, you quickly find the importance of pacing yourself and staying focused, especially on the longer stretches where concentration and stamina matter most.

Each march teaches practical skills looking after your kit, taping your feet, and keeping an eye on your team's wellbeing.

### What does this do?

- Completing each march and earning badges brings a sense of achievement
- Develops responsibility and planning skills
- Builds resilience and perseverance
- Encouraging each other, problem-solving on the move

## UPGRADING OUR CADETS



ROAD MARCHING

### CADET'S COMMENTS

"The 15km was tougher than I expected, but sticking with the team made it doable."

"The long stretches were tough, but everyone encouraged each other along the way."

"Finishing the march and earning the badge felt really rewarding."

