

10 May 2011

OC Squadrons

OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIT CADET CAMPS - HMS BELFAST - LONDON

1. As all units are aware, our parent service is shrinking and opportunities for units and cadets to undertake camps are reducing and as such initiative is required by all units to find alternative and interesting venues. I found this opportunity from searching the C&E web site and have made enquiries with the author - OC 2370 Sqn - Flt Lt Chris Brooks (07885 495148), and a summary of those enquiries is below. They only did a 2 day - 1 night stay.

2. The above Sqn was able to book overnight accommodation on board HMS Belfast in the heart of the City of London, and undertake a 2 day camp with cadets and apart from the experience of HMS Belfast , they also visited the Imperial War Museum, The Guards Museum and Wellington Barracks. Excellent reviews , but as we are all aware there are many other attractions that could be incorporated in such a camp - again down to initiative (eg Downing Street visited by 2028 Sqn recently). I am also aware that with careful liaison you may be able to park Minibuses at Wellington Barracks (free) - but be aware of the congestion charge!. Or indeed at RAF stations outside London but on underground!.

3. The cost per night on board is high £38.00 per person and I understand that includes a cold buffet breakfast , and accompanied detailed tour of the ship. Cheaper than many cheap hotels. Details are available from HMS Belfast on the following email address:
<http://hmsbelfast.iwm.org.uk/server.php?show=nav.479>
as to bookings etc and prices.

4. For those interested I enclose a few points from 2370 Sqn Admin order which would be of interest:

a. Cost per Cadet

A fee of £ ?????? (dependant on how many nights) has been set to cover the travel costs, HMS Belfast charges, Saturday dinner and Sunday packed lunch. This might seem expensive (when compared to ATC Summer Camps) but the event is in the centre of London and is a once in a lifetime chance to “sleep over” on HMS Belfast, one of the UK’s iconic warships.

Any surplus funds will be distributed back to the Cadets.

b. Travel

All personnel will travel to and from the weekend in the correct regulation CS95 uniform. Travel will be by two minibuses departing 2370 Sqn at 08:30 sharp on Saturday 3rd July. I will not wait for late arrivals and you will not get your money back if you miss the bus! Estimated arrival back at 2370 Sqn is 16:00 on Sunday 4th July. All Staff will travel on the minibuses.

c. Accommodation

All Cadets will sleep in the appropriate male or female mess deck in the original three tier bunks as used by the Royal Navy. Middle and lower bunks only are used. Mattresses and pillows are provided – all personnel must bring a sleeping bag and pillow case. Staff will sleep in two adult cabins – one on each mess deck.

d. Messing

All personnel will bring a disposable packed lunch for Saturday. A two course restaurant meal will be taken on the Saturday evening on shore. A buffet style cold breakfast will be provided Sunday morning with a pre-packed lunch for later that day.

e. Dress

All personnel will wear the correct regulation issue No2 WD uniform during the weekend. Smart civilian attire is required for the Saturday evening – jeans are permitted provided they are not ripped. Civilian clothing must be clean, free from tears, have no offensive lettering or motif and be in keeping with the good image of the Corps.

All personnel are to be reminded that a high standard of dress is required at all times. Haircuts and styles are to conform to Service regulations. The haircut must remain acceptable when headdress is removed. Please note that neck chains are NOT to be worn whilst in uniform.

f. Safety

Staff will undertake appropriate risk assessments and Cadets will be supervised at all times. However, all personnel are reminded that they will be on a ship with steep ladders and surrounded by deep tidal water so care and attention and an adherence to Staff instructions is required at all times.

g. Security on HMS Belfast

A member of the HMS Belfast staff will be on duty as night concierge during the overnight stay. The concierge will sleep on board in a separate cabin, close to the mess decks, and will be contactable at any time, should assistance be required in an emergency.

Entrance and exit hatches to the mess decks are protected by a passive infrared alarm system. This alarm will be set and operated by the concierge and will sound in the night concierge's cabin, should anyone attempt to enter or leave during the night. Additionally, the concierge will be able to monitor any activity around the exit and entrance hatches to the mess decks via CCTV.

h. Cameras & Mobile Phones

Private cameras and mobile phones may be brought to the weekend.

i. Valuables

Money or valuables are carried at the individuals own responsibility. There are no secure facilities during the weekend for the storage of valuable items.

j. Documentation

All Staff must bring appropriate I.D. (F1250 or F2899) with them together with their UK driving license. Cadets must carry F3822's at all times.

5. The programme they followed is shown below:

Time	Activity
Saturday 3 July 2010	
08:00	Muster 2370 Sqn
08:30	Depart
08:30 – 10:00	Travel to London
10:00 – 11:00	Wellington Barracks
11:00 – 12:30	Guards Museum Visit
12:30 – 13:00	Lunch (packed lunch)
13:00 – 14:00	Transport to HMS Belfast
14:00 – 15:00	Check In & H&S Brief
15:00 – 17:00	Explore HMS Belfast
17:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Disembark for dinner
18:30 – 19:00	Walk to dinner
19:00 – 20:30	Dinner
20:30 – 21:00	Walk back to HMS Belfast
21:00 – 22:00	Free time
22:00	Lights Out
Sunday 4 July 2010	
07:30	Reveille
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:00	HMS Belfast Talk
10:00 – 10:30	Check Out

10:30 – 11:00	Transport to IWM
11:00 – 13:00	IWM Visit
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00	Depart IWM
14:00 – 16:00	Transport to 2370 Sqn
16:00 Approx	Dispersal

6. Useful contact numbers are:

Wellington Barracks Main Contact WO O'Halloran
Guards Museum 020 7414 3271 Open 1000 x 1800
Birdcage Walk, London
SW1E 6HQ

HMS Belfast Main Contact Emma 0207 403 6246 Open 1000 x 1800
Tooley Street
London SE1 2JH

IWM 0207 416 5000 Open 1000 x 1800
Lambeth Road
London
SE1 6HZ

7. This camp was approved by their RHQ, and there is little doubt a similar camp would be approved via C&E RHQ with a ratio of 1:10.

8. Units are therefore encouraged to look at this option for a very different unit camp and take action as they feel appropriate. Any queries please contact the undersigned or Flt Lt Chris Brooks (who actually attended their camp). If you do take up this opportunity then ensure we have an entry on Wing web site!.

B Coats
Sqn Ldr
Wg DofE Officer

Copy to

OC Wing
WSO's