

Rugby Leadership Initiative 2018 with the Royal Air Force

March 24 – April 1

Intent of Initiative:

- Build ties with Allied personnel through developing an understanding of the educational, training, and operational experiences of RAF personnel
- Gain competitive rugby experience through international games with higher caliber teams.
- Enhance team cohesion and bonding through shared experiences

Team Composition

- 23 Cadets, 1 OIC, 1 Coach; in-country joined by an assistant coach and an Alumni Affinity Group member Maj Gen (USAF Ret) Trulan Eyre
- 3 C1C, 7 C2C, 7 C3C and 6 C4C



Vice Chief of Staff General Stephen Wilson given an AF Rugby Ball signed by all USAFA players at end of match with the RAF College Cranwell



USAFA 26 – RAF College Cranwell 21; Played at Cranwell on Tuesday, Mar 27



USAFA 3 – RAF Rugby Union U-23 (Under 23s) 42
Played at RAF Station Halton on Thursday, Mar 29



C1C Austin Lyons takes a lineout



C3C Koby Hinnant selected by the
opposing teams as the “Man of
the Match” for both games



C1C Henry Hill charges Cranwell

Professional Development and Relationship Building

Impact of Trip

- Leadership development for CIC and Team Captain as they executed a TDY for 25 personnel in a foreign country and for other members as they were given responsibility for small groups throughout the trip.
- Developed an understanding of the differences and similarities of a critical allied air force
- Enhanced knowledge of historically significant locations, events, individuals, and equipment
- Broadened awareness of cultural sensitivities, views, and approaches to issues
- Established relationships with officers and enlisted of the RAF that have the potential to enhance operational effectiveness
- Laid the foundation for reciprocal visits for RAF personnel to the U.S.
- Made a positive impression on all RAF personnel involved in the games, lodging, dining, and briefings on professionalism and decorum of USAFA; the team served as outstanding ambassadors of both the USAFA and the USAF



Briefings on trench warfare at
RAF Halton



Tour of RAF
Library where
TE Lawrence
penned the 7
Pillars of Wisdom



James McCudden Flight Heritage
Center's Link Trainers (the briefer
pictured did an exchange week at
USAFA in 1969)



Duxford Aviation Museum

Professional Development and Relationship Building



Dinner at The Eagle – An historic Cambridge inn where WWII USAAF and RAF Aircrews gathered and left their marks



Trenchard Museum



Tour of the College Hall Officers Mess on the eve of the 100th Anniversary of the RAF



RAF Rugby Union seniors match against the French Air Force



Visit to Wasps Professional Rugby Arena

AIR FORCE RUGBY

**US Air Force Academy @ RAF College Cranwell
1430 Tuesday, March 27, 2018**



**US Air Force Academy vs RAF U-23 at RAF Halton
1430 Thursday, March 29, 2018**



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