

# HRH The Duchess of Cornwall joins 100 Squadron Celebrations

**Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall, Honorary Air Commodore of RAF Leeming joined in with centenary celebrations for 100 Sqn.**

The Duchess joined Squadron and Station personnel and families to watch a drill display by the renowned Queen's Colour Squadron, followed by a flypast of 100 Squadron's distinctive black Hawk T1A jets.



She said: "I'm honoured to be here on this historic occasion to celebrate the Centenary of 100 Squadron. When I presented their new Standard to them in 2010, who would have known that this generation of pilots would be conducting operations in the skies above Syria and Iraq, in the most intense and sustained air operation that the RAF has conducted in the last 25 years?"

"One this very special occasion we honour the heroism, and valour of our predecessors. But let's not forget that as today marks the passing of the baton to the new generation of Airmen, the next chapter of this Squadron is yet to be written."



The Duchess was then invited to meet with personnel and families from across RAF Leeming, as well as special guests including 100 Squadron association veterans.

For Wing Commander Andy Wright, Officer Commanding 100 Squadron, it was a personally special day. He said: "It's been a real honour to have the Duchess of Cornwall with us today – everyone has been walking around with a smile on their face. Before I arrived here, I knew I would be lucky enough to be here for this day. As I was writing my speech for the dinner I researched the Squadron history and there has been so much – on this day in 1917 the Squadron was days away from going to France to take on the Red Baron, for example.

"100 Sqn

has a really rich history, but we are also very proud of our current role as the RAF's sole aggressor unit, and carrying the baton into the future."



The first Royal Flying Corps squadron to be formed specifically for night bombing, Number 100 Squadron formed at Hingham, Norfolk on 23 February 1917. It continued its bombing role through World War II, operating Lancasters from RAF Grimsby. Now serving as the RAF's sole Aggressor Squadron '*The Ton*' delivers a huge range of operational training, including support to the Typhoon force and JTAC serials for the British Army. In November 2010, 100 Squadron received a new Squadron Standard from Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall.

Editor: MCO RAF Leeming

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## [End of an era for RAF Lossiemouth Tornados](#)

## End of an era for RAF Lossiemouth Tornados

XV(Reserve) Squadron, the Tornado Operational Conversion Unit, completed its final formal flying on Friday 17 March 2017. The disbandment of the Squadron, after 102 years' of service, on Friday 31 March 2017 will see the end of the Tornado GR4 era at RAF Lossiemouth.



To mark the end of this period in the Station's history, Tornados from XV(Reserve) Squadron carried out a final sortie that included flying by Aberdeen and Leuchars airfields and Tain Air Weapons Range. These sites have all been instrumental in the training of aircrew at RAF Lossiemouth to operate the Tornado. The aircraft returned to RAF Lossiemouth in the early afternoon and carried out a series of flypasts over the Station.

The Tornado Weapons Conversion Unit was based at RAF Honington in Suffolk when it received the XV (Reserve) Squadron title in 1992. It moved to RAF Lossiemouth in November 1993 and then with the closure of the Tri-national Tornado Training Establishment in March 1999 XV (Reserve) Squadron assumed responsibility for the training of all of the RAF's Tornado GR4 pilots and Weapon Systems Operators in both initial training on the aircraft and in post-graduate courses. Over the past 24 years the Squadron has been the life-blood of the front line ensuring the squadrons were provided with combat capable aircrew. The final ab-initio pilot finished his training at the end of January, and the last refresher pilot, returning from a tour instructing at RAF Valley, graduated at the end of February.



Whilst the Tornado Operational Conversion Unit will cease from 31 March, the RAF will continue to utilise the Tornado GR4 until it is finally withdrawn from service in 2019. RAF Marham in Norfolk is the base of the RAF's front line Tornado squadrons from where aircraft and personnel are deployed to support current operations.

Wing Commander Paul Froome is the Officer Commanding of XV(Reserve) Squadron, and took part in the

flypast. He said:

“The  
disbandment of XV(Reserve) Squadron is a milestone in the drawdown of the  
Tornado fleet, but I can say hand on heart that every member of the  
Squadron,  
past and present, has delivered an exceptional level of service and  
commitment  
to the Tornado fleet and the RAF.”



Three  
frontline Tornado squadrons have been based at RAF Lossiemouth since the  
early  
1990s:

12 (Bomber) Squadron was already based at RAF  
Lossiemouth with the Buccaneer when it was re-equipped with the Tornado GR1B  
in  
October 1993 in the Maritime Strike role. The Squadron was disbanded at  
RAF Lossiemouth on 31 Mar 2014, however it was resurrected on 12 Jan 2015 at  
RAF Marham.

14 Squadron was based at RAF Bruggen with the  
Tornado GR1 before returning to the UK and was based at RAF Lossiemouth from  
1  
Jan 2001. The Squadron was disbanded on 1 Jun 2011. The number  
plate was passed to a new ISTAR unit which had been operating as part of  
V(Army  
Co-operation) Squadron at RAF Waddington.

617 Squadron was equipped with the Tornado GR1  
at RAF Marham when it relocated to RAF Lossiemouth in May 1994. It was at  
this point that it adopted a Maritime Strike role as well as its overland  
strike role. The Squadron was disbanded in March 2014, however it has  
since been reformed and is re-equipping with the F-35 Lightning II.

Each of these squadrons deployed personnel and aircraft to Operations  
TELIC, HERRICK and ELLAMY where the Tornado GR4 exploited its range and  
payload  
in the Close Air Support and Interdiction roles.



RAF Lossiemouth will maintain the provision of  
Quick Reaction Alert (Interceptor) North, or QRA as it is commonly called,  
as  
its primary role. The  
strategically important position of the Station on the northern Scottish  
coastline makes it an ideal location to maintain aircraft and crews on high  
alert, in order  
to scramble and intercept unidentified aircraft approaching UK airspace. This

is the basis of QRA and is a duty that  
has been maintained by the Royal Air Force on a 24/7 basis for decades. The  
Station will also see growth in the near  
future as a fourth Typhoon squadron is formed here and 9 P8 Poseidon  
Maritime  
Patrol Aircraft are based here.

Editor: Flt Lt Ian Smith

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## **More affordable houses for urban poor sanctioned for Puducherry, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh**

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has sanctioned 3,128 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor in Puducherry, 924 for Telangana and 2,655 for Himachal Pradesh under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (Urban).

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## **Strict compliance of 'Flag Code of India, 2002' and 'The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971'**

The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory to the Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all State Governments/UT Administrations,

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## **Shri Ghanshyam Singh Appointed as New**

## **Member Traction Railway Board**

Shri Ghanshyam Singh, has been appointed as new Member (Traction) Railway Board and ex officio Secretary to the Government of India with effect from 21 March 2017