



THE Airman Newsletter

MAIDEN EDITION

JUN - DEC 23



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EDITORIAL

It is with great honour that I welcome you to the Maiden edition of **"The Airman Newsletter"**, the official newsletter of the Ghana Air Force. As the Chairman of the Editorial Board, I am privileged to present to you a publication that embodies the dedication and innovation that defines our beloved Air Force.

The Airman Newsletter is not just a newsletter; it is a testament to the untiring spirit of our Airmen. It embodies the relentless pursuit of Command's intent for excellence, the steadfast commitment to safeguard our skies and the ceaseless drive for innovation to overcome the challenges that lie ahead in our pursuit to achieve a SMART Air Force.

We are delighted to announce that, moving forward, **"The Airman Newsletter"** will be released alongside with our esteemed, The Airman Magazine. This is to provide timely information and updates to our cherished stakeholders. Our goal is to ensure that you are regularly informed about the latest developments and stories within the Ghana Air Force.

Within these pages, you will discover stories that highlight the extraordinary accomplishments of our Air Force. It pays homage to the dedication and sacrifice of our service personnel who have protected our nation's skies with unwavering courage.

It serves as a platform to share their stories, celebrate their achievements, and honour their service.

As we present this latest edition, we do so with great anticipation and enthusiasm for the journey that lies ahead. We invite you to explore the pages of **"The Airman Newsletter"**, to immerse yourselves in the captivating narratives it holds, and to join us in celebrating the remarkable Airmen who make our Air Force the formidable force it is today.

We also encourage you to stay connected and engaged with the Ghana Air Force through our social media handles. Follow us on Facebook (ghanaairforce), X(ghana_airforce) and Instagram (ghana_airforce) to receive the latest updates and to be a part of our vibrant online community.

In a nutshell, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated team of writers, photographers and editors who have worked tirelessly to bring this newsletter to life. Their passion and commitment shines through every page.

To all our readers, I encourage you to be active participants of The Airman Newsletter. Share your thoughts, feedback, and suggestions as we continue to rise to new heights, echoing the unwavering determination of our Air Force.

FRONT PAGE CAPTIONS

MAIN PICTURE - THE CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF, AIR VICE MARSHAL FREDERICK ASARE KWASI BEKOE GIVES STRATEGIC GUIDANCE ON AN UP-COMING PROJECT.

INSERT PICTURE - THE CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF CUTS SOD FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 24-UNIT STUDIO ACCOMMODATION FOR AIRMEN.

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CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF'S FOREWORD



**AIR VICE MARSHAL
FREDERICK ASARE KWASI BEKOE**

I am delighted to write this foreword on the maiden edition of the **"Airman Newsletter"**. The introduction of this newsletter forms part of my strategic vision to project the image of the Ghana Air Force. This also necessitated the creation of social media handles and a website to galvanise our communication efforts and keep in line with modern Public Relations trends.

Newsletters are one of the important tools in communicating and projecting the image of any institution. The Airman Newsletter will be a channel to inform, educate and update personnel and our stakeholders on the activities, plans and programmes of the Ghana Air Force. This newsletter will serve as a key component in telling the Air Force story from the Air Force perspective.

When I assumed office as the Chief of the Air Staff, I outlined my strategic vision for the Air Force which is *"to become a SMART Air Force capable of defending our territorial air space against any threat and deliver air power effectively and efficiently for national development while enhancing the welfare of Airmen"*.

This has increasingly become important in the face of the growing threat of terrorism and violent extremism within the Sub-Region. Furthermore, the recent expansion in the Ghana Armed Forces has equally made it important for us to position ourselves in readiness to fulfill our mandate as enshrined in the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana. I therefore set out a roadmap under 3 pillars; building capacity of our platforms, building capacity of our people and improving on our existing infrastructure. I am happy to announce that all these plans are being realised.

So far, there have been extensive meetings with key industry players to procure new aircraft for the Air Force. We also continue to build the capacity of personnel through local and overseas training. This is made manifest in my **"FLIGHT PLAN 6"** where we are training a minimum of 6 personnel from the various Branches in phases.

On infrastructure, a state-of-the-art Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Mess is currently under construction.

There are also a number of accommodation units being built across the various Bases to ease the accommodation challenges in the Barracks. Suffice to add that, we undertake all these in tandem with providing air support for the Ghana Army and Navy while supporting the other Sister Security Services.

These initiatives and programmes cannot be achieved without the collective and concerted effort by each individual. I therefore implore all personnel to continue to be professional in the discharge of their duties. Commendation also goes to all personnel for their hard work and sacrifices over the period.

To our cherished readers, as you carefully open the pages, know that each page has been specially designed to give you an enjoyable reading experience. Relish the moments, cherish the memories and enjoy it as much as we did in publishing this maiden edition of the Airman Newsletter.

I wish you all a pleasant reading experience!

Mission

"To deliver air power to meet national security objectives".

Vision

"To become a SMART Air Force Capable of Defending our Territorial Air Space against any Threat and Deliver Air Power Effectively and Efficiently for National Development while Enhancing the Welfare of Airmen".

CAS INDUCTED INTO OFFICE



DG DRA, CDRE PAUL ADJEI-DJAN PRESENTS CAS TO THE CONGREGATION AFTER THE INDUCTION RITES.



THE CHIEF OF TUTU-AKUAPEM, NANA APPIAH ANTI IV AND A CROSS-SECTION OF DIGNITARIES AT THE CEREMONY.



A CROSS-SECTION OF MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AT THE CEREMONY.



A GROUP PHOTO OF CDS AND SPOUSE, CAS AND SPOUSE, COAS, COMDT KAIPTC AND OTHER GENERALS.

An induction service was held at the Garrison Methodist-Presbyterian Church, Burma Camp, on Sunday 11 June 2023, to usher in the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Frederick Asare Kwasi Bekoe.

The Guest of Honour, the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS), Vice Admiral Seth Amoama congratulated the CAS on his new office and wished him well in all his endeavours.

AVM Bekoe in his remarks extended his profound gratitude to the Almighty God and the Commander-in-Chief of the Ghana Armed Forces, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo for bestowing such an honour on him. He also thanked the Military High Command and personnel of the Ghana Armed Forces for their unflinching support and dedication.

“I am prepared to put in an endless effort to transform the Ghana Air Force into a *“Smart Air Force” that is capable of defending our country and utilise Air Power effectively for national development*”, he underscored.

In order to increase the operating capabilities of the Ghana Air Force, he hinted of plans to increase the number of aircraft and also address the infrastructure deficit within the barracks.

Additionally, he stated that throughout his tenure, he would work to support and provide pertinent services to the other arms of the Ghana Armed Forces.

This, according to him, will ensure that they are well-prepared and ready to safeguard the peace and sovereignty of Ghana.

The Director of Religious Affairs of the Ghana Air Force, Apostle Colonel Benjamin Kumi-Woodé preached on the theme *“The Faithful God, Our Centre of Gravity”*. In his sermon, he said, leadership is a privilege to solve problems and transform a group of people to the glory of God.

He added that, leadership is an opportunity to serve humanity and despite challenges of contemporary military leadership, there is the need to sustain an efficient force to accomplish every mission.

The induction was superintended by the Director General, Directorate of Religious Affairs and Senior Chaplain of the Garrison Methodist-Presbyterian Church, Reverend Commodore Paul Adjei-Djan.

Dignitaries present were, the Minister for Defence, Hon Dominic Nitiwul, National Security Minister, Hon Kan Dapaah, Minister for Finance, Hon Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Minister for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Hon Stephen Asamoah -Boateng, Hon Zenator Rawlings, MP for Korle Klotey Constituency, Hon Kofi Marfo, MP for Achiasé Constituency and other Members of Parliament, the Chief of the Army Staff, Maj Gen Thomas Oppong-Peprah, the Chief of Staff at the General Headquarters, Maj Gen Peter Nicholas Andoh, and Chiefs from Tutu-Akuapem.

CAS TOURS THE VARIOUS AIR FORCE BASES



GUARD OF HONOUR MOUNTED IN HONOUR OF CAS AT AIR FORCE BASE ACCRA.

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Frederick Asare Kwasi Bekoe has toured the various Air Force Bases. The purpose of the visits was to assess the operational and administrative statuses of the Bases and also to outline his plans and vision for the Ghana Air Force during his tenure as CAS.

AVM FAK Bekoe kickstarted the tour with a durbar at the Air Force Headquarters where he highlighted on 3 key strategies. These are, increasing the number of platforms, improving the capacity of personnel and upgrading the existing infrastructure. AVM Bekoe made it clear that he intends to build a 'SMART' Air Force which is capable of executing its mandate in contributing to national security and development.

At the Air Force Base Accra, he stated that the Air Force through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) intends to build an ultra-modern Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility which would be the first of its kind in the country to serve the Air Force and offer services to the Aviation Industry.

"Going forward, the Air Force will also reintroduce some of its customs like the Wings Parade and adopt a new one such as Air Force Memorial Day to honour fallen heroes" he said.

These celebrations, according to the CAS, would revive soldiers' morale and sense of community while giving the public a chance to learn more about the Ghana Air Force.

During his visit to the Air Force Base Tamale on Friday 14 April 2023, he seized the opportunity to encourage personnel to take good care of themselves and maintain a healthy lifestyle at all times.

Regarding discipline, AVM Bekoe advised personnel to maintain a professional demeanor, follow the Code and Ethics of the Service and abstain from actions that might damage the reputation of the Ghana Armed Forces.

He also spoke about the digitisation drive of the Ghana Air Force which has necessitated the creation of a website and social media handles. This, he said, would help in the dissemination of information to both internal and external publics.

In a similar fashion, the CAS visited the Air Force Base Takoradi where he encouraged personnel to continue to work hard towards achieving the mandate of the Ghana Air Force.

He also enumerated on a number of projects towards improving the general wellbeing of personnel.



CAS INTERACTS WITH AN AIRMAN AT THE AIR FORCE BASE TAMALE.

PHOTO GALLERY OF THE TOUR



CAS INTERACTS WITH DEFENCE CIVILIAN STAFF AT AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS.



CAS HOLDS DURBAR AT AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS.



CAS INTERACTS WITH SOME SENIOR WARRANT OFFICER'S AT AIR FORCE BASE ACCRA.



CAS OUTLINES HIS VISION FOR THE GHANA AIR FORCE AT AIR FORCE BASE ACCRA.



CAS CONDUCTED AROUND AIR FORCE RECRUIT TRAINING SCHOOL AT TAKORADI.



CAS PLANTS A TREE DURING HIS VISIT TO AIR FORCE BASE TAKORADI.



GOC NORTHERN COMD, COMD AFB TAM AND OC FLYING WELCOME CAS TO TAMALE.



CAS HOLDS DURBAR AT AIR FORCE BASE TAMALE.

AIR COMMODORE ERIC YIRENKYI TAKES OVER AS CHIEF STAFF OFFICER



EXCHANGE OF HANDING OVER CERTIFICATES.

Air Commodore Eric Yirenkyi took over as the Chief Staff Officer from Air Commodore David Akrong at the Air Force Headquarters on Thursday 10 August 2023.

Air Commodore (Air Cdre) DA Akrong, who completed his tenure successfully as Chief Staff Officer (CSO), expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to lead and serve the Air Force. He emphasised on the importance of teamwork and excellence in shaping the future of the Ghana Air Force. He also advised personnel to give the new CSO all the needed support to achieve the mission and vision of the Ghana Air Force.

Air Cdre Yirenkyi, the newly-appointed CSO accepted the responsibilities and challenges that lay ahead while acknowledging the legacy left by his predecessor.

The Commander, Air Force Base Accra, Air Cdre Eric Agyen-Frempong who presided over the handing/taking over formalities on behalf of the Chief of the Air Staff, used the opportunity to thank the out-gone CSO for his dedicated work to the Ghana Air Force.

He added that, he had no doubt Air Cdre Akrong would live up to the expectations of the Ghana Air Force and also raise the flag of the Air Force high in his new appointment. Air Cdre Akrong is expected to take up his new appointment as the Deputy Commandant of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC).

Air Cdre Agyen-Frempong also extended a warm hand of welcome to the new CSO and assured him of all the support needed to run his new office smoothly.

The short ceremony which was well attended by some Senior Officers was later climaxed with a short durbar with Officers, Airmen and Defence Civilian Staff to officially introduce the new CSO to the personnel.



DURBAR WITH HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL.



A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF BASE COMD, CSOs, DCSOs, DIRs AND MAWO.



GAF EXHIBITS OPERATIONAL READINESS AND INTEROPERABILITY

The Ghana Armed Forces on Friday 27 October 2023 displayed the operational readiness and interoperability prowess that exists between the Army, Navy and Air Force during the Land Combat Fire Power Demonstration at the Battle Training Camp, Bundase.

The annual event forms part of the training curriculum of the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College (GAFSC). This year's exercise featured students of the GAFSC Senior Division Course 45 and was aimed at providing the students with information on the fire assets available to a given battle group and how it is employed on the field of battle.

As part of the demonstration, the students and dignitaries present were given a clear depiction of the various components of an Infantry Battalion, nature of Land Combat Environment, Fire Support Coordination and Combat Supporting Elements.

In line with the scenario, the Ghana Air Force provided air assets for fast roping insertion behind enemy lines and aerial bombardment which aided in the successful execution of the battle plan to eradicate the insurgents.

The Deputy Defence Minister, Honourable Kofi Amankwa-Manu in his speech commended personnel of GAF for their selfless service and dedication in safeguarding the peace and security of the country.



He mentioned that, with the prevailing security situation within the West African environment, it is imperative that the Armed Forces tests their resolve to stand in readiness and guarantee the security of the country to drive nation building and economic growth.

Honourable Kofi Amankwa-Manu used the opportunity to praise the Armed Forces for their participation in Internal Security Operations such as, CALM LIFE, HALT II, AHODWO and recently the rescue operations offered to victims of the Akosombo Dam spillage(OP BOAFO).





GHANA AIR FORCE PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE GRAND AFRICAN NEMO 2023

The Ghana Air Force participated in Exercise Grand African Nemo, an annual combined Central and West African Multinational Maritime exercise which took place in the Gulf of Guinea, Ghana on 12 October 2023. The Exercise focused on increased regional cooperation, maritime safety and security.

The scenario for the Exercise was based on a mass casualty evacuation which involved an airplane crash into the sea, offshore the Osu landing beach. The Ghana Airport Company Ltd, Ghana Armed Forces and other Security Agencies with over 200 participants from 35 countries and regional groupings featured in this year's Exercise.

Akin to their role, the Ghana Air Force provided assistance for the Navy Special Boat Squadron (SBS) rescue team fast roping and air drops. Additionally, the Air Force provided assistance for the SBS during their search and rescue operation.

As part of the scenario, the Air Force conducted Casualty/Medical evacuation (CASEVAC/MEDEVAC) for simulated critical medical cases from Independence Square, Accra to the 37 Military hospital.

Key to the Exercise was the coordination of events role played by the Operations personnel at the Air Force Headquarters which ensured a seamless transition of events.

In an interview with the Officer Commanding No 3 Squadron, Air Force Base Accra, Wing Commander Charles Dawoe, he commended the Ghana Airports Company Limited and other stakeholders for the collaborative effort to test their operational readiness and improve their response capacity in tackling maritime incidents.

He added that, the Air Force was ever ready to provide disaster management relief flights and missions to support the government and safeguard the aviation airspace of the country.

Wing Commander Dawoe applauded all participants for their agility and swift manoeuvre in carrying out their assigned task to ensure the success of the Exercise.





FIRST BATCH OF GHANA AIR FORCE SPECIAL TASK UNIT COMPLETE TRAINING

An intensive six-weeks maiden training programme was organised for the first batch of the Special Task Unit (STU) of the Ghana Air Force by the Army Special Operations Brigade at the 69 Airborne Force in Tamale.

The training program is aimed at equipping selected Officers and Airmen with advanced skills and tactics to improve Base protection and effectively execute specialised military operations.

In all, 33 personnel selected from the three Bases were taken through the comprehensive training initiative which covered an array of disciplines such as physical training, navigation, room clearing drills, voice procedure, combat medicine, minor tactics and range work.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, the Commander, Air Force Base Tamale, Air Commodore (Air Cdre) Joshua Mensah-Larkai commended the trainees for their unwavering resolve and resilience throughout the rigorous training. He lauded their newly acquired skills and urged them to remain proactive and combat-ready in executing their assigned tasks.



Air Cdre Mensah-Larkai extolled the establishment of the STU as a remarkable milestone for the Ghana Air Force, stating that the STU embodies a new era of defence preparedness. Their presence will undoubtedly safeguard vital assets and enable the seamless execution of multifaceted military operations, he added.



COMMANDER ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS BRIGADE COMMENDS GHANA AIR FORCE

The Commander, Army Special Operations Brigade, Brigadier General (Brig Gen) Isaac Painstil has commended the Ghana Air Force for being a reliable partner during the Special Forces Basic Training.

Brig Gen Painstil stated that the Air Force provided all the kinetic aspects of the training especially in Airmobile operations, Fast Roping, Air Assault, Insertion and Exfiltration exercises. He made this statement at the passing out parade of the Army Special Forces Basic Course 2 and Special Forces Basic Sniper Course 1 held at the 64 Infantry Regiment, Gondar Barracks on Thursday 3 August 2023.

According to Brig Gen Painstil, the Special Forces Basic Course is the initial phase of the Courses run by the Army Special Operations Brigade and is aimed at producing an elite multipurpose force capable of conducting operations in conventional and asymmetric warfare.

In all, 35 soldiers successfully completed the 7 months of rigorous training and are well equipped to conduct military operations in urban terrain, close quarter battle, unarmed combat, VIP protection and airmobile operations.

Delivering a speech on behalf of the Chief of the Army Staff, Major

General Thomas Opong Peprah, the Commandant Training and Doctrine Command, Major General Kwasi Onwona praised the troops for their determination and endurance in completing their training thus earned the right to become members of the elite force of the Ghana Army.

He therefore charged them to exhibit the highest form of professionalism in executing their mandate of defending the territorial space of Ghana.

Present to witness the occasion were the Chief of the Air Staff, Formation Commanders, Senior Officers, Soldiers and some Defence Civilian Staff.



CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF, AVM FAK BEKOE, COMMANDANT TRADOC, MAJ GEN ONWONA AND DIGNITARIES AT THE FUNCTION.



CAS IN AN INTERACTION WITH OTHER DIGNITARIES.



A DEMONSTRATION DURING THE GRADUATION.



CAS DECORATES A SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIER WITH A MEDAL.

FLIGHT PLAN SIX

The Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Vice Marshal FAK Bekoe as part of his strategic vision of building the capacity of personnel introduced, the FLIGHT PLAN 6 with the focus of training a minimum of 6 Officers/Airmen in each of the Branches in the Air Force. Human resource development through training is a key strategy that will help improve the performance of personnel and make them more efficient and effective.



A GROUP PICTURE OF CAS, D ADMIN WITH 10 ADMIN OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR A COURSE IN NIGERIA.



CAS INTERACTS WITH 8 SUPPLY OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR A COURSE IN NIGERIA.



CAS WITH DAO, D TRG AND 6 AB INITIO HELICOPTER PILOTS.



CAS WITH DAO, D TRG AND 6 AB INITIO FIXED WING PILOTS.

It is gratifying to note that about 50 Officers (Aircrew, Supply, Administration and Engineering) within this year have embarked on various courses overseas. For instance, on Tuesday 2 May 2023, 8 Air Force Officers of the Supply Branch prior to their departure met with the CAS at the Air Force Headquarters while 10 Administrative Officers embarking on their initial Personnel Administration Management Course in Kaduna, Nigeria also met with him on Friday 14 July 2023.



A GROUP PICTURE OF 8 OFFICERS FOR BASIC AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL COURSE, SOUTH AFRICA.

Additionally, a team comprising 6 ab initio helicopter pilots, 6 ab initio fixed-wing pilots, and 4 Instructor pilots also met with the CAS as they embarked on a course overseas in the US. Similarly, the CAS met with 8 Officers embarking on the Air Traffic Controllers course in South Africa.



A GROUP PICTURE OF CAS, DAO, D TRG, 4 PILOTS FOR INSTRUCTOR TRAINING AND 12 AB INITIO PILOTS FOR A COURSE IN THE USA.

These meetings were held as part of the pre-course departure procedures for Air Force personnel embarking on course overseas. The CAS advised the Officers to dedicate themselves to their studies and come out with flying colours. He further urged them to be worthy ambassadors of the Nation and lead exemplary lives wherever they find themselves.

This list of personnel embarking on courses overseas also includes Senior Officers for War and Defence Colleges. Airmen have also benefited from this initiative and more will follow in due course. All these demonstrate the commitment of CAS to building the capacity of personnel.

STRATEGIC VISION OF BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF PLATFORMS

The Ghana Air Force for some time now has not seen any major procurements in aircraft acquisition. However, current happenings pertaining to threats of terrorism and violent extremism coupled with the expansion of the Ghana Armed Forces has necessitated the need to acquire new aircraft to provide support and deliver air power for national security objectives.

So far, there have been extensive consultations and discussions with the relevant organisations and institutions within the aircraft manufacturing and acquisition industry to supply some aircraft to the Ghana Air Force. The new acquisitions will include transport and light attack aircraft. These acquisitions will position the Service to effectively undertake its mandate as enshrined in the constitution.

The following were some consultative meetings held between Ghana Air Force and some aircraft manufacturing and acquisition institutions.



CSO AIR FORCE, AIR CDRE YIRENKYI CHAIRS MEETING WITH CATIC OVER POSSIBLE ACQUISITIONS.



A GROUP FROM THE GLOBAL COMMAND AND CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES (GC2T) UNVEILED THEIR CUTTING-EDGE COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS, COMPUTERS AND INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES.



CATIC DELEGATION VISIT TO AFHQ.

AIR FORCE TRAINING COMMAND COMMENCES DRILL AND DUTIES AND MILITARY POLICE BASIC COURSES FOR AIRMEN

The Ghana Air Force in its efforts to increase the capacity and promote good quality training established the Air Force Training Command (AFTRAC) in 2021. In fulfilling its mandate, AFTRAC commenced the Drill and Duties and Military Police Courses for personnel of the Ghana Air Force.

An initial 3-weeks drill cadre was organised for 14 Air Force drill instructors at the Drill and Duties School, Whistler barracks at Teshie. The aim of the cadre was to prepare the potential instructors to take up the training of Air Force personnel in Drill and Duties.

This paved way for the maiden Basic and Advance Drill and Duties Course which commenced on Monday 16

October 2023 at the Air Force Recruit Training School in Takoradi for 45 participants drawn from the various Bases within the Air Force. The 3-months course was designed to provide participants with the core values and regimentation on which the Ghana Air Force administer its mandate and its act of professionalism.

Another step towards meeting the training demands was the commencement of the maiden Air Force Police Basic Course. The 12-weeks course which begun on 23 October 2023 is aimed at equipping the participants with knowledge and skills in leadership, law enforcement and policing, aviation security operations among others to carry on their duties effectively and efficiently.

The Commander, Air Force Training Command, Air Commodore Mathias Awuah said the courses were organised in line with the vision of the Chief of the Air Staff to build the human capacity and make the Air Force SMART, effective and efficient.



A GROUP PICTURE OF DIGNITARIES WITH PARTICIPANTS OF THE AIR FORCE DRILL INSTRUCTORS CADRE.



A GROUP PICTURE OF DIGNITARIES WITH PARTICIPANTS OF THE AIR FORCE POLICE BASIC COURSE.



A GROUP PICTURE OF DIGNITARIES WITH PARTICIPANTS OF THE ADVANCE DRILL AND DUTIES COURSE.



ROADMAP TOWARDS ACCREDITATION S of TT NOW KNOWN AS 'GHANA AIR FORCE AVIATION COLLEGE'

The Ghana Air Force has initiated the processes to secure accreditation for the School of Trade Trading (S of TT). The process has reached the institutional authorisation phase, hence the School will now be known as the Ghana Air Force Aviation College (GHFAC).

In an interview with the Commander, Air Force Training Command, Air Commodore Mathias Awuah stated that this development formed part of the roadmap towards making GHFAC a fully-fledged accredited training institution. This is in line with the vision of the Chief of the Air Staff and his commitment towards building the capacity of personnel. Ghana Air Force has 3 years to complete the accreditation process.

Towards achieving this goal, several consultative meetings were held with different educational institutions all aimed at fostering academic excellence and practical knowledge in the field of aerospace engineering.

First was a meeting with a delegation from the School of Aerospace Engineering of the University of Ghana led by Professor Boateng Onwona-Agyeman and Professor Abu Yaya. They paid a working visit to inspect the Schools' facilities and advice on the processes to seek accreditation for the School. This was in line with an already established Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions.

Next was a visit by a four (4) member delegation from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). The delegation led by the Provost of the College of Engineering, Professor Kwabena Biritwum Nyarko first paid a courtesy call on the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Frederick Asare Kwasi Bekoe in his office. The CAS welcomed them and stated that the visit was timely because the Air Force was in the process of establishing the Ghana Air Force Aviation College. He thus welcomed the collaborative efforts

at building a mutually beneficial relationship between the two institutions.

In a similar way, another collaborative meeting was held with Aerojet Aviation Training Academy to deliberate on a proposal aimed at enhancing the training curriculum of both schools. It was also to outline measures for both institutions to access modern training facilities, specialised training programmes and the continuous improvement in the School's programmes.

GHFAC when granted accreditation, will be in a position to award HND certificates to personnel in various aviation related subjects for both Technical and Non-Technical students. This will in the long run equip personnel with the requisite certificates to favourably assess the job market after retirement.



CAS AND STAFF OFFICERS IN A CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH KNUST COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING DELEGATION.



CAS AND STAFF OFFICERS IN A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH WITH KNUST COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING DELEGATION.



COMD AFTRAC, AIR CDRE AWUAH LEADS UG SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE ENGINEERING DELEGATION TO INSPECT THE SCHOOL'S FACILITIES.



UG SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE ENGINEERING DELEGATION INSPECTS GHFAC FACILITIES.

KEY APPOINTMENT HOLDERS AT AFHQ



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DDAO (OPS)



WG CDR DK OTU
DD SUP (ACCTS)



WG CDR L BOAKYE
DD ADMIN (O&S)



SQN LDR FQ TETTEH
A/DD TRG



SQN LDR D BADU-YEBOAH
A/DDAO (CIV COORD)



SQN LDR CT FIANKOR
ADAFPSO



SQN LDR M AGYENIM-BOATENG
AD TRG



SQN LDR EW GALLEY
AD PROC



SQN LDR CM ZIKPI
PSO I



SQN LDR EM ABOAGYE
ASST AIR SEC



SQN LDR EF SALIFU
DEP SPRO



SQN LDR A TAHIRU
ADAO (OPS)



SQN LDR RK BOATENG
AD ENG (MECH)



SQN LDR K DUSHIE
AD SUP (M&T)



FLT LT AJ IDDRISU
UAO



FLT LT PNT TAGOE
AD ENG (AVIONICS)



FLT LT FA ASANTE
PA TO CAS



MWO BAWA A
MAWO



SWO II KWAFO AJ
UWO



SWO II AWITOR DE
OPS SWO



SWO II SAKYI E
SWOPT



WOI AFFRAM DK
CHIEF CLERK

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT THE AFHQ

- * DCSO - DEPUTY CHIEF STAFF OFFICER
- * DAFLA - DIRECTOR AIR FORCE LEGAL AFFAIRS
- * DAFRA - DIRECTOR AIR FORCE RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
- * DAFPSO - DIRECTOR AIR FORCE PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS
- * DAI - DIRECTOR AIR INTELLIGENCE
- * SPRO - SERVICE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

BASE COMMANDERS AND TACTICAL AIR COMMANDER



AIR CDRE E AGYEN-FREMPONG
BASE COMMANDER
ACCRA



AIR CDRE JL MENSAH-LARKAI
BASE COMMANDER
TAMALE



GP CAPT SY AGBENYEFIA
ACTING BASE COMMANDER
TAKORADI



AIR CDRE EK ARNESON
COMMANDER TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
BUI

NEWLY ESTABLISHED COMMANDS



AIR CDRE G WIENAA
COMMANDER
AIR FORCE LOGISTICS
COMMAND

Air Force logistics is a critical component of a nation's military infrastructure, specifically focused on supporting the operations of the Air Force. It involves the planning, coordination, and execution of logistics activities to ensure that aircraft, personnel, and equipment are ready for the success of any mission. In response to the need to centrally manage logistics improvement efforts in the Ghana Air Force (GHF) and to concentrate management emphasis on enhancing effectiveness, Command has established the Ghana Air Force Logistics Command (AFLOC). The newly established AFLOC is currently located at John Asamoah Bruce Hangar at the Air Force Base in Accra.

ROLE OF THE AIR FORCE LOGISTICS COMMAND

The concept of establishment of AFLOC is to fulfil the following roles:

- The procurement and control of equipment and supplies necessary for the efficient operation of the GHF.
- Formulation of equipment policies.
- Enforcement of adequate regulations governing the safe custody, in-store preservation, and economical use of equipment and supplies.
- Functional control of No 1 Logistics Group, including the Bases and Depots with respect to logistics readiness (Supply and Ground Engineering) and aircraft maintenance.
- Financial responsibilities with respect to equipment maintenance and supplies.
- Contracts in conjunction with the Service legal department.
- Command and Control of all logistics operations within the GHF.

MOTTO

The motto of AFLOC is 'Quality is Priority'. The motto reflects the high standard set to deliver effective and efficient logistics support to the GHF.

The newly established AFLOC is critical for maintaining the readiness and effectiveness of the GHF. AFLOC will provide analysis and development capability to the GHF. It is envisioned that AFLOC will enable the GHF to effectively and efficiently carry out its mission of defending the nation's airspace, conducting air operations, and providing support to joint military operations with our sister services.



AIR CDRE M AWUAH
COMMANDER
AIR FORCE TRAINING
COMMAND

The Ghana Air Force in its efforts to expand its ability and capacity to provide quality training for Airmen established the Air Force Training Command (AFTRAC) in 2021. The aim also is to bring all newly created and existing Ghana Air Force schools under a unified and functional command to ensure an effective, efficient and purposeful administration. AFTRAC was operationalised in 2023 with the mandate of fulfilling the training vision of the Ghana Air Force.

PURPOSE

AFTRAC is to impart the requisite training to improve the leadership skills and competencies of Airmen in the Ghana Air Force.

MOTTO

"EXCELLENCE THROUGH TRAINING".

VISION

The vision of AFTRAC is to become the source of professional, disciplined and well-trained airmen with integrity and a passion for excellence and success.

MISSION

The mission of AFTRAC is to train airmen at all levels to excellence in leadership and aviation trades in order to enhance airpower for the Ghana Air Force.

OBJECTIVES

- The development of competencies for character and leadership development, core values and ethics.
- The development of the requisite competencies for strategic thinking and communication in the Air Force domain.
- The development of the competencies for planning and delivery.
- The development of a sound understanding of contemporary principles of personnel management.
- The development of understanding of organizational behaviour and change management theory and its application.
- The development of leaders at all levels in the Ghana Air Force

SCHOOLS UNDER AFTRAC

- Air Force Leadership Academy
- The Air Force Recruit Training School
- The Ghana Air Force Aviation College (formerly S of TT)
- Flying Training School
- The Air Force Ground Training School

CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF'S MID-YEAR CONFERENCE



The Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Frederick Asare Kwasi Bekoe held his maiden Mid-Year Conference at the Air Force Headquarters (AFHQ) from Tuesday 11 July to Wednesday 12 July 2023.

The conference organised under the theme, "Building Capacity for Maximum Efficiency in the Ghana Air Force", brought together the Chief Staff Officer, Base Commanders, Air Officers and Directors at the AFHQ to deliberate on pertinent issues confronting the Ghana Air Force and proffer strategic solutions.

During the conference, participants took turns in delivering presentations in their respective fields of expertise. This availed each speaker the opportunity to elaborate on the current state of their branches, achievements, challenges, projections and make recommendations.

In his closing remarks, AVM Bekoe commended participants for their active participation in ensuring a result-oriented conference. He urged participants to improve upon the cooperation and mutual respect among themselves in order to ensure the success of the Air Force.

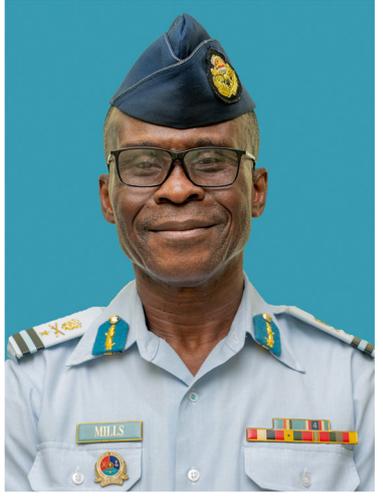
True to his vision of building a smart and efficient Air Force, AVM Bekoe mentioned some initiatives currently underway to help build the capacity of personnel, improve existing infrastructure and increase the platforms belonging to the Ghana Air Force.

On building capacity of personnel, the CAS stated that a total of 27 Officers made up of Air Crew, Supply and Admin personnel have embarked on overseas courses since his assumption and hinted of 11 more Officers and an Airman ready to depart the shores of Ghana to Nigeria and India to be trained in their respective trades.

According to the CAS, the Air Force continues to provide air support for the Ghana Army, Ghana Navy, other Security Services as well as for national security purposes. He added that, efforts were being made to retool the Air Force in the near future to enable it better serve the mandate of safeguarding the territorial airspace of the country.

Furthermore, AVM Bekoe highlighted some infrastructural projects currently ongoing within the barracks to help curb the accommodation deficit and improve the standard of living conditions of Officers and Airmen.





PROJECTS AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE GHANA AIR FORCE

BY AIR CDRE CHRISTOPHER MILLS
DCSO AIR INT & DIR PROJECTS

The Air Force has continued to pursue an infrastructural development agenda to address the accommodation challenges confronting the Service. It is focused on the renovation, construction and reconstruction of accommodation, offices and recreational facilities for personnel to improve their living and working conditions. The following are highlights of some completed projects, ongoing projects and our projections for the future.

COMPLETED PROJECTS



TWO KM BY-PASS FROM AIR FORCE OFFICERS' MESS (GIFFARD ROAD) TO AFB ACCRA THROUGH AGRIC MECHANISATION.
The construction of this access road started in November 2021 and was completed in February 2023 and opened for use.



CONSTRUCTION OF HELIPAD AT SEFWI BOAKO FOR THE BANK OF GHANA.
The project was started in July 2022, completed on January 2023 to assist in the movement of specie (Money) to and from the Western Regions of Ghana.



RENOVATION AND CLADDING OF AFHQ NEW BUILDING.
The new headquarters was given a face-lift.

ON-GOING PROJECTS



RECONSTRUCTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SENIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS' MESS AT THE AIR FORCE BARRACKS ACCRA.
The project started in June 2023 and it is currently at the super-structure level at about 80% complete. It is scheduled to be completed in December 23.



CONSTRUCTION OF TWO - STOREY BLOCK OF 19 SINGLE UNIT FLATS FOR YOUNG OFFICERS NEAR EK ASANTE LODGE IN ACCRA.
This started in 2019 as part of a PPP arrangement with United Rentals. The project is at roofing stage and it is at about 40% complete.



RENOVATION OF KOTEI HANGAR AT AFB ACCRA.
The project is being undertaken by 3AMS/TESEM, it was started in November 2022. It is to be extended to cover the Engineering Wing and modified to accommodate aircraft with high tails. The project is at about 20% complete.



CONSTRUCTION OF THREE - STOREY, 12 X CHAMBER & HALL, 12 X 2 BED ROOM FLATS, AND 4 X DORMITORIES FOR AIRMEN IN TAMALE.
This started in August 2022 and the project is currently at the roofing stage. It is about 65% complete. It is projected to be completed in February 2024. The same type was completed and commissioned for the Accra Base.



CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICES AND ACCOMMODATION AT WA AIRPORT.
These are 2-units of semi-detached buildings with 2 bedrooms each. It was started in May 2022 and funded by the Ministry of Roads and Highways. The project is at about 90% complete.

Continue on page 30

MULTIPURPOSE ACCOMMODATION BUILDING COMMISSIONED AT AIR FORCE BASE ACCRA

The Base Commander, Air Force Base Accra, Air Commodore Eric Agyen- Frempong on Thursday 31 August 2023 commissioned a multipurpose accommodation building at the Air Force Barracks in Burma Camp.

The commissioning of the edifice adds to the tall list of projects by the Ghana Air Force. It is a three (3) storey building, comprising 12 units of 2 bedroom self-contained, 12 chamber and hall self-contained rooms and 4 dormitories. The building was started in April 2021 and completed in February 2023.

Air Commodore, Eric Agyen-Frempong at the commissioning ceremony expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Defence, the Military High Command and all past Chiefs of the Air Staff for all the support rendered to the Ghana Air Force in tackling the accommodation deficit in the barracks.

He expressed his gratitude to the former Chief of the Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Frank Hanson, for facilitating

the construction of the edifice to provide accommodation to over 100 Airmen. He added that, Command will continuously take up the responsibility of providing befitting accommodation to personnel to enable them conveniently perform their duties effectively.

Air Commodore Agyen-Frempong acknowledged the CEO of Tonydolleyken Enterprise, Mr Anthony Tieku Nsiah and his team for working tirelessly to complete the project on time. He also thanked the Directorate of Engineer Services for their supervisory role in the completion of the building. Finally, he advised the occupants of the new accommodation block to take good care in maintaining the new building.

The ceremony was witnessed by the Chief Staff Officer, Air Commodore Eric Yirenkyi, Deputy Chief Staff Officers and Directors at the Air Force Headquarters.



BASE COMMANDER, AIR CDRE E AGYEN-FREMPONG HAPPILY RECEIVES THE KEYS FROM MR ANTHONY TIEKU NSIAH, THE CONTRACTOR.



THE CLERGY DEDICATES THE BUILDING.



BASE COMD ACCRA AND CSO AIR FORCE CUT THE TAPE TO COMMISSION THE BUILDING.



DCSO INT AND DIR PROJECTS, AIR CDRE MILLS AND THE CONTRACTOR, MR ANTHONY TIEKU NSIAH CONDUCT DIGNITARIES AROUND THE FACILITY.



A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF DIGNITARIES.



CONSTRUCTION OF 24-UNIT STUDIO APARTMENTS FOR AIRMEN COMMENCES

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Frederick Asare Kwasi Bekoe has cut sod for the construction of a state-of-the-art 3-storey building comprising 24-unit studio accommodation at the Air Force Barracks, Burma Camp on Friday 6 October 2023.

Aimed at providing comfortable and modern living spaces for Airmen of the Ghana Air Force, this innovative development forms part of the vision of the Chief of the Air Staff to improve the welfare and living conditions of personnel in the Ghana Air Force.

Giving the welcome address, the Base Commander, Air Force Base Accra, Air Commodore Eric Agyen-Frempong expressed his gratitude to the Chief of the Air Staff for making the welfare needs of personnel a priority. He entreated all the stakeholders involved in the project to play their roles effectively to ensure the timely completion of the project.

Delivering his speech, AVM FAK Bekoe emphasised the importance of providing suitable accommodation for personnel as this would greatly boost their morale and productivity. He added that efforts were being made to retool the Air Force in order to improve upon the operational readiness of the Service taking into cognisance the rising security threats in the sub-region.

AVM Bekoe further enumerated a number of ongoing infrastructural projects in Accra, Takoradi and Tamale Bases. He commended the collaborative efforts between the Ghana Air Force, the Directorate of Engineer Services, Dakal Construction Works Ltd and other stakeholders involved in the realisation of the project.

He expressed his optimism that the completed accommodation units would serve as a flagship example of modern living quarters for military personnel. He also charged all personnel to continue to work hard in the discharge of their duties.

The studio accommodation units will feature state-of-the-art facilities, including spacious living areas, modern kitchens, and top-quality amenities, all designed to ensure the comfort and well-being of the occupants. The project is expected to be completed in eight (8) months and will be constructed by Dakal Construction Works Limited supervised by the Directorate of Engineer Services.

In attendance were the Deputy Chief of Staff Administration, AVM Michael Appiah-Agyekum, Base Commander, Air Force Base Accra, Air Cdre Eric Agyen-Frempong, the Director General Logistics, Commodore Agyenim-Boateng, the Chief Staff Officer, Air Commodore Eric Yirenkyi and other senior military Officers.

The Chief Director at the Ministry of Roads and Highways, Alhaji Abass, Retired Officers and Airmen, Representatives from the Air Wives Organisation (AWO) and other distinguished guests from various sectors were also in attendance.





GMR AND JA KUFUOR FOUNDATION HOLD CPR TRAINING AT AIR FORCE BASE ACCRA

The Ghana Medical Relief (GMR) and the John A Kufuor Foundation have held a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training on Monday 31 July 2023 at the Air Force Base Accra. The training forms part of the foundation's aim of improving healthcare within the communities of Ghana through their annual healthcare missions.

Prior to the training session, the team of doctors paid a courtesy call on the Base Commander, to express their profound gratitude to the Ghana Air Force for the assistance given in airlifting medical supplies to Tamale on Wednesday 19 July 2023.

The Base Commander, Air Cdre Agyen-Frempong, welcomed the team on behalf of the Chief of the Air Staff to the Base and thanked them for offering to impact knowledge in the vital area of administering first aid. He added that, as soldiers it was very essential to be abreast with life saving techniques since it may come in handy when deployed and executing the mandate as security personnel.

During the training session, personnel were given a demonstration and an opportunity to try their hands on electronic manikins on how to resuscitate a person under cardiac arrest.

The organisation also donated a complete set of electronic manikins to the Base to be used for training to build the confidence of personnel in practicing CPR techniques.

The project manager of GMR, Dr Samuel Brobbey stated that, the organisation mobilises a team of healthcare and non-healthcare volunteers from the USA, Ghana and other parts of the world to provide free medical and dental services to some communities in Ghana. The wide range of services include Pediatrics, Urology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology among others.



GMR STAFF DEMONSTRATE HOW TO PERFORM



AN AIRMAN PRACTICES CPR ON AN ELECTRONIC MANIKIN.



A GMR VOLUNTEER DEMONSTRATES HOW TO PERFORM CPR ON A BABY.

GHANA AIR FORCE PARTNERS WITH AIB TO ESTABLISH SAFETY LABORATORY AT AFLA

The Ghana Air Force and the Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation and Prevention Bureau (AIB) have partnered to establish an Aircraft Safety Laboratory at the Air Force Leadership Academy (AFLA) situated at Tamale in the Northern Region of Ghana.

The laboratory will be used to investigate aircraft accidents and incidents and to a large extent improve aviation safety in Ghana.

The AIB team, led by Mr Samuel Gyepi, Internal Audit, visited the AFLA facility on Wednesday 19 July 2023 to inspect the site of the proposed laboratory. They were given a tour of the facility by Group Captain Awuah, the Director

Administration and acting Commander Air Force Training Command and his team. Mr Gyepi mentioned that the partnership with the Air Force will help improve their ability to investigate aircraft accidents and incidents. He added that it would also help them share their expertise with the Air Force and to a large extent improve aviation safety in Ghana.

Group Captain Awuah acknowledged that the Air Force was committed to working with the AIB to improve aviation safety in Ghana. He said, the laboratory would be a valuable asset to both parties and would help to ensure that the skies of Ghana are safe.

The AIB team included Mr Azu Crabbe, Head of Finance, Mr Abdul-Hamid Mohammed Nakobu, Engineering Assistant, Mr Enoch Tuffour, Procurement Consultant and Ms Ruth Gyekye, Assistant Consultant.



A GROUP PICTURE OF COMMANDER, AIR FORCE BASE TAMALE, AIR CDRE JI MENSAH-LARKAI AND THE DELEGATION.

GOLD FIELDS GHANA LIMITED PRESENTS CASE-TRACTOR TO AIR FORCE BASE TAKORADI

Gold Fields Ghana Limited have presented a special purpose case-tractor worth \$ 28,000 to the Air Force Base Takoradi on Friday 11 August, 2023.

The equipment is meant to clear the shoulders of the runway of overgrown bushes and other obstacles which could be hazardous to flight operations.

In a short ceremony, the Base Commander, Air Commodore Godfried Sackey Parker acknowledged receipt of the equipment and expressed his appreciation to the management of Gold Fields Ghana Limited for their support. He noted that the airport was not only for military purposes but also for civil operations and per international standards, the weeds at the edges of the runway must be pruned to a certain level to ensure proper visibility. He said the Base over the period had to contract the services of civil tractors to do the work at a huge cost and so the reception of the equipment was timely.

He added that the timely intervention from Gold Fields Ghana Limited would go a long way to help maintain the safety and visibility of the runway.

In his remarks, Mr Elliot Twum, the Relieving General Manager of Gold Fields Tarkwa Mines, who presented the case-tractor stated that, the presentation of the equipment was a testimony to the values Gold Fields Ghana Limited places on safety and support to its communities. He noted that, the Takoradi Airport served employees, visitors and stakeholders who fly to Gold Fields mining site at Tarkwa and Damang for business.

Mr Twum declared that, Gold Fields Ghana Foundation had invested over USD \$ 96 million in socio-economic development programmes and projects, giving attention to education, health, water, sanitation, agriculture and infrastructure in the host communities and he believed the company was living these values by providing the case-tractor to help improve operations at the Base.

Present to witness the ceremony were the Senior Air Traffic Controller, Group Captain Edward Agana Adongo, Officers Commanding various wings, Airmen, Defence Civilian Staff and some key staff of Gold Fields Limited.



THE BASE COMMANDER, AIR CDRE GS PARKER ADDRESSING PARTICIPANTS BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CFT.



SOME PARTICIPANTS DURING THE CFT.

AIR FORCE BASE TAKORADI HOLDS COMBAT FITNESS TEST

The Air Force Base Takoradi as part of Base activities held a Combat Fitness Test (CFT) for personnel. This year's CFT proved to be an extraordinary event on the Base as participants showcased unwavering determination and resilience. Personnel from various Wings of the Base showcased their physical prowess, mental fortitude and teamwork, all in pursuit of excellence.

Amidst the cheering of enthusiastic onlookers, the Administration Wing emerged victorious, cementing their position as the epitome of strength and teamwork. Amongst the participants, Aircraftman Class II Awuni shone brightly, emerging as the Best Female participant. Her performance through out the challenging tests displayed

the exceptional physical prowess and unwavering dedication that defines the Air Force Base Takoradi community.

The CFT not only served as a platform for individuals to test their limits but also reinforces the significance of collective determination and teamwork. The unity and unyielding spirit displayed by the participants resulted in an unforgettable event that further solidified Air Force Base Takoradi's legacy as a powerhouse of excellence.

Air Force Base Takoradi continues to stand as a beacon of inspiration, motivating its personnel to strive for greatness in all their endeavours.



THE OC ADMIN WING, SQN LDR L BOAKYE LEADS THE WAY ON THE HORIZONTAL ROPE.



A FEMALE PARTICIPANT EXHIBITS HER SKILL CROSSING AN OBSTACLE.



THE BASE COMMANDER PRESENTS AN AWARD TO THE BEST FEMALE PARTICIPANT.

INTERVIEW WITH FIRST FEMALE DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE GHANA AIR FORCE

GROUP CAPTAIN SOPHIA ADZO JIAGGE

"Your value at work should mirror your status as an Officer not your gender as a female"

By Group Captain Brachie (Rtd)

Can you please give us your name and a brief background to your upbringing?

I am Group Captain Sophia Adzo Jiagge, born and bred in Dzelokope (Zomayi) in the Volta Region to Emmanuel Kofi Jiagge and Lawrence Mable Afatsiawu of blessed memory. I am the 5th and last born for my mother and the 45th for my father. I am a proud product (GEM) of Ola Secondary School and the Tema Secondary School, Tema, where I had my Ordinary and Advanced level certificates in 1986 and 1989 respectively.

I then proceeded to the University of Cape Coast for my Bachelor of Arts Degree and Diploma in Education in 1994. I also hold Masters in Business Administration (Human Resource) from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) in 2013.

How and when were you enlisted into the Service?

Growing up, I was a little fragile and overly protected due to the age gap between my siblings and I wanted some independence and freedom from the four walls of my family's protection. When I saw the enlistment advertisement, I felt this was the opportunity for me to gain my freedom. My family also encouraged me and I applied, went through the processes and was enlisted in 1997 into the Administration Branch of the Ghana Air Force.

Who were the other female Officers in the field of Administration when you joined?

When I enlisted in 1997, there were only two female Air Force Officers at that time. Squadron Leader Dede Cromwell (Rtd), who was commissioned as an Officer in 1994 into the Administration Branch and Squadron Leader Cynthia Dede Kholi (Nee Barigah) (Rtd), who was also commissioned into the Supply Branch in 1995. All of them retired at the rank of Squadron Leader. I was told there was another female Admin Officer but she was de-commissioned.

What were some of the challenges you encountered when you enlisted?

On commissioning in 1997, I was posted to the Air Force Base Takoradi and that took me out of Accra. I was the only female Air Force Officer among the Air Force Officers in Takoradi. This was challenging because I had no female to discuss my personal issues with. Luckily, we had Army and Navy Units in the Garrison and I met the then Garrison Education Officer, Brigadier General Felicia Twum Barima (She was then a Captain and later promoted Major). She is currently the Defence Attaché to La Cote D'Ivoire. She became the senior sister figure for me throughout my stay in Takoradi up till date.

Those days it was not common to have female Officers in the office. Airmen were not used to having females giving them orders, especially taking into perspective our culture where the man is always the head. At the Officers mess, everyone expected me to join in certain roles meant for women when we had official functions. I therefore found myself having to deal with these issues.

In addition, it was difficult to get clothing and other accoutrements designed for females and so I wore whatever was issued.

How did you handle the challenges you faced?

I had very supportive Officers who guided me. Some of them include, the current Base Commander Accra, Air Commodore (Air Cdre) Eric Agyen-Frempong, Air Cdre Adu Gyamfi, Air Cdre Eric Yirenkyi, Air Cdre Odoi Wellington, Air Cdre Awuah among others. Though there were challenges, they provide me all the necessary support and I am deeply grateful to them.

I would also like to acknowledge the immense support from Air Commodore PK Ayisa (Rtd), Group Captain Brachie (Rtd), Group Captain Datsa (Rtd) and the late Squadron Leader P Tay.

The then OC Flying, Group Captain Brachie (Rtd) once told me that *"Your value at work should mirror your status as an Officer not your gender as a female"* and that has always been a guide for me throughout my career. It was quite a lot dealing with all these issues, but I wasn't intimidated and I was able to surmount all with tact and the support from my senior colleagues.

When were you appointed the first female Director Administration of the Ghana Air Force?

I was appointed on 31 July 2023 and I want to thank the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal FAK Bekoe for this opportunity, especially being the first female Officer to hold this appointment. My deepest appreciation goes to the Almighty God for his guidance all these years.

How did you feel when you were appointed the first female Director Administration of the Ghana Air Force?

I got the news from the Chief of the Air Staff and I told myself this should not just be about me but I needed to prepare myself adequately for the task ahead.

I started recollecting how past Directors conducted themselves and how they administered me as an Officer. Also, when I was posted to the Headquarters as the Gender Adviser, I didn't detach



myself from the Admin Branch. A few times, I found myself working with the former Director on administrative matters and here I am today as the Director.

What plans do you have for the Administration branch being the first female Director?

We have rules and regulations in the Air Force and so my aim is to improve upon the standards or maintain it. Looking at our percentages, the females are almost 28% in the Air Force. As a Director, my goal is to ensure that both men and women are administered fairly. I will therefore ensure that the 28% of females work just like their male counterparts.

Another priority is to ensure that female personnel are well kitted and provided with the necessary logistics to enable them function under any circumstances.

Furthermore, we will coordinate with the various Bases to ensure that the day care centres are up to the standard. This will encourage personnel to enroll their children. Currently, most breastfeeding mothers leave work early to go home and care for their children while others are not able to partake in physical training. Therefore, the establishment of these day care centres will enable nursing mothers enroll their children at the centres closest to them and ultimately promote their efficiency at work.

We will also continue to work with the Gender Advisers to ensure gender mainstreaming and a gender balance in all facets of our operations. All these would be done under the guidance and direction of the Air Force High Command.

What advice do you have for young female personnel in the Ghana Armed Forces?

My advice to young female personnel is to be guided by the fact that you are working in a male dominated environment out of your own free will. Do your best wherever you find yourself. The system will not pamper you because you are a female and so put in your best to earn your rank and promotion. Nothing will come on silver platter if you don't prove yourself.

NOTE

Gp Capt SA Jiagge has since been nominated to be part of the pioneer students for the newly established National College of Defence Studies (NCDS).

THE ORIGIN OF SOME MILITARY CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

BY **MASTER WARRANT OFFICER BAWA A MAWO**



There are conflicting theories about the origins of some military customs and traditions. One thing that remains incontestable is the fact that the military remains a professional institution with a unique heritage, a heritage of invaluable tenets such as discipline, esprits de corps, loyalty, selfless service, camaraderie and commitment. Customs and traditions in the military are excessively cherished and passionately adhered to. One of such customs is the sounding of the "Last Post" which started in the 17th century in Great Britain. The British Army were routinely inspecting sentry posts within their Camps and at the end of each inspection, the bugle call was played to signal that those sentry posts had been inspected marking the end of the military day. During the 19th century, the "Last Post" was implemented in various countries of the British empire where it is played as a final farewell during military funerals. This depicted that, the duty of the fallen soldiers were over and they could gallantly rest in perfect peace.

Sounding of the "Last Post" at all military funerals by a bugler has now become a tradition. The "Last Post" is a "bugle call" accepted and used at all commonwealth military funerals to commemorate soldiers who died whether in active service or on retirement.

Since 1867, bugle calls have been reviewed to announce schedule of events in military installations including, reveille, beginning and close of work, fire alarm, retreat, break and piquet.

Another custom worth mentioning is the paying of compliments. According to military historians, the origin of compliments can be traced to the medieval period when men at arms wore armour. During that period, a friendly approach was noticed when one held the reins of the horse with the left hand while raising the visor of the helmet with the right hand so that one would know they were friendly forces and meant not to engage them in battle.

Paying of compliments have received enthusiastic approval and has been emulated by many institutions because of its nature. Saluting with the hand, shoulder/present arms, and with the sword were methods by which the person paying compliment could show the person to whom the compliment was paid that no offence was meant. Paying of compliments demonstrate loyalty and trust among comrades.

This practice is governed by the law of reciprocity. Meaning, when a subordinate pays compliment to a superior, the superior is obliged to respond to the compliment appropriately. Failure by a subordinate to pay compliment to a superior is a breach of discipline and its consequences are dire. Same way, failure by a superior to return a compliment to a subordinate shows lack of courtesy on the part of the superior. The subordinate can politely apply the appropriate legitimate procedure to seek redress.

Also, the Naval salute, with the palm downwards originated because the palms of Naval Ratings, particularly deckhands were often dirty through working with the lines. Therefore it was considered disrespectful to present a dirty palm to an Officer as a way of paying compliment; hence the palm was preferably turned downwards.

The history of other customs and traditions such as the gun salute, wearing of gorgets, military tattoo, mascot, crossing swords, reveille, magajia, Mess, WASSA, wearing of poppy, among others would be discussed in our subsequent editions.

Our curiosity will definitely be satisfied when we discover the origins of our cherished military customs and traditions.

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1. *The Drill Manual*. UK Ministry of Defence, 1990.
2. *The Queens Regulations for the Army* 1975. UK Ministry of Defence, 2019.

AWO HOLDS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS ACROSS ALL BASES

The Air Wives Organisation (AWO) as part of their annual programme organised breast cancer awareness campaigns across all the Bases. Internationally, the month of October is recognised as a breast cancer awareness month with calls for early detection and prevention of breast cancer.

Speaking at one of the events in Takoradi, the Patron of AWO, Mrs Rosette Okyere Bekoe, wife of the Chief of the Air Staff, said that, breast cancer could affect any individual regardless of their status in life. She noted that even though the disease was a relentless one, there was hope in early detection. She therefore called for regular self-examination, the use of mammograms, clinical check-ups, proactiveness and vigilance to promote early detection and treatment.

The various Bases marked the day with breast screening, health walks, blood donations, eye screening and other medical check-ups. Supporting the Wives at the programmes were the Base Commanders, Officers Commanding the various Wings, Officers, Airmen and Defence Civilian Staff.



TAKORADI AWO.



TAMALE AWO.



ACCRA AWO.

AIR FORCE BASE TAMALE COLLABORATES WITH GACL

The Air Force Base Tamale together with other stakeholders have collaborated with the Ghana Airport Company Limited (GACL) to organise an Operational Readiness and Airport Transfer (ORAT) for the new Tamale International Airport.

The ORAT afforded stakeholders the opportunity to test the systems and structures at the new facility prior to its commissioning. Personnel from the various Wings were deployed in various capacities to assist with the transition process.

This contribution by the Air Force Base Tamale led to a successful commissioning of the new terminal by the Vice President of Ghana, HE Dr Mahamudu Bawumia on Tuesday 22 August 2023.



BASE COMMANDER TAMALE, AIR CDRE JI MENSAH-LAKAI IN A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH WITH STAFF OF GACL AFTER INSPECTION OF THE NEW TAMALE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.



WOII KUZE MATTHEW HONOURED

WOII Kuze Matthew from the Air Force Base Tamale was honoured with a plaque for his dedication and commitment to duty during his service as the Task Force Sergeant Major at Operation Maida Buuri in Bawku, the Upper East Region on Wednesday 30 August 2023.

The Task Force Commander, Bawku, Colonel AA Darkwa, presented the plaque as a symbol of appreciation for WOII Kuze Matthew's outstanding contributions from 5 May 2023 to 31 August 2023. He praised his extraordinary commitment to duty and his unwavering bravery during his period of service.

WOII Kuze Matthew later presented the plaque to the Base Commander, Air Force Base Tamale, Air Commodore JL Mensah-Larkai on Wednesday 6 September 2023.



WOII KUZE MATTHEW PROUDLY HOLDS HIS PLAQUE.



ESTABLISHMENT OF TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, BUI

Current threats both external and internal prevailing in the Sub-Region coupled with ongoing re-organisation and expansion of the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) demanded the creation of a new Command to adequately and efficiently combat these threats as well as to deter would-be adversaries. Additionally, the current refurbishing of old aircraft, the recent and projected acquisition of both fixed and rotary-wing aircraft have all necessitated the need for a Tactical Command in the middle sector of Ghana. Consequently, in line with the overall GAF's quest to expand, the GHF proposed and was authorised to establish the Tactical Air Command Bui (TACAB). The Command was established on 29 January, 2022.

The following were some activities undertaken by the Command in close collaboration with the Ghana Army, Ghana Navy, Bui Power Authority (BPA), Minerals Commission, Boundary Commission, Forestry Commission and other strategic partners operating in and around Bono and other surrounding regions.

SUPPORT TO CIVIL INSTITUTIONS/ORGANISATIONS



AIR SUPPORT TO BONO REGIONAL MINISTER AND MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL DURING THEIR 2023 REGIONAL TOUR



JOINT BOUNDARY COMMISSION SURVEY ACTIVITIES IN TACAB AOR (PARTNERS INCLUDE GHANA BOUNDARY COMMISSION, MINERALS COMMISSION, GHANA IMMIGRATION SERVICE AND FORESTRY COMMISSION)

TRAINING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES



WEAPON TRAINING FOR TACAB PERSONNEL.



SAFETY AND FIRE LECTURE BY BPA STAFF TO TACAB PERSONNEL.



POL DISPERSAL DUTIES.



REFUELLING AN AIRCRAFT.



2023 GREEN GHANA DAY.



AIR TRANSPORT SUPPORT FOR DIRECTORS OF BPA.



AFRTS PASSES OUT 344 NEW AIRMEN

The Air Force Recruit Training School (AFRTS) passed out 344 Airmen on Friday 25 August 2023 at the Air Force Base, Takoradi. Recruit Course 1/2023 was made up of 124 females and 220 males. After entertaining the crowd with an excellent drill display, the Recruits took the oath of attestation for their integration into the military as Airmen after the successful completion of training.

The Guest of Honour, Air Commodore Godfried Sackey Parker, Commander Air Force Base Takoradi, who represented the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), AVM Frederick Asare Kwasi Bekoe, stated in his address that the CAS had followed with keen interest the various stages of the Recruit training. He offered his heartfelt congratulations to the Airmen for their commitment, determination and resilience throughout the challenging journey which had brought them to a significant milestone in their military career.

Air Cdre Parker also congratulated the Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Newman S Naab, Officers, Instructors and Administrative Staff of AFRTS for their exceptional work in transforming the Recruits to Airmen.

During the awards ceremony, Aircraftman Class II Baba-Zaah Vida emerged as the overall best recruit, displaying exceptional talent and dedication across multiple disciplines. She also secured awards for best in tactics and academics. The awards for best in drill and best in weapon and skill-at-arms went to Aircraftman Class II Kangah Frema Monica and Aircraftman Class II Gbafa Happy respectively. Meanwhile, Aircraftman Class II Babainnewuur Francis's dedication to physical training earned him the top spot in the male category while Aircraftman Class II Ibrahim Rashidatu also clinched the same award in the female category.



A CROSS-SECTION OF DIGNITARIES AT THE CEREMONY.



OVERALL BEST RECRUIT, ACII BABA-ZAAH VIDA RECEIVES AN AWARD FROM WESTERN REG MIN, HON KWABENA OKYERE DARKO-MENSAH.



GHANA AIR FORCE SUPPORTS JA KUFUOR FOUNDATION

On Wednesday 19 July 2023, the Ghana Air Force provided assistance to the John A Kufuor Foundation and the Ghana Medical Relief by airlifting their medical supplies to Tamale.

The supplies, which included medications, gloves, detergents, thermometers and wheelchairs, were sent to the Northern part of Ghana to organise the foundation's annual medical outreach programme.

The medical outreach, which took place in Tamale from Monday 24 to Friday 28 July 2023, provided free medical care to people residing in Tamale and its environs.

In an interview with Mr Samuel Brobbey, Project Manager, Ghana Medical Relief, he disclosed that the medical outreach aims at providing access to healthcare for people who would otherwise not be able to afford it.

He added that through the collaboration with the John A Kufuor Foundation, they will provide free consultations, screenings and education on health and wellness and hence encouraged the citizenry to take advantage of the medical outreach programme.

Mr Brobbey expressed his gratitude to the Ghana Air Force for the assistance. He said it was a significant boost to the health mission and it will help to ensure that many people in Tamale have access to essential medical care.



VISITS TO AFHQ

Several distinguished dignitaries and personalities visited the Air Force Headquarters during the period. Discussions were centered on joint training activities and courses, collaborative mechanisms towards tackling the prevailing security situation within the sub-region and other defence cooperation matters geared towards improving the bilateral relationship between the Nations. These visits highlight the strong bond of cooperation and friendship between Ghana and other countries.



CAS RECEIVES USA OSC CHIEF, LT COL JAMES M LAMBRIGHT IN HIS OFFICE.



CSO AIR FORCE, AIR CDRE ERIC YIRENKYI WELCOMES DA COTE D'IVOIRE, LT COL COULIBALY TO THE HEADQUARTERS.



DA NIGERIA, COL MUKHTAR SHEHU MUKHTAR PRESENTS A PLAQUE TO CAS DURING HIS VISIT TO THE HEADQUARTERS.



THE CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF, AVM FAK BEKOE WELCOMES DA INDIA, COL ROMI SINGH LEGHA TO THE HEADQUARTERS.

AIR FORCE HANDBALL TEAM PRESENTS TROPHIES TO HIGH COMMAND

The Air Force Handball Team on Tuesday 17 October 2023, presented two trophies to the Air Force Headquarters.

The trophies were laurels won by the team during a 3- day tournament organised by the Handball Association of Ghana from 13-15 July 2023 at the Prisons Sports Complex, Cantonment in Accra.

During the competition, the female team won the International Handball Federation (IHF) week tournament and the male team won the Greater Accra Handball Association Zone A league.

The Chief Staff Officer, Air Commodore Eric Yirenkyi received the trophies on behalf of the Chief of the Air Staff and congratulated the team for achieving the remarkable feat.

He also commended them for their hard work and dedication and advised them to continue to train hard to win more laurels in future tournaments.

On his part, the Head Coach of the handball team, Warrant Officer Class I Adza Kofi expressed his profound gratitude to Command for the logistical and financial support. He also commended the organisers of the tournament and further advised his players to stay focused, train hard and maintain a high level of discipline in all their endeavours.

As part of the short presentation ceremony, LAC Okine Naomi, ACII Atechon Ruth and ACII Salifu Balchisu were presented with plaques for their outstanding performances during the tournament.





IN LOVING MEMORY OF
AIR COMMODORE GODFRIED SACKEY PARKER
BASE COMMANDER, AIR FORCE BASE TAKORADI

1967 - 2023

“Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death. (Isaiah 57:2)

It is with a heavy heart and a deep sense of sadness that we write this tribute to bid farewell to a beloved Base Commander, the late Air Commodore (Air Cdre) Godfried Sackey Parker who sadly passed away on Sunday 26 November 2023.

Air Cdre Parker, affectionately called “Pokopee” was a people’s person, affable, down to heart and Godfearing. As Steven J Stowell says, “great leaders find ways to connect with their people and help them fulfil their potential”. Air Cdre Parker connected with different people from all walks of life, from the lowest to the highest rank. He was a gentleman, humble and unpretentious.

He was the type of leader who was always first to extend his hand of support before anybody does. He had the firm belief that if something had to be done, it had to be done well and so he was action oriented and carried out whatever task he set out to accomplish.

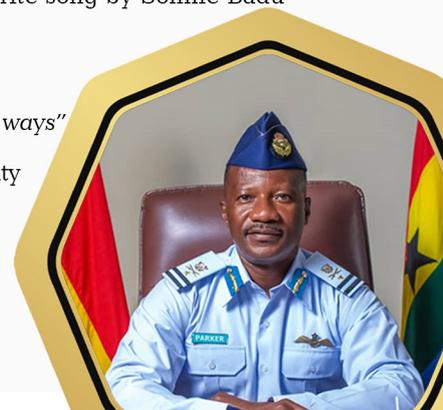
Air Cdre GS Parker was full of life, very sociable but a stern disciplinarian who believed in regimentation. He was loyal and paid particular attention to the welfare of his personnel.

His death is a big blow and many are yet to come to terms with it. However, we are comforted with the words of his favourite song by Sonnie Badu titled My Soul Says Yes which goes:

*“Where you lead me, I will follow,
When you call me, I will answer,
Oh my Lord, please teach me how to know your ways”*

Indeed, he has answered the call of the Almighty and even though we are still struggling to find meaning and understand why, we know that you were whisked away into glory.

Sir, may the angels lead you safely and present you to God most high until we meet again. Fare thee well Sir.



Continued from page 19

PROJECTS AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE GHANA AIR FORCE

PROJECTIONS

8-STOREY BLOCK APARTMENTS FOR GHF

The GHF is in partnership with a private estate developer to put up 8-Storey Block Apartments and Commercial facilities. Two Blocks each to be built in Accra, Takoradi and Tamale. One at Bui and one to be decided by AFHQ. An MoU has been submitted to the Ministry of Defence for consideration.

COMPLETION OF FOUR-STOREY 16 FLATS FOR AIRMEN AT NEW DUALA BARRACKS, ACCRA

Command is reviewing the outstanding works on this project and will soon engage a new contractor to complete the building.

EXPANSION OF AFHQ BUILDING

Preliminary surveys have been conducted and a proposed design has been submitted by the contractor awaiting outcome and a report.

CONVERSION OF WO'S MQ BLOCK D INTO A 2 STOREY COMPRISING FOUR 2 BEDROOM FLATS

The Directorate of Engineer Service will soon submit estimates for consideration.

RENOVATION OF BASE COMMANDER'S QUARTER IN ACCRA

The Directorate of Engineer Service will soon submit estimates for consideration.

RENOVATION OF BRUCE HANGAR AND EXTENSION OF APRON IN FRONT

The Directorate of Engineer Service will soon submit estimates for consideration.

RENOVATION OF THE NO 1 HANGAR (ASBESTOS) AT AFB TAKORADI

Some private contractors in Takoradi have been contacted for an assessment and submission of estimates.



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