



THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS
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Case Study

Flight Lieutenant 'Eddie' Wheeler GFireE

Year joined the IFE: 2012

Current Job Title: Training Wing Executive Officer

Employer: Royal Air Force Fire & Rescue Service

Location: Manston, UK

Please describe your current role:

As Training Wing Executive Officer, I am responsible for overseeing and directing training policy. I am responsible for the 1st Party Audit of the training establishment ensuring compliance to all Defence and OFSTED legislative requirements. I act as the focal point for RAF Fire Service training for all 527 members of the trade. My current role involves the provision of Continuation Training to all fire fighters employed within the Royal Air Force from the basic recruit through to Station Managers. Also under my command is the RAF Fire Service Accreditation Centre which is pivotal in the continued professional development of all RAF Fire & Rescue personnel.



Flight Lieutenant 'Eddie' Wheeler

Please provide a brief outline of your career so far: I joined the Royal Air Force in December 1998 at RAF Halton. Following recruit training I completed Basic Firefighter training at RAF Manston. During my early service as an airman I completed multiple UK and overseas tours in the Falklands, Cyprus and Iraq (Op TELIC). During the National Fire Strikes (Op FRESCO) in 2003 I was employed as a Breathing Apparatus Team Commander in South Wales.

In 2008 and again in 2010, I deployed to Op HERRICK at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan. During these tours I was involved in the execution of specialist fire duties including responding 'outside the wire' to incidents requiring personnel extraction.

In January 2011, I undertook Initial Officer Training at RAF College Cranwell before being posted to the Defence Fire Training & Development Centre Manston. My current role is Training Wing Executive Officer (XO). I am due to deploy to Afghanistan again in late 2013 as the Theatre Fire Officer.

How did you gain IFE membership ?

I gained membership through the career courses I have undertaken being accredited by the IFE. The through life learning that takes place within the RAF Fire & Rescue Service is vital in developing our people. Not only Fire skills are developed but leadership & management training are delivered to give our personnel the correct skill set to efficiently manage the Fire Service at all levels.

What attracted you to IFE membership?

Holding IFE Membership allows my experience and knowledge to be recognised by the wider Fire sector. It offers credibility to my training and allows recognition whatever background you have in the Fire Service.