

618 Volunteer Gliding Squadron, Royal Air Force Odiham

Hook, Hampshire, RG29 1QT.

Tel: 01256 367618 (General Office / Instructors only manned when VGS is operating)

or 01256 367670 (Ops Room)

E-Mail: training@618vgs.info

Duty Instructor Mobile (whilst on airfield): 07776-227175

Web Site: WWW.618vgs.net

Gliding Scholarship Joining Instructions - Residential Course

I would like to congratulate you on being selected to attend a Gliding Scholarship (GS) course at 618VGS.

Your scholarship comprises instruction in ground and air exercises flying an RAF Vigilant T Mk 1 Motor Glider. You should have already been prepared for this course by your Unit CO who will outline the aim of the course.

RAF Odiham is a very busy forward operational base and during your time at the unit you will see Chinooks, Lynx and Gazelle Helicopters flying operationally. You will obviously have to work hard during the course but we hope you will also have time to enjoy yourself. If, at any time, you have questions prior to your course please contact the Training Officer who will be pleased to sort out your concerns.

The course will comprise of ground lessons such as airfield discipline and safety plus classroom teaching of the exercises you will then fly in the Vigilant.

These air exercises are; Effects of controls, Engine Start and Taxiing, Straight and Level flight, Climbing and Gliding, Take off and Climb, Turning, Approach and Landing, Stall Prevention, Circuit flying and Emergencies.

If you have access to the Internet, you should download and print a copy of the ACP124 (618) Vigilant Trainee Guide for pre-course study and reference while in the course. If you cannot do this then a copy will be lent to you during your course.

The location of the guide is <http://sixoneeight.org.uk/Downloads/ACP124.pdf>

The target completion time for the syllabus is 8 flying hours. This may be interrupted by the weather and availability of Airframes. It is our intention for you to progress through the course as quickly as possible.

There will be an essential knowledge quiz, which you must pass along with continuous assessment throughout your flying training. If you complete the Scholarship Course you will be awarded the "Blue" Air Cadet flying badge or "Wings". If you are considered good enough to fly solo, then you will be allowed up to 2 extra flying hours to prepare you for a first Solo Circuit where you will be alone in the aircraft. Exceptionally, If your medical status or the conditions are deemed unsuitable for Cadet Solos, you will be able to make your first Solo circuit accompanied by an instructor. This is known as a "Ghost Solo". In either case this qualifies for the Silver "Wings" Flying Badge.

Allan Melmore
Sqn Ldr
Officer Commanding 618 VGS

Your Course Begins on _____ 20__ at _____ Hours

Contact Information

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Web Site: www.sixoneeight.org.uk

Transport: -

By Road: - Odiham is off the M3 at Junction 5, following A287 south towards North Warnborough, turning onto the B3349 and following the signs to Odiham and then to RAF Odiham.

By Rail: - The nearest railway station for RAF Odiham is Hook. On arrival at Hook Station (or 30 minutes before arriving using a mobile), ring 618 VGS to confirm your ETA at Hook. - Make sure you know the distances involved and times for travel. If facing a long journey and you are unable to arrive at the stated time, then contact the Training Officer beforehand to arrange a suitable alternative.

NB: 618 VGS do not issue Rail warrants for your return journey. These must be obtained from your own parent Unit before you travel to Odiham.

Reporting Arrival date and time

You should report to the Main Guardroom at RAF Odiham at the time advised to you on the letter above.

Age minima

Cadets must be at least 16 years of age at commencement of training.

Acceptance and Confirmation

You must confirm your acceptance of the course and your intended travel arrangements including travel method (Rail - Station / time of arrival or Road ETA), to the two e-mail addresses shown in below, not later than 2 weeks before the start date.

If you are unable to e-mail us you should write to the Training Officer at the above address. This is vital to ensure that valuable places are not wasted, and also that we know when and where to expect you.

If you require transport from Hook Station this also needs to be included in your e-mail

Acknowledgement Email Contacts

training@618vgs.info

admin@618vgs.info

Preparation

You must bring with you:

- Your F3822 or Record of Service book
- Your F6424 Medical Certificate and Health Certificate¹

Please ensure that the relevant sections of your F3822 or Record of Service book are correctly filled in before you come on the course.

If you are taking any form of medication, you must tell us as soon as you arrive. You must not fly until you are cleared to do so, because this could be prejudicial to your health.

You should carefully revise the Principles of Flight syllabus before you start the course. This will help you understand the issues which will be covered during your training.

Clothing

As well as your uniform, you should bring soft-soled shoes for flying. Shoes must not have a deep tread pattern to avoid mud or stones being brought into the aircraft. We advise you to bring sunglasses, sunscreen cream and a hat. You should also have warm clothing for use on the airfield, and smart casual dress for the evenings. Ensure you have enough socks and underwear for the duration of the course, with ample personal washing and shaving kit.

Accommodation and messing

We will provide you with overnight accommodation. You should bring a sleeping bag and pillow slip. RAF Odiham provides cadet messing for a cost of about £2 per day. The course adjutant will ask you to pay this in advance when you arrive.

We will try to include additional activities in the course, especially if the weather is unsuitable for flying. There may be a charge for activities that take place away from RAF Odiham, and you should bring some extra money to pay for these. There are Souvenirs such as T shirts and Badges and Course Photograph also available for purchase.

It is also Customary for Cadets to be invited out to a Course meal during the week at a local restaurant as a guide, £20 should be more than ample to cover this.

Damages

Any damages to property will be charged to you.

Driving

If you bring a Car to Odiham you cannot drive anywhere on the Airside areas without an escort. You may not accept any rides in GS course cadet's cars without specific permission from the DI.

1. If your GP has entered any restrictions or conditions, other than a requirement to wear near vision corrective spectacles), you should tell your OC immediately. This includes any regular taking of medication. Your OC will have to refer your condition to HQAC (Headquarters Air Cadets). Your course cannot commence UNTIL cleared by them.

Cash and Valuables

Any Valuables are brought at your own risk to 618. However Cash can be deposited with the Course Admin officer if required. The nearest cash points are in Odiham village and are not accessible to you at all times so plan ahead.

Discipline, Security and Health & Safety

All RAF Stations operate a high level of internal and external security. Always carry your Cadet Record of Service book so that you may readily identify yourself.

The Duty Executive Officer (VGS-DE) is the Representative of the 618VGS Officer Commanding. The Duty Instructor (DI) is in charge of 618VGS flying operations. Their instructions must be complied with. Failure to comply may result in being sent home and removal from the course.

All your baggage must be clearly marked with your name and unit. It must not be left unattended.

You must NOT bring in or at any time consume alcoholic beverages, even during any "off duty" periods. If you become unwell and require assistance, you must speak to the Duty Executive or your Instructor.

618 VGS is fitted with a Smoke Detection system and as such is a NO SMOKING zone. 618 VGS display their Health & Safety Policy statement within the HQ, and you are required to read this. You should, at all times, heed all safety warnings and briefings, take reasonable steps to ensure personal safety, and take all practicable steps to refrain from unsafe practices during your time on 618 VGS.

Other relevant information

The use of Mobile telephones and personal electronic equipment is NOT allowed on the Airfield or in the aircraft.

A Student guide will be loaned to you for the duration of the course. This must be handed in on completion, as must any other loaned items such as a Flying suit.

A small sum of money should be brought with you to pay for any merchandise or Snacks available at 618 VGS.

Departure Procedure.

You must ensure that you have entered all training flights in your RAF Form 3822's or ROS book and ensure that these are signed by your Instructor or the DI prior to departure.

When you are ready to depart you must notify the DI who will organise an escort back to the main gate or a car to the Railway Station². You should not leave unless the DI has given permission for you to depart.

Award of Certificates

On completion of the gliding scholarship the Duty Instructor will award the appropriate wings and Certificates

2. If departing via train you should discuss with the Course Admin Officer your train departure details during the course to aid a swift departure.

pre Arrival Check

You must have read AND UNDERSTOOD ALL ASPECTS of these joining

Instructions and are committed to attend each course day until completed

download and print a copy of the ACP124(618) Vigilant Trainee Guide .
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Cadets must be a fully enrolled ATC or CCF (RAF Section) Cadet.

Cadets must be Over 16 Years Of Age on Commencement of the course.

Parent's consent to fly must have been given and is Signed by OC unit in the RAF F3822 or CCF/ROS book.

Your weight must not exceed 103 kg fully clothed, as the maximum with parachute is 110kg.

Your sitting height must be less than 992 mm. Note: Cadets having a sitting height of between 963 and 992 mm will have a decreased comfort level in terms of head clearance.

You must have sufficient mental ability and high level of motivation to undertake the scholarship.

You must have a valid RAF Form 6424 signed by your (GP) Doctor signifying fitness for training, without any qualifying remarks or annotations indicating any medical problems, and that the you are not taking any medication.

If there are any such qualifying statements, the medical forms must be submitted to HQAC for a decision BEFORE taking up a Gliding Scholarship allocation. Your WGLO should do this.

The F6424 must be taken to the VGS on commencement of the Gliding Scholarship and you Officer Commanding Sqn /CCF must have entered RAF Form 6424 Medical in your cadet's RAF F3822 or ROS book

You must have sent acceptance letter/e-mail and any travel details by E Mail/ Phone at least two weeks before commencement of the Course.

You must have read the Course joining instructions.

Bedding – Seeping bag and pillows must be brought with you

Money – Sufficient to buy refreshments and Squadron Souvenirs T shirts Etc.

Uniform - For station visits and presentations

Travel details

Contact numbers

