

Why Lee volunteer's at the Army Flying Museum

Lee served in the Army Air Corps between 1987 and 2011 completing 24 years' service. As an Air Trooper his first posting was to 4 Regiment AAC in Detmold Germany. Working as groundcrew. He deployed with the Regiment for Op Granby (first Gulf Conflict). Later he would be posted to 1 Regiment at Gutersloh, shortly after the Regiment had relocated from Hildeshiem. During his time in Germany, he deployed on numerous NATO exercises and detachments to BATUS in Canada and for a period seconded to 110 Provost Company RMP.

In 1993 he re-joined 4 Regiment now part of 24 Air mobile Brigade and located at Wattisham Airfield.

After completing Air crew selection, he returned to Middle Wallop for training as a Lynx Crewman. However, during training he was selected to undergo fixed wing conversion. Once training was completed, he was posted to 5 Regiment AAC in Northern Ireland.

As an Islander crewman he was required operate a variety of camera systems and other surveillance equipment fitted to the Islander and generally act as a Co-pilot. Most importantly, be able to fly the plane in the event anything should happen to the pilot. His first operational task was to photograph the town of Omagh to assess the damage caused by the IRA bombing 15 Aug 1998. He would remain based in Northern until the introduction of the larger Defender 4T. In late 2004 he completed conversion on to the new type and would be part of the first operational deployment to Iraq as part of Op Telic. Between 2005 and 2009 he would be deployed between Northern Ireland and Iraq frequently. His last operation flight would be in Nov 2009. This was to photograph the largest homemade bomb the IRA ever placed prior to its safe disposal.

His last posting was to RAF Brize Norton as part of the Joint Air Delivery Test and Evaluation Unit. As part of the training section, He would Instruct personnel from all services Preparation of Landing sites, Loads for internal and external lifting. Also train Instructors in the skills of Heli Abseiling and Fast Roping. He would also assist in several flight trials with various aircraft. By the time He left in 2011 He had accumulated over 3000 flying hours on Islander and Defender. Additionally Logging hours as supernumerary crew on every rotary platform in service at the time. Seaking, Merlin, Lynx Mk 7, 9, 10, Puma, Dauphan and of course Chinook.

Now Lee is a civilian instructor at 668 Sqn AAC, Middle Wallop. Teaching the next generation of Army Groundcrew to operate the Oshkosh Tactical Aircraft Refueler.