



**Tuesday 12 July 2016**

## **IWM Duxford's Airfield Rescue and Firefighting Service awarded Top International Fire Training Centre Aerodrome 2015**

IWM Duxford's Airfield Rescue and Firefighting Service have been awarded Top International Fire Training Centre Aerodrome 2015.

The award is presented to the UK airport that is proved, through the International Fire Training Centre's various assessment processes, to have performed to a very high standard throughout the year's training programmes.

The International Fire Training Centre is the leading aviation fire training centre in the world. Graduates of this internationally-renowned training centre are armed with the skills, knowledge and instincts necessary to deal with extreme emergencies anywhere in the country. The training provided by the centre is thorough and rigorous. Candidates are expected to meet stringent and demanding standards.

Gary Watson, Business Operations Manager, International Fire Training Centre said: *"Airport firefighters from the UK and overseas of all ranks have been training at the International Fire Training Centre (IFTC) since 1981 and there is a strong sense of heritage and ethos here for the community we serve."*

*"The reason why award winners amongst the IFTC alumni do so well is because of their personal attributes: the commitment they demonstrate, the trust they inspire and the excellent service they display."*

*"IWM Duxford airfield firefighters have been recognised for possessing these qualities and this award is not about the trophy. It is about the recognition for their talent and a public acknowledgement of their outstanding attitude."*

Alan Daniels, Senior Airfield Fire Officer, IWM Duxford said: *"We are assessed on our effective Command and Control of various simulated incidents, which could be a Boeing 767 with an engine fire or an armed military helicopter that has turned over while landing. We also have theory papers to prove our underpinning knowledge. For IWM Duxford's Airfield Rescue and Firefighting Service to have won such an award is testament to the hard work and dedication that my team put in 365 days of the year and also the support we receive from Imperial War Museums to maintain and enhance a very professional team of firefighters."*

The IWM Duxford Airfield Rescue and Firefighting Service is comprised of thirteen firefighters split into two watches, red and blue, consisting of two officers and four fire fighters, with a Senior Airfield Fire Officer who oversees the whole operation. There are four fire vehicles, consisting of two Rapid Intervention Vehicles and two Foam Tenders. The team is trained to the very highest standard in firefighting and medical procedures.

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## Notes to Editors

### IWM Duxford

IWM Duxford is Britain's best-preserved Second World War airfield, with a fascinating history that dates back to the First World War. Its story reflects the landmark achievements made in aviation history. IWM Duxford is Europe's premier aviation museum, where historic buildings intersperse with state-of-the-art exhibition halls, including AirSpace and the American Air Museum. Historic aircraft can regularly be seen taking to the skies from Duxford's wartime airfield. Through the rich displays of aircraft and the powerful stories of the men and women involved, we tell the story of the impact of aviation on the nature of war, on people's lives and on the social and economic history of the region. With one of the finest collections of tanks, military vehicles and artillery in the UK, we also show the impact of technological development on war and conflict.

Open Daily:

Summer 2016: 12 March to late October 10am to 6pm. Last entry at 5pm.

### IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

### First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM will mark the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the country, including the opening of brand new First World War Galleries at IWM London in 2014. For more information visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org)

