

On 1 May 2014, Kyrle Probus member Arthur Durrant gave the club a talk on his work as a Defence Operational Analyst, starting at the appropriately named Defence Operational Analysis Establishment (DOAE) at West Byfleet, Surrey. He moved within DOAE to their Field Studies Division where he was responsible for conducting two studies of the Army's Rapier Air Defence System at Battery level and finally a study into the potential vulnerability of Attack Helicopters. In those days (early 1980s) the plan was to fly nap-of-the-earth at around 5 feet above ground level which made



One Small Step for Arthur

for some very exciting flying as Arthur explained. They also had the added "excitement" of a fire in their Lynx helicopter which necessitated an emergency landing. Luckily Arthur managed to extinguish the fire as they were landing! The cause was an umbilical power cord from a large and heavy battery pack which was used to power a video camera - no lightweight models in those days. The cord had been frayed by the weight of the battery pack!

He also talked about the work environment, his work colleagues and the social life at DOAE.

He then went on to talk about his posting to RAF(Germany) as Head of Air Studies in 1982-85 with the different nature of work for the HQ and the war role of 2ATAF. He also tried to convey a picture of domestic and social life in Germany in those days.

His MOD career included a period with the Army Chief Scientist's Department and 5.5 years with NATO in the Netherlands, ending with 10 years at the Directorate of Land Warfare in Wiltshire.

The title of his talk was "Return of the Terminator" due to the fact that each of the organizations ceased to exist shortly after Arthur left them! In giving a vote of thanks, Mike Eastwood tried to assure everyone that Kyrle Probus would still exist in any event!