

THE ROYAL NAVY

SUPPORTING THE 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES



AIR ASSETS

Sea King Mk7 Airborne Surveillance and Control

The Sea King ASACS will be an important part of the system guarding the Olympic venues throughout the UK, integrating its ground and air surveillance capabilities into the UK's ground based Control and Reporting Centres. The Sea King is operated by 854 Naval Air Squadron, based at RNAS Culdrose in Cornwall. The squadron's aircraft and crews are deployed in the skies of Afghanistan, where the surveillance equipment is vital for tracking the movements of insurgents. Its role is Air and surface surveillance, detecting threats and directing air, sea or ground forces to intercept them.

Specifications

- Max Speed: 90 knots
- Aircrew: 3
- Length: 22.1m
- Height: 5.1m

Details

The aircraft – known throughout the Navy as Baggers – are the 'eyes in the sky' of the Navy, searching for aerial threats to the Fleet, or suspicious movements on the ground in support of land forces. They owe their nickname to the distinctive inflatable black sack or bag on the side of each helicopter. It may look a rather cumbersome piece of kit from the outside, but inside that sack is the cutting-edge Searchwater 2000 radar capable of remarkably-accurate detection of surface and air targets. Once enemy units are detected, the helicopter's observers can direct friendly air, sea or ground forces to intercept – as they did with devastating effect during the fighting in southern Iraq in 2003.



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LYNX MK8

During the Olympics the Lynx Mk8 will be tasked with intercepting aircraft that enter the restricted airspace established to protect the venues and working alongside the Metropolitan Police Maritime Units and 539 ASRM. The Lynx can carry airborne snipers as an additional deterrent.

Specifications

- Max speed: 180 knots
- Aircrew: 2
- Height: 3.7m
- Length: 13.4m
- Main Rotor Diameter: 12.8m
- Range: 320 nautical miles
- Weight (Unladen): 3,300Kg

Details

The Lynx Mk8 is based at 815 NAS at RNAS YEOVILTON. 815 NAS operates 23 Lynx Mk 8 maritime attack helicopters and currently supports deployments to the Northern Arabian Gulf, Mediterranean, South Atlantic, counter-piracy operations off Somalia and counter narcotics operations in the Caribbean. In addition to these commitments, the Squadron maintains a high readiness counter terrorist capability and is ready to assist civilian authorities in the event of a national disaster. It is the backbone of the Fleet Air Arm and front-line operations by the frigate and destroyer fleets and occasionally deploys with the Royal Navy's aircraft carriers. It can carry a Royal Marines boarding team, who abseil rapidly down ropes on to ships below, and regularly conducts surveillance and reconnaissance missions using its dazzling array of sensors, cameras and recording equipment. The Mk8 Saturn is the latest – and final variant of the Lynx – before its successor, Wildcat, enters service mid-decade.



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MERLIN MK1

Specifications

- Service ceiling: 4,572m
- Range: 550 nautical miles
- Speed: 167 knots
- Sensors: GEC-Marconi Blue Kestrel 5000 radar
Thomson Marconi Flash AQS 960 dipping sonar
GEC-Marconi sonobuoy acoustic processor AQS-903
Racal Orange Reaper ESM
- Weapons: ASW 4 x Stingray torpedoes or Mk 11
Mod 3 depth bombs plus anti-ship missiles

Details

814 Naval Air Squadron, based at Culdrose – better known throughout the Navy as ‘the Flying Tigers’ – is a multi-mission maritime squadron flying the Merlin Mk1 Helicopter from ships and air bases around the world, shielding the Fleet from submarines.

814 NAS is one of the Fleet Air Arm’s three Front Line Merlin Squadrons, dedicated to supporting the Royal Navy and British interests around the world. It is at the forefront of Anti Submarine Warfare whilst maintaining commitments of a varied nature in a wide range of different locations. 814 NAS takes it in turns with 820 NAS, to support the international effort against illegal activities on the high seas east of Suez such as piracy, people-trafficking, smuggling, drug-running and terrorism. Periodically, the Squadron will embark on an Aircraft Carrier or other ‘multi spot’ ships as part of a Task Group in order to take part in large scale multinational exercises around the globe.

