



# 703 NAVAL AIR SQUADRON

## MOTTO

*'Experientia docet' - 'Experience teaches'*

## ROLE

*Royal Navy Elementary Flying Training school*

## BASE

RAF Barkston Heath



## SQUADRON HISTORY

703 Naval Air Squadron formed in 1942 as a long range catapult squadron operating Kingfisher float planes and Walruses. Flights were deployed on various armed merchant cruisers to carry out convoy patrol work until the Squadron disbanded in 1944. It reformed again in 1945 as the Air Sea Warfare Development Unit, later becoming the Service Trials Unit. New roles included trials of the flexible deck, testing of catapult and arrestor gear on all carriers after refits and trials on the Carrier Approach System.

In 1972 703 NAS reformed again, this time at Portland as the Wasp training squadron, a role it would continue to fulfil until disbanding in 1981. 703 NAS reformed again as a training squadron in 2003 at RAF Barkston Heath as the Royal Navy's Elementary Flying Training Squadron operating the Slingsby Firefly as part of the Defence Elementary Training School.

### PREVIOUS AIRCRAFT TYPES

Kingfisher, Seafox, Swordfish, Barracuda, Reliant, Avenger, Anson, Attacker, Meteor, Sea Balliol, Blackburn YA 8, Corsair, Dominie, Firebrand, Firefly, Sea Fury, Gannet, Sea Hawk, Hellcat, Sea Hornet, Hoverfly, Mosquito, Sea Mosquito, Oxford, Seafire, Vampire, Sea Vampire, Sturgeon, Wyvern, Wasp, Firefly

### BATTLE HONOURS

None



### SLINGSBY FIREFLY T67M260

#### Primary Role

Elementary Trainer

#### Max Speed

140 Knots

#### Crew

2x Pilot

#### Max Takeoff Weight

1,100 kg

#### Endurance

1 Hours 45 Minutes

#### Weapons

None



Fly Navy 100 Office  
RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester, Somerset BA22 8HT  
Tel: 01935 456150 or 456530  
Email: [flynavy100@btconnect.com](mailto:flynavy100@btconnect.com)

[royalnavy.mod.uk/flynavy100](http://royalnavy.mod.uk/flynavy100)



1909 - 2009