PRESS RELEASE

Naval Air Squadrons Receive Top Aviation Awards

The Royal Navy Search and Rescue Flight at HMS Gannet, Prestwick in Scotland and 815 Naval Air Squadron based at RNAS Yeovilton were both Navigators at the Guild annual trophies and awards ceremony in London on 23 October 2008.

HMS Gannet Search and Rescue Flight was awarded the Prince Philip Helicopter Rescue Award for exemplary courage and tenacity in a particularly complex, hazardous and protracted rescue of three climbers on Ben Nevis in May 2007 and 815 Naval Air Squadron was presented with the Johnston Memorial Trophy for an outstanding performance in the development of navigation techniques for the maritime Lynx helicopter in preparation for a four month tour of duty providing aviation support to Headquarters Northern Ireland in 2007.

HMS Gannet Search and Rescue Flight routinely responds to more than 250 Search and Rescue missions every year and is the busiest Search and Rescue unit in the UK. Speaking after the awards ceremony, Admiral Simon Charlier, Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm, praised the mettle and moral fortitude of the crew of Rescue 177. ‘It was a rescue that pushed them to their absolute limits. Their airmanship, grit and sheer determination was exceptional.’

ENDS

22 October 2008

814 NAVAL AIR SQUADRON

MOTTO

‘In hoc signo vinces’ - ‘In this sign you will conquer’

ROLE

Operational Anti-Submarine Warfare

BASE

RNAS Culdrose

SQUADRON HISTORY

814 Naval Air Squadron was first formed in December 1938 as a Torpedo Reconnaissance Squadron equipped with Swordfish aircraft. During the War years the Squadron saw active service including the Search for the German Battleship Graf Spee. 1960 saw the Squadron equipped with its first helicopter, the Whirlwind, to be later replaced with the Wessex Mk 1.

The Anti-Submarine Warfare Sea King was introduced in 1977 and the Squadron were involved during the Gulf, Bosnia and Kosovo conflicts. 814 NAS reformed in 2001 with the Mk 1 Merlin. They have seen operational service across the world including Operation Telic in 2003 and in the wider Arabian Gulf.

Since then the Squadron has been involved in Global Operations including the Orion 08 deployment in HMS Illustrious conducting Maritime Security Operations and currently have members of the Squadron and Aircraft on Operations East of Suez.

PREVIOUS AIRCRAFT TYPES

Swordfish, Barracuda, Firefly, Avenger, Gannet, Whirlwind, Wessex, Sea King, Merlin

BATTLE HONOURS

Atlantic 1940

AGUSTA WESTLAND MERLIN

HM Mk 1

Primary Role

Anti - Submarine Warfare

Max Speed

150 Knots

Crew

1x Pilot, 1x Observer, 1x Aircrewman

Max Takeoff Weight

14,600 kg

Endurance

4 Hours

Weapons

2 x Window mounted GPMG Mod.1 Stingray Torpedo MK11 Anti-Submarine Depth Charge