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

820 NAVAL AIR SQUADRON

MOTTO
‘Tutamen et utor’ - ‘Safeguard and avenger’

ROLE
Operational Anti - Submarine Warfare

BASE
RNAS CULDROSE

SQUADRON HISTORY

Originally formed in 1933, 820 Naval Air Squadron has employed many different aircraft types, from fixed to rotary wing, and has been employed in a variety of operations. Throughout its distinguished history the Squadron has undertaken duties ranging from convoy protection during World War 2 and playing a prominent part in the sinking of the Bismarck through to the Falklands conflict, support operations in Bosnia and the Gulf, to humanitarian relief in Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

The Squadron reformed in 2003 to operate the Merlin HM Mk 1. As well as deploying primarily in the Anti - Submarine and Anti - Surface roles, the Squadron has also been employed in troop carrying and Maritime Security Operations demonstrating the versatility of the aircraft, maintainers and the aircrew.

PREVIOUS AIRCRAFT TYPES
Fairey IIIIF, Seal, Shark, Baffin, Swordfish, Battle, Albacore, Barracuda, Avenger, Firefly, Gannet, Whirlwind, Wessex, Sea King, Merlin

BATTLE HONOURS

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

Fly Navy 100 Office
RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester, Somerset BA22 8HT
Tel: 01935 456150 or 456530
Email: flynavy100@btconnect.com
royalnavy.mod.uk/flynvy100