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.

829 Squadron re-commissioned in 2004 and continues the tradition of embarked front-line maritime aviation by providing Merlin flights to Type 23 "Duke Class" frigates as part of the Royal Navy's commitment to a Versatile Maritime Force.

PREVIOUS AIRCRAFT TYPES
Albacore, Swordfish, Barracuda, Whirlwind, Wasp, Wessex, Lynx, Merlin

BATTLE HONOURS
Atlantic 1940, Matapan 1941, Mediterranean 1941, Diego Suarez 1942, Norway 1944, Falklands 1982, Kuwait 1991

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