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

845 NAVAL AIR SQUADRON

845 Naval Air Squadron was formed in 1943 as a Torpedo Bomber Reconnaissance Squadron.

Reformed in 1955 as a Helicopter Anti - Submarine Warfare squadron it carried out history’s first “vertical assault” during the Suez Crisis. 845 first became a Commando Helicopter Squadron in 1959 spending its first commission in the jungles of Borneo during the Indonesian Insurrection. In 1977 they committed to the Support Helicopter Detachment Northern Ireland and 4 years later deployed in support of the Falklands Campaign.

During the 1990's the Squadron were involved in the Kuwait Crisis, Desert Storm and operations in the former Yugoslavia. In March 2003, 845 led the insertion of 40 Commando Royal Marines to secure oil infrastructure on the Al Faw peninsula. They remained in Iraq until the end of 2007 and are now currently deployed on Operations in Afghanistan.

PREVIOUS AIRCRAFT TYPES
Avenger, Hoverfly, Whirlwind, Wessex, Sea King

BATTLE HONOURS

WESTLAND SEA KING HC
Mk 4

Primary Role
Medium Lift Support Helicopter

Max Speed
125 Knots

Crew
2x Pilot, 1x Aircrewman, 1x Door Gunner,

Max Takeoff Weight
9,700 kg

Endurance
4 Hours

Weapons
7.62mm General Purpose Machine Gun