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

846 NAVAL AIR SQUADRON
MOTTO
‘Semper instans’ - ‘Always threatening’

ROLE
Airborne Support for the Royal Marines of 3 Commando Brigade

BASE
RNAS Yeovilton

SQUADRON HISTORY

Disbanded in 1945 the Squadron re-formed in 1962 flying the Whirlwind HAS 7 in the jungles of Borneo seeing considerable action against terrorist guerrillas. In 1979 the Squadron converted to the Sea King HC4. In 1982, Sea Kings from 846 NAS embarked in HMS Hermes as part of the Falkland Island Task Force. During 1983, detachments were embarked in HMS Fearless for the withdrawal of British Nationals and troops from Beirut.

The 1990’s saw the Squadron deployed to the Gulf for Operation Desert Storm, leading to the liberation of Kuwait. From there they moved to Northern Iraq to assist with humanitarian relief for the Kurds. In 1993, 846 NAS embarked in HMS Ark Royal as part of the British Task Group assisting the UN operations in Yugoslavia. On return they moved to Northern Ireland, remaining there until 2002. In 2003 the Squadron deployed on combat operations in the Iraqi desert, returning in 2006. They are currently deployed in Afghanistan.

PREVIOUS AIRCRAFT TYPES
Avenger, Wildcat, 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

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