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

847 NAVAL AIR SQUADRON

MOTTO
‘Ex alto concutimus’ - ‘We shake them from on high’

ROLE
Light Battlefield Helicopter Support for the Royal Marines of 3 Commando Brigade

BASE
RNAS Yeovilton

SQUADRON HISTORY

The history of 847 Naval Air Squadron began towards the end of World War 2 and continued on an ad hoc basis into the 50’s and 60’s, operating in locations as diverse as Cyprus and Malaysia.

In 1982 the Squadron was re-formed for the Falklands conflict operating Wessex Mk 5s. As part of the Commando Helicopter Force, within the Joint Helicopter Command, 847 NAS is a fully-fledged Royal Navy Squadron, equipped with Lynx Mk 7 helicopters, which are operated by Royal Marines and Royal Navy pilots primarily in support of the Royal Marines.

Since 1995, elements of 847 NAS have been deployed in a variety of roles and to a wide range of destinations. This includes Honduras, to assist with the disaster relief after ‘Hurricane Mitch’, Sierra Leone for Operation Palliser, Kosovo and during the amphibious assault on the Al-Faw Peninsula in 2003. Since then the Squadron has completed a further two tours of Iraq and will deploy to Afghanistan in October 2008 for 7 months.

PREVIOUS AIRCRAFT TYPES
Barracuda, Gannet, Whirlwind, Wessex, Gazelle, Lynx

BATTLE HONOURS
Falkland Islands 1982, Al Faw 2003

WESTLAND LYNX AH Mk 7

Primary Role
Light Battlefield Helicopter
Max Speed
160 Knots
Crew
2x Pilot, 1x Door Gunner
Max Takeoff Weight
4,750 kg
Endurance
2 Hours 10 minutes
Weapons
7.62mm General Purpose Machine Gun

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