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

848 NAVAL AIR SQUADRON
MOTTO
‘Accipe hoc’ - ‘Take that’
ROLE
Commando Helicopter Force Aircrew, Groundcrew and Support Personnel Training
BASE
RNAS Yeovilton

SQUADRON HISTORY

848 Naval Air Squadron was first established in 1943 equipped with Avenger aircraft, but was disbanded after the war. In October 1952, the Squadron was re-commissioned with the new Whirwind helicopter for anti-terrorist protection duties in Malaya, becoming the first operational Royal Navy Whirlwind Squadron. It was disbanded in 1956. The Squadron re-formed in 1958 and saw service in Kuwait in 1961 before being re-equipped with Wessex HU5 helicopters. When the Falkland Islands were invaded in 1982, the Squadron was quickly reformed but after the campaign it was again disbanded.

Recommissioned in 1991 with Sea King Mk 4 aircraft to bolster the Commando Helicopter Force during the Gulf War, it was disbanded on its return but reformed in 1995 to undertake its current operational training and RM support role. 848 NAS is one of four Fleet Air Arm helicopter Squadrons that form the Commando Helicopter Force (CHF). CHF is a combined Royal Navy / Royal Marine force that fly Sea King and Lynx helicopters, which specialize in amphibious warfare.

PREVIOUS AIRCRAFT TYPES
Avenger, Swordfish, Whirlwind, Wasp, Wessex, Sea King

BATTLE HONOURS
Normandy 1944, Okinawa 1945, Japan 1945, Falklands 1982, Kuwait 1991

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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