



## 1990's

1991 saw both the final collapse of the Soviet Union and a demonstration of American global dominance in the first Iraq War. No sooner had aggression in the Gulf been countered than civil wars broke out in the Balkans which prompted international intervention.

In all the conflicts of the 1990's the Fleet Air Arm played its part to the full, demonstrating the flexibility of naval air power by arriving quickly in theatre and acquitting itself with distinction from ships at sea and from land bases. The flexibility and effectiveness of naval aviation that was demonstrated in the 90's has proved vital to the UK's armed forces today.

### WESTLAND LYNX HMA Mk 8

#### Role

Maritime Attack helicopter

#### Entered Service

1978

#### Weight Empty

Empty: 3291kg

Loaded: 5330kg

#### Maximum Speed

150mph

#### Weapons

General Purpose Machine Gun

Stingray torpedoes

Sea Skua missiles

Depth Charges



### KEY EVENTS

#### 1991:

Royal Navy Lynx helicopters use Sea Skua missiles to destroy 15 Iraqi patrol ships, achieving a hit rate of 93% and accounting for a quarter of all ships destroyed in the war.

#### 1991:

Commando Sea King helicopters from 845 and 848 Naval Air Squadrons provide support to US 1st Armoured Division, each flying an average of 200 hours a week for the 6 weeks of the campaign.

#### 1992:

Fleet Air Arm squadrons deploy as part of United Nations and NATO peacekeeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### 1992:

845 Naval Air Squadron deploys to the former Yugoslavia, the start of a 13 year stint, the longest period of any unit serving in the region.

#### 1993-1995:

As part of Operation Deny Flight, Sea Harriers of 800 and 801 Naval Air Squadrons mount Combat Air Patrols to prevent Serbian air attacks on the civilian population.

#### 1995:

847 Naval Air Squadron is commissioned, replacing 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron flying the Lynx Mk 7 Attack Helicopter and the Gazelle in a reconnaissance role.



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