



PRESENT DAY

The Fleet Air Arm numbers approximately 6200 people operating about 200 combat aircraft and over 50 training and support aircraft. Current ongoing operations include patrolling the Falkland Islands, patrolling the Antarctic, Iraq and Afghanistan. In October 2008, 40% of UK service personnel deployed on land based operations Afghanistan will be Royal Navy.

In 2008 the order was placed for 2 new aircraft carriers, which will be the biggest and most powerful ships ever constructed for the Royal Navy. These will give a massive capability boost for the Fleet Air Arm in the future.

AGUSTA WESTLAND MERLIN HM Mk 1

Role

Anti-Submarine Warfare

Entered Service

2000

Weight

Empty: 10500kg

Loaded: 15600kg

Maximum Speed

192mph

Weapons

General Purpose Machine Gun

960kg Anti-Ship Missiles

Homing Torpedoes

Depth Charges

Rockets



KEY EVENTS

2003 March:

Start of the second war in Iraq.

2005:

Battle honour 'Al Faw 2003' awarded to 845 and 847 Naval Air Squadrons.

2007 January:

Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel constitute more than 50% of UK forces in southern Afghanistan.

2007 June:

HMS Seahawk, RNAS Culdrose celebrates the 60th anniversary of the air station.

2007 November:

845 Naval Air Squadron (Sea King Mk 4), the longest serving helicopter squadron on Operation Telic, returns to RNAS Yeovilton after 3 1/2 years of intense sustained operations.

2008 May:

Order placed for two new aircraft carriers, *HMS Queen Elizabeth* and *HMS Prince of Wales*.

2009 May:

Centenary of Naval Aviation



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