

The logo graphic consists of three curved lines: a top blue line, a middle red line, and a bottom dark blue line, all curving from left to right.

# NAVY WINGS

— Inspire & Remember

## PRESS RELEASE

### BRAND NEW LOOK FOR NAVAL AVIATION CHARITY

28 June 2016

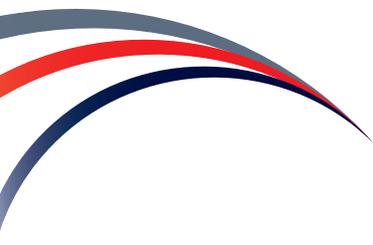
The charity, the Fly Navy Heritage Trust, established to preserve and promote the nation's great naval aviation heritage, is launching a new brand, *Navy Wings*, at RNAS Yeovilton International Air Day, Somerset, on Saturday 2 July 2016.

From its earliest beginnings in 1909, the story of Royal Navy Aviation has been an inspiring and important part of our country's military history. It's also a story of pioneering inventiveness and world leading technological advancement that radically shaped the development of Britain's aviation and aerospace industry.

*Navy Wings* brings the richness of this heritage to life, inspiring future generations by bringing together the flying historic aircraft, with the voices of those who designed, flew and maintained them, and the historical accounts of the conflicts, world events and technological innovations in which they played a crucial role.

The new brand will be unveiled by the renowned author and journalist, Frederick Forsyth CBE, whose passionate interest in carrier aviation shines through in the realism of his best-selling novels, particularly the 'Day of the Jackal' and 'The Cobra.' A former fighter pilot in the RAF, foreign correspondent for Reuters and reporter for the BBC, Frederick is a staunch supporter of our Armed Forces and is a longstanding Ambassador for the Fly Navy Heritage Trust.

"I am delighted to have been asked to launch *Navy Wings*" said Frederick. "I gained my pilot's licence at 17 and the exhilaration of flying has never left me! I also know a good story when I see one - and the history of naval aviation is so gripping and moves at such a pace; that once begun, cannot easily be put down! *Navy Wings* gives young people the opportunity to put themselves in the pilot's seat in a very direct and powerful way, providing a richly inspiring learning experience for future generations."



Frederick, who also worked for the Secret Intelligence Service for 20 years at the height of the Cold War continued, "Seeing the charity's magnificent Sea Vixen Cold War fighter flying, sends a chill down my spine. I can feel the gut-wrenching tension the aircrews would have experienced as they flew intensive day and night operations from our carriers, keeping the peace against the massed forces of the Warsaw Pact. The Sea Vixen is a potent reminder of the strategic importance of carrier aviation and the very real fear of all-out nuclear war that we lived under at the time."

"We have a responsibility, not only to keep these historically significant aircraft flying and to tell the story of their service to our country, but to promote a deeper understanding and awareness of their contribution to our national heritage," continued Frederick.

The nation's flying historic naval aircraft tell the evolutionary story from the Royal Naval Air Service of World War One, through to the Fleet Air Arm of today, and the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers and their F35 fighters of the future. Naval aircraft include bi-planes, seaplanes, piston and jet powered aeroplanes as well as helicopters. Building a heritage collection, to more completely represent this evolutionary story, is central to the Navy Wings brand.

"There are many private owners of flying historic naval aircraft around the world and we are inviting a representative selection of them to join the Navy Wings associate collection and fly under the Navy Wings banner," said Commodore Jock Alexander OBE, Chief Executive of the Fly Navy Heritage Trust. "We are privileged to be based with the Royal Navy's Historic Flight at RNAS Yeovilton and the Flight's two Fairey Swordfish and Hawker Sea Fury FB11 remain at the heart of the Collection, supported by the charity. However, these rare and beautiful aircraft only represent a small slice of history."

"Navy Wings reinforces the charity's objectives to educate, inspire and remember," continued Commodore Alexander "and importantly, creates a new model of collective partnership with other naval aircraft owners coming together to actively promote the wider story."

"Navy Wings is a hugely transformational initiative to engage new audiences and bring young people closer to the past lives, achievements and skills of the pilots, engineers, deck handlers, scientists and manufacturers who shaped our great naval aviation history," continued Commodore Alexander.

One of the first associate aircraft to join the Navy Wings collection earlier this year was the Bristol Scout, rebuilt by owner David Bremner in memory of his grandfather who flew in the First World War. Another treasure of early naval aviation history, the Avro 504 biplane has also recently joined, telling the story of the first strategic bombing raid in history made by the Royal Naval Air Service in 1914.



Fairey Swordfish W5856 and Sea Vixen FAW2 XP924 will be flying at RNAS Yeovilton Air Day on Saturday as part of the Navy Wings core collection, with the North American T-6 Texan G-KAMY, and historic Westland Wasp HAS1, flying as associates of the Navy Wings collection for the first time.

Sue Eagles, Communications Director for the charity said "The aircraft of the Navy Wings collection are the living legacy of the spirit of naval aviation and of British engineering and technological success that unites us as a nation. In short, Navy Wings is an invitation to 'touch' our great history, to share in the excitement of keeping these spectacular aircraft flying and to discover the remarkable story of our heritage. Join us in the Navy Wings pavilion at RNAS Yeovilton Air Day on 2 July!"

**ENDS**

## NOTE TO EDITORS

Navy Wings relies on public donations to support its work in restoring, maintaining and flying an unequalled collection of rare and historically significant naval aircraft and promoting the nation's naval aviation heritage. Keeping these remarkable aircraft flying inspires and informs modern audiences telling the rich story of heroic and daring actions, the battle honours and technological ingenuity and innovation that has given naval aviation a unique place in history. It is also an enduring tribute of remembrance to the courage and sacrifice of all those who have served in the Royal Naval Air Service and Fleet Air Arm over the past 100 years.

Members of the media are invited to attend the launch in the Navy Wings Pavilion at 10.30. Opportunities to interview Frederick Forsyth by the Sea Vixen will also be available between 12.15 and 12.45. Bids to interview Frederick Forsyth should be submitted to [sue.eagles@navywings.org.uk](mailto:sue.eagles@navywings.org.uk)

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**Inspiring future generations by bringing together the  
aircraft, people and story of flying from ships**

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