

MASF

The Maritime Aviation Support Force

The provision of tailored manning solutions for Maritime Aviation and RFA Operations.



History:

Late 70s - Air Engineering Support section established at RNAS Culdrose to parent Fleet Air Arm Ratings serving in Royal Fleet Auxiliaries.

1982 - Introduction of RFAASU (Royal Fleet Auxiliary Aviation Support Unit) to support the South Atlantic campaign.

1990 - Formation of RFANSU - Delivering Aviation and Warfare capability for RN and RFA ships.

2007 - Formation of MASF.

2010 - MASF becomes a fully commissioned RN Unit.

Overview:

Based at RNAS Culdrose, MASF was declared at Full Operating Capability in Oct 09.

MASF provides essential naval aviation support to operations for ships and land bases globally supporting maritime aviation and Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) operations.

Deployable Support Teams (DSTs)

Each DST is tailored to the platform or unit and the nature of their tasking. Manpower can be provided in a number of key areas in order to support aviation assets:

- Aircraft Handlers
- Aircraft Controllers
- Air Engineering
- Survival Equipment
- Logistics Support



Role of MASF:

MASF's role is to support rotary wing units under Navy Command and potentially other Front Line Command aircraft when embarked in RN or RFA ships or deployed on RN supported land operations. Its function for non-aviation RFA operations is to support ships fitted with Close in Weapons Systems and RFA Argus.

When a Squadron of Naval aircraft deploys to a ship or any other detached operating base, it is essential that the various supporting facilities are available to cope with any situation.

HOW MASF OPERATES:



Hospital Ship:

RFA Argus.

Primary Casualty Receiving Ship (PCRS).
100 bed hospital contingency manned.
50 permanent RN onboard at any one time.
Aviation Training

With the capability of simultaneous operation of 2 aircraft and hangar space for up to 6 Merlin size aircraft.



Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment (AOR):

RFA Fort Victoria.

2 teams of 15 MASF personnel lead by a Lt Aviation Support Officer working a 4 month rotation.

Aviation and weapons facilities:
Dual spot flight deck with hangar space for 3 Merlin size aircraft.
Phalanx CIWS/UAT.



Auxiliary Fleet Support Helicopter (AFSH):

RFA Fort Austin.

Single Spot flight deck and Emergency Landing Platform.

Twin hangar arrangement capable of supporting 3 Sea King aircraft (not Merlin).

Weapons - Phalanx CIWS now fitted and supported.



Wave & Bay Classes:

RFA Wave Knight,

RFA Wave Ruler, RFA Cardigan Bay, RFA Lyme Bay and RFA Mounts Bay.

Single Spot aircraft operations. No hangar on Bay Class.

Weapons - Phalanx CIWS now fitted and supported.

Weapon Engineering

MASF provides dedicated and sustained Weapon Engineering support to a number of RFA Vessels deployed on operations across the globe.

MASF personnel are responsible for the maintenance of complex electronic and ordnance systems that include the 20mm Gamb-01 Close Range weapon, the Phalanx Close in Weapon System, Small arms and Force protection Weapons and a number of different Sensors and Decoys that all help to maintain situational awareness and protect the ship 24 / 7.

