

Hamburg Aerospace Lecture Series
Hamburger Luft- und Raumfahrtvorträge

RAeS Hamburg in cooperation with the DGLR, VDI, ZAL & HAW invites you to a lecture

The RAF Harrier in the Cold War

Group Captain **Jock Heron** RAF (rtd.)

Date: Thursday 22 June 2017, 18:00

Location: HAW Hamburg

Berliner Tor 5, (Neubau), Hörsaal 01.13



Lecture
followed by discussion

No registration required !
Entry free !



This talk will address the birth of the Harrier's predecessors at a time of uncertainty over the future of manned combat aircraft and the continuing efforts by those who believed in their validity.

Jock Heron will describe the development of the aircraft dispersed concepts of operation which went on to serve the country superbly at times of need. He will touch on the conflicting views within the Ministry of Defence in 1976 over the options for enhancing the Royal Air Force offensive support front line when the intention was to allow the Harrier Force to run down by the late 1980s.

However, a combination of circumstances subsequently led to a change in policy. The ways in which common sense prevailed and how the Service(s) gained an enhanced capability which served the country well until its premature withdrawal in 2010 will also be outlined.

Jock Heron joined the RAF in 1955 as a officer cadet at the RAF College Cranwell. After graduation he flew many types of aircraft including Hunter, Lightning and Mirage 3 and during an exchange with the US Airforce, F-105 Thunderchief and F-86F Sabre.

In 1967 he returned to the United Kingdom to take up an appointment in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Operational Requirements branch as a Squadron Leader staff officer on the Tornado project. During a second posting to Germany he commanded the operations wing at RAF Gutersloh where he flew both the Harrier and the Wessex helicopter. In 1984 he was posted to the Falkland Islands to command RAF Stanley for four months. He retired from the RAF in 1987 and joined Rolls-Royce in Bristol as its Military Affairs Executive. He retired finally in October 1998 but maintains his Service links through the RAF Historical Society, where he is Vice Chairman.

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