

Editor's Note

The decision to record the history of the RAN's Fleet Air Arm (FAA) from 1998 to 2022 had its start in 2018 at the suggestion of the then commander of the Fleet Air Arm, Commodore Chris Smallhorn RAN. He wanted to ensure the recent history of the FAA was recorded and to continue the work done by those members of the aviation community who told the story of the first 50 years, 1947–1997. Their book, *Flying Stations*, had no single author and neither does this successor. It has been written by the people who have recorded their stories at the time, or soon after the events they described. Many of these authors were writing for the fortnightly publication *Navy News*. That hard copy journalism was supplemented later by the arrival of the digital *Navy Daily* online publication.

Those who have written their stories, and the Navy photographers and imagery specialists who illustrated them, gave us their first draft of the history of the modern FAA. These individuals are all due our thanks for their dedicated work. Without their efforts to continue the narrative we would have a much thinner and less interesting account of the operational service of the people who served in the air and on the ground in support of RAN aviation operations for the past 25 years. My task has been to edit their work.

The form of the book is a chronological narrative with additional chapters from specialist authors with firsthand knowledge. It records the month by month and year by year events in the order in which they occurred. It is hoped this style of narrative will assist the reader who has no background knowledge of the FAA's story and make it easier to search for a particular event. The 'Chronology of Events' ends in early 2022 as the book needed to be published in time for the 75th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the FAA later in the year.

Note that not every chronological event has been recorded. For example, many ceremonies, milestones and awards occur on a regular basis, and including every one of these would be both repetitive and impractical in a book of this nature. Likewise, the FAA is involved in a vast number of community events on many levels. A representative sprinkling of these ceremonies and events has been included in the hope that it gives a fair reflection of FAA activity and involvement.

Every effort has been made to avoid errors of fact or omission. Any errors that remain are the responsibility of the editor who requests the understanding and forbearance of the reader.

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Editor