

HISTORIC PHANTOM ARRIVES AT RAF COSFORD IN PREPERATION FOR RAF100 AIR SHOW

Following last week's launch of the RAF Cosford Air Show 2018, today cold-war era F-4 Phantom aircraft, known as 'Black Mike', was delivered by road to the airfield, in preparation for the Air Show on Sunday 10th June 2018.

The F-4 Phantom II was operated by the Royal Air Force between 1969 and 1992, principally as an air defence fighter. Although the jet was an American design, produced by McDonnell Douglas, the UK's Phantoms were a special batch built separately and containing a significant amount of British technology including the addition of Rolls-Royce Spey engines. Of all the UK's Phantoms, the airframe which arrived today at RAF Cosford is perhaps one of the most iconic, known as 'Black Mike' due to its unique paint scheme applied by 111(F) Squadron in the late 1980s.

The airframe, now owned by GJD Services Ltd, has been the centre of a campaign by aviation enthusiasts, who plan to restore her to exhibition standard. David Butterfield, from the British Phantom Aviation Group, said, "The British Phantom Aviation Group (BPAG) are extremely proud and honoured to participate with Phantom XV582 'Black Mike' at the RAF Cosford Air Show 2018. Our hardworking, dedicated team of volunteers have shown outstanding knowledge, skills and aptitude to make the move from RAF Leuchars happen. We look forward to working with RAF Cosford over the coming months and we are certain that the aircraft will be a great attraction as part of the RAF100 static displays."

Air Show Operations Manager, Mr Peter Reoch, said, "The Royal Air Force's Phantoms played a critical role in defending the UK's airspace during the height of the Cold War. Therefore, having an example of the type was essential as part of our RAF100 static exhibition at the Air Show on Sunday 10th June 2018. It will be the first of many aircraft which will be transported by road to RAF Cosford over the coming months specifically for display at the Air Show."

Tickets for the Air Show, which is promising to be a spectacular and interactive tribute to the Royal Air Force's centenary, are already on sale via the event's website. Tickets will again only be available in advance, and are priced £25.00 per adult, with accompanied under-16s attending the Air Show for free, presenting excellent value for money.

Notes to editors:

- Please ensure the event is referred to as the “**RAF Cosford Air Show**” as this will fall in line with our branding and corporate identity.
- The RAF Cosford Air Show 2018 will be held on Sunday 10th June.
- The RAF Cosford Air Show is an ADVANCE TICKET ONLY event. Those who travel to the event without a ticket will not be admitted.
- Our official website is www.cosfordairshow.co.uk
- When posting on social Media, please ‘tag’ our official channels:
Facebook Page: **RAF Cosford Air Show (Official)**
Twitter Handle: **@CosfordAirShow**
- Air Show tickets are priced £25.00, and are available online at www.cosfordairshow.co.uk.
- Admission is FREE for all under-16s accompanied by an adult.
- For those travelling by train to the RAF Cosford Air Show, joint travel/air show tickets are available from any manned railway station in the UK. More details will be announced in March 2018.
- Full Details of aircraft scheduled to participate in the Flying Displays and Static Displays can be found on the website. More aircraft will be announced over the coming months.
- For further information on the event, in-depth interviews or pictures please contact the Air Show Office email press@cosfordairshow.co.uk, visit the website or call 01902 377922
- For further information about other Royal Air Force centenary events, please visit the main RAF100 website; www.raf.mod.uk/raf100