



News Release

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Securing Our Skies: Joining forces at the Global Air & Space Chiefs' Conference

London, UK, 20 June 2023: This year's Global Air & Space Chiefs' Conference is themed 'Global Air & Space Power' and will connect over 50 air and space chiefs from across the world to share strategies for evolving their forces so that they remain lethal, agile and operationally ready to defend and secure their skies.

The global forum, hosted by the UK's newly-appointed Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Sir Rich Knighton, involves over 500 global leaders in air and space power. It takes place against the backdrop of an intensifying war on NATO's borders as Ukraine battles to protect its citizens and defend its sovereignty against relentless Russian aggression.

The Conference features four thematic sessions and a special session which will see the Chief of the Air Staff join three other keynote speakers to bring their strategic perspectives on how to ensure forces are fit to fight, now and into the future. In addition to ACM Sir Rich Knighton, confirmed keynote speakers include the Rt Hon James Heappey MP, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Chief of the Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, and General B. Chance Saltzman, Chief of Space Operations, United States Space Force.

The **NATO, Eastern Flank and the High North** session will examine the air and space power implications and lessons identified from the ongoing war in Ukraine and what these mean for deterring aggression and maintaining the defence and security of Europe's airspace.

The **Indo-Pacific** session will explore the challenges facing leading air forces in prosecuting operations at extreme range, large scale and high tempo against near peer rivals and the vital importance of operating alongside allies and in truly integrated ways across multiple domains.

Space and Emerging Technology addresses the criticality of the space domain to current and future operations, including the challenge of the civilisation as opposed to the militarisation of space.

Sustaining Net Zero Operations will examine how air force operations will have to evolve to effectively sustain operations within a climate-changed world.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Rich Knighton said:

"Air and Space Power provide the critical control of the air and the assured access to space-based capabilities that we need to maintain our security, stability and prosperity. Our Air and Space Forces are our first responders in facing up to hostility and aggression, and also provide the essential freedom of manoeuvre which our other Armed Forces require to succeed.

Air and Space power matters more now than it has done for many years. I am looking forward to discussing with my counterparts from around the world how we secure our skies now and into the future and help address the collective security challenges we face."



Air Marshal (Retd) Greg Bagwell, The Air & Space Power Association (ASPA) President, said: “We arrived at last year’s conference with Ukraine bravely resisting the Russian invasion. Now, a year on, Ukraine has maintained its defensive shape and Russia has failed on so many levels to achieve any of its illegal aims. Ukraine has been re-equipping with increasingly sophisticated equipment, but also has demonstrated what can be achieved in relatively quick timeframes and with an ingenuity and imagination forged by necessity. We have some lessons to learn from their heroic efforts, not least of which is that air superiority as an aim in warfare still matters. If there was ever a more pressing need for a global air and space chiefs’ conference to be held it is now and I am pleased to see so many chiefs join forces again here in London to share their thinking on how to best work together to develop air and space power for our collective security.”

Guest speakers include: General James B Hecker, Commander USAFE; General K S Wilsbach, Commander Pacific Air Forces, USAF; Air Marshal Harvey Smyth, Air & Space Commander, RAF; Major General Jonas Wikman, Commander Swedish Air Force; AVM Paul Godfrey, Commander, UK Space Command; AVM Paul Lloyd, Chief of Staff Support, RAF; Brigadier General Holger Neumann, Deputy Chief of Staff, German Air Force; Brigadier Stefano Cimichella, Head of Department, Italian Air Force Logistics Command; Richard Berthon, Director Future Combat Air, UK Ministry of Defence; Professor Anu Ohja, UK Space Agency; James Clare, Director Climate Change & Sustainability, UK MOD; Roberto Guerrero, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Operational Energy, USAF.

Senior leaders from BAE Systems, Leonardo, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Pratt & Whitney, Airbus, Blue Origin and MDA Space and Robotics will join the panels, complemented by academics from the International Institute for Strategic Studies, RUSI and the China Aerospace Studies Institute.

The Global Air & Space Chiefs’ Conference is delivered by The Air & Space Power Association (ASPA) on behalf of the RAF. The Programme is conceived by the RAF’s Centre for Air & Space Power Studies (CASPS).

Notes to Editors:

- The Chief of the Air Staff’s Global Air & Space Chiefs’ Conference is taking place 12-13 July 2022 at The IET, Savoy Place, London. The conference opens at 09.00 on 12 July and closes 13 July at 14.00hrs. The event is livestreamed enabling RAF and UK Whole Force personnel located across the UK and overseas as well as air and space professionals, academia and media to engage with the discussions using the virtual platform. For further information, full programme and how to book please visit the website [here](#).
- **The Air and Space Power Association (ASPA)** is an authoritative independent voice and platform for discussion and debate on how air and space power influences today’s world and its relevance to the future. The ASPA delivers the conference on behalf of the RAF. www.airpower.org.uk. **RAF CASPS** is an RAF think tank which focuses on the strategic and conceptual study of air and space power. It seeks to: generate evidence-based academic research and provides strategic influence through coordinated engagement with think tanks, allies and other professional bodies in the defence and security arena. It also leverages the intellectual horsepower of external institutions and RAF personnel; and helps inculcate a philosophy of learning and critical thinking within the RAF.
- Media enquiries: Carol Reed (ASPA) +44 7879 697681 / Wg Cdr Martin Tinworth RAF Spokesman +44 7876 390306 martin.tinworth315@mod.gov.uk

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