

5 February 2016

Cold War lunchtime lecture series takes off with the F-4 Phantom

Date: 19 February 2016

Time: 12.30pm

Cost: FREE

The F-4 Phantom will be the focus of the first lecture in a brand new Cold War Lunchtime Lecture Series launching at the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford this year. The lecture entitled 'The Mighty Phantom: Personal Recollections of the F-4 during the Cold War' will be presented by a former Phantom Navigator and will take place on Friday 19 February 2016.

Each lecture discusses a different topic related to Cold War air power and to kick start the series, Air Commodore (ret'd) Dr Peter Gray of the University of Birmingham will share some of his memories of his tours on the F-4 in the UK, Germany and the Falklands in 1982. He will cover some of the early history, weapons developments, operations (including Quick Reaction Alert and Battleflight) and training, as well as share some of his personal photos.

Dr Peter Gray retired from the Royal Air Force in 2008, having reached the rank of Air Commodore he took up the position of Senior Research Fellow in Air Power Studies at the University of Birmingham later the same year. He spent his early career as a navigator on the F-4 Phantom aircraft and commanded No. 101 Squadron flying VC10K tanker aircraft. His career has included several appointments in the Ministry of Defence including Director of Defence Studies for the Royal Air Force. With multiple degrees under his belt, Dr Gray is also an accomplished author whose latest book 'Air Warfare: History, Theory and Practice' was published in 2015.

The Cold War lunchtime lectures form part of the RAF Museum's Research Programme for 2016. 'The Mighty Phantom: Personal Recollections of the F-4 during the Cold War', is the first of four lectures taking place at Cosford this year. The programme also consists of the Trenchard Lectures in Air Power Studies and the First World War in the Air Lunchtime Lectures, which are held at the University of Wolverhampton, the Royal Aeronautical Society in London and the RAF Museum in London respectively.

RAF Museum Aviation Historian, Ross Mahoney said:

"The RAF Museum is delighted to be launching the Cold War Lunchtime Lecture Series at the RAF Museum at Cosford. These lectures form part of the Museum's Research Programme that was launched successfully in 2015. The first lecture series will see Air Commodore (ret'd) Dr Peter Gray talk about his time as a navigator on the F-4 Phantom, which is one of the iconic aircraft of the Cold War period."

This FREE lecture will be held in the museum's National Cold War Exhibition lecture theatre at 12.30pm on Friday 19 February. As spaces are limited, organisers advise visitors to book their tickets in advance via the museum's website to avoid disappointment.

For further information about the museums research programme or to book your FREE ticket to the lecture, please visit the museum website www.rafmuseum.org/cosford. The museum is open daily from 10am and entry to the museum is FREE of charge.

Ends...

Notes to Editors:

- For more details about the RAF Museum's Research Programme, please email RAF Museum Aviation Historian, Dr Ross Mahoney at ross.mahoney@rafmuseum.org
- **About Dr Peter Gray:**
Gray holds degrees from the Universities of Dundee, London, Cambridge and Birmingham (PhD). He is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Royal Historical Society and of the Institute of Leadership and Management.
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- Open daily from 10am
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Museum is free of charge.
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at:
<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault.aspx>
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Morgans on 01902 376212 or email michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org
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