

RAF Photographer of the Year 2012

7th January 2013

The winning images from the 2012 Royal Air Force Photographic Competition will be on view to members of the public at the Royal Air Force Museum London's Colindale site from 12th January 2013.

The Royal Air Force Museum is celebrating the superb achievements of Royal Air Force Photographers following the judging of the Royal Air Force's annual Photographic Competition which is now in its 23rd year. The Museum will be displaying the winning entries in a unique exhibition which opens to the public on 12th January.

Subject categories range from 'The Operational Experience', an image that reflects the Royal Air Force conducting vital work on operations or training in support of operations, through to the 'Equipment' category which gives photographers the exciting opportunity to display their skill photographing the Service's world-class equipment.

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton presented the winners with their awards. He said:

'The competition entries this year are once again of the highest quality and showcase not only the professional abilities of our Royal Air Force Photographers but also the tremendous diversity and agility of our people and equipment. These dynamic images reflect the extensive breadth of Service life, the critical contribution that our personnel are making to global operations and the unique year of celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee as well as the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games'.

In excess of 800 images were entered in the competition which made the selection of winners extremely difficult. Judging this year was conducted by Len Dance, Alex Mead, and Geoff Mayer who between them have over 100 years pictorial experience. All were unanimous in their appreciation of the very high standard, quality and diversity of work produced by both Service and civilian photographers and wrestled long and hard with their decision to appoint the RAF's Photographer of the Year for 2012.

After much deliberation Corporal Mike Jones from RAF Marham was awarded RAF Photographer of the year for 2012:

His portfolio of 4 images shows the diversity of task from operations to ceremonial, modern equipment to heritage, but particularly captivating is the image 'Afgan Elder'. On learning of his award, Cpl Jones relived the moment he took the picture:

'The picture was taken on New Year's Day at Kandahar during an Open Day for local Afghans living close to the airfield to visit us at work'. He said:

'At the open day the RAF had provided a Tornado GR4 and the crew were busy talking to a lot of excited kids and local people. I saw the man sitting alone to one side by the hangar door, just watching things going

on. The conditions were perfect. As the hangar door opened there was a flood of natural light falling on him. It is a very natural shot. It is a striking picture that I am proud of.'

The winning photographs from the competition will be on display in the RAF Museum until 30th April when the exhibition will then transfer to the Museum's Cosford's site in Shropshire.

Entry to the Royal Air Force Photographer of the Year Exhibition is free of charge to all visitors; as is entry to the Museum. The exhibition will be shown daily from 10am to 5.30pm until April 30th. For further details please visit www.rafmuseum.org/whatson or dial 020 8205 2266.

Notes To Editors:

- Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, London, NW9 5LL
- All images used should be credited : '©UK MOD Crown Copyright 2012'
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Museum is free of charge. Though the Museum now charges a small car-parking fee per vehicle of £2.50 for a stay of up to 3 hours and £3.50 for a stay of up to 6 hours.
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Photographer of the Year Exhibition is free of charge.
- For further details, please contact Ajay Srivastava on 020 8358 6410.