

NP WELCOME AND INTRO

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. TODAY'S CEREMONY WILL BEGIN WITH A FLEET AIR ARM FLY PAST. YOU CAN SEE TWO AIRCRAFT TO YOUR LEFT BEHIND ME COMING FROM THE MAIN ARBORETUM MEMORIAL AND HEADING EAST TO YOUR RIGHT.

THE FIRST AIRCRAFT IS A LYNX MARK 8 HELICOPTER THE BACKBONE OF THE FLEET AIR ARM AND WORLDWIDE OPERATIONS BY DESTROYERS AND FRIGATES. A JACK OF ALL TRADES THE LYNX CAN TAKE ON SHIPS AND SUBMARINES OR FAST INSERTION OF A RM BOARDING PARTY. THE PILOT IS LT CDR CHRIS SOUTHWORTH WHO IS THE BLACK CAT SOLO DISPLAY PILOT AND A FRONT LINE PILOT ON 815 SQUADRON. HE IS FLYING AT 250 FEET AND LEADING A MERLIN MARK ONE THE WORLD'S MOST POTENT ANTISUBMARINE HELICOPTER. THE MERLIN IS PILOTED BY LT CDR DAVE THOMAS AND DIRECTING THE FLY PAST IS HIS OBSERVER LT CDR BASH BATES WITH PO ACMN TAFF MORRIS.

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS AND PRINCESS MICHAEL FOR HONOURING US WITH YOUR PRESENCE TO UNVEIL THIS MEMORIAL. SHIPMATE MINISTER ARMED FORCES, VALUED MEMBER OF OUR RAYLEIGH BRANCH THANK YOU TOO FOR MAKING THE TIME TO BE WITH US ON OUR GREAT DAY. FIRST SEA LORD WE ARE STUNNED BY THE MAGNIFICENT REPRESENTATION OF EVERY PART OF THE NAVAL SERVICE. YOURSELF, THE SECOND SEA LORD, THE COMMODORE OF THE ROYAL FLEET AUXILIARY,

COMANDING OFFICERS OF SHIPS, SUBMARINES, SHORE ESTABLISHMENTS, NAVAL AIR SQUADRONS, A ROYAL MARINE COMMANDO AND RN AND ROYAL MARINE RESERVE CENTRES TOGETHER WITH THE QUEEN'S COLOUR OF THE ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE AND A GUARD FROM HMS FORWARD, BIRMINGHAM'S RESERVE CENTRE, A PLATOON OF YOUNG TRAINEES FROM HMS COLLINGWOOD. ALL OF WHOM I UNDERSTAND ARE VOLUNTEERS. THERE ARE MANY SHIPMATES HERE WHO REMEMBER WHAT CAN BE MEANT BY THAT. AND MUSIC FROM WHAT THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION KNOWS TO BE THE WORLD'S FINEST MILITARY MUSICIANS – A ROYAL MARINE BAND. FINALLY THE SERVICE OF DEDICATION WHICH NOW FOLLOWS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE CHAPLAIN OF THE FLEET.