

## Mark Bowman

Director of Flight Operations, Military Air and Information  
BAE Systems



Mark Bowman was born in Manchester, England and was educated at Imperial College, London as a Royal Air Force Cadet, where he read Aeronautical Engineering. After flying training at RAF Cranwell, Valley and Chivenor, Mark was awarded the prizes for aerobatics, air-air weapons and best overall student.

Posted to the ground attach role on Harrier V/STOL aircraft, Mark flew with No's 1(F) and IV (AC) Squadrons on worldwide deployments and completed his tour as a Qualified Weapons Instructor (QWI).

Having been selected for training as a test pilot, Mark attended the Empire Test Pilot's school at Boscombe Down, England where upon graduation; he was awarded with the Sir Alan Cobham prize for the student with the best overall flying ability. Mark continued at Boscombe Down with Fixed Wing Test Squadron as the Harrier and Jaguar Project Test Pilot, Mark had responsibility for areas such as the introduction of night electro-optical capability in Harrier and weapons trails in support of Gulf War activities for the Jaguar.



Upon promotion to Squadron Leader, Mark was posted back to the front line as an executive on 39F squadron, flying the Harrier GR7 during the Middle East and Balkan campaigns, before taking up a Ministry of Defence staff appointment in the Operational Requirements area for the Typhoon programme.

Upon retirement from the Royal Air Force, Mark took up employment with BAE Systems, initially as the Industry Harrier Project Test Pilot and then, following a move to the company site at Warton, as the Typhoon Project Test Pilot. In 2010, Mark was promoted to Chief Test Pilot, with responsibility for the safe and efficient conduct of all the company's combat aircraft testing and evaluation activities. Working within this role has meant building strong and valued relationships with home, international partners and air forces. Mark has also worked with many external industries, including the motor industry to look at ways in which combat aircraft testing/technology can be translated across wider applications.

To date, Mark has amassed 5,000 hours of fast jet time on over 35 different types of aircraft and remains fully engaged in all aspects of the company's activities in designing, manufacturing and delivering world beating combat aircrafts. Mark was awarded the prestigious Sir Alasdair Steedman Sword for the best aerobatic display at RIAT 2011 by a UK participant where he flew the Typhoon FGR4. He has also been awarded in 2014 the Derry & Richards Memorial Medal by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots for his contribution to advancing the art of test flying. In 2015, Mark was promoted to his current post as Director of Flight Operations and the Accountable Manager (Military Flying) for BAeS.

Mark is a Fellow of the RAeS, having been a member for over 20 years and has supported the society at both a local and national level with demonstrations and presentations at Hamilton Place and also at RAeS branches including Loughborough, Oxford, Farnborough, Highland, Birmingham and it is planned for him to deliver the Sir Freddy Page lecture to the Preston branch on March 16.

Mark also is on the MASG and Flight Ops Committees for ADS and represented BAeS on the Farnborough International Flying Control Committee.

Outside work, Mark has many varied interests including sailing, walking, cookery and antiques.