

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday 23rd April 2019

The Air League announces new CEO

The Board of Trustees of the Air League has confirmed that it has appointed Nick West MA FRAeS, to be the new Chief Executive of the organisation, effective 23 April 2019.

Nick West has worked in corporate communications, public affairs and marketing in the aviation, aerospace, defence and security industries with Racal Electronics/Thales, Boeing and Raytheon UK, since 1996 when he left the Royal Marines, after 9 years' service. His early military service included Troop level command in South Armagh and also representing the Royal Marines on the Royal Navy Presentation Team. He trained as a helicopter pilot with the Army Air Corps and then flew Gazelle and Lynx helicopters with 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron for four years, including a five-month period as the detachment commander in Belize and also on the relief operation, Safe Haven in Kurdistan in 1991. In 1994 after passing the Junior Command Staff Course at Sandhurst, he served as a second in command and company Commander, as well as intelligence officer on the 45 Commando Northern Ireland tour in Fermanagh.

Nick West is a past Chairman of the Aviation Club of the United Kingdom, a former Trustee of the Air League for seven years and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. In 2018 he completed a Master's Degree in Intelligence and Security with the University of Leicester.

John Steel QC FRAeS, Chairman of the Air League and Board of Trustees, said:

“I am delighted to announce that Nick West has been appointed as Chief Executive of The Air League. Nick brings with him strong leadership, dynamic vision and the energy required to fulfil the ambitious task that the Board of Trustees have outlined for the organisation to fulfil the core purpose of the Air League to be an “influential champion for aviation and aerospace in challenging times”.

As a former senior executive at board level within the UK aerospace, defence and securities’ industries, Nick has a wide and in-depth knowledge of the sector and, as a former Trustee of the Air League, a firm intellectual grasp of the League’s purpose, mission and future potential. His familiarity of the organisation and previous experience is paramount. Nick’s connections throughout the aerospace community and his commitment to STEM diversity and proficiency positions him well to raise the profile of the Air League among its membership and the aerospace industry.”

On being appointed, Nick said:

“The Air League is synonymous with the aviation and aerospace industries which have always been inspiring to me, as they encapsulate imagination, exploration, pioneering spirit, technological endeavour, diligence and team work. My vision for the Air League is to grow its brand equity as an authoritative industry voice, which stands for a number of key issues inextricably linked to the health of the industry and UK economic success. The impact of the Air League has been tremendous over my 20 years involvement and in future the organisation will be developing a clearer approach to campaigning, to better support our corporate and individual members. Enhancing the capability of the Air League to deliver practical and educational support to beneficiaries is a core objective, where we are already expanding the scope of the organisation considerably. I am also delighted to be working with many highly dedicated friends within the Air League and the industry on a broader basis.”

Notes to Editors:

The Air League was formed in 1909 and its mission is to generate national understanding of the importance to the UK of aviation and aerospace and to excite young people's interest in these areas by helping them to become involved.

The core objective of the Air League is to be "an influential champion for the future growth of aviation and aerospace in the UK". The Air League is committed to being at the forefront of influencing public policy by taking a leading role in the debate on aviation and aerospace in the UK.

The Air League fosters interest in the whole field of aviation, aerospace and defence, particularly in developing young people and providing opportunities for the less advantaged.

The Air League supports the UK's aviation and aerospace communities through the Leading Edge, Air League in Parliament, receptions, lectures and policy papers which articulate the advanced technologies and crucial industry skills which are vital to the economic success of the UK.

The Air League is also the UK's largest provider of flying scholarships and bursaries. Over the past decade, Scholarships worth over £2 million have been allocated to young people across the UK. The Leading Edge is designed for members aged under 35 years and complements the Air League Trust's formal scholarships and bursaries programmes and acts as a wider network for people interested in flying or wanting to pursue a career in aviation.

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