



INVITATION

The War Archive is honored to invite you to a presentation by

**Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon GCB CBE FRAeS
Former Chief of Air Staff Royal Air Force**

**Commanding the RAF in Peace and War- thoughts on the changes
over time.”**

Saturday 12 December 2015 at 7.30pm

The presentation will be in English

This presentation had been scheduled for 4 July 2015 but had to be postponed because of the political events at the time. The War Archive is obliged to Sir Michael who, most willingly, accepted to change and keep his appointment with us.

The War Archive is truly proud that Sir Michael accepted our invitation to come especially to Athens and talk to the friends of the Archive on his experiences and thoughts on running one of the major air forces in our time. What makes this an even more special occasion is that we will be able to hear on this important topic

from someone who was for 5 years the “man in charge”, so to speak, the person ultimately responsible for the deployment and strategy of an air force with superb strike capabilities.

Sir Michael has been a friend of the Archive for over three years now through the links that myself and my wife developed with the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust whose president is Sir Michael. The Trust recently completed and opened to the public in the south of England a magnificent centre of learning and of activities based around the Battle of Britain, not a “museum”, but a place where the future generations can learn from the experience of the pilots who fought and won the battle and from their times. He made us most welcome in the annual functions of the Trust and introduced us to the very few remaining combat veterans, the “Few” in Churchill’s words. Through his introduction, the Archive was extremely lucky to invite Tony Iveson to open officially the War Archive in December 2012. Tony was perhaps unique in that not only he had fought in the Battle of Britain but also went on to become a decorated bomber pilot in the famous 617 Squadron, “the Dam Busters”. Tony passed away in 2013.

The Archive is most grateful to Sir Michael and to his wife Lady Elizabeth for joining us and sharing with us an evening and getting to know the “Arheion Polemou” and its friends.

There will be an informal reception at the end of the presentation and we look forward to seeing you there

Andrew and Anabella Freris

The presenter

Sir Michael Graydon GCB CBE FRAeS

Sir Michael joined the RAF as a cadet at Cranwell in 1957 and graduated as pilot in 1959. He was promoted to Squadron Leader in 1968 and then Group Captain in 1980. In that time he flew as a fighter pilot and as an Instructor at a number of venues home and overseas. He has flown a variety of aircraft including, Vampire, Meteor, Hunter, Sea Hawk, Lightning, Phantom, Tornado and Harrier. He has also flown Russian, American, Chinese, and Japanese aircraft, and he now flies privately for recreation.

He went on to occupy a series of important posts both within the RAF and NATO, serving with the latter in Belgium and Holland as Air Vice Marshal, having been promoted to that rank in 1986.

As from 1989 he was promoted to Air Marshal and Commander in Chief of RAF Support Command and then, in 1991, to the top rank of Air Chief Marshal and Commander in Chief of RAF Strike Command and Commander UK Air NATO. From 1992-1997 Sir Michael was Chief of Air Staff.

Upon his retirement from the RAF in 1997, he took up a number of appointments in the private sector including non-executive director of Thales and advisor and consultant to Cassidian.

He is also actively involved with educational and charitable institutions including being the governor of the English Speaking Union, chairman of Sutton Hospital, vice patron of the Air Cadet Organization, vice president of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and president of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust. He writes frequently on defense matters for the UK National Defense Association.

The Arheion is looking very much forward to your presence in this event.

We ask you however to let us know whether you will be coming either by replying to this email at afreeris@wararchivegr.org and/or by contacting Maka Dokhnadze at the phone of the Arheion, 210-8676390 ,or mobile phone 69-98088220 by latest Monday 31March 2014 as our space is limited.
