The Institution of Engineering and Technology

Lancs and Cumbria

The First of the "Phabulous Phantoms"

Speaker: Dave Ward (BAE Systems) Retired

Monday 10th November 2025

6:30pm, Preston, Lancashire

FREE ENTRY

Venue

Room 317 EIC University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), Preston Campus,

Preston,

Lancashire

PR1 2HE

This talk describes the evolution of the a jet fighter for the US Navy, the F4H-1 Phantom II, from the first concept in 1953, through the first flight in 1958 and then up to going into service with the US Navy. The talk covers just the first 47 aeroplanes. More than 5,000 Phantoms were eventually built.

The talk also describes how these early Phantoms set world altitude and airspeed records, easily the best in its class at the time.

Part 1 describes how the Phantom came to exist and how the aircraft was developed from the standard at its first flight up to the later standard when ready to go into service with the US Navy.

Part 2 describes the fantastic airspeed and altitude records set by the Phantom and includes the disasters the happened on the way.

Contact

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