

THE ROYAL NAVY

DEPLOYED FORWARD - OPERATING GLOBALLY



FACT SHEET 1

Deployed around the globe for 365 days a year, the Royal Navy is ready to respond to any event that threatens our national interests. Military skills are used widely throughout the world to provide security and contribute to the Government's significant commitment to aid and development overseas. Whether conducting combat operations in Afghanistan, counter-narcotic patrols in the Caribbean, disrupting piracy in the Gulf of Aden or providing humanitarian aid when a disaster strikes, the Royal Navy continues to police the use of the sea in partnership with allies and retains the unique ability to influence events at sea, on land and in the air. The Royal Navy provides real flexibility of choice to military and political leaders.

"...the greatest value of the Navy will be found in events that fail to occur because of its influence" Prof. Colin Gray

Royal Navy: Engagement without Embroilment.

The Royal Navy primarily exists for two reasons. First, to ensure that confidence in using the maritime environment to conduct trade and harness resources remains high. Second, when threats to the nation need to be dealt with at range, we must continue to be able to use the maritime environment to project power to reassure and ultimately protect our national interests.



HMS Ocean was central to the action in Libya

To achieve all this effectively and efficiently means being at sea which is why the Royal Navy is a deployed Navy providing messages of reassurance and deterrence. After all the Royal Navy is about preventing wars not just winning them, and that is the smartest use of power, and the ultimate expression of engagement without embroilment. – *Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, Head of the Royal Navy*

In 2011 as the 'Arab Spring' erupted, and violence threatened UK nationals in Libya, the forward deployed HM Ships Cumberland, York and Westminster were re-tasked at very short notice to evacuate more than 500 civilians.

As the situation in Libya deteriorated further, the high readiness Response Force Task Group sailed in order to provide military options to HM Government in support of UN Security Council Resolution 1973. On this occasion the Response Force Task Group included Royal Marines, Fleet Air Arm and Army Air Corps helicopters and surface ships including, minehunters and those capable of naval gun-fire support. The RFTG remains at high readiness to protect the nation's interest worldwide.



Fleet Air Arm - Maritime surveillance highly regarded in Afghanistan.

The ongoing and unbroken service provided by Royal Navy Sea King Airborne Surveillance and Control helicopters has been praised in Afghanistan. The crews recently provided intelligence which led to over 1500 potentially lethal improvised explosive devices being discovered. This same aircraft type also played a key role in Libya and is vital to Olympic security operations.



Royal Marines – Commando's specialist skills in high demand.

Royal Marines Commandos will augment the Metropolitan Police to provide security in and around the River Thames. The specialist ground troops of the Royal Navy have also been mobilised as part of the Response Force Task Group off Libya, on counter-piracy operations, in Afghanistan, and remain at high readiness as react to unforeseen events worldwide.



Royal Fleet Auxiliary – The RFA getting results in the Indian Ocean.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary supports the Royal Navy and allows ships to remain deployed anywhere in the world. As well as the support of vessels operating in the Indian Ocean, RFA Fort Victoria has also been the base of operations for a counter piracy task force which included Royal Navy personnel, Royal Marines Commandos and Fleet Air Arm assets. The task force has been highly successful and recently rescued the crew of an Italian ship after it was boarded by pirates off the Somali coast.



Submarine Service – HMS Astute "surpasses every expectation".

The Royal Navy's most advanced submarine has excelled on extensive trials in North-American waters. She will provide the UK with unprecedented intelligence gathering and land attack and can operate anywhere in the world with minimal logistic support.



The Royal Navy works closely with many governments around the world to help build confidence, prevent conflict, and strengthen security. Effective cooperation of this type can avoid the need for external military intervention in areas of potential instability. A deployed Royal Navy is always available, and the flexibility of ships and submarines enables military and government leaders real flexibility of choice.

HOMELAND DEFENCE IN THE UK AND AT RANGE

In addition to continuous tasks, the Naval Service delivers operational support to NATO and works globally in support of UK foreign policy.

Great Britain has a rich maritime history and its economic and political position grew from its focus on trade and shipping. Today the Royal Navy is continuing to demonstrate the relevance of a modern the UK on the world stage:

Continuous At Sea Deterrent - The Royal Navy has delivered the UK independent nuclear deterrent for over 40 years, currently through the four Vanguard Class submarines and the Trident missile system.

Fleet Ready Escort - One frigate or destroyer is held at short notice in home waters and is ready to react when required in support of homeland defence.

Counter-Terrorism - Working closely with the Home Office, SOCA, UKBA and other agencies the Royal Navy provides access to the sea and, if required, a special forces interdiction capability. Internationally the Royal Navy provides support to global counter terrorism activities through cooperation with NATO and other allies.

Counter-Piracy - The Royal Navy is supporting the growing coalition (EU, NATO and beyond) of countries acting to counter piracy in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean. Much of this international effort is coordinated from the UK via the Royal Navy led Operational Headquarters in Northwood Middlesex.



HMS Montrose boards a suspected pirate vessel off the Somali coast

Counter Narcotics - The Royal Navy cooperates with a number of UK, EU and US agencies to stem the flow of narcotics worldwide. Operating off the coast of Africa and around the West Indies the Naval Service continues to intercept millions of pounds worth of drugs year on year.

Territorial Integrity Patrols & Law Enforcement

The Royal Navy is relied upon to conduct operations worldwide which include;

- Fishery Protection on behalf of Marine Management Organisation
- Supporting the National Maritime Information Coordination Centre
- Search and Rescue
- General law enforcement
- Plus many more actions in support of Other Government Departments to globally defend the legal use of the sea

FULFILLING OUR NATIONAL COMMITMENTS

The reach and versatility of the Royal Navy make it essential for the British Government to deliver on its foreign commitments. These are provided all year around in concurrence with other current operational commitments.

Dependent Territories – The UK has enduring responsibilities for 14 Overseas Dependent Territories for which the Royal Navy provides ongoing engagement and the ability to deliver emergency assistance during routine patrols.

North Atlantic - The Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) provide seasonal support to British Overseas Territories and Commonwealth countries in the West Indies throughout the hurricane season.

South Atlantic - The Royal Navy provides a permanent frigate or destroyer in the South Atlantic reinforcing the UK sovereignty rights of the South Atlantic Territories and providing reassurance to the Falkland Islands residents and Commonwealth nations in West Africa.

Falkland Islands - The Royal Navy operates dedicated patrols based around the Islands which maintain the integrity of the



surrounding waters and reassure the local government and its residents.

British Antarctic - The Royal Navy continues to support the scientist and researchers of the British Antarctic Survey in this harsh, frontier region.

Afghanistan – It is in the national interest that Afghanistan becomes a stable and secure state. The Royal Navy contingent includes everything from mechanics and marines to medics and mine warfare specialists.