

# THE SUBMARINE SERVICE



The Royal Navy is made up of five fighting arms; the Surface Fleet; the Royal Marines; the Submarine Service; the Fleet Air Arm and RFA, all supported, when needed, by the Maritime Reserve.

## The Submarine Service

- In operating submarines for over a century, the Royal Navy has always been at the forefront of underwater warfare and has built an enduring reputation for professionalism and courage.
- Submarines combine qualities of stealth, endurance and flexibility, characteristics which afford them an unparalleled freedom to operate world-wide in support of national and coalition operations.
- Based in Devonport and Faslane, the flotilla comprises 4500 submariners employed throughout the Royal Navy to support, integrate, operate and 'fight' submarines.
- Rear Admiral Submarines commands the Royal Navy's submarine force and is also designated as a NATO Submarine Commander.

## Our Submarines

### SSBN - Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear

#### 4 Vanguard Class

HMS VANGUARD	HMS VENGEANCE
HMS VICTORIOUS	HMS VIGILANT

### SSN - Ship Submersible Nuclear

#### 6 Trafalgar Class

HMS TALENT	HMS TRENCHANT
HMS TORBAY	HMS TURBULENT
HMS TRIUMPH	HMS TIRELESS

#### 1 Astute Class

#### (total class size of 7)

HMS ASTUTE	HMS ANSON
HMS AMBUSH	HMS ARTFUL
HMS AUDACIOUS	HMS AJAX
HMS AGAMEMNON	





## OUR PAST

The first submarine entered service in 1902.

Regarded as a 'un-gentlemanly' way of warfare, it led to submariners being compared to pirates, which is the reason submarines returning from action today fly the Jolly Roger.

Involved in every significant operation since 1902, the Submarine Service has a proud history, the Victoria Cross has been awarded to submariners 7 times.

## OUR PRESENT

The Royal Navy operates 11 submarines

The Vanguard Class SSBNs provide the UK's independent, strategic nuclear deterrent, a patrol cycle known as Continuous At Sea Deterrence which has been unbroken for over 43 years.

The Trafalgar Class SSNs have an unrivalled capability to seek out and destroy surface vessels and other submarines and have potent armament in the latest torpedoes.

Torpedoes fired from an unseen submarine are a deadly threat to ships which means a submarine, or even the possibility of a submarine being at sea, is ideal for denying an opposing force use of the oceans.

SSNs are also armed with the precision Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM), making them valued asset in military campaigns as well as offering the government the ability to influence diplomatic discussions.

SSNs can act independently or in support of a larger force or Task Force. Operating covertly, SSNs are ideal platforms to support Special Forces operations.

Being nuclear powered, a SSN can deploy anywhere in the world with minimal logistic support and remain submerged for very long periods.

SSNs excel in collecting intelligence on opposition forces or potential adversaries and can operate in highly sensitive areas while remaining completely undetected.

These capabilities allow submarines to give the Royal Navy a real fighting edge and is why the next generation of SSN, the Astute Class, is so important to the UK's defence strategy.



## OUR FUTURE

Submarines are an essential element of the Royal Navy and one of the core capabilities upon which British maritime power is built.

The Astute Class is the next generation of UK SSN and the most advanced and capable SSN in the world.

The first of the new class, HMS ASTUTE, has already been commissioned and the next 2 hulls are in build. The Government has also announced that the successor to the Vanguard Class SSBNs will be procured, maintaining the UK's independent nuclear deterrent into the future.

A Submarine Centre of Specialisation, based at Faslane in Western Scotland, is being established to act as the premier focus for the employment and future development of submarines and for continuing the Royal Navy's first-rate reputation for executing submarine operations.

