

THE ROYAL FLEET AUXILIARY

Assured Delivery of Maritime Operational Support



The Royal Fleet Auxiliary

- Delivers worldwide Logistic and Operational Support to Military Operations.
- Has fighting ability to allow independent operations in areas of increased risk of combat or conflict.
- Supports operations as part of a tri-service multinational force

Capable

- Providing capable RFA ships on time.
- Assured delivery of support to the Military Force in areas of increased threat of attack.
- Operating independently with suitable situational awareness and firepower.
- Providing sufficient capable, versatile and motivated personnel.
- Enabling the preparation and training of deploying military force elements.

Versatile

- Supporting the full scope of military activity for each mission.
- Providing support in depth via a reliable logistic route.
- Achieving agility and flexibility in the breadth of activity in which an RFA ship has utility.

Integrated

- Aligned in process and procedures with other RN and allied warships and auxiliaries.
- Integrated into the Military Command process afloat and ashore.
- Trained to the same standards of military capability as other force elements.

Sustainable

- Enduring identity leadership and governance.
- Delivering high availability and time on task.
- Lean manned for cost effectiveness.
- Team focussed.
- Operating economically.



WHAT IS THE RFA?

- The RFA is a civilian manned, sponsored reserve Maritime Operational Support (MOS) force.
- It provides cost effective combat support and combat service support to the UK Armed Forces and allies.
- The RFA supports a wide spectrum of operations from high tempo up-threat war-fighting to counter-piracy, disaster relief, counter-narcotics, law enforcement and evacuation operations.
- Either as single units or as part of a UK or multi-national force. With 2,000 uniformed personnel the RFA is the biggest employer of professional UK seafarers.
- It's reputation is world class.

OUR PAST

For centuries, the Royal Navy has exploited the ability to resupply its ships at sea and therefore operate unhindered around the globe.

Underway replenishment at sea (RAS) became an effective means of extending the operating ranges of ships around 1900 when specialised naval auxiliaries were designed to replace the less capable merchant ships. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary formed in 1905 and have served alongside the Royal Navy in times of peace and conflict since making a significant contribution to both Gulf Wars and the Falklands conflict of 1982.

OUR PRESENT

The modern RFA is an essential element of the how the Royal Navy operates with freedom around the globe and is fully integrated into frontline groups of warships at sea and the various naval headquarters ashore.

The RFA focuses on supporting and delivering military effect by:

- Underway replenishment at sea of fuel, stores and ammunition
- Logistic and specialist shipping support to amphibious operations
- Operating and support platform for Naval Aviation
- Medical support and casualty handling
- Logistic support to nuclear submarines
- Operating a forward repair ship facility for battle damaged ships
- Regional engagement in support of UK political and military objectives
- Maritime surveillance, security and policing

The RFA is an efficient, lean-manned service capable of operating in any weather, climate or ocean.

It comprises 13 complex ships using a commercial business model to maintain high availability and value for money. Seamless integration into demanding naval operations, the ability to provide self defence and assured delivery of maritime operational support under battle damage conditions sets the RFA apart from commercial ship operators.

OUR FUTURE

Changes to naval force structures following the 2010 strategic defence and security review sees an increasing demand for the RFA as Defence seeks to maintain global influence with more modest resources.

The cost effective capability that the RFA provides remains critical to the UK's future ability to exert influence around the globe at a time and place of its choosing.

The RFA provides endurance to deployed military forces whether ashore or at sea and allows the UK to act in concert with our allies but without reliance on the availability of shore support from other nations which is increasingly unpredictable.

The Maritime Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) programme will introduce a new series of modern vessels commencing with fleet replenishment tankers from 2016 and followed by complex specialist solid support vessels in mid 2020s. This will assure versatile and capable support to the UK's amphibious force and future carrier strike capability in high-end warfighting.

OUR PEOPLE

- RFA personnel are professionally qualified seafarers, trained and educated to recognised international maritime standards.
- The RFA's position as a world leader in its field is based upon its traditions, beliefs and modernising organisational values.
- Additional military qualifications provide a deep and broad range of skills that enables full understanding, integration and contribution to military operations.
- At the core are personal values of unity, adaptability, modesty, professional standards, courage and a sense of humour.

