

# THE ROYAL NAVY'S SURFACE FLEET



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

## Capable

- People with motivation, initiative and pride.
- Ships that provide versatility, global presence and resilience.
- Of a range of response to crisis providing real political choice.

## Flexible

- Ships, globally deployed.
- Platforms providing versatility across the full spectrum of military operations from Warfighting to Disaster Relief.
- Units, working alone, within national task groups or in coalition with allies and partners.

## Ready

- To respond to a crisis.
- To protect our Nation's interests by providing maritime security where it is needed.
- To fight and win at sea and from the sea.



## OUR PAST

The Surface Fleet is and always has been the backbone of the Royal Navy. Well designed and professionally handled warships complemented with well trained sailors and marines defeated the Armada, triumphed at Trafalgar, helped build an empire, prevailed in two world wars and ensured British interests were defended across the globe.

As an island nation our maritime heritage and the Royal Navy's reputation as a world leading fighting force is built on the Surface Fleets' ships. The fighting spirit and drive for innovation and professionalism has allowed the Fleet to evolve into the fighting force it is today.

## OUR PRESENT

The Surface Fleet is the most utilised method of promoting and protecting UK National interests at home and abroad. The Royal Navy maintains a continuous presence across the globe which means it responds quickly to crisis. It does this by:

- having ships globally deployed 365 day a year
- being ready to fight to protect national interests
- having the agility to contribute to the full spectrum of military operations.
- having professional, adaptable and motivated people
- operating versatile ships operated to a demanding and efficient working pattern

The modern Surface Fleet is capable of operating in many formations, alone, in task groups, as a national component or as part of an international coalition. It carries its own highly specialised and capable infantry and air arm. It can also operate with an air force or an army.

The readiness to fight lies at the core of our training and is what warships are designed and equipped to do. This provides the "muscle" in our foreign policy to ensure that British interests are protected.

The Surface Fleet provides a wide range of options to a government and allows an appropriately scaled response to crisis or threats. It can be used to coerce an adversary or reassure / reinforce a friend. It can intervene without reliance on host nation support and deny the enemy the opportunity to do the same.

The Royal Navy is committed to NATO and EU tasking, working with our allies through exercises and deployments in the pursuit of partnerships and the fostering of international understanding. We regularly train with our allies so we can operate together should the need arise.

Increasingly in recent times (Lebanon - 2006 and Libya - 2011) our ships have been called on to provide humanitarian assistance.

Hurricane season patrols in the Caribbean reassure and assist dependant territories whilst operating with the US authorities to counter narcotics trafficking. Permanent tasking in the Persian Gulf and around the Horn of Africa protecting British Interests.

The Surface Fleet is efficient, agile and adaptable and, by being deployed around the world 365 days a year, is ready to respond in support of our nation's interests.

## OUR FUTURE

The Surface Fleet is likely to remain the backbone of a naval force. Ship design is developing capable platforms to fight the wars of the future and ensure that the UK remains positioned to influence events and provide choice to our politicians.

The build and acceptance into service of two Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers, the development of the Type 26 Global Combat Ship and a modular platform to replace the Minehunters, Survey Ships and Offshore Patrol Vessels will ensure the Surface Fleet remains a capable and responsive force at the forefront of UK defence policy.

## OUR PEOPLE

Our personnel are professionally qualified, motivated and deliver a natural versatility drawn from their warfighting skills.

In addition to their core specialisation they are trained to repair damage caused by battle this means they are competent fire fighters, first-aiders and emergency repair experts.

The harmony ratio between deploying to sea and time at home is a leading example of how to get the best from your people while giving them the stability and recuperation opportunities they and their families deserve.

Our people are globally deployed in ships and on land contributing to the Defence mission.

