

THE ROYAL NAVY'S ROLE

GLOBAL TRADE AND SECURITY



FACT SHEET 3

As an Island nation, our prosperity and security is totally dependent on our ability to access the sea. The UK is reliant on a stable global market for the raw materials, energy and manufactured goods which underpin our way of life.

ROYAL NAVY, GLOBALLY DEPLOYED KEEPING SEA LANES OPEN

In the globalised world, we must have the ability to respond to any event that threatens our economy, our people, our national interests at home or abroad and those of our partners.

That is why the Royal Navy is globally deployed to protect the use of the sea in partnership with allies and other Government departments providing value for money and flexibility of choice to both military and political leaders.



HMS IRON DUKE undertaking maritime security in the Caribbean

GLOBAL MARITIME TRADE

Over 90% of world trade is carried by sea because this is the most cost effective way to deliver the huge quantities of products over vast distances. This expanding trade phenomenon brings benefits for all of us by helping the economy and providing personal benefits. Thanks to the growing efficiency of shipping and increased economic liberalisation, the industry's further growth continues to be strong.

There are now over 50,000 merchant ships trading internationally, transporting every kind of cargo. The world fleet is registered in over 150 nations, and manned by over a million seafarers of virtually every nationality.

The UK is an island nation of 60 Million people and with an annual GDP of £1.3 Trillion ranks sixth largest in the world.

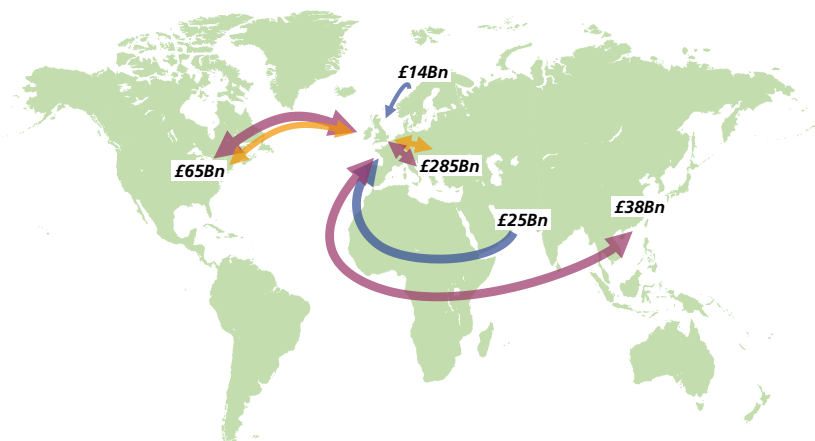
The top ten trading nations account for 47% of the total world trade. Within this trading group, the UK is the fifth largest trader with 17.3 Billion tonnes of goods imported alone, with a value of over

£524Bn pa making it the third largest EU maritime trading nation. To illustrate what this looks like, if you covered a football pitch with containers, and stacked them all, it would make a tower 2,292 miles high.

This all requires thousands of ships trading with the UK annually. UK ports, shipping industry and trade support over 600,000 jobs and raises substantial revenue to the Treasury.

40% of the UK's food is imported at an annual value of £32 Bn, the vital point being: maritime trade is the lifeblood to any nation.

The map below, shows schematic of the principal UK trade flows and their values. It is worth noting that the vast volumes of trade which pass across the maritime environment require safe passage through and in the lawful use of sea lanes.



Global UK trade by value, 2009 (data by WTO)

As a trading nation, the majority of the UK's imports and exports are transported by sea. This makes keeping the sea lanes open and free a priority, especially with growing piracy and international terrorism.

INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM

The world maritime Trading System sustains the world's economy by moving over 270 million containers and 3 Billion tons of oil every year.

This provides benefit for all nations, which directly and indirect interact with it. The balance of interrelationships of maritime trading nations is essential to the successful delivery and coordination of trade. This is regulated and assured by law, Treaties and International Organisations.



HMS Richmond patrolling in the Persian Gulf

RISKS TO MARITIME TRADE

The flow of maritime trade from source to destination passes through sensitive sea areas which can have potential adverse effects on trade.

Such influences can act directly and indirectly on shipping and economies. These effects are: Climate change; State and non-State actor aggression; Terrorism; Piracy; spread of pandemic diseases; mass human migration; natural environmental disasters and the over exploitation of natural resources. Often such friction areas are further complicated by being co-located with geographic constraints, such as maritime choke points (an area where high concentrations of shipping pass a narrow route), mega port vulnerabilities and war zones. Many of these threats are interrelated and tend to be fuelled by global events and gaps in effective maritime law enforcement.

To mitigate against these threats, international understanding of the maritime system is critical and Political/Military cooperation is vital to provide trade protection. The UK recognises its dependency on trade, its vulnerability within the maritime environment and commissions the Royal Navy to undertake the vital role of maritime security.

MARITIME SECURITY

Maritime security extends within and beyond UK territorial waters to encompass the UK's vital interests overseas.

The Royal Navy leads partners across the globe to protect the maritime environment and acts to suppress all overt and malign influences which would destabilise the maritime environment.

In home waters, the Royal Navy supports other government departments, with a dedicated Frigate or Destroyer, Fishery Protection Vessels, Search and Rescue helicopters in support of the Coastguard and Royal Navy Diving and bomb disposal units. Another area where the Royal Navy is showing

successful collaboration with OGD's is the new multi-Agency National Maritime Information Centre had been established at Northwood, UK, co-located with the current Maritime Operations Centre, to bring together experts from across Government to share information relating to the security of the UK's national interests.

Away from the UK the Royal Navy has a key role dealing with threats at range. In particular it acts to protect trade infrastructure and repress piracy and terrorism on the high seas. Naval units possess the capacity and capability to work with and host OGDs and partner nations to deliver a cost effective response.



HMS Montrose boarding team secures pirate vessel.