

THE ROYAL NAVY'S CURRENT OPERATIONS

FACT SHEET 1



Deployed around the globe for 365 days per 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 enable 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.

ROYAL NAVY SUPPORT TO LIBYA OPERATIONS

Patrols off the coast of Libya by surface ships, their aircraft and submarines are supporting NATO forces to enforce the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1973.

Our forces are playing an important role in deterring Colonel Gaddafi's navy from conducting attacks against the Libyan people. Before UNSCR1973, Libyan gunboats shelled a number of their coastal towns, but with Frigates, Destroyers, Minehunters and Submarines patrolling the coastal waters, there has been a very marked reluctance on the part of the Libyan Navy to venture forth since the start of the enforcement action. And

recently HMS Ocean has been deployed as a platform to launch Army Air Corps Apache attack helicopters against multiple launch rocket systems positioned on the Libyan coast. This capability, presents great flexibility for NATO.

The Royal Navy is a key enabler to conducting security patrols and capacity building with all allied nations along strategic waters. Working in close cooperation with our international partners, ships are deployed throughout the year to deter the illegal use of the sea



HMS Westminster patrolling off the coast of Libya

and disrupt terrorism by intercepting those suspected of smuggling drugs, people or weapons.

3 COMMANDO BRIGADE

3 Commando Brigade is the Royal Navy's amphibious infantry on permanent readiness to deploy across the globe.

It is in our national interest that Afghanistan becomes a stable and secure State. Royal Marines, Royal Navy Air Squadrons and numerous personnel including experts in explosive ordnance disposal, logistics and engineering are deployed, all year round, in support of the international effort in Afghanistan. The Royal Marines are a core component of the UK's Joint Rapid Reaction Force and is unique among the British armed services.



Members of the 3 Commando Brigade Reconnaissance Force taking part in the daylight helicopter assault on a Taliban IED factory in Helmand province.

Royal Marines, a fighting force in Afghanistan

Royal Marines are launching offensives to drive insurgents out of their strongholds in Helmand and have been doing so regularly since the start of operations in 2002.

In 2011 the majority of the Royal Marine force has been committed to or ready for operations.

These commitments cover a range of Defence's roles and include: 3 Commando Brigade to the UK's Military Main Effort in Afghanistan and deployed on Operations in the Mediterranean as UK's contingency force. This involves: International partnering and leadership, commanding the EU's counter-piracy operations; contributing to the UK's Special Forces Group; and as the protection force of the UK's National Deterrent.

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. The Royal Navy is always there in support and as a key enabler within the tactical and logistical chain.

FULFILLING OUR NATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Due to its reach and versatility, the Royal Navy delivers on all its strategic standing tasks in support of the British Government's foreign commitments. These are provided all year around in concurrence with current other operational commitments.

To support 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 through the hurricane season.

South Atlantic - The Royal Navy provides a permanent frigate or destroyer in the South Atlantic to reinforce the UK sovereignty rights over the South Atlantic Territories



and provides 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 British Antarctic Survey in this harsh, frontier region.

HOMELAND DEFENCE IN THE UK AND AT RANGE

But in addition to standing tasks, the Royal Navy also delivers operational support to NATO and international commitments.

The British Isles are in a unique global position and as a nation it has historically concentrated its effort on its trade and shipping. Today the Royal Navy still provides a modern and relevant function 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 for any contingent task required in support of Homeland Defence.

Counter-Terrorism - The Royal Navy operates closely with the Home Office, SOCA and UKBA and aids other agencies, enabling them to exploit the sea for access or utilise the SBS's interdiction capability. 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. The Royal Navy



HMS Montrose disrupting pirate vessels in Somalia

provides the Operational Headquarters in Northwood and also the 2* operational commander.

Counter Narcotics - The Royal Navy, whilst cooperating with UK, US and EU agencies, has seized more narcotics than the combined efforts of all of the UK's law enforcement agencies operating in the W Indies, East and West Africa.

Territorial Integrity Patrols & Law Enforcement

- The Royal Navy delivers Fishery Protection on behalf of Marine Management Organisation and concurrently with this and all other activities in the UK supports the National Maritime Information Coordination Centre, Search and Rescue and general law enforcement activities in support of Other Government Departments.