

The Royal Navy's global commitment



UK Territorial Waters

- As an island nation, the UK is dependent on the sea.
- 95% of UK visible trade is reliant on shipping.
- The UK-registered trading fleet has expanded by 350% since 2000.
- Sea transport was the UK's 3rd largest service sector in 2005.
- In 2005, over 586 million tonnes of freight passed through UK ports.

For more, see article:
'The importance of maritime trade'



The Mediterranean Sea

- The Mediterranean Sea is a hotspot for people trafficking and weapons smuggling.
- The Royal Navy maintains a permanent presence in the Mediterranean as part of NATO's Operation Active Endeavour, which began in October 2001.
- In July 2006, the Royal Navy helped to evacuate over 4,000 British people from war-torn Beirut.

For more, see article:
'The nature and trends of global maritime security'



- The Arabian Gulf and Horn of Africa**
- The Minah al-Bakr oil terminal was temporarily put out of commission by speedboat attacks in 2004.
 - The Royal Navy contributes to the Combined Task Forces (CTFs) in and around the Arabian Gulf and Horn of Africa.
 - CTF 150 operates in the Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.
 - CTF 152 operates in the South and Central Arabian Gulf.
 - CTF 158 operates in the North Arabian Gulf.

For more, see article: 'Safeguarding commerce at sea'



- The Indian Ocean**
- Piracy in the Indian Ocean has been reduced thanks to a heightened response by the international community.
 - The Royal Navy regularly participates in the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) exercises in the Indian Ocean.
 - FPDA exercises have shifted focus to include a broader maritime security remit.

For more, see article: 'The nature and trends of maritime security'



The Atlantic Ocean

- Natural disasters can lead to political instability.
- The Royal Navy maintains a permanent presence in the Atlantic and Caribbean via its Atlantic Patrol Tasks (North and South).
- Atlantic Patrol Task (North) [APT – (N)] assists UK territories in the Caribbean in recovering from the destructive forces of hurricanes and tropical storms, as well as countering narcotics trafficking.
- Atlantic Patrol Task (South) [APT – (S)] conducts hydrographic surveys to ensure safety at sea.

For more, see article: 'Safeguarding commerce at sea'