

Flexibility in Naval Ships: What Should and Could They Do?

RUSI Maritime Studies Programme Workshop Series 2010

Workshop Two

1 March 2010, 1300 - 1900

Royal United Services Institute, Whitehall, London

Workshop series sponsored by

THALES

Workshop Series

RUSI is delighted to announce the second event in its 2010 Maritime Workshop series. RUSI has been running an annual workshop series since 2008. Each series is intended to generate a wide-ranging but focused discussion to improve understanding of the role of the maritime component in supporting national and international interests. This year, as the UK moves from the Green Paper to a Future Defence Review at what is clearly a critical time in the UK's defence debate, the series aims to draw in a select group of stakeholders and influencers from a broad cross-section of backgrounds across the UK and the international defence and security communities to discuss the nature of the enduring contribution of the maritime component to British and wider international defence and security. Workshop participants will include: the Royal Navy, her sister services and partner navies; the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and other government departments; Parliament and the wider political community; and the defence industrial, specialist defence press and independent academic and analytical communities.

The series, sponsored by Thales, is being produced with the support of the Royal Navy. Attendance at the workshops is by invitation only. To enable the free flow of debate, both prepared remarks and discussion are off the record. The series will also develop specific themes to be addressed at RUSI's annual Future Maritime Operations Conference (7-8 July). In keeping with RUSI's focus on generating research-led, policy-relevant analysis, RUSI will publish in advance of the conference an Occasional Paper analysing the workshop series discussions.

Workshop Two: Flexibility in Naval Ships: What Should and Could They Do?

The overall aim of this workshop is to explore the need for the UK to have greater flexibility in role and capability in its naval ships, and to discuss the utility of such ships in supporting the activities of both the MoD and other Government departments as they work to meet UK defence and security policy requirements. The workshop will discuss the roles and utility of all military surface vessels from aircraft carriers to patrol ships, and the ability of such platforms to be rapidly reconfigured for any number of tasks. Within this context, the workshop will:

- Assess what constitutes flexibility and agility in a naval ship. It will ask what these terms mean and, taking a holistic perspective, it will examine the need to develop flexibility and adaptability across the Lines of Development, including personnel and training as well as equipment, and also the need to develop flexibility and adaptability in the intellectual approach to ship and capability design and operation.
- Articulate the utility of flexible naval ships to UK defence and security, in the context of identifying the potential utility of naval ships to Ministry of Defence and other Government departments' requirements.
- Discuss how the roles and capabilities required to meet wider Government taskings can be best accommodated in the design of current and future platforms. In this context, the workshop will provide an operational perspective on current surface platforms and how they have been modified and adapted from their original design requirements to meet tasking today.

The Royal Navy's history demonstrates that whatever class and capability of ship the UK builds, it will be employed in different ways. The workshop will examine how the Royal Navy and MoD will approach the design and build of its next generation of surface warships to ensure appropriate flexibility and adaptability in design to provide scope for capability and role adjustments in the future as required.

The workshop will be chaired by Professor Paul Cornish (Carrington Chair in International Security and Head of the International Security Programme, Chatham House). It will be opened by remarks from Commodore Steve Brunton Royal Navy (Head, Above Water Capability, Ministry of Defence) and Commodore James Morse Royal Navy (Commander United Kingdom Task Group, Royal Navy), and will include presentations from industry. Following the opening remarks at the start of each session, the floor will be opened for free-ranging discussion. Focused interventions also will be invited from key stakeholders, in order to add policy relevance to the discussions.

Future Workshop Dates

The series will include a further two workshops. Please note the dates for your diary. Final themes and programmes will be publicised in due course. **Please note the revised date for the April workshop.**

- **20 April 2010** – The Role and Utility of Littoral Manoeuvre (working title)
- **10 May 2010** – Theme to be confirmed

RUSI Future Maritime Operations Conference

The workshop series builds towards RUSI's annual Future Maritime Operations Conference. The conference, which will take place on 7-8 July at RUSI, has a working theme of 'the Royal Navy's Contribution to Future British Defence and Security'. First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope KCB OBE will open the conference.

PROGRAMME, WORKSHOP TWO, 1 MARCH 2010

1300 Registration (Foyer) & Sandwich Lunch (Reading Room)

1400 Session 1 (Library):

Welcome remarks: **Dr Lee Willett** (Head Maritime Studies Programme, RUSI)

Chair: **Professor Paul Cornish** (Carrington Chair in International Security and Head of the International Security Programme, Chatham House)

Speakers:

- **Commodore Steve Brunton Royal Navy**, Head Above Water Capability, Ministry of Defence
- **Commodore James Morse Royal Navy**, Commander United Kingdom Task Group, Royal Navy

1600 Afternoon Tea (Reading Room)

1630 Session 2 (Library):

Speakers:

- **Angus Holt**, UK Programmes Director, BAE SYSTEMS Surface Ship Solutions
- **Joe Kidd**, Combat Systems Director, Thales Naval UK

1730 Reception (Reading Room)

Please Note:

- There is no fee to attend
- Participation in the workshops is strictly by invitation only (however, please inform RUSI if you wish to send a representative on your behalf if you are unable to attend yourself)
- Places are limited and will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. **Early registration is strongly recommended**
- Please feel free to attend the Reception even if you are unable to attend the workshop sessions
- Please **RSVP by Wednesday 24 February 2010** to Deanne Prudden, deanep@rusi.org
- **Email replies only:**
 - for both acceptance or regrets
 - accepting/declining attendance at the Reception.

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