



CIBUK - PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGO: Immediate release

Rule Britannia – Global Britain comes to EU's defence... again

How the Royal Navy is providing a vital contribution to Europe's defence in her hour of need



Contrary to popular perception, Britain has never been more committed to the defence of Europe than it is today.

From the Arctic Circle to the sunny Mediterranean seas, the Royal Navy has been in the vanguard, with deployments across the EU's sphere of influence for decades.

In this, the 40th anniversary week of the liberation of the Falkland Islands, we provide a glimpse of the central role which the Royal Navy continues to carry out in the name of freedom throughout the world – and in particular around the EU's shores.

CIBUK (<https://cibuk.org/>) – the longest-established organisation for independence, freedom and democracy in the UK – focuses on the extraordinary contribution of the Royal Navy as it undertakes exercises in the defence of freedom in Europe.

The summary is below and the **full report is available here**

The UK's Scope of Operations defending the EU

1. Arctic - Europe's northern frontiers

Exercise Cold Response:

In March of this year HMS Prince of Wales headed joint naval task force in largest military operation in 30 years.

- The Royal Naval aircraft carrier headed a task force of 25 ships from 11 nations.
- Six Royal Navy ships and 2,000 UK personnel joined vessels and ships from 26 other nations.

Captain Steve Higham, the carrier's Commanding Officer, said:

"HMS Prince of Wales deploying in the High North has proved our ability to operate in the Arctic. I'm very proud of our ship's company and their constant innovation in the face of extreme conditions."

2. Baltic – the EU's northern flank

Exercise Joint Warrior

- A multinational war exercise involving warships, aircraft, marines and troops from UK, NATO and allied forces
- Taking place over two weeks, Joint Warrior includes airborne assaults, amphibious landings, evacuations and live-fire exercises
- It involves 16 warships, 58 aircraft, and 3,725 personnel from 14 nations

Operation Baltic Protector

- A UK-led Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) Maritime Task Group, with command of the group conducted by HMS Albion
- 3,000 military personnel and 17 vessels from nine countries take part

“This deployment represents the largest UK-led operational deployment of a military force in Europe for decades and demonstrates our ability to react quickly and decisively to any crisis in the world.”

- Captain Peter Laughton, Commanding Officer, HMS Albion

3. Mediterranean – the EU’s southern flank

Littoral Response Group eXperimental (LRG(X))

- HMS Albion led an amphibious deployment to the Mediterranean, carrying Royal Marines
- Standing NATO Marine Group 2 comprises frigates and destroyers from NATO states
- HMS Trent and HMS Diamond have recently been part of NATO Marine Group 2
- HMS Prince of Wales now sailing to join multinational task group

Cyprus : Operation Commando Phoenix

- Exercise behind enemy lines with the Royal Marines Reserves (RMR) following two week’s intensive training
 - RMR troops from London, Merseyside and Scotland were involved and 20 satellite detachments
-

OBSERVATIONS

From the freezing wastes of the Arctic to the blistering heat of the Eastern Mediterranean, Britannia’s commitment to the defence of Europe is without parallel.

Her sustained support over the years and across the oceans guarantees Her place at the heart of the Western Alliance, even if the EU Commission has yet to acknowledge the fact. No matter. Actions speak louder than words.

The United Kingdom will continue to do Her duty.

For editors and journalists

[The full report is now available here.](#)

CIBUK media contact: Professor Daniel Hodson, +44 7801 233094, media@cibuk.org.

To contact one of CIBUK's Officers the email is admin.office@cibuk.org. We are happy to provide more information.

About CIBUK: The Campaign for an Independent Britain ([CIBUK](#)) is a non-party political campaigning organisation of people from all walks of life. It is the UK's longest-running membership organisation for freedom, democracy and independence.

Founded in 1969, for over 50 years the CIBUK has made a significant contribution in campaigning on issues important to the majority of our population and in securing our exit from the European Union. Now it's time for the next chapter.