


# Photo Storybook of the Production and related activities



CHARLTON KINGS COMMUNITY PLAYERS  
presents

Ministry  
of Defence

**TOP SECRET**

OFFICIAL INTERNAL MEMO

B<sub>3</sub> U<sub>1</sub> N<sub>1</sub> K<sub>5</sub> E<sub>1</sub> R<sub>1</sub> E<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub>

by Lynn Brittney

**A modern day, cold war Navy comedy!**

Tickets		Doors open	7.00pm
£7.00	£4.00 16's and under	Show starts	7.30pm

Tickets available in advance from:

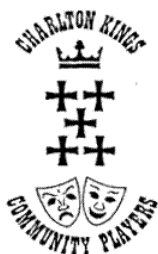
Sylvia Fry 01242 239903, The Forge, Charlton Pharmacy or,  
via the website [www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com](http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com).  
On the door subject to availability

[www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com](http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com)

**14th, 15th & 16th FEB 2018**

St Edward's Performance Hall, Cirencester Road, Cheltenham, GL53 8EY

**AUTHORISED PERSONNEL EYES ONLY**



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Charlton Kings Community Players  
Editor: Sandra Jeans*

<http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com/>

# Programme - Designed by Andrew Laver



Ministry  
of Defence

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## From the Director

**Becky Peach**

"Welcome to Sea Recon 171 We hope you enjoy your visit to our hi-tech hub of Navy intelligence gathering!"

After a long hiatus from drama and the Players, it feels wonderful to be welcomed back and to be involved in "Bunkered".

When I first read the script at the audition, I was incredibly excited to be part of such a witty and creative production, and to be asked later to direct as well as a real honour.

We have had many laughs in rehearsal bringing this truly fantastic script to life, and I am sure tonight you will too!

Thank you ever so much for coming and for your support.

Now, you have all been carefully vetted and you have your special CKCP visitor passes so please, come aboard!"

## About the Author

**Lyn Brittney**

Lyn Brittney has been a writer for almost thirty years and has written several adult and children's non-fiction books and many plays for adults and children that have been performed all over the world. Her first young adult novel was shortlisted for the Waterstones Book Prize, the Brandford Boase Award and the Doncaster Book Prize. Her second young adult novel was included in the UK Government's Recommended Reading List for Boys and was described by the Daily Telegraph as containing... "furious swordplay, tremendous chases, atmospheric journeys and wince-inducing reminders that this was an age before anaesthetics."



The action of the play takes place in the operations room of an abandoned Cold War Naval Intelligence Bunker somewhere in the United Kingdom.

There are imitation guns in the show but no live firing.

There will be an interval of 20 minutes.



## Cast:

Harry (Anarchist handywoman)  
Mags (Leading Wren Potter)  
Joan (Second Officer Morris)  
Peter (Chief Petty Officer Burrows)  
Sub Lieutenant Connor  
Trainee Marine Taylor  
Commodore Shelton  
Bill (Leading Seaman Potter)  
Voice 1  
Voice 2  
BBC Announcer

Sue Drinkwater  
Lynne Glover  
Jane Jones  
Andrew Laver  
Tim Blakey  
Becky Peach  
Fiona Connor  
Derek Palmer  
Tony Jean  
Anna Young  
Sandra Jeans

## Production:

Director  
Producer  
Stage Manager  
Asst. Stage Managers  
Prompt  
Costumes  
Set  
Front of House  
Refreshments  
Car Parking  
First Aid  
Publicity

Ticket Sales  
Website Support  
Photographs  
Make up

Becky Peach  
Jane Jones  
Debbie Dundas  
June Pearce, Caroline Sparkes  
Sara Kinane  
Sandra Jeans, Jenny Palmer  
Andy Connor, Fiona Connor  
Tony Jeans, Sandra Jeans and team  
Deb Masling and team  
Chris Flippance and team  
Annette Bugaighis, Pat Reid, Susie Glover  
Andrew Laver (poster and programme design), Fiona Connor, Deb Masling  
Sylvia Fry  
Geoff Ramshaw  
Ray Talliot  
Debbie Dundas

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## Supported Charities

We will be supporting The DEC Rohingya Appeal and SSAFA with this production.

## Sincere thanks go to:

St Edward's School for the use of the Performance Hall and Drama Studio for rehearsal space.

The Forge and Charlton Pharmacy for ticket sales and publicity.

St Edward's School, Charlton Kings Junior School and CK Baptists Church for the loan of staging.

Ila and Kaushik at The Forge for allowing The Players to use their window as a display for the show.

Dave Roberts (djlanscaping) for assistance with transport.

## Forthcoming events:

### Max Quick Drama Workshop

St Edward's Drama Studio, 20th March 2018 7.30 pm (booking essential).  
Please book through the website (charltonkingscommunityplayers.com).

### Let Us Be Merry 2018

Sacred Hearts Hall 30th November 2018 7.30 pm for an evening of readings, music, sketches and carols.

**Don't forget to visit our website for all the latest news, photos and information!**

[www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.co.uk](http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.co.uk)



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**A modern day, cold war Navy comedy!**



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St Edward's Performance Hall, Cirencester Road, Cheltenham, GL53 8EY

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**Thanks to St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Montpellier, Cheltenham,  
for use of their high level ladder for set and lighting assembly.**





**Charities supported by this production:**

**Cheltenham Street Pastors (caring for customers of the night time economy)**  
**SSAFA (The Armed Forces Charity - Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association)**

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**Music played during the evening**

**(Amateur Theatrical Performance Tariff PPLPP03 Licence)**

**Kung Fu Fighting**  
**Waterloo (English Version)**  
**Blockbuster**  
**Top Of The World**  
**Stuck In The Middle**  
**Ballroom Blitz**  
**Tiger Feet**  
**Please Mr. Postman**  
**Bohemian Rhapsody**  
**That's The Way (I Like It)**  
**S.O.S.**  
**Imagine**  
**Dancing Queen**  
**Mamma Mia**  
**Love Really Hurts Without You**  
**Money, Money, Money**  
**Boys Are Back In Town**  
**Crocodile Rock**  
**Your Song**  
**You're the First, The Last, My Everything**  
**I Can See Clearly Now**  
**Whiskey In the Jar**  
**All Right Now**  
**Radar Love**

**Carl Douglas**  
**ABBA**  
**Sweet**  
**The Carpenters**  
**Steelers Wheel**  
**Sweet**  
**Mud**  
**The Carpenters**  
**Queen**  
**K.C. & The Sunshine Band**  
**ABBA**  
**John Lennon**  
**ABBA**  
**ABBA**  
**Billy Ocean**  
**ABBA**  
**Thin Lizzy**  
**Elton John**  
**Elton John**  
**Barry White**  
**Johnny Nash**  
**Thin Lizzy**  
**Free**  
**Golden Earring**

**Introduces Act 1 & Act 2**

**Radar Love**

**Golden Earring**

**End of Act 2**

**Rule, Britannia! is a British patriotic song, originating from the poem "Rule, Britannia" by James Thomson and set to music by Thomas Arne in 1740. It is strongly associated with the Royal Navy. (Wikipedia)**

**Technical Director: Peter Ryan**

**Lighting: Nigel Jones**

# The Production (a selection from rehearsals and performances)

## Rehearsals, Relaxing and Back Stage



Early days in the St Edward's Drama Studios © Ray Talbot



St Edward's Performance Hall where the production was staged © Sandra Jeans

Cast rehearsed tirelessly into the evenings on Sundays and Mondays  
in the run up to performance nights.





Dress rehearsal – reviews and briefings by Director © Ray Talbot



A relaxing break during the Dress rehearsal © Ray Talbot



Royal Navy Carrier Pigeon Sid in rehearsal, and on stage with Bill Potter!



Leading Seaman Bill Potter (husband of Mags), Commodore Shelton, Leading Wren Mags Potter and Royal Marines (Midshipman Taylor and Sub Lieutenant Connor) behind the scenes awaiting their cues. © Caroline Sparkes



## On stage – *lights - action!*

*A fast-paced comedy in a Navy cold war reconnaissance bunker when they send in the Marines. You don't have to sign the Official Secrets Act to join in the fun.*



Peter (Chief Petty Officer Burrows) brings a 'blindfolded' Harry Morris (self confessed anarchist) to update the equipment in a *top secret* naval bunker.



Joan (Second Officer Morris, WRNS) arrives in uniform and Harry learns of the secret life of her sister.

Peter gets into uniform and Mags (Leading Wren Potter) arrives with emergency sewing – that 'wedding dress' which causes much amusement later in the drama.



All kinds of 'interesting' discussions especially about Mags' niece's problems including her forthcoming wedding, and Harry's anarchistic beliefs!



Tea-break time with various 'observations' from Harry.  
Harry continues working to fix the equipment with the power off and storm lamps.



Now the results of Harry's fixes start to unfold as, inadvertently, signals are sent to RN Coastal Communications who contact personnel at naval Head quarters.





Mags persuades Peter to put on the wedding dress so she can work on the hem, causing much hilarity. *'That picture had better not appear on the internet' ...*

Harry continues working on the equipment which begins to function, but the bunker personnel have forgotten the significance of what is starting to happen!





The sending of the 'inadvertent' signals results in the arrival of a platoon of Royal Marine trainees - Sub Lieutenant Connor and one of the trainees, Midshipman Taylor, enter the bunker.

Things are not what they seem and confusion reigns.





The bunker goes into 'Lockdown' as a result of all the signals being sent automatically, and the personnel failing to follow operational procedures – a comedy of errors!

Sub Lieutenant Connor is claustrophobic and has to be 'sedated' by various means.





A nice quiet game of Scrabble is proposed but even that ends in disaster and more drastic measures are needed.



Eventually they remember the Royal Navy carrier pigeons in the loft, and send a message off to Leading Seaman Bill Potter, who has trained them to go to his home and not naval HQ.

Bill is home in bed with 'man 'flu' but arrives to save the day (in his pyjamas)!



Alas poor Sid! – The pigeon sent back by Bill to say “message received” is killed by Doris another pigeon in the loft who is sitting on eggs and is very aggressive!

*A somewhat eventful day.* A proposal is made that Sid must be buried with honours as a serving member of Her Majesty’s Royal Navy.  
Said Harry, ‘*You’ve been down this bunker too long mate*’ ...





Inevitably the top brass, in the person of Commodore Shelton, arrives to find out just what is going on in this supposedly de-commissioned bunker – demands firmly full reports all round.

Top brass and officer in charge of the bunker (Second Officer Joan Morris) turn out to be old friends from training days.



Sid's funeral service goes ahead (*"All hands bury the dead"*) causing misunderstandings with Sub Lieutenant Connor who is now recovering from being knocked out.



Sub Lieutenant Connor thinks that they are talking about him and not Sid!  
Midshipman Taylor defuses the situation. *'It's my gun and its not loaded'* .....



The Commodore inspects the equipment and the comedy is approaching its final twist!  
Signals indicate suspect shipping activity – RN Coastal Operations go into action.





Personnel take a last look for the day at the sonar, and leave the bunker to go to the pub for a celebration - a deal about the bunker's future has been done through the Commodore. They are still not understanding what has been set in motion.

A voice off stage reads the BBC six-o'clock news revealing the outcome and bringing the production to a close!



Cast thank Technical, Stage Management and Front of House teams and Becky (Director) and Jane (Producer)

© Ray Talbot

## Audience and Visitors



A lively audience – refreshments were served in the interval by volunteers.

Ice creams were available served by Darryl Drinkwater.





The audience gathers for last night



Over the three nights people were able to look at the Players photographs and storybooks of previous productions.



© Sandra Jeans



## Front of House



A comment from a member of the audience, with a twinkle in his eye – “more ‘wrens’ around than at an RSPB event!”



Martyn Fry; Joy Sagar, Tony Jeans; Don Goold



Joyce Parsons, Joy Sagar, Anna Young, Sandra Jeans



Sylvia Fry, Tony Jeans, Janet Freeman, Donna Sutherland

© Sandra Jeans

## Technical Desk



Nigel Jones and  
Peter Ryan keep  
'the ship' on  
course

*together with*

© Sandra Jeans

## Stage Management



June Pearce,  
Debbie Dundas,  
and Caroline  
Sparkes operating  
from behind the  
set..

© Caroline Sparkes

## Preparations and a peep behind the scenes







Cleaning, technical assessment, sewing curtains. stage assembly and much more  
 – cast and production teams put the set together on the weekend before the performances.



Sara Kinane (Prompt), Debbie Masling (Refreshments and Publicity)  
 Chris Flippance (Car parking)  
 Tony Jeans, Geoffrey Sparkes (Car parking), Peter Ryan, Dave Parsons (Car parking)

© Sandra Jeans

# The Set



Set designers, Andy and Fiona Connor, ensure assembly goes to plan. A colour palette had been chosen. Stage management team add detail with wall decoration and stage props. Lighting effects complete the atmosphere and the cold war bunker emerges taking us back in time!



The Stage Management team sourced suitable items from out of date technical equipment, made up computer manuals and used all kinds of interesting things to recreate the time warp of the play – even an old Admiralty chart of the Kent coast (with a Radar surveillance station) was located.

© Ray Talbot & © Sandra Jeans





## The Front of House Display



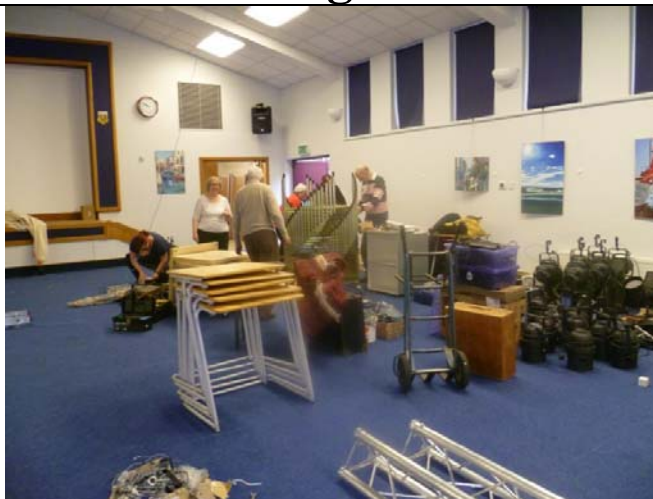
The Players put on display a sample of previous productions – musicals, plays, commemorative pageants for WW1 and WW2, Christmas Shows and street drama as part of the Charlton Kings Churches ‘Walk of Witness’ on Good Friday.

**Display Sandra & Tony Jeans**

© Sandra Jeans



## Taking down on Saturday after the last night



Striking the set and packing away is an essential part of the process of putting on a production. Cast and other helpers had it 'ship shape' by the end of the morning.

Dave Roberts and his lorry helped to speed up the process of returning items to their storage locations.

© Sandra Jeans



# The Window Display

## The Forge, Church Street, Charlton Kings



Thanks to Ila and Kaushik Aghera for the use of their window and selling tickets.

Display Sandra & Tony Jeans

© Sandra Jeans

# Charlton Kings Library Display

Thanks to  
Gloucestershire  
Library Services.

Books and DVDs were  
selected by the staff  
and posters put up both  
on the stand and on the  
notice board in the  
vestibule.

People borrowed them  
for reading and  
viewing.

© Sandra Jeans



## Charlton Kings Film Society links

Members of the Cast and Production team went in costume to Charlton Kings Film Society screenings in January 2018 to promote 'Bunkered'. The CKCP are grateful for this support from the CKFS. <http://ckfilmsociety.org/>



(photo) Leading Wren Potter (Lynne Glover)



## The Tickets



### **SPECIAL CKCP VISITOR PASS**

**Report for duty at:** 19:45  
(Doors open 19:00), 14<sup>th</sup>  
Feb 2018.

**Location:** Performance  
Hall, St Edward's School,  
GL53 8EY.

£7.00/£4.00 paid **SERIAL NO.**



### **SPECIAL CKCP VISITOR PASS**

**Report for duty at:** 19:45  
(Doors open 19:00), 15<sup>th</sup>  
Feb 2018.

**Location:** Performance  
Hall, St Edward's School,  
GL53 8EY.

£7.00/£4.00 paid **SERIAL NO.**



### **SPECIAL CKCP VISITOR PASS**

**Report for duty at:** 19:45  
(Doors open 19:00), 16<sup>th</sup>  
Feb 2018.

**Location:** Performance  
Hall, St Edward's School,  
GL53 8EY.

£7.00/£4.00 paid **SERIAL NO.**



# Published in CKCP Newsletter January 2018

## *PRESS RELEASE*

Local amateur actors are bringing a  
Naval Intelligence Bunker to life in **'Bunkered'**

Charlton Kings Community Players, a local amateur community drama group are busy preparing for the upcoming performance of Cold War Comedy **'Bunkered'** by Lynn Brittney. 'Bunkered' is a fast-paced comedy set in an intelligence bunker manned by four naval personnel nearing retirement. Only, as far as the Royal Navy is concerned, it was decommissioned and the staff made redundant at the end of the Cold War. Imagine the alarm at Naval Headquarters when they start receiving signals from what they thought was a defunct facility.

Find out what happens when the Marines are sent in and the personnel are discovered!

Becky Peach, Director, says: *"I am so glad to be working with this wonderful cast who are making my directing debut easy. I think it is amazing that at the age of 24, I have been given this opportunity by the Community Players. "This is a hilarious script which gives the audience witty dialogue as well as physical comedy. The talent of the actors involved has meant that the rehearsal room has been full of laughter that I hope transfers to the stage."*

Jane Jones, Producer and Charlton Kings Community Players Chairman, says: *"All productions have open auditions and encourage participation by people who live, work, go to school or to church in the village. Our productions offer opportunities for involvement in all aspects of the performing arts for all ages."*

Since its formation in 1992, the group have performed big hits such as musical 'My Fair Lady', the murder mystery 'Murdered to Death' as well as a locally written commemoration of WW2 'Some Sunny Day'. Our productions support local and national charities, donating more than £26,000 since 1992.

'Bunkered' will be raising money for Cheltenham Street Pastors and SSAFA: The Armed Forces Charity.

Performances are on 14th, 15th & 16th February 2018 at 7.45pm at St Edward's School Performance Hall, Cirencester Road, Cheltenham, GL53 8EY. Tickets are £7 and are available from the website ([www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com](http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com)) where details of local outlets can also be found, or on the door. Doors open at 7.00 pm.

# More about Cold War Bunkers

These were constructed (or modified from WW1/WW2) and used during geopolitical tension between the Eastern and Western Blocs with the threat of nuclear war. The Cold War covers the period after WW2 until Communism 'fell' in Eastern Europe or 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed.

Bunkers were used for Military or Civil Defence reconnaissance; weapons facilities; command and control centres; and storage facilities. Reconnaissance bunkers were generally small to support two/four person teams. "*Bunkered*" is set in one of these restricted underground spaces and is a Royal Navy bunker – one that they thought was decommissioned but that was not quite the case!

Few photos are available of the Military bunkers – probably still *TOP SECRET*. We can speculate what they may have looked like from using photos of the side rooms in the UK's network of large nuclear bunkers. These were constructed to support regional centres of government in the event of nuclear attack and to monitor the radioactive fall-out. These bunkers were designed to hold a significant number of people for living underground for a protracted period of time. These were managed by the Civil Defence (Royal Observer Corps).

**Images:** Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker - planned regional government headquarters. It was decommissioned in 1992, the bunker is now open to the public as a tourist attraction, with a museum focusing on its cold war history.

2 July 2013 Author Scott Wylie – Wikimedia Commons licence, images from Flickr 15 July 2013. (all three images)





# More about the costumes of the production

To quote the author of the play (script & directions) *"Accurate naval uniforms are obviously required."* The personnel in uniform on stage carried insignia indicating their rank and the Front of House team also wore uniform. Lynn Brittney states, *"Mags and Joan would be wearing WRNS uniforms (old issue)....Shelton needs to wear an up to date uniform for a serving woman officer."* This is important for the time warp theme. The WRNS and the Royal Navy merged in 1993.

The essential difference for the WRNS ("Wrens") uniforms was the colour of rank insignia on cuffs of jackets, badges on sleeves, epaulettes, and hats. The pre-1993 uniforms had blue instead of gold decoration. "Wrens" wore the same rank insignia as their male equivalents, but these were in blue instead of gold. The "curls" above officers' rank stripes were diamond-shaped instead of circular. Officers wore tricorn hats with a white cover. Uniform was basically double-breasted jacket and skirt, with shirt and tie, for all ranks (although similar working dress to the men could also be worn).



The Players had access to authentic naval uniform items and were able to simulate particular items to provide the essential detail required for the play. Everyone was determined to provide the audience with a good visual experience under the stage lighting, and also Front of House. It's always amazing what RN gold anchor & crown buttons will do to a navy double-breasted blazer, and adding a tie to a white shirt increases the recruitment targets for the WRNS!

Genuine WRNS blue braid was located for Joan (**Second Officer**) and was sewn on to her uniform jacket by Jane Jones. *This was identified as virtually the last available from MOD supply sources!* The lavish gold braid ("naval lace") was located for Shelton (**Commodore**) and was sewn on to her uniform jacket by Fiona Connor and she also created the distinctive 'curl'. Two tricorns (blue badge and gold badge) completed the impact on stage with a white MOD issue shoulder bag for Shelton.



**Leading Wren** – Mags wore epaulette slides with the blue anchor and her beret bore the blue badge



Front of House, **Leading Rate (Rating)**, Joyce, being post 1992, wore epaulette slides with the gold anchor.

Genuine epaulette slides picked up well under the lights for Peter as a **Chief Petty Officer** and he also wore during the play a jacket with the CPO configuration of buttons on the cuff to denote rank.

**Harry** the anarchist and handy woman developed her costume for maximum impact providing a dramatic contrast to the white, navy and terrain camouflage on stage.



Bill (**Leading Seaman**) located suitable pyjamas for his role (*"man 'flu and he's dying!"*).

**The Royal Marines (Second Lieutenant & Midshipman)** wore MOD camouflage gear of trousers, tunic, belt, boots, gloves/gauntlets. Connor wore a green beret with the gold RM badge and Taylor wore a military tactical combat helmet (light weight training one). These were loaned to The Players.

**"Voices off"** were costumed and highlighted when speaking on both sides of the main stage. Shelton's Civil Servant PA provided colour in her business suit and the Coastal Communications and Operations personnel wore a genuine Navy Commander uniform jacket and an officer cap (lots of *gold oak leaves*).

**The Wedding dress** adapted to fit Peter was modified and sewn by Jenny Palmer from one donated for the Players costume store.

The FoH display included a genuine 1980's **Midshipman** jacket (worn by Coco (tailor's dummy)), who now wears costume FoH for Players productions.



#### More about UK Military Combat helmets

The FoH display included a MK 6 Helmet – paperwork with it and 63 others suggests worn on HMS Westminster and issued from central stores. Merville BKS. Colchester. The Mk 6 helmet was the standard combat helmet of the British Armed Forces. It was introduced into service from 1985 and is designed to accept modern ear protection, Bowman personal radios, and respirators. The Mk 6 is constructed of "Ballistic Nylon". It weighs 1.5 kg. (The Mk 7 helmet was introduced in June 2009 as an UOR (urgent operational requirement). It weighs 1 kg.) (source: Wikipedia)



Basic helmet Wikimedia Open Commons licensing.  
Camouflage image Wikimedia Commons licensing, author Nighthaze3320

Some Interesting information about HMS Westminster - Quote from 'The Telegraph'

**"Royal Navy intercepts Russian naval ships in English Channel"** by Francesca Marshall and Benfarmer (Defence Correspondent) - 8 January 2018

"HMS Westminster is accompanying two Russian frigates and two support ships as they head north returning from the Mediterranean. Naval sources said the contact was routine, but it comes amid an estimated 10-fold increase of Russian naval activity in waters around Britain and in the North Atlantic this decade. Commander Simon Kelly, the Commanding Officer of HMS Westminster, said: "HMS Westminster's role as the Royal Navy's Fleet Ready Escort is to be at very high readiness to respond to anything the British government requires. The English Channel is an absolute lifeline for the UK, and it is very important HMS Westminster and the Royal Navy maintains a watchful eye on this key strategic link."



