



## Information Warfare (IW)

IW specialists provided support to the work of the Operational Advantage Centre, the Joint Cyber Unit and Defence Intelligence in 2024.

**Cyber Reservists** provided the Detect and Respond pillars integral to UK Defence, conducting Cyber Assurance Assessments on warships at sea to highlight areas where their defensive cyber posture could be improved. In addition, they delivered consultancy-style cyber support and training to a wide range of Units and organisations within the Royal Navy and across other front-line commands.

Experts from the **Information Operations** specialism were mobilised across four operational theatres in 2024, providing expertise on military deception, Psychological Operations and staff planning tasks.

Similarly, Reserve **Intelligence** analysts were very active in 2024, contributing some 2,500 reserve service days of support to operational outputs. This ranged from enduring mobilisations to UKMCC to varied deployments at sea, as well as supporting exercises in the UK and overseas.

With threats to merchant shipping elevated in 2024, **Maritime Trade Operations**, another Reserve-only capability, supported safety and security of navigation for merchantmen by enabling informed decision making by commanders in the UK's Maritime Trade Information Centre as well as UKMCC in Bahrain.

**Media Operations** personnel provided support ashore and afloat for UKMCC, Exercise STEADFAST DEFENDER and communication validation support to JTEPS, FOST, CSG and COMOPS.



## A Year in Review

This version of the Back Pocket Brief is a summary of the operational achievements of the Maritime Reserves in 2024. It does not, and could not, capture all the hard work that is delivered in the evenings or at weekends to support units and training activities. Indeed, because of this part-time nature, the Maritime Reserves have, historically, been considered a contingent workforce. However, the reality is that, today, they provide an unprecedented auxiliary capacity day in, day out, with Reservists balancing their full-time civilian employment and other commitments with their reserve service.

It is testament to this commitment that over the last twelve months, the 3,200 members of the Maritime Reserves delivered on average 4,200 Reserve Service Days per month, of which circa 2,600 days per month were direct support to operations. In some areas, the Maritime Reserves delivers expertise to front line commands that is only available from within the Reserves, for example, Cyber, Information Operations and Amphibious Warfare. In 2024, this ranged from support ashore to operation SCORPIUS and afloat to operations WOODWALL, VENTUS, UNDERHILL and ARENGA, as well as providing headquarters staff to the UKMCC in Bahrain. All served seamlessly alongside Regular counterparts as part of One Navy.

However, many also choose to engage in full-time service. At the end of 2024, 275 members of the Maritime Reserves were in full-time service, with a further 77 contracted to formally deliver over 120 service days per year. This flexibility in employment model provides significant additional capacity to Defence and makes the Maritime Reserves pioneers in offering spectrum of service opportunities to its members.

With the imminent publication of the Strategic Defence Review, the subsequent Spending Review and ongoing Defence Reform I expect that 2025 will see a significant shift in the role of Reserves and an increased focus on the Fleet Reserve. The Navy 2040 Strategy is reliant on a flexible and adaptable Reserve population who build their experience and skills through both civilian and military activity, an approach that has been proven in delivered output by the Maritime Reserves in 2024. I am excited by the opportunities that 2025 will bring for Reserves and look forward to reporting another year of success in 2026.

**Commodore Jo Adey ADC**  
**Commander Maritime Reserve**



# MARITIME RESERVES BACK POCKET BRIEF

### Flexible, Capable, Sustainable

### Supporting the Royal Navy and UK Defence, at home and around the globe, 365 days a year



## General Warfare (GW)

**Amphibious Warfare** officers were integral enablers for the Littoral Response Group's deployments in the High North and the Mediterranean in 2024.

**Mine Warfare** personnel worked closely with regular counterparts in the delivery of autonomous systems for underwater exploitation; 2024 saw the first reservist mobilised to Zulu Squadron Mine Threat and Exploitation Group, forming a key part of the team completing trials of new autonomous mine-clearance systems.

GW **Seamanship** ratings continued to support OPV deployments globally, serving both in home waters and as far afield as the Indo Pacific region. 2024 also saw Ship's Force Protection Teams reestablished within 42 Commando, with RNR and RMR personnel jointly providing security at sea and in doing so releasing regular Marines for deployment on higher priority tasks.

**Submarine Operations** controllers continued to provide the core of JTEPS' workforce to facilitate safe, shoreside submarine controlling within the Joint Warrior construct - both in the UK and overseas. An SM Ops team was also deployed to HMS PRINCE OF WALES in support of Exercise AGILE DEFENDER in the High North and will mobilise teams in support of HIGHMAST in 2025.







## Operations Support

**Air Branch** personnel supported fixed wing and rotary air operations across all naval air stations and at sea throughout 2024.

Reservists provided cover for regular personnel taking leave, enabling airfields to maintain their normal operational outputs.

Others deployed to Norway, delivering arctic training to NATO colleagues, while five personnel provided direct support to Exercise STRIKE WARRIOR in autumn embarked on HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH.

The Air Branch recruited its first Reservist F35 Lightning Pilot in 2024, while specialists from the Branch continue to work with the Fleet Hydrographic and Meteorological Unit in the development of new autonomous and remotely piloted surface and underwater survey equipment.

A resurgent **Logistics** capability deployed reservists across Europe and North America, including a six-month mobilisation to the United States to support

to HMS PRINCE OF WALES. In Europe, reserve Logisticians provided enduring support to Commando Logistic Regiment in both Norway and Cyprus, in addition to mobilising personnel for Operation SCORPIUS. The Engineering Branch celebrated its ten-year anniversary in 2024 and were at the forefront of Exercise AGILE DEFENDER, pioneering the testing of systems to enable the mobilisation of an entire capability area in times of crisis or war.

The operational tempo of the branch remained high, supporting ships and submarines in build and refit across the fleet as well as salvage and disposal activities. Individuals also used their expertise to assist in niche areas such as supporting the international Naval Submarine Rescue Service, while also contributing to the work of FOST and assisting HMNB Clyde with nuclear safety assurance.

Elsewhere, **Medical and Healthcare** professionals continued to use their civilian skills in support of Defence, from medical support on deployments to

Norway and the Indo Pacific to advice on niche areas from Burns and Plastic Surgery to Dermatology, as well as supporting the Surgeon General to plan for large scale NHS response to combat operations.

Reserve **Chaplains** also provided significant operational support through specialist religious provision and pastoral care to sailors and marines serving in warships at sea, as well as ashore in establishments across the UK.

**Training Branch** personnel continued to support regular staff in delivering every one of the Initial Naval Training courses for Reservists delivered at RALEIGH and BRNC, in addition to career courses at the RNLA.

## Royal Marines Reserve

The RMR marked its 75th anniversary in March 2024. Reservist Marines continue to serve across Commando Force Units in a variety of employment models, as well as part of the training team at CTC Lympstone. RMR personnel also deployed as integral members of the RM Cold Weather Warfare specialist team, as well as undertaking cold-weather training on Exercise HARE SPRING, live firing in Cyprus in May on Exercise COMMANDO PHOENIX, and force protection serials on Exercise CAMPBELL HARDY 24 across UK locations in September.

Recruiting is going from strength to strength for the RMR, and 34 individuals achieved their Green Beret in November. Operational commitments range from the provision of specialist training teams in Libya to named operations in Eastern Europe, as well as the enduring commitment to the provision of personnel in support of 42 Commando.

