



NEWS RELEASE

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BACK TO THE FUTURE WITH THE ROYAL NAVY

“MEET YOUR NAVY 08”

The Royal Navy's premier, public weekend event, now restyled from Navy Days as “Meet Your Navy 2008” is for the first time offering visitors to Portsmouth Naval Base an exclusive glimpse into the Royal Navy of the future. Linking together with shipbuilding and support industry partner BVT Surface Fleet and the Aircraft Carrier Alliance, the Royal Navy is delighted to throw open the naval base gates for three full days to offer a completely new set of experiences along with rare opportunities to step on board a variety of Her Majesty's Warships.



Visitors to “Meet Your Navy” will become time travellers when they enter the Historic Dockyard's Victory Gate. Firstly they will witness the rich heritage of bygone Navy Days brought to life by Tudor and Victorian era sailors in the **Past Zone** transitioning through to displays that revisit the wartime Navies of WW2 and the Falklands Conflict. Next is the **Present Zone** where visitors can get up close and personal with a wide variety of

operational modern warships including overseas navies from as far away as Japan and Chile. Several of the ships have recently returned from demanding missions in conflict zones so the ship's company and Dockyard support personnel have really pulled together to get the warships ready for public inspection.



Get On Board – See the action!

Make sure you get a grandstand view from the decks of our ships berthed alongside to witness the dynamic harbour display of Royal Marines in their speedy offshore raiding craft and the air displays. Helicopter borne troops will drop in on a daring mission and call in fire support vessels to assist with a potentially threatening maritime scenario. But don't delay too long on the ships because the ***Future Zone*** has some fascinating insights and visual treats in store for those looking forward to the proud day that the new aircraft carriers HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH and HMS PRINCE OF WALES are delivered to the Royal Navy. A unique visualisation of the sheer size and scale of these ships alongside at Portsmouth Naval Base, will be made clear in "Walk the Carrier Line" where large banners will mark out the impressive proportions of these remarkable new classes of ship that the Government confirmed the order for only two weeks ago. The first, HMS Queen Elizabeth is due to join the Royal Navy in only six years and Portsmouth is already preparing for that exciting day.

Step into 2014

In the ***Future Zone*** you will be able step through into 2014 and just imagine yourself on the representative bridge of the new carrier and through the ship's bridge window you will leap forward several years more to see her sister ship, the HMS Prince of Wales emerge to ply the oceans of the future. Meanwhile on the decks of HMS

ILLUSTRIOUS, visitors will be able to see a life size scale model of the new Joint Strike Fighter that will fly off the decks of the new carriers.

Also in the future zone you will be able to see many other interactive and static model displays of completely new classes of warships being built by BVT in the UK, not only for the RN but also for our allies abroad.

Type 45 – Daring to Win

The Type 45 Air Defence Destroyer is already just over the horizon conducting highly successful trials off the Scottish coast. Commander David Shutts, Senior Naval Officer, HMS Daring, said, ***“When Daring began her sea trials last year, she was quite simply superb – tremendous acceleration, manoeuvrability and stopping power. The Royal Navy, her engineers and her builders were completely bowled over by her performances”***. Together with her five sister ships, HMS Daring will be able to carry out a variety of tasks across the globe, from air defence to humanitarian and anti-piracy roles.

Sadly HMS Daring can't be with us at Meet Your Navy as she is getting the finishing touches added before being handed over to the RN. However this, the most powerful destroyer class ever built in the UK will be coming to Portsmouth in the very near future.

Here in the Naval Base we are optimistic and excited about the future of our Royal Navy. Don't miss this rare opportunity to Meet Your Navy, as we certainly want to meet you and share our good news about what is yet to come!



Tickets are available online at www.meetyournavy.co.uk, through the ticket hotline 0871 230 5582, or tourist information centres at Portsmouth and Southsea and the Marriott Hotel, Portsmouth. A special advanced ticket price is available until 24th July.

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