



ROYAL NAVY
SUBMARINE
MUSEUM

“Silent and Secret”

**A Conference Marking the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Navy’s
At Sea Deterrent.**

15/16 June 2018

15 June 2018 marks the 50th Anniversary of HMS *Resolution*, the Royal Navy’s first Polaris SSBN (Nuclear Ballistic Missile Submarine), commencing her first operational patrol. This conference, to be hosted by the National Museum of the Royal Navy at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, will explore the history of the Royal’s Navy’s operation of the British nuclear deterrent. The conference will seek to join operational experience with academic analysis. Any methodological approach and any aspect of the history of this period will be very welcome, although the core subject matter will be the Royal Navy’s role as the operators of the principal delivery system since 1968.

(The following programme may be subject to minor adjustments)

Friday 15 June

1000 Registration and Coffee

1015 Welcome – Professor Dominic Tweddle. Director General, The National Museum of the Royal Navy.

1030 -1230 Panel 1

Is Deterrence Dead? Professor Dr Julian Lindley-French. Senior Fellow, Institute for Statecraft, London.

A Very Special Relationship - Anglo American relations from Polaris to Trident. Dr James Jinks. Queen Mary, University of London.

‘The British government, the Public and Nuclear Deterrence’ – Dr Andy Corbett. Defence Studies Department, King’s College London.

1230-1300 lunch

1300-1400 **Keynote Address – Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield.** Queen Mary, University of London

1400 – 1530 Panel 2

Aldermaston and the Royal Navy. Dr Richard More. Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Science and Security Studies, Department of War Studies, King's College London; and AWE Historian, Aldermaston

“Appropriate Units of the Fleet are Now Being Equipped” – the Royal Navy’s First Acquisition of Nuclear Weapons. Jonathan Ayles. Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Manchester Institute of Innovation Research, University of Manchester, and The Newcomen Society

1530 - 1545 Coffee

1545 - 1745 Panel 3

Britain's Nuclear Deterrent: A Moral Case in Favour - Professor Nigel Biggar. Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology, University of Oxford, and author of *In Defence of War* (2013)

Mixed Messages: The Purpose of Britain's Deterrence and Policy of Multilateral Disarmament. Paul Ingram. Executive Director, British American Security Information Council (BASIC)

The Case Against UK Trident: A Naval Officer’s Perspective. Commander Rob Forsyth, Royal Navy (Retd). Independent Researcher.

1800-1930. Waterbus to Royal Navy Submarine Museum. Private View of Museum and ‘Silent and Secret’ Exhibition, with wine and canapés

1930 onwards. Speakers’ and Guests’ Dinner

Saturday 16 June

1000 Coffee and Registration

1015 – 1215 Panel 1

21 Momentous Years – From British U-boat to Polaris. Lieutenant-Commander Jock Gardner, Royal Navy (Retd). 'U-Boat to Polaris'. Naval Historical Branch, UK Ministry of Defence.

The Road to Trident. Polaris, PIP, Chevaline. A Different and More Populist View of History. Brian Burnell. Independent Researcher

The Development of Nuclear Propulsion in the Royal Navy, 1946-1975. Gareth M Jones, MA. University of Plymouth

1215 - 1300 Lunch

1300 - 1500 Panel 2

When the Match Doesn't Light. Commander W J Nimmo Scott, OBE, MSc, Royal Navy (Retd). Independent Researcher.

Selling Deterrence. Commodore Eric Thompson MBE MSc CEng RN (rtd) DL, Independent Researcher and author of 'On Her Majesty's Nuclear Service' (2018).

Commanding an SSBN. Commodore John Milnes, Royal Navy (Retd). Independent Researcher.

1500 - 1515 Coffee

1515 - 1645 Panel 3

Despite Our Best Efforts ... The Accident History of the UK Polaris Programme. Dr Peter Burt. Independent Researcher

Title TBC. Commodore Barrie Sadler, Royal Navy (Retd). Barrie Sadler Associates Limited.

1645 - 1700 Closing Remarks. Matthew Sheldon. Executive Director of Heritage, The National Museum of the Royal Navy.

Enquiries on programme to george.malcolmson@nmrn.org.uk

Tickets £60 including all lunches and refreshments, £55 to members of RNSM Friends, Submariners' Association. Additional £15 for private view on 15 June.

To book a place

<https://tickets.historicdockyard.co.uk/WebStore/shop/ViewItems.aspx?CG=PHD&C=EVN>