



HMS Sutherland in Loch Erribol

HMS Sutherland

HMS Sutherland is the third ship to be named HMS Sutherland in the history of the Royal Navy. The first was named in 1716, the second was launched in 1741 and the current ship was launched in 1996 by Lady Christina Walmsley, wife of Sir Robert Walmsley, the then Chief of Defence Procurement.

She is one of the Royal Navy's 16 Type 23 Frigates. With the capability to operate anywhere in the world, the type 23 frigate is the mainstay of the modern surface fleet and they form half of the total frigate/destroyer force in the Royal Navy. Originally designed for the principal task of anti-submarine warfare, they have evolved into powerful and versatile multi purpose ships. The effectiveness of these ships is enhanced by their stealth design, which reduces their radar signature significantly. In addition to the war fighting roles described above, the ship is trained to conduct a wide range of other tasks. These include embargo operations using boarding teams inserted from the ship's boats or helicopter, disaster relief work and surveillance operations.

Since her commissioning, which took place in Devonport on 4 July 1997, HMS Sutherland has seen service all over the world, from the frozen seas of both the Arctic and the South Atlantic to the tropical heat of the Caribbean and the Far East. After an initial period of sea trials and training, she was deployed to the Falkland Islands for 6 months over the Winter of 1998/9 and in May 2000 she was deployed as part of a global task - the first time the UK has sent a group of ships to go round the world since 1986.

She is 133 metres long, has a beam of 16.2 metres, a draught of 7.3 metres and displacement of 3500 tonnes. She is crewed by 176 Officers and Ratings. The ship is heavily armed, with a vertical launch Seawolf anti-missile system, Harpoon anti-surface missiles, and a 4.5" gun, capable of providing bombardment support for forces on shore. She can be employed as an effective anti-submarine force, and has a number of stealth features which make it a difficult target for enemy fire. Her motto is;

Sans Peur – without fear.

PROGRAMME:

- 11.00am Freedom Ceremony begins at Dornoch Square
- 11.40am Parade March Off
- 12 noon Ship's Company and Royal Marine Band march through Dornoch
- 12.15pm Beat Retreat by Royal Marine Band at Dornoch Square.
- 1.00pm Reception in Dunrobin Castle, Golspie