JOINT STATEMENT
Royal Navy - United States Navy
April 30, 2019

As outward-facing, global powers with worldwide interests and responsibilities inextricably linked to the sea, it is therefore no surprise that sea power lies at the heart of our ability to safeguard the security, prosperity, and the well-being of both our nations. Our countries have a long history of military cooperation and the mutual benefit this cooperation offers. We agree that credible and capable naval forces that can project power and influence across the globe remain essential to both our national interests. We have confirmed a shared vision and undertook to cooperate in several areas, focusing in particular on nuclear capability, carrier operations, force development and interoperability. It is our shared ideals that make possible these combined efforts in pursuit of common national interests and we remain committed to this approach.

Our shared assessment of the global security climate is that the world has changed. It is for this reason that we are now re-committing to further strengthen our collaborative efforts in the following areas:

- North Atlantic. The growing relevance of the 'High North' present this region as one of renewed interest to both our countries. Our national responses can already be seen through recent changes to national Command and Control arrangements, as the US has re-established the 2nd Fleet, the UK has formally stood up a North Atlantic Joint Operating Area. It is our intention to exploit these new arrangements to ensure that, whilst respecting national priorities, our activity is fully integrated in the North Atlantic Area of Operations.

- Underwater Battlespace. This domain is increasingly contested, both in the North Atlantic and globally. Against the strategic backdrop of widespread weapons proliferation, which is empowering a host of state and non-state actors, underwater capabilities are propagating amongst our competitors at a scale and sophistication that present a credible threat to our interests. Both of our Navies are world leaders in underwater warfare, but we recognise that our competitive edge will only be maintained through sustained capability development in this area.

- Force Development. We will continue to adopt a collaborative approach across a broad suite of maritime capability development activity. In particular, we share a vision on the future of counter-mine warfare, the use of autonomous systems and, as the Royal Navy's Queen Elizabeth Class carrier program comes to fruition, we will work closely to develop and enhance our respective carrier capabilities in concert.

The long history of cooperation between our Navies remains the prominent feature of the 'special relationship' between our two nations. The United States Navy and Royal Navy are determined to uphold the international laws governing the world’s oceans, maintaining safe, unfettered access to for all who go about their lawful purpose on the sea. Our ability to pursue this aim relies on our ability to deter and defeat potential adversaries through the application of world-leading maritime capabilities.

We re-affirm our commitment to developing world-class 21st century seapower in firm alliance.

Sir Philip Jones KCB ADC DL
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