



22 February 2010

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FLEET VISITS UKHO

The Royal Navy's senior Operational Commander visited the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) last Friday, February 19, to see the navigational services and charts that the organisation provides at first hand.



Admiral Sir Trevor Soar (centre) views archive charts accompanied by Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff, National Hydrographer (on left of image) and Captain Vaughan Nail, Deputy National Hydrographer (on the right).

The Commander-in-Chief Fleet (CINCFLEET), Admiral Sir Trevor Soar KCB OBE, is responsible for delivering the Fleet Operational Capability. This includes the operation, resourcing and training of the Royal Navy's ships, submarines and aircraft, and personnel including the Royal Marines. A submarine specialist, he is no stranger to the output of the UKHO having commanded at sea in every rank from Lieutenant to Commodore.

More...

His visit included an update briefing on the latest information and development plans for UKHO's maritime services and products that were illustrated during a tour of the facilities and meetings with staff.

Areas highlighted to him included UKHO's Admiralty e-Navigator - a key project in UKHO's digital vision; UKHO's electronic chart service Admiralty Vector Chart Service (AVCS); the production and delivery programme for paper and digital services and the national hydrographic database, which UKHO has developed as a single source point for all navigational data storage and retrieval.

A key objective placed on the UKHO is "To deliver the Hydrographic Services which enable the Royal Navy and other UK Defence forces to meet the current and potential operational tasks" so, not surprisingly, CINCFLEET spent a significant part of the visit looking at the recent work and meeting personnel within the Defence section.

On completion of his visit, Admiral Sir Trevor, said: "I never cease to be impressed with the UKHO output, contribution and what it has delivered consistently to Defence for the past 215 years. In particular I am delighted to see the innovative way in which the staff are handling the transition to digitally presented and delivered services that will not only improve the navigational safety for all mariners but also the support to the operational requirements of the Royal Navy in particular."

UK National Hydrographer, Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff, said: "It is always a delight to have our prime user on site. Finding time in the CINC's diary to get his personal perspective on the UKHO is invaluable as is the much appreciated opportunity for our staff to speak directly to him and show him how we are shaping our plans for future capability."

ENDS

More...

For more information contact:

Ruth Adams, Communications Manager
01823 337900 ext 5043
ruth.adams@ukho.gov.uk

Notes for Editors

1. The UKHO, which is part of the Ministry of Defence, has been charting the world's oceans for more than 200 years with the primary aim of providing navigational services for the Royal Navy and merchant mariners to save and protect lives at sea. In addition it also serves the small craft and leisure mariners and provides a range of consultancy services.
2. The UKHO produces a worldwide series of some 3,300 paper nautical charts and 160 publications under the Admiralty brand and has a growing portfolio of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs). These charts are sold globally and used by nearly 70 per cent of international shipping.
3. The UKHO is a Trading Fund which means it is a government agency owned by the MoD with the freedom to trade commercially to generate revenue and cover running costs.
4. The UKHO also plays a central role, in support of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in discharging the navigation element of the UK's Safety of Life at Sea Treaty obligations for waters of UK national responsibility.