

**FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF NAVAL
ENGINEER OFFICER**

To look at the Royal Navy now and the place of Engineering in it compared to 45 years ago when I joined is to have a feeling of profound pride and gratitude for the standards we have attained, in spite of the need for much change, adaptation to a different social pattern ashore and the vast strides in technology we have used to make our ships more effective.

Our people at every level have shown that we can meet the challenges of new technologies and new equipment, new relationships both between departments and within them, new demands for more sophisticated planning for the management of ships, and the major change to a predominantly small ship Navy which allows less preparation for people to assume responsibility.

Professionalism is the product of good education, high ideals in carrying out the jobs we have, good leadership and personal integrity, together with a clear recognition of the imperfections of our own and all human nature. It is the professionalism of the Royal Navy which distinguishes it and it is this professionalism in which the engineering specialization and branch has always taken a pride.

There is of course always much to be done to ensure that the engineering specialization is developed so as to make the maximum contribution to the benefit of the Navy as a whole and this requires flexibility in preparing for the future. This has to be combined with an inflexible determination to uphold the professional standards in our keeping, while the technologies we use continue to change.

It is very gratifying to leave feeling that the future is in very good hands and I wish you all strength, confidence and success in meeting the challenges of the future.

George Raper