

STATES OF JERSEY



H.M.S. IRON DUKE: AUTHORITY TO MARCH 'WITH COLOURS FLYING, DRUMS BEATING AND BAYONETS FIXED' IN JERSEY

**Lodged au Greffe on 22nd December 2014
by the Minister for Home Affairs**

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –

to authorise the Ship's Company of H.M.S. Iron Duke to exercise the privilege of 'marching with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed' in Jersey.

MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS

REPORT

The Freedom to March grants honoured military units of Her Majesty's Armed Forces with a close connection to a community, the right to march through the streets of the respective city, town or jurisdiction 'with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed'. This honour acknowledges the affiliation with a unit, company or regiment, and demonstrates the community's appreciation for their long and dedicated service.

This honour is currently bestowed on the Jersey Field Squadron Royal Engineers (Royal Militia of The Island of Jersey) and The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (PWRR) as outlined in P.119/1994 adopted by the States on 11th October 1994. In the case of the Jersey Field Squadron, the honour was granted in recognition of the Unit's achievements in the community, including those associated with major incidents preparation and ceremonial aspects of Island life. In the case of the PWRR, the honour was granted in recognition of the former Royal Hampshire Regiment, which was subsumed into the PWRR, as the Regiment of the Channel Islands, Hampshire, Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Middlesex.

H.M.S. Iron Duke, a Portsmouth-based Type 23 Frigate of Her Majesty's Royal Navy, was launched in 1991 and has a displacement of 4,900 tonnes. She has been officially affiliated with Jersey since 2010. The Ship, which has a complement of 185 Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Sailors and Royal Marines, supports and engages with the Island community at every opportunity, particularly when in local waters. In addition, when the Commanding Officer is able to divert away from operational duties, the Ship's Company is keen to seek opportunities to uphold its special relationship with the Island. As an example, in 2014, H.M.S. Iron Duke fired a 15 gun ceremonial salute as she officially began her 6 month operational deployment of the South Atlantic. This was fired from close proximity at Corbière, and the salute was taken by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. Furthermore, H.M.S. Iron Duke and her Company, together with other Royal Navy assets, have assisted greatly with the annual Jersey International Boat Show, where the Navy makes a valuable contribution.

The Minister for Home Affairs, in agreement with the Chief Minister, the Bailiff and the Lieutenant Governor, would like the Island to formally recognise the link with the Ship, and accordingly, asks the States Assembly to give authority to the Ship and other Royal Navy Units to 'March with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed' in Jersey.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no resource implications involved, other than expenses related to specific ceremonial events.