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Royal Navy Introduces Esports Suite on HMS Prince of Wales to Support Crew Wellbeing

June 30, 2025

— Categories: Defense & Security



The Royal Navy has taken a step toward modernizing life at sea by installing its first-ever esports gaming room aboard the HMS Prince of Wales. What was once a standard exam room has now been repurposed into a modest but well-equipped gaming space, featuring eight Alienware PCs, a large screen, and colored LED lighting. The initiative aims to

provide a more engaging and supportive environment for sailors during extended periods at sea.

The project was led by Chief Petty Officer Martin Miller, vice-chairman of the Royal Navy's esports committee. He explained that the goal was to offer sailors a place to unwind and connect in a meaningful way after long working hours. Unlike typical mess-deck consoles, which often host only basic gaming systems, the new setup offers PC gaming, enabling more varied and immersive experiences. While internet access on board remains limited, the room supports local multiplayer games like Halo and Team Fortress 2, allowing crew members to compete and relax together without needing a live connection.

The suite has been well received, with regular use by sailors for casual gaming and by officers for organized team-building activities. While the space is small, only six of the eight PCs currently fit in the room; it has proven functional and popular. Sub-Lieutenant Joshua Hill, treasurer of the committee, said the positive response has encouraged similar efforts at shore-based installations, and there is hope the idea might eventually expand to more ships.

This development follows the Ministry of Defense's formal recognition of esports in 2024 as a valuable tool for digital skills development and personnel engagement. For the Royal Navy, the new gaming room is not just a leisure facility; it reflects a broader effort to support mental wellbeing, encourage teamwork, and meet the changing interests of younger service members in a practical and balanced way.