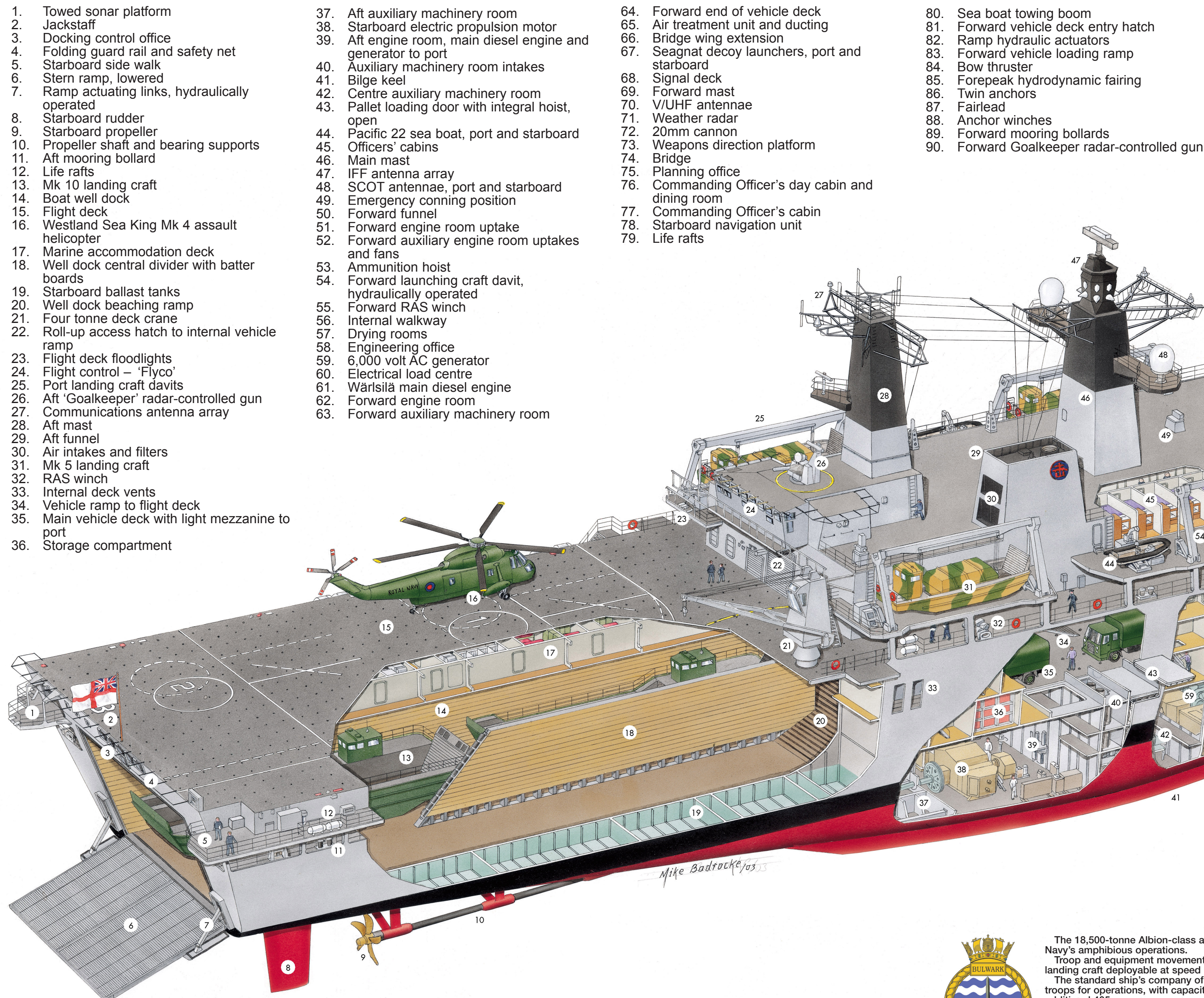


INSIDE HMS BULWARK NAVY NEWS

The Flagship of the Royal Navy and the nation, HMS Bulwark flexes her amphibious muscle to respond quickly to crises and world events. She can deliver the punch of the Royal Marines ashore by air and by sea, with boats from the landing dock in the belly of the ship and by assault helicopter from the two-spot flight deck.



The 18,500-tonne Albion-class assault ship is at the heart of the Royal Navy's amphibious operations. Troop and equipment movement are a primary role with vehicles and landing craft deployable at speed and on command. The standard ship's company of 325 can be bolstered with 305 troops for operations, with capacity when circumstances dictate for an additional 405. Bulwark supports a permanently embarked Royal Marines landing craft unit, 4 Assault Squadron Royal Marines. Four 120-tonne Landing Craft Utility (LCUs) are housed in her floating dock that will take on some 3,000 tonnes of water when flooded.

The craft can carry up to 120 troops and are big enough to move a Challenger 2 tank. The LCUs are supplemented by four Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel (LCVPs) on davits that can carry vehicles or a rifle troop of 35 Royal Marines and more than a tonne of equipment. Vehicles are loaded on to the LPD through a roll-on roll-off system, with trucks and assault vehicles taken on through an entry ramp at the front of the ship, then driven on to the vehicle deck primed and ready for transfer straight on to the LCUs as required. HMS Bulwark is the seventh Royal Navy warship to bear the name. She was launched in 2001 and entered Service in 2004.