

## Quality of Navy's fishery protection role emphasised

By ALAN HUNTER

ONE of the Royal Navy's most senior officers yesterday emerged heavily in favour of seeing the Navy continuing its role in running the Fishery Protection Squadron.

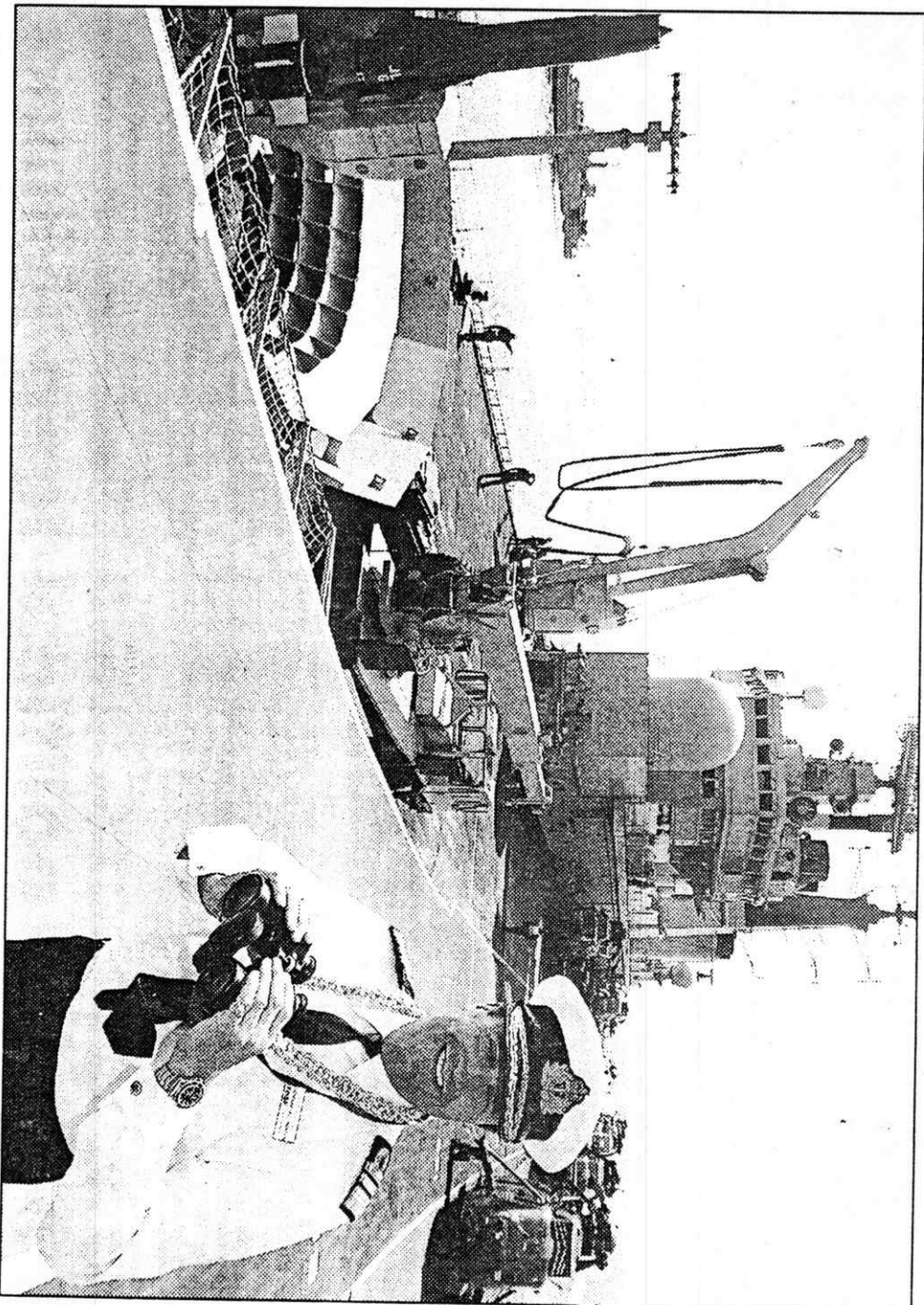
After recent suggestions that the Rosyth-based squadron may be privatised, Vice Admiral Sir Nicholas Hill-Norton, Flag Officer Surface Flotilla, said he was convinced that the Navy did the job in a professional way.

He added that he would be surprised if the same quality of service for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries could be provided by any other group.

He said the matter was being investigated, and it was for the Government department to look at what it could afford. He added: "I would be a bit surprised if the Ministry found they could get the same response that the Fishery Protection Squadron can give. It would require a command centre, and ships."

The Vice Admiral was speaking on board the aircraft carrier Ark Royal in the Firth of Forth. The flagship is heading a task force of four ships and a submarine, as part of Shop Window '92, an exercise to show how today's Navy has been forced to adapt.

Civic heads, dignitaries, and members of the public were flown on board to observe close manoeuvres by the task group



Vice Admiral Sir Nicholas Hill-Norton on board the Ark Royal

GW 11/09/92