

10th March 2026

OFFICIAL INVITATION TO THE COMBINED NAVAL EVENT (19th – 21st MAY 2026)

Dear Major General Vahur Karus

We are honoured to invite you and a delegation from the Estonian Joint Headquarters to participate in the **Combined Naval Event (CNE)**, which takes place between **19th and 21st May 2026** at the Farnborough International Exhibition & Conference Centre in the UK.

CNE is the largest annual dedicated naval conference in Europe and is officially supported by the Royal Navy, the UK Department for Business & Trade, the UK Ministry of Defence and NATO. The event attracts **over 2,500 attendees from more than 80 countries**, and hosts **230 exhibiting companies** from naval industry, and is a superb opportunity to develop and enhance your network of naval, defence industrial, and academic experts.

Since last year's event, the world has grown more chaotic and less stable. Conflict endures across Europe, and technological advances continue to reshape how we think about warfare. Autonomous systems, strategic unpredictability, threats to global trade, and the rise of "sub threshold" aggression against our critical underwater infrastructure are now daily aspects of our volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous world; there is, therefore, much to discuss.

As such, a recrafted CNE conference programme runs alongside the exhibition, and offers compelling strategic insights into these issues via a curated agenda that brings together government ministers, senior officers from Armed Forces around the world, industry leaders, defence technology practitioners, and experts in maritime warfare to collaborate and address shared challenges.

We would be honoured if you would consider supporting the event by joining us, or sending a delegation of personnel representing Estonia. We would be delighted to welcome any personnel you decide to delegate at Europe's largest annual naval event.

We understand the demands on your schedule and the difficulty of predicting your commitments, but we hope you will join us.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact our colleague, thomas@defenceleaders.com. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this invitation. We hope to see you in May.

Yours sincerely,



Vice Admiral Jeffrey Trussler USN (Retired)
Chairs of Combined Naval Event 2026



Rear Admiral James Parkin CBE (Retired)
Chairs of Combined Naval Event 2026

Supported by

