



## DEBATE PACK

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# Future shape of the armed forces

Westminster Hall

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

# 1. Summary

Since 2010, UK defence policy and the armed forces have undergone significant change. A massive programme of reform and restructuring has been implemented to allow the Ministry of Defence to make savings, as well as achieve a leaner and more agile force that meets the UK's needs by 2020. Much of that reform process is still ongoing amidst constantly changing global challenges.

The armed forces remain on a long-term downward trajectory in terms of raw numbers of personnel and all three services are below their 2020 target. Recruitment and retention remains a key issue for all three services and the Ministry of Defence is in the process of reforming the 'offer' made to current and future personnel. This includes introducing legislation to enable flexible working. £178bn will be spent on equipment over the next ten years including new combat aircraft, aircraft carriers, frigates, maritime patrol aircraft, armoured vehicles, complex weapons and submarines. However the National Audit Office has cautioned "the affordability of the Equipment plan is at greater risk than at any time since its inception".

## 2. Press and journal articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

### **Civilians to be fast-tracked into senior Army ranks under proposals being examined by defence chiefs**

Daily Mail  
Larisa Brown  
10 July 2017

### **Britain prepared to use air strikes or send in troops as retaliation against future cyber attack**

Daily Telegraph  
Ben Farmer  
28 June 2017

### **General Election 2017: A Strategic Moment for Defence?**

RUSI  
John Louth  
2 June 2017

### **New threats to UK mean we need a full security review**

The Times  
Peter Roberts  
2 May 2017

### **Alarm sounded over whether Britain can afford £178bn military spending plans**

Daily Telegraph  
Alan Tovey  
27 January 2017

### **UK must boost its defence role after Brexit**

Financial Times  
Tom Tugendhat MP  
26 December 2016

### 3. PQs

#### **Ministry of Defence: Redundancy**

**11 Jul 2017 | 2549**

**Asked by: Kevan Jones**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of planned civilian redundancies within his Department on the operational capabilities of the armed forces.

**Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Department: Ministry of Defence**

The Ministry of Defence is critically reviewing all activities and functions undertaken by the civilian workforce. We will review and test, based on value for money assessments, how these activities and functions could best be done in the future. The achievement of the Department's objectives, including the delivery of front-line operational capabilities, remains our priority. Alternative delivery models will be evaluated.

The Department outsourced 4,090 staff between Financial Year (FY) 2012-13 and FY2016-17 (inclusive), broken down by year as follows: FY2012-13 (380 staff); FY2013-14 (zero staff); FY2014-15 (2,355 staff); FY2015-16 (1,130 staff) and FY2016-17 (225 staff).

#### **Armed Forces: Pay**

**25 Apr 2017 | 71485**

**Asked by: Nia Griffith**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to page 51, paragraph 4.49 of the 46th Report of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body, published on 28 March 2017, on what basis his Department calculated that the future accommodation model would result in savings of £500 million over 10 years.

**Answering member: Mark Lancaster | Department: Ministry of Defence**

The 2015 Spending Review committed the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to savings of around £500 million from accommodation over the next 10 years through reduced running costs, capital receipts and savings. Inefficiencies in the current model mean that it costs the MOD around two pounds for every pound of effective accommodation subsidy Service personnel receive; by making the model more efficient we aim to realise these savings and also create a fairer model that provides Service personnel with more choice.

**Navy: Deployment**  
**25 Apr 2017 | 71223****Asked by: Sir Nicholas Soames**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what (a) operational and (b) other targets and objectives the Royal Navy met during the last 12 months; what major deployments and exercises are planned for the Royal Navy in 2018; and if he will make a statement.

**Answering member: Mike Penning | Department: Ministry of Defence**

Over the last year, the Royal Navy has continued to meet all their standing commitments, delivering a strong presence at home and globally in protecting our national interests. These include: Continuous at Sea Deterrent; Fleet Ready Escort; Towed Array Patrol Ship; marine enforcement; mine countermeasures support; Atlantic Patrol Tasking North and South; Gibraltar Squadron; operations East of Suez; contributing to the Joint Expeditionary Force (Maritime) and Standing NATO Response Force; supporting EU and NATO counter-migration operations in the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea.

The Royal Navy will continue to take part in a wide range of national and international exercises and deployments in 2018 to ensure that our forces are ready to undertake a range of activities to meet the challenges of an uncertain world. I am withholding the details of future deployments and exercises as release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the security and safety of our Armed Forces.

**Armed Forces: Finance**  
**21 Apr 2017 | HL6702****Asked by: Lord Burnett**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the annual budgets for (1) the Royal Navy, (2) the Royal Air Force, and (3) the Army, for each financial year from 2014–15 to 2019–20; and whether any of those budgets for the years to 2016–17 were underspent.

**Answering member: Earl Howe | Department: Ministry of Defence**

The Armed Services operate as fully integrated joint organisations in which elements from the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Marines all work closely together and share buildings, facilities, and sometimes equipment. A joined-up approach is vital to delivering the capability enhancements outlined in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review. However, the consequent integrated budgetary structure means that it is not possible to state accurately what the Spending Review settlement means for individual services in a particular financial year (FY).

As is standard practice, we do not comment on the operations of the Special Forces.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is split into six Top Level Budget areas including Navy Command, Army Command and Air Command. The following information shows the net Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) outturn (resource and capital) for the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force Top Level Budget areas in FYs 2014-15 and 2015-16.

| Net DEL outturn by Top Level Budget<br>(reviewed as forecast against budget by<br>the Defence Board during the year) | Restated 2014-<br>15* (£000) | 2015-16<br>(£000) |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Royal Navy   | 2,361,787                    | 2,506,976         |
| Army   | 6,402,314                    | 6,553,188         |
| Royal Air Force  | 2,416,171                    | 2,509,289         |

\*During the last two years a new organisation, Information Systems and Services, has been formed (by combining internal MOD branches) to deliver information capabilities to the Department. The new organisation is part of Joint Force Command and comparator year figures have been restated to reflect the reorganisation which mainly impacted Defence Equipment and Support and Joint Forces Command. Annual budgets for each Top Level Budget area are determined depending on capability requirements and priorities. Forecasts of near cash expenditure against budgets are regularly reviewed and revised by the Defence Board in-year, when considering performance and resource allocation. It is not possible to accurately state the annual performance of individual Top Level Budget areas, or what their control totals will be in future years.

### **Armed Forces: Deployment**

**20 Mar 2017 | 67786**

#### **Asked by: Gregory Campbell**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many military personnel will be released for other duties having previously been involved with EU missions after the UK leaves the EU.

#### **Answering member: Mike Penning | Department: Ministry of Defence**

The UK remains strongly committed to European security and will remain so after we leave the EU, but defining the specifics of the UK's future foreign, security, and defence policy relationship with the EU will be subject to negotiation.

### **Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups and Females**

**13 Mar 2017 | 67068**

#### **Asked by: Jim Cunningham**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of trends in the representation of (a) women and (b) people from BAME backgrounds in the armed forces in each of the last five years.

**Answering member: Mark Lancaster | Department: Ministry of Defence**

There has been some excellent work across Defence in the area of diversity and inclusion. However, progress in terms of the representative rates of our people - both military and civilian - has been too slow. Although it is improving, it is clear that there is still much more that we need to do if we are to successfully attract and retain diverse talent both now and in the future.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is working towards a target of 15% female recruitment to the Armed Forces by 2020. The Department is also working towards a target of 10% of recruits to come from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds by 2020.

These are challenging targets, however they will help make the Armed Forces more diverse and reflect the society they serve. Work to meet these targets includes better understanding and greater engagement with the communities we want to recruit from; reviewing recruitment processes and better targeting our marketing and communications.

As at 1 October 2016 recruitment of female military personnel was 11.5% of total intake and recruitment of BAME military personnel was 5.8% of total intake. Full details of the MOD's performance against the 2020 diversity intake targets, including historic trends from September 2013, can be found in our publication 'UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics' the latest edition of which (October 2016) is available at the following address: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2016>

**Armed Forces: Recruitment****02 Feb 2017 | HL4954****Asked by: Lord Touhig**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 20 January (HL4640), what are the short- and long-term plans they have in place to ensure that the offer of military service in the armed forces continues to be competitive.

**Answering member: Earl Howe | Department: Ministry of Defence**

The 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review committed Defence to develop a new Armed Forces offer (remunerative and non-remunerative) for new joiners from April 2019, which better meets the expectations of future recruits and targets resources on the people we need most. It will better reflect the realities of modern life and the UK's current financial position, whilst taking account of the unique demands that military service imposes on its people.

A range of major People Change Programmes are currently underway, which will collectively ensure we are well positioned for future strategic challenges. This is a challenging portfolio of projects with tight timelines for delivery and includes the New Employment Model (NEM), Future Reserves 2020 (FR20), the Defence Diversity and Inclusion Programme

(DDIP) and the Armed Forces People Programme (AFPP). The AFPP comprises four projects: Future Accommodation Model (FAM); Flexible Engagements System (FES); New Joiner Offer (NJO); and, Enterprise Approach (EA).

**Armed Forces: Recruitment**  
**20 Jan 2017 | HL4641**

**Asked by: Lord Touhig**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to increase recruitment to the Armed Forces to the levels set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015.

**Answering member: Earl Howe | Department: Ministry of Defence**

The Armed Forces, both Regular and Reserve, are currently recruiting through active and targeted campaigns such as 'Made in the Royal Navy' (Navy), 'A Better You' and 'With Heart. With Mind' (Army) and 'No Ordinary Job' (RAF), and seeking to increase engagement and activity in communities which have historically been under-represented in the Armed Forces. However, a national skills shortage and a strong growing economy mean that we cannot take future recruitment for granted. In response we have in place a number of short and long-term plans to ensure that the offer of military service in the Armed Forces continues to be competitive, so that we can recruit and retain in sufficient quantity to meet the strength targets set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015.

**Afghanistan: Armed Forces**  
**30 Nov 2016 | 54413**

**Asked by: Dr Andrew Murrison**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the anticipated profile is of British military units in Afghanistan over the next five years.

**Answering member: Mike Penning | Department: Ministry of Defence**

The UK continues to make a key contribution to NATO's RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION (RSM). This is a non-combat, train, advise and assist mission to build a secure and stable Afghanistan. The UK's current contribution to RSM is around 450 personnel.

At the NATO Warsaw Summit in July, the UK announced an uplift of 50 troops. These troops will be arriving in Afghanistan in early 2017. This increase will allow us to bolster our mentoring staff at the Afghan National Army Officers Academy, as well as to offer advisers to the Afghan Air Force and the Afghan Security Ministries. Decisions about the future laydown of RSM will be taken in conjunction with NATO Allies and Partners in 2017.



## 4. Other Parliamentary material

### 4.1 Debates

#### **Future Accommodation Model**

18 Apr 2017 | House of Commons | 624 cc308-333WH

#### **Armed Forces: Capability**

12 Jan 2017 | House of Lords | 777 cc2122-2161

#### **Armed Services: Claims**

24 Nov 2016 | House of Lords | 776 cc2051-2088

#### **Ministry of Defence Future Accommodation Model**

19 Oct 2016 | House of Commons | 615 cc366-375WH

#### **Reserve Forces**

17 Nov 2015 | House of Commons | 602 cc85-107WH

### 4.2 Statements

#### **Defence Equipment Plan**

**HCWS442**

**27 Jan 2017**

#### **Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Harriett Baldwin):**

I am pleased to place in the Library of the House today the fifth annual summary of the Defence Equipment Plan. The Plan shows the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s progress in delivering an affordable programme.

The National Audit Office (NAO) is publishing in parallel their independent assessment of the affordability of our equipment plan. Their report notes the size, challenges and financial complexity of the Defence equipment programme. One consequence of the progress we have made to date is the agreement between the NAO and the Department to move from the NAO providing external assurance of the Major Projects Report, to internal, but still independent validation by the MOD's Cost Assurance & Analysis Service. The NAO also points out where we must continue to improve and refine our work in the future. We will continue to work openly with the NAO to demonstrate the financial robustness and affordability of the Equipment Plan.

The Government is committed to the Defence budget increasing by 0.5% above inflation each year for the remainder of this Parliament. We are planning to spend £178 billion on equipment and support out to 2025-26, which will provide our Armed Forces with the equipment to deliver Joint Force 2025.

## Strategic Defence and Security Review - Army

HCWS367

15 Dec 2016

**Secretary of State for Defence (Sir Michael Fallon):** The Army is refining its force structure to deliver the capabilities set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) 2015 and modernise the Army's ability to fight at the divisional level. The SDSR 2015 significantly increased the readiness levels required of the Army, underpinned by investment in new capability and a war-fighting division as part of Joint Force 2025. It introduced the innovative Strike brigades, based on the new AJAX vehicle family and the development of Specialised Infantry battalions, reconfigured to provide an increased contribution to countering terrorism and building stability overseas.

I am today setting out refinements to the Army which will take place during the life of this Parliament. These have been aligned with the "Better Defence Estate" strategy announced in early November. As we previously committed, we will continue to sustain a regular Army of 82,000, a whole force of 112,000 regular and reserve troops and the Army's footprint in the devolved nations. All existing regimental cap badges will be retained. Large parts of the Army will be unaffected but it will involve some units changing their role, equipment or location.

A modernised division will be centred on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (UK) Division, organised with four brigades of two Armoured infantry and two Strike, rather than three Armoured infantry as now. A significant uplift in capability, it will hold one of each at high readiness, rather than the current single armoured infantry brigade. From this, in times of crisis, the Army will be able to deploy a credible division of three brigades. To develop and transition to this new posture, in 2017 the Army will launch a Strike Experimentation Group in Warminster. This will ensure that the first new Strike Brigade will be formed by the end of the decade.

In 2017 the Army will also create the first two new Specialised Infantry battalions to pioneer this new capability. A new Group headquarters for the units will be established, initially based in York alongside the 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Division of which the Group will be part, before moving to Aldershot by 2020. To reinforce this capability the Army plans to create two further Specialised Infantry battalions by 2019. They will conduct defence engagement and capacity building, providing training, assistance, advice and mentoring to our partners.

As part of our continued investment in the Army Reserve we will build on the success of the Future Reserves 2020 plan. We will optimise reserve structures, embed the successful pairing of regular and reserve units and increase the number of reserve combat units supporting the division. As a result two new reserve infantry battalions will be created from 2017. A new reserve Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) regiment will also be created.

A summary of the Army units most affected is described below.

## **Summary of changes proposed under Army 2020 Refine**

### **Strike Brigade**

The first Strike Brigade will operate from Catterick and Salisbury Plain and will be composed of the Household Cavalry Regiment, The King's Royal Hussars, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards and The Highlanders, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. A number of Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer (REME) units will be allocated to provide close support logistic support, beginning with 1 Regiment RLC and 1 Close Support Battalion REME.

### **Specialised Infantry Battalions**

In 2017 the Army will also create the first two new Specialised Infantry battalions to pioneer this new capability. These units will be The Royal Scots Borderers, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland and 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Rifles, the former relocating to Aldershot from Belfast by 2019. A new Group headquarters for the units will be established, initially based in York alongside the 1<sup>st</sup>(UK) Division of which the Group will be part, before moving to Aldershot by 2020. To reinforce this capability the Army plans to create two further Specialised Infantry battalions by 2019. These units will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment both joining the group in Aldershot by 2020.

### **Renaming of administrative structures**

The introduction of the Specialised Infantry capability will mean some reorganisation of the infantry divisional structure, within which infantry regiments are administered, from seven to six divisions.

The Scottish and The Prince of Wales's Administrative Divisions of Infantry will merge, incorporating The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Royal Welsh Regiment and The Royal Irish Regiment. This administrative division will be called The Scottish, Welsh and Irish Division. The Mercian Regiment from the Prince of Wales's Division will join with the King's Division. Army administrative divisions of infantry are the groupings within which the Army manages its infantry soldiers and officers to give them the necessary broad spread of relevant career experience from across a number of different units and activities. They have no operational role. There will be no changes to the names or regimental construct of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Mercian Regiment, The Royal Welsh Regiment, or The Royal Irish Regiment as a result of these administrative changes.

### **Support**

The changes announced will require adjustments in some supporting and enabling elements of the Army. HQ 102 Logistic Brigade, 32<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Royal Artillery, 35 Engineer Regiment, Headquarters 64 Works Group Royal Engineers, 2 Medical Regiment, Headquarters 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Royal Military Police, 33 Field Hospital and 104, 105 and 106 Battalions of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers reserve

will be rationalised, with all manpower in those units being redeployed to other areas of the Army in its refined structure.

### **Army Reserves**

As part of our continued investment in the Army Reserve we will build on the success of the Future Reserves 2020 plan. We will optimise reserve structures to better support the modernised division, embed the successful pairing of regular and reserve units and increase the number of reserve combat units supporting the division. As a result, two new reserve infantry battalions will be created from 2017. These are 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Rifles. A new reserve Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) regiment will also be created.

### **Future Reserves 2020 - Update**

**HCWS248**

**08 Nov 2016**

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Sir Michael Fallon):** On 29 June 2016 I informed Parliament (HCWS49) that, following the strategic and defence security review 2015, which set out the need to strengthen the Armed Forces' contribution to UK resilience, the Army would in future plan to use Regular and Reserve Phase 1 trained personnel in response to crises within the UK. This will increase the productivity, utility and size of force available in the event of a national emergency. To reflect this, the term 'Trained Strength' will now include all personnel trained to undertake the core functions of the Army.

The public consultation on the presentation of revised Trained Strength figures for the Army Reserve has now been completed and we will commence publication of the new statistics from 1 October. I have agreed the following revised growth profile for the Army Reserve with the Chief of the General Staff; unchanged growth targets for the Maritime Reserve and Royal Auxiliary Air Force are included for completeness:

| Trained Strength          | 31 Mar 17 | 31 Mar 18 | 31 Mar 19 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Maritime Reserve          | 2,320     | 2,790     | 3,100     |
| Army Reserve              | 26,700    | 28,600    | 30,100    |
| Royal Auxiliary Air Force | 1,860     | 1,860     | 1,860     |
| Total                     | 30,880    | 33,250    | 35,060    |

These targets now replace all those announced on 19 December 2013 (Official Report, column 124WS).

## Defence Estate Rationalisation

HCWS133

06 Sep 2016

### Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence

**(Mark Lancaster):** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is nearing the completion of an ambitious Estate Optimisation Strategy programme which will provide a plan for a smaller, but significantly better Defence Estate to meet the needs of the Armed Forces. The MOD expects to announce the finalised Estate Optimisation Strategy later this year and can today confirm the expected release of 13 sites, shown below. These will contribute some £225 million toward the MOD's £1 billion target for land release sales as set out in Spending Review 2015.

These sites also contribute to the Government commitment to provide land for 160,000 homes in this Parliament. The intent to dispose of these 13 sites will provide land for up to 17,017 homes (of which some 12,565 are expected to materialise in this Parliament). In addition to the sites announced in January and March of this year, this represents the expected provision of land for up to 14,700 homes this Parliament against the MOD target of 55,000. The remainder of the target will be met through other rationalisation activity including the Reserves estate, the Training estate and MOD accommodation.

The Estate Optimisation Strategy aims to better support military capability and force generation; allow the formation of clusters of sites which facilitate the collocation of similar functions and thereby reduce running costs through shared resources; as well as dispose of under-utilised sites for which there is no longer a long-term Defence requirement.

Over the coming weeks further work carried out in consultation with all stakeholders including the Trade Unions will determine the future re-provision of each site. The release of land by the MOD has the potential to provide land for new homes and we will continue to engage with impacted Local Authorities to determine how the Department's assessment of housing unit allocation against each site may be considered as part of the authority's Local Plan. I acknowledge that these moves will have an impact upon civilian and military staff; the Department is making arrangements to provide for units and functions based at sites which will not have a future Defence requirement. I will make a further announcement setting out the Estate Optimisation Strategy with details on the sequencing and timing of these moves later this year.

- RAF Henlow (Bedfordshire)
- Middlewick Ranges (Essex)
- Ampport House (Andover)
- Land at Harley Hill (Catterick)
- Chalgrove Airfield (Oxford) Transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency
- Colerne Airfield (Chippenham)
- Azimghur Barracks (Chippenham)
- Prince William of Gloucester Barracks (Grantham)
- Old Dalby (Melton Mowbray)

- Venning Barracks (Telford)
- Parsons Barracks (Donnington)
- Southwick Park (Fareham)
- Royal Marines Stonehouse (Plymouth)

## **Strategic Defence and Security Review - UK Resilience**

**HCWS49**

**29 Jun 2016**

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Michael Fallon):** The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) 2015 set out the need to strengthen the Armed Forces' contribution to UK resilience. To maximise the size of the force available to deliver this task, the Chief of the General Staff has today announced that the Army will in future plan to use Regular and Reserve Phase 1 trained personnel in response to crises within the UK.

This change will increase the utility and the size of force available in the event of a national emergency. It will result in Army personnel contributing more, and earlier in their careers, and therefore feeling more motivated and more valued. For the Regular Army, this will mean the potential deployment of sub-units from training establishments led by their instructors; for Reserves it will mean that they are able to participate in training and UK deployments with their units at an earlier stage than previously. To prepare for this, all Regular and Reserve Army personnel will now complete the Military Annual Training Tests, which qualify them to assist in UK resilience tasks, during Phase 1 training.

Planning routinely to use Army Phase 1 trained personnel to provide additional support to UK resilience tasks such as flood response, or to backfill for others deployed on such tasks including responding to terrorist attacks, will increase the pool of trained and disciplined manpower available by around 3,000-5,000 Regulars and 1,800 Reserves.

To reflect this, the term 'Trained Strength' will now include all Armed Forces personnel trained in the core function of their Service. The Army will recognise the size of its additional available force by including personnel who have completed Phase 1 training within the Trained Strength. This, however, will not change the manifesto commitment, confirmed in the SDSR, to a Regular Army of 82,000. This will result in the addition of around 1,800 Reservists to the overall trained Army Reserve: we will now also increase the target for trained Army Reserves to 32,000 by 2025.

This change does not affect the progress made in developing Reserves Phase 2 training. Each of the Phase 2 training establishments will continue to deliver Reserve focused Phase 2 (and Phase 3) training.

Trained Strength numbers for the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force remain unaffected, reflecting the requirement for their personnel to complete Phase 2 to be able to fulfil the core function of their respective Services. This would not preclude Royal Navy or Royal Air Force Phase 1 trained

personnel contributing in the support of a UK resilience task in extreme circumstances.

A public consultation will be launched in due course on the inclusion of the revised Trained Strength figures within the Monthly Service Personnel Statistics publication. The revised Future Reserves 2020 strength growth profiles for the Army Reserve will be published following this consultation.

## **Defence Estate Rationalisation**

**HCWS659**

**24 Mar 2016**

### **Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence**

**(Mark Lancaster):** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently developing an ambitious programme of estate rationalisation which will provide a plan for a smaller, but significantly better Defence estate to meet the needs of the Armed Forces as set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015. This strategic review of the Defence estate will provide a more efficient and better infrastructure laydown in support of military capability for future generations. The MOD expects to announce the final results of this review in the autumn of 2016 but can today confirm the expected release of 10 sites, shown in the table below. The release of these sites supports the generation of £1 billion through land sales and, in part, supports the contribution of up to 55,000 homes to support wider Government targets within this Parliament.

These sites also contribute to the Government commitment to provide land for 160,000 homes to be built in this Parliament. The intent to dispose of these 10 sites is estimated to provide some £140 million in land sales receipts and land to provide up to 7,000 homes (of which 6,000 is expected in this Parliament), in addition to the land for up to 15,000 homes announced on 18 January 2016.

The Department seeks to provide a future basing structure for the Defence estate across the UK. It aims to better support military capability and force generation; allow the formation of clusters of sites which facilitate the collocation of similar functions and thereby reduce running costs through shared resources; as well as dispose of under-utilised sites for which there is no longer a long-term Defence requirement.

I acknowledge that these moves will have an impact upon civilian and military staff. Over the coming months further work, carried out in consultation with all stakeholders including staff associations and the Families Federations, will determine the future provision for the occupants of these sites. Details on the sequencing and timing of these moves will be established this autumn. The MOD will continue to engage with impacted Local Authorities to determine how the Department's assessment of housing unit allocation against each site

may be considered as part of the authority's Local Plan. I will make a further announcement later this year.

### List of Defence sites for potential disposal

| SITE  | CONSTITUENCY & MP   | PROPOSED RELEASE DATE   | HOUSING UNIT POTENTIAL (Up to) |
|---|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Burgoyne Barracks (Part of Shorncliffe Barracks, Folkestone)        | Damian Collins (Conservative) Folkestone and Hythe  | By 2020                 | 265                            |
| Clive Barracks (Tern Hill, Shropshire)                              | Owen Patterson (Conservative) North Shropshire  | By 2020                 | 600                            |
| Fitz Wygram House - Royal Army Vet Corps (Aldershot)                | Sir Gerald Howarth (Conservative) Aldershot   | By 2020                 | 15                             |
| Army Officer Selection Board Westbury (Wiltshire)                   | Dr Andrew Murrison (Conservative) South West Wiltshire  | By 2020                 | 98                             |
| Defence Training Estate Land near Cove, East of Fleet (Farnborough) | Spanning the constituencies of both Ranil Jayawardena (Conservative) North East Hampshire and Sir Gerald Howarth (Conservative) Aldershot | By 2020                 | 20                             |
| Rylston Road Army Reserves Centre (London)                          | Greg Hands (Conservative) Chelsea and Fulham  | By 2020                 | 0                              |
| MOD Wethersfield (Essex)  | James Cleverly (Conservative) Braintree   | Transfer to HCA by 2020 | 4,850                          |
| Chetwynd Barracks (Chilwell, Nottinghamshire)                       | Anna Soubry (Conservative) Broxtowe   | Not before 2020         | 800                            |
| Thornhill Barracks (Part of Clayton Barracks, Aldershot)            | Sir Gerald Howarth (Conservative) Aldershot   | Not before 2021         | 70                             |
| MOD Cheadle Hulme (Greater Manchester)                              | George Osborne (Conservative) Tatton  | Not before 2022         | 165                            |



## 5. Press releases

### **Flexible working for Armed Forces**

**Ministry of Defence**

**21 June 2017**

New arrangements to attract and retain the best men and women for our Armed Forces by adapting service life to meet their modern needs and aspirations have today been announced in the Queen's Speech.

The changes will deliver a career which is as flexible as possible by allowing service personnel to work part time for short periods, as long as the operational effectiveness of the military is maintained.

The measures, which are due to come into effect in 2019, are part of the Armed Forces (Flexible Working) Bill. They will also limit the amount of time that personnel will need to spend away from their home-base and their families.

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

To compete for the best people in society our Armed Forces must offer a career that better reflects the realities of modern life. Allowing greater flexibility over how long and where people work will help attract and keep the talent we need to keep Britain safe.

The Bill will amend parts of the Armed Forces Act 2006, and the new arrangements were developed after a consultation with the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. Personnel said they wanted more choice over the way they serve for when their circumstances change; such as starting a family, or undertaking caring commitments.

Applications for part time working will be assessed against the needs of the individual and the need of the Armed Forces to maintain operational effectiveness. Personnel would still be required to deploy on operations, at any time, should the need arise.

This will lead to more balanced lifestyles with opportunities for Service personnel to serve in a way that better suits their personal aspirations and family circumstances. Reserve personnel will benefit from these changes, as we continue to seek to increase opportunities for them to serve in a greater range of roles alongside Regular personnel.

These reforms are part of the modern offer to personnel and the government's commitment to strengthen the Armed Forces Covenant, which was enshrined in law in 2011 to ensure Service personnel are not disadvantaged through their work.

The government also reaffirmed its NATO commitment to spend at least 2% of GDP on defence in the Queen's speech.

## **Good progress on delivering Armed Forces Covenant commitments**

**Ministry of Defence**

**15 December 2016**

The fifth annual Armed Forces Covenant report has been presented to parliament today, showing good progress in providing support for the Armed Forces community.

The Covenant is a promise from the nation ensuring that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly. Today's annual report details the actions taken to deliver covenant commitments in 2016, with over 1300 businesses now signed up to the Covenant.

Amongst the Armed Forces Covenant 2016 achievements:

- A new e-learning programme is helping GPs understand the needs of the Armed Forces community
- NHS England has launched a Veterans Trauma Network
- £22m of Service Pupil Premium payments made to support the pastoral needs of over 73,000 Service pupils in state schools
- 9,000 Forces Personnel have now benefitted from Forces Help to Buy – which has been extended to 2018
- 86% of UK motor insurers are supporting overseas postings by committing to waive cancellation fees
- 4 of the UK's biggest mobile phone providers have committed to suspend contracts for overseas postings
- A new covenant website is helping the Armed Forces community find out what they can expect from local services and businesses
- Over 150 Covenant Champions in the services are raising awareness of the covenant within their units

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said:

Our Armed Forces continue to be engaged in numerous operations worldwide, and the world remains a dangerous and increasingly unpredictable place. We have a duty across society, to recognise this dedication and sacrifice, by ensuring that the policies we make, and the services that we provide, treat our Service personnel, Veterans, and their families fairly, and ensure they suffer no disadvantage by comparison to the rest of society.

Our vision is to ensure that there is a network of practical support, embedded right across central and local Government, businesses, charities, and society as a whole, to meet the unique needs of the Armed Forces community. I have again arranged for a summary version of this report, which will capture its key aspects, to be sent to every serving member of the Armed Forces.

We will continue to strive for fair treatment, and we pledge to ensure that through the Armed Forces Covenant, we continue to do our utmost for our people.

**Publication of Annual Report 2016 on the National Security Strategy & Strategic Defence & Security Review 2015**  
**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**  
**15 December 2016**

Acting UK Ambassador to NATO, Paul Johnston, announces how the UK's commitments to NATO in last year's SDSR are being realised.

On 7 December, the UK Government published its first Annual Report to Parliament on the 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence & Security Review (SDSR).

The 2015 SDSR set out our vision of a secure and prosperous United Kingdom, with global reach and influence. It established three overarching National Security Objectives: 'protect our people'; 'project our global influence' and 'promote our prosperity'.

Nothing that has happened since has changed those fundamental objectives, nor the importance of our NATO membership to securing them: if anything, the latter has increased.

The Annual Report sets out progress on achieving our objectives, many of which are central to our Alliance commitments. For example, the Government:

- is investing in the renewal of the UK's independent nuclear deterrent;
- has launched a new National Cyber Security Centre; and
- has expanded the UK's diplomatic and defence engagement networks.

We have created a joint FCO/MOD department to shape our policy on NATO and European security, mirroring the joint FCO/MOD delegation we have in NATO.

Since the SDSR was published in November 2015, the Government has also renewed its commitment to spend 2% of GDP on defence (one of only 4 European Allies to meet this NATO target), with a real terms increase of 0.5% a year in the defence budget until 2020-21, and 0.7% of GNI spent on overseas development, also crucial to long-term national security.

We are the only NATO Ally to do 2% and 0.7%. We are also one of the few Allies to be spending more than 20% of our budget on equipment, the other NATO target, including new aircraft carriers, maritime patrol aircraft and fighter jets.

We have also:

- agreed to deploy a battalion to Estonia and an infantry company to Poland, strengthening NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence;
- increased our military presence in Iraq helping to train Iraqi forces, which NATO will also be contributing to from next month;
- renewed our participation in joint naval operations to tackle illegal migration in the Mediterranean;
- decided to deploy UK fighter aircraft to contributing to the NATO Southern Air Policing task in Romania;

- helped remove 500 tonnes of chemical weapons precursors from Libya;
- reiterated its commitment to double the number of UK troops on UN peace-keeping missions;

As the Annual Report describes, there have been changes to the international environment since 2015, including the UK's decision to leave the European Union.

But the main threats to our security remain: state-based threats; terrorism and extremism; cyber attacks from state and non-state actors; and renewed challenges to the rules-based international order. And therefore the central role which the SDSR gave to our Alliance membership and the contributions we make to NATO remain also.

### **Better Combat Compensation for Armed Forces**

#### **Ministry of Defence**

**1 December 2016**

The Ministry of Defence has today launched a consultation on proposals to deliver better compensation in future combat situations. Under the new enhanced scheme, individuals or their families will be awarded better compensation for injury or death in combat, without having to bring lengthy and costly legal cases.

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

Our Armed Forces put their lives on the line to keep us safe. This new scheme will mean more generous payments to anyone injured - or the families of those who are killed - in combat. By making these changes we will put more money into compensation and remove the stress of lengthy legal action.

The current no-fault Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) provides payments to individuals who suffer injuries or illness as a result of their service, or to their families in the case of those who died. Where personnel or families believe the MOD has been negligent, they may choose to go through the courts to seek additional compensation.

When death or injury is as a result of combat, the long-held common law principle of 'combat immunity' means those affected are not able to get court-awarded compensation for negligence. That can force them into difficult, long and expensive litigation to persuade the courts that this principle should not apply, arguing that the negligence arose at a point before combat, e.g. in training or decisions about equipment.

The new scheme, proposed by the MOD, means that those injured or killed in combat situations will get payments equal to the often larger amounts paid out in court cases, without having to go through that costly and stressful litigation.

As part of these reforms, the MOD will clarify in primary legislation that the common law principle of combat immunity should apply to deaths or injuries which occur in the course of combat situations. This move comes after military advisers warned that the “judicialisation of war” - the increasing involvement of the courts in decisions about military planning and equipment - could undermine the operational effectiveness of the Armed Forces.

Chief of the Defence Staff, Sir Stuart Peach said:

Clarifying combat immunity and offering better compensation will remove the need for legal action and the courts will no longer have to second guess military decisions. This will allow our Armed Forces to do their job knowing they, or their families, won't have to go to court for compensation in the case of injury or death in combat.

I strongly encourage personnel to contribute to the consultation in order to have their views considered in the development of the scheme.

The consultation will seek views on things like the definition of combat and how the new scheme should operate. The MOD will consider the outcomes of the consultation closely, and it is hoped that scheme will be implemented as quickly as possible. [The consultation is now open.](#)

### **£4 Billion to support Britain's modern forces and their families** **Ministry of Defence** **7 November 2016**

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon has today announced that over £4 billion will be invested to create a better defence estate for the UK's Armed Forces and their families.

The [‘Better Defence Estate’ strategy](#) is a review of Ministry of Defence (MOD) land headed up by military leaders to deliver a more efficient, modern and capability-focused defence estate. In the most significant changes to defence land since the Second World War, 91 sites owned or managed by the MOD are set to be sold. Every penny raised from the sales will be reinvested back into defence, creating areas of military expertise in specific locations around the country.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said:

We have been spending billions maintaining a defence estate that doesn't meet the needs of our Armed Forces. This plan delivers an estate fit for our forces and their families. By putting money where it is needed, we will provide better facilities to train our Armed Forces and deliver more stability for military families.

As well as saving the taxpayer money – around £140 million by the end of the decade - the changes will reduce the number of personnel being regularly moved between different bases, providing greater long-term stability and certainty for our Armed Forces and their families. The plan will see sites and bases moved to locations that offer better opportunities for military families - increasing employment prospects for partners and spouses, helping them to settle into communities, buy their own homes and have their children benefit from more stable schooling.

Today's announcement follows a pledge by Mr Fallon last week to invest over £1.1 billion in facilities on Salisbury Plain to support troops returning from Germany, meaning, in total, more than £5 billion has been earmarked to defence infrastructure in the last two weeks.

More than 32,500 acres of excess defence land is being released, including ten surplus airfields and five golf courses, which will support the MOD in achieving its target to provide enough land for 55,000 homes, helping the Government contribute to its target of 160,000 new homes by 2020. There will also be significant economic benefits, providing employment opportunities for construction and the service industries across the UK.

The Defence Secretary also confirmed today the intended future locations for a number of the 35 sites the MOD has already announced are due for release.

#### Key facts

- The Better Defence Estates strategy will reduce the size of the built estate by 30 per cent by 2040 and will meet our SDSR commitment.
- Our plans will derive savings of over £140M of running costs over the next 10 years, rising to nearly £3Bn in total to 2040, to be recycled into Defence. This is in addition to the £4bn which will be spent over the next 10 years.
- £4 billion comes from: £1bn from defence estate disposal this decade, £1bn of estate enhancement funds from the spending review and £2bn under the 'Public finance 2' scheme.
- As at 1 April 2016, the MOD currently controls around 2% of UK land, owning more than 568,000 acres of land and foreshore in the UK (either freehold or leasehold) and holding the rights over a further 548,573 acres.
- The estate includes approximately 50,000 houses, 60,000 technical assets such as hangars or workshops and 20,000 other key assets such as runways and electrical networks.
- The cost of maintaining this estate is significant, approximately £2.5bn per annum and spread across too many inefficient assets and sites.
- Approximately 40 per cent of our built assets are over 50 years old and do not meet the needs of a modern fighting force.
- The size of the built estate has reduced by 9 per cent since 1999/00 compared to a total personnel reduction of 36 per cent.

**Development underway for troops returning from Germany**  
**Ministry of Defence**  
**25 February 2016**

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has started work on brand new single living accommodation at Duke of Gloucester Barracks in South Cerney for the arrival of 2 army squadrons returning from Germany.

The £8 million project will provide 90 new bedrooms at the barracks for Junior Ranks and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers.

The works are being carried out by Lendlease on behalf of the DIO and are due to complete in July this year.

The base will become home to 99 Postal Courier and Movement Control Squadron this summer and to 69 Postal Courier and Movement Control Squadron in 2019. The squadrons are currently based at Gutersloh and Bielefeld in Germany respectively. Following these moves about 118 additional personnel will be based at South Cerney by 2019.

Further development works will follow which include a new build gym, the refurbishment of existing sports facilities and the reconfiguration or refurbishment of offices and storage space.

Defence Infrastructure Organisation Army Basing Programme Director, Mark Duddy, said:

These developments will provide our service personnel with modern fit for purpose accommodation and facilities and are one example of how we're investing in infrastructure across the UK. I hope the squadrons enjoy their new home.

The moves and infrastructure investment are part of the Army Basing Programme which is providing the facilities the British Army needs to live, work and train in the UK as it returns from Germany, rebases across the UK and restructures to its future Army 2020 formations.

Commanding Officer, 29 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps, Lt Col James Rhodes, said:

The construction of new accommodation at Duke Of Gloucester Barracks is hugely exciting and lays the foundations for welcoming my Germany based Squadrons back to the UK. This and the future construction of new sports facilities and revitalisation of existing infrastructure will dramatically improve the Barracks.

These works, combined with bringing together all of defence's deployable Postal and Courier and Movement Control Squadrons will significantly improve the quality of life for my soldiers and enable 29 Regiment Royal

Logistic Corps to thrive as a unit and to play a greater role in the local community.

Army units already based at Duke of Gloucester Barracks include 29 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps and Headquarters 104 Logistic Support Brigade.

### **Lord Levene praises Defence pace of reform**

**Ministry of Defence**

**8 January 2016**

Lord Levene of Portsoken has delivered his fourth annual progress report on Defence reform and has commended the Ministry of Defence for the 'timely and successful execution' of its reform programme. In his latest assessment Lord Levene credited the department and senior leadership for driving forward a very substantial change programme.

Lord Levene has acknowledged that the great majority of the reform programme set out in the original Levene 2011 report has been implemented. Now Lord Levene has set out five more recommendations. They include reductions in the size of the Defence Estate and the department's top structure as well as simplification of the planning and resource allocation process.

In his report, Lord Levene said:

The way the MOD has reformed itself over the last few years shows that a leopard really can change its spots: it has been an impressive achievement. This report sets out my five new recommendations to inform the next phase of reform. I have every confidence the MOD will rise to the challenge of implementing them as it has done before.

Michael Fallon MP, the Secretary of State for Defence, said:

This review recognises the scale of the reform that has taken place, with Defence much better managed than five years ago. That doesn't mean there isn't more to do. There is a formidable change agenda still to come, which we are in a good position to deliver, precisely because of the strengthened management we have implemented since 2011.



## 6. Further reading

### Government publications

#### **National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015**

HM Government  
Cm 9161  
23 November 2015

### Library Briefing Papers

#### **UK Defence Personnel Statistics**

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-7930  
29 June 2017

#### **The Armed Forces (Flexible Working) Bill**

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8018  
23 June 2017

#### **Armed Forces Housing**

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-7985  
15 June 2017

#### **Defence Estate Strategy**

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-7862  
12 January 2017

#### **Future Capability of the UK's Armed Forces**

Lords Library Note LLN-2016-0071  
21 December 2016

#### **The 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review**

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-7462  
12 January 2016

#### **Armed Forces Covenant and the 2015 Annual Report**

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-7441  
4 January 2016

### Committee inquiries

#### **SDSR 2015 and the Army inquiry**

Defence Committee

The SDSR 2015 set out the Government's strategy for the Army for the next 10 years and built on announcements made in SDSR 2010 and the Army 2020 plan of 2012.

This page has the committee's final report, as well as transcripts of evidence sessions.

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