

# Fact Sheet 4: The National Security Tasks

The Strategic Defence and Security Review identifies, for the first time, a cross cutting set of eight National Security Tasks which we will carry out to deliver defence, deterrence and wider security. These are:

## To identify and monitor risks



**Why?** The UK needs maximum warning of threats to tackle, and opportunities to exploit, so that effort is directed where it is needed most.

**Who?** Information is gathered in many ways, including covertly by the intelligence agencies and police. The Joint Intelligence Committee leads on this analysis.

**How?** The UK needs to ensure that its long-established tools for gathering and assessing information keep up with advances in technology.

**Where?** The UK needs to be able to operate in cyberspace and in priority geographical areas worldwide, as well as looking at the domestic picture.

## To tackle causes of instability



**Why?** It is better to deal with problems before they become direct threats to the UK. Preventing conflict is more efficient than fighting wars.

**Who?** We will take an integrated approach to building stability overseas, bringing together our diplomatic, development and defence resources.

**How?** New Stabilisation Response Teams drawing on civilian and military expertise will deploy to assess and help stabilise emergent crises and build overseas.

**Where?** The UK could double the Official Development Assistance going to fragile and conflict-affected states – some of the poorest countries in the world.

## To exert influence



**Why?** Elevated bilateral relationships will help us to achieve mutually beneficial economic, political, societal, security and defence links.

**Who?** The FCO-led overseas network will coordinate UK efforts.

**How?** The FCO will lead the production of integrated strategies for countries and regions. Ambassadors and High Commissioners will be responsible for implementation.

**Where?** EU and NATO allies, and other strategically important partners such as India, Pakistan, Japan, The United Arab Emirates and other Gulf States.

## To enforce the law and strengthen international norms



**Why?** A strong, rules based system underpins cooperation between states and multilateral organisations and supports UK objectives (e.g. countering proliferation); law enforcement in the UK brings criminals and terrorists to justice.

**Who?** The FCO coordinating overseas and the law enforcement authorities operating in the UK.

**How?** The FCO will lead efforts in multilateral organisations and bilaterally and law enforcement authorities using relevant powers in the UK.

**Where?** Overseas, including through the UN and EU, and at home across the UK.

## To protect the UK



**Why?** To protect the UK public and our nationals overseas from imminent or potentially imminent state or non-state threats.

**Who?** A cross-Government effort including security and intelligence services, the police, border protection, the military, and cyber-expertise.

**How?** By retaining a strategic deterrent, keeping the capabilities to disrupt threats to the UK and our overseas territories, ensuring that our borders are secure and investing in new technologies such as cyber security.

**Where?** Predominantly in the UK and at our borders, but also internationally where the threat overseas is linked to the threat at home.

## To resolve conflicts, intervening when necessary



**Why?** To contribute to the resolution of conflicts before they become threats to the UK, or to protect our overseas nationals and territories.

**Who?** The armed forces will lead efforts in intervening, stabilising and, as necessary, evacuating British nationals. The civilian response will be scaled to support concurrency and scale of the military operation.

**How?** Through military planning and action, including the legal use of force where necessary, in coordination with other national security tools.

**Where?** Wherever there is a conflict that is a threat to our nationals overseas or that might escalate into a threat to the UK.

## To provide domestic resilience



**Why?** Despite our best efforts, it isn't always possible to prevent emergencies in the UK. We have to be prepared to recover from shocks.

**Who?** An integrated crisis response capability using the COBR crisis response mechanism and bringing together the police, the military, transport authorities, industry, local authorities, and others as appropriate.

**How?** The Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat leadership of an "all risks" approach, ensuring that all parties are prepared and coordinated.

**Where?** Efforts will ensure that the preparation is in place to respond to a crisis wherever it occurs within the UK.

## To work in alliances and partnerships



**Why?** If we work together with our allies and partners to achieve the mutual goal of improving security and stability where it matters most we can achieve more with fewer resources.

**Who?** Through NATO, as the basis for transatlantic defence and through the EU and UN. But we will also explore a range of formal bilateral agreements, including on sharing of military capabilities.

**How?** Through better coordinated, foreign policy-led activity overseas.

**Where?** We will increase cooperation with traditional EU/NATO partners and build new partnerships with key regional powers.