

Fact Sheet 5: Future Force 2020 – Summary of size, shape and structure

A new set of Defence Planning Assumptions

The new Defence Planning Assumptions envisage that the Armed Forces in the future will be sized and shaped to conduct:

- an enduring stabilisation operation at around brigade level (up to 6,500 personnel) with maritime and air support as required, while also conducting:
- one non-enduring complex intervention (up to 2,000 personnel), and
- one non-enduring simple intervention (up to 1,000 personnel);

OR alternatively:

- three non-enduring operations if we were not already engaged in an enduring operation;

OR:

- for a limited time, and with sufficient warning, committing all our effort to a one-off intervention of up to three brigades, with maritime and air support (around 30,000, two-thirds of the force deployed to Iraq in 2003).



Type 45 Destroyers



Soldiers on Patrol



Typhoon Aircraft

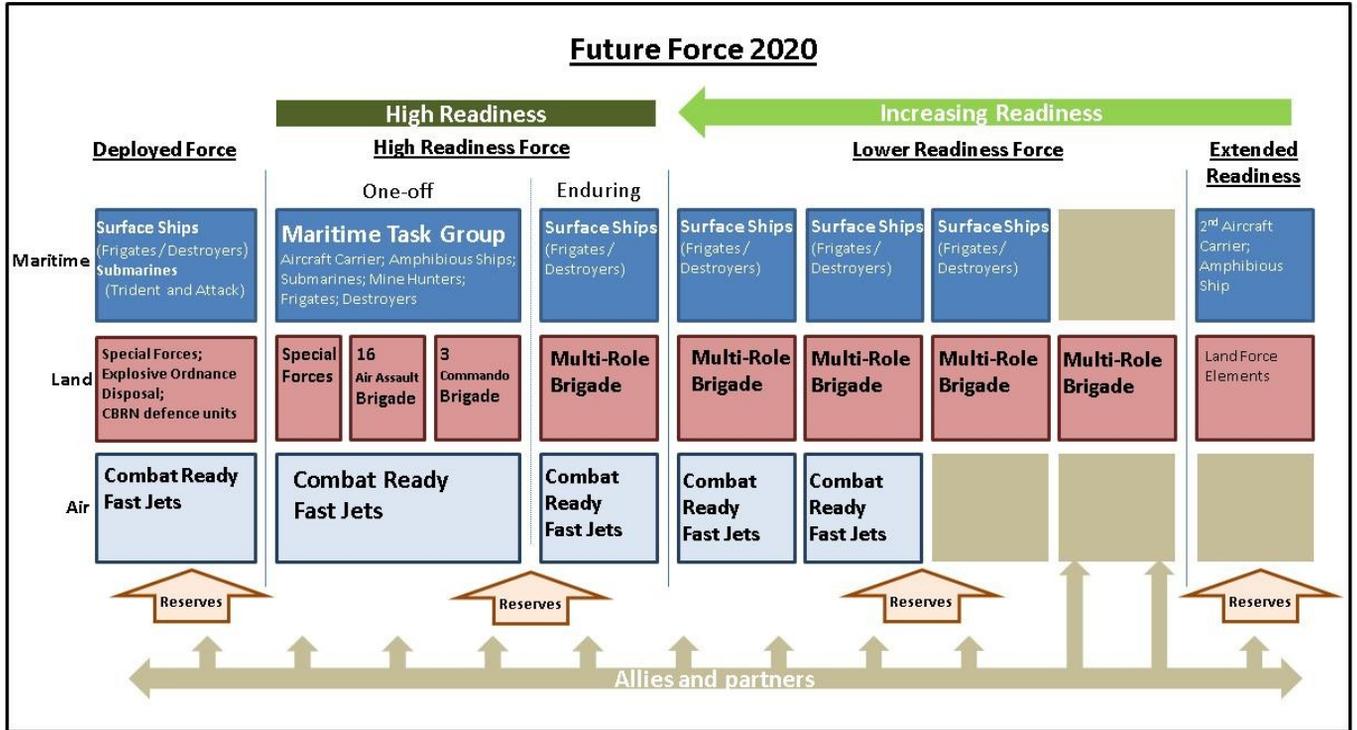
The Forces available to deliver this include:

- **Royal Navy:** the deterrent; a new carrier strike capability, routinely operating a mix of aircraft including 12 Joint Strike Fighter fast jets; three Commando specialist high readiness brigade and amphibious shipping which can land and sustain up to 1,800 marines from the sea; 19 frigates and destroyers, and maritime helicopters that can operate from them; seven hunter-killer submarines; 14 mine countermeasure vessels; ISTAR and logistic support vessels.
- **Army:** one specialist high readiness brigade; five multi-role brigades (one at high readiness) for intervention and stabilisation operations; a new range of medium weight armoured vehicles including the Scout reconnaissance vehicle and in due course the Future Rapid Effects System Utility Vehicle; Precision Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System; Army helicopters including Apache and Wildcat. A range of ISTAR capabilities including Watchkeeper unmanned aerial vehicles; and a range of capabilities to counter explosive ordinance and Improvised Explosive Devices.
- **Royal Air Force:** a fast jet fleet of the most capable combat aircraft based around Typhoon and Joint Strike Fighters, armed with a range of sophisticated air launched weapons including the Storm Shadow cruise missile; a modernised transport and tanker fleet based on C-17, A400M and A330; support helicopters including Chinook, Merlin and Puma; a range of manned and unmanned aircraft for ISTAR tasks; and RAF Regiment Force Protection squadrons at high readiness to protect deployed aircraft and personnel in hostile areas.
- **Service Manpower:** by 2015, the Royal Navy will have c.30,000 personnel, the Army will have c.95,000 personnel and the Royal Air Force will have c.33,000 personnel.

We will structure our Forces in three broad elements

I. The Deployed Force

The Deployed Force consists of those forces engaged on operations. Today, this includes the forces deployed in Afghanistan from the High Readiness Force. It also includes those forces which conduct permanent operations essential to our security. These include, for example, the aircraft providing UK air defence, our maritime presence in the South Atlantic and the nuclear deterrent.



2. The High Readiness Force

The High Readiness Force allows us to react rapidly to crises. This could include the UK's contribution to a multinational operation. But the forces are held principally to allow us to respond to scenarios in which we act alone to protect our national security interests, for example to conduct hostage rescue or counter-terrorism operations. The force includes a balanced range of highly capable land, air and maritime capabilities able to meet our Defence Planning Assumptions.

3. The Lower Readiness Force

The Lower Readiness Force includes those forces recently returned from operations which are focused on recovery and those preparing to enter a period of high readiness. These forces support enduring operations and can provide additional flexibility, including where we have discretion over the scale or duration of our contribution to multinational operations.