

# UK's Integrated Review & Defence Command Paper

On 16 March 2021, the UK released its long-awaited Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy. This was later followed by the release of the UK's Defence Command Paper on 22 March 2021. A summary of rapid analysis from Janes follows – you can access these articles in full via your Janes subscription.

## **UK Defence Command Paper: UK sheds light on industrial strategy objectives**

The UK has cast more light on its future approach to defence and security procurement, industrial co-operation, exports and the defence of supply chains in the Defence Command Paper (Defence in a Competitive Age) of 22 March.

The Ministry of Defence policy document outlined specific measures – ranging from programme decisions to force structures – following the publication of the UK government's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy on 16 March.

[https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/FG\\_3924886-JDW](https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/FG_3924886-JDW)

## **UK Defence Command Paper: British Army to be cut to 72,500 by 2025**

UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace confirmed on 22 March that the British Army will be reduced to 72,500 soldiers by 2025 from its current trained strength of 76,000 personnel as part of London's 16 March Integrated Review of Security, Defence,

Development, and Foreign Policy. In his command paper titled Defence in a competitive age, Wallace reveals a major overhaul in the organisation of the British Army and reduces its headline strength from 82,000, although recruitment problems mean it has not met this target for several years. Reductions include disbandment of one infantry battalion, along with closing down an unspecified number of logistic, medical, and equipment repair units. Four specialist infantry battalions are to be retooled to form the core of a new Ranger regiment.

[https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/FG\\_3924741-JDW](https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/FG_3924741-JDW)

## **UK Defence Command Paper: Combat aviation hit hard by review**

The Defence Command Paper to map out how the UK allocates its resources so as to conduct its security, defence, development, and foreign policy commitments over the coming years has seen combat aviation hit especially hard.

Published on 22 March, the paper that provides the 'how and with what' of the Integrated Review that was released the previous week included cuts across a number of platforms and capabilities as the Ministry of Defence (MoD) looks to reconcile shifting strategic priorities with new technologies and the ever present need to balance its books.

[https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/FG\\_3924740-JDW](https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/FG_3924740-JDW)

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## **UK Defence Command Paper: RAF to axe older Typhoons**

The UK Royal Air Force (RAF) is to axe its fleet of Tranche 1 Eurofighter Typhoon combat aircraft, just six years after extending their out-of-service date to 2040 in line with the rest of the fleet.

The Defence Command Paper published on 22 March said that the Tranche 1 jets that were earmarked for retirement by 2019, but of which a number were retained in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) out to 2040, will instead now be retired from 2025.

[https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/F G\\_3924719-JDW](https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/F G_3924719-JDW)

## **UK Defence Command Paper: RAF to cut Wedgetail buy**

The Royal Air Force's (RAF's) planned procurement of five Boeing E-7A Wedgetail airborne early warning and control (AEW&C) is to be cut, the UK Defence Command Paper disclosed on 22 March.

According to the paper, the five 737-based AEW&C platforms that were announced in March 2019 as replacements for the Boeing E-3D Sentry AEW1s that have been in service since 1991 has now been shaved back to just three. This announcement was coupled with the early retirement of the Sentry later in 2021.

[https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/F G\\_3924716-JDW](https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/F G_3924716-JDW)

## **UK Defence Command Paper: New headmark set for Royal Navy**

The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) has set out plans to grow an increasingly forward-deployed Royal Navy (RN) surface fleet as part of the government's wide-ranging Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy.

Published on 22 March, the Defence Command Paper, entitled 'Defence in a competitive age', spells out plans to introduce a new Multi-Role

Ocean Surveillance Ship (MROSS) to safeguard critical undersea national infrastructure in the North Atlantic, and lays out an ambitious long-term UK shipbuilding programme to include three new solid support ships, Type 32 frigates, and a new class of Multi-Role Support Ship (MRSS).

[https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/F G\\_3924882-JNI](https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/F G_3924882-JNI)

## **UK Defence Command Paper: MoD circumspect on future F-35 numbers**

The United Kingdom has dropped its reference to an earlier stated commitment to procuring 138 Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning combat aircraft, noting only that an unspecified number will be bought over and above the 48 already outlined in earlier statements.

In the Defence Command Paper released on 22 March, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) shied away from the official programme of record number of 138 F-35s over the life of the programme that was reaffirmed in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) in 2015. Instead, it has deferred to a later date any commitment to further buys beyond the 48 it is currently earmarked to receive by 2025.

[https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/F G\\_3924713-JDW](https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/F G_3924713-JDW)

## **UK Defence Command Paper: RAF to axe C-130 fleet early**

The UK Royal Air Force (RAF) is to retire its fleet of Lockheed Martin C-130J/C-130J-30 Hercules transport aircraft earlier than planned, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) disclosed on 22 March. According to the Defence Command Paper released the week after the UK's Integrated Review, the RAF's one remaining short-bodied C-130J C5 and 13 long-bodied C-130J-30 C4 variant Hercules airlifters are to be withdrawn from service in 2023, some 12 years earlier than planned.

[https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/F G\\_3924712-JDW](https://customer.janes.com/DefenceNews/Display/F G_3924712-JDW)

## **UK Defence Command Paper: RAF, Army battlefield helicopter recapitalisation plans laid out**

The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) has laid out its plans for recapitalising its rotary-winged battlefield lift in the mid-2020s. As noted in the Defence Command Paper, published on 22 March, a number of existing helicopter types, including the Westland-Aerospatiale SA 330E Puma HC2, will be consolidated into a single platform. This is on top of the previously announced procurement of the Boeing AH-64E Apache Guardian gunship, which has already begun, and plans to replace older model Boeing Chinook helicopters with new MH-47G-standard machines.

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## **UK Integrated Review seeks to strengthen deterrence**

The UK released its long-awaited Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy on 16 March, emphasising deterrence through collective security, namely the NATO alliance.

After reducing nuclear warheads since the end of the Cold War, the UK plans to increase its stockpile to bolster its deterrent posture.

[https://customer.janes.com/Janes/Display/FG\\_3920229-JDW](https://customer.janes.com/Janes/Display/FG_3920229-JDW)

## **A 'new minimum': Integrated Review raises force levels and strategic ambiguity in UK nuclear deterrent**

The United Kingdom's Integrated Review (IR) of security, defence, development, and foreign policy – entitled 'Global Britain in a competitive age' and published on 16 March – announced an increase in the UK's overall nuclear weapon stockpile to "no more than 260 warheads".

In so doing it reversed a trend of reducing warhead levels that, in the 2010 and 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Reviews (SDSRs), had seen the UK declare intent to reduce the overall stockpile to no more than 180 warheads by the mid-2020s.

[https://customer.janes.com/Janes/Display/FG\\_3920721-JNI](https://customer.janes.com/Janes/Display/FG_3920721-JNI)

## **UK Integrated Review: UK abandons 'competition by default' stance**

The United Kingdom will move away from a long-standing position of "open competition by default" when procuring defence and security materiel and will instead prioritise local solutions, the UK government announced in the long-awaited Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy published on 16 March.

[https://customer.janes.com/DefenceIndustry/Display/FG\\_3920061-JDIN](https://customer.janes.com/DefenceIndustry/Display/FG_3920061-JDIN)

## **UK Integrated Review affirms 'tilt' to Asia-Pacific**

The United Kingdom has outlined a new 'tilt' towards the Asia-Pacific in its Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development, and Foreign Policy, which was published 16 March. "By 2030, we will be deeply engaged in the Indo-Pacific as the European partner with the broadest, most integrated presence in support of mutually-beneficial trade,

shared security and values,” the document states using an alternative name for the region.

[https://customer.janes.com/DefenceIndustry/Display/FG\\_3920477-JDIN](https://customer.janes.com/DefenceIndustry/Display/FG_3920477-JDIN)

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