



**ADVANCE UK**

**Our Future Together**

Defence & National Security Policy

*"Peace through strength. Sovereignty through will."*

# The Threat Landscape

## **The UK faces a more dangerous world than assumed in the 2021 Integrated Review.**

- Russia — most acute Euro-Atlantic threat: espionage, assassination, sabotage, cyber and disinformation
- China — most consequential long-term systemic competitor: Belt & Road, industrial espionage, elite capture
- Iran — nuclear programme, proxy forces and direct hostile activity against UK persons
- Return of high-intensity state-on-state warfare in Europe, demonstrated in Ukraine
- Contested space domain: anti-satellite, jamming and on-orbit interference threaten Critical National Infrastructure (CNI)

## **Below the threshold of war:**

- Grey-zone operations: foreign interference, electoral subversion, sabotage by state actors
- Disinformation targeting British public opinion, institutions and the wider Anglosphere
- Cyber penetration of government and CNI; state-sponsored intrusion and ransomware

# A Hollowed-Out Defence

**Despite a £70bn annual budget — 5th globally and 3<sup>rd</sup> in NATO, the UK's armed forces lack mass, readiness and industrial depth.**

- The British Army cannot field a single fully equipped, deployable division for peer-on-peer warfighting
- RAF inventory so small that frontline airframes cannot be risked
- Royal Navy escort numbers below credible deterrence levels
- Structural mismatch: British interceptors cost orders of magnitude more than adversary drones and missiles
- Compromised leadership: political appointees dominate; woke ideology damages cohesion and the warrior ethos
- Procurement failure: EU-style process produces obsolete, non-deployable kit on protracted timelines
- Twenty years of unwarranted wars with no credible plan, exit strategy or accountability

"The level of incompetence is systemic and has become cultural." — Maj Gen Andrew Mackay

# National Security Failures

## **Domestic terrorism: systemic failure to identify the principal threat; pre-occupation with a manufactured 'far-right' bogeyman**

- Borders: no permanent UK assets interdicting small-boat crossings in the English Channel
- Critical infrastructure: energy independence surrendered for Net Zero; Huawei/ZTE embedded across public and private networks
- Economic exposure: energy, telecoms, semiconductors, AI and critical minerals all exposed to hostile foreign ownership or coercion
- China policy confusion: Chagos giveaway weakens US-UK Indian Ocean posture; Chinese Embassy approval signals permissiveness
- Cyber and space: strong institutions (GCHQ, NCSC, NCF) but fragmented command chain; space capability still maturing
- Borrowing risk: share of UK debt held by hostile states creates leverage over British political decisions

# The Principles: Core Priorities

- **Defence of the UK, its territories and its people is the first priority**
- **British forces deployed abroad only when clearly in the national interest — not as nation-builder or international policeman**
- Deterrence through strength: a capable military deters adversaries; readiness over rhetoric
- Independent Continuous At Sea nuclear deterrent is the ultimate guarantee against existential threats
- The US alliance is the cornerstone; AUKUS and CANZUK-plus are strategic priorities
- No British participation in any EU army, common defence structure or pooled procurement
- Integrated resilience: defence, economic and industrial policy are inseparable
- Sovereign supply chains, strategic stockpiles and domestic military-industrial capacity are prerequisites for security
- AI, autonomy, drones, space, cyber and quantum are strategic priorities; speed over process in procurement

# The Principles: Ethos and Sovereignty



- **Borders as national security: immigration control is a security imperative — not a social policy choice**
- **Allegiance to the Crown is the only acceptable institutional loyalty in the uniformed services**
- Warrior ethos: a culture of strength, honour and integrity is incompatible with religious or ideological associations within the services
- Meritocracy over quotas: recruitment and promotion based solely on ability, fitness and aptitude
- Sovereign immunity for personnel acting under recognised rules of engagement; vexatious lawfare against veterans is unacceptable
- British sovereignty takes precedence over treaty obligations or legal interpretations that curtail the defence of British interests
- No deployment without a mandate, sustainment plan and pre-agreed exit conditions scrutinised by Cabinet and Parliament
- Evidence and adversary simulation ("red teaming"): diverse perspectives based on competence; long-term perspective with trade-offs honestly acknowledged

# The Policies: Strategic Clarity



## Within the first hundred days:

- Publish a sovereign national security doctrine — distinct from any NATO or EU document — defining UK interests and red lines
- Re-declare the US alliance; state visits and deep strategic collaborations across intelligence, technology and military-industrial cooperation
- Re-commit to all British territories: Gibraltar, Falklands, Cyprus SBAs, Chagos, Ascension and BIOT — military assets dispatched
- Rule out British participation in any EU defence structure, common army or pooled procurement scheme
- Expand AUKUS: accelerate Pillar I (nuclear submarines) and Pillar II (AI, hypersonics, undersea systems)
- Develop bilateral basing rights in the Indo-Pacific: Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Indonesia, Sri Lanka
- Develop a national geopolitical strategy utilising Commonwealth and Anglosphere ties — CANZUK-plus — to British advantage

# The Policies: Rebuild the Force



## **Rebuild force mass and readiness:**

- Build the British Army to 100,000 regulars; establish four ground divisions; medium-term: military larger than the Civil Service
- Establish war reserves to equip at least one fully deployable division for peer-on-peer warfare
- Incorporate lessons of Ukraine: drones, electronic warfare, dispersed logistics and industrial mobilisation

## **Increase defence spending with purpose:**

- Commit in year one to the agreed NATO target — separately from the nuclear deterrent; aim for best-in-class GDP%
- Ring-fence money for frontline capability — separate from pensions, bureaucracy or ideological programmes

## **Build sovereign military-industrial capacity:**

- Rebuild steel, advanced metals, energy, semiconductor and munitions industries; create a sovereign defence investment fund
- Stand up UK Space Command; Scottish space ports; invest in drones, AI and hypersonics

# The Policies: Procurement Reform

## All aspects of defence are adversely impacted by wasteful procurement:

- Adopt the US approach: abolish the EU-style competitive bid process; legislation to prioritise operator-driven requirements and speed
- Procurement decisions made by ex-service personnel, current operators and end-users — not civil servants or rotating officers
- Stop rotating officers into acquisition programmes for less than the programme's duration
- 5-year moratorium on civil servants joining defence suppliers; reassess all existing contracts for value and fitness
- Target 70% of new equipment off-the-shelf from trusted allies; urgently required items sourced from the open market immediately
- Prioritise replacing the SA80; prioritise low-cost mass effectors (drones, loitering munitions) alongside high-end interceptors
- Transfer spending reviews to a Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)

# The Policies: National Security

## **Critical national infrastructure:**

- Remove Huawei, ZTE and all Chinese technology from public and private sector networks on a published timetable
- Widen CNI definition to cover data centres, research universities, subsea cables, ports and logistics nodes
- Expand the National Security and Investment regime; outbound investment controls; tighten lobbying and academic-partnership transparency
- Scrap Net Zero; restore domestic energy generation, refining, storage and grid sovereignty; restore fuel, food and fertiliser independence

## **Borders and counter-extremism:**

- Establish permanent Royal Navy and Border Force presence in the English Channel; place Border Force under MoD command
- Deploy Prevent resources in line with the Shawcross Report; proscribe the Muslim Brotherhood and other seditious organisations
- Enact sedition and subversion laws; strengthen MI5; revisit and reverse the Chinese Embassy decision

# The Policies: Personnel and Veterans



## Recruitment and training:

- Return to an elite mindset — '99.9% need not apply'; true military meritocracy with best-in-class pay and accelerated promotion
- Eradicate the LGBTQIA++ agenda; ban religious, political and ideological associations within the armed forces
- Restore Royal College of Military Science as a public agency staffed by serving and retired officers, not civilian contractors
- Restore and enforce fitness standards; grow practical skills training; reduce pure officer education

## Veterans:

- World-leading mental health and healthcare; guaranteed housing for honourably discharged personnel
- Rapid compensation processing; lifelong dedicated healthcare via an MoD Veterans Affairs function
- Repeal laws exposing service personnel to vexatious lawfare; replace with statutory sovereign immunity

## National Service for the long-term unemployed — transport, medical, infrastructure and power auxiliaries:

- Veteran led

# The Policies: Service-Specific Actions



## **British Army:**

- Rebalance toward heavy combined-arms mass; four ground divisions; 100,000 regulars as initial target

## **Royal Navy:**

- Restore shipbuilding tempo, escort numbers and undersea capability; expand surface fleet for North Atlantic and High North
- Bilateral Indo-Pacific basing rights; full sovereign control of the nuclear deterrent

## **Royal Air Force:**

- Increase combat-air mass and munitions stockpiles; expand integrated air and missile defence over the UK
- Sovereign drone, loitering-munition and counter-drone capabilities; Scottish space ports and Space Command

## **Intelligence Services:**

- Co-locate British Cyber Command with GCHQ; strengthen MI5 and counter-espionage via the National Security Act 2023
- Identify and remove Chinese exposure across telecoms, energy, transport, property and higher education



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*"A sovereign, credible and resilient defence — the foundation of every other freedom."*