

## Overview: UK SDSR & National Security Strategy

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The Strategy presents a clear vision for a secure and prosperous United Kingdom, with global reach and influence. It underlines that the world is more dangerous, complex and uncertain today than five years ago. It highlights the growth of terrorism and extremism, including ISIL; the resurgence of state-based threats, including Russia; greater instability in the Middle East; the growing cyber threat; and challenges to the rules-based international order. It also underlines the UK's intrinsic strengths, including our resilient society, our strong Armed Forces and intelligence agencies, our world class diplomatic network and our overseas development assistance. The SDSR presents a vision of the UK at the heart of the rules-based international order, with strong and reliable alliances, partnerships and relationships around the world. It underlines the UK's position as the world's leading soft power.

In the last two years, the UK has been the fastest growing major advanced economy in the world. **Our renewed economic security has enabled us to make a clear decision to invest further in our national security.** The Strategy sets out our priorities, including to: tackle terrorism and extremism at home and overseas; deter state-based threats; help strengthen the rules-based international order; remain a world leader in cyber security; reduce conflict and build stability overseas; promote our prosperity; and ensure we have the capability to respond rapidly to crises as they emerge. The SDSR sets out how the Government will work to address these, harnessing all the tools of national power through a 'full-spectrum approach'.

The Strategy makes clear that, where necessary, the Government will be ready to use force. It sets out a vision for a **highly capable Joint Force 2025** consisting of:

- two additional Typhoon aircraft squadrons and an additional squadron of F35 Lightning combat aircraft to operate from our new aircraft carriers;
- nine new Maritime Patrol Aircraft based in Scotland to protect our nuclear deterrent, hunt down hostile submarines and enhance our maritime search and rescue;
- two new Strike Brigades, forces of up to 5,000 personnel fully equipped to deploy rapidly and sustain themselves in the field;
- a highly capable expeditionary force of up to 50,000 by 2025;
- doubling our investment in our Special Forces' equipment;
- maintaining our ultimate insurance policy as a nation – our Continuous At Sea Nuclear Deterrent - and replacing our four ballistic missile submarines; and
- increasing the size of the Royal Navy's frigate fleet over the longer-term.

The Strategy sets out that we will **do more to ensure our intelligence agencies have the resources and information they need to prevent and disrupt plots against the UK.** The Government will increase funding for the security and intelligence agencies to enable £2.5billion of additional investment in staff and capabilities. It will increase our network of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism experts in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. It will also increase our investment in counter-terrorism police and will more than double our spending on aviation security around the world.

The Prime Minister, in his Foreword to the SDSR, recognises that our **'outstanding Diplomatic Service'** has a vital role in promoting UK interests and projecting our influence overseas. The SDSR says that the UK will pursue an active foreign policy that protects our country, our people and our interests, supports the security of our allies, deters adversaries, projects our influence and values, promotes our prosperity, and strengthens the rules-based international order.

The Strategy describes the importance of using our development budget and our soft power to promote British values and to tackle the causes of the security threats we face, not just their consequences. This includes spending 50% of DFID's budget on fragile states and regions, as well as preventing conflict and promoting the golden thread of conditions that drive prosperity all across the world, the rule of law, good governance and the growth of democracy. The Government's new **Official Development Assistance (ODA) Strategy** sets out how we ensure our aid is targeted to deliver more effectively for the world's poorest and for the UK's national interest.

The SDSR also recognises that Britain's safety and security depends not just on our own efforts, but on **working with our allies and partners to deal with the common threats** that face us all, from terrorism to climate change. It commits the UK to continuing to play our full part in the Alliances which underpin our defence and security, as well as strengthening relationships with emerging powers.

## Links

SDSR & NSS (Full Document):

Official Development Assistance Strategy: