



Ministry  
of Defence



MINISTÈRE  
DES ARMÉES

# Military Cooperation

United Kingdom and France





## Our Armed Forces work together around the world

The United Kingdom and France are Europe's two leading defence powers, with independent nuclear deterrents, full spectrum armed forces able to deploy and operate, alone or with Allies and partners, across the world on land, at sea, in the air, and increasingly today in cyberspace. We have consistently shown both the will and ability to promote and defend our interests, and support global peace and stability and the Rules Based International System. This common purpose and capability is at the heart of the 2010 Lancaster House Treaties.

- Our Armed Forces continue to work together against Daesh in Syria and Iraq.
- The UK has provided C17 support for French forces in the Sahel and deployed three CH47 Chinook helicopters to Mali to support French military operations in the region.
- Our Armed Forces operate alongside each other in NATO. France is contributing to the UK-led enhanced Forward Presence deployment to Estonia in 2019, as she did in 2017.
- The Royal Navy and Marine Nationale operate increasingly closely around the world.
- The UK and France support each other in providing humanitarian relief during the Caribbean hurricane season.
- Strengthened maritime cooperation in the Channel and the Atlantic.

Three Royal Air Force Chinook helicopters from RAF Odiham, supported by around 90 British troops, are now on the ground in Mali and are providing logistical and troop movement support.



The RAF and FAF operate seamlessly together on operations. Here, a UK Voyager tanker is refuelling French Rafales alongside British Typhoons on Operation Inherent Resolve against Daesh in the Middle East.



## Royal Navy and French ships are routinely operating together

Royal Navy ships supported the Charles de Gaulle on operations in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf. UK personnel continue to serve and train on the Charles de Gaulle.

When the UK's new aircraft carriers are ready for operations in the early 2020s, the UK and France will both have the ability to deploy a UK-French carrier strike group incorporating staff and assets owned by both countries.



French Navy hosted Royal Navy Wildcat helicopters in the French Navy's annual Jeanne d'Arc deployment. In 2018 RN Wildcats deployed for 5 months on the Dixmude to the Asia-Pacific region.



Following the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime against its own people in Douma in April 2018, the UK and France, along with the US, launched strikes against Syrian chemical weapon sites.



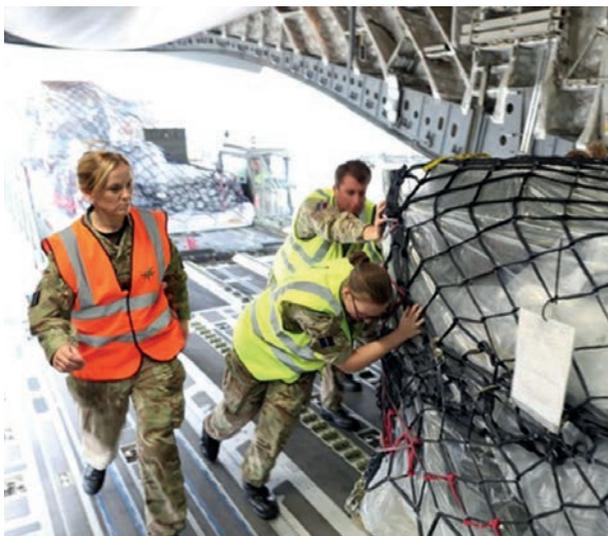
During 2017, a French Armoured Infantry Company formed part of the UK led NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group in Estonia. France will contribute to the eFP in 2019, as part of the UK-led battlegroup in Estonia.



We also delivered full validation of the Combined Joint Expeditionary Force (CJEF) concept in 2016 following the bilateral Exercise Griffin Strike in the UK, involving over 5,000 UK and French military personnel. Since then the CJEF has been available for operations up to Peace Enforcement should that be necessary.



Exercise Catamaran in June 2018 saw Royal Marines working together with French Marines operating from RFA Lyme Bay and the French amphibious assault helicopter carrier FS Tonnerre. Played out along a 130-mile stretch of the French coast, the exercise is the latest to test how the combined amphibious forces of Britain and France work together.



Supporting each other in providing humanitarian relief in the Caribbean following Hurricane Irma, including the UK providing a C17 to fly French emergency supplies into theatre and the French providing imagery intelligence to the UK.

Strengthened maritime cooperation in the Channel and the Atlantic, including French Atlantique 2 maritime patrol aircraft periodically operating from RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland, and the closer integration of our national air defence forces, in response to increased security challenges.





