



Ministry  
of Defence

International Defence Engagement Strategy

# Defence Engagement 2014/15





## **A British Army nurse leads an Ebola care training session for medical staff in Sierra Leone.**

British and Sierra Leonean Armed Forces delivered an Ebola Care training course at the Faculty of Nursing, College of Medicine and Allied Healing Sciences, University of Sierra Leone. British Armed Forces were in Sierra Leone in support of Operation GRITROCK, in order to assist with the Ebola crisis. The Defence Secretary announced in February 2015 "British forces will remain in the country until it is clear the outbreak which has killed nearly 9,200 people across West Africa has been totally defeated" [Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2014]

## **Royal Air Force Typhoons deployed in May 2015 to the NATO Baltic air policing mission.**

The Estonian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Keit Pentus-Roimannus, welcomed the RAF role within NATO's standing Baltic Air Policing patrols as a "*demonstration of Alliance solidarity carrying a visible sign and sound, which was the whisper of freedom*". [Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2015]



# Foreword

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The International Defence Engagement Strategy (IDES) was launched by the Defence and Foreign Secretaries in 2013. The IDES describes how Defence supports wider HMG interests within an integrated approach and brings together all the levers available to Defence to deliver National Security Strategy (NSS) objectives. Now, two years on, implementation of the IDES has shown that the UK's defence assets have wider utility in maintaining our security and prosperity beyond the threat or use of lethal force. Defence Engagement (DE) allows Defence (alongside other instruments of national power) to shape the environment, promote the rules-based international order and prevent instability in support of the UK's security and prosperity. This is done while building Defence's understanding of the world.

Defence personnel and assets provide security and stability across a broad spectrum of activities. Those directly involved in delivering DE include Defence Attachés, Civilian Defence Advisors, Loan Service personnel, overseas Exchange and Liaison Officers, permanently established overseas training teams and those who deliver our prized international defence training and education, as well as those who run specific projects. This wide range of activity is being conducted worldwide, while at the same time ensuring it is delivered in a way that serves the interests of the MOD and of wider government. Defence, including all of the single Services, is developing relationships and influence over a longer-term 20-year horizon, to achieve our objectives in a period of significant uncertainty and change.

As the role of DE in contributing to wider-HMG objectives continues to increase in prominence, it is important that the broad spectrum of our activities is both understood and capitalised upon to deliver optimum impact. One purpose of this report is to do just that. But it is also important to reflect on our recent contributions and successes to ensure that we continue to focus on our DE activities. The UK has continued to contribute to security in the Middle East, such as through new port facilities in Bahrain, further underlining our regional commitment. We have longer term development plans for those engaged overseas. A number of new Defence Sections have been established recently, including Mexico, Vietnam, Thailand and Burma, and DAs will be appointed to Ireland and Croatia later this year. The Army has continued to increase regional alignment through its Adaptable Brigades. In the past year we have created regional and country DE strategies, which enabled MOD to successfully contribute to the development of broader NSC strategies. The single Services and Joint Forces Command have embedded DE outputs as part of their Command Plans, delivering effectively against IDES and HMG objectives.

There is high recognition of the valuable work being done by Defence from across Whitehall, and appreciation that DE is now formally an integral part of the global HMG effort. This year we want to put even more emphasis on strengthening our communications on DE, within Defence, across government departments and more broadly. As we enter the SDSR, we want to provide every opportunity to join the discussion on the implementation of this strategy and to play a part in improving the way Defence engages with our international partners.

*Peter Watkins*  
*Director General Security Policy*  
*Ministry of Defence*  
*July 2015*

*Front cover: World leaders from some 67 countries gather for the NATO 2014 Summit hosted by UK in Newport, Wales.  
[Picture: Crown copyrights/MOD 2014]*

# Defence Engagement

## The Integrated Approach

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**The National Security Strategy and the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2010 set out our goal to bring together and use all the instruments of national power in a coordinated way. Defence Engagement activity is wide ranging. It is a smarter use of Defence personnel, assets and activities focused to where UK can deliver greater impact in support of HMG interests, including through generating influence with partner countries.**

### **The Integrated Approach to Global Defence and Security**

UK Defence is a key lever of national power with a global reach. International Defence activities, including working alongside other Government departments in priority countries, have been shown to be an effective way to tackle risks to our own national security with non-lethal activity. The combination of defence, development, diplomatic, intelligence and other capabilities as part of a wider integrated approach can promote regional stability and reduce the risk of conflict. This approach draws together defence activities in the form of training teams; running joint exercises; attaching senior civilian policy advisers to foreign defence ministries; and deploying military and civilian experts together to support stabilisation efforts in other states. But sometimes destabilising events will lead to the collapse of countries or a move back into conflict. At such times, Defence will look at ways it can continue to provide support in bringing that country back into stability. During times of conflict, as we have seen in Ukraine, Defence Engagement activity can play a vital role in stabilisation and capacity building efforts.

Having UK Defence personnel engaged with other nations on conflict prevention, security sector reform and capacity building, increases our national capacity to identify and understand potential threats to peace and security early on. Engaging in upstream conflict prevention also ensures that we are in a better position to respond more effectively if and when conflict occurs. This has proven to be a key factor in maintaining and influencing our relationships with both traditional and emerging allies and partners.

### **Working with Allies and Partners**

- The UK hosted the 2014 **Wales NATO Summit** which saw the Alliance demonstrate solidarity at a time of diverse threats on NATO's eastern and southern flanks. The UK engages with Allies on defence, security, operations, crisis management, collective defence planning and reform. **NATO** remains the cornerstone of UK Defence. This has led to a unified response to the security challenges facing the Alliance through initiatives such as the Readiness Action Plan (RAP), the Defence Investment Pledge, enhanced relationships with partners, Defence Capacity Building, and the Armed Forces Declaration.
- NATO has reaffirmed its commitment to the collective security of its members following the Russian intervention **in Ukraine**. Royal Air Force Typhoons have contributed to the NATO Baltic Air Policing mission over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and we have increased UK Defence Engagement with Ukraine, including an uplift in defence reform and strategic communication activities through our **Special Defence Advisor** in Kyiv, gifting of non-lethal equipment such as communications and helmets, and the provision of medical, infantry and procurement training to the Ukraine Armed Forces.

- The UK has deployed over 280 military personnel on **United Nations** (UN) missions, with our largest deployment being in Cyprus. In 2014/15 UK Defence supported six UN peacekeeping operations - an uplift of 50% on the previous year. We also maintained our commitment to UN-mandated peace support operations, including through personnel involved in operations in Afghanistan in early 2014.
- The Defence Secretary visited his US counterpart in Washington DC in March 2015, demonstrating the strong **US/UK** defence relationship. We have stayed closely aligned on a wide range of critical activities. These include **the drawdown of combat troops from Afghanistan**, the build up of coalition operations against ISIL (with the UK providing leadership and much needed capability such as ISR and precision strike), the response to the Ebola crisis, and our efforts in providing non-lethal support to Ukraine.
- Recent **UK and France** cooperation spans many areas, including operational deployment of exchange officers, UK provision of logistic assistance to French forces operating in Africa, invaluable French support to the UK deployment of SENTINEL and Tornado ISR aircraft to Chad in support of efforts to counter Boko Haram, and we are developing the Combined Joint Expeditionary Force (CJEF). We are partnering on many equipment programmes for all three Services and are collaborating on nuclear issues.

## UK and France have a long history of helping fragile and conflict-affected states across Africa.

The UK and France are engaging with many African governments to support their efforts in combating threats such as Boko Haram and other terrorist organisations. We have provided personnel to UN and European peacekeeping missions, and are sharing information and optimising our resources in our attempts to stabilise the region. The UK is continuing a capability building programme in Nigeria and the French are engaging in Mali and the Central African Republic (CAR). We have supported French operations in these countries by providing essential logistic support.



*RAF Movements staff and French Troops unload vital Military equipment from the back of a Royal Air Force C17 Globemaster on its arrival at Bangui Airport in the Central African Republic in early 2014.  
[Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2014]*

**The Royal Navy continues its global security presence through patrols such as in the Caribbean, where HMS SEVERN has been deployed, covering Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief work and Counter Narcotics. HMS Severn works with French, US and Dutch partners as well as providing assistance to UK Overseas Territories and other Caribbean nations.**

**The knowledge and experience gained from security operations during the 2012 London Olympics have been in demand. We have provided direct support to the Brazilian Army, supported by Army Staff Talks. The continuing refinement of the Army's Overseas Training Exercise programme ensures that the Army offers more effective and integrated joint training with our partner nations.**

**Merlin helicopter providing much needed relief supplies.**



A team from HMS ILLUSTRIOUS working ashore on Sicogan Island in the Philippines, helping the island's local population in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013. HMS ILLUSTRIOUS support ended in December 2013, but UK DFID humanitarian support is planned to continue to 2016.

[Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2013]

# The UK as a Partner of Choice

- The RAF's 17 Sqn (R) has begun independent UK testing and evaluation of the new **F35B Lightning II**. UK personnel are working with the US Navy to hone the skills they will need to conduct carrier strike operations when the Queen Elizabeth class ships enter service. Co-operation and collaboration with the US across the wide spectrum of defence capability continues to be at the heart of this cross Atlantic partnership.
- In response to calls from HMG and the international community following the kidnapping of the Chibok school girls and other atrocities committed by **Boko Haram**, the MOD provided surveillance assets including SENTINEL (based in Ghana) and TORNADO GR4s (based in Chad): MOD assessed intelligence imagery; and provided support to an intelligence fusion cell in Abuja in 2014.
- Regional focus has centred on our **efforts to contain and counter ISIL**. To progress with this we have built on our strong relationship with Kuwait and have continued to develop our standing within Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon are important to regional stability and we maintain capacity building training activities to assist in their management of security on the Syrian border.
- The annual **Naval Task Group** deployment operated East of Suez in 2014, demonstrating maritime reach and underlining the UK's ability to contribute to the security of the Middle East. We continued to provide aircraft deployments to the region, basing them in facilities constructed by the UAE. The UK and Bahrain have agreed to enhance port facilities that are used by British Forces in Bahrain.

## Vital Capacity Building in Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) training provided to the Pakistan Army.

IEDs still represent a principal means of attack for terrorist and criminal groups targeting security forces, law enforcement agencies and civilians in Pakistan. IEDs contribute to approximately 43% of all terrorist/criminal-related casualties resulting in over 16,000 casualties over the last decade. UK Defence is sharing the institutional knowledge embedded within Defence Medical Services to help Pakistan in developing their Operational Patient Care Pathway.

In 2012, the UK began a three year C-IED capacity building programme with the Pakistan Army. Over the course of the programme, the provision of this training has expanded to include the Police and Civil Defence as we seek to assist Pakistan in establishing a multi-agency capability for tackling the IED threat.

This programme has trained almost 5,000 Pakistani C-IED practitioners. The Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif, has said that the Army's C-IED capability has been critical in limiting its casualties since the Army commenced operations in North Waziristan in June 2014.

## UKHO, the world leader in the field of maritime geospatial information.

The UK Hydrographic Office's (UKHO) international arrangements provide access to the data needed for the UKHO to maintain its global chart portfolio which enables the Royal Navy (and most of the world's maritime trade) to safely navigate the world's oceans and major waterways. The routine ongoing engagement activity carried out by the UKHO worldwide over the past year included training for Chile in the provision of support to defence customers in response to a request made through Navy Staff Talks; and the support of relief operations in the wake of the severe storms which devastated the Philippines and Vanuatu.

# Defence Diplomacy

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An essential element of Defence Diplomacy is maintaining strong Alliances and Partnerships. This includes: senior-level visits; the Defence Attaché network; treaties and international arrangements; alliances and partnerships; civilian Defence advisors; overseas and UK-based training; capacity building; work with multilateral organisations (NATO, the EU and the UN); loan service personnel; exchange and liaison officers; intelligence personnel working overseas; and ship, unit and aircraft visits.

- The Defence Secretary conducted a **bilateral visit to Romania** in March 2015. This was the first visit by a UK Defence Secretary in over a decade, re-affirming the UK's relationship with the country, sending a strong message of support and maintaining Romanian backing to the UK in implementing NATO commitments.
- The Defence Secretary **visited India** in October 2014 for a WW1 commemoration event which was the highlight of a re-energised Defence relationship with India, reinforcing our shared historic ties. Further Ministerial and Chiefs' visits, a PUS-level strategic dialogue and regular military-military interaction throughout the year provided a busy engagement programme. We also made progress on a range of collaborative research and development projects.
- The third **UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security**, jointly owned by MOD, FCO and DFID, was successfully launched. It strengthens the ambition for UK Government to make a difference by pursuing visible change for girls and women affected by conflict and building peace. It also ensures that defence, diplomatic and development activity in conflict-affected states is better co-ordinated and supports the implementation of the four "pillars" of UNSCR 1325, namely: prevention, protection, participation, and relief and recovery.
- MOD provided over three thousand education and training places to international military and civilian officials from almost one hundred countries during 2014-15. Twenty eight senior international officers and officials attended the Defence Academy's pilot **Senior Strategic Leadership Programme**, the most senior level Defence Engagement course delivered by the MOD, which aimed to enhance strategic leadership and management at both the corporate and strategic level across Defence and the wider security sector.
- A delegation from the **Qatar Staff College** visited HMS COLLINGWOOD in early 2014 to view the provision of simulation training. This visit was part of a wider programme of UK Defence visits, which included Naval Command Headquarters and HM Naval Base Portsmouth. The visitors spent time in the Maritime Composite Training Systems, where they also witnessed training and the Close Range Training Section.
- In **Asia Pacific**, the Royal Navy assisted in the hunt for MH370 by providing a ship and a submarine during that search. Elsewhere, in the Philippines, the UK helped the victims of typhoon Haiyan through the deployment of RAF aircraft and Royal Navy ships, and the exchange of Naval Liaison Officers with Japanese Forces. Throughout the region, the UK's Defence Attaché network supports our partners and remains committed to the Five Power Defence Arrangements.

**Two personnel from the RAF Air Mobility Force Headquarters visited China from August to September 2014 to deliver English Language Training to the Peoples Liberation Army Air Force. The course was hosted by the Air Force Engineering University in Xi'an, Shanxi province.**



## **Burma – Managing Defence in the Wider Security Context (MDWSC) Course. Course directors and the Defence Attaché discuss the programme with Aung San Suu Kyi.**

The MDWSC course in January 2014 marked the first defence education activity to be delivered in Burma since independence in 1948. The course aims to enhance the professionalism of Burma's Armed Forces.

The FCO articulated the reason for engagement: 'A critical piece of the puzzle is military reform. The Burmese military ruled the country outright for almost fifty years, and retain considerable power today. Whilst there are very legitimate and serious concerns about their human rights record, their position is vital for the prospects of broader progress. Aung San Suu Kyi herself has asked for Britain's help in this area.'

The training team returned a year later to reinforce the message. Both courses were focused on accountability, transparency, rule of law, human rights, civilian and democratic control of armed forces, human resources management and change management.



*[Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2014]*

# Promoting UK Prosperity

MOD continues to support the UK Prosperity Agenda and British Industry, alongside UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and FCO. Defence and security exports include static and dynamic displays of equipment at exhibitions and air shows, the sale and export of defence training, advice and materiel manufactured in the UK or by UK companies, and through contributing specialist staff to support UKTI.

## Another strong year for defence exports and an important contribution to the growth agenda.

With almost 3,000 UK companies operating in the aerospace sector, employing about 109,000 staff and generating annual revenues of £27.8bn, this sector remains one of the UK's most significant industries.

The Farnborough International Air Show in July 2014 and the Defence showcase at the NATO Summit are two examples where MOD has actively supported UKTI. Wider Defence Engagement activities provided opportunities to showcase capabilities. Over the last twelve months, the RAF Typhoon Force has been heavily involved in supporting UKTI on Typhoon export opportunities with partner nations.



Royal Air Force Typhoon at the Farnborough 2014 Airshow. Typhoon jets play a vital role in the protection of the UK, and remain an important focus for the MOD and UK Trade and Investment. [Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2014]

- Defence export events on Royal Navy ships overseas are an important strand of Defence Engagement. In addition to hosting visits to naval establishments and briefs to senior foreign delegations, over the past 12 months foreign port visits by Royal Navy ships and submarines have been exploited as opportunities for **Defence and Security Industry events** overseas. Over 30 companies have benefited from seven Defence and Security Industry days and three Private Company visits held in Africa, North and South America.
- The Defence Secretary and the French Defence Minister signed a UK and French Future Combat Air System (FCAS) Memorandum of Understanding at Farnborough International Air Show (FIAS) in July 2014. This underpins a £120M feasibility study to explore future unmanned combat air vehicle (UCAV) technology.
- The visit of a **RN Submarine to Brazil** to participate in the 100th Anniversary Celebrations of the Brazilian Submarine Force in company with boats from US, France and Peru, enabled UK and Brazilian companies to discuss the UK's complex naval engineering capability.

## High return on investment and benefit to the UK.

In May 14 the Prime Ministers of both UK and Japan identified a range of defence equipment projects for joint development and production. This led to a UK-Japan High Level Defence Equipment and Technology Cooperation Steering Panel being created. Following the UK-Japan Foreign and Defence Minister's meeting in January 2015, a number of cooperative Research Projects on Chemical and Biological Protection Technology and a feasibility study into the Joint New Air to Air Missile (JNAAM) are being taken forward. The Ministers also decided to pursue other cooperation projects through this high level Steering Panel, which will meet regularly. This demonstrates high potential value for the UK and showed most cost-effective engagement for building future capabilities internationally.

# Building Capability Internationally

Increased DE activity can prevent or reduce an emerging crisis. Strategic objectives include: building partner capacity, maintaining influence with our allies and increasing stability in the region. Activities to deliver these objectives include: counter-proliferation; arms control; peacekeeping; security sector reform; stabilisation; conflict prevention and reduction.

- The UK deployed military experts to support the development of regional intelligence sharing and a multinational joint Task Force was made available to Nigeria and its neighbours in a coordinated effort to fight the increased regional threat posed by Boko Haram. The **British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT)** has been delivering an enhanced programme of training and military capacity building, including training and advice to Nigerian troops.
- The MOD continued to contribute to the **UK Government's Somalia strategy** during 2014/15. By maintaining the commitment to the African Union's peace support mission in Somalia, substantial territory has been successfully regained from Al Shabaab. We expanded our efforts to develop a Somalia National Army capable of becoming responsible for security in Somalia by increasing our bilateral engagement and increasing our presence in the UN Mission for Somalia (AMISOM) and EU Mission for Somalia. Our resident training team in East Africa co-ordinated the military effort in support of the UK Government's Somalia strategy, whilst maintaining its upstream capacity building efforts across East Africa.
- The UK has taken the coalition lead at the **Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA)**, designed in accordance with the principles of Officer Development at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. This project forms part of the broader NATO presence in Afghanistan, to help sustain the progress made to date in building a capable and professional force. In 2014, the first 249 officers graduated from the Academy, a landmark achievement both for the Afghans and the UK. The ANAOA has reached full operating capacity, with the ability to train over 1100 students every year.
- UK defence training teams have **delivered training in twenty countries** around the world in 2014. As part of **capacity building** we have been enhancing knowledge and leadership, professionalism, understanding, promoting governance and international law.
- The alignment of nine **Adaptable Force brigades** to regions has gathered momentum this year. Focusing on security capacity building, 22 Short Term Training Teams have operated in 15 different countries.

## Short Term Training Teams are contributing strongly to Defence Engagement overseas.

Defence Engagement effect is created by Short Term Training Teams, regularly deployed to Uganda and now also to Malawi. The purpose of these teams has been to conduct pre-deployment training and Mission Rehearsal Exercises for AMISOM missions for the Ugandan Army and now for MONUSCO, the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, for the Malawian Army.

In doing so, the Army not only directly supports the nations whose troops are being trained but also has an indirect contribution to the success of the AU/UN missions and to those countries where the missions take place: Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



*An Army Reservist oversees a briefing with soldiers of the Ugandan People's Defence Force. [Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2014]*

## The British Military Advisory and Training Team for Central and Eastern Europe and North Africa provides a wide reaching training asset.

The BMATT (CZ) is a combined venture with the Czech Republic and is based in the heart of their military academy near Brno in South Moravia. This small team of about 20 Britons and Czechs delivers training for UN operations to around 6,100 soldiers from 35 countries. They provide military training courses, training assistance and advice to partner countries in order to further develop their professional armed forces and their capabilities to participate in multinational peace support operations.

Here a four person team from the BMATT (CZ) was deployed to Morocco for a month in November 2014. They delivered a bespoke Instructor Training Course to 36 members of the Moroccan Armed Forces (MAF) using peace support as a focus. The students became proficient instructors, able to pass on their lessons to a wider audience within their armed forces. As with all the BMATT (CZ) courses, UN standard training modules covering child protection, prevention of sexual exploitation, and human rights and gender equality in peacekeeping are used.

Many of the students went directly from the course to teaching peace support lessons to fellow soldiers about to deploy to the Ivory Coast. The MAF has subsequently enrolled for more courses in 2015.

[Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2014]



# Supporting the International System

- Continued insecurity in Libya and elsewhere in **North Africa** has seen the MOD strengthening its relationship with Algeria with the aspiration for still greater bi-lateral activity over the coming year. We have expanded our short term training activities in Morocco, focussing on developing host nation defence capability and capacity and continue to support the new Tunisian Government deal with security challenges.
- UK efforts to help overcome the **Ebola epidemic in West Africa** required a wide engagement from across Defence, HMG Departments, NGOs and with our international partners. In 2014, our International Security Advisory Team in Sierra Leone became increasingly involved in the wider UK response to the crisis. The Single Services together with Defence Medical Services and others demonstrated the UK ability to respond to humanitarian crises as part of a cross government operation. The lessons learned from this mission and the relationships formed with other Government Departments will inform future Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) activities.
- The UK has continued its involvement in the Five Power Defence Arrangements and associated exercises in **South East Asia**. Defence has been at the forefront of our relations with Thailand following the coup there, both in terms of relaying UK Government messages and encouraging reform and reconciliation.
- The UK contribution to EUFOR in the **Western Balkans** has been maintained and the joint Op ALTHEA exercises remain vital for multinational cooperation. At the request of the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR) the UK also contributed an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Taskforce to Bosnia & Herzegovina following the civil unrest in early 2014.

## UK reassurance to the people of Sierra Leone and commitment to tackling the Ebola crisis.

RFA ARGUS deployed from the UK with three Merlin helicopters, Royal Marines and landing craft. This substantial Royal Navy (RN) involvement was part of the UK contribution to Operation GRITROCK, in response to the unfolding humanitarian Ebola crisis that had regional and potentially global implications.

The ship began delivering supplies and aid off Sierra Leone within sixteen days. It made a brief stop in Gibraltar to load a range of Department for International Development (DFID) stores and vehicles, bringing together a unique blend of civilian and military capability.



*The Royal Fleet Auxiliary aviation support ship, RFA Argus arriving in Sierra Leone. [Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2014]*

The operating challenges faced by the ship and her people during her 172 days at sea demanded the ability to provide niche and complex capability at short notice without the requirement to base ashore. RFA ARGUS also provided food aid in partnership with the World Food Programme to the Bonthe and Turtle Islands, whose trade was cut off by the Ebola crisis. The physical and visible presence of the RN and the daily logistical support flights by her aircraft brought much needed reassurance to the people of Sierra Leone and demonstrated the HMG commitment in tackling the Ebola crisis.

- The UK continues to command the EU Operational Headquarters at Northwood, currently directing **EUNAVFOR's counter-piracy operation** off the Horn of Africa.
- RAF's 99 Squadron flew essential aid to the victims of Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu in March 2015. An RAF C-17 Globemaster carried stores, including torches, water, medical supplies and vehicles. The C-17 arrived from another task in Yuma, on the West coast of the USA, and used the fastest route to deliver the aid. Throughout the relief effort, the RAF worked alongside UK and international agencies as well as further strengthening links between the RAF and the Royal Australian Air Force.
- UK Defence provided a strong contribution to the EU Training Mission to the Malian Armed Forces. Our **South Africa resident training team** continued to provide battlegroup training ahead of deployment to the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo and delivered training and advice for the UN Mission HQ in Goma.

### **Protecting UK National Security: Serious and organised crime.**

**Multinational interagency operations, relating to serious and organised crime, and protecting UK National Security, were demonstrated by the boarding of a suspect vessel in the Indian Ocean by HMS SOMERSET in May 2014. Information and analysis from partners including National Crime Agency (NCA) led to HMS SOMERSET undertaking a Flag Verification boarding of a suspect dhow travelling south off the Iran/Pakistan border. The vessel was declared stateless and a search was conducted, resulting in the seizure of a major shipment of heroin. The bulk of the drugs were destroyed but some samples were retained in NCA custody. These were transferred to US law enforcement agencies as primary evidence and will be used in the US Court case against arrested individuals.**

### **UK helps relieve substantial shortfalls in the UN's Strategic Air Transport capacity across East Africa missions.**

Substantial shortfalls in the UN's Strategic Air Transport capacity across the region were particularly serious for the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The camps in the north of the country, already struggling with an inflow of 70,000 refugees from the ongoing fighting, could only be reached by river during the long rainy season.

UK Staff Officers placed in UN Mission HQs in East Africa (Somalia, Mali, South Sudan, DRC), engaged in operational and planning activity, and highlighted this requirement to the International desks in London. With support from the Conflict Pool, the UK deployed C-130 transport aircraft in March 2015 to Entebbe and flew missions for UNMISS, which temporarily doubled the air lift capacity. This provided crucial re-supplies to Malakal camp in the north.

The deployment itself was the first time the UK had flown structured missions as part of the UN's Air Transport fleet, and was highly successful. Over 26 tonnes of vital supplies were moved to Malakal and Juba alongside 20 Nissan Patrol vehicles. These were used directly to reduce the threat posed by rebel fighters to the camp inhabitants.



*UK deployed a C-130 in Entebbe to provide air lift capacity of UNMISS, delivering crucial re-supplies to Malakal camp in South Sudan.  
[Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2015]*

**Gurkha soldiers on the ground talking to the local population in the village of Sahugaun, Dhading District Nepal with the aim of gathering information on the situation there, following the earthquake in April 2015.**

Sahugaun is a remote village with a population of a few hundred and along with nearby villages was devastated. Nearly every house in the village were severely damaged or destroyed and the villagers were without water, electricity and toilet facilities. The Gurkha team were the first to make contact with the village.

[Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2015]



