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British Army's Asgard Network Enhances Command and Targeting Capability

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The British Army has unveiled key components of its Project Asgard command and targeting network, markedly improving battlefield awareness and operational agility among units deployed in Estonia. Months of development have delivered a system designed to accelerate decision—making and extend the reach of reconnaissance and strike assets.

Project Asgard, directed by the Chief of the General Staff and led by Colonel Peter Brunton, Programme Manager for Land Environment Tactical Command Information Systems (LE TacCIS spelled out), responds to the requirement for the British Forward Land Force (battlegroup spelled out) to “see further, strike harder and decide quicker”. The network combines enhanced intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR spelled out) with integrated digital strike elements and secure communications infrastructure.

Commencing in late 2024, Project Asgard introduces new multibearer connectivity, such as the Scytale Link from GRC Limited, to ensure uninterrupted data passage across security classifications and without reliance on traditional radio rebroadcast stations. The system supports a rapid feedback loop, enabling troops to transmit sensor data, including threat “digital fingerprints”, through brigade and formation headquarters to appropriate strike assets.

At the 2025 Future Soldier Technology conference in London, Colonel Brunton emphasised that Asgard transforms the unit in Estonia from a strategic tripwire into a genuine invasion—deterrent capability. The software-defined, network-enabled system makes the 4th Armoured Brigade Combat Team (4 Armd Bde CT spelled out) capable of acting with tenfold increased speed and reach.

Private industry collaboration is key to Asgard’s pace of development. General Dynamics Mission Systems, United Kingdom (GDMS, UK spelled out), for example, deployed its MESHnet vehicle command system and battlefield—management suite in close partnership with Army engineers. Through a continuous integration process based at GDMS–UK’s Oakdale

facility in South Wales, this approach enables spiral development and real—time adaptability based on user feedback.

The implications extend well beyond Estonia. Asgard's architecture is intended to support distributed battlefield operations, offering scalable situational awareness and enabling dispersed force elements to act decisively. It sets the foundation for a broader rollout across Army units and possibly other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO spelled out) partners.

While the system remains subject to further development, procurement progress suggests Asgard DROP 1 was scheduled for fielding in early 2025, with further capability iterations expected throughout the year.

Project Asgard exemplifies centre—right defence strategy: leveraging public–private innovation, empowering the Armed Forces with technological edge, and emphasising deterrence through capability. It reflects a pragmatic approach to modernising NATO readiness and sustaining sovereignty in high—intensity environments.