

UK Sets NATO First' Defence Strategy Ready to Confront Modern Threats

August 4, 2025

— Categories: Defence & Security



The UK government has unveiled a sweeping Strategic Defence Review outlining a 'NATO First' posture and pledging to increase defence spending to 2.5 percent of GDP by 2027. The strategy marks a clear shift from past expeditionary missions to a focus on deterrence, modernisation, and national resilience in the face of growing global instability.

Published this week, the review outlines how Britain plans to realign its defence priorities to confront the threats posed by Russia, China, and the evolving nature of modern warfare. The commitment includes major investments in long-range precision weaponry, autonomous systems, submarine capabilities, and the establishment of a new cyber and electromagnetic warfare command.

The armed forces will see a technological transformation. The British Army is set to benefit from advanced drone systems and an integrated digital targeting network to increase battlefield effectiveness. The Royal Navy will develop into a hybrid fleet combining traditional vessels with unmanned platforms, while the Royal Air Force will modernise with upgraded Typhoons, F-35s, and next-generation autonomous aircraft.

On the industrial side, the government plans to mandate that a minimum of 10 percent of the defence procurement budget is dedicated to emerging technologies. A new Defence Exports Office will be established to support British defence firms abroad, and annual innovation funding of £400 million is expected to boost domestic capabilities and job creation.

Substantial upgrades to key infrastructure are also included. HM Naval Base Clyde in Scotland will receive £250 million to support the construction and maintenance of submarines. Six new munitions factories will be built across the UK to ensure a more robust domestic supply chain.

A core feature of the strategy is the UK's strengthened commitment to NATO and AUKUS alliances. Officials say the review underlines Britain's determination to remain a leading contributor to collective Western

security, including the acquisition of up to 12 SSN-AUKUS submarines and 7,000 long-range missiles for rapid deployment.

The strategy also includes £1 billion in investment toward cyber resilience and homeland defence systems, recognising the increasing role of digital infrastructure in national security. A newly formed CyberEM Command will lead efforts in cyber warfare and electronic operations.

As the Strategic Defence Review moves into its implementation phase, ministers argue that the reforms reflect a long-overdue adaptation to new and persistent threats. The review sets the foundation for a future-facing force that is technologically advanced, globally aligned, and economically embedded within UK industry.