



DEFENCE PROCUREMENT AGENCY

Corporate Plan 2002



EQUIPPING THE ARMED FORCES **DPA**



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Foreword

BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



The Agency has come a long way since vesting on 1 April 1999. Conversion to Integrated Project Teams is complete, they now account for 60% of our operating cost; Support Groups are developing formal tasking arrangements; Support Directors and their staff are bedded into mainstream business. The Executive Board has adjusted to our new business model, and continues to develop its role in, for example, customer and supplier relations and performance improvement. Improved delivery was noted by the National Audit Office in their review of the Major Projects Report for 2001. Key Target 5 has been met.

But the world has not stood still since 1999. We need to learn to respond with increasing flexibility to changing customer requirements. We need a better focus on our effort at the front end of projects, to change the risk profile. This is difficult to do while coping with tight budgets, but must be done to bring more certainty to project performance post Main Gate. We need to understand the capability of the supply side better, and how to help it to improve performance. And this must be done while making progress on interoperability with the Defence Logistics Organisation, especially on common financial systems: our staff's top priority for process improvement.

None of this will happen unless we have the right people in the right jobs, each feeling that they have the opportunity to develop their skills and deploy them to best effect. Valuing our people cannot be allowed to become a cliché, and this year we will be paying special attention, in assessing teams and individuals, to how everyone contributes to that aim. The DPA is already gaining a good reputation in this respect. We must now be able to demonstrate that each of us is seeking out lessons and then applying them and, of course, that we place staff development and timely performance assessment at the top of our personal agendas.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Walmsley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Sir Robert Walmsley, April 2002



SECTION 1

Purposes and Structure of the DPA

STATUS, ROLES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 1.1 The Defence Procurement Agency (DPA) is a vote-funded Agency of the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Its status, roles and accountability are set out in the Framework Document published when the Agency was launched in April 1999.

DPA MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

- 1.2 Our Mission is:
To equip the Armed Forces
- 1.3 Our Vision is:
To excel in delivering equipment to the Armed Forces by meeting our promises to our customers and developing the excellence of our people.
- 1.4 Our Values underpinning our Vision are:
- **Excellence** We must be performance driven, seeking continuous improvement and striving for excellence in all that we do. We can only measure excellence against the achievement of the results our customers want.
 - **Meeting promises to customers** We must be focused on understanding and meeting our customers' needs.
 - **Valuing our people** We value the diversity of our people and seek to develop their potential by recognising their needs, supporting their aspirations and rewarding their achievements.
 - **Integrity** Underlying everything we do is the need to act with integrity, honesty and transparency within our team and with our customers and suppliers, working together to achieve our mission.



Purposes and Structure of the DPA

SCOPE AND NATURE OF OUR BUSINESS

Equipment Procurement

1.5 Our main task is to provide new capability to the Armed Forces. Our aim is to provide value for money and to deliver to the time, cost and performance agreed with our customers. We must also have the flexibility to respond rapidly to urgent new requirements such as those that have emerged in the wake of the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001. A cross-section of our current activities is at Annex A.

1.6 Successful procurement requires excellence in project management, a deep understanding of our customers' requirements and a sound knowledge of the supplier base. The Agency adds value by linking the military customer to defence suppliers and sub-contractors and by achieving the best balance between requirements and supply capabilities. We bring together the required skills and experience in Integrated Project Teams (IPTs), and in the deeper embedded expertise of our Support Groups. The typical IPT includes MOD civilian and military experts, and full or part-time representatives of other stakeholders including industry. IPTs work with their customers to:

- capture and manage the requirement
- define industry capability to meet the requirement at an agreed cost
- gain approval for the project
- deliver solutions on a through-life basis to the required time, cost and performance
- trial and test equipment, and contribute to its acceptance

Each IPT's principal customer is the appropriate Director of Equipment Capability in the Equipment Capability Customer organisation in MOD. Their relationship is governed by a Customer Supplier Agreement (CSA) which specifies the outputs to be provided by the IPT and how the IPT and customer will work together. DPA dual-accountable IPTs (those that are accountable to the Chief of Defence Logistics for the in-service support aspects of their project) also have a CSA with the appropriate Front Line Command.



Purposes and Structure of the DPA

- 1.7 Our work is demanding, and often involves leading edge technology and novel commercial techniques. It includes:
- determining project and programme strategies, including opportunities for co-operating on projects
 - project and programme definition, planning and management
 - systems engineering
 - integrating weapons systems, equipment and platforms
 - ensuring equipment safety
 - managing commercial and legal issues
 - developing a support strategy as part of a whole-life plan
 - negotiating with allied governments to improve market access for defence goods and services
 - meeting the requirements of corporate governance and accountability to Parliament.

Services

- 1.8 The DPA supplies specialist acquisition-related services to its own IPTs and to customers elsewhere within MOD, other Government Departments and overseas. Delivery is managed by Support Groups which bring together appropriate specialist skills. Internal services, such as Personnel, are managed in a similar way. Agreements govern the relationships between Support Groups and their external customers. Support Group activities include commercial, legal, pricing and quality assurance services, equipment safety and interoperability, Intellectual Property Rights, international relations and professional training. They also provide a broad skills base for safety and technology support.

An Integral Part of the Ministry of Defence

- 1.9 The DPA, as an integral part of the Ministry of Defence, contributes fully to the Department's management, planning and policy formation. We support the MOD's mission, which includes:
- generating modern battle-winning forces and other defence capabilities
 - making every pound count for defence to ensure that the defence budget is used to best effect
 - being open, flexible and creative in the way it works
 - encouraging British defence technology, science and industry
 - helping to protect the natural environment.



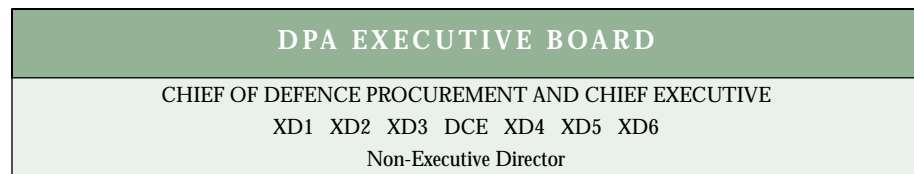
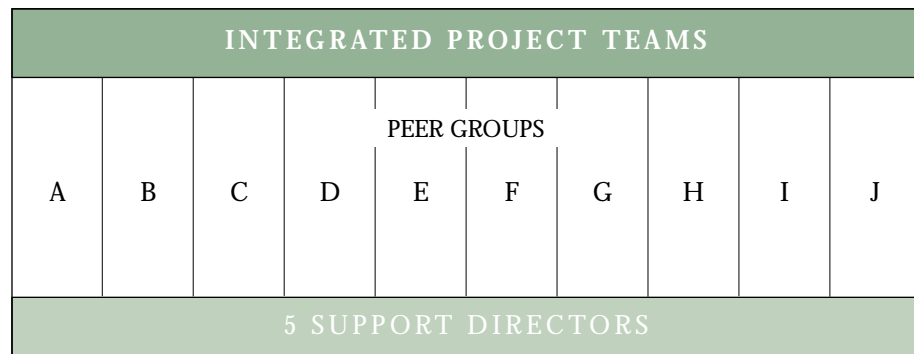
Purposes and Structure of the DPA

STRUCTURE OF THE DPA

1.10 We have a flat structure, designed to maintain the focus on delivering our principal outputs. The DPA has some 70 IPTs which are grouped in 10 Peer Groups which provide mutual review, exchange of best practice, and resource-sharing.

1.11 The three principal elements of the DPA supporting IPTs are:

- **CDP and the Executive Board**, which consists of the Deputy Chief Executive, six Executive Directors, and an external Non-Executive Director. The Board is collectively responsible for managing the continuous improvement of the Agency; for managing supplier relationships; for delivering the DPA's corporate targets; and for managing the Agency's internal resources. Board members have individual responsibility for a number of cross-cutting issues.
- **Support Directors**, who facilitate the running of the Peer Groups, support the Executive Directors in their cross-cutting responsibilities, and provide advice to IPT Leaders on resource management and policy.
- **Support Groups** We are developing an improved system for managing support, based on a better balance between the work that Support Groups do, the demand for it and the resources available.



SECTION 2

Business Strategy



- 2.1 The 2001 Major Projects Report confirmed that we continue to meet approved requirements and control the costs of major projects after Main Gate (the main investment decision point). Delays on major projects are also reducing (from 3.8 months average new slippage in 1999-2000 to 1.8 months in 2000-01, and 1.3 months last year). But controlling duration remains challenging. The main reasons for slippage remain technical difficulties and risk in a deferment of projects in the MOD annual planning cycle. We are adopting the lessons from pilot studies carried out in 2001 to address these problems. These include reducing technology risk in the project assessment phase; risk management (including industrial performance); using modular development; reducing project duration; and freeing up resources by improving decision-making. Improved supplier assessment and management, enabling us to work with the customer to create the most cost-effective balance of supply with military demand, will be critical.

- 2.2 Paradoxically, our success in reducing delay adds to pressure on the equipment programme because costs are slipping less. This makes it more difficult to move resources to the front-end of projects so as to improve performance, and certainty about the outcome, at Main Gate. But this remains crucial to achieving Smart Acquisition objectives. We are continuing to work closely with the Equipment Capability Customer to contribute to a balanced Equipment Plan. We are rigorously reviewing the scope for trade-offs between performance, time and cost in the project assessment phase.

- 2.3 In order to improve performance on time and cost we must continue to develop the expertise and professionalism of our people. We are working to bring all IPTs up to the standards of the best by improving learning from experience and disseminating best practice. In the Support area our aim is to sustain highly skilled, agile, flexible support teams providing focused expertise to IPTs.

- 2.4 Our mission is to deliver equipment to the Armed Forces, and we are using Smart Acquisition to deliver to the agreed performance, time and cost. Our goal is that by 2005, more than 95% of Smart projects at any time should be within the agreed parameters for performance, time and cost approved at Main Gate. This is an ambitious objective, and means that at any time 19 out of 20 Smart projects will be within all their agreed parameters. We are continuing to trial and validate the target, with a view to its adoption as a Key Target next year. We will also continue to monitor performance on the declining number of legacy projects approved prior to Smart Acquisition.

Business Strategy



2.5 Since 1997, we have used the Excellence Model developed by the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) to drive business improvement. We have undertaken a series of annual self-assessments, checked by external advice. In 2001 we were externally assessed by Excellence South West, the regional EFQM body. We were pleased to receive a commendation for our submission. We will continue to seek external assessment at regional and in due course at national level.

2.6 We are using the Excellence Model in combination with the 'balanced scorecard' methodology in order to develop our business strategy and manage performance throughout the Agency. We are integrating the systematic management of risk into our forward planning and performance management. We will monitor action to manage those risks through audit and assurance activities, drawing on the advice of the Agency's Audit Committee, under independent chairmanship. Progress against our strategic objectives is tracked through performance measures and targets in the Agency's Business Plan. Agency Strategies are:

- **Leadership.** We depend upon strong and effective leadership to achieve our business objectives. IPT Leaders and Support Group Leaders are empowered. Each receives a formal letter of delegation from CDP detailing their accountability and responsibility for delivering targets. IPT Leaders, Support Group Leaders and Support Directors attend a residential leadership masterclass designed in collaboration with a specialist supplier.
- **People.** We are developing a Human Resources (HR) strategy to match our strategy. HR management will be modernised this year with the pathfinder implementation at Abbey Wood of the first phase of the MOD's Human Resource Management System (HRMS) using contemporary industry-standard HR processes and procedures.

Our staff form the majority membership of the Acquisition Leadership Development Scheme and the Acquisition Stream and are thus committed to self-development of the specified skills and competences, supported by their line managers and the Personnel Group. We have established a network of training development advisers to provide information, guidance and support for training and development across the Agency. We place great emphasis on internal communications and measure staff satisfaction through a variety of means, particularly an annual staff attitude survey. We are an Investor in People organisation, and our status is reviewed annually.

We are strongly committed to diversity. We seek to create an environment which maximises the contribution of DPA employees and which recognises and values the differences in people. Our diversity strategy is benchmarked against the Diversity Excellence Model, enabling us to share good practice with other organisations. In the coming year we will evaluate opportunities for increased diversity, developing original ideas to focus on the issues and to improve our performance.

Business Strategy

- **Customers.** Last year we improved customer satisfaction with the Agency, but fell just short of our target. We need to work closely with our customers to establish a better understanding of roles and expectations, and improve performance and provide the level of satisfaction our customers expect. We will again be holding an annual Customer Day and are organising a series of 'roadshows' to explain our role and foster greater understanding of our customers' expectations.
- **Suppliers.** Our aim is to maintain and actively manage open, strong and mutually beneficial commercial relationships with our suppliers. We are developing and improving our supplier management capability to get the best out of our suppliers by developing our knowledge and understanding of our supplier base and establishing mechanisms for measuring and improving performance.
- **International co-operation.** We have more than 50 co-operative equipment programmes. Our aim is to continue to improve the operation of international defence markets, supplier relationships, and harmonisation of requirements with our allies. The Letter of Intent Framework Agreement, which entered into force in April 2001, is a major step which established practical measures to improve industrial and equipment co-operation among the 6 signatory states (UK; France; Germany; Italy; Spain and Sweden). Similarly, the UK/US Declaration of Principles is designed to remove obstacles to bilateral defence industrial and equipment co-operation. The coming year will see the introduction of a range of measures such as agreements on security of supply and the treatment of technical information. We continue to work with the US Administration for the streamlining of export controls and better mutual market access. There have been encouraging signs recently.

The multinational armaments agency, OCCAR, will continue to be developed to provide better international programme management. We are currently involved in two OCCAR- managed programmes: the Counter-Battery Radar (COBRA), and the Multi-Role Armoured Vehicle (MRAV). The A400M military transport aircraft programme will be integrated into OCCAR shortly, and the Principal Anti-Air Missile System (PAAMS) programme has been earmarked for OCCAR management in due course. We also act as the focal point for UK policy towards the 19-nation Western European Armaments Group (WEAG), which promotes European co-operation in defence equipment matters.



Business Strategy

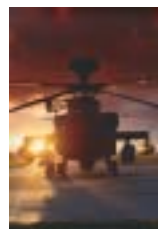


- **Technology.** Effective management of technology plays a critical role in enabling the DPA to deliver battle-winning equipment based on advanced but proven technology. By maintaining close links with the MOD research community we ensure that the research programme stays focused on our current and future needs. We are supporting 'Research Partnerships with Industry', a programme to provide industrial suppliers with a better understanding of emerging defence technologies. We will develop technology management processes and tools, such as Technology Readiness Levels, to enable us to better understand, quantify, and manage the balance between opportunity and risk that technology often presents.
- **Information strategy.** The success of our equipment acquisition and management processes depends on how we manage information. We will ensure that the systems we provide for office automation and project and financial management work effectively and support the increasingly complex requirements of IPTs. Shared working with industry partners continues to develop, and joint programmes are being implemented to ensure that common tools are used across the acquisition community. The focus of our efforts will move towards exploiting our information to improve performance and getting better value from it. We are progressively introducing electronic business solutions to support our business relationships, data exchanges and transactions across our value chain, and to provide on-line services for our staff.
- **Financial systems.** A joint project has now been established with the Defence Logistics Organisation to set in place a single integrated finance system, with streamlined processes both within the Agency and across the acquisition community. We will build on our first year's experience of managing against resource budgets, enhancing our Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) systems and skills. We will also complete the transition of Equipment Programme planning and approvals from cash to RAB.
- **New operating cost system.** While we have successfully met our targets to reduce operating costs while improving performance, the operating costs system has sometimes hindered efforts to optimise the balance between in-house and contractor activities. In future, operating costs will be planned alongside the equipment expenditure as a whole and IPT leaders will be able, with the agreement of their customers, to plan future expenditure flexibly between the two elements of this programme. Underlying this more flexible approach will be a system of IPT size modelling to ensure taut standards of team manning. To reflect the introduction of the new system we will be adopting a new target and new measures of efficiency. The new Key Target 5 is described in more detail in Section 3.



Business Strategy

- **Whole-life Costs.** The whole-life approach underpins Smart Acquisition. This demands a robust system for capturing the whole life costs of equipment. We are working closely with the Defence Logistics Organisation, who are rolling out a cost of ownership model to measure the true costs of equipment capability on a whole-life basis. The system will initially be used by the major projects in our Key Target population and will be extended to all projects in due course.
- **Business Processes.** We aim to be a good customer for our suppliers by making our business processes simple, standard, speedy and certain; to facilitate innovation, learning and continuous improvement in processes across the DPA; and to play a leading role in improving processes throughout acquisition and across the MOD. The Executive Board has identified the Agency's top ten processes and has taken responsibility for their improvement.
- **Interoperability with DLO.** It is essential that there is interoperability between the Agency and the Defence Logistics Organisation. We have identified interoperability with the DLO as one of our key strategic themes and have a full programme of work in hand with the DLO aimed at ensuring interoperability in key areas. These include human resource management; financial processes; business tools to support acquisition processes; and through-life management. We are also working to harmonise performance management, key supplier management and other areas of common interest.
- **Safety and environment.** We are committed to the protection of the environment and to maintaining the health, safety and welfare of all staff within the Agency. The management of safety and environmental issues is an integral feature at all stages of our acquisition process. Exemptions from legislative requirements are sought only on grounds of national security when this is essential for the maintenance of operational capability. This will be the first full year of operation of our Acquisition Safety and Environment Management System aimed at ensuring compliance with applicable safety and environmental legislation, treaty obligations and Departmental policy. We will publish our site Environmental Management System this year and will ensure that all personnel are aware of the implications. The promotion of sustainable development will affect areas such as travel, energy, waste management and procurement. During the year we will develop a framework to identify a range of environmental targets.





SECTION 3

Targets and Plans

- 3.1 The period covered by this Plan aligns with the MOD's four-year short-term planning period. The Agency's Key Targets for the period are as follows:

KEY TARGETS	DESCRIPTION	2001-02 Target	2001-02 (forecast)	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	Predicted achievement of projects' key requirements	97%	99%	97%	97%	97%	97%
2	Average cumulative slippage of In Service Date compared with approval not to exceed (months): (of which in-year slippage:)	11.4 (0.5)	12.2 (1.3)	12.1 (0.4)	7.0 (0.4)	5.0 (0.3)	5.0 (0.3)
3	Average cumulative cost increase compared with approval not to exceed	2.5%	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%	1.9%	1.7%
4	Customer satisfaction rating	70%	67%	70%	73%	76%	80%
5	Excess against Resource Control Totals	n/a	0	0	0	0	0

- 3.2 In 2001-02 we expect to meet Key Targets 1, 3 and 5. We expect narrowly to miss Key Target 2; although we have substantially reduced in-year slippage compared with the previous year, this performance was against a much tighter target than before. Customer satisfaction (Key Target 4) has increased, but has fallen short of the demanding target that we set ourselves. We will report more fully in the DPA Annual Report on performance against these targets.
- 3.3 The projects for Key Targets 1, 2 and 3 are the 20 projects covered in the Major Projects Report (MPR) which have passed the Main Gate approval stage. They represent some 60% of procurement expenditure. The projects are agreed with the National Audit Office (NAO) before the start of the financial year, and from next year they will be subject to audit by the NAO. In the event that the project population changes in the course of the year (for example, as a result of project cancellation or changes in financial profile) we will report against the original Key Targets but also show what the outcome would be for the final MPR project population. Key Target 2 is based on average past slippage against the approved ISD, together with a small allowance for in-year movement on projects before their ISD. The table shows the average new in-year slippage allowed within the target. Key Target 3 reflects average past cost growth; no new cost growth is allowed in Key Target 3.



Targets and Plans



- 3.4 Achieving the target of 80% for Key Target 4, customer satisfaction, by 2005-06 would put us among the best performers among analogous organisations. The results last year, where we made an improvement in customer satisfaction but did not achieve our ambitious target, demonstrate that this target represents a major challenge which requires a genuine change in behaviour, working closely with our customers. We have adjusted the profile towards achievement of our 80% goal in the light of last year's result.
- 3.5 Last year we exceeded the original target set in the Smart Procurement Initiative to make operating cost savings of 20% against the baseline of the operating costs of the Procurement Executive in 1997-98. This baseline has become progressively more remote, and continued tracking against it would have been difficult now we have completed the move to managing costs on a resource basis. A new Key Target 5 has therefore been agreed, which changes the focus from reductions in DPA internal operating costs to the Agency's performance in delivering its challenging performance, costs and time targets on the equipment programme within the agreed overall resource control totals. The new Key Target 5 is measured by monitoring the Agency's resource consumption. The target is to remain within the agreed resource and capital defence expenditure limits, and is expressed as a requirement to have zero overspend. To underpin the new Key Target 5 we will be developing new measures of efficiency to demonstrate continuing improvement.
- 3.6 The Key Targets are genuinely demanding, but we remain ready to be judged by our performance against them. There may be occasions when their achievement will be made more difficult by factors outside our control (changes in budgetary priorities, or requirements). Where such factors have significantly affected the outcome, they will be identified.
- 3.7 The Key Targets are the measures of the Agency's performance on the largest projects, but the achievement of a much wider range of objectives is vital to the Agency's customers and other stakeholders. We have more than a thousand smaller projects underway at any one time, each one critically important to its customers. The Key Targets are complemented by a range of measures and targets including delivery of the in-year plan, the achievement of project milestones, staff satisfaction and external perceptions of the Agency. These measures and targets are set out in the Agency's Business Plan under 'Key Performance Results': the Agency's 'bottom line'. The plan is widely available throughout the Agency and distributed to all other MOD stakeholders.
- 3.8 The Agency has identified a number of initiatives, or 'projects', by which its strategy will be carried forward. These are set out according to Excellence Model Enabler criterion in the following tables:

Business Initiatives

LEADERSHIP	<i>Vision: Inspire, support and empower</i>
Project: Leadership development	
Implement lessons learned from leadership training	October 2002
Project: Corporate Governance	
Statement of Internal Control signed by CDP	May 2002
Fully supported Statement of Internal Control	May 2003
POLICY AND STRATEGY	<i>Vision: Focused on results</i>
Project: Policy and strategy	
Complete review of DPA top policies	December 2002
Project: Excellence	
Submission for Excellence South West award	June 2002
EFQM National Award level	November 2003
PEOPLE	<i>Vision: Teamed, developed and motivated</i>
Project: Human resource strategy	
Complete Human Resource Management System pathfinder project	August 2002
HR Strategy and action plan approved by Executive Board	September 2002
Achieve Investors in People re-accreditation	November 2002
PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES	<i>Vision: Making the most of assets and relationships</i>
Project: Information strategy	
Freedom of Information - Delivery of DPA element of MOD Corporate FOI Publication Scheme	August 2002
Information Hub - Consolidate DPA public information	December 2002
E-business – Access to Shared Data Environment available to all IPTs	March 2004
DPA IS migrated to Defence Information Infrastructure System	March 2004

Business Initiatives

PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES		<i>Vision: Making the most of assets and relationships</i>
Project: Environmental management		
Publish Environmental Management System		September 2003
Project: Key supplier management		
Create database for Key Supplier information		August 2002
Project: Partnership development		
Report to joint DPA/DLO Interoperability Steering Group		August 2002
Project: International co-operation		
Board of Supervisors approval of OCCAR quality assurance arrangements		November 2002
Project: Finance development		
Whole life costs data for MPR projects		May 2002
Equipment Plan 2003 produced on Full Resource Basis		July 2002
Policy for output costing approved		March 2003
Project: Technology		
Corporate technology strategy agreed		October 2002
Technology Route Mapping tool Implemented		March 2003

PROCESSES		<i>Vision: Simple, standard, speedy, certain</i>
Project: Process development		
All key processes mapped		September 2002
Project: Integration		
Interoperability Assurance Process rolled out		April 2002
Interoperability Process embedded in all CIS projects		April 2003
Interoperability Process embedded in all projects		April 2004
Project: Procurement Excellence		
IPT Demonstrators reducing delays – review completed		November 2002
3-point estimates in place for all MPR projects		December 2002
All MPR projects at Risk Maturity Level 3		March 2003
All projects with TLMP costed on whole-life basis		March 2004

ANNEX A

Current DPA Activity



EUROFIGHTER

Eurofighter, which is expected to enter service this year, is a highly agile fighter being produced collaboratively for the air forces of Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK. Whilst optimised for air superiority, Eurofighter will also be capable of performing an air-to-ground role and will replace both Tornado F3 and Jaguar in the Royal Air Force inventory. This multi-role capability makes Eurofighter a highly cost-effective asset in the less predictable post-Cold War setting.

LANDING PLATFORM DOCK (REPLACEMENT) - LPD(R)

These new ships, HMS Bulwark and HMS Albion, will be equipped for the command and conduct of intensive amphibious warfare operations at a much faster tempo than is now possible. They carry four Landing Craft Utility in a covered floodable deck, and four Landing Craft Vehicle and Personnel on davits. The LPD(R)s are equipped with a Command Support System for the planning and control of amphibious operations.



CONVENTIONALLY ARMED STAND-OFF MISSILE - CASOM

Storm Shadow is an air-launched, conventionally armed, long range, stand-off, precision weapon, which is deployable in day and night, in most weather and operational conditions. It provides a capability to destroy a wide spectrum of targets without exposing aircraft and crews to unacceptably high levels of risk. As well as maximising military effectiveness, precision attack limits the risk of collateral damage and civilian casualties.



ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (PROTECTED) "VIKING"

A total of 108 vehicles in three variants are being procured to provide protected mobility for 3 Commando Brigade. The vehicles can take part in amphibious landings or be carried beneath a helicopter. They are the first armoured vehicles to be operated by the Corps, paving the way for a new and radical concept of operations on the battlefield. Deliveries are due to start in February 2003.

Current DPA Activity



JOINT COMBAT AIRCRAFT

The Joint Combat Aircraft will be a new multi-role fighter/attack aircraft to replace the Sea Harrier and Harrier GR7. Having examined a range of options, the UK joined the US Joint Strike Fighter programme as a full collaborative partner. The in-service date will coincide with the first of the new aircraft carriers, currently expected to be 2012.



ASTUTE

The new Astute Class nuclear powered attack submarines will meet the Royal Navy's requirement for rapid, flexible and sustained deployment to operations worldwide in both deep sea and littoral (coastal) waters. Their roles will include anti-submarine and anti-surface vessel warfare, surveillance and intelligence gathering, task group operations, land attack and special operations. The current contract is for three submarines; a further order of up to three is planned.

ALTERNATIVE LANDING SHIP LOGISTIC - ALSL

ALSL is a new class of ship designed to deploy troops, vehicles and equipment directly into operational areas. It has been developed as an alternative to the costly life extension programme for the existing Landing Ship Logistic. ALSL is larger and more versatile than its predecessor, enabling troops to be loaded and disembarked with their vehicles and equipment at sea by landing craft and helicopter. The first ALSL is planned to enter service in autumn 2004.



AIRBORNE STAND-OFF RADAR - ASTOR

ASTOR is a new capability, which will provide a long range all weather theatre surveillance and target acquisition system, capable of detecting moving, fixed and static targets. It is designed to meet a joint Army and RAF requirement. The system comprises a fleet of air platforms, each with a radar sensor, and a number of ground stations. The first aircraft and ground stations are due to be delivered in 2004 with final deliveries being made in 2008.

Current DPA Activity

FUTURE OFFENSIVE AIR SYSTEM – FOAS

FOAS will provide, from towards the end of the next decade, the deep strike capability currently provided by Tornado GR4. The final FOAS capability is likely to consist of a number of different systems, potentially including manned and unmanned aircraft, long-range cruise missiles, and an integrating C4I system. In order to collaborate on developing the technologies that FOAS will need, the UK last year launched the European Technology Acquisition Programme, in partnership with France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Sweden.



MULTI-ROLE ARMoured VEHICLE - MRAV

MRAV is an armoured 8x8 wheeled vehicle that combines the most modern armour technology, particularly against mines and direct fire, with high mobility and high capacity. The new vehicle will be suitable for a wide range of operational tasks, including crisis reaction and international peacekeeping operations. The UK is participating in a collaborative programme with Germany and the Netherlands, with the first vehicles due to be available for operational service in 2008.



TYPE 45 DESTROYER

The Type 45 is a new class of Anti-Air Warfare Destroyer to replace the existing Type 42 Destroyers. It will be equipped with the new Principal Anti-Air Missile System (PAAMS) being procured separately as a collaborative programme with France and Italy. Type 45 will provide area protection against aircraft and missiles for ships in company as well as itself.



A400M

A400M will provide tactical and strategic mobility to all three services, primarily in support of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force. It will replace the RAF's ageing air transport fleet and provide the longer term strategic lift capability (in the short term we are leasing four C-17 aircraft). A400M is a collaborative programme involving the UK, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Turkey.

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DPA

EQUIPPING THE ARMED FORCES