



ARMY

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CGS/DO

Commanders and Commanding Officers

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

THE ARMY RESERVE

The Secretary of State for Defence, Philip Hammond, will announce the publication of the White Paper on the Reserves in the House of Commons on Wednesday 3 July. He will also outline the future structure, roles and laydown of the Territorial Army, and its renaming to the Army Reserve. This announcement is the final component of the Army 2020 vision and will set the conditions for the integration of the Regular and Reserve components within a single force structure.

White Paper

The White Paper, drawn up following extensive consultation on the proposals in last year's Green Paper, sets out the vital role the Reserve will play in the security of our Nation and outlines how the Ministry of Defence will enable and support Reserve service in this emerging context. It describes how Defence will provide Reservists with a challenging and rewarding opportunity which is attractive and supports retention. This will entail better managing and sustaining our relationships with Reservists, their families and their employers, with increased mutual obligations.

The Army Reserve

The current structure of the Territorial Army does not meet the purpose, roles and capabilities of Reserves required in the Army 2020 vision. The Territorial Army must therefore be restructured to deliver the fully integrated Army of 112,000 trained personnel (82,000 Regular and 30,000 Reservists). Reserve units will be paired with their Regular counterparts, improving access to equipment and enabling better training, and will be distributed in varying proportions across the seven Adaptable Force brigades and the eight specialist Force Troops brigades. Individual Reservists will also augment the combat units in the four Reaction Force brigades. These changes will allow the Army Reserve to contribute routinely to the Army's military outputs as directed by the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Army Reserve Structure

The current Territorial Army liability of 36,500, agreed in 2007 but never fully manned, will be reduced to 30,000. The target is to man it fully by 2018. This disparity between the Territorial Army's current liability and its trained strength means that we need to reduce the size of its overall structure even though we are expanding the strength of the Army Reserve. The different capabilities required in the future from the Army Reserve will also require changes to structures within each cap-badge.

We will implement the structural re-balancing in a phased manner and it will be complete by 2016. The priority will be to generate those capabilities required from the Army Reserve in the earliest phases of any future Medium Scale stabilisation operation so that they are available from 2017 to meet our Defence outputs.

Army Reserve Basing Plan

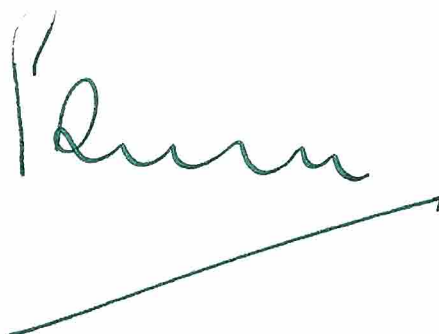
Restructuring will also require the current basing laydown of the Territorial Army to change. The Territorial Army currently occupies 334 sites around the United Kingdom. Meeting the requirements of the Army Reserve will result in the vacation of 35 Army Reserve sites and the re-occupation of 9 existing sites by 2016. In order to increase the presence of the Army Reserve in urban areas, our vital recruiting ground, we will merge 32 sub-units, many of which are under-recruited, into larger sites already occupied by units of the same cap-badge, principally in local or neighbouring communities. Overall, 85% of Army Reserve sites will be unaffected by change, and there will remain significant opportunity for the vast majority of reservists to serve at one of 306 sites across the United Kingdom.

In addition to these changes, the Army's regional Chain of Command will continue to strive for full manning in any remaining small detachments that are not yet fully recruited. However, those sites which are unable to achieve full manning and cannot generate the capability we require will remain subject to further rationalisation. Army HQ will shortly be setting out clear targets for these locations and will complete its review on their future by 2016.

Way Forward

Since the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review, we have conducted a thorough review of the Army's function and structure. This announcement is the final part of this process, and the Army 2020 vision is now laid out fully. The detailed work of implementation is progressing well, but there is much work still to do. Success will depend on the leadership and the ingenuity of our people. The operational landscape is uncertain and challenging. As we evolve towards the Army 2020 vision, we need to be ready for new operational challenges at any stage.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to be 'P. Brown', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.