



Ministry
of Defence

The Joint Expeditionary Force



June 2018



The Rt Hon
Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Defence

The Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) is a powerful initiative that brings together the full spectrum of military and inter-governmental capabilities from the UK and eight of our closest northern European partners. It has been created to counter growing European and global threats that threaten our security, stability and prosperity. It is a clear demonstration of our combined resolve to deter our adversaries and contribute to international security. This booklet explains what the JEF is, how it operates and what it is capable of.

With the signing of the Comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding at Lancaster House in June 2018, a concept launched at the 2014 NATO Summit is now a reality with the activation processes in place to enable its deployment. As a highly responsive combined force, the JEF has the capability, capacity and flexibility to undertake operations across the full spectrum of military activities from high intensity combat to Defence Engagement.

The JEF is designed to be complimentary to NATO and provides another quick response option. It can be used to support allies, such as the US, France and Germany, and international organisations, including the UN and NATO.

The JEF builds on our shared experience, operating together successfully over decades and proving that together we are stronger – the whole is far greater than the sum of its parts. The development of this capable and flexible framework signals our resolve to allies and adversaries alike and is a tangible reminder of the UK's steadfast pledge to support European security.

What is the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF)?

The JEF is a concept that draws on a pool of high readiness forces from the UK and like-minded Partner Nations to provide military options that respond rapidly in peacetime or crisis.¹ It is not a standing force.



A Norwegian Submarine and UK RIB on the River Clyde during Ex JOINT WARRIOR

The UK is the framework nation, and may activate a JEF deployment unilaterally or as part of a JEF coalition. The JEF is designed to integrate with larger international forces, such as NATO. A JEF deployment will be commanded by the UK at the most appropriate level from sub-unit or platform to 2* HQ; depending on task, scale and threat.

Why do we need the JEF?



UK and Estonian soldiers training together

In recognising the challenges to our security and national interests it is important that we have forces available to respond appropriately. Population growth, migration, energy demands, climate change, globalisation, urbanisation, and technology changes, all contribute to

challenges within the rules-based international system. These complex trends are likely to inform the future deployment of our military, and the militaries of our partners. The JEF is designed to build on the partnerships and relationships that have evolved through strong operational experience and a shared understanding of national security threats. It provides a flexible, integrated, Joint Force that can respond quickly, anywhere, anytime, and in any environment.

¹ Decisions to deploy the JEF will be made by the framework nation in consultation with Partner Nations.

The Road to the JEF

For over a decade the UK worked closely alongside trusted partners during campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. As these operations drew down our militaries re-focused on high readiness contingency forces, and there was an opportunity to build on these operational foundations. We needed to ensure that this hard-fought, shared experience was not lost.



UK, Lithuanian and Latvian officers and soldiers on parade during a remembrance ceremony in Latvia

Following the NATO summit in Wales in September 2014, the JEF Partner Nations signed a Foundation Memorandum of Understanding (F-MOU) in London in November 2015 and the JEF was declared at an initial operating capability (IOC). In June 2017 JEF membership grew to nine as Sweden and Finland joined as Partner Nations.



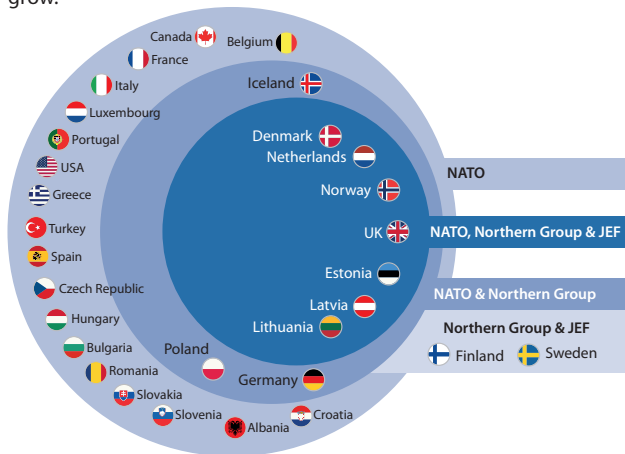
The signing of the Comprehensive MOU (C-MOU) marks the completion of the process to establish the JEF, with military strategic relationships firmly established and processes in place to support JEF activation. Beyond FOC, JEF interoperability will continue to mature through regular training alongside Partner Nations and Partners Across Government.



A Typhoon from the UK, F-16 from Denmark and a Mirage 2000C from France conduct a fly-past

The JEF – International by Design

The UK is the Framework Nation, along with eight other Partner Nations within the JEF: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Established within the Foundation Memorandum of Understanding, the JEF has potential to grow.



The JEF is designed as a multinational force, with NATO concepts and standards as the bedrock for interoperability. While the UK can operate a JEF deployment as a sovereign capability, the preference will always be to cooperate with our Partner Nations, who can provide additional force elements and capabilities depending on the type of operation or training being conducted, and their national priorities.



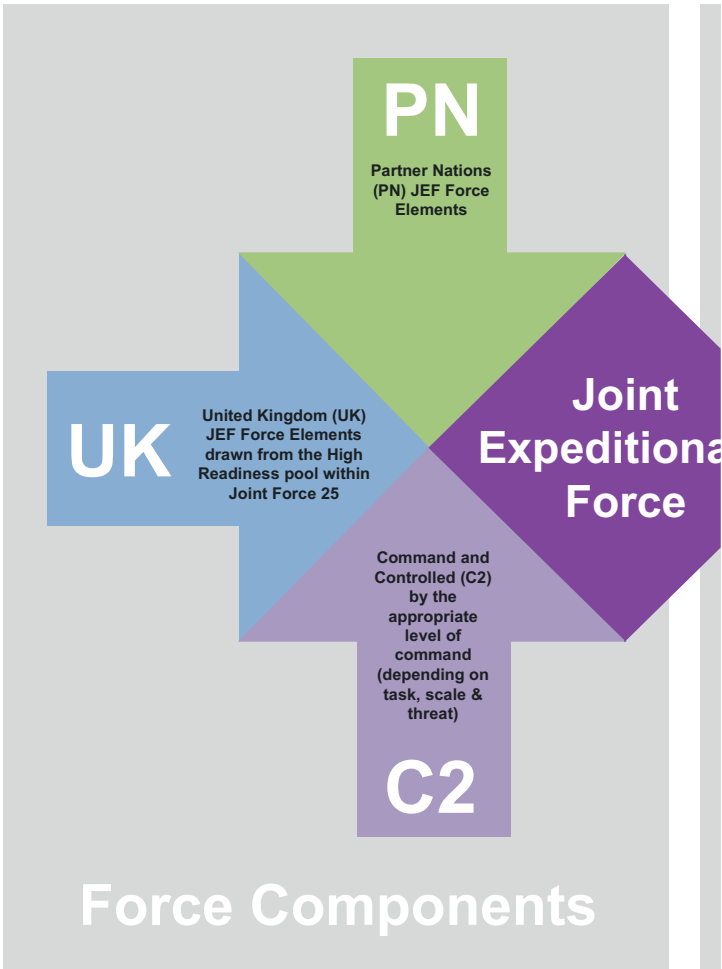
Sniper teams from the UK, Denmark, France, Germany and Canada compete in the annual International Sniper Competition, run by the Army's 3rd (UK) Division

The JEF is not in competition with other international frameworks; it is designed to complement them and is coherent with the NATO Framework Nations Concept. The JEF, therefore, could be used to support UN, NATO, Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), or other operations in peacetime or crisis. Unlike many alliance arrangements, the JEF is not a standing force with troops committed to providing capability solely for JEF use. All nations can employ their national force elements in support of other national or international commitments (e.g. the NATO Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) or the Anglo-French Combined Joint Expeditionary Force (CJEF)).



A member of the Lithuanian military takes a knee during Exercise IRON SWORD. Service personnel from JEF nations the UK, Lithuania and Estonia, as well as Canada, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Luxemburg, and the US trained together on the NATO exercise in 2014

The JEF Framework



DSP Strategy Plans



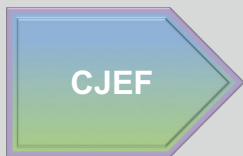
UK National Operation calling on UK JEF Forces



JEF Partner Nations (PN): where the UK is framework nation leading a JEF PN operation



Coalition/Alliance framework: where the UK & PN are in support of a larger multinational operation such as NATO



CJEF framework: where the UK is in joint lead with France

Force Types

Partner Nation Integration

For a given JEF operation the UK will nominate the most appropriate Operational Headquarters, and Operational Commander. Partner Nations may choose to assign HQ staff, force elements and support functions to the nominated Operational Commander. Importantly Partner Nations are not allocating forces 'to the UK', they are allocating forces for a specific operation.

National contingents to the JEF remain under the Full Command of their respective National Authority at all times. Participants will delegate appropriate command and control to the Operational Commander, and national strategic direction to Partner Nation forces will be delivered through Senior National Representatives present in the chain of command.

By incorporating Partner Nation staff, along with partners from across Government, into the Operational Headquarters JEF deployments will be Joint across the Services and environments, combined with Partner Nations, and integrated across Government departments.

Opportunities for Further Integration

As well as operational utility, a key strength to the JEF is the close relationship between all JEF nations. The JEF provides focus for developing greater **interoperability** between JEF members using NATO protocols, including tactical integration between units across member nations. This might include collaboration in **capability development** and capability procurement to maximise efficiencies and operational effectiveness. It also provides a community to drive **innovation** and **experimentation**, and opportunities to support developing **doctrine and concepts**.



UK and Latvian soldiers training together

JEF Command and Structures

Command

The UK has several options for JEF command and control; they are scalable and flexible to match the requirements of the deployment. The 2* **Standing Joint Force Headquarters (SJFHQ)** Group is likely to be the JEF operational HQ. It is joint, international and interagency by design. It provides Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Teams on immediate notice to deploy, an HQ on 24 hours' notice to move and a joint logistics HQ.

The UK also holds environmental HQs for where the circumstances of the operation make them appropriate, including the UK Maritime Battle Staff, the Army's 3rd (UK) Division, and the Joint Forces Air Component (JFAC).

Structures

- **Lead Element (LE).** The Lead Element draws on forces that are light and agile, and are capable of rapid deployment and effect. LE forces are maintained at extremely high-readiness (EHR) and very high readiness (VHR), to provide greatest responsiveness and utility.
- **Main Intervention Capability (MIC).** The Main Intervention Capability largely draws on forces that are held at high readiness (HR) and is likely to comprise heavier force elements with higher projection and sustainment needs.



A Lithuanian staff officer from the Standing Joint Force HQ is familiarised with C2 capabilities on HMS BULWARK

How will the JEF be used?

The JEF is designed to be as flexible as possible, and therefore has utility across a broad spectrum of operational activity, such as:

- **Combat operations** as part of a larger Alliance or coalition operation
- **A medium-scale intervention**, possibly ahead of a larger NATO or coalition force
- **UN Peace Support Operations**
- **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)**
- **Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)**
- **Reassurance and Deterrence** patrols and activity
- **Capacity Building and Security Sector Reform** operations
- **Defence Engagement** activity



A Voyager aircraft lands at Tallinn Airport in Estonia, supporting Baltic Air Policing, Operation AZOTIZE

Op GRITROCK – Sierra Leone Ebola Outbreak 2014

In 2014 an Ebola outbreak gripped West Africa becoming the largest ever occurrence of the disease. As part of the UK response, a DfID-led, military-supported Joint-Inter-Agency Task Force (JIATF) deployed to Freetown to assist the Government of Sierra Leone.

A tri-service force deployed, initially commanded by a logistic brigade headquarters. The UK reached out to partner nations early, and within weeks a Norwegian C130J was committed, the Netherlands provided their Joint Logistics Support Ship, and Denmark deployed an Ebola Virus Disease Treatment Unit.



Medical personnel from 22 Field Hospital working with members of the World Health Organization (WHO)

The operation pre-dated the formal declaration of the Joint Expeditionary Force, however building on principles already discussed at the Wales summit the UK reached out to like-minded nations, and rapidly pulled an international force together. This deployment, and the principles underpinning it, was in every way the genesis JEF deployment, and demonstrated how effectively the UK can work with JEF Partner Nations in delivering military capability.



A UK Merlin Helicopter delivers aid provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) to a remote Sierra Leone island village during the Ebola outbreak on the mainland.

Summary

The Joint Expeditionary Force is how the UK and like-minded Partner Nations with shared operational experience and interests, have chosen to pool their high readiness forces for global contingencies. It is designed so that political decision makers can respond quickly to crises worldwide. It is not a standing force.

It demonstrates a commitment to collective defence, crisis management and co-operative security that can rapidly deploy. The agility and responsiveness that the JEF offers provides a highly adaptable expeditionary force from within existing national capabilities. It is designed to complement contributions to NATO, and other existing alliances, rather than compete with them.

The Joint Expeditionary Force makes a substantial contribution towards meeting the threats and challenges of an uncertain world.



Soldiers from the UK and the Latvian Army planning a joint patrol while training together on Salisbury Plain



UK Sappers train with Dutch and German Engineers



Marines from the UK and the Netherlands conducting live firing training in the US



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