

Not since the Healey reviews of the early 1960s has the Ministry of Defence faced such a dire challenge. At its heart remains the tension between the willingness politically to commit the armed forces against the unwillingness to devote adequate resources to supporting them. The Armed forces and the Ministry have mounted a valiant effort to overcome the shortfall, as most evidenced by the recent news that defence officials will be able to move some funds between the three years of the Comprehensive Spending Review and use money allocated for annual capital spending for resource spending - a rare defeat for the Treasury. The tragedy remains that the nation's insurance policy remains badly neglected, and vulnerable to further economic shocks, given the length of the defence procurement program and lack of flex in the budget.

The above was written by Jeffrey Bradford in response to an article in the Financial Times, entitled 'Black Mood At Overwhelmed Ministry.'