

The UK Armed Forces are to train up to 2,000 of their Libyan counterparts in basic infantry skills and leadership training with courses beginning later this year, the Foreign Secretary William Hague has confirmed to Parliament. The training will take place at a British Army site in Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire. Members of the Libyan Armed Forces - all of whom will be vetted in advance for medical, physical and behavioural suitability - will be brought to the UK in a number of smaller groups for courses which are expected to last a minimum of 10 weeks. The Libyan Government will pay the costs of the training. The training of Libyan Armed Forces personnel in the UK is part of a broader package of defence and security assistance developed with the US, France and Italy. This is aimed at supporting the Libyan Government's efforts to increase the effectiveness and capacity of its security and justice sector institutions, and to ensure the state's monopoly on security. In total more than 7,000 members of the Libyan Armed Forces will be trained by some G8 nations.