

By Rt Hon Des Browne MP, Secretary of State for DefenceThe next roulement of UK forces in Afghanistan will take place in April 2008. The force package that we currently plan to deploy will see the lead formation, 52 Infantry Brigade, replaced by 16 Air Assault Brigade, which will provide the majority of the units serving in Afghanistan. The forces deploying include:

16 Air Assault Brigade Headquarters and 216 Signal Squadron

Elements of 845 Naval Air Squadron

Elements of 846 Naval Air Squadron

Elements of 847 Naval Air Squadron

7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault)

The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment (27th [Inniskilling], 83rd, 87th and The Ulster Defence Regiment)

2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment

3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment

The Pathfinder Platoon

6 Supply Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

13 Air Assault Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

16 Close Support Medical Regiment

7 Air Assault Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

156 Independent Provost Company, Royal Military Police

Elements of the Household Cavalry Regiment

Elements of 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

Elements of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys)

Elements of The Queen's Royal Lancers

Elements of 5th Regiment, Royal Artillery

Elements of 32nd Regiment, Royal Artillery

Elements of 39th Regiment, Royal Artillery

Elements of 47th Regiment, Royal Artillery

Elements of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)

Elements of 63 Works Group Royal Engineers

Elements of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic)

Elements of 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group

Elements of 10th Signal Regiment, The Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare), The Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of 16th Signal Regiment, The Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support), The Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Elements of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps

Elements of 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps

Elements of 5 Regiment, Army Air Corps

Elements of 9 Regiment, Army Air Corps

Headquarters 104 Logistic Brigade

Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 2 Logistic Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 7 Transport Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 24 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 27 Transport Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 29 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 2 Close Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Elements of 104 Military Working Dog Support Unit

Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade

Elements of Joint Civil Military Co-operation Group

Elements of 15 (UK) Psychological Operations Group

Elements of 4th Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border)

Elements of 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (14th/15th, 19th and 33rd/75th Foot)

Elements of 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment (27th [Inniskilling], 83rd, 87th and The Ulster Defence Regiment)

Elements of 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment

Elements of 148 Expeditionary Forces Squadron, The Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteer)

Hospital Squadron formed from 203 Field Hospital (V) and 204 Field Hospital (V)

904 Expeditionary Air Wing Royal Air Force

1 Force Protection Wing Headquarters Royal Air Force

3 Regiment Field Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of 1 Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of 4 Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of 18 Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of 27 Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of 30 Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of 39 Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of 47 Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of 70 Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of 1 Air Movements Wing Royal Air Force

Elements of 85 (Expeditionary Logistic) Wing Headquarters, Royal Air Force

Tactical Supply Wing

Joint Helicopter Support Unit

Elements of 1 Air Control Centre Royal Air Force

Elements of 90 Signals Unit Royal Air Force

Elements of 2 Motor Transport Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of 5001 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of Mobile Catering Support Unit

Elements of Tactical Medical Wing

Elements of Tactical Armament Squadron

Elements of Tactical Imagery Intelligence Wing

The bulk of these units represent direct replacements for previously announced deployments to Afghanistan and overall force levels will be broadly unchanged.

The House will also wish to be aware that 16 Air Assault Brigade's deployment will last until October 2008. On current plans, the brigade will then be replaced by 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines.

This was a written statement 6 February 2008