

Britain's leaner, meaner army



The government's plan for a leaner British army involves cutting regular personnel from 134,600 to 119,000 and infantry battalions to 40 by 1997. Cuts will depend on enhanced firepower and mobility

1991 1993

* By 1994 ** By 1997

Germany
55,700 → 23,000
ARRC HQ
Armoured division

Berlin
3,000 → Nil*

Belize
1,300 → 200*

Gibraltar
700 → 130

Falklands
1,000 no change
Infantry company
group, support
arms and services

Former Yugoslavia
Nil → 2,600
Infantry battalion
Armed recce squadron
Engineer regiment
Field ambulance
support services

Hong Kong
6,600 → 3,500**
Gurkha engineer regt.
2 Gurkha infantry bns.
AAC squadron

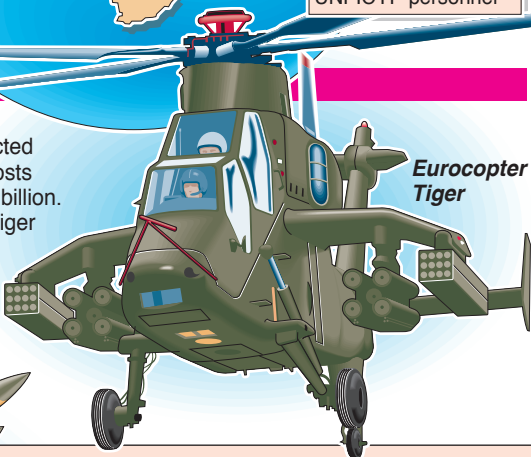
Brunei
900 no change
Gurkha infantry bn.
AAC squadron

Cyprus
3,570 → 3,000
Armed recce sqn.
Engineer supp. sqn.
2 Infantry battalions
1 Flight AAC
UNFICYP personnel

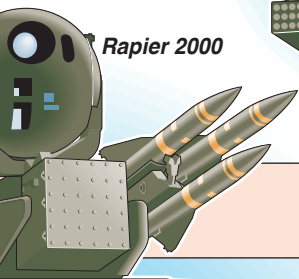
NEW EQUIPMENT

Attack helicopters:

Up to 100 aircraft are expected to be in service by 1998. Costs are estimated at around £2 billion. The multi-role Eurocopter Tiger is favoured by the British, Dutch and German armies



Eurocopter Tiger



Rapier 2000

Air defence: Systems will be upgraded with the Rapier 2000 surface-to-air and Starstreak high velocity missiles



Challenger 2: 127 new tanks are due to be completed by August 1994. The first regiment (38 tanks) should be fielded in 1995