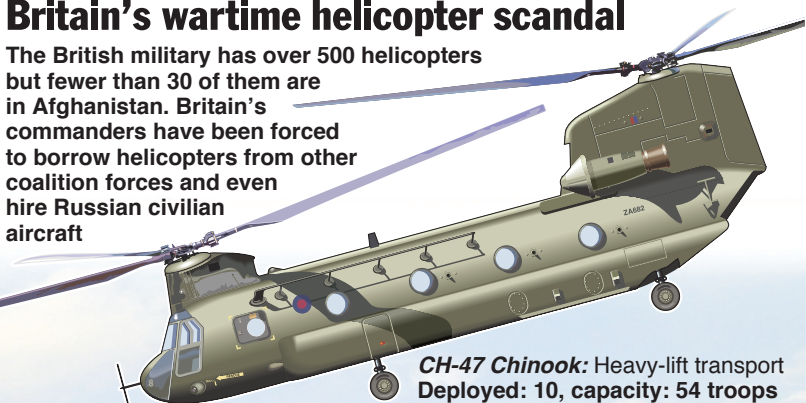


# Britain's wartime helicopter scandal

The British military has over 500 helicopters but fewer than 30 of them are in Afghanistan. Britain's commanders have been forced to borrow helicopters from other coalition forces and even hire Russian civilian aircraft



**CH-47 Chinook:** Heavy-lift transport  
**Deployed: 10, capacity: 54 troops**

Eight other Chinooks – ordered at cost of £259m in 1995 – remain grounded because avionics won't work properly in cloudy weather.

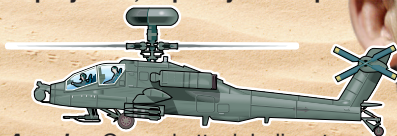
**Due to be deployed in 2010**



**Sea King:** Transport, search & rescue  
**Deployed: 5, capacity: 27 troops**



**Lynx:** Multi-purpose helicopter  
**Deployed: 5, capacity: 9 troops**



**Apache:** Ground attack helicopter  
**Number deployed: 8**

Ministry of Defence figures show that while Gordon Brown was Chancellor of the Exchequer, spending on helicopter procurement fell dramatically, from **£842 million** in 2001/02 to **£209 million** in 2006/07

