

British defence review to balance budget

The Royal Navy's flagship, the aircraft carrier *Ark Royal*, is to be scrapped as Britain's government cuts 8% off the £33 billion defence budget and axes 25,000 civilian jobs at the Ministry of Defence by 2015

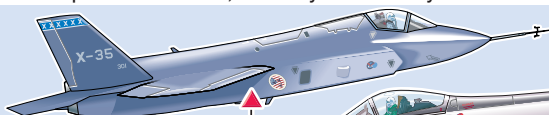
■ **Royal Navy:** Personnel cut by 5,000 to 30,000

HMS Ark Royal: Axed now instead of in 2014

Harrier: 80-strong fleet to be decommissioned



Surface fleet: Cut from 24 to 19 ships. Construction of two new aircraft carriers – *HMS Queen Elizabeth* and *HMS Prince of Wales* – costing £5.2bn, to go ahead. Carriers, including *HMS Invincible*, will only have helicopters until 2020, but may be used by French and U.S. aircraft



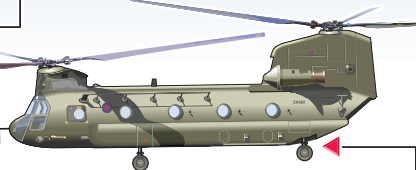
Joint Strike Fighter: Buy carrier versions – more capable and less expensive

■ **Royal Air Force:** Personnel cut by 5,000 to 33,000. Future of Kinloss and two other bases to be determined

Typhoon: Reduce Tornado fleet. Develop Typhoon fleet to maintain fighting edge over next 20 years

■ **Army:** Personnel cut by 7,000 to 95,500. Tanks and heavy artillery cut by 40%

Trident: £20 billion-renewal of submarine-based nuclear missile system delayed until 2016. Subs to carry fewer missiles



Combat operations: Funding for 9,500 troops serving in Afghanistan is assured. Plan to buy 12 heavy-lift Chinook helicopters to go ahead

Special forces: Boost in funds for high-tech weapon systems

