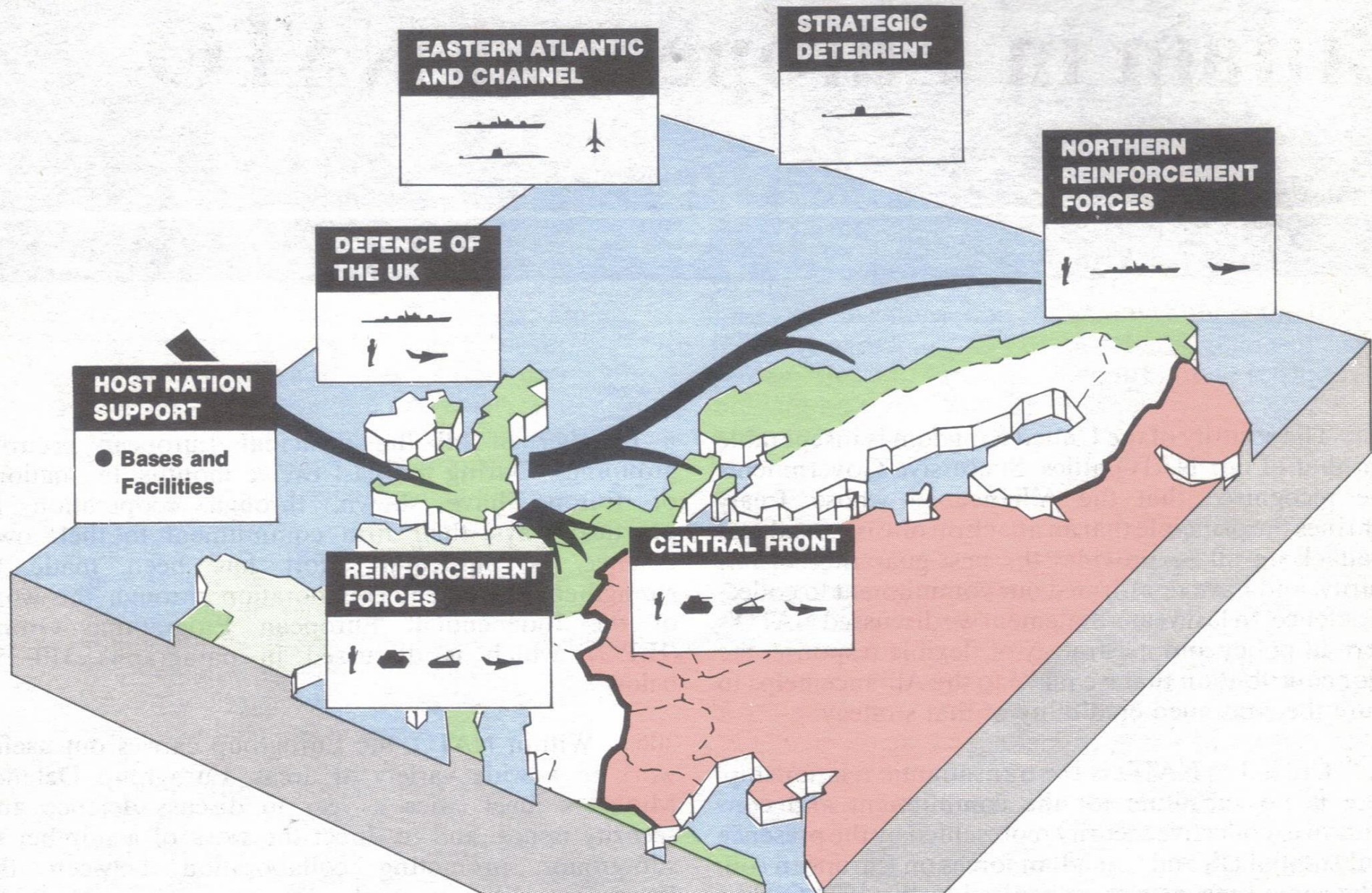


# THE TRANSFORMATION OF UK AIRPOWER



Professor Philip Sabin  
King's College London

# COLD WAR ROLES





# COLD WAR CONTRIBUTION

## The British Contribution

<b>Central and Northern Europe<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Among European nations<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Among NATO as a whole<sup>1</sup></b>
Main Battle Tanks	15%	10%
Anti-tank Guided Weapons <sup>3</sup>	25%	15%
Air Defence Aircraft	45%	30%
Ground Attack Aircraft	30%	20%
Manpower (active duty personnel)	25%	20%

## The Atlantic and Channel<sup>4</sup>

Carriers	100%	40%
Submarines <sup>5</sup>	60%	30%
Destroyers/Frigates	60%	30%
Maritime Aircraft	80%	30%

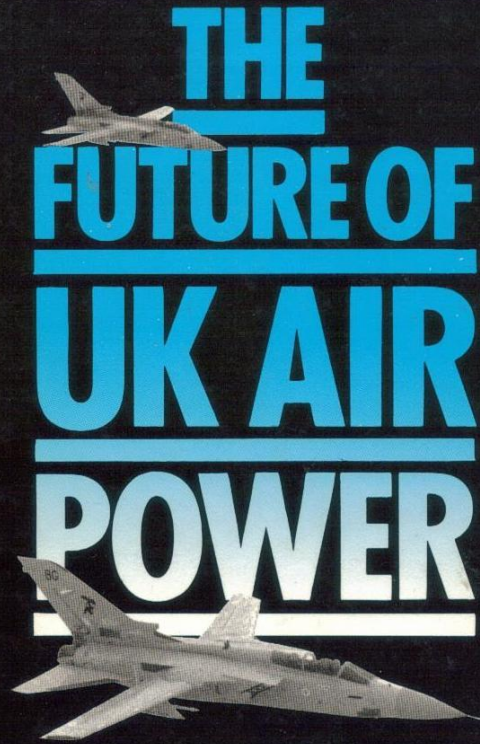
# COLD WAR FORCE STRUCTURE

Tornado GR1:	10 sqds	Nimrod:	5 sqds
Buccaneer:	2 sqds	Sea King:	10 sqds
Harrier:	3 sqds	Shackleton:	1 sqd
Jaguar:	3 sqds	VC10:	2 sqds
Tornado F3:	5 sqds	Victor:	1 sqd
Phantom:	4 sqds	Tristar:	1 sqd
Sea Harrier:	3 sqds	Hercules:	4 sqds
		Chinook:	2 sqds
ASW Carriers:	2	Puma:	2 sqds

(April 1990)



# PLANS AND PREDICTIONS



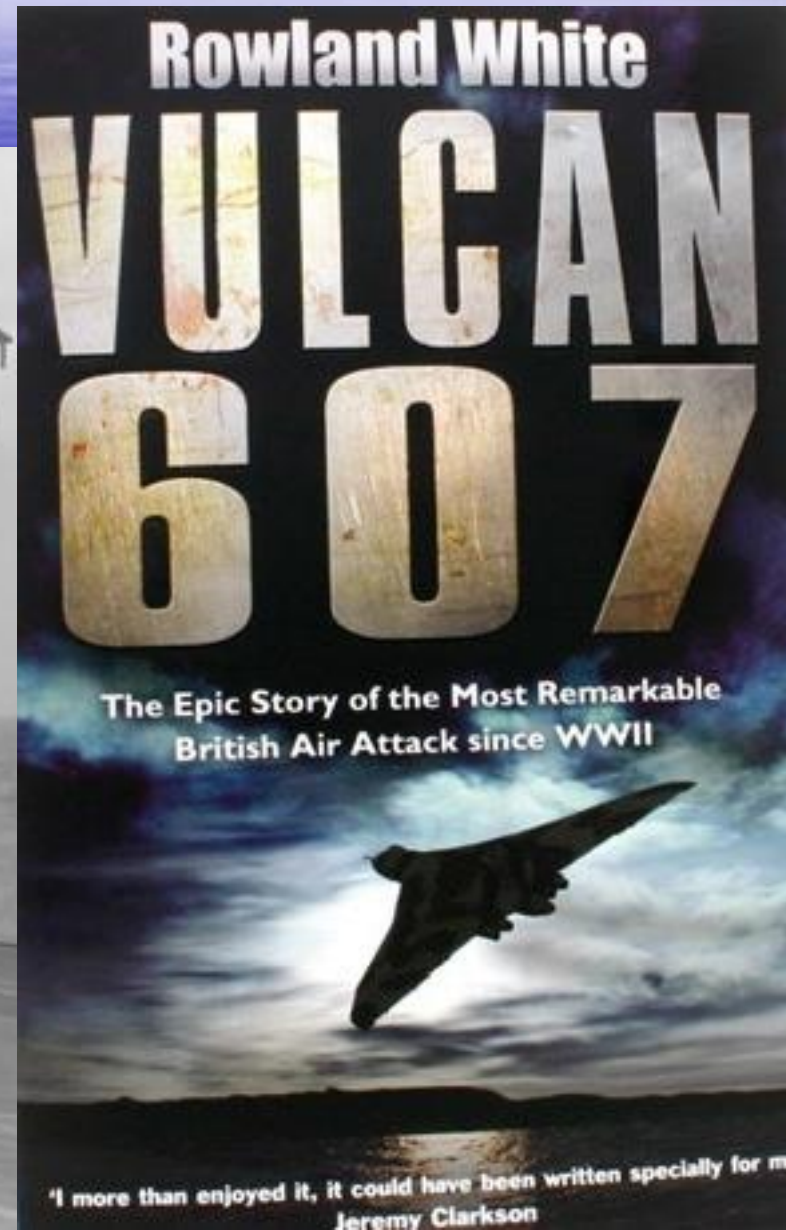
**THE**  
**FUTURE OF**  
**UK AIR**  
**POWER**

Edited by Philip Sabin  
Department of War Studies, King's College, London

BRASSEY'S



# AN EARLY WAKE-UP CALL





# CHALLENGE IN THE GULF



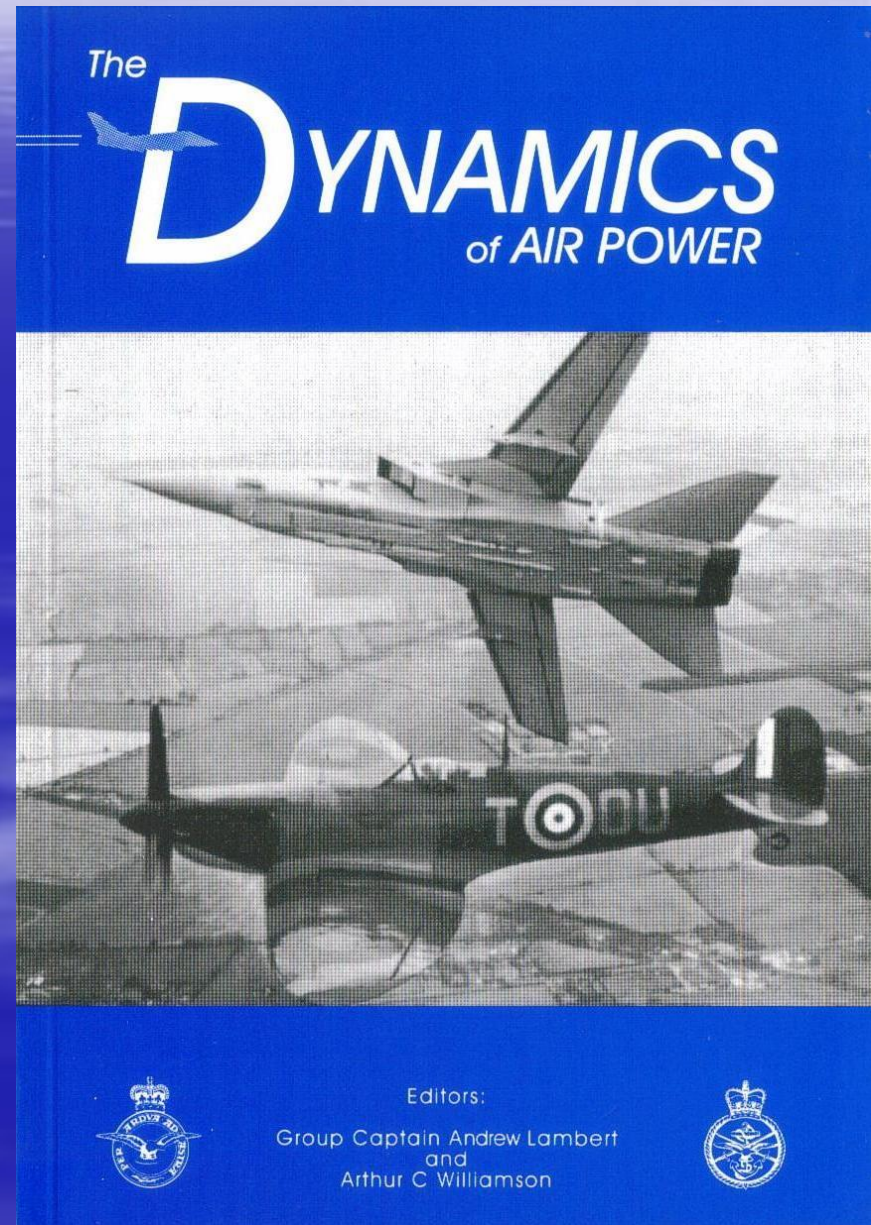
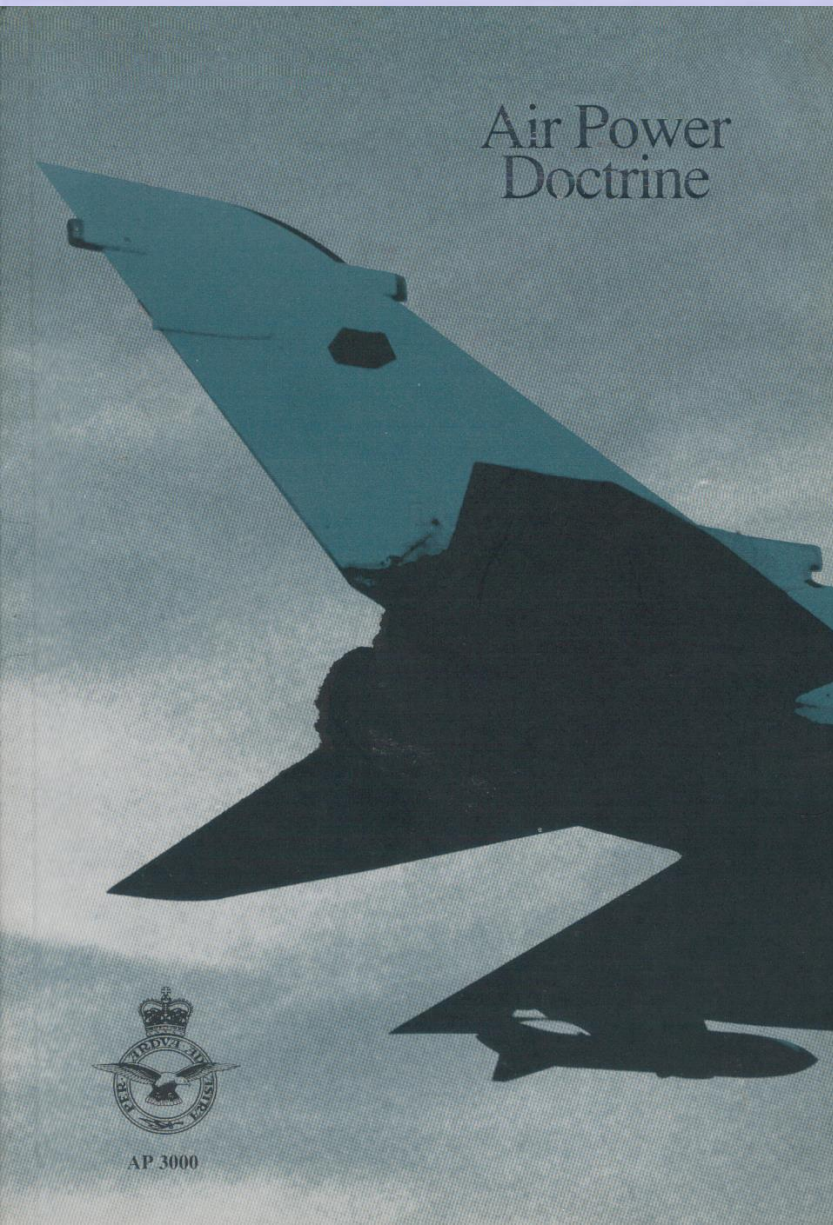
RAF Flight Lieutenants  
**JOHN PETERS AND JOHN NICHOL**  
Their Gulf War Ordeal



# TORNADO DOWN

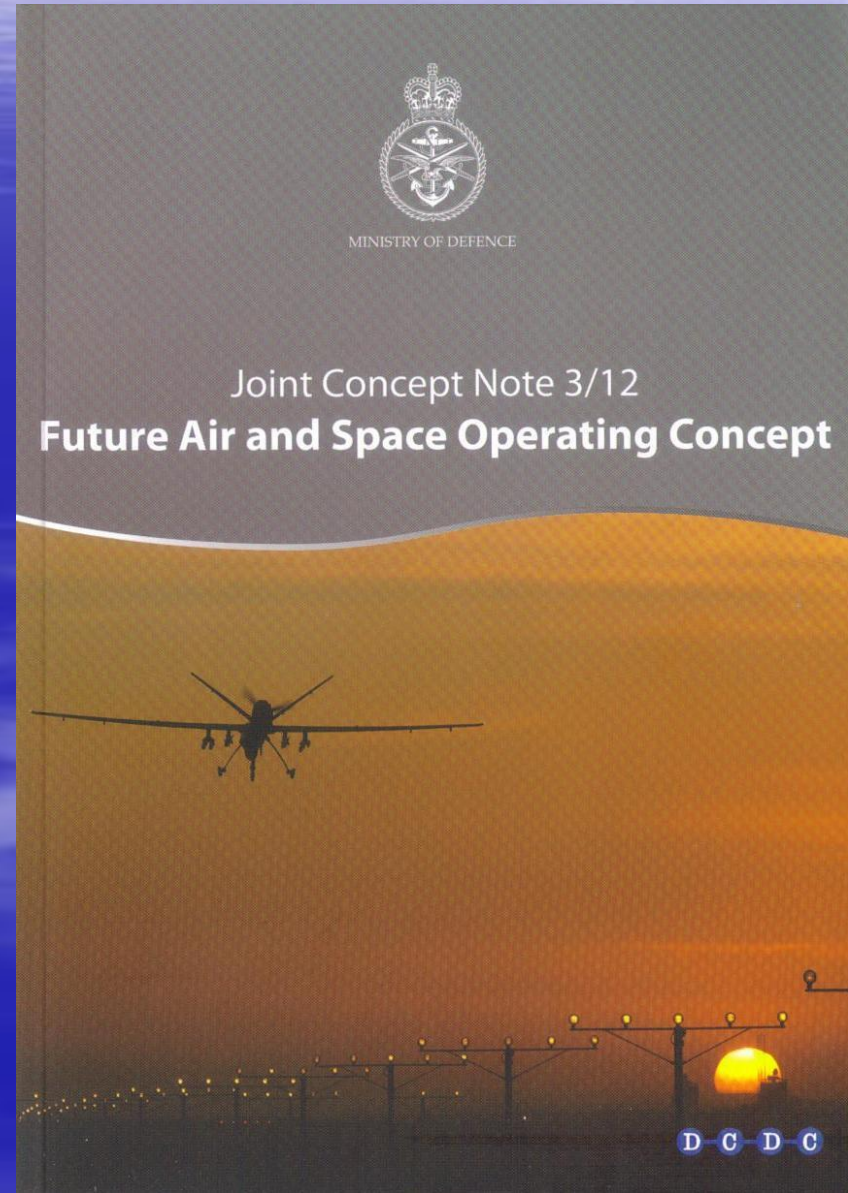
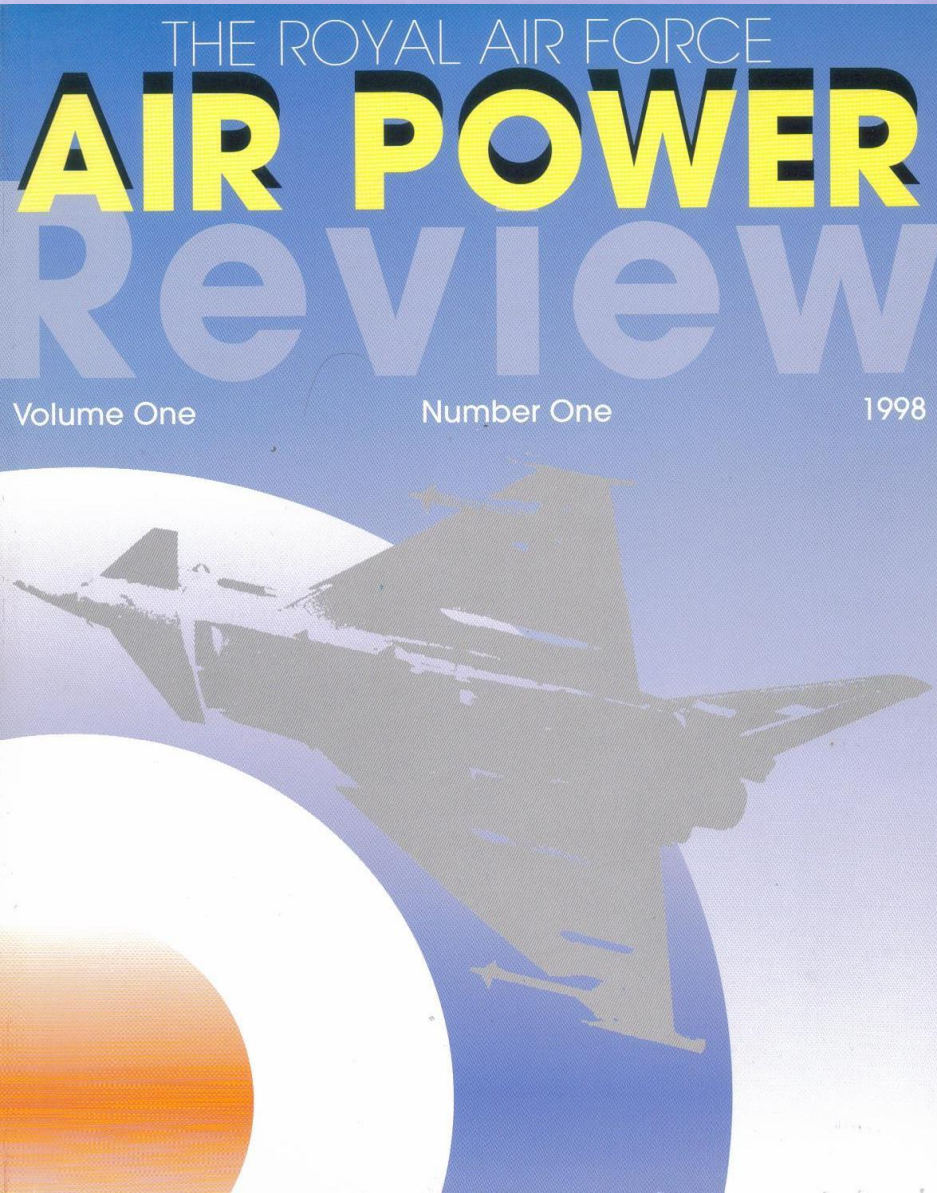


# CONCEPTUAL PROGRESS



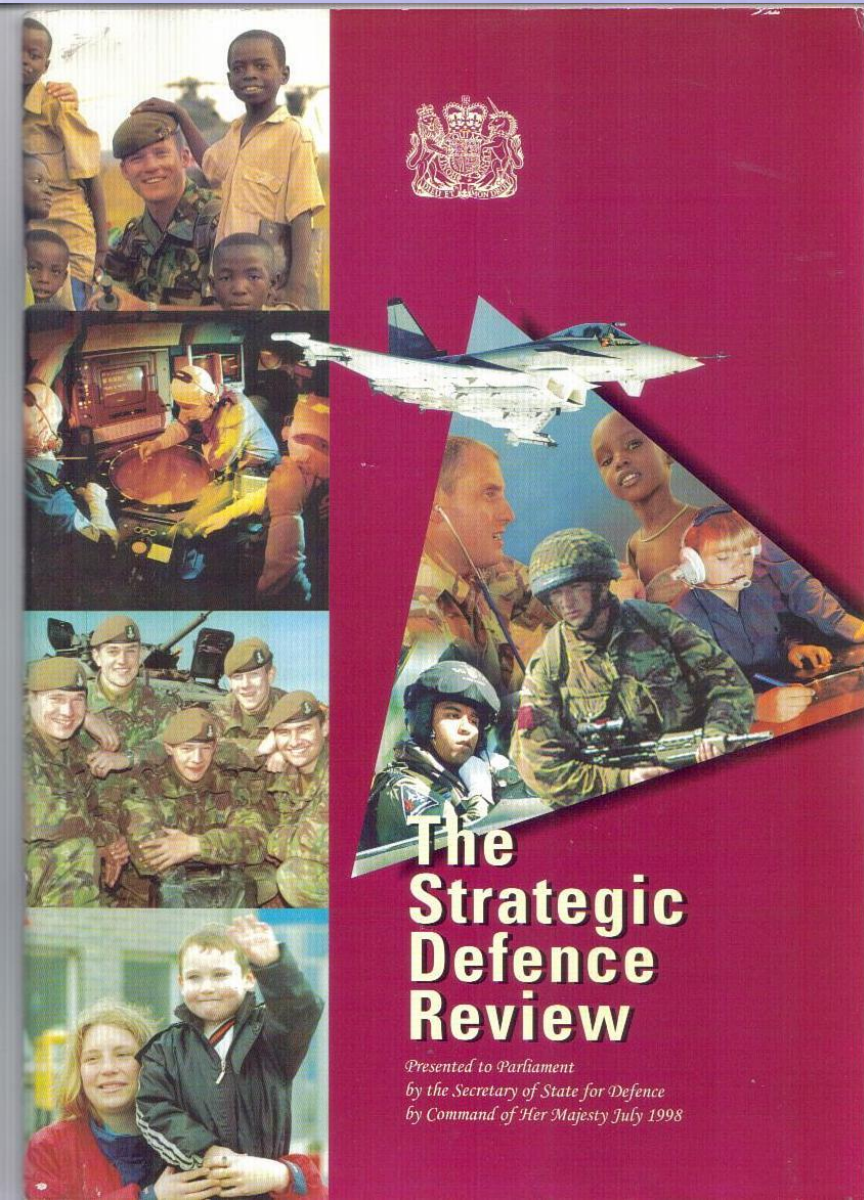


# CONCEPTUAL PROGRESS





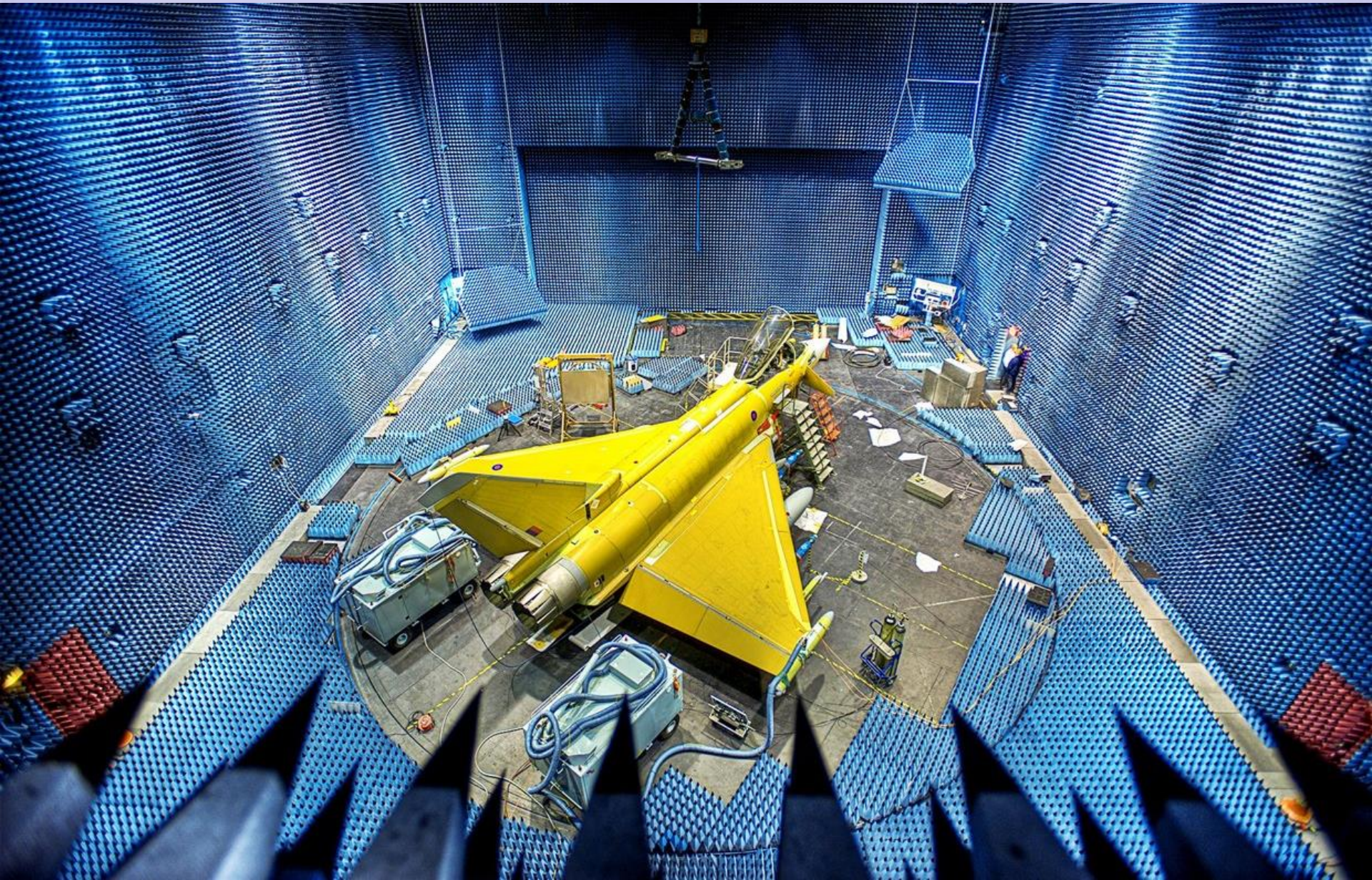
# FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS



Securing Britain in an  
Age of Uncertainty:  
The Strategic Defence  
and Security Review



# TYPHOON OR NOT TYPHOON?





# CARRIERS & VSTOL





# PAINFUL SACRIFICES



# PSOs & PRECISION





# COIN & COMBAT ISTAR



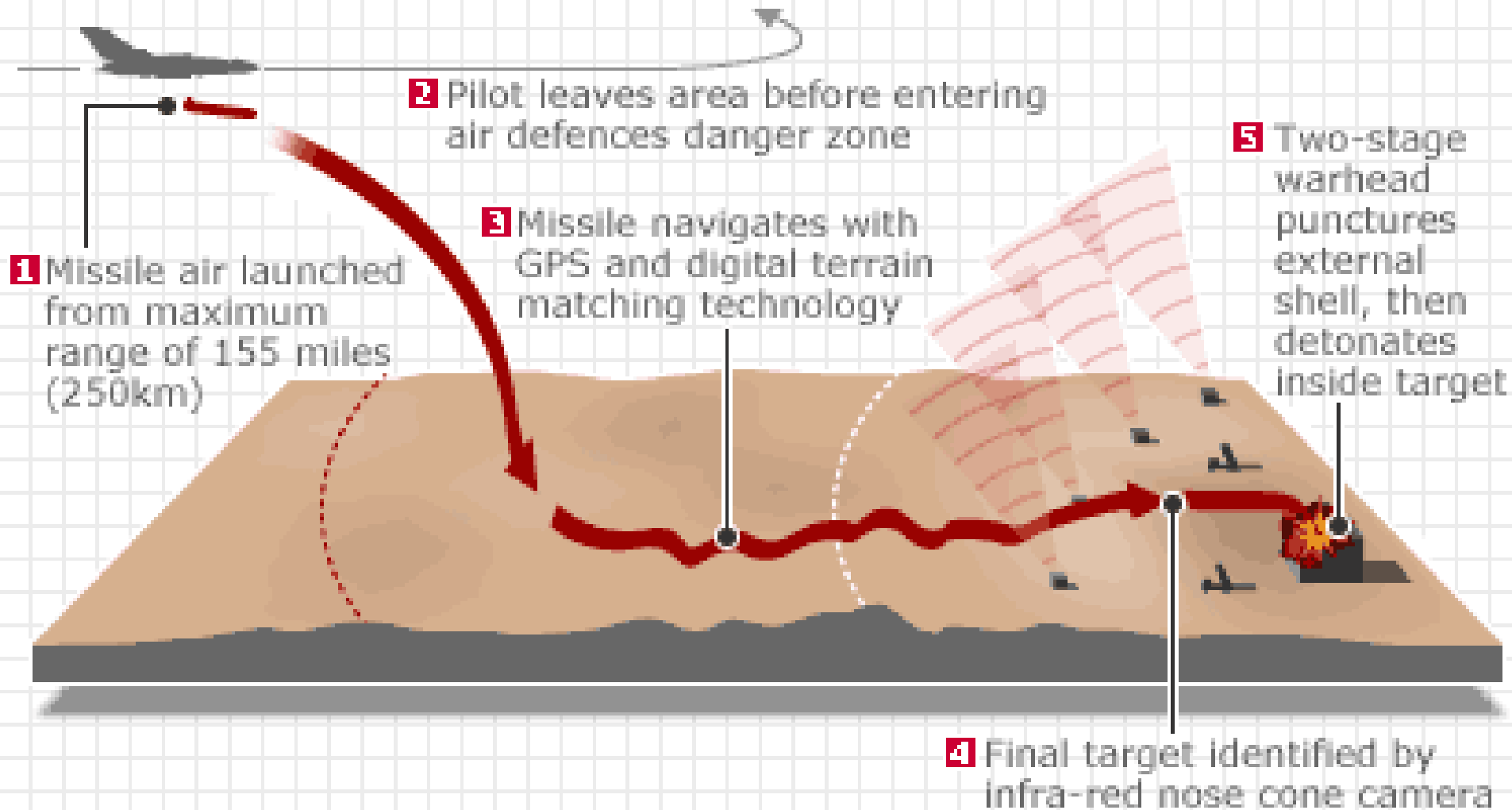


# RPAS



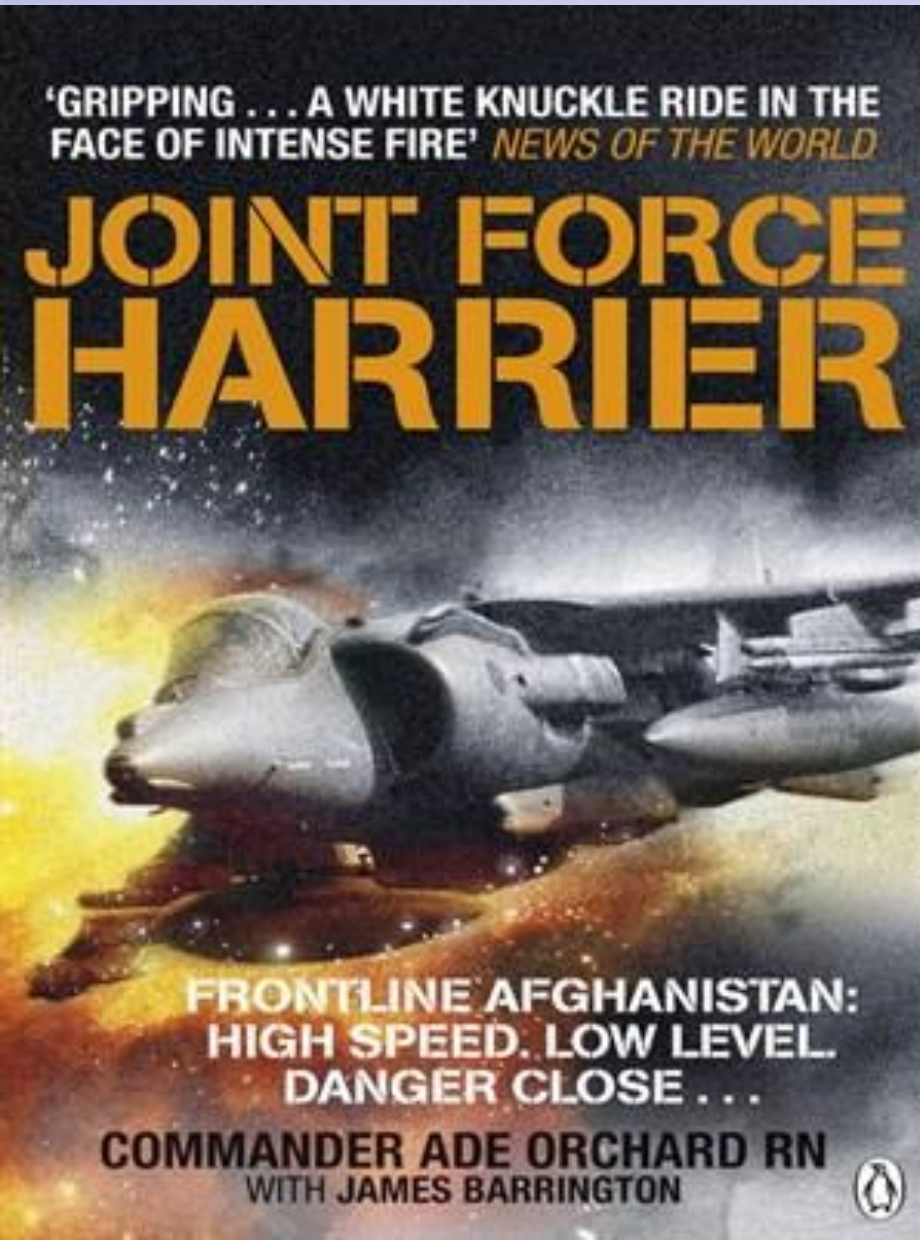


# PENETRATION





# INCREASING JOINTERY



# NETWAR





# MOBILITY





# TEST IN LIBYA



## OPERATION ELLAMY

### THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH

2230: United Nations 1973 is signed. A Warning order to prepare for Operations is issued to the RAF.

### FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH

0300: Notice comes that action will happen and the RAF need to act quickly.

0800: Aircraft ready and on standby

### SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH

2000: Wheels up - Tornado GR4s take off from Marham to strike Libyan targets.



### TRISTAR & VC10 - AIR TO AIR REFUELLING:

- Used to refuel Tornado GR4s and Typhoons
- Deployed to RAF Akrotiri



### TYPHOON - PATROLLING THE NO FLY ZONE FROM GIOIA DEL COLLE:

- Deployed Sun 20<sup>th</sup> March from RAF Coningsby to police NO FLY ZONE
- First Combat Mission - Mon 21<sup>st</sup> March



### RAMSTEIN:

- JFAC (Joint Force Air Component)
- Control Centre

### TORNADO GR4 - STRIKE MISSIONS FROM THE UK & ARMED RECONNAISSANCE FROM GIOIA DEL COLLE:

- After two nights of striking from the UK
- GR4s deploy to Gioia del Colle - Mon 21<sup>st</sup> March



### BASED ON RAF AKROTIRI: E3D SENTRY - AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING:

- Command and Control



### NIMROD R1 - EARS IN THE SKY:

- Threat Radar
- Monitoring of Communications
- Position of Aircraft



### SENTINEL R1 - VIRTUAL EYES ON THE GROUND:

- Monitoring Movement of Ground Forces



- STRIKE (Tornado GR4)
- AIR TO AIR REFUELLING
- NO FLY ZONE (Typhoon)
- Intelligence Surveillance & Reconnaissance (ISAR)

### PATROLLING NO FLY ZONE (NFZ)





# CURRENT FORCE STRUCTURE

Typhoon:	4 sqds	Voyager:	1 sqd
Tornado GR4:	3 sqds	Tristar:	1 sqd
Reaper:	2 sqds	Hercules:	3 sqds
Apache:	3 sqds	Globemaster:	1 sqd
Sentry:	1 sqd	Atlas:	1 sqd
Sentinel:	1 sqd	Chinook:	3 sqds
Shadow:	1 sqd	Puma:	2 sqds
Rivet Joint:	1 sqd	Merlin:	5 sqds
		Sea King:	5 sqds
Helo Carriers:	1		

# QUALITY vs QUANTITY

‘Fewer and more expensive platforms, the present trend, is approaching the point of diminishing returns, lacks resilience, and suggests that we should also seek to rediscover the advantages of numbers and mass.’

FASOC 2009



# CONCLUSION

