



# Carrier Strike

A key element of the UK's defence policy is to maintain credible, flexible, expeditionary combat power within striking range of an adversary. The Carrier Strike programme will do just that. It will include two new aircraft carriers and the Joint Combat Aircraft, ensuring that the Royal Navy and RAF are able to launch air power from both land and sea at a time and place of our choosing.

It provides the UK with a sovereign combat air capability that can apply political and military influence across a wide spectrum of operations, when acting alone or within a coalition. Carrier Strike capability enables the UK Government to act without host nation support particularly at times of political uncertainty hence maximising political and military freedom of action.

## HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH HMS PRINCE OF WALES

### Role

Aircraft Carrier

### Due In Service

By 2020

### Displacement

65,000 tonnes

### Maximum Speed

25 knots

### Embarked Aircraft

36 x Joint Combat Aircraft

4x Airborne Surveillance  
and Control Aircraft



## BACKGROUND

The Carrier Strike capability comprises 3 key programmes: Joint Combat Aircraft, The Future Aircraft Carriers and the Maritime Airborne Surveillance and Control programme. They will be capable of operating in all weathers, day and night, to provide carrier strike as well as air defence for the carrier and offensive support for ground forces ashore.

The Aircraft Carrier, with its Carrier Air Group, is the lynchpin of expeditionary capability and a powerful and potent ship of the realm. It enables the UK to deter aggression and deliver war-winning combat effect whenever and wherever it chooses.

To offer this capability at all times the Carrier being at sea with a credible precision strike capability embarked is a prerequisite. To be fully effective this requires the embarked air squadrons to be an integral part of the ship, readily available, fully worked-up and inexorably woven into the Carrier aviation team.

The two future carriers, *HMS Queen Elizabeth* and *HMS Prince of Wales*, will be the largest warships ever built for the Royal Navy. It is particularly fitting that the first cutting of steel for *HMS Queen Elizabeth* is taking place during the Centenary year of Naval Aviation.

The development programme for the future carriers is the largest defence programme ever. A complex build and a massive country-wide project with suppliers all around the country. The programme will sustain more than 10,000 jobs within the UK.



Fly Navy 100 Office  
RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester, Somerset BA22 8HT  
Tel: 01935 456150 or 456530  
Email: [flynavy100@btconnect.com](mailto:flynavy100@btconnect.com)

[royalnavy.mod.uk/flynavy100](http://royalnavy.mod.uk/flynavy100)



1909 - 2009