

# DEFENCE POLICY

## “CARDWELL 2.0”

We will make no nation our ‘natural enemy’ and will seek good diplomatic relations and trade with all countries.

The only legitimate role of the State is defence. From the time of the Saxon Kings the role of the people in mutual defence as the ‘Fyrd’ was paramount. To serve was a matter of honour and duty. A Libertarian Government would seek to re-establish the connection between the ordinary citizen and the defence of the country.

This is not a new concept, ‘Trayned Bands’, Militias and

Yeomanry have fought with distinction whenever the country has been threatened. We are not seeking to re-establish the days of National Service which survived the Second World War, but to establish a personal responsibility to defend our way of life and hard-won freedoms.

This controversial policy was overwhelmingly endorsed by the membership of the Libertarian Party in a free vote.

Firstly, a Libertarian Government would seek to avoid war, we will make no nation our ‘natural enemy’ and will seek good diplomatic relations and trade with all countries. However, any potential aggressor should be in no doubt of our willingness to defend our way of life and freedoms. There have been too many expensive wars and lives lost in foreign adventures on behalf of, or in alliance with other powers. A direct threat to British territory should be the gauge with which we decide to consider deploying the armed services.

Currently the three armed services are competing for resources leading to waste and misdirected priorities. We will establish a unified British Defence Force starting immediately with the most senior officers (who will cease to belong to a single service).

Each of the three arms are currently acting as independent forces but we will seek to integrate them. This will be part of our root and branch re-appraisal of defence which we call Cardwell 2.0 after the last major reform (1868-1874) following the debacle of the Crimea War.

A Libertarian Government will prioritise defence in conjunction with the aim of avoiding foreign entanglement except in so far as required by our mutual defence pact with the other members of NATO, which has proved to be the guarantor of peace in Europe since 1945. As party policy is firmly to leave the European Union, a Libertarian Government would not require British Servicemen be part of the ‘European Army’.

This ambition is exemplified by our most important defence policy, namely, to establish a Yeomanry.

We take as our model the Swiss Defence Force.

Switzerland has a standing army of 60,000. It can mobilise 20,000 air force reservists within 48 hours, a further 8,000 army reserves within eight days and an additional 35,000 within ten. An additional 1,040,000 former reservists (aged 22 to 34) can be recalled, more slowly, to a muster of 1.16 million men. By contrast the UK, with a population eight times larger, can only mobilise an army nine tenths smaller (115,000).

To mobilise a larger army would take months of training and shortages of equipment and basic infrastructure.

A Libertarian government will therefore make defence cost effective, and reinforce the connection between duty and freedom, by establishing a Yeomanry and a Civil Defence Corps. Participants, will be free to choose a non-combat role such as Fire Service, Paramedic, Nursing, Engineers and Coast Guard.



## 1 . YEOMANRY

A Libertarian government will establish a 1,056,000 strong Yeomanry and a 430,000 strong Air Yeomanry. The yeomanry will be required by law to serve only on British territory.

### BENEFITS

A Yeomanry will give citizens the opportunity to become responsible through service. It would also free a larger portion of the professional armed forces to serve overseas. Professionals will continue to be volunteers.

### NOTES

The Yeomanry will be capable of being mobilised within seventy-two hours. To achieve this a member of Yeomanry own personal equipment and arms would be stored in a sealed steel lockable box at their home. Following the Swiss model, ammunition would be kept in secure local locations, only to be issued in times of imminent threat.

The Yeomanry will be organised into eight corps (East Anglia, Mercia, London, Northumbria, Wessex, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland) and composed of a thousand and fifty-six battle groups (e.g., 1st Essex etc.) combining into county organised brigades.

The cost of the Yeomanry per capita would be 25% of

that of the Swiss Militia. The Yeomanry will receive thirty days of basic training followed by thirty days of reserve training over eleven years. This contrasts with the Swiss figure of 245 days over fourteen years. Britain will train its Yeomanry lightly to limit costs but judge that its effectiveness and deterrent power would not diminish pro rata.

Each citizen in the age group between 18 and 22 inclusive would be tested for fitness to join the Yeomanry in the year following their sixteenth birthday.

Both Military and Civil Defence Corps individuals will be paid. There will be a higher rate for service in the Yeomanry, recent difficulties recruiting for the Territorial Volunteer Reserve suggests this policy is right.

## 2. AN INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE PROFESSIONAL ARMY FROM 81,000 TO 94 ,000

A Libertarian Government will increase the professional regular army. In addition, we will make about 7.5% of the army support forces roles, in particular the ceremonial and legal element,

largely redundant though these personnel would be offered the chance to move to the combat element.

### BENEFITS

By strengthening the Army, relative to the Navy and Air force, we would tailor our defence to the message that we are a peaceful nation though at the same time one better able to repel enemy invasion of our shores and to honour our mutual defence pact with the other members of N.A.T.O.

### NOTES

A Libertarian Government will fund a 100% increase in front line deployable divisions (from one to two) plus an additional strike brigade to be added to the Rapid Reaction Force.

### 3. AN ADDITIONAL OFFSHORE PATROL SHIP EVERY TEN MONTHS FOR TEN YEARS

The Libertarian Party would finance a 400% increase in the number of offshore patrol vessels (from three to fifteen).

#### BENEFITS

This policy would increase the number of offshore patrol vessels from seven now (six in the British Isles one in the Falklands) to nineteen. The Home Fleet will take priority in Naval expenditure.

#### NOTES

All the offshore patrol vessels would be upgraded including by raising the calibre of the main gun (to 76 mm) and adding two vertical takeoff drones (with a tenth the footprint of a helicopter so they could be fitted onto the helipad alongside, say, a Merlin Mark 2) to provide over-the-horizon reconnaissance.

The use of weaponized drones would be a priority.

The reconnaissance drones would enable a patrol vessel in time of conflict to act as a scout, particularly for military operations, such as amphibious operations or small task forces, who would otherwise lack airborne early warning cover (and might not have access to satellite early warning cover). The scout drones could also

free the patrol ship's organic helicopter for anti-submarine operations.

A Libertarian Government will spend £400 million per annum to commission, over ten years, forty thousand £75,000 man portable miniature drones with combined combat and reconnaissance ability and provide for their maintenance. These drones to be supplied to both the Yeomanry and the Professional Army. This is modest compared with US spending of, including on operations, circa £6 billion per annum on drones.

We currently have a deficit of heavy lift helicopters, the loss of Chinooks on the Atlantic Conveyor in 1982 severely restricted operations in the Falklands Conflict, and did so again in the Iraq War.





## 4 . FIVE ADDITIONAL HUNTER KILLER NUCLEAR SUBMARINES

This would take the British nuclear hunter killer submarine inventory to twelve.

A Libertarian Government following advice from serving and retiring naval officers, would not commit to the construction of any further aircraft carriers. The concept of aircraft carriers 'projecting power' is a fallacy unless used against a far weaker opponent. Such blue water capital ships add little to Home Defence. They are also easy prey to cheap shore based anti-ship missiles. It has been argued that the Aircraft Carrier concept had reached the end of its useful life by the Battle of Midway in the Second World War over seventy years ago.

## 5. REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE BY EIGHTY PERCENT

On a per capita basis this would probably leave the Ministry of Defence leaner than the Israeli Directorate of Purchases and Production and Defence Ministry Combined.

### BENEFITS

Making 46,000 redundant would save circa £1.5 billion per annum.

### NOTES

Each remaining civil servant will have a military rank and be subject to military discipline. The supply of cheap thirty and fifty calibre ammunition from third world sources that continually jammed is a scandal that should never happen again.

## 6 . ESTABLISH DEDICATED MILITARY HOSPITALS AND DEDICATED MILITARY PENSION

Provision will also be made for beds for overnight visiting family or friends. Staff will be employed to focus on providing support post discharge for those who fall by the wayside.

### BENEFITS

By specialisation the staff will become as expert as possible in dealing with the injuries and disorders particular to military casualties.

### NOTES

The Ministry of Defence, the second largest landowner in the UK, will be given a duty to draw upon its assets to assist ex-servicemen found to be living in reduced circumstances.

A Libertarian Government would introduce a dedicated Military Pension for all those who have served for ten years or more.

A Libertarian Government would confer citizenship on any foreign national serving in the British Armed Services after a ten year period discharged with good conduct standing.

## 7. BETTER EQUIPMENT, BOOTS AND PROTECTION

The Libertarian government would provide for a morale boosting review of the quality of uniforms and equipment, so that we are never again know as 'the borrowers' borrowing kit from other armies. a) Tactical Communications and Protective Systems (TCAPS), b) improved Hövding helmets c) protective undergarments made of woven Kevlar and improved on those tried out in 2010 d) the new US army boot or equivalent.

### BENEFITS

TCAPS can shut out unexpected and painfully loud noises, such as explosions, while maintaining communications fidelity. Hövding helmets, detecting nearby explosions, will inflate to envelope the wearer's head protecting, particularly, the neck against shock waves.

### NOTES

A 2009 study by the UK Ministry of Defence found that more than two-thirds of troops returning from Afghanistan suffered severe and permanent hearing damage. Of 1,250 Royal Marine Commandos surveyed, 69% had symptoms ranging from tinnitus to almost complete deafness. TCAPS is made to be fitted to different ear canal shapes. It is solar powered.



## END NOTES

The Libertarian Party wove recommendations from an article by Godfrey Bloom into its Defence Policy. The primary example of this was his advocacy of a “properly equipped Territorial Army”. We have converted this concept into a policy along Swiss lines.

Edited highlights from Godfrey Bloom’s article follow.

## WHAT DOES BRITAIN NEED FOR ALL ROUND DEFENCE?

### A NEW STRATEGIC DOGMA

The most effective way of protecting the UK from threat from any quarter is to refrain wherever possible from provoking a war. Most wars are expensive in blood and treasure and benefit no one.

Britain has, however, to be ready for war. So how can we go about it?

### THE ARMY

It must be remembered big wars are won by civilians in uniform.

Army recruitment and retention has been shambolic in recent years, abandonment of Crown Exemption, harassment of elderly veterans, limited career prospects as the forces shrink and criminal underfunding of the reserves, in

some cases just paper soldiers. The most recent disaster £130 million wasted on trying to recruit online.

### PROCUREMENT

Does the army really need a top civilian spec German truck for £120k? Would not four basically equipped helicopters be more useful than one highly specced?

There is a strong role for middle management input on procurement and recruitment policy. Very senior officers can lose touch or worse become politicised.

Recruitment based on skin colour or gender is abhorrent, patronising and counter productive. Currently the MoD website promotes this policy on its website. Naval and military recruitment and promotion should be on merit and merit alone.

### CONTRIBUTOR

Godfrey Bloom was a major in the Royal Corps of Transport (Territorial Army) and is a former M.E.P.

