# Britain plans new Dad’s Army-style home guard to protect national infrastructure amid rising threats



Plans are reportedly underway to establish a modern-day home guard in Britain, reminiscent of the iconic citizens' militia from the 1940s, known as Dad's Army. This initiative aims to bolster security around vital national assets such as airports and power plants in response to escalating threats from terrorists and state actors. The proposal, conceived as part of an imminent strategic defence review, heralds a significant shift towards enhanced home security amidst growing geopolitical tensions.

The Ministry of Defence is expected to detail how this new force, comprising thousands of volunteers, will be recruited and operationalised in the coming months, positioning it distinctly apart from existing military reserves. This shift towards citizen involvement in national security reflects a broader recognition of the changing dynamics in global threats, particularly from adversaries such as Russia and its allies.

Recent events have underscored the importance of such enhancements in security. A fire at Heathrow Airport earlier this year disrupted over a thousand flights, impacting approximately 200,000 travellers and exposing vulnerabilities within the UK’s critical infrastructure. This incident accentuates the urgent necessity to reevaluate and strengthen the resilience of essential services, a sentiment echoed by various experts. The lessons learned from previous crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, have further highlighted the need for robust defence mechanisms across the board.

The forthcoming defence review, spearheaded by former NATO Secretary-General Lord George Robertson, promises to address these pressing issues. It is anticipated to propose not only the establishment of the home guard but also a significant enhancement of air and ground defence systems. Key recommendations are likely to include integrating high-tech drones and unmanned vehicles into military operations, reflecting strategies observed in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Defence Secretary John Healey has indicated that the military landscape is evolving rapidly, necessitating adaptation to newer forms of warfare.

While the government is reportedly prioritising defence spending, concerns have emerged regarding its commitment to deliver substantial changes. Tory defence spokesman James Cartlidge cautioned that any investment in the military must be realised without delay, and not simply remain a speculative promise. Labour's previous record on defence funding has also come under scrutiny, raising questions about the political will to support necessary procurement reforms.

The review underscores a critical reassessment of the UK's defence strategy in light of the current global climate, particularly the rising threats posed by nations such as China and Iran, alongside traditional adversaries like Russia. Calls for improved European defence cooperation have emerged, suggesting that the UK's security framework should be more integrated with NATO and EU partners, reflecting a collective understanding of shared threats.

In this context, the establishment of a Dad's Army-style home guard would not merely be a nostalgic nod to the past but rather a pragmatic step towards securing Britain's future. Such a force could not only serve as a deterrent against terrorist attacks but also enhance the capability of traditional military structures by fostering a spirit of community involvement in national security.

As preparations for the review gain momentum, all eyes will be on how effectively the government can navigate the complexities of modern warfare while ensuring that both citizens and critical infrastructure are afforded the protection they require.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723541/britain-dads-army-home-guard-protect-airports-terrorists.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723541/britain-dads-army-home-guard-protect-airports-terrorists.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
3. Paragraph 3: [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/95fa3900-91fb-4f53-9ac2-250fe0ca34c6)
4. Paragraph 4: [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/293a5f6a-9cf8-45f7-bf97-bb438140a104), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-boost-armed-forces-given-threat-deadly-quartet-2024-07-16/)
5. Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723541/britain-dads-army-home-guard-protect-airports-terrorists.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/media-centre/house-of-lords-media-notices/2024/september-2024/war-in-ukraine-is-a-wake-up-call-for-uk-and-nato-says-lords-committee/)
6. Paragraph 6: [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/293a5f6a-9cf8-45f7-bf97-bb438140a104), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-boost-armed-forces-given-threat-deadly-quartet-2024-07-16/)
7. Paragraph 7: [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/bd9ec712-1def-4bcb-91f5-ca049641bf2b)
8. Paragraph 8: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723541/britain-dads-army-home-guard-protect-airports-terrorists.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723541/britain-dads-army-home-guard-protect-airports-terrorists.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/293a5f6a-9cf8-45f7-bf97-bb438140a104> - An article discussing the UK's need for a comprehensive reassessment of its defense strategy, emphasizing the urgency of realistic budget allocation and stronger European defense cooperation, with pivotal roles for countries like France, Germany, and Poland. It also proposes deeper integration with EU defense frameworks and stresses the necessity of public recognition and support for increased defense funding to rebuild Britain's security framework effectively.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-boost-armed-forces-given-threat-deadly-quartet-2024-07-16/> - A report detailing the UK's plans to strengthen its armed forces in response to threats from China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia. The government has appointed former NATO Secretary General George Robertson to lead a comprehensive review of the armed forces, with findings due in the first half of 2025. The review aims to ensure long-term resilience and includes contributions from foreign policy expert Fiona Hill and retired General Richard Barrons.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/bd9ec712-1def-4bcb-91f5-ca049641bf2b> - An article highlighting the UK's forthcoming defense review, which recommends expanding the country's military presence in the Arctic and High North. The review, led by former NATO Secretary-General Lord George Robertson, prioritizes a 'NATO first' strategy and emphasizes securing the Euro-Atlantic region. It reflects concern over shifting U.S. security commitments and calls for bolstering the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force capabilities, especially for intelligence, surveillance, and anti-submarine warfare.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/95fa3900-91fb-4f53-9ac2-250fe0ca34c6> - An article discussing the fire at Heathrow airport, which disrupted over a thousand flights and affected 200,000 travelers. The incident underscores the UK's vulnerability and the need for improved resilience in critical infrastructure. The article calls for robust energy supply backups at hub airports and emphasizes the broader issue of the UK's general lack of resilience across infrastructure, the economy, and society, further highlighted by failures observed during the Covid-19 pandemic.
6. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/media-centre/house-of-lords-media-notices/2024/september-2024/war-in-ukraine-is-a-wake-up-call-for-uk-and-nato-says-lords-committee/> - A report from the House of Lords International Relations and Defence Committee stating that the war in Ukraine has provided a sobering reminder of the dangers posed by complacency and outdated assumptions in defense policy. The report highlights the urgent need for the UK to integrate the lessons learned from the conflict and re-establish a credible deterrence posture towards Russia. It also emphasizes the importance of bolstering military strength and building resilience to protect critical national infrastructure.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism_(Protection_of_Premises)_Act_2025> - An article detailing the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law, which requires venues hosting large events (over 200 participants) to make plans and train staff for their response to potential terrorist attacks. The legislation was introduced in response to the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing and aims to enhance public safety by ensuring that venues are prepared for such incidents.