# New Multi-Role Ships for Royal Marines to Reflect Lessons from Ukraine Conflict



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Defence Secretary Grant Shapps announced that up to six new multi-role support ships (MRSS) will be built for the Royal Marines. These ships will be designed to operate globally and will incorporate lessons from the ongoing Ukraine war and Houthi attacks in the Red Sea.

The details were disclosed during an interview with BBC Radio 4’s Today program. Shapps stated that the first three vessels are confirmed for construction, with plans for an additional three. The ships are intended to be versatile, capable of carrying drones, vehicles, aircraft, and insertion craft, and will also function as casualty receiving ships.

First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Ben Key, expressed enthusiasm for the new class of amphibious vessels, emphasizing their capability and interoperability with NATO allies. Shapps also highlighted the UK's shipbuilding industry, noting that up to 28 Royal Navy vessels are either in construction or planned.

This development follows Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s commitment to increase defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2030. The Defence Secretary asserted that this investment aims to bolster the UK's military capability and deterrence.

Two Type 23 frigates, HMS Argyll and HMS Westminster, will be retired as part of the transition to more modern ships. Shapps mentioned a significant rise in armed forces applications and expressed confidence in the UK’s current training programs. He confirmed that British weapons would continue to be used in compliance with international humanitarian law.

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