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**NEWS RELEASE****10 July 2023: Release time immediate****DEFENCE CAMPAIGNERS CALL ON GOVERNMENT TO PLEDGE LONG-TERM  
INVESTMENT IN NAVY, ARMY AND AIR FORCE RECRUITMENT**

On the eve of the NATO Summit, and with continued threats to international security from Russia and China, the campaign group Defence UK is urging Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to pledge "long-term and sustained investment" in recruitment and training for the Royal Navy, the British Army and the Royal Air Force.

Britain's Armed Forces have been "chronically depleted" over the last two decades, says Defence UK, and "despite some recent small increases in the Ministry of Defence budget the additional funds committed by the Treasury have been insufficient to repair the damage done to our military, and in some cases appear to have been directed towards administration rather than front-line capabilities."

Defence UK Director Andy Smith says: "It is shocking that British military personnel numbers are continuing to fall, in spite of the growing threats to UK and international security from Russia and China, and the urgency of rebuilding our Armed Forces, while the number of civil servants, lawyers and accountants employed by the MOD has increased."

The campaign group, which was formed in 2007 as the United Kingdom National Defence Association (renamed Defence UK in 2019), is seeking an increase in