

# Littoral Operations – The UK Perspective



**Captain C B Hodgkinson MA Royal Navy**

# Aims of the Presentation

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- Outline:
  - Defining Operations in the Littoral
  - Types of Operations in the Littoral
  - UK Amphibious Capability – Present and Future
  - Panel - Question & Answer Session

# Definitions

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Setting the context.....

# The Littoral

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‘Coastal sea areas and that portion of the land which is susceptible to influence or support from the sea’

JDP 0-01.1

# Littoral Manoeuvre

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‘The exploitation of the sea as an **operational manoeuvre space** by which a sea-based or amphibious force can influence situations, decisions and events in the **Littoral regions of the world..**’

LitM Joint Capability Concept (2008)

# An Amphibious Operation

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A military operation launched from the sea by a naval and landing force embarked in ships or craft, with the principal purpose of **projecting** the landing force ashore **tactically** into an environment ranging from **permissive to hostile**

**ATP- 8(C)**

# Types of Amphibious Operation

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- Raid
- Assault
- Withdrawal
- Demonstration
- Other than war ie HADR, NEO



# Ship to Objective Manoeuvre

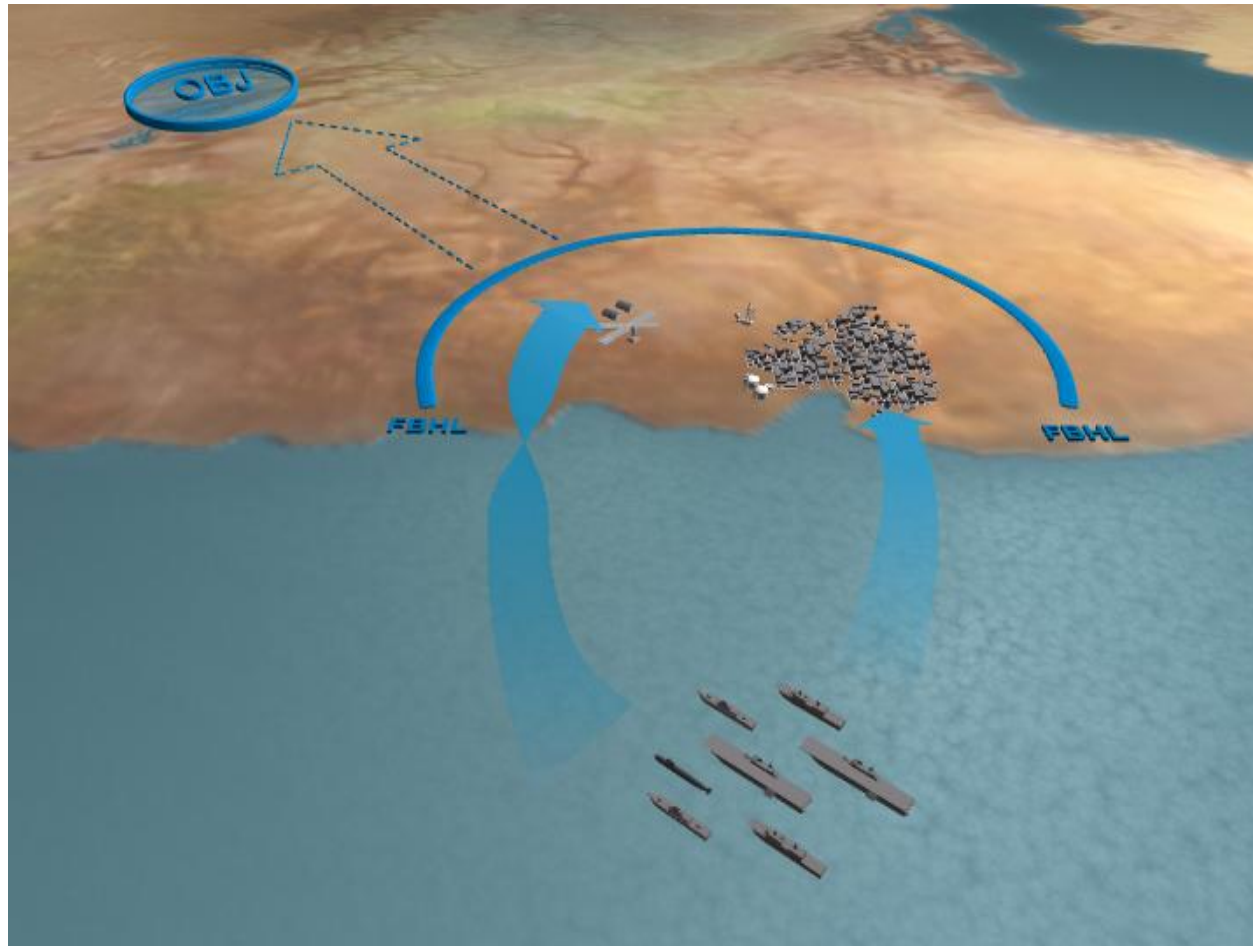
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- Projecting force from the sea directly against an enemy's critical vulnerabilities ashore, from over the horizon, using surface and aviation means.
- It avoids the classic amphibious assault's requirement to build up combat power ashore, then moving from a lodgement area to the objective.
- It thereby eliminates the 'Pause' associated with the build up of combat power.



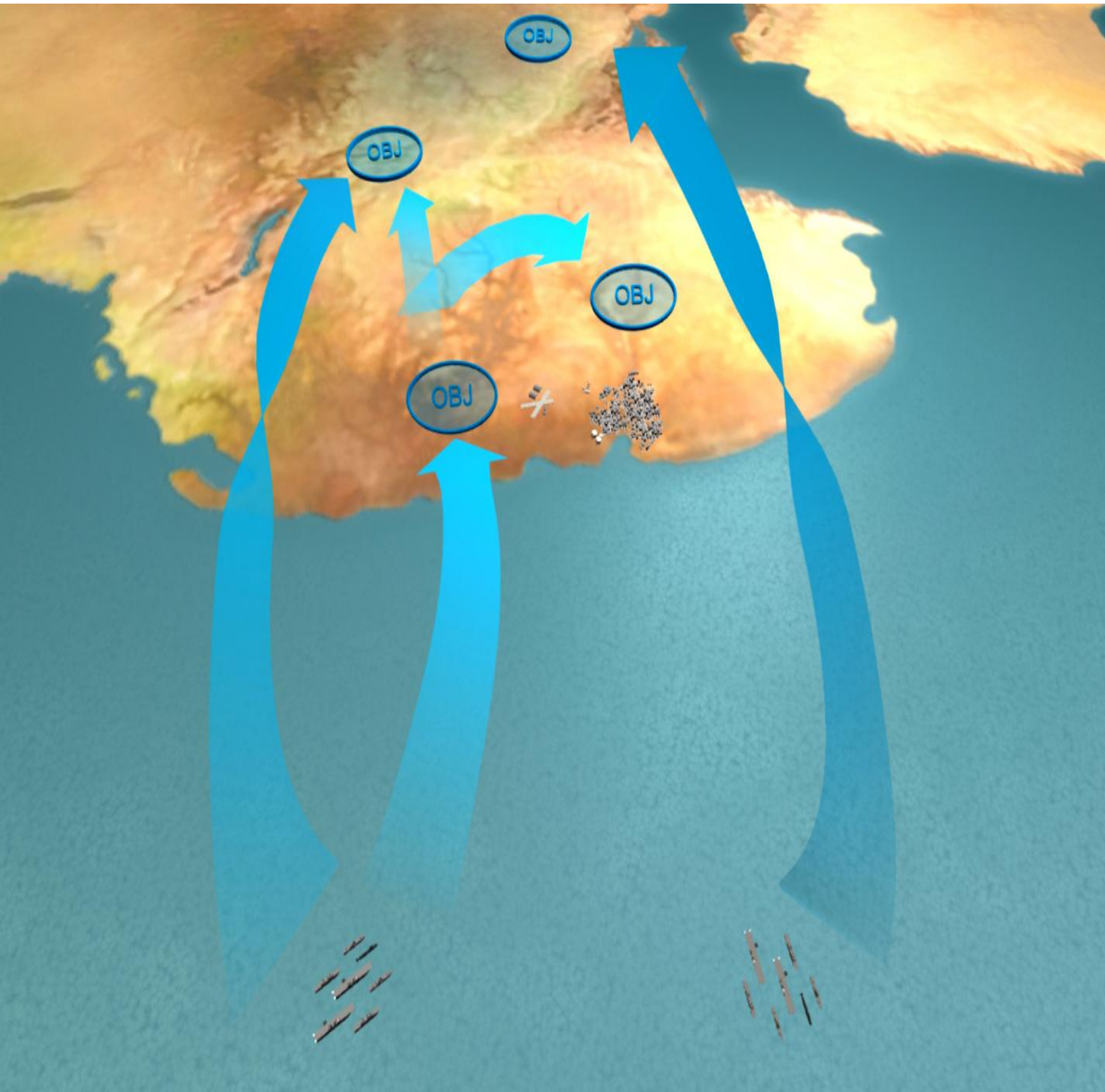
# Classic Amphibious Assault



**Extensive naval gunfire**

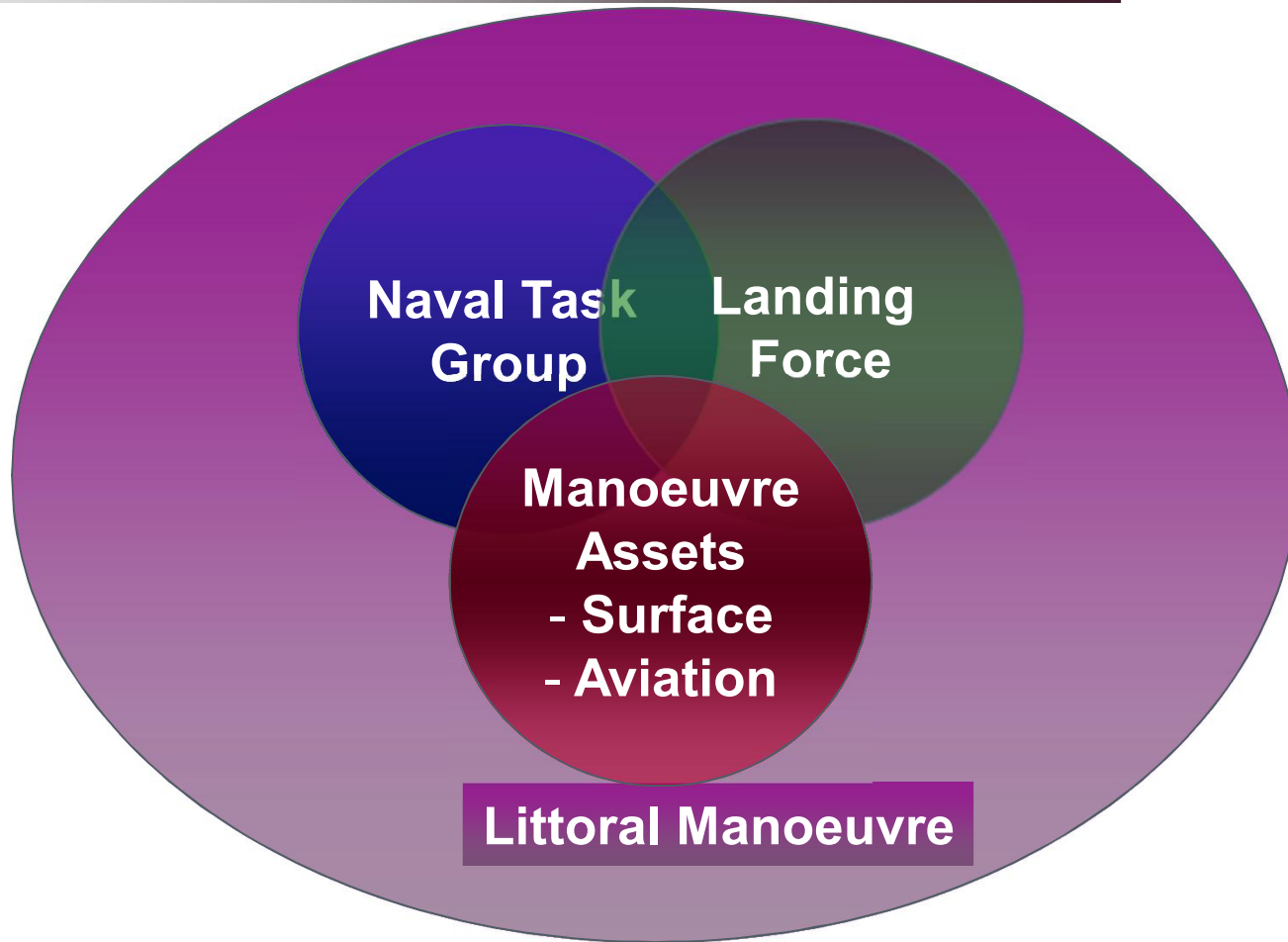
- **Seize beach head, build up combat power**
- **Strike inland to actual objective**
- **Limited manoeuvre**

# Ship to Objective Manoeuvre



- **Seabased/Networked:**
  - Fires
  - C2
  - Logistics
- **Focus on the objective**
  - No beach head
  - Rapid tempo
  - Lower footprint
- **Integrated fires and high mobility**
- **Accessing Joint Capabilities**
- **Delivering Land effect**

# Amphibious Capability



Best employed when integrated, configured and trained together for littoral operations.

# UK LitM Capability Headmark

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The ability to conduct Joint Action through Ship to Objective Manoeuvre (110nm) of an Assault Echelon of **1 Cdo Gp** in a **single cycle of darkness**; the initial Assault Wave to secure identified objectives and comprising simultaneous delivery of **1 Coy Gp by air** and **1 Coy Gp by surface in Protected Mobility** from over the horizon in up to sea state 4, supported by effective BM, ISTAR and a range of protective and offensive Fires. The Landing Force is to be capable of **sustaining combat operations, independently, for 28 days** with re-supply by air and surface means from the sea base located up to a maximum range of 30nm offshore



# Amphibious Task Group



# Core Shipping & Supporting Combatants



**LSD(A)**



**LPD**



**LPH**



**HM**



**MW**



**SM**

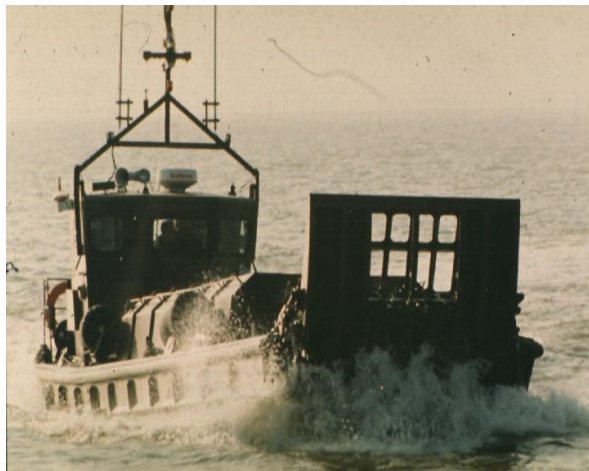


**FF/DD**





# Surface Manoeuvre



# Air Manoeuvre





# Enabling assets







# The Landing Force

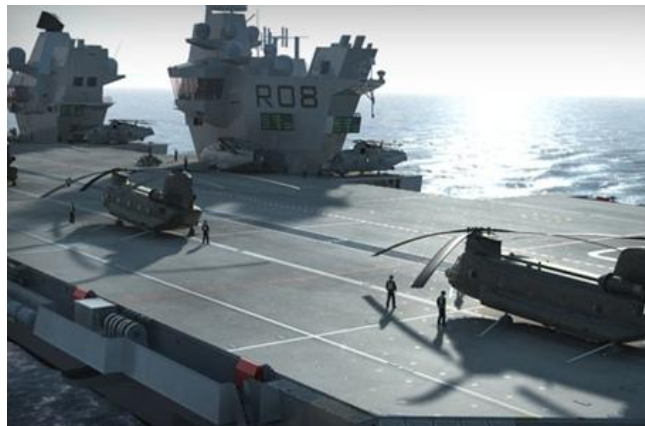




# Amphibious Capability



## Forging the Future of Land and Littoral Manoeuvre



QEC  
era



Future  
Operating  
Environment



Back to the  
Fleet

# Type 26 Global Combat Ship



**Sea Ceptor Silo**  
Anti-Air Missiles

**997 Radar**

**Sea Ceptor Silo**  
Anti-Air Missiles

## Flight Deck

Capable of landing a Chinook in support of special forces ops

## Main Missile Silo

Flexible use silo capable of adapting to a range of munitions and missions from Anti-Ship Missiles to Land Attack Missiles

## Medium Calibre Gun

## Sonar 2087

Low Frequency Active Sonar

## CODLOG

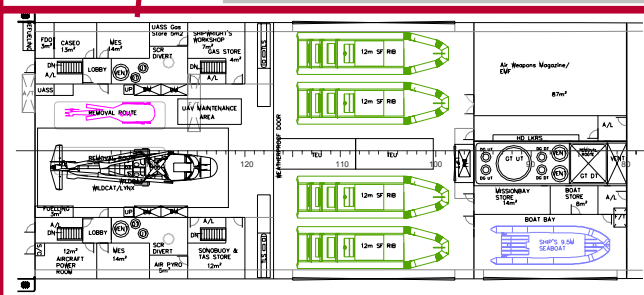
2 Electric Motors  
4 High Speed Diesel Generators  
Gas Turbine Direct Drive

## Sonar 2050

Bow Sonar

## Integrated Mission Bay / Hangar

Reconfigurable space capable of carrying multiple helicopters (Including Merlin) as well as additional boats, Unmanned Vehicles (UAVs, USVs and UUVs), or up to 10 containers



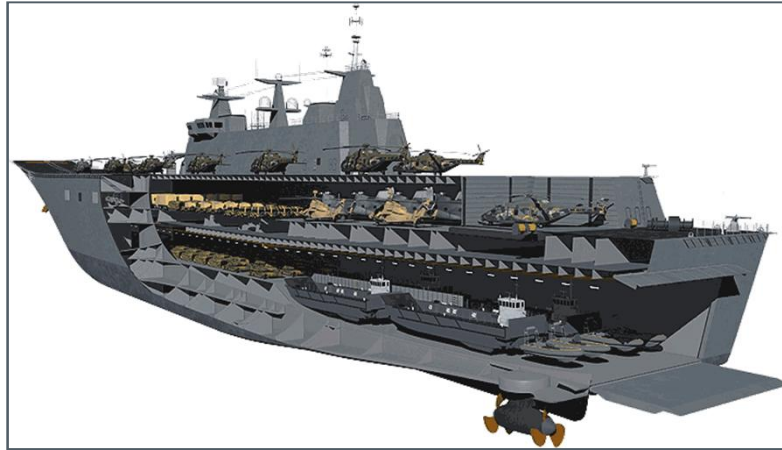
## Core Complement

118 (not including Flight)

## Additional Accommodation

72 bunks for Capability Teams which conceptually include: The Flight, trainees, communications technicians, a Force ASW team, an Enhanced Boarding Capability, Special Forces, Role 2 medical teams, International Engagement teams (caterers, stewards, etc) and an MCM mission package team

# Interoperability









# Raid



*A landing from the sea involving swift occupation of an objective followed by a planned withdrawal*



# Assault

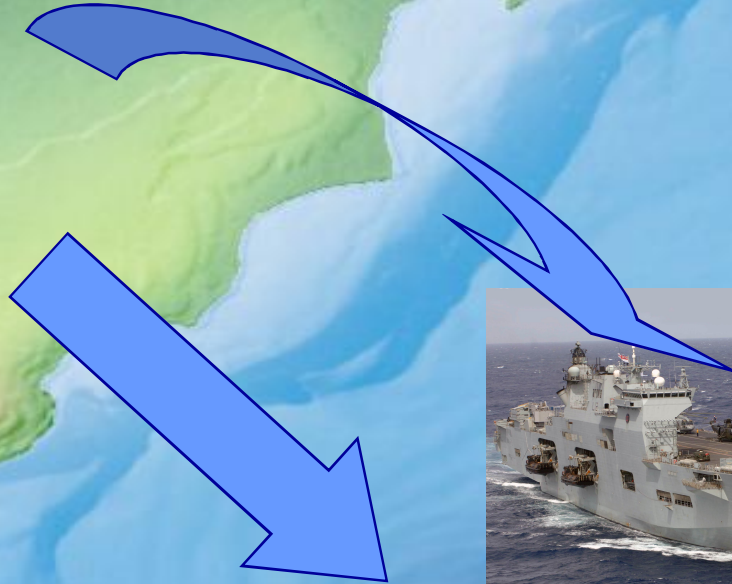


*Establishing a force on a hostile shore.  
Implies a more permanent occupation.*





# Withdrawal



*The withdrawal of forces  
by sea in Naval ships or craft  
from a hostile or potentially  
hostile shore*



# Demonstration



*An operation conducted for the purpose of deceiving the enemy in order to delude him into an unfavourable course of action*



Haiti 2010



Philippines 2013



## Amphibious Support to Other Operations

*The capabilities of amphibious forces may be especially suited to conduct MOOTW such as non-combatant evacuation operations (NEOs) and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR)*



# LPD – HMS ALBION/BULWARK



Landing Platform Dock

C2 platform

256 EMF (405 overload)

500 LiMs

Dock 4 x LCU

4 x LCVP

2 x Avn Spots (2 SK/LX or 1 CH47)

Side ramp for embarking vehicles

Vehicle ramp between Flight Deck  
and Vehicle Deck

Max 4kts when docked down

ABU Heavy

# LPH – HMS OCEAN



- Landing Platform Helicopter
- C2 facilities for a Cdo Gp
- NVG compatible
- Can embark up to 16 x MSH + 6 x LH
- 6 x MSH or 4 x CH57 spots
- ABU light with lightweight trackway
- 4 x LCVP Mk 5; 3 x IRC(3)
- Stern ramp (with RSP) and sideramp for light vehicles
- 300 Lims
- EMF 444 pax; TAG 250

# CV in LPH role



## INVINCIBLE Class CVS had limitations:

- 7 spots – (only 4 CH47 capable)
- Reduced LIMs - (CVS = 'limited' LPH = 278 )
- Reduced PAX - (CVS = 582 LPH = 694 )
- No surface craft capability (loss of 4 x LCVP)



# LSD(A) – RFA MOUNTS BAY/ CARDIGAN BAY/LYME BAY



Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary)  
416 EMF  
1150 LiMS  
1 spot  
Dock - 1 LCU/2 LCVP  
2 x MEXE/RSP/Workboat side  
loaded  
Approx 2 hours to dock down  
Docked down Max 12 knots empty

