

Media Report 19 Mar 2021

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking such as Frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19 in Ottawa. Due to ongoing and evolving COVID-19 pandemic callers may experience increased wait times when calling the Government of Canada Pension Center. Callers may also experience dropped calls, as all telecommunication networks across Canada are presently facing capacity challenges. and local Media Articles and An illness or injury can have an impact on your ability to adjust to life after service. We all need healthcare services. The Treatment benefits program provides coverage for a variety of benefits and services to help you get—and stay healthy. Have you made an application for disability benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada and received a decision? If you disagree with that decision, you have the right to review or appeal it.

CANADA

[Active COVID-19 cases: 31,430 | Recovered: 861,832 | Deceased: 22,519 | Total: 915,868](#)

COVID-19: Ottawa to move to Ontario's red-control zone 19 MAR Friday morning

<https://ottawasun.com/news/local-news/covid-19-ottawa-to-move-into-provincial-red-zone-on-friday/wcm/871790f2-1b59-4af6-9e4d-bc9d9b32c474>

<http://www.respectcanada.org/index.html>

[Respect Canada | Driving Respect Across Canada](#)

Welcome to the RESPECT Forum Events & Campaign site! Promoting collaboration through networking and knowledge sharing to improve mental health services and reduce homelessness for our men and women in uniformed service who run to danger.

www.respectcanada.org

Veterans Affairs Table of Disabilities

Introduction

What is the Table of Disabilities?

The Table of Disabilities (TOD) is a legislated /statutory instrument used to assess the extent of a disability for the purposes of determining disability benefits. The Table considers the relative importance of a certain body part/system to assess the level of impairment and the impact that impairment has on the individual's quality of life.

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- Europe

- **Defense panel rips into British Army over ‘deplorable’ state of armored vehicles**

- By: Andrew Chuter 14 March

2021 https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2021/03/14/defense-panel-rips-into-british-army-over-deplorable-state-of-armored-vehicles/?utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Socialflow+DFN&utm_source=facebook.com&fbclid=IwAR2PMYmAT9ipD0U1L6q_AZGLb7ij3fighVHFPVQZHT_txx-rWTvYD9kJP4 Europe LONDON — Britain’s armored fighting

vehicle capabilities have been labelled as “deplorable” in a report released by the parliamentary Defence Committee on March 14. Committee chairman Tobias Ellwood said the armored fighting vehicle program has been “plagued with uncertainties, and the decision to invest in fighting vehicles is too often hampered by uncertainties over what the Army wants them for and pitted against the desire to fund other defense priorities. Whilst the defence landscape is certainly shifting, traditional warfare remains a very real and frightening possibility, and one for which we must be fully prepared.”

- “Given the large amounts of taxpayer’s money at stake and the importance of such programs for our war fighting capability should deterrence fail, this appalling situation has now become completely unacceptable and must be rapidly reformed, including, if necessary, by senior management changes at DE & S Headquarters,” the committee wrote. The Army is expected to take the brunt of any cuts that come as a result of the review. The service will also likely experience cuts in end strength. “Were the British Army to have to fight a peer adversary — a euphemism for Russia — in Eastern Europe in the next few years, whilst our soldiers undoubtedly remain amongst the finest in the world, they would, disgracefully, be forced to go into battle in a combination of obsolescent or even obsolete armoured vehicles, most of them at least 30 years old or more, with poor mechanical reliability, very heavily outgunned by more modern missile and artillery systems and chronically lacking in adequate air defense,” the committee said.
- “The Army’s AFV program and capability is now vulnerable when weighed against the desire to fund other priorities such as ‘cyber,’

information warfare and other capabilities,” the report said. Although not part of the core program, Britain did order thousands of armored vehicles for missions to counter improvised explosive devices, among other duties, during the Afghan and Iraqi campaigns. But national media reported March 13 that the Challenger 2 modernization effort will go ahead, albeit with the tank fleet reduced from the current level of 227 to between 150 and 170. Reports also said the long-delayed Warrior update effort, launched in 2011, will not progress to the manufacturing stage, with the planned capability to be completely abandoned.

- Meanwhile, deliveries of new Ajax tracked reconnaissance vehicles built by General Dynamics are late but are starting to trickle into the Army’s hands. And Britain has also inked a contract with Rheinmetall BAE Systems Land to supply several hundred Boxer mechanized infantry fighting vehicles. However, the committee said it is “astonished” that the Boxer contract only provides for production of one vehicle a week, and members called for the government’s review to accelerate procurement.
- The committee added that the failure to provide modern armored fighting vehicles to the Army will pose serious quantitative and qualitative implications on the battlefield.
- The two programs not yet under contract — one eyeing the Lockheed Martin UK’s Warrior infantry fighting vehicle, and the other looking at Rheinmetall BAE Systems Land for a significant improvement package for the Challenger 2 main battle tank — have been the subject of considerable speculation over whether they will survive cuts when the government review drops.
- The committee’s report focused on four specific armored fighting vehicle programs. Two are under contract to supply new vehicle types, and the other two are for platform updates not currently under contract. Together, the programs are worth billions of pounds.
- “We are astonished that between 1997 and late 2020 (with the exception of a small number of armoured engineering and Viking protected mobility vehicles) the Department had not delivered a single new armoured vehicle from the core procurement program into operational service with the Army.”
- The report comes ahead of the publication of a government defense, security and foreign policy review that is widely expected to ax or at least reduce the size of some key armored vehicle capabilities as part of a wider transformation of the armed forces. The government foresees a

pivot from conventional equipment toward greater investment in space, cyber, underwater and unmanned technologies.

- The committee said heads should role at the Defence Ministry's procurement arm, the Defence Equipment and Support office, if the problems can't be resolved.
- "The recent history of the British Army's armoured fighting vehicle capability is deplorable," the committee wrote. "This report reveals a woeful story of bureaucratic procrastination, military indecision, financial mismanagement and general ineptitude, which have continually bedevilled attempts to properly re-equip the British Army over the last two decades."
- Actually, "deplorable" was one of the kinder terms used by the committee to describe the Army's reasons for letting its armored vehicle fleet atrophy over the last two decades.
- **Britain unveils date to release transformative military review**
- By:Andrew Chuter 5 March 2021 <https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2021/03/05/britain-unveils-date-for-transformative-military-review/>British Army admits more delays in fielding enough combat forces
- By:Andrew ChuterOct 2020<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2020/10/12/british-army-admits-more-delays-in-fielding-enough-combat-forces/>

IN THE NEWS

[Honouring the team that developed the Bailey Bridge in the Second World War](#)
[Lt.-Gen. Frances Allen becomes first woman appointed as Canadian military's vice-chief of defence staff](#)

[Une première femme nommée vice-chef d'état-major](#)

[Canadian soldiers brave the cold for COVID-19-safe winter operation](#)

[Calian wins \\$32 million training contract with Royal Military College](#)

[Military helicopters to train throughout Okanagan Valley for 3-week span](#)

[Queen's engineering researchers get \\$4.5 million for climate change project](#)

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