

# British Army Chief Says UK Must be Ready to Fight a Major War in 3 Years

Gen. Roly Walker says the UK faces threats from an 'axis of upheaval'

By [Dave DeCamp](#)

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*The head of the British Army has said the UK must be prepared to fight a major war in three years and hyped up the threat of a global conflict against Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea, [The Times reported on Tuesday](#).*

Gen. Roly Walker described the four nations as an “axis of upheaval” and warned they have been working closer together, which is a reaction to US and other Western sanctions.

Walker said no matter how the war in Ukraine ended, Russia would still be “very very dangerous” and “wanting some form of retribution” for the West’s support of the proxy war.

“When you think they are down they [Russia] will come roaring back to get their vengeance,” Walker said.

The *Times* report said that Walker believes he has until 2027 or 2028 to significantly bolster the UK’s fighting power. He wants to double the British military’s ability to “fight and kill” within three years and triple it by the end of the decade.

“We have just enough time ... to prepare, act, and assure the re-establishment of credible land forces to support a strategy of deterrence,” Walker said.

The British Army currently has 72,500 troops in its ranks, which, according to the *Times*, is the smallest it has been since the Napoleonic era. The UK has also [significantly depleted its weapons stockpiles](#) by arming Ukraine.

Earlier this year, a British general acknowledged that the UK [wouldn’t last more than two months](#) in a direct war with Russia. Other British officials downplayed Russia’s military superiority over the UK, saying if there was a direct war with Russia, NATO would be involved as well.

Walker’s comments reflect a growing view among military leaders in NATO member states that a direct war with Russia will happen in the future despite the risk of nuclear escalation. US military officials have also been openly preparing for a war with China, another nuclear-armed power.

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