



British Paratroopers Mean Business: Impressive Tactical and Firepower Demonstration in NATO Exercise Swift Response

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During the Swift Response Exercise in Estonia, the paratroopers of the **3rd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment (3 PARA BG)** demonstrated their remarkable firepower, supported by Typhoon fighters, Apache AH-64E attack helicopters, and artillery. The exercise featured a 48-hour live-fire mission to clear and hold a three-kilometer trench system.

During the night, troops were inserted with Chinook helicopters to assault the trenches at dawn, facing enemy drones and using their own drones to gather intelligence. The 105mm light guns of the **7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (7 Para RHA)** and the 12.7mm heavy machine guns of the Wildcat helicopters helped neutralize enemy targets.

According to the [official British Army website](#), soldier **Matt Hames**, a machine gunner of the 3rd PARA, described the experience in the trenches as very cramped and explained his crucial role in providing covering fire to protect his comrades as they advanced. Sapper **Will Coleman** of the **23rd Parachute Engineer Regiment** spoke about obstacle removal operations, including blowing up perimeter areas, barbed wire, and bunkers, highlighting the versatility of engineers in combat.

Air support was coordinated by the **Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC)** of the 7th Parachute Artillery, coordinating Typhoon aircraft, Apache, Wildcat, and Puma Uncrewed Air Systems (UAS). Warrant Officer Class Two **Adam Colvin** described the JTAC role as a “force multiplier” of fundamental importance during operations.

Lieutenant Colonel **Dave Mans**, commander of the illustrious 3rd Parachute Battalion, praised his soldiers for their controlled aggression and focus during training, highlighting how such exercises enhance readiness for any operational environment, emphasizing the importance of developing and maintaining operational skills in realistic and complex conditions.

The **Swift Response Exercise**, part of the larger [Steadfast Defender 24](#) involving over **90,000 soldiers, sailors, and airmen from all 32 NATO countries**, aims to enhance NATO forces' ability to respond together to crises, strengthening relationships and joint preparedness.

News link: <https://www.army.mod.uk/news-and-events/news/2024/05/paratroopers-pack-a-punch-on-swift-response/>