

U.K. Army tests anti-drone radio-wave weapon

24th April 2025



The British Army has successfully tested a new weapon to destroy drones. It has created a radio-wave weapon system that can knock swarms of drones out of the sky. Many armies around the world use drones

to attack enemy soldiers, tanks, and cities. Drones are a very effective way of attacking enemies. They can cause a lot of damage. The British Army's new system uses high-frequency radio waves to destroy the computer chips that control drones. This causes the drones to crash or fly off-course. An Army spokesperson said the system could take out more than 100 drones almost instantly. He said it could give the Army a big advantage on the battlefield.

The U.K. government spent more than \$53 million developing the anti-drone weapons system. The system is very cheap to operate. It costs just 18 cents to fire one shot at a swarm of drones. This is one-tenth of the price of a standard bullet used by the British Army. A spokesperson said it was important to find cheap and effective ways to defend British soldiers. He pointed to Russia's use of drones in its three-year war against Ukraine. The U.K. government said: "Drone swarms are increasingly seen in use in frontline combat in Ukraine. U.K. intelligence estimates that last year, Ukraine had to defend against attacks from more than 18,000 drones."

Sources: [defensenews.com](https://www.defensenews.com) / [cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com) / [ft.com](https://www.ft.com)

Writing

Drones should never be used by armies in wars. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

army / weapon / drone / sky / soldier / tank / damage / system / computer chips / government / cheap / bullet / war / Ukraine / combat / intelligence / defend / attack

True / False

- 1) British Army tests on an anti-drone weapon were successful. T / F
- 2) Very few armies worldwide use drones. T / F
- 3) The new anti-drone weapon uses low-frequency radio waves. T / F
- 4) The new anti-drone weapon can bring down 100 drones on an instant. T / F
- 5) The new anti-drone weapon cost over \$50 million to develop. T / F
- 6) An army bullet cost 10 times more than a shot from the new weapon. T / F
- 7) The British Army is looking for cheaper ways to protect its soldiers. T / F
- 8) More than 80,000 drones have hit Ukraine in the past three years. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. tested | a. protect |
| 2. destroy | b. straight away |
| 3. effective | c. benefit |
| 4. instantly | d. guesses |
| 5. advantage | e. knock down |
| 6. cheap | f. fighting |
| 7. standard | g. inexpensive |
| 8. defend | h. trialled |
| 9. combat | i. usual |
| 10. estimates | j. successful |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about drones?
- b) What are the best uses of drones?
- c) How useful are drones on battlefields?
- d) How good is the army of your country?
- e) Should drones be banned in warfare?
- f) What do you think of the radio-wave anti-drone weapon?
- g) How can we end today's wars?
- h) What's the best way to stop wars in the future?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. armies around the world use drones | a. fly off-course |
| 2. Drones are a very effective way | b. combat |
| 3. This causes the drones to crash or | c. cheap to operate |
| 4. take out more than 100 drones | d. the battlefield |
| 5. a big advantage on | e. more than 18,000 drones |
| 6. The system is very | f. of attacking enemies |
| 7. one-tenth of the price of a standard | g. to attack enemy soldiers |
| 8. effective ways to defend | h. bullet |
| 9. increasingly seen in use in frontline | i. almost instantly |
| 10. defend against attacks from | j. British soldiers |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How might drones help your life?
- Would you like to be a soldier?
- Would you like to use a drone?
- Why do countries go to war?
- What wars has your country fought?
- What will wars look like in 100 years from now?
- What questions would you like to ask the British Army?

Spelling

- attack nymee soldiers
- Drones are a very teefecfiw way
- high-eeenyuqrf radio waves
- setdroy the computer chips
- take out more than 100 drones almost tnatnisly
- give the Army a big aavtneadg
- the anti-drone weapons mstsye
- a standard lbulte used by the British Army
- a rmwsa of drones
- endefd British soldiers
- in use in frontline bctmao
- U.K. intelligence ttsaemies

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. g	7. i	8. a	9. f	10. d

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	Who does the article say uses drones?
2.	What does the article say drones attack besides soldiers and cities?
3.	What kind of radio waves does the anti-drone weapon use?
4.	How many drones could the anti-drone weapon take out instantly?
5.	Where might the anti-drone weapon be a big advantage?
6.	How much did the anti-drone system cost to develop?
7.	How much more expensive is a bullet than a shot from the new weapon?
8.	What does the British Army hope to defend?
9.	Where are drones increasingly being seen?
10.	How many drones were used against Ukraine in the past three years?

Speaking – Drone Uses

Rank these with your partner. Put the best drone uses at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Package deliveries
- Aerial photography
- Search and rescue
- Pollution monitoring
- Gaming
- Police surveillance
- Mapping
- Sport broadcasts

Answers – True False

1	T	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	T	8	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.