**UXV Combatant**

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| Artist depiction of the UXV Combatant | |
| **General characteristics** | |
| Type: | Multirole ship |
| Displacement: | approx. 8,000 [long tons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_ton) (8,128 t) |
| Length: | 500 ft (152.4 m) |
| Beam: | 70 ft (21 m) |
| Propulsion: | Un-confirmed |
| Speed: | 27 [knots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knot_(unit)) (50 km/h; 31 mph) |
| Complement: | 60 (not including UVX support crew) |
| Sensors and processing systems: | Radio Frequency Identification sensors, infrared, radar |
| Armament: | • 20 × MK 57 [VLS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vertical_Launch_System) modules, comprising a total of 80 missiles: • [Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolved_Sea_Sparrow_Missile) (ESSM) • Tactical [Tomahawk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BGM-109_Tomahawk), or, Vertical Launch Anti-Submarine Rocket ([ASROC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RUM-139_VL-Asroc))  • 1 × 155 mm gun (920 × 155 mm) • 2 × [Mk 110 57 mm gun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mk_110_57_mm_gun) (dual-purpose) • 1-4 × CIWS missile launchers (sea-ceptor, or, naval Starstreak) |
| Aircraft carried: | * [Taranis UCAV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BAE_Taranis) or other UCAVs. * [Merlin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merlin_helicopter) and [Lynx wildcat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AgustaWestland_AW159) or possible new helicopters. * possibly [VTOL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VTOL) or [STOL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STOL) aircraft. * other Various aircraft ranging from anti-submarine helicopters, Helicopter gunships, Unmanned helicopters or others. |
| Aviation facilities: | small hangars below launch decks |

The **UXV Combatant** is a concept warship designed by [BVT Surface Fleet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BVT_Surface_Fleet) (now [BAE Systems Surface Ships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BAE_Systems_Surface_Ships)), which was displayed at the [Defense Security and Equipment International (DSEi)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DSEi) in 2007. If built it would be expected to displace approximately 8,000 [tons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonnes) and "launch, operate and recover large numbers of small unmanned vehicles for extended periods, the UXV plays the role of mother ship - a permanent base and control center for the futuristic unmanned land, sea and air vehicles before, during and on completion of their missions". If approved, it would be expected to enter service with the [Royal Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Navy) sometime after 2020. It shares some common design features with the [Type 45 destroyer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Type_45_destroyer), which will be beneficial both to the ease of production and cost.

**Design**

It is expected the UXV Combatant will feature two decks for launching unmanned aircraft, V/STOL (Vertical/Short Take-off and Landing) aircraft, and helicopters; arrayed in a "V" shape. Each deck would be approximately 164 feet (50 m) in length. To launch drones/ V/STOL craft, the UXV could be expected to use electromagnetic catapults, and ramps (ramps are currently used on many aircraft carriers around the world). The UXV is also reported to be capable of launching unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs) from a port on its underside and, in addition, will be able to deploy amphibious troops, just as many destroyers today. To provide covering fire for amphibious operations, each UXV will possibly be equipped with a 155 mm cannon (planned as an upgrade from the current [4.5 inch Mark 8 mod 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4.5_inch_Mark_8_naval_gun) gun). The cannon will be able to fire bursts of 20 rounds, in rapid succession. The UXV will be expected to have the capability of striking longer range targets with vertical missile-launch platforms.

**Projected Missions**

The UXV Combatant if approved should be able to fill a wide variety of mission roles; which unmanned vehicles it would carry would depend on its mission.

One expected role will be reconnaissance, through the use of unmanned drones. Another, as a V/STOL carrier, meaning that it will be able to launch aircraft very close to the proposed targets. The UXV Combatant should be able to deploy assault troops, or cover them, with Vertical Launch Missile Systems, and 155 mm guns. For anti-submarine warfare (ASW), the UXV Combatant might carry unmanned underwater vehicles, high-tech sonars, and manned ASW helicopters. As with many current warships, the UXV Combatant will be able to fill the role of long-range strike platform with its Vertical Launch Missile Systems, which is expected to be placed just forward of its superstructure. Consequently, it will be able to fulfil a wide variety of roles of the Royal Navy from long-range reconnaissance to small-scale assault. Its small complement, just over 60 and versatility compared to other equitable vessels, means it will provide numerous vessels that can more discreetly operate over a larger area, ideal for [asymmetric warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asymmetric_warfare), special forces deployment and small deterrence or reconnaissance missions. With the addition of these weapon systems which are common on frigates and destroyers the UXV Combatant should be able to act by itself, and as an escort, as well as a drone launching carrier.

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