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700 UK troops rushed to region to mount potential Dunkirk-style rescue of up to 10,000 British nationals

By Mark Nicol, Martin Beckford and **Andy Jehring**

HUNDREDS of UK troops were deployed to the Mediterranean last night as part of a potential 'Dunkirk-style' rescue of up to 10,000 Britons from Lebanon.

The mass movement of Royal Marine commandos, sailors and combat engineers came amid rising fears of a full-scale conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Hezbollah.

Last night, Sir Keir Starmer urged Britons still in Lebanon to get out of the country immediately and said he was worried about the deteriorating situation.

The 700-strong force was being rushed to the region following approval from Downing Street of evacuation plans drawn up by the Ministry of Defence. The mission, called Operation Meteoric, could see commandos making beach landings in Lebanon with UK citizens escorted



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