



Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies



Future Systems Directorate

RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE 1/2007

The Foremost Inter-Disciplinary Defence E-Bulletin

突破 *Revolucionario* *Revolutionary* *Merevolusikan* *Revolutionär* *Kraantikari*

15 January 2007

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CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

[What Should be Done about Iraq](#)

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – Jan 2007

The Bush administration has finally admitted that the situation in Iraq can no longer be addressed by staying the course. Both the visible deterioration of the situation on the ground, amply demonstrated by the horrifying violence in Baghdad and other important cities, and the American voters rejection of the Republican Party and its policies in the midterm congressional elections make it imperative for the administration to announce a new course. But the options are limited. Iraq today sits at the intersection of two clusters of conflict. The first is internal to Iraq, a result of the vacuum of power left by Washington's success in overthrowing Saddam Hussein and its subsequent failure to restore security and governance. The second is regional, caused by the rise of Shiite power in Iran and affecting the entire area from Iran to the Arabian peninsula and the Levant. As a result, any new policy on Iraq needs to address both domestic and regional issues.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

[Who Pays When the Bomb Goes Off?](#)

Foreign Policy – Dec 2007

The growth of the nuclear club provides more opportunities for terrorists to acquire deadly materials. That means the world needs a new strategy of deterrence. What could help keep the right ingredients out of the wrong hands? Giving bombs birth certificates. Imagine it's the day after a crude nuclear bomb has levelled a major American city. A team of nuclear experts sift through the blast zone on the hunt for fingerprints. But they aren't on the hunt for victim's identification. They're looking for the bomb's signature, the specific traits that will help reveal the nuclear material's origins.

[Janjalani 'Remains' Recovered in Sulu](#)

ABS-CBN Interactive - 27 December 2006

Philippine marines have recovered what are alleged to be the skeletal remains of Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani in the jungles of Patikul, Sulu province. Members of the 3rd Marine Brigade were led to the remains by a civilian informant. Janjalani, who is wanted by both Philippine and American authorities in connection with his alleged terrorist activities, was reported to have been killed in September during a firefight with the military, but no evidence had yet confirmed this. DNA tests will be carried out to confirm whether the remains are in fact Janjalani's.

[Al-Qaeda's Great Deception](#)

Jane's Terrorism & Security Monitor – 5 December 2006

A captured Libyan jihadist deliberately misled the US into invading Iraq, according to a man who claims to have spied for French and British intelligence. While Ibn Shaykh al-Libi's motives for possibly fabricating a connection between Al-Qaeda and Iraq remain open to debate, the intelligence used by the US to justify the invasion of Iraq clearly demonstrates the difficulties in developing a coherent analysis of Al-Qaeda.

[Philippine Military Kills Pirate Leader & Navy Rescues 50 Fisherman from Pirates](#)

People's Daily - 4 January 2007 & Korea Herald - 03 January 2007

A Filipino pirate and one of his crew were killed after a gun battle with Filipino soldiers in Zamboanga del Sur. The man was identified as Camel Lao, who is also known as Ruben. Meanwhile, last week, Philippine naval forces engaged pirates near the Tawi-Tawi island chain after they kidnapped some 50 fishermen. Two navy gunships were deployed to deal with the pirates who quickly returned to their ships without engaging naval forces.

DEFENCE INDUSTRY

[Industry Rises to the Challenge of Increased Maritime Security Threats](#)

Jane's International Defence Review - 14 December 2006

Intelligence gathered in the years following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, in September 2001, has confirmed that the threat to international security, infrastructure and commerce has spread to the maritime sector. Attacks on shipping in and around ports, such as those on the guided-missile destroyer USS Cole (DDG 67) in the port of Aden on 12 October 2000, and on French oil tanker the Limburg as it was approaching the Minah Al-Dabah oil terminal in the Gulf of Aden on 6 October 2002, clearly indicate an understanding of the tactics required to breach harbour security and a capability to successfully engage a target

DEFENCE STRATEGY

[China Releases New White Paper on National Defence Strategy](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 29 Dec 2006

China's armed forces are pursuing a three-step modernization strategy with the goal to deploy a new "solid foundation" in 2010 and to be capable of winning an "informationalized" war by around 2050, according to a new strategic blueprint released on 29 December. A white paper entitled "China's National Defence in 2006" is the sixth such document issued since 1998 by the Information Office of the State Council in Beijing. The paper provides an update on the broad outlines of China's major effort underway to modernize its military capabilities. A clear theme of China's modernization agenda is to adapt its forces to fight and win "informationalized" wars, which is the term coined by Beijing to generally describe what in the English-speaking West is called "network-centric" or "network-enabled" warfare.

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

[Boeing Rolls Out First Airborne Laser aircraft](#)

Jane's Missiles and Rockets - 1 December 2006

The first YAL-1A Airborne Laser (ABL) aircraft was rolled out from Boeing's modification facility in Wichita, Kansas, on 27 October 2006. The rollout ceremony was attended by hundreds of government officials, industry partners and Boeing employees. "This rollout ceremony symbolises many significant accomplishments," said Pat Shanahan, vice-president and general manager of Boeing Missile Defense Systems.

[UCAVs Offer Fast Track to Stealth, Long-Range and Carrier Operations](#)

Jane's International Defence Review – 14 December 2006

On 9 November 2006 the US Air Force (USAF) became the first service to establish an attack squadron equipped with unmanned combat air vehicles (UCAVs). The 42nd Attack Squadron (42AS) will operate the General Atomics - Aeronautical Systems Inc (GA-ASI) MQ-9A Reaper UCAV from Creech Air Force Base in Nevada.

[Camera Offers Sharp Colour in Gloom of Night](#)

National Defense – Jan 2007

An advanced camera designed by Toshiba of Irvine, California, is delivering high-resolution color surveillance video in extremely low light conditions. According to

the company, the IK-1000 has 30 times the sensitivity of standard low light cameras. It can capture video at 30 frames per second in starlight conditions. The heart of the camera - which has been specifically designed for military, homeland security, aviation, border patrol and related applications - is Peltier cooled technology that maintains a constant temperature to provide superlative low light performance.

[New Evaluation Brigade to Test Emerging Warfighting Technologies](#)

Space War – 2 Jan 2007

A new brigade here will test some of the most revolutionary concepts and systems being developed for future warfighters, report how they operate under field conditions, and ultimately speed their fielding to troops on the battlefield. The new Evaluation Brigade Combat Team being stood up here will test 18 major systems being developed for the Army's Future Combat Systems program.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

[Ukraine Begins Work on New Missile System](#)

Jane's Intelligence Review - 18 December 2006

The new missile programme should be understood as the ability to inflict "unacceptable damage" on an opponent. As many as 100 Ukrainian enterprises will be involved in developing the new weapon. Ukraine's missile industry is to begin work on the design of a new conventional surface-to-surface missile system in 2007, ostensibly to bolster the country's defences and provide a deterrent against neighbouring states.

[Indian Navy to Commission New Warship](#)

Andhra Café - 3 January 2007

The Indian Navy commissioned the INS Shardul this week. The auxiliary warship is capable of carrying 11 armoured tanks, 10 support vehicles and 500 troops, and is armed with two rocket launchers and two anti-aircraft guns. The ship is the third landing ship and the first in its class.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

[Japan Launches H-2A Rocket](#)

People's Daily - 18 December 2006

Japan launched a H-2A rocket today carrying the largest Japanese satellite put into orbit to date. The satellite was described as an engineering test satellite.

[China's Plan: Send Up 6 Satellites by 2010](#)

China.Org - 18 December 2006

Chinese officials have announced the launch of six more satellites by 2010 in order to boost the country's resource, environmental and disaster monitoring capabilities. Environmental monitoring run by the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite program have already benefited users in China, Brazil, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Mongolia, as well as other countries. In China, such monitoring has been used in large-scale national projects such as the South-North water diversion program and the construction of the Qinghai-Tibet railway.

[The List: Headlines to Expect in 2007](#)

Foreign Policy – Jan 2007

No one can predict the future with confidence, but Foreign Policy asked regional experts and strategy consultants to do just that. With a strongman coming to power in Iraq and Japan getting serious about nuclear weapons, those hoping for a calm 2007 will be sorely disappointed.

[China's Defence Build-Up Merits Closer Attention from Navy, Say Analysts](#)

National Defense – Jan 2007

China has been beefing up its military might, and the rapid growth of its navy, in particular, is creating disagreements in the Defense Department over whether such a build-up ought to be perceived as a threat to U.S. interests in the Pacific. Analysts who have been monitoring China's emerging maritime clout say the U.S. Navy needs to incorporate those developments into its immediate and future plans.

[Singapore Implements UN Sanctions against North Korea](#)

Space War – 4 Jan 2007

Singapore has begun implementing United Nations trade sanctions against North Korea in retaliation for the country's nuclear test last year. Effective from New Year's Day, shipments through Singapore of luxury goods including cigars, luxury cars, fur products, wines and spirits destined for North Korea are prohibited, Singapore Customs said in a notice to traders. The ban also includes shipments of missiles, technology related to nuclear programmes, and heavy military equipment, including warships and combat aircraft, the statement said. The prohibition was made under a United Nations Security Council resolution adopted unanimously by the council after the October 9 nuclear weapons test by the impoverished and reclusive Stalinist nation.

[Japan and South Korea Arranging EEZ Talks](#)

Japan Today - 4 January 2007

South Korean media speculated this week that a seventh meeting to delineate the disputed Exclusive Economic Zones of Japan and South Korea will be held in mid-January. The last bilateral session was held in September 2006.

[Oiling the Wheels of Renewable Energy](#)

Sydney Morning Herald - 5 January 2007

Media sources report that the Democrats are preparing a new energy package that will cancel-out billions in subsidies for oil drilling. If accurate, the move could cost the oil industry some USD\$ 5 billion and would instead grant tax breaks for renewable energy sources. The changes are expected to be introduced on 18 January 2007.