



Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies



Future Systems Directorate

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## CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

### [Hizbollah and Its Changing Identities](#)

*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – January 2007*

During the last week, the confrontation between the Lebanese government and Hizbollah has reached a critical point. A Hizbollah call for a general strike on January 23, enforced by barriers of burning tires on all major roads—giving people no choice but to stay home—brought the country to the brink of violence. Two days later, fighting erupted among students at the Beirut Arab University, quickly spilling over onto the streets. After the war of last summer, Lebanon had settled back into a pretense of normality, shattered periodically by massive demonstrations in the streets of the capital, as Hizbollah mustered its supporters in an attempt to force the government to call for early elections. The government refused to give in. Hizbollah is now trying to break the impasse.

### [Highlights of the Iraq Strategy Review](#)

*White House Report – 23 January 2007*

The slides of the briefings by the National Security Council contain the major shifts at the strategic, operational and tactical levels to forge a new way forward in Iraq.

## COUNTER-TERRORISM

### [Jihadism in Indonesia : Poso on the Edge](#)

*International Crisis Group – 24 January 2007*

After eight months of trying to induce surrenders, the Indonesian police have conducted two major raids this month in Poso, Central Sulawesi, to arrest a group of men, most local members of the terrorist organisation Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), wanted for a range of bombings, beheadings and drive-by shootings. Peaceful efforts had clearly failed but the high death toll from the second raid has turned the wanted men into victims. A jihad that has been largely directed against local Christians could now be focused on the police as a *thoghut* (anti-Islamic force) and give a boost to Indonesia's weakened jihadi movement. The urgent task now is for the government to work with Muslim leaders to explain in detail who the suspects were and why force was used. It also should examine how police operations were conducted to see if further measures could have been taken to prevent casualties. Authorities likewise need to begin addressing a wide range of local grievances.

### [Britain's Growing Jihadist Movement](#)

*Janes Terrorism and Security Monitor – 12 January 2007*

British government sources who spoke to Jane's in 2006 said the 7 July 2005 London suicide bombings had served to further "stir the extremist soup" in the UK and galvanise

supporters of the jihad into action. While the bombings may have convinced Muslim communities in the UK of the problem in their midst, they also provided aspiring young jihadists with role-model martyrs and showed them that such attacks were possible with patience and planning.

### [To Defeat Terrorists, Military Services Must Innovate, Disrupt](#)

*National Defense Magazine – January 2007*

By any measure, reforming the half-trillion dollar, 3 million-member Defense Department is one of the largest innovation projects in history. Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld led the Pentagon's transformation efforts for nearly six years and trumpeted some transformation's successes. However, transformation as a whole will not lead to success if the military cannot win the wars it fights.

### [Insurgencies Rarely Win – And Iraq Won't be Any Different \(Maybe\)](#)

*Foreign Policy – January 2007*

Vietnam taught many Americans the wrong lesson: that determined guerrilla fighters are invincible. But history shows that insurgents rarely win, and Iraq should be no different. Now that it finally has a winning strategy, the Bush administration is in a race against time to beat the insurgency before the public's patience finally wears out.

## **DEFENCE INDUSTRY**

### [China Waits Patiently for Rearmament in 2050](#)

*Janes Defence Industry – 17 January 2007*

China will wait until the middle of this century before embarking on a period of "energetic rearmament", a leading East Asian defence expert has claimed. Ron Huisken, a senior fellow at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University, added that China's short-to-medium term priority would be to focus on economic growth.

### [Nokia to Explore Third-Generation Telecommunications for US Army](#)

*Janes Defence Weekly – 25 January 2007*

The US Army has awarded Nokia a research and development (R&D) contract to evaluate third-generation (3G) telecommunications for military applications. The five-year contract, awarded by the US Army's information technologies and systems centre, CERDEC, will see Nokia conducting tests, demonstrations, experiments and exploratory exchange efforts in support of deployed troops with access to high-capacity throughput and the command, control, communications and intelligence information cycle.

## **DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY**

### [In Search of the Perfect Missile: Datalinks, Helmets, Enhancements](#)

*Janes International Defence Review* – 15 January 2007

The last-but-one big new thing in air-to-air missile (AAM) development was the advent of missiles that actually worked. The AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range AAM (AMRAAM) and the AIM-9L variant of the Sidewinder performed as advertised, eliminating the gun kill from fighter-versus-fighter combat. The next key development was the shock of the Vympel R-73 (AA-11 'Archer'), which despite relatively simple basic technology proved to be a dominant weapon in air-to-air combat.

### [US Unveils 'Non-Lethal' Directed Energy Weapon](#)

*Janes Defence Weekly* – 26 January 2007

The US military on 24 January unveiled 'System 1' of its Active Denial System (ADS): a non-lethal directed-energy weapon developed for crowd control and urban operations. ADS - a technology demonstration effort overseen by the Department of Defense's Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate - is supposed to provide an extra step for escalating force between 'shouting' and 'shooting'. Mounted on a vehicle, the system fires a millimetre-wave beam to incapacitate hostile personnel.

### [UK to Develop 'Plug and Play' Armour Protection Systems](#)

*Janes Defence Weekly* – 19 January 2007

The UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) has awarded a GBP9.48 million (USD18.6 million) research contract to a QinetiQ-led joint venture for the delivery of the Vehicle Technology Integration and Demonstrator (VTID) programme. The joint venture, which also includes BAE Systems, SciSys, SVGC, Thales UK, Ultra Electronics' Electrics, WilliamsF1, and York and Sussex universities, will run a three-year programme to investigate and implement a layered protection approach intended to increase the survivability of armoured vehicles.

### [New Technology Expands Air Force's Combat Capability](#)

*Air Force Link News* – 24 January 2007

The 820th Security Forces Group was selected recently as the first Air Force unit to purchase and deploy the Ground Situational Awareness Toolkit. The GSAT system, consisting of the Scan Eagle unmanned aerial system and ShotSpotter gunfire acquisition technology, will allow Airmen to identify possible enemy firing locations by tracking where shots are coming from. "This system brings additional technology to the ground war-fighter and keeps us at the cutting edge of technological improvements," said Col. John Decknick, 820th SFG commander. "Employing the GSAT system in the combat zone will greatly expand our combat capability."

[Bats in Flight Reveal Unexpected Aerodynamics](#)

*Space War – 25 January 2007*

The maneuverability of a bat in flight makes even Harry Potter's quidditch performance look downright clumsy. While many people may be content to simply watch these aerial acrobats in wonder, Kenneth Breuer and Sharon Swartz are determined to understand the detailed aerodynamics of bat flight - and ultimately the evolutionary path that created it.

[Pentagon Looks to Sci-Fi Weaponry](#)

*Space War – 30 January 2007*

Fleeing Iraqi insurgents downed by artificial ice sprayed on the road; an angry mob in Afghanistan dispersed by non-lethal ray gun blasts. This is the future of US weaponry, at least for the Pentagon's high-tech arms research division. The space-age weapons of Star Wars are not beyond the imagination of researchers at DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency of the US Department of Defense.

[Researchers Develop Next Generation of Screening Devices](#)

*Space War – 24 January 2007*

Researchers at Sandia National Laboratories are developing the next generation of screening devices that will identify hazardous and toxic materials even if concealed by clothing and packaging materials.

## **ENERGY SECURITY**

[Oil Prices Rise After Steep Fall](#)

*Time Magazine – 30 January 2007*

Oil prices rose Tuesday, recovering some ground lost when prices fell more than \$1 a barrel a day earlier as traders monitored the weather and OPEC production cuts. Saudi Arabia has told its customers it will cut supply by a further 158,000 barrels a day, effective Feb. 1, The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday, citing a senior Saudi official. "After these cuts, our oil production will have declined by about 1 million barrels a day since last summer," the official told the newspaper.

[Waking Up and Catching Up](#)

*The Economist – 25 January 2007*

WHEN Jim Webb, the new Democratic senator from Virginia, replied to George Bush's state-of-the-union message, he could bear to endorse only one of the president's proposals. This was the idea of cutting America's petrol (gasoline) consumption by 20% in ten years, by increasing ethanol production to 35 billion gallons a year and raising fuel-efficiency standards for cars.

## **MILITARY INTELLIGENCE**

### [Intelligence Oversight in the New US Congress](#)

*Janes Intelligence Digest Defence Weekly – 16 January 2007*

The new Democratic majority in the House of Representatives plans to restructure how that body supervises US intelligence agencies. The announced reorganisation seeks to overcome longstanding complaints about excessive fragmentation and other problems with legislative oversight.

## **MILITARY TRANSFORMATION**

### [The US Air Force Should Take Steps to Balance Manpower, Skill Levels, and Personnel Tempo](#)

*RAND Corporation – 17 January 2007*

This research brief examines ways to address the disconnect between authorized personnel at home bases and those actually available in an era of increased deployments.

## **NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION**

### [Priority Steps to Strengthen the Nonproliferation Regime](#)

*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – January 2007*

The greater the number of states possessing nuclear weapons, the greater the risk that one day, by design or accident, they will be used by a state or a non-state actor with catastrophic consequences. The international community must therefore reject the recent tendency to accept the idea that, sooner or later, more countries will possess nuclear weapons, and that we can do nothing to stop it. There are more steps that can be taken to “dissuade” and “deter” non-nuclear weapons states (NNWS) from acquiring such weapons, if the international community—particularly the nuclear weapons states—make this a higher priority other than in words.