

# **RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE 3/2007**

*The Foremost Inter-Disciplinary Defence E-Bulletin*

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

**15 February 2007**

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## **CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT**

### [Crisis Watch: N 42](#)

*International Crisis Group – 1 February 2007*

Seven actual or potential conflict situations around the world deteriorated in January 2007, according to the new issue of Crisis Watch.

### [Counterblasts](#)

*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – 7 February 2007*

Campus disputes over political allegiance are hardly new in Lebanon, though last Thursday's confrontation on the campus of the Arab University in Beirut appeared to confirm many people's worst fears; the ghosts of the civil war are back with a vengeance.

## **COUNTER-TERRORISM**

### [Navy May Deploy Anti-Terrorism Dolphins](#)

*Associated Press – 12 February 2007*

Dozens of dolphins and sea lions trained to detect and apprehend waterborne attackers could be sent to patrol a military base in Washington state, the Navy said Monday. In a notice published in this week's Federal Register, the Navy said it needs to bolster security at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, on the Puget Sound close to Seattle.

### [Fusion Centers Aim to Connect Federal, State, Local Agencies](#)

*National Defense Magazine – February 2007*

Capt. Charles Rapp, director of the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, opened the door inside a nondescript office building on the outskirts of this city. No placard or sign outside gave away his office's location. Inside, a staff of federal, state and local law enforcement agency personnel manned phone lines and kept tabs on a 15-foot wide split television screen tuned into CNN, Fox News and a local news broadcast. The men and women standing watch have a common goal: to prevent terrorists from striking the United States again.

## **DEFENCE BUDGET**

### [US BUDGET REQUEST - DoD Budget Request is Largest Since 1946](#)

*Janes Defence Weekly – 9 February 2007*

The US Department of Defense (DoD) has unveiled a request for USD717 billion to cover overall military spending in Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) and an emergency

supplemental request for the latter half of FY07. The total amount is contained in three separate requests submitted to the US Congress on 5 February as part of the Bush administration's federal budget proposal for next year.

### [Russia Reaffirms Major Rise in Defence Budget](#)

*Janes Defence Weekly – 9 February 2007*

Russia's Defence Ministry has reiterated that military expenditure will increase by around 23 per cent to RUR860 billion (USD34 billion) in 2007: a figure that compares with wider economic growth of 6.7 per cent for 2006. The defence budget will account for 16 per cent of Russia's total federal expenditure of RUR5.463 trillion and will underpin a drive towards the modernisation of the country's armed forces.

### [Australia Juggles High Technology, Great Expectations, Tight Funds and Low Volumes](#)

*Janes International Defence Review – 8 February 2007*

Australia's defence industry is dominated by the two largest corporate entities: the Australian-owned Tenix Defence and French-owned Thales Australia. A second tier of major companies consists of subsidiaries of foreign multi-nationals such as Boeing Australia, Raytheon Australia, Australian Aerospace (Eurocopter) and BAE Systems Australia. Of these, Tenix and Thales Australia have the widest spread of products and services portfolios, encompassing shipbuilding (Tenix only), electronics, systems integration, aerospace and heavy engineering.

## **DEFENCE STRATEGY**

### [Iran Plans Expanded Economic and Military Ties with Iraq](#)

*Janes Defence Weekly – 2 February 2007*

Iran's ambassador to Baghdad revealed a plan to significantly expand Tehran's economic and military ties with Iraq in an interview with the *New York Times* on 28 January. Ambassador Hassan Kazemi Qumi, outlining a plan that could potentially exacerbate tensions with the US, said Iran was prepared to offer Iraqi forces training, equipment and advisers for what he called "the security fight".

### [Burma and China Agree to Strengthen Military Ties](#)

*VOA News – 6 February 2007*

Top military officials of Burma and China have agreed to strengthen bilateral military ties. China's official Xinhua news agency says Burma's military chief of staff, Thura Shwe Mann, and the chief of staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, Liang Guanglie, met in Beijing last week.

## **DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY**

### [Software Helps Assess the 'Training Value' of Games](#)

*National Defense Magazine – February 2007*

Measuring the training value of a videogame often has been an improvised endeavor, where engineers and programmers create their own — often not credible — assessment tools. Web-based programs now are being introduced to collect, analyze and share game data. Metrics Element lets users gather any type of information that can be measured in a game, and present it in any desired format, says Larry Mellon, vice president of engineering and chief architect for Emergent Game Technologies, based in Calabasas, Calif.

### [Language Learning Via Video Gaming](#)

*Space News – 5 February 2007*

By the time Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade and other units of the Southern European Task Force here have stepped foot in Iraq, they've already spoken Arabic face-to-face with Iraqis on Baghdad streets. Caserma Ederle's Battle Command Training Center provides the "virtual" Iraqis to train Soldiers in language proficiency and cultural awareness through computer video games with animated characters and life-like simulations that emphasize missions they'll conduct downrange.

### [Easy-to-Make Nanosensors](#)

*Technology Review – 31 January 2007*

One of the most compelling promises of nanotechnology are tiny detectors that could instantly screen for hundreds of toxins or pathogens. Bundled into small handheld devices, these sensors could provide fast alerts of bioterror attacks. They could also be used to quickly and precisely detect early signs of cancer, before the disease turns deadly.

## **ENERGY SECURITY**

### [Hanging Together](#)

*The Economist – 8 February 2007*

WHEN God was parcelling out land to the peoples of the earth, the Georgians arrived late. But their explanation—that they had been drinking in his honour—so delighted God that, according to a Georgian creation myth, he granted them the world's choicest spot. The gods have indeed favoured Georgia this winter, bestowing a mild one when a harsh one might have been disastrous. But the Georgians owe thanks also to an earthly benefactor: their neighbour Azerbaijan, whose oil-fuelled foreign policy is transforming the volatile but vital Caucasus.

## **MILITARY OPERATIONS**

### [Lack of Military-Civilian Coordination Hinders War-Zone Rebuilding Efforts](#)

*National Defense Magazine – February 2007*

Rebuilding war-torn Iraq and Afghanistan has been cited repeatedly by military officials as one of the cornerstone efforts that will help the United States win the war on terrorism. A major obstacle to achieving this goal, however, is that the civilian federal agencies and non-government aid organizations — which are critical players in the rebuilding endeavor — have little interaction with military leaders, and have no clear guidance for how to coordinate their efforts with commanders on the ground.

### [Hurricane Hunters Track Pacific Winter Storms](#)

*Air Force Link – 13 February 2007*

While most people flee when a pending storm is coming, Keesler AFB Airmen go right into the heart of storms to provide detailed information about storms to warn people of hazardous weather. Airmen and WC-130J Hercules aircraft, also known as Hurricane Hunters, left here Feb. 12 for Anchorage, Alaska, for a month-long mission in support of the 2007 winter storm reconnaissance program. In addition to two WC-130Js, Air Force Reserve Command's 403rd Wing officials put together a team composed of aircrew, operations, maintenance, aerial port and other specialties. Like tropical reconnaissance missions, winter storm routes can keep crews in the air more than 12 hours at a time.

### [Technology Helps Soldiers Stay Close to Loved Ones](#)

*US Army News – 12 February 2007*

"Snail mail" is quickly becoming a thing of the past for deployed Soldiers thanks to the 1st Cavalry Division's commitment to keeping families close through video teleconferences. "The guys love using the VTC capabilities here, and we stay busy all the time," said Staff Sgt. David Beach, a cable system installer with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cav. Div., and noncommissioned officer in charge of the division's VTC program.

### [Ronald Reagan Strike Group Enters 7th Fleet](#)

*Navy News Stand – 11 February 2007*

The USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Carrier Strike Group (RRSG) entered the U.S. 7th Fleet's area of responsibility (AOR) Feb. 9, as part of a surge deployment to promote peace, cooperation and stability in the region. Led by Rear Adm. Charles W. Martoglio, the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group will be filling the role of USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), the Navy's only permanently forward deployed aircraft carrier, which is undergoing scheduled maintenance in Yokuska, Japan.

## **NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION**

### [Deployment of US Missile Defense Could Trigger New Arms Race](#)

*Space News – 10 February 2007*

Deployment of a U.S. missile defense system in Central Europe could trigger a new spiral of the arms race, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Saturday. Putin told an international security conference in Munich that the reasons the U.S. cited in favor of deploying a missile defense system in Europe are not convincing enough, as launching North Korean ballistic missiles against the U.S. across western Europe would be in conflict with the laws of ballistics.

### [Israel Stresses Anti-Missile Test Message to Iran](#)

*Space News – 12 February 2007*

Israeli defence officials reiterated Monday that a successful night-time test of its Hetz (Arrow) anti-missile missile system was intended as a clear message to chief enemy Iran. "Last night's test is the answer to the advanced ballistic missiles that Iran develops or buys," Deputy Defence Minister Efraim Sneh was reported as saying by public radio. "In the (armaments) race between Israel and Iran, Israel is ahead at this stage," he added.

### [A Radioactive Subject](#)

*The Economist – 1 February 2007*

A CHANCE, you might think, for Russia to show the co-operation that its president, Vladimir Putin, regularly promises in clamping down on the global traffic in dangerous nuclear materials. Yet the release last week of new titbits about a Georgian sting operation which reportedly netted just short of 80 grams of highly-enriched weapons-useable uranium, a Russian citizen from Vladikavkaz in North Ossetia (a part of Russia) and several Georgian accomplices—was a “provocation”, thundered Russia's foreign minister.