



Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies



Future Systems Directorate

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Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. Révolutionnaire is edited by Joshua Ho, with contributions from Bernard Loo, Manjeet Singh Pardesi and Adrienne Li.

## **CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT**

### [Iraq: U.S. Regime Change Efforts and Post-Saddam Governance](#)

*CRS Report for Congress – 28 January 2005*

Operation Iraqi Freedom accomplished a long-standing U.S. objective, the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, but replacing his regime with a stable, moderate, democratic political structure has run into significant difficulty. The desired outcome would likely prevent Iraq from becoming a sanctuary for terrorists. During the 1990s, U.S. efforts to covertly change the regime failed because of limited U.S. commitment, disorganisation of the Iraqi opposition, and the vigilance of Iraq's several overlapping security services. Previous U.S. Administrations had ruled out a U.S. military invasion to change the regime, believing such action would be risky and that Iraq did not pose a level of threat that would justify war. Operation Iraqi Freedom proved to be successful and regime change was effected. However, escalating resistance to the U.S. – occupation has complicated U.S. efforts to establish legitimate and effective Iraqi political and security bodies and establish democracy. As a result, the U.S. had to accelerate the hand over of sovereignty by handing power to an interim government, holding elections for a transitional National Assembly, and plans for votes on a permanent constitution by 31 October 2005 and for a permanent government by 15 December 2005.

### [US begins to counter IED threat in Iraq](#)

*Jane's Defence Weekly – 16 March 2005*

Recent successes targeting insurgent technical expertise have led to a marked decline in the sophistication of improvised explosive device (IED) construction. IEDs continue to be the single largest threat that coalition forces face in Iraq. Much of the success in targeting IED makers is attributable to a clearer understanding of the Iraqi insurgency. Insurgent tactics are largely a function of where the different groups operate and what resources they have at their disposal. Urban groups favour IED attacks and direct action hit-and-run ambushes where narrow city streets offer a variety of escape routes. However, since the apprehension of key insurgent operators, there has been a dramatic drop in the number of IED and VBIED attacks.

## **COUNTER-TERRORISM**

### [Combating transnational terrorism](#)

*IISS Strategic Comments – Volume 10, Issue 10, December 2004*

Al-Qaeda may be increasingly dependent on local groups and subject to dispersing impulses, but it remains a viable transnational terrorist organisation. While key aspects of the US approach to the 'global war on terror' appear

counter-productive, opportunities for diminishing al-Qaeda's appeal have been marginally enhanced. In particular, awareness is growing in the US, as elsewhere, that there is a need to recalibrate the counter-terrorism campaign away from an over-reliance on the application 'hard power' and military force and towards 'soft power' responses; success here will not come easily.

## **DEFENCE ECONOMICS**

### [The Cost of Operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Enhanced Security](#)

*CRS Report for Congress – 9 February 2005*

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, CRS estimates that the Department of Defense (DOD) has received over \$201 billion for combat operations, occupation, and support for military personnel deployed or supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and for enhanced security at military installations, collectively called the “global war on terrorism.” That included \$25 billion to cover some of DOD’s FY 2005 costs. On January 25, 2005, the White House announced it would request \$80 billion more for these operations in its FY2005 Supplemental, including about \$75 billion for DOD. If Congress approves that amount, DOD’s funding through FY 2005 for these mission will exceed \$275 billion. Much of the debate about the new supplemental may focus on the cost and duration of U.S. involvement in Iraq and the global war on terrorism. CBO recently estimated that military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan could cost \$458 billion from FY 2005 through FY 2014 in addition to amounts already received.

## **DEFENCE INDUSTRY**

### [Europe’s Defence Industry: Taking aim, again](#)

*The Economist – 3 March 2005*

Back in the early 1990s, when America cut defence spending at the end of the cold war, rationalisation of its defence industry proved relatively easy. Within a few years 15 defence contractors had shrunk through mergers to five. Although Europe found such a big consolidation tougher due to politics, a few stealthy mergers went ahead, and now another effort could be getting underway. To get more scale and satisfy jealous national governments, who want defence spending to create jobs at home, Europe has turned to joint ventures. The latest buzz is that Thales and Finmeccanica might merge to become the biggest defence-electronics combine in Europe, and a big force overseas. But because the French and Italian governments still own around 30% of each firm, their approval would be necessary. Meanwhile, EADS could become more French in another way. Adding to the prospect of wholesale change is the probability that BAE Systems will sell its one-fifth stake in Airbus (EADS owns the other 80%) in order to finance a big acquisition in America. Having turned its back on a big

European merger last time, BAE Systems seems determined to sit out the continental skirmish once again.

### [Pentagon's Global View](#)

*Washington Post – 8 March 2005*

The Pentagon is increasingly shopping overseas for its weapons, ending a long made-in-America tradition that assured U.S. defence contractors of nearly exclusive sales to their best customer. The Navy's recent selection of a British-Italian design for the president's next helicopter demonstrated the breadth of the move toward foreign suppliers. The U.S. incumbent, Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. surprisingly lost to an international team led by Lockheed Martin Corp. In another blow to Buy America advocates, the Army will base the design of its newest spy planes on Brazilian-made Embraer jets instead of Georgia-built Gulfstream aircraft.

## **DEFENCE STRATEGY**

### [US looks at strategy for stability operations](#)

*Jane's Defence Weekly – 25 February 2005*

The US armed forces has progressed in the development of its new strategy for stability operations - the security reconstruction and nation-building tasks that have been a continual source of problems in Iraq and are expected to be of increasing importance in future wars. The US Department of Defense (DOD) has drawn up a broad list of goals it has to "put stability operations on a comparative footing to combat operations" so that stability operations are exercised and planned for as much as the shooting part of a war. The US Army, which is likely to have the lead in future post-conflict scenarios, has recently started a study on how to best organise forces for stabilisation.

### [U.S. Adopts Preemptive Counterintelligence Strategy](#)

*Washington Post – 6 March 2005*

The Bush Administration has adopted a new counterintelligence strategy that call for preemptive action against foreign intelligence services viewed as threats to national security. The first national U.S. counterintelligence strategy aims to combat intelligence services from countries hungry for U.S. military and nuclear secrets. Officials said the plan aims to protect U.S. intelligence and information systems from foreign agents, including al Qaeda, by integrating counterintelligence through the new Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive. Counterintelligence efforts are currently dispersed across the 15 agencies that make up the intelligence community. Former intelligence officials described the strategy as an attempt to revitalize counterintelligence after years

of neglect and the demoralisation after espionage cases involving CIA and FBI agents.

### [The Pentagon's New Map](#)

*Book by Thomas PM Barnett – Berkley Publishing Group, May 2005*

Thomas Barnett, a US Naval War College professor, whom *Esquire* recently named as one of the 40-odd “best and brightest” people who will revolutionise the world, has forcefully propounded a defence strategy based on the principle of “connectedness.” His ideas have been published in a book, *The Pentagon's New Map*, and he has actively contributed to US grand strategic policymaking as an adviser to the Pentagon. There is strong anecdotal evidence from the number of briefings Barnett has given (estimated to be in the hundreds) to suggest that his views are making headway in the upper-echelons of the US military. The strategy is based on the fundamental premise that “disconnectedness defines danger”. To be disconnected is to be disengaged from the globalising world and all its attendant values, norms, and interdependence. The disconnecteds tend toward internal volatility. They are, and have people who are, inclined toward external hostility against each other and against the globalised world. They are failed and failing states with lush recruiting and training grounds for new ranks of wild-eyed terrorists. They are alienated populations within repressive states who see no hope for a better life except the after-life. And they are, it is claimed, the real threats to US security. Built on this premise, the American strategy then is to sustain connectedness in regions that are connected. It will fix the disconnectedness in areas that are disconnected. It will also help hold the fort for those connected who are living along the borders of the disconnected, or those who are straddling the line — the so-called ‘seam states’.

## DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

### [Ames Laboratory Research May Lead To Hotter-Running Engines](#)

*Space Daily – 3 March 2005*

Researchers at the U. S. Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory and Iowa State University have developed a new bond coat for thermal barrier coatings, or TBCs, that may allow gas turbine engines in aircraft and other power-generating technologies to better withstand severe, high-temperature environments. The basic research effort could provide a TBC system with significantly improved reliability and durability of turbine blades, thus enabling higher operating efficiencies and extending engine lifetimes.

[Researcher Describes New Type of Strong, Lightweight Metallic Material](#)

*Space Daily – 8 March 2005*

An engineering professor at the University of California, San Diego has described in the March issue of JOM (the Journal of the Minerals, Metals and Materials Society) the unique properties of a new type of metallic laminate that can serve as armor and as a replacement for beryllium, a strong but toxic metal commonly used in demanding aerospace applications. The resulting reaction generated a laminate with two layers: a hard ceramic-like "intermetallic" layer of titanium aluminide, and a pliable layer of residual titanium alloy. The layers can be stacked like 1-millimeter-thick pages of a book, and even contoured into desired shapes prior to heating. It's also possible to include electrical pathways within the laminates by embedding metal or ceramic wires or fibers during fabrication, and those components could both strengthen the material and act as built-in sensors.

[Israel displays first Nemer IFV](#)

*Jane's Defence Weekly – 16 March 2005*

The Israel Defence Force (IDF) Ground Forces Command displayed for the first time the prototype of its Merkava-based Nemer (Tiger) heavy infantry fighting vehicle (IFV). While the Nemer follows the pattern associated with the IDF's development of a heavy armoured personnel carrier (APC), it is configured as an IFV. The Nemer is an all-IDF-developed capability, designed and built by the Merkava Tank Directorate. It features an all-round special armour package, with additional armour on the front and roof of the vehicle. The prototype on display "is a technology demonstrator with real components that has been operationally evaluated by the IDF's 84 Brigade, and will be deployed to the Gaza area after the exhibition", an official told *JDW*.

[Israel armour protection system 'revolutionary'](#)

*Jane's Defence Weekly – 16 March 2005*

The Israel Defence Force (IDF) Ground Forces Command and the Israeli Ministry of Defence (MoD) have unveiled what they describe as "the most advanced armour protection system in the world". The Trophy Active Protection System (APS) is the result of a 10-year collaborative development programme between Rafael Armament Development Authority and Israel Aircraft Industries/Elta, led by the Directorate of Research and Development in the MoD and funded by the MoD. Rafael is prime contractor for the programme. The Trophy system can detect, classify, track and destroy all types of advanced anti-armour threats, including anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) and rockets at "a significant distance" away from a targeted platform. However, the distance at which Trophy can engage the threats is classified. This system will be well-suited for the future battleground which demands a fast manoeuvring, flexible and lethal platform with high survivability.

### [US Army looks to revive Joint Common Missile](#)

*Jane's Defence Weekly – 16 March 2005*

The US Army is looking at ways to restart the Joint Common Missile (JCM) programme, three months after senior Department of Defense officials demanded that the missile be cancelled. Since the programme was cut in December, JCM manufacturer Lockheed Martin and its allies in Congress have mounted a vigorous public relations campaign to reinstate the missile. The JCM was to have replaced Longbow/Hellfire missiles on the AH-64 Apache and AH-1Z Cobra attack helicopters and MH-60R Strikehawk multimission helicopters and the AGM-65 Maverick missiles on the F/A-18 Hornet multirole fighter for the US Army, Navy and Marine Corps. Army officials had also been considering a ground-to-ground variant of JCM for some of the US Army's Future Combat Systems vehicles. The missile uses a tri-mode infra-red/millimetre-wave/laser seeker and would be all-weather capable. It is scheduled for a preliminary design review in June.

### [Pentagon Has Far-Reaching Defense Spacecraft in Works](#)

*Washington Post - 16 March 2005*

*The Washington Post* reports that the Pentagon will test its suborbital unmanned space capsule later this year. Pentagon officials hope to use the Common Aero Vehicle (CAV) to launch unconventional weapons from anywhere in the world within two hours. Officials also boast that the CAV would allow the military to call off an attack at the last minute unlike some ballistic missiles. The project could be ready as early as 2010 if early tests prove successful.

## **NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION**

### [Examining North Korea's Nuclear Claims](#)

*Arms Control Today – March 2005*

The North Korean Foreign Ministry's announcement Feb. 10 that Pyongyang has "produced nuclear weapons" made front-page news around the world. Yet, whether Pyongyang actually possesses such weapons is unknown. The U.S. intelligence community first assessed during the 1990s that North Korea had one or two plutonium-based nuclear weapons. The Foreign Ministry statement is Pyongyang's most definitive public comment to date regarding its nuclear arsenal. However, North Korean officials have previously made similar public statements. Yet, how true are the nuclear claims of the North Koreans?

[Testing Iran's nuclear intentions: A grand bargain with the Great Satan?](#)

*The Economist – 10 March 2005*

On the principle that it is better to negotiate hopefully than to arrive prematurely at a dangerous impasse, Britain, France and Germany are relieved that President George Bush has now lent his support to their efforts to talk Iran out of its troubling nuclear technologies for enriching uranium and reprocessing plutonium. Yet for diplomacy to resolve the nuclear issue, America and Iran will both need to rethink their parts. And others, including Russia, China and Japan, have a role to play too.

[Taking on Tehran](#)

*Foreign Affairs – March/April 2005*

If Washington wants to derail Iran's nuclear program, it must take advantage of a split in Tehran between hard-liners, who care mostly about security, and pragmatists, who want to fix Iran's ailing economy. By promising strong rewards for compliance and severe penalties for defiance, Washington can strengthen the pragmatists' case that Tehran should choose butter over bombs.

## **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

[Japan releases core defence policy paper](#)

*Jane's Defence Weekly – 15 December 2004*

Japan has released its new core defence policy paper, the National Defence Programme Outline (NDPO), together with a five-year implementation plan known as the Mid-Term Defence Programme (MDP). This is Japan's third NDPO, following from the previous policy paper released in 1995. The new NDPO provides guidance for Japan's national security policy over the next 10 years. Among its key conclusions, the document resolves a fierce internal debate over ground force strength that pitted the Japanese Defence Agency (JDA) against the Ministry of Finance (MoF).

[PRC: White Paper on National Defence](#)

*China's National Defense in 2004 – 27 December 2004*

The People's Republic of China published its latest "white paper" on national defense on December 27, the third such publication since 2000, in which China describes its military posture, objectives and policies. "The new White Paper basically covers all the major aspects of national defense and the buildup of the armed forces, from the downsizing by 200,000 [of the People's Liberation Army], to the beefing up of the Navy, the Air Force, and the Second Artillery, to ...

military procurement, national economic mobilization, and international security cooperation," according to a description from Xinhua news agency. The document also features some harsh words for Taiwan.