



Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies



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CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

No Deal Ever

The Prospect Magazine – March 2006

After four decades at the centre of Arab-Israeli politics, the notion of a comprehensive final peace deal is disappearing. The mutual violence and the realities on the ground since 2000 have made it harder to re-engage in talks, resolve outstanding issues and sustain any negotiated agreement. The violence has also served to consolidate the notion of "no partner" on both sides. Ariel Sharon had long argued that the essence of the conflict was existential and irresolvable. Partly as a result of failure at Camp David in 2000, and partly as a result of Sharon's own success in pulling out of Gaza unilaterally, this view is now entrenched at the centre of Israeli politics, as is evident in the continuing popularity of Sharon's new Kadima party. Instead of resolving the conflict, the Israeli view is that it is better to manage it via unilateral acts and a new long-term incremental process that may or may not lead to an agreed resolution. Unilateralism, in the meantime, allows Israel to preserve its core interests, such as maintaining a state with a Jewish majority, at the price of marginal concerns, such as the sacrifice of isolated settlements in areas of Arab population density.

Pakistan: Political Impact of the Earthquake

International Crisis Group – 15 March 2006

The Pakistan government's ill-planned and poorly executed emergency response to the October 2005 earthquake highlighted the inadequacies of authoritarian rule. As the government now embarks on three to four years of reconstruction and rehabilitation, the absence of civilian oversight and inadequate accountability and transparency could seriously undermine the process. Should jihadi groups that have been active in relief work remain as involved in reconstruction, threats to domestic and regional security will increase. Although civil society volunteers and international organisations rushed into action just hours after the earthquake on 8 October, countless lives were lost because of the military's ineffective response. The army's incapacity reflected its institutional shortcomings and neglect of the civilian infrastructure needed to manage responses to natural disasters. While civilian authorities and institutions usually undertake humanitarian relief, the military has, even after the initial emergency phase, excluded elected bodies, civil society organisations and communities and sidelined civil administration from the effort, as well as its reconstruction and rehabilitation plans.

Unmanned Predator Kills Three Terrorists

American Forces Press Service – 29 March 2006

An MQ-1B Predator unmanned aerial vehicle engaged three insurgents in the process of planting a homemade bomb along a road near Balad Air Base, Iraq,

yesterday evening and launched an AGM-114 Hellfire missile against the group. The Predator monitored the three terrorists for about a half hour while they used a pick ax to dig a hole in the road, placed an explosive round in the hole, and strung wires from the hole to a ditch on the side of the road. When it was clear the individuals were placing a bomb, the Predator launched the 100-pound Hellfire missile, killing all three insurgents. "This is a prime example of how airpower is supporting the fight on the ground," Air Force Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad, said. "We're able to provide a persistent view of the battlefield to commanders on the ground and, if called upon, put a weapon on a target within minutes." Using joint Army and Air Force trend analysis and past incident reporting from the area, the Predator was assigned to monitor the general location where the insurgents were ultimately found. "Based on the information we had available, we had a pretty good idea there might be some activity in the area, and we were right," Gorenc said. "This strike should send a message to our enemies that we're watching you, and we will take action against you any time, day or night, if you continue to stand in the way of progress in Iraq."

DEFENCE INDUSTRY

[Largest Ever F-16 Modernisation Program Enhances Aircraft](#)

Space War News – 21 March 2006

The largest ever F-16 modernization program continues to advance, making the aircraft a more lethal, survivable and network-centric weapon system in the Global War on Terrorism. The F-16 Systems Group of Aeronautical Systems Center's Fighter-Attack Systems Wing here recently awarded an \$84 million contract to Lockheed Martin to procure 91 Common Configuration Implementation Program (CCIP) kits to integrate into Block 40 and 42 F-16C and F-16D aircraft.

[British-US Dogfight Over Next-Gen Fighter Intensifies](#)

Space War News – 30 March 2006

Britain is locked in a dogfight with the United States over the Pentagon's next-generation Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), with a French aircraft maker reportedly throwing a new twist into the tussle. Dassault has denied reports that Britain, angry at US budget cuts and reluctance to share technology secrets, might be preparing to pull out of the project and buy instead into its Rafale fighter.

[Key DIS Architect Explains Timing](#)

Janes Defence Weekly – 31 March 2006

One of the main architects behind the Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS) has shed further light on the rationale behind its formulation and outlined some of the

challenges it presents. Speaking at the Defence Acquisition Symposium at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) on 29 March, Deputy Director of the UK Defence Procurement Agency (DPA) David Gould said the timing of the DIS White Paper, published in December 2005, had been influenced by the growth of UK defence companies' "international footprint". UK firms' options for growth outside the UK, particularly the US, had become an issue for the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD), Gould said, as a lack of clarity on future defence planning influenced business decision-making.

[China orders Russian equipment for J-11, but continues to develop local content](#)

Janes Defence Weekly – 13 March 2006

China remains heavily reliant on Russia for the local manufacture of J-11 air superiority fighter aircraft, but is expecting in 2006 to reach a production rate of 17 aircraft annually, according to Russian and Chinese sources. A Chinese military source told Jane's that Russia's Ural Optical & Mechanical Plant signed an agreement with China in October 2005 for the procurement of a new batch of OSL-31E optical sight systems. The source said the contract, for an undisclosed number of systems, was the first of its kind that the company has signed directly with China. Previous deals with China have gone through Russian export agency Rosoboronexport.

DEFENCE STRATEGY

[We Can See Clearly Now: The Limits of Foresight in the pre-World War II Revolution in Military Affairs \(RMA\)](#)

Project on Defense Alternatives – 2 March 2006

RMA narratives tend to depict today's policy struggle as pitting clear vision and foresight on one side against parochial interests and bureaucratic inertia on the other. For each of today's RMA schools the general contours of a prospective revolution seem clear. From within these perspectives, risk seems mostly associated with the prospect of failing to enact change in a timely fashion. But this view depreciates the very substantial uncertainty surrounding RMA prescriptions - not to mention the significant disagreements and discontinuities among the different transformation schools and service visions.

[U.S. and India: Partners, Not Allies](#)

The Times of India – 26 February 2006

Contrary to what Atal Bihari Vajpayee claimed and George Bush now repeats, India and the US are not natural allies. They are, however, natural partners. The distinction is important. India cannot be an ally because, in its current mood, the

USA does not want allies. Consider Bush's fury when France and Germany, old NATO allies, disagreed with his Iraq invasion. US politicians renamed French fries as 'freedom fries'. Cartoonists showed bored US troops saying there was no point in invading Iraq a second time — been there, done that — so let's do France instead. The fact is that 9/11 has transformed the US ability to act for the global good. Earlier, the US could proudly claim to have spearheaded the defeat of the two greatest tyrannies of the 20th century, fascism and communism. But this then made the US the only superpower. All power corrupts, and superpower corrupts superlatively.

[Ballistic Missile Numbers Fall Worldwide](#)

Space War News – 29 March 2006

The number of ballistic missiles in service has dropped drastically since the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s, StrategyPage.com reported Monday. Since then, the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs, in service has been reduced by half from about 4,000 to about 2,000. Intermediate range ballistic missiles, or IRBMs, with a range of 1,800 miles to 3,000 miles, have declined over 95 percent, the report said. There are only 20 such systems in service with China and India today, it said.

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

[Small Diameter Bomb Provides Big Capabilities](#)

Space War News– 27 March 2006

There's an old saying that goes, "good things come in small packages." That saying rings true for the warfighter when looking at the capabilities of the small diameter bomb, the Air Force's newest precision guided munition. At just 5.9 feet long and 285 pounds, the bomb's small size increases the number of weapons an aircraft can carry, therefore raising the amount of targets it can kill in one sortie. Because of its size and precision accuracy, it also reduces collateral, or unintended, damage in the target vicinity.

[Respirator Offers Protection From Deadly Agents](#)

National Defense Magazine – March 2006

An air purifying escape respirator produced by ILC Dover that protects against chemical, biological and nuclear contamination has won approval from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The new mask benefits from an improved filtration capability that not only protects users from toxic gases, but also biological agents such as anthrax. The one-size-fits-all unit allows persons with glasses or beards to use the mask. Additionally, the clear hood and large visor permits users to perform a variety of tasks including using a telephone and other communication devices. Developers also note the

respirator's hooded design tends to discourage claustrophobic reactions from users.

[New Sensor Tech Detects Chemical Biological Nuclear and Explosive Materials](#)

Space War News – 24 March 2006

Engineers at the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory, using an emerging sensing technology, have developed a suite of sensors for national security applications that can quickly and effectively detect chemical, biological, nuclear and explosive materials. "We can use this technology to detect chemical and biological agents and also to determine if a country is using its nuclear reactors to produce material for nuclear weapons or to track the direction of a chemical or radioactive plume to evacuate an area," explained Paul Raptis, section manager. Raptis is developing these sensors with Argonne engineers Sami Gopalsami, Sasan Bakhtiari and Hual-Te Chien.

[We're Flying Without Wing Flaps and Without a Pilot](#)

Space War News – 24 March 2006

A revolutionary model plane has been developed as part of a £6.2m programme, involving engineers from the University of Leicester, funded jointly by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and BAE Systems. The five-year programme is called FLAVIIR - flapless air vehicle integrated industrial research - and involves teams from Leicester, Liverpool, Nottingham, Southampton, Swansea, Warwick, York and London. Manchester University's Goldstein Aeronautical Research Laboratory developed the model aircraft and the programme is managed by Cranfield University.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

[U.S. Seabasing: Special Delivery](#)

Janes Defence Weekly – 24 March 2006

The concept of seabasing expands on the US Navy's long history of sustained operations from the sea and today's method of prepositioned materiel preloaded aboard ships and staged forward to provide near-instantaneous logistical support to emerging needs. "No two seabases will look the same," said Jim Strock, Director of the Seabasing Integration Division at Capabilities Development Directorate at the Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico, Virginia. For example, with the right mix of forces, the seabase also provides Sea Shield and Sea Strike capabilities for force protection and power projection, all linked as a netted and distributed force under FORCEnet. The seabase concept thereby permits a wide range of options across the threat intensity spectrum, from peacetime engagement and humanitarian assistance to low-, medium- and

high-intensity conflict. The base can get to where it needs to be quickly. It can remain as long as needed, providing "persistent presence", without either the consent of other countries or dependence on a shore base.

[Intel Ops Becoming More Joint, Responsive to Warfighter Needs](#)

American Forces Press Service – 31 March 2006

The need to get more intelligence to warfighters faster so they can act on it is fueling big changes in how information is gathered, processed and shared, a U.S. Joint Forces Command official said. There's an increasing appreciation that the global war on terror is an intelligence war, Christopher Jackson, chief of JFCOM's Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Transformation Division, told American Forces Press Service. With that appreciation comes a recognition that information has to be made available more quickly and to more people.

[Urban Battlefield is Proving Ground For Unmanned Aerial Systems](#)

National Defense Magazine – March 2006

Unpiloted aircraft are proliferating in war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. But while the demand for smaller and more capable systems continues to grow, analysts say that in order to make these aircraft more effective in the urban environment, a fistful of technology improvements are needed. In the open battlefield environment of past conflicts, small numbers of UAVs were typically used for reconnaissance missions. Today, such aircraft also enable fire support, force protection and signals collection. Now that the fight has moved into city streets, unmanned systems have encountered some challenges. Buildings can block the line-of-sight of an aircraft and interfere with its communications and flight operations. These so-called "urban canyons" in turn extend the time it can take for troops to identify and engage a target.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

[The A.Q. Khan Network: Causes and Implications](#)

Federation of American Scientists – December 2005

The activities of Pakistan's notorious Abdul Qadeer Khan in proliferating nuclear weapons technology are examined in detail in a recent Master's Thesis, along with an analysis of their enabling conditions and some of their larger implications. "The A. Q. Khan nuclear supplier network constitutes the most severe loss of control over nuclear technology ever," wrote author Christopher O. Clary. For the first time in history all of the keys to a nuclear weapon-- the supplier networks, the material, the enrichment technology, and the warhead designs--were outside of state oversight and control. his thesis demonstrates that Khan's nuclear enterprise evolved out of a portion of the Pakistani procurement network of the

1970s and 1980s. It presents new information on how the Pakistani state organized, managed, and oversaw its nuclear weapons laboratories.

[Iran Test-Fires Missile Able to Duck Radar](#)

The Associated Press – 31 March 2006

Iran's military said Friday it successfully test-fired a missile not detectable by radar that can use multiple warheads to hit several targets simultaneously, a development that raised concerns in the United States and Israel. The Fajr-3, which means "victory" in Farsi, can reach Israel and U.S. bases in the Middle East, Iranian state media indicated. The announcement of the test-firing is likely to stoke regional tensions and feed suspicion about Tehran's military intentions and nuclear ambitions.

[Terror Risks of Nuclear Fuel](#)

The Christian Science Monitor – 16 March 2006

The Bush administration's plan to deploy a high-tech fuel to power a new generation of nuclear reactors worldwide has a potentially explosive problem: It is too easy for terrorists to grab and turn it into a nuclear bomb. That's the criticism expressed by nuclear scientists and in several little-known federal studies about the technology underlying the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, unveiled last month. Administration officials tout GNEP for technological breakthroughs that dramatically reduce the nuclear waste from civilian reactors and, at the same time, greatly reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation.