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

CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

[Lessons from Iraq: RAND Offers War 101 Textbook](#)

Global Policy Forum – 4 May 2005

Rand Corporation, a think tank with close links to the US government, has published an uncharacteristically critical report on "lessons learned in Iraq." In the report, Rand strongly criticizes the lack of post-war planning and suggests "some process for exposing senior officials to possibilities other than those being assumed in their planning needs to be introduced."

[A Quiet Transformation](#)

Washington Post – 18 May 2005

As the United States was struggling with the postwar reconstruction of Iraq, the historian Niall Ferguson published a book arguing that America needed the modern equivalent of the old British Colonial Office to build political stability in far-flung places. The U.S. military was good at breaking things, he suggested in "Colossus," but not so good at putting them back together. Nobody in the Bush administration would endorse the neo-imperial language of Ferguson's argument. But behind the scenes, the administration is debating a range of major policy changes that would move in that direction - transforming the military services, the State Department and other agencies in ways that would help the United States do better what it botched so badly in Iraq. Don't call it the "Colonial Office," but in many ways, that's a model for the kind of far- flung stabilization force that officials are discussing.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

[Studying Terrorist Group Learning](#)

RAND News Bulletin – May 2005

Intelligence and law enforcement agencies can combat terrorism more effectively if they understand how terrorists learn and adapt. Such understanding can improve counter terrorist strategies and the assessment of terrorist threat levels.

[Homeland Defense Plan Favours Non-Lethal Technology](#)

National Defense - June 2005

The Pentagon is devoting increasing attention to non-lethal weapons programs, providing baseline requirements for future equipment, senior officials said. This most recent initiative is included in the first-ever homeland defense and civil support strategy guidelines the Defense Department will unveil later this year, according to Thomas Kuster, deputy assistant secretary for homeland defense.

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

[Itty-Bitty and Shrinking, Fusion Device Has Big Ideas](#)

The New York Times – 28 April 2005

Scientists report they have produced nuclear fusion--same process that powers sun--in footlong cylinder just five inches in diameter; say they will soon be able to make device even smaller; say egg-size fusion generators could someday find uses in spacecraft thrusters, medical treatments and scanners that search for bombs

[Genome may be future step for virus writers](#)

Security Focus – 4 May 2005

Recent technological advances in so-called genetic circuits have brought closer a world where cells and viruses could be modified to more effectively serve humans, but also have raised concerns that programmable life could lead to a host of tailored threats similar to Internet worms.

[Mini-UAVs - the next small thing](#)

Jane's International Defence Review - 11 May 2005

The age of the mini-UAV started in 1987, when Dr Paul MacCready's AeroVironment company developed the Pointer, the first hand-launched, backpack-carried UAV. Pointer combined the airframe technology of a high-performance model sailplane with an electric motor and propeller, a consumer video camera and a radio datalink. IDR evaluated the Pointer in that year and found that it had high potential but some limitations: in particular, it was hard to maintain situational awareness - to know where the 'bird' was and what it was looking at - once it was out of sight, which happened quickly.

[Aimpoint Introduces New Generation Technology and a New Series of Professional Sights](#)

Army Technology Industry News Release - 20 May 2005

Aimpoint®, the world leader and innovator of red dot sighting technology, is introducing a new generation of sights announced Lennart Ljungfelt, President of Aimpoint. The new Advanced Circuit Efficiency Technology (ACET) is a breakthrough in technology and has been implemented in a new series of sights. “ACET combines Aimpoint's superior accuracy and ease of use with significantly lower power usage. ACET sights can last nearly 50,000 hours (on setting 7 out of 10) on a single DL1/3N battery. That is 49,000 hours more than other competitive sights on the same setting” said Ljungfelt.

[Sea Harrier jets land on autopilot](#)

New Scientist - 28 May 2005

Landing on the pitching, rolling deck of an aircraft carrier is a challenge for any pilot, and fog can make it all but impossible. Now a system called Autoland has for the first time allowed a vertical take-off Sea Harrier jet to land without help from the pilot. Autoland uses GPS positioning to allow the vessel and the aircraft to find each other. Inertial data from the ship tells the plane how the deck is rolling and pitching, so it can fine tune its approach and touchdown. Project leader Jeremy Howitt at UK defence lab Qinetiq says the system worked perfectly when tested at sea last week.

[Army's Future Combat Systems Could See International Partners](#)

National Defense - June 2005

U.S. Army officials are in the early stages of discussing foreign military sales and international collaboration on the service's most ambitious modernization program. Like all Army programs, the Future Combat Systems, a network of 18 manned and unmanned systems, is designed to respond to the service's requirements, and not overtly to foreign military demands. But the Army's Security Assistance Command has been involved in FCS for the past several years to anticipate foreign military sales and government-to-government collaboration.

[The Future May Belong to Unconventional Designs, Missions](#)

National Defense – June 2005

Unmanned aerial vehicles spying on enemies may be commonplace above today's battlefields, but there is a future generation of unconventional designs with added functions that, experts predict, almost certainly will displace current drones from their lonely, lofty perches. From prototype aircraft designed like insects to vehicles that react and respond with human-like behavior, there is a new world of UAVs coming from Pentagon-funded research laboratories. Evolving missions and advanced decision-making capabilities also will likely transform the way unmanned systems are employed.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

[Sensors to Support the Soldier](#)

JASON – February 2005

New technologies to aid Marines and other U.S. military forces engaged in urban combat are explored in a recent report from the secretive JASON scientific advisory group. The JASON study focused on the following topic areas: squad-level communications; location, navigation, and maps; sensing through walls;

countering snipers; and uses for UAVs. The JASON study addresses a spectrum of complex technological issues with unusual lucidity that makes them at least partially comprehensible to a non-specialist reader.

[Military Space Programs: Issues Concerning DOD's SBIRS and STSS Programs](#)

CRS Report for Congress – 17 March 2005

The Department of Defense's (DOD's) programs to develop new satellites to alert U.S. military commanders to foreign missile launches, and to support missile defense objectives, are controversial because of cost growth and schedule slippage. SBIRS-High, managed by the Air Force, would replace existing Defense Support Program "early warning" satellites. The Space Tracking and Surveillance System (STSS, formerly SBIRS-Low), managed by the Missile Defense Agency, would perform missile tracking and target discrimination for missile defense objectives. Despite a restructuring in 2002, the SBIRS-High program is encountering additional delays and cost increases.

[U.S. Military's Elite Hacker Crew](#)

Wired News – 18 April 2005

The U.S. military has assembled the world's most formidable hacker posse: a super-secret, multimillion-dollar weapons program that may be ready to launch bloodless cyberwar against enemy networks -- from electric grids to telephone nets.

[Space Watch: The new colonial movement](#)

Science Daily – 11 May 2005

Today, a new list of nations -- India, China, Japan, Russia, Europe and the United States -- are throwing their resources at space exploration. Their goal, unstated but indisputable, is similar to the colonial powers of the 19th century: to obtain future domination over unclaimed territories in space.

[Air Force Seeks Bush's Approval for Space Arms](#)

The New York Times – 18 May 2005

Air Force, saying it must secure space to protect nation from attack, is seeking Pres Bush's approval of national-security directive that could move United States closer to fielding offensive and defensive space weapons; proposed change would be substantial shift in American policy; it would almost certainly be opposed by many American allies and potential enemies, who have said it may create arms race in space; senior administration official says new presidential directive would replace 1996 Clinton administration policy that emphasizes more

peaceful use of space, including spy satellites' support for military operations, arms control and non-proliferation pacts.

[US conducts joint urban war game](#)

People's Daily - 26 May 2005

US forces are hosting the multinational exercise Joint Urban Warrior this week. The purpose of the exercise is to prepare US forces for future urban warfare combat by testing a "Three Block War" consisting of combat operations, followed by stability and support and then humanitarian tasks. Some 250 participants from the US, Britain, Canada and France will attend or observe the exercise.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

[US says North Korea headed in 'wrong direction' on nukes](#)

Space War – 11 May 2005

The United States said Wednesday that North Korea was headed in the "wrong direction" in negotiations on its nuclear arms program and again brandished the threat of possible nuclear sanctions. The State Department also renewed its call on China to exercise "robust diplomacy" to bring North Korea back to six-party talks despite Beijing's reported resistance to punitive pressure on Pyongyang.

[Drying Up](#)

The Economist – 19 May 2005

One in three country-dwellers in China lacks access to safe drinking water. More than 100 big cities, of which half are deemed "seriously threatened", are short of water. Water tables are dropping by a metre or more every year across much of northern China. Even in Beijing, supply per head now stands at a perilously low 300 cubic metres (66,000 gallons) a year. Reduced flow rates on China's greatest rivers have made hydro plants reduce badly needed power output: many smelters, paper mills and petrochemical plants are no longer sure of getting the huge amounts of water they require. Droughts, historically more common in northern China, are now hitting the south too. This year Guangdong province, home to 110m people, has had a 40% drop in rainfall. The Chinese must act fast to conserve their country's shrinking water supply.

[Down to the Wire](#)

Foreign Affairs – May/June 2005

Once a leader in Internet innovation, the United States has fallen far behind Japan and other Asian states in deploying broadband and the latest mobile-phone technology. This lag will cost it dearly. By outdoing the United States,

Japan and its neighbours are positioning themselves to be the first states to reap the benefits of the broadband era: economic growth, increased productivity, and a better quality of life.