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CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

[France Beefs Up Its Contribution to UNIFIL Troops](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 25 August 2005

The sluggish effort to reinforce the UN Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) in south Lebanon received a boost on 24 August after an initially reluctant France agreed to increase its troop contribution by another two battalions of 1,600 soldiers to reach a total strength of 2,000. The decision by Paris to raise its contribution reportedly came after further clarification over UNIFIL's rules of engagement in south Lebanon following the strengthening of its mandate under UN Security Council Resolution 1701. Resolution 1701 was adopted on 11 August and helped end a 34-day war between the Israel Defence Force (IDF) and the Islamic Resistance (the armed wing of the Lebanese Shi'ite Party of God - Hizbullah). Under the resolution, UNIFIL's strength is required to be increased from 2,000 to a maximum of 15,000 troops, which will operate in an area between the Blue Line - the UN's name for the boundary separating Lebanon from Israel and Israeli-occupied Syria - and the Litani river: an area of some 1,110 km² (428.4 square miles).

[Hizbollah's Outlook in the Current Conflict](#)

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – 27 August 2006

This publication has been broken into 2 parts. Part 1: Motives, Strategy and Objectives draws on the author's interview she carried out with Hizbollah officials both before and after the outbreak of fighting in mid-July. Part Two: Accommodating Diplomacy and Preparing for the Post-War Context offers answers to doubts abound about the possibility of a lasting peace.

[US Investigates Whether Israel Violated Deal on Cluster Bombs](#)

The Guardian – 26 August 2006

The US is investigating whether Israel's use of American-made cluster bombs in Lebanon violated an agreement that the weapons not be used in populated areas, officials said yesterday. Unexploded "bomblets" from cluster munitions have emerged as the most lethal obstacle to the return of refugees to southern Lebanon after the month-long war between Israel and Hizbullah. The UN said the fist-sized bombs had been found in nearly 300 locations and about two-thirds were American-made.

Counter-Terrorism

[Legal Landmines Emerge in 'Dirty Bomber' Case](#)

Christian Science Monitor – 31 August 2006

Jose Padilla, the former Chicago street thug who allegedly turned Al Qaeda sympathizer, is best known for reportedly plotting to explode a radiological "dirty bomb" in a major US city. But that alarming allegation is noticeably absent from Mr. Padilla's terror conspiracy indictment in federal court here. Instead, the most explosive allegation in the government's case is that Padilla broke US law by becoming an Al Qaeda recruit and filling out an application to be a holy warrior.

[Think Again: Al Jazeera](#)

Foreign Policy – July/August 2006

It is vilified as a propaganda machine and Osama bin Laden's mouthpiece. In truth, though, Al Jazeera is as hated in the palaces of Riyadh as it is in the White House. But, as millions of loyal viewers already know, Al Jazeera promotes a level of free speech and dissent rarely seen in the Arab world. With plans to go global, it might just become your network of choice.

[mPhase Technologies Says Its Magnetometer Could Foil Future Terrorist Acts](#)

Space War – 31 August 2006

The recent border incursion by Hezbollah fighters into Israel and kidnapping of two soldiers on border patrol could one day be prevented by a detection device now under development, according to mPhase Technologies. In laboratory tests the device, called a magnetometer, has already demonstrated very high sensitivity to the presence of a magnetic object simulating a rifle more than 30 feet away. "With global terrorism on the rise, police and defense agencies around the globe are looking at promising remote sensing technologies designed to add another layer of protection," said Ronald Durando, mPhase's chief executive. "We believe the magnetometer could add another dimension to border and perimeter control in war zones and also bolster our own homeland security."

DEFENCE INDUSTRY

[Overseas Companies Adapting to U.S. Market Needs](#)

National Defence Magazine – August 2006

With current commitments driving the high demand for military equipment, foreign companies perceive the U.S. defense market to be the proverbial pot of gold. Though breaking through American bureaucracy and politics to sell wares

remains a daunting challenge, industry representatives at a recent international ground warfare conference here say their businesses are becoming savvier at catering to U.S. defense needs. While European defense budgets remain on a downward slope, U.S. military spending has surged dramatically since the 9/11 attacks. Non-U.S. firms acknowledge that the Pentagon generally buys most major weapons systems from U.S. manufacturers, but many niche areas in the market increasingly are open to international competitors. From forming partnerships to custom-designing products, companies reveal they use multiple strategies to gain American clients. “The U.S. is one of the most important markets,” says Yair Atzmon, head of the ground division for Aeronautics Defense Systems Ltd., an Israeli company that produces unmanned aerial systems.

[Hybrid Respirator Now Offered Commercially](#)

National Defence Magazine – August 2006

A multi-mode respirator, called the PATRIOT hybrid life support system, that is being sold commercially by Wilcox Industries Corp. of Newington, N.H., can be operated as either a powered or non-powered air purifying respirator, an open-circuit self-contained breathing apparatus or a supplied-air respirator. Mode selection is accessed on the mask adaptor. Based on a hybrid system that was provided to the Defense and Justice Departments, the commercial version already has been acquired by several agencies at federal, state and local levels.

[Global Industrial Trends Spell Doom for Defense](#)

National Defence Magazine – August 2006

The well-publicized intent of the U.S. military to remain on technology’s cutting edge appears to overlook the predictions of the Pentagon’s own soothsayers, who warn that the Defense Department soon may be unable to acquire critical microelectronics. Simply put, a large portion of the industry that manufactures the most sophisticated microchips — which are key to modern weapon systems — resides offshore, and even those suppliers that remain in the United States view the military as an undesirable customer. The problem was laid out in excruciating detail in a 118-page report that the Defense Science Board published last year. “The Department of Defense and its suppliers face a major integrated circuit supply dilemma that threatens the security and integrity of classified and sensitive circuit design information, the superiority and correct functioning of electronic systems,” the report says.

DEFENCE STRATEGY

[Seoul to Upgrade Bombing Range to Appease US](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 17 August 2006

The Republic of Korea (RoK, South Korea) has announced plans to upgrade an aerial bombing range in an effort to resolve an issue souring its military ties with the US. The issue has caused problems between the two allies since South Korea, responding to local complaints, shut down its Koon-Ni training range in Kyonggi province in August 2005. The two countries have since shared the Chikdo range, situated on an island off North Cholla province, but Washington views this solution as insufficient. The US says its access to Chikdo is far too limited and the facility is inadequately equipped. "We have a situation where if this problem is not resolved in the near term, that is in the next couple of months, entire units will have to leave the peninsula [for training] on a rotating basis," a senior US Department of Defense official told a media briefing in Washington on 7 August. This is "a very serious situation", he added.

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

[The Art of Detection: UGS Systems Make a Quantum Leap in Reliability and Utility](#)

Jane's International Defence Review – 3 August 2006

Unattended ground sensors (UGS) exploiting seismic and infrared (IR) detection methods made their operational debut as hand-emplaced short-range patrol surveillance aids more than 40 years ago. Since then, improvements in electronics, data processing and power supplies, combined with advanced networking radio techniques, have substantially improved the reliability and utility of UGS. Further, the 1997 Ottawa Convention having precipitated a ban on the use of (uncontrolled) anti-personnel mines, UGS technologies are today increasingly being combined with human operators and lethal mechanisms to provide so-called 'minefield alternatives', intended to provide comparable effect albeit in compliance with the treaty provisions.

[Mini Device Pinpoints Nuclear Threats](#)

National Defense Magazine – August 2006

A pager-sized device that has been introduced by Thermo Electron of Waltham, Mass., not only detects and identifies specific nuclear threats, but also transmits this information in real time to command centers. The device produces both a digital depiction and audio description of the event. The Interceptor, developed by Target Instruments of Oak Ridge, Tenn., combines both a personal radiation detector and a radiation isotope identifier device in a single hand-held unit.

Portable Power Offered in Small Package

National Defense Magazine— August 2006

Global Star of Tucson, Ariz., has just introduced a 25-watt, 12-volt flexible, foldable solar panel that is water resistant and friendly to the environment, say company officials. The SUNLINQ 25W joins a family of lightweight solar panels ranging from 6.5 watts to 25 watts. The sun-powered systems range in weight of less than a half a pound to just short of two pounds. And, when folded, are about the same size as standard sized piece of paper.

Solar Power May Soon Bring the Web to Remote Areas

Christian Science Monitor – 31 August 2006

"One laptop per child" was the ambitious promise a group of MIT faculty members made to the world in January last year. The idea to develop and produce millions of simple, Internet-capable \$100 laptops and give them to the poorest kids on the planet sounded appealing. But just how children in remote villages in sub-Saharan Africa were supposed to hook up to the Internet was unclear. The solution may come out of thin air. Literally. All you need is a rooftop and the sun, claim the inventors of a solar-powered wireless device. "Green" initiatives like theirs, together with a range of wireless technologies, may extend the Internet's reach to developing communities around the globe.

Small-Diameter Bomb Ready for War on Terror

US Air Force News— 22 August 2006

Four major acquisition programs -- developed in parallel -- have come together to provide Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle crews with a revolutionary capability that combines accuracy and reduced collateral damage. Military and civilian employees in seven locations worked together developing the four new capabilities -- small-diameter bomb, advanced display core processor, joint mission planning system and the operational flight program software, better known as Suite 5.

MARITIME SECURITY

Mesh of Technologies to Provide Maritime Safety Net

National Defense Magazine— August 2006

While the Department of Homeland Security begins efforts to strengthen the nation's land borders, less publicized work continues on building a so-called virtual wall along U.S. coasts. As the defense communities and lawmakers debate what policies need to be implemented to protect ports, coastal waters and the seas approaching the United States, technological solutions are out there. "If

somebody could write me a check today, we could build it," Guy Thomas, Coast Guard maritime domain awareness program science and technology advisor said, referring to a system that would allow legitimate commerce through, while keeping bad guys out

MILITARY OPERATIONS

Information Operations – Shaping Influence

Jane's Defence Weekly – 16 August 2006

Sitting before the US Senate Armed Forces Committee on 3 August, the commander of US military operations in the Middle East, General John Abizaid, gave a sobering assessment of progress in Iraq. Admitting the country was sliding towards civil war, Gen Abizaid told the committee he believed that the sectarian violence is probably "as bad as I've seen it, in Baghdad in particular". He added: "If not stopped, it is possible that Iraq could move toward civil war." Gen Abizaid's appraisal echoed the sentiments of a leaked memo from William Patey, the UK's outgoing ambassador to Iraq, published by the BBC the previous day, which claimed the "prospect of a low-intensity civil war and de facto division of Iraq is probably more likely at this stage than a successful and substantial transition to a stable democracy".

Asymmetry and Other Fables

Jane's Defence Weekly – 17 August 2006

The military profession is generally hard-nosed, but every now and then it succumbs to fable or fashion. Some readers may remember the missile-only fighter of the 1950s and 1960s, which operational experience proved wildly out of touch with reality. Also, of course, there were those who believed guided missiles meant the end of the main battle tank. Today we are fascinated with asymmetric warfare, net-centric warfare and precision warfare and we are convinced that heavy forces and the tank (yet again) are passe. Perhaps so, but the view from a comfortable enfilade position suggests that the profession may once again be riding into the guns rather than to the sound of the guns. Asymmetry works both ways. There is nothing quite as asymmetric as a tank driving over an infantryman.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

[After North Korea's Nuclear Launch: Are the Nuclear Talks Dead?](#)

International Crisis Group – 9 August 2006

The North Korea nuclear negotiations have stalled, and the prospects for future progress are dim. Meanwhile, Pyongyang continues to produce weapons-grade plutonium and now has a stockpile large enough to build as many as a dozen nuclear weapons. On 5 July 2006, it defied international pressure and test-fired seven missiles in the direction of Japan, including one of a type that could eventually be capable of reaching the U.S. Seoul faces difficult security choices at a time when relations with Washington and Tokyo are deeply strained. The only real chance of breaking out of the downward spiral is for the U.S. to adopt a new approach, including more readiness to talk bilaterally and less rhetorical vitriol, in order to test the North's willingness to return to the six-party talks and work toward a deal.

[U.S. Drafting Sanctions as Iran Ignores Deadline](#)

The New York Times – 30 August 2006

With Iran defying a Thursday deadline to halt production of nuclear fuel, the United States and three European allies are assembling a list of sanctions they would seek in the United Nations Security Council, beginning with restrictions on imports of nuclear-related equipment and material. Eventually, punitive measures might expand to restrict travel by Iran's leaders and limit the country's access to global financial markets, according to diplomatic officials involved in the talks who spoke only on condition of anonymity. Aside from the effort in the Council, the Bush administration is also seeking to persuade European financial institutions to end new lending to Iran. Some Swiss banks have already quietly agreed to limit their lending, American officials say.