



Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies



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1 November 2005

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CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

[Despite Media Battle, Terrorist Fail to Stop Progress in Iraq](#)

American Force Press Service - 31 October 2005

Despite a desperate media battle in Iraq, terrorists are failing to stop Iraqis from advancing on the political and security fronts, a senior military official in Baghdad told reporters Oct. 30. "To the terrorists, the media is a vital force multiplier," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Donald Alston, director of strategic communications for Multinational Force Iraq during a briefing at the Combined Press Information Center in Baghdad.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

[Guard Balancing Emerging Roles in Homeland Defense](#)

National Defense - September 2005

The National Guard continues to expand its missions in support of homeland defense, even as it contends with frequent overseas deployments, equipment shortages and low recruiting levels. In response to the war on terror, the Guard has been forming special units trained for security missions in the homeland, with capabilities ranging from responding to attacks using weapons of mass destruction to gathering intelligence.

[Terrorism Risk Insurance Act Effective at Sharing Financial Risk](#)

RAND Corporation – 25 October 2005

The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) creates an effective mechanism for sharing the financial risk that businesses face from terrorism. Still, less than half of all businesses have terrorism insurance; the U.S. government should consider encouraging these businesses to buy coverage.

DEFENCE INDUSTRY

[Moving Nanotechnology Research Into Market Remains a Challenge](#)

National Defense - October 2005

U.S. investments in nanotechnology have escalated into the billions of dollars in recent years. While scientists and analysts agree such funding is advancing nanoscience research, they explained that moving the resulting discoveries and materials into the market remains one of the industry's toughest challenges.

[Foreign Investors in U.S. Corporations Navigate Sea of Regulations](#)

National Defense - September 2005

Investment in the U.S. defense industry is attractive to European and Asian companies simply because the federal government is the largest customer in the world by an order of magnitude. The United States spends far more on national defense and homeland security than any other nation in the world. Reasons for increased spending in the United States include the need to replace equipment used in ongoing wars, the Defense Department's initiatives to ensure the military remains a technologically superior force, the growing requirements to protect transportation, energy, communications and other critical infrastructure, and the government's desire to acquire new capabilities to protect troops in the field and citizens at home from terrorist attacks

[European Parliament Cuts Defense Capability Research Again](#)

Defense Industry Daily – 1 November 2005

DID has been undertaking ongoing coverage of some of the debates within Europe regarding the future of its defense industries, and of the growing weakness in its defense posture. The European Parliament recently voted on the EU 2006 Budget, and once again reduced the European Commission's proposed allocation of EUR 24 million for the Preparatory Action for Security Research (PASR) program to EUR 15 million. This move follows a similar reduction in the 2005 budget allocations. These efforts constitute the European Commission's contribution to the wider EU agenda for addressing key security challenges facing Europe and her partners.

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

[Air Force Research Targets Insurgents' Bombs](#)

National Defense - October 2005

Airborne lasers. Electromagnetic Barriers. Bom Bots. They sound like weapons used against the Rebel Alliance in Star Wars. Yet, there's no science fiction here. All are current Air Force Research Laboratory technologies, some of which already have been deployed to Iraq.

[Nanoscience Promises Better Battlefield Rations](#)

National Defense - October 2005

Researchers at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., are improving combat ration packaging by replacing the layers of aluminum foil with nanocomposite films to make the packaging more resilient, lighter and less wasteful. "With nanotechnology, you can get those improvements," said Jo Ann Ratto, a polymer research engineer working on the project.

[820th SFG field tests chemical warfare garments](#)

Air Force News – 27 October 2005

The 820th SFG, which provides force protection for expeditionary air forces, is putting the latest version of the chemical warfare suit to the test to assess its fit, comfort, compatibility, performance and effectiveness in combat environments. U.S. Aberdeen Testing Center officials will oversee the test, which runs through Feb. 6, and they will also evaluate the results. “Each service was given the opportunity to participate,” said Chuck Trageser, test director at ATC. “It’s a resource effort, and we needed a unit that could provide us sufficient testing hours for the garments. The 820th Security Forces Group could give us that.”

MILITARY OPERATIONS

[Improve Interoperability, US Allies Say](#)

eDefense - 28 October 2005

The US Department of Defense (DoD) is consulting with overseas allies in developing its strategy for coping with existing and future threats, but some things about joint operations need improving, diplomats said Oct. 27. Despite what may be the general perception around the world, that the US government goes it alone when deciding foreign policy and conducting military operations, the US actually works quite closely with allies like Canada and Australia on many types of operations, military and otherwise, noted panelists at a presentation sponsored by the Washington, DC-based Heritage Foundation public policy group on the US Defense Department's ongoing Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR).

[Hybrid crew poses questions for US Navy](#)

Jane's Navy International - 21 October 2005

The amphibious command ship USS Mount Whitney is a hybrid in more ways than one. Operationally 'owned' by the Military Sealift Command, the vessel is also a commissioned US warship currently on active service as a NATO and US command ship. Most strikingly, the crew is split evenly between civilian mariners and navy personnel.

[Italian Navy's air command plots flight path to renewal](#)

Jane's Navy International - 25 October 2005

The recent entry to service of EH-101 maritime patrol helicopters (as a replacement for the venerable SH-3D Sea King) has enabled the Italian Navy's air command to begin a programme of asset renewal and capability enhancement. Stretching over a decade, this is expected to culminate with the introduction of the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) and NFH-90 helicopter (replacing the AV-8B Harrier II Plus and AB-212 respectively). But, in common with other elements of the Italian armed forces, plans are subject to a degree of uncertainty as scarce budget resources are competed for.

MILITARY TRANSFORMATION

[Army Transformation Modeled After Stryker Units](#)

National Defense – 2005

The monograph analyses the contrasting military responses of various militaries to the internal combustion engine between World War I and World War II. Incorporating new technology requires a change in military process (i.e., reengineering); the author sets forth the conditions necessary for successful military reengineering.

[Preparing Officers for Interagency and Multinational Service](#)

RAND Corporation – 18 October 2005

As the U.S. confronts increasingly complex threats, military leaders must learn to work with civilian agencies and military leaders of other nations. A strategic approach that manages experience and education would help prepare officers for this service.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

[An Iran-Russia-China axis?](#)

Janes Intelligent Digest – 27 October 2005

The decision by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to refer Iran's nuclear programme to the UN Security Council has thrown into sharp focus relations between Iran and Russia. Moscow may soon have to choose whether to back Iran or align itself with the US and the European Union (EU) in reining in Iran's nuclear intentions.

[US moves to step up pressure on North Korea](#)

Janes Defence Weekly – 2 November 2005

The US is looking to increase the pressure on North Korea by cutting off the hermit kingdom's sources of illicit cash that fuel the country's nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programmes, US officials have said. Among the steps being pursued is convincing other countries surrounding North Korea, such as China and the Central Asian republics, to deny overflight permission to North Korean aircraft carrying illicit goods. A US official said that Washington has a number of what he called 'defensive measures' to cut off North Korea's thriving trade in illicit goods.

[Combating WMD: Defence building](#)

Janes Defence Weekly – 2 November 2005

In January, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld assigned the US Strategic Command (US STRATCOM) the task of taking the lead within the Department of Defense (DoD) in

integrating and synchronising efforts to combat weapons of mass destruction (WMD). This task includes non-proliferation, including diplomacy and arms control; counter-proliferation, including precision strikes; consequence management, including military support to civil authorities; as well as exercises and training.

SPACE DEVELOPMENTS

[U.S. Military Wants to Own the Weather](#)

Space News – 31 October 2005

The one-two hurricane punch from Katrina and Wilma along with predictions of more severe weather in the future has scientists pondering ways to save lives, protect property and possibly even control the weather. While efforts to tame storms have so far been clouded by failure, some researchers aren't willing to give up the fight. And even if changing the weather proves overly challenging, residents and disaster officials can do a better job planning and reacting.

[Big News about Small Satellites: Cubesats Rule!](#)

Space News – 28 September 2005

Think small. Think fast. Think cheap. These are the watchwords for an on-going revolution in building tiny satellites that deliver big results. They are called CubeSats. Packed with microelectronics, these ultra-small spacecraft can fly in formation, dock with each other, carry out science duties, inspect other satellites, scan our planet—and might be used to create an actual Earth-orbiting game of "Space Pong."

[Riding a Beam of Light: NASA's First Space Elevator Competition Proves Highly Challenging](#)

Space News – 24 October 2005

After three days of grueling competition and friendly shoulder-to-shoulder innovation, over \$100,000 in prize money remained in the vault at the close of the Space Elevator Games - the premier event of NASA's new X-Prize-styled series of Centennial Challenges.