



Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies



Future Systems Directorate

RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE 12/2006

The Foremost Inter-Disciplinary Defence E-Bulletin

突破 *Revolucionario* *Revolutionary* *Merevolusikan* *Revolutionär* *Kraantikari*

11 September 2006

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CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

[Australia Sends More Troops to Iraq, East Timor](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 7 September 2005

The Australian government has approved small increases in the size of its forces deployed to Iraq and East Timor. An additional 38 troops plus four Bushmaster 4 x 4 armoured infantry mobility vehicles (IMV) will join the Overwatch Battle Group (West) operating from Tallil Air Base in the southern Iraqi province of Dhi Qar. This brings the size of the Australian force to around 490, with a further 30 personnel providing basic training assistance for Iraqi infantry. Fifteen Bushmaster IMVs are currently in-country. It is understood that the primary role of the extra troops will be to act as a mobile force-protection element for the Australian contingent already in place at Tallil.

[The Big Loser After Lebanon: Democracy](#)

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – 22 August 2006

The war in Lebanon deeply altered the concerns of elites and citizens in Arab societies. Following three years of unprecedented political dynamism and debates regarding the prospects for democratic transformation in the Arab world, the Arab-Israeli conflict returned to the forefront, turning attention away from the question of democracy. To be sure, political life in the Middle East during recent years has not all been about ballot boxes and peaceful demonstrations in favor of civil liberties and human rights. It has been marred by terrorism, sectarian violence and oppressive measures by authoritarian regimes. Nor was the Arab-Israeli conflict entirely out of view. Violence in the Palestinian territories continued and sometimes even surpassed the dramatic levels seen at the beginning of the second intifada. However, the fighting in Palestine had somehow become part of the ordinary landscape of Arab citizens. And a growing majority of Arabs had begun to realize that a meaningful democratic transformation, one that included alternation of power and popular participation in decision-making, was the only way to overcome terrorism, sectarianism and repression.

[As UN Force Grows, Israel Lifts Air and Sea Blockade](#)

The Christian Science Monitor – 8 September 2006

Israel prepared to lift its air and sea blockade of Lebanon yesterday in a step toward fulfilling the UN resolution that brought a tenuous cease-fire to a month of war. Israeli officials said the growing number of peacekeeping troops - currently about 5,000 - constitute the critical mass necessary to enforce a weapons embargo meant to hinder Hizbullah from rearming. Lifting the blockade - placed soon after Hizbullah staged a cross-border raid on July 12 capturing two Israeli soldiers and killing eight - marks a major step in Lebanon's effort to rebuild infrastructure and homes damaged in the 34-day war. It also represents an

important crossroads on the map of implementing United Nations Resolution 1701, which brought the deadly war to a halt last month.

Counter-Terrorism

[War on Terror Floundering, Say Military Officials](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 7 September 2006

Five years after the 9/11 attacks and the start of the 'war on terror', the US is still struggling to counter the spread of violent extremism, military officials have said. "For every terrorist we kill, we tend to create new ones," said US Army Colonel Gary Cheek, head of the Strategic Planning Division, War on Terrorism Directorate, on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "We would benefit from significant shifts in our policy" in places like Iraq, he noted on 5 September at the Defence Forum Washington conference. Col Cheek's comments, mirrored by a other senior defence officials, come at a time of growing concern about the progress in the war on terror, including what some see as Washington being sidetracked from the main cause by the conflict in Iraq.

[Bush Admits to CIA Secret Prisons](#)

BBC News – 7 September 2006

President Bush has acknowledged the existence of secret CIA prisons and said 14 key terrorist suspects have now been sent to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The suspects, who include the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 attacks Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, have now been moved out of CIA custody and will face trial. Mr Bush said the prisons were a vital tool in the war on terror and that intelligence gathered had saved lives. He added that the CIA treated detainees humanely and did not use torture.

[Wanted: Global Teamwork on Terrorism](#)

The Washington Post – 8 September 2006

There is one way, at least, in which Americans are safer from surprise attack five years after Sept. 11, 2001. They live in a world that is more on guard against jihadist terrorism and more ready to act to foil it. Other nations have also had to come to terms with the threat of indiscriminate attacks on their soil or citizens by radical Islamic extremists who see their struggle as a global one. Many abroad have gone from merely sympathizing with the overwhelming sense of vulnerability visited on Americans on that day of horror to sharing it.

The Terrorism Index

Foreign Policy – July/August 2006

Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Americans understandably rallied around the flag. Having just suffered the deadliest attack ever on U.S. soil, huge percentages believed another attack was imminent. But Americans also had enormous faith that the Global War on Terror would help keep them safe. Just one month after 9/11, for instance, 94 percent of Americans told an ABC News/*Washington Post* poll that they approved of how the fight against terrorism was being handled. The United States then quickly went to war in Afghanistan, closing down a terrorist sanctuary and capturing or killing a number of high-level al Qaeda operatives in the process.

DEFENCE INDUSTRY

Compressed-Carriage ScanEagle Under Study

Jane's Defence Weekly – 5 September 2006

Boeing and partner Insitu are looking at the design of a compressed-carriage version of the ScanEagle long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The UAV could be launched from a tactical aircraft's weapon bay or wing pylon, from a transport's loading ramp or from the P-8A Multimission Maritime Aircraft or even from a submerged submarine. At the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) conference in Orlando at the end of August, Boeing displayed a notional configuration of such an aircraft based on the US Air Force (USAF)/Boeing Dominator loitering weapon. Currently being developed under a USAF contract, Dominator features a canard layout with folding, telescoping wings and is designed to descend under a parachute before opening its wings and flying.

Rheinmetall Wins Future Soldier Contract

Jane's Defence Weekly – 7 September 2006

Rheinmetall Defence Electronics (RDE) has been awarded a contract to develop the German Army's Infanterist der Zukunft - Erweitertes System (Infantryman of the Future - Enhanced System, abbreviated IdZ-ES). The contract will prepare for the procurement of the system in 2009-15. The German Army plans to procure 1,000 IdZ-ES systems for all three armed services. Each system can equip 10 soldiers, with a Puma armoured infantry fighting vehicle or Boxer armoured personnel carrier acting as a 'mother ship' (or 10 paratroopers without a vehicle). Klaus-Peter Nick, RDE's sales manager for reconnaissance systems, said he expected the first IdZ-ES system demonstrator to be ready at the end of 2008. The development contract will end with the delivery of two demonstrators equipping 20 soldiers.

[Teal Group Predicts World UAV Market Will Top \\$54 Billion Over Next Decade](#)

Space War – 7 September 2006

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) will continue to be the most dynamic growth sector of the world aerospace industry. A forthcoming Teal Group market study, previewed today during this week's AUVSI Unmanned Systems North America 2006, estimates that UAV spending will more than triple over the next decade from current worldwide UAV expenditures of \$2.7 billion annually to \$8.3 billion within a decade, totalling close to \$55 billion in the next ten years.

[China Seeks Closer Int'l Co-Op In Space Industry](#)

Space War – 30 August 2006

China will strengthen cooperation with the international community in the space industry, aiming for the peaceful development of space, a senior Chinese official said here Monday. China would also seek to expand its share of the international market for satellite launches and other space services, said Jin Zhuanglong, deputy director of the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense.

DEFENCE STRATEGY

[US Unlikely to Base Interceptor Missiles in Czech Republic](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 1 September 2006

The US Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is continuing to evaluate where in Europe to station interceptor missiles and early warning radar systems that will by 2011 form a ballistic missile defence (BMD) umbrella, but it appears highly unlikely that the Czech Republic will be selected as a base. Due to political and public opposition to missile bases, sources have said that the US government will likely select either Poland or the UK for the forward-positioned ballistic missile interceptors. Czech political sources said US government officials were concerned that the Czech government would hold a referendum over the issue of hosting missiles and that the matter could end in fiasco.

[France, Saudi Arabia on Verge of Closing Major Arms Deal](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 6 September 2006

France and Saudi Arabia are close to signing a contract for the sale of helicopters, tanker aircraft and anti-aircraft missiles to the Saudi armed forces following a visit to Riyadh by French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie on 3 September. French Ministry of Defence sources said the deal, worth over EUR2.5 billion (USD3.2 billion), was likely to be finalised in "coming weeks" and

was only the first in a series of arms contracts expected to arise out of a visit to Paris by the Saudi Arabian Minister of Defence, Crown Prince Sultan Abdal Aziz al Saud, in July. The sources said the initial contract would provide for deliveries of 10 NH90 medium transport helicopters and 30 AS/550/555 Fennec light utility helicopters built by Eurocopter along with two A330-200 Multi-Role Tanker Transport aircraft and logistic equipment. Delivery of the helicopters is scheduled to begin in early 2007.

[Croatia Outlines Air Requirements](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 6 September 2006

The Croatian Ministry of Defence (MoD) has released a defence plan that maps out the strategic future of the country from 2006-15, including key purchases. The document sets out a list of priorities, including the procurement of up to 12 multirole fighter aircraft between 2009-15 and four lead-in fighter trainer aircraft. The Croatian Air Force currently operates eight Russian Aircraft Corporation (RSK) MiG MiG-21bis fighters in an air defence/attack role and four MiG-21UM lead-in fighter trainers, all of which are due to retire in 2011. An MoD official said: "Our plan for now is to buy 12 new or second-hand fighters in the next few years. Contenders include Lockheed Martin's F-16 and Saab's JAS 39 Gripen multirole fighter aircraft."

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

[Future Force Warrior Passes Major Milestone](#)

Space War – 8 September 2006

The Army's Future Force Warrior (FFW) system is one step closer to being fielded as the Ground Soldier System following a successful demonstration in August of its electronic networking capability. Developed and managed by the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center (NSC) with General Dynamics C4 Systems as the lead integrator, FFW is the Army's flagship science and technology program, aimed at integrating "best in class" technologies from the Army's Research, Development, and Engineering Command (RDECOM) enterprise, other government agencies, and industry to enhance the combat effectiveness of the Soldier and Small Combat Unit.

[An Eye on Everything](#)

Tech Review – 8 September 2006

What would it be like to have eyes in the back, sides, and top of your head? Researchers at MIT have built a spherical optical system that can record images from all directions. Photons strike the sphere's network of 900-micrometerwide polymer and glass composite fibers and penetrate a transparent cladding to a photosensitive semiconductor material at the fiber's core. An algorithm analyzes

the resulting signal and constructs an omnidirectional image; it can also pinpoint the direction of a light beam based on where it entered and exited the sphere. For now, the prototype is used mainly to test materials that can at least crudely discern surrounding objects and thus might be useful in soldiers' uniforms. The researchers are working on algorithms that build clear images even if the sensors take unusual shapes, as they would when integrated into clothing. Future applications could include surveillance, with a sphere replacing multiple cameras.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

[Taiwanese White Paper Records Chinese Incursions Reaching All-Time High](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 1 September 2006

The number of incursions by Chinese military aircraft and naval vessels into Taiwanese air/sea space has surged to an all-time high, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) said in a report released on 29 August. In its bi-annual 'National Defence Report, the Republic of China', the MND said that the centre line of the Taiwan Strait had been crossed by Chinese aircraft and ships more than 1,700 times in 2005 - marking a significant increase from the previous year, with only 940 incursions. The report said that, overall, Chinese military activity in the Taiwan Strait had been expanding since 1996 - when Taiwan held its first democratic presidential election - as the Chinese military sought to gather intelligence, conduct oceanographic surveys and test the response time of Taiwan's armed forces.

[Newest Army Recruits: The Over-35 Crowd](#)

The Christian Science Monitor – 6 September 2006

In an Army platoon where the average age is 21, they call him the old man. But when the platoon marched onto Range 18 one day last week in basic training, Pfc. Russell Dilling - at 42, the oldest-ever recruit in the modern Army - delivered. He was among a dozen of 60 recruits who dinged enough targets to qualify for the rifle certificate on his first try - a major psychological hurdle for would-be soldiers.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

[Iran's Ballistic Missile Developments – Long-Range Ambitions](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 7 September 2006

Iran, by 31 August, ignored an ultimatum presented by the UN Security Council under Resolution 1696, which called for the suspension of its uranium

enrichment programme. In the lead-up to the deadline a series of separate, perhaps orchestrated, events from Tehran served to sustain Western concerns that Tehran looks set to continue on a course that could lead to it acquiring a military nuclear capability. These events are occurring in parallel with a missile development programme, elements of which could potentially deliver that capability. Capping months of defiant rhetoric with regard to its nuclear activities, Tehran - nine days before the deadline - effectively rejected an international demand to suspend its uranium enrichment activities. "We are not going to suspend enrichment," said Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi on 22 August. "The issue was that everything should come out of negotiations, but suspension of uranium enrichment is not on our agenda."

[Successful Test a Giant Step For BMD](#)

Space War – 7 September 2006

The ballistic missile defense constituency in the United States badly needed a stand-out success this week, and they finally got it. On Friday, a Ground-Based Midcourse Interceptor fired from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California successfully hit and destroyed an intercontinental ballistic missile fired from Kodiak, Alaska. The incoming ICBM was flying at a speed of around 13,000 miles per hour. The Ground-Based Interceptor, or GBI, that hit it, was traveling even faster, at 15,000 miles per hour. That is not the equivalent of hitting a speeding bullet with another bullet, as has often been said; it is arguably almost seven times more difficult, as the combined speed of a bullet and another one fired at it would be around 4,000 miles per hour. The test was the first successful test of the much-criticized, long-delayed and problem-plagued ground-based interceptor program in four years. As we have noted in previous columns, five of the last 10 tests of the system were failures. In two of the last three tests before Friday, the interceptor's engines never ignited and the interceptors did not take off.