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CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

[Israeli Armour Fails to Protect MBTs from ATMs](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 25 August 2006

An analysis of what is perceived to be the most significant encounter between Western main battle tanks (MBTs) and Russian-made anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) during recent fighting in Lebanon shows that new Israeli armour, including explosive reactive armour (ERA) suites, has not succeeded in reducing penetration rates in its MBTs. Forty-five per cent of the Israel Defence Force's (IDF's) MBTs hit by Hizbullah ATGMs during the fighting were penetrated. Out of 50 IDF Merkava Mk 2, 3 and 4 MBTs hit, 21 were penetrated. Eleven of the incidents resulted in no fatalities while 10 incidents resulted in 23 crew casualties.

[Pakistan: The Worsening Conflict in Balochistan](#)

International Crisis Group– 14 September 2006

President Pervez Musharraf and the military are responsible for the worsening of the conflict in Balochistan. Tensions between the government and its Baloch opposition have grown because of Islamabad's heavy-handed armed response to Baloch militancy and its refusal to negotiate demands for political and economic autonomy. The killing of Baloch leader Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti in August 2006 sparked riots and will likely lead to more confrontation. The conflict could escalate if the government insists on seeking a military solution to what is a political problem and the international community, especially the U.S., fails to recognise the price that is involved for security in neighbouring Afghanistan.

[Lebanon: Avenues for Reform After the Devastation](#)

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace– September 2006

The summer 2006 war between Hizbollah and Israel wreaked terrible destruction on Lebanon: 1,200 dead (a third of them children), 4,000 wounded, 160,000 housing units destroyed or damaged, over 80 bridges destroyed, and hundreds of factories and businesses ruined. It set Lebanon back years economically, costing roughly \$7 billion, or 30 percent of GDP. At the same time, the war and UN Security Council Resolution 1701 have created new possibilities for advancing political reform.

[Iraq: US Determination Without Policy](#)

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace– September 2006

Five years after the September 11 attacks that triggered U.S. intervention, the situation in Iraq is bleak and policy is adrift. Constant changes in the nature of the conflict have undermined all measures put in place by the Bush administration.

While President George W. Bush is showing great determination to stay in Iraq until the country is stable, he does not have a policy to address the country's multiple conflicts. The problem goes beyond the present administration: neither the Democratic Party nor, more broadly, experts in the policy community have answers. All are torn between realizing that continued U.S. presence cannot resolve the conflicts and fearing that withdrawing U.S. forces would lead to chaos. Gone are the Bush administration's hopes that Iraq would prove a democratic inspiration to the Middle East; now most U.S. officials hope merely for an exit from the country with honor.

[Seven Questions: The Cross and the Crescent](#)

Foreign Policy – September 2006

The schism between Islam and the West seemed to grow deeper this month, as the pope's comments about Islam incited worldwide riots. **FP** spoke with Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, founder of the multifaith Cordoba Initiative, about the pope's controversial remarks, the future of dialogue among religions, and the U.S. role in bridging the divide with the Muslim world.

Counter-Terrorism

[Lessons from Five Decades of RAND Counterinsurgency Research](#)

RAND Publication – 2006

The challenges posed by insurgency and instability have proved difficult to surmount. This difficulty may embolden future opponents to embrace insurgency in combating the United States. Both the current and future conduct of the war on terror demand that the United States improve its ability to conduct counterinsurgency (COIN) operations. This study makes recommendations for improving COIN based on RAND's decades-long study of it. First, organization for COIN must be improved. The Provincial Reconstruction Team model that has been implemented in parts of Iraq and Afghanistan is a good start, but does not go far enough. This model, which unites U.S. civilian and military personnel with local government, should be expanded and made the basis for current and future COIN efforts. Second, amnesty and reward programs should be implemented or expanded. These programs push insurgents out of the movement without having to fight them literally to the last person. A new study of insurgent motivation and morale should also be undertaken. Third, given the cross-border elements of insurgency in Iraq and Afghanistan, border security systems should be studied for both conflicts. Finally, pacification efforts should be focused on the lowest political echelons and combined with census-taking and national identification cards.

[Syria Foils "Terrorist" Attack on US Embassy](#)

Jane's Information Group – 12 September 2006

The Syrian government has claimed it thwarted "a terrorist operation" against the US embassy in Damascus on 12 September, killing three of the attackers and wounding another. According to a report from the state-run Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA), anti-terrorist forces assigned to protect the embassy intercepted "a terrorist Takfiri [sectarian Islamist jihadist] group of four gunmen" who tried to attack the building with hand grenades and machine guns. The attackers used two vehicles, according to SANA, including one booby-trapped car that was parked outside the embassy entrance with the intention of detonating it. Anti-terrorism personnel subsequently dismantled the explosive charge and the timing devices inside the car.

DEFENCE INDUSTRY

[European Nations Agree to Develop Defence Industry](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 21 September 2006

The steering board of the European Defence Agency (EDA) set in motion steps to identify the key technologies and core industrial capabilities that its 24 members believe Europe should develop. The directors heard a report that low European defence budgets and fragmentation in demand and supply risk weakening the EDTIB. Eero Lavonen, the Finnish national armaments director who chaired the meeting, said efforts to improve the EDTIB would build on steps already taken by the EDA. The EDA will identify priority technologies in consultation with the Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD) and will work with members, who are drawing up shortlists of key technologies at the national level. It will also continue to develop a European defence research and technology strategy. EDA work on the EDTIB will also look specifically at the naval sector.

[The Rise and Rise of Rosoboronexport](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 21 September 2006

From a position of state arms exporter to taking controlling interests in a broad range of Russian companies, Rosoboronexport has become an economic and political phenomenon. James Murphy charts its rise. Rosoboronexport has become the de facto industrial holding company of the Russian state. As the federal state looks to firm up its control over "strategic" and "sensitive" companies covering a broad spectrum of the Russian industrial landscape, it is increasingly looking to use Rosoboronexport to do it.

DEFENCE STRATEGY

[End of Russian-US Strategic Arms Control?](#)

Jane's Intelligence Digest – 21 September 2006

Neither Russia nor the US is genuinely interested in achieving a new bilateral strategic arms control agreement, according to an unidentified senior official at the Russian Ministry of Defence (MoD). Citing the Bush administration's withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty in June 2002, the MoD representative warned in late August: "If there is a pressing need, Russia will pull out of the Intermediate Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (ISRM) (INF) Treaty unilaterally." These statements represent only the latest of several Russian declarations denouncing the Bush administration's defence policies. In a speech in May to the Russian Federal Assembly, President Vladimir Putin warned about US plans to develop "a whole arsenal of destabilising weapons" like space-based nuclear systems, very small-yield nuclear warheads and long-range ballistic missiles armed with conventional warheads. Decrying what he termed the general "stagnation" in Russian-US arms control, President Putin subsequently called for a renewed dialogue, with priority given to replacing the 1991 Strategic Arms Reductions Treaty (START) before it expires at the end of 2009.

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

[New Lights Reduce Deployment Time](#)

US DoD News – 6 September 2006

The Natick Soldier Center is developing electroluminescent panels for shelters. The center is working with the private company Crosslink to develop electroluminescent (EL) textile technology. The EL technology will be incorporated into panels, which can then be attached to the walls of softwall shelters to function as a white-light source. Alternatively, the EL technology can be directly integrated into the shelter materials thus eliminating attachment assembly.

[High-Power Microwave Weapon – Full Power Ahead?](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 24 August 2006

Despite an enormous degree of hype, and considerable investment for more than a decade, the deployment of a tactical high-power microwave (HPM) weapon - a re-usable mobile transmitter capable of damaging a range of targets - is some way off. So far, the only two re-usable systems to be close to deployment are a large fixed-base weapon intended to destroy cruise missiles and a 'pain ray' riot-control system. One-shot E-bombs driven by explosive energy are under consideration, but so far their deployment has not been confirmed. Retired US Air Force (USAF) major general Donald Lamberson, a director of the Directed

Energy Professional Society (DEPS), warned colleagues at a recent conference: "We must get out of the technology trenches and on to the battlefield ... I am not aware of any transition to acquisition or production of any HEL [high-energy laser] or HPM technology." The USAF does have a programme under way to develop an airborne HPM weapon, probably mounted on an unmanned air system (UAS). However, budget documents suggest that even a prototype is unlikely to be airborne before 2008 as the USAF addresses challenges including cooling and power generation, and determines which missions an HPM is best used for.

[US Eyes Hyperspectral Technology for UAVs](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 30 August 2006

The US Army is preparing to assess the potential of hyperspectral payloads for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), which could create a new class of surveillance technology and one that may be ideally suited for the task of detecting improvised explosive devices. A contract to BAE Systems to supply five hyperspectral payloads for integration on the army's AAI Corp RQ-7 Shadow UAVs for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions was expected to be signed in late August, US Army Programme Manager Philip Owen told *Jane's*. A picture taken by a hyperspectral camera can distinguish camouflage from the objects beneath and can detect subtle changes in an otherwise static landscape - for example, a freshly dug hole. In what is called the "bloodhound mode", the sensor can also search for a specific spectral signature, such as a black pick-up truck.

[15-Year Battery Sought for Civilian, Military Satellites](#)

National Defense Magazine – September 2006

Production of a relatively lightweight battery with an operating life of 15 years in space is the goal of Yardney Technical Products Inc. of Pawcatuck, Conn., and its subsidiary, Lithion Inc. These companies are working on modifications to lithium-ion batteries that include cutting edge monitoring and equalization systems that particularly would be applicable to satellites that are being developed for space-based ballistic missile defense.

MARITIME SECURITY

[Indonesia Moves to Bolster Anti-Piracy Surveillance](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 21 September 2006

Indonesia is capitalising on US funding support to bolster its maritime surveillance capabilities in the piracy-prone Malacca Strait as a stepping stone to developing a regional maritime security picture. Phase I of Indonesia's upgrade programme to develop an integrated maritime surveillance system (IMSS) was

completed in January. It involves upgraded radars and automatic identification systems on 10 ships and two coastal surveillance stations (CSSs) with long-range cameras and radars on the Malacca Strait. This will now be more closely tied together with a USD16 million contract awarded to US-based Techno-Sciences by the US Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command on 14 September. This will see Techno-Sciences integrate eight new CSSs with the two legacy sites.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

[Marines Test New Distributed Platoon Concept](#)

Marine Corps News – 8 September 2006

Infantry Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit emphasized becoming an agile, fast-moving force during a recent training exercise in the Okinawa Central Training Area. III Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training Group and B Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, trained in the combat doctrine of maneuver warfare Aug. 21 to Sept. 1. The battalion is currently serving as the 31st MEU's battalion landing team. The platoon practiced mounted patrolling tactics using the Interim Fast Attack Vehicle and advanced communication techniques to operate more efficiently as a distributed operations platoon. The distributed operations platoon concept is a maneuver warfare tactic the Marine Corps is testing, said 1st Lt. David T. Russell, a platoon commander with B Company. The platoons trained to adapt instantaneously to deadly force threats and attacks, operating with increased agility to counter enemies who use dispersion tactics rather than brute strength. Rather than amassing at one location, distributed operations units spread out over a larger area and use advanced communication and hasty transportation to quickly assess threats, regroup and respond to the enemy in full force, Russell said.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

[South Korea Develops Cruise Missile](#)

Space War – 21 September 2006

South Korea has developed a Tomahawk-style cruise missile capable of reaching most of North Korea to cope with mounting missile threats from its communist neighbor. According to JoongAng Ilbo, Seoul's major newspaper, Thursday, South Korea's first cruise missile has been developed jointly by the country's military and the state-run Agency for Defense Development. "We have developed a cruise missile capable of precisely destroying major military targets, such as missile batteries, in North Korea's rear area," the daily said, citing an unidentified senior military official. The cruise missile, which has a range of 313 miles, is capable of hitting almost all of North Korea's missile sites, including a

facility in Musudan-ri on the country's remote northeast coast from where a set of missiles was fired in July, including a long-range Taepodong-2.

[Ahmadinejad Says Nuclear Talks 'On The Right Path'](#)

Space War – 21 September 2006

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Thursday that talks on his country's nuclear programme were "on the right path" and insisted that Tehran did not need an atomic bomb. With new pressure mounting as Washington and its allies seek progress in efforts to reach a negotiated settlement with the Tehran government, Ahmadinejad's comments at the UN headquarters injected a note of moderation into the diplomatic battle.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Indonesian Navy to Undergo Major Restructure](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 12 September 2006

The Indonesian Navy intends to restructure its organisation while building up both assets and infrastructure under a plan extending to 2024. The development plan, updating earlier projections, was unveiled internally on 25 August but has yet to be made public. Its broad aims were revealed exclusively to *Jane's* by unofficial sources, who noted that political and economic restraints may yet influence its implementation. Three commands will be formed instead of the two currently in place. The new elements will be known as *Komando Wilayah Laut*, or Kowilla. The western Kowilla is to be based at Tanjung Pinang in Sumatra, the central Kowilla at Macassar in South Sulawesi and the eastern Kowilla at Sarong in Papua.

[Thai King Remains Centre Stage](#)

BBC News – 21 September 2006

Throughout every twist and turn in Thailand's recent political history, there has been one constant figure. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has been on the Thai throne for 60 years, is revered across the nation, with some people even seeing him as a virtual god. Officially his power to influence political events is limited. But in practice he yields immense power, due to the high respect in which he is held. That is why many Thai analysts are saying he must have at least been in favour of the coup on Tuesday night, which toppled Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.