



Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies



Future Systems Directorate

RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE 15/2006

The Foremost Inter-Disciplinary Defence E-Bulletin

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

30 October 2006

Contemporary Conflict

- Rumsfeld Tells Iraq Critics to 'Back Off'
- Is NATO Losing the Real Battle in Afghanistan?
- After a Bloody Summer: What's New in the Middle East?

Counter-Terrorism

- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives Consequence Management
- Q&A: Liquid Explosives

Defence Industry

- Israel Deliberates Future of Merkava

Defence Technology

- Boeing Plans Hypersonic Missile Test for 2007
- Global Information Grid –Live GIG

Military Doctrines

- Counterland Operations
- Definition and Security Requirements for High Value Transits of the Panama Canal

Military Operations

- NORTHCOM Planning Will be Challenge, Model DoD Official Says

Nuclear Proliferation

- After the Bomb
- US Sensitive to Moscow Concerns over Iran Sanctions
- Deterring Kim Jong III
- Will Sanctions Work Against Iran?

Regional Development

- Malaysian PM in Combative Mood Against Mahathir: Officials
- Can Thailand's New Premier Bring Back Democracy?
- Civic Groups Call for Name and Shame on Asia's Haze

Space Development

- China Has Not Attacked US Satellites Says DOD
- USAF Seeks SBIRS Alternatives

CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

[Rumsfeld Tells Iraq Critics to 'Back Off'](#)

The Washington Post – 27 October 2006

With his chorus of critics expanding deeper into Republican ranks, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told detractors yesterday to pull back as U.S. and Iraqi officials grapple with the uncertainties of laying out Iraq's course. "You ought to just back off, take a look at it, relax, understand that it's complicated, it's difficult," Rumsfeld said, appearing unusually combative as he sparred with reporters at the Pentagon. "Honorable people are working on these things together," he said, adding emphatically that "no daylight" exists between the U.S. and Iraqi sides. But with just 12 days before the Nov. 7 elections, bipartisan criticism of the war appears to be gaining momentum, despite Rumsfeld's pugnacious defense of the Bush administration's Iraq strategy. The office of Senate Minority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) mocked Rumsfeld's admonition on a day when October's death toll of U.S. troops in Iraq reached 96, the highest monthly total in a year.

[Is NATO Losing the Real Battle in Afghanistan?](#)

Time – 26 October 2006

In the vineyards and poppy fields of southern Afghanistan it is hard to know who the enemy is. In their black turbans, Taliban fighters can vanish like ghosts into the local population, leaving NATO soldiers shooting into thin air, or worse still at the wrong targets — which is what happened this week as the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan came to a close. Afghan officials said dozens of civilians were killed late Tuesday when NATO warplanes bombarded a village in the district of Panjwai just 20 kilometers outside the largest city in southern Afghanistan, the former Taliban stronghold of Kandahar. Panjwai district has been the scene of some of the fiercest fighting in the Afghan south this summer, with NATO killing at least 500 suspected insurgents in the two-week-long Operation Medusa, which concluded last month.

[After a Bloody Summer: What's New in the Middle East?](#)

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – 4 October 2006

Hisham Melhem stressed the unconventional nature of the war between Israel and Hizbollah, a war which he argued pitted the strongest army in the region against the strongest non-state actor in the region, and possibly in the world, namely Hizbollah. Although no clear winner emerged from the conflict, the fact that Hizbollah fought Israel for thirty days made it easier for it to claim a clear victory. Given the mistakes committed by both sides, however, it was no surprise to see Lebanese and Israeli societies go through a round of bitter recrimination. This recrimination was seen in Lebanon even before the conflict came to an end. Leaders of the other Lebanese communities, and most recently, voices within the

Shiite community itself, have started to criticize Hizbollah's ideology of resistance and even its leader Hassan Nasrallah. In Israel, the government of Ehud Olmert has come under intense scrutiny and the whole country is experiencing a new sense of uncertainty.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

[Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives Consequence Management](#)

Federation of American Scientists – 2 October 2006

The publication provides overarching guidelines and principles to assist commanders and their staffs in planning and conducting joint chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives consequence management operations.

[Q&A: Liquid Explosives](#)

BBC News – 10 August 2006

An alleged plot to blow up planes from the UK mid-flight and cause "mass murder on an unimaginable scale" has been disrupted, Scotland Yard has said. It is thought the plan was to detonate explosive devices smuggled in hand luggage on to as many as 10 aircraft. BBC security correspondent Gordon Corera said the plan "revolved around liquids of some kind". One theory is that the attack may have involved liquid explosive being carried on to a plane in either drink bottles or cans. Dr Clifford Jones, an explosives expert from the University of Aberdeen, says even a small amount of liquid explosives carried on to an aircraft would result in a catastrophic explosion.

DEFENCE INDUSTRY

[Israel Deliberates Future of Merkava](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 6 October 2006

The Israel Defence Force (IDF) is questioning the future of the Merkava main battle tank (MBT) programme, in light of changing threats in the region and an urgent requirement for heavier, better-protected armoured personnel carriers (APCs). While a final decision has yet to be made, the Israeli Ministry of Defence's (MoD's) Merkava Project Administration (Mantak) recently informed the companies manufacturing the Merkava that the IDF intends to reduce by 20 per cent the total number of Merkava Mk 4s procured. The IDF has an order for an undisclosed number of the Merkava Mk 4 MBTs, which will remain in production until 2010. Head of Mantak Brigadier General Amir Nir has told

company representatives that the IDF is considering converting the MBT production line to manufacture the Nemer (Tiger) a Merkava-based heavy APC. "There is no decision to completely cease MBT production, but we are considering starting a parallel APC production line," a defence source told *Jane's*. However, the companies participating in the project fear it might be approaching its end.

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

[Boeing Plans Hypersonic Missile Test for 2007](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 6 October 2006

John Fox, manager of the HyFly hypersonic missile programme, said Boeing is planning three launches of the missile, which will have a range of up to 640 km, from a Boeing F-15E fighter aircraft flying over the ocean near Point Mugu, California. In the final flight test, the missile is expected to fly at M6.0. The tests will mark the first time a hypersonic engine has flown since 2004 when NASA set a new record with the X-43A unmanned hypersonic research vehicle, powered by an air-breathing engine with, which nearly reached nearly M10.0 over the Pacific Ocean.

[Global Information Grid – Live GIG](#)

Jane's Defence Weekly – 19 October 2006

The development of the US Department of Defense's Global Information Grid is essential to its realisation of true network centricity. Tony Skinner looks at progress to date. The image painted by proponents of the all-embracing network is certainly a provocative one. The Global Information Grid (GIG) will be the largest and most complex information technology network in the world, providing the US military with an internet-like capability, allowing access to data on demand at virtually any location in the world.

MILITARY DOCTRINES

[Counterland Operations](#)

Federation of American Scientists– 11 September 2006

Counterland operations dominate the surface environment by crushing an enemy's ability to fight. Through air interdiction, air and space power can divert, disrupt, delay, or destroy enemy military potential before it can be brought to bear against friendly ground forces, and achieve joint force commander objectives independently. Indeed, the devastation wrought on an enemy by air and space power may preclude costly ground combat. When called for, air and space power

delivers devastating support to assist friendly ground forces in achieving their objectives.

[Definition and Security Requirements for High Value Transits of the Panama Canal](#)

Federation of American Scientists— 2 October 2006

Security for U.S. ships crossing the Panama Canal is the subject of a new Navy Instruction. "Vessels transiting the Panama Canal encounter situations in which they are isolated from any forces of the United States which could provide additional security if required. These instances provide an opportunity for unfriendly agents to harass or damage a vessel, or potentially embarrass the United States.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

[NORTHCOM Planning Will be Challenge, Model, DoD Official Says](#)

American Forces Information Services – 5 October 2006

Northern Command's planning for catastrophic scenarios eventually may be used by other commands and agencies, a senior Defense Department official said here earlier this week. Peter F. Verga, principal deputy to the assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense, spoke during the 2006 Homeland Defense Symposium Oct. 3. "While in execution, the (Hurricane) Katrina operations and all of the missions that have been done by U.S. Northern Command have been done magnificently," Verga said in an interview following his address. "We've identified shortcomings and are pre-planning for those 15 national planning scenarios." Organizations at all levels of government use the national planning scenarios to help identify critical tasks and capabilities that would be required in a coordinated effort to manage major events. The scenarios include responses to terrorist attacks and natural disasters. The scenarios were developed to implement Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8, which establishes policies to strengthen preparedness to both prevent and respond to significant incidents at the federal, state and local levels. Verga said the burden of DoD planning for the scenarios will fall on NORTHCOM because the scenarios are domestic-based. U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Southern Command will have similar planning responsibilities for Hawaii and U.S. territories in their areas of responsibility, but Verga said they will probably be able to build on NORTHCOM's work, instead of doing the fundamental work. "The strategic guidance statement that is about to come out specifically requires a detailed level of planning for those 15 national planning scenarios," he said.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

[After the Bomb](#)

The Prospect – October 2006

North Korea's nuclear test alters the balance of power in northeast Asia. In every other field—economics, culture, diplomacy, biotechnology and IT, to name a few—the gap between the impoverished citizens of Kim Jong-Il's regime and their world-class southern kinsmen could hardly be greater. The north's ageing conventional military capabilities have also fallen far behind the south. But now North Korea boasts of possessing the ultimate equaliser. The suggestion that the explosion was merely a large quantity of TNT cannot be dismissed entirely without air sampling data, but it is implausible that North Korea would fake what was a technical failure judging from the sub-kiloton yield—eight to ten times less bang than what would have been planned.

[US Sensitive to Moscow Concerns over Iran Sanctions](#)

Space War – 26 October 2006

The United States said Thursday it understands Russia's worries about proposed UN Security Council sanctions against Iran for its nuclear program after Moscow said it rejected the draft. "We know that the Russians have some concerns about the tactics and concerns about applying too much pressure too quickly on the Iranians. We certainly understand their point of view," said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack. "There's certain logic that goes along with that. They have clearly expressed that to us as well as others," McCormack said. "We expect that there are probably going to be changes along the way. That is just the nature of multilateral negotiations on these UN Security Council resolutions," he added.

[Deterring Kim Jong III](#)

The Washington Post – 27 October 2006

In an interview aired last week, George Stephanopoulos put the question to President Bush: What would he do if "North Korea sold nukes to Iran or al-Qaeda?" Bush replied, "They'd be held to account." Seeking specifics, Stephanopoulos asked: "What does that mean?" The president answered, "I want the leader of North Korea to understand that he'll be held to account. *Just like he's being held to account now for having run a test.*" Say what? If North Korea sells a nuclear weapon to Osama bin Laden or Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, he should expect the United States to go to the United Nations and negotiate further sanctions? And if al-Qaeda sneaks that bomb into the United States and we awake to the president's nightmare in which a mushroom cloud engulfs Washington or Los Angeles, then what? If this formulation stands -- without further specification -- America risks becoming the victim of a catastrophic "deterrence failure."

Will Sanctions Work Against Iran?

Time – 25 October 2006

So, where does North Korea's nuclear test and the resulting sanctions leave the Iran nuclear standoff? That question will be answered in the coming days as the U.N. Security Council resumes discussion over how to respond to Tehran's refusal to suspend its uranium enrichment program. The Council was set, three weeks ago, to begin discussing sanctions against Iran, when the North Korean test and the diplomatic wrangling over a sanctions pushed Tehran's case off the agenda. But the limited form of sanctions adopted against North Korea, and the diplomatic battle it took to win agreement on those, may be instructive. Already, there are clear signs of disagreement in the Council over the extent of sanctions to pursue against Iran. China and Russia remain skeptical of their value in resolving the issue, and even Washington's key European allies, Britain, France and Germany, are planning to circulate a draft sanctions resolution that does not include some tougher measures sought by the U.S., including an end to Russia's work on the Iranian nuclear reactor being built at Bushehr. And Iran, for its part, announced on Tuesday that it had constructed a second cascade of centrifuges for laboratory-scale enrichment, clearly unperturbed by the sanctions threat.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Malaysian PM in Combative Mood Against Mahathir: Officials

Channel News Asia – 27 October 2006

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has upped the ante in a bitter feud with ex-premier Mahathir Mohamad, hitting out at the former leader for the first time, officials said Friday. Abdullah for months has delivered muted responses to attacks from Mahathir, 82, who has accused his hand-picked successor of nepotism, corruption, economic mismanagement and wrong-headed policies. But showing his frustration, Abdullah said late Thursday he was "disappointed and sad" over the row, and blamed Mahathir for continuing a dispute that has shocked Malaysians and the country's ruling party.

Can Thailand's New Premier Bring Back Democracy?

Time Asia – October 2006

Sometimes it's easier to trust your own. When Thailand's ruling military junta overthrew Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in a bloodless coup on Sept. 19, it promised to install an interim premier — who is to govern until elections are held, probably in a year's time — within two weeks. On Sunday, they fulfilled their pledge with three days to spare. But even if the putsch leaders did meet their self-appointed deadline, their choice for caretaker, retired army chief Surayud

Chulanont, may not quell international worries about the junta's commitment to restoring democracy to Thailand.

[Civic Groups Call for Name and Shame on Asia's Haze](#)

Reuters – 19 October 2006

Southeast Asian civic groups on Thursday urged governments to name and shame those responsible for the haze that has blanketed the region, and warned that losses could top \$9 billion. The haze is caused by forest fires that have raged for weeks in Indonesia, spreading smoke across much of Southeast Asia. Indonesia's neighbours have grown increasingly frustrated over the fires, most of which are deliberately lit by farmers as well as by timber and palm oil plantation owners. "Indonesia must take action to figure out which companies are involved - and perhaps even explore prosecuting the companies which are doing the wrong thing," Simon Tay, chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, told a news conference after the civic groups met in Singapore. The non-governmental organisations were from Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore -- all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) -- which have been affected by the choking haze. The organisations also asked for an action plan and a collective fund to finance haze prevention.

SPACE DEVELOPMENT

[China Has Not Attacked US Satellites Says DOD](#)

Space War – 25 October 2006

The Pentagon has denied reports that China has tried to blind U.S. satellites with lasers. U.S. Marine Gen. James Cartwright, the head of the U.S. Strategic Command, said in a Sept. 21 interview with "Inside the Pentagon" published on Oct. 12 that the United States had not seen clear indications that China has intentionally disrupted American satellite capabilities, Inside Defense.com reported Oct. 13. Cartwright was quizzed about previously published claims that the Chinese military in recent years had tested systems that could damage or destroy U.S. military satellites in orbit.

[USAF Seeks SBIRS Alternatives](#)

Space War – 26 October 2006

It looks like curtains for SBIRS. The U.S. Air Force is looking for space-systems to detect missile launches. The U.S. Air Force has awarded contracts to Raytheon and to the Science Applications International Corporation to develop new infrared satellite detection systems that could carry out the mission SBIRS, the Space Based Infrared System, was supposed to. SAIC announced Tuesday that it had won a new \$25 million contract from the U.S. Air Force to develop a

new infrared satellite system for the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory and Space Vehicles Directorate for its Risk Reduction, or AIRSS, program.