



Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies



Future Systems Directorate

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## **Contemporary Conflict**

- Americans Running Out of Appealing Options for Iraq
- The Only Real Option: Leave Iraq Now
- Israel/Hizbollah/Lebanon: Avoiding Renewed Conflict
- Kosovo Status: Delay is Risky
- Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations in the Post-9/11 Era
- Palestinian Human Shields Give Israel Pause

## **Counter-Terrorism**

- Perfect Killing Method, but Clear Targets Are Few for Marines in Iraq
- Nuclear Strikes from 'Rogue States' Possible

## **Defence Industry**

- Boeing Signs 1.6 Billion Dollar Deal To Sell Surveillance Planes To South Korea
- Saudi Arabia Threatens to Suspend Relations with Britain over Bribery Investigation

## **Defence Strategy**

- NATO Seeks Wider Relationships
- China's Naval Surveillance of US

## **Defence Technology**

- The Mechanics of Better Bullet Proofing
- Israel Developing Bionic Arsenal

### **Military Intelligence**

- [Spy Agencies Now Share the Wikipedia Way](#)

### **Military Operations**

- [Urban Operations](#)
- [Omni Fusion Ties Army into UR 2015](#)

### **Nuclear Proliferation**

- [Britain to Unveil Plan to Replace Nuclear Missile System](#)
- [Official Says North Korea Won't Give Up Nuclear Weapons](#)
- [White House Says Iran Assessment Report Inaccurate](#)

## CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

### [Americans Running Out of Appealing Options for Iraq](#)

*Chicago Tribune – 23 November 2006*

The Democratic victories in the midterm election tell us that American voters lean toward Wiesel's "Try anything" option. Yet, polls also show that Americans are not united in leaving Iraq yesterday. If The New Republic's experts agree on anything, it is the lack of great options regarding Iraq. "In the end, this struggle will be over the difference between a largely intolerable outcome and a completely intolerable one," the magazine declares in a contrite editorial. In other words, how can America turn Iraq over to the Iraqis with the least amount of carnage and chaos as we make our way out?

### [The Only Real Option: Leave Iraq Now](#)

*The Washington Post – 21 November 2006*

Good lord, if even Henry Kissinger now says that military victory in Iraq is impossible, pretty soon George W. Bush really will be left with just Laura and Barney on his side. The Decider Agonistes must be feeling betrayed and abused these days. British Prime Minister Tony Blair's admission that the war has been "pretty much of a disaster" was just a slip of the tongue, but the president must have felt it as a cut most unkind. And Kissinger? The oracle who has been dropping by the White House regularly to whisper sweet nothings into the presidential ear, urging him to hang tough? The sage who wrote in August 2005 that "victory over the insurgency is the only meaningful exit strategy" is now listing Bush's conditions for withdrawal -- a stable government, ruling all of Iraq, with the ability to control the violence -- and pronouncing them unattainable. Will anyone be surprised if Henry the K soon reveals that he knew the whole thing was folly all along?

### [Israel/Hizbollah/Lebanon: Avoiding Renewed Conflict](#)

*International Crisis Group – 1 November 2006*

UN Security Council Resolution 1701 halted the month-long fighting between Israel and Hizbollah but did little to resolve the underlying conflict and, if poorly handled, could help reignite it. The resolution has held remarkably well, with only limited violations. However, the temptation by either party to overreach could trigger renewed fighting. The greatest threats would be attempts by Israel or UN forces (UNIFIL) to use 1701 as a blunt means of disarming Hizbollah in the south or by Hizbollah to test UNIFIL's resolve. 1701 should be seen as a transitory instrument that can stabilise the border by containing both sides' military impulses until bolder action is taken to address both domestic Lebanese matters (reforming and democratising the political and electoral systems; building a strong sovereign state and army; resolving the question of Hizbollah's armaments) and, especially, regional issues (in particular re-launching the Syrian

track and engaging Iran). In short the international community must be modest in implementing 1701 for as long as it is not prepared to be ambitious in its regional diplomatic efforts.

### [Kosovo Status: Delay is Risky](#)

*International Crisis Group – 10 November 2006*

The Kosovo final status process risks breaking down the further the decision is pushed back into 2007. The six-nation Contact Group that has sponsored the process must at minimum deliver timely endorsement of the settlement package that UN envoy Martti Ahtisaari should present before January's end, and the UN Security Council must pass a resolution superseding 1244 (1999) to allow the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to transfer its responsibilities to Kosovo's government and pave the way for new international bodies being readied by the EU. Acting together, the U.S. and the EU need to show the political will to recognise Kosovo as independent, and fend off partition moves from Serbia and the Serb north of Kosovo.

### [Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations in the Post-9/11 Era](#)

*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – October 2006*

Taliban insurgents and their Al Qaeda allies, once thought defeated in Afghanistan, are regaining strength. Regrouped and reorganized, better equipped and financed, and more sophisticated tactically, they are threatening both the reconstruction process and the U.S.-led coalition forces on the ground. Pakistan-Afghanistan relations have been another casualty of the renewed violence. The resurgence of the Taliban movement and the growing insurgency in the provinces bordering the Pakistan-Afghan border have once again generated tensions between Kabul and Islamabad. The two countries are accusing each other of interfering in their respective domestic affairs.

### [Palestinian Human Shields Give Israel Pause](#)

*The Christian Science Monitor – 20 November 2006*

In perhaps the most effective act of nonviolent protest in the six-year Palestinian uprising, hundreds of Gazans forced Israel over the weekend to call off airstrikes on the residence of a militant leader by swarming the house as human shields. In recent months, Israeli security forces have used telephone calls to warn Palestinian militants and others near alleged militant safe houses and weapons caches, giving them up to a half hour to evacuate. When militia leader Mohammed Baroud got the call Saturday, he enlisted neighbors to protect his house from the Israeli military. They've now set up a system of shifts to protect the house around the clock.

## COUNTER-TERRORISM

### [Perfect Killing Method, but Clear Targets are Few for Marines in Iraq](#)

*New York Times – 22 October 2006*

The sniper team left friendly lines hours ahead of the sun. They were a group of marines walking through the chill, hoping to be in hiding before the mullahs' predawn call to prayer would urge this city awake. They reached an abandoned building. Two marines stepped inside, swept the ground floor and signaled to the others to follow them to the flat roof, where they crawled to spots along its walls in which they had previously chiseled out small viewing holes. Out came their gear: a map, spotting scopes, binoculars, two-way radios and stools. The snipers took their places, peering through the holes, watching an Iraqi neighborhood from which insurgents often fire. They were hoping an insurgent would try to fire on this day. The waiting began. If the recent pattern was any indication, the waiting could last a long time. This was this sniper team's 30th mission in Anbar Province since early August. They had yet to fire a shot. More than three years after the insurgency erupted across much of Iraq, sniping — one of the methods that the military thought would be essential in its counterinsurgency operations — is proving less successful in many areas of Iraq than had been hoped, Marine officers, trainers and snipers say.

### [Nuclear Strikes from 'Rogue States' Possible](#)

*Space War – 22 November 2006*

Russia's Air Force commander said Wednesday he considers nuclear missile launches by terrorists or 'rogue states' to be a genuine threat. "Increasingly probable and dangerous for the U.S., Russia and European countries are single or multiple missile strikes from third countries, known as rogue states, countries with unstable, non-democratic regimes, or terrorist organizations with access to missile technology," Vladimir Mikhailov said.

## DEFENCE INDUSTRY

### [Boeing Signs 1.6 Billion Dollar Deal to Sell Surveillance Planes to South Korea](#)

*Space War – 22 November 2006*

South Korea on Wednesday signed a 1.59 billion dollar deal to buy four surveillance planes from US aircraft giant Boeing, officials said. "A formal contract was signed here today," a Defense Acquisition Programme Administration spokesman told AFP. One of the modified 737 planes will be delivered in 2011 and three in 2013, he said of the deal first announced earlier this month.

[Saudi Arabia Threatens to Suspend Relations with Britain over Bribery Investigation](#)

*Christian Science Monitor – 21 November 2006*

In a story that neither government has yet denied, The Sunday Times of London reported this weekend that Saudi Arabia is threatening to suspend diplomatic ties with Britain and cease cooperating on security matters, unless Prime Minister Tony Blair stops an investigation into \$113 million "slush" fund allegedly set up for members of the Saudi royal family.

**DEFENCE STRATEGY**

[NATO Seeks Wider Defence Relationships](#)

*Jane's Defence Weekly – 10 November 2006*

In a 6 November speech to the Security and Defence Agenda, a Brussels-based discussion forum for policymakers, think tanks, industry and the press, de Hoop Scheffer called for unblocking the alliance's relationship with the EU, which he said "is suffering from understretch rather than overstretch". He complained about the narrowness of the NATO-EU agenda "given the magnitude of today's security challenges". So far, joint meetings of the North Atlantic Council, the alliance's highest decision-making body, and the EU's Political and Security Committee have mainly discussed the Balkans, where NATO has the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and where an EU Force (EUFOR) replaced its Stabilisation Force (SFOR) at the end of 2004 in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[China's Naval Surveillance of US](#)

*The Washington Times – 14 November 2006*

Why would a Chinese submarine shadow the USS Kitty Hawk and its battle group only weeks before Chinese military officials play host the commander of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet? The incident, reported yesterday by The Washington Times, occurred at the end of October near Okinawa. It's unusual both for Chinese submarines to follow U.S. ships and for the Chinese submarines to venture far from Chinese shores, Bill Gertz reported. Adm. Gary Roughead, commander of the Pacific Fleet, is in China this week, and this event is likely to cast a shadow over his meetings with Chinese military officials

## **DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY**

### [The Mechanics of Better Bullet Proofing](#)

*Space War – 22 November 2006*

Body armor with greater ballistics resistance is the aim of the research being carried out by Youqi Wang, associate professor of mechanical engineering at Kansas State University, with support from two U.S. Department of Defense agencies.

### [Israel Developing Bionic Arsenal](#)

*Space War – 17 November 2006*

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has given the green light for Israel to set up a special office to develop a nanotechnology arsenal, the leading Hebrew daily reported on Friday. Yediot Aharonot said that Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres had been told to choose 15 top thinkers to focus on developing futuristic weaponry. The 15 would be selected from within the security establishment, the world of hi-tech and academia.

## **MILITARY INTELLIGENCE**

### [Spy Agencies Now Share the Wikipedia Way](#)

*LA Times– 1 November 2006*

The CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies have created a computer system that uses software from a popular Internet encyclopedia site to gather content on sensitive topics from analysts across the spy community, part of an effort to fix problems that plagued prewar estimates on Iraq. The system, dubbed Intellipedia because it is built on open-source software from Wikipedia, was launched earlier this year. It already is being used to assemble intelligence reports on Nigeria and other subjects, according to U.S. intelligence officials who on Tuesday discussed the initiative in detail for the first time.

## **MILITARY OPERATIONS**

### [Urban Operations](#)

*Federation of American Scientist – 26 October 2006*

The conduct of military operations in urban areas is the subject of a new Army doctrinal manual. "Of all the environments in which to conduct operations, the urban environment confronts Army commanders with a combination of difficulties rarely found elsewhere [due to its] intricate topography and high population

density." The hazards and threats posed by the urban environment, and the spectrum of potential responses to mitigate or exploit them, are considered at length in the 315-page unclassified manual.

### [Omni Fusion Ties Army into UR 2015](#)

*US Joint Forces Command – 14 November 2006*

The U.S. Army partnered with U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) recently to participate in Urban Resolve 2015 (UR 2015) through its own experiment to fill capability gaps for the warfighter. The Army utilized UR 2015 for Omni Fusion, a series of events designed to experiment with division staff, support brigades, as well as the Future Combat Systems (FCS), in a robust constructive simulation environment. UR 2015 provided that environment.

## **NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION**

### [Britain to Unveil Plans to Replace Nuclear Missile System](#)

*Space War – 22 November 2006*

Britain is to publish proposals by the end of the year on how to replace its ageing nuclear deterrent Trident missiles, Prime Minister Tony Blair told lawmakers Monday. Blair confirmed a question from the leader of the smaller opposition Liberal Democrats Menzies Campbell that the government's position on whether to maintain the Trident missile system would be set out by the turn of the year. He also said he was "sure" lawmakers would get a chance to vote on the issue.

### [Official Says North Korea Won't Give Up Nuclear Weapons](#)

*Space War – 22 November 2006*

North Korea will not give up its nuclear weapons even though it has agreed to return to six-nation talks on scrapping its atomic programme, a senior North Korean diplomat was quoted Wednesday as saying. "The (six-party) talks will begin soon ... how can we abandon our nuclear weapons? Do you mean that we conducted a nuclear test to give them up?" First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju was quoted by South Korea's Yonhap news agency as saying.

### [White House Says Iran Assessment Report Inaccurate](#)

*Space War – 23 November 2006*

The White House flatly denied on Monday a news report which said a secret CIA assessment found no conclusive evidence of Iran's nuclear weapons program. White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said the article was just another "error-filled piece" in a "series of inaccuracy-riddled articles about the Bush administration."