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BiH Defence Modernisation Plans



The BiH Presidency's Decision on the size, structure and locations of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina sets out that the BiH armed forces will have a total of 16,000 members: from this number 10,000 are professional military members (officers, NCOs, and soldiers), 1000 are civilians and 5000 are reservists. In order to equip these forces BiH authorities allocated a rather limited amount of funds. In 2009 BiH's total Military expenditure was according to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) \$232 million US dollars in constant 2009 prices whereas in 2010, declined to \$242 million US dollars. The main tasks of the armed forces is to ensure sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independency and international subjectivity of BiH, in order to promote foreign policy objectives, meet the international commitments of BiH, as well as to protect the citizens. In order to achieve these goals, the BiH authorities have set modernisation priorities. The basic document that defines these priorities is the AFBiH 2011-2020 Development and Modernisation Plan.

By using the available, yet limited military capabilities the authorities of BiH will try to reach the basic goal of the modernisation process which is to reach required operational capabilities which will ensure the planned level of interoperability and compatibility of the AFBiH with the armed forces of NATO member-countries as a basic precondition for joint engagement with the NATO allies and partners in the future.

Furthermore, the BiH authorities will try to establish projected organizational and personnel structure, to equip the armed forces with modern and necessary weapons and military equipment, and finally to intensify BiH armed forces participation in international military operations, especially in peace support operations. To support the implementation of the planned development goals there will be several priority projects implemented in accordance with the following criteria:



First-level priorities: Projects and tasks with a direct



effect on the development and achievement of key operational capabilities necessary for implementation of AFBiH missions and tasks as set out by the law, with a focus on meeting BiH's international commitments.

Second-level priorities: Projects and tasks with a direct effect on the development and governing of the conceptual, doctrinal and normative framework for the AFBiH's activities, thereby directly impacting the required and necessary level of the AFBiH's operational and combat readiness.

Third-level priorities: Projects and tasks directly leading to an increase in the AFBiH's operational effectiveness and rational use of available resources.

For the next decade BiH will try to modernise the national armed forces. In order to achieve this it has set priorities which would be taken into consideration when deciding for future procurements.

Kyriazis Vasileios,
Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

BiH Participation in International Missions



The main responsibilities of the BiH armed forces is to participate in collective security operations, peace support operations and self-defense, including the fight against terrorism. In accordance with this commitment on 11 March 2009 in

Brussels, the BiH Defense Minister and NATO Secretary General signed agreements that prescribe in a standardized and uniform way the terms of participation in the mission that apply to all ISAF contributing nations (Agreement on Participation in the ISAF Mission and Financial Agreement). According to this (10) officers were deployed in Afghanistan with operational, administrative and other staff duties and tasks related to the respective formation posts, as per the Rules of Engagement defined by the BiH Ministry of Defense.

From these (10) officers, (2) BiH officers were deployed as part of a Danish combat group in Regional Command South-West in Afghanistan; the soldiers first completed the pre-deployment training in the Peace Support Operations Training Center (PSOTC) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and then the training in the Kingdom of Denmark. The Danish Armed Forces provided logistic support for (2) BiH officers. The remaining (8) officers were deployed on September 2009, with the German contingent to Regional Command North, Afghanistan. Additionally, the BiH Presidency decided on the participation of (45) more BiH armed forces



members in the ISAF mission. The main mission of them is the internal security of coalition force based in the Helmand province, without executing operations outside the bases. Finally, on 10 March 2010, the BiH Presidency approved the engagement of (10) BiH instructors in the ISAF mission for training of the Afghan Security Forces.

BiH is also participating in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO). In the first quarter of 2011, (5) AFBiH members were deployed to the UN PSO mission in Congo. This was the 9th rotation of BiH officers. Since November 2002, total of (40) BiH officers participated in this mission. At each session held on 14 December 2010, the BiH Presidency adopted a decision to extend the mandate of the AFBiH contingent and deploy the 10th rotation of military observers to the mission in Congo.



Through engagement of BiH armed forces members in UN missions, BiH supports the Organization of the United Nations in the implementation of peace support operations and clearly demonstrates that the country is willing and able to offer an adequate contribution to joint efforts on establishment and preservation of peace

and stability in the world.

Kyriazis Vasileios,
Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Epicos "Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects"



Epicos "Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects" provides a unique set of online tools enabling the structure, identification and implementation of comprehensive Offsets programs, through a searchable database. By introducing different offset projects and ideas proposed by local A&D industry it ensures the optimum cost for Prime Contractors and reassures that the priorities of local industry are fully met...

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High purity mobile Nitrogen generator for cooling homing heads of infra-red head missiles



infra-red head missiles.

A company specializing in the production of PSA Oxygen Generators, Nitrogen Generators and Cylinder Filling Stations, is proposing the design; manufacture and final testing of a mobile Nitrogen generator of High Purity, for cooling homing heads of

[For Further Information Contact our ICO Department](#)

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Development of a new generation ballistic protection vest integrated with a lightweight Microclimate cooling and heating system in order to meet Future Soldier requirement and applications



A company with extensive experience in the development and production of ballistic protection equipment is proposing the development of a new technology ballistic vest integrated with an advanced lightweight microclimate cooling and heating system in order to mitigate Future Soldier's heat stress, allowing them to operate safely and more effectively in all terrains and under extreme weather conditions.

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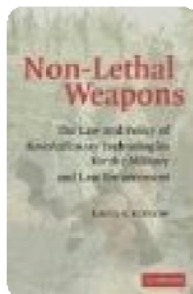


The European Defence Market, by Johannes Kuschel



The ever-increasing number of international missions and the diverse tasks European Forces carry out does not match the decrease in defence budgets in most European countries. Since both, however, are unlikely to change, the transformation will have to come from new ways that armament are procured in the European Union. Therefore, in the European defence sector must change. This book examines the strategic options that they will have. It explores the players in the market, assesses their market position in their respective national industry and forecasts their potential position in a common European defence market. It explores duplication and absence of armaments and technological skills as well as the reasons for them. The paper suggests strategies to overcome the aforementioned market distortions and provides options for companies to deal with the situation favourably.

Non-Lethal Weapons: The Law and Policy of Revolutionary Technologies for the Military and Law Enforcement, by David A. Koplow



The governmental mechanism that exercise a state's physical coercive power – various cadres of military and law enforcement agencies- often face a difficult dilemma. They recognize that if they exercise too much power, they incur an unacceptable danger of “collateral damage”, on the other hand if they exercise too little power, they must risk the safety of their own personnel and compromise the accomplishment of an important and legitimate mission. That is the reason why there is a viable controversy for the designation of the proper use of force. This book is trying to delineate these boundaries by exploring the emerging world of non-lethal weapons by examining a series of case studies - recent real-world scenarios from five confrontations around the world where the availability of a modern arsenal might have made a difference.



India proposes foreign investment in airlines: report

India's aviation ministry said Tuesday it supports allowing foreign airlines to invest in the country's cash-hungry carriers, but added that a final decision must be made by the cabinet.

Permitting foreign investment could bring much-needed capital for India's cash-strapped Kingfisher, Jet and other airlines which have been battling to keep in business in the fiercely competitive aviation market.

Foreign investment "is acceptable till a limited point," Civil Aviation Minister Vayalar Ravi told CNBC news channel. But he said the level to which foreign investment should be allowed was still under discussion.

He said the aviation ministry had proposed allowing "less than 26 percent" investment by international airlines in domestic carriers. The industry ministry earlier this month suggested permitting 26 percent foreign investment, saying the domestic airlines were "in dire need of funds" to compete with global carriers.

Ravi said the cabinet would have the final word but did not say when.

A decision by the Congress party-led government last week to allow foreign retailers to own 51 percent of multi-brand supermarkets has raised expectations it may also allow foreign carriers to buy stakes in domestic airlines as it pursues its economic reform agenda.

The television report came after executives of some of India's largest airlines met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh last week to seek government assistance for the beleaguered industry.

India's airlines may lose a total of \$2.5 billion in the year ending in March 2012, according to the Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation, an industry body.

The airlines have been demanding change in the aviation policy to allow foreign airlines to pick up stakes in Indian carriers and provide cash infusions.

Earlier this month, Singh said airlines should be managed efficiently, "but if they do get into difficulties, we have to find ways in supporting the development of the country".

On the surface, demographics make India, a country of 1.2 billion, an attractive story. India's passenger aviation sector is estimated to be growing at between 15 and 20 percent each year.

But all of India's six main airlines -- barring budget carrier IndiGo -- announced steep losses in the financial quarter to September.

Ravi said the aviation ministry was also urging state governments to reduce steep taxes on sales of jet fuel.

Source: 2011 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

China's first aircraft carrier starts second trial

China's first aircraft carrier began its second sea trial on Tuesday after undergoing refurbishment and testing, the government said, amid heightened regional tensions over maritime territorial disputes.

The 300-metre (990-foot) ship, a refitted former Soviet carrier called the Varyag, underwent five days of trials in August that sparked international concern about China's widening naval reach.

"China's aircraft carrier platform, after successfully completing its first sea trial in August, returned to the shipyard as planned for further refitting and testing," the defence ministry said in a statement.

"The work has been carried out and it set sail again on November 29 to carry out relevant scientific and research experiments."

The announcement comes against a background of growing tensions over maritime disputes in the Asia-Pacific region.

China has become increasingly assertive in its claims over the East China Sea and South China Sea, most of which it views as its maritime territory, but where several other Asian nations have competing claims.

Last week Beijing said it would conduct "routine" naval exercises in the Pacific Ocean, following a major diplomatic campaign by US President Barack Obama to assert the United States as a Pacific power.

Beijing only confirmed this year that it was revamping the old Soviet ship and has repeatedly insisted that the carrier poses no threat to its neighbours and will be used mainly for training and research purposes.

But the August sea trials were met with concern from regional powers including Japan and the United States, which called on Beijing to explain why it needs an aircraft carrier.

China reportedly bought the carrier's immense armoured hull -- with no engine, electrics or propeller -- from the Ukraine in 1998.

The PLA -- the world's largest active military -- is extremely secretive about its defence programmes, which benefit from a huge and expanding military budget boosted by the nation's runaway economic growth.

Earlier this year, China announced military spending would rise 12.7 percent to 601.1 billion yuan (\$91.7 billion) in 2011.

Source: 2011 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Finmeccanica signs \$1,334 million contract with Hawaii

Italian defence industry group Finmeccanica said on Tuesday it had signed a contract worth \$1.334 million (1.0 billion euros) to design, construct and operate the new driverless metro in Honolulu in Hawaii.

Through its companies Ansaldo STS and AnsaldoBreda, Finmeccanica signed the contract with HART (Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation) to supply the technology and vehicles for the line, the company said in a statement.

"The contract, signed by Ansaldo Honolulu Joint Venture, is for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the new line for the city of Honolulu which will be around 32 kilometers (20 miles) long and have 21 stations" it said.

Finmeccanica said the design and construction work was scheduled to take eight years, with the first stretch of track in operation from 2015 and the entire line from 2019 to 2029.

Source: 2011 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Russia flotilla to visit Syria by year-end

Russia's only aircraft carrier and its most modern anti-submarine destroyer will lead a powerful flotilla on a rare port call to Syria before the end of the year, a military source said on Tuesday.

The Northern Fleet contingent has undergone last preparations at its Russian base and will set sail in early December, an unnamed defence ministry official told the ITAR-TASS news agency.

The flotilla will reach the little-used Russian base in the port of Tartus by New Year's Eve on a mission that was planned in advance and has no direct relation to Syria's intensifying standoff with the West, the official said.

"Our ships' visit to Syria was planned in advance and has no relation to the current events in Syria," the news agency quoted the defence official as saying.

The Izvestia daily carried a similar report on Monday. That reported however said the port call would not take place until the spring.

ISAF to retrain troops on civilian casualties: Kabul

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) will retrain troops in Afghanistan on avoiding civilian casualties by December 5, President Hamid Karzai's office said Tuesday.

Karzai's office quoted a letter from ISAF commander General John Allen as saying he had issued orders "for all units to conduct retraining on our methods of employing force against insurgents while protecting Afghan civilians."

ISAF could not immediately confirm the letter.

Source: 2011 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)