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Estonian Future Defence Procurements



According to the Estonian authorities for the next 10 years, 40% of the country's defence budget is planned to be spent on procurement of new equipment and construction of new infrastructure and the remaining 60% on operating and personnel costs. The funds allocated for acquisition of new armament will be spent taking into consideration the specificities created by the fact that Estonia is a small state and by the requirements generated by the

necessity for interoperability with the country's allies. One of the priorities when it comes to acquisition of new equipment is to develop the command and control, intelligence, surveillance and communications systems of the country's armed forces.

Another priority for the years to come is the reconstruction of Ämari Air Base, which will enable fighter aircraft of NATO countries to use it as a base. Additionally, Ämari will also play an important role as a host nation support air base whenever a need for allied reinforcements would be required. Additionally, Estonia will develop a mobile short to medium-range air defence capability and the existing short-range air defence capability will be improved. Currently, the short-range air defence capability is comprised of the air defence battalion which is equipped with the SAM system Mistral and the anti-aircraft twin auto-cannon ZU-23-2.

Regarding the land forces the development of a high readiness infantry brigade will remain one of the main priorities. Additionally, Estonian authorities will develop mechanized units over the next decade. This will be achieved by acquiring either tanks or infantry fighting vehicles and by training a respective unit. Finally, the further upgrade of the anti-tank capabilities of the Estonian armed forces is planned. This will include additional acquisition of one-shot anti-tank weapons, recoilless rifles and the anti-tank guided missile systems Milan.



The Navy will continue to develop mine clearance capabilities. New multirole high-speed patrol vessels will be procured. Additionally, the Navy's command and control capability will also be improved.

During the process of planning the future needs of the Estonian armed forces, it was identified that there is a clear need for transport helicopters. The helicopters to be acquired should be multifunctional. In peace time they should enable the transportation of personnel, performance of monitoring flights and they should support medical evacuation. As it is clearly stated by the Estonian authorities, an adequate search and rescue (SAR) capability is one of the preconditions for the acquired helicopter.

In order to support the acquisition of the aforementioned defence equipment, the people servicing in the Estonian armed forces will be increased. Currently, armed forces have

approximately (3,000) professional servicemen and women, and during the next decade this number will increase to about (4,000).

Kyriazis Vasileios,
Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Estonian Participation in International Missions and International Cooperation



ESTONIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Two of the first priorities of the current political elites of Estonia, was the country's participation in EU and NATO. The country is deliberately trying to create an army that will meet NATO's interoperability standards and

will fulfil Estonia's commitment to contribute to the NATO's Force Structure, by participating in the full spectrum of Allied operations. Additionally, the country actively contributes to the further strengthening of NATO by participating in NATO collective defence planning, participating in NATO military operations and rotations of the NATO Response Force (NRF), hosting the NATO Centre of Excellence for Co-operative Cyber Defence and assuring air policing in Estonia's airspace in co-operation with allies.

Additionally, Estonia is participating in the European institutions for defence, as the country participates in the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) which offered Estonia better co-operation alternatives for joint procurement and defence-related research and development activities. Additionally, Estonia has participated in EU-led peace support operations in the Balkan countries.



Estonia started participating in international missions and over a period of almost fifteen years the country participated in missions as in:

- Croatia (1995),
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (since 1996, currently contributing staff officers),
- Lebanon (1996-1997),
- Iraq (since 2003, currently contributing staff officers),
- Kosovo (since 1999, currently contributing staff officers),
- Afghanistan (since 2003),
- a UN UNTSO-led observation mission in the Middle East (since 1997), and
- an EU counter-piracy operation ATALANTA (since 2010).



Apart from the participation in EU and NATO and to the missions these two organizations carry out, Estonia has also established bilateral defence relations with approximately (35) countries in Europe, North America and Asia. Additionally, the country has appointed residing Defence Attachés to Finland, Poland, Denmark, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Georgia and

Russia.

Finally, Estonia is also developing bilateral and regional relations with strategic partner states. Amongst them are the Nordic countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark) and the Baltic States, countries that are located close to each other and share similar historical experiences and defence needs.

Estonia's presence in the abovementioned international missions and the enhancement of its cooperation with other states clearly illustrates the fact that there is a strong political will for the further integration of the country in the collective structures of NATO and EU and for the deepening of their international alliances.

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...

[For Further Information Press Here](#)

Incorporating state of the art SIGINT software in Electronic Warfare systems, whether for existing systems enhancement or for new package purchases



A software company with extensive experience in the design and development of systems for the defense industry along with side software solutions for Electronic Warfare (EW) systems, is offering collaboration in the frame of an offset program, for the enhancement of Electronic Warfare systems capabilities, as well as cooperation in the design and sales of new EW systems, through incorporating off the shelf state of the art SIGINT software application developed by the company.

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

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Development of all-composite cab and/or vehicle body components for existing or future military ground vehicles



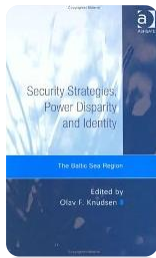
A leading company in the development and manufacturing of composite products for ballistic protection and structural composite applications is proposing the development of a new all-composite cabin for future or existing wheeled and tracked military vehicles. In addition or alternatively, the company is proposing the incorporation of composite vehicle body components and parts in existing or future vehicle frames. Apart from weight reduction and the associated benefits (quicker response, less fuel required, potential for additional cargo etc) the incorporation of composite vehicle superstructure will allow for the integration of other important features, like personnel protection.

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

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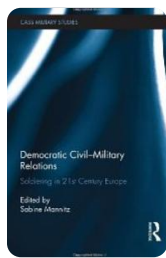


Security Strategies, Power Disparity and Identity: The Baltic Sea Region, By Olav F. Knudsen



This book is motivated by a desired to learn more about unequal power relations between neighboring countries- in case the Baltic Sea region. In particular the book looks into how governments deal with the consequences of power distribution and it's possibly effects on cooperative security and integration. Each chapter examines the region from a different angle and asks how its actors coped with the new situation facing them after 1991. The contributors look at how governments defined their new circumstances, how they dealt with the opportunity to shift to a new mode of coexistence and collaboration and how they tackled the challenge of peacefully converting their region to a security community. This book is not organized in a traditional country-by-country lay-out but instead by regional problems and functions.

Democratic Civil-Military Relations: Soldiering in 21st Century Europe, by Sabine Mannitz



This book examines the ways in which European democracies, including former communist states, are dealing with the new demands placed on their security policies since the cold war by transforming their military structures, and the effects this is having on the conceptualisation of soldiering. In the new security environment, democratic states have called upon their armed forces increasingly to fulfil unconventional tasks – partly civilian, partly humanitarian, and partly military – in most complex, multi-national missions. Not only have military structures been transformed to make them fit for these new types of deployments, but the new mission types highlight the necessity for democracies to come to terms with a new image and ethos of soldiering in defence of a transnational value community. This book will be of much interest to people of civil-military relations, European politics, democratisation and post-communist transitions.



Turkey to launch tender for third airport Thursday

Turkey will launch on Thursday a tender for the construction of Istanbul's third and largest airport, aiming for completion within four years, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday.

"We are hoping a strong consortium wins (the tender) and the airport is built as soon as possible," Erdogan said in a televised parliamentary speech.

"But this will happen in phases, but it should be finished in three to four years," he added.

With an initial capacity of 100 million passengers a year, the airport is planned to grow into the world's largest with gradual extensions, eventually reaching a 150-million passenger capacity.

In September, Transport Minister Binali Yildirim said that the first part of the airport would become operational in 2016.

It is to be built close to the Black Sea coast of the city, around Terkos Lake, on terrain that allows easy access to the sea, according to officials.

Ataturk International Airport, Istanbul's first and largest, is located on the city's European side and handles around 35 million passengers each year.

Istanbul's second airport, Sabiha Gokcen International, is located on the Asian side with a capacity of 3.5 million passengers yearly.

But they fall short of meeting the increasing demands of millions of passengers who frequently transit through Istanbul, a popular junction between Asia and Europe.

The United States is currently home to the world's busiest airport by passenger traffic with HartsfieldJackson Atlanta International handling almost 100 million passengers in 2011, according to Geneva-based Airports Council International data.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

From January to December 2012: Avianca and TACA Transported More Than 23 Million Passengers

As of 2012 year end, the airlines affiliated with AviancaTaca Holding carried 23,092,533 passengers, a 12.9% year over year increase in the number of passengers carried.

In December, Avianca, TACA and their subsidiaries transported 2,060,574 passengers, which represents a 9.7% increase in the number of transported travelers compared to the same month in 2011. By December, capacity, measured in ASKs (available seat kilometers), increased 7.7% while the load factor (average occupancy of the aircraft) rose to 79.4%.

Domestic Markets in Colombia, Peru and Ecuador: More than 13 million passengers

From January to December, the number of travelers transported in the domestic markets of Colombia, Peru and Ecuador was 13,255,502, which represents a 18.5% increase compared to the same period in 2011. Capacity, measured in ASKs, grew 21.2% while the load factor was 80.1%.

In December 2012, the airlines transported in the domestic markets of these three countries 1,142,390 passengers, a 8.3% increase compared to the same month in 2011. Capacity in these markets, measured in ASKs, increased 15.3% and the load factor stood at 77.7%.

International Markets: Nearly 10 million passengers

From January to December 2012, the number of passengers carried in the international markets was 9,837,031, a 6.1% increase compared to the same period in 2011. Capacity, measured in ASKs, grew 7.9% and the load factor reached 79.4%.

In December, Avianca, TACA and their subsidiaries transported 918,184 passengers on their international routes, an 11.6% increase compared to the same period in 2011. Capacity, measured in ASKs, grew 6.0% while the load factor rose to 79.8%.

*ASKs: Available Seat Kilometers

About AviancaTaca Holding

AviancaTaca Holding S.A. (BVC: PFAVTA) is an investment firm that acts as an instrument for the execution of the shareholders' agreement which led to the integration process known as AviancaTaca, and which represents the integrated operations of several airline companies operating nationally and internationally, for whom it acts as the parent company: Aerovías del Continente Americano S.A. Avianca (Avianca), Tampa Cargo S.A. Incorporated in Colombia, Aerolíneas Galápagos S.A. Aerogal Incorporated in Ecuador, and the Grupo TACA companies: TACA Internacional Airlines S.A., Incorporated in El Salvador; Líneas Aéreas Costarricenses S.A., LACSA, Incorporated in Costa Rica, Transamerican [sic: Trans American] Airlines S.A., TACA Perú Incorporated in Perú, Servicios Aéreos Nacionales S.A., SANSA

Incorporated in Costa Rica, Aerotaxis La Costeña S.A., Incorporated in Nicaragua and Isleña de Inversiones C.A. de C.V. ISLEÑA Incorporated in Honduras.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Australia, Britain boost defence links

Australia on Friday signed a defence treaty with former colonial power Britain designed to further boost cooperation on military and security issues.

Australia's Defence Minister Stephen Smith said the treaty was designed "to underpin the ongoing strategic and practical cooperation" between the nations, as well as to reflect their historical relationship.

It will see the two countries share information, technology, policy and personnel in a bid to minimise costs, as well as strengthening ties in the fields of cyber security, defence reform, equipment, and science and technology.

Smith said the idea for the accord had arisen during Australia-UK ministerial talks two years ago, to ensure all "practical cooperation measures, arrangements, protocols, and memorandums of understanding that we have... be put under a broad strategic framework".

He described the Defence and Security Cooperation Treaty as "deeply significant", adding that the relationship between the two countries "has always been first class".

"It reflects not just our history, but also our closeness and our desire to work even more closely in a practical cooperation sense, whether that's on strategic matters or procurement and acquisition matters, into the future," Smith said.

British Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said the treaty gave the allies a framework on which to build on their existing high level of co-operation.

"As we draw down from Afghanistan... we need to think about how we maintain levels of interoperability with each other," he said.

"Secondly, we all face budgetary challenges over the coming months and years, and looking at how we manage our fleets of vehicles, aircraft and ships and how we procure our equipment, we need to get the maximum leverage from our dollars and pounds."

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Britain to axe up to 5,300 army jobs

The British government said on Tuesday it was making up to 5,300 army personnel redundant as part of cuts that will see troop numbers brought to the lowest levels since the early 19th century.

The Ministry of Defence said soldiers returning from or heading to Afghanistan would be exempt from the cuts, the third such round under a programme that will see the army reduced from 102,000 regular troops to 82,000 by 2020.

"Today the Army are announcing the fields from which they will select personnel to be made redundant in the third tranche of the programme; this will comprise up to 5,300 Army Personnel," junior defence minister Mark Francois said.

But he insisted: "The redundancy programme will not impact adversely on current operations in Afghanistan."

Britain still has about 9,000 troops in Afghanistan ahead of a scheduled withdrawal in 2014.

The Conservative-led coalition government of Prime Minister David Cameron, which is trying to shrink Britain's massive deficit, has already announced that reservist numbers will be doubled to 30,000 by 2018 to help fill the shortfall.

Britain's navy and air force are also shedding 5,000 posts each under the Strategic Defence and Security Review announced in 2010, while the Ministry of Defence is losing 25,000 civilian jobs.

Francois warned that further army redundancies were "likely" along with job cuts among the medical and dental personnel working with the navy and air force.

The latest cuts have raised fresh concerns about Britain's military capacity, a day after Cameron vowed to show "iron resolve" in fighting Islamic terrorism in the wake of the deadly hostage siege at a gas plant in Algeria.

"There are real worries about the military impact of a loss of skills and capability at a time of increased threats and new global challenges," Jim Murphy, defence spokesman for the opposition Labour party, told BBC radio.

Cameron acknowledged on Monday that, "of course, there are always challenges about the level of resources -- even in times when money is plentiful, and it isn't plentiful today."

But he added: "If you look at the defence and security budget, it is actually in cash terms stable at £33 billion (\$52 billion, 39 billion euros).

"What we have tried to do as a government, and perhaps we need to look again and go even further, is to focus on those threats to our security we face today."

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Embraer and AugustaWestland team up on helicopter deal

Brazilian aircraft maker Embraer said Monday it aims to create a joint venture with AugustaWestland to manufacture the Anglo-Italian company's helicopters in Brazil.

Embraer, the number three aircraft maker in the world, said it signed a memorandum of understanding to create a joint venture "which could lead to the production of AugustaWestland helicopters in Brazil to be marketed for both commercial and military use in Brazil and Latin America."

AugustaWestland, a unit of Italy's Finmeccanica which already has a number of partnerships, said in a statement that it looks look forward to working with Embraer.

"Brazil is an important market for AugustaWestland and we believe having an industrial presence in this country will help us to further grow our business in one of the world's fastest growing markets," chief executive Bruno Spagnolini was quoted as saying.

The companies said preliminary studies showed strong market potential for helicopters to serve the growing offshore oil and gas sector, as well as for executive transport and military craft.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)