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**Hellenic Army
in 2023**

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GENERAL

Meeting between Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis met with the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, on the sidelines of the NATO Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, in the presence of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Greece and Turkey.

The meeting took place in a good atmosphere. Mr. Mitsotakis and Mr. Erdogan agreed that it is to the benefit of both countries that the positive climate formed in bilateral relations over recent months has continuity and consistency.

To this end, the two sides agreed to build on the positive momentum and activate multiple channels of communication between the two countries in the coming period. They agreed to hold the next meeting of the High-Level Cooperation Council between Greece and Turkey in Thessaloniki in the fall.

They tasked the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to guide the process and keep the leaders informed on progress.

The Prime Minister stressed that he looks forward to more frequent contacts at all levels, in order to build a climate of trust and the conditions that will lead to an improvement in Greek-Turkish relations.

New Democracy has won national elections and formulated the new government of the Hellenic Republic for the next four years.

Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan are planning to meet on the sidelines of the United Nations general assembly in New York this September.

The two countries' foreign ministers will meet on Sept. 5 in Turkey to prepare a potential meeting of the two leaders, Greek government spokesman Pavlos Marinakis said.

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

➔ **Defense Minister Yoav Gallant Meets with Greek National Defense Minister Nikos Dendias**

On 7 August 2023, Israel Defense Minister Yoav Gallant Meets with Greek National Defense Minister Nikos Dendias at Israeli military headquarters in Tel Aviv. The two ministers discussed measures to further strengthen defense ties and industrial cooperation between their respective establishments and discussed shared challenges in fighting terrorism. They also expressed their commitment to further deepening ties and cooperation. Minister Gallant emphasized the strategic importance of both the bilateral and trilateral frameworks, together with Cyprus, for the common goal of ensuring regional stability. “Our cooperation comes from a place of true friendship and a shared commitment to our ties, while defending our common interests.”

“Recent industrial agreements will contribute not only to security, but also to the force build-up, and economies of both our nations. past, today we are prepared to continue supporting the service men and women fighting the terrible wildfires in Greece.

On this note, I would like to express my sincere condolences, following the loss of the two Greek pilots who fell last week, and to extend my support, to the communities affected by the fires.” Gallant emphasized the strategic importance of both the bilateral and trilateral frameworks, together with Cyprus, for the common goal of ensuring regional stability. This was Dendias’s first visit to Israel since taking office.

➔ **Defence Min. Dendias participated at the informal EU ministers’ meeting in Toledo**

Greece is firmly “against any revisionism and violation of the rules of International Law” and committed to providing strong support to Ukraine, Greek National Defense Minister Nikos Dendias said on Wednesday at the informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers in Toledo.



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During the discussion on Ukraine, in a separate post, Dendias underlined Greece's "readiness to assist in activities of the EU Military Assistance Mission, regarding the training of the Ukrainian Armed Forces" and the importance of increasing enhancing the European Defence Industry as well as of "enhancing the European Defence Industry – which is an essential step towards EU's autonomy – and of having a thorough discussion regarding the EU security commitments to Ukraine."

In the discussion on the serious developments in Africa, he urged the European Union not to remain passive.

In a tweet, he said, "I underscored that by no means should we stay back and watch. On the contrary, we have to consider carefully any potential action to be taken by the EU. I stressed that whatever is at stake in the area of Sahel, as well as in Mozambique and other countries of Africa, is very important for the EU and its member states."

More specifically, Dendias underlined at the meeting that after his visit to Niger and meeting with President Mohamed Bazoum, it was important for the EU to express support towards him.

➔ **Minister of National Defence Handover Ceremony**

On Tuesday 27 June 2023, at the premises of the Ministry of National Defence, took place the handover ceremony between the previous Minister Mr. Alkiviadis Stefanis and the newly appointed Minister Mr. Nikolaos Dendias. Mr. Giannis Kefalogiannis and Mr. Nikolaos Hardalias took the office of the Deputy Minister of National Defence.

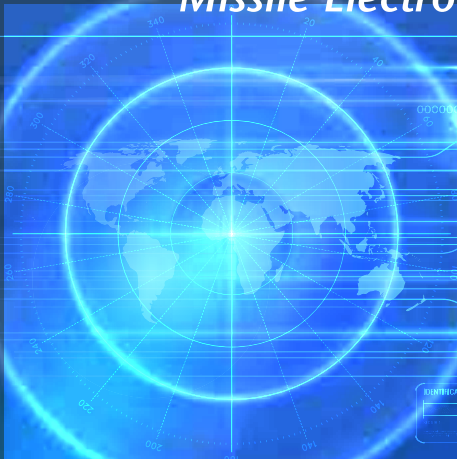
The ceremony was attended by the Chief/HNDGS General Konstantinos Floros, the Secretary General of HNDGS Mr. Antonios Oikonomou, the Chief/HAFGS Lieutenant General Themistoklis Bourolias, the Chief/HAGS Lieutenant General Aggelos Choudeloudis and the Chief/HNGS Vice Admiral Ioannis Drymousis HN.

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Speaking to the parliament about the new government's defense policy goals, regarding the Defence procurements Defence Minister stated: "One of the ministry's priorities is the continuation and acceleration of the Hellenic Armed Forces modernization and armament programs. We are committed to the adequacy of the programs to ensure that our Armed Forces will have all means and equipment required, as defined by the financial capabilities of the Greek society.

The 24 Rafale, the 3+1 Belhara, the 83 F-16s upgraded to Viper level, and other 19 procurement programs with a total value of 11.5 billion euros, the most significant of which is the acquisition of 20 F-35s, the most advanced 5th generation fighter aircraft on the planet, as well as the upgrade of 37 F-16 block 50 fighters to Viper level. All this will vastly improve our capabilities. We will also take a close look at the old programs that for various reasons some of them are facing problems.

Another priority is the strengthening of the National Defence Industry which must become a tool for development of the Greek economy and there must be plans to upgrade it, but in this, of course, care must be taken to deal with the existing pathogens.

Close cooperation with the Ministry of Finance is also required. I think that the Defence Industry, up to the task, will stimulate innovation, research, and new job creation. We can take advantage of partnerships with European industries here.

To make use of existing European funding sources, to strengthen cooperation between Universities and the Armed Forces, to finally cultivate a new culture of innovation. We may even see a horizon for an increase in our defence exports" Defence Minister said.

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HELLENIC ARMED FORCES ARMAMENT PROGRAMS

➔ Greece to further reinforce its defense capabilities, proceed with armament acquisition.

Answering to a parliamentary question submitted by the position Defence Minister presented a list with of current and future Hellenic Armed Forces ongoing armament programs. The most important among them are:

- Acquisition of 4 corvettes with budget estimate of 2.122 billion euros
- Modernization of MLRS rocket launchers with budget estimate of 1.081 billion
- Upgrade of the 4 MEKO frigates with budget estimate of 643 million euros.
- Purchase of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle MQ-9 Reaper with budget estimate of 387.8 million
- Procurement of amphibious armored AAVs worth 291 million euros.
- Depot Level Maintenance for the F-16 Block 50 engines, worth 151 million
- Purchase of 16 Exocet MM40 Block 3 missiles, worth 33.3 million euros, for the new FPBG "Karathanasis" and "Vlachakos".
- Depot Level Maintenance of 3 C-130 transport aircraft in Israel, with budget estimate of 58.4 million
- Follow on Support of the EriEye airborne air surveillance system with budget estimate of 83 million
- Spare parts for the NH90 transport helicopters worth 50 million
- Follow on support of Apache AH-64 helicopters, worth 46 million
- Acquisition of Spice missile for the Hellenic Air Force, worth 130 million
- Follow on Support for the Air Force's MICA missiles worth 191.7 million
- Acquisition of Rampage missiles for the Hellenic Air Force worth 50 million euros
- Follow on Super for the SAR Puma helicopter with budget estimate of 37.7 million
- Follow on support for the OH-58D Kiowa helicopters of the Hellenic Army Aviation worth of 34 million
- Follow on support for the PA IRIS-T missiles, worth 17 million
- Provision of satellite services from France, worth 120 million

We can expect decisions on new corvettes, the acquisition of new guided missiles from Israel and upgrades of Block 50 F-16 fighter jets and Leopard battle tanks by the end of the year. In addition to the above referred armament programs, Greece has already formally submitted an inquiry for the next-generation F-35 fighter while has asked that the US consider supplying it with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and arms of high operational value.

HELLENIC NAVY

➔ Delivery Island- class Patrol Boat



© USCG Sanibel moored in Boston Harbor

Hellenic Navy has recently received four Island-class Patrol Boat transferred by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) via the Defence Security Cooperation Agency's Office of International Acquisition's Excess Defence Articles Program (EDA). Their age is 35-years old and the acquisition value is €39 million including transportation costs and spare parts. Builders is the Bollinger Shipyards, Lockport, Louisiana, U.S. and except the Hellenic Navy are currently operating by the United States Coast Guard, Coast Guard of Georgia, Costa Rica Coast Guard, Pakistan Navy and Ukrainian Navy.

The 110 feet (34 metres) Island-class patrol boats are a U.S. Coast Guard modification of a highly successful British-designed Vosper Thornycroft patrol boat built for Qatar, Abu Dhabi, and Singapore. With excellent range and seakeeping capabilities, the Island class, all named after U.S. islands, replaced the older 95 feet (29 metres) Cape-class cutters. These cutters are equipped with advanced electronics and navigation equipment and are used in support of the Coast Guard's maritime homeland security, migrant

interdiction, drug interdiction, defence operations, fisheries enforcement, and search and rescue missions.

The four Island-class patrol boat will replace the currently old Norwegian-built Nasty-class torpedo boats and the patrol boat Antoniou-class used for coastal patrol routine operations of the Hellenic Navy.

Technical characteristics

- Displacement 168 tons
- Length 110 ft (34 m)
- Beam 21 ft (6.4 m)
- Draft 7.3 ft (2.2 m)
- Propulsion 2x Caterpillar diesel engines
- Speed 29.5 kn (54.6 km/h; 33.9 mph)
- Range 2,900 nmi (5,400 km; 3,300 mi)
- Endurance 5 days
- Boats & landing craft carried 1-Cutter Boat Medium
- Complement 16 (2 officers, 14 enlisted)
- Sensors and processing systems AN/SPS-73 radar

The Island boats will be drydocked in a shipyard for refurbishments and for the installation of a state-of-the-art 20mm remote weapon station (RWS), the LIONFISH 20 produced by Leonardo.

HELLENIC DEFENCE INDUSTRY

➔ Expansion of IDE's cooperation with Raytheon

INTRACOM DEFENSE announces the contract award by Raytheon, which amounts to \$18.2 million, for the manufacturing of key components for the Patriot™ air defense system. This new success is coming as a testament to the long lasting relationship between Raytheon and IDE in the production and support of international Patriot programs, strengthening IDE's position as a key supplier in Raytheon's global supply chain.

HOMELAND SECURITY

➔ Hellenic Fire Service

The Hellenic Fire Service has announced the following Public tenders for which the submitted proposals are under evaluations:

1. Procurement of firefighting vehicles and other first response vehicles for the fire service. Amended deadline for the

submission of the proposals was on the 24 July 2023.

2. Mobile administration & on-site control centers in the 13 Regions
3. Upgrade - modernization of two (2) Super Pumas – Provision of clarifications

In addition, Hellenic Fire Service has announced a Call for participation in a preliminary consultation for the following projects:

1. Purchase of firefighting engines and other response vehicles for the Hellenic Fire Service
2. Purchase of vehicles for the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, regional-local civil protection centers and voluntary organizations
3. Early warning fire detection systems - extension
4. Procurement of ten (10) heavy lift helicopters
5. UAV Drones for air surveillance
6. Purchase of 3 helicopters for the transportation of GSCP's Incident Management Team & medical use on behalf of the Ministry of Climate Crisis & Civil Protection".

➔ Two pilots dead after firefighting plane crashes in Greece

Two Greek air force pilots have died after a plane crashed while fighting wildfires on the Greek island of Evia, officials say. The water-bombing plane crashed while battling a forest fire near Platanistos, the defence ministry said.

The pilots were named as 34-year-old Cdr Christos Moulas and his co-pilot, 27-year-old Pericles Stefanidis. The air force said in a statement that their plane, a Canadair CL-215, crashed at 2:52pm (11:52 GMT) during a firefighting operation in Platanistos on Tuesday. Greek TV showed the Canadair aircraft flying low to drop water on a fire before turning sharply into a hillside and bursting into flames.

State broadcaster ERT said the plane crashed over the town of Karystos on the island, where a fire was burning.

Defence Minister Nikos Dendias said the pilots lost their lives "in the line of duty. while attempting to protect the lives and property of citizens, as well as the environment of our country". A three-day mourning period has been declared in the Greek armed forces, the defence ministry said.

➔ **Frontex drone crashes off the coast of Crete**

On 24 August 2023, a Heron UAV operated by the European border protection agency, Frontex, crashed into the sea 70 nautical miles southeast of Crete. The IAI Heron is a medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) developed by the Israel Aerospace Industries. According to reports, Heron was on a surveillance mission when, for reasons unknown, it lost communication with the ground station and went down. The coast guard has reportedly taken over the investigation for its location and possible recovery.

➔ **Fast Patrol Vessels for the Hellenic Coast Guard**



Fast Patrol Vessels for the Hellenic Coast Guard are under construction by Vittoria Shipyards. A concentrate of innovation and technology: the Fast Patrol Vessels for the Hellenic Coast Guard are the new construction frontier of the future for this category.

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN INDUSTRIES RELATED TO THE HELLENIC ARMED FORCES ARMAMENTS PROGRAMS

➔ **UMS SKELDAR**

On 5 July 2023, a meeting was conducted between the Hellenic Army General Staff officers and representatives of the company UMS SKELDAR. The aim the meeting was to present, its the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle V-200.

Remote and difficult to access borders present authorities with challenging surveillance scenarios. Six-hour flight times and numerous payload combination options make the V-200 an invaluable asset for coastal and overland border monitoring operations.



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Class-leading endurance enables the V-200 to maintain an Over the Horizon (OTH) vantage point for extensive periods, providing the host ship crew with the necessary information to stay one step ahead of evolving seaborne threats. Equipped with the appropriate Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) gathering payload, the V-200 can be used to intercept signals and provide geodetic positioning information of seaborne threats in high-risk scenarios. Capable of supporting wide-area ASW and countermine operations, the V-200 becomes an excellent extended endurance airborne tool for classifying, locating, and tracking submersible threats when equipped with suitable maritime sensors. An ASW equipped V-200 allows an operation to take place at a safer stand-off range, reducing the risk to personnel and the host vessel itself. Capable of simultaneously tracking multiple targets in real-time when equipped with an EO/IR and SAR sensor combination, the V-200 greatly improves ship detectability range and surveillance capabilities, enabling for the dynamic detection of illegal activities such as piracy, narco-trafficking and illegal migration, increasing maritime asset safety and security.

ROMANIA

➔ **MODERNIZATION OF ROMANIAN TPT F-16**

The State Department has recently made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Romania of equipment and services to modernize thirty-two (32) F-16 Mid-Life Update Block 10/15 aircraft to be procured through third-party transfer from Norway. The equipment includes KY-58M and

KIV-78 cryptographic devices for an estimated cost of \$105 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

The Government of Romania has requested to buy equipment and services to modernize thirty-two (32) F-16 Mid-Life Update Block 10/15 aircraft to be procured through third-party transfer from Norway. The equipment includes KY-58M and KIV-78 cryptographic devices; AN/PYQ-10C Simple Key Loaders; Joint Mission Planning Systems; Night Vision Device (NVD) aviator vision systems and spare Image Intensifier Tubes; Electronic Warfare database support; Classified/Unclassified Computer Program Identification Number Systems (CPIN) and CPIN Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program (ECISAP) equipment and support; flight test services; integration and test support and equipment; aircraft support equipment; secure communications equipment, precision navigation, and cryptographic devices; Classified/ Unclassified software delivery and support; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; maintenance and maintenance support; studies/surveys; Classified/Unclassified publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$105 million.

➔ Spectro XR™ multi-spectral electro-optical payload



On 21 June 2023, Elbit Systems Ltd., further to its announcement of December 21, 2022, that it received a first purchase order worth approximately \$180 million to supply the first three out of a maximum seven Watchkeeper X tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) as part of a framework contract with the Romanian Ministry of National Defense with a maximum value of

approximately \$410 million (1.89 billion Lei). The purchase order will be performed over a period of two years.

Under the purchase order, Elbit Systems will provide upgraded Watchkeeper X tactical UAS with advanced capabilities including the Spectro XR™ multi-spectral electro-optical payload, new communication capabilities and others. The Watchkeeper X tactical, Dual Payload UAS is the UK export variant of the British Army manufactured by U-TacS, Elbit Systems' UK subsidiary in cooperation with Thales, and is a derivative of the Hermes™ UAS family. The Watchkeeper X is compatible with NATO standards enabling essential interoperability with NATO and other allied forces.

Yoram Shmueli, General Manager of Elbit Systems Aerospace: "We welcome this partnership with Romania and their trust in our solutions. We also appreciate the continued support and collaboration with the Israeli and UK governments and our business partners on the Watchkeeper program. The ongoing research and development we are investing in the Watchkeeper platform will enhance the capabilities of both the Romanian and British Armed forces to meet evolving operational requirements. This purchase order highlights the strong and growing relationship between Elbit Systems and Romania and illustrates the increased interest in our UAS platforms from countries across Europe and NATO." Elbit Systems Awarded \$180 Million Purchase Order Under Framework Agreement to Supply First Three Watchkeeper X Tactical UAS to the Romanian Ministry of National Defense.

ALBANIA

➔ Delivery of ASIS high-performance boats to the Albanian Ministry of Defense

Albanian Ministry of Defense, enhancing their maritime capabilities and safeguarding their waters, as they have recently fulfilled a significant order from the Albanian Ministry of Defense. The order was placed for a range of high-quality boats to enhance their defense and military capabilities, and we are proud to have delivered on their requirements.

The order included two rigid inflatable boats measuring 9.5 meters in length, four rigid inflatable boats measuring 7.5 meters in length and seven



fully inflatable boats measuring 4.7 meters in length. Each 9.5-meter rigid inflatable boats were equipped with twin Mercury SeaPro engines providing 250HP, while the 7.5-meter rigid inflatable boat was equipped with twin 150 HP Mercury SeaPro engines each.

One of the standout features of these military boats delivered to the Albanian Ministry of Defense is the innovative Air Hull® design, ASIS exclusive Hull technology. The AirHull is engineered to provide exceptional performance and enhanced functionality. With its unique design, the Air Hull® ensures a dry ride for the occupants, minimizing water spray and ensuring a comfortable experience even in challenging conditions. Furthermore, the Air Hull® streamlined reversed chines significantly reduces drag, resulting in improved fuel efficiency and increased speed. This cutting-edge hull design demonstrates our commitment to delivering state-of-the-art vessels that excel in both performance and operational effectiveness.

CROATIA

➔ De Havilland Maintenance Plus program to continue its support of Ministry of Defence, Republic of Croatia CL-415

On 20 June 2023, in the frame of PARIS AIRSHOW 2023 De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (“De Havilland Canada signed an extension for the Maintenance Plus (“M+”) agreement with the Ministry of Defence, Republic of Croatia. Under the agreement, De Havilland Canada will manage component maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services for Croatia’s fleet of six CL-415 aircraft and provide access to De Havilland Canada’s exchange pool. This program was originally signed in 2019, and the extension will extend this term through 2025.

“We are delighted to continue supporting the Ministry of Defence, Republic of Croatia with our M+ program, and we look forward to enhancing Croatia’s operation well into the future,” said Leighton Storsley, De Havilland Canada Vice-President Aftermarket and Business Development. “Our highly customizable M+ program continues to be a predictive and effective solution for the CL-415 fleet and is designed to allow operators to focus on missionized nature of the business while we take care of their component management requirements.” De Havilland Canada’s M+ program offers the cost predictability that is important in the operators’ budgetary management and provides benefits from the operator’s access to De Havilland Canada technical teams’ expertise in warranty administration, planning, and supplier management.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

➔ Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey sign Bilateral Cooperation Plan for 2023

On 31 August 2023, the Assistant Minister of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina for International Cooperation Zoran Šajinović and the Military Envoy of the Republic of Turkey in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brigadier Mustafa Sitki Tatar, today in Sarajevo signed the Bilateral Military Cooperation Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Turkey for 2023. Šajinović and Tatar expressed mutual satisfaction with the military cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Turkey.

The interlocutors shared the expectation that the scope of joint activities will continue to increase, to the mutual benefit of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey and that this year’s bilateral cooperation plan is a good basis for the further development of relations between the armed forces of the two countries, announced the MoD BiH.

Following the Implementation Protocol on Financial Assistance between the Council of Ministers of BiH and the Government of the Republic of Turkey agreed in 2021, a donation worth 200 million Turkish lira (43.2 million BAM) for the Ministry of Defence of BiH, was made by Turkey in order to help in resolving the issue of equipment and capabilities of the elements of the BiH defence system and implementing activities from the bilateral military cooperation program.

➔ **EUFOR Rapi Response 2023” Military Exercise to be held in September**

The annual exercise “EUFOR Rapid Response 2023” will be held from September 11 to 29 throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Soldiers from 22 countries participating in the EUFOR mission will participate in the exercise, which will temporarily strengthen the composition of EUFOR by sending reserve forces that are currently on standby in those countries.

The purpose of the exercise is to show the readiness of EUFOR and to confirm its constant support in maintaining a safe and stable environment in BiH, EUFOR announced. The public campaign includes advertisements on billboards, on TV, radio stations and print media. The campaign starts today and lasts until September 4, and will have great visibility throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the days leading up to the exercise itself, the citizens of BiH can expect increased movement of troops and the transport of reserve force equipment upon arrival in BiH. More detailed information about the details of the exercise and the exact locations will be published before the start of the exercise, according to EUFOR.

BULGARIA

➔ **BULGARIA – STRYKER VEHICLES**



On 1st September 2023, the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria of Stryker Vehicles and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$1.5 billion. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency

delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria has requested to buy one hundred eighty-three (183) Stryker Family of Vehicles. The proposed sale would consist of: ninety (90) XM1296 Infantry Carrier Vehicles – Dragoon (ICVD); seventeen (17) M1126 Infantry Carrier Vehicles (ICV); nine (9) M1132 Engineer Squad Vehicles (ESV); thirty-three (33) M1130 Command Vehicles (CV); twenty-four (24) M1133 Medical Evacuation Vehicles (MEV); ten (10) M1135 Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicles (NBCRV); five (5) Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) Light Equipment Transports (LET); five (5) Modular Catastrophic Recovery Systems (MCRS); two (2) M1120A4 HEMTT Load Handling Systems; five (5) M984A4 Wrecker HEMTTs; and one hundred seven (107) M240 Coaxial 7.62mm machine guns. Also included is support service equipment; M-153A4 Common Remote Operated Weapons Stations (CROWS); Forward Repair Systems (FRS); M2A1 .50 caliber machine guns; M6 smoke grenade launchers and associated spares; Harris radios; AN/VAS-5 Driver’s Vision Enhancer (DVE); DVE-Wide; communications equipment; RS6 (LW30) Remote Weapon Systems; TACFLIR 280 HDEP systems; Ranger R20SS Radar; ROVER6Si transceivers; spare parts; Basic Issue Items (BI), Components of End Items (COEI), Additional Authorized List (AAL); Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE); technical manuals; OCONUS Deprocessing Service; OCONUS contractor provided training and Field Service Representatives (FSR); component assembly in-country; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$1.5 billion.

The principal contractor will be General Dynamics Land Systems, Anniston, AL. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. Implementation of this proposed sale will require twenty (20) Stryker contractor representatives to travel to Bulgaria for twenty-four (24) months to conduct contractor logistics support, training, and component assembly support.

➔ **Bulgaria will host the joint Bulgarian – U.S. training “Thracian Summer 2023”**

From 5 to 20 August 2023, Bulgaria hosted the joint flight training “Thracian Summer 2023”, at Bezmer Air Base and Cheshnegirovo Airport. For more than 15 years now, the joint training has contributed to the Air Force and the Special

Operations Forces gaining extensive experience in real interaction in an international environment.

Forces and assets of the Ministry of Defence and structures directly subordinate to the Minister of Defence, the Air Force, the Joint Special Operations Command and formations of the US Air Force in Europe with three C-130 transport aircraft participated in the "Thracian Summer".

The objectives of the training was to improve Air Force procedures for comprehensive logistics support and host-nation support, to achieve interoperability, and enhance the theoretical and tactical-special training of the air and missile defence units. During the "Thracian Summer 2023", troop and cargo transportation and parachute cargo loading as well as day and night parachute jumps were performed. The participants conducted training on casualty evacuation and aeromedical evacuation. Joint tasks with ground-based air defence assets will be performed.

➔ **3D radars for the Bulgarian F-16s**

Bulgaria announced an international tender for the acquisition of 3D radars to be used for the Bulgarian F-16s - TPS-77 modernization project. Companies the American Lockheed Martin joined by Italy's Leonardo, the Israeli Elta, the French Thales and the Spain's Indra. Bulgaria is anticipated to acquire its latest radar system by the year 2025. This projection, as conveyed by Colonel Dimitar Georgiev, the esteemed Chief of Staff for the Bulgarian Air Force, hinges on the successful signing of a contract within the current year.

ROMANIA

➔ **Romania acquiring 155mm K9 howitzers**

South Korean aircraft engine producer Hanwha has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with ROMARM, Romania's state-run defense company, to join the European country's military modernization and performance enhancement projects. Hanwha said it aims to further expand its presence in Europe where it is securing a footing by exporting K9 self-propelled howitzers to nine countries in the region, including a deal worth 3.2 trillion won (\$2.55 billion) with Poland. Under the agreement the two companies will cooperate in supplying, utilizing, and maintaining Hanwha Aerospace weapons systems such as the K9 self-propelled howitzers and the Redback Infantry Fighting Vehicle.

TURKIYE

➔ **HAVELSAN'S 360 DEGREE XR SIMULATOR ATTRACTED GREAT ATTENTION IN IDEF 23**



HAVELSAN's flight training simulator, which is the first of its kind and developed domestically, combining augmented reality (XR) technology and 360-degree motion system, attracted great attention at IDEF23. With its modular structure and easy installation features, the XR Flight simulator, which allows it to be moved to the desired location and has plug-and-play usage features, allows more than one simulator unit to perform a joint task thanks to its HLA infrastructure. Thanks to its flexible design model, this simulator can be easily adapted to military and civilian platforms; and thanks to its innovative movement system, high-fidelity flight training can be given in the training of civilian, training and war warplane pilots.

➔ **HAVELSAN'S UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE BARKAN ENTERED TAF INVENTORY**



HAVELSAN, which has been serving the security forces for many years with its software solutions, has added its first product -in terms of an operational platform- to the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) inventory! In this context, BARKAN I and BARKAN II are available for the use of security forces, which will strengthen their position in many fields. HAVELSAN's Product Development and Production Director Veysel Ataoğlu said that their work on robotics and autonomous vehicle systems started with the BARKAN I, and they have been conducting test activities on the field for approximately 2 years.



**Hellenic
Army in
2023**

Hellenic Army in 2023



The Hellenic Army mission should be seen in the broader context of Hellenic Armed Forces, and its Comprehensive National Strategy and Policy. In

fulfillment of its security components Greece's National Defence Policy is based both on an active foreign policy and capable armed forces. The state of high readiness of the Hellenic Army's units during peacetime along with their effective response capability to any provocation, are the fundamental operational aspects shaping the Hellenic Army General Staff role.

Accordingly, within the overall framework of the Hellenic Defence Policy, the Hellenic Army has a vital role in supporting its objectives which besides others include, securing the national territorial integrity, preserving and defending the national sovereignty and the legitimate rights of our country on land, optimize its participation in Alliances and International Organizations, contributing to the regional and international security and protecting the security of Greek citizens in case of disasters and civil emergencies.

The 21st century introduced significant changes to the global and European affairs, which necessarily brought new orientations to the Armed Forces' activities, such as peace keeping operations, humanitarian – social relief, countering asymmetric threats and terrorism, etc. The time factor, expressed in the term "rapid reaction", constitutes a





standard based on which all planning and execution mechanisms of Hellenic Army activities are now assessed. By including all the above in the framework set by the National Defence Policy and the National Military Strategy, Greece envisages a modern, powerful, flexible, mobile Army at a state of high operational readiness that constitutes a reliable deterrence and rapid reaction force.

An Army adapted to the current and future national security and defence requirements, capable of responding to the country's international obligations in the best way possible, but mainly an Army whose personnel is characterised by high morale, professionalism and is mission oriented. Drastic and innovative interventions have already been made to its structure and operation for the next 15 years, focused on specific axes, which are the increase of operational readiness, realistic training, joint exercises, exploitation of emerging technologies, procurement of modern weapon systems and assets that will act as force multipliers, calculation of weapon systems' and assets' Life Cycle Cost, personnel-equipment-installations security, quality assurance, focus on personnel and balanced development of Arms and Branches, so that the planned operational capabilities of each of these are gradually harmonised with the whole Army's respective capabilities in order to avoid "technology gaps". The Hellenic Army, except for the above, also participates in international initiatives, multilateral and bilateral organisations (NATO, NRF, EU, FINABEL, etc.), always with the promotion of national interests and the contribution to the protection of International Law in mind. A significant part of the Army's activities regards its presence and contribution to areas such as: environmental protection, humanitarian relief, and assistance to the population in case of disasters.

The defence planning is based on the National Defence Policy and aims at changing political will in terms of forces and equipment. The main threat remains the same for decades now, however, this is

not the case with its aspects and its potential expressions in the operational/strategic environment, the most dangerous of which would be a complex provocation/crisis. In any case, the goal is to plan within the framework of the national defence policy to counter the "improbable" and the "unexpected".

The main objective of our operational planning is the rapid reaction capability, as well as the increase army capability to conduct operations for an extensive time period without a reduction in performance rates.

Furthermore, which are related to the Hellenic Army's main mission, i the protection of the country's territorial integrity, the Hellenic Army is highly active in NATO and EU affairs.

The Hellenic Army's most important activity is training, which covers the greatest part of peacetime activities. Training, particularly on simulation systems, constitutes a factor of major importance for the Hellenic Army, being an integral part of its armaments programmes. The reasons are well known and obvious: resource saving, increase of the operational equipment's survivability, training on scenarios not permitted by the conditions on the training field, etc.

Greece has spent decades buying vast amounts of military equipment to defend itself against Turkey, but the economic crisis means sharp cutbacks are inevitable. Since the start of the crisis in 2009, Greece has reduced defense expenditures by 54 percent.

Over the last three decades, the Hellenic Army has acquired 170 German Leopard 2A6 HEL tanks. It also received approximately 500 older second-hand Leopard 1 tanks of various configurations, sometimes as offsets associated with other deals. At the same time, the army has expanded its artillery and anti-air capabilities such as the purchase of ASRAD mobile surface-to-air (SAM) missile systems and the purchase of PzH-2000 self-propelled howitzers.

A total of 70-Armed Reconnaissance helicopters were bought from the US Army's reserves at the insignificant cost \$44,15, which can prove crucial for the rapid reaction and first attack against hostile force that will threaten the Aegean Sea islands. Six of them came ready to fly. Along with the 70 OH-58Ds came the last so far of the 10 CH-47SD Chinook helicopters that the Hellenic Army bought from the US Army.

As a first step, 36 helicopters were capable of taking up every mission as they came complete in terms of communications, carrying three different types of secure radio stations. This does not mean that the remaining 24 carrying only two types of secure radio



stations cannot carry out a combat mission. It's just that their crew will operate with some minimal restrictions. The remaining 10 airframes are to be used for spares.

Boeing has been given the go ahead to sell 10 CH-47 Chinook heavy lift helicopters to Greece, the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) announced on 11 December 2014.

Greece requested, and the US State Department approved the sale of up to 10 D-model Chinooks and supporting equipment for a total cost of \$150 million. Rather than a foreign military sale by Boeing to Greece, the deal has no principal contractor. The aircraft will come from US Army stock, DSCA said.

Greece already operates a fleet of 15 CH-47Ds, meaning it "will have no difficulty absorbing these helicopters into its armed forces", the announcement says. The deal will require assignment of US government or Boeing personnel to Greece at some point. The D-model Chinook has been supplanted in the US Army by the CH-47F, which sports an upgraded Honeywell T55-714A engine, a Rockwell Collins common avionics architecture system (CAAS) cockpit and BAE Systems' digital advanced flight control system.

On 7 February 2017, The General Directorate for Defense Investments and Armaments (GDDIA) awarded a contract to the Russian state-owned company ROSOBORONEXPORT regarding the follow-on support (FOS) of the Hellenic Army's air defence weapon systems OSA- AKM and TOR-M1.





The program has been approved by the Supreme Council on Foreign Affairs and Defence (KYSEA) on 11 November 2013. Estimated budget is in the area of 16.600.000 €.

Hellenic Army will acquire slightly used 4x4 M1117 Guardian Armored Security Vehicles (ASV). On 21 December 2020, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos, briefed the members of the Special Standing Committee on Armament Programs & Contracts of the Hellenic Parliament.

U.S. Congress has approved the sale of 1,200 ASVs which had been used by U.S. Army military police units and were offered to Greece for around 70,000 euros. However, the sale price to the Greek military didn't include the platform's armaments, so Greek Army will have to supply its own machine guns and grenade launchers. Yet, even in used condition and without armaments the M1117 could be just what the Greek military needs—an affordable platform with plenty of spare parts to ensure that the Guardians will remain operational for years to come.

The 4x4 wheeled armored vehicle platform was developed by Textron Marine & Land Systems' (TMYL) Cadillac Gage in the late 1990s for the United States Military Police Corps, and the first prototypes were delivered in 1997.

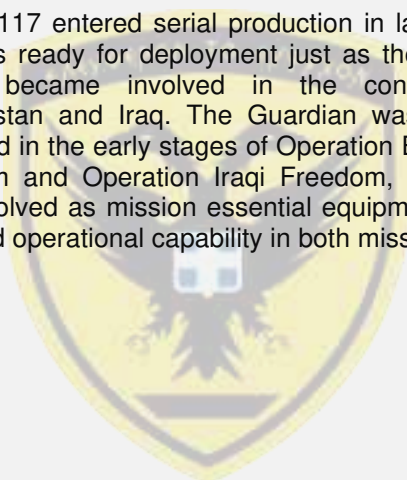
The M1117 entered serial production in late 1999 and was ready for deployment just as the United States became involved in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Guardian was widely deployed in the early stages of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, where it was involved as mission essential equipment, and provided operational capability in both missions.



The vehicles provided protection to military from small arms fire and mines but also offered quick insertion capability and maneuverability in urban areas. The M1117 was developed with worldwide deployment in mind and was made to be compatible with the C-130 transport / cargo plane.

Additionally, Hellenic Army General Staff plans the replacement of 10,000 Mercedes and Steyr vehicles, trucks and the jeeps. Estimated budget that is in the area of 550 million euros, mobilizes all major military vehicle manufacturers. Main candidates are considered, the French companies Nexter and Arquus, the US company Oshkosh Corporation, the Italian Iveco, the German MAN Group, The Polish Tatra and the Israeli Plasan.

On Thursday, April 8, 2021, the Sixth (6th) Amendment of the Contract No.: 034A/03 was signed, which concerns the "Supply of sixteen (16) Transport Helicopters NH 90 – four (4) Special Operation Helicopters NH 90 and four (4) Medical Evacuation Sets" between the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence, which was represented by GDDIA's General Director, Lieutenant General (Rtd) Theodoros Lagios (HAF) and the NH Industries Company, which was represented by Head of Export Variants of NH Industries, Mr. Ernst Heckert, and the NH90 Program Manager for Greece at Airbus Helicopters, Mrs. Isabel Humby.



Hellenic Army General Staff Directorates

Infantry Directorate



Artillery Directorate



Technical Directorate



History Directorate



Aviation Directorate



Logistics Directorate



Engineer Directorate



Military Police Directorate



Finance Directorate



Supply and Transportation Directorate



Registry and Linguistics Directorate



Hellenic Army Structure

The Hellenic Army is organized in Independent Modules, Units, Units and formations.

The Independent Modules, Units, the Units and formations are Military Authorities with administrative autonomy, official seal and have their own mail protocol.

Army Corps A

- 8 Infantry Division (Florina)
- 3 x Infantry Brigades
- 1 x Armoured Brigade

Army Corps B

- 1 Army Division (Veroia)
- 1 x Airmobile Brigade
- 1 x Marine Brigade
- 1 x Airborne Brigade
- 2 Mechanised Division (Edessa)
- 2 x Mechanised Brigades
- 1 x Army Aviation Brigade

Army Corps C/NDC - GR HQ

- 12 Mechanised Division (Alexandroupoli)
- 2 x Mechanised Brigades
- 26 Mechanised Division (Didimoteicho)
- 2 x Mechanised Brigades
- 20 Armoured Division (Kavala)
- 3 x Armoured Brigades
- 1 x Mechanised Brigade

NATO Deployable Corps (NDC) - GR HQ

Following the NATO Military Committee (MC) and the Nice EU Summit decisions in December 2000, the Hellenic Army General Staff decided to offer the 'C' Corps HQ as a candidate HQ to both the European Union and NATO:

- To the European Union as Operational HQ for planning and directing autonomous, joint and combined EU-led operations.
- To NATO, as Deployable Land Headquarters for Forces at Lower Readiness -FLR (L) HQ, named NATO Deployable Corps (NDC) - GR HQ.

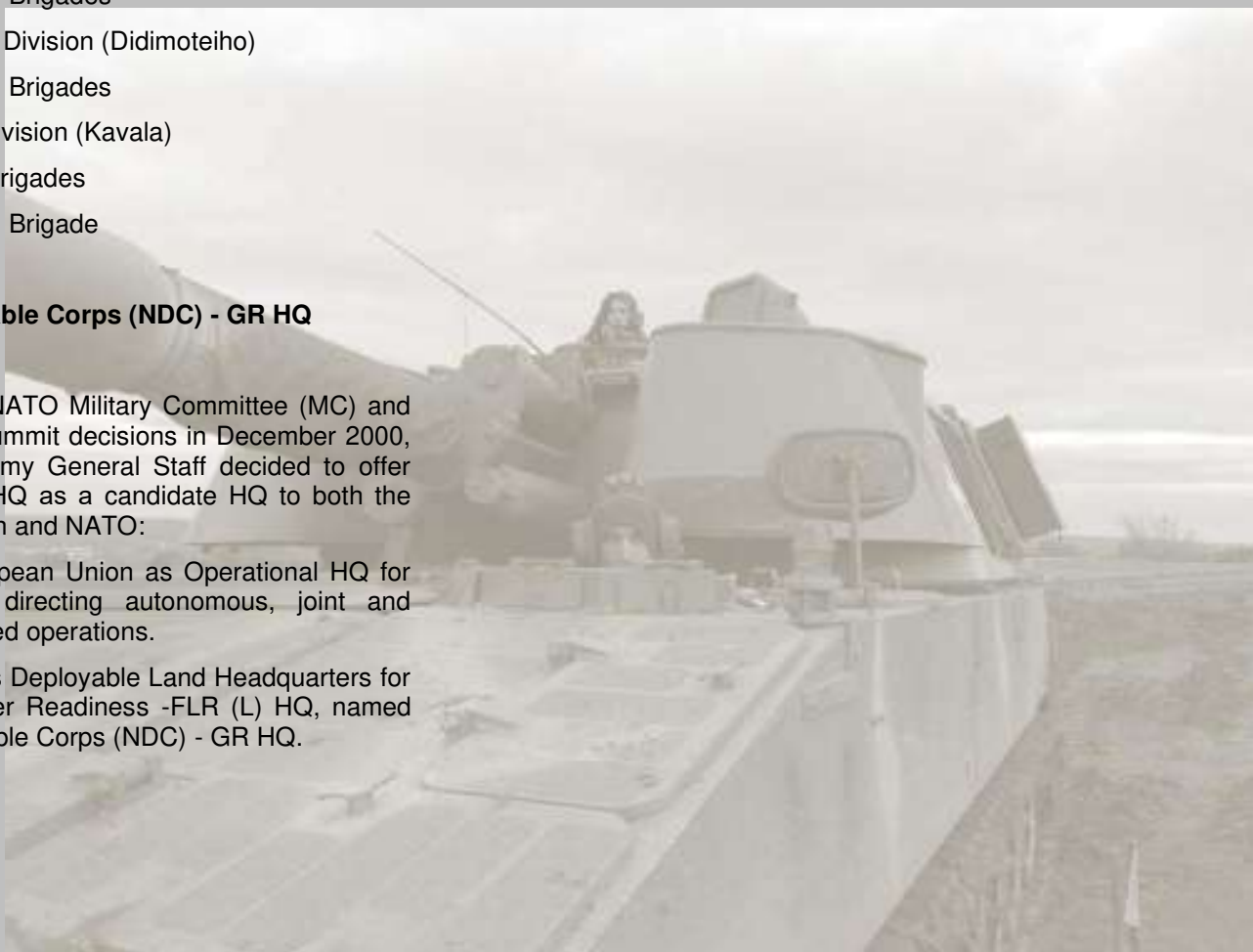
The headquarters is in Thessaloniki and the formation will be able to operate throughout the entire mission spectrum, ranging from peace support operations up to high intensity combat operations in any environment.

(NDC) - GR HQ includes contingents from Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain and Turkey.

Islands and Interior Command

- 5 Infantry Division (Crete)
- 79 National Guard Command (Samos)
- 80 National Guard Command (Kos)
- 88 Military Command (Myrimma)
- 95 National Guard Command (Rhodes)
- 96 National Guard Command (Chios)
- 98 National Guard Command (Lesbos)

Future plans: The Greek Army continues to be involved in an extensive reorganization program. By 2015 a new brigade structure should be in place (The Strike Brigade) which will consist of six core battalions (4 x manoeuvre, 1 x artillery, 1 x combat support and various company sized elements such as engineers, communications and recce).



HELLENC ARMY MAJOR EQUIPMENT	
Main Battle Tanks	900 x Leopard (including some 180 x 2A4; 170 2A6 HEL and about 500 1A5/GR)
	400 x M-48 (majority in store)
Reconnaissance (Recce)	About 200 x VBL (Wheeled)
Armoured Infantry Fighting Vehicle (AIFV)	370 x BMP-1 (tracked – majority probably in store)
Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC)	400 x Leonidas Mk1/Mk2 (Tracked)
	1,500 M-113 types (Tracked)
	200 x M-577 (tracked ACV)
Self Propelled Artillery (SP Arty)	300 x 155 mm M-109 (various types – our estimate)
	36 x PzH 2000
	110 x M-110A2 (some in store)
Towed Artillery	200 x 105 mm M-101 (majority probably in store)
	12 x Mod-56 Pack How
	120 x 155 mm M-114 (majority probably in store)
Multiple Rocket Launchers (MRL)	115 x 122 mm RM-70 Dana
	36 x 227 mm MLRS
Mortars (Mor)	2,000 x 81 mm (estimate)
	400 x 120 mm (estimate)
	250 x 107 mm M-30 SP on M-106 (M-113 type)
Anti-Tank (Atk)	300 x Milan 1/2 ATGW (some SP)
	200 x AT-4 ATGW (some SP)
	196 x AT-14 (ATGW)
	About 350 x TOW ATGW (some 320 SP on M-901)
	About 2,000 x 84 mm Carl Gustav
	About 1,300 x 106 mm M-40
Low Level Air Defence (LLAD)	31 x SA-15 SAM

	38 x SA-8B SAM
	42 x I-HAWK
	About 1,000 x Stinger SAM
	About 500 x ZSU-23-2 AAA
	About 250 x 20 mm RH-202 AAA
Helicopters	19 x AH-64A Apache (Attack - to be upgraded to D standard)
	9 x AH-64D (Attack)
	25 x CH-47D Chinook (Heavy Transport)
	14 NH90
	90 x UH-1H Iroquois (Utility)
	30 x AB-205A (Utility)
	12 x AB-206 (Utility)
	70 OH-58D- 36 helicopters will be in full operational condition
Fixed Wing	38 x U-17A Skywagon (liaison)
	3 x C-12 Huron
Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV)	12 x Sperwer



Rheinmetall's Lynx KF41 – Next Generation IFV for the Hellenic Army

Battlefields around the world are constantly changing. Rheinmetall's Lynx KF41 Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV), a contender for the modernization of the Hellenic Mechanized Brigades, has been designed since its inception with the inbuilt capacity to meet the demands of today's battlefield and respond to future threats with no compromises for survivability. While adding capability to other current IFV platforms leads to spiralling weight and reduced agility, this inbuilt capacity means the Lynx's battlefield lethality will remain undiminished for decades to come and thereby reduce through life costs and keep availability at a maximum. Recent successes such as the contract award for the U.S. Army's XM30 program and the continued introduction into service into the Hungarian Defence Forces as well as the proven track record to involve local industry partners makes Lynx the best choice for the Hellenic Army's requirement.

Lynx enters next stage of U.S. Army's OMFV/XM30 program to replace the aging Bradley fleet

The U.S. Military's Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle (OMFV) programme, now re-named the XM30 Mechanized Infantry Combat Vehicle programme, is a benchmark project for modern fighting vehicle development. The modernisation effort to replace nearly 3,800 Bradley fighting vehicles involves the development of a new XM30 concept providing the army with a game-changing fighting platform featuring modular open systems architecture.

The Army has awarded Rheinmetall and Team Lynx a development contract for phase 3 and 4 as one of

two selected parties. Rheinmetall and the last remaining competitor will now complete the designs that began in the Phase 2 Concept Design phase and build up to 11 prototypes for U.S. Army evaluation with a full contract value in excess of \$700 million. After these phases, the U.S. Army is looking to select one offering to replace the aging Bradley fleet with a modern IFV.

American Rheinmetall Vehicles and Team Lynx are developing a next-generation XM30 that achieves the U.S. Army's requirements for a combat vehicle with superior protection, unsurpassed firepower, and unbeatable mobility. Operating with other units or independently, the vehicle can sense, move, and strike in a connected, rapidly changing, complex, and lethal operational environment unlike any Infantry Combat Vehicle before.

Rheinmetall supplying Hungarian Defence Force with state-of-the-art tracked and wheeled armoured vehicles and associated services

The contract encompasses 209 Lynx KF41 in seven variants, plus 18 combat support vehicles, including Buffalo 3 armoured recovery vehicles, as well as 38 military trucks. In addition, the contract incorporates products and services such as simulators; training and instruction; and an initial stock of spare parts and maintenance support in Hungary. In the first production phase, Hungary will be supplied with 46 Lynx systems configured as infantry fighting vehicles or for a command & control role, plus nine Buffalo 3 ARVs, all of which will be made in Germany. Delivery has already begun. In the second phase, a joint venture will build and ship a further 172 Lynx systems and various combat support vehicles from Hungary.





© Photos credit: Rheinmetall

Europe's most advanced plant for armoured vehicles

Rheinmetall is committed to integrate local supply chains and provide economic benefit to its customers in addition of just providing state-of-the-art military capability. The latest testament to this is the opening of Europe's most advanced factory for armoured vehicles in Zalaegerszeg on 18 August 2023. The new plant marks a major milestone for Rheinmetall and underscores the Group's commitment to building local, sovereign capabilities. In this context, a new, extremely well-equipped development, production and test centre has been built on a 33-hectar site in Zala County in southwest Hungary in less than two years. In designing the plant, special emphasis was placed on the latest industrialization principles as well as flexibility, growth potential, efficiency, the implementation of advanced transport and logistics concepts and cutting-edge production techniques. This cutting-edge facility will state-of-the-art tracked and wheeled armoured vehicles for the Hungarian military, especially the Lynx IFV.

Lynx – modular, flexible, future-proof

The Lynx concept embraces a complete vehicle family, consisting of a chassis module and flexible mission kits in numerous variants. This means that the common chassis can be configured amongst others as an IFV, an air defence system, a command vehicle or field ambulance. Thanks to the commonality and modularity of components and sub-systems, the system will reduce lifecycle costs substantially, while simultaneously letting military users adapt to changing tactical requirements and/or leverage new capabilities. Outstanding survivability, mobility and lethality characterize the Lynx, as do excellent growth potential, including in terms of its total weight.

The Lance turret operates enhanced sensor systems to fully exploit the capabilities of the integrated Mk30-2/ABM machine cannon firing 30x173mm rounds in various types including next generation programmable kinetic energy time fused (KETF) ammunition and the modern Spike 2 LR anti-tank missile system or other Anti-Tank-Guided -Weapons. It provides a comprehensive engagement capability for symmetric and asymmetric threats.

Lynx and Lance are fully digitised built on the NATO generic vehicle architecture (NGVA) enabling integration of the crew, the

dismounts, and the vehicle into the wider battlefield network. Enhanced situational awareness enable rapid target detection or target handoff. Furthermore, it supports the integration of multi-spectral sensing capability including UAVs and loitering munitions for beyond line of sight target detection and engagement.

The Lynx combines the modularity of passive and active protection systems providing layered protection capability against the prevalent battlefield threats. Lynx shields its occupants from the full spectrum of battlefield threats, including artillery fragments, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), direct and indirect fire, cluster munitions and antitank guided missiles, as well as NBC threats. Its spacious interior is unsurpassed by any vehicle in its class, assuring the operational effectiveness of its three crew members and up to eight infantry dismounts. With its hard-hitting combat effectiveness and excellent off-road mobility, the Lynx is designed to operate alongside state-of-the-art Main Battle Tanks, including the Leopard 2, to enhance the effectiveness of the Mechanized Infantry in conjunction with the Armour Brigades. The digitalisation, as well as the modern physical design of the Lynx ensure maximum performance against the threats of today and growth capabilities against the threats of tomorrow. The modular architecture offers growth capacities for payload, electrical power and processing capacities of the vehicle to enable seamless integration of enhanced mission equipment or realisation of special to role variants within a single vehicle family.

Rheinmetall has an unparalleled record in terms of creating local, sovereign national capabilities and can deliver a modern 21st century combat system for best in-class survivability, lethality and mobility to the Hellenic Army. Lynx's inherent modularity and growth potential will enable it to evolve as requirements and threats change, providing the enhanced lethality the Hellenic Army is seeking to fight and win.

Wheeled armored vehicles

Many countries have developed wheeled armoured carriers to serve in a variety of roles, including infantry transport, reconnaissance, antitank defense, fire support, engineering, command and control, and medical evacuation. Wheeled vehicles generally have advantages over tracked vehicles in improved on-road performance, better fuel economy, and lower maintenance costs. They are therefore particularly useful in the type of peacekeeping and counterinsurgency operations that have grown more prevalent since the end of the Cold War.

An armoured wheeled fighting vehicle AFV is a combat vehicle, protected by strong armour and armed with weapons, which combines operational mobility, tactical offensive, and defensive capabilities.

The Soviet army introduced the first of a successful line of wheeled armoured vehicles, the BTR-60, in the early 1960s. In a typical configuration the BTR-60 weighs 10.1 tons, has a two-man crew, can carry 12 infantrymen, and is armed with a 12.7-mm heavy machine gun. The Soviets introduced improved versions in the late 1970s (BTR-70) and late 1980s (BTR-80).

These latter versions included a turret-mounted 14.5-mm heavy machine gun and improved power plants, but troop capacity was reduced to accommodate these improvements. The Soviets used the BTR vehicles extensively in the Afghan War from 1979 to 1989.

Beginning in 1983, the U.S. Marine Corps fielded the LAV-25, a wheeled light armoured vehicle with all-terrain capabilities. The LAV-25 weighs 12.8 tons, has a three-man crew, can carry six infantrymen, and is armed with a turret-mounted 25-mm chain gun and two 7.62-mm machine guns.

For roughly two decades the LAV-25 was the only significant U.S. wheeled armoured vehicle program, but in the late 1990s the desire for more rapidly deployable forces convinced the U.S. Army to develop a wheeled armoured vehicle capable of transport by aircraft such as the C130 Hercules. To speed the development process, the Army stressed the use of off-the-shelf technology.

© Nexter - Philoctetes



The result was the Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle (ICV), first fielded in 2003. The Stryker was largely modeled after the Canadian LAV III, which began service with the Canadian Army in 1999 and in turn is based on the Swiss Piranha III. The Stryker weighs 18 tons, has a two-man crew, can carry nine infantrymen, and in its primary variant is armed with an M2 .50-inch heavy machine gun or a 40-mm automatic grenade launcher housed in a remotely operated turret.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan quickly demonstrated the vulnerability of lightly armoured vehicles to mines, rocket-propelled grenades, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The U.S. Army responded at first with improvisations, such as adding metal caging around the exterior of Stryker vehicles to cause incoming warheads to detonate prematurely, and by adding armour to its fleet of High Mobility, Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs, or Humvees).

Last November the Hellenic Army received from the US the first batch of 44 M1117 Guardian armored vehicles as part of the US Excess Defense Articles (EDA) program and has recently received another delivery of 130 M1117 armored security vehicles from the total of 1200 vehicles which has been approved by the US Congress.

On the occasion of the first edition of the DEFEA 2021 exhibition which was held in Athens from July 13 to 15, 2021, Nexter showcased for first time its VBCI named Philoctetes, in reference to the mythological hero of the Trojan War. Philoctetes is the proven solution for high-intensity operations:

- Be protected, seize and keep the initiative
- Be lethal against any target on the battlefield
- Be resilient and sustainable anywhere
- Support digitized collaborative combat through variant

This is a complete infantry combat system, armed with a remotely operated 40mm CT (cased telescoped) turret from CTai and a medium range missile launcher (MMP) from MBDA.

Nexter's 40CT gun on the VBCI Philoctetes, chosen by the French (Rapid-fire, JAGUAR), British (Ajax) and Belgian (JAGUAR CaMo) armies, gives a real superiority of caliber compared to the 30mm and covers a wider range of targets (UAVs, aircrafts, light vehicles) VBCI Philoctetes meets the Hellenic Army's requirements for mobility, protection, modularity, and firepower.

After signing a partnership with Hellenic Defense Systems in 2022, Nexter and the Saracakis company are exploring the possibilities of a collaboration to localize the support of the PHILOCTETES in Greece, thus increasing the benefits for the local industry.

At the beginning of April 2023, Nexter was pleased to welcome a delegation from the Greek army at the Canjurs military camp to present the PHILOCTETES through a demonstration of its capabilities: static and moving shots using its T40 turret, tactical mobility on the camp's various terrains, and feedback from French soldiers who have operated the VBCI (MkI) in external operations. These three days enabled representatives of the Greek army to gain a detailed understanding of the solution proposed by Nexter, in response to their future requirements in terms of mobility, protection, modularity and firepower.

One year ago, Nexter signed a strategic partnership with the state-owned company Hellenic Defence Systems specialised in the design, development and production of weapon systems. Nexter and the company Saracakis are exploring the possibility of locating the maintenance of the VBCI PHILOCTETES in Greece. Locating part of the maintenance in Greece will allow a better availability of the equipment. This dynamic reflects the beneficial trickle-down effect to the Greek industry and it strengthens the Franco-Greek defence relationship.

PHILOCTETES refers to the Trojan War hero and keeper of the arrows of Heracles, essential to the Achaeans to bring down the city. The VBCI PHILOCTETES is an improved version of the 8x8 infantry fighting vehicle already in service in the French army units. The PHILOCTETES integrates a 40mm remotely operated turret similar to that of the JAGUAR, and an Akeron MP anti-tank missile pod. It covers a wide range of threats, from UAVs and light vehicles to aircrafts and main battle tanks. The VBCI can carry a full infantry combat group and is available in several versions: command post, medical vehicle, recovery vehicle, or 120mm mortar. The VBCI has been used by the French army for more than 10 years in operations.

The 40CTA gun also equips the new RAPIDFire turret exhibited on the stand in naval and land versions. This system already delivered to the French Navy provides a close-in protection capacity up to 4km particularly against drones and light aircrafts thanks to a dedicated ammunition.



Cyprus Defence News

Cyprus-USA Defence and Security Cooperation Dialogue



The second Defence and Security Dialogue between the Republic of Cyprus and the United States of America was held on the 1st of June 2023 in Washington DC.

Officials from the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus and the US Department of Defence discussed the progress achieved since the Cyprus-USA Dialogue on Defence and Security was first institutionalized in Nicosia in September 2021.

Notably, this cooperation includes access to the US International Military Education Training Program, partnership with the National Guard of New Jersey in the context of the State Partnership Program, joint exercises and trainings between our Special Forces and consultations on emerging global, European and regional security issues.

© MOD Cyprus

The delegations also discussed ways to further enhance the defence cooperation and military ties between the Republic of Cyprus and the United States of America. The Cypriot delegation also held, bilateral talks with senior officials at the State Department's Political-Military Bureau and the Office of Southern European Affairs.

Formal Visit of the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Serbia

From the 12th to the 14th of June 2023, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Miloš Vučević, paid an official visit to Cyprus following invitation his Cypriot counterpart, Mr. Michalis Giorgallas. Minister Vučević kicked off his visit with a courtesy meeting with HE the President of the Republic of Cyprus Mr Nikos Christodoulides.

Afterwards, the two Ministers of Defence will discussed the state of play and future defence and military collaboration between Cyprus and Serbia including cooperation in the field of armaments and industrial cooperation. Ministers Giorgallas and Vučević also discussed the current security situation in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Western Balkans respectively.

During a joint press conference Minister of Defence Mr. Michalis Giorgallas said: "You are amongst the first Defence Minister's that pays an official visit to Cyprus after our Government took office last March. This signifies the long standing and strong bonds of friendship,





cooperation and people to people ties. We already had the opportunity to meet last March in Brussels and we have already set out an ambitious agenda for our future cooperation. Today we were able to go into more detail and substance. I am sure that our discussions and consultations will deepen and foster closer defence and military cooperation in the near future. We had very fruitful exchange of views on a number of issues of mutual interest ranging from our bilateral cooperation to pertinent regional security issues, including of course the security situation in Cyprus and in the Western Balkans respectively. I am gratified that Cyprus and Serbia enjoy a robust cooperation in defence and security.

We had the opportunity to review our annual programme of defence cooperation which includes exercises, trainings and other activities in both Cyprus and Serbia. Our two countries also maintain a decade's long cooperation in the field of armaments. The Serbian defence industry provided valuable support to our armed forces.

This cooperation is based on mutual trust and builds on to our overall excellent bilateral relations. We will have the chance tomorrow to visit our latest acquisition from Serbia the NORA Artillery system, or as it is best known as Alexander The Great System.

From our side we will continue working towards strengthening and enhancing our defence and military cooperation with Serbia, a close partner that will, hopefully in the near future will also be part of our EU family. We also discussed issues of mutual interest: I had the chance to be briefed by Minister Vučević on the latest developments in the north of Kosovo. We are following the latest developments in Kosovo/Metohija with close attention.

Recent clashes between the police and ethnic Serbs in the area, caused by Pristina's attempts to forcibly access municipal buildings are a source of great concern. We call for de-escalation and continued constructive engagement in the EU facilitated dialogue.

Taking this opportunity let me underscore that Cyprus maintains its principled position on the non-recognition of the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo. The principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity are inalienable and unquestionable. The Republic of Cyprus is a staunch supporter of Serbia's EU accession path. Serbia's valuable contribution to CSDP missions and operation is also greatly appreciated.

I also had the chance to brief Minister Vučević and his delegation, about the security situation in Cyprus, the Eastern Mediterranean and Turkey's hybrid warfare activities that threaten regional stability, security and prosperity."

IAI and Odysight.ai Unveil New Monitoring System Technology for Helicopters: Visual Based Health for UH60

IAI (Israel Aerospace Industries) and Odysight.ai unveiled a cutting-edge visual based health monitoring system for UH60 helicopters. The system is based on a multicamera system that enables real-time monitoring of the aircraft's systems health, ensuring maximum safety and availability.

The UH60 helicopter is a dominant player in the rotary wing aircrafts. It is used for various missions, including search and rescue, medical evacuation, and transportation of passengers and equipment. The new visual based health monitoring system provides a comprehensive view of the helicopter's systems, detecting component degradation and early malfunction before they become critical. The helicopter is equipped with Odysight.ai's advanced visual sensing & video analytics technology, which include multiple highly resilient cameras, high performance processing unit, machine vision embedded software and AI/ML models and algorithms to support a variety of predictive maintenance and condition-based monitoring solutions. The cameras will be strategically placed throughout the helicopter, capturing real time visual condition on various safety critical components.

IAI is using its expertise in aerial vehicles for integration and certification of new capabilities, in order to incorporate this new technology into the UH60 helicopter, similarly to other improvements and systems that are integrated by IAI into this platform especially in the avionic field.

This project, led by IAI's Aviation Group – Engineering and Development center, is part of IAI activity to develop and install cutting-edge health monitoring systems in aerial vehicles. The activity is based on various modern sensor technologies and predictive analysis approaches for health monitoring, such as AI and Digital twin, and provide real-time prognostics of critical components. This initiative is part of IAI's ongoing commitment to advancing aerospace technology and ensuring the safety and reliability of its aircrafts.

Gila Ghilai, VP and General Manager of the Engineering and Development Division, said: "We are thrilled to partner with Odysight.ai on this

project. The advanced camera technology, combined with our expertise in aerospace engineering, will enable us to create a state-of-the-

art health monitoring system. We look forward to contributing to the safety and success of missions carried out by this important aircraft."

Yehu Ofer Odysight.ai's CEO said: "We at Odysight.ai are proud and honored to be chosen and trusted by IAI for the implementation of this ground-breaking visual based health monitoring system for UH60 helicopters. This innovative solution represents a significant step forward in ensuring the safety and availability of these helicopters, which play a vital role in numerous safety critical missions. By connecting the power of cutting-edge video-based sensors and AI algorithms, this innovative solution will provide real-time insights into the health of safety critical aviation platforms. This partnership highlights the potential of health monitoring systems for aerospace & aviation markets.

IAI's Aviation Group is the world's leading conversion facility for many aircraft types. The Group deals with all types of manned aircraft, both military and civilian, in IAI; passenger-to-cargo conversion; maintenance, repair and operations (MRO); business jets; aerostructures and assemblies; aircraft upgrades, and more. Among IAI's customers are the world's leading logistics and delivery companies including Amazon, FedEx, and DHL.



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BAE Systems received a \$797 million contract to continue production of the Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) for the U.S. Army

BAE Systems received a \$797 million contract to continue production of the Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) for the U.S. Army, with additional options for a potential total contract amount of \$1.6 billion. This award brings the AMPV program into full-rate production, making it the first newly-designed and built tracked vehicle in the U.S. Army's fleet to reach this production stage in three decades.

The AMPV replaces the U.S. Army's fleet of Vietnam War-era M113 family of vehicles. The multi-mission AMPV family of vehicles provides critical survivability, mobility, and interoperability upgrades to the Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT).

"Entering full-rate production is a momentous milestone in the lifecycle of a production program for both the U.S. Army and BAE Systems," said Jeremy Tondreault, president of the Platforms & Services sector at BAE Systems. "The AMPV is the next generation replacement for the venerable M113, and we are proud that this critical capability is on its way to the men and women who need our most capable combat vehicles on the front lines."

The AMPV program is one of the U.S. Army's top vehicle modernization programs. The Army first awarded BAE Systems the AMPV contract in 2014 and signed a low-rate initial production (LRIP) contract in 2018. The first LRIP vehicle was delivered in August 2020.

The multi-mission AMPV family of vehicles includes:

- General Purpose vehicle: operates throughout the battle space to conduct resupply, maintenance, and an alternate casualty evacuation from point of injury;
- Mortar Carrier: provides immediate and responsive heavy mortar fire support to the ABCT in the conduct of fast-paced offensive operations;
- Medical Evacuation vehicle: enables immediate treatment or evacuation at the point of injury for both ambulatory and litter casualties;
- Medical Treatment vehicle: serves as a first of its kind "operating room on tracks" to deliver life-sustaining care to soldiers suffering from life-threatening injuries;
- Mission Command vehicle: facilitates digital mission command, providing tools that enable command, control, and communications capabilities on the battlefield.

The AMPV is specifically designed to accommodate future technology needs, including enhanced size, weight, and power provisions for network integration and future mission payloads. This gives our formations a support vehicle that enables mission achievement today, and a highly capable vehicle that can maneuver with the ABCT in the toughest terrain ready to integrate future technology and capabilities. The vehicles have completed dozens of tests through the Army, to ensure Soldiers are receiving a safe, combat-ready platform.

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EU Defence Ministers support a just peace for Ukraine and an African solution to restore democracy in Niger

On 30th August 2023, during the Informal Ministerial meeting on Defence in Toledo, Spain, Josep Borrell, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and EU Defence ministers discussed Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the situation in Niger and in the wider Sahel, and the security implications that both have for Europeans.

Following the informal Defence Ministerial Meeting Mr Borrell made the following press statement:

"We have been talking about a lot of things - some of them are more practical and others are more political - but certainly the discussion has been focusing on two main topics: Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the situation in Niger and in the wider Sahel, and the security implications that both have for Europeans.

Ukraine has remained at the centre of our discussions. The Ukrainian Defence Minister, our friend Oleksii Reznikov, has addressed the Council via video message and gave us an update on the situation on the ground, and on the ongoing Ukrainian counter-offensive. After talking with the Defence Minister of Ukraine, we discussed the European short and longer-term commitments for the security of Ukraine. First, let me stress the fact that in spite of global condemnation, Putin does not show any sign of letting up in his aggression against the Ukrainian people. He continues the war and that is why Ukraine needs long-term, sustainable and predictable military support. I want also to stress that our continued support is important for the Ukrainian counter-offensive in response to the Russian invasion. If there was not the war waged by Putin on Ukraine, there would not be the need for this kind of support. There are causes and consequences. The cause is Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the consequence is the need to support Ukraine in the short and long term.

We have discussed our support in three areas.

First, on military equipment. I proposed a Ukraine Assistance Fund for the period 2024-2027 to ensure the sustainability of our military assistance. This Fund – which would be embedded inside the European Peace Facility - should be a core element of our long-term contribution to the security of Ukraine, as European Leaders agreed in June. I

propose a Fund with around €5 billion every year. This should be [seen as] a ceiling, not a spending target. If we could spend less, [it would be] much better, but this should be our ceiling to programme in the medium term our efforts to support Ukraine. The Ministers have discussed this topic. It will be also discussed tomorrow with the Foreign Affairs Ministers, and I hope that an agreement can be reached as soon as possible. I hope before the end of this year.

The second instrument we have been focusing on is the training mission, our EU Military Assistance Mission (EUMAM), [our] training mission for the Ukrainian Armed Forces. This mission has had a real impact, and it has been implemented at an unprecedented speed. This mission has already trained 25,000 Ukrainian soldiers – some of them here, in Toledo, thanks to the Spanish army. [The mission] will reach the objective, which was programmed for the end of the year, at the end of October, [when] we will have reached the 30,000 soldiers trained by this mission. You know, I am always saying that "we need to do more and faster". "More and faster" it is becoming a trending topic. Yes, more and faster. I still think that we have to do more and faster, and I proposed to the Ministers to raise the objective of the mission to 40,000 Ukrainian soldiers trained [in the coming months]. It is also important to reflect on the evolving needs of the Ukrainian army and working not only on quantity but also on quality. Ukrainians need more specialised training for smaller groups and for command capacities. We have welcomed the decision by the Netherlands and Denmark to provide F-16 airplanes to Ukraine. And we will explore the possibility of how we can integrate these F-16 pilot training modules inside our mission. Our mission should be also able to contribute to the training of these pilots for these planes.

The third area [we discussed] was ammunition. You know that we have been working under the three-track ammunition initiative. The first one was taking stocks from the European armies – it ended at the end of May. We have taken an important volume of ammunition valued at about €1.1 billion, which corresponds to about 224,000 ammunition rounds and about 2,300 missiles. This is the Track one, which has already been closed because it had a concrete time period. Second is the Track two. The European Defence Agency (EDA) has been negotiating over the summer with the European defence industry to procure 155-mm ammunition.

Three framework contracts have already been signed. Now it is to the Member States to pass concrete orders inside these framework agreements with the industry. We did our work. The agreement with the industry has already been signed [and] now Member States can use this possibility to pass common orders to the industry. Then, there is Track three, which is more

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in the hands of the [European] Commission to ramp-up the industrial capacity to produce more military capacities in Europe. This is a long-term endeavour, but the industry can only deliver if they have new orders, and they will not deliver if they do not have new orders, in order to increase its supply capacities. That is why the Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP), which was approved by the European Parliament in July – by the way, in a very short time frame - will provide a tool to support our ammunition industry. The [European] Commission will take this work forward. This discussion among us showed our strong coordination with NATO. A NATO representative was present at the meeting, together with the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations [Jean-Pierre Lacroix] and a representative of the European Parliament [Natalie Loiseau].

We also discussed the negative effects on the food supplies and the energy prices around the world, due to the fact that Putin has not been willing to prolong the [Black Sea] Grain initiative. This was very bad news. It is going to have destabilising effects around the world, and it will – unhappily – also affect us. We have to continue providing the means and the ways for the Ukrainian food production to be exported from the country and reach the international markets.

This brings me to the Sahel region which is strongly dependent on the exports of grain from Ukraine. We discussed with the ministers the coup in Niger and its wider implications. You know that the situation is very fluid. I spent my [month of] August in permanent contact with the actors, also with President [of Niger, Mohammed] Bazoum. It is clear that the coup in Niger is opening a new era of instability in a region which was already very fragile, and this will undermine the stability of the region. The ministers reiterated our will to support African solutions to African problems. And it means that we will support the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). We have expressed this will from the first moment of the coup.

It is up to them to take initiatives and decisions in order to counter this military coup, and we will follow, trying to implement the same kind of sanctions that they have decided. We are moving forward with an autonomous sanctions regime to take measures against the putschists. Work has already started, and tomorrow, the Foreign Affairs ministers will advance on that. We will support ECOWAS accordingly with their requests at any circumstances, depending on what the requests are in concrete terms.

POLAND – INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE (IAMD) BATTLE COMMAND SYSTEM (IBCS)

The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Poland of an Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS) and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$15 billion. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

The Government of Poland has requested to buy phase two of a two-phase program for an Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS) enabled PATRIOT Configuration-3+ with modernized sensors and components, including: forty-eight (48) PATRIOT M903 Launch Stations; up to six hundred forty-four (644) PATRIOT Advanced Capability (PAC) 3 Missile Segment Enhanced (MSE) missiles; forty-eight (48) Launcher Interface Network Kits (LINKs); twelve (12) Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensors (LTAMDS); and twelve (12) Large Tactical Power Systems (LTPS) for the LTAMDS. Also included is communications equipment; tools and test

equipment; support equipment; generators; spare parts; repair parts; Global Positioning System PPS (SAASM) receivers; modification kits; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services for planning, execution, Systems Integration and Checkout (SICO), flight test activities, field office support and training; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$15 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's missile defense capability and contribute to Poland's military goals of updating capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The principal contractors will be Raytheon Corporation, Andover, MA; Lockheed-Martin Missiles and Fire Control, Grand Prairie, TX; and another original equipment manufacturer to be selected to develop and produce generator sets for the LTPS. The purchaser has requested offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s). Implementation of this proposed sale will require approximately forty (40) U.S. Government and/or forty-five (45) contractor representatives to travel to Poland for an extended period for equipment de-processing/fielding, system checkout, training, and technical and logistics support.

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POLAND – AH-64E APACHE HELICOPTERS

The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Poland of AH-64E Apache Helicopters and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$12.0 billion. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible.

The Government of Poland has requested to buy ninety-six (96) AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters; two hundred ten (210) T700-GE 701D engines (192 installed, 18 spares); ninety-seven (97) AN/ASQ-170 Modernized Target Acquisition and Designation Sight/AN/AAR-11 Modernized Pilot Night Vision Sensors (M-TADS/PNVIS) (96 installed, 1 spare); thirty-seven (37) AN/APG-78 Fire Control Radars (FCR) Mast Mounted Assembly (MMA) (36 installed, 1 spare); thirty-seven (37) Longbow Fire Control Radar (FCR) Radar Electronic Units (REU), (36 installed, 1 spare); ninety-six (96) AN/APR-48B Modernized Radar Frequency Interferometers (MRFI); one hundred two (102) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (96 installed, 6 spares); two hundred four (204) AN/ARC-231A, with RT-1987 Receiver Transmitters, Very High Frequency/Ultra High Frequency (VHF/UHF) radios (192 installed, 12 spares); one thousand eight hundred forty-four (1,844) AGM-114R2 Hellfire Missiles; ninety-six (96) M36E8 Hellfire Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); four hundred sixty (460) AGM-179A Joint Air-to-Ground Missiles (JAGM); five hundred eight (508) Stinger 92K Block I Missiles; and seven thousand six hundred fifty (7,650) WGU-59/B

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Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System II (APKWS-II) Guidance Sections (GS). Also included are Radar Signal Detecting Sets; Laser Detecting Sets; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; Improved Data Modems; Small Tactical Terminals; Improved Countermeasure Dispensing Systems (ICMD); Automatic Direction Finders; Doppler Radar Velocity Sensors; Radar Altimeter Common Cores (RACC); Tactical Air Navigation Set (TACAN); Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers; Simple Key Loader; Advanced Weapon System Automatic Machine Guns; rocket launchers; missile launchers; rockets; ammunition; Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUMT) Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Receiver; MUMT Air-Air-Ground kits; training devices; communication systems; helmets; simulators; generators; aircrew survivability equipment; transportation and organization equipment; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of program and logistical support. The estimated total cost is \$12.0 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. The proposed sale will improve Poland's capability to meet current and future threats by providing a credible force that is capable of deterring adversaries and participating in NATO operations. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The principal contractors will be Boeing, Mesa, AZ, and Lockheed Martin, Orlando, FL. The purchaser has requested offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s). Implementation of this proposed sale will require temporary duty travel of five to eight U.S. Government and contractor representatives to Poland for a duration of up to five years to support equipment fielding and training.



RAFAEL INTRODUCES "SKY SPEAR" Long Range AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE

RAFAEL has unveiled SKY SPEAR its 6th generation long range, Air-to-Air missile in the Paris Air Show. RAFAEL has a long legacy in the development of world leading aerial systems and technologies. The newest member of the air-to-air missile family for RAFAEL is a long-range solution that provides users with unparalleled operational capabilities in the complex arena of aerial combat. With the advent of long-range air to air missiles, the challenges faced by aerial forces have increased exponentially over time. The engagement range has extended longer, and the time gap between launch and end game has created a significant zone of uncertainty. Therefore, the need to maintain a clear and accurate aerial picture is even more crucial.

RAFAEL has taken up the challenge by developing the SKY SPEAR, a new long-range Air to Air missile that embodies a new breed of RF seeker and additional technologies to handle the abovementioned challenges.

The SKYSPEAR missile is designed to engage targets at Long Ranges, ensuring that the opponents are overwhelmed before they have a chance to launch. Its new RF seeker technology allows for early lock on, and a more accurate end game.



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Brig. Gen. (Res.) Pini Yungman, EVP and Head of the Air and Missile Defense Directorate: "The development of the SKY SPEAR provides a glimpse into the legacy of RAFAEL in the aerial domain. The first air-to-air missile by RAFAEL was developed in 1959 and 5 generations later we have maintained our technological edge in providing unique and timely solutions for our partners.

From the PYTHON and DERBY which provide not only armaments for fighter crafts, but also as the main components of our advanced defense system and now to the 6th generation long range SKY SPEAR; RAFAEL is confident that this newest missile will provide the advanced capabilities that will provide users a qualitative edge over its most capable adversaries."

ANACONDA: GDELS and Rheinmetall to present HX 8x8-based wheeled tactical bridge-laying system

- GDELS and Rheinmetall to present ANACONDA bridge-laying system mounted on HX 8x8
- Based on tried-and-tested, previously fielded technologies
- Robust, high-mobility system for medium and heavyweight forces

General Dynamics European Land Systems – Bridge Systems and Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles have presented for the first time the ANACONDA tactical bridge-laying system mounted on a high-mobility 8x8 HX2 carrier vehicle at the 5th User Forum Armament and Utilization – RÜ.NET 2023 conference held on August 30 - 31 in Koblenz. The bridge, the laying mechanism and vehicle together provide a dry-gap bridge capability for medium- and heavyweight forces.



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The ANACONDA from GDELS is the latest version of the well-known BIBER ("beaver") bridge, over 300 of which have been built for the Bundeswehr, Germany's NATO partners and other export customers. Mounting the bridges on Rheinmetall's HX family of tactical trucks, which are in service with numerous armed forces, provides substantial advantages regarding interoperability, training, service and the supply of spare parts, contributing to the system's low lifecycle costs.

RMMV's HX family are among the world's most widely used military trucks.

ROMANIA – ASSAULT AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLES

The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Romania of Assault Amphibious Vehicles (AAVs) and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$120.5 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale on July 27, 2023.

The Government of Romania has requested to buy sixteen (16) Assault Amphibious Vehicles (AAVs), Personnel Variant (AAVP-7A1); three (3) Assault Amphibious Vehicles, Command Variant (AAVC-7A1); two (2) Assault Amphibious Vehicles, Recovery Variant (AAVR-7A1); sixteen (16) 50 Cal Machine Guns (Heavy Barrel); and five (5) 7.62 mm M240B Machine Guns. Also included are MK-19

Grenade Launchers; M36E T1 Thermal Sighting Systems (TSS); supply support (spare parts); support equipment (including special mission kits/Enhanced Applique Kits (EAAK)); training, unclassified technical manuals, technical data package, engineering and technical support and assistance (including Contractor Engineering Technical Services (CETS)); and other related elements of program and logistics support. The total estimated program cost is \$120.5 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally which is an important force for political and economic stability in Europe. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist Romania in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will improve Romania's capability to meet current and future threats by modernizing and ensuring Romania's continued expeditionary capability to counter regional threats. Romania will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

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Main topics

- Aerial Firefighting
- Firefighting aircrafts and helicopters
- Wildland Fire Management
- Management and command of fire operations in urban buildings
- Firefighting simulation & Training
- Liquid fire extinguisher and Firefighting foams
- Early Warning Firefighting System
- UAV to improve situational awareness in Fire Fighting
- Firefighting drones
- Firefighting Vehicles
- Off-road forest firefighting vehicles
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Firefighter Protective Clothing
- Torch that stretches light across dark, hazardous environments

2024 Athens International Firefighting Conference

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Greek Defence News



Thales to equip the new Dutch and Belgian Frigates with leading edge Above Water Warfare System

The Dutch Command Materiel and IT (COMMIT) and Thales have signed a contract for the production and delivery of the Above Water Warfare System (AWWS) fire control cluster and sensor suite for the four new Dutch and Belgian Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Frigates.

This contract, valued at several hundreds of millions of euros, reinforces Thales' worldwide leadership in innovative naval fire control and sensor technology.

This is the second contract for Thales' AWWS fire control cluster after the German F126 class frigates agreement in 2020. This common fire control cluster in three West European navies will facilitate international cooperation in operations and in logistics.

COMMIT and Thales have signed a contract for the production and delivery of the AWWS fire control cluster and sensor suite for the four new ASW.

Frigates that Damen Naval will build for the Belgian and Netherlands' Navies. This contract follows the development contract signed in 2018. Valued at several hundreds of millions of euros, this contract illustrates Thales's leading position worldwide in naval fire control and sensor technology. It will be executed by Thales's naval Centre of Excellence in Hengelo (the Netherlands).

Thales will deliver the AWWS fire control cluster that continuously generates the best solution for each approaching threat in every environment. AWWS is a cutting-edge warfare suite that helps the ship's crew to counter and neutralise high-velocity and complex saturation attacks by continuously analysing and optimising the tactical environment and deployment of resources. This integrated radar and fire control system combines the information from several sensors, including radars. The new sensor suite uses Thales' latest technology based on the APAR Block 2 X-band and the SM400 Block 2 S-band radars integrated in a one-radar system that is able to reconfigure its tasks dynamically.

In addition to AWWS, Thales supplies the Mirador Mk2 electro-optical fire control sensor, the Gatekeeper Mk2 electro-optic observation sensor, the Scout Mk3 low detectability naval surveillance radar as well as an extensive logistic support package. The first ship will be operational in 2029. The ASW frigates will replace the Belgian and

Netherlands' multi-purpose frigates of the Karel Doorman class that are reaching the end of their lifecycle.

The ships will operate in a complex multi-mission environment, with anti-submarine warfare as their main task. The frigates need to be able to independently defend themselves and other units with a state-of-the-art fire control system as above water threats are exponentially increasing in complexity, coordination, and speed. Thales systems, cyber-protected by design, will protect the Dutch and Belgium frigates from sophisticated threats such as hypervelocity missiles and swarm attacks.

Artist impression ASW Frigate © Damen Naval



CZECH REPUBLIC F-35 AIRCRAFT AND MUNITIONS

The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of the Czech Republic of F-35 Aircraft, Munitions, and related equipment for an estimated value of up to \$5.62 billion. Actual dollar value will be lower depending on final requirements, budget authority, and signed sales agreement(s), if and when concluded. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

The Government of the Czech Republic has requested to buy twenty-four (24) F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) Aircraft; twenty-five (25) Pratt & Whitney F135-PW-100 Engines (24 installed, 1 spare); seventy (70) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); three (3) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM Guidance Sections; eighty-six (86) GBU-53/B Small Diameter Bombs - Increment II (SDB-II) StormBreaker All-Up-Rounds (AUR); two (2) GBU-53 SDB-II Guided Test Vehicles (GTV); three (3) GBU-53 SDB-II Captive Carry Reliability Trainers (CCRT); twelve (12) Mk-84 General Purpose 2,000-lb Bombs or BLU-109 2,000-lb Penetrator Bombs for the GBU-31; twelve (12) KMU-556/KMU-557 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Tail Kits for the GBU-31; fifty (50) AIM-9X Block II/II+ Tactical Sidewinder Missiles; ten (10) AIM-9X Block II Tactical Sidewinder Guidance Units; eighteen (18) AIM-9X Block II Tactical Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); and four (4) AIM-9X Block II CATM Guidance Units. Also included are AIM-120 AMRAAM CATMs, control section spares, and containers; AIM-9 multi-purpose/dummy air training missiles and containers; DSU-41B Active Optical Target Detectors; Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) trainer tail kits; FMU-139 Joint Programmable Fuzes; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key

Loaders (SKL); ALE-70 Radio Frequency Countermeasures (RFCM) Transmitters; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; electronic warfare (EW) data and Reprogramming Lab support; impulse cartridges, chaff, and flares; Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); classified software and software development, delivery, and integration support; transportation, ferry, and refueling support; ammunition and weapons components; aircraft and munitions support and support equipment; integration and test support and equipment; aircraft engine Component Improvement Program (CIP) support; secure communications, precision navigation, and cryptographic equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; in-country facilities and construction support; major and minor modifications, maintenance, and maintenance support; classified and unclassified personnel training and training gear and equipment; classified and unclassified publications and technical documents; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$5.62 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. The proposed sale will improve the Czech Republic's defense capabilities as well as support NATO operations by guarding against modern threats and maintaining a constant presence in the region. The Czech Republic will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Fort Worth, TX; Raytheon Missiles and Defense, Tucson, AZ; and The Boeing Company, St. Louis, MO. The purchaser typically requests industrial participation. Any industrial participation agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

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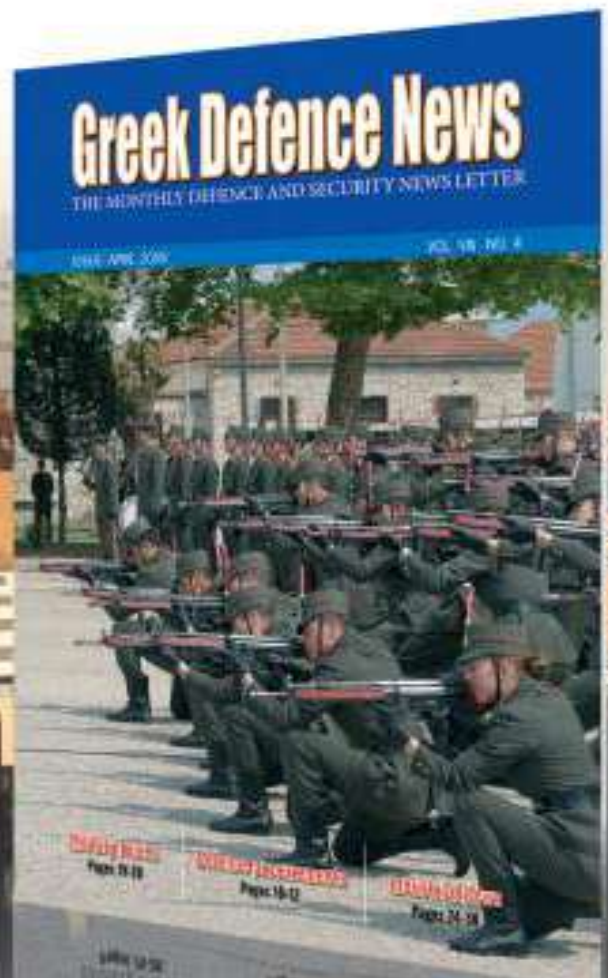
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