

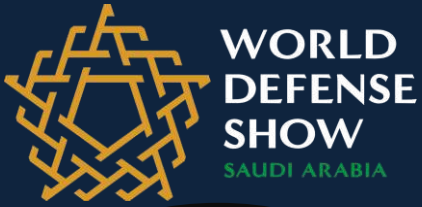
ISSN 2547-9059

# African Security

AFRICA'S BIMONTHLY DEFENCE, DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND SECURITY MAGAZINE

ISSUE: January – February 2024

VOL 11 No 1-2



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**AFRICAN SECURITY** is an international tri-service bimonthly defence magazine, published by DBDC International Defence Publications & Events Ltd, covering security, defence and defence industrial issues in the African Continent. No material may be reproduced without the recent content of the editor.

**Annual Subscription rate:**

\***Print + Digital** \$120 (Air mail surcharge is included)

\***Digital** \$60



**DBDC INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS UK LTD**

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## Offshore Patrol Vessels in African Navies

Acquisition of Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) by African coastal states has attracted significant attention.

The Offshore Patrol Vessel is a highly versatile ship, designed to perform Economic Exclusion Zone management roles, including the provision of maritime security to coastal areas and effective disaster relief. These versatile ships play a vital role in safeguarding national interests and ensuring maritime safety and security.

What makes these vessels unique is their adaptability and endurance. They are designed to operate for prolonged periods, with the capacity to cover long distances and remain at sea for extended durations. The ships are also equipped with state-of-the-art surveillance and communication systems, enabling effective monitoring and response to various maritime challenges.

Noteworthy capabilities of the OPV include their ability to operate in diverse environments, ranging from coastal waters to open oceans. They also have the capacity to embark and deploy small boats and unmanned aerial vehicles for enhanced surveillance and operational flexibility. These vessels serve as valuable assets in the African Navy's effort to maintain maritime security and protect national interests.

The offshore patrol vessel is intended to carry out a range of economic exclusion zone management tasks such as maritime security, border control, routine patrols, and anti-smuggling. OPV also facilitates counter-terrorism and piracy, fishery protection, and effective disaster relief. It can also be used for the protection of natural resources.

In recent years, all coastal African nations have widely acknowledged a growing trend in the threat to national security as sea-based. Included is the explosion of maritime piracy, the increased focus on countering smuggling, drug-running and border control, and the rising value of the fishing industry, oil industry and naval trade routes.

The Offshore Patrol Vessel has become one of the most significant emerging tools for coastal protection worldwide. Acquisition programs continue to dominate the immediate priority lists of navy and coastguard commanders, a development

that is likely to continue over the next ten years and beyond.

The Multipurpose Offshore Patrol Vessel is a highly flexible ship that can accomplish multiple functions, from patrol with sea rescue capability to Civil Protection operations, and - in its most highly equipped version - act as a first line combatant. The ship can have different combat system configurations: starting from a "light" version for the patrol task, integrated for self-defense, to a "full" version, equipped for a complete defence ability. The vessel is also capable of operating high-speed vessels such as RHIBs up to 11 meters long, through its lateral cranes or its hauling ramp located astern.

OPVs can be broadly classified into two types:

- High-end war-fighting vessels with expensive weapon systems and C4I suites.
- More basic patrol vessels, designed for sustained low intensity missions and equipped with basic gun armaments,

standard navigation sensors and built to commercial standards.

The types which a country chooses depends on its particular naval requirements, resulting from its geographic location, political aspirations and intended role of its naval force. However, the majority of OPV programmes are of the cost effective, multi-role variety. These are being used in an increasing number of roles, including fishery protection, pollution control, fire-fighting, salvage or search and rescue (SAR), counter-narcotics, humanitarian operations and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) patrol.

Since the operational profiles of these various applications can be quite different, OPV propulsion systems need to be capable of adjusting to varying load requirements. While OPVs are typically between 500 t and 3300 t displacement with a speed of up to 25 knots, the design features can vary considerably from one vessel to another, in line with the intended operational function.

The OPVs should also be able to assist with helicopter operations due to the on-board helicopter landing deck capable of accommodating various types of maritime helicopters and UAVs.

The OPVs market is not concentrated; there are many companies such as NVL (formerly known as Lürssen), Israel Shipyards, Piriou, Dearsan Shipyard, TAIS, BAE Systems, Damen, Fincantieri, ROSOBORONEXPORT, Navantia, Babcock, acting in the African market.

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With over 140 years of experience in shipbuilding, **NVL** builds and offers in the African market versatile and flexible offshore patrol vessels to complete a wide range of missions. NVL OPVs are multi-role platforms built to provide permanent maritime security in operational areas due to their long endurance and excellent seakeeping capabilities.

NVL Group understands the growing importance of the African continent's geostrategic approaches in respect to natural resources and protecting the sovereignty, integrity, economy and wealth of the various African nations. NVL has a strong reputation and expertise in tailor-made concepts and solutions for the coastal and maritime security of African nations.

NVL deliver high-quality, tailored and cost-effective naval vessels and coastguard vessels, to be built either at one of our NVL Group shipyards or in locally under knowledge and technology transfer agreements to develop the country's maritime industry. In all cases, NVL focus on delivering technically advanced, state-of-the-art ships that meet your operational needs, all within your available budget.

NVL Group also provides sustainability support for existing fleet structures in the form of upgrades, spare parts supply, training, and other services to maximise the operational readiness of your fleet.

NVL Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) are built to meet the challenge of maintaining security in a fast-changing maritime environment. Flexible, robust and optimized to achieve high levels of performance, NVL OPVs can deploy rapidly to protect economic resources, combat criminal activity or safeguard life at sea. Whether your focus is on policing confined, shallow waters close to the coast or monitoring the vast expanses of an oceanic EEZ, we can supply patrol vessels that are ideally suited for the task.

In the 1990s, **Israel Shipyards** used the naval architecture of the Nirit Class SAAR 4.5 as a base design to produce a special OPV, loaded with the firepower of larger Naval vessels - for less cost.

This sleek OPV is equipped with highly advanced weapons systems, produced by world-recognized Israeli designers.

Becoming one of the best-known ISL vessels, the SAAR 4.5-based OPV was chosen to secure the extensive waterways around Greece during the 2004 World Olympics. One of its many advantages is a weapon-carrying capacity equal to larger, more costly vessels.

The seagoing power of the Israel Shipyards OPV was further enhanced with optional helicopter carrying capability. This innovation has proven itself

in the deployment of rapid-response units to security incidents occurring at sea, in all weather conditions. The development of the multi-mission OPV 45m was a result of comprehensive market research conducted over the past several years. Based on the combat proven SA'AR 4 design used by the Israeli Navy, the OPV 58m was selected by the Hellenic Coast Guard as a significant addition to naval security for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. The OPV 62m is even more versatile and mission-ready, with extensive payload capacity including stabilized weapons, medium-range missiles, ESM, and search radars.

On 9 July 2020, Israel Shipyards announced an agreement with an African navy for the supply of two OPV 45 offshore patrol vessels. The vessels were designed for a wide range of missions, including protection against the increasing threat of piracy in the region.

The OPV 45s will be equipped with day/night observation systems as well as stabilized weapon systems, both Israeli-made, which will maximize the effectiveness of the vessels during their various missions. The agreement includes ongoing support and training of the technical and operational teams as well as the creation of a maintenance program within the framework of the company's Integration Logistic Support (ILS) services. The OPV 45 is designed for a wide range of naval, para-military and HLS missions. It enables open sea patrol and surveillance and supports a wide variety of offshore missions such as the protection of facilities and EEZs, anti-terror/smuggling/illegal activity interdiction, intervention force boarding/landing, close-range naval combat operations, and enhanced search and rescue missions. The OPV 45 can also be equipped for minimizing illegal immigration transits, fishing protection and control, and anti-pollution activities.

**Fincantieri** offers the "Musherib" OPV vessel design is consistent with the RINAMIL for Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) rules. She is a flexible type of ship capable of performing several services, from surveillance to combat functions.

The propulsion system has four variable pitch propellers, two to starboard and two to the left, each in line with a diesel propulsion engine. Furthermore, the vessel is capable of operating a RHIB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat) through a crane located at the stern.

In March 2021, **Damen** launched the first multi-mission inshore patrol vessel (MMIPV) for the South African In 2018 Damen has also delivered its Multi Service Offshore Patrol Vessel 1400 (MSOPV 1400), a 'second generation' offshore patrol vessel, to the Tunisian Navy.

The Meteoro-class offshore patrol vessel, also known as Buque de Acción Marítima (BAM), are new modular offshore patrol vessels of the Spanish

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Navy adapted to different purposes from a common base, manufactured by **Navantia**. The BAMs combine high performance with mission versatility, a high commonality with other ships operated by the Spanish Navy. Acquisition and lifecycle costs are reduced.

**Dearsan Shipyard** signed a contract with the Nigerian Navy in Abuja on November 3, 2021, for the construction of 2 units of High Endurance 76-meter Offshore Patrol Vessels. Subsequently, necessary steps were taken to realize the project, and on September 16, 2022, the keel-laying ceremony for the two 76-meter Offshore Patrol Vessels was held. Just 13 months later, the launching ceremony for the first vessel of the project has been carried out on October 26, 2023. Dearsan's OPV76 enables it to carry out a variety of tasks, including surface warfare, search and rescue, and patrolling. The ship has two controllable pitch propellers, four diesel engines, and a combined diesel and diesel (CODAD) propulsion system. The Offshore Patrol Vessel 76 measures 76.80 meters in length, 11 meters in width, and has a draft of 2.9m. Depending on the customer's choice of armament package, the ship is manned by a crew of roughly forty personnel. Having a flight deck that can accommodate an NHIndustries NH90 sized helicopter.

**BAE** family of offshore patrol vessels comprises 80 metre and 90 metre versatile and affordable ships. Their adaptable design is well suited to the export market and can be altered according to individual customer needs, ensuring they can meet the operational requirements of navies around the world.

On 02 May 2023, the "CAYOR", the third offshore patrol vessels for the Senegalese Navy, was launched in Concarneau. After the WALO and NIANI, this is the last unit of the OPV58S programme, the contract for which was signed in November 2019 by the Senegalese Ministry of the Armed Forces and the **PIRIOU Group**, in the presence of the President of the Republic of Senegal and the French ministerial delegation, for the supply of three offshore patrol vessels. The construction programme for these three offshore patrol vessels, carried out with the support and expertise of its joint venture KERSHIP, will last 44 months, until the summer of 2024, and also includes a support period of several years in Senegal.

The « FOULADOU » Offshore Patrol Vessel type **OCEA** OPV 190 MKII has been named on Thursday 29th March in Dakar, in the presence of the President of Senegal Macky Sall and the Chief of Naval Staff. This 58 m multi-role vessel, designed for offshore operations, expands the

Senegalese Navy capacities to ensure the maritime safety and security missions since her entry in the fleet in 2016. This new flagship of the Senegalese Navy is playing a crucial role in the sovereignty of country at sea, in the multilateral operations in West Africa and in the development of the Senegalese blue economy, including the safety of the offshore resources.

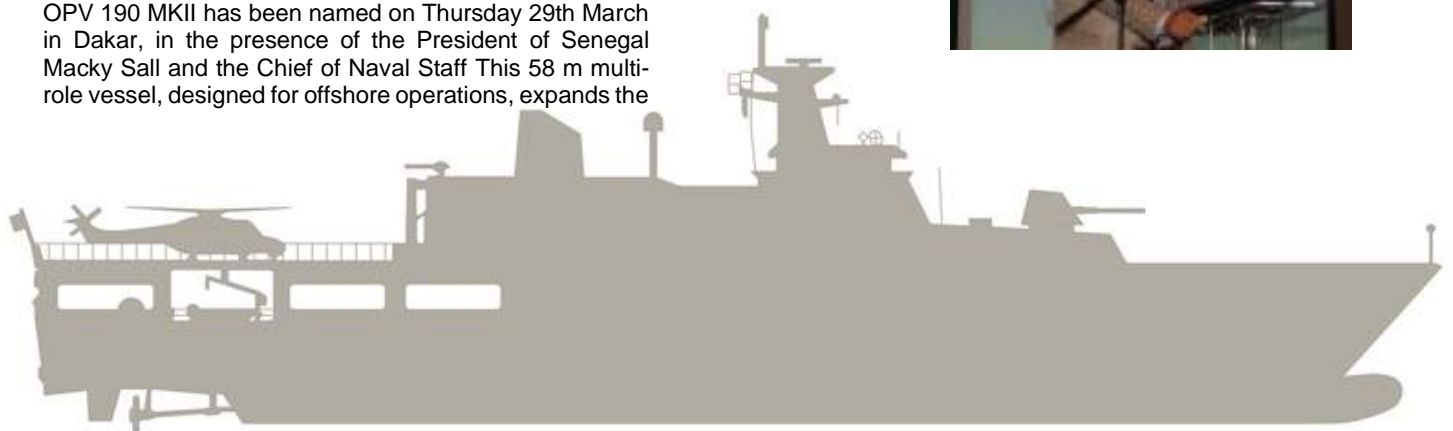
ARES 72 OPV is a 72m in length Offshore Patrol Vessel, designed by **ARES Shipyard** for EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) and offshore patrol, search & rescue, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, special forces operations and naval missions. The hull form is designed for high efficiency at cruise and high speeds, for optimum fuel economy and sustainable missions. Extensive fuel storage provides for a range of over 3,000 Nm at economic speed. The vessel is designed for unrestricted operations in conditions up to Sea State 7. The design includes a flight deck for day/night helicopter operations. There are also manned fast interceptor RHIBs or ULAQ series Unmanned Surface Vehicles onboard to be configured as per end user requests.

The **ARESA 6000 - 5000 OPV THE GUARDIAN** is a multi-mission offshore patrol vessel capable of performing international ocean patrol missions, fast intervention craft missions and drone missions, among many others. Built entirely in naval aluminium, it can also be built with composite superstructure in order to increase its autonomy. With capacity for 35 crew members on board, it can perform missions of up to 30 days at sea without the need to refuel in port. Equipped with the necessary defence systems to carry out the missions that the end customer intends to execute in the waters of its final country of destination.

Naval defence electronics, countermeasures, the possibility of armouring its superstructure, a maritime base for aerial vehicles or drones and a rapid launch system for fast intervention vessels are just some of the equipment that make this vessel an ideal platform for carrying out missions such as ocean patrols, anti-piracy or anti-drug missions and the control of the maritime limits of any sovereign country, as well as the performance of international cooperation and search and rescue missions.

**Dimitrios Angelopoulos M.Sc.**  
**Captain (Rtd)HN**

**Advisor on Defence and Maritime Security issues**



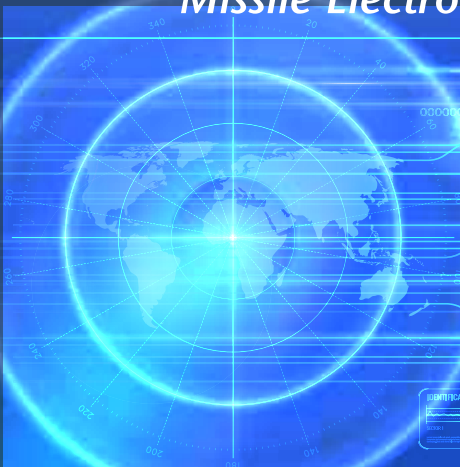


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## Nigerian Armed Forces Modernization

The Nigerian Defence Forces are currently in a process to transform itself more capable of handling current security threats. Furthermore, the Nigerian Army, Navy, Air Force has acquired new modern weapon systems including drones, Main Battle Tanks, Helicopters and various types of aircrafts. The budgetary allocation for defence in Nigeria annually is usually around US\$1.9 billion

The ambitious goal of the defence ministry, and a vital one for continued democratic rule in Nigeria, is to reposition the military to fulfil its constitutional role as the defender of the elected regime and guarantor of sovereignty.

In addition to the formation and execution of defence policy, and the management of military emergencies, the ministry of Defence has a twofold mission. Nationally, it must ensure combat readiness of forces to guarantee internal and national security; provide for the welfare of personnel; and enhance and develop the defence industries to reduce dependence on imports and create the potential for export production. Globally, the ministry is active in pan-African security through collective defence agreements and provides peacekeeping forces to areas under the mandate of the United Nations.

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### Recent weapons systems acquisition projects

- On 14 April 2022 the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Nigeria of AH-1Z Attack Helicopter Related FMS Acquisitions and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$997 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

The Government of Nigeria has also requested to buy twelve (12) AH-1Z Attack Helicopters; twenty-eight (28) T-700 GE 401C engines (24 installed, 4 spares); and two thousand (2,000) Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) guidance sections. Also included is Night Vision Cueing Display (NVCD); commercial variant GPS with Standard Positioning Service (SPS); communication equipment; electronic warfare systems; AN/AVS-9 Aviator's Night Vision Imaging System; M197 20mm machine gun; Target Sight System (TSS); support equipment; spare engine containers; spare and repair parts; tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; Mission Planning system; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical, and logistics support services; U.S. Government and contractor assistance and oversight of facilities construction to include the provisioning of plans, drawings and specifications; \$25M of case funds will be allocated for institutional and technical assistance to the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN) to continue Air Ground Integration (AGI) program, which includes developing targeting processes that are legally compliant with International Humanitarian Law and the Laws of Armed Conflict; and other related elements of logistics and program support.



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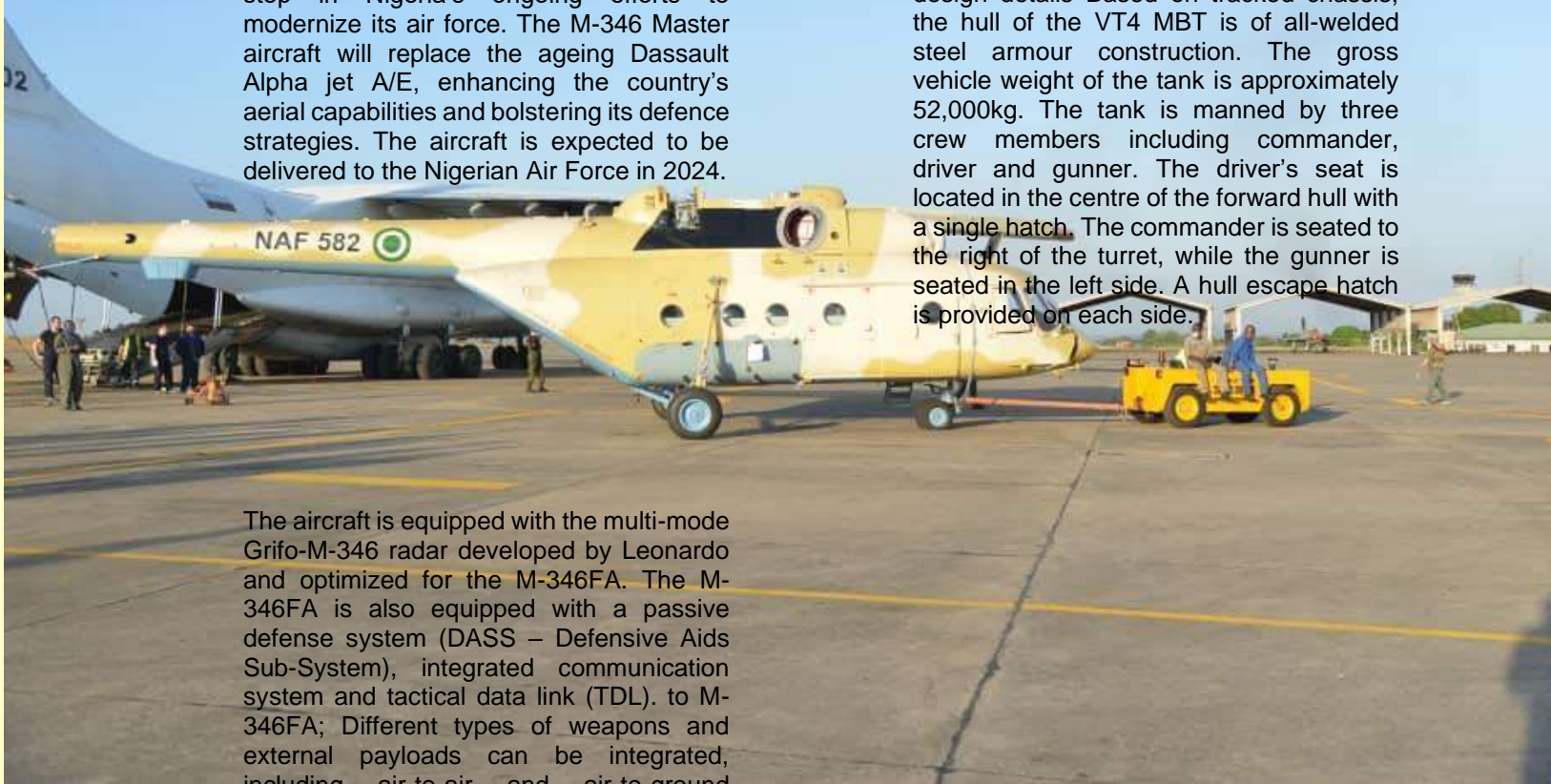
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- Nigerian Presidency through its social media confirmed that the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) will receive 24 M-346FA aircraft to equip the two full squadrons. The deal, estimated to be worth around €1.2bn, marks a significant step in Nigeria's ongoing efforts to modernize its air force. The M-346 Master aircraft will replace the ageing Dassault Alpha jet A/E, enhancing the country's aerial capabilities and bolstering its defence strategies. The aircraft is expected to be delivered to the Nigerian Air Force in 2024.



The aircraft is equipped with the multi-mode Grifo-M-346 radar developed by Leonardo and optimized for the M-346FA. The M-346FA is also equipped with a passive defense system (DASS – Defensive Aids Sub-System), integrated communication system and tactical data link (TDL). to M-346FA; Different types of weapons and external payloads can be integrated, including air-to-air and air-to-ground munitions (such as infrared, radar and/or laser/GPS guided munitions), weapon pods and Helmet Mounted Displays (HMD) and integrated reconnaissance and targeting pods.

- The Nigerian air force is set to receive three Chengdu/Pakistan Aeronautical Complex JF-17 fighters, as well as eight unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from China. The Wing Loong II attack drones from China is among China's most sophisticated unmanned combat aerial vehicles and can remain airborne between 26 and 31 hours. Each Wing Loong II costs about \$1-\$2 million, a fraction of the \$30 million that a U.S.-made MQ-9 Reaper sells for. The NAF says the new drones will be used in the fight against Islamic militants and bandits that currently operate in the northwest. Nigeria joins the United Arab Emirates as the only country outside of China that operates Wing Loong II drones.
- A batch of 17 combat vehicles, consisting of VT-4 main battle tanks, an ST-1 wheeled tank and two types of self-propelled

howitzers, was purchased by the Nigeria army.

The Nigerian army made an emergency purchase of heavy weapons to strike at the terrorists Boko Haram followed a signed package deal in 2019. VT4 main battle tank design details Based on tracked chassis, the hull of the VT4 MBT is of all-welded steel armour construction. The gross vehicle weight of the tank is approximately 52,000kg. The tank is manned by three crew members including commander, driver and gunner. The driver's seat is located in the centre of the forward hull with a single hatch. The commander is seated to the right of the turret, while the gunner is seated in the left side. A hull escape hatch is provided on each side.

- According to a Tweet released on May 30, 2020, by DefenseNigeria Twitter account, the Nigerian Navy will take delivery of more FPB 72 coastal patrol boats designed and produced by the French Company OCEA. In December 2019, the French company has announced a contract for the delivery of new 24 m Fast Patrol Boat type OCEA FPB 72 MKII to the Nigerian Navy. The OCEA FPB 72 is a light patrol boat that has a length of 24 meters and has a top speed of 30 knots (56 km/h; 35 mph). It can be armed with machine guns or an automatic cannon. The FPB 72 has a mono-hull design offering high-durability and superior performance, is propelled by two 2000 M72 MTU diesel engines and equipped with an unmanned turret weapon system armed with one 20mm automatic cannon.
- In mid-December 2019, Rear Admiral Beegroy Ibe-Enwo, head of policy and plans for the the Nigerian Navy, said it would receive new vessels from France, Malaysia, Vietnam and local

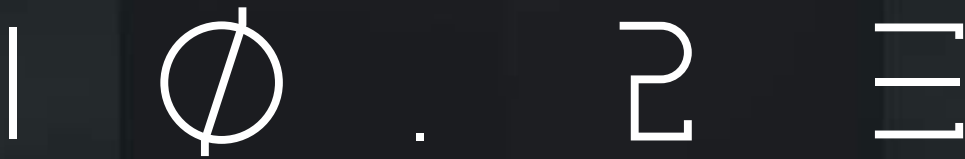


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manufacturers, adding to the 42 patrol boats and other vessels acquired in 2019.

Ibe-Enwo said the new acquisitions include 60-meter OSV 160 hydrographic survey vessels from France's Ocea, two 40-meter fast patrol boats from Damen Shipyard in Vietnam, four Manta class boats from Malaysia's Suncraft, one helicopter from Italy (most likely an AW109) and 15 riverine patrol boats from Nigeria's Epenal Group. The Nigerian Navy already has 20 18-meter Manta Mk III boats in service. Ocea is also constructing two 35-meter FPB 110 fast patrol boats, a 24-meter FPB 72 fast patrol boat and four 17-meter C-Falcon interceptors for the Nigerian Navy, which has already received two FPB 110s, seven FPB 72s and a 35-meter FPB 98.

- The Minister of Defence, Maj Gen Bashir Salihi Magashi (rtd), has recently said that Nigeria Defence Space Administration will be equipped technologically through partnership with the US Space Force to enhance its capabilities to fight insecurity in the country.

Magashi stated this while playing host to a five-man US delegation led by the Secretary, US Air Force, Barbara Barrett at the Ministry of Defence Headquarters, Ship House Abuja. The Minister said efficient and effective space management by the Defence Space Administration (DSA), is germane to the successful operations of the Nigerian Armed Forces and other security agencies in the effort to defeat insurgency, banditry and kidnapping. He appealed to the US secretary to speed up the release of the Super Tucano Aircraft undergoing procurement by the Federal Government which will boost the campaigns by the Nigerian Air Force to demystify the criminal elements in their various hideouts in the forests.

- The Nigerian Airforce took earlier received three new aircraft into service, AW109 helicopters produced by the Italian company Leonardo and one Mi-171 from Russia.
- The Nigerian Army has ordered 52 additional locally produced Ezugwu mine-resistant, ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles from the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON). The armored car belongs to the class of MRAP, that is, equipment resistant to the destructive effects of mines. According to the declared characteristics, it is able to withstand the explosion of 12 kg of explosive under the wheels and 6,75 kg under the bottom of the armored housing. Has an independent suspension.





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It is assumed that the armored car is created on the Tatra 4 x 4 chassis. Director-General of DICON, Major General Victor Ezugwu, said this was to improve the operational efficiency of the troops fighting terrorism, banditry and other emerging security threats in the country. The DG, who disclosed this in Kaduna shortly after he declared closed the maiden three-day retreat for top management staff of the Corporation said feedback from the field has proven the efficacy of the vehicles, hence the demand for more

- In December 2022, it was announced that Nigerian Army will be provided with 400 new armoured vehicles in an unprecedented buy in recent time. The newly promoted Commander of the Brigade of Guards, Major General Mohammed Usman at the State House, Abuja, on 28 December 2022 thanked President Muhammadu Buhari for the approval of 400 new armoured vehicles and said that the new vehicles were enough to secure his area of responsibility including the Federal Capital Territory, Nasarawa State and parts of Niger State. This recent 400 armoured vehicle buy may likely be part of previous

mega acquisitions of armor over the past few years which includes the recent block buy of close to a hundred Streit Group SPARTAN-MAV armoured personnel carriers. Spartan-MAV is a 4x4 armoured vehicle designed and built by Canadian company Streit Group. The armoured vehicle can support military, police and law enforcement mission, joining another 177 Streit vehicles of various types including Warrior, Typhoon, and Spartans acquired in 2017 for the Nigerian Army. Nigeria has been acquiring a wide variety of military hardware in recently years, from both local and foreign manufacturers. Domestic products include the Proforce Ara armoured personnel carrier and the Ezugwu APC manufactured by DICON, while the Nigerian Army Vehicle Manufacturing Company (NAVMC) is developing several armoured vehicles.

- On 1st february 2023 the French Shipyards OCEA announced the 9th order from the Nigerian Navy. In order to manage the growing challenges in the Gulf of Guinea, both near shore and in the EEZ, the Nigerian Navy expands its means and has placed a ninth order with OCEA for the design and manufacture of a fleet of patrol boats. The order includes three 32-metre OCEA FPB 98 MKI fast patrol boats, six 9.8-metre OCEA RIVER 28 OB river patrol boats and five 9.5-metre RHIBs, in addition to the 19 OCEA vessels already in the Nigerian Navy's fleet.

© Nigerian Army







- Within the scope of the requirements of the Nigerian Naval Forces Command where the design, integration, and construction belongs to Dearsan Shipyard, the ceremony of laying the keels for the 2 (two) units of 76-meter High Endurance Offshore Patrol Vessels, was held at Dearsan Shipyard on 16th September 2022, Friday. The Ceremony was held under the auspices of Nigerian Ministry of Defence H.E. Bashir Salih Magashi, Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces Admiral Ercüment Tatlıoğlu, Turkish Deputy Defense Minister Muhsin Dere, Nigerian Navy Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo, Chairman of Board of Dearsan Shipyard Mr. Aziz Yıldırım, Nigerian Ambassador to Türkiye İsmail Abba Yusuf as well as many members of the Navy, local and foreign guests, and many local, and foreign press members have attended.

After the speeches, Dearsan Chairman of the Board Mr. Aziz Yıldırım, Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces Admiral Ercüment Tatlıoğlu, Turkish Deputy Defense Minister Mr. Muhsin Dere, Nigerian Minister of Defence H.E. Bashir Salih Magashi and Commander of the Nigerian Naval Forces Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo has attended the keel-laying ceremony. After the group photo shoot of the protocol members and the presentation of gifts for this ceremony, the guests were hosted in the cocktail area at Dearsan Shipyard and

© Dearsan

examined the first blocks of 2 units of 76-meter Offshore Patrol Vessels.

.The Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1964. Consequently, a West German manufacturing firm Fritz Werner was assigned the task of providing technical expertise and set up the Ordnance Factory in Kaduna. The first Technical Partner of the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) was Fritz Werner of Western Germany. FW designed and built the Kaduna Ordnance Factories in 1964 with the following production capacities:

- 5000 units of BM 59 Rifles per annum,
- 18,000 units of SMG 12 per annum,
- 12,000,000 rounds of 7.62mm x 51 per annum and
- 4,000,000 rounds of 9mm x 19 per annum.

The Nigerian Civil War which occurred between 1967 -1970 necessitated the tripling of the above production rates and the factory was thus able to make a significant contribution to the war effort. After the war in 1970, the lucrative arms market for DICON ended. Therefore, in order to remain in business DICON decided to use its equipment to produce civilian items like rural water supply equipment, industrial spare parts and furniture for sale to the public.



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# SUPPORTING AFRICAN SECURITY

OPV 80 class offshore patrol vessel

## Effectively protecting African values

NVL Group understands the growing importance of the geostrategic aspects of the African continent in respect to natural resources and protecting the sovereignty, integrity, economy and wealth of the various African nations. The company has a strong reputation and expertise in tailor-made concepts and solutions for coastal defence and maritime security.

## Maintaining security

Today's navies face a broad spectrum of challenges in maintaining security in a fast-changing maritime environment. These geostrategic aspects mean that

nations require affordable, versatile and fast platforms to operate successfully in territorial waters and to protect against traditional threats. Whether the mission is protecting economic resources, countering criminal activity or safeguarding life at sea, a flexible and effective response is essential. At NVL Group, we recognise the importance of building vessels that are easy and economical to operate yet still deliver superior levels of performance.

## Customised platforms for any naval requirement

NVL Group provides state-of-the-art patrolling solutions for every kind of

challenge and threat, such as patrol boats, offshore patrol vessels, corvettes, frigates, minehunters or naval support vessels.



• **Territorial sea (<12 nm)**

Offering high speeds of over 40 knots, NVL Fast Patrol Boats can quickly respond to challenges. High performing and with excellent seakeeping characteristics, these boats are ideally suited for interception and patrolling territorial waters.

• **Contiguous zone (<24 nm)**

No matter how long a coastline is, contiguous zones are best patrolled by NVL Patrol Boats, which are characterised by their speed, performance and versatility. The proven design guarantees maximum reliability and endurance.

• **Exclusive Economic Zone (200 nm)**

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is best patrolled by offshore patrol vessels built

by NVL Group. Their multirole and multimission platforms provide permanent maritime security in the operational area due to their endurance and excellent seakeeping capabilities.

**Strong support for cost-efficient naval vessel operations**

Whatever the requirement, NVL Group works in partnership with its customers to establish the right solutions. We offer the option to build vessels at one of our NVL Group shipyards, or we can transfer both our knowledge and technology to develop our partner's maritime industry. In all cases, we focus on delivering technically advanced, high-quality ships that balance a navy's operational needs with its available budget. NVL Group also provides

sustainability support for existing fleet structures in the form of upgrades, spare parts supply, training, technology and knowledge transfer, and other services to maximise the potential of any navy vessel.

**Your naval solution**

NVL Group provides you with feasible and economical solutions to fulfil the tasks of today and overcome the challenges of the future. We aim to ensure each ship entrusted into our care remains mission-ready at every stage of its operational life. NVL Group maritime patrolling solutions offer reliable and versatile multi-mission performance, providing a cost-effective yet comprehensive means of meeting maritime security needs across the seven seas.



The maritime zones (from left to right): territorial sea, contiguous zone, EEZ



NVL Group works closely with the customer to enable local build and the transfer of knowledge and technology



FIB 25 fast interceptor boat



NVL Group is a privately owned group of renowned Northern German shipyards and related companies, formerly known as Lürssen Defence. Customers can rely on the company to consistently provide tailored, smart and cost-effective naval solutions that keep navies mission-ready around the world. With deep roots in shipbuilding, NVL Group delivers high-quality naval and coastguard vessels, as

well as comprehensive services throughout the entire life cycle of their fleets. Construction at NVL Group's shipyards is supplemented by licensed manufacture at customer facilities worldwide under technology transfer arrangements. As an independent enterprise, the company remains flexible to market changes and operates a dynamic, safe and future-oriented business.

**More about NVL Group's naval solutions:**

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**N·V·L**

THE DNA OF SHIPBUILDING

# Re-Equipping the Ghana Military

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is one of the key service delivery organs of the Government of the Republic of Ghana under the Office of the Head of Civil Service (OHCS).

The MOD mandate is to formulate and implement policies for the national defense through the agency of the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF). In charting National Defence Policy, MOD works in close collaboration with the National Security Secretariat and the Armed Forces Council to proactively promote National and Regional Defence interests through the effective formulation, implementation, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs and thereby contributing to the national development agenda.

The Ghana Armed Forces are heavily committed to international peacekeeping operations. Ghana prefers to send its troops to operations in Africa. However, the United Nations has used Ghanaian forces in countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Georgia, Nepal, Cambodia and Lebanon. Currently, Ghanaian armed forces are posted to United Nations peacekeeping missions in:

- MONUC (Democratic Republic of Congo)
- UNMIL (Liberia)
- UNAMSIL (Sierra Leone)
- UNIFIL (Lebanon)

### 2020 BUDGET ESTIMATES

- The construction of a hangar at Air Force Base Tamale is completed.
- The Ministry of Defence, under the auspices of H.E. the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Ghana Armed Forces in the First Quarter of this year commissioned Fifty (50) high occupancy buses and One Hundred and Thirty- Eight (138) operational vehicles procured for use by the Ghana Armed Forces.





- The Ministry has also awarded contracts for the establishment of a Forward Operating Base (FOB) in the Western Region as part of our national strategic program to protect the country's oil and gas reserves and other natural resources. The Project includes the construction of some 250 Housing Units of accommodation and the purchase of equipment (ships, boats, guns and vehicles) for the Ghana Navy.
- The Ministry has as at June, 30th 2019 overhauled Three (3) Casa Aircraft for the Ghana Air Force and Two (2) Helicopters which were grounded since 2012. Also, processes are on-going with prospective aircraft companies for the acquisition of Seven (7) aircrafts by the end of this year.
- The Ministry has secured Cabinet and Parliamentary approval to award a contract for the purchase of high technology communication equipment that is, Night Vision Binoculars and Monocular at the cost of US\$22,080,850.00 dollars for the GAF.
- In August 2020, Ghana's Parliament approved a total of \$86.12million loan agreement between the Government of Ghana and Israel Discount Bank Limited to finance the supply of armoured vehicles to the Ghana Armed Forces produced by the Israeli defence company Elbit Land Systems. The rationale for the loan was that the current threat of terrorism and other land border threats of neighbouring countries, particularly from the Sahel region, indicates that there was the need for the country, especially the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) to prepare for any agitations.

- Armoured vehicles play vital role in the work of the army and in recent times, heavily armoured vehicles particularly 6x6 and 8x8 vehicles were used by the army for land operations as they were sustainable for all terrains. Nine Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) will be 8x8 with Unmanned Turret (UT) 30mm, communications packages and 5,000 pieces of ammunition and ten will IFV 6x6 with Reconnaissance system including Remote Control Weapon System (ORCWS) 12.7 and communication package.
- According to the **Chief of Ghana Naval Staff**, Rear Admiral Seth Amoama, the new proposed OPVs for the Ghana Navy would mainly be deployed on protection of offshore oil and gas installations, maritime law enforcement and maritime safety and security. Additionally, they should be able to position the Navy to effectively deploy for Peace Support Operations including sea lifting of land forces and conduct of re-supply duties for peacekeeping missions. Other missions envisaged for the OPVs include EEZ patrols, joint operations and naval gunfire support to land forces as well as various humanitarian operations. In line with this, the main operational and technical requirements of the proposed OPVs are high endurance to enable the Navy to increase its presence at sea through prolonged deployment. It is also to offer the Navy varied capabilities and flexibility through the use of the Mission Modular System to be configured into the general arrangement of the ships. The ships are expected to be designed for integrated maritime air patrols and other close air support operations as well as Special Forces operations. It is also desirable that the ships should have minimum maintenance and long time between overhauls in order to have high operational availability.





- In March 2021, The Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) received 40 new armoured vehicles to help contain security threats in Ghana. President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo handed over the vehicles to the GAF at a ceremony in Accra. Dubbed Cobra II, the specialised vehicles are armoured personnel carriers. They are to help the GAF to contain and even better the security threats posed at the northern borders, as well as provide the necessary protection for the western and eastern frontiers. The COBRA-II General Purpose Tactical Wheeled Armoured Vehicles will help the GAF discharge their duties effectively. The President described the vehicles as strong and versatile, which would support the GAF to prevent and contain security threats at the country's borders, including the northern, western and eastern frontiers.

COBRA II 4x4 Tactical Wheeled Armored Vehicle, produced by the Turkish company Otokar is a modular platform with superior technical and tactical characteristics. Besides outstanding mobility, COBRA II provides higher ballistic and mine

protection, increased payload capacity and internal volume.

The Minister of Defence, Mr Dominic Nitiwul, also said the government would provide more resources to the GAF to combat threats posed within and outside the country, adding that the GAF needed real time surveillance capability, high moral, force protection, fire power and communication tools. He said the GAF had been resourced with 73 APCs within the last three years, and that the equipment was procured in three batches for the 153 Armoured Regiment in Accra in 2018, 154 Armoured Regiment in Sunyani in 2019 and the 155 Armoured Regiment in Tamale in 2021.

- In February 2022, President Akufo-Addo commissions four ships for the Navy at the Sekondi-Takoradi Naval Base. President said the acquisition of the vessels, was a further manifestation of the government's commitment to retooling and re-equipping the Ghana Armed Forces, to enable them to protect the country's territorial borders. The vessels were acquired through a public-private partnership between the Ministry of Defence, Israel Shipyards Ltd, Ghana Commercial Bank and two international oil companies. According to the 'Northern Border Project' designed to safeguard the country's land borders at the Northern part of Ghana is included the establishment of forward operating bases (FOB), along the northern perimeters and equipping them with state-of-the-art equipment to defend the country. President also said that in addition to the four ships, the government was in the process of acquiring another two offshore patrol vessels with high endurance limits, "to maintain a constant presence at sea."



- The Division Director of MESSRS Poly Technologies Incorporated, China, Mr Gu Jia and B&G African Trading representatives have handed over a newly acquired Ground Artillery Equipment (GAE) to Ghana Armed Forces Battle Training Camp, Bundase on 7 December 2023. The newly-acquired GAE comprises 122 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS), 1 Reconnaissance Vehicle, 1 Command Vehicle, 7200x122mm rockets, spare parts and accessories. The Guest of Honour, Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) in-charge of Administration at the General Headquarters, Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Michael Appiah-Agyekum expressed gratitude to the companies for their invaluable support in strengthening Ghana's Defence system. He emphasised that the equipment would help in improving and safeguarding the nation's sovereignty. "The acquisition of some strategic equipment, platforms and the training of personnel in diverse fields among others are all part of ongoing efforts to effectively resource GAF operationally and produce needed welfare package for troops while in service". He added.

He stated that the equipment has come at the time when terrorism and trans-organized crime were at all-time high within the sub-region. The equipment he said would increase the operational capability of GAF and position it in a better place to handle any aggressor force. The Chief Staff Officer at Army Headquarters, Brigadier General Barima Brako Owusu also urged troops to be professional in the discharge of their duties and advised to maintain the newly-acquired GAE.

- To enhance the mobility and overall operational capabilities of the in February 2023, Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) has inducted 245 vehicles of various types into service. Ghana's president and commander-in-chief Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo presented the vehicles to the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) in the capital Accra on 1 February. The vehicles include 70 Kamaz trucks, 20 BTR-70 armoured personnel carriers (APCs), 20 Navistar Defence Husky tactical support vehicles (TSVs), and 65 Toyota utility vehicles.



- In October 2023, the European Union (EU) handed over 105 armoured vehicles to the Armed Forces of Ghana. This delivery is part of the assistance measure under the European Peace Facility (EPF) agreed by the EU Council on 10 July 2023 in Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/1440. Handover ceremony was held with the participation of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo of Ghana and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Josep Borrell. This first assistance measure in Ghana provides armoured vehicles and other equipment, as part of the EPF support to the Ghanaian Armed Forces. It is an important milestone in the EU-Ghana partnership on security and defence supporting Ghana and the entire sub-region of the Gulf of Guinea, which faces serious risks of spill-over effects of terrorism in the Sahel. EU's military assistance aims to enhance the capabilities of the Ghana Armed Forces to protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ghana and its civilian population against internal and external aggression and to contribute to peace and stability within the region.

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Josep Borrell and Irchad Razaaly, Ambassador of the European Union to Ghana



## SHALDAG MK II - Securing Africa's Rivers and Lakes

### Fortifying Africa's Lifelines: The SHALDAG MK II's

Africa's vast network of Rivers and Lakes, crucial for the continent's sustenance and growth, faces numerous security challenges. The SHALDAG MK II, developed by Israel Shipyards, presents a cutting-edge solution for these challenges. Drawing from its success in regions like Argentina, this editorial explores the potential of the SHALDAG MK II in transforming the security landscape of African Rivers and Lakes.

African Rivers and Lakes, such as the Nile, Congo, and Niger, are vital for transportation, agriculture, and commerce. Yet, they are plagued by issues like piracy, smuggling, illegal fishing, and environmental degradation. Effective management of these challenges is vital for the continent's stability and prosperity.

- **SHALDAG MK II: Designed for Excellence**

Israel Shipyards SHALDAG MK II is a fast patrol boat known for its agility, speed, and operational flexibility. With a length of 24.8 meters and a draft suitable for shallow waters, it's particularly well-suited for the diverse African riverine environments. It can reach speeds up to 45 knots and ensures quick response to security threats.

The SHALDAG MK II is engineered for optimal performance in challenging conditions. Its hull design allows for excellent maneuverability in the winding river passages of Africa.

The vessel's construction focuses on durability to withstand harsh operational environments, an essential feature for the varied African Rivers and Lakes.

- **Argentine Experience: A Case Study in Versatility**

Argentina's deployment of the SHALDAG MK II in the La Plata river basin demonstrates its effectiveness in diverse roles, from border security to anti-smuggling operations. This experience is particularly relevant to African nations, where Rivers and Lakes often serve as international borders and are hotbeds for illegal activities.

The SHALDAG MK II has state-of-the-art navigation and communication systems, ensuring seamless operations in diverse scenarios. It can be armed with various weapons, making it capable of handling multiple security challenges. This adaptability is crucial for the varied security requirements of African Rivers and Lakes.

Israel Shipyards, the creator of the SHALDAG MK II, is renowned for its excellence in shipbuilding and maritime technology. The SHALDAG MK II reflects the company's commitment to innovation, quality, and functionality, making it an ideal solution for complex naval security challenges.

- **Tailoring SHALDAG MK II for African Rivers and Lakes:**

To maximize its effectiveness in Africa, the SHALDAG MK II can be customized to address the continent's specific security needs. This includes adapting its sensor and communication equipment to suit African riverine conditions characterized by dense vegetation and varying water dynamics.

The SHALDAG MK II's design minimizes its ecological impact in line with global environmental concerns.







This is vital for Africa, where river ecosystems are crucial to biodiversity and sustenance. The vessel's efficient propulsion system reduces fuel consumption and emissions, aligning with sustainable development goals.

### **Capacity Building: A Key to Success**

Deploying the SHALDAG MK II in Africa necessitates comprehensive training programs for local personnel. Israel Shipyards' emphasis on training ensures that African naval and coast guard crews are well-prepared to operate the vessel to its full potential.

Adequate riverine security in Africa requires cross-border cooperation. The SHALDAG MK II can catalyze regional collaboration, fostering joint patrols, intelligence sharing, and unified strategies against common threats.

### **Global Case Studies: Proven Effectiveness**

Beyond Argentina, the SHALDAG MK II has been successfully deployed in various global maritime scenarios. These case studies provide valuable operational insights for African security agencies, demonstrating the vessel's effectiveness in diverse

environments and missions. From high-speed pursuits to coordinated multi-agency operations, the SHALDAG MK II has proven its worth in enhancing maritime security.

Customization for Diverse African Threats: Considering Africa's diverse riverine security needs, the SHALDAG MK II's ability to be customized is a significant advantage. Whether adapting to specific weapons systems to counter piracy or integrating advanced surveillance equipment for monitoring environmental violations, the vessel's flexibility ensures it can be tailored to meet the continent's unique challenges.

### **Integration with National Security Frameworks:**

For the SHALDAG MK II to be effective in Africa, it must integrate seamlessly with existing national and regional security infrastructures. This includes operational coordination with other naval assets and law enforcement agencies and even integration with land-based security systems for comprehensive security coverage.

The impact of a secure riverine system in Africa extends beyond just safety. By curbing illegal



activities and ensuring waterways' security, the SHALDAG MK II contributes to economic stability and growth. Secure Rivers and Lakes facilitate safer trade routes, enhance tourism, and protect local communities' livelihoods, contributing significantly to the overall socio-economic development of the region.

Adopting the SHALDAG MK II in Africa will come with its challenges, including logistical support, maintenance, and operational costs. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from governments, regional bodies, and partners like Israel Shipyards to ensure sustainable and effective deployment of these vessels.

International partnerships and collaborations can play a crucial role in successfully deploying and operating the SHALDAG MK II in Africa. These partnerships can facilitate technology transfer, financial assistance, and shared best practices, enhancing the continent's maritime security capabilities.

- **Preparing for the Future:**

As African nations look to bolster their riverine security, the SHALDAG MK II represents a forward-

thinking solution. Preparing for future security challenges means continually adapting and evolving the vessel's capabilities, ensuring it remains at the forefront of maritime security technology.

The SHALDAG MK II, with its advanced capabilities and proven track record, offers a promising solution for enhancing riverine security across Africa. Tailored to the continent's unique needs, it can play a pivotal role in safeguarding vital waterways, promoting regional stability, and fostering economic growth. The collaboration between African nations and Israel Shipyards could mark a new chapter in riverine security, setting a maritime safety and operational excellence standard. As African countries navigate the complex waters of riverine security, the SHALDAG MK II stands ready to be a key ally in their journey toward a safer, more prosperous future.

- **The Legacy of Israel Shipyards in Africa: A Partnership for Progress**

The collaboration between Israel Shipyards and African nations offers a tangible example of this

enduring partnership and its multifaceted benefits. Here are vital aspects that exemplify this legacy: Customized Security Solutions: Understanding the unique challenges of African waterways, Israel Shipyards has customized the solutions to suit specific regional needs. This customization includes adaptations in armament, navigation systems, and communication technologies, ensuring the vessel is ideally suited for operations in diverse African riverine environments.

**Training and Skill Development:** Israel Shipyards has provided comprehensive training programs for African naval personnel. This initiative goes beyond basic operational training, encompassing tactical response strategies, maintenance skills, and an understanding of advanced maritime technologies. This approach ensures that African crews are not just operators of the vessels but are fully equipped to maximize their capabilities.

**Technology Transfer and Collaboration:** The partnership has facilitated technology transfer, allowing African nations to access advanced maritime technologies and know-how. This exchange is pivotal in enhancing the technological capabilities of African naval forces, making them self-reliant and better prepared to address maritime security challenges.

**Long-Term Support and Maintenance:** Israel Shipyards' commitment to Africa extends to long-term maintenance and support. This enduring support ensures the vessels remain operational and practical over their lifecycle, reflecting a commitment to sustainable security solutions rather than short-term transactions.

**Enhancing Regional Security Cooperation:** Deploying ISL various vessels has fostered regional cooperation among forces. As platforms for joint operations and training exercises, these vessels have encouraged collaboration in maritime security, intelligence sharing, and coordinated responses to common threats.

**Economic and Environmental Impact:** Beyond security, the partnership has had positive economic and environmental impacts. Secure and well-patrolled Rivers and Lakes encourage trade and tourism, boosting local economies. Additionally, ISL vessel's environmentally conscious design aligns with Africa's commitment to sustainable development, minimizing ecological impacts on its diverse river ecosystems.

**Building a Foundation for Future Cooperation:** The success of ISL vessels in Africa has laid the groundwork for future collaborations in other maritime security and defense areas. This evolving partnership signals a growing trust and mutual understanding between Israel Shipyards and African maritime forces, leading the way for more comprehensive and integrated security frameworks. In essence, the collaboration is more than procuring defense equipment; it symbolizes a more profound, mutually beneficial relationship. It exemplifies how partnerships in defense technology can transcend traditional boundaries, fostering capacity building,

economic growth, regional cooperation, and a shared commitment to securing and advancing maritime interests.

As African maritime forces continue to navigate the intricate challenges of riverine and marine security, the ongoing partnership with Israel Shipyards stands as a beacon of hope and progress. This alliance is not just about securing waterways. Still, it is a more substantial commitment to proceeding with mutual interests, enhancing capabilities, and jointly following a vision of a more secure, prosperous, and stable Africa.

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### Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems Hands Over Third MEKO Frigate to Egyptian Navy

In a festive ceremony held in Bremerhaven on 15 December, thyssenkrupp Marine Systems handed over the frigate “AL-QADEER” to the Navy of the Arab Republic of Egypt. “AL-QADEER” is the third in a series of four MEKO® A-200 EN frigates. The ceremony was attended by high-ranking representatives from the Egyptian and German Navy.

Oliver Burkhard, CEO of thyssenkrupp Marine Systems highlighted: “Just six months after the handover of the second frigate, ‘AL-QAHHAR’, another state-of-the-art ship was successfully delivered to the Egyptian Navy today. The handover marks the official completion of construction of the ships in Germany, all in record time. The fourth frigate will be completed at Alexandria Shipyard in close cooperation with thyssenkrupp Marine Systems.”

Production work on “AL-QADEER” began with the first steel cutting in autumn 2020, followed by keel laying in March 2021, launching in April 2022, and naming in October 2022. In a few days, “AL-QADEER” will set sail for Alexandria, Egypt.

Vice Admiral Ashraf Ibrahim Atwa, Commander in Chief of the Egyptian Navy said: “Within only 14 months, the Egyptian Navy received the three MEKO® A-200 Frigates AL-AZIZ, AL-QAHHAR and AL-QADEER. These repeated visits for the handovers are the actual proof of the extent of cooperation and friendship between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Federal Republic of Germany. As much the Egyptian Navy is proud to acquire the MEKO® A-200 frigates, thyssenkrupp Marine Systems must also be proud for building them.

Only a few days ago, at the Egyptian Defense Exhibition EDEX 2023 in Cairo, the fourth Frigate, AL-JABBAR, was launched for an expected delivery in October 2025.” In 2018, the Arab Republic of Egypt commissioned thyssenkrupp Marine Systems to build a total of four identical ships. The first three units – “AL-AZIZ”, “AL-QAHHAR” and “AL-QADEER” – were built in Germany, while the fourth frigate is currently under construction at Alexandria Shipyard in Egypt.

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## NAF AND DORNIER AVIATION TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION



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The Chairman, Dornier Aviation Nigeria AIEP (DANA) Limited, Alhaji Suleiman Sani Bello has reiterated the commitment of his organization to further strengthen the existing collaboration and cooperation with the Nigerian Air Force (NAF). The Chairman stated this when he recently paid a courtesy visit to Headquarters NAF. While thanking the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar, for the good working relationship both organizations have enjoyed over the last four decades, he also expressed the zeal and commitment of Dornier Aviation to collaborate and continue providing solutions, training, maintenance and logistics support to the NAF. Alhaji Bello also noted that Dornier Aviation has an existing Memorandum of Understanding with the Air Force Institute of Technology to conduct practical loggings for students to attain their civil license as well as to provide practical experience for students in aircraft maintenance, training, spare parts management and flight tracking/data monitoring system, among other expertise.

Speaking further, the Chairman proposed a strengthened collaboration with the NAF, stating that the company stands ready to provide aircraft acquisition, maintenance, and logistics support services for general aviation. This partnership, according to him, will not only enhance the operational efficiency of the NAF but will also contribute to the growth of local content in terms of

employment and technology transfer. He went on to reveal that Dornier Aviation intends to step into the future through the establishment of state-of-the-art Fire Fighting Training facility with virtual reality classrooms, practical applications training as well as aircraft rescue and firefighting simulators. Looking into the future, Alhaji Bello further intimated the CAS that Dornier would be establishing a training school simulator in 2024 to key into the worldwide civil aviation requirements to provide quality training and operational experience, among many other requirements.

In responding, Air Marshal Abubakar appreciated the long-standing cooperation and mutually beneficial relationship the NAF and Dornier Aviation have shared over the years. According to CAS, DANA has grown to become a formidable aircraft service centre in Nigeria and the West African sub region. He also noted that the NAF has benefited immensely from Dornier's technical expertise and capacity in aircraft maintenance, especially on the Dornier-228 aircraft. He equally used the opportunity to solicit for support regarding the timely provision of DO-228 aircraft

spares at reasonable prices. While appreciating Dornier Aviation for their continued support to the NAF, he assured the Chairman of NAF's commitment to deepening existing cordial relationship and collaborations, especially in the areas of maintenance training, spares provisioning as well as Research and Development amongst others.

The Chairman of Dornier Aviation was accompanied some Directors of the Company including Mr Genz Siegfried, Air Commodore Peter Gana (Retired), Captain Jari Williams, Alhaji Isa Abubakar, Alhaji Hamid Bawa and the Public Relations Manager, Alhaji Bashir Chedi.



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## EGYPT

- **LIGHT TACTICAL VEHICLE CHASSIS AND FLEET BUILD**

On 10 January 2024, the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Egypt of Light Tactical Vehicle Chassis and Fleet Build and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$200 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale today.

The Government of Egypt has requested to buy additional light tactical vehicle chassis and fleet build that will be added to a previously implemented case. The original Foreign Military Sales case, valued at \$41.9 million, included 4-Man REV1-B Rolling Chassis with 190 horsepower (HP) diesel engines upgraded to 205HP turbocharged engines; training for chassis assembly process, operations, and maintenance; spare and repair parts; testing equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$200 million.

This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic growth in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will contribute to the modernization of Egypt's Light Tactical Vehicle fleet, enhancing its ability to meet current and future threats. These chassis will contribute to Egypt's goal of updating its military capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Egypt will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

- **28-METER PATROL CRAFT KITS**

On 10 January 2024, the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Egypt of 28-Meter Patrol Craft Kits and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$129 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale. The Government of Egypt has requested to buy additional non-Major Defense Equipment (MDE) 28-meter patrol craft production kits and technical support. The kits consist of Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats, forward-looking infrared systems, and computer packages; technical and logistics support services; transportation; spare parts, materials, equipment, and components; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$129 million.

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## First female pilots in Chadian Air Force

U.S. Marine Corps General Michael Langley and Sergeant Major Michael Woods from U.S. Africa Command visited Chad on January 9-10, 2024, to discuss security collaboration with Chadian military leaders. During the visit, Langley had the opportunity to congratulate the nation's first female military pilots trained on the C-208 light reconnaissance aircraft.

Langley and Woods engaged with key military leaders and partners to discuss collaborative efforts in promoting peace, security, and stability across the Sahel.

"U.S. Africa Command remains dedicated to building enduring partnerships with Chad and other African nations in the Sahel to address mutual security concerns and to help promote a peaceful and prosperous future in the region," Langley said. During the trip, Langley met with General Abakar Abdelkerim Daoud, Chief of Staff for the Armed Forces for Chad, and other military leaders. Discussions focused on regional security challenges and Chadian efforts to counter violent extremism in the Sahel.

Langley also viewed the Chadian Air Force's two C-208B light reconnaissance aircraft and took the

opportunity to speak with pilots, maintainers, and operators. The aircraft were formally handed over by the United States in 2018. Chadian forces use the aircraft for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions to counter violent extremist organizations in the Lake Chad Basin.

Of note, Langley met with Chad's first two female military pilots, Lt. Ahmat and Lt. Djiddi from the Chadian Air Force who were certified to fly the C-208s in the United States in 2022. Instability in the Sahel threatens U.S. interests, making collaboration essential for intelligence sharing and capacity building. Additionally, U.S. engagement aids regional stability, essential for economic growth and humanitarian efforts. By fostering partnerships, the United States aims to counter terrorism and promote collective security efforts in the Sahel.

The Sahel region in Africa holds immense security importance due to its challenges. Extremist groups exploit weak governance and environmental stressors, causing instability. This insecurity not only affects the Sahel but also poses a global threat by fostering terrorism and exacerbating humanitarian crises.

In addition, Langley met with U.S. military personnel stationed at the embassy, recognizing members for their accomplishments. "It was an honor to have General Langley with us, to see the progress Chad has made since his last visit here," said U.S. Army Colonel Mark Choate, Senior Defense Official, Defense Attaché to the Republic of Chad. "On the military front, Chad has enacted important reforms, embracing civilian governance with a civilian Minister of Defense and maintaining its international commitments in a time of turmoil."



U.S. Africa Command is one of seven U.S. Department of Defense geographic combatant commands. The command is responsible for all U.S. military operations, exercises, security cooperation, and conducts crisis response on the African continent to advance U.S. interests and promote regional security, stability, and prosperity. The visit highlights U.S. Africa Command's 3D approach, which leverages diplomacy, development, and defense collaboration.

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### **U.S. Africa Command Head Advances U.S.-Nigeria Cooperation**

Langley and Woods engaged with Major General EV Onumajuru, Chief of Defense Training and Operations. The leaders discussed opportunities to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two nations, efforts to counter violent extremism in the region, and Nigeria's leadership when addressing regional security. Langley reaffirmed the United States' long-standing cooperation with Nigeria, which has the largest population, economy, and democracy in Africa.

"Cooperation and training between the U.S. and Nigerian militaries is vital in addressing the evolving security landscape in West Africa and advancing common interests," Langley said. "This visit underscores the United States' commitment to work in partnership with West African nations in promoting security, stability and prosperity across the region."

© Africom - U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Michael Langley and Sgt. Maj. Michael Woods visited Nigeria on January 10-11, 2024.

Around West Africa, extremist groups exploit weak governance and environmental stressors, causing instability. This insecurity not only affects the region but also poses a global threat by fostering terrorism and exacerbating humanitarian crises.

"Instability in West Africa requires collaboration – including intelligence sharing and capacity building – to address. In partnership with Nigeria, the United States aims to counter terrorism, provide humanitarian assistance, and achieve the security needed for economic growth," stated U.S. Mission Nigeria Chargé d'Affaires David Greene.

Langley also met with Nigerian alumni of the embassy's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) and other programs, where he shared his perspective on leadership and learned about the alumni's achievements. Langley and Woods further met with embassy diplomatic and military personnel, several of whom he recognized for their accomplishments. U.S. Africa Command is one of seven U.S. Department of Defense geographic combatant commands. The command is responsible for all U.S. military operations, exercises, and security cooperation, and conducts crisis response on the African continent to advance U.S. interests and promote regional security, stability, and prosperity. The visit highlights U.S. Africa Command's 3D approach, which leverages diplomacy, development, and defense collaboration.





## United States Announces Donation of Helicopters to Zambia Air Force

On September 11, the United States announced an \$80 million (1.6 billion Kwacha) grant to Zambia that will supply four Bell 412EP helicopters to the Zambia Air Force with three years of service, parts, and training for the helicopters. During a press conference, Zambia Air Force Major General Oscar Nyoni thanked the U.S. government for the donation, noting that this grant will enable the Zambia Air Force to better support the domestic needs of Zambia, regional security, and UN peacekeeping missions abroad.

Commander of U.S. Africa Command General Michael Langley made the announcement at the Africa Senior Enlisted Leaders Conference (ASELC), which the United States and Zambia co-hosted from September 10-13. This annual conference convened senior enlisted leaders from approximately 30 African countries to discuss

mutual challenges and opportunities, including crisis response, rule of law, protecting natural resources, addressing instability, and strengthening security cooperation. Zambia is the first African nation to host the ASELC.

During his two-day visit to Zambia, General Langley met with Zambian Minister of Defence Ambrose Lufuma to discuss strengthening the U.S.-Zambia security partnership. He also met members of the Zambia Defence Force (ZDF) to discuss women, peace, and security efforts in the Zambian military and to learn how the ZDF has been so successful in integrating women into all ranks and career fields. Additionally, General Langley visited a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) “Stop Gender-Based Violence” program at Munali Boys Secondary School to learn how the project is empowering boys and men to be champions against gender-based violence using the “Coaching Boys into Men” activity.

The United States and Zambia share the goal of promoting peace and stability. We commend the Zambian military for its outstanding commitment to UN peacekeeping missions, as well as serving as a global model for integrating women into its military. The United States looks forward to partnering with Zambia to strengthen bilateral security cooperation that benefits the Zambia Defence Force, the Zambian people, and the region.

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## **European Peace Facility: Council adopts an assistance measure to support the Somali National Army in conjunction with the EU Training Mission in Somalia**

The Council today adopted an assistance measure worth €1 million, under the European Peace Facility, to support the Somali National Army with military equipment designed to deliver lethal force.

With the adoption of today's additional support, the Somali National Army (SNA) will be better equipped and trained. The EU is determined to help the SNA to assume full responsibility over security operations in Somalia. Our joint interest remains security and stability in the country.

Josep Borrell, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

The assistance measure will strengthen the capacity of the Somali National Army to be trained at the General Dhagabadan Training Centre, with a

view to restore safety and security in the country and protect the civilian population. Through this assistance measure, the EU will provide ammunition that will be used solely for training Somali National Army personnel in conjunction with EU Training Mission in Somalia and in full respect of relevant international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

This capacity-building support through the EU Training Mission in Somalia is coupled and synchronised with the €69 million of equipment and supplies delivered to the Somali National Army since 2019 and remains essential for Somalia to be in better control of its security.

The European Peace Facility was established in March 2021 to finance all Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) actions in military and defence areas, with the aim of preventing conflict, preserving peace and strengthening international security and stability. In particular, the European Peace Facility allows the EU to finance actions designed to strengthen the capacities of third states and regional and international organisations as regards military and defence matters.

© **Ayanle, American - Somal Wikipedia contributor**



## Türkiye's new combat drone completes endurance flight test

On December 2023, the Türkiye's unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), Bayraktar TB3, tailored for the country's newly commissioned aircraft carrier, completed a long-duration flight test on Wednesday, remaining airborne for 32 hours, its developer said.

According to the statement from Baykar, after its first flight on Oct. 27, Bayraktar TB3 UCAV underwent consecutive performance tests, including the 13th flight test dubbed the endurance flight test. During the test conducted at the Akıncı Flight Training and Test Center in Çorlu, Tekirdağ, the Bayraktar TB3 UAV remained continuously in the air at an average altitude of 20,000 feet for 32 hours. The national UCAV took off with the PD-170 engine developed domestically by TUSAŞ Engine Industries (TEI). Bayraktar TB3 covered a total distance of 5,700 kilometers (3,541.8 miles) in the sky during its 32-hour flight, the company said.

In the earlier 12th flight test measuring mid-altitude system performance, Bayraktar TB3 remained airborne for 12 hours, thus breaking its own record. The Bayraktar TB3 UCAV is an armed unmanned aerial vehicle system, currently being developed indigenously by Baykar and capable of takeoff and landing on short runway aircraft carriers. Besides reconnaissance/surveillance and intelligence missions, the Bayraktar TB3 UCAV can launch an assault operation with the smart munitions stationed under its wings.

The Bayraktar TB3 can conduct armed operations overseas due in part to custom capabilities, like foldable wings that enable use on aircraft carriers.

The Bayraktar TB3 can be operated from very remote distances thanks to its Line-Of-Sight and Beyond-Line-Of-Sight communications capabilities.

### Basic flight performance criteria

- 8.35 Meter Length
- 14 Meters Wingspan
- 1450 Kilograms Maximum Take Off Weight
- 125 knots-160 knots Cruise Speed – Maximum Speed
- 280 Kilograms Payload Capacity
- 24+ Hours Endurance

### Advanced Features

- Fully Autonomous Take Off and Landing
- LOS and BLOS
- Take Off and Landing Capability from Short-Runway Aircraft Carriers

Founded in 1986 with the aim of supplying the automotive industry, Baykar has transformed itself into Turkey's leading UAV and AI Company.

Its development and people-focused culture plays a leading role in the success of Baykar's defense technologies, which are included in the inventory of the Turkish Armed Forces and exported abroad. In Baykar's R & D Center registered by the Ministry of Industry and Technology, they focus on designing advanced transformative technologies for the aviation arena. Its team spirit is result-oriented and highly motivated. It enables the dynamic application of new technologies with the intertwining of R&D and production processes. Baykar is vertically, intellectually, integrated controlling all elements of the design and manufacturing processes, supported by a robust supply chain in order to rapidly deliver tomorrow's solutions today.

© Baykar





©STM

## New Ships build locally delivered to the Turkish Navy

On 19 January 2024, STM delivered to the Turkish Navy TCG İSTANBUL (F-515), Türkiye's first national frigate, the TCG UTGM. ARİF EKMEKÇİ (A-575) Logistics Support Ship as well as the Replenishment at Sea and Combat Support Ship (DIMDEG) TCG DERYA (A-1590), the second largest ship in the Turkish Naval fleet, and the MARLIN Unmanned Surface Vehicle (USV).

STM Savunma Teknolojileri Mühendislik ve Ticaret A.Ş. the project main contractor under the leadership of the Defence Industry Agency (SSB) of the Republic of Türkiye, develops innovative and national solutions, contributing to Türkiye's vision of establishing a fully independent defence sector, and is continuing its efforts in this regard with the construction of national and modern warships for the Turkish Navy. The new Naval Platforms Delivery Ceremony was held at Sefine Shipyard in Yalova. Attending the ceremony were President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan; Yaşar Güler, Minister of National Defense; Prof. Dr. Haluk Görgün, President of Defence Industry Agency (SSB); Admiral Ercüment Tatlıoğlu, Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces; Özgür Güler, General Manager of STM; and Celal Koloğlu, Member of Board of Sefine Shipyard, as well as many other guests.

Özgür Güler, General Manager of STM, stated that STM undertakes significant duties in the construction of national surface and submarine ships for the Turkish Navy, and has contributed to the Turkish economy through its exports of naval platforms to Pakistan and Ukraine.

He said that STM was proud to have been selected as the main contractor in the TCG İSTANBUL project, as Türkiye's first national frigate, and said: "TCG İSTANBUL, MİLGEM İstif-Class Frigates have taken their place among the five most advanced frigates in the world thanks to their design and technologies. The targeted localisation rate for the Istanbul Frigate was 75 percent, – a figure that we managed to increase to 80 percent through our efforts under the leadership of the SSB, and TCG İSTANBUL has thus taken the crown as the warship with the highest localisation rate in Türkiye. Our national frigate will serve as an important deterrent for our country in the world's seas thanks to its national electronic warfare systems, which have a high localisation rate, its new generation national combat management system and its ability to launch air-guided projectiles."

Referring to the Logistics Support Ship built under another project in which STM was the main contractor, Güler, said: "Following the successful delivery of TCG Yüzbaşı Gungör Durmuş (A-574), the first ship of the project, we are proud to be delivering TCG UTGM. ARİF EKMEKÇİ (A-575), the second ship of the project to the Turkish Navy. TCG UTGM. ARİF EKMEKÇİ Logistics Support Ship, named after SAT Commando Lieutenant Senior Grade Arif Ekmekçi who lost his life in the line of duty, will strengthen the supply and logistics capabilities of our Naval Forces, undertaking a broad range of tasks and carrying the cares of the Blue Homeland on its shoulders through its abilities to replenish fuel at sea, and to carry tons of liquid and solid cargoes, with a range of 9,500 nautical miles."

Güler drew attention to the extent of STM's activities in the military and naval fields, and went on to say: "STM takes pride in having successfully contributed to the naval capacity of our country with more than 10 naval platform projects being undertaken in 9 civil and naval shipyards. As Türkiye's naval engineering power, we will continue to meet the needs of our Navy and the navies of friendly and allied nations with sea-going vessels, from aircraft carriers to modern submarines, meeting the needs of the age and following a visionary and modern approach backed by national means, and to successfully represent our country around the world."



## Israel Shipyards launches first Shaldag Mk V vessel for Israeli Navy

On December 05, 2023, Israel Shipyards announced the launch ceremony of the first Shaldag Mk V patrol boat for the Israeli Navy. Israel Shipyards posted the milestone on LinkedIn mentioning that the first Shaldag Mk V will be a remarkable addition for the Israeli Navy.

“The SHALDAG MK V, renowned for its operational excellence worldwide, is now set to join the vital mission of safeguarding Israel’s coastlines. This cutting-edge vessel is a testament to our commitment to national security and a symbol of our global maritime prowess. Its unique design and specifications were meticulously tailored to meet the specific needs of our Navy.”

The company also stated that the tailor-made approach stems from our Israel Shipyards Ltd Eng team and the Israeli Navy operation and engineering team, who brought invaluable insights and dedication to this project.

### Shaldag MK V Specifications:

- LOA (Length Over All): 32.65m
- Beam Max.: 6.20m
- Displacement: About 95tons
- Max Speed: above 40knots
- Range @ 12knots: 1000NM

### Characteristics

The Shaldag Class’ largest family member is a combat-proven, all-aluminum, light and fast vessel with higher payload capacity, designed for naval security missions.

The Shaldag MK V, as with all members of the Shaldag Class, provides a high level of maneuverability and seakeeping. Designed to operate in distant arenas, it is cost-effective with a high firepower-to-displacement ratio. The Shaldag MK V is a recognized leader in the protection of littoral and EEZ waters.

© Israel Shipyards



### **Egypt Hosts the 3rd Edition of Defence Exhibition to Showcase the Latest Global Military Advancements**

Under the patronage of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of Egypt's Arab Republic and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Egypt is set to host the 3rd edition of Egypt Defence Expo (EDEX), taking place from 4 to 7 December 2023, at Egypt International Exhibition Center. The exhibition will showcase the latest military technology, equipment and systems across land, sea, and air through more than 400 exhibitors from 46 countries.

The event will welcome a number of officials and military delegations who have confirmed their attendance to witness the latest defence technology and systems, whilst enabling them to exchange ideas and build invaluable relationships between key players in the industry. EDEX 2023 will include 22 country pavilions from Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Korea, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America.

Organized by Arabian World Events (AWE), the leading organizer of award-winning international events, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Military Production and Arab Organization for Industrialization, EDEX is the only defence and security event that covers Africa and the Middle East and the largest in Africa. The exhibition provides a unique opportunity for visitors to witness the latest technology, equipment, defence systems, and military products in addition to the Egyptian Pavilion where attendees can view the cutting-edge present and future capabilities of the Ministry of Military Production. High-level military delegations from more than 100 countries have been invited, and 35,000 visitors are expected to attend the exhibition over four days.

EDEX is set to feature an impressive lineup of renowned companies covering all aspects of defence and security, such as land vehicles, air defense, coastal defense, shipbuilders, maintenance and repair, cyber security, missile systems, unmanned and autonomous systems, parachuting and airdrop, satellite communication, search and rescue, surveillance systems, tactical



equipment, training and simulation equipment, and much more. Don't miss the chance to explore cutting-edge innovations across these crucial sectors at the event.

EDEX has secured high-level industry sponsors including a handful of the world's most reputable military equipment manufacturers namely; Amstone, Dassault Aviation, Hanwha, MBDA, ALIT, Lockheed Martin, Naval Group, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Esri, NAS and Leonardo DRS.

Over its past editions, the event gained growing momentum with the participation of nearly 400 exhibitors from 42 countries in 2021, a notable increase from 376 exhibitors from 41 countries in 2018. Also, EDEX 2021 saw the attendance of 78 official VIP delegations from 54 countries, and more than 30,000 visitors.

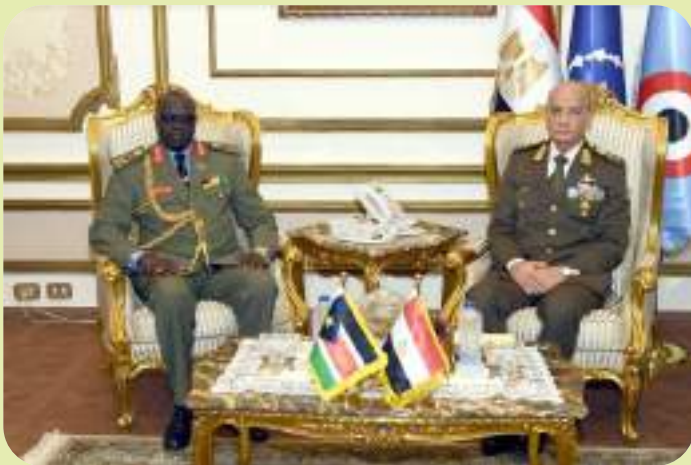


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### Egypt- Republic of South Sudan military cooperation



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On 3 December 2023, General Mohamed Zaki, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Minister of Defense and Military Production, met with lieutenant General Chol Ton Balok, Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan, and his accompanying delegation, who is currently visiting Egypt. An official reception ceremony was held for him at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Defense. Military music played the national anthem for both countries.

A number of topics of common interest were discussed during the meeting on the regional and international levels and their implications for security and stability within the African continent.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces affirmed his pride in the partnership relations between the Armed Forces of Egypt and South Sudan, pointing out the importance of coordinating efforts and increasing the prospects for military cooperation between the two countries in the future.

For his part, the Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan expressed his appreciation for Egypt's efforts in supporting all issues on the African continent to establish the foundations of security and stability, looking forward to the next stage witnessing more cooperation between the Armed Forces of both countries.

Lieutenant General Osama Askar, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, a number of commanders of the Armed Forces of both countries, and the military attaché of the Republic of South Sudan in Cairo attended the meeting.



### UK GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS GAF WITH AMBULANCE VEHICLES



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The Ghana Armed Forces has taken delivery of 8 Toyota Land-Cruiser Ambulances from the United Kingdom Government on Thursday, 7 December 2023 at the Forecourt of the Officers Command Mess, Burma Camp. UK Minister for Armed Forces, Rt Hon James Heapey presented the vehicles to GAF, said the gesture aims at handling shared challenges like Sahel extremism, maritime security, as well as joint training programs. He added that the ambulances were equipped with advanced technology to aid GAF medical outreach in the 5 Northern Regions as part of the UK-Ghana Civilian Military Cooperation Program. "We are proud to contribute to Ghana Armed Forces capacity to protect and serve its civilians in the 5 Northern Regions to counter violent extremism, and we will continue to foster long-lasting partnerships through our annual security dialogue" he added. Chief of the Defence Staff (CSD), Vice Admiral Seth Amoama, expressed gratitude to the UK Government for their generosity and thoughtfulness. He described the donation as timely since GAF and other stakeholders are preparing for counter-terrorism operations in the Northern part of the country. CDS emphasised that the donation would significantly aid Ghana's counter-terrorism efforts, support medical evacuation plans and non-kinetic operations, assuring the benefactors that the vehicles would be used for its intended purposes and placed under good maintenance culture.



### Uganda's military Mi-28N attack helicopter crashed

On 3 January 2024, Ugandan Mi-28N attack military helicopter being used in the fight against Islamic extremists in neighboring Congo crashed into a Ugandan house, killing both crew members and a civilian in the building, Uganda's military said. The cause of the attack helicopter's crash in the western district of Ntoroko near the border is suspected to be bad weather, said Brig Felix Kulayigye, spokesperson for the Uganda People's Defense Forces.



### **MESSRS POLY TECHNOLOGIES HANDS OVER GRAND ARTILLERY EQUIPMENT TO GAF**



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The Division Director of MESSRS Poly Technologies Incorporated, China, Mr Gu Jia and B&G African Trading representatives have handed over a newly acquired Ground Artillery Equipment (GAE) to Ghana Armed Forces Battle Training Camp, Bundase on 7 December 2023.

The newly-acquired GAE comprises 122 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS), 1 Reconnaissance Vehicle, 1 Command Vehicle, 7200x122mm rockets, spare parts and accessories.

The Guest of Honour, Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) in-charge of Administration at the General Headquarters, Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Michael Appiah-Agyekum expressed gratitude to the companies for their invaluable support in strengthening Ghana's Defence system. He emphasised that the equipment would help in improving and safeguarding the nation's sovereignty.

"The acquisition of some strategic equipment, platforms and the training of personnel in diverse fields among others are all part of ongoing efforts to effectively resource GAF operationally and produce needed welfare package for troops while in service". He added.

He stated that the equipment has come at the time when terrorism and trans-organized crime were at all-time high within the sub-region. The equipment he said would increase the operational capability of GAF and position it in a better place to handle any aggressor force.

The Chief Staff Officer at Army Headquarters, Brigadier General Barima Brako Owusu also urged troops to be professional in the discharge of their duties and advised to maintain the newly acquired GAE.

### **GHANA NAVY RECEIVES 20-FEET MULTIPURPOSE CATAMARAN**



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Ghana Navy has taken delivery of a 20-foot multipurpose Catamaran boat from McHammah Company Limited, a local Engineering Company to aid in search and rescue missions and also enhance operational capabilities within the Navy. The ceremony took place at the Naval Headquarters, Burma Camp, on 15 November 2023.

The Chief of the Defence Staff, Vice Admiral Seth Amoama who was the Guest of honour, said the collaboration was a testament to the profound sense of duty and commitment that goes beyond our shores. He stressed the gesture, underscores the unwavering support and commitment of the local business community to the Armed Forces.

He emphasized the donation of the boat, serves as a reminder of the Navy's role in safeguarding its shores and national interests both internally and externally.

Chief Executive Officer of the Company, Ing Dr Ebenezer Kakra Hammah, said the donation came about as a result of the Navy's exemplary role in providing humanitarian and relief efforts to victims of the Akosombo and Kpong Dam's spillage. He maintained, the donation forms part of their Corporate Social Responsibility, thus believes further collaborations and formed partnerships would strengthen the ties between the Navy and the business sector.

### **GHANA NAVY TO PARTNER FLY ZIPLINE GHANA IN DRONE OPERATIONS**

Ghana Navy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Fly Zipline Ghana Limited, a drone delivery company to offer assistance in the recovery of their lost drones and supplies along the major river bodies in the country. The MoU further seeks to enhance collaborations in the area of capacity building and afford training opportunities between the two institutions.



### NAF MI-35P HELICOPTER SUFFERS MISHAP

A Nigerian Air Force (NAF) MI-35P helicopter has crashed at Port Harcourt today, 1 December 2023. The unfortunate incident occurred at about 7.45am shortly after the aircraft took off for an operation against economic saboteurs in Rivers State.

Fortunately, the entire crew of 5 survived the crash with very minor injuries and are currently being attended to at NAF Medical Centre Port Harcourt. The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar, is currently enroute Port Harcourt to access the situation for himself, see to the wellbeing of the crew and give further directives.

Incident of this nature is yet again a grim reminder of the dangers associated with military flying and the risks NAF pilots and technicians experience in their onerous tasks of defending our nation and deterring criminal elements from their nefarious activities.

### China donates Zimbabwe military equipment



© Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa inspects a gun donated by China on Wednesday near Harare. Photo: Zimbabwe's Office of the President and Cabinet

China has donated military equipment worth 200 million yuan (US\$28 million) to Zimbabwe to bolster the country's security operations and help modernize its armed forces.

The equipment includes armoured vehicles, personnel carriers, ambulances, motorized water purifiers, patrol boats, minibuses, sniper rifles, machine guns and hand pistols.

### Nigeria is seeking to boost its defence industry



© NEANY

Nigerian Ministry of Defence explores advanced weapons partnership with the U.S. company NEANY. The focus is centered on establishing assembly lines to produce advanced military equipment. NEANY has been supporting the U.S. government and private industries in areas including unmanned aerial systems (UAS), ground control systems (GCS), ground-based sensor integration, prototype fabrication, and UAS pilot training, field deployment and logistics.

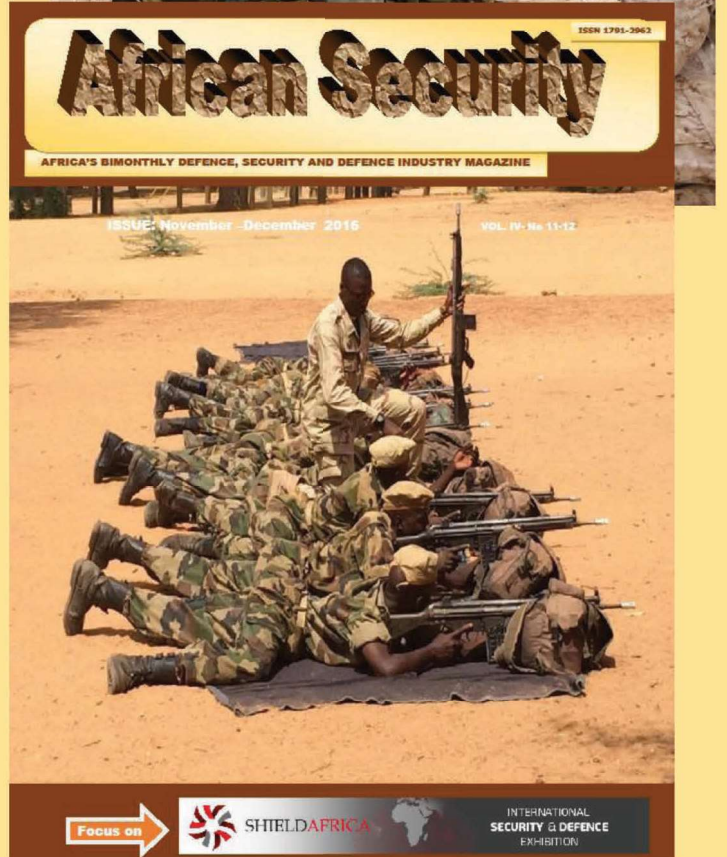
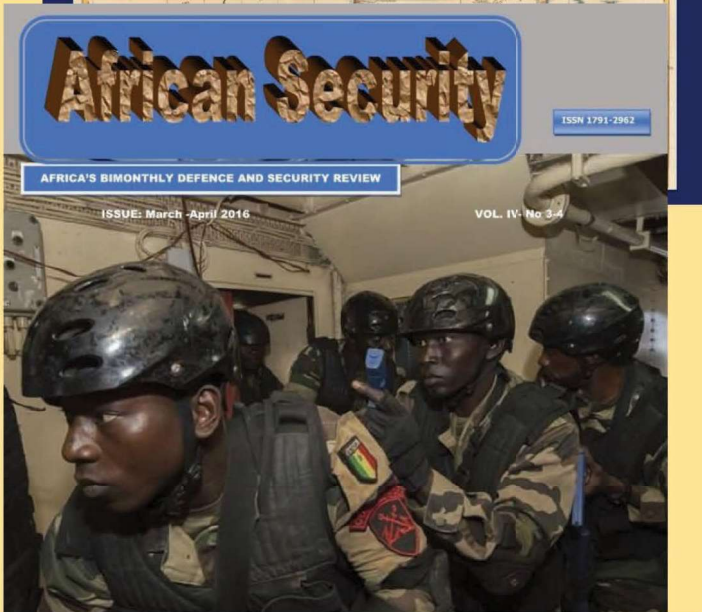
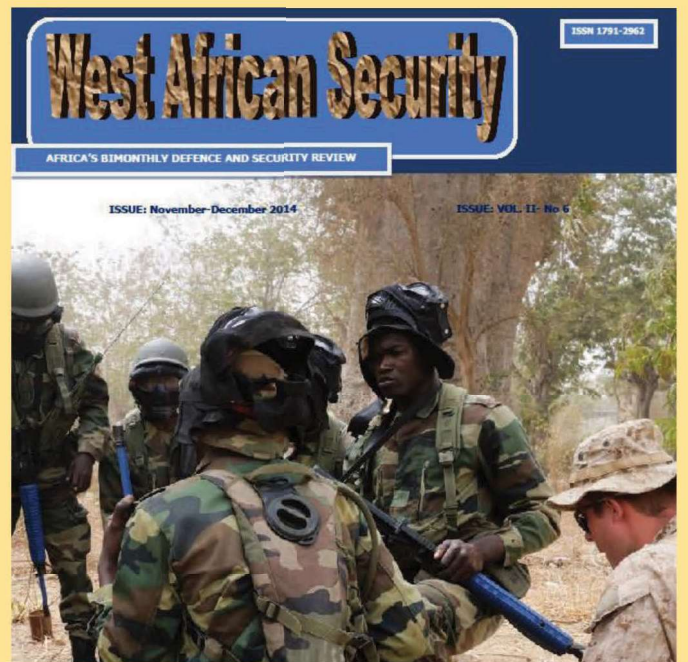
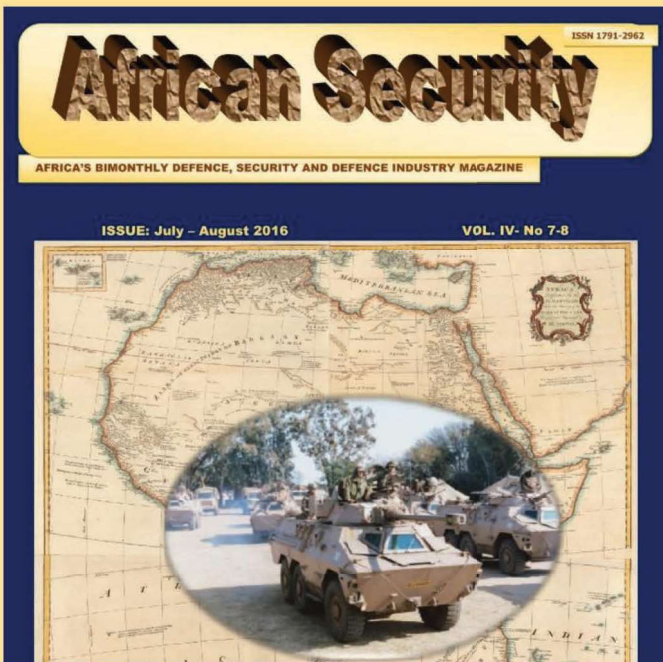
Bello Matawalle, Nigerian minister of state for defence, has undertaken a two-day visit to the company to explore the areas of collaboration. Some of the facilities visited by the minister included the company's Rapid Deployment Mobile RADAR system, Unmanned Water Vehicle, Drone Ground Control Station, and Compact Biometric Search-scan System, among others.

NEANY's flagship UAS, the Arrow, is suitable for both military and commercial applications where dependability and extended endurance are required. The Arrow is an efficient, cost-effective solution for battlefield and homeland security operation areas and is equipped with a 6-megabit TCP/IP data-link for disseminating valuable real-time intelligence, video, and situational awareness data. The Arrow features a large payload area of fifteen cubic feet and can accommodate sensor packages weighing up to two-hundred and fifty pounds. The aircraft combines friendly low speed handling characteristics with agility and high performance. It has been designed to a +6g / -4g load limit capability at over 1000 pounds gross weight. The current configuration uses a Rotax-912ULS engine capable of achieving altitudes of 10,000 feet AGL and cruising speeds of 80MPH. At cruising speed and over 1200 pounds gross vehicle weight, the vehicle consumes fuel at a rate slightly above 4GPH.

ISSN 1791-2962

# African Security

AFRICA'S BIMONTHLY DEFENCE, DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND SECURITY MAGAZINE



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