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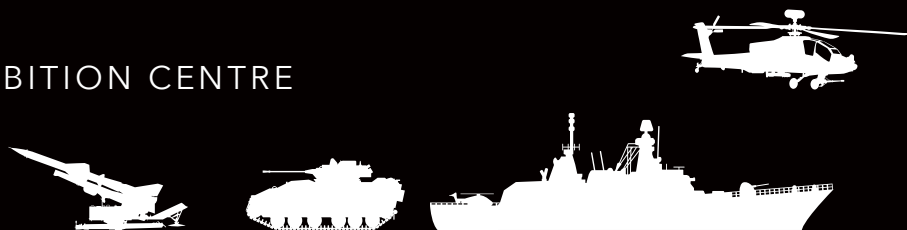


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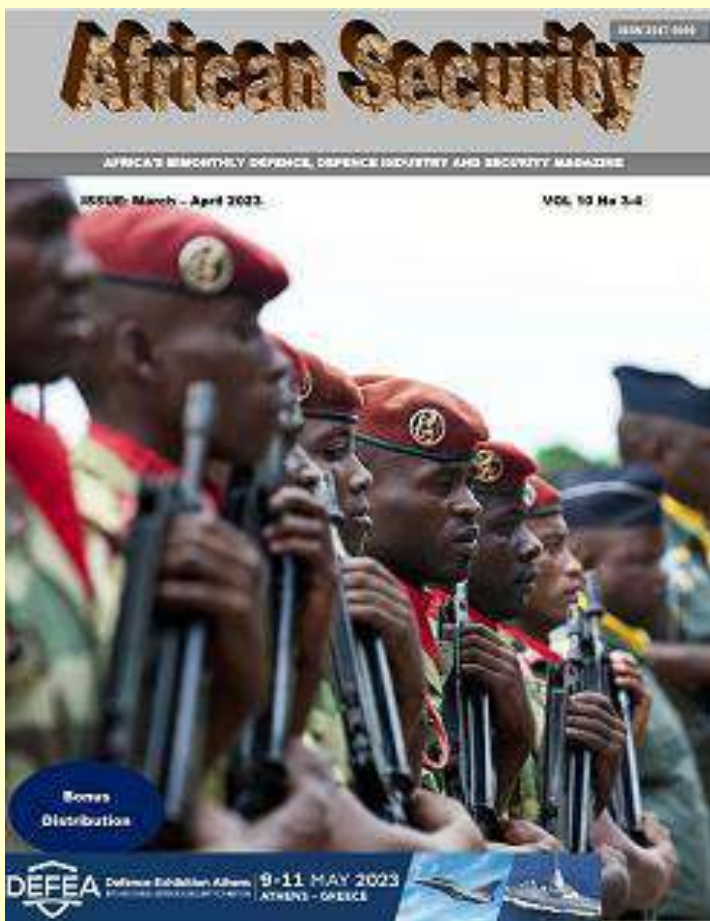
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Patrol Boats Enhancing Maritime Security in Africa

A patrol boat is a relatively small naval vessel generally designed for coastal defence, border protection, immigration law-enforcement, search and rescue duties. There have been many designs for patrol boats. They may be operated by a nation's navy, coast guard, police force or customs. They are commonly found engaged in various border protection roles, including anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, fisheries patrols, and immigration law enforcement. They are also often called upon to participate in rescue operations.

They may be broadly classified as inshore patrol vessels (IPVs) and offshore patrol vessels (OPVs). They are warships typically smaller in size than a corvette and can include fast attack craft, torpedo boats and missile boats, although some are as large as a frigate.

The offshore patrol vessels are usually the smallest ship in a navy's fleet that is large and seaworthy enough to patrol offshore in the open ocean. Smaller inshore patrol vessels also known as coastal patrol craft or coastal patrol boats. Riverine patrol craft are used for patrol river area. In larger militaries, such as in the United States military, offshore patrol vessels usually serve in the coast guard, but many smaller nations' navies operate these types of ships.

The global impact of piracy on the world is growing as the economic and social struggle turn to extreme measures to feed their families and make a stand against the vast wealth that is being gained from the oil and other resources in these seas. Also, the impact of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) is uncontrolled leading to fears that this will largely affect the African economy and populations on the coastline that are dependent on the fish food. The current economic situation in Africa restricts individual states from being able to effectively tackle the problem. Unclear definitions over territorial laws and a lack of better coordination between African nations has enabled piracy to escalate with ambiguities and ways to avoid conviction or capture.

Maritime security operations entail routine patrols to determine pattern of life in the maritime domain, enhance mariner-to-mariner relations and disrupt the transport of illicit cargo. Through persistent maritime security operations, coastal nations show its commitment to enabling the free flow of commerce for legitimate traffic as well as to contest the battle space in all areas where the transport of illicit cargo is used to fund and/or arm terrorism and other unlawful activities is paramount.

The piracy problem in East and West Africa received global attention in 2007 and stimulated interest in African maritime security challenges. Following a dramatic increase in the number of hijackings, international and regional actors the current shipbuilding market ask for a fast patrol able to enhance maritime security in the African continent and to combat piracy, illegal fishing, human and drugs trafficking.

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THE DNA OF SHIPBUILDING





© Israel Shipyards / SHALDAG_MK V

Around the world, patrol boats are critical assets for providing coastal security and surveillance. The coastal patrol boats are designed to enhance maritime surveillance capabilities of the naval forces. In addition to supporting private security efforts, many different types of patrol boats are used within the government and military programs of nearly every nation.

The challenges for the design of reliable patrol boats consist in developing an optimized hull form and integrating state of the art vessel components such as propulsion, power units, and mission equipment in order to offer a highly efficient and flexible platform, improving operability at sea. Patrol vessel designs are answering the operational requirements of surveillance and protection missions.

Large endurance with fuel efficiency, good seakeeping performances by high speed and high sea states, flexibility of the lay-out allowing integrating fast ribs and, Autonomous Unmanned Marine Vehicles, efficient integration of weapon, communication and surveillance systems are the

key features of various designs. International shipbuilders can provide many different solutions with tailor-made characteristics for you to protect strategic places. Considering that client's main asset is the crew, authors designers pay special attention to the crew comfort and safety by delivering ergonomic lay-out design and high-quality accommodation and mission facilities.

- The patrol boat can be operated and controlled from a flying bridge with large windows, offering a wide-angle view of the horizon on all sides.
- A small caliber canon can be fitted on the fore deck can be fired against speed boats, helicopters and small aircrafts. The patrol boat should be armed with 12.7mm machine guns for defence against lightly armoured targets.
- Naval vessels rely on their human crew to deliver the operational capability. For anti-piracy, security and naval vessels Command & Control (C2) is one of the most important functions that needs to be supported and facilitated by the vessels design.

EMPOWERING YOUR NAVAL PERFORMANCE

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- The onboard HF and VHF radio equipment provides communication over short and long distances, while a stabilized video camera with a laser spotlight is used to detect and identify possible or confirmed targets.
- The boat should be equipped with high-definition marine radar, antenna mast, and searchlights atop of the surveillance bridge.
- Patrol boat can sail at high speeds and operate over a distance of 1,500nm, when sailing at a speed of 15kt. The hull should be designed to offer high sea-keeping performance.
- The boat should have the ability to endure for at least 7-10 days without refueling. It should incorporate two electric generators systems and can be offered with two fixed-pitch propellers or waterjets.

International Shipbuilders R&D teams are continuously improving its patrol vessels – making them faster, quieter, more economical and more environmentally friendly. Designed for ultra-high-speed patrol duties in all waters interceptors patrol boats can outpace most other vessels. From maximizing operations and lowering risk to reducing operational costs. It's clear and obvious that patrol vessel operations can benefit greatly from autonomous vessel technology as well.

NVL NVL (former Lürssen) Fast Patrol Boats are optimised for ensuring the safety of littoral seas, waterways and coastal infrastructure. Combining high speed with exceptional seakeeping abilities, our patrol boats can deploy rapidly to the point of danger and swiftly neutralise any threat. NVL fast patrol boats are based on mission-proven designs that have been progressively refined with the benefit of decades of operational experience. They are built to complete demanding missions with absolute reliability. The integration of lightweight steel and aluminium construction with carefully designed hull forms facilitates fast and stable performance across a range of sea states. Precise levels of performance are customised to your particular needs, with speeds from 28 to as much as 45 knots being achievable. Operations can be sustained for between three and 14 days whilst range can extend up to an impressive 5,000 nautical miles.

One of the Israel Shipyards Ltd vessels currently in highest demand, the SHALDAG FPC is most valued for security tasks where high intercept speeds and easy maneuverability are required. 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. As the Shaldag Class' newest and fastest family member, sailing at up to 55knots, the Mini-Shaldag is the ideal solution for short-range missions where speed and agility are required since shortens the response time to any developing situation.

The Dutch shipbuilding firm The Damen Group, designs and manufactures a wide variety of vessels, including a range of related patrol vessels known generally as the Damen Stan Patrol Vessels. The Damen Stan patrol vessel designs' names include a four-digit code, where the first two digits are the vessel's length, in metres, and the second two digits are its width. Over a dozen nations have classes of vessels based on the Damen Stan 4207 patrol vessel design.

To ensure coercive intervention the OCEA range of interceptors offers very high-speed capabilities, while keeping full maneuverability, Reduced heeling while fast turning, Optimal response in rough sea, Optimized tactical diameter, Short crash stop distance. The excellent sea keeping performances and high stability of these very fast boats enable the use in maneuver at full speed of gyro-stabilized guns. Moreover, the C-HERON and the C-SWORD are designed to receive surface to air and surface-to-surface fire and forget missiles.

Benefiting from navies' operational feedback and KERSHIP's expertise in shipbuilding and system integration, the CPV 32 is KERSHIP's answer to perform law enforcement operations at sea with high speed, fast intervention capabilities, significant versatility, endurance and sea-keeping behaviour. The CPV 32 is a compact and cost-effective patrol vessel that can be equipped with the necessary communication and armament system. A close attention has been given to high reliability and maintainability due to KERSHIP's extensive experience in Through Life Support.

Recent Patrol Boat Deliveries in African Navies

🟡 Egypt Navy

In November 2020 it emerged that Egypt would be receiving nine Lürssen patrol boats and a single coastal defence boat from Germany under a 130 million euro deal after the contract with the original customer, Saudi Arabia, fell through. In early 2021, Egypt took delivery of more Lürssen patrol boats.



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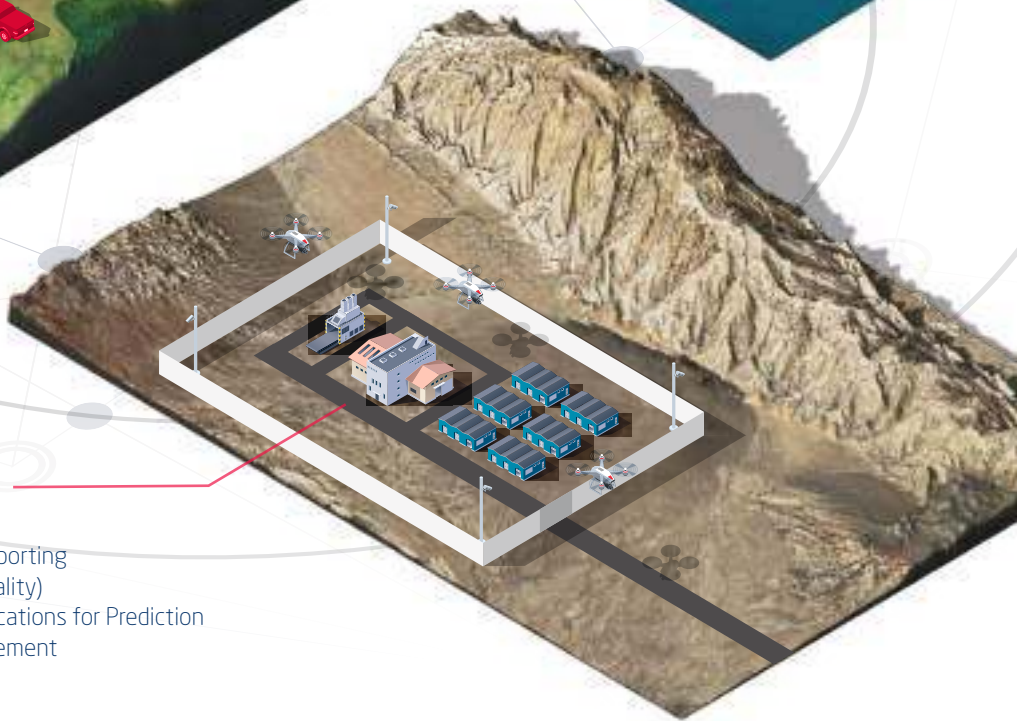
COAST SURVEILLANCE RADAR SYSTEM

- Human Trafficking
- Irregular Migration
- Illegal Fishing
- Sea Pollution
- Search and Rescue



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- Monitoring, Alarm Generation and Reporting
- Video Analytics (Face, Plate, Abnormality)
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- Motion Detection and Sensor Management
- CBRN-E Control and Management



Lurssen has delivered a second batch of patrol boats to Egypt Navy by the heavy-lift ship Rolldock Sunas, as part of an order for ten vessels, carrying a 60-metre patrol boat bearing the pennant 710 and two 40 metre OPB 41 (previously marketed as the CSB 40) coastal patrol craft bearing the pennant numbers 705 and 706. The first batch of four 40 metre hulls (701-704) was transported to Egypt in 2020.

In March 2022, Swiftships awarded a new 28m Coastal Patrol Craft (CPC) contract to supply “Kit” as a Modification to its original Direct Commercial Sales (DCS). The Mod_004 will deliver Ten (10) Kits to be co-produced in Egypt at the Egyptian Navy (EN) Alexandria Shipyard and Egyptian Ship Repair and Building Company (ESRBC). In addition, six (6) additional 28m CPCs will be awarded under Foreign Military Sales (FMS) contract. Swiftships will supply a complete Kit of Material (KoM), Zodiac Rigid Inflatable Boats, Forward-Looking Infrared Systems (FLIRs), personal computer packages, and associated engineering technical data package (TDP). These 28-meter CPC reach a top speed of 22-25 knots with a range of 900 NM powered by two (2) CAT diesel engines and is equipped with 12.7mm machine guns.

■ Ghana Navy

The Ghana Navy has received four Offshore Security Vessels at the Takoradi Port as part of activities undertaken in line with the tradition of the Ghana Navy prior to the deployment of vessels. Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Rear Admiral Issah Adam Yakubu officially received the vessels from the Vice President of Israel Shipyards Mr Oded Breier on Monday 10 January 2022, following their arrival at the Takoradi port on Saturday, 8 January 2022. In his address, the CNS said the acquisition of the vessels was part of Government’s decision to discontinue the deployment of Armed Security Guards on civilian vessels to for providing the needed security to International Oil Companies operating in the country.

“In addition to these four ships being commissioned today, Government is in the process of acquiring two offshore patrol vessels with high endurance limits, to maintain a constant presence at sea,” Ghana’ President Akufo-Addo stated.

■ SA Navy

On 25 March 2021, Damen Shipyards Cape Town (DSCT) launched the first of three Multi-Mission Inshore Patrol Vessels (MMIPV) procured by ARMSCOR for the South African Navy (SAN). The vessels will augment South Africa’s maritime security by enhancing the country’s capability to



© Damen

respond effectively, rapidly and cost-effectively to threats such as illegal trafficking and fishing. DSCT Project Manager, Ian Stewart said the launch was an important milestone for the shipyard.

■ Ivorian Navy

Vice-Admiral N’GUESSAN KOUAME CELESTIN, Chief of Staff of the Ivorian Navy (CEMMAR), unveiled on Friday 22 April 2022, at the Place d’Armes of the Naval Base, the forthcoming acquisition of a P400 ship, two OPV45s and maritime surveillance drones. The P400 is a class of French Navy patrol boat, built to carry out missions of surveillance and protection of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), fisheries policing, etc., as part of the State’s action at sea.

On September 29, 2022, Israel Shipyards announced that the OPV S-45 multipurpose vessel was successfully launched in Haifa, Israel. “We are excited and proud to launch another tailored-made, multi-mission vessel made by our experts and devoted employees who empowers our vessels into future solutions. After several months of construction at our facilities the OPV S-45 was launched and sets sail for the first time. The S-45 is cost-effective OPV, designed for coastal protection, as well as drilling rigs, and offshore facilities protection.” In 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. although, at the time, Israel Shipyards did not reveal who the customer was, according to various articles published in the international press this was Ivorian Navy.



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■ Nigerian Navy

After the delivery in 8 years of 18 ships to the Nigerian Navy, including the NNS LANA, a 60-meter hydrographic research vessel type OSV 190 SC-WB, two 35-meter patrol boats type FPB 110 MKII and two interceptors of 17 m type C-FALCON in 2020, In October 2021, the French shipbuilder OCEA won an international tender for the supply of a 35-meter hydrographic research vessel type OCEA OSV 115 SC-WB.

On 28 October 2022, China delivered a 46meters patrol boat and other military equipment to the Nigerian Navy. The handover ceremony of 46 Metres patrol boat to Nigerian Navy took place at the NNS Beecroft Jetty Apapa, Lagos.



© Grup Aresa

In late 2021 Spain's Grup Aresa International have delivered four Aresa 1700 inshore patrol boats to the Nigerian Navy. The Areas 1700 (Fighter II class) is constructed using aluminium and is around 17 metres long. Its overall length is 19.2 metres with a 4-metre beam. Each vessel displaces 7.6 tonnes, powered by two MTU engines each producing 1250 horsepower and operating a propeller. Maximum speed is much over 40 knots. A RHIB can be also carried onboard and equipped with thermal and night vision cameras.

■ Kenyan Navy



In March 2018 the United States has handed over the last six Metal Shark patrol boats to the Kenyan Navy, bringing the total number delivered to ten. The US Embassy in Kenya said the boats are worth\$4.9 million) and were delivered to the Kenyan

Navy in Mombasa. The delivery of the 10 Metal Shark boats represents the largest US maritime security cooperation program in sub-Saharan Africa.

■ Tanzanian Navy

The United States government delivered two high-speed patrol boats to the Tanzanian Navy to boost its capacity to fight sea crimes such as illegal fishing and drug trafficking. Valued at more than \$1.35 million, the boats are a 10.5-meter Interceptor model and an 11.5-meter enclosed cabin command boat. They were handed over during a ceremony in Dar es Salaam in mid-December. The package included repair and maintenance equipment, towing vehicles and a two-week training course.

■ Senegalese Navy

Senegal Orders 3 Offshore Patrol Vessels from French Shipyard Piriou. The Ministry of Armed Forces of Senegal and French shipbuilder PIRIOU signed November 17 a procurement contract for three OPV 58 S for the Navy of Senegal. The vessels will be fitted with missile systems, a first for this African navy.



Construction of the three vessels will start in early 2020 while their delivery is set to take place by mid-2023. The contract also includes follow on support which will be conducted at the local site of PIRIOU NGOM SENEGAL. The "OPV 58 S" is a robust and versatile 62 meters patrol vessel dedicated to surveillance, identification, and intervention missions. In addition to its projection capabilities (commando RHIB), it has a first-rate deterrent capability through its anti-surface warfare and anti-aircraft weapons systems.

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Advisor on
Defence and
Maritime Security
issues





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Armored Personal Carrier in the African Market



- The Rooikat, created by South African defence major Denel, is an armoured reconnaissance vehicle with a primary attack function and fire support role.
- The Ratel – an alternative word for the honey badger – is known as the first wheeled infantry fighting vehicle to enter military service worldwide. It is currently in use with 13 militaries across Africa and the Middle East. The SANDF has more than 500 Ratels in its arsenal while the Jordanian Armed Forces own around 300 Ratels.
- The RG-34 is a South African mine-resistant ambush protected (MRAP) light armoured vehicle, which is part of BAE Systems South Africa's RG series.
- The Casspir developed by South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been in service with the South African Army for more than 30 years, which has around 370 in service. It is also a popular model with the Indian Army and the US Army.
- South African defence firm Paramount Group launched the Mbombe mine-protected, high-mobility armoured fighting vehicle in 2010. Mbombe's hull can reportedly withstand a 10kg explosive even if it is placed underneath the hull or wheel arch. It also offers rocket-launched grenade protection and additional modules can withstand up to 50kg of explosives from a range of 5m away. To protect itself, the Mbombe can be fitted with machine guns or an autocannon and has both day and night vision equipment for improved situational awareness. The Mbombe is currently in services with the Jordanian and Kazakh Armed Forces. Paramount Group recently showcased the latest generation Mbombe 4 at IDEX 2019 in Abu Dhabi, the UAE.
- Denel Land Systems' Badger infantry combat vehicle is part of a new generation of South African armoured vehicles, which is designed to replace the ageing Ratel model within the SANDF. Completion of delivery of 264 Badgers to the SANDF should occur by 2022, according to the Project Hoefyster contract. The Badger is a South African-grown variant of Finland's Patria Armoured Modular Vehicle.
- Milkor 4x4 is a new armoured personnel carrier (APC) developed by Milkor, a South African defence vehicle manufacturing

Armored Vehicles Manufacturers - related companies in Africa

A vehicle used to take troops and equipment into battle is an armored personnel carrier, an armored truck, or an army mobility vehicle. Infantry combat vehicles are heavier and less mobile than APCs.

They are lightly armed and armored for self-defense from debris, small weaponry, and artillery fire. Non-military organizations also use certain types of APCs. The rise of the worldwide armored personnel carrier industry can be ascribed to rising military spending and the rise of terrorism around the world.

Furthermore, the armored personnel carrier Market is being driven by upgrading armored vehicle fleets. Unlike infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs), APCs are primarily built for transport and do not participate in direct-fire battles.

South Africa is one of the top nations in terms of its production and supply of armoured vehicles to the rest of the world. South African armoured vehicles carry out one of two main roles: either a direct combat role that incorporates a variety of weaponry, or a personnel carrier function that protects troops and delivers them to and from the battlefield.

The most prevalent designs of South African armoured vehicles are:



company. Designed to meet the infantry carrier requirements of armed forces in the African continent, the Milkor 4x4 APC is used for troop transportation, casualty evacuation, and riot control missions.

- The Mamba is a South African armoured personnel carrier designed for internal security purposes. It was developed during the late 1980s to replace the Buffel in service with the South African military and security forces. The first models were built on a 4X2 Toyota Dyna chassis, which was subsequently replaced in production around 1994 by a more reliable Unimog chassis. All marks of the Mamba were designed to be mine-resistant and blastproof.

In the foreseeable future one can also expect closer cooperation between the African companies, such as the development of the ST-100 and ST-500 armoured personnel carriers (APCs) for Egypt's International Marathon United Technology Group (IMUT) by South African Saksa Technologies.

Paramount and Namibia's Windhoek Maschinenfabrik (WMF) are currently engaged in armoured vehicle trials in India. In addition, the United Arab Emirates Army will buy the new Mbombe 4 armoured car from South African company Paramount, marking the vehicles first sale, according to Paramount's founder and chairman, Ivor Ichikowitz.

As **Nigeria's** first and only indigenous defence manufacturing company incorporated in 2008, Proforce Land Systems is a specialized manufacturer of personal protection suitable for land systems through the manufacturing of Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs), Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAPs), Armoured Patrol Boats, Ballistic Helmets and Vests, Civilian Armoured Vehicles and Cash-in-Transits.

Proforce is a specialized manufacturer of armoured vehicles in Nigeria and supplies a wide spectrum of defence solutions since 2008. Proforce is ISO 9001:2015 certified and has developed a large portfolio of products for the Police, Military and Civilian markets.

The ARA or Thunder is 19-ton Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle designed to provide ultimate protection for high-degree threats. Combining an array of latest technology, the ARA is a mission adaptive vehicle that provides superior crew protection and offensive ability. The ARA is integrated with a fully independent suspension system.

Proforce's PF2 is its flagship APC, which has been exported to Rwanda, the Central African Republic and South Sudan (it is used for United Nations peacekeeping missions in the CAR and South Sudan). At home, the Nigerian Police Force has acquired a number of PF2 APCs, and this includes by Rivers State, Osun State and Lagos State.

The PF2 features runflat tyres, B6 ballistic protection (up to 7.62x51 mm rounds) as well as blast protection against Land mines, hand grenades, IEDs, etc. (in excess of STANAG 4569 Level 1 to withstand L2A2 grenades).

The PF2 is powered by a 5.5 litre V8 engine developing 536 hp. It can accommodate eight to ten personnel and features eight gun ports.

The Wizard APC is built on a Toyota Land Cruiser chassis and has been supplied to the Nigerian Police and Central Bank of Nigeria. It is powered by a 4.5 litre V8 producing 202 hp and is armoured to B6+ level, with underbelly blast protection.

Proforce Viper is its latest APC and was launched in December 2021 – It is a lighter, faster and more manoeuvrable version of its Ara vehicle and has been designed for special forces use but can support a wide range of military, counterterrorism, and police operations. Proforce literature states the vehicle offers excellent protection against both ballistic and blast threats, with the crew compartment protected to CEN Level B6 up to B7.



Recent Armored Vehicles sales in Africa

Nigeria

The Nigerian Army has ordered 28 Ezugwu armoured personnel carriers for counter-terrorism/insurgency missions, a month after the vehicle was unveiled by the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON). The Nigerian Army on 12 November announced that it had formalised an agreement with DICON and the Command Engineering Depot on the mass production of the Ezugwu.

Malawi

In January 2020, Malawi Defence Force (MDF) received a new fleet of armoured vehicles from the United Nation (UN) to help the Malawi soldiers in their peace keeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mali

In January 2020, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is supplied Mali with 30 Typhoon armoured vehicles,

for improving Mali's armed forces to fight growing insecurity in the region. The European Union has also delivered another batch of Bastion vehicle.

Niger

As part of its ongoing support of the Nigerien Armed Forces' anti-extremism efforts, U.S. Ambassador to Niger Eric P. Whitaker in September 2020,

presented Niger's military with \$8 million in equipment and spare parts, including 22 American-made Mamba armored vehicles. Minister of National Defense Issoufou Katambé received the equipment on behalf of the Nigerien Armed Forces (FAN).

Ghana

Turkish defence industries have slowly been increasing their presence in Africa. Recent recipients of transfers of Turkish equipment include Ghana, which has acquired Cobra and Cobra II armored vehicles, produced by the Turkish firm Cobra.

Somalia

In August 2020 Turkey donated 12 new armored personnel carriers to the Somali military to support its fight against al-Qaeda affiliated group al-Shabaab. Somali Defense Minister Hassan Ali Mohamed and Somali armed forces commander Gen. Odawa Yusuf Rageh received the donation at a ceremony held in the capi, al Mogadishu.

Tunisia

In January 2020, BMC, one of Turkey's leading defense contractors, is set to produce armored vehicles for Tunisia as part of a recent deal with the country's Interior Ministry. The contract was signed after the Turkish land vehicle manufacturer won the International Armored Vehicle Tender for the production of a total of nine 4x4 Medium Class Multi-Purpose Armored Vehicles (MPAVs).

Kenya

The KDF also received 12 Bastion Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) from the United States as a donation to help secure its borders and promote peacekeeping in Somalia, where its troops have been serving under the African peacekeeping mission, Amisom. For the APCs, Kenya bought 12 MD5 diesel engines from France, Sipri says.

Uganda

The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) will receive 45 South African-manufactured Mamba APCs for assembly at the Armoured Vehicle Manufacturing and Assembly Facility in Jinja, which President Yoweri Museveni opened last August.

In the last two decades, Russia has managed to deepen its connection with Africa and became the biggest arms supplier on the continent. Russian armored vehicles for moving and delivering special-purpose units and their equipment are most in demand in African countries. In particular, the BTR-80A, BTR-82A armored personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles as well as the Tigr family of armored wheeled vehicles.



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NVL GROUP SUPPORTING AFRICAN SECURITY

Offshore patrol vessel 80

Effectively protecting African values

NVL Group understands the growing importance of the geostrategic aspects of the African continent in respect of 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.

Customise 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, mine-hunters 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 multi-mission platforms provide permanent maritime security in the operational area due to their endurance and excellent sea-keeping capabilities.

Strong support for cost-efficient naval vessel operations

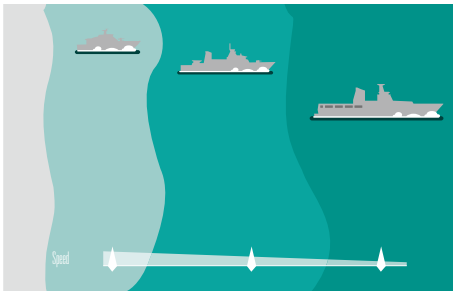
Whatever the requirement, NVL Group works in partnership with its customers to establish the right solutions. We offer the option to build vessels at one of our NVL Group shipyards or we can transfer both

our knowledge and technology, developing 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



Fast interceptor boat 25

NVL · THE DNA OF SHIPBUILDING



Fast patrol boat 41

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 coast-guard 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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Israel Shipyards Navigates the Seas of Success: Delivering OPV S-45

Israel Shipyards LTD. is a leading shipbuilding company based in Haifa, Israel. Established in 1959, the company has a long history of designing and constructing a wide range of naval vessels for customers around the world, including patrol boats, offshore patrol vessels (OPVs), and corvettes.

In this article, we will examine Israel Shipyards' history, capabilities, and the delivery of the OPV S-45 in detail, exploring the challenges that were overcome and the lessons that were learned along the way.

Over the years, Israel Shipyards has developed a reputation for delivering high-quality vessels that are tailored to meet the specific needs of each customer. The company's engineers and designers work closely with the customer to ensure that the vessel's design meets their specific requirements and that it is optimized for the intended mission profiles.

In addition to designing and constructing vessels, Israel Shipyards also provides a range of maintenance and support services to ensure that the vessels remain operational throughout their lifecycle. These services include maintenance, repair, and overhaul of engines, systems, and equipment, as well as training and technical support for crew members.

In early 2023, Israel Shipyards delivered the OPV S-45 to the Ivory Coast, marking a significant milestone in the company's history. The vessel was designed and constructed to meet the needs of modern navies around the world, tailored-made to the customer's needs, and was equipped with a range of advanced systems and sensors that enabled it to conduct a variety of missions.

The delivery of the OPV S-45 required the cooperation of many stakeholders, including the shipyard's engineers and technicians, the end user, and the crew who would operate the vessel.

The OPV S-45 was designed to be a highly manoeuvrable and efficient offshore patrol vessel, capable of conducting a range of missions in challenging maritime environments. The vessel's design was based on Israel Shipyards' extensive experience in building naval vessels for customers around the world.

One of the key values ISL provides is the comprehensive Transfer Of Technology programs enabling our customers to use local labor, infrastructure, and resources to create independent maintenance and repair for the vessels in their own facilities. The TOT is conducted upon demand based on current capabilities and upgrading options. The programs are adjusted from minimal to full-scale TOT including training of engineers, specialized workforce teams, and provision of the required infrastructure for vessel construction and maintenance.

ISL Training Programs include team leaders from all departments and include both theoretical and practical hands-on sessions. Recently Israel Shipyards Ltd. completed the first phase of the Transfer Of Technology (TOT) course for one of our customers at the facility in Haifa Bay.

The company's teams worked closely with the customer crew members to ensure that the vessel's design met their specific requirements and that it was optimized for the intended mission profiles.

The construction of the OPV S-45 was a complex process that involved the use of advanced manufacturing techniques and high-quality materials. The vessel was built using steel and aluminum, providing a strong and durable structure that could withstand harsh sea conditions.



The shipyard's skilled workforce, including engineers, technicians, and welders, worked tirelessly to ensure that the vessel was completed to the highest quality and safety standards.

The construction process was carried out in a modular fashion, with different sections of the vessel being built separately before being assembled into the final structure.

During the construction phase, the customer crew worked alongside the shipyard's employee as part of the Construction and Maintenance TOT training program and was assembled and approved by the customer to provide all the necessary knowledge and skills for conducting the maintenance and independent repairs at the customer's shipyard facility. The training program — custom-designed — provided hands-on workmanship training to the customer.

Once the construction of the vessel was completed, the next step in the delivery process was to carry out a series of tests and trials to ensure that the vessel was seaworthy and ready for operational use. These tests included sea trials, propulsion tests, and tests of the vessel's navigation and communication systems. This process ensured that the vessel was fully operational and ready for delivery to the customer.

The Israel Shipyards experienced team and the customer crew set sail from Israel Shipyards docks, heading southward towards the Mediterranean Sea and from there to the destination - the Ivory Coast. Throughout the journey, the Israel Shipyards experience team continued training and mentoring the customer crew, providing them with valuable experience in operating the vessel in challenging conditions. They worked together to overcome any potential obstacles and ensured that the vessel arrived safely in Ivory Coast.

After 3 weeks, the first vessel, Esperance (P2202), arrived safely at her new home port. The journey provided the customer crew with valuable experience in operating the OPV S-45 and a deeper understanding of the vessel's capabilities, making them better equipped for future operations.

Oded Breier, VP of Marketing shared, "Israel Shipyards' value is to deliver complete, integrated, tailor-made "Turn-Key" solutions of the highest quality – from the vessel itself to all installed systems – according to the customer's precise requirements.

As a global Shipyard with close ties to Israel's Navy and defense industries, we ensure customers of a significant edge. ISL management and employees are comprised of a professional team of former naval officers who utilize the Navy's shared combat



© Israel Shipyards LTD

lessons experience and its access to the latest defense technologies in the customized planning of every new vessel and repair project. Customers also benefit from a dedication to uncompromising quality, lifetime support, and competitive pricing. We work tirelessly to enable our customers to receive a comprehensive and long-term solution for their various needs in securing their maritime borders – from the construction of vessels suitable for missions in the region to knowledge transfer services that enable long-term savings for the customer.

Ensure Monitoring the Current Border Situation with IBSS

HAVELSAN is one of the leading technology companies of Türkiye, established in 1982 as a corporation affiliated with the Turkish Armed Forces Foundation. Thanks to its decades-long experience and highly qualified human resources, HAVELSAN provides high technology-based software-intensive solutions and products for armed forces, public and private sectors at home and abroad.

HAVELSAN Integrated Border Security System (IBSS) is developed to protect a wide critical and strategic areas against any threats that attempt to cross borders and attack critical facilities. IBSS can be scripted upon scenarios that include popular threats, possible threats, geography-specific threats, and so on. IBSS is based on a hybrid architecture that combines distributed data fusion and central command & control and generates Joint Border Picture from continuously updated Recognized Land, Maritime Border Pictures, and Critical Facility Situation received from sublevel C4I systems.

IBSS ensures monitoring of the current border situation on a tactical level with UAV/COMBAT UAV integration. In addition to that, the IBSS also ensures necessary information flow in an absolute and accurate manner and provides increased situational awareness for disembodied border units.

The IBSS will be complemented with a number of borderline surveillance sites across the border, land assets such as Radar, Electro-Optical Cameras, Remote Controlled Weapons and unattended sensors, surface assets including patrolling vehicles and personnel equipment.

Perimeter protection of the bases and facilities behind the borderline, from surveillance sites to bases and headquarters is also ensured in the IBSS scope. Casual CCTV solution in these areas with Video Analytics for software supported surveillance is further enhanced with SWIR cameras, Motion Detection Sensors, Fiber Optic Acoustic Sensors, UAVs for increased intrusion detection and controlled entry/exit/access control systems with road blockers, barriers, strengthened gates, ballistic guard houses for extended physical security purposes.

Besides Border Security, maritime security and defense technologies are the essential part of integrated border security. As Land Border Security, the coast guard is a crucial element of the Integrated Border Security and Management System concept.

 **HAVELSAN**
Integrated Border Security System



HAVELSAN CSRS aims to provide situational awareness with radar coating for the countries' coastal and territorial waters to create the Recognized Maritime Picture by supporting data from electro-optic sensors, Public Institutions, and/or other organizations. CSRS also increases the effectiveness of search and rescue, outpost, and reconnoitering activities.

With the completion of the project, all territorial waters and adjacent areas within our country's sovereignty will be fully and effectively monitored, and crimes such as smuggling, illegal immigration, fishing, and marine pollution will be combated more effectively.

HAVELSAN is the main contractor of the first phase of the project for developing a CSRS software integrated into itself and with external systems/institutions and for the installation and integration of coastal surveillance stations and operations centers in order to ensure uninterrupted surveillance of the countries with the coastline using radar and electro-optical sensors.

HAVELSAN DOOB-TACTICAL BATTLE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

C2IS Systems are employed for the harmonized and coherent performance of activities such as the planning and management of battles & tasks and the generation of an operational picture for all (strategical, operational, and tactical) command

echelons. It is unequivocal that the need for Command-and-Control Information Systems to ensure situational awareness for fast and accurate information sharing on the modern battlefield is crucial. HAVELSAN DOOB Product Family offers DOOB-HEADQUARTER (DOOB-HQ), DOOB-TACTICAL (DOOB-T) Battle Management System (BMS), and DOOB-MOBILE (DOOB-M) to increase the efficiency of military decision-making processes and situational awareness.

DOOB-TACTICAL (DOOB-T) Battle Management System (BMS) is designed to be used at the tactical level for commanders in command posts and vehicles. It is a high-grade system that enables tactical users to make plans and follow the current operation. It allows the management of tactical planning and execution phases. DOOB-T BMS is designed as a mountable system on a vehicle to be used on the battlefield via ad-hoc networks. It can also be used in portable mode by soldiers in the field when needed. It supports military decision-making and allows monitoring of current operations (Friendly Force Tracking) at the tactical level. It is compliant with military symbology standards.

DOOB-T BMS is built on extensible software architecture and can easily be integrated with various radios and vehicle onboard sensors, including E/O systems, target acquisition radars, and gunshot detection systems in accordance with customer requirements. DOOB-T BMS easily integrates with various strategic and operational level C2IS and C4I systems to exchange operational information. It supports many national and international interoperability and messaging standards to collect and disseminate tactical information.

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MOROCCO – HIGH MOBILITY ARTILLERY ROCKET SYSTEMS (HIMARS)

On 11 April 2023 the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Morocco of High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$524.2 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale .

The Government of Morocco has requested to buy eighteen (18) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) launchers; forty (40) M57 Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS); thirty-six (36) M31A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (GMLRS) Unitary; thirty-six (36) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead; nine (9) M1152A1 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV); and eighteen (18) International Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems (IFATDS). Also included are forty (40) M28A2 Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket Pods (LCRRPR); radios with similar "SINCGARS" capability; thirty-five (35) Vehicular Dual Long-Range Radio Systems w/GPS; twenty-four (24) Single Radio, Long Range Vehicular System w/GPS; eighteen (18) M1084A2 cargo truck, Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) Resupply Vehicles (RSV); three (3) M1089A2 wrecker truck, FMTV, RSV; eighteen (18) M1095 5-ton trailer, FMTV; twenty-three (23) Simple Key Loader (SKL), AN/PYQ-10; fifty (50) Defense Advanced Global Positioning System Receivers (DAGR); camouflage screen and support systems; support equipment; communications equipment; spare and repair parts; test sets; laptop computers; training and training equipment; publications; systems integration support; technical data; Stockpile Reliability, Quality Assurance and Technical Assistance teams; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$524.2 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in North Africa.

The proposed sale will improve Morocco's capability to meet current and future threats and will contribute to Morocco's ability to detect threats and control its borders, contributing to the maintenance of regional stability and security. It will also enhance the interoperability of the Royal Armed Forces (FAR), which routinely exercises with U.S. forces, focusing on countering terrorism and Violent Extremist Organizations (VEOs) in the Maghreb and Sahel region. Morocco will have no difficulty absorbing these articles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the military balance in the region. The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, Camden, AK; L3 Harris Communications, Inc., Rochester, NY; Raytheon, Waltham, MA; COBHAM Aerospace Connectivity, Buckinghamshire, UK; Oshkosh Defense, LLC, Oshkosh, WI; AAR Corporation AAR Manufacturing, Inc., Cadillac, MI; and AM General LLC, South Bend, IN. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of U.S. Government and U.S. contractor representatives in Country: one (1) Contractor Field Service Representative (HIMARS) for a period of two years; two (2) U.S. Government personnel; and seven (7) U.S. contractor representatives (13M HIMARS Crewmember Training) for a period of five (5) months; one (1) Contractor Field Service Representative (IFATDS) for a period of one year; one (1) Contractor Field Service Representative (FMTV) for a period of one year; and one (1) Contractor Field Service Representative (HMMWV) for a period of one year.

© Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control



MOROCCO – JOINT STAND OFF WEAPONS

On 11 April 2023, the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Morocco of Joint Stand Off Weapons (JSOW) and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$250 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

The Government of Morocco has requested to buy forty (40) AGM-154C Joint Stand Off Weapons (JSOW). Also included are Dummy Air Training Missiles; Captive Flight Vehicles (CFVs); Free Flight Vehicles (FFVs); containers; mission planning, integration support, and testing; munitions storage security and training; weapon operational flight program software development; transportation, tools and test equipment; support equipment; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$250 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in North Africa.

The proposed sale will improve Morocco's capability to meet current and future threats. Morocco intends to use the missiles on its F-16, multi-role fighter aircraft and will provide enhanced capabilities in effective defense of critical sea lanes. The proposed sale of these missiles and support will increase the Royal Moroccan Air Force's maritime partnership potential and align its capabilities with existing regional baselines. Morocco will have no difficulty absorbing these weapons into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region. The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missiles & Defense Company, Tucson, Arizona. Implementation of this proposed sale will require annual trips to Morocco involving U.S. Government and contractor representatives for technical reviews, support, and oversight for approximately seven (7) years.



FORCE BEHIND THE FORCES

Our vision is peace and stability. Armed deterrence is a powerful policy to preclude the destructive elements from marring peace, bringing stability and reconciliation ultimately.

To combat with valor, we deliver the best defense equipment to support the **armed forces for maintaining peace and stability.**



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MD HELICOPTERS RECEIVES AWARD TO DELIVER 12 CAYUSE WARRIOR PLUS HELICOPTERS TO NIGERIAN ARMY

On 7 March 2023, MD Helicopters, announced that they are ramping up production line capabilities and increasing staffing to accommodate additional sales orders. This includes 12 Cayuse Warrior Plus scout/attack helicopters awarded by the Nigerian Army to assist in counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in Nigeria.

To support production, MDH restructured its production facility and has planned a staff increase of over 120 employees. These efforts will also support additional, large aircraft orders and strategic customer engagement opportunities.

“We are grateful for the trust of the Nigerian government, and are pleased to showcase our purpose-built, light attack aircraft solution to Nigeria and the world.” says Brad Pedersen, President and CEO at MD Helicopters. “MD Helicopters has streamlined our production processes to directly address the current and planned increase of aircraft orders,”

The Cayuse Warrior Plus is a derivative of the original Cayuse Warrior and is a combat proven tactical scout and light attack aircraft valued for its unmatched power, safety, speed, agility, and unparalleled confined area capabilities. Mission enhancements include sensors, weapons system, avionics improvements, armor, and increased power performance.

The aircraft will be used for area security, tactical reconnaissance convoy escort, and drug interdiction missions in Nigeria. The Nigerian selection includes a complete ILS package, spares, pilot and maintainer training, and Flight Training Device (FTD).

MD Helicopters, LLC (MDH) manufactures high-performance rotorcraft solutions that support operators flying military, commercial, law enforcement, utility, and VIP mission profiles. With thousands of aircraft in service worldwide, MDH has been designing and building aircraft known for their safety, versatility, responsiveness, speed, and reliability since 1947. Our commitment to product sustainment and customer success allows MDH to deliver aircraft unmatched in their performance and reliability. MD Helicopters, LLC is owned by an investment consortium comprised of MBIA Insurance, Bardin Hill Investment Partners LP, and MB Global Partners.

© MD Helicopters



President Akufo-Addo Presents 100 Vehicles 600 Motorbikes and 6 APCs to Police

The President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, on Tuesday, 21st February 2023, presented 100 pick-up vehicles, 600 motorbikes and 6 Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) vehicles to the Police Service, in addition to commissioning the National Police Headquarters facelift project.

According to the President, the presentation of these equipment, “are evidence, if any were needed, of Government’s commitment to the continuous retooling of the Police, a responsibility my government takes very seriously. It is borne out of the fact that the Police plays a critical role in the development of our country, hence the need to ensure that the Police Service is adequately resourced to discharge its duties for the safety and security of all of us, as well as for the growth of economic activity.”

The one hundred (100) pickup vehicles, six hundred (600) motorbikes and six (6) APC vehicles handed over by the President are to be used by the Formed Police Units (FPU) in all regions of the country.

“Until recently, the FPU was only stationed in Accra. However, through support from government, the Unit was extended to Kumasi in the Ashanti Region, and is and now being formed in all the other regions,” President Akufo-Addo said.

He continued, “All regions across the country are soon going to benefit from the services of this specialised unit. These Regional FPUs will be spread across one hundred and forty (140) bases in various communities in all the regions. Without any doubt, their presence will enhance greatly security, law and order in the country.” President Akufo-Addo urged the officers, men and women from the FPUs to undertake their duties with utmost professionalism, adding that “Show love and civility to the communities you will be in, but, at the same time, do your work without fear or favour. Always remember that you are accountable to the good people of Ghana.”

The President acknowledged the numerous renovations and changes that have been carried out on the frontage and the immediate surroundings of the Police Headquarters – the reconstruction of the walls around the headquarters, the remodelling of the gates and the renovation of the CID building. “The landscaping around the entire building and on your premises will not go unnoticed. I dare say, if we were to rank all public buildings now, the Police Headquarters will most likely emerge as one of the best in terms of the appearance of the surroundings. I must say when an environment looks this beautiful and put together, it creates a sense of orderliness and discipline in the minds of its patrons. I commend the leadership of the Service for embarking on this renovation and facelift project,” he added.



SA's navy exercises between China and Russia to benefit nations – Modise

Defence and Military Veterans Minister, Thandi Modise, says she is confident that the multinational maritime exercise between South Africa, Russia and China that will take place over a 10-day period will benefit all three participating nations.

“The envisaged exercise will benefit all countries involved through interoperability of the naval systems, joint disaster systems management enhancement, maritime cooperation and anti-piracy exercises.” In addition, she said the event known as Exercise Mosi II, will serve as a platform for the three nations to share operational skills, expertise and experience.

This comes after the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) announced last week that it will host the People’s Liberation Army Navy from China and the Russian Federal Navy during the multilateral maritime exercise scheduled to take place from 17 to 27 February 2023. The maritime exercise will be held in Durban and Richards Bay in KwaZulu-Natal.

According to the department, this will be the second time such an exercise will be taking place involving the three naval forces with the first one held in November 2019 in Cape Town. This year’s Exercise Mosi II will see over 350 SANDF personnel from various Arms of Services and Divisions participating alongside their Russian and Chinese counterparts. South Africa, according to the department, enjoys diplomatic relations with all member states of BRICS (Brazil, Russia and China) at a bilateral level, in addition to the multilateral levels.

“We also enjoy defence diplomatic relations with several countries across all the continents of the world since we have become an integral part of the community of nations and no longer a pariah State.” In recent months, the department said it had engagements with counterparts in the United Kingdom, China, Nigeria, Cote d’Ivoire and Ghana.

“There was no hype about any of these countries, especially about the USA wherein we held an even longer exercise, known as Exercise Shared Accord in KwaZulu-Natal last year regarding our military health capabilities,” the department added. In addition, the department said the SANDF plans and budgets for military exercises with other nations across the globe, both at bilateral and multilateral levels.

Exercise Mosi II, according to the department is no exception, including the Exercise Shared Accord held with the United States armed forces counterparts. Meanwhile, the biennial maritime Exercise Oxide between South Africa and France also took place in November last year at the Simon’s Town Naval Base.

“We wish to state categorically that South Africa, like any independent and sovereign state, has a right to conduct its foreign relations in line with its diplomatic relations and national interests. South Africa sees Exercise Mosi II as an opportunity to contribute towards further strengthening the strong bonds that exist between South Africa, Russia and China,” the department said.

“Contrary to the assertions by our critics, South Africa is not abandoning its neutral position on the Russian-Ukraine conflict. We remain firm in our view that multilateralism and dialogue are keys to unlocking sustainable international peace. We continue to urge both parties to engage in dialogue as a solution to the current conflict.”

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U.S. Navy - Egypt Enhance Maritime Partnership with Patrol Craft Transfer

The transfer ceremony represents the culmination of weeks of preparation, training and professional exchanges between Egyptian and U.S. Navy Sailors. The U.S. Navy turned over former patrol coastal ships USS Hurricane (PC 3), USS Sirocco (PC 6), and USS Thunderbolt (PC 12) after sailing from Bahrain to Egypt during a month-long journey around the Arabian Peninsula, January through February.

“The Egypt-U.S. maritime partnership has been a fundamental pillar of our bilateral defense cooperation for decades,” said Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of NAVCENT, U.S. 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces. “This transfer is yet another major milestone in our strong relationship that will enhance regional maritime security for years to come.”

During the 4,000-mile transit to Alexandria, U.S. and Egyptian crewmembers worked side-by-side safely navigating the three ships on a voyage that included port visits to Jebel Ali in the United Arab Emirates; Duqm, Oman; Djibouti; and Berenice, Egypt.

U.S. and Egyptian service members continued training after the ships arrived in Alexandria, Feb. 12. Classroom lessons included discussions on engineering, search and rescue, damage control and weapons handling.

“This transfer process was an incredible opportunity for our crews. It enabled us to strengthen our bilateral ties while enhancing our interoperability with a highly capable regional maritime partner,” said Capt. Anthony Webber, commander of Task Force 55, which oversees operations for U.S. 5th Fleet’s surface forces.

The Egyptian Navy currently commands Combined Task Force 153, one of four multinational task forces organized under U.S.-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). The task force coordinates multinational maritime security efforts in the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandeb and Gulf of Aden.

NAVCENT and CMF are headquartered in Manama, Bahrain. They include maritime forces operating in the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea, parts of the Indian Ocean and three critical choke points at the Strait of Hormuz, Suez Canal and Bab al-Mandeb.

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State Partnership, shared visions highlight African Chiefs of Defense conference



African Chiefs of Defense and senior military leaders from 43 countries met in Rome for the annual African Chiefs of Defense Conference held from Feb. 27 - March 2, 2023. Above all, this event provides an opportunity to enhance relationships and discuss shared visions for the future of multinational coordination in Africa," said U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Michael Langley, commander, U.S. Africa Command, who hosted the event. "This year's theme is particularly relevant in today's dynamic and challenging environment. Collectively, we must analyze our capabilities and be efficient in pursuing our common goals."

The theme of this year's event was "How Resources and Requirements Affect our Mutual Reality and Reputation," which addressed instability, protecting resources, crisis preparation and response, technology, and other challenges. Above all, the meeting provided an opportunity to enhance relationships, encourage partnerships, and discuss shared visions for the future of multinational coordination, operations, and interoperability in Africa.

This is the second year in a row that the event was held in Rome. Langley's opening remarks were followed by those of U.S. Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "We all live in a deeply interconnected world," he said, "and the challenges that we all face are not constrained by national boundaries."

Conference forums consisted of five interlinking panels: Leading Indicators of Instability; Protecting Resources; Crisis Preparation and Response from a Regional Approach; Next Frontiers of Technology; and a Lessons Learned segment focused on institutionalized learning. Delivering the keynote address was Dr. Zainab Usman, Senior Fellow and Director of the Africa Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C.

Stability was a key element of this year's meeting, with discussions held on the root causes, indicators, and vectors of instability. Throughout the conference, leaders reiterated the importance of foundational strength within a nation's defense force.

"This conference has been extremely valuable for both sharing of new ideas and rekindling old relationships," said Sgt. Maj. Richard Thresher, command senior enlisted leader, U.S. Africa Command. "No military force should underestimate the value and power of a well-trained, educated, and empowered non-commissioned officer corps."

Between forums, highlights included overviews of the State Partnership Program, a Department of Defense security cooperation program managed by the National Guard Bureau. "This is a two-way relationship," said U.S. Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. "It gives us an opportunity to train with our allies and partners, but we also learn significantly from each and every one of you. These are mutually beneficial relationships."

In attendance at this year's conference were 15 National Guard leaders, including Maj. Gen. Michael Turley, commander of the Utah National Guard, whose partnership with the Kingdom of Morocco is now in its 20th year. "This relationship has a longstanding tie," said Moroccan Brig. Gen. Mohamed Haial, General of the Brigade. "This state partnership relationship is on a very firm foundation." In closing, Gen. Langley highlighted the importance of the annual conference to Africa and the U.S., its impact on the broader international community, and its potential to shape the global future. "We view our security cooperation efforts like an investment account, and compound interest is a beautiful thing," said Langley. "We invest in countries when they are low, as well as when they are high, trusting that our investment - our relationship- will grow exponentially and have long-term, positive security results for the people of Africa and the globe."

© By STAFF SGT. JEREMIAH MEANEY, United States Africa Command Stuttgart

Night Hunters enforce peace in Uganda

By Yury Laskin

The long-standing conflict between the Government of Uganda and the so-called Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) looks to come into a new stage with the help of the Mi-28 Russian-made attack helicopters. The vehicles being called in Russia as "Night Hunters" due to the round-the-clock combat capability have changed the situation at the battlefield dramatically.

On March 22, 2023 the Commander of Uganda Air Force, Lt Gen Charles Okidi officiated the pass out of twelve pilots and fifty-two engineers who completed an eight months training course for Mi-28 operation and maintenance at Soroti Air Force Wing, the Uganda People's Defense Force's (UPDF's) official site reports.

Earlier, the Pilots started with a demonstration for the MI-28NE attack helicopters at Olilim Demo grounds in Katakwi District.

Lt Gen Okidi praised the pilots for their job in providing air power during operations. "There is no doubt that the introduction of the attack helicopters into the battlefield changed the tides of war in Northern Uganda against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in favour of the UPDF and continue to do so in the subsequent operations. So, with the acquisition of New Air Assets, we are ready to serve our beloved country more in that capacity," concluded Okidi. The Mi-28N Night Hunter day/night version was developed by the Moscow-based Mil Design Bureau and produced by the Rostvertol company in Rostov-on-Don. Both enterprises are now subsidiaries of the Russian Helicopters Holding.

According to the Rosoboronexport the vehicle maximum takeoff is 12.100kg, including 2100 kg of

payload. The National defense trader's catalogue claims the machine speed is up to 315 km/h with a service ceiling 5600 m and a flying range on internal fuel tanks of 425 km.

The machine smart weaponry was developed by the KBM Design Bureau in Kolomna, Moscow region, now the High Precision Weapons (HPW) Holding subsidiary. The Night Hunter is armed with up to 16 Shturm and Ataka anti-tank missiles. Shturm is a radio command-guided missile while the Ataka employs a laser beam channel. Maximum firing range of the missile is 8 km. The helicopter can also carry 80 mm or 122 mm rockets and gun pods. The helicopter is equipped with a turreted 30 mm cannon.

The article being published in the AI-Defaiya magazine claims on possible options for the Night Hunter's upgrade. It can be focused on the extension of the armament variety to incorporate upgraded Ataka either Khrizantema missiles with a dual-control system featuring both radio and laser-beam channels. New weaponry enables to increase the target destruction range up to 10 km.

Another option with the same firing distance as above is the Vikhr ATGM, a product from the Tula-based Shipunov KBP Design Bureau, another HPW subsidiary. This version made its international debut at the Army 2022 Forum in the Moscow region.

Besides the upgraded helicopter can be equipped with air bombs which efficiency has been proved in local conflicts of the last decade.

According to the Military Africa report, at least three Mi-28 were obtained by Uganda to team its elder fleet of Mi-24/25 in 2022. The UPDF has about a dozen Mi-24/35 attack helicopters in service along with several Mi-8/Mi-17s, several AB 206 Jet Rangers, half a dozen Bell 205s, and a couple of Bell 212 helicopters. Five refurbished Huey II helicopters were delivered from 2017.

© Uganda UPDF



Egyptian Air Force: First Rafale export user to reach 10,000 flight hours

In the presence of senior Egyptian authorities and Dassault Aviation representatives, a ceremony to celebrate the Rafale's 10,000 flight hours was held last week on the operational air base where the Egyptian Air Force's Rafale "Wild Wolves" squadron is stationed.

After an initial order in 2015, that made Egypt the Rafale's first export customer, followed by a second in 2021, the Rafale has now reached a new milestone thanks to the Egyptian Air Force: the first 10,000 flight hours operated by a user other than the French air forces.

This important milestone confirms the Rafale's technological and operational excellence and attests to the quality of the training of Egyptian

crews received in France. It also demonstrates the effectiveness of the systems and personnel put in place by Dassault Aviation to support the implementation of the aircraft in Egypt. Lastly, it illustrates the great skill of the Egyptian Air Force, which has carried out the transformation of its pilots and mechanics to the Rafale with ease and fluidity.

"Egypt has chosen the Rafale, recognizing its unique 'game-changer' character, to ensure its role in full sovereignty as a key player in the regional and international arena, in a demanding geopolitical context.

This celebration around the 10,000 flight hours of the Rafale salutes the great mastery of the Egyptian Air Force, the excellence of the Rafale, and honors Dassault Aviation, which has maintained strong relations with Egypt based on trust and commitment for nearly 50 years", said Eric Trappier, Chairman and CEO of Dassault Aviation.

With over 10,000 military and civil aircraft (including 2,500 Falcons) delivered in more than 90 countries over the last century, Dassault Aviation has built up expertise recognized worldwide in the design, development, sale and support of all types of aircraft, ranging from the Rafale fighter to the high-end Falcon family of business jets, military drones and space systems. In 2021, Dassault Aviation reported revenues of €7.2 billion. The company has 12,400 employees.

© Dassault Aviation



BIRD Aerosystems completes a successful demonstration of its ASIO Maritime Patrol aircraft as part of Nigeria's NIMASA Deep Blue project

Following the delivery of its ASIO Maritime Task Force Solution to Nigeria, as part of the NIMASA Deep Blue Project, BIRD Aerosystems has completed a successful live demonstration of the ASIO aircraft capabilities, including real-time interception of vessels performing illegal activities at sea.

BIRD's ASIO task Force has been successfully operating in Nigeria for over two years, proving its effectiveness and unprecedented achievements in tackling piracy in the Nigerian EEZ and the entire maritime environment, allowing Nigeria to conclude 2022 with zero piracy events in its maritime territory. Recently, the International Bargaining Forum (IBF) has removed Nigeria from the list of countries designated as risk maritime nations. This is a confirmation of the improved global ratings of Security in the Nigerian maritime domain.

BIRD Aerosystems ASIO Task force solution provided to Nigeria includes multiple Cessna Citation CJ3 Maritime Patrol Aircraft installed with BIRD's advanced MSIS

mission management system. The integrated Aerial-Naval-Land solution facilitates maritime and coastal surveillance, patrol and survey of borders and strategic assets, and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) monitoring capabilities over large ranges, enabling efficient detection, tracking, and interception of any suspicious activity at sea.

During the demonstration, which was conducted in the presence of the Nigeria Hon. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Muazu Jaji Sambo, DG Nimasa, DR. Bashir Jamoh, and Secretary General International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr. Kitack Lim, the ASIO Aircraft identified a suspicious vessel performing an illegal activity and polluting the sea. The Aircraft quickly identified and performed a discrimination process that enabled the Maritime Security Unit to catch this vessel, stop the pollution, and fine them.

Tal Spektor, CEO HLS International LTD: "With air, land, and sea assets, the NIMASA Deep Blue project is the first integrated maritime security strategy in West and Central Africa, aiming to tackle piracy, sea robbery, and other crimes at sea. Proving effective and successful in ensuring a higher level of safety in the maritime sector in Nigeria, it is projected to attract Foreign Direct Investments to the country with an expected increase in vessels coming in 2023."

Ronen Factor, Co-CEO and Founder at BIRD Aerosystems: "We are honored to have an essential part of the NIMASA Deep Blue Project, with BIRD's ASIO maritime patrol aircraft and the MSIS mission management system. Bringing piracy events in the Gulf of Guinea to practically zero, BIRD's ASIO Task Force delivers an extremely powerful, comprehensive, and flexible maritime patrol solution, ensuring a high level of security."

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Kenya's Defence and Security



**THE HON. ADEN BARE DUALE, EGH. MPCABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

In order to maintain our independence, ensure socio- economic development and security of our citizens we need a capability to defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity against all forms of threats. To acquire and administer the necessary capability, we have to adopt and uphold measures that emphasize the need to minimize the use of force. However, should our interests be threatened, force will be applied to restore peace on most favourable terms in the shortest time possible.

Our political independence, the integrity of our national territory, the security and socio-economic well-being of our people comprise our basic national interests. We have a duty to safeguard these interests with all means at our disposal. In doing so, emphasis will be on political and diplomatic efforts, rather than military means as the first recourse. Kenya's foreign policy objectives aim to reduce tension and potential for conflict in our region and the world at large and to foster mutual respect and cooperation between states.

The global security environment is dynamic and unpredictable. Globalization has resulted in a smaller world, where security threats anywhere in the world cause security concerns in our country.

To surmount these threats, there is need for cooperation with other Ministries, Departments and

Agencies within the whole of Government approach concept. At the same time, collaboration with other international organizations and partners is critical in combating these threats including participation in Peace Support Operations.

Terrorism is and continues to be the greatest threat to international peace and security. The systematic dismantling of the Al Qaeda (AQ) terrororganization by neutralization of its key leadership at the international level has seen it mutate into numerous international/ regional/local terror groups like ISIL, Al Shabaab, Boko Haram etc.

The basic role of the Defence Forces of Kenya therefore is to deal with military threats. It is responsible for the defence and protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state; assist and co-operate with other authorities in situations of emergency or disaster and report to the National Assembly whenever deployed in such circumstances. It may also be deployed to restore peace in any part of Kenya affected by unrest or instability only with approval of the National Assembly.

To effectively execute this mandate, self-sustenance is key. In this regard, the Ministry is proactively pursuing capacity development in support of the national industrialization process through research based technological innovations and transfer of appropriate technology in the development of Defence Industrial Capacity.

In developing its human resource, the Ministry takes cognizance of the constitutional requirement of fulfilling gender mainstreaming and making use of all available talent.



Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) troops deployed in Somalia under African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) on 14 October 2022 joined the KDF fraternity in celebrating the KDF day themed, "soldier centric approaches towards upscaling mission readiness," in Dhobley, Somalia

Continuous training is a major component of military capacity building. To this end, access to land for training activities and for Defence security purposes calls for clear understanding of the need to reserve land for military use. . This calls for the development of new ways of enhancing relationships between the Ministry and the devolved governments (Source: Defence White Paper)

Kenya's National Interests

Our political independence, the integrity of our national territory, and the security and socio-economic well-being of our people comprise our basic national interests. We have a duty to safeguard these interests with all the means at our disposal. In doing this, emphasis will be on political, rather than military means as a first recourse. This is the general thrust of our grand strategy on which this White Paper is anchored.

The Defence White Paper is informed by our national interests, values and principles. Our interests are to be protected, advanced and promoted at all times as they pertain to the survival of Kenya as a strong and stable state. Kenya's interests include the following:

- a. Sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- b. National security.
- c. Economic prosperity

The Kenya Army

The Kenya Army is mandated with the defence and protection of the sovereignty of the Republic against land-based threats. Further it will assist and cooperate with other authorities in situations of emergency or disaster. Additionally, the Army may be called upon to restore peace in any part of Kenya affected by unrest or instability only with the approval of the National Assembly.

The Kenya Air Force

The Kenya Air Force is mandated to defend the Republic against external air aggression, provide support to sister Services in their pursuance of national objectives; and assist and cooperate with other government authorities in situations of emergency or disaster. Additionally, the Air Force may be called upon to restore peace in any part of Kenya affected by unrest or instability only with the approval of the National Assembly.

The Kenya Navy

The Kenya Navy is mandated to defend the Republic against all armed threats from the sea. In accomplishing this mandate, the Navy's role is to engage and destroy forces before they reach our shores, keep maritime approaches to our ports secure and open to commercial shipping. The Kenya Navy also protects Kenya's economic

resources, facilities and activities at sea from illegal interference and render aid to civil authorities in the maintenance of order in civil emergencies. Additionally, the Navy may be called upon to restore peace in any part of Kenya affected by unrest or instability only with the approval of the National Assembly. (Source: Defence White Paper)



Tanzania People's Defence Force



Tanzania Peoples Defence Forces are the armed forces of the United Republic of Tanzania comprising of multidisciplinary forces as-

- Land Forces Command
- Air Forces Command
- Navy Forces Command

The Tanzania Peoples Defence Force (TPDF) was established On 1st September 1964, Under National Defence Act for the purpose of defending the territorial integrity, state sovereignty and safeguard National interests of the United Republic of Tanzania. Aims at maintaining a small armed force composed of highly skilled officers and men equipped with modern equipment necessary for national defence.

TPDF Mission is to defend the state sovereignty, safeguard National interests of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Aid to civil authority.

Tanzanian citizens are able to volunteer for military service from 18 years of age upon graduation from secondary school. Conscript service obligation was 2 years as of 2004.

By the late 1970s reasonable estimates placed army strength at about 17,000 out of the total TPDF of 18,600 men and women.

The country is one of the few African countries that maintains large and functioning Reserves. The estimated strength of the reserves is in the region of 80 000 personnel but many of these are no longer active due to the change from one-party to multi-party rule.

Tanzanian Army

As of 2015, the army is gradually modernizing and restructuring. Much of the inventory is in storage or unreliable. Included in the army inventory in are PRC T-59 medium tanks, PRC T-62 light tanks, RTR-40

BTR-152 armored personnel carriers that were of Soviet design, 76-mm guns, eighteen 122-mm howitzers, 120-mm mortars, and several 37-mm anti-aircraft guns and 145-mm anti-aircraft machine guns.

The army does not operate in its command but consists of infantry brigades directly under the command of the Chief of Defense Forces (CDF). The Army is organized into a number of different

brigades and battalions throughout the country. These are constituted as follows:

- 5 × infantry brigade
- 1 × tank brigade
- 3 × artillery battalion
- 2 × air defence artillery battalion
- 1 × mortar battalion
- 2 × anti-tank battalion
- 121st Engineer Regiment
- 1 × central logistic/support group

Naval Command

As of 2016, the assets of the Tanzania Naval Command included:

- Four Huchuan class torpedo boats
- Two Ngunguri class vessels
- Two Shanghai II class patrol craft
- Two 27-foot Defender-type patrol boats
- Two Yuch'in class landing craft.





In 2015 Tanzania replaced the two-landing craft with similar Chinese Type 068 vessels. The new 28-metre vessels, Mbono and Sehewa, took part in an amphibious operation demonstration on 30 September 2016. They unloaded infantry and Type 63A amphibious light tanks as part of the exercise. The landing craft were delivered to the naval base in Dar es Salaam by January 2016.

On 1st October 2018, in a bid to support community efforts in marine ecosystem management The European Union Delegation to Tanzania and the EAC, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and WWF Tanzania have handed over two patrol boats worth \$ 64,000 to the Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMAs) of Kilwa Kivinje and Mafia. The handing over was organized through the EU funded project implemented by WWF Tanzania named 'Building effective long-term fisheries co-management in five coastal districts in Tanzania, and promoting coast-wide learning on the same'.

Air Force Command

Tanzania's air force command operates 40 aircraft in 4 different types. It is believed they are operating 14 fighters, 11 fixed-wing attack aircraft, 7 transport aircraft and 8 tra More than 2,600 Tanzanian military and police personnel currently serve in six UN operations, performing a range of vital tasks such as protecting civilians and community policing. Tanzania has contributed uniformed UN peacekeepers in various parts of the world since 1995. It currently contributes peacekeepers in six UN missions in Africa and UNIFIL in Lebanon. Tanzania's contributions are largely informed by its history of African liberation, conflict prevention and peace processes, especially in African countries. Regionally, Tanzania has shown willingness to participate and contribute both in terms of security and military cooperation. Under the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), Tanzania is part of its African Standby Force's (ASF).

Specifically, Tanzania, falls under the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and in 2007 signed the agreement to become part of the SADC Standby Brigadier aircraft.

Tanzania's air force command also operates 8 helicopters, 2 BELL 214, 2 H 155 as well as 2 H 215 and 2 H 225 which were delivered in September 2018.

More than 2,600 Tanzanian military and police personnel currently serve in six UN operations, performing a range of vital tasks such as protecting civilians and community policing. Tanzania has contributed uniformed UN peacekeepers in various parts of the world since 1995. It currently contributes peacekeepers in six UN missions in Africa and UNIFIL in Lebanon. Tanzania's contributions are largely informed by its history of African liberation, conflict prevention and peace processes, especially in African countries. Regionally, Tanzania has shown willingness to participate and contribute both in terms of security and military cooperation. Under the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), Tanzania is part of its African Standby Force's (ASF). Specifically, Tanzania, falls under the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and in 2007 signed the agreement to become part of the SADC Standby Brigade.



France Provides VAB Armoured Vehicles To Benin Republic For Counter-terrorism, Other Tasks



France has delivered a first batch of VAB armoured vehicles to the Beninese Armed Forces, which will use them for counter-terrorism and other security tasks.

The eight ex-French vehicles were handed over in Cotonou on 20 January by Marc Vizey, the Ambassador of France to Benin. He said violent extremism on the northern borders of Benin has hit the country hard, and the vehicles would help contain this threat.

The eight vehicles will be followed by another seven. They are equipped with machineguns in overhead turrets and night vision systems and will provide secure transport for troops, and protect them against weapons used by terrorists and improvised explosive devices.

Beninese soldiers have been trained in the maintenance and use of the vehicles, the Beninese government said in a statement. "France, by this gesture which follows a donation of pick-up vehicles a few weeks earlier, comes to testify once again the quality of its relations with Benin today at war against terrorist groups."

Brigadier General Fructueux Gbaguidi, Chief of General Staff of the Beninese Army, said "Benin remains appreciative of your efforts to us since the beginning of this crisis", adding that "police forces will appreciate the operational boost they receive from a long-time partner like France."

France has also provided unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), protective equipment, armoured vehicles and other equipment to help Benin fight terrorism in the region.

France has supplied MBDA Akeron MP anti-tank missiles to Egyptian Special Forces



An Akeron MP anti-tank missile weapon was presented by the Naval Egyptian Special Forces during an open day. (Picture source Screenshot Video footage Egyptian MoD)

According to a video published by the Egyptian Ministry of Defense on March 18, 2023, MBDA delivered MMP anti-tank guided missiles to the Egyptian armed forces, which are now being used by the Navy Special Forces. The MMP, now named Akeron MP, is a French-made anti-tank guided missile designed, developed, and produced by MBDA. An Akeron MP anti-tank missile weapon was presented by the Naval Egyptian Special Forces during an open day. (Picture source Screenshot Video footage Egyptian MoD)

Angola set to deploy troops to DR Congo

Angola has announced it will send troops to eastern DR Congo. The office of Angola's President Joao Lourenço, said in a statement on Saturday, March 11 that regional leaders, the African Union, and United Nations were informed about the decision to send troops to eastern DR Congo. "The primary objective of this [military] unit is to secure the cantonment areas of the M23 elements and to protect the members of the Ad Hoc Verification Mechanism," the statement reads. The statement by Angola came hours after the M23 announced its withdrawal from multiple areas under its control.

Kenya and Burundi already deployed troops under the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF), which occupies territories vacated by the rebels since they began its withdrawal in December 2022.



Planning the future of the Ghana Navy



CNS Holds Annual Conference with FOCs and Directors. The Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Rear Admiral Issah Adam Yakubu has held his annual conference for 2023 with a call on the leadership of the Ghana Navy to deliberate on issues confronting the Ghana Navy, find solutions to the challenges and as well plan for the future of the Navy. The 2-day conference which was under the theme, 'Strengthening leadership towards accomplishing agenda 2024' started on Thursday, 23 February 2023 and ended on Friday, 24 February 2023 at the Naval Headquarters, Burma Camp.

The CNS, Rear Admiral Issah Adam Yakubu in his opening address said the conference over the years had been a calendar event that has afforded the Naval hierarchy the platform to brainstorm, share ideas and bring to bare transforming policies for the development of the Ghana Navy. He stated that the conference was to cross-examine the year 2022 and strategize for the year 2023 to aid the realization of the mandate of the Ghana Navy.

Rear Admiral Yakubu applauded all personnel of the Ghana Navy for the hard work, dedication and commitment to duty which had brought glory to the Navy despite limited resources. He added that leadership and innovation were critical in these trying times to build on the legacy left by their predecessors. He also urged Commander's to continue to strengthen leadership at all levels to consolidate their achievements which would leave a lasting legacy. 'Leadership is not about identifying problems and pointing them out, you must try to think through solutions outside the box', he added. The CNS assured that his outfit would do its best to offer transparent leadership to boost the morale of troops in the Ghana Navy. He also advised the commanders to prioritize the welfare of Officers and Sailors assigned under them, to offer them a sound mind in performing their mandated task, as well as explore innovative ways to accomplish set goals.



EDGE Signs Cooperation Agreement with the Tanzania People's Defence Force



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On 21 February 2023, in IDEX 2023 international defence exhibition EDGE group signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF), which comprises the East African nation's air, land, and sea defence domains. The Agreement will pave the way for cooperation between EDGE and the TPDF on strategic opportunities of mutual benefit which will allow the TPDF to further develop and provide for Tanzania's defence, security, and technology needs.

The TPDF aims to enhance industrial capacity through its defence industries so as to be self-sustained in the manufacturing and production of industrial products for military and civilian use in Tanzania, and regionally, and to support the development of the TPDF's industrial capacity by facilitating various programmes and projects in the field of automotive technological innovations undertaken at Tanzania Automotive Technology Centre.

The agreement, which was signed by Mansour AlMulla, Managing Director and CEO of EDGE, and General Jacob John Mkunda, Tanzania's Chief of Defence Forces, builds on the friendly relations between the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Government of the United Arab Emirates.



Delivery to the Senegalese Air Force of the second medium AIRBUS 295 transport aircraft

On 31 March 2023, in presence of the Minister of Defence, Maître Sidiki KABA, a ceremony held for the delivery to the Senegalese Air Force of the second Airbus C295 transport aircraft manufactured by AIRBUS, as a step of the process of strengthening and modernizing the Senegalese Armed Forces. The Airbus C295 is a new-generation tactical airlifter in the light and medium segment. It is robust and reliable but also highly versatile in terms of the number of different missions it can perform. The C295 conducts multi-role operations worldwide under all weather conditions. It is fully certified and routinely operates day and night in combat missions in all weather extremes, from desert to maritime environments, from extremely hot to extremely cold temperatures.

Paramount's N-Raven Precision Strike Loitering Munition goes into production

Paramount Aerospace Systems (PAS), subsidiary to Paramount, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) headquartered global aerospace and technology company, announced that its groundbreaking N-Raven loitering munition will begin production in April this year with first deliveries in October, to meet the urgent requirements of armed forces around the world.

N-Raven has been digitally designed with quick transfer of technology in mind, to enable governments to manufacture these loitering munitions in their countries, in less than one year. The announcement was made at the International Defence Exhibition & Conference (IDEX 2023) in Abu Dhabi. Paramount Aerospace Systems has developed the N-Raven as a robust yet cost-effective loitering munition to meet the needs of the new battlefield in both asymmetrical and symmetrical warfare, by utilising proven building blocks, components and experience gained from the company's previously-fielded and operational remote-controlled systems.

Paramount's N-Raven consists of three different models; GPS guided, fixed Optical Seeker Head target identification, recognition and tracking; and a Gimbal version of the Optical Seeker Head. All these technologies including the hardware, software and AI have been developed by Paramount. The swarming version of the N-Raven is in advanced stages of development and is scheduled to be industrialized in the second half of 2024.

With a wingspan of 3.6 meters, a maximum cruise speed of up to 180 km/hr and a loitering endurance time of roughly 2 hours (electric) and 4.5 hours (petrol) and a range of up to 100 km, the 55 kg N-Raven delivers capabilities to find, fix and destroy, neutralize and suppress targets. The 13.5 kg payload is key to this ability. Mobile and deployable in a short period of time, operational units can utilise and launch the N-Raven from both land-based and naval platforms. Commanders will benefit from the

advantage of the N-Raven's precision strike capabilities against targets, both static and moving, located deep within enemy territory, "Designed to strengthen armed forces' aerial reconnaissance, engagement and precision strike capabilities, while removing humans from harm's way, the N-Raven addresses the increasing requirements of governments for defence industrial autonomy and maintaining security of supply", contends Paramount Global CEO, Steve Griessel.

"The N-Raven is a lightweight solution yet with the capacity to immobilise convoys and supply lines and in doing so, deplete enemy capabilities," he continued. "Recent conflicts around the world have confirmed that loitering munitions will play a key role on the new battlefield. This ingenious, affordable technology increases mission survivability and success, enhances real time actionable intelligence, minimises exposure of friendly forces, and in doing so, provide armed forces around the world with an unassailable advantage" says Griessel.

"Nearly three decades ago, Paramount was founded on the belief that true innovation in our space means bringing technologically advanced, affordable and highly customisable solutions to the needs of our partners. The N-Raven is designed and produced with portable production in mind, allowing our partners the ability to bolster their own defence industrial capabilities and do this at warp speed."

© Paramount Aerospace Systems (PAS)



Leonardo and Armaereo awarded a contract on the upgrade of the Italian Air Force's C-27J fleet



Leonardo and Armaereo, the Italian Defence Ministry's Air Force Armament and Airworthiness Directorate, on 7 March 2023 have signed a contract which represents an important step in the Italian Air Force's C-27J Spartan fleet upgrade.

The contract includes: the development, integration qualification and certification of a new avionics configuration for the C-27J, the upgrading of a number of general systems on the aircraft, the self-protection system and the flight simulator. It also includes the delivery of the relevant first aircraft in this configuration, potentially followed by the retrofitting of the remaining 11 aircraft.

Under this contract, the Air Force's C-27J will receive a significant upgrade of its avionics suite through the integration of new features such as the Mission Computer, the Flight Management System, Head Up and Head Down displays, radio and satellite communication systems, self-protection system and other upgrades improving the aircraft's flexibility and operational effectiveness. The training system will also be updated on the basis of the new systems introduced on-board, aligning both training devices (flight simulators) and courseware (teaching materials) along with relevant technical publications.

Dario Marfè, Senior Vice President Commercial and Customer Services of Leonardo, Aircraft Division, said: "The latest evolution of the C-27J further

improves the Spartan's efficacy and operational capability. We're proud to announce that the Italian Air Force has chosen the new avionics configuration of the C-27J, which will provide even better performance and efficiency. With its versatility and mission flexibility, the C-27J offers an even broader range of capabilities to support the operators in facing new challenges."

The Spartan embodies the very essence of national security, proving itself as an ideal asset for defence force operations and it also provides a vital contribution to civil protection tasks, as an aircraft capable of reaching the population even in the country's most remote and challenging areas.

Before the Italian Air Force, the air force of Australia already signed an agreement to upgrade its fleet. Very recently Romania and US operators of Spartan, US SOCOM and US Coast Guard, chosen for the avionics upgrade of their C-27J aircraft fleets.

The retrofit possibilities have been specifically studied as part of the development of the C-27J program, with the aim of allowing operators to constantly benefit from the improvements made to the aircraft.

A multitude of kits and easy to install and transportable roll-on/roll-off mission systems allow the C-27J to be rapidly transformed into the configuration required for the relevant mission. As a 'tactical airlifter', the aircraft's versatility extends from airlifts of troops and cargo to airdrops of paratroopers and materials, from medical battlefield evacuation to VIP transportation, from humanitarian assistance and natural disaster response to firefighting. The C-27J can be configured in the Maritime Patrol (MPA), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Command-Control-Communications, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C3ISR) versions.

The C-27J can be fitted with Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) search radar, electro-optical/infrared systems and other specific sensors essential for Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR), Maritime Patrol (MPA), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) missions, support to Special Operation Forces and ground troops.

The aircraft's sensors can be managed via a palletised and rapidly removable mission system that analyses data collected and transmits it to the crew in real time. The fire fighter configuration with roll-on/roll-off second generation Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS II) by United Aeronautical Corporation, world leader in advanced aerial application systems, enhances the C-27J's multi-mission capabilities.

Paramount Partners with AAL Group to market Mi-Type Helicopter Solutions

Paramount Aerospace Systems, subsidiary to Paramount, the global aerospace and technology company, is pleased to announce a strategic partnership with AAL Group Ltd for the marketing of Mi-type helicopter solutions production of Mi main and tail rotor composite helicopter blades, from facilities within the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In a joint statement, Paramount and the AAL Group announced that they will collaborate to service and upgrade fleets of helicopters across Africa, as well as the production of interchangeable composite rotary wing blades to meet the increasing demand from partner countries across the continent.

Established in 2000, AAL Group Ltd. is a leading international aviation organization headquartered in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), providing a full range of services and support for Mi-type rotary-wing aircraft. The company offers integrated and efficient solutions for its customers around the world to support the operational readiness of their helicopter fleets.

AAL Group Ltd. CEO, Olga Martyshchenko, stated that, "We strive to be the leader in the rotary-wing industry, placing our global customers' needs at the core of our business. In realising our vision, we recognise that there is always more that can be done and that the demands of our customers are evolutionary. In Paramount, we have found a partner committed to EMEA defence industrialisation, with an acute understanding of the asymmetrical challenges faced by governments across Africa. We look forward to continued and shared growth on the heels of this landmark announcement".

The companies' production resources will be situated within a newly established facility located on a plot of land directly connected to the airside. Paramount has established an extensive composite blade design and development capability for Mi-type helicopters. The composite blades offer a clear advantage over metal blades.

Paramount Global CEO, Steve Griessel, stated: "Paramount's composite main rotor blade development started in 2006, in response to a customer requirement. The composite blades were designed to provide the same functional and

performance capability, including shape, size and weight as the metal blades, enabling installation without any recertification of the helicopter platform elements, limiting certification only to the composite blades. This substantially reduces the development and qualification process and does not affect any other major or structural parts."

The composite blades have a significantly increased operational life, at least five to eight times more than the metal blades but also allowing individual blades to be replaced in the event of damage rather than the whole set. In the event of damaged blade or a set can be easily repaired at location and returned to service in a short period of time. Although the production of the composite blades is more expensive than metal blades, the operational life makes the overall cost of operation substantially cheaper.


With the current challenges in supplies and deliveries of the main rotor blades, Customers are unable to maintain their fleets and continue providing the necessary security and defence support to ensure their sovereignty. Composite blades production can be ramped up to provide a source for continued operations and offer Customers longer usage life while reducing dependence on the challenging supplies network. .

Griessel added: "We are privileged to increase upon our footprint in the United Arab Emirates in partnership with AAL, and view this announcement as a major step in expanding the versatility and application of our pioneering portable production model. In tandem with organisations such as AAL, we look to create a truly global network of portable production factories and in doing so, embolden the economic trajectories of our partners in Africa, in the Middle East and around the world".

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- **PR & EVENT ORGANISER**



**"TOGETHER WE
REACH THE GOAL"**



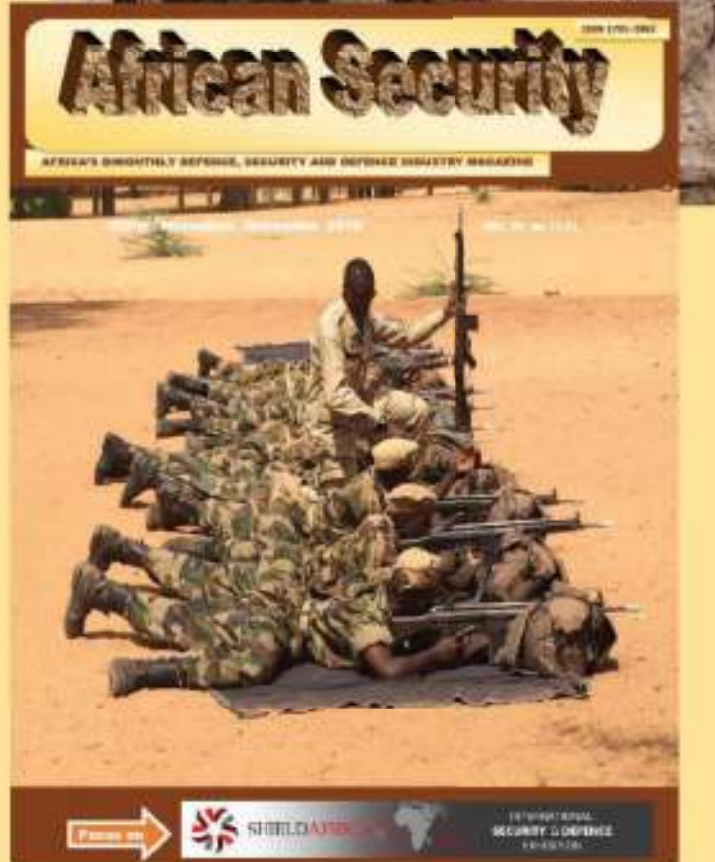
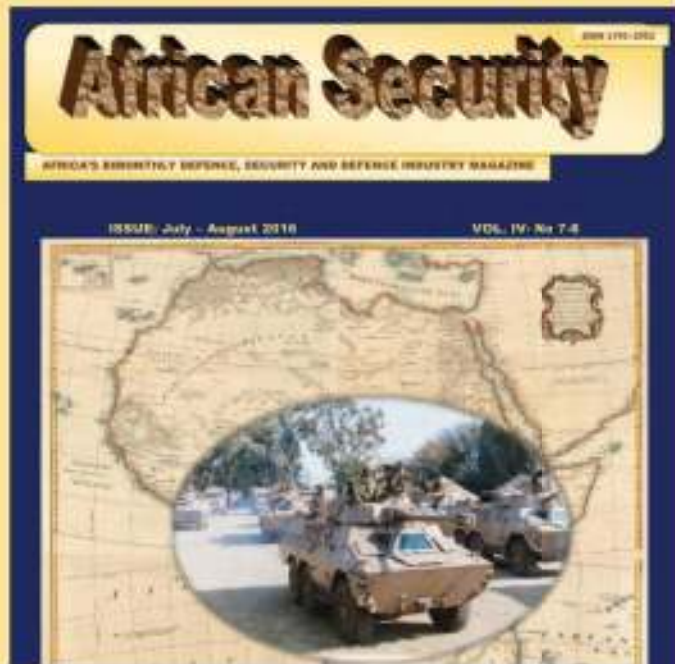
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