

African Security

ISSN 2547-9059

AFRICA'S BIMONTHLY DEFENCE, DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND SECURITY MAGAZINE

ISSUE: March – April 2024

VOL 11 No 3-4

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

Annual Subscription rate:

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

***Digital** \$60



DBDC INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS UK LTD

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www.dbdcukltd.com

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Contents

***Global Patrol Boat Market and the African Maritime Security Challenges**

Pages 4-8

***NVL GROUP-Supporting African Security**

Pages 16-17

*** Innovative Naval Solutions Against Piracy in Africa**

Pages 18-20

*** News**

Pages 22-35

*** News in Brief**

Pages 36-38

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Global Patrol Boat Market and the African Maritime Security Challenges

The global impact of piracy on the world is growing as the economic and social struggle turns 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 coast line 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 patterns 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 established a large and focused framework for cooperation.

The African states are already working to come to grips with the maritime security challenges. Together, they have developed maritime strategies that serve as platforms for the employment of military, political, and economic measures. More can be done to minimize the risks against international and African maritime interests.

Global Patrol Boat Market

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 patrolling river areas. 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.

Global patrol boat market is primarily driven by high adoption of various types of patrol boats across the globe. A patrol boat is referred to as patrol ship, patrol craft, or patrol vessel is a relatively small naval vessel. This boat is generally designed for coastal defense duties and the patrol boat may be operated by the police force, coast guard, nation's navy. In addition, the various types of patrol boat such as large patrol boats, medium patrol boats, and small patrol boats intended for river or marine environments. The patrol boats engaged in several border protection roles such as fisheries patrols, anti-smuggling, immigration law enforcement, and anti-piracy.

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.

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 increasing popularity of large patrol boats and small patrol boats across the globe due to a wide variety of duties performed by these boats in coastal waters, high seas, and rivers across the globe resulting in rising demand for patrol boats in various regions of the globe. In addition, growing demand for advanced patrol boats especially in emerging economies and increasing penetration of technologically advanced patrol boats across the globe. These are some important reasons for the

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high growth of the patrol boat market across the globe.

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.

Patrol Boat Operational General Requirements

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 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 cannon can be fitted on the fore deck can be fired against speed boats, helicopters and small aircrafts and UAVs. The patrol boat should be armed with 12.7mm machine guns for defence against lightly armoured targets.
- 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 the surveillance bridge. Patrol boats 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 seven 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 water's 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.

Patrol Boats deliveries in African Nay

- As Mozambique tries to quell illegal fishing, drug trafficking and other maritime security threats in its waters, in February 2023, the U.S. has provided a 10-meter coastal patrol boat to its Navy. Mozambican Navy officials also participated in training offered by the boat's U.S. manufacturer, SAFE Boat International. The \$700,000 high-speed boat is used for interdictions and maritime boarding operations. As of 2021, Mozambique's Navy had 14 patrol and fast patrol boats.
- In January 2023, 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.
- In June 2023, the Ghana Navy has received two high-speed Protector class ships from the United States of America to boost its maritime law enforcement mandate. The vessel has a maximum speed of 25 knots and has a length of 27 meters, a breadth of 5.9 meters, and a draught of 1.7 meters.
- Ghana Navy has taken delivery of a 20-foot multipurpose Catamaran boat from McHammah Company Limited, a local Engineering Company to aid in search and rescue missions and enhance operational capabilities within the Navy. The ceremony took place at the Naval Headquarters, Burma Camp on 15 November 2023.
- Aresa Internacional has supplied four Aresa 1700 inshore patrol boats to the Nigerian Navy. The Aresa 1700 (Fighter II class) patrol boat is made of aluminium and is 17 meters in length (total length is 19.2 meters) with a beam of 4 meters. Each vessel has a displacement of 7.6 tons. The type is propelled by two MTU engines each producing 1 250 horsepower and operating

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a propeller. The top speed is much over 40 knots. A RHIB can be carried at the back of the ship and launched using Aresa's vertical launching system. Nigerian ships are outfitted with thermal and night vision cameras.

- Nigeria's 2023 budget allocates 19 million for the ongoing procurement of three 32 metre Ocea fast patrol boats, six special forces boats, and six RHIBs (rigid hull inflatable boats).
- DEARSAN Begins Construction of 76-meter Offshore Patrol Vessels for the Nigerian Navy. DEARSAN Shipyard officially started the construction of two OPV-76 Offshore Patrol Vessels for the Nigerian Navy with a keel laying ceremony held on September 16, 2022. The contract for the ships with a length of 76.9m and a displacement of 1,100 tons was signed in Nigeria on November 3, 2021.
- The South African Navy named the second of three Multi Mission Inshore Patrol Vessels (MMIPVs) in Durban harbour on Friday, 27 October. During the ceremony, the vessel was officially named SAS King Shaka Zulu. The 62-metre by 11-metre vessels have been designed by Damen to deliver a rapid response capability that is both effective and cost efficient. The vessel is the first Damen Sea Axe vessel to operate in South Africa where, along with its sister ships, its primary role will be to counter piracy, illegal fishing and smuggling operations. The third MMIPV is planned to be delivered within 2024.
- In December 2022, the United States Africa Command, working with the U.S. Embassy in Benin, is delivered a new patrol vessel, associated maintenance and launch facilities, and specialized training to the Beninese Special River and Maritime Police Unit, which is responsible for maritime policing in Beninese waters in the Gulf of Guinea. It is an ongoing effort that has provided support for the past few years to develop the country's capabilities.
- On 20 April 2023, Kenya received six patrol vessels valued at Sh306 million from the Japanese government to enhance security at sea. Speaking during the official handing over of the vessels in Mombasa, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said the vessels will be used to deal with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and surveillance within Kenya's territorial waters. He said that the patrol boats will

facilitate physical surveillance and electronic monitoring of marine fisheries to rid the waters of illegal fishing and related crimes.

- On 8 April 2024, Kenya has rededicated the patrol vessel KNS Shupavu after a local overhaul performed by Kenya Shipyards Ltd. at a new facility at Mombasa Shipyard at Mtongwe Naval Base. The refurbishment began in November 2021 and, according to Kenya Shipyards Ltd., involved replacing major components such as engines, generators and other machinery, and upgrading the vessel's electrical systems, navigational equipment and other onboard systems.
- On Friday 09 September 2022, the ceremony of transfer of the flag of the Offshore Patrol Vessel "Contre-Amiral FADIKA" to the Ivorian Navy took place in Concarneau (France). The delivery of this vessel follows the signature by the Ministry of Defence of Côte d'Ivoire of a contract for the acquisition of an offshore patrol vessel type P400 for the Ivorian Navy
- In 2019, the Republic of Togo has accepted from France two semi-rigid Silinger patrol boats initially meant for the Libyan Coast Guard.
- Cameroon and France are strengthening their security cooperation. This is the framework for the new impetus given by Ambassador Thierry Marchand. On 8 May 2024 he has just handed over a new boat donated by the French Embassy to the Cameroonian Navy. According to a statement released by the United States Embassy in Cameroon, on January 21, 2020, the Cameroonian Navy plans to purchase in 2020 two 110-foot (34m) Island-class American patrol boats to greater extend its ability to patrol Cameroon's economic exclusion zone.

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

Advisor on Defence and Maritime Security issues





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MESSRS LEONARDO OF ITALY AFFIRM TIMELY DELIVERY OF M-346 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

The Vice President of Messrs Leonardo, Mr Claudio Sabatino has assured the Chief of Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar, of his Company's unwavering commitment to the timely delivery of the M-346 fighter aircraft beginning with the first batch of 6 expected in Nigeria before the end of Year 2024. Mr Sabatino stated this when he paid a visit to Nigerian Air Force (NAF) Headquarters on Wednesday, 17 April 2024. While thanking the CAS for the warm reception accorded him and his entourage, Mr Sabatino also stated that further engagement between the NAF and his Company would be necessary to conclude other aspects of the project such as the commencement of pilots and engineering training. Speaking further, Mr Claudio assured the CAS that when finally completed, the maintenance of the aircraft fleet would not constitute a challenge as there is a binding agreement for Leonardo's maintenance support for the minimum of 25 years. He also noted that the manufacturing of the aircraft fleet has reached an appreciable state and is being carried out with the utmost skill and expertise.

The assurance of long-term maintenance support provided by Leonardo was particularly met with appreciation by the CAS, who recognized the inherent value of such commitment in ensuring the sustained operational readiness of the entire aircraft fleet. Reflecting on the journey thus far, Air Marshal Abubakar also acknowledged the challenges overcome and expressed optimism for the future trajectory of the partnership. Envisioning the operational impact that the M-346 fighter aircraft brings to fore, Air Marshal Abubakar went on to underscore its dual role in bolstering training capabilities and augmenting operational effectiveness in diverse mission scenarios. Moreover, the prospect of Close air support, Air Interdiction, and tactical reconnaissance as well as Advanced Pilot Training capabilities inherent in the M-346 fighter aircraft heralded a new prospect for NAF's operational versatility. The CAS further proposed the establishment of a dedicated Program Management Office, tasked with overseeing all facets of the collaboration. Air Marshal Abubakar also used the opportunity of the visit to reiterate the significance of Messr Leonardo's physical presence in Nigeria as a maintenance hub for their long list of African clientele, whole also emphasizing the need for close coordination and synergy in achieving shared objectives with regards to the expeditious delivery of the fleet.

© Nigerian Ai Force





Moving forward, both parties concurred on the importance of regular dialogue and collaboration as well as scheduling future meetings to delve into detailed arrangements on logistics, maintenance protocols and configuration requirements.

Recall that the Federal Government is acquiring 24 x M-346 fighter aircraft from Messrs Leonardo of Italy in a move that marks a significant step in NAF's ongoing efforts to modernize its fleet as well as bolster its operation effectiveness. The aircraft is expected to arrive in Nigeria in 4 trenches of 6 each, with the first trench billed to arrive before the end of Year 2024.

© Leonardo



The M-346 is a jet aircraft optimized for advanced military pilot training, offering a broad range of training capabilities combined with long-term reliability. At the heart of a complex and integrated training system, the M-346 is already in service with the air forces of Italy, Singapore, Israel, Poland, Qatar and Greece.

interface with Head-Up Displays (HUD) and Multi-Function Displays (MFD), Hands On Throttle And Stick (HOTAS) controls and in-flight safety features such as the Pilot Activated Attitude Recovery System (PARS). The M-346 can operate in complete autonomy with the aid of its Auxiliary Power Unit (APU).

Digital capabilities

The M-346 – a twin-engine, tandem-seat aircraft with fully digital flight controls and avionics – is equipped with a fly-by-wire flight control system with quadruple redundancy, a modern human-machine



PRESIDENT TINUBU REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO ENDING INSECURITY, INDUCTS NEW COMBAT HELICOPTERS INTO NAF INVENTORY

Counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, anti-crude oil theft and anti-kidnapping operations in Nigeria received a major boost as President Bola Ahmed Tinubu inducted 2 new T-129 ATAK Helicopters and a King Air 360ER Beechcraft into the Order of Battle (ORBAT) of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) earlier today, 6 February 2024, at NAF Base, Makurdi. The acquisition and induction of these platforms no doubt stands as a symbol of President Tinubu's enduring commitment to the ideals of patriotism and investment in national security as well as a solemn commitment to safeguarding Nigeria's security. Speaking through the Vice President of Nigeria, Senator Kashim Shettima, President Tinubu expressed confidence that the deployment of the newly acquired platforms would significantly enhance the combat efficiency of the NAF in addressing contemporary security challenges, both domestically and within the West African region.

He then called for discipline in operations and the establishment of a robust maintenance culture to maximize the benefits derived therein. Speaking further, President Tinubu expressed pride in the NAF standing as a dependable regional power and emphasized his administration's dedication to supporting it. President Tinubu also reflected on his earlier commitment to eradicating terrorism, insurgency, kidnapping, and other criminal activities that have plagued the country for years. Although he noted that substantial progress has been achieved in ongoing counterterrorism efforts, there should be no cause for celebration until the security challenges are fully addressed. He then called for a change in mindset, strategy and tactics in addressing the menace.

In his remarks, the Honourable Minister of Defence, Dr Badaru Abubakar, acknowledged the sincerity of purpose of the President towards restoring peace in every part of Nigeria. He then expressed his gratitude to the President for his foresight, resilient leadership, and unwavering support to the Armed Forces of Nigeria, despite the numerous challenges confronting the nation. The Minister also reiterated the need for adherence to maintenance schedules and the implementation of robust safety practices to ensure the sustained serviceability status of the aircraft so as to derive maximum benefit for the nation. He urged NAF personnel to align their individual and collective actions with the vision of the President, emphasizing the pursuit of peace, stability, and rapid development objectives.



Earlier, the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar, had noted that the induction ceremony bears glowing testimony of the Federal Government's unwavering resolve to equip and energize the NAF and indeed the entire Armed Forces of Nigeria, towards combating terrorism and other threats facing the Nation. The CAS also disclosed that since Mr President assumed office, the NAF has inducted 5 new aircraft into its fleet, including 2 Diamond 62 surveillance aircraft, 2 T-129 ATAK helicopters, and a King Air 360 ER. While emphasizing the importance of these acquisitions in line with the President's commitment to national security, the CAS highlighted the NAF's plan to induct 46 new aircraft of various types over the next 18 months.

© NAF



NIGERIAN AIR FORCE SET TO COMMEMORATE ITS 60 YEARS OF EXISTENCE

Plans are underway by the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) to mark its 60 years of existence and steadfast service in the defence of Nigeria's territorial integrity. The commemorative event with the theme, 'Nigerian Air Force at 60: Leveraging Strategic Partnerships in Aerospace Innovations for Regional Security,' is lined up with series of activities to commence from 14-25 May 2024.

The high point of the celebration includes a 2-day International Conference and Exhibition, to be held alongside the Third Edition of the African Air Forces Forum, from 23-24 May 2024 at the International Conference Centre, Abuja. Here, Chiefs of Air Staff from other countries, prominent figures in the defence, aviation and aerospace industries, as well as other stakeholders are expected to grace the occasion to foster dialogue and cooperation towards advancing aviation capabilities across the continent. The pinnacle of the Anniversary celebrations will then culminate into the Ceremonial Parade and Aerial Display to be held at the NAF Base, Kaduna, on 25 May 2024.



Speaking further, Air Marshal Abubakar assured Nigerians that though the NAF is operationally engaged on all fronts, it would not rest until it brings the war to a favourable end to ensure the peace and stability that Nigerians deserve. He then urged all Nigerians to keep the faith and hope in the advancement and prosperity of the nation.

PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PTDI) to supply four transport aircraft to Nigerian Air Force

According to politicsnigeria.com, Indonesian aerospace firm PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PTDI), has finalised a deal to sell four CN235-220 transport aircraft to the Nigerian military. The landmark agreement was revealed during the recent Singapore Air Show. The deal involves supplying four units of the CN235-220 multipurpose aircraft to Allied Aeronautics Limited (AAL), a local Nigerian company representing the Nigerian Army as the end user. The CN235-220, known for its versatility, has previously been sold to other African countries, including Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Guinea.

Dirgantara Indonesia's CN235-220 Military transport aircraft has undergone various continuous improvements in design, engineering technology application, and manufacturing method in order to meet the highest quality standard as well as the demanding operational requirements for various challenging environments.

FEATURES

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- High wing technology for higher lift and lower drag
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- Take-off and landing on unpaved runway
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- High versatility mission and quick-change configuration
- Advanced flight deck technology
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- High reliability and easy maintenance
- Economic fuel consumption

CONFIGURATION

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- Medical Evacuation
- Aerial Delivery
- VVIP/VIP

PERFORMANCE

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- Max. Zero Fuel Weight :15,400 Kg
- Max. Payload :5,200 Kg
- Maximum Cruise Speed:237 Kts
- Economical Cruise Speed:169 Kts
- Maximum Operational Ceiling:25,000 ft
- Range with Max. Payload of 5,200 kg*:414 NM
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- Ferry Range*:2,293 NM
- *With 45 minutes fuel reserve

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Engine : Powered by two (2) General Electric CT7-9C with 1,750 SHP each (1,870 SHP with APR).
Propeller: Two (2) four-bladed Hamilton Standard HS 14 RF-21 propellers

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

Maintaining security

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

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

Customised platforms for any naval requirement

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

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



• **Territorial sea (<12 nm)**

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

• **Contiguous zone (<24 nm)**

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

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

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

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

Strong support for cost-efficient naval vessel operations

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

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

Your naval solution

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



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



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



FIB 25 fast interceptor boat

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

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

More about NVL Group's naval solutions:

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Innovative Naval Solutions Against Piracy in Africa

Africa's maritime domain, a vital vein for the continent's economic lifeline, faces a persistent threat from piracy. This menace endangers not just the security of the seas but the very foundation of regional stability and economic development. The Gulf of Guinea, for example, has emerged as one of the world's most challenging maritime regions, witnessing a disturbing uptick in pirate attacks. These modern pirates are highly organized, leveraging sophisticated technology to hijack vessels, kidnap crew members for ransom, and plunder valuable cargo. The consequences of such activities are far-reaching, affecting global shipping routes, increasing insurance costs, and impeding the growth of Africa's blue economy.

The impact of piracy extends beyond the immediate financial losses. It creates a climate of fear, disrupts essential supply chains, and threatens the livelihoods of coastal communities dependent on fishing and tourism. Moreover, the environmental risks of piracy—such as oil spills from hijacked tankers—can devastate marine ecosystems.

Israel Shipyards: A Beacon of Innovation and Customized Security Solutions

At the heart of Israel Shipyards' operations lies a profound commitment to innovation, strategic foresight, and the delivery of custom-made solutions tailored to each client's unique requirements and challenges. This commitment is deeply rooted in the company's values and the extensive knowledge base of its management and employees. Israel Shipyards is more than just a shipbuilder; it is a partner in enhancing maritime security, drawing on decades of experience and a deep understanding of nations' evolving threats at sea.

The company's approach is characterized by a keen strategic vision to provide comprehensive, adaptable, and future-proof maritime security solutions. This vision is underpinned by a collaborative ethos, working closely with partners to understand their specific operational environments, challenges, and objectives. The result is a portfolio of vessels, including the OPV-45 and SHALDAG FPC, that are not only technologically advanced but also customized to meet the exacting demands of maritime security operations in diverse settings.

OPV-45 and SHALDAG FPC: Tailored Solutions for Africa's Maritime Security

The OPV-45 and SHALDAG vessels, symbols of Israel Shipyards' commitment to custom-made solutions, offer a dual strategy to enhance Africa's maritime defense capabilities. Each vessel class brings distinct advantages to the table, designed with the flexibility to be adapted according to specific mission requirements and operational theatres.

OPV-45: The Guardian of the Open Seas

The OPV-45 stands as a cornerstone in the quest to secure Africa's expansive and resource-rich maritime territories. This multi-role vessel is meticulously engineered to embody endurance and versatility, making it an indispensable asset in maritime security operations. Designed to navigate the vast and unpredictable open seas, the OPV-45 has state-of-the-art detection and surveillance systems. These advanced technologies empower the vessel to monitor extensive maritime areas with unparalleled precision, acting as a vigilant guardian against the ever-present threat of piracy that looms over critical shipping routes and local fishing areas.

Beyond its role in piracy deterrence, the OPV-45 is adept at conducting search and rescue operations, a critical function given the difficult nature of maritime activities.

SHALDAG MK II





OPV-45

The unpredictable ocean environment, characterized by its vast distances and often treacherous weather conditions, demands a vessel capable of rapid response to emergencies. The OPV-45's design facilitates swift action, offering hope and tangible assistance to those distressed at sea, whether fishermen caught in unexpected storms or passengers aboard stricken vessels.

One of the most defining features of the OPV-45 is its remarkable adaptability. Recognizing the dynamic nature of maritime security threats, ranging from piracy and smuggling to illegal fishing and environmental degradation, the vessel is designed flexibly. It can seamlessly integrate various mission-specific systems and technologies, from advanced radar and communication suites to drone technology for aerial surveillance. This adaptability ensures that the OPV-45 can evolve in response to emerging threats, incorporating new technologies and capabilities to stay at the cutting edge of maritime security.

Furthermore, the OPV-45's versatility extends to its operational capabilities. It can operate with smaller patrol boats for coastal defense, act as a command vessel in large-scale security operations, or engage in diplomatic and humanitarian missions, showcasing naval forces' multifaceted role in modern maritime strategy. Its ability to undertake a

wide range of tasks—from enforcing maritime law to providing disaster relief—illustrates the holistic approach required to address marine security and safety complexities.

The OPV-45 is more than just a ship; it is a mobile, adaptable platform central to maintaining maritime security and safety in Africa's vast oceanic territories. Its deployment signifies a proactive step towards safeguarding the continent's maritime domain, ensuring that Africa's seas remain lanes of prosperity and safety in the face of global maritime threats. The OPV-45 embodies the commitment to peace, security, and stability in the maritime domain through its enduring presence and versatile capabilities. It is a guardian of the open seas for generations at a very affordable cost for its entire life cycle.

SHALDAG Fast Patrol Craft: The Coastal Defender

The SHALDAG class, Fast Patrol Craft, emerges as a formidable guardian of Africa's coastlines, complementing the broader reach of the OPV-45 with its specialized focus on near-shore security challenges. Engineered for agility and speed, the SHALDAG excels in rapid-response scenarios, making it an invaluable asset in the intricate tapestry of maritime security. Its design philosophy is rooted in the understanding that threats to coastal areas—piracy, smuggling, or illegal fishing—require swift and decisive action to prevent, intercept, and neutralize.

Optimized for high-speed coastal patrol and interdiction missions, the SHALDAG vessels have an impressive suite of capabilities designed to navigate the unique challenges of littoral environments. The vessel's compact size belies its potent combination of speed, firepower, and precision, allowing it to maneuver in shallow waters where larger ships cannot operate effectively. This agility ensures that the SHALDAG can respond to threats quickly, whether intercepting a suspect vessel or reaching a site of environmental concern without delay.

The SHALDAG's advanced propulsion systems allow for remarkable speeds, enabling the crew to outpace and intercept fast-moving targets attempting to evade capture. This capability is crucial when smugglers and pirates use speedboats to conduct operations, offering a tactical advantage to maritime security forces. Coupled with its firepower, which includes various mounted weapons systems, the SHALDAG can deliver a proportional response to threats, ensuring that it can protect, deter, and, if necessary, engage with hostile entities with precise and controlled force.

Precision in the SHALDAG's design extends beyond its tactical capabilities to include its state-of-

the-art navigation and communication systems. These technologies ensure the vessel can operate effectively day and night in varying sea conditions, enhancing its role as a coastal defender. The integration of advanced surveillance equipment further strengthens its capacity to monitor coastal areas, providing real-time intelligence critical for the early detection of illicit activities and environmental hazards.

The SHALDAG class fast patrol craft's adaptability is a testament to Israel Shipyards' commitment to providing customized solutions that address the specific security needs of its clients. Understanding that maritime threats are not one-dimensional, the SHALDAG is designed to be a versatile tool in the arsenal of maritime security forces, capable of adapting to a wide range of operational requirements. From protecting valuable fisheries from illegal exploitation to securing critical infrastructure and responding to humanitarian crises, the SHALDAG stands ready to defend Africa's coastal communities and resources.

The SHALDAG represents a strategic asset for nations looking to bolster their near-shore ("brown water") and riverine security. Its combination of speed, agility, and firepower, designed with precision by Israel Shipyards, makes it a critical component in the comprehensive approach to maritime security. As a tailored solution for coastal defense, the SHALDAG ensures that Africa's maritime gateways are safeguarded, preserving the continent's economic vitality and environmental heritage for future generations.

Scenarios of Success: Countering Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea

The Gulf of Guinea, a hotspot for piracy, has significantly reduced incidents thanks to the deployment of the OPV-45 and Shaldag FPCs along its coasts. Equipped with advanced surveillance technology, these vessels provide long-endurance patrols that deter pirate attacks and restore confidence in regional maritime security.

Scenarios of Success: Protecting Fishing Zones from Illegal Activities

An African nation grappling with illegal fishing turned to the SHALDAG vessels for a solution. Tailored for rapid coastal defense, these vessels have enforced maritime law and preserved vital fish stocks, showcasing the importance of customized security solutions in protecting natural resources.

Looking to the Future: Building a Resilient Maritime Domain

The deployment of SHALDAG FPC and Multi-role OPV-45 vessels in various operational theatres has



© Photos Credit: Israel Shipyards - SHALDAG MK II

underscored their effectiveness in enhancing maritime security. These vessels have been instrumental in reducing piracy incidents, safeguarding critical maritime infrastructure, and promoting safe and secure shipping lanes. The success stories emerging from their deployment are a testament to the strategic vision and collaborative approach championed by Israel Shipyards.

Integrating these vessels into African naval and law-enforcement forces signifies a significant step forward in the continent's maritime security strategy. By leveraging Israel Shipyards' custom-made solutions and extensive knowledge base, African nations are better equipped to confront the complex challenges posed by piracy and other maritime threats.

A Unified Call to Action: Embracing Innovation and Partnership

The collaboration between African nations and Israel Shipyards exemplifies the power of partnership in addressing global security challenges. Through this partnership, Africa's seas can transform from battlegrounds into safe passages for commerce, fishing, and exploration. Israel Shipyard's strategic contribution is more than a defense strategy; it's a commitment to a thriving maritime future, ensuring that Africa's blue horizon remains a source of wealth and opportunity for all its people.



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Government of Kenya Bolsters Security Operations with Modern Equipment Deployment

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki speaking when he presided over the handover ceremony, he disclosed that the government has in the last six months invested Sh 7.6 billion in modernizing the police service.

Additionally, a further Sh 29.4 billion will be allocated over the next three years under the Police Equipment Modernization (PEM) program to acquire sophisticated protected and mobility equipment, including Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAPs).

Kindiki stated that these funds will also facilitate the acquisition of Armoured Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Drones, Gunship Helicopters, Mine



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Sweepers, and Personal Protection Equipment, empowering security agencies in executing their duties effectively.

The government of Kenya has commissioned and dispatched the first batch of modern equipment for security personnel to bolster the ongoing Operation Maliza Uhalifu in the North Rift Valley and other parts of the country, intensifying efforts to eliminate banditry and cattle rustling.

Change of Guard in the Kenya Army

Lieutenant General David Tarus, the newly promoted Commander Kenya Army has officially taken over the mantle from Lieutenant General Peter Njiru during a Change of Guard ceremony held today at Ngao Gardens, Headquarters Kenya Army in Nairobi.

Lieutenant General David Tarus takes over as the 23rd Commander of the Kenya Army having served as the Deputy Army Commander for one year. In his speech, Lieutenant General Njiru congratulated Lieutenant General Tarus on his appointment as the Commander Kenya Army. He further urged the service personnel present to accord the new Army Commander the requisite support vital for mission accomplishment. "It is an honour to have worked with you and shared the same vision to empower Kenya Army. I know your dedication and focus will be instrumental at fulfilling the Kenya Army Mandate. To achieve all what I was able to deliver, I sought to mobilize the knowledge, experience and capabilities of all Army personnel," he noted.



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He also thanked the service personnel for their resilience in discharging their duties reminding them to uphold professionalism and integrity.

"I applaud every soldier for their dedication. Always be guided by integrity and be fully committed as you execute your duties. Remember that the true measure of any commander's success is not how well he or she performs but how well the force performs," he guided.

Lieutenant General Tarus conveyed sincere gratitude to the outgoing Commander for his legacy and leadership while at the helm of the Kenya Army and promised to uphold the same qualities as he takes over. He further appreciated the enormous contributions of his predecessor at fostering mission readiness. "It is a privilege to find myself following the footsteps of a great leader. Thank you for the exemplary leadership and mentorship. As I assume the leadership of the Kenya Army, I am confident that I have a mission capable force which with my leadership will scale to even greater heights," he noted.

In his final remarks, Lieutenant General Tarus promised to strengthen the Kenya Army's capabilities to ensure that troops are well equipped to achieve their Mandate.

"I am proud of what the Kenya Army has become and am grateful for the many who have served before us and on whose shoulders we stand today. Enhancing force competencies and capabilities is my priority as I take over leadership today," he promised. Also present during the ceremony were Commandant National Defence College Lieutenant General Juma Mwinyikai, Deputy Army Commander Maj Gen Mohamed Hassan, General Officers, Formation Commanders, Senior Officers, Officers, Service Members, MWAK officials and Headquarter Kenya Army staff.



Air Defence: a precursor for National Development



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Commander Kenya Air Force (KAF) Major General John Omenda opened the annual Air Defence seminar 2024 themed 'Air Defence : a precursor for National Development' at Laikipia Air Base in Nanyuki.

Speaking during the event, Maj General Omenda reiterated his vision to provide air defence 24/7 in maintaining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kenyan Airspace.

"Air Defence is a precursor to National Development and remains a pivotal component in the grand strategy. The niche of innovation and broad industrial research and development should always remain our center stage in achieving our mandate," He added.

The seminar aims at increasing awareness and understanding of the evolving air threats for effective and efficient air defence strategies and further bolster participants' readiness in addressing emerging airspace threats in a 'One Force, One Mission' posture.

Also present during the seminar were the Base Commander Laikipia Air Base (LAB) Brig. Mohamud Farah, Base Commander Wajir Air Base (WAB) Brig. Stephen Sane, Senior Officers and Officers.

DANISH GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS GHANA NAVY TO ACQUIRE BRIDGE SIMULATOR

The Danish Government has supported the Ghana Navy with the acquisition of a Bridge Simulator from Wartsila Voyage Limited, Finland to enhance its operational efficiency and effectiveness.

The collaboration between the Danish Defence Command and Ghana Navy moved a notch higher when a delegation, led by the Senior Product Sales Manager of Wartsila Voyage, Mr Petr Olyanyuk paid a courtesy call on the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Rear Admiral Issah Adam Yakubu on Wednesday 3 April 2024 at the Naval Headquarters. The delegation is in Ghana to sign a contract between Ghana Navy and Wartsila Voyage Limited to supply a Full Mission Bridge Simulator to the Ghana Navy.

According to the Director Training at the Naval Headquarters, Captain (GN) Dennis Eghan, the Simulator will be installed at the Naval Training Command to enhance the training of sea going officers and ratings.

This, he said was part of the CNS agenda to modernize training in the Navy and also make Naval Training Command and the school of Maritime Operation, a centre of excellence.

This program is supported by the Danish Government as part of their Security Program in the Gulf of Guinea.

The CNS warmly welcomed the delegation and congratulated them for being selected out of the three companies to supply the simulator after a thorough competitive bidding.

Rear Admiral Yakubu emphasized on the importance of the simulator to training in the Ghana Navy and urged them to produce a state-of-the-art facility to the Navy. He also informed them to work assiduously to meet the timelines set out in the contract.

The Senior Product Sales Manager on his part, thanked the CNS for hosting them, and promised to offer a professional maritime training solutions that will make the Ghana Navy training schools, a centre of excellence in the region.

Present at the meeting were the Chief Staff Officer at the Naval Headquarters, Commodore Emmanuel Kojo Atiayao, the Danish Defence Attaché to Ghana, Lt Col Lasse Sand and other Staff Officers at the Naval Headquarters.

© Ghana Navy



WARTSILA VOYAGE LIMITED TO PARTNER GHANA NAVY IN NAVIGATIONAL SIMULATORS DELIVERY PROJECT

Wartsila Voyage Limited, a global leader in innovative technologies and lifecycle solutions for the marine and energy markets, is set to partner the Ghana Navy in a new project for the delivery of professional Navigational simulators project. The global company made this declaration when a delegation, led by the Senior Product Sales Manager, Mr Petr Olyanyuk paid a courtesy call on the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Rear Admiral Issah Adam Yakubu on Wednesday 3 April 2024 at the Naval Headquarters.

The CNS warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed his appreciation for the company's interest in collaborating with the Ghana Navy to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness. He emphasized the importance of fostering strong



partnerships with industry leaders to leverage their expertise and solutions in support of the Ghana Navy's mission to safeguard national security and uphold maritime interest. Rear Admiral Yakubu assured the delegation of the Ghana Navy's commitment to exploring more partnership opportunities that would leverage their combined strength and expertise to advance maritime capabilities and operations. "We look forward to working with you to achieve the target goal". He declared. The Senior Product Sales Manager on his part, thanked the CNS for hosting them, and promised to offer a professional maritime training solutions that will make the Ghana Navy training schools, a centre of excellence in the region. The CS presented a plaque to the delegation to strengthen the collaboration between the two institutions.





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USAFRICOM visits Ghanaian President and attends International Maritime Summit

U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Michael Langley, Commander, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), Amb. Robert Scott, AFRICOM Deputy for Civil-Military Engagement, and U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj Michael Woods, Command Senior Enlisted Leader visited Accra, Ghana, Apr. 30th through May 1st, to meet with senior Ghanaian leaders and participate in the African Maritime Forces Summit (AMFS) and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa (MARFORAF)'s Naval Infantry Leadership Summit-Africa (NILS-A).

Langley spoke at the opening ceremony for AMFS and NILS-A 2024 that had over 40 countries from four different continents attend. The events served as a crucial platform for identifying, sharing, and implementing solutions in collaboration with African coastal nations.

In her opening remarks to the conference, U.S. Ambassador to Ghana Virginia E. Palmer said, "Ghana has long been a leader in regional security and an exporter of peace. Our security cooperation with Ghana is about building a long-term partnership, learning from each other, sharing best practices, and training together. We appreciate President Akufo-Addo's leadership and General Langley's and AFRICOM's important role in this partnership."

In addition, Langley, along with the Ambassador, met with His Excellency Nana Akufo-Addo, the

President of the Republic of Ghana and his cabinet to discuss ways the two nations could work together more in security cooperation.

AFRICOM, in coordination with Ghanaian defense forces, has been actively engaged in countering violent extremism and combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU-F) activities along the African coast. The collaboration between AFRICOM and Ghanaian defense forces underscores a shared commitment to regional stability and security.

"Ghana plays a pivotal role in ensuring maritime security in the region, and it's an honor to engage with our Ghanaian counterparts and partners to address common challenges," said Langley. "The AMFS/NILS-A underscores the importance of international collaboration in tackling maritime security threats, and through forums like these, we strengthen our partnerships and enhance our collective capabilities."

During the visit, Scott and Woods toured the U.S. Sixth Fleet's USS Hershel Woody Williams, highlighting the ship's importance in regional maritime security efforts. As a mobile sea base, the USS Hershel Woody Williams serves as a critical asset in supporting maritime operations, including counter-terrorism efforts, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief missions across the African continent.

AMFS/NILS-A sets the stage for West Africa's largest maritime exercise, Obangame Express, which will commence shortly after the conclusion of the summit. This exercise, spanning across Africa's West Coast from Cabo Verde to Namibia, demonstrates the commitment of the United States and its partners to enhancing maritime security and fostering regional cooperation.

Additionally, Scott, Woods, and Ms. Maura Barry, USAID Senior Developmental Advisor (SDA) to AFRICOM toured Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority facility and received a presentation at a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded project that combats IUU-F at the port in Tema, Ghana. This event showcased AFRICOM's 3D approach (defense, development, and diplomacy.)

Langley's visit to Ghana underscores AFRICOM's dedication to strengthening partnerships and advancing maritime security initiatives across the African continent. The U.S. and Ghana share a long history of promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Ghana has set an example for countries throughout Africa in promoting resilient democratic institutions, transparent and peaceful transitions of power, and regional stability.

AFRICOM leadership engaged Ghanaian and West African leadership throughout the week sharing with audiences the importance of AMFS/NILS-A, the importance of the U.S.-Ghanaian relationship, and the need for more collaboration to counter IUU-F.

This is the second convening of AMFS, after Cabo Verde hosted the inaugural edition of the Summit in March 2023. It is also the third NILS-A, with the most recent convening occurring in Dakar, Senegal in 2022. AMFS/NILS-A 2024 marks the first time these have been combined into a single event.

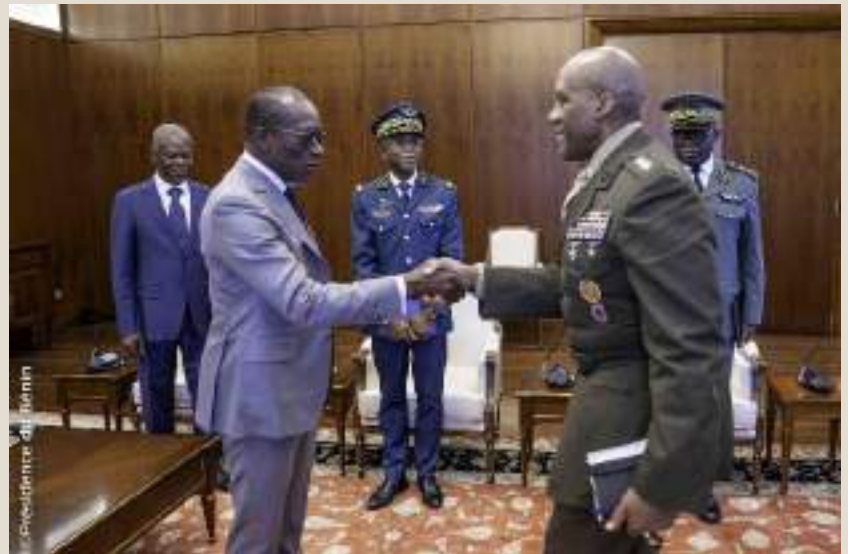
AFRICOM Commander Visits Benin to Strengthen Bilateral Security Partnership

U.S. Marine Corps General Michael Langley, Commander, U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Major Michael Woods, Command Senior Enlisted Leader visited Benin May 1-3, 2024, on his first trip to Benin since taking command.

This historic first visit marks a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between the two nations, highlighting their shared commitment to strengthen democratic institutions, respect human rights, and foster prosperity for the people of Benin.

U.S. Ambassador to Benin Brian Shukan welcomed General Langley on his first visit to Cotonou in his current role. He stated, "General Langley's visit underscores our diverse expanding partnership to help the Beninese people by our joint efforts to defend against violent extremism and to promote economic development."

General Langley engaged in constructive dialogues with senior Benin civilian and military leadership, including the President of Benin Patrice Talon, as well as the Chief of Defense Staff Major General Fructueux Gbaguidi, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in addressing common security challenges and advancing mutual interests. "Benin holds a strategic position in West Africa, and our partnership with the Benin defense forces is crucial in countering violent extremism and promoting stability in the region. This visit has further solidified our commitment to working alongside our Beninese



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counterparts in enhancing security cooperation and addressing emerging threats."

The U.S. partnership with Benin spans over six decades, dating back to the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1960. The U.S. remains steadfast in its support for Benin's efforts to promote democracy, enhance security, and improve the prosperity of its citizens.

Langley added, "The U.S. values its longstanding relationship with Benin, which is rooted in shared democratic values and a commitment to regional security. We are proud to support Benin in its endeavors to strengthen democratic institutions, promote economic development, and enhance the well-being of its people."

This visit also celebrates the 10th year of partnership between Benin's military and North Dakota National Guard. This enduring partnership has facilitated exchanges of expertise, training, and resources, enhancing interoperability and capacity building. Through joint exercises and cultural exchanges, the program has strengthened bonds between North Dakota and Benin, further bolstering the broader US-Benin partnership and contributing to regional stability.

Through professionalization and capacity building assistance, the U.S. continues to support the development of Benin's military and security forces, with a focus on enhancing domestic and regional security. This collaborative approach underscores the shared commitment to promoting peace and stability in West Africa.

By U.S. AFRICA COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GHANA AIR FORCE, EMBRAER AND SNC TEAM UP TO DELIVER SPECTACULAR AIRCRAFT DISPLAY

The much anticipated A-29 Super Tucano aircraft demonstration came off in grand style at the Air Force Base Accra on Monday 19 February 2024.

Organised by the Ghana Air Force in collaboration with Embraer Defence and Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC), the event aimed to showcase the A-29 Super Tucano's prowess in close air support and aerial reconnaissance missions in low-threat environments.

In his welcome address, the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Vice Marshal Frederick Asare Kwasi Bekoe, expressed enthusiasm about the static and flight display, emphasizing the importance of acquiring light attack aircraft in the face of increasing terrorism threats within the sub-region. He added that the partnership with SNC and Embraer was timely, considering the A-29 Super Tucano was a strategic offensive platform to enhance the Ghana Air Force's deterrent and offensive posture within the sub-region.



© Ghana Air Force

In his keynote address, the Minister for Defence, Hon Dominic Nitiwul, underscored the importance of prioritizing counter-terrorism efforts to address the evolving security landscape. He added that, the A-29 Super Tucano aircraft presents itself as a suitable aircraft to augment the Ghana Air Force's capabilities in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism. Representatives from SNC and Embraer, Mr Eric Hauff and Mr Arnaud Sobrero, expressed delight in the collaborative opportunity as it aligns with their objectives for future cooperation.

As a prelude to aerial display, dignitaries present had the opportunity to access the tarmac area for the static display and aircraft viewing. The audience was then treated to a mesmerizing aerial display featuring fly-pasts and impressive manoeuvring drills.



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Morocco to acquire Javelin Missiles

On 19 March 2024, the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Morocco of Javelin Missiles and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$260 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

The Government of Morocco has requested to buy six hundred twelve (612) Javelin FGM-148F missiles (includes twelve (12) fly-to-buy missiles)

and two hundred (200) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LWCLUs). Also included are missile simulation rounds; Javelin support equipment; hand and measuring tools; books and publications; power plus distribution equipment; component parts and support equipment; life cycle support and other technical assistance; gunner training; ammunition officer's training; System Integration and Checkout (SICO); maintenance training; Tactical Aviation and Ground Munitions (TAGM); and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$260 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 long-term defense capacity to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to meet its national defense requirements. Morocco will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be the Javelin Joint Venture between Lockheed Martin in Orlando, FL, and RTX Corporation in Tucson, AZ.

There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale. Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Morocco.

12 AH-1Z for Nigeria

Bell Textron, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas, is awarded a \$455,000,000 firm-fixed-price, undefinitized contract for the production and delivery of 12 AH-1Z helicopters for the government of Nigeria, as well as provides associated engineering, program management and logistics support, and non-recurring engineering for obsolescence. Work will be performed in Fort Worth, Texas (80%); and Amarillo, Texas (20%), and is expected to be completed in July 2028.

Foreign Military Sales customer funds in the amount of \$82,345,771 will be obligated at the time of award, none of which will expire at the end of the current fiscal year. This contract was not competitively procured pursuant to 10 U.S. Code 3204(a)(4). Naval Air Systems Command Patuxent River, Maryland, is the contracting activity.



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AFRICOM STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIPS WITH CÔTE D'IVOIRE

U.S. Marine Corps General Michael Langley, Commander, U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Major Michael Woods, Command Senior Enlisted Leader visited Côte d'Ivoire April 28-29, 2024, to reinforce the longstanding partnership between the United States and the Ivorian government.

U.S. Marine Corps General Michael Langley, Commander, U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Major Michael Woods, Command Senior Enlisted Leader visited Côte d'Ivoire April 28-29, 2024, to reinforce the longstanding partnership between the United States and the Ivorian government.

Our partnership is founded on mutual respect and a shared vision of promoting peace and prosperity in Africa. During his visit, General Langley engaged in high-level discussions with both military and civilian leadership, including President Alasane Ouattara and the Chief of Defense Lt. Gen. Lassina Doumbia, emphasizing the shared commitment to regional stability and security cooperation. The visit underscored the importance of collaboration between the United States and Côte d'Ivoire in addressing common security challenges, including violent extremism and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

"Our enduring partnership with Côte d'Ivoire underscores our mutual commitment to fostering peace and enhancing regional security to ensure a prosperous future for all Ivoirians," said U.S. Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire Jessica Davis Ba.

General Langley commended the dedication and professionalism of the Ivorian defense forces, highlighting their pivotal role in regional security initiatives. "The Ivorian military exemplifies a commitment to excellence and serves as a cornerstone of regional stability," said Langley. "Through joint training exercises and information sharing, we have made

significant strides in countering terrorism and violent extremism."

The U.S. and Ivorian militaries cooperate on a number of joint training exercises through AFRICOM. Côte d'Ivoire participates in the International Military Education and Training program and contributes to the Global Peacekeeping Operations Initiative, facilitated by the United States, which aims to develop an interoperable peacekeeping capacity among African nations.

"The U.S. remains committed to supporting Côte d'Ivoire's efforts to enhance security and stability within its borders and across the region," stated Langley. "Our partnership is founded on mutual respect and a shared vision of promoting peace and prosperity in Africa."

General Langley reiterated the U.S. commitment to working alongside Côte d'Ivoire and other African nations to promote a secure and prosperous future for the continent. AFRICOM is providing more than \$65 million in 2024 with much of that investment focused on counterterrorism and border security in northern Côte d'Ivoire.

U.S. Africa Command, headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, is one of 11 U.S. Department of Defense combatant commands, each with a geographic or functional mission that provides command and control of military forces in peace and war. U.S. Africa Command employs the broad-reaching diplomacy, development, and defense approach to foster interagency efforts and help negate the drivers of conflict and extremism in Africa.

U.S. AFRICA COMMAND SPEARHEADS MULTINATIONAL MILITARY EXERCISES TO BOOST GLOBAL SECURITY AND COOPERATION

© By U.S. EMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

The United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) is at the forefront of enhancing military capabilities and fostering cooperation through a series of exercises involving the U.S. military, African nations, and international allies. These strategic engagements address critical security concerns ranging from counterterrorism and maritime security to crisis management, peacekeeping, and humanitarian assistance, demonstrating AFRICOM's commitment to global peace and security.

Justified Accord 2024: A Milestone in Peacekeeping Operations

From February 26 to March 7, AFRICOM, in collaboration with the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa (SETAF-AF), hosted the largest exercise in East Africa – Justified Accord 2024. Taking place in Kenya, this monumental exercise saw participation from the Republic of Tanzania and 22 other countries. It aimed at enhancing the readiness of the U.S. joint force, equipping regional partners for UN and AU missions, and bolstering multinational interoperability for humanitarian and crisis response.

This year marked a significant contribution from the Tanzanian People's Defense Forces Land Forces Command in the Field Training Exercise (FTX),

providing a unique opportunity for joint training with U.S. and U.K. Forces. This collaboration focused on dismounted Infantry tasks, directly supporting Peacekeeping missions. Concurrently, TPDF Staff officers engaged in a Command Post Exercise to advance interoperability with the U.S., U.K, and other African nations, ensuring preparedness for future Peacekeeping missions and conflicts.

Cutlass Express 24: Advancing Maritime Security and Cooperation

Highlighting the importance of maritime security, AFRICOM sponsored Cutlass Express 24, an exercise dedicated to enhancing regional cooperation and maritime domain awareness. Conducted by U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF) and the U.S. Sixth Fleet, this initiative spanned two weeks across East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean. It united participants from numerous nations and international bodies, including Comoros, Djibouti, Georgia, Tanzania and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), among others.

The exercise underscored the readiness and cooperation of the Tanzania People's Defense Forces, particularly in maritime domain awareness, anti-piracy efforts, and countering illicit trafficking. The Tanzanian Navy and Marine Police engaged in rigorous training, focusing on visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) and maritime interdiction, among other scenarios. A pivotal achievement was the emphasis on legal prosecution of illicit activities, demonstrating the integrated strength of the Tanzania Marine Police Force and the TPDF Navy in safeguarding maritime domains.

Through initiatives like Justified Accord 2024 and Cutlass Express 24, the United States Africa Command continues to play a vital role in global security and cooperation. These exercises not only strengthen military capabilities but also foster a spirit of collaboration among nations, crucial for addressing contemporary security challenges and promoting peace.

Members of the Tanzania Peoples Defence Forces fill sandbags for an observation post during Justified Accord 2024 (JA24) in Nanyuki, Kenya, March 5, 2024. JA24 is U.S. Africa Command's largest exercise in East Africa, running from Feb. 26 – March 7. Led by U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa (SETAF-AF), and hosted in Kenya, this year's exercise will incorporate personnel and units from 23 nations. This multinational exercise builds readiness for the U.S. joint force, prepares regional partners for UN and AU mandated missions, and increases multinational interoperability in support of humanitarian assistance, disaster response and crisis response. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Leron Richards)



28-Meter Patrol Craft Kits will improve Egypt's capacity to sustain security operations

On 10 January 2024, the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Egypt of 28-Meter Patrol Craft Kits and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$129 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale today.

The Government of Egypt has requested to buy additional non-Major Defense Equipment (MDE) 28-meter patrol craft production kits and technical support. The kits consist of Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats, forward-looking infrared systems, and computer packages; technical and logistics support services; transportation; spare parts, materials, equipment, and components; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$129 million.

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

The proposed sale will improve Egypt's capacity to sustain security operations and strengthen its internal and external defense capabilities. The proposed sale will assist the Government of Egypt's maritime patrol and interdiction efforts to contribute to regional maritime security efforts in the Mediterranean and Red Sea. Egypt will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services 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 Swiftships, of Morgan City, LA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips to Egypt involving one (1) U.S. Government representative and three (3) contractor representatives for approximately three (3) years for program management, program and technical reviews, training, maintenance support, and site surveys.

"The 28m CPC offers high performance and multi-mission capabilities while featuring a low lifecycle cost and easy maintenance," added Jeffery LeLeux, President. "It runs on diesel fuel, achieving a top



© Swiftships

speed of 25 knots and a range of 900 nautical miles. The maximum range can be increased through side-by-side refueling at sea."

"This proposed sale reinforces our dedication to supporting the Government of Egypt in enhancing its defense capabilities," said Dr. Tim Carter, Group CEO. "We are proud to be a partner to the Egyptian Navy and the nation, contributing to regional maritime security efforts in the Mediterranean and Red Sea."

The collaboration with Egyptian Navy began in the early 1980s when Swiftships delivered its first set of eight (8) 28m CPCs. It gained momentum with the addition of six (6) more boats from 2008 to 2012 and an extra six (6) 28m CPCs from 2016 to 2022. In 2022, Swiftships secured awards for six (6) boats through Foreign Military Sales (FMS) and ten (10) boats through Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) contracts. In total, Swiftships has garnered awards for an impressive 55 vessels, showcasing its unwavering dedication to success in collaboration with the Egyptian Navy and its growing role in the maritime industry.

The comprehensive package includes patrol boat kits, Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIBs), Forward Looking Infrared Systems (FLIR), computer packages, technical and logistics support services, transportation, spare parts, materials, equipment, and logistical support. This strategic investment aligns with US foreign policy and national security objectives, contributing to the security and stability of Egypt as a significant non-NATO Ally in the Middle East.

Swiftships 28m CPC design measures 28.3m (93 ft) in length and has a displacement of approximately 104 tons. It is designed with a stern launching well to launch a single Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) and is armed with two twin 23.4mm cannons and three 12.7mm machine guns. Swiftships remains committed to upholding the highest standards of quality and reliability in providing naval solutions to our global partners. This latest development underscores our dedication to supporting the security and defense capabilities of our allies, contributing to regional peace and stability.

Tunisia's Air Force has taken delivery of Beechcraft T-6C Texan II trainer

Tunisia's Air Force has taken delivery of eight Beechcraft T-6C Texan II trainer airplanes from the United States. Tunisia's Air Force has taken delivery of eight Beechcraft T-6C Texan II trainer airplanes from the United States. Tunisian Pilots began training on the planes at Textron Aviation Defence facilities in Wichita, Kansas, in late 2022. The T-6Cs will serve as the new primary training aircraft for the Tunisian Air Force and will be flown by No. 13 Squadron at Sfax Air Base/Sfax-Thyna International Airport. The use of the aircraft will be supported by a suite of devices, including a ground-based training system, an operational flight trainer and a computer-based training lab.

On 10 October 2019, the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to Tunisia for twelve (12) T-6C Texan trainer aircraft and related equipment and support for an estimated cost of \$234 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

The Government of Tunisia has requested a possible sale of twelve (12) T-6C Texan trainer aircraft, spare engines, cartridge actuated devices/propellant actuated devices operational flight trainer, spare parts, ground handling equipment, support equipment, software delivery

and support, publications and technical documentation, clothing, textiles and individual equipment, aircraft ferry support, technical and logistical support services, site surveys, minor modifications/class IV support, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated value is \$234 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the defense capabilities and capacity of a major non-NATO ally, which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in North Africa. This potential sale will provide additional opportunities for bilateral engagements and further strengthen the bilateral relationship between the United States and Tunisia.

The proposed sale will replace Tunisia's aging trainer fleet and allow Tunisia to continue training pilots to support Tunisia's counterterrorism and border security missions. Tunisia will have no difficulty absorbing this aircraft into its armed forces. The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region. The prime contractor will be Textron Aviation Defense LLC of Wichita, Kansas. There are no known offset agreement proposed with this potential sale. However, the purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.



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CATIC AND AIR FORCE RE-AFFIRM COMMITMENT IN THE MAINTENANCE OF K8 AND Z9 AIRCRAFT



© Ghana Air Force

A delegation from the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation (CATIC) led by the Managing Director of Customer Supply, Mr Liu visited the Air Force Headquarters on Monday 18 March 2024. The purpose of the visit was to discuss CATIC support in the fleet maintenance of the K8 and Z9 aircraft of the Ghana Air Force. The Chief Staff Officer, Air Commodore Eric Yirenykyi welcomed the delegation to the Headquarters where both institutions re-affirmed their commitment to ensuring the serviceability of the aircraft. CATIC is a state authorised dealer of general aviation aircraft, missiles and associated airborne equipment. CATIC also provides all-dimensional after-sale services meeting international standards, such as maintenance, repair and flight training.

Djibouti and Türkiye signed military pact



The defense chiefs of Türkiye and the East African nation of Djibouti have recently signed a military training cooperation agreement. Türkiye and Djibouti signed military pacts to boost bilateral ties and increase coordination and cooperation in regional and international issues. Djibouti, with a population of less than a million, has become a strategic partner for Türkiye in the Horn of Africa, due to its location along the Gulf of Aden & the Red Sea, which are vital for global trade and security. Such agreements will further develop the existing friendly and brotherly relations and contribute to regional peace and stability.

CYBER SECURITY- DEFENCE MINISTER SAYS NIGERIA CAN'T AFFORD TO BE LEFT BEHIND IN CYBERSPACE DEFENCE

The Minister of Defence Maj Gen Bashir Salihu Magashi, (rtd) has restated the Federal government's commitment to the promotion of Cybernetics in National Defence and Security imperatives. General Magashi stated this when the Management Team of the Defence Space Administration, DSA led by its new Chief of Defence Space Administration, Rear Admiral Nnamdi Anthony Muogilim visited the Ministry of Defence Headquarters, Ship House Abuja on Courtesy call. He said the Nation's Cyberspace is sacrosanct, sinquanom and Strategic to National defence and development which must be defended against internal and external infractions.

The Defence Minister therefore tasked DSA to shore up Defence against modern threats by the non-state actors which he said are technology driven and advancing geometrically in sophistication and complexity. While congratulating the Chief of Defence Space Administration Rear Admiral Muogilim on his well-deserved appointment he charged the management of the DSA to be ahead of the adversaries by fortifying the National Cyberspace. He assured the DSA of the support of the Ministry of Defence under his watch and restated the need to strengthen inter – agencies collaboration and cooperation necessary to grow Cyberspace sector. The Chief of Defence Space Administration Rear Admiral Nnamdi Anthony Muogilim thanked the Minister of Defence for his mentorship in providing strategic direction to emplace DSA that is capable of safeguarding National Cyberspace.

He outlined the new thinkings of the DSA management to grow National Cyberspace in partnership with Strategic Stakeholders in the sector with 60% Civilian Staff and 40% Military Personnel in his Area of Responsibility AoR.

The Chief of Defence Space Administration who was former Director of Communication and Information Technologies Naval Headquarters and former Deputy Director Space Operations at DSA before his new appointment explained Strategies to break new Operational grounds in Cyberspace Defence capabilities especially now that the country is preparing for the 2023 elections. The Act establishing Defence Space Administration formally known as Defence Space Agency was enacted in 2016 by 8th National Assembly and signed into Law in 2017. It has the mandate to promote National Security and development, support Military Operations and to improve the Nigerian Armed Forces Cyberspace capabilities.

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Algeria Donating Retired MiG-29 Fighters to Sudan

The Algerian Defence Ministry is reportedly set to donate surplus Russian-supplied MiG-29 fighter aircraft to the Sudanese Air Force, which currently operates the class as its primary manned combat jet. Unconfirmed reports of this development follow five years of instability in the East African country after a Western-backed coup in April 2019 that overthrew the administration of popular military leader President Omar Al Bashir. The fracturing of the country's armed forces and deep penetration by European and other foreign interests in the following years culminated in the outbreak of a domestic conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the former Janjaweed militia, with the latter having re-formed into the Rapid Intervention Forces with strong support and funding from the United Arab Emirates. Algeria's support for the Sudanese Armed Forces comes as Khartoum has increasingly turned to Tehran, a close strategic partner of Algiers, for drones and other military equipment, and as the United Arab Emirates has itself played a leading role in funding anti-Algerian political forces in West Africa.

Turkey to establish an ammunition production plant in the in DR Congo

According to the international media the Turkish ammunition manufacturer Atesci, recently announced a significant commitment to a collaborative project with Afridex. Their aim is to establish an ammunition production plant in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This crucial alliance plans to significantly enhance local manufacturing capabilities, focusing predominantly on creating a diverse array of ammunition sizes.

THE FUTURE OF NIGERIAN ARMY REST ON YOUR SHOULDERS

The General officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Division Nigerian Army and Commander Operation SAFE HAVEN (OPSH) Major General AE Abubakar has emphasized that the future of the Nigerian Army rest on the shoulders of the young officers who must have mastery of basic military skills to take up emerging security challenges.



AFRICOM STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIPS WITH CÔTE D'IVOIRE



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U.S. Marine Corps General Michael Langley, Commander, U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Major Michael Woods, Command Senior Enlisted Leader visited Côte d'Ivoire April 28-29, 2024, to reinforce the longstanding partnership between the United States and the Ivoirian government. During his visit, General Langley engaged in high-level discussions with both military and civilian leadership, including President Alasane Ouattara and the Chief of Defense Lt. Gen. Lassina Doumbia, emphasizing the shared commitment to regional stability and security cooperation. The visit underscored the importance of collaboration between the United States and Côte d'Ivoire in addressing common security challenges, including violent extremism and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

"Our enduring partnership with Côte d'Ivoire underscores our mutual commitment to fostering peace and enhancing regional security to ensure a prosperous future for all Ivoirians," said U.S. Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire Jessica Davis Ba. General Langley commended the dedication and professionalism of the Ivoirian defense forces, highlighting their pivotal role in regional security initiatives. "The Ivorian military exemplifies a commitment to excellence and serves as a cornerstone of regional stability," said Langley. "Through joint training exercises and information sharing, we have made significant strides in countering terrorism and violent extremism."

The U.S. and Ivoirian militaries cooperate on a number of joint training exercises through AFRICOM. Côte d'Ivoire participates in the International Military Education and Training program and contributes to the Global Peacekeeping Operations Initiative, facilitated by the United States, which aims to develop an interoperable peacekeeping capacity among African nations.

"The U.S. remains committed to supporting Côte d'Ivoire's efforts to enhance security and stability within its borders and across the region," stated Langley. "Our partnership is founded on mutual respect and a shared vision of promoting peace and prosperity in Africa."



INFANTRY FIRE SUPPORT COURSE 1-2024 ENDS



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Artillery Training School holds Infantry Fire Support Course to train soldiers on the employment of the 107mm Multiple Rocket Launcher

The Infantry Fire Support Course 1-2024, organized by the Artillery Training School came to a successful end on Friday 3 May 2024 at the Artillery Training School in Akoeffe, Volta Region.

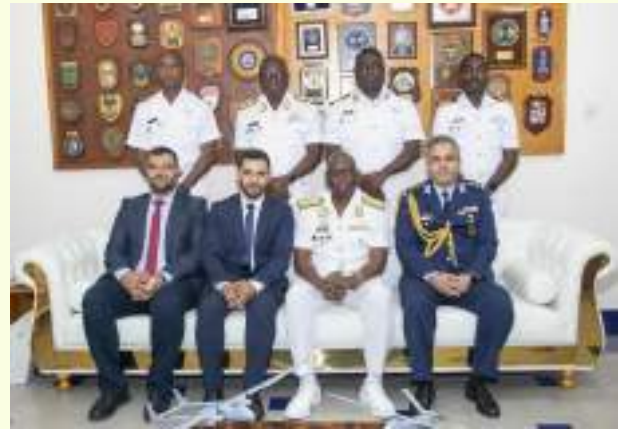
The 8 weeks course had a capacity of 30 students drawn from the Southern Command trained on Gunnery of 107 MRL, Observer Skills, Arty Minor Tactics, Map Reading, Voice Procedure, First Aid among others to enable them individually perform tasks as Gunners and equip them with core skills required to operate within a 107mm Multiple Rocket Launcher (MRL) detachment.

In a closing remark, the Guest of Honour, the Deputy Commander Army Training Command Colonel Godwin Yaw De-Souza, admonished the course participants to continue to build upon the foundations laid during the course. He urged them to embrace the spirit of continuous learning, and always strive to improve their skills, and never lose sight of the importance of teamwork. He reminded them that the Southern Command would count on them to perform their duties as skilled and capable gunners.

Colonel De- Souza extended special commendations to Sergeant Teye Tetteh Simon, Corporal Agyapong Richard and Lance Corporal Nyonyo Harrison Kofi for emerging first, second, and third, respectively on the course. He indicated that they have all proven their mettle, and the Command stands proud of their accomplishments. The Guest of Honour also extending his appreciation to the instructors and support staff who guided and mentored the participants throughout the course. He said their expertise, patience, and tireless dedication had been instrumental in shaping the participants into the elite gunners that they have become. The closing ceremony was graced by the Commander Rear of 66 Artillery Regiment Lieutenant Colonel Jalali Din Ibrahim, the Commanding Officer of Artillery Training School, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Atuiri and personnel of the 7 Garrison.



TURKISH AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES DELEGATION CALLS ON CNS



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Turkish Aerospace industry ready to explore partnership and collaboration opportunities in defence and aerospace industries A 3-man delegation from the Turkish Aerospace has called on the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Rear Admiral Issah Adam Yakubu on Tuesday, 7 May 2024, at the Naval Headquarters to explore partnership and collaboration opportunities in defence and aerospace industries.

The delegation, led by the Chief Operations in charge of Corporate Marketing and Communications, Mr Yunus Sen expressed appreciation to the CNS for the warm reception and assured the Ghana Navy of Turkish Aerospace's commitment to delivering modern and high-quality product and services.

He expressed interest in exploring further collaborations in areas such as training, maintenance and technology transfer. "We are here for partnership", he said.

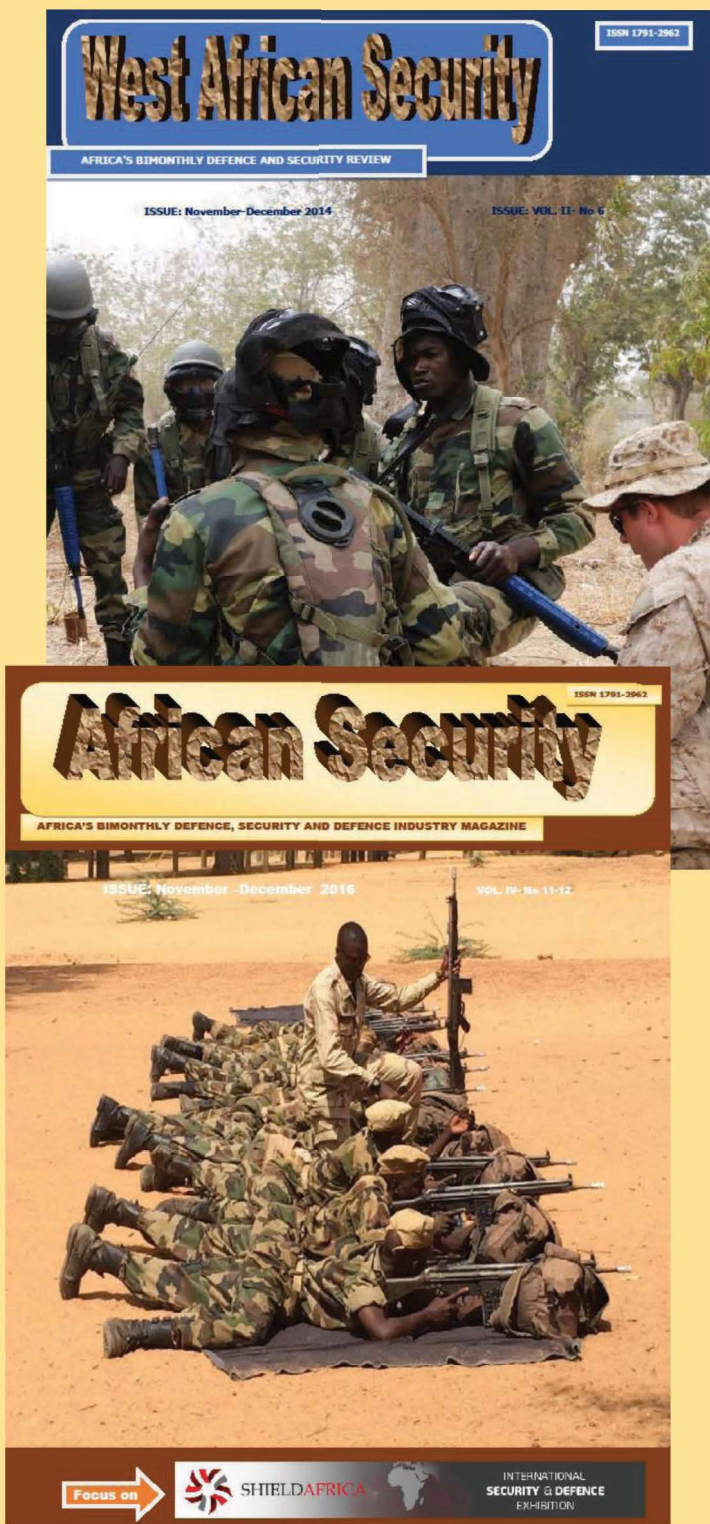
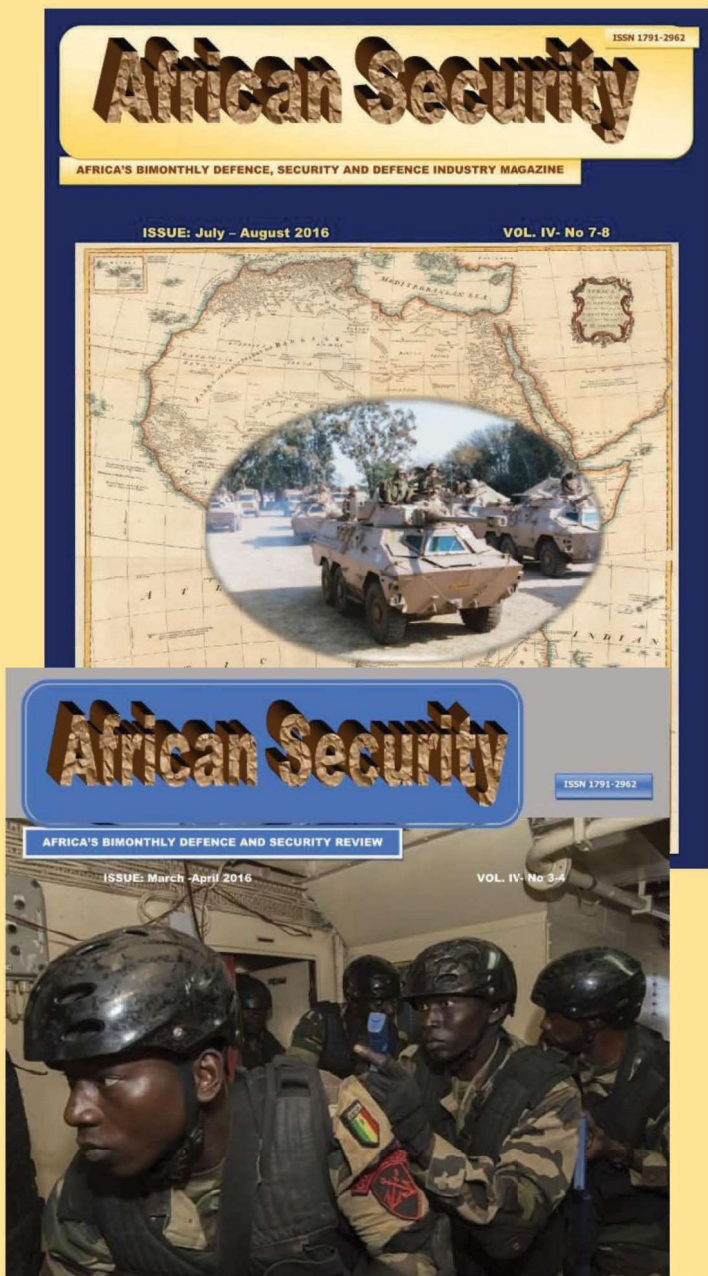
Mr Yunus Sen stated that their Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) can cover over 4000 kilometres and can stay in the air for 50 hours. He added that, the UAV is equipped with advance sensors and cameras, enabling real-time monitoring and response to maritime threats. Rear Admiral Yakubu praised the long-standing relationship between Ghana and Turkey and emphasised the importance of utilizing UAVs in enhancing the Ghana Navy's capabilities in maritime surveillance. He commended the delegation for the visit and indicated that, the Ghana Navy looks forward to continuing its collaboration and partnership with the company.

The delegation was accompanied by the Turkish Defence Attaché to Ghana, Colonel Ahmet Parkis.

ISSN 1791-2962

African Security

AFRICA'S BIMONTHLY DEFENCE, DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND SECURITY MAGAZINE



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