

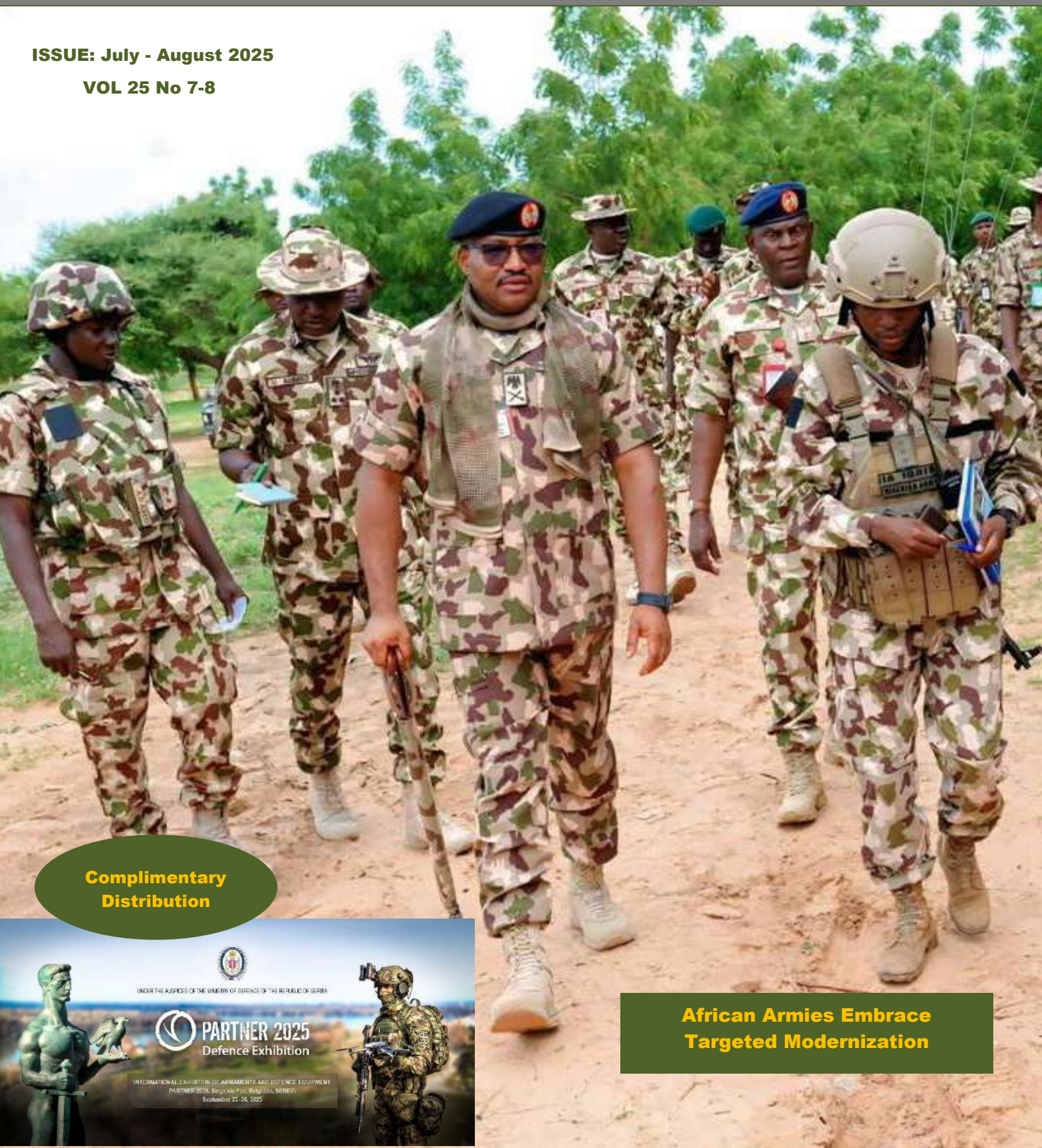
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**African Armies Embrace
Targeted Modernization**

HELD UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT ABDEL FATTAH EL-SISI
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT,
THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES



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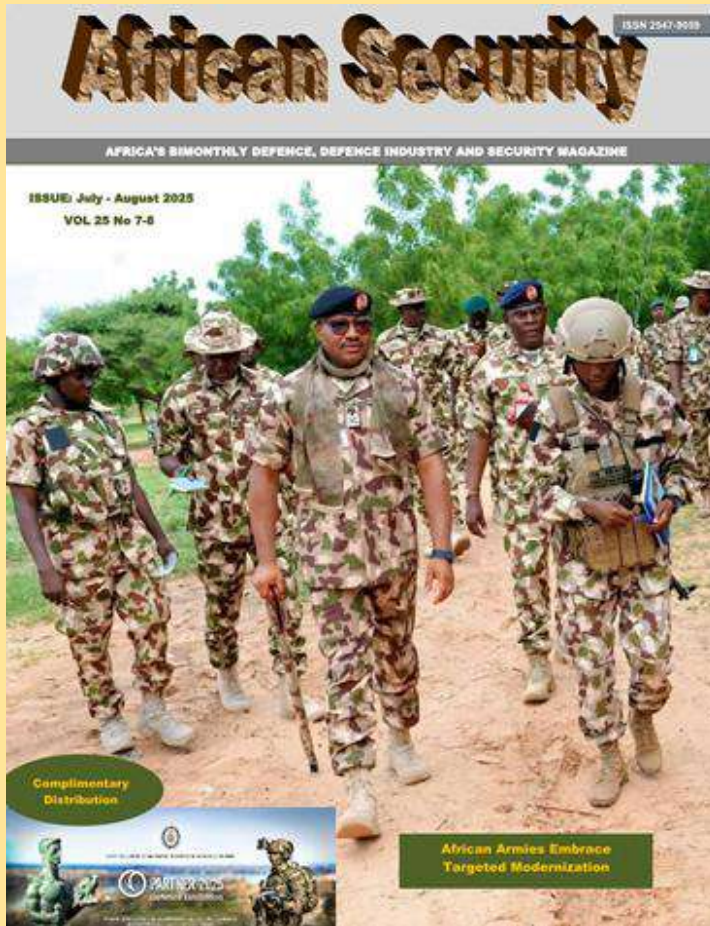
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Editor-in-Chief:

Dimitrios Angelopoulos M. Sc.

Editor: Rear Admiral (rtd) George Kypriotis

Special Editor's Advisor: Col (rtd) Michael Boampong

Marketing & Sales: Dionysis Antonopoulos

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E-mail: dbdcukltd@gmail.com

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M&D Ghana services Ltd

P.O. BOX CT 4928 CANTOMENTS

ACCRA, GHANA

TEL: +233208115089/+233547473287

mdghanaservices@gmail.com

• EUROPE: Stephen Barnard

CEO, ADJUTANT MTCT: +49 228 3500886

M: +44 7984 033154 F: +44 1252 315324,

stephen.barnard@web.de

stephen.adjutant@gmail.com

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Modern Corvettes

Modern corvettes are typically dimensionally smaller than frigates, though larger than offshore patrol vessels (OPVs). Differences between modern frigates and corvettes are blurred – some navies consider certain vessels to be corvettes when they could technically be defined as frigates. Corvettes supply a balanced mix of firepower, ocean-going capabilities, and rotary-wing support while presenting reasonable economic benefits in terms of construction and procurement costs. Not every major naval power emphasizes the corvette as part of its surface fleet – though they are consistently found in numerically smaller navies.

The modern roles that a corvette fulfils include coastal patrol craft, missile boat, and fast attack craft. These corvettes are typically between 500 and 2,000 tons. Recent designs of corvettes may approach 3,000 tons and include a hangar to accommodate a helicopter, having size and capabilities that overlap with smaller frigates. However, unlike contemporary frigates, a modern corvette does not have sufficient endurance nor seaworthiness for long voyages.

The operational viability of these types of ships has undergone definite developments over the years. The role assigned to this warship has thus been steadily evolving, with remarkable technical developments resulting in a much wider operational ambit for the corvette vessels. Presently, many countries are coming up with technological inputs to solidify the structural format of these vessels, allowing them to play a much larger role in their maritime operations.

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NVL Corvettes

NVL corvettes use advanced technology to provide potent combat capabilities at an affordable price. Embodying enhanced survivability to allow the safe completion of a wide variety of missions, NVL corvettes have great value that has been recognised by a repeat order from the German Navy.

Capable of effective yet economical operation, corvettes from NVL Group represent a powerful addition to a fleet. Whatever the client budget, corvettes from NVL Group provide clients with a proven and reliable means of conducting successful naval combat operations, whenever the need arises. Precisely customisable for client requirements, NVL corvettes can be constructed to comply with national or classification society naval rules. NVL builds sturdy and resilient ships using steel hulls that incorporate tested and proven hull forms. These are combined with steel or aluminium superstructures, depending on specific design priorities. Displacements range from 600 to 2,700 tonnes, whilst lengths are between 60 and 120 metres.

NVL pays particular attention to achieving high levels of survivability. Integration of NBC protection and provision of full redundancy for critical ship systems are important design priorities. Stability, another critical consideration, is maintained even in extreme situations. We also focus on signature reduction to mitigate a broad spectrum of emissions. NVL corvettes are designed to be agile and manoeuvrable. Multiple diesel engines are linked to twin shaft lines fitted with controllable pitch propellers. This arrangement permits fuel-efficient, single-shaft operation. Economy can be further enhanced by optional electrical propulsion. Maximum range is up to 10,000 nautical miles, whilst endurance can extend to 30 days. Extensive automation and high standards of accommodation help to maintain crew efficiency, even during lengthy deployments.

NVL corvettes are optimised for the required combat missions. They are equipped for effective self-defence against aerial attacks, whilst the configuration as an anti-submarine, anti-air or anti-surface warfare corvette determines the operational purpose. All our corvettes are well suited for conducting a broad range of high-intensity duties. These can extend from fleet protection deployments to littoral operations, including electronic warfare and intelligence-gathering assignments.

All NVL corvettes are designed with the margins and modularity required for periodic upgrades. Speedy and cost-effective modernisation can be undertaken with the assistance of the full range of support options provided by NVL Services. This allows you to access a comprehensive solution for your maritime security requirements from just one source.

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NVL CORVETTES

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For more information, simply call us on +49 421 6604 344 or visit our website at www.nvl.de

THE DNA OF SHIPBUILDING





© Israeli Shipyards

Israel Shipyards Corvettes

Israeli Shipyards introduced the new SAAR S-80 multirole corvette during the Euronaval 2022 exhibition held in Paris. The SAAR S-80 corvette joins the company's unique tailor-made solutions, designed and constructed with strict quality assurance and long-term service at the Israel Shipyards facility. Based on Israel Shipyards Ltd. (ISL) S-72 platform, from which several designs have evolved, including the Israeli Navy Light Patrol Corvette – the RESHEF Class, an advanced multi-role vessel. The new generation of the S-80 class features greater versatility and higher payload capacity, with increased weapon suite capacity and a wider spread of Electronic Warfare (EW) systems as part of the platform's offensive advantages. The S-80 length is 80 m, she is powered by 4 diesel engines, two shaft lines, and equipped with a controllable pitch propeller system, and the top speed exceeds 28 knots.

The S-80 will be equipped with a state-of-the-art ship control system, a health management system, and she will be capable of being equipped with combat systems made by the Israeli defence industries or any equivalent systems according to customer requirements. The S-80 can be adjusted with suitable systems to a missile corvette or as an OPV version.

The S-80 allows longer range and endurance for extended periods with reduced detection risks, making it ideal for diverse applications and missions. Similar to the current naval vessels of Israel Shipyards, the new corvette also supports unique possibilities of deploying Special Forces units.

Specifications:

LOA (Length Overall): 80 m

Beam Max.: 11.0 m

Displacement: About 1,000 tons

Max Speed: Above 28 knots

Range @ 12 knots: 3,500 M

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Gowind® is Naval Group's response to 21st-century security and defence challenges. It is a corvette-sized multi-mission surface combatant offering capabilities in all areas. It is designed to perform the full spectrum of naval defence operations and maritime security roles, with the highest level of performance.

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Gowind® is a sea-proven, enduring, stealth, and highly survivable platform offering:

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- Growth potential driven by customer requirements and innovation

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Empowering your naval performance

Technical features:

- Overall length: 102 m
- Overall beam: 16 m
- Displacement: 2,800 t

Fincantieri Corvettes



© Fincantieri

Designed and built by Italian shipyard Fincantieri, the “Abu Dhabi class” corvette for the United Arab Emirates. Vessel size, high performance, transport, and support capability are optimised to play different roles such as escort, support, relief, interdiction, and patrol operations. The Qatari corvette measures 107 m long and features CODAD power capable of propelling each ship up to a maximum speed of 28 kt. The corvettes can deploy a rigid hull inflatable boat via a side crane and stern ramp and boast a hangar to accommodate an NH90-sized helicopter. It was laid down in February 2021 and launched in March 2022 at the shipyard.

The corvette's armament includes a 76 mm main gun from Leonardo, 16 VLS cells for MBDA ASTER 30 surface-to-air missiles, two Leonardo Marlin 30 mm remote weapon stations, eight MBDA Exocet MM40 Block IIIs, and a Raytheon RAM launcher for 21 missiles for short-range air defence. Fincantieri's FCx30 corvette is an advanced naval platform embodying excellence across all warfare domains. These vessels stand as a testament to naval innovation, boasting a full-load displacement of 3,200 tons, a length overall of 107 metres, and a maximum speed exceeding 26 knots.

The FCx30 corvettes represent a paradigm shift in naval design, featuring an array of state-of-the-art technologies optimised for performance and survivability. Fincantieri's FCx30 corvette is an advanced naval platform embodying excellence across all warfare domains. These vessels stand as a testament to naval innovation, boasting a full-load displacement of 3,200 tons, a length overall of 107 metres, and a maximum speed exceeding 26 knots.

Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems Corvettes

The MEKO® A-100 Patrol Corvette is the smallest version of the A-100 family, with a displacement in the 2,200-ton class. The MEKO® A-100 Patrol Corvette is a combination of a compact and very affordable platform with powerful and flexibly scalable performance options for platform and combat suite.

The ship retains the aviation support and mission modularity features of the bigger vessels in the A-100 family and has the ability to be upgraded to three-dimensional warfare, utilizing the full spectrum of the MEKO® platform, combat system, and mission modularity technologies.



© TKMS

This inherent performance growth potential allows for the acquisition of the ship in a basic and very cost-effective configuration for the patrol and surveillance roles, but one that is easily upgradeable across its life to full combat roles when budgets or operational demand allow.

A scalable, state-of-the-art C³ system integrates an advanced sensor suite with a powerful hard-kill and soft-kill weapon and effector load, including the upgrade potential for:

- up to 12 × VL SAM cells
- up to 8 × heavy anti-ship missiles
- CIWS, ECM decoys, and ASW torpedoes

Milgem Class Corvettes



© STM

Milgem Class corvettes are being built for the Turkish Navy under the Turkish national warship programme known as Milgem. The Milgem Class multimission corvettes feature stealth technologies and can perform search, rescue, patrol, observation, and anti-submarine warfare operations. The keel was laid for the first vessel, TCG Heybeliada (F-511), at the Istanbul Naval Shipyard in July 2005. The Pakistani and Ukrainian navies have acquired the Milgem Class warships.

The Milgem corvette has an overall length of 99 m, a waterline length of 90.5 m, a beam of 14.4 m, and a design draft of 3.6 m. The displacement of the vessel is 2,000 t. The corvette is equipped with the GENESIS system developed by Havelsan. The vessel has an internal sonar developed by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey and manufactured by STM ONUK-BG Defense Systems. The sonar uses the technology of nano-enhanced fiber reinforced polymer. It can accommodate 93 crew members, including the air crew.

DAMEN Corvettes

The SIGMA 9113 Corvette for Indonesia (contract signed in 2004 and the first of four delivered in 2007), was the first of our systematic hull form series to be delivered. The SIGMA technology is based on the experience gained by



© **Damen Shipyards**

building seven generations of frigates for the Royal Netherlands Navy with the following dimensions:

- Length o.a.: 90.71 m
- Beam mld: 13.02 m
- Depth (no.1 deck): 8.75 m
- Draught (dwl): 3.60 m
- Displacement (dwl): 1,700 tonnes

SIGMA corvettes are perfectly adapted for naval patrol and maritime security operations. They provide fighting capabilities in all warfare segments (AAW, ASW, ASuW), all to military standards. They represent the perfect solution for situational awareness and defence of essential security interests at sea.

Visby Class Corvette



© **Jimmie Adamsson / Swedish Armed Forces**

The Visby class is a series of corvettes in use by the Swedish Navy. It is the latest class of corvette adopted by the navy after the Göteborg and Stockholm-class corvettes.

Its design emphasizes low-visibility radar cross-section and infrared signature, and the class has received widespread international attention because of its capabilities as a stealth ship. The first ship in the class is named after Visby, the main city on the island of Gotland. The Visby ships are designed by the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (FMV) and built by Saab Kockums AB in Karlskrona. The first ship of the class was launched in 2000, but production then suffered repeated delays. The fifth and final ship was delivered in 2015.

In January 2021, Saab and the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (FMV) signed a contract for the mid-life upgrade (MLU) of the five Visby corvettes. The MLU will include the installation of surface-to-air missiles, the implementation of upgraded anti-ship missiles and anti-submarine torpedoes, improved sensors, and enhanced electronic warfare capabilities. The upgrade of all five ships will be completed before 2030, and the MLU aims to keep the Visby corvettes operationally relevant beyond 2040.

Navantia Corvettes



© **Navantia**

The NAVANTIA Avante 2200 corvette is a multipurpose vessel specifically designed for maritime traffic surveillance and control missions, search and rescue missions and assistance to other vessels, among other functions. In addition, the vessels have significant capabilities for the defence of strategic assets, intelligence and anti-submarine, anti-aircraft, anti-surface and electronic warfare. The corvettes are designed to be cutting-edge, maximizing Navantia's participation by incorporating its own products such as the HAZEM combat system, the HERMESYS integrated communications system, the DORNA fire control system, the Integrated Platform Control System, the MINERVA integrated bridge, the propulsion engines (under license from MTU), and the diesel generator sets and the gearboxes (under license from Schelde). Finally, the Repairs business unit will also participate in the program with the work to be carried out during the corvettes' dry docking in San Fernando.



Dimitrios Angelopoulos M.Sc.
Captain (Rtd) HN
Advisor on Security and
Defence Industry issues

African Armies Embrace Targeted Modernization

The 2024–2025 picture of Africa's largest armies shows that while overall manpower figures remain relatively stable, procurement trends are shifting towards targeted modernization—especially in mobility, armour protection, and precision strike capabilities. Egypt and Algeria continue to lead in both personnel and heavy equipment. Nigeria is pairing manpower with advanced munitions and domestic manufacturing. Morocco, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, and Angola are investing in armoured mobility. This mix of manpower and modernization reflects the diverse security needs of the continent, where armies must be prepared for both conventional defence and asymmetric threats.

Egypt commands the largest military force on the continent. With 440,000 active-duty soldiers, 300,000 paramilitary troops, and 480,000 reservists, Egypt's total military manpower is estimated at approximately 1.2 million personnel. This places the country 10th in the world in terms of active-duty forces and 15th globally in overall military power. With an annual defence budget of US\$9.4 billion, Egypt is able to sustain significant investments in equipment, training, and modernization programs.

In 2025, Egypt advanced its K9A1EGY self-propelled howitzer program by receiving deliveries and integrating advanced fire-control systems developed by Hanwha. Notably, Egypt adapted the K9 platform for coastal defence, making it the first country to use the K9 system in an anti-ship role.

Morocco fields a total military force of 395,800 personnel, composed of 195,800 active troops, 150,000 reservists, and 50,000 paramilitary forces. Ranked 61st globally in military power, Morocco maintains an annual defence budget of US\$12 billion. The country is focused on enhancing its long-range strike capabilities and modernizing key equipment. In line with this, Morocco has approved the purchase of High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) from the United States. It has also participated in logistics training as part of the African Lion 2025 exercise. Previously, Morocco initiated the replacement of its aging French CAESAR howitzers with the ATMOS 2000 155 mm self-propelled systems built by Israel's Elbit Systems, indicating a shift toward diversified supplier relationships. Additionally, in late 2024, Morocco began local assembly of the WhAP 8x8 armoured combat vehicle in partnership with Tata Advanced Systems of India. The production facility in Casablanca has a capacity of 100 vehicles per year, with plans to expand local content in the future.

Nigeria's armed forces are composed of 280,000 personnel, including 230,000 active-duty troops and 50,000 paramilitary forces. The country does not operate a reserve force, instead relying on a large annual influx of military-aged citizens—approximately 4.15 million people reach service age each year, making it the sixth-highest globally.



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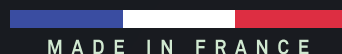
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Nigeria's defence budget stands at US\$4 billion, which supports counter-insurgency campaigns, border protection, and ongoing modernization initiatives. In 2025, the Nigerian Army entered a landmark agreement with the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) to mass-produce the indigenous Ezugwu Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle. Additionally, Nigeria explored the acquisition of more than 100 armoured vehicles from Egypt's Eagles International during IDEX 2025.

Kenya's focus on modernization is evident in its growing fleet of armoured vehicles. The country has procured Springbuck armoured vehicles from DCD, acquiring both Standard Duty and Heavy Duty variants to improve operational mobility and protection. Kenya has also integrated the M1117 Guardian armoured security vehicles, which were received as part of a U.S. military aid package in 2024. This aid included approximately 150 M1117s, alongside UH-1 Huey and MD500 helicopters. The Kenya Army Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (KACEME), in collaboration with the Massachusetts National Guard, is managing the refurbishment and sustainment of this fleet. Videos from mid-2025 have shown M1117s actively deployed in convoy formations across Kenyan roads.

Algeria is undergoing an extensive modernization effort aimed at replacing outdated Soviet-era systems while strengthening capabilities across all service branches. This strategy emphasizes diversification of suppliers and prioritizes mobility, firepower, and survivability. One of the most prominent initiatives involves the local assembly of the German-made Fuchs 2 Armored Personnel Carrier (APC), a 6×6 wheeled platform suited for a variety of roles including troop transport, command and control, and medical evacuation.

Algeria has also introduced a 120 mm self-propelled mortar system mounted on the Chinese Dongfeng Mengshi CSK131 chassis, enhancing its indirect fire capabilities. Reports suggest that Algeria may also be interested in acquiring China's Type 08 armored vehicle series, which offer a wide range of configurations. Russian defense procurement remains a key pillar, with continued deliveries of T-90SA main battle tanks and Mi-28N attack helicopters. Together, these acquisitions form part of a coordinated modernization plan that integrates Western, Russian, and Chinese systems to address evolving strategic challenges.

In May 2025, Ghana received a donation of 14 Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) from the United States as part of a broader effort to reinforce the country's defence capacity and deepen bilateral security cooperation. U.S. Ambassador Palmer emphasized the strategic significance of the delivery, particularly in securing Ghana's northern border regions, which face rising threats due to instability across the Sahel.

South Africa continues to showcase its artillery capabilities and modernization initiatives. During the 2025 Rand Show, the 4 Artillery Regiment, under the School of Artillery, demonstrated a range of conventional warfare systems, including the powerful 127mm Multiple Rocket Launcher capable of firing 40 rockets in under 20 seconds. Also featured were the GV6 and 155mm GV5 MK 3B howitzers, both of which offer significant long-range firepower. A major ongoing modernization effort is Project Hoefyster, aimed at replacing the aging Ratel fleet with the Badger 8×8 Infantry Fighting Vehicle, based on the Patria AMV platform and adapted locally by Denel. The Badger comes in several mission-specific variants including fire support, anti-tank, command, and medical evacuation.

© SA National Defence Force 26 Ιουλίου στις 8:30 π.μ. · 7 South African Infantry Battalion with platoon attack at Makhado Show



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While the original plan called for 238 units, financial and production delays have scaled that number down to 88. Only a few pre-production units have been delivered, and large-scale deployment remains uncertain.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo maintains a force of 207,580 personnel, including 166,580 active troops, 31,000 reservists, and 10,000 paramilitary members. In a \$70 million agreement with Abu Dhabi's International Golden Group, the DRC has acquired over 100 Kasser II armoured vehicles. These mine-resistant units, some armed with 20 mm cannons or 12.7 mm machine guns, are designed for operations in combat zones. Around 80 units had been delivered by mid-2025, with deployment focused on the conflict-ridden eastern regions.

Ethiopia maintains a standing force of 162,000 active personnel, with no paramilitary or reserve components. Ranked 49th globally in military capability, Ethiopia's defence budget stands at US\$888 million. Recent modernization efforts include the acquisition of Calidus MCAV-20 vehicles from the United Arab Emirates and Despot armoured vehicles from Bosnia-Herzegovina. Ethiopia has also procured SH-5 155 mm self-propelled guns from China. These purchases reflect broader regional trends in defence modernization, motivated by domestic instability and geopolitical tension.

Angola's armed forces include 107,000 active troops and 10,000 paramilitary personnel, for a combined total of 117,000. The country approved a \$36 million deal in 2025 with China's state-owned CATIC for military equipment, under a broader strategic cooperation framework signed in 2021. The deal, which includes 85% financing support, aims to upgrade Angola's national defence capabilities and demonstrates the country's commitment to aligning with international defence standards. It also signals growing military ties between Angola and China, particularly in infrastructure and capability development.

Sudan's total military strength is estimated at 194,500, including 92,000 active troops, 85,000 reservists, and 17,500 paramilitary forces. Despite ongoing civil conflict and political instability, Sudan continues to receive foreign-supplied ground systems through a variety of channels. However, the details of these deliveries remain opaque due to their sensitive and politically charged nature. Sudan's annual defence expenditure is estimated at approximately US\$300 million.

Tunisia fields a force of 101,800 military personnel, composed of 89,800 active troops and 12,000 paramilitary forces, without any reserve component. Ranked 74th globally, Tunisia allocates US\$1.26 billion annually to defence. In early 2025, Tunisia received the first batch of Masstech T4 armoured vehicles from France, aimed at boosting internal security and enhancing border protection. On December 4, 2024, the U.S. State Department approved a possible sale of 184 Javelin FGM-148F anti-tank missiles, valued at US\$107.7 million. The deal, managed by Lockheed Martin and RTX Corporation through the Javelin Joint Venture, aims to further modernize Tunisia's ground forces and strengthen strategic military ties with the United States.

The Zambia Army is undertaking a modernization drive, aiming to enhance its capabilities by adopting technological advancements. This initiative aligns with a directive from the Republican President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema. The army is studying Ethiopia's defense forces as a model for this modernization, particularly their success in upgrading obsolete military equipment.

Botswana became the first African nation to acquire the French-made VL MICA air defense missile system in 2020. In addition to the missile system, Botswana also procured 45 Piranha armored personnel carrier (APC) vehicles. The acquisition of these systems indicates Botswana's efforts to bolster its military capabilities and enhance its air defense.





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Letter of Intent signed: Daimler Truck becomes partner for vehicle assembly in Senegal

- Daimler Truck supports the Government of Senegal and its partner Global Truck Systems in setting up a truck assembly plant in Senegal
- Daimler Truck will act as exclusive supplier of dismantled trucks
- Production should start as early as 2026
- The assembly of various Mercedes-Benz truck model series is planned for the Senegalese Ministry of Defense, fire brigade and police and for use in the private sector

Daimler Truck has signed a letter of intent on locally assembled trucks together with the government of the Republic of Senegal and the company Global Truck Systems (GTS). Daimler Truck will support the two partners in setting up an assembly plant in Senegal and then supply vehicle component sets (CKD, Completely Knocked Down).

The assembly of the trucks will be carried out entirely under the leadership of the Senegalese government in cooperation with Global Truck Systems on site. The Senegalese government and GTS have established a joint venture to implement the project. Daimler Truck is supporting this merger as the supplier and technology partner of the planned assembly plant. Vehicles from there are scheduled to go to customers next year.

The assembly of various Mercedes-Benz truck model series is planned. In future, these vehicles will be used, among other things, for the logistics requirements of the Senegalese Ministry of Defense, for the modernisation of the fleet of fire brigades and police, as well as for use as waste collection vehicles, in the construction sector and in the logistics and transport industry.

Franziska Cusumano, CEO Mercedes-Benz Special Trucks: "With this project, our vehicles will enter the Senegalese market in close coordination with the German Federal Government. The delivery of CKD kits for on-site assembly, the transfer of know-how and comprehensive technical advice are our contributions to a successful, partnership-based cooperation."

Michael Dietz, CEO Daimler Truck Middle East/Africa: "By signing this letter of intent, we are sending out a strong signal of our long-term commitment to West Africa. We are pleased to officially start industrial cooperation together with the government of Senegal and Global Truck System."

With the relocation of the assembly plant, the creation of qualified jobs and the transfer of technological competences, we will be able to make a joint contribution to economic value creation in the region."



© Daimler Truck

German-Senegalese partnership as a foundation

Senegal has been a partner country of German development cooperation for decades. Since 2019, Germany has been supporting economic and social development in Senegal within the framework of the so-called bilateral reform partnership. In 2023, development cooperation was transformed into a climate and development partnership with the Just Energy Transition Partnership. The CKD assembly project is an example of the close relationships between the two countries and the approach to driving economic development through local industrial value creation. The Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany is supporting the project.

Senegal strengthens industrial competence

In addition to financial participation, the Senegalese government provides industrial land, grants tax and customs relief for CKD imports and supports the training of local specialists. The project is part of the country's overarching industrial policy and marks a milestone for the establishment of locally anchored automotive production in West Africa. At the same time, mobility needs are met in a targeted manner by special vehicles for defense, civil protection and municipal tasks.

GTS is responsible for setting up and operating the assembly body

The GTS enterprise is responsible for the technical, economic and industrial implementation of the project. This includes local recruitment processes and the qualifications of production personnel as well as the planning of production facilities, the assembly of complete vehicles from CKD kits and the equipment with specific bodies such as container frames, cranes or recovery units. GTS is also responsible for the sales of vehicles.

Daimler Truck delivers technology and know-how

As part of the supply of CKD kits for various Mercedes-Benz trucks, Daimler Truck ensures a reliable supply chain. Comprehensive quality assurance and technology transfer control measures are also implemented. The objective is to provide high-quality conditions for locally assembled vehicles, including long-term service support. With the commitment of Daimler Truck, the two local partners can create new jobs on site and thus contribute to the country's value creation and economic development.

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OPV 80 class offshore patrol vessel

Effectively protecting African values

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

Maintaining security

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

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

Customised platforms for any naval requirement

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

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



• **Territorial sea (<12 nm)**

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

• **Contiguous zone (<24 nm)**

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

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

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

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

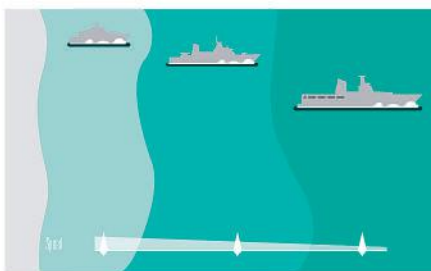
Strong support for cost-efficient naval vessel operations

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

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

Your naval solution

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



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



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



FIB 25 fast interceptor boat

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

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

More about NVL Group's naval solutions:

NVL B.V. & Co. KG
Zum Alten Speicher 11
28759 Bremen
Germany
Tel.: +49 421 6604 344
info@nvl.de
www.nvl.de



N·V·L

THE DNA OF SHIPBUILDING

Israel Shipyards at 66

Shaping the Future of Naval Power Through Smart, End-to-End Solutions

At 66, **Israel Shipyards Ltd. (ISL)** is not just commemorating history — it's accelerating into the future.

What began in 1959 as a national infrastructure project has evolved into a **world-class provider of integrated, end-to-end maritime defense solutions**. ISL is no longer simply building vessels. It is delivering foresight, capability, and strategic independence to navies around the globe — particularly those navigating high-stakes environments with limited resources.

For ISL, the mission is clear: **empower nations to meet future maritime challenges with confidence, speed, and strength**.

From Builder to Solutions Provider

For decades, Israel Shipyards earned global respect for rugged, fast, and reliable naval vessels. But the company's evolution into a **solutions integrator** reflects the shifting demands of modern maritime defense.

Navies today face far more than conventional threats. They're contending with smuggling networks, asymmetric terrorism, illegal fishing fleets, cyber risks, and regional instability. These challenges demand **more than platforms** — they demand systems. Intelligence. Integration. Adaptability.

ISL has met that demand with a complete transformation. Today, it offers **turnkey solutions** that include:

- Advanced vessels built for regional realities
- Smart command, control, and surveillance systems
- Crew and technical training programs
- Lifecycle management and sustainment
- Local industrial partnerships and technology transfer
- Scalable, modular designs for future upgrades

It's not about delivering a product. It's about building a **long-term operational edge**.

Africa: Responding to Evolving Maritime Threats with Strategic Readiness

Africa's maritime environment is undergoing rapid transformation — and with it, so are the threats facing the region. Once dominated by isolated incidents of piracy or smuggling, today's maritime challenges are **more complex, interconnected, and technologically advanced**.

Criminal networks now operate with greater coordination across coastal and inland routes. Illicit fishing fleets exploit gaps in surveillance. Trafficking, arms smuggling, and environmental crimes increasingly intersect with geopolitical tensions and economic disruption. Meanwhile, the impacts of climate change — rising sea levels, displaced populations, and intensified weather events — are adding new layers of risk to coastal infrastructure and maritime operations.

In this fast-evolving landscape, **African nations are stepping up** — investing in maritime governance, naval capacity, and regional cooperation. But responding effectively to these multifaceted threats requires more than vessels. It requires a partner who can deliver **strategic, scalable, and sustainable solutions**.

That's where **Israel Shipyards** plays a vital role.



ISL works alongside African governments, navies, and coast guards to develop **end-to-end maritime solutions** that address today's threats and anticipate tomorrow's. From high-speed patrol vessels equipped with smart surveillance to integrated command-and-control systems and localized training programs, ISL delivers the **technology, support, and foresight** needed to stay ahead of shifting risks.

The company's modular designs, adaptable systems, and commitment to capacity-building make it uniquely suited to meet Africa's defense needs — not with one-size-fits-all answers, but with **real solutions for real missions**.

As maritime threats continue to evolve, Israel Shipyards remains committed to empowering Africa's security forces to defend their waters, protect their resources, and uphold their sovereignty with strength, speed, and confidence.

Built for the Mission, Not the Catalog

ISL does not offer off-the-shelf solutions. It listens. It learns. It **co-develops mission-specific packages** tailored to each nation's strategic goals, geography, and budget.

Need fast interdiction capabilities for riverine and coastal ops? The SHALDAG-class Fast Patrol Craft is a proven choice — compact, heavily armed, and capable of speeds over 40 knots.

Need long-endurance patrol across vast EEZs? The Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) series offers advanced surveillance, sea-keeping, and modular weapon stations — with room to grow.

Each platform is backed by command-and-control systems, training, and logistical support. ISL empowers navies not just to patrol — but to **persist, respond, and dominate their environment**.

The Power of Modularity and Integration

ISL vessels are more than metal. They are **smart, modular platforms** built with upgradeability in mind.

This matters — especially in Africa, where governments must balance cost with performance and anticipate future expansion.

ISL designs its vessels with plug-and-play modularity, allowing navies to:

- Add new weapons or sensors without rebuilding core infrastructure
- Integrate drone launch/recovery systems
- Evolve C4I systems with new capabilities
- Reduce downtime and training gaps during upgrades

This flexibility ensures that **every investment remains future ready**.

What's more, ISL vessels are integrated with advanced systems, including:

- **Electro-optical and radar surveillance suites**
- **Secure satellite and radio communications**
- **Remote weapon stations**
- **Maritime domain awareness (MDA) networks**
- **Interoperability with allied and multinational forces**

Israel Shipyards

Shaping the Future of Naval Power
Smart. End-to-End. Built for Africa. Ready for the World.



The result: **complete situational awareness, faster decision-making, and better mission outcomes.**

Training, Tech Transfer & Long-Term Support

Israel Shipyards doesn't just hand over the keys. It builds **operational independence** from day one.

Each ISL solution includes:

- **Training academies and simulation tools** for operators, technicians, and commanders
- **Hands-on instruction** in vessel handling, weapons systems, and C4I platforms
- **On-site support** during deployment and mission integration
- **Digital maintenance systems** and predictive diagnostics
- **Supply chains and parts programs** for sustained readiness

ISL also partners with local industries to support **technology transfer**, joint ventures, and even **localized assembly or co-production** — helping partners build their domestic defense economies alongside their fleets.

This model has proved especially effective across Africa, where maritime forces seek not only vessels, but the **skills, jobs, and infrastructure** that come with them.

Innovation Built Into Every Layer

In an era of rising complexity and accelerated change, **Israel Shipyards approaches innovation as a continuous process — not just in what it delivers, but in how it delivers it.**

From vessel design and system integration to production methods and lifecycle support, ISL is constantly refining its processes to meet emerging challenges with smarter, faster, and more adaptable solutions. This commitment to innovation ensures partners receive **future-ready capabilities**, built for evolving missions and operational demands.

Backed by deep collaboration across Israel's advanced defense ecosystem, ISL brings cutting-edge technologies into service **rapidly and efficiently** — helping its partners stay ahead of the curve, both technically and strategically.

A Philosophy of Empowerment

ISL's greatest strength isn't its platforms. It's in its **approach.**

The company sees every vessel delivered as just the beginning of a relationship. It treats its partners with respect, transparency, and purpose — always working to transfer knowledge, not create dependency.



© Photos Credit- Israel Shipyards

This philosophy resonates strongly with African nations and other emerging naval powers seeking to **develop capability on their own terms**. ISL gives them the tools, the support, and the trust to succeed.

Looking Ahead: Built for What's Next

Sixty-six years after its founding, ISL's vision is more ambitious than ever. As global demand for maritime security grows, and as navies modernize to face new multi-domain threats, ISL is positioned to be a **partner of choice for tailored, affordable, end-to-end naval solutions.**

Africa will remain a strategic focus — not just because of need, but because of shared values: independence, resilience, and the desire to shape one's own future.

Conclusion: Strength That Lasts, Solutions That Scale

Israel Shipyards is more than a vessel builder. It is a builder of capability, security, and long-term partnerships. With its 66-year legacy of precision, trust, and transformation — and its eyes firmly on tomorrow — ISL is shaping the future of naval power one solution at a time. Whether defending coastlines, securing economic zones, or protecting sovereignty in unpredictable waters, ISL delivers more than platforms. It delivers **the power to adapt, respond, and prevail.**

Sea the Future

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PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME EXPO & CONFERENCE

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Egypt – National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System

On 24 July 24, 2025, the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Egypt of National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System and related elements of logistics and program support for an estimated cost of \$4.67 billion. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

The Government of Egypt has requested to buy the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS), that includes: four (4) AN/MPQ-64F1 Sentinel radar systems with associated support equipment; one hundred (100) Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM)-Extended Range (ER); one hundred (100) Air Intercept Missile (AIM)-120C-8 AMRAAMs; two (2) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM guidance sections (spares); one (1) AMRAAM control section (spare); six hundred (600) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II tactical missiles; one hundred fifty (150) AIM-9X Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs); sixty-two (62) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II tactical guidance units (GUs); and twenty (20) AIM-9X Sidewinder CATM GUs. The following non-MDE items will also be included: fire distribution centers (FDC); canister launcher systems; electrooptical/infrared systems; Tactical Control Center systems; NASAMS classroom trainer; communication node systems; IPS 250X High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptions (HAIPe); Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Model 5800 or TPX-61; KIV-77 IFF crypto appliqué; AN/PSN-13 Defense Advanced Global Positioning System Receivers (DAGRs) with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM); AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKLs), code loaders, and cable sets; AMRAAM-ER Extended Load Trainers (ELTs); missile containers; weapon system support and test equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; publications and technical documentation;



© RTX- An AMRAAM F3R missile (AIM-120D-3) is launched from a F/A-18F Super Hornet over the Point Mugu Sea Range during a test

personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$4.67 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major non-NATO ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East. The proposed sale will improve Egypt's capability to meet current and future threats by improving its ability to detect various air threats. Egypt 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 contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Andover, MA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require approximately twenty-six U.S. Government and thirty-four contractor representatives to travel to Egypt for an extended period for equipment de-processing/fielding, system checkout, training, and technical and logistics support.

© RTX- AN/MPQ-64F1 Sentinel radar



AFRICOM Deputies Engage with Angolan Leaders to Strengthen Security Cooperation

From July 22 to 25, 2025, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. John W. Brennan and Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Engagement Ambassador Robert Scott visited Angola to reinforce strategic security cooperation. This high-level engagement included meetings with key Angolan defense and foreign affairs officials, as well as U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Noah Zaring and his team. The visit underscored AFRICOM's commitment to supporting Angola, a pivotal security player in southern Africa, and followed a prior engagement with Namibia's Minister of Defense.

During meetings with Angolan leaders including Secretary of State for National Defense José Maria de Lima, Secretary of State for External Affairs Esmerelda Mendonça, and General José Maria Marques, the discussions centered on shared security concerns and collaborative economic initiatives. Topics included countering transnational threats that affect both Angola and the U.S. Homeland, empowering Angolan-led security efforts, and bolstering regional stability through cooperative defense and economic programs.

A key highlight of these discussions was the Lobito Corridor initiative—an ambitious infrastructure project supported by the G7. The project aims to enhance regional trade by linking the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia with Angola's Lobito port on the Atlantic coast. This initiative is expected to significantly boost regional mining, agriculture, and overall economic integration by providing access to global markets. U.S.

and Angolan officials view such economic corridors as opportunities to foster long-term stability through economic growth supported by secure environments.

Brennan and Scott emphasized the foundational role of security in enabling private sector investment and sustainable development. By enhancing local capacity and reducing the need for direct U.S. involvement, AFRICOM aims to support self-reliant partners who contribute to regional and international stability.

In addition to high-level meetings, the delegation visited a special force training base near Cabo Ledo. There, they met with Brigadier João Baptista Paulo and other special forces personnel, observed a live fire exercise, and participated in a wreath-laying ceremony honoring fallen Angolan troops. The live fire drill was part of a Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) program that focused on close quarters combat and small unit tactics. This exercise marked the fifth JCET event between the U.S. and Angola since 2022, showcasing the growing defense collaboration and mutual training benefits.

Furthermore, Angola's admission into the 2025 State Partnership Program (SPP) cohort marks another step forward in U.S.-Angolan defense relations. The SPP is a U.S. Department of Defense initiative that links National Guard units with partner nations to conduct military exchanges and support joint defense goals. It also serves as a platform for whole-of-society engagement, promoting broader cooperation across economic, governmental, and social sectors. The specific U.S. state that will partner with Angola through SPP is expected to be announced in the fall. AFRICOM, one of the U.S. military's seven geographic combatant commands, plays a vital role in coordinating military engagement across 53 African countries. By supporting African-led efforts, deterring malign actors, and building security capabilities, AFRICOM helps foster regional stability, protect U.S. interests, and promote mutual prosperity through defense diplomacy and strategic partnerships.



NAF HOLDS INTENSIVE RAPPELLERS RECURRENCY TRAINING FOR TROOPS IN KADUNA

The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) has successfully conducted Rappelers Recurrency Training at the Regiment Training Centre, Kaduna, as part of efforts to enhance operational efficiency in line with the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Hasan Bala Abubakar's, focus on "deliberate training and mission-oriented force development." The exercise was designed to sharpen the skills of Regiment Special Operators in insertion and air assault operations, thereby boosting their capability to support surface forces in eliminating and denying terrorists and bandits the freedom of action.

The intensive training program covered rappelling activities, aircraft operations, range exercises, and tactical live shooting drills. Operatives also undertook range classification exercises to improve firing accuracy, culminating in a tactical assault simulation involving fighting in built-up areas and hostage rescue operations.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, the Air Officer Commanding Ground Training Command, Air Vice Marshal AA Shinkafi, expressed appreciation to the CAS for



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prioritizing capacity-building initiatives such as the Rappelers Recurrency Training. He noted that the program not only enhances the proficiency of NAF's special operators but also reinforces the Service's commitment to ensuring national security.

AVM Shinkafi commended the Commandant of the Regiment Training Centre, Air Commodore CO Olayera, alongside his officers, airmen, and airwomen, for the seamless conduct of the training and assured them of the CAS's continued support for regiment training activities at the Centre.

African chiefs of defense joint communiqué, setting course for continental security opportunities



© Africom

U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) have formally released the first Joint Communiqué to emerge from the African Chiefs of Defense Conference (ACHOD), marking a new phase of coordinated action among African and international defense leaders.

The communiqué, co-signed by General Charles M. Kahariri, Chief of Defence Forces of Kenya, and General Michael E. Langley, Commander of U.S. Africa Command, distills the priorities agreed upon by 38 African delegations during ACHOD 2025 in Nairobi. While the conference concluded in May, this communiqué signals the start of a sustained effort to turn dialogue into concrete steps.

"This is more than a record of what was discussed," said Gen. Langley. "It is a shared commitment to move forward together, build on progress, and deliver results that strengthen security across Africa."

The five focus areas outlined in the communiqué are:

1. Renew and Expand Security Partnerships Across Africa and Worldwide – Deepening coordination between regional organizations, civil society, private sector, academia, and communities.
2. A Common vision for security with a shared resolve toward implementation – standardizing doctrine, expanding information sharing, and revitalizing multilateral cooperation.
3. Inspiring Innovation Against Emerging Threats – Driving comprehensive responses to against cyberattacks, environmental impacts, and disruptive tactics.
4. Strengthening Defense Institutions – Professionalizing forces to include officer and enlisted ranks, fostering multiagency operations, and reinforcing civil-military relations.
5. Promoting African Leadership in Securing the African Continent – Advancing African-led, whole-of-society approaches with targeted partner support.

Gen. Kahariri emphasized, "This communiqué focuses our collective energy. It identifies where we must act and where we can lead together."

The joint communiqué will guide military engagement, innovation, and institutional reforms in the coming year, providing a framework for measuring progress.

U.S. Approves \$346 Million Sale of Precision Munitions to Nigeria

On 13 August 2025 the U.S. State Department has given its approval for a potential Foreign Military Sale (FMS) to the Government of Nigeria, estimated at \$346 million, involving a significant package of munitions, precision-guided bombs, and precision rockets. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) has formally notified Congress of this planned sale, which aims to enhance Nigeria's ability to address evolving security threats.

Under the request, Nigeria seeks to acquire:

- 1,002 MK-82 general-purpose 500 lb bombs
- 1,002 MXU-650 Air Foil Groups (AFGs) for 500 lb Paveway II GBU-12 precision-guided bombs
- 515 MXU-1006 AFGs for 250 lb Paveway II GBU-58 bombs
- 1,517 MAU-169 or MAU-209 Computer Control Groups (CCGs) for Paveway II GBU-12/GBU-58 kits
- 1,002 FMU-152 joint programmable fuzes
- 5,000 Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System II (APKWS II) Air-Up-Rounds (AURs), each comprising a WGU-59/B guidance section, high-explosive warhead, and MK66-4 rocket motor

The package also includes non-major defense equipment such as FMU-139 fuzes, bomb components, impulse cartridges, high-explosive and practice rockets, as well as integration support, test equipment, and the services of U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics personnel.

The State Department stated that the proposed sale aligns with U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by bolstering the capabilities of a strategic partner in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and a key regional power, continues to face a range of security challenges, including insurgent and terrorist groups such as Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa, as well as piracy and illicit trafficking in the Gulf of Guinea.

By equipping the Nigerian Armed Forces with advanced precision-strike capabilities, the U.S. aims to improve Nigeria's ability to conduct targeted operations, minimize collateral damage, and respond more effectively to both land-based and maritime threats.

According to U.S. officials, the sale will not alter the basic military balance in the region. Nigeria already operates compatible platforms, and the new munitions can be integrated without difficulty. The proposed transaction will also have no negative impact on U.S. defense readiness, and no additional U.S. military personnel will be stationed in Nigeria to support its implementation.

The principal contractors for the program will be:

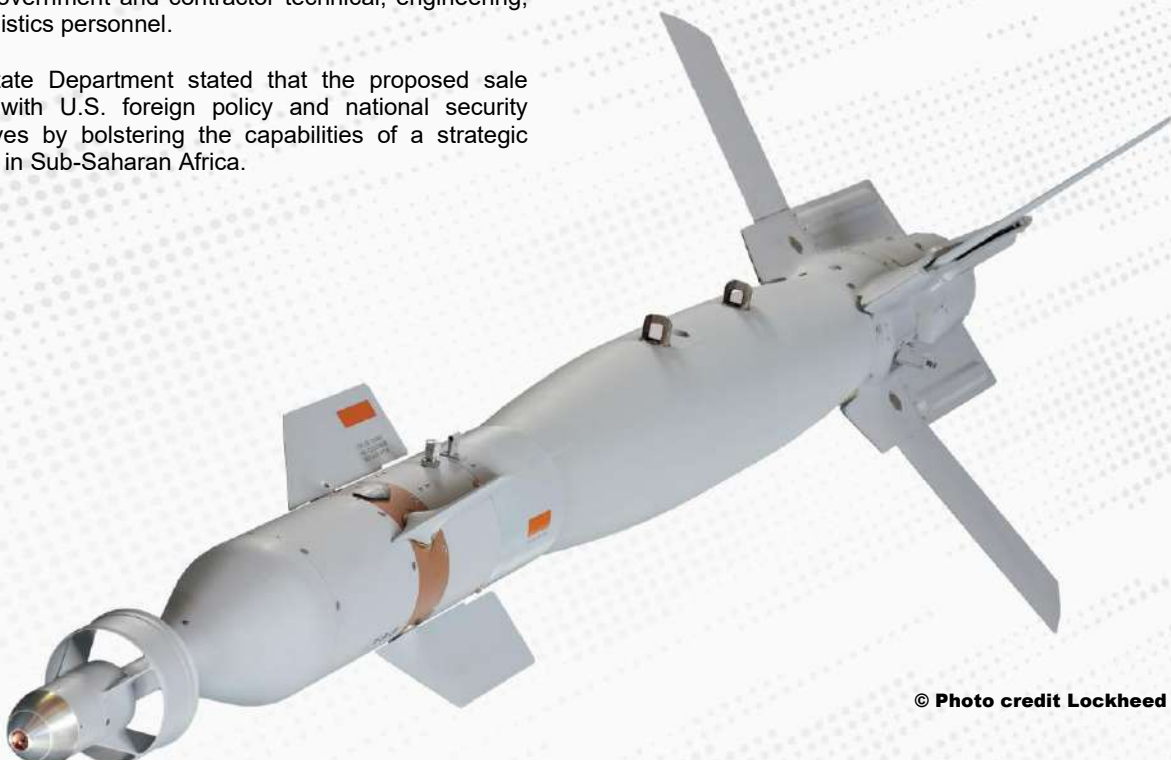
- RTX Missiles and Defense (Tucson, AZ)
- Lockheed Martin Corporation (Archibald, PA)
- BAE Systems (Hudson, NH)

At present, no offset agreements have been proposed, though such arrangements could be negotiated directly between Nigeria and the companies involved.

The \$346 million figure represents the highest estimated value of the sale. The actual cost is expected to be lower, depending on Nigeria's final requirements, budget allocations, and the terms of the signed contracts. The sale will proceed once all legal and procedural steps, including congressional review, are completed.

This transaction underscores the deepening defense partnership between the United States and Nigeria, reflecting a shared commitment to regional stability, counterterrorism cooperation, and maritime security in West Africa.

© Source: <https://www.dsca.mil/Press-Media>



© Photo credit Lockheed Martin

Prime Minister of Senegal Ousmane SONKO Visits Defense Industry Aselsan and Havelsan in Ankara

On Thursday, August 7, 2025, the Prime Minister of Senegal, Mr. Ousmane SONKO, visited the facilities of two of Türkiye's leading defense industry companies, Aselsan and Havelsan, in Ankara. This high-level visit reflects Senegal's strategic intention to deepen its cooperation with the Republic of Türkiye, particularly in the sectors of defense, technology, and industrial development.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Mr. Haluk Görgün, President of the Defense Industry Agency of the Republic of Türkiye. Together with his delegation, Mr. SONKO attended in-depth presentations on the activities and innovations of both Aselsan and Havelsan. These companies are internationally recognized for their advanced capabilities in defense electronics, cybersecurity, simulation systems, and information technologies, which are critical for modern military and security infrastructure.

This visit marked a key moment in the ongoing dialogue between Senegal and Türkiye regarding bilateral cooperation in defense. Several major projects are currently under discussion, which could lead to strategic partnerships in areas such as military training, acquisition of advanced defense systems, technological innovation, and knowledge transfer.

During the visit, Prime Minister SONKO reiterated Senegal's firm commitment to strengthening its ties with Türkiye, particularly through industrial and defense collaboration. He emphasized that any cooperation must be based on mutual respect, shared interests, and long-term benefits for both countries. Highlighting Senegal's vision for sustainable and sovereign development, he particularly insisted on the importance of **technology transfer** and **data sovereignty** as central pillars of this cooperation.

"For Senegal, the objective is clear: we are seeking partnerships that allow us to build national capacity, strengthen our technological independence, and protect our strategic data," the Prime Minister stated. "It's not about dependency, but about building together in a way that benefits both sides."

The Prime Minister's remarks underscored his administration's desire to shift from traditional procurement models to collaborative frameworks that empower Senegal to play an active role in the development and deployment of modern defense solutions.

The visit also reflects a broader trend of growing ties between African nations and Türkiye, as Ankara continues to expand its footprint across the continent through diplomacy, investment, and technology partnerships. Senegal, as one of West Africa's most dynamic economies, is positioning itself as a key regional

player capable of leading innovation in both civil and military domains.

This Ankara visit is expected to lay the groundwork for upcoming agreements and initiatives between the two nations, fostering long-term cooperation that extends beyond defense to include digital transformation, industrial development, and educational exchanges.

In a world increasingly defined by technological sovereignty and strategic autonomy, Senegal's approach to international partnerships—exemplified by this visit—is a testament to its ambition to shape its own future through smart, balanced, and forward-looking diplomacy.



NAF, Czech Republic Deepen Defence Collaboration for Enhanced Security and Development

The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) has reiterated its commitment to strengthening strategic defence ties with the Czech Republic as part of its broader efforts to bolster national security and foster regional stability. This renewed pledge was made on 19 August 2025 by the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Hasan Bala Abubakar, during the official visit of the Czech Republic's Junior Deputy Minister of Defence, Radka Konderlová, and her delegation to NAF Headquarters in Abuja.

Welcoming the delegation, Air Marshal Abubakar described the visit as a testament to the enduring friendship and shared values between both countries. He emphasized that partnership is underpinned by a common vision for peace, development, and technological advancement in aerospace and defence. Highlighting the progress of the Nigerian Air Force, the CAS noted that NAF has evolved into a more resilient and agile force capable of addressing contemporary security challenges. He pointed out that sustained operations against terrorism, insurgency, and piracy have enhanced Nigeria's stature as a key player in safeguarding regional and global peace. According to him, continued collaboration with international partners like the Czech Republic is critical to maintaining these gains and addressing emerging threats.

In her response, Deputy Minister Konderlová reaffirmed her country's readiness to broaden the scope of defence cooperation with Nigeria. She described air defence as a fundamental pillar of national security and lauded Nigeria as one of the Czech Republic's most strategic partners in Africa.

Konderlová underscored the significance of technology transfer and sustainable capacity-building in strengthening national defence systems. She expressed confidence that the evolving partnership would yield far-reaching impacts not just in security, but also in economic development, human capital growth, and industrial empowerment. "This collaboration goes beyond defence—it supports the foundation for national growth, self-reliance, and global peace," she stated.

During the discussions, both delegations outlined key areas of collaboration aimed at deepening the strategic partnership. These include logistical support for the NAF's L-39ZA fleet, overhaul and acquisition of Mi-series helicopters, and training programs for aircraft maintenance technicians. Other focus areas include the development of local capacity in aerospace engineering, avionics, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

NAF also expressed keen interest in exploring advanced technologies with Czech defence companies in domains such as cybersecurity, space technology, radar and surveillance systems, counter-drone measures, and signal interception. Companies identified for these engagements include Aero Vodochody, Avast, RETIA, and ERA—firms with extensive expertise in aerospace and digital defence technologies.

Air Marshal Abubakar concluded by expressing optimism about the future of the Nigeria-Czech partnership. He noted that the outlined initiatives, driven by mutual respect and a shared commitment to peace, are expected to deliver sustainable benefits for both nations. He further affirmed that such cooperation would not only strengthen Nigeria's security architecture but also contribute meaningfully to the collective security and prosperity of the African continent.



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ARQUUS and Daimler Truck are joining forces

The French military vehicle manufacturer Arquus and the German commercial vehicle manufacturer Daimler Truck want to work closely together on a project-specific basis. This partnership serves strategic cooperation beyond the two companies' own business activities and includes joint vehicle development, production, sales and services in the area of military wheeled vehicles. The two companies aim to develop tailored products and processes to better meet the needs of customers in the defence sector, with a particular focus on contributing to the future modernization of the French Army's fleet of logistics trucks. To this end, Arquus and Daimler Truck combine their expertise and capabilities across their sites in France and Germany.

Emmanuel Levacher, CEO Arquus: "This partnership will take us forward together. Both companies know the needs of armed forces inside out and will also benefit from each other's many years of experience. This will have a positive impact on joint vehicle development, synergies in the area of production expertise and optimized service for our customers."

Daniel Zittel, Head of Defence Sales, Daimler Truck: "I am delighted about the partnership with ARQUUS, a company that has a lot of experience and expertise in the field of military commercial vehicles. What goes well together grows together here: Our companies have been producing in France and Germany for a long time, our products are highly compatible, our approaches, ideas and goals in the defence sector overlap."

Now we are combining our strengths with regard to military commercial vehicles, and, in close cooperation, we want to make a decisive contribution to the defence readiness of our two countries."

Arquus and Daimler Truck maintain their relevant production sites for Defence vehicle production in France and Germany. The French military specialist produces exclusively in the country of its headquarters, which is located in Versailles.

Arquus' production facilities are in Garchizy and Limoges, in the center of France. Daimler Truck assembles its Defence vehicles in Wörth am Rhein, near the French border, and in its plant in Molsheim (Alsace, France).

The Molsheim plant is integrated into Daimler Truck's industrial operations in France, which employ over 3,000 people in total. In the future, the Franco-German partner project should also contribute to strengthen the locations in the neighboring countries.

Beyond national interests, the Arquus-Daimler Truck partnership is seen as a vital contribution to European defence autonomy. As both countries modernize their military capabilities, this collaboration serves as a model for effective cross-border cooperation in defence procurement and production. With their combined resources, manufacturing strength, and deep understanding of the operational needs of armed forces, Arquus and Daimler Truck are poised to deliver innovative and mission-ready solutions to meet the challenges of the future battlefield. The new alliance underscores a shared vision: to strengthen Europe's defence capabilities while supporting sustainable industrial development across national borders.



NVL establishes joint venture with the UK-based Kraken Technology Group (NVL Kraken)

- The joint venture (JV) between the two highly specialised maritime companies aims to rapidly meet the globally growing demand for market-ready, scalable, uncrewed platforms of various sizes for both military and civilian applications such as the surveillance and protection of critical infrastructure.
- The Anglo-German joint venture intends to rapidly scale up manufacturing capacities for autonomous surface vessels at NVL's shipyard Blohm+Voss in Hamburg, Germany on top of the already existing capacities in the UK to provide a range of products to the German and European market.
- Through this joint venture, NVL is expanding its capabilities as a leading German shipbuilding group and system integrator, specialising in the construction of complex naval vessels to include interaction between crewed naval vessels and autonomous uncrewed platforms.
- Kraken Technology Group specialises in the development of high-performance, low-cost, uncrewed maritime systems and will benefit from NVL's comprehensive manufacturing and integration capabilities.
- NVL recently invested in Kraken Technology Group and has secured options to invest in a further round planned for Q4 2025.
- Both companies will invest substantially in the roll-out of the JV structure.

The current threat level requires innovative solutions which meet the tactical operational needs of the armed forces. In the future, naval operations will increasingly be conducted by manned-unmanned teaming, enhancing collaboration between crewed and uncrewed systems.



As a result, NVL will offer complete solutions consisting of crewed naval vessels in combination with autonomous and individually configurable deployment systems provided by the joint venture between NVL and Kraken. Starting with smaller vessels, the JV offers the comprehensive competencies required for these kinds of solutions – including larger uncrewed vessels – by uniting NVL's competencies in the new-build of complex naval vessels with Kraken's experience in delivering small, fast and robust uncrewed systems. Manufacturing is anticipated to begin as soon as Q4 2025.

"The joint venture with Kraken offers us the opportunity to rapidly react to the latest requirements of our customers and to provide market-ready autonomous systems quickly and in high volumes," said Tim Wagner, CEO of NVL. "At the same time, by taking this step, we are expanding our role as a pioneer in the development of manned/unmanned teaming (MUM-T) concepts and are creating the right conditions for launching additional innovative solutions in this field. This also includes, for instance, our design concepts for the naval tender vessel NTV 130 as a drone mothership that could succeed the six tender vessels (the ELBE class) currently operated by the German Navy."

We are honoured to partner with NVL as we expand our ability to provide fully sovereign, autonomous maritime capabilities to our Allied nations. Working with NVL will allow exponential scaling of production and supply chain to meet growing threats through deployment of high-performance, multi-role, mass capabilities across our seas," said Mal Crease, CEO of Kraken Technology Group. "NVL are unquestionably the gold standard of maritime production and being able to draw and develop from such expertise and repurpose it for use in smaller, uncrewed platforms will bring a vital and much-needed step-change to the European maritime defence industry."



© Kraken K3 SCOUT on exercise

Armored Personal Carrier in the African Market



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 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 blast proof.

* 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.

* 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. 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.

* 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 armored car from South African company Paramount, marking the vehicles first sale, according to Paramount's founder and chairman, Ivor Ichikowitz.

Armored Vehicles Manufacturers - related companies in Africa

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:

* 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

Latest Armored Vehicles deliveries in the African Armies

Nigeria

In 2024 Nigeria took delivery of 20 sets of improved versions of armoured personnel carriers, APCs, to boost the ongoing fight against insecurity. The armoured personnel carriers were improved versions with improved weapons and communication systems that could locate adversaries from a distance and engage them effectively. The APCs were produced and supplied by an indigenous company based in Nigeria. In 2022, the Nigerian Army took delivery of Streit Group SPARTAN-MAV armoured personnel carriers. In 2021 the Nigerian Army has put into use sixty new Chinese Norinco Type-89 tracked armoured vehicles to boost its ongoing and future offensive in the northeastern region against Islamic terrorist attacks. The Nigerian Army has also announced that it had formalized an agreement with DICON and the Command Engineering Depot on the mass production of the Ezugwu.

Malawi

The Malawi Defence Force (MDF) recently took delivery of new armoured personnel carriers (APCs). These vehicles were acquired to support the MDF's peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of the United Nations (UN) MONUSCO contingent. The vehicles were supplied by South African company OTT Technologies. In January 2020, Malawi Defence Force (MDF) received a new fleet of armoured vehicles from the United Nations (UN) to help the Malawi soldiers in their peace keeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mali

The Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) recently have taken the delivery of a batch of CS/VP14 armoured personnel carriers (APCs) from China's Norinco. In January 2020, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 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 vehicles.

Ghana

The Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) recently received 14 Puma M36 Mk3 Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) from the United States. The handover ceremony took place on May 8, 2025, at Burma Camp's 153 Armoured Regiment Square in Accra. This donation is part of an ongoing security cooperation between the US and Ghana, aiming to enhance Ghana's border security and regional stability. The vehicles are valued at over \$6 million and are designed to improve troop protection and mobility in counterterrorism and internal security operations. In February 2023, Ghana's president and commander-in-chief Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo presented the newly acquired vehicles to the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) in the capital Accra. The vehicles include 70 Kamaz trucks, 20 BTR-70 armoured personnel carriers (APCs), 20 Navistar Defence Husky tactical support vehicles (TSVs), and 65 Toyota utility vehicles. Ghana Army has also acquired Cobra and Cobra II armoured vehicles, produced by the Turkish firm OTOKAR.

Somalia

In August 2020 Turkey donated 12 new armoured 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 capital, Mogadishu.

Tunisia

The Tunisian Army has recently taken delivery of new Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs). Specifically, they received 20 MASSTECH vehicles donated by the French Armed Forces. In January 2020, BMC, one of Turkey's leading defense contractors, is set to produce armoured 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 to produce a total of nine 4x4 Medium Class Multi-Purpose Armored Vehicles (MPAVs).

Kenya

The KDF has recently taken delivery of new Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs). Specifically, they have acquired Springbuck APCs from South Africa and M1117 armoured security vehicles from the United States. These acquisitions are part of the Kenyan government's efforts to modernize its military and address security challenges like banditry and terrorism. 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.

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 general, the African market for Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) is experiencing significant growth due to rising security concerns and military modernization efforts. Increased internal and cross-border conflicts across the continent are driving demand for armoured vehicles across various sectors, including military, law enforcement, and private security.



Türkiye Compelled to Strengthen Defense Capabilities Amid Global Shifts

Speaking at the opening of the International Defense Industry Fair (IDEF) 2025 in Istanbul, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan emphasized that Türkiye has been “compelled” to bolster its defense capabilities due to shifting global power dynamics and intensifying international competition. He highlighted the country's significant progress in building a self-reliant defense sector and underscored that domestic production is the key to securing long-term national security and independence.

Erdoğan described the defense sector not merely as a matter of military necessity, but as an integral part of Türkiye's broader struggle for geopolitical independence and economic strength. “We are compelled to strengthen our defense, and the path to this lies through domestic production,” he said. He pointed to Türkiye's success in reducing its dependence on foreign suppliers as a significant national achievement, especially in light of past experiences with Western arms embargoes and diplomatic restrictions.

IDEF 2025, hosted in Istanbul, is among the largest defense industry fairs globally. The six-day event features more than 1,000 Turkish and 400 international companies, showcasing cutting-edge technologies across land, air, sea, space, and cybersecurity domains. It is expected to attract over 120,000 visitors and host 220 official delegations from 99 countries, highlighting Türkiye's growing stature in the global defense landscape.

The president emphasized Türkiye's openness to international collaboration but framed this within a model of mutual benefit. “The issue is not just about making purchases,” Erdoğan noted. “What truly matters is establishing lasting collaborations built on a win-win foundation.” He reaffirmed Türkiye's readiness for multifaceted partnerships that support not just trade, but also joint development and long-term strategic cooperation.

A key driver of Türkiye's current defense posture has been its localization drive, which started in response to foreign embargoes in the early 2000s. The share of domestically produced defense components has since risen from 20% to over 80%, according to Erdoğan. This has enabled Türkiye to largely meet the needs of its security forces through its own resources. Turkish-made defense products are now actively deployed in both domestic counterterrorism efforts and overseas military operations.

Türkiye's defense sector has witnessed rapid growth in both technological capability and economic output. The industry now generates over \$20 billion in annual revenue, is managing more than 1,300 active projects, and supports a workforce of over 100,000 across 3,500 firms. These achievements have helped Türkiye become the world's 11th largest defense exporter.

In 2024, the country's defense and aerospace exports reached a record \$7.15 billion—up nearly 30% from the previous year and exceeding the government's \$6.5 billion target. Monthly exports in June 2025 alone totaled \$623 million. Erdoğan stated that Türkiye's defense products, including drones, ships, armored vehicles, and electronic systems, are now in high global demand.

A standout area of growth has been Türkiye's drone program, led by firms like Baykar and Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI). Türkiye now ranks among the top three countries globally in unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) technology. Erdoğan said that Turkish firms produced 65% of all UAVs sold globally in 2024, underlining the transformative impact of these technologies on modern warfare.

Additionally, Türkiye is among only 10 countries in the world capable of designing, developing, and manufacturing its own warships. Looking ahead, Erdoğan outlined ambitions in advanced fields such as laser and electromagnetic weapons, autonomous systems, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and cybersecurity.

In conclusion, President Erdoğan portrayed Türkiye's defense industry as both a source of national pride and a critical pillar of its strategic autonomy. He reiterated that building strong domestic capabilities is not only a reaction to external pressures but a forward-looking investment in the country's future role as a global defense and technology leader.

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ASELSAN signs landmark ToP agreement in South Africa



ASELSAN signed its first Technology Transfer of Production (ToP) agreement in South Africa with PAMODZI Group, bringing new momentum to its regional growth. The agreement enables local manufacturing of ASELSAN's **ASTELA P25 3710** handheld radio and marks a major step in expanding sustainable partnerships across South Africa.

ASTELA P25 3710 radio family addresses critical communication needs in public safety and security fields. Through local production, the partnership aims to build long-term operational capacity while supporting South Africa's industrial development and strengthening knowledge sharing with local partners. The initiative reflects ASELSAN's commitment to delivering high technology solutions that adapt to local requirements in different regions.

With operations in South Africa since 2011, ASELSAN emphasizes on broader cooperation beyond system supply. The company actively contributes to defense capacity building across the region through training, technical support, and local collaborations. Strengthening its ties with regional partners, ASELSAN continues to support national security and the development of local defense ecosystems.



© Aselsan - ASTELA P25 3710

GIDS and MKE Sign Contract for the Supply of Aerospace Munition



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On July 24, 2025, during the IDEF 2025 Defence Exhibition held in Istanbul, Pakistan's Global Industrial & Defence Solutions (GIDS) and Turkey's Mechanical and Chemical Industry Corporation (MKE) signed a significant contract for the supply of aerospace munitions. This strategic agreement focuses on the delivery of aerial bombs and munitions compatible with drone systems, marking a deepening of defence collaboration between the two nations.

The contract represents a key step forward in Pakistan's efforts to enhance its precision-strike capabilities, particularly through the use of advanced drone technologies such as those developed in partnership with Turkish companies, including the Bayraktar series. The signing of this agreement highlights the growing defence-industrial relationship between Pakistan and Turkey and comes on the heels of a prior collaboration in November 2024, when GIDS signed a deal with Turkish defence manufacturer Repkon for the co-production of 155 mm artillery shells.

MKE, one of Turkey's leading state-owned defence firms, achieved over \$639 million in defence exports in 2024 and is recognized globally for its advanced aerial munitions and NATO-compliant systems. Through this partnership, Pakistan stands to benefit from cutting-edge Turkish technology while moving closer to its long-term goal of defence self-reliance.

In addition to enhancing operational capabilities on the battlefield, the agreement is expected to lead to future cooperation in research and development, joint manufacturing, and potential technology transfer. The deal further solidifies the strategic alignment between the two countries and reflects their shared interest in building independent, modernized, and interoperable defence infrastructures. As the regional security landscape evolves, this contract underscores the importance of deepened industrial collaboration and the role of indigenous capability development in ensuring national security.

MKE Hosts Key African Delegations at IDEF 2025, Advances Strategic Defence Cooperation

At IDEF 2025, held in Istanbul, Makine ve Kimya Endüstrisi A.Ş. (MKE) played a central hosting role for numerous African defence delegations, notably engaging high-level officials from Rwanda, Nigeria, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The meetings focused on showcasing Turkish defence innovations and deepening cooperation in procurement, technology transfer, and joint capacity-building efforts.



The Rwandan Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr. Célestin Kanyamahanga, and his accompanying delegation visited the MKE stand, where they were closely briefed on the company's wide range of products and capabilities. The visit highlighted mutual interest in expanding bilateral defence collaboration and technological engagement.



From Nigeria, Minister of State for Defence, Mr. Bello Mohammed Matawalle, led a senior delegation to MKE's booth. The discussions covered critical topics including ammunition supply and the establishment of cartridge production lines—marking a significant step toward future defence-industrial partnerships between the two nations.

Beyond these engagements, broader African participation at IDEF 2025 included delegations from Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, and Niger, who held high-level bilateral meetings and participated in exhibitions. These interactions reinforced Turkey's growing role as a strategic defence partner across Africa, promoting sustainable cooperation and regional security development.



© Photos credit: MKE

In a major development, MKE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Democratic Republic of Congo's Afridex Institution. The agreement outlines cooperation on the establishment of a firearm assembly line and a gunpowder production line, aiming to boost DRC's local defence manufacturing capacity and self-sufficiency.

The Mechanical and Chemical Industry Corporation (Turkish: Makine ve Kimya Endüstrisi or MKE for short), established in 1950, is a reorganization of government-controlled group of factories in Turkey that supplied the Turkish Armed Forces with military products. The corporation mainly produces equipment for the Turkish Armed Forces, such as the ammunition for small arms and heavy weapons, artillery systems, aerial bombs, mines, explosives, and rockets. MKEK also manufactures civil-purpose products such as steel, brass, and electrical parts and equipment. Its large range of defense industry products are not only demanded in Turkey but are exported to more than 40 countries worldwide. Core Activities & Capabilities are:

- **Weapon Systems & Small Arms:** MKE produces a wide variety of infantry weapons, including licensed production of G3/A3/A7 rifles, HK-33, as well as indigenous designs like the MPT-76 rifle and JNG-90 sniper rifle (also known as Bora-12) Wikipedia+1Wikipedia+1.
- **Ammunition & Heavy Weapons:** It manufactures small- to large-calibre ammunition (5.56 mm up to 203 mm), artillery rockets, mortars, howitzers (e.g. Boran 105 mm and 155 mm systems), anti-tank rounds, and fuzes Middle East Forum+3makine-ve-kimya-endustrisi-mke.idef.com.tr+3Nordic Monitor+3.
- **Explosives, Propellants & Pyrotechnics:** MKE's factories produce military-grade explosives like RDX and HMX, nitrocellulose propellants, pyrotechnics, and civilian explosives such as dynamite and hunting powders. They operate TNT recovery and scrap recycling facilities for reuse in production.
- **Rockets & Mine-Clearing Systems:** It develops rocket-powered systems such as mine-clearing line charges (TAMGEÇ/TAMKAR) and multiple-launch rocket systems used on the battlefield.
- **Protective Equipment & Integrated Systems:** MKE manufactures CBRN protection gear (e.g. gas masks, filters), vehicle-mounted weapon turrets, and offers systems integration, modernization and technical training & support services.



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4th International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEC) 2025 – "Securing Africa's Maritime Future: Collaboration, Technology, and Sustainability in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape"

As an official media partner of the **4th International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEC 2025)**, **African Security Magazine** was on the ground at Burma Hall in Accra to witness two pivotal days of dialogue, innovation, and collaboration dedicated to securing Africa's maritime domain. With the theme "Securing Africa's Maritime Future: Collaboration, Technology, and Sustainability in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape," the event marked a significant step forward in Africa's collective security agenda.

Held on July 8–9, 2025, at Burma Hall, Ghana Armed Forces Headquarters in Accra, the 4th edition of the International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEC 2025) emerged as a pivotal event in the continent's ongoing effort to secure its maritime domain. Centered around the urgent theme "*Securing Africa's Maritime Future: Collaboration, Technology, and Sustainability in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape*", the conference brought together a diverse assembly of over 500 delegates, 20 Chiefs of Navies and Coast Guards from 27 countries. These included senior military officials, ministers, Senior Navy officers, defense industry leaders, maritime experts, and key stakeholders from across Africa and beyond. IMDEC 2025 reaffirmed its position as Africa's leading platform for maritime security dialogue and naval cooperation.

The strategic importance of the event was underscored by its location—Accra, Ghana—adjacent to the Gulf of Guinea, a region that remains one of the world's most dangerous maritime zones due to persistent threats like piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, drug trafficking, and other forms of transnational crime. These issues, though somewhat reduced in recent years, continue to endanger the safety, sovereignty, and economic viability of nations that rely heavily on maritime trade and resources. The conference emphasized that addressing such threats requires more than national solutions; instead, it calls for regional collaboration, enhanced naval interoperability, and sustained international partnerships.

In his opening remarks, Rear Admiral Godwin Livinus Bessing, Chief of Naval Staff of the Ghana Navy, welcomed delegates and stressed that although Ghana's waters have seen relative calm since 2021, a recent piracy incident involving the kidnapping of crew members aboard a Ghanaian-flagged fishing vessel just 16 nautical miles off Accra highlighted the continued vulnerability of African maritime zones. This incident served as a timely and sobering reminder of the dangers that persist offshore, prompting urgent calls for enhanced readiness and cooperation.



Rear Admiral Bessing praised past and ongoing regional efforts, including joint patrols, enhanced port security, rapid naval responses, and the use of the Yaoundé Architecture Regional Information System (YARIS), which have contributed to improvements in maritime coordination and intelligence sharing. He highlighted that IMDEC 2025 sought to build on the foundation laid in previous editions, particularly IMDEC 2023, which emphasized regional naval cooperation—and move discussions from verbal commitments to concrete actions, especially in the face of growing global geopolitical complexity and technological advancement.

Hon. Julius Debrah, Chief of Staff to the President of the Republic of Ghana and Guest of Honour, echoed these sentiments in his keynote address. He pointed out that the threats confronting African waters are multi-layered and ever evolving. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains a chronic problem, draining billions in potential revenue. Piracy, especially in the Gulf of Guinea, while slightly declining due to collective interventions, continues to pose a grave risk to merchant shipping and offshore operations. He added that Africa's maritime challenges are further compounded by geopolitical rivalries, environmental degradation, weak enforcement capacities, and technological gaps.

Debrah urged participants to embrace the power of technology and innovation to combat maritime threats, emphasizing the role of advanced surveillance systems, autonomous maritime vehicles, cybersecurity infrastructure, and intelligence-driven maritime operations. These tools, he noted, were not only essential for threat detection and interdiction but also for deterrence and long-term stability. He referred to IMDEC 2023's resolutions that advocated for stronger integration of technology into regional security frameworks and stressed the need to implement those proposals effectively.

The conference featured a blend of high-level panels, technical workshops, bilateral meetings, and an international exhibition. The exhibition showcased the latest innovations in naval defense—from patrol vessels and drones to integrated surveillance systems and port security technologies. Over 40 global defense and maritime companies participated, offering region-specific solutions that aimed to modernize African fleets and boost coastal monitoring capabilities. Demonstrations of unmanned systems and new cybersecurity tools drew significant attention, reflecting a shift in focus toward smarter, leaner, and more adaptive maritime forces.

A recurring theme throughout the two-day conference was the centrality of the blue economy to Africa's future. Speakers emphasized that the continent's waters are not just security frontlines but also engines of economic development. From oil and gas extraction to shipping lanes, fisheries, and undersea infrastructure, Africa's economic growth and integration heavily depend on a safe and secure maritime environment. This necessitates not just military strength but also sustainable management practices, environmental stewardship, and investment in maritime education and research.

Many panel discussions stressed the importance of inclusivity and partnership. Cooperation between African navies, coast guards, regional bodies such as ECOWAS and the African Union, and global actors was deemed essential. Participants called for increased intelligence sharing, harmonized laws, joint training exercises, and coordinated operations, particularly under frameworks like the Yaoundé Code of Conduct. They also underscored the need for African-led solutions supported by international allies, instead of over-reliance on foreign interventions.

Youth involvement, capacity building, and professional training also featured prominently in several sessions. Maritime institutions were encouraged to invest in next-generation leadership, research, and education. It was recognized that sustainable maritime security hinges not just on equipment and strategies, but also on cultivating skilled personnel who understand both the threats and opportunities of Africa's vast maritime spaces. Another key issue addressed was environmental protection and the growing threat of climate change. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and marine pollution were identified as factors that not only threaten coastal communities but also undermine maritime infrastructure and increase vulnerability to insecurity. In this context, sustainability was framed not just as an ecological imperative but also as a strategic dimension of security. Technological solutions must therefore integrate sustainability, and naval operations should adopt greener, more efficient practices.

In conclusion, IMDEC 2025 succeeded in advancing both strategic dialogue and practical solutions toward securing Africa's maritime future. It underscored the need for an integrated approach—one that combines military readiness with technological innovation, regional cooperation, sustainable development, and inclusive governance. The strong participation from African and international stakeholders, as well as defense industry partners, highlighted the urgency and shared responsibility of securing Africa's waters in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Rear Admiral Bessing closed the conference by reaffirming Ghana's commitment to regional maritime security and urging all participants to turn their conversations into coordinated actions. The success of IMDEC 2025 was measured not only by the knowledge shared and innovations displayed, but by the renewed sense of urgency and unity in confronting Africa's maritime challenges head-on. With its focus on collaboration, technology, and sustainability, IMDEC 2025 laid a compelling roadmap for the future—one where Africa's seas become zones of peace, prosperity, and progress.



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The South African National Defence Force (SANDF)



The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) comprises the armed forces of South Africa. The commander of the SANDF is appointed by the President of South Africa from one of the armed services. They are in turn accountable to the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans of the Defence Department. The military as it exists today was created in 1994, following South Africa's first nonracial election in April of that year and the adoption of a new constitution.

The 2015 Defence Review endeavours to establish the direction of South Africa's defence and foreign policy for the next 15 years. The Defence Review Committee (DRC) was established in 2011 and mandated to look critically at South Africa's defence policy, given the rapid and fundamental changes that have occurred in the strategic environment over the last number of years. The objective of the review is to create a balanced, flexible and modern force, which uses advanced technology in response to the changing nature of the defence function globally. It was also intended, in the short-term, to provide a robust platform for the Minister to argue the defence case.

South African Minister of Defence is Mrs. Angelina Matsie Motshekga, who also holds the title of Minister of Military Veterans. She was appointed to this position on July 3, 2024.

The approach followed by the DRC was to develop a future trajectory to achieve a sustainable defence

capability appropriate to South Africa's international status, strategic posture and its inescapable continental leadership role. As first order guidelines, the following critical milestones⁴⁹ were proposed to assist in such planning, namely:

- Planning Milestone 1: Arrest the decline in critical capabilities through immediate and directed interventions.
- Planning Milestone 2: Reorganise and rebalance the Defence Force as the foundation for future growth.
- Planning Milestone 3: Create the sustainable Defence Force that can meet ordered defence commitments (interim end-state of the Defence Review).
- Planning Milestone 4: Enhance the Defence Force's capacity to respond to emerging threats (final end-state of the Defence Review).
- Planning Milestone 5: Defend the Republic against an imminent or dire threat.

In particular, the 2015 Defence Review emphasises that:

- Security objectives include the defence of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the South African state, and the promotion of regional and continental security in Southern Africa.
- The struggle for a better life in South Africa is intertwined with the pursuit of a better Africa in a better world. Regional and continental integration is the foundation for Africa's socio-economic development and political unity, and essential for South Africa's prosperity and security.

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- Africa is at the centre of South Africa's foreign and security policy. South Africa must therefore continue to support regional and continental processes to respond to and resolve crises, strengthen regional integration, significantly increase intra-African trade, and champion sustainable development and opportunities in Africa.

Over the medium term, South African MOD will focus on sustaining South Africa's defence capabilities, safeguarding the country's borders and territorial integrity, supporting peace on the continent, and providing support to the South African Police Service when required to ensure national security and internal stability.

During FY 2022/23, the DOD's Baseline Appropriation of R49,1 billion was increased with R2,5 billion to R51,6 billion through the Adjusted Estimates of National Expenditure. The unaudited actual expenditure as at 31 March 2023 was R54,6 billion (105,8%).

Regional Security

The SANDF continued to participate in various Regional Security initiatives, such as:

- Contributing to the UN Peace Mission in the DRC, including in the robust Force Intervention Brigade.
- The SANDF continues to execute border safeguarding in 5 Provinces in an endeavour to safeguard and maintain the integrity of the country's borderline.
- Maritime coastal patrols were conducted.
- Various SANDF Force Structure Elements remain on continuous standby as a contingency to deter possible acts of violence and criminality; as well as to deter possible threats to critical infrastructure across the country.

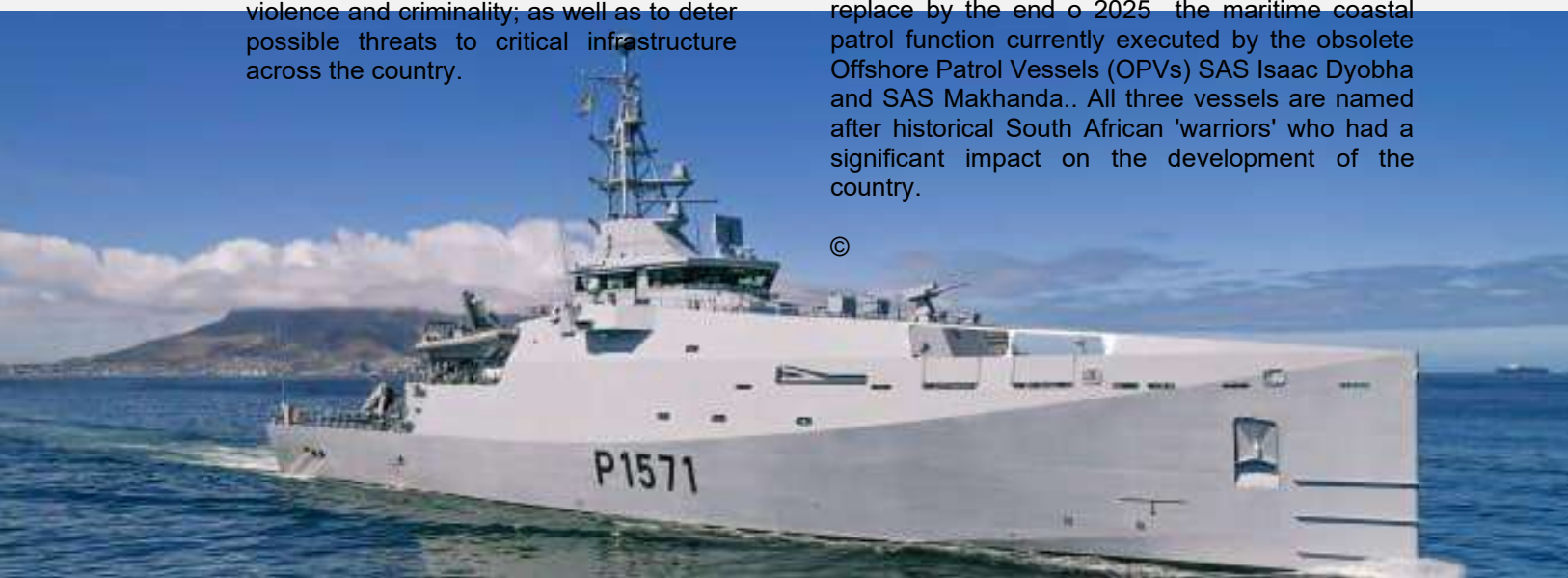
- The SANDF is on continuous standby to render humanitarian aid, disaster relief and assistance of all sorts in all Provinces. Examples were the Kwa-Zulu Natal Floods and the adverse weather in Coffee Bay.
- Leading the fighting element of the SADC Mission in the Republic of Mozambique (SAMIM).

The defence industry plays a key role in assisting the SANDF to discharge its constitutional mandate of defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of South Africa and to secure our nation. By ensuring security and stability, the SANDF, in turn, helps to create an enabling environment for economic growth and development. Through our peacekeeping missions, we are similarly contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity on our continent.

In 2021 the South African defence industry exported R3.3 billion worth of weapons, ammunition and military equipment to 67 countries around the world according to the figures from the National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC).

In November 2021, South African Army purchased more than 20,000 rounds of Rheinmetall's a new medium-velocity (MV) 40mm ammunition. These include a mixture of high explosive, high explosive dual-purpose, practice ammunition, practice tracers, red phosphorous smoke rounds and orange target marker ammunition. In total, Rheinmetall have nine different MV ammunition types, with a range of up to 800 metres. The SAF plans to spend R1 billion upgrading its six Hercules C130BZ fleet and will utilise the services of a UK contractor, Marshall Aerospace, to do the upgrades. Industry players are of the view that Denel Aeronautics could do the job at a much cheaper price than what is being quoted by Marshall Aerospace. Denel Aeronautics and Aselsan have recently entered into an agreement to collaborate on the avionics modernization of the Rooivalk attack helicopter. This agreement follows a memorandum of understanding that was announced at the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibition last year. The Warrior-class inshore patrol vessel is a class of multi-mission inshore patrol vessels (MMIPVs) built for the South African Navy and are intended to replace by the end o 2025 the maritime coastal patrol function currently executed by the obsolete Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) SAS Isaac Dyobha and SAS Makhanda.. All three vessels are named after historical South African 'warriors' who had a significant impact on the development of the country.

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AFRICOM focus on Security Partnership in Namibia

U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) continues to deepen its security engagement with African partners, as demonstrated by a recent visit to Namibia by two of its senior leaders. From July 21 to 22, 2025, AFRICOM's Deputy Commander, Army Lt. Gen. John W. Brennan, and Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Engagement, Ambassador Robert Scott, traveled to Windhoek to strengthen the growing partnership between the United States and Namibia. The visit reflected AFRICOM's commitment to collaborative security efforts and regional stability in southern Africa.

During their time in Windhoek, Brennan and Scott met with Namibia's Minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs, Frans Kapofi, for discussions focused on shared security concerns. Key areas addressed included maritime domain awareness, countering transnational crimes such as wildlife and timber trafficking, enhancing joint training efforts, and expanding the scope of military and civil cooperation.

Lt. Gen. Brennan praised Namibia's role in promoting regional peace and security, describing it as a vital anchor for stability in southern Africa. He commended the Namibian government's openness to cooperation and reiterated the shared interest in tackling complex regional threats through sustained partnership. "Namibia plays an important role as an anchor for fostering stability in southern Africa," Brennan said, highlighting the importance of continued collaboration to address challenges and explore new areas for cooperation.

Ambassador Scott, who brings decades of experience in African affairs, emphasized the U.S. commitment to fostering strong, enduring partnerships with countries like Namibia.

He pointed to joint initiatives such as maritime security exercises, infrastructure development, and anti-trafficking efforts as examples of successful collaboration. "From participating in maritime security events to collaborating on vital projects like building field hospitals and countering wildlife trafficking... we are finding common ground with Namibia," Scott noted.

Namibia and AFRICOM have a longstanding history of cooperation that extends beyond traditional defense collaboration. The partnership has included efforts to improve public health infrastructure, combat illicit wildlife trade, and support economic development through improved regional security. In 2025, Namibia observed the Obangame Express maritime exercise—one of AFRICOM's key initiatives to strengthen naval cooperation among African nations. Namibia also participated in the African Maritime Forces Summit, reinforcing its commitment to collective maritime security in the region. These engagements reflect a broader AFRICOM strategy that prioritizes African-led security solutions with support from the United States and other allies. Through training, advisory missions, and exercises like Obangame Express, AFRICOM supports the professionalization of African security forces, encourages interoperability among regional militaries, and addresses shared security threats, including those posed by criminal networks and malign external actors.

As one of the seven geographic combatant commands of the U.S. Department of Defense, AFRICOM plays a critical role in implementing U.S. security policy across the African continent. The command engages with 53 African nations through military cooperation, capacity building, and crisis response, with the overarching goal of supporting African security and governance institutions while advancing U.S. national interests. The visit to Namibia reinforced this approach, showcasing a partnership model based on mutual respect, shared goals, and a focus on long-term regional stability and prosperity. As AFRICOM continues to engage with African partners like Namibia, its emphasis remains on empowering nations to lead their own security efforts while benefiting from sustained U.S. support and collaboration.

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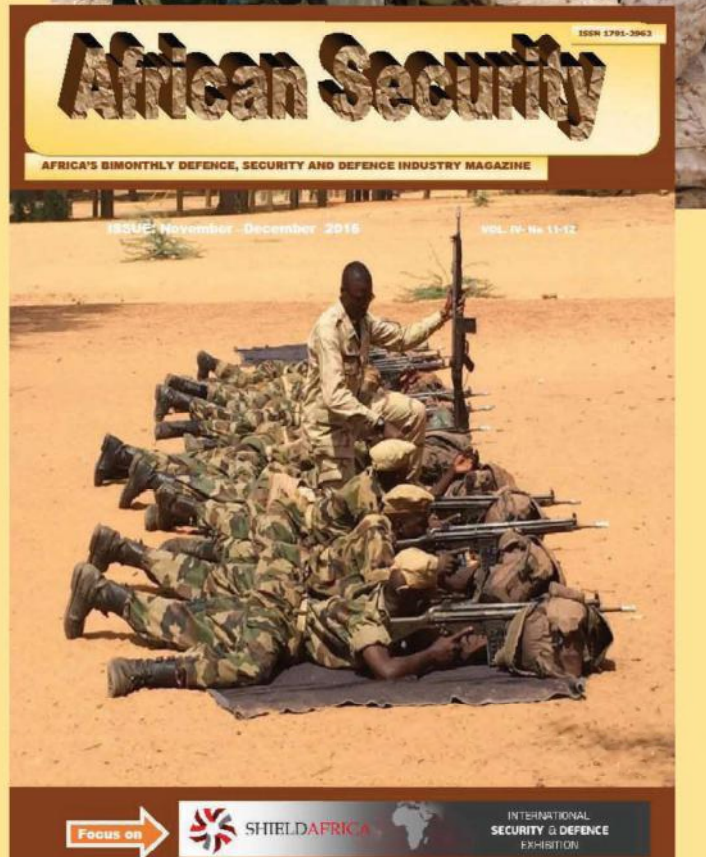
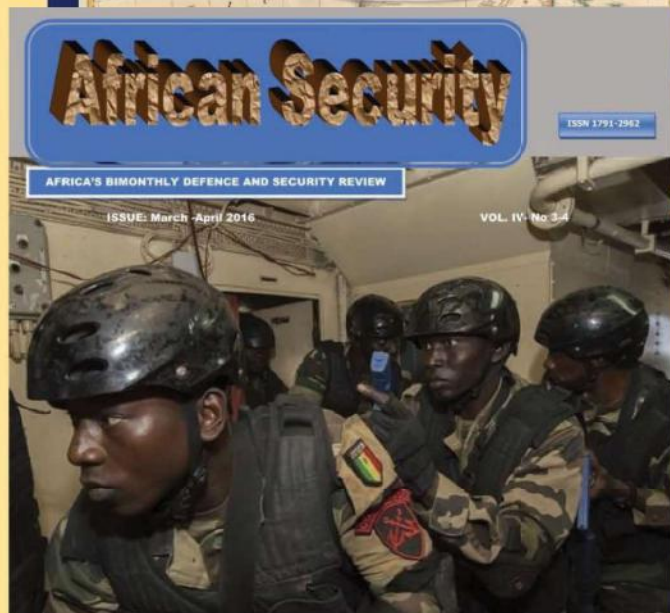
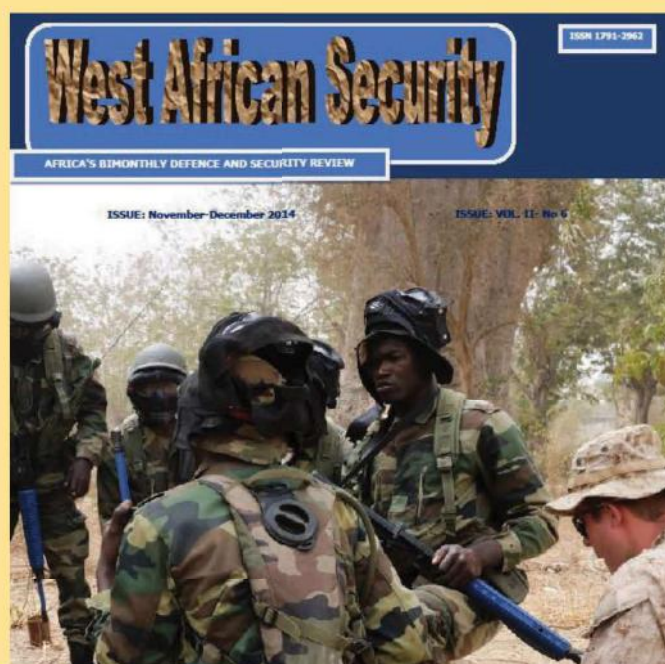
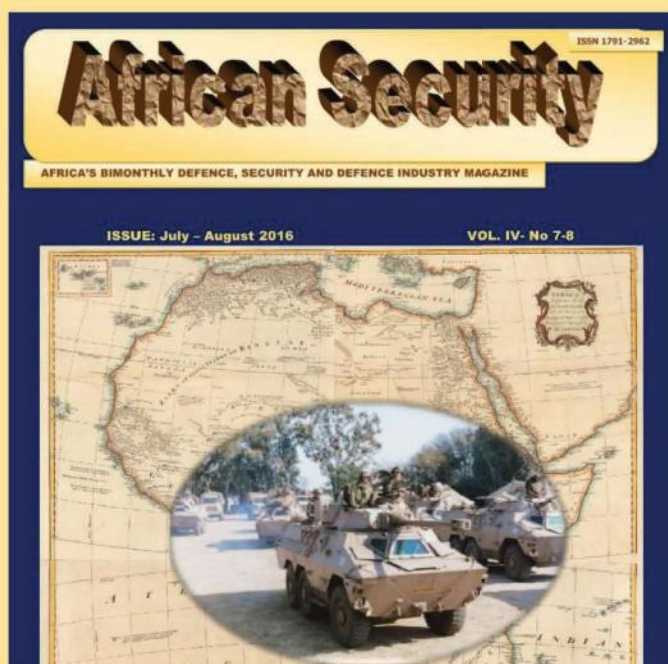
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