

# CURRENT NEWS

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## EARLY BIRD

June 2, 2012

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### PANETTA TRIP

1. **Panetta Outlines New Weaponry For Pacific**

(*New York Times*)....Jane Perlez

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta, seeking to persuade a skeptical audience of Asian officials here on Saturday that the United States is committed to enhancing its military presence in the region despite coming budget constraints, unveiled the most detailed inventory to date of planned new weapons for the region.

2. **Panetta Reveals Plan Focusing On Pacific**

(*Washington Post*)....William Wan

The United States' top defense official unveiled for his Asian counterparts on Saturday a plan for redirecting the U.S. military's focus toward the Pacific, at the start of a week-long trip seen as crucial to the Obama administration's broader strategic pivot to Asia.

3. **U.S. Plans Naval Shift Toward Asia**

(*Wall Street Journal*)....Julian E. Barnes

The Pentagon will shift the bulk of its naval assets to Asia within the next decade and increase the number of military exercises it conducts in the region, according to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, in the most tangible sign yet of the renewed U.S. emphasis on Asia.

4. **Panetta Tries To Reassure Asian Allies**

(*Los Angeles Times*)....David S. Cloud

As the U.S. seeks to reassert its role as a Pacific power after a decade of distant ground wars, the Obama administration has run into a problem: It's hard to convince allies and rivals that the enhanced military commitment to Asia is sufficiently serious.

5. **Navy To Base Majority Of Fleet In Pacific By 2020, Panetta Says**

(*Stripes.com*)....Jennifer Hlad

The Navy will shift 10 percent of its surface ships and submarines to the Pacific over the next eight years, moving toward a 60/40 split between the Pacific and Atlantic by 2020, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told leaders at the Shangri-La Security Dialogue on Saturday.

6. **US To Shift Most Of Naval Fleet To Pacific By 2020**

(*Yahoo.com*)....Dan De Luce, Agence France-Presse

...The decision to deploy more ships to the Pacific Ocean, along with expanding a network of military partnerships, was part of a "steady, deliberate" effort to bolster the US role in an area deemed vital to America's future, he said on Saturday. And he insisted the switch in strategy was not a challenge to China, saying it was compatible with the development and growth of the fast-growing Asian power.

7. **U.S. Will Put More Warships In Asia: Panetta**  
(Reuters.com)....David Alexander, Reuters  
...Panetta's comments came at the start of a seven-day visit to the region to explain to allies and partners the practical meaning of the U.S. military strategy unveiled in January that calls for rebalancing American forces to focus on the Pacific.
8. **Panetta: Pentagon To Shift Warships To Pacific**  
(Atlanta Journal-Constitution (ajc.com))....Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press  
...The increased U.S. naval presence in the Pacific will allow the U.S. to boost the number and size of the military exercises in the region in the next few years and to plan for more port visits over a wider area, including the Indian Ocean. Last year, the U.S. military participated in 172 exercises in the region involving 24 countries.
9. **U.S. Tipped To Push Talks On Cam Ranh**  
(South China Morning Post)....Greg Torode  
...When US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta leaves Singapore, he heads straight to Hanoi for his first visit – and the issue of ongoing US access to Cam Ranh is expected to surface.
10. **Panetta Open To Military Relations With Myanmar**  
(Arizona Daily Star (Tucson))....Associated Press  
Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told Asian leaders Saturday that the U.S. is open to forging better military ties with Myanmar, if political and human rights reforms there continue.
11. **US, China Relations Key Topic At Defense Meeting**  
(Yahoo.com)....Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press  
...The key, Panetta said, is for the U.S. and China to develop the ability to communicate when disputes arise so that they can be resolved peacefully.
12. **Hawaii Is A Major Hub For Military, Defense Head Says**  
(Honolulu Star-Advertiser)....Dan Nakaso  
Panetta reaffirms the state's role to civilians and service members.
13. **Pentagon Chief: Vote In Lame Duck On Defense Cuts 'Unacceptable'**  
(DEFCON Hill (TheHill.com))....Carlo Munoz  
Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said the move by lawmakers to delay action on automatic defense cuts until after the election is "unacceptable" and "dangerous."

## MIDEAST

14. **Putin Fears Civil War But Rejects Intervention In Syria**  
(New York Times)....Nicholas Kulich and Neil MacFarquhar  
President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia said Friday that he rejected outside military intervention as an answer to the increasingly horrific bloodshed in Syria, and the Kremlin publicly sided with President Bashar al-Assad of Syria in blaming Mr. Assad's armed rebel opponents for a massacre there last week that incited world outrage.
15. **In Syria, 12 Slain In Latest Reported Massacre**  
(Los Angeles Times)....Patrick J. McDonnell and Alexandra Sandels  
Evidence of a new massacre--the third in a week--surfaced Friday in Syria as a United Nations human rights panel called for an "international, transparent, independent and prompt investigation" of mass killings last week in the township of Houla that left more than 100 people dead, mostly women and children slaughtered in their homes.
16. **U.S. Publishes Satellite Images Of Syria**  
(Reuters.com)....Mark Hosenball, Reuters  
A U.S. government website on Friday published what it said was photographic evidence of mass graves and attacks on civilian areas by Syrian government forces.

17. **Officials Say U.S., Israel Were Behind Cyberattack On Iran**  
(*Washington Post*)....Ellen Nakashima and Joby Warrick  
Computer worm damaged centrifuges at nuclear facility.
18. **Pentagon Says Yemen Not 'Outgunned' By Al-Qaida**  
(*NationalJournal.com*)....Kevin Baron  
After providing Yemen with hundreds of millions of dollars in small arms and other military assistance in recent years, the Pentagon says it does not believe the country's military is "outgunned" by al-Qaida.
19. **Egypt's Mubarak Sentenced To Life In Prison**  
(*Reuters.com*)....Reuters  
Deposed Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak was sentenced to life in prison on Saturday for ordering the killing of protesters during the uprising that swept him from power last year.
20. **Divided Egypt Awaits Verdict In Mubarak Trial**  
(*Wall Street Journal*)....Matt Bradley  
The verdict in former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's murder and corruption trial is expected on Saturday, at an especially volatile moment in the country's transition from his reign.
21. **Ignoring Critics, Iraq's Leader Consolidates Power**  
(*NPR*)....Peter Kenyon  
...There are growing fears that the prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, is going too far in his attempt to neutralize his opposition. Now even some of Maliki's political allies are threatening to bolt, and that raises concerns about the durability of Iraq's young democratic structure.

## AFGHANISTAN

22. **NATO: 14 Insurgents Die In Attack On Coalition Base**  
(*Arizona Daily Star (Tucson)*)....Associated Press  
Taliban insurgents detonated a truck bomb, then tried to storm a NATO base Friday in eastern Afghanistan, but coalition forces repelled the attack, killing 14 militants, officials said.
23. **NATO: 4 Aid Workers Rescued From Afghan Insurgents**  
(*Yahoo.com*)....Rahim Faiez, Associated Press  
Two female foreign aid workers and their two Afghan colleagues were rescued in a pre-dawn raid Saturday after being held by militants for 11 days in a cave in northern Afghanistan, the U.S.-led military coalition said.
24. **Rape Case, In Public, Cites Abuse By Armed Groups In Afghanistan**  
(*New York Times*)....Alissa J. Rubin  
Lal Bibi is an 18-year-old rape victim who has taken a step rarely seen in Afghanistan: she has spoken out publicly against her tormentors, local militiamen, including several who have been identified as members of the American-trained Afghan Local Police.
25. **EU Freezes Cash For U.N.'s Afghan Police Fund**  
(*Wall Street Journal*)....Dion Nissenbaum  
...Lofta staff have told Western officials and a monitoring committee of Afghan and international officials that U.N. officials had abused the fund's \$2.2 million procurement budget, paid salaries to thousands of nonexistent police officers and created high-paying positions for people with close ties to Afghan leaders, according to Western officials.
26. **Afghanistan's Rambo**  
(*AlJazeera.com*)....Bernard Smith  
...The other police officers we met in Kajaki and elsewhere across this country are not motivated like Rambo. They just need the money. There is no real loyalty to the leadership of one of the most corrupt countries on earth. So, when

the foreign troops leave, it is hard to imagine poorly paid and poorly equipped police officers standing and fighting against determined Taliban.

## MILITARY COMMISSIONS

### 27. 9/11 Defenders Send Mixed Message On Whether To Split Up Guantanamo Trial

(*Miami Herald*)....Carol Rosenberg

Only one of five defense teams argued in favor of splitting off an accused 9/11 conspirator from the joint prosecution of alleged Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed. And they represent Mohammed's nephew.

## DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

### 28. Pinal Policies Spur Pentagon To Order Military-Gear Crackdown

(*Arizona Republic (Phoenix)*)....Dennis Wagner

The federal agency overseeing the distribution of surplus military gear to police agencies has launched a nationwide effort to reform the program in the aftermath of an Arizona Republic report on apparent abuses at the Pinal County Sheriff's Office.

### 29. Budget Austerity Gives Financial Managers A Chance To Shine

(*GovExec.com*)....Charles S. Clark

Defense Department leaders preparing for historic budget cuts should tap the expertise of their financial management executives, who see the current challenges as their moment to "step up to the plate and shine," stated a new survey conducted by the American Society of Military Comptrollers and Grant Thornton LLP.

### 30. Pentagon Wants To Fast-Track Genetic Engineering

(*NextGov.com*)....Dawn Lim

The Pentagon's venture capital arm awarded \$17.8 million to seven research institutions in May to develop basic genetic building blocks and other easy-to-deploy biological tools to make it easier for scientists to create new medicines and materials.

## ARMY

### 31. Steroid Charges Against Bales Could Alter His Defense Strategy

(*Tacoma News Tribune*)....Adam Ashton

The Joint Base Lewis-McChord soldier who allegedly massacred Afghan civilians in March faces new charges that he abused steroids and consumed alcohol at an outpost in Kandahar Province.

### 32. More Psychological Tests Urged For Sergeant Charged In 5 Killings

(*Nation Now (LATimes.com)*)....Kim Murphy

Army Sgt. John M. Russell declined to enter a plea at his arraignment Friday on charges of killing five fellow service members at a combat stress clinic in Iraq, as defense lawyers pushed for new psychological evaluations that could help forestall the death penalty.

## NAVY

### 33. USS Mississippi To Be Commissioned Today

(*Biloxi (MS) Sun Herald*)....Michael Newsom

The \$2 billion USS Mississippi nuclear submarine will be commissioned today at the Port of Pascagoula in a public event that is expected to draw thousands of spectators and a host of dignitaries.

### 34. Overhauled Ponce Embarks On Duty As Floating Base

(*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*)....Corinne Reilly

For the first time, the Navy on Friday deployed a ship to the Middle East to serve as a designated floating staging base, answering a request that commanders have been making for more than 20 years.



35. **Navy Creates Riverine Force Command In Va. Beach**

(*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*)....Brock Vergakis, Associated Press

The Navy set up a new command on Friday for patrolling inland waterways at home and abroad, recreating a Vietnam-era force that had to be resurrected for the war in Iraq.

## AIR FORCE

36. **U.S. Air Force Approves Concept For Future ICBM, Eyes Navy Collaboration**

(*GlobalSecurityNewswire.org*)....Elaine M. Grossman

A senior-level U.S. Air Force panel has approved a document that formally articulates the need for a new ground-based missile system to replace today's nuclear-armed Minuteman 3 arsenal.

37. **Female Fighter Wing Commander Breaking Ground For Her Gender**

(*Fayetteville (NC) Observer*)....Henry Cuninghame

...This is a week of milestones for women in the Air Force. On Tuesday, Lt. Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger will become the Air Force's first female four-star general as commander of Air Force Materiel Command in Ohio.

## WHITE HOUSE

38. **As Hiring Slumps, Obama Presses Jobs For Veterans**

(*Minneapolis Star Tribune*)....Baird Helgeson and Jennifer Brooks

...While at Honeywell, Obama announced his new "We Can't Wait" initiative, aimed at helping thousands of service men and women get the civilian credentials and licenses they need to score jobs in manufacturing and other high-demand industries such as health care and trucking.

## CONGRESS

39. **Lawmaker Wants More Info On Burn Pit Exposures**

(*ArmyTimes.com*)....Patricia Kime

A Missouri lawmaker who has pushed for creating a registry of military personnel who worked near open-air burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan has asked the Pentagon for details regarding an April 2011 Army memo, which said poor air quality at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, could affect the long-term health of those stationed nearby.

## PAKISTAN

40. **Pakistan: Doctor's Conviction Appealed**

(*New York Times*)....Declan Walsh

Lawyers for Shakil Afridi, the Pakistani doctor who helped the C.I.A. find Osama bin Laden, lodged an appeal on Friday to overturn his conviction.

## ASIA/PACIFIC

41. **Official Suspected Of Spying For U.S. Said To Be Held In China**

(*New York Times*)....Edward Wong

Reacting to what could be the biggest intelligence breach in China in years, the Chinese government detained a security official early this year who is suspected of passing information to the United States, a person with knowledge of the case said Friday.

42. **From A Ferry, A Chinese Fast-Attack Boat**

(*Reuters.com*)....David Lague, Reuters

...The joint venture, Seabus International Co, began designing high-speed aluminum catamaran ferries and sea rescue vessels for China's inland and coastal waters, according to the company's website. That's when a third winner emerged. Attracted to the performance of these fast, stable and relatively cheap vessels, the Chinese military adopted the technology as it began replacing its aging missile boats that had been derived from an obsolete Soviet design.

## AFRICA

43. **Al Qaida's Al Shabab May Be On Last Legs In Somalia After Key Military Defeats**  
(*McClatchy Newspapers (mcclatchydc.com)*)....Alan Boswell and Mohammed Yusuf, McClatchy Newspapers  
With the recent loss of two key transit points, al Qaida's Somali affiliate, for the first time in years, is facing what military analysts say is the likely end of the group's once-powerful rule over much of Somalia

## EUROPE

44. **Kosovo: Serbs Clash With Peacekeepers**  
(*New York Times*)....Associated Press  
NATO-led peacekeepers on Friday clashed with Serb protesters seeking to prevent international troops from removing their roadblocks near the town of Zvecan in northern Kosovo. At least four rioters and two soldiers were injured.

## LEGAL AFFAIRS

45. **Court Presses U.S. On A Terror Listing**  
(*New York Times*)....Associated Press  
A federal appeals court on Friday gave Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton four months to decide whether a group opposed to Iran should be removed from a list of foreign terrorist organizations.
46. **Appeals Tosses Portion Of Ex-Gitmo Prosecutor's Free Speech Lawsuit**  
(*Miami Herald*)....Frederic J. Frommer, Associated Press  
A divided federal appeals court has thrown out a lawsuit by the former chief military prosecutor at Guantanamo Bay against his former boss at the Library of Congress, who fired the ex-prosecutor for publicly criticizing the Obama administration over detainee policy.
47. **Court Rules Against Veteran In Colonoscopy Case**  
(*ArmyTimes.com*)....Kristin M. Hall, Associated Press  
Years after thousands of veterans learned they may have been exposed to infections at government-run hospitals, many are still mired in legal battles seeking compensation from the Veterans Affairs Department.
48. **Ex-Blackwater Executives Finger CIA In Weapons Trial**  
(*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*)....Bill Sizemore  
Five ex-Blackwater executives, facing federal firearms charges in connection with a gift of weaponry to a Middle Eastern monarch, have come up with a new explanation for how it occurred: It was a CIA operation.

## COMMENTARY

49. **Enough Talk, Obama**  
(*SmallWarsJournal.com*)....Robert Haddick  
In my Foreign Policy column, I discuss how the Pentagon can provide options to support U.S. diplomacy over Syria, and wonder why it can't do the same regarding Iran.
50. **Scour Report: Air Force Conclusions Need Thorough Vetting**  
(*Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*)....Editorial  
The announcement Thursday that a new Air Force report supports moving Eielson Air Force Base's squadron of F-16s to Anchorage shouldn't come as much of a surprise. Neither should it lead to acceptance. It's a report by Air Force personnel about something the Air Force wants to do.
51. **Dissent Over War Isn't Disrespecting The Troops**  
(*San Francisco Chronicle*)....David Sirota

Out of all the status-quo-sustaining fables we create out of military history, none are as enduring as Vietnam War myths. Desperate to cobble a pro-war cautionary tale out of a blood-soaked tragedy, we keep reimagining the loss in Southeast Asia not as a policy failure but as the product of an America that dishonored returning troops.

52. **Iran's Nuclear Program -- (Letter)**

(*New York Times*)....Alireza Miryousefi

...Each party has the sovereign right to define its national energy policies in accordance with its national requirements. Iran is fully committed to its obligations under the treaty and is firmly determined to exercise its rights.

53. **On Hiring Well-Qualified Veterans And Others, Too -- (Letter)**

(*Wall Street Journal*)....Ed Hamberger

...Freight rail has a long history, stretching back to the 1800s, of hiring men and women from the armed services. Between 20% and 25% of the employees at the largest freight rail companies in America are veterans.

## SATURDAY READING

54. **Battleship Earth**

(*ForeignPolicy.com*)....Cara Parks and Joshua E. Keating

Does the Pentagon have the right weapons to fight off an alien invasion?

New York Times  
June 2, 2012  
Pg. 7

## 1. Panetta Outlines New Weaponry For Pacific

By Jane Perlez

SINGAPORE — Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta, seeking to persuade a skeptical audience of Asian officials here on Saturday that the United States is committed to enhancing its military presence in the region despite coming budget constraints, unveiled the most detailed inventory to date of planned new weapons for the region.

The Navy, Mr. Panetta said, would reconfigure its forces from a 50-50 split between the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific to 60 percent of the Navy's assets assigned to the Pacific Ocean.

The renewed emphasis on the Pacific would involve six aircraft carriers, and a majority of the Navy's cruisers, destroyers, littoral combat ships and submarines. These would be fortified by an increase in the number and size of military exercises in the Pacific, and a greater number of port visits.

Mr. Panetta outlined the inventory in a speech to Asian defense ministers, uniformed officers, analysts and contractors at the annual meeting here of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The list did not contain previously undisclosed weapons systems but represented a fuller public description and compilation of what the Obama administration has called the "pivot" toward Asia, a word that some Asian countries have complained is confusing. In deference to the unease, Mr. Panetta referred to a "rebalancing" toward Asia.

"Make no mistake — in a steady, deliberate and sustainable way —

the United States military is rebalancing and brings enhanced capabilities to this vital region," Mr. Panetta said.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies, he said, projected that for the first time this year, total military spending by all countries in Asia would surpass that of all military expenditures in Europe.

Some nations represented at the gathering have expressed skepticism that given the budget demands in Washington, the Obama administration would be able to deliver on its promises.

Others have questioned the wisdom of the stepped-up military emphasis, arguing that it appears intended to force a confrontation with China, a situation feared by many countries in the region, all of which enjoy strong trade ties with China.

As Obama administration officials have said in the past, Mr. Panetta insisted the renewed American interest in the Asia Pacific region was not aimed at China. But few in the audience said they believed that.

"What worries us is having to choose — we don't want to be put in that position," said the foreign minister of Indonesia, Marty Natalegawa. "The Pacific is sufficiently accommodating to provide not only for the role of China and the United States but of emerging powers, too."

Despite Mr. Panetta's insistence that the planned military increase in the Asia-Pacific region would be protected from the \$500 billion cut ordered by President Obama in the Pentagon budget over the next 10 years, some delegates at the conference said the buildup was vulnerable to automatic spending cuts that could come into effect early next year.

In an agreement made between the White House

and Congress last year, an additional \$600 billion in cuts to the military over the next decade, under a process known as sequestration, will be required if Congress and the White House fail to reach agreement on an alternative measure to cut the budget deficit after the presidential election.

"The administration continues to say it is bolstering the military presence in Asia, but if sequestering takes place you have to believe it will affect budgets and deployments in Asia-Pacific," said Bonnie Glaser, a delegate and senior fellow of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Among the specific new weapons Mr. Panetta mentioned were the advanced fifth-generation aircraft known as the Joint Strike Fighter, the enhanced Virginia-class fast-attack submarine that can operate in shallow and deep waters, new electronic warfare and communications capabilities, and improved precision weapons.

Such weapons would give the United States the freedom to maneuver in areas where access was denied, Mr. Panetta said. This was an indirect reference to China's efforts to develop an "anti-access, area-denial" policy using diesel electric attack submarines and other weapons that curb the United States ability to get close to China's shores.

The new panoply of weapons specially designed for the distances of the Pacific included an aerial-refueling tanker, a bomber, and advanced maritime patrol and anti-submarine warfare aircraft, Mr. Panetta said.

Mr. Panetta was accompanied by an unusually heavyweight American delegation that included the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey; Adm. Samuel J. Locklear, the commander of the United States Pacific Command; and William J. Burns, deputy secretary of state.

In contrast, China sent a much weaker lineup than last year when the defense minister, Gen. Liang Guanglie, attended. The top Chinese official at the conference on Saturday was Lt. Gen. Ren Haiquan, the vice president of the Academy of Military Science of the People's Liberation Army.

The reason for the relatively low level of Chinese representation was a subject of wide speculation. Some delegates said they thought the domestic political uncertainties involving the senior Communist Party leadership party leadership kept senior officials at home.

John Chipman, the chief executive of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, told the gathering after Mr. Panetta spoke that the Chinese had informed him last month that domestic priorities had made it difficult for them to send a full delegation.

Washington Post  
June 2, 2012  
Pg. 7

## 2. Panetta Reveals Plan Focusing On Pacific

*In Singapore speech, defense chief seeks to lend heft to shift to Asia*

By William Wan

SINGAPORE — The United States' top defense official unveiled for his Asian counterparts on Saturday a plan for redirecting the U.S. military's focus toward the Pacific, at the start of a week-long trip seen as crucial to the Obama administration's broader strategic pivot to Asia.

By 2020, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta told a



conference of defense officials from 28 Asia-Pacific countries, the United States will have 60 percent of its naval forces in the Pacific and 40 percent in the Atlantic, in contrast to the current 50-50 split.

The strategic shift to Asia aims to use traditional allegiances, as well as budding partnerships with countries such as Vietnam and India, to offset China's rising military power and assertiveness. But since it was announced in November, the new policy has drawn questions from Asian leaders about what the pivot means, how substantive and permanent it will be and how it may affect countries caught in the struggle between the United States and China for regional influence.

On Saturday, Panetta sought to allay the doubts about the policy that were spurred by a lack of specifics and by looming budget cuts. While he did not provide the level of detail many have demanded, the planned shift in the balance of U.S. naval forces was a concrete new takeaway, clearly intended to lend both symbolic and strategic heft to the pivot to Asia.

But part of the upgrade to a 60 percent Pacific presence will probably be achieved through targeted attrition, with the weight falling in the Atlantic region. The U.S. fleet now stands at roughly 285 battleships, with about half deployed or assigned to the Pacific. Defense officials declined to say exactly how many ships will be deployed in the region by 2020 but insisted that even with cuts, the number would be higher than it is now.

Panetta also pledged to expand U.S. military exercises in the Pacific and port visits in areas such as the Indian Ocean. And he referred to a handful of systems being developed with the Pacific in mind, including a new bomber, an aerial

refueling tanker and advanced anti-submarine aircraft.

Upcoming defense cuts will limit any increase of Pacific assets, with \$487 billion in cuts expected over the next decade and an additional \$500 billion possible unless Congress acts by raising revenue or shrinking other parts of the U.S. budget.

But in comments to reporters, Panetta argued that the new Asia strategy could still have significant impact.

"The budget does encompass what we need," Panetta said, noting that the new strategy entails less expensive ways of projecting U.S. power into Asia, including military exchanges and short rotations of American troops in strategic countries to shore up alliances.

"We're moving away from the Cold War strategy where you build permanent bases and basically impose our power on the region," Panetta said.

The Pentagon recently launched one such rotational deployment in Australia, and others are being discussed in the Philippines and elsewhere, although defense officials declined to specify additional countries.

One key aspect of the plan, Panetta said, is building multilateral ties through economic and diplomatic avenues, as well as militarily. The advantage of working with several other countries at once is the ability to force Beijing to deal with smaller countries in Asia as a collective and to prevent China from bullying them individually when disputes arise, experts say.

"This is not about containment of China," Panetta said. "This is about bringing China into that relationship to try to deal with common challenges we all face," such as humanitarian assistance and

proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Taking a multilateral approach means overcoming significant hurdles that have kept some Asian countries from cooperating in the past, said Dean Cheng, an Asian military analyst at the Heritage Foundation.

"These are countries that often don't like or trust each other. They have unsettled borders, historical grievances. Some of them can't even agree on basic things like what to call this sea or that island," Cheng said. "But you need that cooperation because there's nothing in the region equivalent to NATO."

Panetta's message also included a note of caution to some allies to not misinterpret an expanded U.S. presence as cover for more aggressive actions.

In recent weeks, the Philippines, especially, has taken a more bellicose tone in its fight with China over territories in the South China Sea. The area, rich in oil and natural gas, is increasingly the subject of an acrimonious dispute among several countries attending the Singapore conference.

"We do not take sides on the competing territorial claims," Panetta told those countries in his address, "but we do want this dispute resolved peacefully."

China — the country claiming the largest portion of the sea and also attracting the sharpest criticism — sent a low-ranking delegation to the conference. The snub was intended as a signal, said Ernie Bower, a Southeast Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"Because the conference is so important to the Singaporeans, it's basically China telling them, 'You guys need to do more to control your

ASEAN brethren — Philippines and Vietnam,' " Bower said. "There's clear nervousness over how Philippines are playing their hand."

The Obama administration's overall Asia strategy was developed out of a belief that China responds best to a position of strength, when the United States has other countries working with it. According to senior U.S. officials, the policy reflects an intense study of historical hegemonic shake-ups: the rise of the United States as a global power; Germany's rise in Europe after World War I; Athens and Sparta. The idea was to turn to history for answers as the United States confronts the next rising superpower: China.

While the "Pivot to Asia" policy last year was meant to reassure Asian allies, many Chinese leaders interpreted it as a U.S. conspiracy to interfere with China's regional goals and slow its development. The notion of a pivot also prompted concern among European and Middle East leaders that U.S. attention to their regions would wane.

As a result, the administration has discarded the word "pivot" in favor of "Rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific."

That new term was the title of Panetta's speech on Saturday and a message he will try to hammer home as he continues on to Vietnam and India.

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June 2, 2012  
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### 3. U.S. Plans Naval Shift Toward Asia

*Pacific to Host 60% of Navy by 2020, Defense Secretary Says, Rejecting View That Move Is Designed to Contain China*  
By Julian E. Barnes

SINGAPORE—The Pentagon will shift the bulk of its naval assets to Asia within the next decade and increase the number of military exercises it conducts in the region, according to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, in the most tangible sign yet of the renewed U.S. emphasis on Asia.

Under the plan, the U.S. would shift cruisers, destroyers, submarines and other warships so that 60% of them will be based in the Pacific by 2020. Currently, the U.S. Navy fleet of 285 ships is evenly split between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

The announcement comes after an agreement to rotate U.S. Marines through Australia and amid talks with the Philippines regarding a similar arrangement there.

Mr. Panetta, who disclosed the naval plans in an address to an annual international security conference here, stressed that the rising U.S. force levels shouldn't be seen as a threat to China but as a stabilizing influence in a rapidly developing region.

Nonetheless, the step to globally reposition the U.S. Navy would represent a substantial peacetime military shift that is likely to be favored by Asian countries that are nervous as China increasingly flexes its economic and territorial muscle.

"Our forward-deployed forces are the core of our commitment to the region and we will...sharpen the technological edge of those forces," Mr. Panetta said.

Mr. Panetta's announcement sends the clearest signal yet that the rebalancing of U.S. strategic focus, first announced by President Barack Obama last year, is real, said Chris Johnson, a scholar at the Center

for Strategic and International Studies.

"That 60-40 number has been very carefully thought out," he said. "It doesn't represent a massive swing, but it does make a statement."

Despite budget cuts that are projected to shrink Pentagon spending by \$487 billion over the next 10 years, the U.S. will develop new weapons to help shore up the U.S. presence in Asia, Mr. Panetta said.

Under current defense plans, the overall number of Navy ships is due to decrease over the next decade as older ships are replaced with pricier, more advanced vessels. Even so, the absolute number of ships would increase in Asia, defense officials said, as ships are drawn down from the Atlantic Fleet and others reassigned to the Pacific.

Navy officials closely guard the location of their vessels, and defense officials wouldn't say what parts of the Atlantic fleet would be reduced. But with tensions remaining high in the Persian Gulf, it is more likely that Naval forces would leave the Mediterranean and other European waters.

In Asia, new submarines, stealthy fighter planes and improved electronic warfare systems "will provide our forces with freedom of maneuver" even when access is threatened, Mr. Panetta said.

China is building its own stealth fighters and ship-killing missiles as part of an effort to force the U.S. to operate further from its shores. Although the U.S. officials eschew publicly identifying Beijing as a potential adversary, military officials have a wary eye on China's military buildup and constantly push top People's Liberation Army commanders to provide more transparency about their plans.

Mr. Panetta said the U.S. isn't trying to "contain" China.

"I reject that view entirely," he said during the speech to the Shangri-La Dialogue. "Our efforts to renew and intensify our involvement in Asia are fully compatible...with the development and growth of China."

The U.S. focus on Asia, Mr. Panetta said, would benefit Beijing and advance both Chinese and American prosperity. U.S. officials have repeatedly stressed how China reaps large economic gains from the U.S. Navy's mission of keeping key routes open and safe for international trade.

Still, Mr. Panetta spent much of his address outlining U.S. plans to work more closely with allies and partners in Asia, many of whom view China warily.

Competing territorial claims in the South China Sea and elsewhere in the Pacific have aggravated tensions between China and countries including the Philippines, Vietnam and Japan.

Last year, the U.S. Pacific Command conducted 172 military exercises with 24 different countries, a number Mr. Panetta promised would increase in the coming years.

As part of the effort to expand those exercises, the U.S. is rotating troops into Asia to conduct training with American allies and partners. Mr. Panetta said that in addition to Australia and the Philippines, the U.S. is looking at other countries, which he didn't name, as possible partners for rotational bases. The new bases aren't designed for a permanent American presence. In Darwin, Australia, for example, Marines train for a short time before boarding ships to visit and train with other Asian nations.

A decade ago, the Pentagon was making plans to drastically

reduce its military presence on the Korean peninsula. Some forces were withdrawn and others repositioned. But since then, tensions have risen on the peninsula and brought a renewed U.S. focus on Asia. Mr. Panetta promised Saturday that the Pentagon would "maintain the U.S. Army's significant presence in Korea."

In a news conference late Thursday, as Mr. Panetta traveled to Singapore from Hawaii, he said the future U.S. presence in Asia would look very different than the deployments of decades past.

"We are moving away from the Cold War strategy where you build permanent bases and basically impose our power on the region," he said. "We are moving toward an innovative and creative relationship."

Los Angeles Times

June 2, 2012

Pg. A1

#### **4. Panetta Tries To Reassure Asian Allies**

By David S. Cloud

SINGAPORE--As the U.S. seeks to reassert its role as a Pacific power after a decade of distant ground wars, the Obama administration has run into a problem: It's hard to convince allies and rivals that the enhanced military commitment to Asia is sufficiently serious.

The Pentagon will replace older warships and add eight new ships to the Pacific fleet by 2020, but it plans only modest increases in other U.S. forces to a vast region that is increasingly anxious about China's growing political and military clout and North Korea's nuclear arsenal.

In a policy speech Saturday at an annual gathering of Asian defense officials, U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta sought to reassure allies that the "pivot" to the western Pacific



and East Asia that President Obama promised during a visit to the region in November represented a substantial new effort, and not political spin.

The Defense secretary urged his counterparts not to focus on the figures alone, but to look at America's renewed commitment to protecting some of the world's most vital shipping lanes.

"I would encourage you to look at the increasing technological capabilities of our forces as much as their numbers in judging the full measure of our security presence and the measure of our commitment," Panetta said at the conference.

He said advanced new weapons systems -- including F-35 fighter jets now under development and fast-attack Virginia-class submarines -- would provide "our forces with freedom of maneuver in areas in which our access and freedom of action may be threatened."

The U.S. military largely withdrew from Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War ended in the mid-1970s and major U.S. Navy and Air Force bases closed in the Philippines in the early 1990s.

The return to the region is still small-scale by those standards.

As part of the plan, the Navy will base four new lightly armed ships in Singapore. They will operate in the Strait of Malacca, a strategic choke point for global transit of oil and trade, and the energy-rich South China Sea, where territorial jostling between China and other countries has caused tension.

Patrick M. Cronin, an Asia security expert at the Center for a New American Security, a Washington-based think tank, said Japan and other longtime U.S. allies worried that possible defense cuts would make it harder for Washington to play

the stepped-up security role that Panetta described.

"It's complicated when the Chinese see [the pivot] as more real than your allies and partners," Cronin said. "Allies always want more reassurance."

U.S. officials say China has moved to counter America's military edge in the Pacific and has developed anti-ship missiles, is developing an advanced fighter and is planning to launch its first aircraft carrier. But Beijing remains far behind Washington in its ability to project military power.

Washington's refocus on the region is carefully calibrated not to upset that balance, or to alarm deficit hawks in Congress.

With major cuts expected in the U.S. defense budget over the next decade, the Pentagon plans to increase the Pacific fleet to 58 warships from 50, according to two Pentagon officials who discussed the plans on condition of anonymity.

In addition, Panetta said that more than 40 Navy ships in the Pacific would be replaced with "more capable and technologically advanced ships" over the next five years.

But the number of warships "forward deployed" at any one time -- operating in Asian waters rather than moored in San Diego or other U.S. ports -- will grow by only four, from 23 to 27, by 2020. The reason: It is far less expensive to base troops, ships and planes in U.S. ports than abroad.

The six aircraft carriers now assigned to the Pacific will drop to five this year. An additional carrier, now under construction, is scheduled to enter the fleet in 2014, returning the number to six.

Several hundred Marines have begun rotating into northern Australia on a training

mission, and the force may grow to as many as 2,000 by 2016. But American troop levels in South Korea, Japan and elsewhere in the region are likely to remain flat.

Panetta, who has been invited to visit China this year, emphasized that the new strategy is not aimed at confronting China, whose defense minister and other top officials skipped this year's conference after attending last year.

"Some view the increased emphasis by the United States on Asia-Pacific as some kind of challenge to China. I strongly reject that view," Panetta said. The "increased U.S. involvement in this region will benefit China as it advances our shared security and prosperity."

Yet after he leaves Singapore, Panetta will visit Vietnam and India, two countries with uneasy relations with China, in what U.S. officials describe as an effort to deepen U.S. military ties with both allies.

Vietnam says that Chinese ships sabotaged oil explorations in its waters twice last year by deliberately cutting undersea cables, a charge that China denied. And China has competing territorial claims in the South China Sea with Malaysia and Brunei.

Some Pentagon officials worry that the new U.S. effort will embolden the Philippines and other countries that have defense treaties with Washington to be more assertive in disputes with China over seabeds believed to hold large oil and gas deposits, possibly sparking confrontations that U.S. officials want to avoid.

Panetta said that the U.S. was "paying close attention" to a standoff between Chinese and Philippine ships on Scarborough Shoal, a valuable

fishing ground in the South China Sea that both countries have claimed. The area is known in China as Huangyan Island.

"We do not take sides when it comes to the competing territorial claims, but we do want this dispute resolved peacefully and in a manner consistent with international law," he said.

Stripes.com

June 1, 2012

## 5. Navy To Base Majority Of Fleet In Pacific By 2020, Panetta Says

By Jennifer Hlad, Stars and Stripes

SINGAPORE — The Navy will shift 10 percent of its surface ships and submarines to the Pacific over the next eight years, moving toward a 60/40 split between the Pacific and Atlantic by 2020, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told leaders at the Shangri-La Security Dialogue on Saturday.

That means six aircraft carriers, along with a majority of Navy cruisers, destroyers, Littoral Combat Ships and submarines, will be based in the Pacific region by the end of the decade--including the LCSs that will be forward deployed to Singapore. Right now, the Navy's fleet is split roughly 50/50 between the Pacific and the Atlantic.

The U.S. will also increase the number and size of military exercises in the Pacific and more widely distribute port visits, including in the Indian Ocean region.

Additionally, the Army will maintain a "significant presence in Korea," even as the overall size of ground forces decreases, Panetta said.

Panetta is traveling throughout Asia this week to talk about the U.S. strategy in

the Pacific. He will travel to Vietnam and India after meeting with the leaders of several Asian nations in Singapore.

Panetta continued to stress the importance of building partnerships in the Pacific region, calling the U.S.-Japan alliance "a cornerstone of regional security and prosperity in the 21st century."

And, he said, as the U.S. works to strengthen existing ties to allies like Australia, Singapore and the Philippines, the Pentagon will also work to enhance relationships with Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Vietnam and New Zealand.

Panetta also said he will soon travel to China as part of an effort to build a "healthy, stable, reliable and continuous military-to-military relationship with China."

China and the U.S. have agreed "on the need to address responsible behavior in cyberspace and in outer space," he said, and will seek to work together on other shared challenges.

"I know that many in this region and across the world are closely watching the U.S.-China relationship," he said. "Some view the increased emphasis by the United States on Asia-Pacific as a challenge to China. I reject that view entirely. Our effort to renew and intensify our involvement in Asia is fully compatible with the development and growth of China."

Yahoo.com  
June 2, 2012

## **6. US To Shift Most Of Naval Fleet To Pacific By 2020**

By Dan De Luce, Agence France-Presse

The United States will shift the majority of its naval fleet to the Pacific by 2020 as part of a new strategic focus on Asia,

Pentagon chief Leon Panetta told a summit in Singapore.

The decision to deploy more ships to the Pacific Ocean, along with expanding a network of military partnerships, was part of a "steady, deliberate" effort to bolster the US role in an area deemed vital to America's future, he said on Saturday.

And he insisted the switch in strategy was not a challenge to China, saying it was compatible with the development and growth of the fast-growing Asian power.

Panetta said "by 2020, the Navy will re-posture its forces from today's roughly 50/50 percent split between the Pacific and the Atlantic to about a 60/40 split between those oceans."

"That will include six aircraft carriers in this region, a majority of our cruisers, destroyers, littoral combat ships, and submarines."

The US Navy currently has a fleet of 285 ships, with about half of those vessels deployed or assigned to the Pacific.

Although the total size of the overall fleet may decline in coming years depending on budget pressures, Pentagon officials said the number of naval ships in the Pacific would rise in absolute terms.

The United States also planned to increase the number of military exercises in the Pacific and to conduct more port visits over a wider area extending to the Indian Ocean.

Panetta was speaking to mainly Asian defence officials and officers from 27 countries at the Shangri-La Dialogue, a summit organised by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The speech appeared designed to reassure allies worried about Beijing's more assertive stance in the South China Sea that Washington will back its much-publicised

"pivot" to Asia with concrete action.

Panetta said budget woes in Washington would not affect the plan to tilt towards Asia, which would take years to fully realise.

The United States planned new investments in capabilities needed "to project power and operate in the Asia-Pacific," including radar-evading fighter jets, a new long-distance bomber, electronic warfare and missile defences, he said.

"But make no mistake -- in a steady, deliberate, and sustainable way -- the United States military is rebalancing and is bringing an enhanced capability and development to this vital region," he added.

Military commanders are revising doctrine to take into account new weapons that "could deny our forces access to key sea routes and lines of communication."

Amid a growing US-China rivalry, American officials privately acknowledge the push for a larger military footprint is meant to reinforce US diplomacy when confronting Beijing's assertive stance in the South China Sea.

But Panetta insisted that Washington wanted dialogue with Beijing and not conflict.

"Some view the increased emphasis by the United States on the Asia-Pacific region as some kind of challenge to China. I reject that view entirely," he said.

"Our effort to renew and intensify our involvement in Asia is fully compatible... with the development and growth of China. Indeed, increased US involvement in this region will benefit China as it advances our shared security and prosperity for the future."

But in laying out core US principles in the region, Panetta made clear Washington opposed any attempt by Beijing

to make unilateral moves in its push for territorial rights in the South China Sea.

Disputes had to be resolved through agreed-upon rules among all countries and based on international law, he said.

Panetta also said the United States is "paying close attention to the situation in Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea," where the Philippines and China have been locked in an argument over territorial rights.

The Philippines is among a number of countries with overlapping territorial claims in the potentially resource-rich South China Sea.

Panetta alluded to US concerns over cyber intrusions that Washington has blamed on China, saying that in talks with Beijing the two sides had "agreed on the need to address responsible behaviour in cyberspace and in outer-space."

Reuters.com  
June 2, 2012

## **7. U.S. Will Put More Warships In Asia: Panetta**

By David Alexander, Reuters

SINGAPORE--The United States will move the majority of its warships to the Asia-Pacific in coming years and keep six aircraft carriers in the region, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said on Saturday, giving the first details of a new U.S. military strategy.

Speaking at an annual security forum in Singapore, Panetta sought to dispel the notion that the shift in U.S. focus to Asia was designed to contain China's emergence as a global power.

He acknowledged differences between the world's two largest economies on a range of issues, including the South China Sea.



"We're not naive about the relationship and neither is China," Panetta told the Shangri-La Dialogue attended by senior civilian and military leaders from about 30 Asia-Pacific nations.

"We also both understand that there really is no other alternative but for both of us to engage and to improve our communications and to improve our (military-to-military) relationships," he said. "That's the kind of mature relationship that we ultimately have to have with China."

Some Chinese officials have been critical of the U.S. shift of military emphasis to Asia, seeing it as an attempt to fence in the country and frustrate Beijing's territorial claims.

Panetta's comments came at the start of a seven-day visit to the region to explain to allies and partners the practical meaning of the U.S. military strategy unveiled in January that calls for rebalancing American forces to focus on the Pacific.

The trip, which includes stops in Vietnam and India, comes at a time of renewed tensions over competing sovereignty claims in the South China Sea, with the Philippines, a major U.S. ally, and China in a standoff over the Scarborough Shoal near the Philippine coast.

The South China Sea is a flashpoint but, with about 90 percent of global trade moving by sea, protecting the teeming shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean and the Strait of Malacca is equally vital.

"Maritime freedoms cannot be the exclusive prerogative of a few," Indian Defence Minister A.K. Antony told the forum. "We must find the balance between the rights of nations and the freedoms of the world community."

Overlapping maritime claims - often fuelled by hunger for oil, gas, fish and other resources - are compounded by threats from pirates and militants, delegates said.

#### **Critical role**

China has downgraded its representation to the Shangri-La Dialogue from last year, when Defence Minister Liang Guanglie attended and met then-U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates. This year the Chinese military was represented by the vice president of Academy of Military Sciences.

Panetta, by contrast, was accompanied by General Martin Dempsey, the military's top officer as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Admiral Samuel Locklear, the head of the U.S. Pacific Command.

Panetta said he was committed to a "healthy, stable, reliable and continuous" military-to-military relationship with China but underscored the need for Beijing to support a system to clarify rights in the region and help to resolve disputes.

"China has a critical role to play in advancing security and prosperity by respecting the rules-based order that has served the region for six decades," he said.

Fleshing out details of the shift to Asia, Panetta said the United States would reposition its Navy fleet so that 60 percent of its warships would be assigned to the region by 2020, compared to about 50 percent now.

The Navy would maintain six aircraft carriers assigned to the Pacific. Six of its 11 carriers are now assigned to the Pacific but that number will fall to five when the USS Enterprise retires this year.

The number will return to six when the new carrier USS

Gerald R. Ford is completed in 2015.

The U.S. Navy had a fleet of 282 ships, including support vessels, as of March. That is expected to slip to about 276 over the next two years before beginning to rise toward the goal of a 300-ship fleet, according to a 30-year Navy shipbuilding projection released in March.

But officials warned that fiscal constraints and problems with cost overruns could make it difficult to attain the goal.

Panetta underscored the breadth of the U.S. commitment to the Asia-Pacific, noting treaty alliances with Japan, South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines and Australia as well as partnerships with India, Singapore, Indonesia and others.

He said the United States would attempt to build on those partnerships with cooperative arrangements like the rotational deployment agreement it has with Australia and is working on with the Philippines.

Panetta said Washington also would work to increase the number and size of bilateral and multilateral military training exercises it conducts in the region. Officials said last year the United States carried out 172 such exercises in the region.

--Additional reporting by John O'Callaghan

Atlanta Journal-Constitution (ajc.com)

June 1, 2012

### **8. Panetta: Pentagon To Shift Warships To Pacific**

By Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press

SINGAPORE--The

Pentagon will shift more Navy warships to the Asia-Pacific region over the next several years, and by 2020, about 60 percent of the fleet will

be assigned there as part of a new strategy to increase U.S. presence in Asia, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Saturday.

While noting it may take years to complete the transition, Panetta assured his audience at a security conference in Singapore that U.S. budget problems and cutbacks would not get in the way of changes. He said the Defense Department has money in the five-year budget plan to meet those goals.

Speaking at the annual Shangri-La Dialogue conference, Panetta provided some of the first real details of the Pentagon's impending pivot to the Pacific.

"It will take years for these concepts, and many of the investments that I just detailed, but we are making those investment in order that they be fully realized," Panetta said in a speech opening the conference. "Make no mistake, in a steady, deliberate and sustainable way, the United States military is rebalancing and is bringing an enhanced capability development to this vital region."

His promises, however, are likely to be met with skepticism from some nations that are aware of the coming budget cuts and have watched the U.S. send the bulk of its military might to Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade. The boost in ship presence could increase tensions with China, where leaders have said they are unhappy with any larger U.S. presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

A key area of dispute is the South China Sea, which China claims almost entirely as its own. But Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines also have territorial claims there. The U.S. has pressed for a diplomatic solution to the disagreements

but has also made it clear that freedom of navigation is critical in the region.

Overall, however, Panetta tamped down his criticism of China, choosing instead to issue broad warnings about the use of force in the South China Sea to block access. He praised China and Taiwan for working to improve their relationship across the Taiwan Strait.

He said he is looking forward to visiting China later this year, adding that he wants to see the U.S. and China deepen their military ties, including on counterdrug programs and humanitarian aid.

Panetta acknowledged that some see the increased presence of the U.S. in the region as a direct challenge to China. But he rejected that view, saying that a greater U.S. presence in the Asia-Pacific will benefit China and improve regional security.

The increased U.S. naval presence in the Pacific will allow the U.S. to boost the number and size of the military exercises in the region in the next few years and to plan for more port visits over a wider area, including the Indian Ocean. Last year, the U.S. military participated in 172 exercises in the region involving 24 countries.

Currently, the Navy has about 285 ships, with roughly half assigned to each coast, but that total may decline a bit as some ships are retired in the coming years and may not be replaced.

The current fleet includes 11 aircraft carriers, with six assigned to the Pacific. But those numbers are slated to go down later this year, dipping to 10 carriers, with five assigned to Pacific ports in San Diego, Washington state and Japan.

Panetta, however, said he intends to go back to having six carriers in the Pacific in

the coming years. And he said the Pacific will also eventually host a majority of the Navy's cruisers, destroyers, submarines and littoral combat ships, which operate in close to shore.

Numbers, however, aren't everything. So Panetta assured the conference that the region will also get ships that have greater technological capabilities. He did not elaborate on what those might be, but he noted that the U.S. expects to deploy more enhanced and high-tech submarines and fighter aircraft, along with new electronic warfare and communications systems.

Panetta is on a nine-day trip across Asia, with planned stops in Vietnam and India.

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South China Morning Post  
June 2, 2012  
Pg. 9

## 9. U.S. Tipped To Push Talks On Cam Ranh

*Defence secretary's visit to Hanoi could prompt easing of access to strategic harbour for foreign vessels and China will be watching events closely*

By Greg Torode, chief Asia correspondent

To understand the drivers – and the limitations – of the evolving and historic Vietnam-US military relationship, the strategic port of Cam Ranh Bay is a good place to start.

The Washington-Hanoi relationship is coming under even closer scrutiny this weekend as regional security chiefs and analysts meet in Singapore for the informal Shangri-La Dialogue.

When US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta leaves Singapore, he heads straight to Hanoi for his first visit – and the issue of ongoing US access to Cam Ranh is expected to surface.

Chinese envoys are watching developments closely, fearing any US-Vietnam move that smacks of containment of a rising China. And future US access to Cam Ranh feeds directly into such fears.

For the third year in a row the resupply ship, USNS Richard E. Byrd, is undergoing 14 days of routine repairs around Cam Ranh. Figures from the US Military Sealift Command show it is the fifth US ship to be repaired in the area since the South China Morning Post first reported the Richard E Byrd's visit in 2010.

The two sides had agreed on four such visits, but the fact that a fifth ship is now being serviced shows some flexibility is already in place.

Professor Carl Thayer, a veteran Vietnam military scholar at the Australian Defence Force Academy, said he believed Panetta would be pushing hard for greater flexibility when he started talks in Hanoi on Monday.

"Both sides are approaching the wider relationship carefully, but in terms of Cam Ranh Bay, the US would love to be in a position where there is real flexibility, and they can visit for repairs as and when they feel they need to," he said. "This will be a key item of discussion."

The Vietnamese newspaper Tuoi Tre this week quoted a local port official saying US ships would soon be visiting every two to three months. However, a Sealift Command spokesman said any future operations were matters of national security and could not be discussed.

The glittering prize of the cold war, Washington turned the deepwater port into a vast naval and air base to serve its defence of the then South Vietnam. After Hanoi's forces won, Cam Ranh was handed to

the former Soviet Union in the late 1970s.

Even before US-Vietnam ties were normalised in 1995, US admirals were talking up the strategic nature of Cam Ranh – the best natural harbour in East Asia – with one famously saying: "We're always on the lookout for good ports."

Yet, in other ways, the US repairs highlight lingering sensitivities in the relationship. The sealift ships are manned by civilians and considered non-combative – and therefore less provocative. They are also using civilian shipyards, rather than the military facilities now being rebuilt by Russian firms.

The Vietnamese government already announced that, in future, international navies would be welcome to use Cam Ranh – at market rates.

"It has long been anticipated the US will be first among equals when it comes to using Cam Ranh," said one Asian military attaché. "It is now within their footprint – a fact not lost on Chinese strategic analysts."

Thayer believes conservatives within Vietnam's Communist Party remain wary of US motives in driving political change, while in Washington, worries over human rights are stalling the evolution of a formal strategic partnership.

But Vietnam's fraternal relationship with neighbouring China is also a key brake on the wider friendship, according to both Vietnamese and foreign officials.

Beijing and Hanoi have been working hard to improve areas of the relationship – and Hanoi is wary of overplaying the US card.

US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia, Kurt Campbell, acknowledged those fears during a visit to Hanoi earlier this year. He spoke



of Washington supporting "the strong relationship between Vietnam and China... and that we saw no circumstance where there should be a zerosum set of circumstances involving the US, Vietnam and China."

Arizona Daily Star (Tucson)  
June 2, 2012

## 10. Panetta Open To Military Relations With Myanmar

By Associated Press

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told Asian leaders Saturday that the U.S. is open to forging better military ties with Myanmar, if political and human rights reforms there continue.

His comments to a defense conference here reflected new efforts by the Obama administration to ease sanctions on the Asian nation, which is also known as Burma, as it moves to implement democratic reforms.

Assuming Myanmar is able to implement reforms and continue efforts to open up its political system, the Pentagon would be willing to have discussions about how the two nations can improve their military relationship, Panetta said.

"In dealing with countries of the Asia-Pacific region, this is not a Cold War situation where the U.S. barges in, builds permanent bases and tries to establish a power base in this region," Panetta said, responding to a question after his speech here at the Shangri-La Dialogue, a prominent defense conference.

In the world today, he said, the U.S. has to engage with other countries to help them build their own military capabilities so they can defend themselves.

"We will encourage that kind of relationship with ever

nation that we deal with in this region, including Myanmar," Panetta said.

Myanmar is emerging from decades of authoritarian rule and diplomatic isolation. Last month, President Barack Obama eased an investment ban on Myanmar, and named the first U.S. ambassador to the country in 22 years.

Human rights activists, however, criticized the move, saying it was too soon to reward the country since hundreds of political prisoners are still being held there.

Panetta's speech was designed to promote America's new effort to focus more attention on the Asia-Pacific region, both militarily and diplomatically.

Yahoo.com

June 2, 2012

## 11. US, China Relations Key Topic At Defense Meeting

By Lolita C. Baldor,  
Associated Press

SINGAPORE--Speaking near China's backyard Saturday, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta rejected suggestions that America's new focus on the Asia-Pacific will fuel conflict in the region or that the emerging strategy is meant as a threat to Beijing.

Instead, he appeared to offer an olive branch to the communist giant, with a broad message that the two often-feuding world powers must learn to work better together for the benefit of the entire region.

Delivering his most extensive thoughts to date on the fragile state of U.S.-China relations, Panetta said neither side is naive about their disagreements.

"We both understand the differences we have, we both understand the conflicts we have, but we also both

understand that there really is no other alternative but for both of us to engage and to improve our communications and to improve our (military) relationship," Panetta said at a security conference in Singapore.

At the same time, however, Panetta warned Asian nations that they must find a way to resolve their own conflict because the U.S. can't always come charging in to help.

Tensions between the U.S. and China reverberate across the region, and are often focused on America's support of the island of Taiwan, which China considers its own. Another key area of dispute is the South China Sea, which China claims almost entirely as its own. But Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines also have territorial claims there.

In addition, more recently the U.S. has been vocal in blaming China for cyberattacks that emanate from the country and steal critical data from U.S. government agencies and private American companies.

On the cyber front, Panetta said U.S. and Chinese leaders have talked about developing teams that can work together on difficult issues, including how they can exchange information on computer-based threats and whether they can agree on standards for the use of cyber capabilities.

The key, Panetta said, is for the U.S. and China to develop the ability to communicate when disputes arise so that they can be resolved peacefully.

Defense experts attending the conference peppered Panetta with questions about China, including one from a member of China's People's Liberation Army. But officials also noted that Beijing did not send any of its senior leaders to the conference. It was not clear why, although some officials

suggested that China's leaders were busy with internal issues.

Questioners asked whether adding more U.S. military to the region might embolden some smaller nations and risk triggering more conflicts. And they wondered aloud whether China's leaders boycotted the conference in protest over America's beefed up strategy for the region.

"I don't think we should take the attitude that just because we improve their capabilities that we're asking for more trouble," Panetta said.

Panetta also issued a strong call for Asian nations to set up a code of conduct, including rules governing maritime rights and navigation in the South China Sea, and then develop a forum where disputes can be settled.

"It isn't enough for the United States to come charging in and try and resolve these issues," Panetta said, adding that the Asian nations must develop ways to peacefully solve their own problems.

Panetta's speech here was designed to give a more detailed explanation about the new defense strategy, which puts more focus on the Asia-Pacific, including plans to increase the number of U.S. military personnel, warships and other assets in the region over the next several years.

Specifically, he said that by 2020, about 60 percent of the fleet will be assigned there as part of a new strategy to increase U.S. presence in Asia. Currently, the Navy has about 285 ships, with roughly half assigned to each coast, but that total may decline a bit as some ships are retired in the coming years and may not be replaced.

The current fleet includes 11 aircraft carriers, with six assigned to the Pacific. The West Coast total is expected to go down to five, but Panetta Saturday said he will maintain 6

carriers in the Pacific, over the long term.

While noting it may take years to complete the transition, Panetta assured his audience at the conference in Singapore that U.S. budget problems and cutbacks would not get in the way of changes. He said the Defense Department has money in the five-year budget plan to meet those goals.

He said he is looking forward to visiting China later this year, adding that he wants to see the U.S. and China deepen their military ties, including on counterdrug programs and humanitarian aid.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who was attending the conference, questioned Panetta's optimism about relations with China, but said he hopes it works out.

He added that the Pentagon must begin planning for the possibility that another \$500 million may have to be slashed from the defense budget early next year if lawmakers can't agree on spending cuts in the next several months.

Panetta has said he believes Congress will eventually find a way to avoid the automatic cuts.

Singapore is Panetta's second stop on a nine-day trip through Asia. He was in Hawaii on Thursday and is expected to travel to Vietnam and India.

Honolulu Star-Advertiser  
June 1, 2012  
Pg. 19

## 12. Hawaii Is A Major Hub For Military, Defense Head Says

*Panetta reaffirms the state's role to civilians and service members*

By Dan Nakaso

Military operations in Hawaii will play a critical role in developing new technologies, more agile forces and partnerships throughout

the Asia-Pacific region for a downsizing U.S. military, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Thursday at U.S. Pacific Command at Camp H.M. Smith in Halawa Heights.

In a 15-minute address to about 250 civilians and military members representing all branches, Panetta said the military faces \$487 billion in cuts over the next 10 years while needing to focus on the Pacific region and the Middle East.

"That's where the potential problems are for the future," he said.

The Department of Defense, Panetta said, also needs to develop more cyber, space and unmanned systems; initiate "creative and innovative rotational movements" to quickly go into other countries while also working to build relationships with counterparts throughout the Asia-Pacific region; and maintain a military force that can "confront more than one enemy at a time and defeat them."

"Every one of the elements I talked about is going to play out here, particularly in the Pacific," Panetta said. "In many ways the strategy I have defined is going to be in your hands, in the hands of the leadership in this part of the world."

THURSDAY'S VISIT was the second trip to Hawaii for Panetta as secretary of defense.

In March he presided over the change of command at U.S. Pacific Command and told reporters at the time that international sanctions needed time to work on Iran and Syria before military intervention.

On Thursday, Panetta did not speak to reporters, and a planned outdoor question-and-answer session with military members was canceled because of rainy weather, according to military spokeswomen.

Panetta stopped at Camp Smith on Thursday en

route to Singapore, where he is scheduled to speak at the International Institute for Strategic Studies' annual Shangri-La Dialogue.

CNN, citing a senior defense official who briefed reporters about the trip, said Panetta is expected to deliver a major policy speech in Singapore focusing on the role of the United States and its defense strategy in the Asia-Pacific region.

PANETTA ALSO is scheduled to meet with military leaders from Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Australia and perhaps China before flying to Vietnam to meet with Vietnamese senior leaders, CNN reported.

Under rainy skies Thursday, Panetta said to laughter that "I'm glad to be in Hawaii. This is tough duty."

"More than ever, Hawaii remains that key center for operations throughout the Asia-Pacific region," Panetta said. "I really want you to know how important we think Hawaii is to the defense of the United States and, more importantly, for advancing peace and prosperity and security throughout the Asia-Pacific region."

Panetta thanked military members for their service--and also thanked their families--and drew a raucous round of applause when he said, "We've made it very clear, very clear that nobody attacks the United States and gets away with it--nobody."

Faced with deep cuts in military spending, Panetta promised to ensure military benefits "that were promised to you deployment after deployment after deployment in the war."

"The last damn thing I want to do is hollow out the force," he said.

He awarded medals and certificates of commendation

to three Hawaii-based military members, as well as a commendation to a civilian before giving out Department of Defense coins to the people in attendance.

"They aren't worth a hell of a lot," Panetta joked about the coins that bear his name, "but they might be able to get you a drink someplace."

DEFCON Hill (TheHill.com)  
June 1, 2012

## 13. Pentagon Chief: Vote In Lane Duck On Defense Cuts 'Unacceptable'

By Carlo Munoz

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said the move by lawmakers to delay action on automatic defense cuts until after the election is "unacceptable" and "dangerous."

"I think the greater danger is they'll try to kick the can down the road on all of those issues [and] I think that's unacceptable, particularly when it comes to the sequester issue," he told reporters Thursday while en route to multilateral security talks with U.S. allies in the Pacific.

Despite heated rhetoric on both sides of the aisle, congressional Republicans and Democrats remain worlds apart on how to spare the Pentagon from nearly half a trillion dollars' worth of spending cuts over the next decade.

One thing lawmakers have apparently agreed upon is that no decision on the automatic defense cuts will be made until after the presidential election in November.

But by then, it will be too late to come up with a viable compromise that will get the Pentagon off the budgetary hook, Panetta said.

"I don't like the idea of putting everything off till after



the election. I think it gets real dangerous when you start piling all of the crises into one period after the election and hope that you can solve all those issues," he said.

The cuts were triggered after a bipartisan supercommittee, created as part of the White House's debt restructuring deal last year, failed to come up with a plan to cut those dollars from government accounts outside of defense.

The Pentagon is already staring down a roughly \$450 billion decrease in spending spread across the next 10 years as a result of the debt deal lawmakers approved in August.

Tacking on an additional \$500 billion in automatic cuts would put the department in a nearly \$1 trillion hole — a situation that Panetta and other defense officials argue would break the back of the U.S. armed forces.

Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter was the latest Pentagon official to urge Congress to lay off the budget, warning that making changes was a "zero-sum game" as the Pentagon prepares for a cut of \$487 billion over the next decade.

"Every dollar the U.S. spends on old and unnecessary programs is a dollar we lose from new and necessary strategic investments," Carter said at a speech at the American Enterprise Institute on Wednesday. "When something is added to the budget that's not needed, we are forced to take out something that matters."

That said, lawmakers continue to bicker over where the additional revenue should be pulled from to spare the department those massive budget cuts.

Congressional Republicans want to protect the Pentagon by

stripping billions from a number of social welfare programs, including federal food stamps and the national school lunch program.

Democrats want to impose a number of federal subsidies on the agriculture and oil sectors, restructure the tax code to increase rates on the wealthiest Americans and do away with the Bush-era tax rates.

Neither proposal has gained the necessary bipartisan support to make its way through the GOP-controlled House or the Democrat-run Senate.

Panetta sided with Democrats in May when he argued that looming defense cuts should not be negated "by taking these funds from the poor, middle-class Americans [and] other vulnerable parts of our American constituencies."

"It is not balanced. It is not fair," he said of the GOP plan during a May 10 briefing at the Pentagon.

New York Times  
June 2, 2012  
Pg. 8

#### **14. Putin Fears Civil War But Rejects Intervention In Syria**

By Nicholas Kulish and Neil MacFarquhar

BERLIN--President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia said Friday that he rejected outside military intervention as an answer to the increasingly horrific bloodshed in Syria, and the Kremlin publicly sided with President Bashar al-Assad of Syria in blaming Mr. Assad's armed rebel opponents for a massacre there last week that incited world outrage.

But Mr. Putin said he agreed with fears expressed by Western leaders and United Nations officials that the 15-month-old Syria conflict is hurtling toward civil war, and he asserted that Russia

backed neither side despite his country's longstanding support for the Syrian government, its last significant relationship in the Middle East.

Syrian rights activists, Western and Arab countries, as well as United Nations officials, have said the evidence points to complicity by the Syrian military and pro-Assad militiamen for the May 25 massacre in Houla, a cluster of villages in western Syria. The main United Nations human rights body voted overwhelmingly on Friday to authorize an inquiry that Navi Pillay, the top United Nations rights official, said could lead to war-crimes charges. Even as that vote was under way, another mass killing was reported in Syria, the third in a week.

Mr. Putin's remarks on Syria, coming during stops in Germany and France as he began his first foreign trip since reclaiming the Russian presidency, were scrutinized for any hint of a shift in the Russian position on Syria that could help change the course of the conflict, which has become the most protracted and violent of the Arab Spring revolts.

Russia's objection to any effort by the United States and its allies that could lead to a forceful United Nations Security Council intervention in Syria and the ouster of Mr. Assad has been a major source of contention. But Mr. Putin showed no sign of yielding to pressure from either Angela Merkel, Germany's chancellor, or later with François Hollande, the new president of France.

"We are seeing nascent elements of a civil war today. This is extremely dangerous," Mr. Putin said at a news conference with Ms. Merkel after their discussions. At the same time, he dismissed the idea that outside military power

was a solution, telling reporters, "You cannot do anything by force."

He also said: "Those who say that Russia unilaterally supports the Assad regime are mistaken. We and Syria have maintained good relations for years, but we do not support either party from which a threat of civil war emanates." As for reports that Russia is arming the Syrian military, Mr. Putin said, "Russia is not shipping weapons that could be used in a civil conflict."

In her remarks, Ms. Merkel told reporters that they had both made clear that they supported the Syria peace plan by Kofi Annan, the special representative from the United Nations and the Arab League, and both she and Mr. Putin "have the same interests regarding stability in the whole region, even if there is the one or the other odd difference in the path to get there."

Later in Paris, the contrast between the Russian and Western positions was more pronounced. Mr. Hollande told reporters that United Nations sanctions were probably necessary and that "no solution is possible without the departure of Bashar al-Assad." Mr. Putin said sanctions did not work and that removing Mr. Assad was no panacea. "Do you think that just by removing the president there will be happiness across the country?" he said. "Just look at what has happened in Libya."

In Moscow, Russia's Foreign Ministry released a statement with a hard tone, blaming unspecified foreign countries for the Houla massacre, the worst known atrocity so far in the conflict. Apparently exonerating Mr. Assad of any responsibility for the 108 victims, half of them children, the statement said the killings "showed what can result from supplying

rebels with financial aid and smuggling modern weaponry to them, hiring foreign mercenaries and flirting with different kinds of extremists.”

Russia’s resistance to pressure on Syria reflects an anger that has grown since the beginning of the Arab uprisings, which hard-liners in Moscow view as largely orchestrated by the West. They are particularly resentful over the case of Libya, in which Dmitri A. Medvedev, then the president, agreed not to block a Security Council resolution that provided the basis for NATO airstrikes and the violent death of the Libyan leader, Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi. Mr. Putin fumed over the military campaign at the time, but was powerless to stop it.

“If it hadn’t been for Libya, maybe things would be different with Syria,” said Georgy Mirsky, a leading Middle East scholar at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. “That was bad for the reputation of Medvedev, and Putin doesn’t want to repeat that.” Mr. Mirsky said that Mr. Assad “believes that time is working for him,” and until that changed, “It would be absolutely impossible for Russia to distance itself from him.”

Russia’s support for Mr. Assad was evident in the debate on the Houla massacre at the United Nations Human Rights Council emergency meeting in Geneva, where members voted 41 to 3 in favor of authorizing an inquiry. Russia, China and Cuba, the dissident votes, called the move a pretext for laying the groundwork for foreign intervention.

While the inquiry adds to Mr. Assad’s global isolation, it was still seen as a largely symbolic action because he has rejected the council’s previous

demands that its investigators be allowed to enter Syria.

The United States, Turkey and Qatar had been among the council members calling for a special session on Syria as part of their effort to pressure Mr. Assad. Although there was some thought of diluting the language to achieve a unanimous vote, diplomats said the main sponsors opted for a tougher line.

“This was not just another incident in the conflict,” Eileen Donahoe, the American representative to the council, told reporters. “It was an absolute abomination.”

Even as the debate on Houla was under way in Geneva, details emerged of a new massacre in Syria. Eleven bodies were found dumped in an orchard outside Qusair, a city controlled by the Free Syrian Army, the main anti-Assad armed group, and bore gunshot wounds that appeared to show that the dead had been summarily executed, said Salim Kabani, an activist in the city reached via Skype. Pictures of the men posted online showed that their hands had been bound.

The men were on a bus en route home from work at a fertilizer factory owned by the government just outside Qusair to the village of Buwayda, said Mr. Kabani, but they were stopped at a government-controlled checkpoint outside their village.

If the details are confirmed, it would be the third mass killing in a week, following the Houla massacre and the extrajudicial executions in the eastern city of Deir al-Zour of 13 electrical workers who activists said had refused to quit a sympathy strike over the Houla killings.

Intense discussions on Syria also continued between members of the Security Council in New York on how

to salvage the cease-fire plan negotiated by Mr. Annan, which has basically been ignored since it took effect in mid-April. Mr. Annan, who was visiting with officials of neighboring Lebanon on Friday, expressed frustration.

“I think perhaps I am more frustrated than most of you because I am in the thick of things,” he said at a news conference in Beirut. “We really want to see things move much faster.”

*Nicholas Kulish reported from Berlin, and Neil MacFarquhar from Beirut, Lebanon. Reporting was contributed by Ellen Barry from Moscow, Nick Cumming-Bruce from Geneva, Melissa Eddy from Berlin, Nicola Clark from Paris, Hwaida Saad from Beirut, and Rick Gladstone from New York.*

Los Angeles Times  
June 2, 2012

## **15. In Syria, 12 Slain In Latest Reported Massacre**

*As a U.N. rights panel calls for an inquiry on the slaughter in Houla, at least 12 workers are reported executed in Homs province, the third massacre in a week.*

By Patrick J. McDonnell  
and Alexandra Sandels, Los Angeles Times

BEIRUT--Evidence of a new massacre--the third in a week--surfaced Friday in Syria as a United Nations human rights panel called for an “international, transparent, independent and prompt investigation” of mass killings last week in the township of Houla that left more than 100 people dead, mostly women and children slaughtered in their homes.

Both sides in the conflict reported Friday that the bodies of a dozen workers

at a government-run fertilizer factory had been found dumped in a field near the central town of Qusair, all apparently shot.

The slayings fit a disturbing pattern of motorists and bus passengers being yanked from their vehicles at checkpoints and executed, apparently because of their sect or perceived allegiance, or lack of allegiance, to the government of President Bashar Assad.

Government and rebel checkpoints now mark many roads in Syria, especially in conflict zones such as the central province of Homs, where the latest reported mass killing occurred. Some checkpoints have become killing zones or kidnapping sites, according to both sides in the conflict.

The slayings of the factory workers again raised fear that Syria is plunging into a cycle of tit-for-tat sectarian massacres and a possible civil war, concern voiced this week by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, among others.

The killers in Syria’s escalating series of massacres typically remain anonymous as each side blames the other, a scenario that unfolded again after the latest incident.

An opposition group said the bus carrying the workers was stopped at a military checkpoint, the men were ordered off and executed on the spot. A pro-government group said the men were killed by rebels because they worked in a state-run factory.

Lurid video posted online purported to show the victims’ battered and apparently defaced bodies.

Alerted to the killings, a U.N. monitoring team in Syria was dispatched to the area and confirmed that both the opposition and pro-government groups said at least 12 people were killed in the



area. Both sides contested the circumstances surrounding the killings, the U.N. said.

The incident would be the third massacre reported in the last week. Thirteen men were slain execution-style near the eastern city of Dair Alzour this week, following the house-to-house killings a week ago of 108 people in Houla, in Homs province.

The Houla massacre galvanized international public opinion against the government in Damascus, but Syrian authorities say antigovernment "armed groups" carried out the killings, targeting loyalist families, including the relatives of a member of parliament. Washington's U.N. ambassador, Susan Rice, called the government account "a blatant lie."

U.N. officials have said the evidence in the Houla killings points to shadowy pro-government militiamen known as *shabiha*, after the Arab word for "ghosts." The dead in Houla included at least 49 children younger than 10, the U.N. said.

That ambiguity about who was behind the Houla slayings prompted the Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Council on Friday to call for an independent international inquiry on the atrocity. Meanwhile, the U.N. rights chief, Navi Pillay, said the evidence in the Houla massacre suggested that Syrian officials could be brought before an international court for crimes against humanity.

But objections from Russia, Syria's most powerful international ally and a veto-wielding member of the U.N. Security Council, appear to make any such action against Syrian officials unlikely. On Friday, Russia voted against the rights panel's call for an international investigation of the Houla slayings. Russian diplomats suggested the move

was biased against the Syrian government.

Russia has already twice blocked U.N. Security Council resolutions that would have condemned the Syrian crackdown on dissent since large-scale protests erupted more than 14 months ago.

On Friday, Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was visiting Germany, said he still held out hope for a political solution to the Syrian crisis.

Special U.N. envoy Kofi Annan, who has the backing of Russia and the United States, has crafted a six-point plan for peace in Syria. Among the requirements are that the government withdraw troops and heavy armaments from populated areas.

Annan has called on the government to undertake "bold steps" to implement the lagging peace plan. Many diplomats consider the plan the best chance to avoid an all-out civil war in Syria.

*Sandels is a special correspondent.*

Reuters.com

June 1, 2012

## 16. U.S. Publishes Satellite Images Of Syria

By Mark Hosenball, Reuters

WASHINGTON--A U.S. government website on Friday published what it said was photographic evidence of mass graves and attacks on civilian areas by Syrian government forces.

The website, operated by a bureau of the State Department, published a series of overhead photos, said to be taken earlier this week by commercial satellite, showing what it said were mass graves dug following a massacre near the town of Houla.

They also showed apparent artillery impact craters near

civilian areas of a town called Atarib.

Included on the web page, which can be viewed here, are pictures which apparently show artillery deployed as of May 31 - Thursday - near three Syrian towns and attack helicopters allegedly deployed near the towns of Shayrat and Homs.

The pictures are credited to commercial satellite imagery companies.

Syria's U.N. Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari did not have an immediate reaction when reached by Reuters.

More than 100 men, women and children were massacred in Houla last week, most of them shot at point-blank range or slashed with knives.

U.N. peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous said earlier this week that the people who died from artillery and tank fire were clearly victims of government shelling while the others were most likely killed by "shabbiha" militia loyal to President Bashar al-Assad.

Damascus has blamed the massacre on the opposition, which Assad has tried unsuccessfully for 14 months to crush, killing over 10,000 people in the process, according to the United Nations. Russia, which has used its veto powers to prevent the U.N. Security Council from sanctioning Syria, blames Islamist militants for the Houla massacre.

The State Department website highlights what it said are before and after satellite pictures showing mass graves near Houla.

A May 18 photo from Tall Daww, a village near Houla, shows what the government says is a square that appears to be a flat dirt clearing. Juxtaposed against this is what the U.S. government says is a May 28 photo of the same square with what appear to be

rows of turned up earth, which is labeled as "probable newly-dug graves/trenches."

--Additional reporting by Lou Charbonneau at the United Nations

Washington Post

June 2, 2012

Pg. 2

## 17. Officials Say U.S., Israel Were Behind Cyberattack On Iran

*Computer worm damaged centrifuges at nuclear facility*  
By Ellen Nakashima and Joby Warrick

A damaging cyberattack against Iran's nuclear program was the work of U.S. and Israeli experts and proceeded under the secret orders of President Obama, who was eager to slow that nation's apparent progress toward building an atomic bomb without launching a traditional military attack, say current and former U.S. officials.

The origins of the cyberweapon, which outside analysts dubbed Stuxnet after it was inadvertently discovered in 2010, have long been debated, with most experts concluding that the United States and Israel probably collaborated on the effort. The current and former U.S. officials confirmed that long-standing suspicion Friday, after a New York Times report on the program.

The officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity to describe the classified effort code-named Olympic Games, said it was first developed during the George W. Bush administration and was geared toward damaging Iran's nuclear capability gradually while sowing confusion among Iranian scientists about the cause of mishaps at a nuclear plant.

The use of the cyberweapon — malware

designed to infiltrate and damage systems run by computers — was supposed to make the Iranians think that their engineers were incapable of running an enrichment facility.

“The idea was to string it out as long as possible,” said one participant in the operation. “If you had wholesale destruction right away, then they generally can figure out what happened, and it doesn’t look like incompetence.”

Even after software security companies discovered Stuxnet loose on the Internet in 2010, causing concern among U.S. officials, Obama secretly ordered the operation continued and authorized the use of several variations of the computer virus.

Overall, the attack destroyed nearly 1,000 of Iran’s 6,000 centrifuges — fast-spinning machines that enrich uranium, an essential step toward building an atomic bomb. The National Security Agency developed the cyberweapon with help of Israel.

Several senior Iranian officials on Friday referred obliquely to the cyberattack in reaffirming Iran’s intention to expand its nuclear program.

“Despite all plots and mischievous behavior of the Western countries ... Iran did not withdraw one iota from its rights,” Kazem Seddiqi, a senior Iranian cleric, said during services at a Tehran University mosque, according to news reports from Iran.

Iran previously has blamed U.S. and Israeli officials and has said its nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes, such as generating electricity.

White House officials declined to comment on the new details about Stuxnet, and an administration spokesman denied that the material had

been leaked for political advantage.

“It’s our view, as it is the view of everybody who handles classified information, that information is classified for a reason: that it is kept secret,” deputy press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters. “It is intended not to be publicized because publicizing it would pose a threat to our national security.”

The revelations come at a particularly sensitive time, as the United States and five other world powers are engaged in talks with Iran on proposed cuts to its nuclear program. Iran has refused to agree to concessions on what it says is its rightful pursuit of peaceful nuclear energy. The next round of negotiations is scheduled for this month in Moscow.

“Effectively the United States has gone to war with Iran and has chosen to do so in this manner because the effects can justify this means,” said Rafal Rohozinski, a cyber-expert and principal of the SecDev Group, referring to the slowing of Iran’s nuclear program.

“This officially signals the beginning of the cyber arms race in practice and not in theory,” Rohozinski said.

In 2006, senior Bush administration officials developed the idea of using a computer worm, with Israeli assistance, to damage Iranian centrifuges at its uranium enrichment plant in Natanz. The concept originated with Gen. James E. Cartwright, who was then head of U.S. Strategic Command, which handles nuclear deterrence, and had a reputation as a cyber-strategist.

“Cartwright’s role was describing the art of the possible, having a view or vision,” said a former senior official familiar with the program. But “the heavy

lifting” was done by NSA Director Keith Alexander, who had “the technical know-how and carried out the actual activity,” said the former official.

Olympic Games became a collaborative effort among NSA, the CIA and Israel, current and former officials said. The CIA, under then-Director Michael V. Hayden, lent its covert operation authority to the program.

The CIA and Israelis oversaw the development of plans to gain physical access to the plant. Installing the worm in plant equipment not connected to the Internet depended on spies and unwitting accomplices — engineers, plant technicians — who might connect an infected device to one of the systems, officials said.

The cyberweapon took months of testing and development. It began to show effects in 2008, when centrifuges began spinning at faster-than-normal speeds until sensitive components began to warp and break, participants said.

U.S. officials were concerned when security companies began reporting on the existence of the worm in June 2010.

“It took us a little while to figure out” that the virus had spread, although it was not damaging machines other than those at Natanz, an official said.

Iran replaced the damaged machines and has continued to enrich uranium. Officials said the country’s leadership has always assumed that any action destabilizing its government or nuclear program is the work of the United States, Israel or Britain, or some combination, officials said.

“This will certainly play into their fears about what else is out there,” said one

former intelligence official. “It certainly won’t make them eager to get back to the negotiating table.”

NationalJournal.com

June 1, 2012

## 18. Pentagon Says Yemen Not 'Outgunned' By Al-Qaida

By Kevin Baron

After providing Yemen with hundreds of millions of dollars in small arms and other military assistance in recent years, the Pentagon says it does not believe the country’s military is “outgunned” by al-Qaida.

That latest assessment follows recent reports that al-Qaida on the Arabian Peninsula, known as AQAP, has overrun Yemeni troop positions and has obtained rocket-propelled grenade launchers, automatic assault rifles, and other new weapons smuggled with the help of Iran’s elite Quds Force.

The U.S. has long aided Yemen’s fight against al-Qaida-affiliated insurgents, providing counterterrorism trainers, special operations forces assistance, and launching missile strikes. The manifest of Pentagon supplies delivered to Yemen’s military reads like a menu for a Third World gunfight: pistols, bullets, and pickup trucks. The total for arms delivered in 2012: zero.

A PBS *Frontline* report this week revealed that fighters identifying themselves as al-Qaida took a Yemeni army outpost near the city of Jaar. Al-Qaida claimed 60 of its fighters captured 73 Yemeni officers, who said they were out-supplied. “We fought down to the last bullet, and then we surrendered,” claimed one of the detained Yemeni commanders allowed to speak to *Frontline*’s Ghaith Abdul-Ahad.



Yemen, an impoverished and water-starved country at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is widely viewed as a new center of global terrorism. The White House has called AQAP the world's "most active" al-Qaida affiliate. The extensive PBS report documented how AQAP has gained territory from the state government and instituted strict Islamic-based laws on deserted local towns, effectively carving out a "safe haven" from which the shadowy group for now is plotting and launching attacks on local and Western targets.

The country also has attracted at a fortune in U.S. taxpayer funds since 2009, when it was discovered that the failed underwear bomber apprehended aboard an inbound flight to Chicago traveled through Yemen.

While the U.S. already was helping build Yemen's counterterrorism forces, then-Gen. David Petraeus, now CIA director, quickly flew to the capital of Sana'a for a high-profile show of support for 30-year President Ali Abdullah Saleh, sparking a new level of attention from top U.S. intelligence and military officials.

Since then, the U.S. has ramped up a complex mix of intelligence operations, counterterrorism training, and missile strikes in Yemen.

"There are U.S. military trainers on the ground in Yemen," Pentagon press secretary George Little said last week.

In terms of direct military aid, the Defense Department has provided Yemen with a mix of small arms, spare parts, and so-called "non-lethal" items totaling approximately \$348 million, DOD spokesman Capt. John Kirby said.

The annual expense to U.S. taxpayers for that help has more

than doubled, from \$78 million in fiscal 2010 to \$109.5 million in 2011 and approximately \$160 million in 2012.

"I don't believe that we believe that the Yemeni military is 'outgunned,'" Kirby told reporters at Thursday's Pentagon press briefing.

DOD has provided ammunition, handguns, rifles, spare parts for Vietnam-era UH-1 "Huey" helicopters, and 339 Ford F-150s.

But the weapons flow stopped last year – at least, from the Pentagon, Kirby said. DOD has provided no lethal aid since at least September. The 2012 expenses are only for nonlethal aid, including last week's Air Force delivery of more than 13,000 pounds of medical supplies into Sana'a, in response to AQAP's deadliest attack so far.

Yemen's defense minister, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, was believed to be the intended target of a May 21 suicide bomb that detonated amid soldiers awaiting his arrival, reportedly killing roughly 100 and wounding nearly 200 people. Two days later, a U.S. C-130 cargo plane delivered "bandages, sutures, medications, intravenous fluids, and litters" for the Yemeni government.

May was a particularly active month for U.S. counterterrorism events in Yemen. Fugitive USS *Cole* bomber Fahd al-Quso finally was located in Yemen and killed by an airstrike. Intelligence officials thwarted another airline bomb plot, allegedly by Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri, the alleged builder of the failed 2009 underwear bomb. And President Obama took the extraordinary step of authorizing sanctions on any Yemeni officials who try to block the transition of power

from Saleh to his vice president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

Arming the Yemeni military certainly is only one gauge of U.S. involvement. U.S. drone and missile strikes have increased this year, several media outlets have reported. *Frontline* tallied 63 known U.S. airstrikes since 2002. *The Washington Post* reported on Wednesday that as many as 21 known U.S. strikes since January have caused civilian deaths that are fueling anti-U.S. sentiment.

House Armed Services Committee ranking member Adam Smith, D-Wash., announced on Friday that he visited U.S. troops in Kenya to assess their efforts to combat AQAP, which has bled across the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea to the Horn of Africa.

In Washington, the Senate has approved the Pentagon's request to restart \$75 million in aid for Yemen this year in the defense authorization bill. But that measure may not see Obama's signature until after Election Day.

That pricetag, however, dwarfs the cost of counterterrorism measures that al-Qaida's activity has sparked far from its safe havens, according to Brookings Institutions senior foreign policy fellow Bruce Riedel, a former CIA official. He wrote last week, "AQAP announced that the bombs it sent to blow up over Chicago ('Obama's city') in 2010 cost only \$4,200 to make; countermeasures to detect them have cost billions to disburse at airports around the world."

Reuters.com

June 2, 2012

## 19. Egypt's Mubarak Sentenced To Life In Prison

CAIRO (Reuters) - Deposed Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak was sentenced to life in prison on Saturday for ordering the killing of protesters during the uprising that swept him from power last year.

Presiding judge Ahmed Refaat also sentenced his former interior minister, Habib el-Adli, to life in prison on the same charge.

Wall Street Journal

June 2, 2012

Pg. 10

## 20. Divided Egypt Awaits Verdict In Mubarak Trial

By Matt Bradley

CAIRO--The verdict in former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's murder and corruption trial is expected on Saturday, at an especially volatile moment in the country's transition from his reign.

A presidential vote that put Mr. Mubarak's last prime minister, Ahmed Shafiq, in a head-to-head runoff in two weeks against the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohammed Morsi has carved deep rifts in Egypt.

Mr. Mubarak faces charges of complicity to murder, attempted murder and corruption that could merit punishments ranging from three years in jail to death by hanging.

Lawyers in the case told reporters in February that the verdict would be announced on June 2, though some legal experts expect a delay.

Few attorneys expect the man who ruled Egypt for nearly three decades to hang. Prosecutors have relied on the reductive argument that as president, Mr. Mubarak had to have at least known about the use of deadly force against the more than 850 protesters who died during his final weeks in office.

An acquittal on the capital murder charges would still allow lesser convictions to keep the ailing 84-year-old, who attended most of last year's trial sessions lying on a gurney, behind bars for the rest of his life.

As the prospect of a longtime Mubarak loyalist taking power has fueled public discontent with the election process and the judges who oversee it, some legal experts expect Judge Ahmed Rifaat to delay the Mubarak verdict until after the second-round election on June 16-17.

"Things are very sensitive now. You are waging two battles simultaneously. One is the election that people do not approve of, the other is the trial," said Osama Shaikal, a prosecuting attorney who is representing victims in the civil trial against Mr. Mubarak, which was run concurrently, in the same courtroom, as the criminal trial. "The results of both are unpredictable."

The verdict, when it comes, will be felt across the Arab world, which has been upended by successive uprisings over the past 18 months. Mr. Mubarak was the first Arab leader to be overthrown and face trial in front of his own people. Tunisia's ousted former president, Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, was sentenced in absentia, getting 35 years in prison on corruption charges.

Egypt's military leadership is already girding for chaos. Some 160 tanks will back 20,000 police personnel to protect the courthouse, according to Egyptian media.

With Mr. Mubarak in the defendants' cage when the verdict is announced will be his two sons, Alaa and Gamal, his former interior minister, Habib al-Adly, and six senior police officers. Hussein Salem, a businessman

with close connections to the former regime, faces corruption charges in absentia. Mr. Salem is awaiting extradition from Spain, where he was arrested last year after he fled Egypt.

All of the defendants faced prosecution at the same time, in the same court, against a mix of civil and criminal charges. In one example of the confusion dogging the case, some of the six police officers are accused of using excessive force against protesters while others are charged with dereliction of duty for allowing protesters to destroy public property.

The trial was rendered even more complex by the huge number of aggrieved parties. On the first day of the trial in August, more than 200 lawyers arrived in court to represent thousands of dead and injured protesters. Few of the attorneys had coordinated their arguments.

In front of the glare of the global media, prosecuting lawyers stumbled over each other, grappling for a chance to address the court.

Yet prosecutors say they handled a nearly impossible task well. Mr. Shaikal and other lawyers say they were ill-equipped to investigate crimes committed by officials in the Ministry of Interior—the government organ normally tasked with providing prosecutors with evidence.

Videos of the violence in question were mysteriously taped over before the trial, said Heba Morayef, a researcher who followed the case for the New York-based advocacy group Human Rights Watch. Senior military officers, including Egypt's interim president and defense minister, Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, offered secret testimony that attorneys said shed little light on who was responsible for firing live ammunition on protesters.

More worrying for victims' families have been the verdicts from 20 separate murder trials against police officers. The trials have so far yielded five acquittals and three convictions, all of which led only to suspended sentences without jail time, said Ms. Morayef. "It's a reflection of the fact that the balance of power hasn't shifted," she said.

But the trial's numerous mishaps don't preclude convictions that could satisfy the Egyptian public, she said.

--Lara el Gibaly  
contributed to this article.

NPR

June 1, 2012

## 21. Ignoring Critics, Iraq's Leader Consolidates Power

Morning Edition (NPR),  
7:10 A.M.

DAVID GREENE: And now let's turn now to Iraq, where the political situation seems to be lurching from crisis to crisis. There are growing fears that the prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, is going too far in his attempt to neutralize his opposition. Now even some of Maliki's political allies are threatening to bolt, and that raises concerns about the durability of Iraq's young democratic structure.

NPR's Peter Kenyon was recently in Baghdad and he sent this report.

PETER KENYON: Not long ago, Prime Minister Maliki held one of his traveling cabinet meetings in the disputed city of Kirkuk -- an effort to show Iraqi Arabs on the edge of the Kurdish-controlled north that he's working on their behalf too.

But the fact that he felt obliged to bring in large numbers of heavily armed troops for the event illustrates the tension plaguing Iraqi politics at the moment.

Much of the anger at Maliki is fueled by the belief that he's adopting the governing style of the late Saddam Hussein. The gist of one joke suggests that Maliki has done what the British and the Americans failed to do -- unify Iraq's factions. Now they all hate him.

Hamza al-Gurtani comes from a powerful Sunni tribe and is a member of the opposition Iraqiya bloc. He says with no apparent objection from the Americans, Maliki is amassing the kind of power that only a dictator would need.

HAMZA AL-GURTANI: He's packing all the security positions with his followers. It's unreasonable and unworkable for him to be prime minister, defense minister, interior minister and head of intelligence at the same time. It's completely unacceptable.

KENYON: Recently, alarm bells went off when one of Maliki's coalition partners in the Iraqi National Alliance turned against the prime minister. Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr threatened to join a new coalition with Iraqiya and the Kurds and force a vote of no confidence in the prime minister.

Baghdad analyst Ahmad al-Abyadh says Maliki has made a host of political enemies. The Kurds are convinced he's ready to attack them as soon as the Americans deliver promised F-16 fighter jets to the Iraqi air force. The Sadrists are convinced he's planning to evict them from the ruling coalition, and Abyadh believes another Shiite group in Maliki's bloc, known by the acronym ISKI, could be wavering.

AHMAD AL-ABYADH: The new plan, if reconciliation talks fail, will be for the Sadrists and the ISKI to break away and form a big new coalition with the Kurds and the Iraqiya, big enough to force a no



confidence vote and form a new government.

KENYON: On paper it looks like a serious threat to Maliki's rule. But if you ask the prime minister's supporters about a no confidence motion, they tend to laugh and say bring it on.

SAAD MUTTALIBI: Oh, definitely. Just go ahead. You know, we will sit there and laugh at the puny numbers that you will gain in the parliament.

KENYON: Businessman and Maliki backer Saad Muttalibi says those who have actually tried to add up the votes say the opposition is well short at the moment. He says pro-Maliki forces are mounting a counterattack, collecting votes for a no confidence motion against the anti-Maliki speaker of the parliament. And Muttalibi says Sadr is jeopardizing his future in the governing National Alliance by cozing up to the Kurds and Sunnis.

MUTTALIBI: Maybe Muqtada al-Sadr understands that he will not be part of the National Alliance and therefore he wants to make sure there is a sort of an agreement that they will keep him within the game. But he's taking the wrong way in doing it, I think.

KENYON: Analysts say Maliki has some advantages, not least the widespread perception that at the moment there's no one else who stands a better chance of holding the country together. One short list of replacements includes former Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, who presided during a time of horrific sectarian bloodshed; Ahmed Chalabi, the former exile who helped convince the Bush administration that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction; and Jabr Bakr al-Zubeidi, the Shiite former interior minister at a time of

widespread reports of torture and secret prisons.

Even critics of Maliki's power grabs, like Sunni politician Hamza al-Gurtani, worry about what might come after Maliki.

AL-GURTANI: We're concerned that if there is a vote of no confidence, the country would be plunged into chaos. Despite the many reservations against Maliki, he's a kind of safety valve for Iraq -- but only if he enacts real reforms and rids himself of this paranoia.

KENYON: At the moment, the prospects of real reform in Baghdad seem slim, as the government lurches toward another confrontation or another long-shot effort at dialogue and reconciliation.

Peter Kenyon, NPR News.

Arizona Daily Star (Tucson)  
June 2, 2012

## **22. NATO: 14 Insurgents Die In Attack On Coalition Base**

By Associated Press

KABUL - Taliban insurgents detonated a truck bomb, then tried to storm a NATO base Friday in eastern Afghanistan, but coalition forces repelled the attack, killing 14 militants, officials said.

No foreign or Afghan troops were killed, according to NATO, but the attack showed the fundamentalist Islamic movement remains a resilient force even as President Hamid Karzai insists it does not have the means to retake the nation after foreign forces leave.

In the past two years, the U.S.-led coalition has sent tens of thousands of troops into Taliban strongholds in the south and has largely succeeded in boosting security there. The Taliban have responded by opening up new fronts in the

north and west and stepping up attacks in the east, where much of the heaviest fighting is now concentrated.

NATO plans to pull combat troops out of Afghanistan by the end of 2014 and turn security over to local forces. If security allows, Karzai said foreign forces could pull out earlier.

"We will not ask them to leave early," Karzai told Time magazine on May 13. "If everything is done in time and they want to leave early, we will welcome it."

His office released a transcript of the wide-ranging interview on Friday.

Karzai said that while the U.S. had helped Afghanistan build roads, schools, clinics and welcomed the country into the world community, U.S. and NATO troops had not been able to provide security to the Afghan people.

"It did not bring the defeat of terrorism as we thought it would," he said. "It did not fight the war on terrorism in a manner that we felt was right. ... But the American presence did bring an overall stability to Afghanistan, which is very important."

Karzai also was adamant that the Taliban no longer have the means to overthrow the Afghan government.

"There is a lot in the Western press about the Taliban coming back and all that," Karzai said. "If you asked me three years ago, I would have not answered you in the positive. I would have said 'I don't know' or 'you are probably right' or somewhere in-between. But now, I can tell you with confidence that the Taliban as a force to threaten the government of Afghanistan or the way of life we have chosen is no longer there."

"The withdrawal of the international forces from

Afghanistan will not lead to the Taliban coming back."

Provincial police chief Gen. Sardar Mohammad Zazai said the blast occurred at a coalition base about three miles outside Khost. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

Gula Jan, an Afghan police official at the scene, said the attack occurred at Camp Salerno. Jan said six civilians - three women and three children - were slightly wounded when a wall collapsed from the force of the explosion. NATO said it had no reports of any civilians being hurt during the attack.

Yahoo.com

June 2, 2012

## **23. NATO: 4 Aid Workers Rescued From Afghan Insurgents**

By Rahim Faiez, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan--Two female foreign aid workers and their two Afghan colleagues were rescued in a pre-dawn raid Saturday after being held by militants for 11 days in a cave in northern Afghanistan, the U.S.-led military coalition said.

The women--Helen Johnston and Moragwe Oirere--and the two Afghans were kidnapped on May 22 in Badakhshan province. The four work for Medair, a humanitarian non-governmental organization based near Lausanne, Switzerland.

U.S. Gen. John Allen, the top commander of American and NATO forces in Afghanistan, said that coalition forces conducted the rescue mission with the support of the Afghan Ministry of Interior. Afghan officials said seven militants were killed during the operation, which was launched around 1 a.m. Saturday.



Lt. Col. Jimmie Cummings, a coalition spokesman, said a helicopter rescue team reached the scene before dawn and confirmed that the hostages were there.

"The kidnappers were armed with heavy machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47s," Cummings said. "They were kidnapped by an armed terrorist group with ties to the Taliban."

The aid workers appeared to be in good health, but they will be evaluated before being reunited with their families, he said.

Shams ul-Rahman, the deputy governor of Badakhshan province, said the hostages were being held in Gulati, a village in Shahri Buzurg district. It is a mountainous and forested area near the Tajikistan border in extreme northern Afghanistan about 70 kilometers (44 miles) from the district center.

"Mostly smugglers are based in those areas, but of course the smugglers have the support of the Taliban," Rahman said.

He said Afghan elders in the area had worked to seek the release of the aid workers.

"A group of elders was about to go to the village and start negotiations," Rahman said. "Based on intelligence reports that Afghan forces received, a successful operation was conducted that resulted in the release of the hostages and the killing of the kidnappers."

Elsewhere, four Afghan policemen were killed in two explosions Friday evening and Saturday morning in southern Afghanistan.

Both attacks involved bombs hidden in motorcycles that exploded as police vehicles were passing by in Tarin Kot, the capital of Uruzgan province, said Gulab Khan, the director of the criminal investigation department in the

province. Each attack killed two policemen. Two other policemen were wounded in Saturday's blast, he said.

*Associated Press writer Mirwais Khan in Kandahar, Afghanistan, contributed to this report.*

New York Times  
June 2, 2012  
Pg. 1

## **24. Rape Case, In Public, Cites Abuse By Armed Groups In Afghanistan**

By Alissa J. Rubin

KABUL, Afghanistan--Lal Bibi is an 18-year-old rape victim who has taken a step rarely seen in Afghanistan: she has spoken out publicly against her tormentors, local militiamen, including several who have been identified as members of the American-trained Afghan Local Police.

She says she was raped because her cousin offended a family linked to a local militia commander, who then had his men abduct her around May 17. She was chained to a wall, sexually assaulted and beaten for five days, she said.

A number of Afghan women who are victimized like Lal Bibi are later killed by their relatives because they believe the women have brought dishonor to the family. Extraordinarily, in this case, Lal Bibi's relatives brought the battered girl to Kunduz Hospital, near their home in northern Afghanistan, and filed a complaint with the governor. They hoped for official justice even while holding out the possibility that her death might be the only way to restore the family's honor.

"I am already a dead person," she said in an interview, her voice breaking.

"If the people in government fail to bring these

people to justice I am going to burn myself," she said. "I don't want to live with this stigma on my forehead. People will mock me if these men go unpunished, so I want every single one of them to be punished."

In addition to stretching the bounds of conservative Afghan tradition, her plight is a test of the government's willingness to challenge the impunity of the many armed groups operating in the country, in particular the Afghan Local Police, which provides security in Afghanistan's rural expanses. These lightly trained and American-backed security forces are considered by the United States military to be one of the best hopes of improving stability in remote areas, even as human rights groups and residents have linked some to abuses, especially in northern Afghanistan.

"She is very brave that she came out and talked to the media," said Nedara Geya, the head of the Afghan government's women's affairs department in Kunduz. "She has set an example for the rest of the rape victims."

Like a number of areas in the north, Kunduz Province has become a patchwork of armed militias with overlapping territories. In addition to the Afghan Local Police, who are attached to the government through the Interior Ministry, there are many freelance groups, as well as others financed by international forces to guard otherwise unsecured areas. In the past year, both official and unofficial armed groups in Kunduz Province have been involved in abuses.

American military officials said that as far as they could determine, members of the Afghan Local Police were not involved in abusing Lal Bibi, saying they hoped that justice would be done in any

case. However, a number of the local authorities, including the governor, the military prosecutor for Kunduz, as well as the Afghan Local Police director for the province, said the men who had abducted her and beat her were A.L.P. members.

Because of that government connection, the provincial military prosecutor has decided to take up her case. There were differing accounts of whether the man accused of raping her was a member of the A.L.P., but all agreed that his brother was a local commander in the force.

"All of the men are part of the first 300 A.L.P. who were trained by the American Special Forces," said the prosecutor, Gen. Mohammed Sharif Safi. "It is not the first time that they have committed such a horrible crime. All of them are a bunch of illiterate and uneducated bandits and thugs who go around harassing people."

So far, two people have been arrested in the case, including Khudai Dad, who is accused of raping Lal Bibi, and his brother, Sakhi Dad, who is an Afghan Local Police member, according to the Kunduz governor's office and the police officer in charge of the province's A.L.P. force, Col. Mohammed Shokur.

Not yet detained, however, is the chief suspect in Lal Bibi's abduction, Cmdr. Muhammad Ishaq Nezaami, who disappeared shortly after she was grabbed.

He has a troubled past. He was arrested six months ago on charges of attempted rape in a different case but was cleared, General Safi said, adding that he believed that powerful people intervened on Commander Nezaami's behalf. However, Colonel Shokur, the police official, said the charges

were dropped in that case because of lack of evidence.

Lal Bibi is the youngest daughter in a Kuchi family, ethnic Pashtuns who are seminomadic herders. She and her family live in a tent in the scrub land outside the city of Kunduz and raise sheep for their livelihood.

Her nightmare began when a distant male cousin, Mohammed Issa, an Afghan Local Police member, started a relationship with a local girl. In one account, he tried unsuccessfully to elope with her. In another version, he contracted to marry her and then could not pay the bride price and fled. In either case, he was thought to have dishonored the father, who was furious and sought compensation.

Although Lal Bibi was only a cousin of the offender and in no way connected to the episode, in tribal justice one possible settlement would have been for her family to give Lal Bibi to the wronged girl's family as payment, a practice known as baadal. But no tribal settlement was reached. Instead, Commander Nezaami, the local A.L.P. leader, came with armed men to her home and grabbed her, according to her and her family's accounts.

"I was busy milking the sheep with my mother, and suddenly a car pulled up close to our tent," Lal Bibi said. "They first grabbed my father and tied his hands, and then the armed men grabbed me and my mother from behind, and I didn't know what happened and why they were there."

She said that Commander Nezaami's men threw her into a truck and took her to the home of one of his subcommanders, Sakhi Dad, whose brother was the father of the girl whose honor was seen as compromised by Lal Bibi's distant cousin.

She told the rest of the story in rushed gasps: She was chained to a wall, she said, and Khudai Dad raped her repeatedly. Other men came in and beat her.

"I would begin to scream every time one of them came into the room, because I knew they were going to beat me or rape me again," she said.

The experience is written on her body, according to a report by the regional Kunduz Hospital. "The doctors found signs that she was beaten and tortured," said Dr. Shukur Rahimi, the head of the hospital. And, there was physical evidence consistent with her account of being chained.

An examination also confirmed that her hymen had been broken. That can be tantamount to a death sentence in Afghanistan, where women are considered fit to marry only if they are proved to be virgins on their wedding night. Some who fail that test are killed by relatives to restore the family's honor.

In interviews, both Lal Bibi's mother and grandfather said they were thinking of killing her unless justice was done, although the fact that they had come forward suggested that they were hoping that the government will prosecute the men and redress the wrongs done to her and her family through the legal system.

"If nobody wants to solve our problem, then they should behead her; we don't want her," her mother said.

The girl's grandfather, Hajji Rustam, who lives with the family, seemed torn between tribal traditions that require that a tarnished girl be killed and deep feeling for his granddaughter's distress.

He said: "Put yourself in our shoes: What if somebody raped your daughter? I am sure

when you see that no one is helping you to bring the culprits to justice, you will be ready to kill yourself, kill your daughter."

Then, he looked over at his granddaughter, whom he has been staying with since the rape: "During the day, she sits and doesn't talk and is silent for hours and suddenly she screams. Her soul has been broken, and she is a very sad person."

*An employee of The New York Times contributed reporting from Kunduz, Afghanistan, and Habib Zahori from Kabul.*

Wall Street Journal

June 2, 2012

Pg. 11

## **25. EU Freezes Cash For U.N.'s Afghan Police Fund**

By Dion Nissenbaum

KABUL--The European Union is blocking the release of €30 million (\$37 million) to a United Nations-run fund that finances Afghanistan's police force amid an investigation into alleged mismanagement and corruption at the U.N. program, Western officials in Kabul said.

The EU had previously put the funds on hold pending a determination that the Afghan police force had made certain improvements, the officials said.

European leaders, adding a new condition, decided to keep the funds frozen until they are also satisfied that the U.N. has addressed allegations, reported by The Wall Street Journal on May 10, that officials running the program haven't ensured proper oversight.

"We and all the other donors have a very strong interest in making sure it gets cleaned up and people feel as though they're confident that you put your money in there and

it's not going to be stolen," said a Western official.

The EU, U.S. and Japan are the main donors to the program, called the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan, or Lotfa. The EU has pledged to spend about \$175 million on the program for its current phase, from January 2011 to March 2013, a period with a budget of \$1.4 billion.

U.N. officials said on Friday that they hadn't been informed of the new EU condition for release of the €30 million, and that they were taking the allegations seriously.

Lofta staff have told Western officials and a monitoring committee of Afghan and international officials that U.N. officials had abused the fund's \$2.2 million procurement budget, paid salaries to thousands of nonexistent police officers and created high-paying positions for people with close ties to Afghan leaders, according to Western officials. Officials at the U.N. Development Program, which administers Lofta, have denied allegations of mismanagement and corruption at the fund.

The fund was seen as a way for donor governments to finance the 150,000-member police force—a central element of the U.S. exit strategy in Afghanistan—while reducing the potential of Afghan government corruption.

"Lotfa is, in some ways, the only vehicle that's out there to channel contributions, so it's got to work," said the Western official. "And if it's being poorly managed, it's got to get fixed fast."

U.N. investigators have seized computers and cellphones of several UNDP officials involved with Lofta, Western officials said. The investigative team has expanded in size and scope



as the investigation unfolds, officials said.

Western officials also said they had been told by U.N. employees that Lofta staff had attempted to destroy documents the day before investigators arrived. "The attempt at a coverup not only spurred the investigation, but really lit a fire under the international community," said the official. "So now you have a lot of concern by us and the other donors about how UNDP has actually managed this fund."

UNDP said it is looking into the reports of destruction of evidence, but couldn't comment on the investigation until it is complete. "At this stage it is not possible to state whether these allegations have any factual basis. Should evidence show that allegations of fraud are true, appropriate action will be taken," the UNDP said.

U.N. officials in Kabul said at the time the Journal first reported the allegations last month that a recently conducted financial audit of the fund had found no financial irregularities.

The EU, U.S. and other major donors sent a letter to the U.N. after the Journal article was published calling for a full investigation of the allegations. The letter urged the U.N. to ensure that evidence wasn't destroyed and to brief donors on the outcome of the investigation, the Western official said.

Western officials said that they were encouraged by the U.N. response to their concerns.

U.N. documents viewed by the Journal show that U.N. employees had reported concerns about mismanagement and potential fraud at Lofta before the allegations were made public last month.

An email by an employee sent in January, seen by the Journal, raised alarms about

potential "no-show" workers at Afghanistan's Interior Ministry who were being paid on contract by the U.N. fund.

In a response to the Journal's initial report last month, UNDP said it was aware of the risk of "ghost" employees, but had established a process to verify attendance.

--Nathan Hodge  
contributed to this article.

AlJazeera.com

May 31, 2012

## 26. Afghanistan's Rambo

By Bernard Smith

Rambo shows me the marks around his wrists, left after being chained up by the Taliban for more than five months.

"When the US marines leave, we will have to fight to protect our people," he says.

Rambo is a policeman in Kajaki district in Helmand province. His real name is Omar Gul, but he only answers to the moniker of the action-movie hero made famous by Sylvester Stallone.

Rambo hates the Taliban. He somehow managed to shoot his way out of their custody. Now he wants revenge. That drive makes him stand out against his fellow police officers and highlights the challenges Afghan security forces will face as US and NATO troops pull out of Afghanistan.

The other police officers we met in Kajaki and elsewhere across this country are not motivated like Rambo.

They just need the money. There is no real loyalty to the leadership of one of the most corrupt countries on earth. So, when the foreign troops leave, it is hard to imagine poorly paid and poorly equipped police officers standing and fighting against determined Taliban.

Kajaki has only been under central government influence for a little more than seven months. Out on patrol with troops of the US Marine Corps, we walk past fields of poppy stalks. Their sap has just been harvested for opium. The Americans do not destroy this harvest because, they say, they do not want to alienate the local population.

One US soldier tells me that this area was so detached from the Afghan government that, before they arrived here in October, local farmers did not know that poppy cultivation is illegal.

### Hard work

We are embedded with a detachment of 18 US soldiers. They live with Rambo and his colleagues in a police compound in Kajaki's bazaar. The Americans are here to mentor the Afghans, to get them ready to go it alone in perhaps just a few months. It is hard work.

The Marines Corps are part of arguably the best-equipped military machine in the world. They have heavily armoured, mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles, MRAPS, which can withstand roadside bombs.

They have sophisticated spy cameras fastened to blimps that float high above towns and villages. They can call in air support if the going gets really tough. The US soldiers we were with were fit, disciplined, committed and professional men.

The Afghans, meanwhile, must manage with Ford Ranger pick-up vehicles, AK-47s, and not much else.

When we ask the US military how the Afghans will cope when they lose foreign military support, the answer is "local knowledge". Which means building local relationships to

gather intelligence to maintain stability.

On a walking patrol through Kajaki's bazaar we see this strategy in action. The police talk to the locals while the Americans look on from a distance. It all seems very friendly. But when we approach shopkeepers, some, out of earshot of the police, complain of official corruption. Others say they are too afraid to talk.

Stability in Kajaki seems fragile, and not every police officer is like Rambo.

Miami Herald

June 2, 2012

## 27. 9/11 Defenders Send Mixed Message On Whether To Split Up Guantanamo Trial

*Only one of five defense teams argued in favor of splitting off an accused 9/11 conspirator from the joint prosecution of alleged Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed. And they represent Mohammed's nephew.*

By Carol Rosenberg

Defense attorneys are split on whether to break up the joint capital trial of the five Guantánamo prisoners accused of plotting the Sept. 11 attacks.

Not all five legal teams had filed responses by Judge James L. Pohl's May 31 deadline to advise him on whether he should split off the prosecution of alleged mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed from any of the other four accused 9/11 conspirators.

But James Connell III, the Pentagon-paid attorney for Mohammed's nephew, Ammar al Baluchi, said Friday he urged the judge to try the nephew separately.

"Individual justice has been the norm in capital terrorism cases in the United States," said Connell, who casts his client as



a bit player in the government charge sheet and undeserving of a death-penalty prosecution.

Baluchi, 35, allegedly wired money to some of the 9/11 hijackers and helped in some of their U.S.-bound travel.

To bolster his position on separate trials, Connell invoked the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing cases. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were tried separately, he noted, and McVeigh was sentenced to die and executed June 11, 2001 while Nichols is serving a life sentence.

In contrast, defense attorney James Harrington said Thursday his submission to the judge argued "it's premature" to say whether his client Ramzi bin al Shibh should have a solo trial. Bin al Shibh, 40, allegedly organized the Hamburg cell of Sept. 11 hijackers while four times failing to obtain a U.S. visa and become one.

Pentagon prosecutors don't want the judge to split up the complex terror prosecution.

They argue that it is "in the interests of justice" that all five should be tried together for the murders of 2,976 people on Sept. 11, 2001. They also attached a copy of a memo signed by all five accused in 2008, two years after they got to Guantánamo from secret CIA custody, in which the accused described the allegations against them as a "badge of honor."

Lawyers for alleged al Qaida lieutenant Walid bin Attash, 34, wrote that they had insufficient information — notably they hadn't been furnished case evidence — to take a position on whether to sever.

Lawyers did not file responses for either alleged Saudi money mover Mustafa al Hawsawi nor Mohammed, whose legal teams got extensions until June 8 and

June 15 to represent each man's position.

The defense filings were under seal at the Pentagon on Friday to give U.S. intelligence agencies up to 15 business days to scrub them before release to the public.

The judge on his own, without a request from a defense lawyer, sought all sides opinions on whether to split up the case following the marathon 13-hour arraignment of the five alleged organizers, trainers and funders of the hijackers on May 5. Pohl, an Army colonel, had intended to hold the next 9/11 pre-trial hearing June 12 but was confronted with scheduling conflicts among lawyers on the five separate legal defense teams.

He also questioned whether a joint trial would be a problem if there were a conviction because the same jury decides whether to hand down a death sentence. "It is conceivable that the mitigation evidence for one accused could possibly be considered aggravation evidence for another," Judge Pohl wrote in his May 17 order to the lawyers to brief him on whether severance is appropriate now.

Prosecutors said it was too soon to address that issue and called severance for that reason an "extraordinary action at this premature point."

But the prosecutors pointed out that, if all five still sought the "martyrdom" spelled out in their 2008 "badge of honor" memo, it would be "wholly inconsistent" to be arguing over aggravation and mitigation.

The judge now has time to work out whether to split up the trial.

He set the next two pre-trial sessions for Aug. 8-12 and Sept. 8-12, during Ramadan and the 11th anniversary of the terror attacks respectively. The next two sessions also

fall during hurricane season, which began June 1, a time when tropical storms but rarely hurricane winds lash Camp Justice, the war court compound at Guantánamo.

Arizona Republic (Phoenix)

June 2, 2012

Pg. 1

## 28. Pinal Policies Spur Pentagon To Order Military-Gear Crackdown

By Dennis Wagner, The Republic

The federal agency overseeing the distribution of surplus military gear to police agencies has launched a nationwide effort to reform the program in the aftermath of an *Arizona Republic* report on apparent abuses at the Pinal County Sheriff's Office.

Tim Hoyle, a spokesman for the Defense Logistics Agency, said new policies are being developed and a new accounting system will be employed to keep track of gear that law-enforcement agencies are able to requisition free.

The agency informed *The Republic* of the reforms on Friday, 12 days after the newspaper published a special report detailing how Sheriff Paul Babeu's office, which has collected millions of dollars worth of surplus military equipment intended for law-enforcement use, has distributed vehicles and other gear to non-police agencies. The story also described how Babeu was preparing to sell other property as a budget booster.

Hoyle said the agency's Law Enforcement Services Office is taking steps to clarify that police are not allowed to "loan" items to other community organizations, a practice engaged in by Babeu's office. He also said the

federal agency will monitor the Pinal County Sheriff's Office to ensure it does not sell surplus military gear to enhance its budget in violation of federal regulations.

Hundreds of surplus military items -- from vehicles and firearms to computers and medical instruments -- may be requisitioned by police agencies under the Pentagon's so-called 1033 Program. However, the merchandise is subject to strict regulations: Products must be put to a law-enforcement use for at least one year, and agencies are banned from acquiring items with the intent to raise money via auctions.

The *Republic* story, based on documents and e-mails obtained via public-records requests, revealed that the Sheriff's Office has distributed equipment worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to non-government fire departments and other agencies or enterprises that do not enforce laws.

Critics contend the practice enables Babeu, who abandoned a congressional campaign and is seeking re-election as sheriff, to curry political favor with community groups. They also say unnecessary requisitions by the Sheriff's Office deprive other law-enforcement agencies that need items for police work.

Babeu has declined interview requests. In an e-mail Friday, Tim Gaffney, the sheriff's grants and communications director, said public-safety agencies that borrowed surplus gear have not been asked to return items or have been advised to discontinue using them.

Gaffney has previously said the sheriff's practice of lending the equipment enhances public safety and reduces the burden on taxpayers by putting idle military equipment to community use. Gaffney

said Humvees, firetrucks and other items lent to non-police agencies are "strategically placed" to assist deputies when needed.

While the *Republic* was researching Pinal County's practices, the Defense Logistics Agency issued an award to the Sheriff's Office for "Superior Achievement in Fiscal Stewardship."

Later, however, the agency began scrutinizing program practices under Babeu.

In an e-mail Friday, Hoyle said officials at the Law Enforcement Services Office are "taking steps to clarify that items should remain under the (law-enforcement agency's) control and that loaning or placing items (with other agencies) is not allowed." A review is under way to determine whether some exceptions to that rule may be possible, he said.

Hoyle said administrators recently conducted a national teleconference with state coordinators for the 1033 Program to discuss imminent changes in accountability and audit requirements.

In the meantime, he said, the Sheriff's Office was not immediately directed to recover gear that it lent to other agencies, or to instruct those agencies to stop using the equipment.

More than 12,000 local, state and federal law-enforcement agencies take part in the 1033 Program, including about 100 in Arizona. During fiscal 2011, they requisitioned more than \$500 million worth of military surplus.

The Pinal County Sheriff's Office began using the program heavily two years ago. It has acquired an estimated \$7 million worth of equipment, mostly since Babeu's grants coordinator was placed in charge of approving

requisitions for Arizona police departments. Many of the products clearly are used by deputies and detention officers, including thermal-imaging devices for drug surveillance, Humvees for desert patrols and medical supplies for the jail.

But Babeu told the county Board of Supervisors during a presentation in March that he intended to help balance his budget by selling some military products. His office requisitioned five truck tractors (diesel rigs) with six trailers and a forklift just to retrieve surplus from military depots around the country. Although auction preparations began months ago, no property has been sold.

Gaffney said eligible merchandise may be auctioned in the future, after deputies no longer need it.

At the same time, the Sheriff's Office requisitioned and obtained free vehicles, medical supplies and furniture for multiple agencies, including Southwest Ambulance.

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GovExec.com

June 1, 2012

## **29. Budget Austerity Gives Financial Managers A Chance To Shine**

By Charles S. Clark

Defense Department leaders preparing for historic budget cuts should tap the expertise of their financial management executives, who see the current challenges as their moment to "step up to the plate and shine," stated a new survey conducted by the American Society of Military Comptrollers and Grant Thornton LLP.

The 10th annual survey, released Thursday, summarizes responses from 742 uniformed and civilian defense financial leaders and employees on

their role in helping the Pentagon prepare for new military conflicts and a possible budget sequester, and adjusting to a "mind-set of less."

With top Defense leaders preoccupied with macro issues, "now is truly a time for all [financial management] professionals to assume a leadership role in meeting the challenges of significantly reduced resources in an uncertain and dangerous world," an analysis of the survey results said.

"We are seeing an increased need for the strategic financial management professional who combines technical finance knowledge with strong analytics and sound operational knowledge," Al Tucker, executive director of the controllers association, said in a statement. "These professionals can craft budget-cutting solutions that assess and protect priority programs while still generating funds for investments required by the president's new policy guidance."

Retired Vice Adm. Lewis Crenshaw, a principal at Grant Thornton and the primary interviewer for the survey, said, "a sluggish U.S. economy, the return of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, the specter of sequester, a gridlocked election-year Congress, and a rethinking of Defense strategy have combined to create a 'perfect financial management storm.'" If the right people are in place, he added, "the financial management corps is ready to step up and shine."

The survey showed that about two-thirds of financial managers are optimistic about their ability to bring cultural change to reflect the new austerity. But "inertia, resistance to change and entrenched interests that want to maintain the status quo all

can work against these efforts," the survey report said. The most important skills required of modern financial managers are critical thinking, analytical prowess, understanding the operational context of the programs they support, and creating and using performance measures, respondents said.

The survey showed a gap between top executives and field managers on some key questions. Asked whether pay and hiring freezes are having a significant impact on the workforce, 77 percent of executives said no, but only 39 percent of lower-level managers agreed.

Similarly, the goal of achieving auditable financial statements -- a challenge that has vexed the Pentagon for nearly two decades -- is a higher priority for top-level executives than for field managers.

The financial managers were asked which of several approaches top defense leaders likely would take. Options included shifting financial management tasks to nonspecialists; requiring managers to take a 5 percent to 10 percent across-the-board budget cut; negotiating to reduce the number of reports and services required; and outsourcing financial management operations. None of these choices is realistic, the majority of respondents said, but the most likely is an across-the-board cut to program budgets.

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NextGov.com

June 1, 2012

## **30. Pentagon Wants To Fast-Track Genetic Engineering**

By Dawn Lim

The Pentagon's venture capital arm awarded \$17.8 million to seven research institutions in May to



develop basic genetic building blocks and other easy-to-deploy biological tools to make it easier for scientists to create new medicines and materials.

The funding was through the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's research and development program Living Foundries. The project enlists scientists to develop ways to accelerate the process of designing and testing biological materials "by at least 10x in both time and cost" in a field where "the state of the art development cycle for engineering a new biologically manufactured product often takes 7+ years and tens to hundreds of millions of dollars," according to a request for proposals.

DARPA wants to bring efficiency and standardization to a laborious process of genetic engineering that has been largely individualized and dependent on the practices of different labs. It is funding ways to develop an "engineering framework to biology" that can "introduce new architectures and tools" for genetic engineering. For instance, if basic synthetic protein structures could be devised that scientist could play with immediately, they wouldn't have to mine and harvest naturally occurring genes, speeding up the rate at which new vaccines and materials can be genetically created.

"The outcome should be an open technology platform that integrates these tools and capabilities, allowing new designs to rapidly move from conception to execution," the solicitation states.

The largest recipients of funding so far are the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which got about \$5.9 million, the J. Craig Venter Institute, which received \$4

million in funding, and Stanford University, which was awarded \$3.2 million, contracting databases show. Other recipients include Harvard College, the Foundation for Applied Molecular Evolution, the California Institute of Technology and the University of Texas at Austin.

Tacoma News Tribune  
June 2, 2012

### **31. Steroid Charges Against Bales Could Alter His Defense Strategy**

*The Joint Base Lewis-McChord soldier who allegedly massacred Afghan civilians in March faces new charges that he abused steroids and consumed alcohol at an outpost in Kandahar Province.*

By Adam Ashton, Staff writer

The Joint Base Lewis-McChord soldier who allegedly massacred Afghan civilians in March faces new charges that he abused steroids and consumed alcohol at an outpost in Kandahar Province.

The new charges against Staff Sgt. Robert Bales are in addition to 16 counts of murder that could net him the death penalty if his case proceeds to a court-martial.

In addition, the Army on Friday accused him of burning corpses, attempting to destroy evidence and assaulting an Afghan man a month before the killings in the Panjwai District of southern Afghanistan.

The lesser misconduct charges of substance abuse raise the possibility that Bales was under the influence of mood-altering steroids that he obtained at the Special Forces outpost where he was stationed this spring.

His lawyers on Friday received 5,000 pages of government documents from the Army's investigation. One

of his lawyers said the muscle-building but illegal steroids came from other service members at the Panjwai outpost.

John Henry Browne, Bales' lead attorney, said the way Bales received the steroids and the drugs' known side effects could play a role in his defense.

"If the government has a case, and I'm still not convinced they do, then obviously his mental state will become an issue," Browne said.

Bales initially faced 17 counts of homicide; the Army on Friday dropped one count because its investigation determined that one victim's name was duplicated on the first reports from the March 11 incident.

That discrepancy has been a conflict since news of the killings broke. At one point, people watching the case closely speculated that one of the female victims was pregnant when she was killed.

"The first report isn't always the best report," said Lt. Col. Gary Dangerfield, spokesman for the I Corps at Lewis-McChord.

Unnamed military officials have leaked information for months suggesting that alcohol was a factor in the killings. Also, in April, PBS reported that steroids were found in Bales' living quarters.

Such details have been used as possible explanations of how Bales, a respected combat veteran with three tours in Iraq behind him, could have snapped and killed civilians.

The 38-year-old Lake Tapps resident, who is married with two children, was on his fourth deployment with Lewis-McChord's 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

Bales allegedly slipped out of his outpost where he was supporting Special Forces and killed the Afghans in two

separate villages. The Army alleges he burned 10 of the victims.

Emma Scanlan, an attorney on Bales' defense team, said witness statements suggest Bales consumed a "moderate amount" of alcohol with other service members on the day of the killings — an amount that should not have influenced his behavior.

"He is not an alcoholic, and the idea that the alcohol he used that day fueled this incident is laughable," she said.

As for steroids, the Army does not test for their use as frequently as it does for marijuana. A steroid analysis costs \$240, compared with \$8 for marijuana, according to a March release from North Carolina's Womack Army Medical Center.

Still, the Army's most recent published survey on steroid use showed 2.5 percent of soldiers admitted to using them, an increase from previous reports.

Dan Conway, a civilian lawyer who specializes in military cases, recently defended a soldier from Fort Drum, N.Y., who was accused of using steroids in Afghanistan. Conway learned the drugs are easily available outside NATO military bases in Afghanistan, and readily accessible to service members.

Some soldiers favor steroids because of the perception that they can provide an edge in combat even though they come with a risk for long-term health degeneration and mood swings.

"Steroids are cheap over there, and you can get them right outside the gate," Conway said.

Conway was skeptical that a "roid rage" defense would be enough to sway a court-martial panel made up of veteran Army



officers and noncommissioned officers.

But he said steroid use could be a factor in convincing the panel that Bales did not plan the killings, as long as defense attorneys connect the use to other stresses Bales might have been experiencing.

"Any information you can gain that tends to affect (Bales') ability to premeditate the offense is helpful," Conway said. "Given the mental health issues and now the substance-abuse issues, this is going to be more for the defense to clarify."

Conway last year defended Pfc. Andrew Holmes, one of four Lewis-McChord soldiers who were convicted in connection with the killings of three Afghan civilians in 2010. Their case became known as the Stryker kill team.

Stjepan Mestrovic, a war-crimes expert who testified at another of the kill team courts-martial last year, said Bales' alleged steroid and alcohol abuse points to a failure in leadership at his base in Afghanistan.

"Those things are prohibited, and the Army has rules for testing and enforcing those standards," said Mestrovic, a professor at Texas A&M University.

Nation Now (LATimes.com)  
June 1, 2012

## 32. More Psychological Tests Urged For Sergeant Charged In 5 Killings

By Kim Murphy

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash.--Army Sgt. John M. Russell declined to enter a plea at his arraignment Friday on charges of killing five fellow service members at a combat stress clinic in Iraq, as defense lawyers pushed for new psychological evaluations that

could help forestall the death penalty.

At a hearing in a small courtroom at the base where Russell is being held, defense attorneys argued that Russell should be transferred temporarily to Pennsylvania to allow a full evaluation by Dr. Robert Sadoff, one of the nation's premier experts in forensic psychiatry.

The case, involving the deadliest act of soldier-on-soldier violence in the Iraq war, is likely to rely heavily on psychiatric testimony, both because of the possibility of an insanity defense--highly unusual in military cases--and the probability that the quality of psychological care Russell received from Army doctors will be a defining question.

Russell, 47, of Sherman, Texas, is charged with gunning down five fellow soldiers at the Camp Liberty Combat Stress Center in Baghdad where he had previously, but largely unsuccessfully, gone for help with mounting feelings of paranoia, stress and depression.

Witnesses told investigators Russell was repeatedly sent back to his unit without substantial help. Just before the shooting, an Army psychologist got into a confrontation with Russell just before the shootings, with an Army psychiatrist yelling at Russell as he walked out of the clinic while threatening to kill himself, according to testimony presented to Army investigators.

Russell sat quietly next to his lawyers Friday but postponed entering a plea. James Culp, his civilian attorney, said no determination has been made yet whether to plead not guilty or to attempt to assert an insanity defense. Much, he said, will depend on the outcome of further mental evaluations.

An Army mental health board in 2009 found that Russell was incompetent to stand trial, concluding he suffered from a major depressive disorder with "psychotic features." After more than a year of intensive therapy and high daily doses of antidepressant and antipsychotic medications, Russell was found by a second mental health board to be competent to stand trial. A military reviewer ruled last month that he would potentially face the death penalty.

The defense is seeking the temporary transfer to Pennsylvania because Sadoff, whose wife has been diagnosed with a terminal illness, is unable to travel regularly to Washington state, where Russell is being held. Sadoff is a professor of forensic psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania.

Russell briefly took the witness stand Friday to describe his previous transfers, from Kuwait to Germany, Virginia and Kansas, sometimes on civilian planes and occasionally staying in hotels, always accompanied by at least three guards. Defense lawyers are contending it will be safe to transport him yet again to Pennsylvania for an extended mental health evaluation.

The military prosecutor, Capt. Daniel Mazzone, argued that no transfer was necessary. The judge in the case, Col. David Conn, is expected to rule after an additional hearing next week.

Biloxi (MS) Sun Herald  
June 2, 2012

## 33. USS Mississippi To Be Commissioned Today

By Michael Newsom

PASCAGOULA -- The \$2 billion USS Mississippi nuclear submarine will be

commissioned today at the Port of Pascagoula in a public event that is expected to draw thousands of spectators and a host of dignitaries.

The submarine arrived last week to the commissioning site on the west bank of the Pascagoula River. It will be commissioned at a highly secure event, for which the public was able to sign up to receive an invitation.

U.S. Navy Capt. John McGrath, a native of Neptune N.J., is the Mississippi's commanding officer. He told reporters recently the submarine has performed well so far, easily passing sea trials and other tests. It's combat ready, he said.

"We're very proud to be here and happy to share the commissioning of this great warship with the people of the state of Mississippi," McGrath said.

Construction on the USS Mississippi, which is the ninth in the Virginia class, began in February 2007. General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., and Newport News Shipbuilding, a Virginia-based division of Huntington Ingalls, are building the new Virginia-class subs for the Navy. It was christened in Connecticut in December.

By April, the submarine had completed its Alpha and Bravo sea trials, in which its seaworthiness and performance were tested.

It will have been delivered in just over five years, about one year before it was scheduled to be ready under the terms of the contract. It will be based in Groton for the immediate future.

The Virginia class is billed as the Navy's "next generation" of attack sub.

Instead of the traditional periscope, the Virginia class has two photonics masts with color, high-resolution, infrared

and black-and-white cameras mounted on telescoping arms.

It's also equipped with a control system that allows for better shallow-water handling. It can launch Tomahawk cruise missiles and MK48 ADCAP torpedoes.

The Navy uses the Virginia class and other attack subs to seek and destroy enemy subs and ships. They've also been used to "project power ashore" with cruise missiles. Mine warfare and intelligence, reconnaissance and other missions are among the submarine's operations.

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Norfolk Virginian-Pilot  
June 2, 2012

### **34. Overhauled Ponce Embarks On Duty As Floating Base**

By Corinne Reilly, The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK--For the first time, the Navy on Friday deployed a ship to the Middle East to serve as a designated floating staging base, answering a request that commanders have been making for more than 20 years.

What's unusual, though, isn't how long the Navy took to respond. It's how it did so: by recycling a decades-old vessel that just six months ago was set to be decommissioned.

The 42-year-old Ponce, formerly an amphibious transport dock, was officially retired after it returned to Norfolk in December from what was said to be its last deployment.

Less than a month later, the Pentagon decided it would instead use the ship to fill a longstanding request from U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in the Middle East, for a waterborne staging base - essentially a lily pad for

helicopters, patrol boats and personnel.

Crews at MHI Ship Repair in Norfolk quickly set to work on a \$65 million overhaul that included almost every part of the Ponce. On Friday morning, the vessel pulled away from the pier at Norfolk Naval Station exactly on schedule.

Mike Ricci, a civilian with Military Sealift Command who oversaw the retrofit, said his team was told on Dec. 22 to get the ship ready as soon as possible. He and many of his colleagues canceled their Christmas plans to get started immediately.

Initial news reports said the military was rushing to turn the Ponce into a "mother ship" for Navy SEALs in response to increasing threats from Iran and al-Qaida, but officials were quick to call those reports inaccurate.

They acknowledged that the ship was being overhauled unusually fast, in part because of pressing needs in the region, and that special operations forces may use the platform from time to time. But a range of other personnel also will use it, they said, and the ship wasn't remade specifically for SEALs.

The idea for what the military calls an "afloat forward staging base" dates to the 1980s.

Also unusual is the way the Ponce is being operated and crewed. Unlike most Navy vessels, the ship won't routinely return to its home port. Instead it will remain deployed for the three or so years it's expected to be in use while the Navy works to fund and build a new staging-base ship from scratch.

And rather than being crewed exclusively by the Navy, the Ponce's 200 personnel include about 150 civil service mariners. The rest, including the commanding officer, Capt. John Rogers, are Navy sailors. They'll

rotate aboard for 12-month assignments - twice as long as typical Navy sea tours.

Also uncommon, most of them volunteered for the deployment, including Petty Officer 2nd Class Roger Bailey. A fire controlman, he acknowledged that being away from his new wife for an entire year won't be easy. He said he decided to go because he saw it as a way to better his career and be part of something exciting.

"It's like a prototype," Bailey said. "It's the first of its kind."

The Ponce's executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. David Wroe, agreed. He said he volunteered to leave a desk job at the Pentagon. Because the crew is small - about half the size of the Ponce's last one - "everybody will be doing three or four jobs," he said. "Every sailor will be a leader."

Wroe explained that the crew's civil service mariners will be responsible for basic ship operations, such as line handling, engineering, navigation and food service, while the Navy sailors will be in charge of the ship's defense, combat systems and communications.

Ultimately, he said, the crew's collective job will be to host and support the personnel who come aboard to stage various missions.

"We joke about being a floating mission hotel," Wroe said.

Adm. John C. Harvey Jr., the head of Fleet Forces Command, said the Ponce almost certainly will be heavily involved in mine-clearance operations, though its exact tasking will be decided by Central Command and the Navy's 5th Fleet.

Harvey said the decision to give the vessel a second life was a good choice for taxpayers because a new ship

with similar capabilities will likely cost more than \$1 billion.

"Last December, we saw an opportunity," he said. "We didn't stick our hand out" for money.

The retrofit included major work on the Ponce's boilers, condensers and galley. Workers also replaced equipment on the bridge for more automation to allow for the smaller crew. Living areas were also improved; many sleeping racks were torn out to give sailors more personal space.

The guided-missile frigate Carr also left Norfolk on Friday. It will head to the Caribbean Sea and Central and South America for what's expected to be its last deployment.

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Norfolk Virginian-Pilot  
June 2, 2012

### **35. Navy Creates Riverine Force Command In Va. Beach**

By Brock Vergakis, Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH--The Navy set up a new command on Friday for patrolling inland waterways at home and abroad, recreating a Vietnam-era force that had to be resurrected for the war in Iraq.

The new Coastal Riverine Force is the result of a merger between Riverine Group 1 and Maritime Expeditionary Security Force.

Riverines were created to patrol inland waterways during the Vietnam War, but were disbanded after. The Navy re-established the Riverine force in 2006 to take over inland waterway duties in Iraq from Marines. Some in the Riverine force feared that the same thing would happen after the U.S. withdrew from Iraq.

"There was some concern, but I think the Navy has had great foresight in keeping the riverine capability around



because we are unique and we do bring a great deal to the table," said Petty Officer 1st Class Fred Granados, who trains Riverines.

Among other things, Riverines can operate in less than a foot of water to provide extensive fire support for other units and can deliver equipment and personnel inland.

The new command will be responsible for traditional port and ship security in coastal waters as well as providing offensive combat capability in inland waterways. Besides Iraq, Riverines have been deployed to Africa, Asia and Central America in the past several years. Navy officials say the new command means there will be a seamless capability from brownwater tributaries to green coastal waters that can extend 600 nautical miles in some parts of the world.

"This is quite a turn of events when you look at where we started and where we're going to end up when it's all said and done," Rear Adm. Michael Tillotson, commander of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, said during an establishment ceremony at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story.

"The boats that sailors will be operating in the future will be more capable, they will have better armor, they will be faster and they will have the armament to take out a determined enemy. We've started along that road and we will continue to build that capability."

The force comprises two groups, one based in Portsmouth, Va., and the other in Imperial Beach, Calif. Active squadrons in those groups will be located at other bases in each area. A deployed detachment is currently in Bahrain. Reserve squadrons are located in Newport, R.I., and Jacksonville, Fla.

GlobalSecurityNewswire.org  
June 1, 2012

### **36. U.S. Air Force Approves Concept For Future ICBM, Eyes Navy Collaboration**

By Elaine M. Grossman,  
Global Security Newswire

WASHINGTON -- A senior-level U.S. Air Force panel has approved a document that formally articulates the need for a new ground-based missile system to replace today's nuclear-armed Minuteman 3 arsenal.

The future intercontinental ballistic missile might be either a modernized Minuteman or a completely new design, but one attribute appears increasingly certain: The ICBM will likely share an unprecedented number of "common" hardware and software components with a new Navy ballistic missile for basing on submarines, according to Defense Department officials.

There is even some talk of building identical missiles for Navy deployment at sea and Air Force fielding on land, though at this early date the odds appear against that for military and technical reasons.

Plans are for the Air Force's new "ground-based strategic deterrent" to begin replacing today's 450-missile Minuteman 3 force by 2030. Under the terms of last year's New START arms control agreement with Russia, the United States has said it would retain no more than 420 ICBMs in coming years.

The Air Force Requirements Oversight Council on May 17 signed off on an "initial capabilities document" for the future ICBM, according to Capt. Caroline Wellman, a service spokeswoman. Such military documents typically are kept

secret, spelling out key attributes needed for military equipment, such as range, speed and payload.

To proceed with an ICBM developmental effort, the Air Force must next vet the document through a multiservice review board, the Joint Requirements Oversight Council. That top-level Pentagon panel is chaired by the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and includes the No. 2 military officers from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

Once armed with the joint board's approval -- anticipated sometime in roughly the next two to 12 months -- the Air Force can begin work in fiscal 2013 on a more detailed assessment of technical options. The Obama administration requested \$11.7 million to launch the Analysis of Alternatives after the new spending year commences on Oct. 1.

The analytical work is to continue in fiscal 2014 at a cost of \$9.4 million, laying the groundwork for a White House decision on how the Minuteman 3 force -- first fielded in 1970 -- should be replaced.

As the Air Force prepares for the Analysis of Alternatives, "we are looking at basing modes. We are looking at affordability," said Maj. Gen. William Chambers, the service's assistant chief of staff for strategic deterrence and nuclear integration. "We are looking at the right -- and the most compatible -- warhead."

Speaking at a May 24 breakfast event on Capitol Hill, the Air Force two-star general noted it was early in the developmental process and said the future system's technical attributes will "become more clear" once the two-year Analysis of Alternatives is complete.

Still, some hints have surfaced that could make the Minuteman follow-on missile interesting to policy wonks, technology junkies and maybe even some in the broader American public.

For one thing, the Pentagon's 2010 Nuclear Posture Review -- a wide-ranging assessment of the nation's deterrence policy, forces and readiness -- said the Defense Department would consider "new modes of ICBM basing that enhance survivability and further reduce any incentives for prompt launch."

That might mean the replacement missile could be made mobile, with a capability for transport on trucks or trains, according to defense experts. In a crisis, the ICBMs could be dispersed or hidden, making them more survivable against potential enemy attack and less likely to trigger a preemptive nuclear launch by either side.

Today's Minuteman 3 missiles are based in fixed underground launch silos in five states: Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wyoming.

Whether the U.S. public is ready to embrace nuclear-armed missiles on its roads or railways is not entirely clear, following heated debate over similar concepts during the 1980s. On the other hand, mobility could make the ICBM force more secure and potentially serve as a basis for additional nuclear arsenal reductions -- initiatives that could draw popular support.

New ICBM basing schemes might also include non-mobile options, such as "dense pack" deployment once contemplated -- and rejected -- for the since-retired Peacekeeper missile under President Reagan, according to one senior defense official



interviewed last month. Under this concept, silos would be closely spaced and theoretically made more challenging to destroy in an all-out attack.

Another basing alternative could be to maintain some underground silos with ballistic missiles in them while others randomly remain empty, creating a "shell game" that similarly could complicate enemy targeting and help deter a massive nuclear strike against U.S. forces.

"We could give [adversary] folks lots of aim points, which keeps your stability up," said the senior official, who cited political and military sensitivities surrounding nuclear weapon programs as the reason for requesting anonymity in this article. "But they may be targeting an empty hole."

There is also some early debate over whether to give the future ICBM a capacity for delivering multiple warheads. This comes despite a decision announced in the 2010 posture review to winnow down -- or "de-MIRV," in Pentagon parlance -- each Minuteman from a maximum three warheads to one per missile.

The Nuclear Posture Review also alluded to retaining an ability to increase warheads on strategic platforms, as a hedge against the possibility -- however remote -- of a resurgent threat to the nation.

"Some ability to 'upload' non-deployed nuclear weapons on existing delivery vehicles should be retained as a hedge against technical or geopolitical surprise," the 2010 policy document stated.

Although the posture review said that "preference will be given to upload capacity for bombers and strategic submarines," some defense officials say the Pentagon will

also likely move to preserve this option on its future ICBM.

"I think it's clear" that the Pentagon will "keep a MIRVed capability on the missile," even if the ICBM continues to be typically deployed with a single warhead, the senior official told *Global Security Newswire*. A latent capacity to upload, if ever needed, would serve as insurance against "that resurgent threat, that unknown future that you have to worry about," the official said.

There are technical and cost incentives to include a multi-warhead option in the missile design, according to the senior official.

"It doesn't take that much, if you build [an upload capacity] in from the beginning," the official said. "Now, if you have a missile that's only designed for singlets and now you want to reMIRV it, ouch. You've got a problem. It's just money, but it's ... big money."

Affordability will play a central role in the process to determine what technology replaces today's land-based missile arsenal, this and several other officials emphasized.

A vocal group of lawmakers -- mostly comprising Republicans -- has suggested that plans for modernizing U.S. nuclear weapon systems should be spared from the budget axe that has affected many of the Pentagon's conventional warfare procurement efforts.

The 2011 Budget Control Act mandates a roughly \$450 billion cut in defense spending over the next decade. That amount could more than double under the sequester process if lawmakers do not by the end of this year reverse the legislation's demand for \$1.2 trillion in additional government-wide reductions.

The senior defense official said that Pentagon personnel are

operating under an assumption that cost discipline must be maintained across the board, to include nuclear weapon programs.

"Affordability is now a key parameter in every [Analysis of Alternatives] we do," the official said. "The days of 'it must be funded' are over."

Those suggesting in Pentagon meetings that nuclear efforts be exempted from budget-cutting considerations "get laughed right out of the room," the official added.

The search for savings in tightening defense budgets has prompted the Navy and Air Force to discuss new ways of combining efforts. That has included new exploration of the potential for cross-service work on future ballistic missile development and procurement -- largely a new frontier after decades of building and buying nuclear systems separately.

The Navy currently deploys 1,152 nuclear warheads aboard 288 Trident D-5 ballistic missiles, fielded on a fleet of 14 Ohio-class submarines, according to a 2012 profile of U.S. nuclear forces compiled recently by atomic force experts Hans Kristensen and Robert Norris.

The service plans to continue fielding the D-5 missiles on a newly designed submarine in coming decades, but anticipates eventually replacing its ballistic missile with an updated weapon.

Navy Rear Adm. Terry Benedict, who directs the Navy Strategic Systems Programs office, has led the charge on collaboration. In January he reportedly told Lt. Gen. James Kowalski, who heads the Air Force Global Strike Command, that potential areas of commonality between his D-5 replacement and the air service's Minuteman follow-on

could include a number of major components:

- \*Strategic guidance systems -- the technology that directs a missile precisely from Point A to Point B;

- \*Rocket motor and propulsion systems -- which allow a missile to blast off and fly fast;

- \*Infrastructure and support equipment -- to help control, monitor and maintain the weapon system; and

- \*Strategic industrial capacity -- to sustain a national ability to produce ballistic missiles and supply them with spare parts.

"In today's budget environment we must ensure that we are not unnecessarily duplicating effort," Benedict is said to have told his Air Force counterpart in an early 2012 letter.

Kowalski did not reply to Benedict in writing for more than two months, but is said to have told the two-star admiral in an April missive that the two services must "leverage one another's efforts" and "be in sync from nose cone to nozzle," according to defense sources.

In May 10 remarks on Capitol Hill, Kowalski appeared convinced of the merits of joint work on the two future ballistic missiles -- as well as, perhaps, in keeping today's Minuteman 3 ICBMs functional.

"I need to replace the missile guidance set on the Minuteman 3," the general said during a breakfast event. "I think Terry's going to need a new missile guidance set. I know that the follow-on to the Minuteman 3 -- the ground-based strategic deterrent -- is going to need a new missile guidance set."

"Does the nation need to go out and buy three different missile guidance sets?" Kowalski continued. "Or

is there some way we can work this where we buy one missile guidance set -- or at least have common components -- so that we're not paying the same bill three times over?"

The Air Force and Navy are also working with the Energy Department's semi-autonomous National Nuclear Security Administration to develop a joint fuse for ICBMs and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, as well as a common modernization package for warheads, the W-78 and W-88, respectively.

Sharing a single airframe for both missiles could be a stretch, though, Chambers said in response to an audience question during his appearance last month. Others agreed that the two services would likely have different parameters for the length and diameter of the missiles, and disparities in propulsion requirements might prove to be insurmountable.

"Given the two very different platforms, our charter is to pursue maximum amount of commonality, but it's going to be very difficult to be identical," Chambers said.

Fayetteville (NC) Observer  
June 2, 2012

### **37. Female Fighter Wing Commander Breaking Ground For Her Gender**

By Henry Cuningham, Military editor

GOLDSBORO - Col. Jeannie M. Leavitt on Friday became the first woman in Air Force history to take her first salute as commander of a fighter wing.

She returned the salute from the airmen in light-blue short-sleeved shirts standing in formation on a hot, humid morning after taking command of the 4th Fighter Wing at

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

Leavitt, 45, is an F-15E Strike Eagle command pilot from St. Louis. She replaced Col. Patrick J. Doherty as commander of the 5,000-airman wing during the outdoor ceremony on Wright Brothers Avenue. In the official remarks, no one mentioned that she is shattering another glass ceiling in the Air Force.

"It is true I'm the first female to command a fighter wing," she said when asked after the ceremony. "More important is the wing itself. It's got incredible history. I am proud to serve in an Air Force where men and women have the same opportunity based on how you perform and your capabilities."

The 4th Fighter Wing flies the multirole, all-weather F-15E and has two training squadrons and two operational squadrons. The commander has responsibility for \$5.1 billion in assets and an annual operations and maintenance budget of \$240 million.

By virtue of timing, Leavitt has been "first female" all of her career. Leavitt was the first American woman to enter combat training as a fighter pilot and became the Air Force's first mission-qualified female fighter pilot, base officials said. She was the first female fighter pilot to graduate from the U.S. Air Force Weapons School and went on to become a USAF Weapons School instructor.

#### **Milestone week**

This is a week of milestones for women in the Air Force.

On Tuesday, Lt. Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger will become the Air Force's first female four-star general as commander of Air Force Materiel Command in Ohio.

In November 2008, Army Gen. Ann Dunwoody became

the first female four-star general in the U.S. military, and perhaps the world, at Army Materiel Command, then at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Wolfenbarger graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1980 in the first class to include women. One of her classmates was Debra Dubbe Gray, 53, a retired Air Force colonel, who has returned to her hometown of Stedman.

"I'm extremely proud of her," Gray said. "I know her personally. She's been an outstanding officer her whole career and couldn't be nicer."

Gray recently saw Wolfenbarger at their 30-year class reunion.

"She has the right blend of capability and temperament," Gray said. "To meet her, you would never know she was wearing that kind of rank. She's very unassuming."

Gray, a 1976 graduate of Cape Fear High School, is the daughter of Robert and Winona Dubbe of Stedman.

Gray and Wolfenbarger were in the first wave of women who took advantage of the 1975 law that mandated the admission of women into West Point, Annapolis and the Air Force Academy in the fall of 1976.

"It started really with the service academies," Gray said. "That was the first piece of the puzzle. We started, and we didn't know we could go to flight training. We just kind of came on a wing and a prayer."

The first 10 women graduated from Air Force undergraduate pilot training on Sept. 2, 1977, at Williams Air Force Base, Ariz.

"It's been one thing after the next, slowly," said Gray, who was a navigator.

Things were just starting to open up in the combat cockpit when Leavitt received a bachelor of science degree in

aerospace engineering degree at the University of Texas in 1990 and a master's at Stanford a year later.

At Pope Air Force Base in the early 1990s, women were getting jobs on C-130E cargo airplanes that had been closed to them until 1989. Women from Pope Air Force Base flew the A-10 attack jet in combat.

Nowadays, two of three group commanders in the 440th Airlift Wing at Pope Field are women. The 440th Maintenance Group commander is Col. Sharon Johnson, and the 440th Mission Support Group commander is Col. Kerri Grimes.

Female squadron commanders are Lt. Col. Laura Radley, 53rd Aerial Port Squadron; Lt. Col. Lisa Maloney, 440th Security Forces Squadron; Maj. Meredith Curran, 440th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Lt. Col. Christine Locke, 43rd Operation Support Squadron; Lt. Col. Michelle Hall, 43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron; and Lt. Col. Jeanette Ketchum, 3rd Aerial Port Squadron.

At Pope, "battlefield airmen" positions such as combat controller have been among the last all-male bastions in the Air Force. Those airmen work in small groups, often with Army forces in hostile areas.

Elsewhere in the Air Force, Col. Dawn M. Dunlop is commander of the 412th Test Wing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Her wing tests and evaluates fighter, bomber, cargo, tanker and remotely piloted aircraft.

Gray said the changes and opportunities bode well for the future of her 8-year-old daughter.

"We've gotten beyond who's a man and who's a woman, and to who can do the best job?" Gray said. "That's a healthy example for my



daughter and all the girls in the country to see you don't have to be limited by anything."

Minneapolis Star Tribune

June 2, 2012

### 38. As Hiring Slumps, Obama Presses Jobs For Veterans

*Touring Honeywell plant in Golden Valley, he launched a new initiative.*

By Baird Helgeson and Jennifer Brooks, Star Tribune staff writers

The economic forecast was grim, but President Obama was upbeat as he toured Honeywell's Golden Valley plant Friday and promised better times ahead.

"The economy is growing, but it's not growing as fast as we want it to grow," Obama told a crowd of workers at the manufacturing facility, as he ticked off a laundry list of recent bad news, from high gas prices to the growing fiscal crisis in Europe and disappointing job numbers at home.

The president touched down in Minneapolis during a crucial time in his campaign, but also on a day when the national economic picture took a dramatic turn for the worse. As the president touted his modest jobs initiatives, the stock market sank throughout the day amid dismal new employment numbers and fresh uncertainty about the economic crisis in Europe.

As he went from Honeywell to a rapid-fire series of fundraisers, Obama spent much of the day trying to rekindle the enthusiasm that propelled him to office, while not letting the growing economic uncertainty create doubt about the path he wants to take forward.

"We will come back stronger," he told Honeywell workers. "We do have better

days ahead and that's because of all of you."

The president, who has hit a number of cities as he gears up for re-election, urged Congress to offer tax incentives to businesses to hire unemployed veterans and to homeowners to refinance their mortgages at lower rates.

Doing so, Obama quipped, might give Americans the extra cash they need to buy a "thingamajig for their furnace." The remark drew peals of laughter from Honeywell employers, who build many types of furnace thingamajigs.

Obama acknowledged the economy is "not where we want [it] to be," but said there are continuing signs of recovery, including in manufacturing.

"I place my bets on American workers and American businesses any day of the week," he said.

While at Honeywell, Obama announced his new "We Can't Wait" initiative, aimed at helping thousands of service men and women get the civilian credentials and licenses they need to score jobs in manufacturing and other high-demand industries such as health care and trucking.

"I believe that no one who fights for this country should ever have to fight for a job when they come home," Obama said. "Just like you fought for us, we'll keep fighting for you, for more jobs."

Iraq War veteran Tom Newman was one of several American Legion officers on hand for the president's speech. He knows firsthand how difficult it can be to make the transition from the battlefield to the job market.

"When civilian employers make the effort to hire veterans, it benefits both sides," said Newman, who returned from Iraq five years ago. "It benefits the veteran to have work, and

the employers benefit from that individual's training, their experiences and their strong work ethic."

Obama pointed to the case of a Minnesota veteran he met who had earned the Bronze Star as a combat medic in Afghanistan, but could not get a job as a first responder when he came home.

"If you can save a life on the battlefield, you can save a life in an ambulance," Obama said.

As many as 126,000 service members could benefit from the effort, a senior administration official said, adding that the cost would be "pretty minimal and paid for with existing resources."

It's the latest in a series of initiatives Obama has championed to help veterans, and his campaign has been underlining the effort as it tries to win support from the traditionally Republican voting bloc. A Memorial Day Gallup poll showed military veterans supporting Republican Mitt Romney over Obama 58 to 34 percent.

Honeywell was chosen by the administration to present the new program because of the company's record of hiring veterans.

A major defense contractor headquartered in Morristown, N.J., Honeywell International Inc. embraced Obama's hire-a-vet challenge last year with gusto, beating its own target of hiring 500 vets last year. It currently employs about 65 veterans in Golden Valley.

Before taking the stage, Obama toured the massive warehouse, with glistening floors and tidy machinery.

Doug Kettler, a Honeywell operations leader, showed the president machinery that makes oil regulators for home furnaces, producing up to 4,000 a week.

"It's awesome," Kettler said a few minutes before Obama came to his work area.

When the president arrived, wearing safety glasses but not his sport coat, he shook hands with the workers and looked at the packaged oil controllers.

"Made in America," he said. "I like that."

Kettler and his crew later said they were all Obama supporters.

Dempsey Miller, one of the workers, did not have an Obama hat, so he wore one from Ohio with a giant "O" on the front.

"I wore it to show him that I support him," Miller said.

After the speech, Obama headed to downtown Minneapolis for back-to-back fundraisers at the Bachelor Farmer restaurant, owned by the sons of Gov. Mark Dayton.

The fundraisers included two roundtables with the president -- one at \$40,000 a head, the other \$50,000 -- and a \$5,000-a-person luncheon where the president spoke. The luncheon drew about 100 donors, while the roundtables drew a combined 30.

Returning again to the theme of the troubled economy in his remarks to donors, Obama worked in a dig at his political opponents.

"My hope was that we'd have Republicans and Democrats coming together because the nation was facing an extraordinary challenge," he said. "It turns out ... their [Republicans'] approach was that if we can beat Obama, that should be our primary focus."

In this election, he said, "the center of gravity" for the Republican Party has shifted to create a stark contrast between the two presidential candidates.

"I believe that when we are successful in this election, that the fever may break," he said. "There is a tradition in the Republican Party of more



sense than that. My hope and my expectation is that after the election -- now that the goal of beating Obama doesn't make much sense because I am not running again -- that we can start getting some cooperation again."

ArmyTimes.com

June 1, 2012

### **39. Lawmaker Wants More Info On Burn Pit Exposures**

By Patricia Kime, Staff writer

A Missouri lawmaker who has pushed for creating a registry of military personnel who worked near open-air burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan has asked the Pentagon for details regarding an April 2011 Army memo, which said poor air quality at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, could affect the long-term health of those stationed nearby.

Republican Rep. Todd Akin wrote Defense Secretary Leon Panetta on Wednesday requesting more information on the memo, which he says contradicts what he's been told by the Veterans Affairs and Defense departments, that "there is no conclusive link between burn pit exposures and negative health consequences."

The memo, signed by Army Capt. G. Michael Pratt, then an environmental science engineering officer with Task Force Peacekeeper at Bagram, said "results of air samples taken over approximately the last eight years indicate there may be an increased risk of long-term adverse health conditions."

Between 2005 and 2010, readings for particulate matter at the Bagram site, including Camp Sabalu-Harrison, were in the "unhealthy" range, two to three times the national air quality standards set by the Environmental Protection

Agency, according to the memo.

"The primary contributor ... was a burn pit which services the trash generated on BAF with a population of up to 40,000 service members and contractors. Throughout the deployment, the burn pit smoke plume drifted over the [logistics support area] exposing service members to increased air contaminants," the memo states.

According to Pratt, the pollution increased the risk for troops developing long-term health effects, such as chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma and other cardiopulmonary diseases.

Akin said the memo sparks more questions on the airborne hazards of burn pits.

"Our country rushed MRAPs into Iraq and MATVs into Afghanistan to protect our troops from IEDs. I am concerned that while we have responded to these acute threats quickly, we have failed to respond to long-term health threats like burn pits," Akin wrote in his letter to Panetta.

The Army memo builds on a 2006 Air Force memo penned by Lt. Col. Darrin Curtis, bioenvironmental engineering flight commander for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad, Iraq, who said that base's burn pit posed an acute health hazard and the "possibility of chronic health hazards."

Curtis began requiring that medical officers note assignments near burn pits into airmen's medical records.

The Defense Department closed its last burn pit in Iraq in December 2010. It operates small pits in Afghanistan in remote areas that do not have clean-burning incinerators, according to Pentagon officials.

Disabled American Veterans keeps a database of nearly 600 veterans who say they have illnesses related to burn pit exposure. A spokesman from DAV told Military Times in 2011 he believes more service members could develop chronic disorders as they age.

The House version of the 2013 defense authorization bill would require DoD to develop a plan for tracking environmental exposures faced by service members.

A separate bill, the Open Burn Pit Registry Act, is under review by the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

"I believe an exposure tracking system would help DoD identify potential environmental risks more quickly and help prevent long-term health consequences," said Akin, who wrote both the registry bill and the defense bill provision.

New York Times

June 2, 2012

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### **40. Pakistan: Doctor's Conviction Appealed**

By Declan Walsh

Lawyers for Shakil Afridi, the Pakistani doctor who helped the C.I.A. find Osama bin Laden, lodged an appeal on Friday to overturn his conviction. On May 23, tribal authorities sentenced Dr. Afridi to 33 years in prison and fined him \$3,500, although the conviction related to charges of aiding the militant group Lashkar-i-Islam, rather than ties to the C.I.A. The appeal document said that the charges were "false, concocted and without foundation" because Dr. Afridi had no links with Lashkar-i-Islam, and that he had not received a fair trial under the legal framework that applies in Pakistan's tribal belt. It said Dr. Afridi was kidnapped by

Lashkar-i-Islam in 2008 and forced to pay a ransom of \$10,600 to win his freedom.

New York Times

June 2, 2012

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### **41. Official Suspected Of Spying For U.S. Said To Be Held In China**

By Edward Wong

BEIJING--Reacting to what could be the biggest intelligence breach in China in years, the Chinese government detained a security official early this year who is suspected of passing information to the United States, a person with knowledge of the case said Friday.

The official is believed to be an employee in the Ministry of State Security, China's main intelligence agency. The United States and Chinese governments have not given any hint publicly of the discovery of the spying suspect. If the case were to be brought into the open, it could become another point of friction in a year of sharp diplomatic tensions between Washington and Beijing.

Earlier this year, the Communist Party was dealing with a fragile moment in China's relations with the United States. In February, a former Chinese police chief drove to the United States Consulate in Chengdu to present evidence linking the wife of a Politburo member, Bo Xilai, to the killing last year of a British businessman. The police chief, Wang Lijun, was escorted to Beijing by officials from the Ministry of State Security after spending a night in the consulate.

One week later, Xi Jinping, the vice president and presumed next leader of China, embarked on a prominent five-day goodwill tour of the United States

that had been scheduled months earlier and was hosted by Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.

It is unclear what kind of information the detained Chinese official is suspected of having given to the United States and whether that information has compromised any operations by the Chinese government. Recently, news of the spying suspect's detention had been circulating quietly in some foreign intelligence circles. A spokesman for the American Embassy in Beijing declined to comment.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, visiting Oslo on Friday, declined to comment on the reports of an espionage arrest, as did officials at the State Department and the White House in Washington.

A senior administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of diplomatic sensitivities, said the detention came during the same period as a series of investigations begun after the revelations in the Bo affair. The investigations, authorized by China's top leaders, have expanded beyond Mr. Bo to the Ministry of State Security and now include allegations of improper use of the security services by various Chinese officials and corruption, the official said.

It was not clear that the espionage case was related in any way to the other investigations.

"There is clearly some very intense stuff going on with the security ministry," the official said. "It's hard to tell exactly, but it's clearly maneuvering going on after Bo."

Early this year, senior Chinese officials imposed a foreign travel ban on scholars at an important research center based in Beijing that some analysts say has ties to the Ministry of State Security. The

ban on overseas travel within the center, the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, was related to an intelligence breach, said one person who has contact with the institutes' scholars, and could well be a direct result of the discovery and detention of the official suspected of spying.

The detainee could be charged with treason and tried; the charge carries a maximum penalty of death.

The detention of the official was first reported by Chinese-language news organizations outside the mainland that sometimes dispense rumor as fact. The World Journal reported on May 27 that the suspect was the secretary of a vice minister in the Ministry of State Security.

Reuters reported Friday from Hong Kong that an aide to a vice minister in the Ministry of State Security was arrested between January and March this year on suspicion that he had been passing intelligence to the United States for years. Reuters cited an anonymous source who said the aide had passed on "political, economic and strategic intelligence."

The aide was paid hundreds of thousands of dollars and spoke English, Reuters said the source told it. The vice minister has been suspended and is being questioned, too.

David Wise, the author of the 2011 book "Tiger Trap: America's Secret Spy War With China," said that Chinese intelligence is "a very hard target."

"If in fact the C.I.A. had a mole inside the Ministry of State Security, that would be a pretty big deal," Mr. Wise said. "It would open a window on Chinese intelligence operations worldwide, and first of all what they're doing against the U.S. We might be able to identify their operatives and find out

what the Chinese government role is in cyberwarfare, which has never been proven."

The last time a prominent turning of a Chinese official by the United States became public was in 1985, when Yu Qiangsheng, a senior security official, defected and revealed that a former employee of the C.I.A., Larry Wu-Tai Chin, had been selling secrets to the Chinese. Mr. Chin killed himself in prison while awaiting sentencing.

There have been sharp twists in diplomatic relations between the United States and China this year. Just two months after Mr. Wang, the police chief, showed up at the American Consulate, a persecuted Chinese activist and self-trained lawyer, Chen Guangcheng, escaped from guards keeping him under house arrest in his village and reached the American Embassy in Beijing. Mr. Chen was brought into the embassy right before a round of talks known as the Strategic and Economic Dialogue between the two nations, and diplomats from each country negotiated hastily to resolve his fate. Last month, Mr. Chen flew to the United States with his family to start a fellowship at New York University School of Law.

Mrs. Clinton, referring to the diplomatic crisis over Mr. Chen, said in Oslo on Friday that although the United States and China often disagreed, they had many mutual interests and that President Obama's administration was determined to cultivate cooperative relations on a host of economic and security issues.

"The goal for our relationship with China is to ensure that we defy history," Mrs. Clinton said. "It has never happened that an established pre-eminent power and a rising power have been able to find

a way to not only coexist, but cooperate. We intend to make history with our relationship with China."

*Steven Lee Myers and Scott Shane contributed reporting from Washington.*

Reuters.com

June 1, 2012

**Insight**

## **42. From A Ferry, A Chinese Fast-Attack Boat**

By David Lague, Reuters

It looked like a textbook win-win deal when Australian high-speed ferry designer AMD Marine Consulting formed a joint venture in 1993 with the engineering arm of a state-owned Chinese shipbuilder.

The joint venture partner, Guangzhou Marine Engineering Corporation, a subsidiary of the giant China State Shipbuilding Corporation, gained access to state-of-the-art technology in wave-piercing, aluminum-hull designs.

For AMD, a Sydney-based private company, the payoff was a foothold in China's maritime market during a period of rapid growth.

The joint venture, Seabus International Co., began designing high-speed aluminum catamaran ferries and sea rescue vessels for China's inland and coastal waters, according to the company's website.

That's when a third winner emerged.

Attracted to the performance of these fast, stable and relatively cheap vessels, the Chinese military adopted the technology as it began replacing its aging missile boats that had been derived from an obsolete Soviet design.

The new fleet of missile boats are part of a naval buildup that back up China's claims to islets and reefs in the South China Sea, waters rich in oil and



gas and which half the world's ship tonnage passes through each year.

This growing military muscle has prompted the United States to make a strategic shift toward Asia.

U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, on his first visit to the region since announcing that shift in January, will brief allies about it this weekend, beginning with "The Shangri-La Dialogue". The event brings together senior civilian and military chiefs from nearly 30 Asia-Pacific states to foster security cooperation and takes its name from the host Singapore hotel.

Since 2004, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) navy has deployed a rapidly expanding fleet of heavily armed, Houbei class fast-attack missile boats based on AMD's advanced catamaran hull.

In a clear demonstration of the value of foreign dual-use technology in China's rapid military buildup, the Houbei class or Type-022 as it is also known, appears to be adapted from the AMD 350 patrol boat design, Chinese and Western analysts say.

However, AMD's technical director, Allan Soars, said the Australian company was not involved in the design of the missile craft.

He said after the joint venture company Seabus International had designed some fast ferries it appeared the PLA Navy had decided the company's wave piercing technology would make a good platform for a military vessel.

"I have no knowledge of the mechanisms at play, but it would appear that Seabus International was co-opted by the PLA navy to design the vessel platform," Soars said. This was not done at the Seabus International offices but at a military establishment.

"The whole process was carried out in secrecy and under strict confidentiality agreements directly with the Seabus International staff who are all Chinese nationals."

In its annual report on the Chinese military, the Pentagon said earlier this month the Chinese navy had deployed about 60 of the Houbei class patrol craft.

"These boats have increased the PLA Navy's littoral warfare capabilities," the Pentagon said.

The United States is also beefing up its littoral warfare capabilities in the region. The USS Freedom, first in a new class of combat ships, will be sent to Singapore next year.

The smaller, shallow-draft ships are intended for operations close to shore and capable of deploying quickly in a crisis. Singapore has discussed hosting up to four such U.S. "Littoral Combat Ships" on a rotational basis at its naval facilities.

From putting marines in northern Australia, stepping up military ties with Vietnam and strengthening its long-standing alliance with the Philippines, Washington has quickly begun executing the "Asian pivot".

In the report, the Pentagon said China's defense and civilian sectors work in close cooperation to incorporate technology that could accelerate military modernization.

The cumulative effect of dual-use technology transfers, particularly from the United States, could make a substantial contribution to Chinese military firepower, it said.

The mass production of the Type-022 suggests the Chinese navy believes these vessels will complement its so-called "anti-access" strategy aimed at keeping foreign forces away from waters surrounding Taiwan in time of conflict,

said Sam Roggeveen, an analyst and commentator at the Sydney-based Lowy Institute for International Policy, an independent private foreign policy research group.

China considers self-ruled Taiwan a renegade province to be brought under mainland control eventually, and by force if necessary. The United States is Taiwan's biggest ally and arms supplier and is duty-bound by legislation to help the island defend itself.

"China's anti-access capabilities are now such that it would be very difficult for the U.S. Navy to intervene in a conflict over Taiwan at an acceptable cost," Roggeveen said. "The Type-22 has made a contribution to that capability."

Some analysts forecast the Chinese navy will take delivery of up to 100 of these vessels, which carry an estimated price tag of about \$15 million each.

No one has suggested AMD Marine Consulting has done anything illegal. Under Australian law, exporters of military equipment must seek government approval for foreign sales but these restrictions do not apply to work done by Australian company subsidiaries operating offshore.

Soars said the advantage of AMD's wave piercing hull design was that it delivered exceptional sea keeping qualities, allowing smaller vessels to sail into rough water.

"While the military could obviously afford larger vessels we speculate that they wanted to keep the vessel size down to minimize radar signature although we cannot rule out cost considerations given the number of vessels," he said.

An Australian company is also providing aluminum hull design technology to the U.S. military. Western Australian shipbuilder Austal has won

contracts to design and build a new class of littoral combat ship and high-speed transport catamarans for the U.S. Navy.

Despite bans on Western weapons sales to China that have remained in place since the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown, Beijing has mounted a rapid military build-up that has made the PLA increasingly capable of challenging the military dominance the United States has enjoyed in Asia since the end of the Cold War.

Average annual increases of almost 12 per cent in military spending over more than two decades have allowed China to deploy an expanding force of potent warships and submarines, long-range strike aircraft, missiles and modernized nuclear warheads.

Early in this period, China relied heavily on imports of Russian weapons but this has slowed as the domestic arms industry gears up to build more locally designed hardware.

As part of this shift, dual-use technology from abroad has been crucial to advances across a broad range of China's military technologies including satellites, communications networks, helicopters, radars, marine engines, signals processing and training simulators, military analysts say.

China's state-owned commercial shipbuilders, who also deliver warships for the navy, have been at the forefront of absorbing foreign technology.

The link between AMD's designs and the Chinese navy was first reported in 2007 in SIGNAL Magazine, a Fairfax, Virginia-based specialist defense technology publication. Roggeveen also reported on the deal in a Lowy Institute blog.

Since then, the expanding Houbei class fleet has become a

top priority for China's military with mass production involving up to five shipyards, defense experts say.

With an estimated top speed of more than 36 knots, the 225-tonne boats were clearly designed for offensive missions where they would attack with their YJ-83 anti-ship missiles, which can strike targets at a distance of more than 200 km, experts say.

They also appear to be equipped with advanced data processing links so these missiles can be directed from sensors on other aircraft or ships.

The Type-22 also has a close-in weapon system for defense against incoming missiles and what appears to be a launcher for anti-aircraft missiles.

Naval strategists suggest that deployed in big numbers in wartime, these fast and stealthy craft could overwhelm bigger and much more expensive enemy warships with waves of missiles fired from different directions.

Combined with missiles from China's land-based launchers, surface warships, submarines and strike aircraft, these attacks could sharply raise the stakes for an enemy operating close to the mainland.

"This craft is a purebred ship killer, perhaps even a carrier killer," wrote John Patch, a retired U.S. Navy officer in an article for the United States Naval Institute.

In its report on China, the Pentagon said it would continue with efforts to block the transfer of important technology to China that would contribute to China's defense industry and military firepower.

However, for the United States and its allies, it could be difficult to evaluate which technologies or materials should be restricted, according

to military analysts, particularly for countries that benefit from close trading relationships with China.

"If you were going to be terribly rigid about this, you'd argue that Australian iron-ore exports indirectly benefit the PLA and thus should be stopped," said Roggeveen.

McClatchy Newspapers  
(mcclatchydc.com)

June 1, 2012

### **43. Al Qaida's Al Shabab May Be On Last Legs In Somalia After Key Military Defeats**

By Alan Boswell and Mohammed Yusuf, McClatchy Newspapers

NAIROBI, Kenya--With the recent loss of two key transit points, al Qaida's Somali affiliate, for the first time in years, is facing what military analysts say is the likely end of the group's once-powerful rule over much of Somalia

The future of al Shabab, as the al Qaida affiliate is known, is still difficult to predict, but military analysts say its hold on Kismayo, the port city through which its supplies move and from which it derives much of its financing, is threatened and that the fall of the other transit points has cut off key al Shabab supply routes to its western and northern fronts.

"The clock is ticking," said a well-informed regional security consultant who's long tracked the battle against al Shabab and who asked that he not be identified because of the sensitivity of the topic. "They cut off Shabab from their supply routes. It's a big deal for the organization as a whole."

The most recent blow came Thursday, when Kenyan and allied Somali forces captured the strategic crossroads of Afmadow, about 60 miles north of Kismayo. That followed the

al Shabab defeat last week at Afgooye, which fell to African Union troops from Ugandan and Burundian pushing west from Somalia's battered capital, Mogadishu.

Al Shabab once controlled nearly all of southern and central Somalia, but that territory has dwindled steadily in the past year. African Union forces pushed al Shabab out of Mogadishu last August, then Kenya launched a surprise invasion from the west in October. Ethiopian troops soon followed, pushing south across their own border with Somalia.

Kenya has long indicated that its end objective is to push al Shabab out of Kismayo, the southern port city that's al Shabab's most lucrative and important possession. Military strategists say there's no way to take the city without first capturing Afmadow, a town of 50,000.

"It's a commercial hub for almost the entire region," said Abdiwahab Sheikh Abdisamed, a lecturer at the University of Nairobi and a Somali analyst. With it now under Kenyan control, al Shabab's hold is crumbling, he said.

"Basically, the entire al Shabab-controlled area is under siege," Abdisamed said. "If you combine all those forces, the days of al Shabab are numbered."

When the end might arrive, however, is unclear. Multiple sources said al Shabab had abandoned Afmadow without a fight and had set up a new defensive position halfway on the road between Afmadow and Kismayo at a place called Birta Dheer.

Kenya has been bombarding Kismayo from the sea, but a spokesman for a Somali militia that's allied with Kenyan forces said any ground assault would wait till Afmadow was secure and it had

become clearer how al Shabab planned to defend the city.

"We don't have any plans of moving to Kismayo that fast," said Abdinasser Serar, a spokesman for the Ras Kamboni movement, one of the Somali militias that are fighting alongside Kenyan troops. "For now we will settle in Afmadow."

What happens if al Shabab loses Kismayo is also unclear. Analysts foresee a dizzying array of competing interests that include Somalia's many clans and sub-clans, the politics of the neighboring countries whose troops are now inside Somalia and the often self-serving interests of the country's political elite, now ensconced in Mogadishu.

Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Burundi all have their own national interests in Somalia, and their own Somali allies. While Uganda and Burundi have been protecting the internationally recognized but flimsy transitional government in Mogadishu, Kenya has been training Somali troops and building ties with Ras Kamboni, while Ethiopia has backed a local Sufi militia that's at odds with al Shabab's ultra-conservative interpretation of Islam.

With steady military advances, each foreign power is carving out its own regions of influence, and there seems to be no coherent plan for how to unify all these regions under a central government in Mogadishu should the threat from al Shabab fade.

As for al Shabab itself, the group has proved quick to evolve in the past, and it could return once again to a more traditional guerrilla insurgency of shadowy rural movements and hit-and-run attacks.

Al Shabab's rise to power occurred during Ethiopia's previous invasion of the



country. If Somalis once again find themselves under the thumb of their foreign neighbors, al Shabab may be able to reinvent itself again.

*Boswell and Yusuf are McClatchy special correspondents. Boswell's reporting is underwritten in part by a grant from Humanity United, a California-based foundation that focuses on human rights issues.*

New York Times  
June 2, 2012  
Pg. 10

#### **44. Kosovo: Serbs Clash With Peacekeepers**

By Associated Press

NATO-led peacekeepers on Friday clashed with Serb protesters seeking to prevent international troops from removing their roadblocks near the town of Zvecan in northern Kosovo. At least four rioters and two soldiers were injured. The clash revived tensions in the Serb-controlled area, where Kosovo Serbs who reject Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence from Serbia set up roadblocks last year to stop the ethnic Albanian government in Pristina from extending control over the region.

New York Times  
June 2, 2012  
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#### **45. Court Presses U.S. On A Terror Listing**

WASHINGTON (AP)--A federal appeals court on Friday gave Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton four months to decide whether a group opposed to Iran should be removed from a list of foreign terrorist organizations.

The People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran first received the terrorist designation 15 years ago. But the organization maintains that

it ended a military campaign against Iran, surrendered its arms to American forces in Iraq and shared intelligence with the United States government on Iran's nuclear program.

A three-member panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said Mrs. Clinton has been slow in providing the group with material it needs to respond to the terrorist designation and gave her a deadline to take final action.

The group has had some prominent supporters, including former F.B.I. Director Louis Freeh and retired Army Gen. Hugh Shelton, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Treasury Department is conducting an investigation into the source of the group's funds.

In 2010, the appeals court directed Mrs. Clinton to provide the organization with material relied on by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in January 2009 denying the group's request that the terrorist designation be removed.

"Since our July 2010 remand, the secretary's progress has been — to say the least — slow," the appeals court said. "We have been given no sufficient reason why the secretary, in the last 600 days, has not been able to make a decision which the Congress gave her only 180 days to make" under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act.

If the secretary fails to take action within four months, the court will grant the request to set aside the terrorist designation, the ruling declared.

The appeals judges on the case were Karen LeCraft Henderson, an appointee of President George H.W. Bush; David Tatel, an appointee of President Bill Clinton; and Stephen Williams, an appointee of President Ronald Reagan.

The group's president-elect, Maryam Rajavi, said the terrorist label is "illegitimate" and has acted as "the greatest factor in preserving the rule of the murderous mullah regime in Iran while causing two massacres at Camp Ashraf" in Iraq where members of the group were living.

Miami Herald  
June 2, 2012

#### **46. Appeals Tosses Portion Of Ex-Gitmo Prosecutor's Free Speech Lawsuit**

By Frederic J. Frommer, Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- A divided federal appeals court has thrown out a lawsuit by the former chief military prosecutor at Guantanamo Bay against his former boss at the Library of Congress, who fired the ex-prosecutor for publicly criticizing the Obama administration over detainee policy.

Retired Air Force Col. Morris Davis sued his then-boss, Daniel P. Mulhollan, in his individual capacity, and against the Library itself, or technically the Librarian of Congress James Billington, in his official capacity. A lower court judge rejected motions by Mulhollan and Billington to throw out the case; Mulhollan appealed that ruling, which was reversed by the appeals court Friday.

The suit against Billington as the official head of the Library of Congress continues.

Davis made his critique in op-ed articles in The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post in 2009. Responding to the administration's decision to try some Guantanamo detainees in federal courts and others in the military commissions system, Davis argued there should be one equal system for all.

The government argued that Davis violated his responsibility as a high-level official at the Congressional Research Service, a division of the Library of Congress that produces objective nonpartisan reports to lawmakers, when he spoke out publicly against the administration's policy. In his suit, Davis said the government violated his constitutional right to free speech.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit instructed the lower court to dismiss the litigation against Mulhollan. The appeals court said that while the Supreme Court, in *Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics*, gave federal courts discretion to allow actions against federal officials for violations of constitutional rights, that did not apply here.

"As the Supreme Court has made clear, in most instances the judgment has been that Congress, not the judicial branch, is in the best position to prescribe the scope of relief available for the violation of a constitutional right," Chief Judge David Sentelle wrote in an opinion for court joined by Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson. Both were appointed by Republican presidents.

Sentelle wrote that the Supreme Court has said: "We have accordingly held against applying the *Bivens* model to claims of First Amendment violations by federal employers."

In her dissent, Judge Judith Rogers noted that Davis' suit alleged that Mulhollan asked Davis to "acknowledge that ... the First Amendment ... did not apply" to the two op-ed pieces that led to his firing.

Rogers cited U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton's finding that the supervisor Mulhollan

"was at least aware of" a general constitutional rule already identified in the decisional law." Rogers was appointed by Democratic President Bill Clinton.

Davis left the military in 2007 after 25 years of service. In the final two years, he oversaw the prosecution of suspected terrorists at Guantanamo Bay, and that led him to believe the system was flawed by a lack of defendant's rights and by political interference.

ArmyTimes.com  
June 1, 2012

## 47. Court Rules Against Veteran In Colonoscopy Case

By Kristin M. Hall, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn.-- Years after thousands of veterans learned they may have been exposed to infections at government-run hospitals, many are still mired in legal battles seeking compensation from the Veterans Affairs Department.

In the latest legal setback, a federal appeals court has ruled against a Tennessee veteran who claims he contracted hepatitis B after employees at the Murfreesboro VA hospital negligently failed to properly clean colonoscopy equipment. The ruling could have an impact on similar lawsuits against the VA.

The court found that Carl Huddleston's claim, filed more than three years after the procedure, came too late, even though he acted within months after he learned his health could have been endangered. The three-judge panel of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last week.

Huddleston was one of more than 10,000 veterans notified in 2009 that they

needed to be tested for hepatitis B and C and HIV infection because of endoscopic cleaning mistakes at VA facilities in Murfreesboro, Tenn., Augusta, Ga. and Miami. The VA said in 2009 that 13 veterans tested positive for the Hepatitis B virus, 34 tested positive for Hepatitis C, and six veterans have tested positive for HIV.

More than 6,000 of those veterans who were notified were treated at the Murfreesboro clinic, so the ruling could have an impact on other veterans seeking similar lawsuits in Tennessee.

Huddleston's lawsuit says he contracted hepatitis B, which can cause damage to the liver and kidney problems, from an October 2006 colonoscopy. But the VA didn't inform him about the mishandling of the endoscopic equipment until February 2009, more than two years later.

He filed an administrative tort claim, which is the first step to filing a medical malpractice lawsuit against the VA, in December 2009, about 10 months after learning he had contracted the disease.

But a district court in Nashville ruled Tennessee law bars medical malpractice claims more than three years after the date of the negligent act, unless the plaintiff is claiming fraudulent concealment. The judges ruled that he missed the deadline to file a claim by just two months.

Euel Kinsey, Huddleston's Detroit-based attorney, said he disagreed with the court's ruling because states set different limitations on when claims can be filed.

"It seems to create an unequal application of the law because different states have shorter or longer statutes of repose," he said.

Randy Kinnard, a medical malpractice attorney in

Nashville who is not involved in the case, said Tennessee's statute of limitations is the shortest in the country.

"Here, for medical malpractice, the claimant had at most three years after the negligence within which to perfect his claim, regardless of when he discovered that he had been injured wrongfully," Kinnard said.

Georgia and Florida are in a separate federal court circuit than Tennessee, but Kinnard said the principles laid out by one circuit can influence another.

In Florida, there is a four-year statute of repose except in cases of fraud or concealment, and Georgia law bars medical malpractice claims that are brought more than five years after the negligent or wrongful act or omission occurred.

Huddleston's attorney argued that his claim was timely under federal tort laws and that the deadline clock should start when the VA first notified him about the problem, not in the previous years when he was unaware of the infection.

Some of the colonoscopies that prompted a letter from the VA date back to 2003. VA officials have said there was no way to tell where the infections came from, but the VA said it would offer free medical treatment to all those affected. But few cases out of the hundreds that were filed have ever made it to a trial.

Juan Rivera, a South Florida veteran who claimed he contracted HIV during an endoscopic colonoscopy at a Miami VA hospital, agreed to a settlement out of court before it was set for trial, said his attorney, Ira Leesfield.

Leesfield said these cases are difficult because of the multiple steps to prove that the VA was negligent in causing these infections.

"I think there are still some cases out there where people have not been represented because they don't know their rights. A lot of people don't even think they can sue the VA," he said.

Air Force veteran Robert Metzler and his wife sought \$30 million in damages in one of the first trials held last year over the contaminated colonoscopy equipment. Metzler underwent a colonoscopy at the Miami VA hospital in 2007 that he said infected him with hepatitis C because the equipment was unclean.

But 10 months later, the judge still hasn't issued a ruling in the case and there is no deadline for him to provide it.

William Rieder, an attorney based in Coconut Grove, Fla., is waiting on a judge's ruling on a similar argument claiming time limits have expired in a case involving more than 120 veterans, including one who contracted HIV. Most of the veterans he is representing did not test positive for infection, but all are claiming emotional distress from learning they were possibly exposed to infection.

Government attorneys are attempting to use the 6th Circuit ruling to bolster their argument in Florida, but Rieder said there are differing court opinions on this medical malpractice issue that he thinks will help them prevail in court.

"In 2009 you find out that a procedure you underwent years ago could have infected you with a deadly virus, that you could have transmitted to your spouse and then the government tells you that your claim expires before you ever found out about it," he said. "That's not fair, that's not right."

Norfolk Virginian-Pilot  
June 2, 2012



## 48. Ex-Blackwater Executives Finger CIA In Weapons Trial

By Bill Sizemore, The Virginian-Pilot

Five ex-Blackwater executives, facing federal firearms charges in connection with a gift of weaponry to a Middle Eastern monarch, have come up with a new explanation for how it occurred:

It was a CIA operation.

In court papers filed last month in Raleigh, the defendants say the gift of five guns to King Abdullah II of Jordan during a royal visit to Blackwater's Moyock, N.C., headquarters in March 2005 was requested, directed and authorized by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Attorneys for the five have filed declarations from two retired CIA officials, including a former Jordan station chief, who say they are familiar with the circumstances of the king's visit and would be willing to testify about it.

The CIA did not respond to a request for comment.

It's a new wrinkle in a case that dates to April 2010, when the five security company executives were indicted on a variety of felony firearms charges. One key section of the indictment involved King Abdullah's 2005 visit to Moyock, during which the monarch was presented a Bushmaster M4 rifle, a Remington shotgun and three Glock handguns.

The gift guns were a marketing device, part of an effort by Blackwater to land security and training contracts in Jordan, the indictment alleges.

When the executives subsequently realized they were unable to account for the disposition of the weapons, prosecutors allege, they falsified reports to the U.S.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to give the appearance that they had purchased the guns for their own personal use.

Contrary to prosecutors' claims, the former executives now say the king's visit to Moyock "was not a Blackwater marketing effort, but was instead a CIA-organized and CIA-sanctioned diplomatic event attended by dozens of U.S. Government officials with the aim not of increasing Blackwater's potential profits, but instead of furthering relations between the two countries."

The royal visit arose out of a personal relationship between the king and Blackwater founder Erik Prince and was organized with the assistance of other government agencies including the State Department and the Secret Service, they say.

Prince sold the company, now known as Academi, in December 2010.

Under CIA policy, it was the agency's responsibility to properly document the disposition of the weapons, the former executives assert in court papers. The CIA failed to do so, they say, resulting in "an easily corrected regulatory paperwork error in Blackwater's firearms disposition logs."

Accompanying the court papers are declarations from two retired CIA officers, Charles Seidel and John Maguire, who say they have information about the king's visit and could testify about it if the CIA gives them permission. The two men's statements, secured in April, capped an ongoing investigation of the visit, defense attorneys say.

Seidel, who was CIA station chief in Amman, the Jordanian capital, at the time, says he accompanied the king on the visit to Moyock. Maguire says he has information about

the gift guns and "how the U.S. government's authorization for the transfer of those weapons took place."

The former Blackwater executives are asking the judge in the firearms case to order the CIA to produce all relevant documents about the visit. The case has not yet been set for trial.

Abdullah II assumed the Jordanian throne on the death of his father, King Hussein, in 1999. According to his official online biography, he is a 41st-generation direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammad. He is a former commander of Jordan's Special Forces.

Along with cars, motorcycles and free-fall parachuting, he is said to have a passion for ancient weapons and maintains a world-class collection of military artifacts.

Blackwater/Academi has banked more than \$2 billion from security and training contracts with various federal agencies, including the CIA, since 2002. Several former CIA officials later went to work for the company.

The indicted former executives are Gary Jackson, president; William Mathews, executive vice president; Andrew Howell, general counsel; Ana Bundy, vice president of logistics and procurement; and Ronald Slezak, who was responsible for firearms documentation.

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SmallWarsJournal.com

June 1, 2012

**This Week at War**

### 49. Enough Talk, Obama

By Robert Haddick

In my *Foreign Policy* column, I discuss how the Pentagon can provide options to support U.S. diplomacy over Syria, and wonder why it can't do the same regarding Iran.

Over the past week, the Obama administration's hopes for negotiated resolutions to the violence in Syria as well as the standoff over Iran's nuclear program have slumped. A particularly brutal massacre in al Houla, Syria that left over a hundred civilians murdered and that resulted in the expulsion of Syrian diplomats around the world, is increasingly calling into question the value of continued talks with President Bashar al-Assad. Meanwhile, talks in Baghdad over Iran's nuclear program ended badly, and with Tehran pledging to sustain production of 20 percent enriched uranium in spite of international pleas to suspend such work. Meanwhile, fresh satellite imagery showed that Iran continued this week to cleanse its Parchin site, where analysts suspect it tested components for a nuclear weapon.

Both cases show the increasing risk the Obama administration may be assuming by maintaining a commitment to further talks. This commitment in the face of belligerent actions by Syria and Iran will increasingly be viewed as a display of naiveté and weakness rather than prudent patience. Acquiring such a reputation could hurt the administration's credibility on other foreign policy issues as well.

To prevent its reputation from slipping further, the Obama team will come under pressure to get tougher over Syria and Iran. But how? With further economic sanctions either tapped out or blocked at the U.N. Security Council by Russia, the question of using military force in Syria and Iran will inevitably return to the surface. When it comes to deciding whether it is time to start using military tools against Syria and Iran, the Obama

administration will likely arrive at two very different answers.

Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, produced a grim prognosis for Syria. With no hope for self-restraint by Assad's enforcers, Rice concluded that the "most probable" case is a sectarian proxy war, with arms flowing into the conflict from other countries in the region. To avert this outcome, Rice urged the Security Council to place additional pressure on the Syrian regime, a course that would require Russia's acquiescence.

Rice's diagnosis was aimed at Moscow and implied that if her forecast proved true, Russia stood to lose both its ally in Damascus and any future influence in the country after the rebels eventually gained power. Rice was thus attempting to create an incentive for the Russians to cooperate on either pressuring Assad or helping to establish a post-Assad Syria.

But if the Obama administration is to obtain leverage over Moscow, it will have to show a willingness to help create the grim scenario Rice described, something the White House seems unwilling to contemplate, at least yet.

Direct U.S. military intervention in Syria is not required. Nor is the United States required to organize its own covert operation inside Syria to support the rebels. At this point, the United States need merely get onboard with allies such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and others which are apparently already arming the Syrian opposition. The U.S. government could provide certain items and services -- specialized communications equipment, portable anti-tank weapons, night-vision optics, and intelligence data -- and leave the provision of more

common categories of weapons and supplies to the other suppliers.

U.S. willingness to escalate its assistance in this manner would bolster its credibility with its allies and the rebels, something that will be valuable in post-Assad Syria. And for little risk, it will provide Washington with some negotiating leverage over Moscow. For the United States, Syria is a case where a willingness to step up military support, even if indirectly, will boost its diplomatic leverage.

The administration faces a tougher calculation on Iran. In Syria, military assistance to the rebels will bolster the prospects for negotiations with Russia and with Assad himself. In Iran, there does not seem to be a similar entry-level military action the United States could take to increase its negotiating leverage. And the only other alternative military action -- a large-scale air campaign against Iran's nuclear complex -- is a step the White House wants both itself and Israel to avoid, at least until next year.

On Friday morning, the *New York Times* confirmed long-held suspicions that the U.S. government has waged a prolonged cyberwar against Iran. According to the article, President Barack Obama took up this war from the Bush administration and urged its acceleration. This week we also learned about the Flame computer virus, a large and sophisticated reconnaissance program that has listened in on Iran's computers for at least two years.

Yet in spite of all of the computer engineering talent put into Flame and Stuxnet, its more destructive sibling, Iran's nuclear fuel production continues to advance, with output currently triple its pre-Stuxnet rate, enough for

two atomic bombs per year. Cyberwarfare, one type of entry-level military action, has neither held back Iran's nuclear production nor provided negotiating leverage over its leaders.

The White House faces a grim dilemma over Iran. In the midst of a reelection campaign, the Obama team is desperate to avoid the severe economic and financial market disruption that an air campaign against Iran would trigger. Tehran knows this, which encourages its obstinacy at the bargaining table. This in turn should give the White House an incentive to walk away from further negotiations to avoid the embarrassing spectacle of unanswered Iranian belligerence. But should the United States admit that negotiations are dead, Israel may conclude that it has to attack, which would cause the chaos the Obama administration is strenuously trying to avoid.

If the White House is to continue negotiations with Iran, it will need to come to the next round with more leverage and credibility than it has possessed thus far. Beyond the goal of actually making progress with Tehran, it will want that leverage to keep face and to persuade Israeli leaders to hold their fire.

Is there any leverage the Pentagon could provide that would be more effective than Flame and Stuxnet, but less dramatic than a large air campaign? In a recent interview, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta declared that his forces were "prepared for any contingency." A full list of contingencies should include options to support diplomacy, in addition to wrecking Iran's air defense system and nuclear complex.

When faced with the Iran problem, it is undoubtedly

the case that both Obama and George W. Bush pleaded with the Pentagon to come up with options in addition to a major air campaign. Generating additional options has apparently not been easy. The United States has not taken military action against Iran because policymakers have concluded that the estimated costs and risks of the big air campaign -- the option that seems to get the most attention -- has thus far exceeded its perceived benefits.

But a dearth of options has left U.S. negotiators with Iran with little support, at least from the Pentagon. In spite of their sharpening intensity, Iranian leaders seem unimpressed with the economic sanctions now imposed on their country. Pentagon planners have options, such as indirect support for Syria's rebels, that will help U.S. negotiators there. They should come up with some ideas other than a big air war to support U.S. diplomacy with Tehran.

*Robert Haddick is Managing Editor of Small Wars Journal. He writes the "This Week at War" column for Foreign Policy. Haddick was a U.S. Marine Corps officer, served in the 3rd and 23rd Marine Regiments, and deployed to Asia and Africa. He has advised the State Department and the National Intelligence Council on irregular warfare issues.*

*In the private sector, Haddick was Director of Research at the Fremont Group, a large private investment firm and an affiliate of the Bechtel Corporation. He established the firm's global proprietary trading operation and was president of one of Fremont's overseas investment subsidiaries.*

*In addition to Foreign Policy and Small Wars Journal,*



*Haddick's writing has been published in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Air & Space Power Journal, and other publications. He has appeared in many radio and television interviews.*

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner  
June 1, 2012

## **50. Scour Report: Air Force Conclusions Need Thorough Vetting**

The announcement Thursday that a new Air Force report supports moving Eielson Air Force Base's squadron of F-16s to Anchorage shouldn't come as much of a surprise.

Neither should it lead to acceptance.

It's a report by Air Force personnel about something the Air Force wants to do.

However, the Air Force is not necessarily correct in its assessment that moving the F-16s, the major unit at Eielson, makes financial sense.

Alaska's congressional delegation — Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich and Rep. Don Young — will likely continue pressing the Air Force over the proposed transfer to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage.

But it can't stop there.

Fairbanks leaders have been working to make the case against the move of the aircraft, and we expect they'll continue to do so.

We hope their continued effort includes insistence that this latest report by the Air Force be subject to extensive review by people outside of the military and the Defense Department. And we hope that the Borough Assembly provides any necessary further financial support.

It's that important.

Eielson Air Force Base is a big part of this community and of its economy.

The loss of the F-16s and half of Eielson's military personnel and civilian workforce would be a major blow, especially to the city of North Pole.

Local leaders would be derelict in their duty if they did not scour this latest Air Force report in search of flaws.

San Francisco Chronicle  
June 1, 2012  
Pg. 12

## **51. Dissent Over War Isn't Disrespecting The Troops**

By David Sirota

Out of all the status-quo-sustaining fables we create out of military history, none are as enduring as Vietnam War myths. Desperate to cobble a pro-war cautionary tale out of a blood-soaked tragedy, we keep reimagining the loss in Southeast Asia not as a policy failure but as the product of an America that dishonored returning troops.

Incessantly echoed by Hollywood and Washington since the concurrent successes of the "Rambo" and Reagan franchises, this legend was the central theme of President Obama's Memorial Day speech kicking off the government's commemoration of the Vietnam conflict.

"You were often blamed for a war you didn't start, when you should have been commended for serving your country with valor," he told veterans. "You came home and sometimes were denigrated, when you should have been celebrated. It was a national shame, a disgrace that should have never happened."

It's undeniable that chronic underfunding of the Department of Veterans Affairs unduly harmed Vietnam-era soldiers. However, that lamentable failure was not what Obama was

referring to. As the president who escalated the Vietnam-esque war in Afghanistan, he was making a larger argument. Deliberately parroting Rambo's claim about "a quiet war against all the soldiers returning," he was asserting that America as a whole spat on soldiers when they came home - even though there's no proof that this happened on any mass scale.

In his exhaustive book titled "The Spitting Image," Vietnam vet and Associate Professor Jerry Lembcke of College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts documents veterans who claim they were spat on by antiwar protesters, but he found no physical evidence (photographs, news reports, etc.) that these transgressions actually occurred. His findings are supported by surveys of his fellow Vietnam veterans as they came home.

For instance, Lembcke notes that "a U.S. Senate study, based on data collected in August 1971 by Harris Associates, found that 75 percent of Vietnam-era veterans polled disagreed with the statement 'Those people at home who opposed the Vietnam war often blame veterans for our involvement there,' " while "94 percent said their reception by people their own age who had not served in the armed forces was friendly."

Meanwhile, the Veterans' World Project at Southern Illinois University found that many Vietnam vets supported the antiwar protest, with researchers finding almost no veterans "finish(ing) their service in Vietnam believing that what the United States has done there has served to forward our nation's purposes."

In the face of such data, why would the current president nonetheless repeat the myth about spat-on Vietnam

veterans? Because - facts be damned - it serves a purpose: to suppress protest and perpetuate the ideology of militarism.

This objective is achieved through the narrative's preposterous assumptions. Metaphorically, if not explicitly, the mythology equates antiwar activism with dishonoring the troops; implies that such protest is kryptonite to the Pentagon's Superman; and therefore insinuates that America loses wars not when policies are wrong, but when dissent is tolerated.

As political memes go, this 30-year Vietnam story line has been wildly successful, helping presidents silence opposition to the Iraq War, the continued Afghanistan occupation, our expanding drone wars and, of course, our ever-increasing defense budgets.

Yet, as much as the propaganda is cast as a genuflection to veterans, it's anything but. For one thing, it ignores the fact that the many troops enlist specifically to defend our freedoms - among them the freedom to dissent. Additionally, in manufacturing falsehoods out of the painful Vietnam experience, it insults many Vietnam vets by writing their opposition to that war out of history.

Unchecked, the mythology ultimately uses the revised history of yesteryear's soldiers to vaporize the very dissent that might prevent tomorrow's soldiers from facing another Vietnam-like quagmire.

That's not respectful or supportive of veterans - it's the opposite.

New York Times  
June 2, 2012  
Pg. 20

## **52. Iran's Nuclear Program -- (Letter)**

To the Editor:

Re "Negotiations With Iran Conclude Fruitlessly" (news article, May 25):

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has unambiguously recognized "the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination," which covers all areas of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including the inalienable right to develop a full national fuel cycle.

Each party has the sovereign right to define its national energy policies in accordance with its national requirements. Iran is fully committed to its obligations under the treaty and is firmly determined to exercise its rights. In future talks, Iran will continue to insist on all its rights for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including a full national fuel cycle. As pressure exerted by some Western countries against Iran has failed to bear results, we expect a positive and constructive approach regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear activities.

**ALIREZA**

**MIRYOUSEFI**, Head of Press Office, Iran's Mission to the United Nations, New York, May 28, 2012

**Editor's Note:** The article referred to by Steven Erlanger and Rick Gladstone appeared in the *Current News Early Bird*, May 25, 2012.

address: veteran employment. Freight rail has a long history, stretching back to the 1800s, of hiring men and women from the armed services. Between 20% and 25% of the employees at the largest freight rail companies in America are veterans. Since the freight-rail industry is expecting to hire 15,000 new employees this year, thousands of new veterans will soon be hired to work on our nation's railroads.

There is a unique skill set that translates between military servicemen and servicewomen and working in the freight-rail industry. Rail work is often physically challenging, and safety is our highest priority. Some jobs require travel or outdoor work. Freight rail is one of the few industries where many of our jobs do not require a college education, but our average employee's annual compensation, including salary and benefits, is more than \$100,000. Perhaps that is why rail companies are consistently ranked as one of the top places for veterans to work in the country.

We encourage other industries to make hiring veterans a priority.

**Ed Hamberger**, President and CEO, Association of American Railroads, Washington

**Editor's Note:** The op-ed referred to by Stan McChrystal appeared in the *Current News Early Bird*, May 21, 2012.

Wall Street Journal  
June 2, 2012  
Pg. 14

### 53. On Hiring Well-Qualified Veterans And Others, Too -- (Letter)

Gen. Stan McChrystal's "From Forward Operating Base to Boardroom" (op-ed, May 21) highlights a critical issue more private-sector industries need to

ForeignPolicy.com  
May 30, 2012

### 54. Battleship Earth

*Does the Pentagon have the right weapons to fight off an alien invasion?*

By Cara Parks and Joshua E. Keating

As summer blockbuster season kicks into high gear, big-budget action movies like *The Avengers*, *Battleship*, and *Prometheus* remind us that

there's one thing that unites Americans: Our shared fear of an alien attack. They also remind us that when the invading space fleet arrives, humanity is not going to surrender without a fight to our intergalactic invaders. Instead, we will band together to fight off their incredibly advanced weaponry with our ... well, with what, exactly? Are we really ready to battle our would-be alien overlords?

Luckily, the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, better known as DARPA, as well as some of the world's largest weapons manufacturers, are dreaming up the weapons of the future today. With the help of everything from lasers on jets to hypersonic planes to invisibility cloaks, we just might be able to make the battle for Earth a fair fight. You may think we're joking, but why else would NASA be uploading *The Avengers* to the International Space Station if not as a training manual? Here's a look at some of the most space-worthy inventions being cooked up now.

### HIGH ENERGY LIQUID LASER AREA DEFENSE SYSTEM (HELLADS)

-- The official title sounds rather subdued, but don't be fooled -- this is an awesome laser beam. Currently in development at DARPA, these advanced lasers are being pursued because of their ability to "harness the speed and power of light to counter multiple threats." Weapons-grade lasers are actually a reality now, but are too big to be of use in an actual fight. DARPA, however, hopes to unveil a 150-kilowatt weapon that's light enough to attach to a fighter jet. Those will come in handy when the first sally of flying saucers emerges from the mothership.

### HYPERSONIC AIRCRAFT

-- As students

of the battle of Yavin can attest, sometimes the fate of the universe comes down to a few hotshot fliers. But it's not just piloting skill that will be needed to take down our interspace combatants. We'll need some pretty high-tech jets to repel an alien fleet, and the Falcon HTV-2 sounds just about perfect. Take a moment to appreciate these statistics from DARPA:

*Falcon HTV-2 is an unmanned, rocket-launched, maneuverable aircraft that glides through the Earth's atmosphere at incredibly fast speeds-Mach 20 (approximately 13,000 miles per hour). At HTV-2 speeds, flight time between New York City and Los Angeles would be less than 12 minutes. The HTV-2 vehicle is a 'data truck' with numerous sensors that collect data in an uncertain operating envelope."*

Amazing! How did the designers get such an incredible plane to work? Well, they didn't -- not yet, anyway. The most recent test flight, in August of last year, ended when the military lost contact with the plane after 36 minutes. It was later reported that the HTV-2 literally flew out of its skin.

**AERO-ADAPTIVE AERO-OPTIC BEAM CONTROL** -- From studying footage of TIE-fighters and Cylon Raiders, we know that small alien craft may have the upper hand on even our most advanced jets when it comes to maneuverability. So when our flyboys or flygirls have alien fighters bearing down on their six, let's hope they're outfitted with this under-development project from DARPA that aims to "improve the performance of high energy lasers on tactical aircraft against targets" -- such as an incoming missile -- "in the aft field of regard." It might not win the dogfight, but it can buy



us enough time for the cavalry to arrive.

#### **DISCROTOR**

**HELICOPTERS** -- Everyone knows that alien spaceships don't have to clumsily lumber down a runway before takeoff -- they lift off vertically with perfect balance and then propel in whatever direction they choose. Helicopters have the vertical takeoff aspect down, but even the best designs can be foiled by ground landings, as was the stealthy MH-60 Black Hawk helicopter used in the raid that killed Osama bin Laden. A Discrotor helicopter is actually a helicopter/airplane blend that can take off and land vertically, but also enter into high-speed flying mode by retracting its rotating blades and relying on fixed wings, allowing it to move like a plane. Will that help against aliens? We certainly hope so.

#### **REDESIGNED**

#### **NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES**

-- As Battleship reminds us, there's no guarantee where the attack by space invaders will begin. In case of a sea battle, the U.S. Navy is currently at work on replacements for the *Ohio*-class nuclear-powered submarine, which will be set to replace the existing ones in 2029. Most of the *Ohio* submarines carry submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) -- up to 24 per ship -- and form the sea wing of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The new subs, called the SSBN-X Future Follow-on Submarine, are optimistically projected to cost at least \$4.9 billion per boat, although other estimates range as high as \$9 billion. That's pricey, especially as skyrocketing defense costs have come under fire during a period of belt-tightening austerity. But hey, if the new subs fend off an extermination attack on the

human race, we figure they'll pretty much pay for themselves.

#### **ANTI-SUBMARINE**

#### **WARFARE CONTINUOUS TRAIL UNMANNED**

**VESSEL** -- Anyone who's seen *The Abyss* or *Sphere* (OK, very few people actually saw *Sphere*) knows that the alien menace could just as easily come from below the seas as from outer space. But we will hopefully soon have the ability to track their preparations deep blow the waves with the ACTUV, an independent, unmanned surface ship designed to track even the quietest submarines. When it's ready, the vessels will differ from current unmanned surface ships by having the ability to operate independently on the high seas, rather than being tethered to a surface ship. America will be ready for the age of sea drones. Will the aliens?

#### **EXTREME**

#### **ACCURACY TASKED ORDNANCE (EXACTO)**

-- Aliens can move extremely quickly, making them hard to shoot. This poses a problem for human snipers, but not for long. DARPA is currently working on the world's first guided bullet, which would have the ability to actually change its path after being fired. A 2009 *Time* article described the project as "bullets that, once fired at a specific target, fly themselves into it by changing shape." This will come in handy when the invaders enter us as parasites and then silently use our bodies as growth pods before emerging in a spray in blood. Actually, the bullets won't be that helpful in that scenario, but better safe than sorry.

**CROSSHAIRS** -- If it comes to a ground battle, we don't know whether the aliens we'll face will be clumsy prawns or nimble xenomorphs, but with vehicle-mounted CROSSHAIRS detection units,

we'll be ready for anything. Equipped with visual and infrared cameras, CROSSHAIRS rigs are designed to "detect, locate, and engage shooters, as well as defeat a variety of threats including bullets, rocket propelled grenades, anti-tank guided missiles, and direct fired mortars, while stationary and moving." The idea is to detect and analyze threats fast enough for either automated systems or troops in the vehicle to respond. Bring it on, slimeballs.

#### **MAGNETO**

#### **HYDRODYNAMIC**

#### **EXPLOSIVE MUNITIONS**

-- On the ground, soldiers will have an edge on their little green opponents if they can get their hands on these bullets, which conveniently share a name with X-Men superhero Magneto and are known by the more blockbuster-friendly acronym MAHEM. (What lucky engineer gets to dream up these names?) The bullets use "compressed magnetic flux generator (CMFG)-driven magneto hydrodynamically formed metal jets." DARPA is purposefully vague about what exactly this means, but it would seem to involve using a magnetic field to push molten metal into its target.

#### **ADAPTIV ARMOR**

-- The aliens may, like the eponymous Predator, have evolved the ability to see in infrared. Not a problem, thanks to BAE Systems' pixilated armor system. ADAPTIV armor works by covering a vehicle with sheets of hexagonal "pixels" that can rapidly change temperature. Onboard thermal cameras capture the background and change the vehicle's heat signature to make it undetectable by infrared scopes. It will even be able to mimic the heat signatures of other vehicles for subterfuge

purposes. Of course, if you don't have access to an ADAPTIV-equipped military vehicle, you can always just cover yourself with mud like Arnold does in the movie.

#### **SPACE-BASED**

#### **INFRARED SYSTEM**

-- When you're fighting extraterrestrial marauders, the battlefield is truly global. These days, SBIRS is best known for delays and cost overruns, but we're going to be glad we spent those billions when the alien missiles start flying. SBIRS, contracted to Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, will consist of a series of satellites in both elliptical and geosynchronous orbits as well as on-the-ground data processing centers to detect missile launches or nuclear detonations anywhere on earth. The first dedicated SBIRS satellite was launched in 2011, but hopefully we'll have the rest of the system up and running before Loki opens the portal to the Underworld.

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