

# Foreign Military Studies Office

# OEWATCH



FOREIGN NEWS & PERSPECTIVES OF THE OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

## Special Feature:

# RUSSIA

## New Ministry of Defense Command Center

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# OE Watch

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# ISIS's State-Building Project

12 November 2014

**OE Watch Commentary:** On 12 November ISIS declared that it would start printing its own currency—the latest of its efforts to establish itself as a state. In addition, an ISIS-affiliated media organization recently published a 16-minute video describing why ISIS is a state and not an organization. The accompanying passages, which include excerpts from this video, offer insight into how ISIS is laying down the pillars of statehood while projecting an image of confidence, control and victory.

The first passage, from the Turkish mainstream daily newspaper *Milliyet*, describes the new currency, and discusses how it will resemble that of the time of the Caliphate Uthman, one of the successors to the Prophet Muhammad. The second passage is from the group's Turkish-language mouthpiece website, where it published pieces of a video entitled, "Things that Make the Islamic State a State." The excerpt provides the first 3 of the 15 points that the group mentions in its video, including territory, financial resources, social services and institutions, airports, media organizations, courts, prisons, hospitals, foundations, education council, and an Islamic services agency. The group points out that it controls vast territory and claims that it is constantly expanding. It also points to its financial resources, including oil and gas resources which it controls, along with its various institutions. Consistent with this claim of having institutions, the third passage, from an international news source, discusses how the "Treasury Department" of ISIS has declared that it will be printing its own dinar currency, which the group allegedly claims "will help buy supplies for its expanding caliphate..."

In June 2014 ISIS declared an Islamic caliphate in an area straddling Iraq and Syria. It also changed its name to the Islamic State (IS) and claimed that its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was the caliph of all Muslims. The group conducts a comprehensive information operations campaign through its websites, where it boasts of its oil revenues, arms, organization and territories, demonstrating a sense of control, power, wealth and military strength. **End OE Watch Commentary (Kaya)**

For more information, see the Special Essay in the October 2014 issue of *OE Watch* entitled, "ISIS's Information Operations: Analyzing their Themes and Messages."

**Source:** "İŞİD kendi parasını tedavüle sokacak (ISIS will start circulating its own money)," *Milliyet.com.tr*, 12 November 2014, <http://www.milliyet.com.tr/isid-kendi-parasini-tedavule/dunya/detay/1968483/default.htm>

"The money that ISIS plans to print will be in the form of gold and silver coins. ISIS is expected to start circulating its new currency within a few weeks. With this model, the terror organization took the circular coin that Caliphate Osman used in the year 630. At that time, the coins that were printed would have Islamic writings on the one side and the sultan's name along with the date the coin was printed on the other side. This gold coin was called an Islamic dinar and weighed about 4.3 grams."

**Source:** "İslam Devletini Devlet Yapan Unsurlar! (The Elements that make the Islamic State a State!)," 12 November 2014, <http://www.takvahaber.net/dunya/islam-devletini-devlet-yapan-unsurlar-h10245.html>

"The El Bettar [media] organization published a video and showed, with visual evidence, that the Islamic State cannot be called an 'organization'. The [16-minute video] highlighted that the Islamic State is a... state, based on serious institutional systems, solid rules and laws.

1. Territory: The Islamic State controls a vast amount of territory split into over 10 states, and it is constantly expanding.
2. Private/indigenous financial resources: The Islamic State has indigenous financial resources. Some of these include the oil and gas [reserves] that the Islamic State controls; whose production and export is under IS's control.
3. The Islamic State has various institutions. One of the most important ones is the General Services Islamic Administration Agency. This agency provides services to those Muslims in difficult war situations to help with their needs. These include infrastructure services, electricity, communications. ..."

**Source:** "Islamic State Money: ISIS To Mint Its Own Currency And Create 'Financial System,'" *International Business Times*, 13 November 2014, <http://www.ibtimes.com/islamic-state-money-isis-mint-its-own-currency-create-financial-system-1723433>

"The militant group's "Treasury Department" announced Thursday that it would soon begin minting its own silver, gold and copper coins... ISIS will circulate six different coin denominations of its currency, the dinar or dirham, which it said will help buy supplies for the allegedly expanding caliphate..."

ISIS prepares to print its own currency.

Source: <http://www.evrensel.net/haber/97286/isid-para-basmaya-hazirlaniyor>

## Turkey Commits Troops to 'Resolute Support'

18 October 2014

*“The presence of the Turkish Armed Forces here is the most tangible proof of the importance we attribute to Afghanistan and our mutual camaraderie.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** On 18 October an important visit for Afghanistan and its security after 2014 took place, but barely received any attention in the international media. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan visited Afghanistan, meeting with the country's new President, Ashraf Ghani. As the accompanying passages note, the visit was significant in several ways: it was the first Turkish presidential visit to Afghanistan in 46 years and the first official visit for the new Afghan president. In addition to affirming the special relationship between the two countries, Turkish officials announced that Turkey would commit around 700 troops to Afghanistan beyond 2014. The accompanying passages from the Turkish press provide insight about the visit and Turkey's commitment to Afghanistan.

The first passage is from the Turkish President's address to the Turkish troops in Afghanistan, where he expresses great pride and admiration for their efforts. He reminds them of the special historic relationship between Turkey and Afghanistan and praises the Turkish soldiers for gaining the trust of the Afghan people. The second passage is from statements by Chief Presidential Advisor Ibrahim Kalin, who notes that Turkey will commit some 700 (or possibly more) troops to "Resolute Support" and points out that at the moment it is an open-ended commitment with no expiration date. He also points out the important trilateral mechanism among Turkey-Afghanistan-Pakistan, noting that they would like to host the next meeting in Turkey in early 2015 or at the end of this year.

Turkey has a strong religious, historical and cultural relationship with Afghanistan. Afghanistan established diplomatic relations with Turkey shortly after it gained independence in 1919 and was the second country to recognize the Republic of Turkey. The two countries have signed numerous friendship and cooperation agreements since 1921. These warm relations that date back to the founding of both countries have continued through to the present. Today, Turkey views its presence in Afghanistan not only as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)

**Source:** "Cumhurbaşkanı Erdoğan Afganistan'da Türk askerlerine seslendi (President Erdoğan addressed Turkish soldiers in Afghanistan)," Ihlas Haber Agency, 18 October 2014, <http://www.ihb.com.tr/haber-cumhurbaskani-erdogan-afganistanda-turk-askerlerine-seslendi-401864/>

"President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan got together with Turkish troops during his visit to Afghanistan. In his speech, he said... 'My distinguished brothers, today we have paid a historic visit to Afghanistan. We've met with the new president Ashraf Ghani and made assessments with his first deputy Mr. Rashid Dostum and his Executive Committee Leader Abdullah Abdullah. Today's visit is a first in many ways. I visited Afghanistan in 2005 as prime minister. But this is the first [Turkish] presidential visit to Afghanistan in 46 years. In addition, Turkey has become the first country to hold an official visit with Afghanistan's new president after he took over the job. This visit with many firsts is a testament to the great importance that we attribute to Afghanistan.'

...

Erdoğan, who said that Afghanistan is very important for Turkey continued, 'Afghanistan has a special place for Turkey... We've never forgotten our historic ties with Afghanistan. We've provided support during this country's difficult periods to help establish peace, stability and security. There are about 800 different projects being carried out by our institutions in Afghanistan. We are working to provide help and assistance to everyone in Afghanistan, without distinguishing based on religion, ethnicity and sect. The presence of the Turkish Armed Forces here is the most tangible proof of the importance we attribute to Afghanistan and our mutual collaboration.'

....

He continued, 'I say this with great pride; during my time as prime minister, many world leaders told me how proud they were of our troops in Afghanistan. Your expertise, discipline and heroism are not limited to Afghanistan or Turkey. It is being watched by the entire world with admiration and respect. I know that you have the respect of the Afghan public more so than any other foreign soldiers. Our flag with our crescent and star symbolizes peace, camaraderie and brotherhood in Afghanistan. Just as in Kosova, Bosnia-Hertzegovina, Lebanon and Somalia, you have been the one to establish this trust in Afghanistan. I thank you once again.' "

(continued)



## Continued: Turkey Commits Troops to 'Resolute Support'

*mission, but also as a "brotherhood duty" to help the Afghan people restore peace. Turkey's shared Islamic religion and cultural ties with Afghanistan have made it easier for it to play an active role in Afghanistan. However, in contrast to other ISAF nations, Turkey does not participate in combat operations. It operates civilian-run provincial reconstruction teams and hosts many diplomatic initiatives to bring the region's countries, especially Afghanistan and Pakistan, together for talks. Turkey also provides important training programs for Afghan police and security forces. End OE Watch Commentary (Kaya)*

**Source:** "Erdoğan günübiriğine Afganistan'a gitti (Erdoğan went to Afghanistan for a day)," T24.com.tr, 18 October 2014, <http://t24.com.tr/haber/erdogan-gunubirline-afganistana-gitti,274249>

"Ibrahim Kalın [the Turkish President's Chief Advisor] said that Turkey currently has about \$1.5 million worth of projects in Afghanistan and that the Resolute Support Mission would start once ISAF leaves the country at the end of the year. "We will provide about 700 troops. This number can go up. There will be a total of some 12 thousand troops." In response to the question, 'Until 2017?', Kalın said, "Yes, but it will continue, it is currently open-ended. Americans, Italians, Germans and we will provide troops. Currently we have about 600 troops there."

...

"Ibrahim Kalın also stated that the Turkey-Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral mechanism would be one of the agenda items during the visit. 'One of the most important topics is relations with Pakistan. Border problems, the Taliban issue and the narcotics issue. There are many issues. We have established a mechanism to address these issues, [called] the Turkey-Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral mechanism. It is going very well. The last meeting took place in 13-14 February in Istanbul...we want to have the next one in early 2015, or if needed, at the end of this year, in Turkey again...'"



## Turkey's Role in Afghanistan and Afghan Stabilization

By Karen Kaya

Turkey views its presence in Afghanistan not only as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission, but also as a "brotherhood duty" to help the Afghan people restore peace. Turkey's views towards Afghanistan are also based on its own strategic interests: as long as Afghanistan is unstable, the whole region will be unstable, posing a security threat to Turkey. When Afghanistan becomes a secure and stable country, this will introduce wider stability in the region, bringing new economic benefits for the region in general and for Turkey in particular.

[http://usacac.army.mil/CAC2/MilitaryReview/Archives/English/MilitaryReview\\_20140831\\_art007.pdf](http://usacac.army.mil/CAC2/MilitaryReview/Archives/English/MilitaryReview_20140831_art007.pdf)



## Trends in the Turkish Military Industry

10 November 2014

“Turkey, which has initiated a national combat aircraft project, produces training aircrafts, unmanned aerial vehicles, helicopters, missile and rocket systems, battleships, armored personnel carriers, infantry rifles, satellites and logistic support systems and designs simulations, software and communication systems, is aiming to grow more and become one of the top 10 countries [with] the strongest defense and aerospace industry.”

**OE Watch Commentary:** The accompanying passages provide excerpts from recent interviews with Turkish defense industry officials, offering insight into the strategies, vision, priorities, capabilities and export objectives related to the country’s defense industry.

The first passage is from an interview with Sedat Güldogan, Deputy Undersecretary of Turkey’s Undersecretariat for Defense Industries. As the person responsible for the country’s defense industry, research, development and international cooperation, he discusses how Turkey has become an export power in the field of defense. He claims that Turkey’s first target market for exporting defense goods is the Middle East and North Africa and notes that one-third of the Turkish defense and aviation export is to the United States, mostly in the form of commercial aviation systems and parts.

The second passage is from an interview with Latif Aral Alis, Chairman of the Turkish Defense and Aerospace Industry Exporters’ Association (SSI) and the Turkish Defense Alliance (TDA), published in the Turkey-based Defence-Turkey magazine. He points out that Turkey has the second largest army in NATO and has initiated various national defense projects, including the national combat aircraft project, the national unmanned aerial vehicle, helicopters, missile and rocket systems and much more. He notes that Turkey’s aim is to become one of the top ten countries with the strongest defense and aerospace industry. He also mentions initiatives that have been taken to achieve this target.

The third interview is with Prof. Ismail Demir, Undersecretary for Defense Industries, also published in Defence-Turkey. In response to a question about what Turkey needs to focus on in order to increase its exports in defense, Demir discusses the need to make progress on such



The ANKA unmanned aerial vehicle, one of Turkey’s national products.

Source: [http://www.zaman.com.tr/gundem\\_ankanin-ucus-bilgisayari-israil-mali-cikti-asker-degistirilmesini-istedi\\_2015331.html](http://www.zaman.com.tr/gundem_ankanin-ucus-bilgisayari-israil-mali-cikti-asker-degistirilmesini-istedi_2015331.html)

**Source:** “Interview: Sedat Güldogan” Defense News, 10 November 2014, [http://www.zaman.com.tr/gundem\\_ilk-5-atak-helikopteri-ve-pilotlari-harbe-hazir\\_2251283.html](http://www.zaman.com.tr/gundem_ilk-5-atak-helikopteri-ve-pilotlari-harbe-hazir_2251283.html)

**[Question]** Some of the technologies have made you an export power, not just regionally, but worldwide. What are the markets that you’re targeting worldwide for growth?

**[Answer]** The first market that we are targeting is the Middle East since they are our neighboring countries, and North Africa. Of course, we are not aiming to sell something to the United States since 95 percent is dominated by the local companies. But by attending these [defense] exhibitions, we want to show off the capabilities to the officials here [in the U.S.] We have also some opportunities to sell some small-end products. One-third of the Turkish defense and aviation export is to the United States, but mainly the commercial aviation systems and parts. So we aim both to sell something to here, but of course, the main target is the Middle East, the Caucasus...”

(continued)

## Continued: Trends in the Turkish Military Industry

*products as rockets, weapons and ammunition. In addition, he points to the need to focus on sub-systems, not just platforms and finished products. He also discusses the importance of establishing Turkey's reputation and name recognition in the defense marketplace.*

*In the last decade Turkey has made it a strategic priority to reduce dependence on foreign weapons and become more self-sufficient and more competitive in the defense industry. To this end Demir has been promoting strategies that would allow Turkey to design and develop its own weapons. The goal of becoming more self-sufficient in this field is meant both as a deterrent and a way to reduce dependence on foreign companies. In addition to serving the Turkish Armed Forces, the goal is also to create more opportunities for export and to transfer technology. With such initiatives, Turkey hopes to join the ranks of the top ten countries in the world in the defense industry.*  
**End OE Watch Commentary (Kaya)**

**Source:** "Turkish Defense Industry Products Protecting the World," Defence-Turkey, 9 September 2014, <http://www.defence-turkey.com/index2.php?p=article&i=1699#.VGWD2Euv20s>

"Turkey, with the second biggest army of NATO, is one of the important defense centers of the world [thanks to] its defense industry. Turkey, which has initiated a national combat aircraft project, produces training aircrafts, unmanned aerial vehicles, helicopters, missile and rocket systems, battleships, armored personnel carriers, infantry rifles, satellites and logistic support systems and designs simulations, software and communication systems, is aiming to grow more and become one of the top 10 countries having the strongest defense and aerospace industry.

The Defence and Aerospace Industry Exporters' Association (SSI) founded in 2011, is gathering the defense and aerospace companies under a single roof in order to achieve [this] target. SSI has been conducting studies [on how] to represent the defense and aerospace sector in international markets and increase export performance..."

**Source:** "A New Era in [the] Turkish Defence Industry," Defence-Turkey, 12 July 2014, <http://www.defence-turkey.com/index2.php?p=article&i=1629#.VGWF-0uv20s>

**[Answer]** In addition to platforms and finished products, we also should focus on sub-systems; we also need to make headway in such products as rockets, weapons and ammunition. Our products need to be field-tested and proven, and need to distinguish themselves against competitors; we need to maintain our focus on such topics. In fact, I feel that we may need to market certain critical products at very low prices near production costs, so as to achieve name recognition for ourselves in the marketplace."

*(continued)*

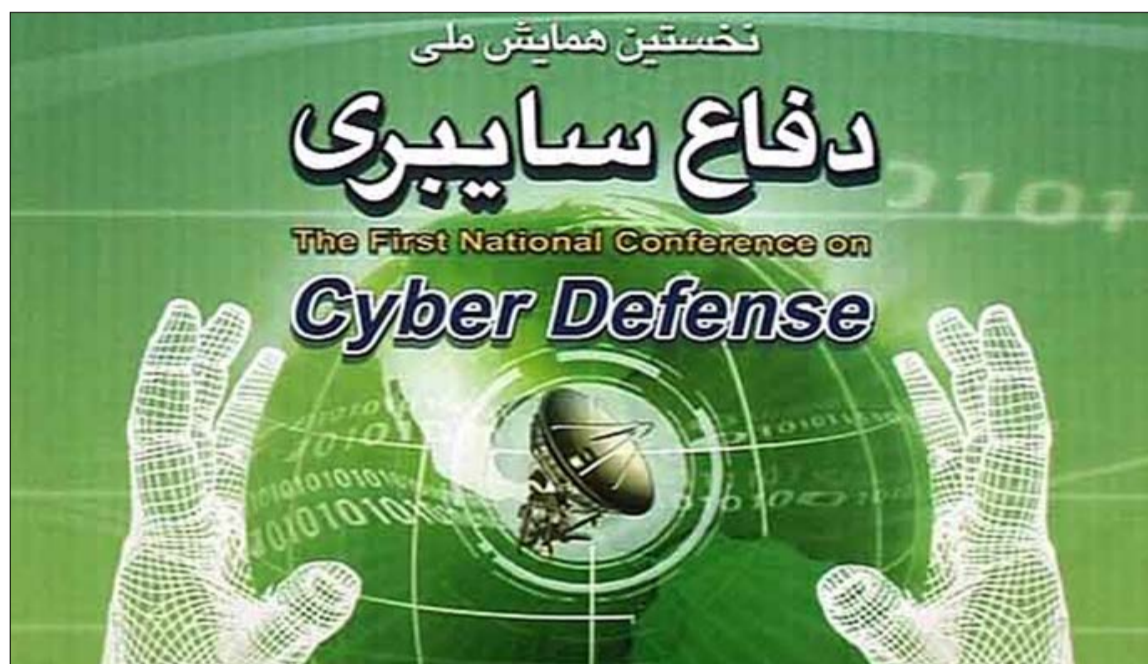


“The Supreme Leader...emphasized the prioritization of soft war cyber operations.”

**OE Watch Commentary:** After Stuxnet and other cyber attacks on Iran’s nuclear and military programs, the Iranian leadership has made cyber and network defense a top military priority. It is against this background that General Hassan Firouzabadi, Chief of Staff of Iran’s Armed Forces, keynoted a “passive defense” conference, the term Iranian authorities utilize both for cyber defense and, conversely, offensive cyber and hacking operations.

Firouzabadi’s comments that the Supreme Leader seeks to prioritize cyber operations herald renewed Iranian investment in the field. After all, the Iranian Navy expanded both its hardware and areas of operation immediately after similar comments by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei calling on the Islamic Republic to prioritize its Navy.

While Iran’s cyber strategy will theoretically be broad enough to involve every ministry and agency, the fact that the Armed Forces’ chief-of-staff was delivering the remarks excerpted here also suggests that the military will be in charge and will coordinate cyber strategies over and above civilian ministries. And while the announcement coincides roughly with subsequently announced cyber attacks on Iran’s nuclear website (Irannuc.ir), Firouzabadi’s excerpted remarks indicate that, rather than play the aggrieved victim, the Iranian government plans to aggressively pursue cyber-espionage to develop an advantage in future diplomatic dealings. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**



Iran Cyber Defense Conference, February 2012. Source: www.presstv.ir

**Source:** “Mahayat-e Tahdidat Taghir Kardeh Ast” (“The Nature of Threats Has Changed”), Fars News Agency, 30 October 2014. <http://farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=13930806000235>

#### The Nature of Threats Has Changed

According to the defense correspondent of the Fars News Agency, General Hassan Firouzabadi, chief of staff for the Armed Forces, addressed the Passive Defense Conference that was being held in the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting center, and with regard to the importance of the subject, he talked about the expectations of the leader with regard to passive defense... He commanded that there should be frequent tracking and monitoring, and all major initiatives with regard to passive defense should be considered.

Firouzabadi commented that all authorities should be aware of passive defense, and said, everyone must be involved and the Leader agreed that the work in this field must expand. He said in this regard that military power is not the only weapon, and that passive defense is also an important issue, and emphasized...that all the ministries and departments are required to participate in passive defense.

Firouzabadi said, “We have many enemies and we have been targeted from near and far, yet with passive defense measures, these enemies have been defeated.” He added that in a recent meeting with the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution [and] with regards to the soft war base, he emphasized the prioritization of soft war cyber operations... and he said that diplomacy should also take advantage of the opportunities and capacities in both cyber and electromagnetic defense.



# Basij Organization Enters Cyber Operations

7 November 2014

*“Cyber space is evolving and is sophisticated, so [we] must have deep familiarity with it.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** *The Basij, initially paramilitary volunteers, came to prominence during the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988) as it organized groups of teens to sweep minefields by running across them, with plastic keys to paradise around their necks. With the end of the war the Iranian government sought to institutionalize the Basij, eventually rolling it into the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in 2007.*

*The Basij, however, has always worked as a crack unit, whether in uniform or in civilian clothes, concentrating on countering those who it believes pose internal threats to Ayatollah Khomeini's and Ayatollah Khamenei's revolutionary ideals. With the outbreak of civil war in Syria, as well as unrest in Iraq, the Basij has consciously moved to replicate its model in these countries in order to recruit and indoctrinate a younger generation sympathetic to Iran's ideology and aims.*

*According to the remarks of Commander of Basij Forces General Ali Fazli, excerpted here, it seems that expansion into cyber space and cyber activities will be an important part of this new international Basij strategy. His hints that the Basij will not be satisfied with media (and presumably social media) capabilities and his mention of the Basij's cyber ambitions after discussing areas such as Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, in which Iran alleges American aggression, suggest that the Basij aims not only to develop, but also to deploy or export cyber capabilities to its proxies fighting elsewhere in the Middle East. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)***

**Source:** “Janshin-e Sazman-e Basij-e Mostaz'afin: Tashkil-e Basij-e Jahan-e Islam ‘Amaliyat-e Shodeh Ast” (The Organization for Mobilization of the Oppressed: The Newly-Formed Basij of the Islamic World has Become Operational), Islamic Republic News Agency, 7 November 2014. <http://irna.ir/fa/News/81376959/>

## Basij of the Islamic World has Become Operational

On Friday, General Ali Fazli said in an interview with journalists in Zanjan that today Islamic Iran has communications and interactions with Islamic countries and, in fact, it is with the Basij that it has exchanged information, training, and culture, and added, “These interactions began in the shadow of empathy, unity, fraternity, and similar practices and, no doubt we shall see the footprint of the Revolutionary Guards if the countries experience Islamic resistance.”

He said that it is the enlightened command of His Excellency Imam Khomeini that it is the duty and obligation to come to the defense of the oppressed and Islamic nations, and if there were no interactions, certainly we had other circumstances on the international stage. General Fazli added that the Islamic State and the takfiris are supported and equipped by the oppressors [United States] and this is shown by lots of intelligence, and that these terrorist groups have intelligence, educational, psychological operation, and media support, and we have witnessed this in Syria, Palestine, Iraq, and Lebanon....

In response to a reporter's question about cyber security and cyber threats from the West, Fazli said “Cyber space is evolving and is sophisticated, so [we] must have deep familiarity with it, because without having [comprehensive] intelligence on this important issue it is not possible to deal with this threat.”

On the subject of the Basij Organization's creation of a “good” cyberspace capability for itself: “To this end, a center for virtual space was formed in the Basij Organization, and the Basij can take great strides in the areas of cyber operations, media and the virtual arena; however, this is not enough, and to achieve optimal and desired conditions, we must not be satisfied with this extent.”

## A Naïve Approach to Cyber Defense Worse than a Missile Strike

*“Allowing foreigners to host our data will inflict loss and damage on our facilities greater than being hit by a missile.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** The excerpted comments from Gen. Esmail Ahmadi Moghaddam, chief of Iran’s Law Enforcement Forces, Iran’s paramilitary national police force, emphasize the growing obsession and frustration which the Iranian leadership has with regard to the cyber attacks which its nuclear and perhaps military programs have suffered. His remarks with regard to “naïve reactions” to the threat seem to suggest that Iran’s major vulnerability remains poor operational security.

Of particular interest were his remarks with regard to the establishment of a separate cyber police unit ([www.cyberpolice.ir](http://www.cyberpolice.ir)). This suggests that Iran’s efforts to reduce its cyber vulnerabilities are not simply rhetorical or a passing phase: new departments require permanent staffing and budgeting, and new bureaucracies often aggressively seek to carve out their territory.

Despite Moghaddam’s rhetoric about defending Iran against foreign aggression, the daily function of the cyber-police might also be inward looking: because the Law Enforcement Forces also aggressively investigate and counter political crimes, the establishment of a cyber-police force likewise heralds a further monitoring of internet discourse and social media.

That said, the Iranian system often hosts overlapping bureaucracies, and so the establishment of the cyber police might also signal some looming tension between the police on one hand and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ intelligence unit on the other, not to mention the Ministry of Intelligence itself. Nevertheless, just as Iran is gearing up for offensive cyber operations (see “Iran Assessing and Expanding Cyber Operations” in this issue of OEW), it is just as serious about playing defense. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**



Right to left: Brigadier General Kamal Hadianfar, Chief of the Cyber Police; Brig. General Hossein Ashtari; Brigadier Mohammad Javadzadeh Kamand. Source: <http://www.cyberpolice.ir/sites/default/files/imagecache/650-300/news/6556%2B5.jpg>

**Source:** “Khasarat-e Barkhorad-e Sadehangaraneh ba Mawzu’ a-ye Siberi az Asabet-e Mushak beh Tasisat ham Bishtar ast” (“A Naïve Approach to Cyber Defense is Worse than a Missile Strike on our Facilities,”), Fars News Agency, 28 October 2014. <http://www.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=13930806000229>

### A Naïve Approach to Cyber Defense Worse than a Missile Strike

General Esmail Ahmadi Moghaddam, commander of the Law Enforcement Forces, speaking at the passive defense conference which was being held at the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting center, stated that effective passive defense can blunt any effective impact of the enemy and said... “Naïve reaction to cyber issue and allowing foreigners to host our data will inflict loss and damage on our facilities greater than being hit by a missile...” He pointed out that cyber threats are a top priority for the Law Enforcement Forces and so the cyber police were established....



“... *Egypt is in a state of war ...*”

**OE Watch Commentary:** Escalation may be afoot in the Egyptian military's counterinsurgency operations in the Sinai. The turning point began on 24 October, when coordinated attacks against military positions in the North Sinai towns of al-Arish and Sheikh Zuweid killed over 30 soldiers, the heaviest toll since the start of the campaign. The attack near Sheikh Zuweid was particularly worrying, as the operation was more complex and the weapons heavier than what the Egyptian military had until then faced in the Sinai. It came on the heels of a series of successes for the military against the leading Islamist insurgent group, the Ansar Bait al-Maqdis (ABM).

The Egyptian government's response to the 24 October attacks was strong and swift. A state of emergency and curfew were imposed in the area. Controls over public dissent were strengthened at a national level. The first accompanying excerpt, from a flyer posted to the Twitter account of a nationalistic group calling itself “The Egyptian People,” is illustrative of the grip the Egyptian military seeks to exert on the public domain. After flatly stating that Egypt is in a state of war, the flyer lists six prohibitions related to criticizing the Egyptian Army. On 29 October the army began plugging Egypt's border with Gaza. All homes and businesses lying on a newly declared buffer zone are to be razed by the end of the year. This policy and the haphazard way it has thus far been implemented have naturally increased resentment among the displaced.

A few days after the buffer zone was declared, the ABM pledged allegiance to the Islamic State; hours later, the pledge was retracted. A week later, on 10 November, a definitive pledge of allegiance was made to the IS and its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The confusion, according to a report in the newspaper al-Quds al-Arabi, stemmed from an internal power struggle in which the group's base ultimately prevailed over its leaders, as the second accompanying excerpt explains.

The key consequence of ABM's joining the IS may be an influx of recruits, as the third accompanying article argues. Significant increases in rebel manpower in the Sinai would pose new challenges to the Egyptian military. Indeed discussions of potential shifts in the

**Source:**

“We Are the Egyptian People” Twitter Account. 26 October 2014. <https://twitter.com/e7naa2/status/526292017387962368>

احنا الشعب المصرى

“Egypt is in a state of war... thus we note to everyone:

- It is forbidden to share any negative statements about your army and country said by the foreign agents and fifth column
- It is forbidden to share any negative information related to military operations or the situation of soldiers and officers
- It is forbidden to write anything negative that questions or insults your military, your leadership and your authorities...”

**Source:**

مصر: أنصار بيت المقدس تحسم أمرها وتبايع تنظيم «داعش» و«الخلافة» البغدادي  
 “Egypt: Ansar Bait al-Maqdis Settles Its Differences and Pledges Allegiance to ISIS and the ‘Caliph’ Baghdadi,” 10 November 2014. <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=248571>

With regard to the denial of the previously issued pledge of allegiance, the source said: “There is a major disagreement between the group's leaders and its base. The leaders preferred to remain part of al-Qaeda, under the command of Ayman al-Zawahiri, in order to obtain support from members of the Islamic Jihad and the Gamaa Islamiyya in Egypt. However, the base imposed its viewpoint in the end, especially after the recent security strikes...”



Sinai terrain. Source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hiking\\_on\\_Mount\\_Sinai.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hiking_on_Mount_Sinai.jpg)

(continued)

## Continued: Turning Point in the Sinai

*demographics and population of the Sinai are becoming a hot topic. In tones reminiscent of Morocco's strategy to control the Western Sahara, the author of the fourth accompanying article argues that for the government to win in Sinai some form of voluntary population transfer is needed. The relationship between Cairo and the Sinai is likely to undergo important changes over the next few months; it remains to be seen whether they will be drawn closer together or pushed farther apart. **End OE Watch Commentary (Winter)***

**Source:**

“أنصار بيت المقدس” تبايع “داعش”  
Mustafa Bassiouni. “Ansar Bait al-Maqdis Pledges Allegiance to ISIS” 11 November 2014. Al-Safir. <http://assafir.com/Article/20/383372>

The most likely of these results is for these extremists groups to welcome emigrant jihadists from throughout the world to join ISIS. Reaching ISIS in Iraq and Syria was burdensome for some, and joining up with ISIS in Egypt may be easier...

**Source:** Khaled Okasha. “Has ISIS reached Sinai?” 13 November 2014. Egypt Daily News. <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/11/13/isis-reached-sinai/>

But to really protect Sinai from the dangers associated with the arrival of ISIS... the Egyptian government should directly develop and inject investments into the region in a way that attracts a large number of people who do not want to wait until terrorism is eradicated to start. The region's main problem now is that it suffers from low population numbers, which is the ideal climate for terrorist activities carried out by groups like ISIS; rapid population growth will form a wall to prevent the region from slipping into instability, and the human factor provides constant motivation for security or military action.



## Suicide Bombers, Snipers and Intimidation Tactics

31 October 2014

“... Whoever wants to defeat ISIS has to rely on snipers equipped with advanced sniping rifles and on armored vehicles that protect their personnel against ISIS snipers...”

**OE Watch Commentary:** *The Islamic State's (IS) fighting doctrine, according to an article by Iraqi author Alaa al-Lami published in the Lebanese newspaper, al-Akhbar, rests on four pillars: guerrilla warfare, suicide bombings, violent intimidation tactics and religious narratives. The author claims that understanding how the group has formulated a doctrine that blends these four elements in novel and innovative ways is fundamental to identifying the group's strengths and weaknesses.*

*The author highlights suicide bombings, which are usually employed in the early stages of IS offensives (including the June 2014 takeover of Mosul and the August 2014 elimination of Syrian government military presence in Raqqa Province). Suicide bombings fuse guerrilla tactics, violent intimidation and religious narratives into a single deadly weapon that is not only meant to inflict heavy losses within the ranks of the enemy, but to strike at its psychological cohesion and morale. According to al-Lami, the effective employment of this tactic requires IS jurists to invoke fairly arbitrary interpretations of a text they consider anything but arbitrary. The Quranic strictures against suicide, after all, are fairly straightforward. Highlighting this incongruence exposes an important vulnerability in IS doctrine.*

*Al-Lami published a second article that summarized the first-hand descriptions of IS fighting provided in July 2014 by Iraqi Army soldier Abu Mussa. A section of the article is excerpted alongside this commentary, and the full article is available in English translation at the link provided. Abu Mussa's account covers a range of IS TTPs. The rest of this commentary focuses on the importance of snipers.*

*Sniping has been a pervasive feature of the Syrian conflict, heavily employed by all major parties. Al-Lami argues that IS battlefield success is partly explained by their reliance on snipers. According to him, the group is “changing the definition and function of sniping from a marginal and clandestine security tactic outside the context of the main battle to a tactic*

**Source:**

الأداء العسكري لـ«داعش» وعقيدته القتالية  
Alaa al-Lami. “ISIS's military performance and fighting doctrine” 21 October 2014. Al-Akhbar. <http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/218061>

In and of themselves, none of the four pillars that underpin ISIS's fighting doctrine is novel. What is new is the way they are combined into a single doctrine that we might call “religious intimidating suicide guerrilla warfare.”

**Source:** Alaa al-Lami. “ISIS' fighting doctrine: Sorting fact from fiction” 31 October 2014. Al-Akhbar (English). <http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/isis'-fighting-doctrine-sorting-fact-fiction>

The ongoing battle of Kobane, where fighters from the People's Protection Units close to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Turkey are defending the city against ISIS militants, provides a valuable lesson in this regard. These fighters, despite their modest weapons capabilities compared with ISIS' heavy weaponry, relied on snipers and small and mobile fidayeen units... Abu Musa concluded: “Whoever wants to defeat ISIS has to rely on snipers equipped with advanced sniping rifles and on armored vehicles that protect their personnel against ISIS snipers and are equipped with single and double barreled dushkas in addition to increasing the number of PKC-carrying security forces in every company or brigade. Finally, providing air cover is very important in battles against ISIS but it might lose its value during short-range combat because enemies' trenches are so close.”



“Othman the German,” an IS suicide bomber, posing with a sniper rifle. Source: <http://justpaste.it/fpk4>

(continued)



## Continued: Suicide Bombers, Snipers and Intimidation Tactics

of engagement not only within the battle but at its peak”.

*Defeating the IS requires, among others, countering the group’s snipers. In the battle for control over the Syrian town of Kobani (known as Ain al-Arab in Arabic), Kurdish fighters have dampened the effectiveness of IS snipers through a variety of means, including snipers of their own. As the third accompanying article notes, many PKK (Turkish Kurds) fighters are experienced snipers. Their own innovation, as various media sources have highlighted, is in the use female snipers. Kurdish perseverance in Kobani, of course, is also explained by several other factors, including American air cover and the effective neutralization of IS intimidation tactics. **End OE Watch Commentary (Winter)***

Source:

سر ”الذراغونوف“... ”الموت قنصا“ مسلسل سوري دخل عامه الرابع

Dani Mrad. “The secret of the Dragunov.... ‘Death by Sniper’: A Syrian soap opera entering its fourth year” 12 May 2014. <https://www.zamanalwsl.net/news/49650.html>

As for the PKK, they regard the sniper rifle as an essential weapon in their arsenal by virtue of the type of attacks they have waged against Turkey for decades, as well as the land in which they operate...

Image Top: Facebook profile page of a female “Professional Kurdish Sniper” <https://www.facebook.com/BBFNNM.KURD>



Image Middle: “Members of the Islamic State’s ‘Sniper Battalion’ posing after taking over the 93d Regiment in Raqqqa Province” <http://justpaste.it/gazoalewa1>



Image Bottom: FSA gunmen with PTRS 41 and Styer HS 50 replicas, likely Iranian-made: <http://www.arabic-military.com/t69365-topic>





**OE Watch Commentary:** In mid-October reports emerged that Yemen's Huthi Movement (*Ansar Allah*) had taken over key installations in the Yemeni Red Sea port city of Hudaydah. Huthi control over Hudaydah, even if partial, has domestic and international repercussions. Domestically it strengthens their hold on the capital and signals intent to expand well beyond their natural areas of influence. Hudaydah is a gateway to the Bab al-Mandab Strait, the southern entry to the Red Sea. Volatility in this area has international repercussions, given that it is considered a critical chokepoint in the global oil transit system.

Over the past several months, Yemeni forces have been largely ineffective in holding off advances by Huthi gunmen, particularly in Amran Province and the capital Sanaa. Troops loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh are believed to be coordinating with the Huthis, making the job all the more difficult for troops loyal to the current regime, as argued in the first accompanying article.

Authorities in Egypt and Saudi Arabia are keeping a close eye on Yemen, and reports of an emerging Saudi-Egyptian axis (also including Kuwait and the UAE) that could fight in Libya and Yemen were recently published by the Associated Press. In Cairo there are fears of the impact that volatility in Bab al-Mandab could have on Suez Canal flows. The second accompanying excerpt comes from a recent interview in the Saudi newspaper, *Okaz*, with Egypt's leader Abdul Fattah al-Sisi, who signals that he considers the issue an international one.

Riyadh is no less concerned by events in Yemen, especially since it has lost many levers of influence over the past year. As shown by the third accompanying excerpt, from a prominent Saudi columnist, the Saudi government's preference may remain to strengthen friendly factions, which here could translate into direct assistance to Yemen's military. Still, Saudi military intervention in Yemen should not be discarded, given that they did so – albeit with poor results – as recently as 2009-2010.

The Huthis are not the only group seeking to fill Yemen's power vacuum: fears that al-Qaeda or affiliated groups may disrupt traffic in Bab al-Mandab are also latent. Yet for many Sunnis, both in and outside of Yemen, the specter of al-Qaeda is conjured and controlled in Washington, employed by American leaders to justify colonial interventions in the region. This viewpoint can be gleaned in the fourth accompanying excerpt, from one of Yemen's top newspapers. Indeed the insinuation that the United States is tacitly backing the Huthis is becoming common fare in influential Gulf media outlets. **End OE Watch Commentary (Winter)**

**Source:**

الحديدة اليمنية: "ملعقة ذهب" الحوثيين نحو البحر  
Adel al-Ahmadi. "Yemen's Hudaydah: a golden spoon for the Huthis en route to the sea" 15 October 2014. <http://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/831abcf7-8e49-433f-a04e-b012015ad683>

In Hudayda there are many bases, including Coastal Air Defense, Naval Forces, the 81st and 82d Brigades, the 10th Brigade, Special Security Forces (formerly Central Security), Military Police and other bases whose situation is similar to that of those in Sanaa. Most of them are loyal to the deposed (Saleh), according to al-Hatami, who believes that "these bases will not resist the Huthi expansion for long. It is thus easy for them, as they are welcomed by the followers of the deposed..."

**Source:**

السيسي: تفعيل العلاقات مع المملكة يقوي البلدين ويخدم شعوب المنطقة ويحقق أحلامها  
Dr. Hashim Abdu Hashim. "Sisi: Closer ties with the Kingdom will strengthen both countries" 29 October 2014. *Okaz*. <http://www.okaz.com.sa/new/Issues/20141029/Con20141029731589.htm>

"Neither Egypt nor Saudi Arabia nor any other peace-loving country and committed to avoiding threats against international maritime traffic will accept any type of threat to the interests of the many, regardless of their source."

**Source:** Abdulrahman al-Rashed. "The concept of Arab military intervention" 25 October 2014. *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*. <http://goo.gl/RmW1pO>

...the idea of military assistance, and not necessarily direct intervention on the ground, may be one way in which to deal with the chaos spreading everywhere, and which threatens to remain with us for ten or twenty more years.

**Source:**

ذرائع لسيطرت القوات الدولية سيطرتها المباشرة على باب المندب  
Abdel Malek Shamsan. "Justifications for direct control of Bab al-Mandab by international forces" 23 October 2014. <http://almasdaronline.com/article/63199>

If the winds blow in this direction, undoubtedly a plan as weighty as sending international troops to directly control the Red Sea will require an appropriate justification. Al-Qaeda can likely provide this justification for direction intervention to protect international interests. This would lead Yemen into a perpetual and broad cycle of violence that will include al-Qaeda and the Huthis... [the Americans] are not supporting the Huthis so they can vanquish al-Qaeda, but rather so they can revive it and expand its presence in order to achieve their purely colonial goals...

## Burkina Faso: Finally a Sub-Saharan Arab Spring?

5 November 2014

*“In Burkina Faso, as in Tunisia, the mass protests were led by a young population against a head of state who has remained in power for decades, surrounded by a corrupt elite.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** As can be seen by the accompanying article, the recent turmoil in Burkina Faso, which culminated with the ousting of President Blaise Compaoré, is being compared to the Arab Spring uprisings. Although there are several differences with the events in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere that were labeled “Arab Spring,” there are also numerous similarities. Certainly some people in Burkina Faso saw parallels, as local social media sprouted hashtags such as #BurkinaSpring.

Indeed, the use of social media to help overthrow Burkina Faso’s president is reminiscent of the event in Egypt that has come to be known as the “Twitter Revolution.” In Cairo and elsewhere, people, especially young people, tweeted crucial information, quickly outmaneuvering older and slower means of communication used by the Mubarak regime for its public relations messages. Much like Egypt, in Burkina Faso many of the participants in the revolution are young, and, as the article relates, there are a lot of them: over 60% of the population is between the ages of 17 and 24. When Compaoré, who had been president of Burkina Faso for 27 years, moved to amend the constitution in order to cling to power even longer, those rebellious youths took to the streets and Twitter.

“The streets” are another similarity to the Arab Spring, for just like in Tunisia, which many point to as the place where the Arab Spring was born, the protests did not begin with just one group, such as organized labor, though there certainly were many individual groups anxious for Compaoré to leave. Instead, the protests in this former French colony have been described in the African press as having come from “la rue” (the street). It truly was an immense uprising, and, as happened in the Arab Spring countries, much of the international community’s response to another too-long-in-power head of state being overthrown was rather muted. While leaders such as Ben Ali, Mubarak, and Compaoré may have been old friends of non-African nations, overall many of those foreign friends wished well or at least acquiesced to the Tunisians, Egyptians and other dissatisfied peoples, now to include the Burkinabè (the people of Burkina Faso), who through mass protests initiated monumental change.

The story of Burkina Faso’s Arab Spring, like many of the other Arab Springs, is unfinished. At least for now the protests seem to have abated, probably helped by the army, which is now in charge of the government, and civil groups agreeing to a plan for transition to civilian rule. Still, like Arab Springs elsewhere, it is difficult to predict Burkina Faso’s fate. Will it be like Tunisia, which has had a rather successful transfer to democracy, or Libya, where chaos reigns, or somewhere in-between? **End OE Watch Commentary (Feldman)**

**Source:** Liesl Louw-Vaudran, “Burkina Faso: West Africa’s Arab Spring?” Institute for Security Studies (South Africa), 5 Nov 2014, <http://www.issafrica.org/iss-today/burkina-faso-west-africas-arab-spring>

The dramatic ousting of former president Blaise Compaoré by popular uprising in Burkina Faso last week, and the speed with which it happened, caught some observers by surprise.

Out of a population of 17 million people in Burkina Faso, over 60% are between the ages of 17 and 24 years old says the World Bank.

As in many other African countries, young people are either unemployed, or they are unskilled and earn very low wages... despite a growth rate of over 4%, prospects are not good in landlocked Burkina Faso, with a rating of 181 out of 187 countries in the United Nations (UN) Human Development Index.

In the few days following Compaoré’s ousting, the hashtag #BurkinaSpring began to appear on social media.

In both Tunisia and Burkina Faso, security forces seemed to sympathize with the protestors and refused to protect the head of state. This scenario is very different from other African countries like Uganda or Angola, where any semblance of a protest is quickly squashed by the police.

France, the former colonial power, refused to support Compaoré when the violence broke out last Thursday, despite having troops based in the country as well as in surrounding Chad, Mali and Niger.

What seems clear though, is that an increasingly informed and connected youth population, frustrated at the lack of democracy in their countries, has immense power. Long-serving African



## Cameroon Considers Next Steps in Conflict with Boko Haram

17 September 2014

*“And here [in Cameroon], Christians and Muslims live in harmony. But it was also the case in Central African Republic. We see what can happen when you throw oil on the fire.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** In 2014 Boko Haram became the primary cause of insecurity in Far North Region, Cameroon. In previous years Cameroon was criticized because Boko Haram established rear bases along the its border with Nigeria, from which it attacked targets in Nigeria. However, in the second half of 2014 Boko Haram attempted to seize several major border towns in Cameroon’s Far North Region for the first time, including Amchide, Fotokol and Kolofata, and carried out attacks in interior towns, such as Maroua and Kousseri. In early November 2014 Cameroon began evacuating neighborhoods around Fotokol after Boko Haram took over several villages surrounding the town and gathered citizens together and burned their national ID cards.

The emergence of Boko Haram as a top national security threat is affecting the discourse in Cameroon. An article in [francetvinfo.fr](http://francetvinfo.fr) brought to light a long dormant issue in Cameroon that is now attracting much attention, namely the regional, religious and ethnic power dynamics surrounding Boko Haram’s presence in the country. According to the article, an anonymous text message coming from the south argued that some northerners, implying Fulani Muslims, are supporting Boko Haram to either partition the north from the majority Christian south or to ensure that political power returns to the north for the first time since 1981, when current southerner Christian President Biya assumed power after then northern Fulani Muslim president Ahamdou Ahidjou fell ill.

Though the text message was reportedly traced to a southern politician, the larger impact of the article is the popularity that this debate generated in Cameroon. In neighboring Nigeria, the perception of a divide between north and south, with all its ethnic and religious ramifications, has frustrated the effort to combat Boko Haram. So long as the government and military expend effort overcoming and dealing with internal power conflict, they have fewer resources to expend on the insurgency. In the article some Cameroonians questioned whether their country, like neighboring Nigeria and Central African Republic, too, could become embroiled in conflict. Reconciling regional and religious divides, therefore, is an issue that Cameroon will have to deal with sooner rather than later. Otherwise, deteriorating national unity could undermine the country’s efforts to counter Boko Haram’s operations on its territory. **End OE Watch Commentary (Zenn)**



Cameroonian President Paul Biya greets hostages who were freed by Boko Haram in Extreme North Region in October 2014. source: <http://www.anorak.co.uk/409273/news/boko-haram-and-the-war-on-nigerias-islamists-a-photo-essay.html/>

**Source:** “Boko Haram, enjeu de politique intérieure au Cameroun [---]” [francetvinfo.fr](http://francetvinfo.fr), 17 September 2014.

### Cameroon Considers Next Steps in Conflict with Boko Haram

An anonymous text caused a stir in Cameroon. It suggests that the Boko Haram sect has support in the north. Written by southern elites, the text cries wolf without denouncing anyone but plays dangerously with unity.

Above all, it says that Boko Haram is already established in Cameroon. It calls for “a total war ... against all those who are willing to play the role of passive accomplices or enablers ... and thereby constituting Boko Haram of Cameroon.” No names are mentioned in the text. But the charges are serious.

Northern elites were quick to react. Obviously, the long reign of President Paul Biya (81 years old) has begun to sharpen political appetites. He monopolized power for 31 years. The current stability of the country should not blind policy. Cameroon is vast. The northern border of Chad and Nigeria is a lifestyle far removed from that of Douala or Yaoundé.

And here [in Cameroon], Christians and Muslims live in harmony. But it was also the case in Central African Republic. We see what can happen when you throw oil on the fire.

*“Colombia and Vietnam produce different types of coffee.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** Critics of the FARC's peace process with the Colombian government fear there is hardly a limit to the government's compromises and accessions to social engineering in play at the Havana negotiating table. Now comes news that a segment of the international community that always has been supportive of the FARC is being invited to meddle in core aspects of Colombian identity, in this case the Colombian coffee industry. That industry and the region on which it is centered (informally called the *eje cafetero* or coffee axis) have long been a central column of the country's commodity exports sector, not to mention a national emblem. Now some Europeans with close ties to the international left want to reorganize Colombia's coffee production at the rural organization level, and they offer up the Vietnamese agro-industry as the model.

The idea is not being received by many Colombians any better than one might have supposed it would. Vietnam and Colombia have enjoyed improving relations over the last few decades and, in fact, have not been fierce competitors in the international coffee market. This is because Vietnam produces mostly robusta beans, while Colombia produces mostly arabica varieties. Additionally, their principal importers respond naturally to the two countries' regional geographic market advantages. There is apparently no reason to suppose that the already developed relationships among leaders of the two nations' coffee growing industries will be greatly harmed by this new notion of Vietnam to Colombia tutelage, but it will not likely help.

Meanwhile, detractors of the peace process logically tie the coffee idea to other parts of the peace process, especially to the dubious assertion that the FARC legitimately represents campesinos (small rural agriculturalists) and should be given a favored position to manage agricultural reforms to their best benefit. For many Colombians, the whole suite of interconnected ideas coming out of Havana is infuriating, only to be topped off by an insult to Colombian national pride. As a result, the peace process seems less likely to end well. **End OE Watch Commentary (Demarest)**

**Source:** Eduardo Mackenzie, “La agricultura comunista vietnamita ¿el modelo para Colombia?”, (Vietnamese Communist Agriculture. The model for Colombia?), Periodistas Sin Fronteras, November 5, 2014, <http://www.periodismosinfronteras.org/11226.html>

“Now the truth is beginning to emerge regarding what Santos [Juan Manuel Santos, President of Colombia] is agreeing to with the FARC as to agriculture. ... One aspect of that plan is that the Vietnamese teach Colombian coffee growers how to grow coffee. It is a curious vision that Mr. Haubruge [A Belgian Professor tied to an ostensibly European plan for agricultural reform in Colombia] and his friends have -- they don't know about agriculture nor do they have an 'agrarian model', so they had to get themselves one -- the Vietnamese one. So as to leave no doubt Haubruge emphasized, 'It is important to reproduce that schema in Colombia.'”

**Source:** Pedro Corzo, “Los ‘agricultores’ de las FARC” (The ‘Farmers’ of the FARC), Periodismo sin Fronteras, Bogotá, October 6, 2014, <http://www.periodismosinfronteras.org/agricultores-farc.html>

“It is reasonable to have great doubts about the FARC's campesino identity. The majority of its leaders are professionals, college professors or urbanites...Rodrigo Londoño Echeverri, alias “Timochenco”, máximo jefe of the FARC, is a cardiologist who studied in the Soviet Union, specialized in surgery in Havana and received military education in Tito's Yugoslavia... Another builder of the future is Luciano Marín Arango, alias Iván Márquez. He studied law in the now extinct Soviet Union while his colleague Milton de Jesús Toncel Redondo, alias Joaquín Gómez, studied agricultural engineering in the same country. A fourth leader is Jaime Alberto Parra, alias Mauricio Jaramillo, who personally attended Tirofijo [Legendary and now deceased leader of the FARC]. This individual began his medical studies in Colombia, finished them in Cuba and specialized in the Soviet Union. Jorge Torres Victoria, alias Pablo Catatumbo, is another director of the FARC who traveled to Moscow for political education; he is accused of being the the organizer of the drug distribution routes that the guerrilla manages....”

**Source:** Maria-Alejandra Gonzalez-Perez and Santiago Gutierrez-Viana, (2012), “Cooperation in Coffee Markets: the Case of Vietnam and Colombia,” Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies, Vol. 2 Iss 1 pp. 57 - 73, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/20440831211219237>

“Using value chain analysis, it was found that Colombia and Vietnam produce different types of coffee, and that both have implemented diverse strategies in order to be more competitive in domestic and foreign markets via product differentiation. These differences make explicit room for cooperation between these two countries in an international environment where fierce competition persists.”

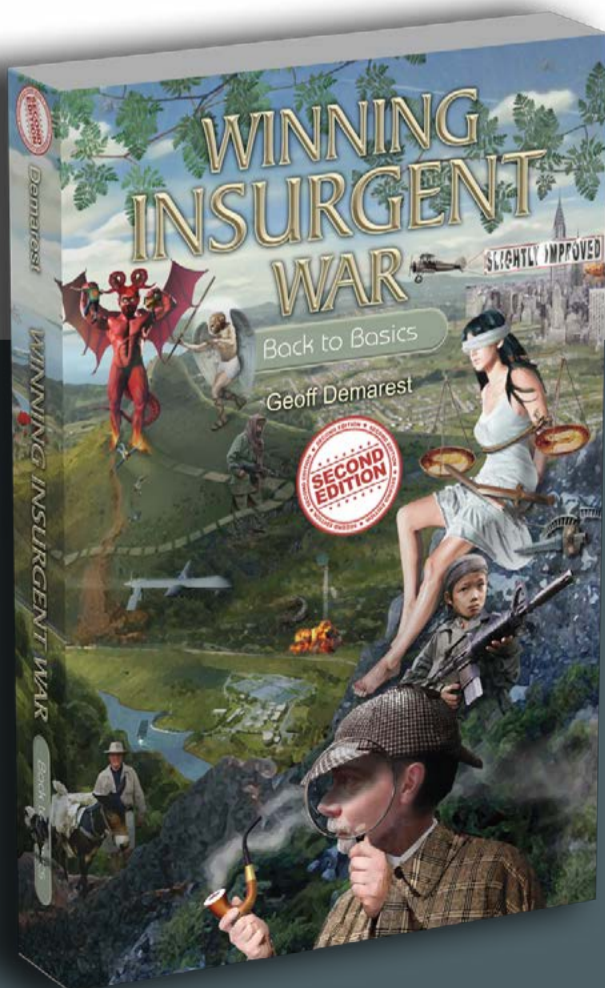
(continued)



## Continued: How to Add Insult to the Colombian Peace Process

**Source:** Le Courrier Du Vietnam, “Vietnam et Colombie célèbrent le 35e anniversaire des relations diplomatiques” (Vietnam and Colombia Celebrate 35 years of Diplomatic Relations), Le Courrier Du Vietnam, November 10, 2014, <http://lecourrier.vn/lecourrier/fr-fr/details/1/politique/127744/vietnam-et-colombie-celebrent-le-35e-anniversaire-des-relations-diplomatiques.aspx>

“The two countries also maintain periodic contacts between high ranking delegations as a complement to international conferences, as well as supporting each other within international forums, notably the South-South Cooperation Forum.... For his part, the ambassador from Vietnam to Venezuela and in Colombia, Ngô Tiên Dung, expressed his satisfaction in anticipation of the positive development of Vietnam-Colombia relations. He appreciated the opening of the Colombian embassy in Hanoi and assured that Vietnam looked favorably on intensifying comprehensive cooperation with Colombia.”



**Geoff Demarest's *Winning Insurgent War* is about a broader set of conflicts than just 'insurgency.' In its 144 sections, Geoff Demarest raises new and overlooked concepts related to modern conflict in a provocative manner designed to stir up debate and critical thinking. As Geoff Demarest puts it: "I hope that some of the ideas in it will be contagious."**

## Colombian Insurgent War Not Over

10 November 2014

*“Attacks by the FARC during the ‘peace process’: 792.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** Reports indicate that the war against the FARC inside Colombia is hardly over. If the FARC is not regaining lost ground, it is obviously trying to, including in areas that were past sanctuaries along the central cordillera. It may be that the FARC is having a difficult time re-establishing domination over some of the indigenous tribal groups it had earlier been able to submit. In addition, the Colombian Army seems to be continuing to score damaging blows against the FARC inside Colombia. A cursory glance at news coverage of firefights seems to suggest that these Army coups against the FARC are occurring in spite of what appears to be a decreased operational tempo. **End OE Watch Commentary (Demarest)**

**Source:** Iván Briceño, “Van 635 uniformados asesinados por las Farc desde que iniciaron los ‘diálogos de paz’” (At 739 [the number of] Uniformed Personnel Murdered by the FARC Since They Started the ‘Peace Dialogs’), Radio Santafé, Bogotá, November 10, 2014, <http://www.radiosantafe.com/2014/11/10/van-635-uniformados-asesinados-por-las-farc-desde-que-iniciaron-los-dialogos-de-paz/>

“Attacks by the FARC during the ‘peace process’: 792, wounded civilians: 326 and dead: 104, wounded public armed forces: 702 and dead: 635 Paola Holguin [Colombian Senator] wrote in her Twitter account. These and other statistics will be presented in the plenary session of the senate tomorrow when the debate over the peace process moves forward subpoenaed by the Liberals and by [a witness] who was also subpoenaed, the chief negotiator for the government, Humberto de La Calle, the high commissioner for peace, Sergio Jaramillo, and the prosecutor general, Eduardo Montealegre.

**Source:** Radio France Internationale, “Colombie : les Amérindiens Nasa ont jugé les Farc qu’ils ont attrapés” (Nasas [Colombian indigenous tribal group] Convicts FARC Guerrillas Whom They Captured), Radio France Internationale, November 10, 2014, <http://www.rfi.fr/ameriques/20141110-marche-43-disparus-igualala-mexique-colombie-amerindiens-nasa-accusent-farc%20/>

“In an interview Gabriel Pavi decried the lack of respect shown at the negotiations table in Havana: “we haven’t a ray of hope for peace. While they discuss peace there, here they continue to kill our native leaders. Nevertheless, Friday the FARC circulated a list of 26 indigenous representatives Nasa that they have declared “military targets of the FARC. Gabriel Pavi, of the association of indigenous councils of Colombia, replied: “the FARC are still the same. They apologize, we accept their apology, and then it starts again.”

**Source:** Radio France Internationale, “Colombie : les Amérindiens Nasa ont jugé les Farc qu’ils ont attrapés” (Nasas [Colombian indigenous tribal group] Convicts FARC Guerrillas Whom They Captured), Radio France Internationale, November 10, 2014, <http://www.rfi.fr/ameriques/20141110-marche-43-disparus-igualala-mexique-colombie-amerindiens-nasa-accusent-farc%20/>

“In an interview Gabriel Pavi decried the lack of respect shown at the negotiations table in Havana: “we haven’t a ray of hope for peace. While they discuss peace there, here they continue to kill our native leaders. Nevertheless, Friday the FARC circulated a list of 26 indigenous representatives Nasa that they have declared “military targets of the FARC. Gabriel Pavi, of the association of indigenous councils of Colombia, replied: “the FARC are still the same. They apologize, we accept their apology, and then it starts again.”

**Source:** Andrés Quintero Olmos, “Abaten a jefe del frente 50 de las Farc” (Jefe of FARC Front 50 is Taken Down), Red+Noticias, Bogotá, November 10, 2014, <http://www.redmasnoticias.com/portal/redmas/noticias/nacional/justicia/detalle/abaten-jefe-farc-439785/>

“Alias ‘Camilo Canada’ was committing crimes along the border between Quindío and Tolima. The operation was carried out in Roncesvalles County, reported the Commander of the Eighth Army Brigade, Colonel German Puentes. According to the officer, alias Camilo Canada was in charge of reactivating the extinct 50th Front in that section of the country.



## Colombian-Venezuelan Border Continues to Simmer

14 November 2014

*“The measure is not well received by Venezuelans who have seen Colombia as the perfect destination for fleeing”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** *OE Watch has been following events in northern South America for years. News reporting from the region seems to indicate that things are not getting better (more organized violence, more economic stress), especially in the border region between Venezuela and Colombia. If sharp differentials in the prices of basic goods and commodities and rapidly changing currency exchange rates are fuel for greater cross-border smuggling (and therefore a cause of armed confrontations and unplanned population migrations), then reporting from the region bodes poorly. End OE Watch Commentary (Demarest)*

**Source:** La Patilla, “Confirman masacre de ocho personas en Venezuela; cinco son colombianos” (Masacre of Eight Persons in Venezuela is Confirmed, Five Are Colombians), La Patilla, Caracas, November 10, 2014, <http://www.lapatilla.com/site/2014/11/10/confirman-masacre-de-ocho-personas-en-venezuela-cinco-son-colombianos/>

“The ambassador added that the cause or motive of the crime have not yet been determined, nor who are the possible perpetrators. He assured that up to this time there is no confirmation of there being any similar event in the State of Tachira. Perez affirmed that, “This is the official information up to now.” Previous information also indicated that everything was the result of a confrontation between criminal gangs. The case would be related to presumed members of the ‘Usuga Clan’ and The Rastrojos’ who had clashed with one-another in a dispute over territorial control that these groups exercise to break the law in the border area.”

**Source:** Daniel Palacios Mejía, “Colombia restringe visas a venezolanos” (Colombia Restricts Visas to Venezuelans), El Colombiano, November 11, 2014, [http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/C/colombia\\_restringe\\_visas\\_a\\_venezuela/colombia\\_restringe\\_visas\\_a\\_venezuela.asp](http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/C/colombia_restringe_visas_a_venezuela/colombia_restringe_visas_a_venezuela.asp)

“Venezuelan news media asserted that since yesterday the Colombian government temporarily canceled the issuance of type TP-10 visas that were being requested by Venezuelan citizens with recurrence to the Treaty of Asunción, which gave birth to Mercosur. According to those versions, the decision was taken by Colombia upon not having encountered reciprocity in procedures for its citizens by the Venezuelan government.... The measure is not well received by Venezuelans who have seen Colombia as the perfect destination for fleeing from the social and political crisis that for some years has gravely affected the brother country.”

**Source:** Editor, “URGENTE: Fuerte caída del Bolívar en Cúcuta, continua subiendo el dolar paralelo” (URGENT: Strong decline of the Bolivar [Venezuelan currency], the parallel dollar continues to rise.), DolarToday.com, November 14, <https://dolartoday.com/urgente-fuerte-caida-del-bolivar-en-cucuta-y-el-paralelo-continua-subiendo/>

“The price of Venezuelan currency has experienced a new drop against the Colombian peso...this Thursday the bolivar traded at 18 pesos to purchase, and 19 or 20 to sell, with a downward tendency...Facing fear that the bolivar will continue its devaluation, the money changers in San Antonio have temporarily opted not to buy bolivars in order to avoid losses.

# Mass Kidnapping and Murder of Students Highlights Corruption and Security Concerns in Iguala, Guerrero

24 November 2014

**OE Watch Commentary:** On 26 September 2014 a group of 43 male students enrolled at the Ayotzinapa Normal School teachers' college disappeared after being arrested by local police in Iguala, Guerrero. According to this source, the initial order for the arrests was given by Iguala Mayor Jose Luis Abarca. Today it is known that at least 17 of the students were handed over by police and brutally killed at the hands of the Los Guerreros Unidos drug trafficking organization. Days after the initial murders, 6 clandestine graves containing 28 charred bodies were found on the outskirts of Iguala. Although not confirmed, authorities and news media sources have indicated that the bodies may be those of the missing students.

The 26 September arrests followed more than a year of tension between Mayor Abarca and students from the Ayotzinapa Normal School, as reported by this source. In June 2013 students seized and vandalized Iguala's city hall, accusing the mayor of involvement in the murder of a prominent leftist political activist. According to the mayor, the students caused more than \$400,000 in damages to the municipal building, computers and other property during the demonstration. He further denied any involvement in the murder of the activist.

Nearly 10 days after the initial incident, families are still looking for answers in their search for the remaining 23 students. Still, many unknowns remain, and for this reason parents, Mexican students, and international organizations have urged the Mexican government to assume an active role in this case. Thus far, the Pena Nieto administration has sent federal police and the National Gendarmerie to take over security in Iguala, but, as reported by this source, this seems to be a small step in solving the much larger problem of government collusion with organized crime groups in Mexico. As suggested by the *El Mundo* news media source, this case could also mark the beginning of a growing anti-

**Source:** "Lo que se sabe de la desaparición de 43 estudiantes en Iguala, Guerrero" (What is Known About the Disappearance of 43 Students in Iguala, Guerrero). Univision. Accessed on 23 October 2014. <http://noticias.univision.com/article/2117422/2014-10-06/mexico/noticias/lo-que-se-sabe-de-la-desaparicion-de-43-estudiantes-en-iguala-guerrero>

## Iguala, Guerrero

On 25 September, 2014, students from the Ayotzinapa Normal School boarded busses to Iguala, Guerrero where they hoped to raise funds for a trip to Mexico City. While there, they attended a protest during a public event, but according to a report released by *El Universal*, Mayor Abarca feared that the presence of the students could possibly disrupt an event planned for the following day. For this reason, he is said to have instructed his Security Chief to contact Municipal Police who were told to arrest the students and "teach them a lesson." Upon arrival of the police at the scene, physical and verbal confrontations ensued during which time the students went to the bus depot and took over three buses, a regular practice to which the transport companies give their consent to prevent greater damage according to *El Pais*.

Shortly after students boarded the busses, Municipal Police Chief Francisco Salgado Valladares ordered officers to arrest the students. As they were filing off, three of the students were gunned down by officers. Another 17 students were killed after municipal police handed them over to gunmen working at the service of a drug trafficking organization known as Los Guerreros Unidos. Their bodies were subsequently piled up, doused with gasoline, and set on fire according to two of the gunmen now in police custody.

The other 23 students were last seen leaving Iguala in Municipal Police vehicles on September 26, 2014. Days following their disappearance, a clandestine grave containing 28 charred bodies was found on the outskirts of Iguala. Follow-on investigations and arrests have resulted in the discovery of multiple other clandestine graves, but there is still no confirmation on whether or not the bodies are those of the missing students.

**Source:** "Cisen vincula al alcalde de Iguala con los Beltran" (Cisen Identifies Ties between the Mayor and the Beltran Leyva Organization), *El Universal*. Accessed on 24 October 2014. <http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/nacion-mexico/2014/cisen-vincula-al-alcalde-de-iguala-con-los-beltran-1044011.html>

## Mayoral and Municipal Ties to Los Guerreros Unidos

The disappearance of the students and the apparent involvement of the Mayor, Municipal Police and a drug trafficking cartel further leads to the question as to how these entities were related in the first place. In answering this question, *El Universal* reported information allegedly obtained by CISEN indicating that Mayor Abarca and his wife worked with the Beltran Leyva Organization (BLO) before it split in 2010. Los Guerrero Unidos, an off-shoot of the original BLO, is said to have received continuing support from the Mayor. This source further indicated that the Mayor's wife once worked directly for Arturo Beltran Leyva. As for the Municipal Police, at least 30 officers are said to have been on the payroll of Los Guerreros Unidos. Of these, 22 are currently under investigation for their possible involvement in this incident.

(continued)



## ***Continued: Mass Kidnapping and Murder of Students Highlights Corruption and Security Concerns in Iguala, Guerrero***

*government crusade in which guerilla and anarchist groups re-emerge. End OE Watch Commentary (Fiegel)*

**Source:** “La Fiscalía mexicana confirma que los 43 estudiantes desaparecidos fueron asesinados (Mexican Attorney General Confirms that the 43 Missing Students were Murdered).” El Mundo. Accessed on November 24, 2014 from <http://www.elmundo.es/internacional/2014/11/07/545d2aa4ca4741b4638b4574.html>

Since the initial disappearance of the students in late September, seemingly little progress has been made in bringing closure to this case, but bodies have been found and arrests have been made as indicated by the following information. On November 4, 2014, authorities discovered multiple garbage bags containing burned human bones, ashes and other remains that could belong to the missing students as reported by this source. But as of November 24, 2014, the remains have not been identified as they are currently being processed by a specialized forensics lab in Austria. Authorities have also arrested 60 suspects including Abarca and his wife, but still have no conclusive answers as to exactly what happened to the students as of November 24, 2014 except for that it has been classified as a mass murder.

Perceived lack of progress in the case has only served to fuel citizen’s anger and has prompted the formation of “anarchist groups” that are becoming larger and more widespread even though nearly two months have passed since the initial incident. For example, on Revolution Day (20 November) 30,000 protestors converged in Mexico City carrying signs reading “resign, Peña” and “revolution, revolution.” They also burned a 30 foot effigy of President Peña Nieto in the Zocalo Square and threw Molotov cocktails at government buildings. And while protests in Mexico are nothing new, recent anti-government displays could signal re-emergence of guerilla and anarchist groups that have plagued Mexico in the past.

# Human Capital Needed to Support Peruvian Cocaine Production

**Source:** “El Hogar De La Senorita Coca” (The Home of the Cocaine Madame), El Universal. Accessed on 09 October 2014 from <http://www.domingoeluniversal.mx/historias/detalle/El+hogar+de+la+se%C3%B1orita+Coca-2462>

**OE Watch Commentary:** *According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Peru has officially surpassed Colombia as the world’s premier producer of cocaine for the first time in ten years. Since 2000, overall cocaine production in Peru has increased by 40%, while total land used to grow coca leaves is currently estimated at 60,400 hectares, as reported by El Universal. To support increased production, human capital in the form of skilled pilots, farmers, drug mules, and day laborers is in high demand. Although the exact number of individuals working to maintain this highly successful business is unknown, approximately 60,000 individuals and 12,000 families are involved in drug-trafficking networks operating in the Valleys of the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro Rivers (VRAE) of Peru, according to El Pais. End OE Watch Commentary (Fiegel)*

Peru’s massive cocaine operations have precipitated the need for a larger work force including pilots, day laborers, drug transporters and farmers. To meet demand for pilots, at least 10 new aviation schools have opened in Santa Cruz, Bolivia in recent years as reported by El Pais. These schools are used to train narco pilots from Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia at the cost of \$30-\$40,000 per student. Once trained, the pilots are responsible for transporting drug shipments from Peru to Brazil. Planes utilized for this type of activity in Peru are generally registered in Bolivia and Paraguay.

## Day Laborers

In addition to augmenting their pilot force, traffickers are also building more clandestine airstrips in traditional production areas such as the VRAE, but also in Satipo where the topography is flatter. Because the maintenance of airstrips in jungle regions is high and because they cannot be built without locals knowing, traffickers are actually contracting villagers who work as day laborers to build and maintain them according to El Pais. This source further indicated that the villagers are paid a lump sum of \$10,000 each time a cocaine flight successfully departs.

## Mochileros (backpackers)

In the case that cocaine shipments do not depart from Peru via an aerial route, terrestrial or fluvial may be utilized by individuals known as “mochileros.” These mochileros are given small quantities of cocaine to schlep out of the jungle to their point of departure which is generally a port, an airport, or a roadway. As reported by El Pais, the vast majority of mochileros have been identified as young adults and females. This idea is further evidenced by the fact that in the VRAE region alone, 4,000 young adults are incarcerated on illegal drug trafficking charges.

## Farmers

Farmers are also key to the success of drug traffickers in Peru as the crop they choose to grow on their land either directly supports or negates the supply chain. In many cases, there is no question that farmers will choose to grow coca leaves as it can be harvested up to four times a year and generates exponentially higher profits than cacao or coffee according to El Universal. And despite the fact that coca depletes soil of nutrients needed to grow future crops for years to come, many families are willing to take this risk in exchange for the immediate financial return.



## Authorities Investigate Serbian Mafia Ties to Drug Trafficking Activities in Peru

29 October 2014

**OE Watch Commentary:** *As reported by this source, Eastern European criminal groups such as the Serbian Mafia are exporting mass quantities of cocaine from Peru. Although the modus operandi of these groups is constantly changing, they are known to make use of long established trafficking routes for further distribution once shipments arrive in Eastern Europe. As reported by this source, principal trafficking routes pass through Bulgaria, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Kosovo, then through Montenegro and Serbia to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and from there to Croatia and Slovenia and Western European markets. Evidence of an increasing Eastern European mafia presence in Latin America, and more specifically in Peru, are the arrests/murders of three prominent Serbian Mafia leaders and the arrests of multiple Serbian drug mules in 2013 and 2014. End OE Watch Commentary (Fiegel)*

**Source:** “Investigan a mafia de serbios vinculados al narcotráfico en Peru” (Authorities Investigate Serbian Mafia Ties to Drug Trafficking in Peru), El Comercio. Accessed on 29 October 2014 from <http://elcomercio.pe/lima/policiales/investigacion-mafia-serbios-vinculados-al-narcotrafico-noticia-1749507>

Eastern European based mafia groups are known to transport cocaine out of Peru via air and maritime routes. The modus operandi chosen to successfully transport cocaine across the Atlantic Ocean are diverse and adapt continuously to avoid detection by law enforcement. Once in Eastern Europe, criminal groups make use of long established trafficking routes which have traditionally facilitated the trafficking of other commodities, including marijuana, cigarettes, heroin, and human beings. From Eastern Europe, cocaine is further distributed in Italy, France, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

## The Vast Criminal Empire of Los Zetas and the Gulf Cartel in Tamaulipas

29 October 2014

**OE Watch Commentary:** *Drug-trafficking and money-laundering activities net Mexican drug cartels an estimated \$36 billion per year. Larger groups, including the Sinaloa Cartel, the Gulf Cartel, and Los Zetas, take a larger portion of the share, but for the latter two groups earning billions a year is not sufficient. As reported by this source, the Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas earned an additional \$260 million by conducting criminal activities other than drug trafficking in Tamaulipas during 2013. This year, earnings are expected to be higher, as the two groups are now involved in at least 17 other illegal side businesses, including hydrocarbon theft, extortion, the sale of tortillas, and livestock slaughter. End OE Watch Commentary (Fiegel)*

**Source:** “El Cártel del Golfo y Los Zetas ganan 3 mil mdp en Tamaulipas en un año” (The Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas Earn 3 Billion Pesos in Tamaulipas per Year), El Norte. Accessed on 29 October 2014 from <http://www.elnorte.com/libre/acceso/acceso.htm?urlredirect=/aplicaciones/articulo/default.aspx?id=361817&v=2>

### The Vast Criminal Empire of Los Zetas and the Gulf Cartel in Tamaulipas

Criminal activities other than drug trafficking and money laundering are said to have earned the Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas an estimated \$(USD) 260,000,000 in 2013 according to a study released by the Mexican based Citizens Advisory on Public Security and Criminal Justice (CCSP- JC). Sources utilized to compile this number included official statistics, expert opinions, and data provided by businesses and entrepreneurs.

This study further indicated that the additional revenue is generated by conducting 17 distinct criminal activities in Tamaulipas other than drug trafficking. Some of these activities include the theft of hydro-carbon from Pemex (state-owned petroleum company), extortion fees, protection fees, recycling activities, the promotion of large publicity events, the sale of tortillas and public transportation.

When looking at criminal activities outside of drug trafficking, the theft of hydrocarbon from Pemex (state-owned petroleum company) generates the highest profits for Los Zetas and the Gulf Cartel. In 2013, hydrocarbon theft represented \$(USD) 74 million or 1/3 of total earnings generated by other than drug trafficking criminal activities. Extortion fees charged to businesses represented the second most profitable non-drug related criminal enterprise for both groups as profits in 2013 exceeded \$(USD) 54 million in Tamaulipas.

# Turning up the Heat against Terrorist Forces in Mindanao

9 November 2014

“...the jihadists could be training young Muslim recruits who would be tasked to conduct bombings and other terrorist actions in various parts of Mindanao to ease the pressure on the Abu Sayyaf and other extremists in Sulu, Basilan and Central Mindanao.”

**OE Watch Commentary:** Based on the following article, there are growing fears that ISIS might be influencing already radicalized groups in the Philippines. According to the article, the Abu Sayyaf and Filipino jihadists inspired by ISIS are on the run from five battalions of soldiers in Basilan and 1,200 troopers in Sulu, and a massive deployment of security forces in Mindanao may have prompted the jihadists to hide in the jungles. These jihadists, some fear, might be training young Muslim recruits, which could result in more terrorist actions in Mindanao.

According to the article, at least one dozen foreign terrorists, including five members of ISIS, are believed to have entered the Philippines through Malaysia. These groups are said to be highly mobile and conducting training in Central Mindanao, including in the areas covered by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, a breakaway faction of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The Philippines has been plagued with violence and unrest for decades, as insurgent groups strive to set up an independent Muslim state in Mindanao. Whether or not ISIS is involved has yet to be proven. **End OE Watch Commentary (Hurst)**

**Source:** “Francisco Tuyay, “Philippines: Jihadists on Run as Troops Step Up Attacks,” Manila Standard Today Online, November 9, 2014, <http://manilastandardtoday.com/2014/11/10/sayyaf-jihadists-on-run-as-troops-step-up-attacks/>

### Jihadists on Run as Troops Step Up Attacks

...the jihadists could be training young Muslim recruits who would be tasked to conduct bombings and other terrorist actions in various parts of Mindanao to ease the pressure on the Abu Sayyaf and other extremists in Sulu, Basilan and Central Mindanao.

He said the jihadists had mysteriously disappeared from their previous training grounds in Basilan Sulu and may have sought cover in the mountains to elude the ground forces going after them.



Image tweeted by user @alyn3237 on June 20, 2014, of a pro-ISIS rally in Jakarta. Source: <http://www.rappler.com/world/regions/asia-pacific/indonesia/65356-indonesia-bans-islamic-state>



## India's Modi Government Faces Naxal-Maoist Insurgents

9 November 2014

*“...(Professor) Rao played a role in giving logistical support to the rebels, including procurement of detonators and ammonium nitrate,”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** *The previous government of India under PM Singh proclaimed the Naxalite-Maoist insurgency as the leading threat to national security. Expansion of paramilitary forces, redirection of border forces, and increased coordination of federal and state forces have been continuous for the past ten years. Recently elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi is noted for his emphasis on expanding economic development through foreign investment and growth of industry across India. It is expected that this approach will put government initiatives into conflict with the long-lived forces of the Naxalite-Maoist extremists.*

*Recent reporting in India media provides data points that may present a pattern for analysis during this time of change in South Asia. India.com ZeeNews (an online outlet of a major Television news provider in India) provides information on the widespread support often found for Maoists and their ilk. The article reports how a professor from a regional university was complicit in providing demolition materials to local insurgent cells. This and similar reports provide details of types of detonators and explosives, as well as the identity of those in the broader society who are willing to risk arrest or death to provide material support to an ongoing violent campaign.*

*The steady pace of incidents caused by diverse groups of separatists, terrorists, and insurgent groups operating across India is revealed by the reporting of state and national media sources. An article from DNAIndia (a partner site of ZeeNews) provides a representative story of small-unit Maoist violent activities. Mainstream India media emphasize the success of local and national police and paramilitary forces. This article reports the arrest of four Naxals after an encounter with Chattisgarh State police. The Naxals' poor state of arms and equipment is pointed out.*

*Although depicted as rag-tag elements in the popular media, Maoist groups continue to cause economic damage, disrupt normal*

**Source:** ZeeNews, “Andhra University Professor Arrested in Visakhapatnam for Naxal Links,” November 7, 2014 [http://zeenews.india.com/news/andhra-pradesh/andhra-university-professor-arrested-in-visakhapatnam-for-naxal-links\\_1495123.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/andhra-pradesh/andhra-university-professor-arrested-in-visakhapatnam-for-naxal-links_1495123.html)

The Visakhapatnam rural police have arrested an associate professor of Telugu at the Andhra University here and three others on the charge of supplying explosive materials to the Maoists....

Narsipatnam police intercepted a car yesterday and seized 500 electrical detonators, 100 ordinary detonators, 300 kg of ammonium nitrate and mobile phones...

...interrogation led to the arrest of professor Rao....

Rao (38) belongs to a tribal community and is a native of Korrapalle area ... He has been working at Andhra University since 2007.

**Source:** DNAIndia, “Four Maoists Arrested in Chhattisgarh?” November 9, 2014 <http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-four-maoists-arrested-in-chhattisgarh-2033545>

...The (Naxal) cadres in uniform were apprehended following a face-off with a team of local police in the restive Aader forests...

On sensing security forces in the forest, naxals opened indiscriminate firing on them following which they retaliated... After the gunfight that lasted for around half-an-hour, naxals fled to the core forest.

... Those arrested were identified as Somi Kadati alias Vaneela, the woman naxal commander LOS (local operation squad), her two women associates - Paiki Kaaram, Poonem Naan and another Madavi Bichchem...

A 12 bore rifle, a country made pistol, live cartridges, couple of detonators, and a petrol bomb were recovered from their possession...

Professor J. Appa Rao of Andra University arrested for supporting Maoists.  
Source: <http://www.ndtv.com>



(continued)

## Continued: India's Modi Government Faces Naxal-Maoist Insurgents

*“Four Maoists were arrested and firearms seized from them after a brief gun-battle between police and ultras in Chhattisgarh’s insurgency hit Bijapur district, police said on Sunday.”*

*life, and call into question the state’s ability to provide security. In a final article, from ZeeNews, one series of such events are detailed. These actions occurred across a four-state area, and showed significant coordination and planning. The question remains as to how much the government will crack down on such extremists in these contested areas and how the conflict will affect the economic reforms of the Modi government. End OE Watch Commentary (Welch)*

**Source:** Zeenews, “Andhra University Professor Arrested in Visakhapatnam for Naxal Links,” November 7, 2014 [http://zeenews.india.com/news/andhra-pradesh/andhra-university-professor-arrested-in-visakhapatnam-for-naxal-links\\_1495123.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/andhra-pradesh/andhra-university-professor-arrested-in-visakhapatnam-for-naxal-links_1495123.html)

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...interrogation led to the arrest of professor Rao....

Rao (38) belongs to a tribal community and is a native of Korrapalle area ... He has been working at Andhra University since 2007.

*“The call for bandh in Dandkaranya, a stretch of forest that runs through the states of Chattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra was given in protest against government policies and Operation Green Hunt, police said.”*



Female Naxal Soldiers

Source: <http://scraps.oriyaonline.com/blog/category/naxals/>

**Source:** Zeenews, “Naxals Set Vehicles Afire, Block Roads during Bastar Bandh,” November 8, 2014 [http://zeenews.india.com/news/chhattisgarh/naxals-set-vehicles-afire-block-roads-during-bastar-bandh\\_1495956.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/chhattisgarh/naxals-set-vehicles-afire-block-roads-during-bastar-bandh_1495956.html)

Naxals resorted to looting and arson besides uprooting a railway track in restive Bastar region in Chhattisgarh during the one-day ‘Dandkaranya bandh’ called by them, police said.

Maoists set on fire three vehicles at Nareli Ghati ... in early hours, police said.

In another incident in Bastar district, rebels looted a walkie-talkie handset, a mobile phone and a computer terminal from the office of station master of Kaknoor railway station....

... DGP (Naxal Affairs) R K Vij said, “Naxal leaders have organised the bandh as they are incensed by a spate in naxal cadres surrendering before police. The purpose of bandh is to show their relevance.”

...Naxals uprooted a railway track ... in Dantewada district ... They also blocked traffic ... by felling a tree.

In Narayanpur district, ultras felled a tree on Ravghat road blocking the stretch. Similarly traffic in Kondagaon, Orchha and Antagadh roads remained shut.

Similar blockades were placed in Sukma district as well, with naxals damaging a stretch on the National Highway-30 near Rokel and Keratong villages.



## Vietnam Reaches Out to Regional Nations

11 November 2014

*“Over the past years, the two countries’ defence ties has been expanded in various fields, particularly delegation exchanges at all levels, defence industry and training courses,”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** Vietnam’s economy has developed at an impressive pace over the past decades. Consistent participation in the meetings and working groups of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has assured a stable and expanding relationship with regional nations regarding economic and political concerns. Outstanding regional issues continue to revolve around China’s interests and claims in the South China Sea. Vietnam has consistently sought improved diplomatic, military, and economic relations with its near and far neighbors. A series of articles from *The People’s Army Newspaper* (organ of the Vietnamese Military Central Commission and Ministry of National Defense) reveals the breadth of these efforts as seen in recent events.

Three representative articles have been selected. First, the *People’s Army Newspaper* reports that on 10 November 2014 Lieutenant General Vo Van Tuan, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People’s Army, hosted a reception for a visiting delegation of cadres and cadets from the Indian Army War College, led by Brigadier General Slavan Kumar on November 10, 2014. India media had praised the earlier visit of Vietnam’s Prime Minister to India and touted the signed agreements on national defense and oil and gas. This *People’s Army Newspaper’s* report is a continuing signal of the importance of defense cooperation between the two nations.

This focus on strengthening military relations with regional nations is reinforced by the second *People’s Army Newspaper’s* article, which reports the meetings between Australia’s Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin and Chief of General Staff of the Vietnam People’s Army Senior Lieutenant General Do Ba Ty. Their talks highlight the growth and strengthening of military-to-military relations since the formal bilateral defense relationship began in 1998.

The final article, from *Tuoitrenews* (an English online publication of *Tuoi Tre Newspaper* that serves as an official news gateway to Vietnam), reports a political development between Vietnam and China that shows the importance of foreign sources



Vietnam PM Nguyen Tan Dung (L) and Indian President Narendra Modi. Source: <http://vovworld.vn/en-US/News/Indias-media-praise-PM-Nguyen-Tan-Dungs-visit/283150.vov>

**Source:** *People’s Army News*, “Deputy Chief of General Staff receives Indian army college delegation,” November 11, 2014 <http://en.qdnd.vn/defence-cooperation/deputy-chief-of-general-staff-receives-indian-army-college-delegation/331102.html>

On behalf of the General Staff, General Tuan highlighted the visit as a big contribution to boosting cooperation and friendship between the two armies in general as well as the two countries’ academies and schools in particular...

He also suggested schools of the two armies increase experience exchanges and organize more training courses for army cadets, contributing to boosting bilateral defense cooperation.

*(continued)*



Chief of the Australian Defense Force Mark Binskin received Sr. Lt. Gen. Do Ba Ty (right) on his visit to Australia in November, 2014. Source: <http://navaltoday.com/2014/11/11/vietnam-peoples-army-chief-of-general-staff-visits-australia/>

## Continued: Vietnam Reaches Out to Regional Nations

*regarding sensitive issues of significant regional long-term impact. Here we find details of an agreement reached and signed by Vietnam President Sang and China's President Xi Jinping while attending the recent Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum meetings in Beijing. It is a welcome development in the region to see Sang proclaim that Vietnam and China have different stances on the East Sea issue, but the two sides should address the differences via negotiations and talks based on their common perception and the agreements already reached by top Vietnamese and Chinese leaders. **End OE Watch Commentary (Welch)***

*“They agreed that Vietnam-Australia bilateral relations with defense cooperation as one of the key contents in the comprehensive partnership between the two countries have obtained encouraging results.”*

*“President Truong Tan Sang and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping have agreed to deepen their strategic cooperative partnership and resolve their differences through amicable negotiation.”*

**Source:** People's Army News, “Vietnam-Australia defence ties to be enhanced” November 11, 2014 <http://thediplomat.com/2014/10/what-did-narendra-modis-us-trip-accomplish/>

A high-ranking military delegation of Vietnam led by Sr. Lt. Gen. Do Ba Ty, Chief of the General Staff on November 8th started a 5-day official visit to Australia at the invitation of Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, Chief of the Australian Defence Force...

The two sides also discussed measures to effectively implement the contents outlined in the “Memorandum of Understanding on defense cooperation” signed in 2010 in line with the Comprehensive Partnership of the two countries.

For its part, Vietnam expects to receive more active support from Australia, especially in multilateral and regional forums, so that Vietnam-Australia defence ties would be further developed, contributing to peace, stability and development of the region.

**Source:** People's Army News, “Vietnam-Australia defence ties to be enhanced” November 11, 2014 <http://thediplomat.com/2014/10/what-did-narendra-modis-us-trip-accomplish/>

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**Source:** Tuoitrenews, “Vietnam, China to boost ties, settle disagreements satisfactorily,” November 11, 2014 <http://tuoitrenews.vn/politics/23971/vietnam-china-to-boost-ties-settle-disagreements-satisfactorily>

...Both nations need to maintain peace, stability, security, maritime safety and freedom while controlling disagreements and preventing the emergence of issues that could be detrimental to the bilateral ties, he said.

...The negotiations on the maritime boundary delimitation in the Gulf of Tonkin and the development cooperation in the area off the mouth of the Gulf should be stepped up, the Vietnamese leader said.

In reply, Chinese President and Party General Secretary Xi Jinping said the development of relations between the two Parties and countries is appropriate with the basic interests of the two peoples and is beneficial for peace, stability and development in the region.

He also proposed that the differences between the two countries should be settled amicably to create a stable and cooperative maritime environment....



## Japan and North Korea Open Talks on Abductions

1 November 2014

*“...With the resumption of talks this year, the abductee issue could be a win-win for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** Positive news about North Korean diplomacy is a rare commodity. For the first time in ten years Japanese government officials went to the North Korean capital of Pyongyang for discussions with their counterparts. The topic of this unusual meeting is the bizarre abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea in the 1970s and 80s. After decades of denial by both governments, testimony of North Korean defectors brought popular pressure to bear upon the Japanese government. In an astounding 2002 summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong-il and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, North Korea admitted that it had abducted thirteen Japanese years before. For undisclosed reasons, five of the victims were returned to Japan that year, while the other eight were reported as dead. This issue of abduction has been kept alive by Japanese nationalist and human rights groups over the decades, and hundreds of Japanese families continue to believe that their children were abducted by North Korea and may yet be alive.

Current Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has initiated new talks with North Korea regarding the fate of the missing. Addressing this issue now may strengthen the Abe government as it approaches national elections. An article in *The Diplomat* points to the May 2014 meeting held in Stockholm, Sweden, where officials from both governments agreed that North Korea “would carry out a comprehensive, nationwide survey of all Japanese abductees currently living in North Korea.” The *quid pro quo* is for Japan to ease unilateral economic sanctions against North Korea. The entire article provides great detail regarding the history of the abduction issue and its current political possibilities.

It is not often we can gain a glimpse into the workings of North Asian governments, especially when dealing with such long standing, sensitive issues. This entire diplomatic episode may provide new insight into the opaque North Korean government and the decision making of its top leadership. It also may speak to the trajectory of Japan’s role as a regional leader. An article in *The Asahi Shimbun* details the domestic risks Prime Minister Abe is facing as he enters these difficult waters. **End OE Watch Commentary (Welch)**



So Tae Ha, center, chairman of North Korea’s Investigation Committee, center, and Junichi Ihara, right, Japan’s director-general of the Asia and Oceania Affairs Bureau enter a meeting room in Pyongyang, North Korea, Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2014. Japanese and North Korean officials held talks in Pyongyang for the first time in 10 years Tuesday, meeting to assess progress into North Korea’s investigation into the fates of Japanese citizens who were abducted in the 1970s and 80s. Source: <http://globalnews.ca/news/1639486/japan-and-north-korea-have-first-talks-in-10-years-on-abductions/>

**Source:** *The Diplomat*, “North Korea’s Abductions and Abe’s Politics of Justice,” August 8, 2014 <http://thediplomat.com/2014/08/north-koreas-abductions-and-abes-politics-of-justice/><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfCyAoSBimI>

In May, North Korean officials meeting with their Japanese counterparts in Stockholm, Sweden, announced that they would carry out a comprehensive, nationwide survey of all Japanese abductees currently living in North Korea. In return, the Japanese government agreed to lift a number of sanctions currently in place against the DPRK, allowing for the renewal of remittances that had previously flowed from Japan to North Korea, and end a movement ban between the two countries. This rather stunning agreement has raised hopes for a resolution to an issue that has bedeviled relations between the two nations for decades.

Since 2002, when North Korean leader Kim Jong-il first admitted to then-Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi during a summit meeting that Japanese citizens had been kidnapped by covert agents, little progress has been made on the abductee issue....

Despite the long-running impasse, the government of Shinzo Abe, who served as Koizumi’s deputy during the Pyongyang summit, has decided to revive the discussion... In some quarters, this move has been regarded as a big political gamble. Yet it could also be seen as providing the necessary impetus to bring closure to what has, for many Japanese, become an emotional issue with a resolution that is long overdue.

... In October 2002, Kim claimed that North Korean agents, operating without his knowledge, had abducted 13 Japanese, five from Europe and the remaining eight from the shores of Japan. For its part, a Japanese government spokesman recently stated that

*(continued)*

## Continued: Japan and North Korea Open Talks on Abductions

as many as 860 individuals were believed to have been kidnapped....

Two important questions now remain: will the North Korean government, having uncharacteristically botched diplomatic efforts at using this issue to extract billions the last time around, be more willing to cooperate on this occasion? And will Abe be able to placate those civic groups now demanding an expanded definition of what constitutes an abductee?

....As North Korea continues its survey of repatriated Japanese and Abe's government holds meetings with civic groups in Tokyo, thousands of families across Japan are given a glimmer of hope that they will be reunited with loved ones trapped inside North Korea....

*Shigeru Yokota, right, and his wife Sakie, center, parents of a daughter, Megumi who was abducted by North Korean agents in 1977, are surrounded by reporters following their meeting with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Abe's official residence in Tokyo, Friday, July 4, 2014. Source: <http://globalnews.ca/news/1432178/relatives-of-japan-abductees-see-probe-as-last-chance-to-rescue-loved-ones/>*



*“Family members of the abductees who were briefed on the outcome of the two-day talks in Pyongyang ... expressed frustration at Pyongyang's delays and distrust in its motives.”*

**Source:** The Asahi Shimbun, “Family Members of Abductees Decry Lack of Progress in Pyongyang Talks,” November 1, 2014 [http://ajw.asahi.com/article/asia/korean\\_peninsula/AJ201411010041](http://ajw.asahi.com/article/asia/korean_peninsula/AJ201411010041)

Dashing the hopes of family members in Japan, North Korea offered no new insights into the fate of Japanese abducted to the country decades ago during talks on the issue in Pyongyang this week.

....Pyongyang is still searching for “new evidence and witnesses,” ...

....Shigeo Iizuka, head of the Association of the Families of Victims Kidnapped by North Korea, was unable to hide his bitterness at the lack of progress during the briefing by Foreign Ministry officials who attended the talks in Pyongyang.

....While Japan has pressed North Korea to proceed with its probe into the abduction cases, Suga disclosed that Tokyo believes Pyongyang has already located the whereabouts of all abductees.

But it apparently is determined to provide new information in piecemeal fashion in order to obtain concession from the Japanese government at each step.

North Korea is primarily interested in the lifting of sanctions and humanitarian assistance.

... “North Korea is hoping that the expectations from the Japanese side will wane over time so it can reveal the outcome of its investigation after it has obtained all concessions from Japan,” said a source familiar with the working of the North Korean government.



*“In essence, the threat of Islamic State is likely to persist, and cannot be eradicated, only weakened.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** China is paying increasing attention to jihadist groups in Iraq and Syria such as the Islamic State and al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra. Chinese authorities state that 100 Chinese citizens are fighting in Syria with the Islamic State, most of whom are Uighurs from Xinjiang Province. In October 2014 al-Qaeda's magazine, Resurgence, featured an article called “10 Facts about East Turkistan” that called for the liberation of Xinjiang. Before that Islamic State leader Abu Bakar al-Baghdadi also called for East Turkistan to be liberated.

A Chinese language article in People's Daily on 30 September discussed China's assessment of the situation in the Middle East and what China could do about it. The analogy in the article's title about Rome not having been built in a day emphasizes China's understanding that underlying causes built up over years led to the Islamic State's rise. It also recognizes that the conflicts in Syria and Iraq are religious, ethnic, and civil wars occurring all at the same time, and, on top of that, various geopolitical interests of countries in the region and superpowers abroad influence the conflict. The article also attributes the Islamic State's rise to the emergence of non-state actors such as al-Qaeda (from which the Islamic State split in early 2014) and the way foreign countries supported certain factions that then either joined the Islamic State or lost their weapons to it.

This analysis suggests two important aspects of Chinese military calculations regarding the crisis in Syria and Iraq. First, consistent with the policy of non-intervention China will likely not provide direct forms of support to any coalition to fight Islamic State because of the perceived uncertainty surrounding such efforts. Second, China is concerned about non-state actors in the Middle East, which reflects China's concern about organizations that may threaten its own power or legitimacy. Therefore, even though China recognizes that Islamic State and its Chinese fighters are a threat to China, the risks of becoming involved appear greater than uncertain rewards. **End OE Watch Commentary (Zenn)**



The Iraqi armed forces reported that they captured a Chinese fighter of the Islamic State in August 2014. Source: <http://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/urgent-first-chinese-isis-fighter-captured-iraq-says-ministry-defense/>

**Source:** “伊斯兰国恐怖威胁非一日之寒 (Islamic State Terrorist Threat Was not Built in a Day), 30 September 2014.

### A Chinese Perspective on the Rise of Islamic State

In recent months, the “Islamic State” created trouble in the international political arena, and quickly developed into a serious threat to international peace and security as an evil force.

Islamic State, formerly called Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria, is a self-proclaimed nation-State and active extremist terrorist organization in Iraq and Syria. From the Middle East to the United Kingdom, from Malaysia to Central Asia, many countries have some young Muslims giving up family life and work to go to Iraq and Syria to fight with Islamic militants in the country. Why do they do it, and why do radical jihadist movements attract these young people?

Seeing the joint efforts of the international community to maintain the current international rule of law, [Islamic State's] behavior can be described as defiance. However, “Rome was not built in a day.” The emergence and development of the Islamic State has its own underlying causes. Some experts believe that the political structure of the Middle East has a long-term imbalance, and the United States and other major powers gradually lost the ability to control the region. Behind the religious denominations of contention on the surface are actually certain religious powers in a secret wrestling game.

In essence, the threat of Islamic State is likely to persist, and cannot be eradicated, only weakened.

# China to Set Up Anti-Terror Intelligence Gathering Center

5 November 2014

*“Due to a lack of systematic laws in the field, the country’s antiterrorism work is incomplete, with measures not forceful,”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** *In the wake of a number of attacks in China over the past year, the Chinese government is focusing on improving its antiterrorism efforts. Under a recent draft of its Anti-Terrorism Law, China plans to set up an antiterrorism intelligence gathering center, and possibly even exchange information with other countries.*

*In the first article, Lang Sheng, Deputy Head of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People’s Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, paints a disjointed picture of the country’s past antiterrorism efforts. According to him, “Due to a lack of systemic laws in the field, the country’s antiterrorism work is incomplete, with measures not forceful.” He added that counterterrorism provisions have been scattered in various NPC Standing Committee decisions, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law and Emergency Response Law. Now, China aims to improve intelligence gathering and sharing of information among the military, armed police and militia.*

*The country also hopes to enhance international security cooperation, according to the second article. While the article explains that China is willing to exchange counterterrorism intelligence and carry out joint antiterrorism operations with other countries, the Ministry of Public Security goes on to say it will do so “at a proper time.” With the country’s closed nature and insistence on its policy of non-interference, it might be awhile before any real cooperation transpires. **End OE Watch Commentary (Hurst)***

**Source:** “China to Set Up Anti-Terror Intelligence Gathering Center,” Xinhuanet, October 27, 2014, [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-10/27/c\\_133745672.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-10/27/c_133745672.htm)

## China to Set Up Anti-Terror Intelligence Gathering Center

The counter-terrorism law aimed to improve intelligence gathering and the sharing of information across government bodies and among military, armed police and militia, and enhance international cooperation, said Lang Sheng, deputy head of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People’s Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, the top legislature.

Explaining the draft to lawmakers, Lang said China is facing a serious and complex situation against terrorism, with more influence from “international factors.”

...

“Due to a lack of systematic laws in the field, the country’s antiterrorism work is incomplete, with measures not forceful,” Lang said, adding counter-terrorism provisions are scattered in various NPC Standing Committee decisions, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law and Emergency Response Law.

A year-long campaign against terrorism, focusing on the western Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region as the major battleground, began after an attack on a market in the regional capital Urumqi on May 22. The attack killed 39 people and injured 94 others.

**Source:** “China Willing to Share Anti-Terror Intelligence, Conduct Joint Operations: Official,” Xinhua, November 5, 2014, [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-11/05/c\\_133767583.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-11/05/c_133767583.htm)

## China Willing to Share Anti-Terror Intelligence, Conduct Joint Operations: Official

China is willing to exchange counter-terrorism intelligence and carry out joint anti-terror operations with other countries at a proper time, according to the Ministry of Public Security...

(Meng Hongwei) said that China would like to intensify international security cooperation to fight against violent terrorism, including the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, and cyber terrorism, blocking the channels for terrorists’ personnel and capital flows.

Meng also stressed to advance cooperation in chasing fugitives overseas and getting illicit money back, hoping Interpol will provide more support for members’ anti-terror and fugitive operations.



## Chinese Request to Increase Network Attacks

29 September 2014

*“It is essential to adhere to offensive system of systems operational thinking. A limited number of crucial nodes often become ‘vital points’ in the operation of the overall system. Attacking and destroying those nodes can paralyze the entire system and weaken the enemy’s combat capabilities.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** Li Minghai, the Deputy Director of the Cyberspace Security Research Center at China’s National Defense University, recently described in *Global Times*, a newspaper focusing on international issues and foreign reaction to Chinese developments, why, in an age when cyberspace sovereignty, interests, and security cannot be ignored, network attacks are required. Four items lurk in the background that encourage a move to offensive network attacks. There must be an acceleration in setting up China’s military, police, and civilian strategic contingency command apparatus; threats and challenges in cyberspace must be handled through offensive operations, which have become the main way to seize cyberspace superiority; the initiative must be held in cyberspace struggles through independent technological innovations; and international cooperation must be actively developed along with the protection of China’s network sovereignty and interests. Li believes that threats to cyberspace security no longer are just alarmist talk, but require urgency and active measures to deal with the growing challenges of cyber issues. **End OE Watch Commentary (Thomas)**

**Source:** Li Minghai, “Step Up the Building of Network Attack Forces,” *Global Times Online*, 29 September 2014.

That requires three things. One is to establish a national level cyberspace and information security leadership and command structure. Second is to establish mechanisms for coordination among military, police, and civilians, create sound systems for coordination and cooperation, draw up contingency plans, ensure effective response to sudden incidents in network and information security, and enhance the overall concerted effort as much as possible. Third is to establish a national cyberspace normal operation system. In accordance with the requirement to unify peacetime and wartime in China’s cyberspace, establish a related, complete set of systems to maintain normal operation and ensure the ability to deal with sudden incidents of all sorts in cyberspace at any time.

Also, network attack capabilities have been called a “poor man’s atomic bomb,” making it possible to use asymmetric measures to quickly even out a disparity in weapons in physical space and change the pattern of competition.

In cyberspace operations, the main elements in offense and defense definitely differ from each other, and the offensive and defensive effects are asymmetric. The key to seizing cyberspace superiority lies in employing offensive action to restrain enemy attacks and ensure your own stability.

We must carry forward the policy of “peaceful diplomacy,” and work hard to portray the image of a big power with cyberspace responsibility. We must resolutely oppose military hegemonism and incursions in cyberspace, develop offensive cyberspace capabilities, forge sharp swords and create strong shields for network offense and defense.

# Pyongyang and Putin's Propaganda

31 October 2014

**OE Watch Commentary:** Rodong Sinmun serves as the major newspaper for the Central Committee of the Workers Party in North Korea. Not surprisingly, its pages are filled with praise for the Dear Leader and harsh propaganda against the enemies of the Pyongyang regime. The tone and format of this newspaper have hardly changed over the past five decades. All glories and successes stem from the wise leadership of the Kim family dynasty, while all failures are attributed to the nefarious Americans, the “puppet regime” in South Korea and the Japanese.

Over the past year, as tensions have increased between the US and Russia over the situation in Ukraine, Rodong Sinmun has exploited these strains in its acerbic, anti-American commentary. It has used this conflict as further “proof” that the US is the source of all global instability. As the brief excerpt illustrates, this North Korean propaganda tool has joined voices with the Kremlin choir in condemning what they label as “the United States’ hegemonist ambitions.” This commentary aligns with the Kremlin’s narrative regarding Ukraine: the US has been the aggressor, and by orchestrating a regime change in Kiev, the US hopes to contain Russia strategically. The Russian leadership today would heartily endorse the claim that “the United States is the main culprit that drives humankind into the whirlwind of terrorism.”

Because of its sorry human rights record and nuclear weapons program, North Korea has become ever more isolated. By blaming the “aggressive containment strategy” of the US, the leadership in Pyongyang hopes to strengthen a sense of fellowship between North Korea and Russia (and possibly China) against the US. The leadership in Pyongyang is in dire need of allies, and will likely take more active measures to restore its Cold War ties with Russia. **End OE Watch Commentary (Kim)**



President Putin met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il (father of current leader, Kim Jong Un) in August 2011. Source: Wikimedia commons

**Source:** Pae Ku'm-hu'I, “Reality Demands the Anti-US Holy War,” Rodong Sinmun Online, 31 October 2014. <http://www.rodong.rep.kp/ko/>

## Reality Demands the Anti-US Holy War

...For the United States infected with vertigo called world domination, sanctions are a prescription to tame other countries and nations. Its yardstick is a one-sided and dogmatic standard strictly rooted in US interests. Therefore, countries and regions targeted by sanctions and intervention are, without an exception, deeply intertwined with the American Empire’s political, economic, and military interests.

A considerable amount of time has passed since Ukraine’s transition to a state of truce in September. However, with October almost over, the US-led anti-Russia sanctions commotions are not subsiding yet. On the contrary, the US ruler is accusing Russia of being an “aggressor” even on the UN stage and touting “Russia’s threat” in Europe more loudly. This once again proves that the recent Ukraine crisis was an outcome of the anti-Russia strategy and unipolar globalization strategy of the United States and NATO.

A US commentator divulged that realizing regime change in Ukraine and bringing the country into the European Union was part of an important plan of the US authorities to contain Russia strategically. The ultimate purpose of the United States is to subdue Russia desiring the construction of a powerful state and build a Europe swayed by the United States and a world ruled by the United States.

The United States’ hegemonist ambitions stayed the same yesterday and stay unchanged today....

...The United States is the main culprit that drives humankind into the whirlwind of terrorism....

...All of those who desire independence and love peace should embark on the anti-US holy war. Today’s reality plagued by coercion and heavy-handedness demands the anti-US holy war for justice and truth.



“...residents of border areas would be paid for protecting the state border; however, they will not have any special rank”

**OE Watch Commentary:** Each Central Asian government has looked for ways to improve and strengthen its respective Border Guard services over the past several years. As the accompanying article notes, a couple of them have turned to alternative solutions. The article discusses a law recently passed in Kyrgyzstan to create a group made up of civilians living in border areas to assist the country's Border Guards with patrols, particularly in remote areas. The article presents a Tajik perspective and has a title that implies the Kyrgyz civilian border patrol will be armed. A member of the Kyrgyz parliament had proposed arming civilians in the legislation; this was rejected in parliament twice before passing in early October. The civilian patrols will reportedly receive radios and possibly other equipment, but not weapons, and would report to the commander of a local border post. Outside of reporting to a border post commander, it is still unclear what authority these groups would have. According to the article, they will be paid, though it is unknown how many civilians would be in this force or if it would only be used in certain provinces (like those on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border).

While there have been a number of recent incidents on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border, the article overlooks the fact that the government of Uzbekistan created a similar group that has already been operating for some time. There is no timetable on when the Kyrgyz civilian border patrol would be ready. Despite tension between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan over a number of serious issues, a Kyrgyz citizens' border patrol appears to be more of a Tajik concern than an Uzbek one. One other piece of information worth noting in the article about the citizens' border patrol is how it will not allow people who are involved in economic activity in the border region to being a part of the force. This requirement could be interpreted and implemented several ways, but it should be kept in mind that economic factors have played a role in creating tension leading up to clashes on the border. Ultimately, the government of Kyrgyzstan could solve the issue of patrolling remote areas of the border with this group, but from a Tajik perspective this may not lessen the chances of another incident taking place on the border. **End OE Watch Commentary (Stein)**



“Kyrgyz border guards conduct a patrol in the Batken Province; a civilian border patrol group would assist in monitoring remote and sparsely populated areas of the border.”  
Source: <http://www.fergananews.com/articles/7954>

**Source:** “В Кыргызстане границу будут охранять вооруженные местные жители” (In Kyrgyzstan the border will be guarded by armed local residents), Asia-Plus, 30 October 2014. <http://news.tj/ru/news/v-kyrgyzstane-granitsu-budut-okhranyat-vooruzhennye-mestnye-zhiteli>

#### In Kyrgyzstan the border will be guarded by armed local residents

Vesti.kg reports that a law was passed in Kyrgyzstan to have local residents protect the borders...parliament approved the bill on October 9...residents of border areas would be paid for protecting the state border; however, they will not have any special rank...it cannot be a person who is not a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic...and is not involved in economic activity in the border region.

...former President Roza Otunbayeva requested involving the local population in border protection back in 2011...It was proposed to create a people's militia “Sakchy”, horseback patrols, for especially hard to reach, sparsely populated areas of the state border...Incidents between residents of the Tajik-Kyrgyz border area have occurred in past years, although after the conflict between the border guards of both countries on January 11 of this year, the frequency of incidents has increased...

*“This achieved an objective assessment of the state of combat training in the regional commands, branches and units”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** *There have been several issues for Kazakhstan’s Ministry of Defense in the past year, including corruption scandals related to procurement and the recent appointment of a new minister of defense after Serik Akhmetov resigned in late October, having been in the position only since April. The accompanying article reports on another issue for the country’s Armed Forces, combat readiness. Kazakhstan’s Ground Forces recently conducted what it calls an “express test” of randomly selected service members from units across the country serving in combat branches. Some recent criticism of the Armed Forces’ readiness has been about whether or not the country could defend against a scenario similar to what has been happening in Ukraine. This is not the first time this test has been carried out, but it received a fair amount of publicity.*

*The test appeared to focus on physical fitness as much as marksmanship or other skills related to a soldier’s specialty (photographs of the test can be seen at: <http://www.voxpopuli.kz/post/2335-ispytaniya-voennykh-sukhoputnye-voyska-rk>), and, as the article mentions, it was an assessment of the state of combat training in regional commands, branches, and units. The test was not conducted with a particular unit, like an air assault brigade from one of the regional commands, which would respond to a threat. Lastly, the article mentions that the test included contractors and conscripts, and even cadets from the Ground Forces Institute. Beyond the assessment of the state of training for Ground Forces, the test could have also been conducted to look at differences in the capabilities between contractors and conscripts in a financial context. The country’s defense budget has been increasing, but the government has mentioned limiting the number of contractors it brings into the ranks, and this test could provide a good snapshot of the cost effectiveness of contractors in the force. **End OE Watch Commentary (Stein)***



*“A Kazakh soldier runs through an obstacle course during the ‘express test’ of country’s Ground Forces from October 18-25, 2014 at the Matybulak range in southern Kazakhstan.”*

Source: <http://www.voxpopuli.kz/post/2335-ispytaniya-voennykh-sukhoputnye-voyska-rk>

**Source:** Kirzhak, Matvey. “Испытание Отаром и дождём” (The Test of Otar in the Rain), Megapolis, 27 October 2014. [http://www.megapolis.kz/art/Ispitanie\\_Otarom\\_i\\_dozhdyom](http://www.megapolis.kz/art/Ispitanie_Otarom_i_dozhdyom)

### The Test of Otar in the Rain

Last week the Chief of the Ground Forces Lieutenant General Murat Maikeev ordered a rapid test be carried out at the Matybulak base...more than 700 soldiers (motorized infantry, tankers, paratroopers, naval infantry, artillerymen, engineers, snipers) from units across the country went to Otar. For one week they had to demonstrate shooting standard weapons, pass a physical fitness test and a complicated obstacle course...

...the test does not involve any specially trained soldiers, but were randomly selected. This achieved an objective assessment of the state of combat training in the regional commands, branches and units...

A serious test for all was a 5 km march in full gear with a weapon over rough terrain. This was the first year in the express test that cadets of the Institute of Ground Forces took part...they participated alongside conscripts and contractor service members...



# Perceptions of Chinese Security Cooperation in Central Asia

15 October 2014

*“Inoyatov’s visit is a rare occurrence and it is possible that the development of security relations with China is considered by Tashkent to be particularly important”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** Chinese security cooperation with Central Asian governments is often overshadowed by Russian activity, but, as the accompanying articles show, this cooperation does play a role. The article on an Uzbek-Chinese partnership against terrorism does not provide any specifics on cooperation outside of working through the Regional Antiterrorism Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Despite this omission, there are a couple of things to keep in mind. The government of Uzbekistan has usually preferred bilateral relations over participation in regional security organizations. It has maintained its participation in the SCO (RATS has been headquartered in Tashkent since its creation), though it has not participated in most of the organization’s joint military exercises, including Peace Mission 2014, which took place in China in August. While there is nothing definitive about how Uzbekistan and China might cooperate, part of the function of RATS has been intelligence sharing, and the structure is something the Uzbek government has been engaged with.

The article on China’s security cooperation with Kyrgyzstan is also not very specific on how the countries are working together, but does mention the joint exercise of their border forces that took place on October 31. This is not the first joint border exercise to take place between the two; an exercise in August 2013 on the Kyrgyz-Chinese border worked on combating a terrorist group that was attempting to cross the border into Xinjiang to conduct an attack. Both exercises emphasized coordination between the two border forces, particularly during a potential incident. Overall, Chinese security cooperation in the region may not have the same impact that deliveries of weapons, equipment or training might, but it appears to be well received by governments in Central Asia.

The article also says that the Uzbek government apparently reached out to the Taliban through Afghan Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum. It is unknown why the government attempted to do this, but perhaps just as important is through whom they went. There was a relationship between the government and Dostum during the Afghan Civil War when the latter was involved with the Northern Alliance and acted as a buffer against the Taliban. This may not involve cooperation with China, but is something worth watching. **End OE Watch Commentary (Stein)**

**Source:** “Иноятлов договорился о дружбе с Китаем против терроризма” (Inoyatov agreed on a partnership with China against terrorism), Uznews.net, 15 October 2014. <http://www.uznews.net/ru/politics/27931-inojatov-dogovorilsa-o-druzhbe-s-kitajem-protiv-terrorizma>

## Inoyatov agreed on a partnership with China against terrorism

The head of the National Security Committee of Uzbekistan Rustam Inoyatov made a rare foreign tour in China, where he secured support in the fight against the force majeure from Afghanistan...the sides discussed cooperation in the framework of the regional antiterrorist structure (RATS) of the security services of members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

...Inoyatov’s visit is a rare occurrence and it is possible that the development of security relations with China is considered by Tashkent to be particularly important, and should not be trusted with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs...Uzbek leadership understands that only China is ready to effectively react and finance joint security challenges in the region. According to analysts, there have been attempts by Tashkent to reach out to the Taliban leadership through the Vice President of Afghanistan, Abdul Rashid Dostum...

**Source:** “В Китае пройдут совместные кыргызско-китайские пограничные учения (A Kyrgyz-Chinese joint border exercise will take place in China),” 30 October 2014. [http://www.knews.kg/politics/56419\\_v\\_kitae\\_proydu\\_t\\_sovmestnyie\\_kyirgyzsko-kitayskie\\_pogranichnyie\\_ucheniya/](http://www.knews.kg/politics/56419_v_kitae_proydu_t_sovmestnyie_kyirgyzsko-kitayskie_pogranichnyie_ucheniya/)

## A Kyrgyz-Chinese joint border exercise will take place in China

A meeting took place (today) between Colonel Rayimberdi Duyshenbiyev of the Kyrgyz Border Guards and Major General U. Dunli of the Border Service of China... the heads of the agencies commended the results of joint activity in 2013-2014. The two sides agreed to continue cooperation on border security.

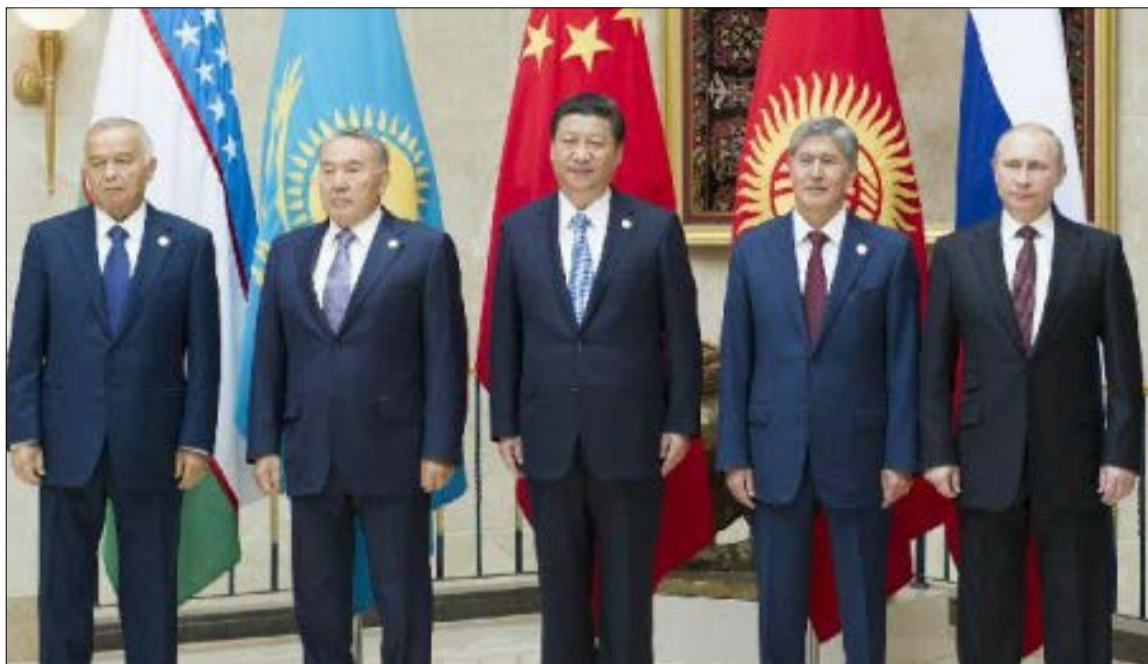
...A joint Kyrgyz-Chinese border exercise will take place on October 31 in the city of Artush (Xinjiang), which the “Boru” special detachment of the Kyrgyz Border Guards will take part in.

## SCO's Expanding Security Framework: An Afghan Perspective

**OE Watch Commentary:** At the September 2014 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, the current member states – China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan – voted to allow India and Pakistan to become full members. This represents the first expansion of the SCO since its founding in 1996, when it was then called the Shanghai Five and addressed China's border disputes with its Central Asian neighbors. Now, with the SCO's Regional Anti-terrorism Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent and China's border disputes in Central Asia largely resolved, terrorism, extremism, and separatism have become the key concerns of the SCO.

A 30 September article in khaamapress, Afghanistan's most widely read online newspaper, shared an Afghan perspective on the SCO's expansion. According to the author, India's accession to the SCO will add one more member to the organization that understands extremism, because India, too, is a victim of it. It could also lead to further development and investment opportunities for India in Afghanistan. At the same time, it can enhance the balance of power in Central Asia, since India can contain China. China likely welcomed India into the SCO so that it could bring Pakistan on board for Central Asian security initiatives. Russia would have vetoed Pakistan's entry if India did not also join.

The SCO is becoming an organization that is redefining the Central, South and East Asian regional security partnerships. While this runs the risk of the organization becoming ineffective, from the perspective of progressive-minded Afghans, the introduction of India as a new member bodes well for Afghanistan's development and initiatives for countering extremism after the eventual U.S. and NATO withdrawal of most of their forces from the country. Although the article suggests India's and Pakistan's membership in the SCO will lead to better relations among its members and greater regional stability, questions remain about the extent to which Pakistan may try to limit India's efforts in Afghanistan (with the subtle backing of China) and whether the Taliban's recent anti-Indian propaganda and formation of an al-Qaeda South Asian branch will deter or prevent India from becoming a more consequential security actor in Central Asia. **End OE Watch Commentary (Zenn)**



At the SCO Summit in Dushanbe in September 2014, the current member-states decided to admit India and Pakistan as new members. source: <http://kazakhworld.com/n-nazarbayev-attends-sco-summit-dushanbe-tajikistan/>

**Source:** "India's Entry into SCO to Affect the Regional Security," [www.khaama.com](http://www.khaama.com), 30 September 2014.

### India's entry into SCO to affect the regional security

Regional security threats and the largest energy resources in Central Asia are the major factors that drive India to apply for full membership at the SCO. India's membership in the SCO will not be only a superb opportunity for political and social development, but also to stimulate the India's economic growth. It will influence the Russian-China oil and gas pipelines to be extended to India as well as to accelerate the implementation of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) project.

India is a victim of extremism, which has been led by networks beyond its borders that threaten its interest in the region. It has made a significant contribution to the economic development and stability in Afghanistan and the region. Joining the SCO would be a big step towards a powerful grouping to resolve for comprehensive regional and global action against the menace of extremism and terrorism.

In conclusion, India will team up with the regional stakeholders like China and Russia to fight extremism and build peace and stability in Central Asia and Afghanistan. All in all, the enlargement of SCO will affect the regional security and lead to better relations among the member states of the SCO as well as a significant reduction in the tensions between India-China and India-Pakistan.



“In 1957, the Bernese Major Hans von Dach wrote the book “Total Resistance” in order to prepare Switzerland for a Soviet invasion. Disregarded by the Army command, it advanced worldwide to become a “Bible” for terrorists.”

**OE Watch Commentary:** In a 2013 article recently re-featured on the Neue Zürcher Zeitung website, Swiss media noted that a book previously published in Switzerland in the 1950s was under review by the Germans, who had placed it on their “black list.” The book, as it turns out, had been very controversial in Switzerland also.

**Total Resistance – Guerilla Warfare for Everyone**, written by Major Hans von Dach, was part of a genre of Cold War literature—civil defense advice booklets—in Swiss society in the 1950s. At that time, although not as widespread as other books such as the national Civil Defense Book, which was distributed by the government to every Swiss household, **Total Resistance**, nevertheless, sold tens of thousands of copies and was even printed by the Swiss Association of Non-commissioned Officers until a few years ago. Also, while the book was blocked from official use and belittled by senior commanders, it remained extremely popular with the officer corps over the decades.

The underlying assumption of this book is that Switzerland had become a theater of war and was occupied by the Soviet Union. The book’s guidelines of how the Swiss population should behave in the oncoming guerilla warfare are given in great detail. They include the establishment of resistance cells, correct armament, communication through dead letter boxes, absconding after attacks, and conduct during interrogation and torture. Illustrations that accompany the book range from improvised explosive devices on roads and rails to the silent elimination of guards with a hand ax.

According to the author, who interviewed former high-ranking members of the Swiss Army, guerilla warfare was considered a negligible aspect of the overall Swiss defense strategy. Overall, opinions regarding the advantages and disadvantages of such forms of resistance diverged. Nevertheless, within a few years of its first publication, von Dach’s handbook received international attention and became a bestseller, including with national military entities and paramilitary factions. **Total Resistance** was, according to the author, connected to crimes involving explosives in Zurich in 1969, and in the 1970s in Germany the book had circulated among the Red Army Faction and was repeatedly confiscated during raids.

As the author reports, an unauthorized English version was published under the title, **Total Resistance – Swiss Army Guide to Guerilla Warfare and Underground Operations**, and pirate copies in more than 50 languages are supposedly available from Angola to Vietnam. Since 1988, Germany has included the book on its Index of the Federal Department for Media Harmful to Young Persons (its “black list”). Now, after a quarter of a century, the controversial book is again in the news. **End OE Watch Commentary (Chadwick)**



Title: Targets in guerilla warfare

Source: <http://kaliban.de/2010/01/die-schweiz-und-kein-krieg/>

**Source:** “Türkiye’nin istediği güvenli bölge” [The safe-zone that Turkey wants], Taraf, 16 October 2014, <http://www.taraf.com.tr/haber-turkiyenin-suriyede-istedigi-guvenli-bolge-166077/>

“Von Dach’s handbook was discussed and it was integrated into small scale exercises but it never had an influence on the operative doctrine of the (Swiss) Army.”

“Anarchists, right-wing extremists and liberalization organizations of all shades obtained in the Swiss Guerilla-Primer the knowledge for their destructive activities.”

“Until today the handbook enjoys a cult status among subversive circles, as a view into relevant internet forums proves.”

# New Ministry of Defense Command Center

27 October 2014

“Remember, after the Americans killed Bin Laden they showed this operation through the eyes of their special operations soldiers.

We now have the very same capability...”

- General Andrey Kartapolov, chief of Russian Federation Armed Forces  
General Staff Main Operations Directorate

**Source:** Yuriy Gavrilov, “The Order Will Come From the Center: National Defense Management Center, a Top-Secret Complex, Will Go on Alert Duty on 1 December,” Rossiyskaya Gazeta Online, 27 October 2014, <<http://m.rg.ru/2014/10/27/kartapolov.html>>, accessed 5 November 2014.

**OE Watch Commentary:** The Russian security establishment has been somewhat enamored with the 1 May 2011 photo of President Obama with his national security team watching as the Osama bin-Laden raid played out. Although the U.S. military is often criticized by the Russian security establishment as being too reliant on high tech gadgetry that can be easily disrupted, Russia has desired similar capabilities for real-time observation and command and control. Current Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu created a high-tech command center for the Emergency Situations Ministry while he was in charge of the organization, and apparently he has carried this idea to the Ministry of Defense, as the accompanying article discusses. This new command center is the top tier of a larger command and control system that is directly connected to Russia’s strategic forces (Airborne Troops, Strategic Rocket Forces, Aerospace Defense Troops) and Russia’s four military districts, from which it is connected to army groups, and finally to the brigade/division level. Of particular note, this center is intended to be an operational control center, leaving the bulk of the planning at the General Staff. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)**

## The Order Will Come From the Center: National Defense Management Center, a Top-Secret Complex, Will Go on Alert Duty on 1 December

A new federal entity, the Russian Federation National Defense Management Center, will begin functioning fully in Moscow on 1 December. The Defense Ministry worked an entire year on its establishment by order of the RF president. The military will be able to track the situation throughout the world from a classified complex...

**[RG] Andrey Valeriyevich, the National Defense Management Center being established in Moscow sometimes also is called the Headquarters, Supreme High Command. Is such a comparison appropriate considering that the new entity is being set up not in wartime, but in peacetime?**

**[Kartapolov]** The Headquarters, Supreme High Command concept is obsolete today in a certain sense. The name National State Defense Management Center is in keeping to a greater extent with those ideas and requirements laid down during its creation. What is the important thing here? All information flows are reduced to a single channel. This enables knowing the situation in real time at a specific hour and even minute to the full depth of troop alignment, down to the last Armed Forces subunit and Defense Ministry department facility. In addition, we are talking about constant monitoring of all activities in the ministry and in the Army and Navy, and also about preparing proposals for decision making by the country’s leadership and the Armed Forces command element...

In addition to defense, there is this concept of state security. It is typical of peacetime to a greater extent and is understood to mean the involvement of a rather large number of different ministries and departments in maintaining this same security, each in its own direction...Our ministry begins to play the leading role [regarding military threat]. It exercises direct command and control of the Armed Forces and of the country’s entire military organization. That said, the functionality of the other federal executive authorities remains as it was previously. To effectively execute missions

in a special period, it is necessary to know and understand what our colleagues in other ministries are doing and how they should act in a particular situation. Therefore a place is provided in the National Center to accommodate groups which will provide coordination in deciding all these issues...

**[RG] And do they have offices in the Center? With nameplates on doors so everyone knows the Supreme Commander works here, the defense minister here, and this is the room for the chief of General Staff?**

**[Kartapolov]** Certainly. But don’t think everything is limited to this complex, the Center represents a rather far-flung system with a “chain” of direct subordination. For the Defense Ministry it is the National Center. In four military districts it consists of regional centers with approximately the very same functionality as in Moscow. Armies and corps have territorial command and control centers, and brigades and divisions have command posts. All military command and control entities are precisely embedded in a unified system

(continued)



## Continued: New Ministry of Defense Command Center

of information flows. Collection and transmission of data, receipt of information, verification, support -- everything functions. Other ministries and departments have similar structures. We are tied in with them from an information aspect through communications equipment and lines of communication...

**[RG] When information about creation of the Center had just appeared, some experts expressed doubt: Won't it be duplicating functions of the General Staff Central Command Post?**

**[Kartapolov]** It will not, because the General Staff works on issues of current, future, and long-range planning, but the National Center prepares proposals directly on the events. After a decision has been made, though, the General Staff indeed will go to work. It will begin to forecast the situation and influence its development and the National Center will take on functions of communicating information to all interested structures and monitoring fulfillment of assigned missions...

By the way, it was from there that Chief of General Staff General of the Army Gerasimov observed the actions of troops and naval forces in an online mode practically daily...

Remember, after the Americans killed Bin Laden they showed this operation through the eyes of their special operations soldiers. We now have the very same capability, and we are ready to show on the monitor not only what one person sees at a given moment, but to look at the situation through the eyes of a group of people, to display from various aspects what is happening at different points on the globe.





## Russia Experiments with Two-Tier Operational Reserve System

*“It remains to be hoped that the reform will be pursued to a conclusion and that the Russian Army will get a reliable two-tier system of reserve components...”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** *The Vostok-2014 exercises, held 11-18 September, showcased a variety of Russian military capabilities, including the call-up of reservists to support the effort. As the accompanying article discusses, Russia is now experimenting with the best way to integrate an operational reserve into its order of battle.*

*In Soviet times, and until the large-scale reforms of former Defense Minister Anatolii Serdyukov beginning in 2009, Russian doctrine dictated maintaining only a large strategic reserve that could be mobilized in the event of large-scale warfare. Current Russian thinking on the issue has changed significantly in the last few years. Russia still maintains a system for large-scale mobilization, but is now experimenting with different ways of forming an operational reserve. The reforms initially proposed in the Serdyukov era envisioned a Russian version of the US Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) program. The intent of this reform was to maintain a cadre of officers and enlisted soldiers who regularly train with particular active units; in event of the their unit's mobilization, the reservist would be called to duty to provide support or backfill as needed.*

*The Vostok-2014 exercises identified a new use of a Russian operational reserve, in new stand-alone units called territorial-defense battalions (BTOs) as the accompanying article explains. If the employment of BTOs was perceived as a success at the Vostok-2014 exercises, the appearance of such units could certainly become more common at major exercises as Russia experiments with the development of an operational reserve. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)***

*For more information on the development of the Russian reserve system see: Russian MoD Wants U.S. Style Reserve System? [http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/OEWatch/201304/Russia\\_01.html](http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/OEWatch/201304/Russia_01.html)*



Source: <http://www.yuga.ru/photo/polosa/2114-124061.html#photo124061>

**Source:** Aleksey Ramm, “It Is Time to Return the Reserve to the Formation,” *Voyenno-Promyshlenny Kuryer Online*, 8 October 2014, <<http://vpk-news.ru/articles/22165>>, accessed 5 November 2014.

### It Is Time to Return the Reserve to the Formation

The status of reservists, which has not been properly legitimated, does not facilitate normal mobilization planning... The recently-completed large-scale command and staff exercises in the Far East have become one of the top media events or recent months... [One aspect of the Vostok-2014 exercises]... was the fact that a territorial-defense battalion that was deployed on the basis of the 392nd district training center, numbering 350 men, has been brought up to full strength with citizens who have been called up from the reserve and airlifted by military transport aircraft to Kamchatka...

#### **It was bad, but even that has not remained.**

The battalion's name itself – Territorial-Defense Battalion (BTO) -- evokes surprise... Until recently there were no such subunits in the RF Armed Forces... Whereas, for the RF Armed Forces, the BTO's creation has been just one of the stages in reforming the mobilization deployment system and creating a so-called reserve component...

The next stage of the reform that was underway was the creation, in each district, of military directorate agencies responsible for training the troop reserve... Apart from plugging shortages, there is practically always a need to deploy extra military units. For this purpose, the Soviet Army and the RF Armed Forces had so-called reduced-strength units and cadre units... The command and staff exercises that were staged in the 2008-2012 period proved an obvious truth: That, even in low-intensity local

*(continued)*



## Continued: Russia Experiments with Two-Tier Operational Reserve System

combat operations, a battalion will be able to remain in the combat-operations zone two, maximum three, months, after which, due to the shortage that will have arisen, it will have to be withdrawn for regrouping...

### The new Russian way

...The old Soviet/Russian mobilization-deployment system functioned with major problems even as it was but, after the transition to the new look, practically nothing remained of it. The main problem was the absence of the cooperation that was formally stipulated in all the documents, between military units and military commissariats that are being brought up to full strength.

“By whatever expedient means, all manner of men were being brought in to attend deployment exercises. If you needed a communications operator, they brought you a sapper who had supposedly received supplementary training,” a Central Military District officer said, sharing his impressions.

Several experimental exercises were conducted in 2013... Experiments began at district training centers in training so-called contract reservists, and they were joined by the territorial-defense battalions that had been newly created under the RF Defense Plan and which fulfill tasks in guarding and defending important Armed Forces infrastructure facilities, as well as assisting in the fight against enemy irregular formations and reconnaissance and sabotage teams...the reserve command will itself decide whether a reservist belongs to a permanent-readiness unit or to one of the storage and repair bases that are converted into a military unit in wartime...

But it must not be forgotten that the reserve component system in foreign armies around the world have a clearly-legitimated status for the reservist and his rights and obligations to the state, which are the actual basis on which the rest of the system's components are founded.

The current defense minister is the first to have succeeded in negotiating the “mobilization quagmire”... It remains to be hoped that the reform will be pursued to a conclusion and that the Russian Army will get a reliable two-tier system of reserve components...

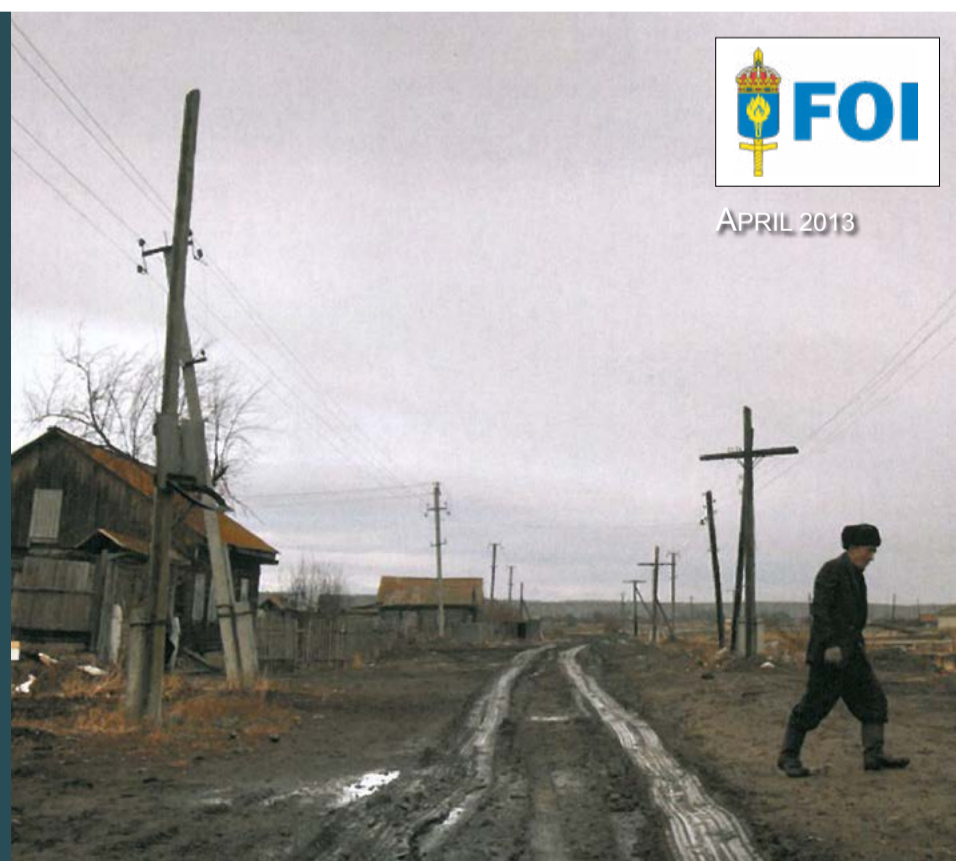
## Russia's Strategic Mobility

Supporting 'Hard Power' to 2020?

By Roger N. McDermott

[http://www.foi.se/ReportFiles/foir\\_3587.pdf](http://www.foi.se/ReportFiles/foir_3587.pdf)

Roger N. McDermott's *Russia's Strategic Mobility: Supporting 'Hard Power' to 2020?* examines the rapidly changing Russian military's strategic capabilities for logistics, combat service support, and force projection. McDermott's work for The Russia Studies Programme of the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) sheds light on the unglamorous, but vitally important logistic backbone upon which the Russian military relies. Roger N. McDermott is a Senior International Fellow for the Foreign Military Studies Office.



# The Future of Russian Force Projection: Private Military Companies

23 October 2014

**OE Watch Commentary:** General Valeri Gerasimov, Chief of the Russian General Staff, outlined his vision on the future of warfare in a 26 February 2013 article in *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer*, “*The Value of Science Is in the Foresight: New Challenges Demand Rethinking the Forms and Methods of Carrying out Combat Operations.*” He sees the future of warfare as a blending of the instruments of national power to create favorable outcomes. “*In the 21st century, a tendency toward the elimination of the differences between the states of war and peace is becoming discernible. Wars are now not even declared, but having begun, are not going according to a pattern we are accustomed to.*”

*In March 2014 this theory was put into practice, as Russia focused its instruments of national power on annexing Crimea and destabilizing the Ukrainian government. In order to blur the line between war and peace, Russia is increasingly using undeclared military forces, Russian minorities, Cossacks, and, as the accompanying article explains, private military companies (ChVK) as force projection assets. Although the use of private military companies is in its infancy in Russia, the political advantages of having an undeclared military force with degrees of separation between itself and the government is likely viewed as a highly advantageous situation in a Russian view*

**Source:** Mariya Butina, “Russia Awaits Its Own Blackwater: Private Military Companies Have Repeatedly Proven Their Effectiveness, but This Is Not Obvious to Law Makers,” *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer Online*, <<http://vpk-news.ru/articles/22169>>, accessed 5 November 2014.

## Russia Awaits Its Own Blackwater: Private Military Companies Have Repeatedly Proven Their Effectiveness, but This Is Not Obvious to Law Makers

States, including Russia, are increasingly forced to reduce the elements of a conscript army, while the contract system of armed forces is also restricted in its potential applications by a significant number of political and legal nuances and frameworks. It is, therefore, not surprising that the so-called private military companies (ChVK) are becoming one of the actively developing spheres of economics.

In essence these are the same as the ChOPs [private security enterprises], although the security organizations assist in the work of the police and the ChVKs assist in the work of the Army. These are not necessarily direct military units with combat weapons. Similar organizations are also widely engaged in services in the military logistics field, consulting, training, and so forth...

National security problems are now especially crucial, since Russia repeatedly encountered Western ChVKs in direct military confrontations during the military conflict in Georgia... This was a major cause of the substantial military losses on the part of Russia in this conflict. In the southeast Ukraine Western ChVKs also are participating very actively, which has somewhat helped to compensate for the weakness problems of the regular Ukrainian Army, which possesses, for example, 35 times less financing than the Russian Armed Forces...

Despite the fact that in Russia several small ChVKs already exist in a semi-legal status and they even operate with the participation of Russians beyond the limits of Russian jurisdiction, the full-scale development of this branch is impossible without a legal foundation...

The main argument against the ChVKs is the fear that oligarchs will create them and with the help of their “personal” troops they will arrange a revolution. Yes, ChVKs are indeed also used to resolve intra-political tasks, be they military coups in Africa or the destruction of pro-Russian forces in Ukraine. The presence of a ban on the activities of ChVKs in this sense could no more save the country from becoming a victim of this institution, than would a ban on one’s own army protect the public from the invasion of a foreign army. In point of fact it is not difficult to guess that the probable outcome is exactly the opposite...



Source: <http://expert.ru/2014/06/28/chem-budut-zanimatsya-rossijskie-chvk/media/preview/#anchor-1>



## Continued: The Future of Russian Force Projection: Private Military Companies

*of warfare that blurs the line between war and peace. In short, the private military industry is likely to be one of the few areas of the Russian economy that will be expanding in the next several years. End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)*

Contrary to the widely held views on private security organizations as some sort of absurd and slow-moving, harmful organizations, based on Ministry of Internal Affairs data in 2011 alone, approximately 80,000 private guards were engaged daily in the protection of public order... Thus, private security is an enormous aide and assistant to police work, and the prospects for cooperation in the work of military organizations are even greater. As with the case of civilian weapons, the efforts of the civilian public and the non-state legal entities under these conditions will not lead to a weakening of the state and law and order, along with national security, but exactly the opposite.

## CHANGE IN THE CHARACTER OF WARFARE Achievement of Political Goals

### The use of military forces

#### Traditional forms and methods

- initiation of military operations *after strategic deployment*
- *frontal clash of large groupings of line-units*, the basis of which consists of ground troops
- the destruction of personnel and weaponry, *and the consequent possession of lines* and areas with the goal of the seizure of territories
- *destruction of the enemy*, destruction of the economic potential and possession of his territories
- the conduct of combat operations on the ground, in the air and at sea
- the command-and-control of groupings of line units (forces) *within a framework of a strictly organized hierarchical structure* of command-and-control agencies

### The use of political, diplomatic, economic and other nonmilitary measures in combination with the use of military forces

#### New forms and methods

- *Initiation of military operations* by groupings of line-units (forces) in peacetime
- *highly maneuverable, noncontact* combat operations of inter-branch groupings of line-units
- reduction of the military-economic potential of the state by the *destruction of critically important facilities* of his military and civilian infrastructure in a short time
- the *mass use of high-precision weaponry*, the large-scale use of *special operations forces*, as well as *robotic systems and weapons based on new physical principles* and the participation of a *civil-military component* in combat operations
- *simultaneous effects* on line-units and enemy facilities throughout the entire depth of his territories
- warfare simultaneously *in all physical environments and the information space*
- the use of *asymmetric and indirect operations*
- command-and-control of forces and assets *in a unified information space*



Valeriy Gerasimov, "The Value of Science Is in the Foresight: New Challenges Demand Rethinking the Forms and Methods of Carrying out Combat Operations," *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer Online*, 26 February 2013, Source: <http://vpk-news.ru/articles/14632>.

# The Gear of the 'Polite People' Goes to the Field

27 October 2014

**OE Watch Commentary:** *Russia is making significant efforts to increase the quality of personal equipment for the rank-and-file troops serving as infantrymen, artillerymen, rocket launcher operators, machine gunners, driver-mechanics, and scouts. This is quite a change for a Russian Army that only abandoned the use of portyanki (foot wraps) two years ago (foot wraps were commonly used in the pre-industrial age before the wide-scale adoption of socks). Russia's new kit system is called "Ratnik" (Warrior), pieces of which first started showing up in Crimea on the "Polite People" and "Green Men" who secured Ukrainian government facilities and critical infrastructure in March. As the accompanying article explains, "Ratnik" is now being fielded to the rank-and-file troops with 50,000 sets of equipment scheduled for delivery each year. The kit includes a high quality ballistic helmet, backpack, load-bearing vest, personal communication device, body armor, body armor ballistic plates, ballistic eye wear, and other assorted items. End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)*

**Source:** "Russian Army to Receive 50,000 Ratnik Combat Gear Units Annually," Interfax Online, 3 November 2014, <http://www.interfax.com/>, accessed 5 November 2014.

## Russian Army to Receive 50,000 Ratnik Combat Gear Units Annually

The Tochmash central research institute of precision engineering will deliver 50,000 units of its Ratnik new-generation combat gear to the Russian Armed Forces every year under a contract with the Defense Ministry, the institute's general director Dmitry Semizorov told reporters on Monday.

"We signed a contract with the Defense Ministry to deliver 50,000 units of Ratnik combat gear to the Armed Forces annually," he said.

The first delivery of Ratnik gear units will be made before the end of 2014, Semizorov said.

"The first batch of Ratnik combat gear will be received by the Armed Forces before the end of the year," he said.

The Ratnik gear will primarily be provided to standby units within the Russian Armed Forces, the Tochmash general director said.

"First and foremost, it will be special operations forces and the Airborne Troops," he added.

**Source:** Oleg Salyukov, "Second Coming of Ratnik; Provision of Ground Troops With New Combat Kit Will Start This Year," *Voyenno-Promyshlenny Kuryer Online*, 15 October 2014, <<http://vpk-news.ru/articles/22249>>, accessed 5 November 2014.

## Second Coming of Ratnik; Provision of Ground Troops With New Combat Kit Will Start This Year

The creation of the second generation Ratnik combat kit, which involved dozens of Russian defense enterprises, is currently being completed.

The sets are constructed on a modular principle and the entire kit will not have to be redeveloped when creating new elements (scopes, instruments, protection devices). It includes dozens of items, including:

- protective overalls made of fire resistant fabric, capable of reducing the damaging effects of shrapnel, grenades, mines, and shells;
- a set of protective armor, including, depending on purpose, different classes of armor protection and protective helmet - whose specifications surpass those of existing foreign analogues - that helps protect a soldier's vital organs (the marine version of the armor has a positive buoyancy);
- an automatic gun equipped with a night vision scope, thermal imaging aiming system, a collimator sight or video module for firing from cover, consisting of a helmet-mounted mini-monitor and imaging sight;
- active headphones, allowing conversation during a battle and inside combat vehicles;
- a set of power devices;
- protective eyewear that can withstand smaller fragments;
- protectors at elbow and knee joints;
- a system which includes packs of different types (raid backpack, patrol bag, a vest with interchangeable quick-release elements), camouflage kits, fold-out heat-insulating lining, removable insulation for use in the winter, vented t-shirt, a mat, raincoat, cap, mosquito net, tent, water filters, autonomous heat sources;
- new combat knife.

*(continued)*



## Continued: The Gear of the 'Polite People' Goes to the Field

The kit has an integrated management system, consisting of communications, target acquisition, information processing and display, and also identification. It makes it possible to provide information about the soldier's location to a command post, to determine a soldier's coordinates, and to navigate on the ground using GLONASS and organize sustainable management at the tactical level. The system provides capability to become part of a unified combat system, managed using the latest information technologies...

The Ground Troops will begin to be equipped with second generation combat kit already this year, and supply is planned for completion by 2020. This will increase the effectiveness of combat missions by units by 1.5-2 times.

**Source:** Aleksandr Tikhonov, "Ratnik to Be with Shield," Krasnaya Zvezda Online, 24 September 2014, <<http://redstar.ru/index.php/newspaper/item/18803-ratnik-budet-so-shchitom>>, accessed 5 November 2014.

### Ratnik to be with Shield

...The new helmet, without exaggeration, is a masterpiece among individual protection gear. It weighs just 1 kilogram, while maintaining all of the protective characteristics of its predecessor helmet, the 6B7-1M...

"Our helmet is probably the only one in the world possessing a three-layer structure: two composite casings, an outer and inner, and between them – a layer of aramid material," Yuriy Fedorovich explains. "If you add any binder to aramid fabric, it acquires rigidity, but loses its protective properties. In order to get around this we selected a three-layer construction for the helmet. We significantly optimized the cutting of the inner discrete fabric material, which is capable of turning an impacting bullet to an angle of up to 90 degrees. Each little piece is cut out in a strictly defined fashion. Finally, we used a more durable aramid fiber when making this helmet..."




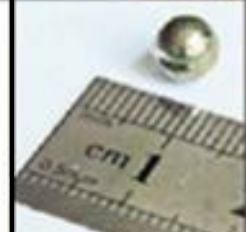


All state testing of the Ratnik system's helmets, body armor, and protective gear sets for armored vehicle crews are for all intents and purposes complete. Now the troops await the items. Once outfitted with them, the personnel of our units and subunits will be much better equipped...



Soldier displaying "Ratnik" body armor.  
Source: <http://foto.rg.ru/photos/481f77fd/8.html#8>

Source for below table: <http://redstar.ru/index.php/newspaper/item/18803-ratnik-budet-so-shchitom>

### Comparative Specifications of Military Helmets

Helmet Name (Country)	Helmet Appearance	Helmet Weight Kilograms	Test Fragment Weight (Grams)	Protected Area S.dm <sup>2</sup>	50% Non-Penetration Velocity (Meters Per Second)	
Senrty Helmet (USA)		1.45	1.05	12.3		670 FSP Fragment 17 grains (1.1grams) STANAG Standard
6B7-1M Helmet (Russia)		1.2	1.05	13.5		650 Fragment 1.05 grams GOST 3722-81
6B47 Helmet (Russia)		1.0	0.85	12.0		684 FSP Fragment 17 grains (1.1grams) STANAG Standard

## Amid Cautious Optimism in Russia, Tunisia's Future Remains Uncertain after Elections

**OE Watch Commentary:** On 27 October Tunisia held the second parliamentary election since 2011. Shortly before the 2011 election Mohamed Bouazizi, a little-known street vendor, set himself on fire in protest of Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali's autocratic regime. The event sparked a regional movement analysts typically refer to as the Arab Spring. Tunisia's elections, therefore, matter not only for the country, but also for the region and beyond. They are symbolic of prospects for a democratic future.

Russia continues to watch Tunisia for a number of reasons. Tunisian Foreign Minister Mongi Hamdi announced in September 2014 that Tunisia is ready to supply certain products to Russia it can no longer obtain from Europe. Overall, the two countries stepped up economic cooperation in recent months. The governments of the two countries also discuss counterterrorism cooperation. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov remarked in September 2014 that Russia and Tunisia generally share their approach to regional politics and international affairs. Whatever the outcome of Tunisia's elections, for Russia, it is important to maintain a relationship with Tunisia that continues to provide economic and political benefits. A relatively stable political situation, from the Russian perspective, would generally help ensure this.

Nidaa Tounes, a self-styled secular party, won against the Islamist Ennahda party during the 27 October election. Observers generally hailed the election as peaceful and fair—an impressive achievement all the more so because it is the second such election in a row in Tunisia.

The accompanying excerpt from CentrAsia.ru provides a Russian perspective on the election which confirms this view. According to Vasily Kuznetsov, head of Center for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies (cited in the article), the high voter turnout, the generally peaceful conduct of the elections, and the Islamists' relatively moderate position speak to this. Kuznetsov observes also that Tunisia managed to avoid the Egyptian scenario, where the secularists overthrew the ruling Islamist Muslim Brotherhood Party and plunged the country into an "abyss," a situation which he says remains unresolved today.

Yet Tunisia's future is uncertain. The country faces serious economic obstacles, and whether the newly elected leadership is up to the task remains unknown. Although observers, including Russians, hail the victory of modern secularists over Islamists in Tunisia, the reality is more complex. Indeed, Ennahda appears even more committed to free market reforms than its secular rivals. Meanwhile, some Nidaa Tounes members boast ties to Ben Ali's regime—the very regime that led to Tunisia's stagnation. Another issue is that Nidaa Tounes formed largely in opposition to Ennahda. Although it is clear what it stands against, it is less certain what it stands for.

As Kuznetsov points out, more surprises could be in store during the upcoming presidential election in November, when Nidaa Tounes leader Beji Caid Essebsi will turn 88. "For all his popularity, voting for him would be too risky," believes Kuznetsov.

In terms of Russia's interests in Tunisia, the conduct of the elections and their result, at this stage, appear to indicate that Russia will be able to maintain the relationship with Tunisia it is striving towards. More long-term prospects, like Tunisia's future, remain less certain. **End OE Watch Commentary (Borshchevskaya)**

**Source:** "Парламентские выборы в Тунисе завершились победой светских сил, исламисты на втором месте" (Parliamentary Elections in Tunisia Ended with Secularists' Victory, Islamists in Second Place), CentrAsia.ru, 27 October 2014. <http://itar-tass.com/opinions/2306>

The result of proper use of government resources... is a high voter turnout, which can be credited to the present government, Vasily Kuznetsov, head of Center for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies told NEWSru.com...

The victory of secular forces in the elections, military non-intervention and Islamists' maintaining serious legal positions within the political field suggests that Tunisia managed to avoid the Egyptian scenario, where Islamists' short reign ended with the overthrow of President Mohamed Morsi and labelling the "Muslim Brotherhood" as outlaws, all of which plunged Egypt into the abyss of prolonged political crisis, unresolved to date...

...Regardless, there is still the presidential election that could bring a lot of surprises. Vasily Kuznetsov recalls that the leader of Nidaa Tunisia, the party that won, will turn 88 on November 26, and for all his popularity, voting for him would be too risky. In turn, Ennahda, like many other Islamist parties, suffers from a crisis of leadership...

"In any case, if Tunisia can maintain this progress, it will be a big step towards the democratization of society," sums up Kuznetsov.



# Russia Introduces Further Restrictions on Migrant Workers

29 October 2014

**OE Watch Commentary:** In late October 2014 the Russian government introduced further restrictions on the number of labor migrants allowed to come to Russia. According to the accompanying excerpt from mainstream Izvestiya, the government annually approves the percentage of foreign workers allowed to work in certain sectors of Russia's economy. "If last year the restrictions applied only to retail sales, alcoholic beverages, pharmaceuticals and various activities in the field of sport, now it is proposed to expand the list to areas such as transport, agriculture and construction," writes Izvestiya. Russia's Labor Ministry, according to Izvestiya, intends to implement these restrictions primarily in order to create more jobs for Russian citizens and "protect the national labor market."

In Russia, the terms "worker migrants" or "foreign workers" generally refer to labor migrants from the former Soviet Union, usually Central Asia and the Caucasus. These are typically poor blue-collar workers who come to Russia seeking better job prospects than in their home countries. They accept lower wages and substandard working and living conditions than Russian citizens. The topics surrounding migrant workers can get sensitive in Russia: the more nationalistic segments of Russia's population tend to feel migrant workers take jobs from Russian citizens and create what they see as an unfavorable demographic shift.

To put these restrictions into additional context, approximately 11 million migrants were recorded in Russia at the end of 2013, the majority in Moscow, according to official statistics, reports Izvestiya. Russia's total population was approximately 144 million that year. Migrant workers therefore represent approximately 7.5 percent of Russia's total population.

The accompanying excerpts from CentrAsia.ru present three different views from Russian experts on the new restrictions on migrant workers. Two experts, Alexander Sevastyanov and Fedor Biryukov, feel that the restrictions are a positive step, though they disagree somewhat on the reasons. Both feel these measures would help alleviate current unemployment in Russia, and both directly say they would prefer to have fewer workers from the Caucasus and Central Asia. Yet Sevastyanov is less certain that this is part of a long-term strategy to revive Russia's

**Source:** "Правительство вводит новые ограничения на работу мигрантов" (Government Introduces New Limits on Work of Migrants), Izvestiya, 29 October 2014. <http://izvestia.ru/news/578502#ixzz3I1e7CAng>

Izvestia learned that the government intends to expand in 2015 the list of economic activities that will be affected by restrictions on the number of foreigners employed in them. The number of migrant workers in Russia is approved annually by government decree that regulates the allowable percentage of foreign workers in a particular area of the economy in each subject of the Russian Federation. If last year the restrictions applied only to retail sales, alcoholic beverages, pharmaceuticals and various activities in the field of sport, now it is proposed to expand the list to areas such as transport, agriculture and construction.

... - According to the Labor Ministry, the establishment of an allowable share of foreign workers will contribute to the priority employment of Russian citizens in these areas, the protection of the national labor market, as well as stimulation of internal labor migration, - noted the press-service of the ministry ....

... By the end of 2013, according to official data of the FMS [Federal Migration Service], the number of migrants in the country was about 11 million people, and a large part of them in Moscow. Officially registered arrivals employed in labor or commercial activities are a total of 3.4 million, of which 2.9 million are hired employees....

**Source:** "Россия и новые квоты для мигрантов" (Russia and New Migrant Quotas), CentrAsia.ru, 29 October 2014. <http://www.centrasia.ru/newsA.php?st=1414598280>

...

### Alexander Sevastyanov

... It is no secret that there is unemployment in Russia. So I think the new quotas—are a chance to revive our provinces, enliven our countryside. After all, this means that our domestic workers get paid more for the same work, which the arrivals performed in some lower condition. So I'm very positive regarding this innovation.

But on account of deliberate immigration policy, I would not yet be in much of a hurry to speak. Let's just say this is a positive step that hopefully will lead to new ones ... First of all, it is possible to introduce a visa regime with the countries of Asia and the Caucasus.

### Maxim Kalashnikov

Policy in the field of migration policy is inseparable from demographic policy ... Investment in the demographic potential of the nation must keep pace with expenses on defense and industry. But in the Russian Federation we see no systematic policy. Hence the Russian policy of replacing Russians with migrants.

The government generally acts as if it has other priorities ... Are the authorities concerned with new industrialization, are they concerned with agriculture? Is there a comprehensive program? I don't see this.

(continued)

## Continued: Russia Introduces Further Restrictions on Migrant Workers

economy. He does not elaborate further on this issue. Biryukov feels migrant workers tend to be less skilled and therefore perform poorly, causing, to give one example, transportation accidents. He also feels that it will now be possible to bring migrant workers from Novorossiya, with whom, in his view, Russian citizens have more in common, and who will gladly come to Russia because they are “compatriots.”

A third expert, Maxim Kalashnikov, is negative about the government restrictions. To him, this issue is about the government’s demographic policy—it is inseparable from it, he says. Russia’s population has been in a woeful state of decline for years, and this is likely what he is referring to when he brings up demographic policy. In

Kalashnikov’s view, the government has no clear demographic policy; in fact, it appears to have other priorities, and is therefore creating a quick fix, a “palliative to calm public opinion.” However, in his view, this is not a long-term solution.

Together, these excerpts show that the themes related to migrant workers—Russia economy, demographic shifts, and views of workers from the Caucasus and Central Asia—remain important and widely discussed in Russia. **End OE Watch Commentary (Borshchevskaya)**

What is now done with regard to migrants – it’s a palliative, to calm public opinion. But this calm obviously will not last long...

### Fedor Biryukov

... Unaffiliated experts have long argued that Russia can quite well use its own workers in those areas the government is talking about. It is well known that, for example, in the construction and transport fields, there are many accidents, injuries and even fatalities, simply because they actively involved not even migrants, but most importantly - unskilled workers. Slowly but surely, the government intends to restore order in this sphere. All the more so because we must not forget that we are now actively exchanging human resources with NovoRossiya ... People of Novorossia will gladly come to Russia, since they are in fact our compatriots. So there has long been no need to purposely attract a workforce, for example, from Central Asia to Russia...

## Public Perception of the Sea Breeze Exercises and Ukraine’s Prospects in the Black Sea Region

By Alisa Moldavanova

This paper focuses on the changing Ukrainian public perceptions of Sea Breeze. By closely examining six Ukrainian regional and national newspapers from 2001 until 2013, this study uncovers several underlying themes that explain varying public support and resistance to these exercises. The results suggest that Ukrainian public opinion is not uniform, and emphasize the importance in keeping these regional differences in mind when conducting a public information campaign regarding the Euro-Atlantic prospects of Ukraine.

<http://fms.leavenworth.army.mil/Collaboration/international/Ukraine/Sea-Breeze-exercise.pdf>



## ISIL's Influence in the Caucasus Remains a Concern

21, 30 October 2014

**OE Watch Commentary:** Concerns about ISIL's influence in the Caucasus continue to remain high in the region and in Russia. The accompanying excerpts present this view.

The first excerpt is from Kavkazskiy Uzel (Caucasian Knot), from 30 October 2014. The article lists a chronology and statistics about Chechens joining ISIL ranks in Syria. As far back as June 2013, according to the article, Chechnya's authorities had admitted that anywhere between a few hundred to 1,700 individuals originally from Chechnya are fighting in Syria. More recently, on 3 September 2014, ISIL supporters released a video which threatened "to start a war in the Caucasus, and 'liberate the Caucasus by the mercy of Allah,'" according to the article.

Indeed, fears that ISIL will come to the Caucasus are perhaps the larger concerns behind the unease of individual Caucasus residents joining ISIL. According to the accompanying excerpt interview with Andrei Ponomarev, head of the Solzhenitsyn Society for the Study of Russian Language and Culture, published in tabloid Pravda.ru (entirely separate from the Communist Party publication also named Pravda), if ISIL achieves a victory in the Middle East, the Caucasus will be their next target. Therefore, ISIL's should not be allowed to win. "ISIL should be destroyed and scattered, all its powers," says Ponomarev.

Reliable data are hard to come by when it comes to ISIL and the Caucasus. That estimates of how many residents from the Caucasus are involved with ISIL in Syria vary so greatly is evidence of this. Without reliable data it is difficult to come to a definitive assessment of the degree of the threat. Nonetheless, the threat is real. The entire Caucasus region—both North and South—indeed remains vulnerable to radical extremism from ISIL and other radical groups in the Middle East. This issue will remain in the headlines. Russia's perceptions therefore remain important to watch. **End OE Watch Commentary (Borshchevskaya)**

**Source:** "Выходцы с Кавказа в рядах ИГИЛ" (Caucasus compatriots in ISIS Ranks), Kavkazskiy Uzel (Caucasian Knot), 30 October 2014. <http://www.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/251513/>

June 2013 ... Chechnya's authorities admitted that residents of the republic are taking part in the war in Syria. It was reported that anywhere from several hundred to 1,700 natives of Chechnya are fighting in the region.

In September 2013 it became known that militants from the North Caucasus regions formed the unit "Al Muhajiriin" (immigrants) in the city of Aleppo in northern Syria. A Chechen Abu Abdurahman headed it. Most members of the group had experience fighting in the Caucasus.

... 3 September 2014 supporters of the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" distributed a video which threatened to start a war in the Caucasus and "liberate the Caucasus by the mercy of Allah."

... According to field commander of Chechen origin Abu Umar Shishani, "500 Caucasians alone who fought against Bashar al-Assad were killed in Syria." Shishani's quad itself, fighting under the ISIL banner, counts between 700 and 1,000 people, among them - hundreds of Caucasians.

**Source:** Interview by Lubov Lulko, prepared for publication by Yuriy Kondratyev, "Следующая цель ИГИЛ – Кавказ" (ISIL's new Goal—the Caucasus), Pravda.ru (Truth), 21 October 2014. <http://www.pravda.ru/world/asia/middleeast/21-10-2014/1232108-igil-0/>

...

- [Lubov Lulko] **The East – is a delicate matter. How, in your opinion, should Russia act?**

-[Andrei Ponomarev] I know one thing for certain: ISIL's victory is not useful to Russia. ISIL should be destroyed and scattered, all its powers. This is correct, 100 percent. Because the next place where they will go— the Caucasus...

(continued)

## Russian EW or IW?

3 November 2014

*“After approaching the ship, the Khibina systems turned off its [the destroyer’s] smart radar, combat control links, and data transfer systems – in a word, the entire Aegis, like we turn off a television with the push of a button on a remote.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** *Less than a month after Russia annexed Crimea, the US sent the destroyer Donald Cook into the Black Sea as a show of support to its East European allies. While on patrol the ship was harassed by a Russian SU-24 fighter, which made a number of close passes over the ship while refusing to acknowledge or communicate with the Americans. The provocation ended without incident when the Russian jet finally left the area. However, from an information warfare perspective, the battle had just begun.*

*While there was no question that the SU-24 performed a number of provocative passes, the Russian media soon began to circulate stories that the Russian aircraft, armed with the new Khibina EW system, had disabled all the electronic systems aboard the Donald Cook. When the story was first published in Rossiyskaya Gazeta (Russian Newspaper) on 30 April, it claimed that once the SU-24 “closed with the destroyer, the Khibina turned off its radar, combat control circuits, and data transmission system – in short, they turned off the entire Aegis just like we turn off a television by pressing the button on the control panel.” This article went on to claim that the Russian EW attack had been so troubling to the Americans, that by the time the ship returned to its temporary base in Romania, “27 American sailors had written requests for release from the Navy.”*

*These exaggerated reports did not begin within Russia’s fringe media, but rather within Rossiyskaya Gazeta (www.rg.ru), which is a primary Kremlin-sponsored publication and serves as the official source of new legislation. Since the story was first published in late April, claims that the SU-24 had blinded the Donald Cook have been referred to and cited by numerous domestic and international publications. Similar assertions on the Internet have multiplied exponentially. A Google search under Дональд Кук РЭБ (Donald Cook Electronic Warfare) lists more than 17,500 hits, many of them referring to the original claims made by Rossiyskaya Gazeta (there are over*

**Source:** Anton Valagin, “Что напугало американский эсминец” [What Frightened the American Destroyer], Rossiyskaya Gazeta Online, 30 April 2014.

The U.S. State Department has acknowledged that the crew of the American Destroyer Donald Cook turned out to be demoralized after an encounter with a Russian Su-24 bomber, which did not have bombs or missiles onboard. We have learned why it occurred this way and what else Russia has that is inspiring.

The American Destroyer Donald Cook entered the Black Sea on 10 April. On 12 April, a Russian Su-24 Frontal Aviation bomber conducted a flyby of the destroyer. On 14 April, after in general a run-of-the-mill incident – our aircraft do not very regularly close with the probable enemy’s ships in neutral waters, - the Pentagon issued an extremely emotional statement, having accused Russia of violating its own traditions and international treaties. It was mentioned that the crew of the Donald Cook was demoralized after encountering the bomber and information appeared in a number of mass media outlets that 27 American sailors had written requests for release from the Navy. Just what so frightened the destroyer’s crew?...

...It would seem that the appearance of that ship in the Black Sea must evoke shock and awe. That is how it turned out only not from that side. The Russian Su-24 Frontal Aviation bomber that flew to the Donald Cook did not have bombs or missiles onboard. One canister with the Khibin electronic warfare complex was suspended under the fuselage. Have closed with the destroyer, the Khibins turned off its radar, combat control circuits, and data transmission system – in short, they turned off the entire Aegis just like we turn off a television by pressing the button on the control panel. After this, the Su-24 simulated a missile launch at the blind and deaf ship. Later, it happened once again, and again – a total of 12 times.

When the bomber flew away, the Donald Cook hastily headed for a Romanian port to put its nerves in order. It has not approached Russian waters since then. The Americans are accustomed to using missiles to grind down poorly armed detachments of any sort of desert partisans from afar, while being in total safety. But they do not play if it doesn’t turn out that way....

*(continued)*



## Continued: Russian EW or IW?

100,000 hits when searching in English).

*Even though the incident took place more than seven months ago, the story continues to gain traction and has been repackaged and modified to fit other Russian information needs. For instance, as the second excerpt illustrates, another version of this story was republished by Rossiyskaya Gazeta in early November 2014. This version repeated many of the initial claims and went on to claim that this incident was “proof” that NATO and the US were now fearful of “approaching Russian waters again.”*

*Russia does indeed possess a growing EW capability, and the political and military leadership understand the importance of technical advances in this type of warfare. Their growing ability to blind or disrupt digital communications might help level the playing field when fighting against a superior conventional foe, but to continue to publicize a story which is patently false illustrates an equally robust ability within the realm of information operations. **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)***

**Source:** Anton Valagin, “Почему НАТО боится русских учений” [Why NATO Fears Russian Exercises], Rossiyskaya Gazeta, 3 November 2014. <http://www.rg.ru/2014/11/03/uchenia-site.html>

In peacetime, every military drains its soul in exercises. Moreover, such maneuvers by Russian military forces causes a nervous reaction, more like fear, from NATO. At times, not only are government officials and the press scared, but also professional military troops. We found out why this is happening.

The encounter of a Russian bomber with the U.S. Navy destroyer DONALD COOK is worthy of a place in military training manuals as an example of an effective psychological attack. On April 12, an unarmed SU-24, which took off from Shagol (Chelyabinsk) Airbase, was flying over the Black Sea and approached the new American combatant ship, which is armed with cruise missiles and the latest “Aegis” command and control system. After the encounter, DONALD COOK quickly headed to the Romanian port of Constanța where, according to media reports, 27 sailors from the destroyer’s crew requested to be released from service. On April 14, the Pentagon released an emotional statement in which the SU-24 flight was called a violation of military traditions and international agreements.

What really upset the Americans? The Aegis system, with which the destroyer is equipped, is the latest word in technology in terms of detecting and destroying seaborne and airborne targets. It brings together the radars, fire control systems, and missiles of all ships equipped with it into a single network resembling a naval internet. Aegis radars can simultaneously track and target missiles at hundreds of targets located thousands of kilometers away. Altogether, a magnificent system.

But in place of bombs or missiles, the SU-24s approaching DONALD COOK carried a container with a Khibina radio-electronic warfare system. After approaching the ship, the Khibina systems turned off its [the destroyer’s] smart radar, combat control links, and data transfer systems – in a word, the entire Aegis, like we turn off a television with the push of a button on a remote. Afterwards, the fighter-bombers conducted a simulated missile attack on the blind and deaf destroyer...

DONALD COOK never approached Russian waters again. Nor did NATO ships that relieved it in the Black Sea.

*“All budget expenditure on the purchase of goods, services, and works in the ‘National Defense’ section is classified.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** Prior to his re-election as president in 2012, one of Vladimir Putin’s key platforms dealt with rebuilding and strengthening Russia’s Armed Forces. In the Kremlin’s calculus, a strong military was essential in restoring Russia’s greatness and defending against hostile threats. Fueled by oil and gas revenues, trillions of rubles have been allocated to reforming and modernizing the Russian military. Economic sanctions and falling oil prices, however, have forced the Kremlin to reexamine its military reform and rearmament plans. The accompanying excerpt examines one strategy the Kremlin has adopted with regard to defense expenditures and economic pressures.

According to the article, the Russian government plans to significantly increase the classified percentage of the overall budget. As the excerpt points out, “more than two-thirds of appropriations are now classified, including -- for the first time -- all state acquisitions by the army.” The amount of secret and top-secret expenditure has more than doubled since 2006 to 21% and by 2017 it will total 24.6 percent. After this year, the average Russian citizen will have no way to measure how defense expenditures are being allocated, since “all budget expenditure on the purchase of goods, services, and works in the ‘National Defense’ section is classified.”

The article intimates that classifying budget data could lead to a much higher level of corrupt practices. Indeed, “experts detected an increase in classified expenditure by 289 billion rubles between 16 September (when the draft was published for an expert anticorruption assessment) and 30 September (when the draft was submitted to the State Duma).” Most Russians understand that bloated defense spending during the Soviet period contributed to the collapse of the USSR, and that domestic corruption remains a serious problem today.

The article ends on a somewhat ominous note. Given the likely budget shortfalls, the Kremlin will likely have to make a choice between funding “beans or bullets,” civil services or defense. As the excerpt points out, “the Russian Federation Government has no experience of making a tough choice between the military and

**Source:** Dmitriy Butrin, “Бюджет становится военной тайной” [The Budget Is Becoming a Military Secret], Kommersant Online, 21 October 2014

### Significant Increase in Proportion of Classified Expenditure in Draft Budget for 2015-17

The State Duma Budget Committee has predictably approved the draft federal budget for 2015-2017 for its first reading. But there are fewer opportunities than one year ago for a meaningful discussion of the draft. As the Russian Academy of the National Economy and Civil Service under the Russian Federation President and the Gaydar Institute assert in their findings on the draft law, almost one fourth of budget expenditure in 2017 will be classified. In terms of defense expenditure, which is already increasing by 33 percent in 2015, more than two-thirds of appropriations are now classified, including -- for the first time -- all state acquisitions by the army. Some 289 billion rubles of new secret expenditure in the budget has been generated on its journey from the Finance Ministry to the State Duma...

...We would remind you that the text of the draft law was published at the beginning of September 2014 for an expert anticorruption assessment and was approved for its first reading by the relevant State Duma committee yesterday, and there is no doubt that that the budget will be adopted within the prescribed deadline. Yet experts... who have analyzed what is now the final version of the document, note the presence in it of new amendments and, in general, a high level of non-transparency in the budget for 2015-2017, mainly because of an increase in the expenditure on its security segment.

Secret and top-secret expenditure in the 2015 budget will total 21 percent of all expenditure -- which is 4.2 percent of GDP. Back in 2006 11.8 percent of budget expenditure was distributed among classified items, whereas in 2017 it will total 24.6 percent.... At the same time it is noted that, as is now usual, for the second year information about expenditure on the cost of maintaining service personnel is absent from the 2015-2017 budget, but there is even more unpleasant news: All budget expenditure on the purchase of goods, services, and works in the “National Defense” section is classified.

...But the enormous and totally classified figures in the published draft are unlikely to be the final ones -- thus, the experts detected an increase in classified expenditure by 289 billion rubles between 16 September (when the draft was published for an expert anticorruption assessment) and 30 September (when the draft was submitted to the State Duma).

...But the growing level of secrecy of budget expenditure is not only a political but also an economic problem. Thus, the Russian Academy of the National Economy and Civil Service under the Russian Federation President and the Yegor Gaydar Institute refused to produce unequivocal findings on the adequacy of budget funding of research and development specifically because of insufficient information about it in the draft

(continued)



## Continued: Classified Defense Budget

*the governors in conditions of a revenue deficit.” Theoretically, if social programs are cut, public dissatisfaction will rise. However, given that a growing percentage of Russia’s defense budget is now classified, combined with its control over the national media, the Kremlin leadership may be able to maintain defense expenditures by redirecting public anger against the foreign “enemy.” **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)***

law and its appendices.

At the same time, because of the significant devaluation of the ruble in September 2014 and the fall in oil prices, the 2015 budget is per se relatively tentative and indeed it is hard to say at this time how appropriate the budget projections are.... The Russian Federation Government has no experience of making a tough choice between the military and the governors in conditions of a revenue deficit, but, given the shortfall of oil and gas revenues in 2015, such a choice is totally realistic -- by then it would be tricky, proceeding from the experts’ analysis, to cut other budget items.

### **Sergey Shoygu: Russia’s Emergency Defense Minister A Bio-Sketch**

By Ray Finch, FMSO

This paper briefly examines the background of Russia’s Minister of Defense, Sergey Shoygu, the speculation behind his sudden appointment in November 2012, the challenges he faces, his efforts thus far within the Defense Ministry, and possible future implications -both military and political – surrounding his selection as Russia’s chief military representative. This paper posits that should the stars align correctly, as a close friend of President Vladimir Putin, Shoygu could become the next leader of Russia.

<http://fms.leavenworth.army.mil/documents/Finch-Shoygu.pdf>



## A Sober Ukrainian Assessment

31 October 2014

*“Information is being leaked not by some agents infiltrated by Russia in the past, it is simply being sold. And this applies not only to the army.””*

**Source:** Marius Laurinavicius, “Ukrainian Army Does Not Have Capacity to Win; Interview with Military Expert and Blogger Dmitriy Tymchuk,” Vilnius IQ, 1 Oct- 31 October 2014.

**OE Watch Commentary:** *With the 24/7 fire-hose of real-time information, trying to gain an accurate assessment of the situation in SE Ukraine using open sources has been a challenge. Separatist groups will make one claim, which will be denied by the Ukrainian authorities, which will, in turn, be denied by the Russian side and then finally challenged by Western or other international sources. These same claims are then magnified and amplified by individual bloggers and independent (and pro-government) websites. The result is a cacophony of allegations and counter-allegations, which makes drawing firm conclusions extremely difficult.*

*While all sides have exploited information, one of the more objective Ukrainian sources in covering this conflict has been the website Information Resistance Group (<http://sprotyv.info/en>), managed by Ukrainian reserve officer Dmitriy Tymchuk. In this excerpt from a longer interview, Tymchuk provides a number of interesting insights as to why the Ukrainian military has fared so poorly both when resisting aggression in Crimea and against the pro-Russian separatists in SE Ukraine. While Russian influence has certainly played a role, the Ukrainian side has been plagued by poor decision-making, a lack of clear information strategy and endemic corruption.*

*Tymchuk is highly critical of the Ukrainian government’s information policy. He points out that in the chaos of the February revolution, when new ministers had just been appointed, “a vacuum appeared, and the Russian propaganda filled it very easily.” Kremlin authorities repeatedly asserted its responsibility to protect the local Crimean population from the “neo-Nazis” who had taken power in Kiev. In early March Tymchuk advocated creating an information center to counteract the Russian information onslaught, but this project was implemented only in June.*

### Ukrainian Military Expert Tymchuk Discusses Army Problems, Corruption in Defense Institutions

During the months of Russia’s aggression in Ukraine, Dmitriy Tymchuk turned from a completely unknown reserve officer into a one of the most frequently-quoted by the world media Ukrainian. He has more than 218,000 social network followers, many of them are from Lithuania. He tells IQ commentator Marius Laurinavicius not only about how he became popular and what work he does, but also about the tragic situation of the Ukrainian Army and the country in general.

**[Laurinavicius]** Looking at the work of the Information Resistance Group that you have created, one gets the impression that it is a powerful national information agency. However, your activities are usually described as a private initiative and an example of the current civil society that has begun to emerge in Ukraine since the last revolution. What is the real situation?

**[Tymchuk]** Already when Russia demonstrated its aggression in Georgia, together with the associates who served in other departments (at the time I was still in the army), as well as with special services analysts, we realized that a similar scenario might happen in Ukraine as well. Truth be told, everybody thought that it was nonsense at the time. Even though Russia was very hostile toward Ukraine when Viktor Yushchenko was in power, few could have imagined a military aggression.

But we assumed that we should expect the worst. Therefore, we started to develop a monitoring and resistance system. First and foremost in Crimea. We considered it the bridgehead for which, according to our predictions, Moscow would fight first. We created the Flot 2017 (2017 Fleet) website, because the agreement on the deployment of the Russian Black Sea Naval Fleet in Crimea was supposed to end in 2017. Our goal was to ensure that the agreements are not renewed, because we considered the Black Sea fleet a time bomb and a major threat to our country’s sovereignty.

And this was exactly what happened, the Black Sea Fleet became the bridgehead for Crimea’s annexation. Therefore, when the events in Crimea began at the end of February, it became apparent that the Russian scenario was launched: an operation was carried out by special services, and armed forces were used as well.

**[Laurinavicius]** It was a long way from the realization and the creation of such a group...

**[Tymchuk]** At the end of February, Ukraine was in an after-revolution state: directors of special services and power structures were just appointed or not replaced at all yet, and the old people were Viktor Yanukovich’s people. In short, we had a situation when we all realized that something was going on in Crimea, but official institutions could not explain anything. A vacuum appeared, and the Russian propaganda filled it very easily....

*(continued)*



## Continued: A Sober Ukrainian Assessment

*Tymchuk claims that control over information has hardly improved over the past eight months, where Ukrainian “volunteers publish any information they want, where they want.” Much of this published information (especially that included on blogs, twitter, social media sites) has included sensitive data (e.g., unit readiness, location, equipment, etc.) which has been exploited by the pro-separatist side. Tymchuk suggests that during wartime the Ukrainian government has a responsibility to censor the media, particularly when media sources publish information which demoralizes the mobilized people.*

*Tymchuk’s most interesting observations examine the corrosive role that corruption has played in the course of this conflict. He claims that “information is being leaked not by some agents infiltrated by Russia in the past, it is simply being sold,” and alleges that some Ukrainian security officials were merely bought off with “suitcases filled with money.” This same corruption remains alive and well within all levels of the bureaucracy, where positions are assigned not by merit but by personal contacts and a well developed system of bribery.*

*Tymchuk ends the interview with a couple dire predictions. He does “not see a possibility to resolve the conflict in a peaceful way without violating Ukrainian national interests. But the current army indeed cannot win.” He claims that the entire system needs to be overhauled, and he is running for parliament in the hopes of helping with the restructuring. Finally, he sees the war continuing into the future, as he maintains the Donbas region is merely a “bridgehead to invade southern regions: Kherson, Odessa, Nikolayev.” Tymchuk points out that Russia’s annexation of Crimea will only prove to be successful once the Kremlin has direct supply routes in and out of the region, which will entail controlling the entire southern Ukraine. **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)***

First, Ukrainian society and the army were demoralized, and there was an attempt to influence European countries, their societies’ attitude. Since even the Ukrainian media announced that self-defense squads were being formed in Crimea, and the Right Sector was determined to destroy them, why would the Europeans not believe that?

We realized that we needed to change the situation. On 1 March, I proposed to the new leadership of the Security and Defense Council to create an information center. This project was implemented only in June, and on 2 March we were told that Ukraine did not need that....

**[Laurinavicius]** Bearing in mind all of that you have said, your contacts in various institutions and the information you receive, I would like to inquire about the situation in the Ukrainian Army. It seems that only volunteer battalions are fighting, and the regular army either does not fight at all or leaves the battlefield and abandons volunteers to fend for themselves at the crucial moments. What is your reaction to this opinion?

**[Tymchuk]** What you have said shows the absolute fiasco of the information policy of the Defense Ministry and the Interior Ministry. This opinion has been formed because even though the Defense Ministry still controls its units, volunteers publish any information they want, where they want. And now also political public relations have started, a number of battalion commanders are actively trying to enter politics and to run for parliament.

The truth is that anyone who has ever had anything to do with an army understands that it is a complete absurd when a volunteer unit commander publicly announces the place of the unit’s location, gives the exact number of troops and weapons, and says that they are surrounded. The enemy’s reconnaissance does not even have to do anything, they learn everything from social networks, even the psychological state of the soldiers. This is really wrong and should not be happening.

**[Laurinavicius]** Does this mean that the criticism of the Ukrainian Army is not justified?

**[Tymchuk]** No, the criticism is justified, but we are walking a very narrow line, and we slip where we should not. We want to live that way we did during peace when Ukraine is at war. And this is completely wrong. We do not have media censorship, although any country that is fighting in a war censors its media. And now we have to deal with the very negative consequences of this policy. For example, the most recent wave of mobilization: We were monitoring the situation and saw how demoralized the mobilized people were....

**[Laurinavicius]** To sum up, the picture that is emerging from what you have said is not very optimistic. But let us call a spade a spade. Is it because Ukraine is a target of Russian agents’ sabotage at the highest level or is it the collapse and the chaos of the state and its governance?

**[Tymchuk]** We have seen very many -- way too many -- cases when information from anti-terrorist operations or the General Staff has been leaked. As I said,

investigations are being carried out, it is a pity that this is not done publicly, even though I always say that such people should be punished publicly. It would be a lesson to the rest of them.

*(continued)*

## Continued: A Sober Ukrainian Assessment

However, I can say that the problem is not the Russian network of agents. Perhaps it would sound strange, but the main problem that we are facing is corruption. Information is being leaked not by some agents infiltrated by Russia in the past, it is simply being sold. And this applies not only to the army. We watched how branches of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry and Security Service in Donbas, and before that in Crimea, were “occupied.” And we do not know of a single case when local officials would fire back, somebody would be injured or killed. Initially, we could not understand why this was happening, but then we discovered through our channels that almost in all cases people would come to the head of a department with suitcases filled with money before “the occupation.” And the officials would do nothing or shoot in the air and vacate the place.

And this is not the worst thing, because it is possible to expose such persons, and this is being done. Criminal proceedings, investigations are being initiated. However, corruption is closely linked to appointments to key positions as well. And this concerns all levels: from the middle level to the highest-ranking generals. They received promotion and titles not only for their achievements or merits, but for money as well. Or through personal contacts. This was how the system of professionally unsuitable people has been formed.

During all these months since the victory of the revolution we have not seen any major changes in the personnel. The Ukrainian leadership is terribly afraid to change the generals. After all, in every country that is fighting in a war and that is serious about it very strict personnel policy is carried out. If you are not up to the task, leave the post, and then somebody else is appointed. The professional and moral qualities of an individual became clear very fast in the extreme war conditions. And rapid moving up the career ladder is possible as well: A company commander can become a brigade commander in several months, and he could be developing operational plans in the General Staff after some time....

**[Laurinavicius]** You said recently that the only solution to the Donbas problem is a military solution. However, a question arises whether Ukraine, considering its current state, both the state of the army and the state of the country, is fit to fight, let alone to win.

**[Tymchuk]** I indeed do not see a possibility to resolve the conflict in a peaceful way without violating Ukrainian national interests. But the current army indeed cannot win. This has been confirmed by the events since the end of August, when Russia sent not just mercenaries or intelligence-subversive groups, but regularly army units as well.

Time has come for us to begin to work looking to the future, and not just to react to Russia’s current aggression. This is why I am running for parliament. Such my decision has been coordinated with all members of the Information Resistance Group. Half a year has passed since the beginning of the aggression, and we still do not see any positive changes in the Ukrainian Army....

**[Laurinavicius]** Why do you not believe that even in the current situation, which is hardly acceptable to Ukraine and is very dangerous, it is not possible to achieve peace with Russia?

**[Tymchuk]** First of all, we see that even after the law on special status of the Donbas regions has been adopted, Russian units and gunmen attack out positions. This shows that they are still dissatisfied even though we have agreed to the very unacceptable conditions, we basically gave Donbas to them so that they can tear it up, and, what is more, we will have to pay money.

Kyiv could not agree to even more humiliating conditions, and they still want more. This confirms what I said already in the spring, Russia does not actually need Donbas. It is only a bridgehead to invade southern regions: Kherson, Odessa, Nikolayev.

Even when nothing was happening in Donbas yet, and we were following only the Crimea events, I wrote that Vladimir Putin would want the Kherson region anyway, because it is the key to providing Crimea with supplies. This means 95 percent of the fresh water that is supplied to Crimea, more than 90 percent of electricity. Therefore, it is impossible to provide supplies to Crimea without the Kherson region and the entire southern Ukraine.

Moreover, they need our industrial regions: Dnepropetrovsk, Kharkov, and Zaporozhe. This is why I am saying that we will need to prepare to solve the problem using military means, because Putin will not stop at the current border or even at the current front line. I am saying this on the basis of the information that I have and only small part of which is made public.



# Russian Airbase in Belarus Redux

16 October 2014

**OE Watch Commentary:** *Kremlin plans to station advanced fighter aircraft in Belarus have been modified yet again. Over the past two years Russian defense officials have repeatedly announced that they would deploy a wing of Su-27 fighter jets on the territory of Belarus. The presumed rationale is to defend against the growing threat from NATO. As reported in the August 2013 OEW (“Russian Airbase in Belarus”), initial plans called for this Russian base to be located “in northwestern Belarus, near the Polish and Lithuanian borders, within just a few months.” However, according to the accompanying excerpt, these plans have again changed, and the base will now be established by 2016 in Babruysk, which is located in SE Belarus and is “much further from the Polish border.”*

*The accompanying excerpt describes a number of factors which led to this latest change: the original location was too vulnerable to enemy [NATO] attack; problems with co-locating Air Force personnel from Russia and Belarus (e.g., questions might arise as to why Russian pilots get paid so much more than those from Belarus); and the possibility for Russia to expand strategic (nuclear) air assets at Babruysk. The article also suggests that the delay and change of plans may stem from political disagreements between Moscow and Minsk.*

*In a formal sense, Belarus remains a close ally with Russia. For more than a decade there have been negotiations to form a close political and economic union. Belarus is highly dependent upon Russian trade and energy subsidies, and, as a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Belarus relies heavily upon Russia’s defense capacity. Militaries from both countries frequently train together, particularly in the realm of air defense. From the Kremlin’s perspective, establishing a Russian airbase within Belarus would not only further strengthen this alliance, but also reinforce Russia’s western buffer zone.*

*While military ties appear vibrant, relations between the two countries at the political level have become less cordial over the past few years. Despite the Kremlin’s economic largesse toward Belarus, the Lukashenko government has refused to recognize the independence*

**Source:** Henadz Kosaraw, “Will Russian Nuclear Arms Appear in Belarus?” *Zavtra* Tvayoy Krainy, 16 October 2014. <http://udf.by/news/politic/111121-poyavitsya-li-rossiyskoe-yadernoe-oruzhie-v-belarusi.html/>

## Who will win and who will be hostage if a Russian airbase is opened in Babruysk?

Russia is planning to open an airbase for its Su-27 fighters in Babruysk in 2016. This has been announced by Russian Air Force commander Viktor Bondarev. Babruysk is safer for Russian pilots than Baranavichy

It is noteworthy that, back in August 2014, Gen Bondarev publicly declared readiness to open a Russian airbase in Baranavichy after the conclusion of an intergovernmental agreement between the two countries. Why was preference given to Babruysk?

“There is certain intrigue behind the relocation of the Russian airbase,” said political scientist Alyaksandr Klaskowski. “According to Belarusian military experts, the reports that Poland has reached agreement with the USA to get new cruise missiles for their F-16 fighters have played the role here. In case of an armed conflict, those cruise missiles will enable Polish fighters to hit the airfield in Baranavichy from their territory. Babruysk is much further from the Polish border. In addition, the Russian airbase will be protected there with two air defense shields, one in front of Baranavichy and the other in front of Babruysk.

The expert believes it is quite important for the Russian military that the airfield in Babruysk was used in Soviet times and then was mothballed. There are Belarusian airbases in Lida and Baranavichy, and there were initial plans to send Russian pilots there. The Russians would then have to be squeezed up with our pilots...

...”The Russian pilots earn several times more than their Belarusian colleagues. If the Russians were placed next door to the Belarusians in Baranavichy, that might invite unpleasant questions from local aviators to the top brass: if we are doing the same service, why are we paid several times less than the Russians?” the expert said.

Klaskowski recalled that Tu-22 supersonic long-range missile-capable bombers were stationed in Babruysk in Soviet times. It should not be ruled out that, if confrontation with the West aggravates, Russia may relocate modernized Tu-22-M3 bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons to Belarus.

“If the Belarusian parliament grants extraterritorial status to the airbase, it will be an islet of Russian territory and they will have the right to deploy anything they want there, without asking anyone for permission. This means that, quite probably, Russian nuclear weapons may appear in Belarus,” the political scientist predicts.

According to him, the Belarusian leadership had to authorize the stationing of a Russian airbase but they are not happy with this prospect.

“Russia got locked in the Ukraine conflict and was slapped with serious sanctions. [President] Alyaksandr Lukashenko would not like to play up to Moscow and then get caught in the West’s cross-fire,” the expert believes.

In his opinion, there are several factors behind the airbase establishment being rescheduled from 2015 to 2016.

Klaskowski said that, according to polls, a relative majority of Belarusians are against

(continued)

## Continued: Russian Airbase in Belarus Redux

*of the two puppet countries (S. Ossetia and Abkhazia) created after the August 2008 conflict with Georgia. The leadership in Minsk was initially reluctant to recognize the Kremlin's annexation of Crimea and has attempted to serve as a mediator for the ongoing conflict in SE Ukraine. While this article carefully avoids mentioning it, leaders in Minsk may be re-examining the wisdom of hosting a Russian airbase after seeing how the Kremlin used its military base in Crimea as a pretext for annexation. **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)***

the deployment of a Russian base. Lukashenka does not want to antagonize this part of the electorate in the year of the presidential election.

Klaskowski believes that the Belarusian leadership links the airbase to oil supplies. He recalled that Moscow had agreed to keep the oil duties on the Belarusian budget only for 2015. It is unknown what will happen in 2016.

“In case Moscow starts dodging and playing dirty tricks with oil, the airbase may become a tool for blackmail in the hands of official Minsk,” the expert said.

According to Klaskowski, the Belarusian authorities will try to procrastinate the issue of deploying the Russian airbase. The renovation of the Babruysk airfield in its own right calls for certain time and investments, though.

“However, if the Kremlin's confrontation with the West strengthens, this country's leadership will have no escape. Belarus will have to play the role of Russia's military stronghold and expose itself to additional risks,” Klaskowski predicted.



### Biographical Sketch: Dmitry Rogozin and Russian Nationalism

By Ray Finch, FMSO

Since the collapse of the USSR, Russia has struggled with developing a new national idea. The political and economic trauma of the 1990s discredited the idea of liberal democracy, and for the past decade Russian nationalism has become more prominent. While there are a number of Russian leaders who have been lifted up on this wave of nationalism (to include the current president, Vladimir Putin), few have been as successful in riding this surge as Russia's new Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the country's military-industrial complex, Dmitry Rogozin. This paper briefly reviews Rogozin's biography, and in particular, the implications of his increasing political power for Russia and the United States.

<http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/documents/Rogozin.pdf>



“The assembly and installation of an administrative and residential complex for the Northern Star garrison is complete. The complex consists of block-modules. The complex has already been finished inside. A life-support system and military equipment are now being installed.”

**OE Watch Commentary:** The Russian military completed assembling the modular buildings for the Northern Star garrison on Wrangel Island in the Arctic Ocean before polar night (middle of November to late January) set in. Life support systems and military equipment are now being installed. The buildings are all connected, since the average temperature in February is  $-25^{\circ}$  Celsius ( $-13^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit) and icy winds howl across the vast polar island tundra. There will be few outdoor excursions. Even the temperatures in July are just above freezing.

Reenlistment rates might not be great. Russia is making a serious and expensive statement about its commitment to the Arctic and its future role through the establishment of these remote outposts and garrisons. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

**Source:** Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, 16 October 2014, <http://www.mil.ru>

**Report by the Eastern Military District’s Press Service: “Block-Module Administrative and Residential Complex Assembled for Northern Star Garrison on Wrangel Island”**

Let us remind you that two complexes of 34 administrative and residential prefabricated modules will be commissioned in the near future on Wrangel Island and Cape Schmidt to support the activities of the Arctic Group of the Eastern Military District. The construction of a similar complex on Cape Otto Schmidt is still ongoing.

The administrative-residential complex consists of a residential, a utility, and an administrative blocks. In addition, the complex contains a sports room, a sauna, and a psychological-relief room.

The complex is designed in the shape of a star, which allows the military to move around freely inside and minimizes the need to go outside in cold conditions.

Source: [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5a/Chukchi\\_Sea\\_map.png](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5a/Chukchi_Sea_map.png)



## Officer Cadre of Two Russian Arctic Brigades Getting Quick Course in Arctic Combat

*“The Russian Federation Defense Ministry announced that training assemblies for commanders of Arctic subunits are being held for the first time at the Far East Higher Military Command School (DVVKU, Blagoveshchensk, Amur Oblast).”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** In September 2013 the Russian Military Higher Command School, located in Blagoveshchensk on the Amur River bordering China, accepted its first class of 230 cadets destined for service with the 200th Separate Motorized Infantry Brigade, based in Pechenga (Murmansk Oblast), and the 80th Separate Motorized Infantry Brigade in the Alakurti settlement (Murmansk Oblast). In addition, 35 cadets destined for service with mountain units and the naval infantry began their five-year course leading to commissions as lieutenants. Their curriculum is unique in that it prepares them for Arctic combat. The entering class in the corps of cadets was 335, so the remaining cadets are probably destined for service in the two mountain brigades in the North Caucasus. The academy has offered a mountain operations curriculum since 2008.

One problem with establishing specialized infantry brigades is providing leadership with the specialized skills. Russians are used to fighting in cold weather, but there are special skills and considerations when fighting in the high latitudes. Subunit commanders include battalion, company and platoon leaders. Apparently these courses are designed to teach one battalion's leadership at a time plus filler commanders from other units. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

**Source:** Interfax-AVN Online, 15 October 2014; <http://www.militarynews.ru>

### Arctic Commanders' in Blagoveshchensk to Get Special Training for Low-Temperature Combat Operations

“Over the course of a month around thirty officers will take a course of studies on the basics of mountain, technical, and specialized training and courses in rendering medical first aid in low-temperature conditions. The officers will also study specialized mountain and alpine gear, accouterments, weapons, and military equipment designed for use in the Arctic zone,” Colonel Aleksandr Gordeyev, Chief of the Eastern Military District Press Service, told Interfax-AVN.

He added that officers from the Airborne Troops, Coastal Troops, naval infantry, and special forces Arctic combat training center are attending the training assemblies.

The DVVKU runs courses for future instructors and teachers from the center who then go on to train service personnel to carry out missions in low-temperature conditions as part of the Arctic forces grouping.

The Arctic subunit commanders assemblies will continue through the end of this month and will conclude with test exercises and final examinations.

The DVVKU is the only training establishment in the Russian Federation Armed Forces that trains officers for Arctic subunits. The first intake for specialized training in the use of motorized rifle subunits (Arctic) took place in the fall of 2013.



## Russian Research in Antarctic Continues

7 November 2014

*“The Russian research ship Akademik Fyodorov is due to leave St. Petersburg for one of its regular voyages to Antarctica, taking the crew of the 60th Russian Antarctic Expedition to the southernmost continent, the Institute of Arctic and Antarctic Studies (AANII) said on Friday.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** *The recent surge of Russian interest and remilitarization of the Arctic reflects the long-term interest of the Soviet Union and Russia in the Antarctic. The Soviets began whaling in Antarctic waters in 1947 as part of their efforts to provide more protein to the post-World War II diet of the Soviet people. In 1956 they began serious scientific exploration of the Antarctic, establishing nine permanent and summer stations in the Antarctic and its principal islands. Most of these were closed with the collapse of the Soviet Union, but are now up and running again. Russia has announced plans to spend \$30,000,000 in Antarctic exploration this year. The Russian announcement to improve its GLONASS navigation system is significant due to the magnetic anomalies on the Antarctic continent. Last year the Russians made headlines when the research ship Akademik Shokolskiy became stuck in Antarctic waters and the US, China, France and Australia had to rescue its passengers. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)***

**Source:** Interfax, 7 November 2014 <http://www.interfax.com/>

### Russia to launch its next Antarctic expedition

On December 7, the Akademik Fyodorov will set off for the Molodyozhnaya field base in Antarctica, which will be de-mothballed. “The tasks of the personnel of the base will include maintaining the snow runway for aircraft, environmental protection work, and meteorological and geodesic research. The Russian team will work together with Belarusian scientists, who will conduct hydrobiological, ozonometric and glaciological research,” the statement said.

Then the vessel will proceed to Russia’s Progress station. The period from December 22 to December 30 will be spent on the provision of logistic supplies for Progress, the partial replacement of its personnel, and the organization of geological and geophysical research at the station’s airfield camp and the Druzhnaya 4 field base.

Flights will start to the Vostok station deeper on the continent.

The Akademik Fyodorov will also visit the area of the Mirny station and Zavodovsky Cupola, a dome-shaped ice hill on which a field camp, to be called Druzhba (Friendship), is to be set up.

On February 8, the ship will go back to Cape Town to drop off the crews of the 60th Seasonal Expedition and 59th Wintering Antarctic Expedition, who will fly back to Russia from the South African city, and pick up the crew of the 60th Wintering Expedition, who will have arrived from St. Petersburg. The vessel will then return to Antarctica with the new crew.

The Akademik Fyodorov is due to return to St. Petersburg on May 7 after a trip of 180 days.

The 60th Seasonal Expedition is to carry out 70 research and logistics projects requested by 34 research institutions. U.S., German, Belarusian, Tajik and Argentine scientists will use the 60th Expedition’s infrastructure. Russian permafrost researchers and New Zealand scientists will jointly work in McMurdo Dry Valleys, an oasis near the United States’ McMurdo station believed to be the world’s oldest permafrost area.

“A new attempt to reach the Vostok subglacial lake is one of the most interesting projects of the 60th Expedition. At the end of the last season, the 59th Expedition stopped when it had 45 meters to get through from the deep well in the ice to the ice-water boundary,” AANII said.

“Moreover, new devices produced by various Roscosmos [Russian Federal Space Agency] will be installed at coastal stations of the Russian Antarctic Expedition as part of the ground infrastructure of the GLONASS navigation satellite system.”



AKADEMIK FEDOROV - Research/Survey Vessel.  
Source: [goo.gl/BwHBF1](http://goo.gl/BwHBF1)

**OE Watch Commentary:** A press representative of Russia's Baltic Fleet reported that on 22 October, the "Alexander Shabalin," one of its ships, set sail for the Mediterranean Sea. The landing ship departed out of the Baltic Sea's main naval base. Upon arrival in the Mediterranean, the "Alexander Shabalin" will replace the "Kaliningrad," which is currently stationed in the region. As reported in the first excerpt, the ship will traverse across the North Sea, the English Channel, and the Strait of Gibraltar to reach its final destination. On board is an antiterrorist Russian marine group who will carry out anti-air defense, naval training, and artillery firing exercises. The ship itself is purported to carry out amphibious landing operations, transporting both troops and military vehicles, including tanks, to shore.

The "Alexander Shabalin" send-off is not the only recent Russian naval initiative in the Mediterranean. Earlier this month, Russia's navy announced its intentions to conduct joint fleet exercises there, according to the second excerpt. On 15 October, the Northern Fleet's Captain Vadim Serga disclosed the plan for joint fleet exercises between the Northern Fleet's large anti-submarine ship "Vice-Admiral Kulakov" and the Black Sea Fleet's large landing ship "Novocherkassk." The exercises will focus on problems with joint maneuvering, and work to organize joint-fleet warship communication, protection, and defense.

These recent developments are part of a larger effort to bolster Russia's strategic presence in the region. There are reportedly ten ships from the Pacific, Baltic, North Sea, and Black Sea Fleets now running exercises and training programs in the Mediterranean. Russia's naval push into the Mediterranean traces back to March 2013, when ships from the Pacific Fleet were sent to the region. Given the recent increased tensions between Russia and the West and the strategic importance of the Mediterranean, Russia's continuing efforts to increase its naval military presence in this region merits closer scrutiny. **End OE Watch Commentary (Kangas)**

**Source:** "Корабль Балтфлота "Александр Шабалин" отправился к Средиземному морю" [Baltic Fleet ship "Alex Shabalin" leaves for the Mediterranean Sea]. RIA Novosti, 22 October 2014. [http://ria.ru/defense\\_safety/20141022/1029495353.html](http://ria.ru/defense_safety/20141022/1029495353.html)

The large landing ship of the Baltic Fleet "Alexander Shabalin" left from the main naval base in the Baltic and began its course to the Mediterranean sea, where it will replace the landing ship "Kaliningrad," reported a Baltic Fleet press representative on Wednesday.

"The landing ship "Alexander Shabalin" will go across the Black Sea, through the English Channel, and the Strait of Gibraltar. On board the ship is a group of anti-terrorist Marines associated with the Baltic Fleet. During their journey, they will conduct exercises in anti-aircraft and anti-submarine warfare, naval training, and artillery firing," he said in the report.

In the Mediterranean Sea are nearly ten ships from the Black Sea, Northern, and Baltic fleets of the Russian Navy. The "Alexander Shabalin" was designed for amphibious landings for sea and coastal transfers of troops and supplies. The ship is capable of transporting various types of armored vehicles, including tanks.

**Source:** "ВМФ России проведет учения в Средиземном море," [Russian Navy to conduct exercises in the Mediterranean]. RIA Novosti, 15 October 2014. [http://ria.ru/defense\\_safety/20141015/1028395712.html](http://ria.ru/defense_safety/20141015/1028395712.html)

The large anti-submarine ship of the Northern Fleet "Vice-Admiral Kulakov" and the large landing ship of the Black Sea Fleet "Novocherkassk" will conduct exercises in the Mediterranean Sea, reported the press representative of the Northern Fleet, first rank Captain Vadim Serga.

"In the near future, the ships of the Northern Fleet and Black Sea Fleet will meet in the central part of the Aegean Sea. Then at the transition between at the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea, the "Vice-Admiral Kulakov" and the "Novocherkassk" will work on the problems of joint maneuvering, and will conduct exercises to organize the communication, protection, and defense of warships," said Serga.



# Moscow's Nuanced Approach to Strengthening its Ties with Abkhazia

9 November 2014

*“This agreement is a new act against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia (...) and threatens the defensive capabilities of our country,” announced Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili, while calling on Parliament to pass judgment on this issue.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** *The accompanying French article outlines Georgian apprehension at political moves toward closer ties between breakaway Abkhazia and Moscow. While Moscow, as depicted in the second excerpt, has publicly championed the positive aspects of such strengthening of ties, this belies a series of complex factors that, on the whole, cause the authorities in both Sukhumi (the capital of Abkhazia) and Moscow to proceed with care.*

*Russian interests in Abkhazia are extensive and will not decrease in the foreseeable future. Abkhazia offers ready access to the Black Sea, has hosted past Soviet (and current Russian) military basing, and is historically viewed as one of the favored domains of Moscow's elite (in particular, for the security services). Moreover, the situation in Abkhazia, along with that of South Ossetia, continues to serve as insurance against any significant moves by Georgia toward future NATO accession.*

*Notwithstanding these benefits to Russia, the complexities presented by some form of political unification with Russia are considerable. Although the Abkhaz political leadership certainly would like to further consolidate its breakaway status, it would not welcome a corresponding threat to its independence. While Russian governmental offices continue to acquire properties and facilitate investment in Abkhazia, the thought of future Russian citizens – and ethnic Georgians – doing this would likely provoke a less receptive response in Sukhumi. (The return of some Georgians to the border Gali region has already presented Sukhumi authorities with challenges.)*

*For all of these reasons, and in concert with external factors (the conflict in Ukraine, the decline in oil and natural gas prices), Moscow will likely try to increase its Abkhaz ties in a targeted fashion without incurring political and societal costs that would not be welcome in either Sukhumi or Moscow. **End OE Watch Commentary (Sarafian)***

**Source:** “Abkhazie: la Georgie met en garde la Russie” (Abkhazia: Georgia warns Russia), Le Figaro, 15 October 2014. <http://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/2014/10/15/97001-20141015FILWWW00317-abkhazie-la-georgie-met-en-garde-la-russie.php>

Georgia today warned Moscow against any leaning toward “annexation” of the Georgian breakaway republic of Abkhazia after the introduction of a draft bill in the Abkhaz Parliament on Abkhazia and Russia becoming closer.

... The signing of such an agreement could significantly change the situation in the region and “create additional problems” for European security, underscored the [Foreign] ministry. A draft agreement “on cooperation and the integration” of Abkhazia to Russia, which notably provides for the creation of combined armed forces, was submitted ... to the Abkhaz Parliament by the leader of this rebel region.

The text [of the draft bill] ... also calls for the creation of a “common economic and customs space” between Moscow and Abkhazia.

“This agreement is a new act against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia (...) and threatens the defensive capabilities of our country,” announced Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili, while calling on Parliament to pass judgment on this issue.

**Source:** Zamakhina, T. “Вместе будет безопаснее” (Together It Will be Safer), Независимая газета (Independent Newspaper), 19 April 2010. [http://www.ng.ru/cis/2010-04-19/1\\_belorussia.html](http://www.ng.ru/cis/2010-04-19/1_belorussia.html)

“The draft document provides for the formation of a common space of defense and security. The creation of a single external line of defense will allow for the opening of the Russian-Abkhaz border, which will facilitate a further increase of cooperation,” - said Dmitry Peskov [press-secretary of President Putin]



## Functions, Structure of the National Defense Management Center

*“The novelty of this approach is that from top to bottom, at the federal, regional, territorial, and local levels, a ‘stem’ structure has been created for continuous monitoring and operational analysis of the situation and preparation of proposals for the leadership for organizing the fulfillment of priority measures on the emergence of irregular or crisis situations.”*

**OE Watch Commentary:** General of the Army Valeriy Gerasimov, Chief of the Russian General Staff, recently discussed the importance of the Russian Federation’s new National Defense Management Center. He noted that contemporary conditions are marked by high volumes of information flow, which have decreased dramatically the time factor for the transmission of vital information from weeks to minutes. Constant monitoring of the world situation is necessary, since many other countries also have these capabilities, enabling them to take advantage of situations faster than Russia can respond. It is the job of the Center to alleviate this situation and replace what Gerasimov describes as a cumbersome information collection system. Now there is a permanent system handling operational management.

The two main centers within the Center are the Combat Management Center and the Center for Management of Day-to-Day Activities of the Troops (see excerpts below for a description of their responsibilities). There is also a Center for Special Issues, which was not further identified.  
**End OE Watch Commentary (Thomas)**

**Source:** Report by the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Service and Information Directorate, “Chief of the Russian General Staff Tells Journalists About Tasks and the Role of the Russian Federation National Defense Management Center,” Website of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, 1 November 2014.

The National Center has two main centers within it: the combat management center and the center for management of day-to-day activities of the troops (forces), as well as several management centers for special issues. The main centers are designed as follows: the combat management center -- for maintaining the combat potential of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in general and also of groupings of troops (forces) in strategic salients in both peacetime and wartime at a necessary and sufficient level of readiness to rebuff possible aggression and for the management of troops (forces) in the performance of their combat and special tasks; the center for management of day-to-day activities -- for operational coordination of the activities of military management bodies and federal executive bodies at all levels for maintaining the troops (forces) in a combat-ready and combat-capable condition and for monitoring the fulfillment of the State Defense Order, financial, material and technical, medical, and housing provision, cadre training, international military cooperation, and other types of activity.

“I will venture once again to remind you, to ensure uniform understanding, of what the National Center is. It is an extremely strong, self-sufficient mechanism constituting professionally trained operational duty shifts at all levels of management from the tactical to the strategic that are on alert duty 24/7 in specially equipped premises supplied with the most up-to-date means of communication and automation. They carry out monitoring in all areas of activity both within the Armed Forces and within the framework of the entire military organization of the Russian Federation in implementation of the National Defense Plan,” General of the Army Valeriy Gerasimov summed up.



## Are Soldiers Needed on Future Battlefields?

22 October 2014

*“If you were to be transported into the future, when these problems have already been solved, it would really be possible to use robots on the battlefield. A single operator will control a platoon of robots that will have a high level of autonomy. The robots will already be able to interact with one another, distribute goals, and combine the weaponry that they have.”*

**Source:** Interview by correspondent with Vitaliy Davydov, “We Are Decreasing the Need for a Person’s Presence on the Battlefield by Leaps and Bounds,” VPK.name, 22 October 2014.

**OE Watch Commentary:** Vitaliy Davydov is the assistant general director of the Advanced Research Foundation (Russia’s equivalent to the US’s Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency or DARPA) and chairman of its science and technology council. He spoke to a correspondent from the Russian defense-industrial complex in late October about the 40 or so projects under development at the foundation, which include high-precision weapons and high-precision inertial systems; Ratnik (soldier) systems with new armor and better protection against chemical agents; advanced sniper systems; hypersonic systems; quick deployed groupings of small spacecraft with surveillance equipment; quick deployment of a swarm of small and inexpensive spacecraft to destroy or jam other spacecraft; new types of bullets; information countermeasures, such as ensuring the Internet remains stable; projects related to discovering, recovering, and transporting minerals in the Arctic; and projects related to underwater robotics.

Davydov also discussed the coming decade, where scientists are contemplating the future use of avatars that can be controlled simply by thought. He added that weaponry based on new physical principles, such as laser, particle beam, and microwave weapons, have been developed as prototypes (only models are being developed at the present time due to the high cost associated with developing the actual weapons on a mass scale). Finally, in the future, weapons, equipment, spare parts, and ammunition will not be brought to where combat actions are being conducted; rather, local 3D printers will produce the required items at the combat site for much of the equipment that is needed. **End OE Watch Commentary (Thomas)**

**Davydov:** As of now, the foundation’s science and technology council has approved approximately 40 projects and recommended them for implementation. Contracts for about half of them have been entered into. The foundation’s action plan called for reaching the level of 45 projects this year. We are prepared to achieve these indicators. However, the specific scope of our projects will also depend on the foundation’s funding level in 2015-2017.

**Davydov:** Before selecting projects, we identify the threats that are critical from the standpoint of the country’s defense and security. Ways and means of countering each threat are identified, and research and development directions geared toward their implementation are formulated. Some of these directions may be the same for different threats.

**Davydov:** Project selection is regulated by the relevant policy. And it begins with determining with a proposed project’s consistency with the specified research direction. Next, expert scientific-technical and technical-economic reviews of each application are conducted. The foundation’s commission, independent experts, and expert organizations take part in them.

**Correspondent:** Have the sanctions imposed against Russia had an effect on the Advanced Research Foundation’s work? **Davydov:** They have not had any effect on the foundation’s work. The foundation does not have any restrictions with regard to the use of a foreign component base, materials, technologies, or software.

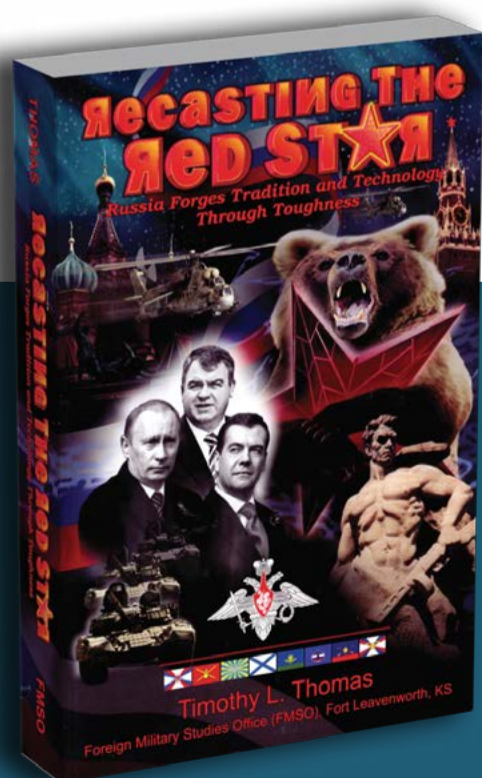
**Correspondent:** Is the Advanced Research Foundation working jointly with DARPA to some extent? **Davydov:** We have not had any official contacts with DARPA. We are of course tracking the topics of their projects about which information appears in the press. I have no doubt that DARPA’s employees are also looking at our projects. Theoretically, we would be able to find common interests -- for example, in the area of biomedical research or management of the asteroid threat. But this is purely theoretical... cooperating with foreign partners is inevitable -- but only with those we can count on and that will not give us any surprises. On this plane, the BRICS member states are the most promising participants in the foundation’s projects.

**Correspondent:** Are we not reaching the point shown in the Terminator films, when the Advanced Research Foundation will have to create countermeasures against robots? **Davydov:** Perhaps.... We are moving by leaps and bounds toward a situation where there is less need for humans’ direct presence on the battlefield. The philosophy

*(continued)*

## ***Continued: Are Soldiers Needed on Future Battlefields?***

of armed conflict will be different. If human casualties used to be one of the factors confirming the superiority of one of a conflict's participants over the other, what consequences will be able to talk about when robots destroy one another? It is really about economic losses. The psychological factor of combat actions is changing. Shooting at a person requires going against certain moral principles, and if robots will be doing the fighting, the bar for initiating combat actions could decrease significantly.



**Tim Thomas's *Recasting the Red Star* describes Russia's culture of military thought through its modernization effort. Adding to his robust library of work on the subject, Tim Thomas illuminates Russia's Defense Ministry reform efforts, the Russian national security strategy take on the operational environment, and a relevant review of the Russian military doctrine.**