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Armscor issues bid for border patrol vehicles





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Editor-in-Chief
Sarah Lesedi

Editorial
Ekene Lionel

Creative Director
• Patrick Kenyatte

Correspondents
• Darek Liam
• Patrick Kenyatte
• Kazim Abdul

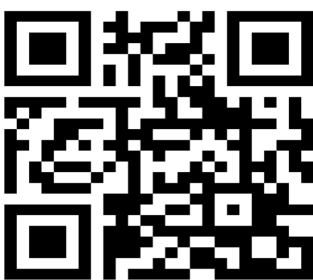
Publisher
Lionstar Technologies

Advertising and Editorial Enquiries
Email: Business@military.africa
Tel: +234 810 368 9898

Email
Business@military.africa
Africanmilitaryblog@gmail.com

Website
www.military.africa

Address:
Wuse 2 district, Federal
Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria



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Arm Scor issues bid for border patrol vehicles

The tender specifies three distinct vehicle variants: 210 Section variants, 144 Command variants, and 108 Ambulance variants.

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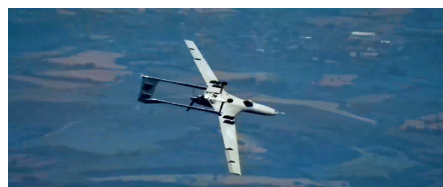
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Arm Scor issues bid for border patrol vehicles



SVI's continuous innovation and product development has resulted in the latest version of our armoured personnel carrier (APC), the MAX 9. This 8-seater (driver and seven passengers) features a payload capacity of 2 000 kg.

Sarah Lesedi



The Maatla provides, as a minimum, ballistic and blast protections to STANAG 4569 Level 1, and can protect against handguns and other small caliber ball rounds. It also provides underbelly protection against M26 hand grenades or a blast equivalent.

The South African Army's extensive search for armored personnel carriers (APCs) for border patrol duties has progressed with the publication of a new invitation to bid by Armscor.

The tender, was released on July 23 and seeks proposals for nearly 500 APCs to support both internal and external missions of the South African Army.

Over a dozen local companies received invitations from Armscor to submit their APCs for testing and functional evaluation along the border in October last year. They were subsequently invited to participate in Exercise Vuk'uhlome at the South African Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha in November, providing an opportunity for display and exhibition.

The tender specifies three distinct vehicle variants: 210 Section variants, 144 Command variants, and 108 Ambulance variants.

Armscor's preference is for off-

the-shelf vehicles that can be adapted with modifications to meet local conditions and specific requirements of the South African Army.

A bidders' conference is set to take place on July 31 at Armscor, with the deadline for bids falling on August 23. The anticipated delivery date for the vehicles is March 15, 2025.

In the tender document, Armscor specifies that the armored personnel carriers must have a payload capacity of at least 1.5 tons and a maximum gross vehicle mass (GVM) of 13.5 tons.

The vehicles must be air transportable by Ilyushin Il-76 or Airbus A400M aircraft and capable of being transported by ships and flatbed rail containers.

The minimum protection standard required is against kinetic threats up to STANAG 4569 Level 1, which includes protection from small caliber 7.62×51 mm rounds.

The vehicles should also feature fire suppression systems, run-flat tires, and central tire

inflation systems (CTIS).

The vehicles must be 4×4, with a road range of at least 600 km, a top speed exceeding 100 km/h on paved surfaces, a cruising speed of 80 km/h, and an average speed of 30 km/h off-road. They should be powered by diesel engines with automatic transmissions and capable of operating in temperatures ranging from -11 to +50 degrees Celsius.

Additional technical requirements include a self-recovery winch, tow hitch, air conditioning, roof hatches, 150 liters of drinking water storage, exterior lighting, a weapon ring mount, and provision for a weapon station (up to 450 kg) on the roof.

The Section variant must accommodate a driver and a crew of ten. The Command variant needs to be equipped with HF, VHF, and ground-to-air radios, as well as a robust auxiliary power supply system. The Ambulance variant must include HF and VHF radios, accommodate a driver and medic, and feature a medical compartment with a minimum

Twiga's Nyati is a mine-resistant and ambush-protected vehicle (MRAP), with standard NATO STANAG Level 2 ballistic protection up to 7.62×39 mm armor-piercing rounds; Level 4B blast protection protects up to 10 kg mines under the vehicle.



height of 1.6 meters and width of 1.7 meters. It should also be equipped with a bench, stretcher, and medical equipment, including a defibrillator, suction unit, and oxygen cylinders.

These new APCs are set to replace the existing fleet of troop pack vehicles, which consisted of over 400 Toyota Land Cruisers originally purchased for border patrol duties. National Treasury has allocated R500 million for the 2024/25 fiscal year to fund the procurement of these new vehicles.

Seven prominent South African defence companies have stepped up to the challenge, submitting their vehicles for rigorous testing and evaluation along the nation's borderlines.

Among the participants in this rigorous evaluation process, DCD Protected Mobility is presenting an impressive lineup, including the Springbuck SD, Springbuck HD with Command & Control system (in conjunction with GC2T), Springbuck Multi-Platform, and potentially, the Husky, showcasing a comprehensive solution.

Twiga, on the other hand, contemplated submitting its Nyati APC but decided against it, deeming the Nyati specifications to exceed the border patrol requirements, making it more suitable for motorized infantry operations.

OTT Solutions is contributing its Puma M36 Mk 6 4x4 APC, Paramount is presenting its new Maatla lightweight 4x4 APC, and Milkor is offering its 4x4 APC. Automotive Investment Holdings (AIH) has collaborated with Integrated Convoy Protection (ICP) to provide the Reva V armoured personnel carrier. SVI will also

participate with its Max 3 lightweight, low-cost armoured vehicle.

Meanwhile, Armscor recently announced a significant tender for the development of specialized 6x6 vehicles tailored for the South African Special Forces. This initiative is part of a broader effort to augment the operational capabilities and firepower of the forces during critical missions.

Two potential contenders are South African-based SVI and Armormax with their Max 9 and TAC-6 respectively.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) recently resuscitated hundreds of inoperable military vehicles, giving the army a much-needed boost in its capabilities.

The vehicles, which had been standing idle for years, were refurbished by technical service personnel at De Brug, Army Base outside Bloemfontein in August last year. The refurbishment process included repairing or replacing damaged parts, repainting the vehicles, and testing them to ensure that they were in good working order.

Similarly, in 2022, close to a hundred Cuban military mechanics and technicians from the Caribbean Island nation's military helped refurbish and repair more than 10,000 Samil and similar vehicles of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). Over R277 million have been spent on repairing and preserving military vehicles, Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Defence and Military Veterans (PCDMV) was informed.

The v-shaped hull Puma M36 4x4 is an armoured personnel carrier (APC) with mine and IED protection. It is an evolutionary and larger extension of the Puma M26.



LAND | SEA | AIR

Mwari. Legendary African Warrior



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PARAMOUNT

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Egyptian army to get Oshkosh Defense utility vehicles



The U.S. Department of Defense announced on May 26 that Oshkosh Defense was awarded a \$26,067,335 firm-fixed-price contract for procurement of M978A4 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck Tankers, M984A4 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck Wreckers and M1070A1 Heavy Equipment Transporters. Fiscal 2010 Foreign Military Sales (Egypt) funds in the amount of \$26,067,335 were obligated at the time of the award.

Bids were solicited via the internet with one received. Work will be performed in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with an estimated completion date of Jan. 31, 2023. U.S. Army Contracting Command, Detroit Arsenal, Michigan, is the contracting activity.

The Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) is an 8x8, diesel-powered, 10-short-ton (9,100 kg) tactical truck. The M977 HEMTT first entered service in 1982 with the U.S. Army as a replacement for the M520 Goer, and since that date has remained in production for the U.S. Army and other nations. By Q2 2021, around 35,800 HEMTTs in various configurations had been produced by Oshkosh Defense through new-build contracts and around 14,000 of these had been re-manufactured. Current variants have the A4 suffix.

The M978 is a 9,500-liter capacity tanker. The current model is the M978A4; there was no M978A1. The M978A0 was produced in both potable water (approx-

imately 18) and fuel servicing truck variants, the A2 and A4 models have only been produced in the fuel servicing truck variant.

The M984 wrecker is the only HEMTT variant to have been produced in the A1 configuration, and thus resulting in the change of recovery crane and retrieval system between A0 and A1 configurations. The current model is the M984A4. Standard equipment includes a 27,240 kg (60,050 lb) capacity two-speed recovery winch, a rear-mounted 11,340 kg capacity vehicle retrieval system, and a 6,350 kg (14,000 lb) at 2.74 m (9.0 ft) capacity Grove materials handling crane. A 9,072 kg (20,000 lb) bare drum capacity self-recovery winch is fitted as standard on the M984.



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SKIFTECH

Ivory Coast acquires additional Chinese armour



EKENE LIONEL

Ivorian military has acquired additional armoured vehicles from China, to enhance its combat lethality.

Ivory Coast Armed Forces marked the nation's Independence Day on August 7, 2024, with a grand military parade showcasing the latest additions to their military arsenal. Among the display were newly acquired combat armoured vehicles from China, including the VN-22B 105mm 6×6 fire support armoured vehicle, the VP11 Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle, the CS/SS4 4×4 852 self-propelled mortar carrier vehicle, and the Dongfeng Mengshi EQ2050F 4×4 tactical vehicle.

VN-22B 105mm 6×6 Fire Support Armored Vehicle

The VN-22B 105mm 6×6 is a fire support armoured vehicle based on the NORINCO VN2 platform, it was delivered in January this year. The VN-22B is designed to deliver powerful direct fire support to infantry units.

cannon, which can fire a variety of ammunition types, including high-explosive (HE) rounds, high-explosive anti-tank (HEAT) rounds, and armor-piercing fin-stabilized discarding sabot (APFSDS) rounds. This diverse ammunition capability allows the VN-22B to engage a wide range of targets, from infantry and fortified positions to enemy armored vehicles.

VP11 Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicle

The VP11 is a family of mine-protected patrol vehicles produced by China North Industries (Norinco). These four-wheeled vehicles are specifically designed with a one-piece armored V-shaped hull, which effectively directs the explosive force of enemy mines outward, away from the vehicle's occupants, thereby enhancing crew survivability. One variant of the VP11 family serves as an armored personnel carrier (APC), capable of transporting seven soldiers in addition to the vehicle's driver and commander/gunner.

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L-39NG demonstrator arrives in Algeria for flight trials

Darek Liam

Algeria, a North African nation with a growing military presence, is exploring the acquisition of the L-39NG advanced jet trainer to replace its aging fleet of L-39 Albatross aircraft. The Czech-made L-39NG demonstrator arrived in Algeria this week to commence a series of test flights aimed at assessing its suitability for the Algerian Air Force's training needs.

The Algerian Air Force has a long history with the L-39 Albatross, having operated 54 of these aircraft for over two decades. While the Albatross has served its purpose well, the L-39NG represents a significant upgrade in terms of technology and capabilities. The new aircraft features a modern glass cockpit, improved avionics, and a more powerful engine that offers increased range and endurance.

The latest developed subsonic jet aircraft, the L-39NG, a new generation of the legendary Albatros trainer, received type certification in 2022 without restrictions. Czech manufacturer

AERO Vodochody can now sell it worldwide.

One of the key advantages of the L-39NG is its versatility. In addition to its primary role as a trainer, the aircraft can also be configured for ground attack missions. It is compatible with a range of weapons, including bombs, missiles, and gun pods, making it a valuable asset for both training and combat operations.

The aircraft is a direct successor to the L-39C, which has trained thousands of professional pilots. This jet is capable of fulfilling the role of a light attack aircraft and a single, comprehensive aircraft for full training of pilots of modern air forces. The L-39NG uses contemporary production technologies and modern equipment. The avionics of the aircraft is ready for training future pilots of fourth and fifth generation aircraft. The aircraft also includes a wide range of simulation technologies, including the upcoming integration into a highly advanced tactical simulation center to increase training effectiveness.

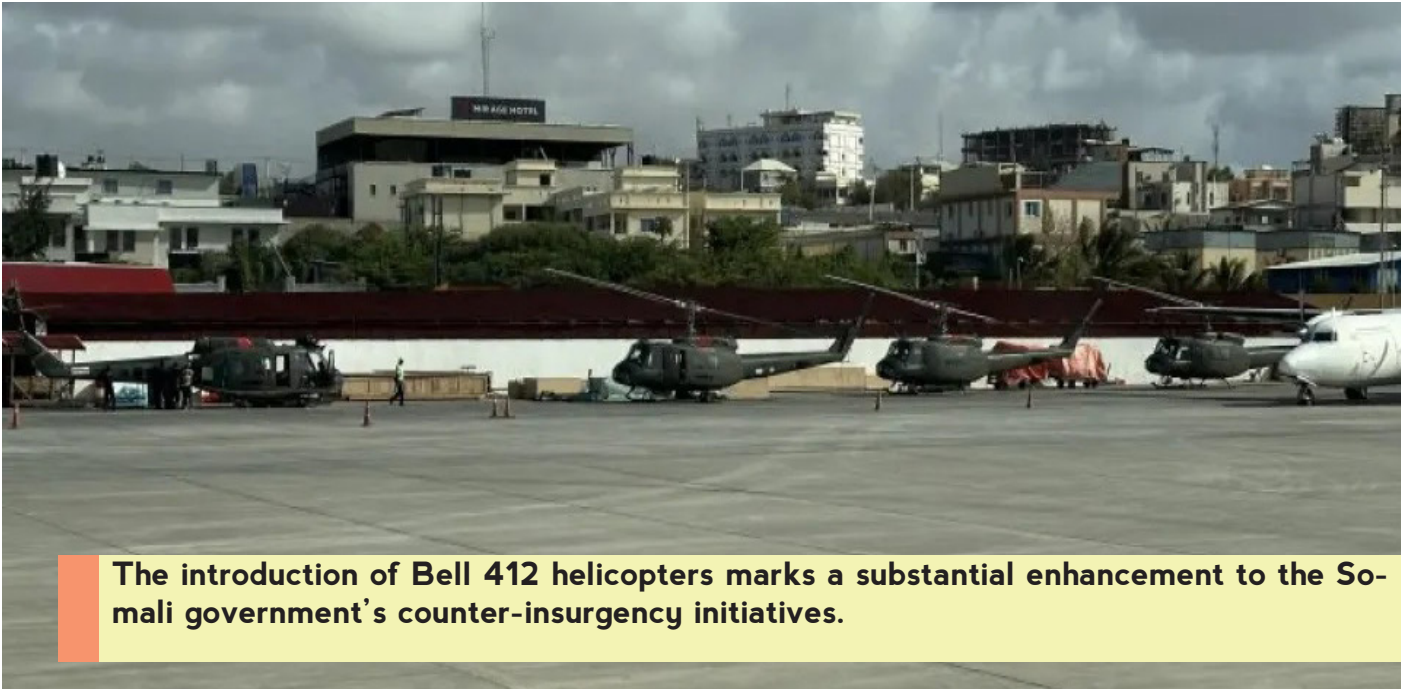
The L-39NG's potential acquisition by Algeria would align with the country's broader military modernization efforts. The aircraft could play a vital role in training future generations of Algerian fighter pilots, providing them with the skills and experience needed to operate advanced combat aircraft such as the ****YAK-130****.

As the L-39NG demonstrator undergoes rigorous testing in Algeria, the Algerian Air Force will carefully evaluate its performance and capabilities to determine whether it meets their specific requirements. A decision on whether to proceed with the procurement is expected to be made in the coming months.

Meanwhile, in another north African nation - Tunisia, Czech's Aero Vodochody and United States Textron, is competing for the contract to replace twelve Aero Vodochody L-59T Super Albatros advanced trainer and light attack aircraft is approaching the end of its service life by the year 2024.

Italy supplies Bell 412 helicopters to Somalia

PATRICK KENYATTE



Somalia has received a significant shipment of four Bell 412EPX helicopters, marking the largest single delivery since the lifting of the arms embargo. The \$16 million helicopters, provided by the Italian government, were officially handed over to the Somali government earlier this week.

The helicopters will be used in the fight against Al Shabaab.

These Bell 412 are the latest batch received by Somalia in recent times from international parties (likely Italy). In July last year, it took delivery of two of the type, while awaiting a further three.

The Bell 412 is a twin-engine helicopter renowned for its versatility and reliability, making it ideal for various applications such as troop transport, medical evacuation, and search and rescue operations. Its robust design ensures optimal performance even in the challenging conditions of Somalia.

The introduction of Bell 412 helicopters marks a substantial enhancement to the Somali government's counter-insurgency initiatives. These helicopters will enable rapid deployment of troops and supplies to remote regions and facilitate medical evacuations for injured personnel.

The Somali government is still facing a number of challenges, but it is making progress in its fight against Al-Shabaab. The arrival of the Bell 412 helicopters is a major boost for the government's efforts.

The African Union Transitional Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) has withdrawn about 2,000 troops in June 30, and another 3,000 is expected to be withdrawn in September in compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2628 and 2670, which mandates ATMIS to also hand over security responsibilities in agreed areas to Somali security forces.

Nigeria's A-29 Super Tucanos achieve 10,000 flight hours

Ekene Lionel

The Nigerian Air Force A-29 Super Tucano light attack aircraft recently surpassed 10,000 flight hours. With 12 Super Tucanos delivered to Nigeria, this achievement reflects the Super Tucanos unmatched reach, multi-mission versatility and proven tactical performance capabilities.

Operators and crews from Nigeria contributed to this achievement, logging hours through different mission requirements including combat, training, Special Operations, and ISR.

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar, was in Kainji, Niger State, earlier on 15 August 2024, to celebrate the achievement of a significant flying milestone by Nigerian Air Force (NAF) pilots, who have now logged 10,000 flight hours on the A-29 Super Tucano aircraft fleet. Speaking at the event, Air Marshal Abubakar noted that the milestone represented the culmination of years of dedication, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to NAF's mission of "ensuring the integrity of the airspace by gaining and maintaining control of the air while retaining a credible capacity to fulfill other airpower tasks demanded by National defence and security imperatives".

According to him, "Reaching 10,000 flight hours is no small feat as it symbolizes the countless hours of training, meticulous planning, and flawless execution that have gone into every mission we have undertaken." He also stated that the feat represented the exceptional skills, professionalism, and resilience of NAF's brave men and women who have served and are currently serving.


The CAS also expressed delight that the milestone was achieved without any major incident on the aircraft, which he attributed to the high premium the NAF places on safety. "Invariably, strict adherences to safety measures



emplaced are enabling us to achieve the desired results,' he noted. He then went on to pay tribute to NAF's fallen heroes, noting that the milestone was a reminder of their sacrifices, courage and commitment which have continued to, 'inspire us all and remind us of the importance of our mission.'

On the dynamic security environment, Air Marshal Abubakar reminded the pilots on the need to remain focused on the challenges ahead. According to him, "The world continues to change, and new threats emerge every day. Our commitment to excellence must remain steadfast, and we must continue to adapt, innovate, and evolve to stay ahead of our adversaries." He then spoke on NAF's efforts in the various internal security operations across the nation, which have been critical to decimating terrorists and other criminals as well as supporting ground offensives by own troops. While praising the unit commander and crew for their tireless efforts at ensuring the accomplishment of all missions in support of NAF's mandate, the CAS reminded them of the need to be focused and united in their purpose, and resolute in their determination to protect the Nation and its interests.

STRONG SUPPORT

A Mi-28NE combat helicopter is shown in flight against a clear blue sky. The helicopter is dark green and black, equipped with various armaments including missiles and rocket launchers. The number '1811' is visible on the side of the fuselage. The main rotor blades are blurred due to motion.

Mi-28NE

Combat helicopter



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Paramount tests South Korea's KF-21 stealth fighter radar

SARAH LESEDI

South African defense company Paramount is at the forefront of testing the radar system for South Korea's KF-21 Boramae stealth fighter jet. The radar in question is the Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA), a critical component of the indigenous KF-21 program. Let's delve into the details.

The AESA radar represents a significant technological challenge. Initially, South Korea sought to acquire AESA radar technology from the United States. However, export restrictions prevented this, prompting the country to embark on its own radar development journey. The KF-21 AESA radar program marks South Korea's first foray into AESA radar technology, with potential applications beyond the KF-21.

The KF-21's AESA radar was developed locally, with Hanwha Systems providing the hardware and LIG Nex1 the software.

Under the auspices of the South Korean Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA), the project involves collaboration between the South Korean Agency of Defense Development (ADD), Hanwha Systems Co (HSC), and Paramount Aerospace Systems. Paramount, acting as a subcontractor alongside Italian aerospace company Leonardo, is responsible for testing the radar.

In December 2021, airborne tests of the KF-21's AESA radar took place in South Africa. Developers from ADD and HSC participated in these crucial evaluations. Subsequently,

in South Korea, airborne tests continued after the modified Boeing 737 arrived in March. The radar was integrated into a new nose section before further testing in South Africa.

The modified Boeing 737 (registration ZS-TFJ, msn 26541) was previously flying for Ceskoslovenske Aerolinie and Czech Airlines, it transitioned to Africa Aircraft Maintenance and was later taken over by Paramount Aerospace Systems. In July 2020, it bore AESA testing markings, although the modified nose was not yet in place.

Between November 2022 and February 2023, the modified Boeing 737 conducted 18 radar test flights, with flight tracking data revealing multiple sorties from Wonderboom.



The OPV 76 vessel follows a modular design, offering versatility for a range of maritime operations.

Nigeria's OPV 76 begins sea trials in Turkey ahead of delivery

Ekene Lionel

The first of two cutting-edge OPV 76 offshore patrol vessels for the Nigerian Navy has commenced sea trials in Turkey.

The first OPV 76 put to sea on the for the first time on 22 August, a d reaching a speed of 30 knots. This trial marks a major step forward in enhancing Nigeria's maritime defence and security capabilities.

Also, Nigerian Navy personnel in Türkiye receiving maintenance level training on Abramak IP based integrated communication system to

be installed on 2x 76m Dearsan Offshore patrol vessels.

In August 2021, the Nigerian Navy expressed its intention to procure two new offshore patrol vessels. This move received approval from former President Muhammadu Buhari, setting the stage for the construction of these essential vessels. Dearsan Shipyard began constructing the vessel on September 16, 2022, and it has now come to fruition with the successful launch.

Turkish Dearsan Shipyard successfully launched the first 76m Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) for the Nigerian Navy on October 26,

2023. The second vessel of the class was also launched on the 19th of April 2024.

The contract for the two vessels was signed between Dearsan and the Nigerian Navy on the 3rd of November 2021. Dearsan Shipyard began constructing the vessel (P 203) on September 16, 2022. The first 76 meters vessel of the type for the Nigerian Navy was launched on October 26, 2023.

The OPV 76 vessel follows a modular design, offering versatility for a range of maritime operations. In peacetime, it will be deployed for off-shore patrol duties, ensuring maritime security and surveillance. However, the vessel's design also allows it to be swiftly equipped with sensors and weapons, transforming it into a formidable force for warfare and maritime defense purposes. This adaptability is achieved at a cost-effective price, a crucial factor for the Nigerian Navy.

The high endurance offshore patrol vessel OPV -76 has an overall length of 76.90 meters, a beam of 11.90 meters and a displacement of 1,100 tons, according to the video released by the company. The vessel will be operated by 47 personnel and have a range of 2500 nautical miles at an economical speed. HE OPV 76 will be able to stay at sea for 16 days. The ship has a flight deck that can house a single helicopter but no hangar.

The main gun of the ship will be the 40-millimetre MARLIN gun of Leonardo and will be armed with the Aselsan's 30-millimetre SMASH at the stern of the ship. The ship will also be equipped with two Aselsan 12.7 mm RWS STAMP.

The Turkish company HAVELSAN will supply the ADVENT combat management system for the new OPVs, and the operator consoles will be supplied by another Turkish company, YALTES. The sensor suit of the new OPVs consists of the 2D surface search radar from the Italian company GEM Elettronica and the fire control system EO.

In addition, the vessels will be equipped with HAVELSAN ADVENT Combat Management System (CMS), HAVELSAN Ship Data Distribution System (SDDS), two operator consoles

manufactured by YALTES (for ADVENT SYS), YALTES Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), Italian GEM Elettronica product 2D radar (with surface and air surveillance capability), and GEM Elettronica product electro-optical fire control system.

OPV-76 ships will be fitted with four MAN product diesel engines (18VP185), and it is stated that the vessels can reach a maximum speed of 28 knots. Constructed in line with the Türk Loydu Ship Classification rules, the hulls of OPV-76s will be made of steel sheets, and marine aluminium (Sealium) will be used in the ship superstructure. The operational range of the ships is stated as 2.500nm (nautical miles). A contract was signed with HeliPLAT Co.Ltd. for the certification engineering, testing, and HAT/SAT activities of the helicopter platform on the OPV-76 ships.

The high endurance offshore patrol vessels OPV-76s will carry two RHIBs for interdiction operations.

According to Dearsan, the OPV 76 vessels have been tailored to meet the specific requirements of the Nigerian Navy.

Armament includes a Marlin 40 (40 mm) main gun, Aselsan 30 mm Muhafiz remote controlled stabilized naval gun and 12.7 mm STAMP remotely controlled weapon station (RCWS).



Tunisia acquires additional Archangel boats from the US



The US government emphasized that this sale would better equip Tunisia to contribute to shared security objectives.

Darek Liam

Tunisia, has taken steps to enhance its maritime security capabilities. Recently, the United States State Department approved a significant sale of 65-foot Archangel boats to Tunisia.

On August 20, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) notified Congress of the proposed sale. The Tunisian government had requested additional non-MDE (Major Defense Equipment) 65-foot SAFE Archangel boats, along with related articles and services.

The original Foreign Military Sales case, valued at \$49.3 million, included these boats as well as commercial variant marine global positioning systems, navigation systems, communications equipment, training, and logistical support.

The total cost of the expanded sale is \$110 million.

Archangel boats are mostly for brown water operations in near shore operations that are useful for anti-smuggling activity and light security patrols. Although, the number of vessels wasn't disclosed in the announcement.

"The proposed sale will better equip Tunisia to contribute to shared security objectives, promote regional stability, and build interoperability with the United States and Western partners," the DCSA announcement said. "The Tunisian Navy uses the 65' SAFE boats for search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, and other maritime-related operations to ensure security in the country and region."

The Archangel boats, manufactured by Washington-based SAFE Boats International, serve multiple purposes. These vessels are equipped with dual 1,600 hp diesel engines, shock-mitigating seating, and climate control. Each MTU 10V2000 engine drives a Hamilton HM521 water-jet with 340 kW impellers, enabling speeds exceeding 40 knots. With a range of up to 400 nautical miles, they are well-suited for search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, and other security-related operations.

Located on the Southern coast of the Mediterranean, Tunisia has struggled with illegal immigration routes from the south and through towards Europe, as well influxes from both its neighboring countries, Algeria and Libya, through porous borders.

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
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Buckler Land Systems signs joint arms production agreement with DICON



EKENE LIONEL

Military equipment manufacturer located in Nigeria Buckler Land Systems recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Defence Industries Cooperation of Nigeria (DICON) for the joint production of military hardware for the Nigerian Army and other security agencies.

Buckler's CEO Olatunji Omotoriogu posted on LinkedIn that "Today marks a significant milestone for us at Buckler Land Systems,"

"This collaboration will also see us exporting our excess production capacity to support other Armies in Africa. This achievement is the result of a process that began 6 years ago."

"The timing of this partnership aligns perfectly with our recent groundbreaking ceremony for our 180,000 Sqft state-of-the-art industrial complex. This facility will focus on producing security equipment to bolster the operations of our armed forces."

"Gratitude goes out to His Excellency, the Honorable Minister of Defence, The Chief of

Defence Staff, The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, and the DG of DICON for this opportunity."

Buckler Land Systems manufactures civilian armoured vehicles, turnkey/Engineering, procurement and construction contracts for armoured Vehicle plants, design, prototyping and manufacture of military vehicles, and manufacture of ordnance equipment.

The Defence Industries Cooperation of Nigeria (DICON) has announced that it has resumed the production of arms and ammunition after years of suspension, following a series of reforms and funding from the government and foreign partners.

DICON, the state-owned corporation responsible for the production and supply of defence equipment to the Nigerian military and other security agencies, had been facing operational and financial challenges that hampered its ability to meet the country's defence needs.

Rheinmetall acquires South African Resonant Holdings to boost ammunition production

Germany's defense giant Rheinmetall is making strategic moves to address the surging global demand for ammunition. The company recently announced an agreement to acquire a majority stake in South African engineering firm Resonant Holdings, positioning itself to meet the urgent needs of military forces worldwide.

Rheinmetall will own 51% of the newly formed joint venture, with existing Resonant shareholders retaining the remaining 49% stake. Resonant, known for its expertise in chemical and explosives plant engineering, employs approximately 150 professionals. The acquisition aims to enhance Rheinmetall's capabilities in ammunition production, with an estimated annual sales potential exceeding €100 million (U.S. \$109 million).

"The planned acquisition is Rheinmetall's response to the growing global demand in the ammunition sector and the resulting customer requirements for the construction of corresponding production facilities. Rheinmetall is therefore significantly expanding its existing capabilities in ammunition production by vertically integrating further competences, thus positioning itself even more robustly for the independent planning, construction and operation of production facilities for the manufacture of chemical products such as propellant powder and explo-



sives," Rheinmetall said in a statement.

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has underscored the critical importance of ammunition stockpiles. NATO members, including Germany and the U.K., have realized that years of defense budget cuts left them ill-prepared for high-intensity warfare. Consequently, governments are urgently replenishing their ammo reserves, resulting in substantial orders for shells and powder from companies like Rheinmetall and BAE Systems.

Rheinmetall's acquisition of Resonant is a strategic response to this growing demand. By vertically integrating further competence, the German defense company aims to expand its existing ammunition production capabilities significantly.

Resonant's expertise aligns seamlessly with Rheinmetall's plant engineering capabilities. The South African firm specializes in chemical, energetic, and explosives technology. Notably, Resonant's Nuteq division has contributed to rocket and satellite fuel development

and led the establishment of South Africa's first nitration plant, capable of producing explosive materials like RDX, PETN, and NTO. This expands Rheinmetall's ability to offer a comprehensive range of services, including the design, construction and commissioning of state-of-the-art plants tailored to the specific needs of global partners.

"At the same time, the partnership offers Resonant a strong global reach, industry expansion and access to new markets. The combined expertise of both entities will drive innovation and efficiency, delivering unparalleled value to customers. Rheinmetall aims to preserve the company's existing technology and workforce. The planned acquisition of Resonant Holdings underscores Rheinmetall's dedication to expanding its technological capabilities and delivering state-of-the-art solutions to its partners. This strategic acquisition of the controlling stake ensures that Rheinmetall remains at the forefront of innovation in the engineering and defence industries, providing unparalleled expertise and comprehensive solutions."

Thales South Africa revolutionizes mortar operation with digital upgrades



AMFCS solution allows for rapid deployment and quick action, as the mortar can be laid onto target within 20 seconds.

SARAH LESEDI

Thales South Africa has unveiled a groundbreaking solution to enhance the precision and efficiency of conventional mortar systems. The company's newly developed Mortar Fire Control System (MFCS) and Automated Mortar Fire Control System (AMFCS) are set to redefine the landscape of indirect fire support.

The Mortar Fire Control System (MFCS)

At the core of these advancements is the MFCS, a modular system adaptable to mortars ranging from 60mm to 120mm. Designed as a cost-effective and lightweight upgrade, the MFCS significantly improves accuracy by introducing digital fire control to conventional platforms.

Key components of the MFCS include a rugged tablet computer equipped with GPS, data communication units, and specialized MFCS software tailored for both mortar fire controllers and command posts. To ensure precision, the system incorporates an optical heading and reference system to counteract drift over time.

The Automated Mortar Fire Control System (AMFCS)

For an even higher level of automation, Thales offers the AMFCS, also known as the Scorpion. This fully automated weapon system can be interchangeably mounted on various calibers, including 60mm, 81mm, 82mm mortars, and 107mm rockets. The system's heart is the AS

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SH15 combat units generally operate as battalions or batteries. The weapon system possesses function modules including reconnaissance, command control, strike, assessment, and support, leading to a closed-loop combat unit to carry out long-range fire suppression, precise striking and fire support. It can be deployed in heavy mechanized troops, artillery, coastal defense troops.

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4000, which controls the mortar's elevation and azimuth through a 360-degree electric traverse mechanism.

To streamline operations without compromising reliability or weight, the AMFCS employs a manual loading system instead of an auto-loader. For rapid target acquisition and engagement in various weather conditions, the system can be integrated with the Thales Sophie binocular/thermal imager, complete with a laser range-finder.

A crucial feature of the AMFCS is its recoil mitigation system, enabling integration into smaller and lighter vehicles. The mortar itself can be easily detached and transferred between platforms, ensuring flexibility in deployment.

Enhanced Capabilities and Operational Benefits

Thales highlights that the AMFCS drastically

reduces reaction time, with mortars ready to engage targets within 20 seconds, a 95% improvement over conventional systems. This rapid deployment capability facilitates "shoot and scoot" tactics.

The system's automation ensures high first-round hit probability and minimizes dispersion across the target area. Notably, the AMFCS can operate effectively in GPS-denied environments and is equipped to detect GPS spoofing.

Currently in service with the South African Special Forces, the AMFCS has garnered significant international interest, with Thales actively promoting the system to global markets.

Thales South Africa's MFCS and AMFCS represent a substantial leap forward in mortar technology. By combining advanced digital fire control with automation, these systems offer military forces unparalleled accuracy, speed, and operational efficiency.



Thales South Africa's digital fire control system for standard mortars. (Picture by Guy Martin - DefenceWeb)

Bureaucracy costs South Africa artillery shell sale to Poland

SARAH LESEDI

South Africa's government has halted the supply of artillery shells from Rheinmetall's plant to Poland.

According to Polish newspaper *Rzeczpospolita*, South Africa's National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC) indefinitely suspended the approval of an export permit to Poland, leading to the cancellation of Poland's order for 155 mm artillery ammunition from Rheinmetall Denel Munition (RDM).

Around 50,000 155-mm shells were initially ordered by Poland in 2022 to replenish its stockpile after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The shells were to be manufactured by the South African company Rheinmetall Denel Munition, which is 51% owned by German Rheinmetall.

However, these shells were never delivered. The contract with RDM, a South African company partly owned by German Rheinmetall, was terminated due to implementation problems by subcontractors.

The South African government indirectly blocked the ammunition deliveries to Poland, fearing that they might end up in Ukraine. South Africa's proximity to Russia, as a member of the BRICS alliance, likely influenced this decision.



"The deliveries of ammunition to Poland were blocked – more or less directly – by the government of the Republic of South Africa, fearing that it could be sent further, to Ukraine. After all, South Africa is closer to Russia, with which it is, among other things, in the BRICS alliance, than to Ukraine," *Rzeczpospolita* reported.

Poland can produce only 30,000 shells annually, relying on subcontractors, mainly from Slovakia. However, Poland needs at least one million rounds of 155-mm ammunition to effectively defend itself.

Ezra Jele, from the NCACC, revealed in 2022 that the Polish permit worth R893 million was on hold. While no UN Security Council embargoes exist on Poland, concerns about diversion to Ukraine likely con-

tributed to the delay.

The NCACC has also put some export permits to Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates on hold, causing much frustration and lost income for South Africa's defence industry.

Poland is now seeking local procurement. In December 2023, it signed a \$2.75 billion contract with the PGZ-Amunicja consortium for nearly 300,000 155 mm artillery shells. Deliveries are scheduled for 2024-2029. The program aims to support domestic production capacities for both local use and export.

Poland may establish its own artillery plant, and the government approved a secret decree to expand ammunition production and purchase in March 2023.



MATIS thermal imager

SARAH LESEDI

MATIS Thermal Imager for Project Hoefyster

One notable collaboration between Safran and Afrimeasure involves the MATIS thermal imager. Under a 2014 contract, Safran supplies this advanced imaging system for the 8x8 Badger infantry fighting vehicle, which Denel will deliver to the South African Army. The MATIS sights play a crucial role in various turret configurations, including the 30 mm fire support and gun/missile turrets. These imagers, produced at the Sagem plant in Poitiers, France, undergo final integration and testing by Afrimeasure in South Africa.

Local Production and Maintenance

Afrimeasure's CEO, Dean Mogale, emphasized the significance of local production and maintenance. By handling imager integration and through-life maintenance in South Africa, Afrimeasure ensures that equipment need not be sent back to France for repairs. This capability defies conventional expectations, as thermal im-

ager manufacture and support were not commonly associated with the company.

The MATIS Advantage

Safran has delivered thousands of MATIS systems worldwide. The MATIS thermal camera is versatile, integrating seamlessly into various platforms such as vehicles, observation systems, and sighting systems. Its robust design withstands severe firing shocks, making it a reliable choice for military applications.

Afrimeasure's Track Record

Founded in 2007, Afrimeasure has a history of supporting the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). Additionally, the company has supplied 5,000 night vision goggles to the military. Afrimeasure's expertise extends beyond hardware; they designed the radio interface for Project Radiate radios adopted by the SANDF. Furthermore, their technical training academy plays a vital role in developing skilled technicians for the defense industry.

French defense company Safran Electronics & Defence has established closer collaboration with Afrimeasure, a specialist in electro-optical equipment. This strategic partnership aims to enhance sensor production and maintenance capabilities. Let's delve into the details of this significant alliance.

Safran representatives recently visited Afrimeasure's facilities in Midrand, South Africa. The meeting brought together key stakeholders from the defense and security sector, including senior Denel leaders and SA Air Force Chief, Lieutenant General Wiseman Mbambo. During the event, Safran Electronics & Defence showcased their range of electro-optical systems and sights, which encompass weapon and helmet-mounted sights, cameras, orientation and targeting systems, handheld cameras, and optronics and navigation systems for armored vehicles.



AFRICOM searches for new drones to replace MQ-9 Reaper

EKENE LIONEL

AFRICOM has been looking for a replacement for its legacy Reaper MQ-9 drones.

As the venerable MQ-9 Reaper drone ages, the US Africa Command (AFRICOM) will require new long-range, long-endurance UAVs for ISR missions in a complex geopolitical environment.

AFRICOM officials have highlighted the need to obtain a replacement for its General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in the near future.

At the Emerging Technologies for Defense conference in Washington, DC, earlier this month, AFRICOM officials said the new drones were needed

to conduct long-range and long-endurance intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) across the command's area of responsibilities, which includes all African countries except for Egypt.

Heidi Shyu, undersecretary of defense for research and engineering at the US Department of Defense (DoD), said at a media roundtable on 7 August to Shephard Media, about her office's projects to assist AFRICOM's aerial ISR requirements.

"We are funding investments into long-endurance UAVs," she said. "When I say long-endurance UAVs, [I mean] well beyond three days."

Shyu noted that emerging UAV technologies were on the horizon, stating that "last

summer, we tested one UAV, which loitered for seven-to-eight days", and "we are also working with companies to develop solar-powered, stratospheric UAVs" with solar cells on the wings. The platform "can stay up there for 30 to 60 days", she remarked. The DOD official noted that the new technologies would address AFRICOM's requirements.

They were referring to the Skydweller solar-powered long-range aircraft which AFRICOM intends to use for intelligence mission to counter terror activities in the continent. Skydweller is modelled after the Solar Impulse 2 that flew around the world in 2015 and 2016 using solar power, but will be pilotless.

"AFRICOM, CENTCOM, EU-

COM are all looking for solutions,” Shyu said, confirmed that a “joint urgent operational need (JUON) may come from either AFRICOM or CENTCOM” in the future.

During the DC conference, two AFRICOM officials engaged in further discussions about the command’s requirement for new ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) UAVs. Paul Landauer, the director of resources and assessments (J8) for AFRICOM, highlighted the challenges arising from deteriorating relations between Washington and certain African governments, particularly related to overflight restrictions in sovereign countries.

Fred Gregory, chief of the strategic capabilities division for AFRICOM, echoed Landauer’s sentiments, emphasizing the critical need for long-dwell, long-endurance ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) aircraft. He highlighted the completion of AFRICOM’s withdrawal from Niger, which had significant implications for their operations.

From a western Africa perspective, the loss of ISR bases in Niger compelled the Command to operate from more distant locations such as England and Somalia. Unfortunately, this shift means reduced time on station and slower reaction times due to the increased distances involved. With limited bases available, maintaining long dwell and endurance becomes a challenge, especially considering that these ISR platforms are typically large aircraft.

Adding to the complexity, Africa’s evolving geopolitics has exacerbated the issue of aging airborne ISR capabilities. Gregory specifically mentioned the MQ-9 drone, which is gradually being phased out due to its legacy status. Looking ahead, AFRICOM anticipates that by 2026, their airborne ISR capabilities will have eroded to the point where they won’t have any airborne ISR access.”

AFRICOM lobbied to continue operate drones

As the United States Air Force strives to develop its next generation of unmanned aircraft and reduce reliance on ‘low-end’ fighter aircraft, there is growing pressure to make strategic cuts.

In its fiscal 2021 budget request, the USAF planned to reduce MQ-9 Reaper production after purchasing only 24 units in 2021. This decision will bring the total procurement to 337 aircraft and will also result in the cessation of some air patrols in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), along with the closure of the production line. Military leaders express concern that these actions could adversely affect operational capabilities and limit overwatch in critical regions.

U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, the Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander, emphasized that CENTCOM still has a genuine need for the Reaper in counter-terrorism operations, particularly for monitoring Iran’s activities in the Strait of

Hormuz. Despite the vulnerability of drones to sophisticated Iranian air defense systems, the intelligence-gathering capabilities of the Reaper remain indispensable.

Gen. Stephen Townsend, the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Commander, highlighted that while the Air Force prioritizes high-end assets, the lower-end capabilities continue to play a crucial role in AFRICOM and CENTCOM operations.

Will Roper, the Air Force’s acquisition boss, acknowledged the Reaper’s effectiveness but cautioned against deploying it directly into battle. Given the shift toward high-end conflicts, he emphasized the need for military-unique systems designed to withstand contested environments, even if they come at a higher cost.

Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, overseeing ISR forces within the Sixteenth Air Force, reaffirmed the ongoing demand for ISR assets worldwide. Different commanders rely on surveillance capabilities, underscoring their importance.

Meanwhile, AFRICOM will now require approval from the White House before it can launch airstrikes against militants in Somalia. This change comes as President Biden mulls whether to put limits on field commanders for authorizing attacks, amidst active reversal of some former President Donald Trump’s controversial policies which empowered deployed commanders to request for airstrikes as they see fit.

Kenya poised to acquire Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drone

Patrick Kenyatte

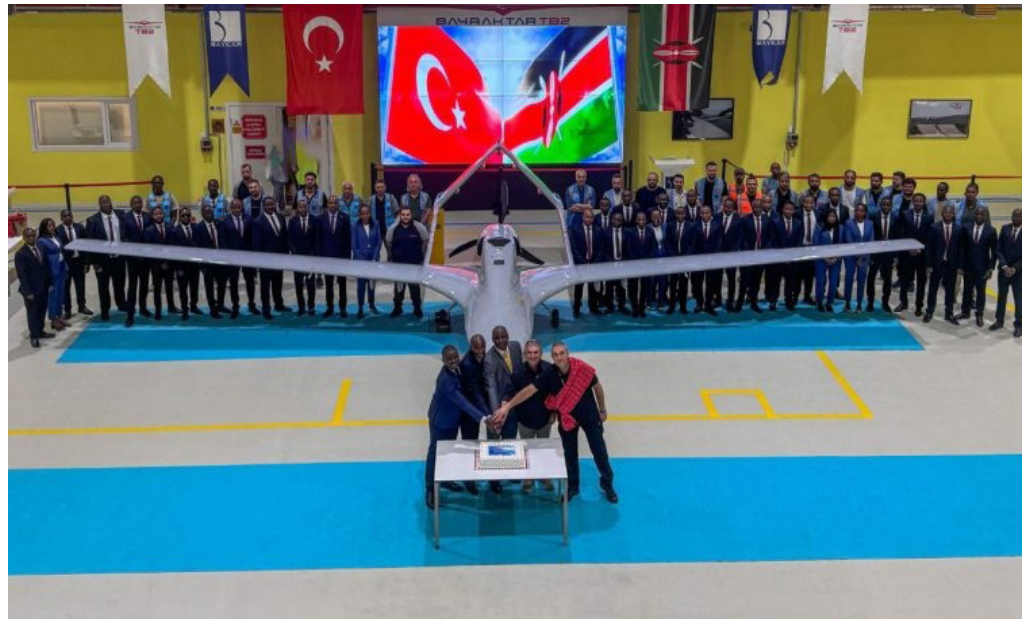
The Kenyan armed forces may likely be the newest user of the popular Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drone.

Baykar the manufacturer of the TB2 drone posted on its social media on 23 August that Trainees from our friendly and brotherly country, Kenya, have successfully completed their Bayraktar TB2 UCAV training at the Baykar Flight Training Center in Keşan and graduated.

This indicates that Kenya may soon receive the unmanned system. The Bayraktar TB2 can carry lightweight, laser-guided bombs and fly for up to 27 hours at a time.

According to Military Africa's Drone Procurement Dataset, Kenya operates a number of tactical and long-range drones, including three Turkish Aerospace Anka-S MALE drone acquired in 2015, six Unmanned Aeronautics GhostRay drone, five Boeing Insitu Scan Eagles, and eight AeroVironment RQ-11 Raven acquired in 2012.

The TB2 drones — priced under \$2-\$5 million each according to estimates — are produced by the defense company Baykar, which belongs to the family of Selcuk Bayraktar, the son-in-law of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Bayraktar is the company's chief technical officer.



African states are increasingly acquiring Turkish drones to fight armed groups after they proved to be effective in various conflicts around the world.

With Turkiye's Bayraktar TB2 Drone, Turkiye has been experiencing high demand on collaboration with African countries. In Africa, the TB2 Bayraktar model is in high demand after it was used during the conflicts in Libya and Azerbaijan's breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh in the past few years.

The acquisition aligns with a growing trend among African countries to adopt Turkish drones as a means to combat armed groups and enhance security. The Bayraktar TB2's proven track record in conflicts such as Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh war has made it a highly sought-after weapon system.

Togo, which is struggling to curb the infiltration of jihadist

fighters moving south from Burkina Faso have acquired the type.

Niger acquired half a dozen of these versatile and affordable drones for its military operations against insurgent groups in the Sahel region south of the Sahara Desert, and around Lake Chad.

But the first to use these potent surveillance and strike weapons on the continent may well have been the UN-recognised government in Libya — where they were spotted as early as 2019 and may have helped Tripoli's forces hold off eastern rebels.

For African buyers, especially poorer countries, drones provide the chance to develop significant air power without the vast cost in equipment and years of elite training required to develop a conventional air strike force of manned jets. This is a particular attraction for states such as Niger and Togo.



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GREEK SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES TO DEPLOY TO MOZAMBIQUE

Patrick Kenyette

Greece is set to deepen its involvement in international military operations by joining the European Union Military Assistance Mission in Mozambique (EUMAM Mozambique).

Hellenic armed forces commandos from the Special Warfare Command are slated to take on critical roles in the mission, which is scheduled to begin on September 1 and run until June 30, 2026.

The mission marks an expansion of the European Union's military efforts in Mozambique, following the European Council's decision last May to extend the operation's duration and increase its budget to 14 million euros. The strategic objectives of the mission have also been revised to address the evolving security situation

in the region, transitioning the initiative from its original scope as a training mission (European Union Training Mission in Mozambique) to a more comprehensive military assistance mission.

Greek military personnel, in collaboration with other European forces, will provide essential advice, guidance, and specialized training to Mozambique's Quick Reaction Force (QRF) units. This participation underscores Greece's commitment to strengthening its international military presence and showcases the operational capabilities of its Special Warfare Command on both European and global stages.

In 2022, the European Union provided additional support to the Mozambican military in the tune of €45 million, and this will

include equipment, supplies and training. This additional support brings overall EPF support for Mozambique to €89 million in total.

Greece has been active in Mozambique since 2021, as one of nine EU member states contributing to efforts aimed at protecting civilians and restoring security in the conflict-affected Cabo Delgado province. The involvement of Greek commandos in this enhanced mission reflects the country's strategic interest in playing a more prominent role in global military operations.

The EUTM is training Mozambican military personnel, in March 2022, it completed the training of two Mozambican military companies; both drawn from the Army and Navy formations.



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United Nations lifts arms embargo on the Central African Republic



An 11-year-long arms embargo imposed by the United Nations (UN) on the Central African Republic (CAR) has finally come to an end. This significant development marks a crucial step in the country's efforts to address conflict and instability.

The UN arms embargo was initially enacted in 2013 during what the world body described as a "brutal inter-communal conflict." At that time, predominantly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power, leading to violent clashes with "mostly Christian militias." Tragically, thousands of lives were lost during this period of unrest.

Denied Easing of Sanctions
In July 2018, the CAR Minister of Defence, Marie Noelle Koyara, appealed for an easing of the weapons embargo. She emphasized that the Central African Republic faced "escalating violence" from various armed groups, threatening the nation's stability. However, the UN Security Council denied the delivery of Chinese-made

armored vehicles, machine guns, tear gas grenades, and other weaponry to the CAR military.

Despite the embargo, efforts were made to mitigate the conflict. A 2019 peace deal aimed to reduce hostilities, although it did not entirely end fighting. The United Nations peacekeeping mission, known as MINUSCA, played a critical role in attempting to quell violence in the region.

Last July, the UNSC relaxed the embargo to allow weapons to be supplied to government forces only. Authorities in Bangui said that the ban should be lifted completely.

Resolution 2745: Lifting the Embargo

In July of this year, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2745, officially lifting the arms embargo on the CAR. However, the resolution comes with a clear directive: all nations must prevent the direct or indirect supply of weapons and related materials to armed groups operating within the

country. CAR's Foreign Minister, Sylvie Baïpo-Temon, expressed gratitude for this diplomatic victory. She stated that it restores dignity to the CAR and its people. The lifting of the embargo is seen as a source of national pride, signifying progress toward stability and peace.

The Security Council extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts, which supports the CAR Sanctions Committee, until August 2025. The Panel's role includes analyzing illicit transnational trafficking networks that continue to fund and supply armed groups. Additionally, the Council intends to review the Panel's mandate and take further action by July next year.

The UN's decision to lift the arms embargo represents a pivotal moment for the Central African Republic. As the country prepares for its first local elections in over 36 years, the international community remains vigilant in preventing weapons proliferation and supporting lasting peace.



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Mali, Nigér cut ties with Ukraine over support for rebels

EKENE LIONEL

Mali has severed diplomatic ties with Ukraine, accusing a senior official of having admitted Kyiv's role in a heavy defeat in July that killed dozens of mercenaries from Russia's Wagner group as well as Malian soldiers.

The northern Tuareg rebels say they killed at least 84 mercenaries and 47 Malian soldiers over three days of fighting late last month in the north of the West African country, in what appeared to be Wagner's heaviest defeat since it stepped into the conflict two years ago. Mali also lost two helicopters in the attack.

On July 29, Andriy Yusov, the spokesperson for Ukraine's military intelligence agency (GUR), told the media that Malian rebels had received "all the information they needed, which allowed [them] to carry out their operation against the Russian war criminals".

Mali said it had learned "with deep shock" of the remarks and that Yusov had "admitted Ukraine's involvement in a cowardly, treacherous and barbaric attack by armed terrorist groups that resulted in the death of members of the Malian Defence and Security Forces".

It said it would break off relations "with immediate effect",



a statement from government spokesman Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga said.

Mali also cited comments by Ukraine's Ambassador to Senegal Yurii Pyvovarov, who was summoned by Senegal on Saturday over a video published on Facebook in which Pyvovarov provided "unequivocal and unqualified support for the terrorist attack" in Mali.

Ukraine's actions violated Malian sovereignty and constituted unacceptable foreign interference and support for international terrorism, according to Colonel Maiga.

Also, Niger's junta on Tuesday cut diplomatic ties with Ukraine over remarks from officials it said showed Ukraine's support for groups involved in fighting in neighbouring Mali that killed dozens of soldiers and Russian Wagner fighters in July. The move follows Mali's decision on Sunday to sever relations with Kyiv.

"The Government of the Re-

public of Niger, in full solidarity with the Government and people of Mali, has decided, relying on its sovereignty, to sever diplomatic relations between the Republic of Niger and Ukraine. This decision comes into force immediately," government spokesman Abdourahamane Amadou said late on August 6 in a televised address.

The incident appeared to be Wagner's heaviest defeat since it stepped in two years ago to help Mali's military authorities fight insurgent groups. In a televised address, spokesperson Abdourahamane Amadou said Niger had decided to act in solidarity with the government and people of Mali by cutting ties with Ukraine with immediate effect.

Ukraine on Monday denied any involvement in northern Mali fighting that led to the death of Malian soldiers and Wagner fighters in July, describing Mali's decision to sever diplomatic ties over the incident as "short-sighted and hasty".



UK gifts counter insurgency training facility to Nigeria

The United Kingdom (UK) has donated a State-Of-The-Art Counter Insurgency (COIN) Training Facility to the Nigerian Armed Forces, in order to enhance the effectiveness of their training and better prepare the military for future operations.

The UK Mission in Nigeria announced that the training facility was funded by the UK Ministry of Defence and constructed by a team of Royal Engineers from the British Army in collaboration with Nigerian Army Engineers. The facility is designed to create a more realistic training environment, equipping soldiers with the skills needed for effective deployment.

The training center was officially inaugurated in Ogun State by Nigeria's Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Taoreed

Lagbaja, who was represented by Major General SG Mohammed. The ceremony was also attended by British Deputy High Commissioner in Lagos, Mr. Jonny Baxter, and Brigadier Martin Leach from the UK's Ministry of Defence. Attendees were treated to a demonstration operation conducted by the Nigerian Armed Forces, followed by a briefing on the training display.

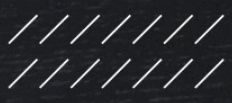
During the handover ceremony, Deputy High Commissioner Jonny Baxter highlighted the UK's commitment to Nigeria's development, security, and stability. He emphasized the long-standing security and defence relationship between the two nations, rooted in a mutual goal of supporting regional and international peace and security.

"Our work with the Nigerian Armed Forces aims to build

capacity to address the root causes of insurgency and insecurity and support institutional modernization and transformation," Baxter stated.

He also noted the UK's extensive support to Nigeria, which includes capacity-building assistance, training facilities, and equipment. "The British Government will continue to collaborate with Nigeria to tackle the drivers of conflict, with the hope that these engagements will lead to improved security, stability, and enhanced growth partnerships for the benefit of both our countries," Baxter added.

The Deputy High Commissioner also paid tribute to the significant sacrifices made by Nigerian soldiers in their efforts to work alongside their counterparts to bring peace and security to the region.



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