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Nigeria to establish ammunition production factory, expand local defence industry

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 Fatih Cad. Ihlamur Sokak No.2 - Kat.1 Merter - Istanbul / TÜRKİYE
 www.raff.com.tr | www.raffdefence.com |  info@raff.com.tr



Editor-in-Chief
Sarah Lesedi

Editorial
Ekene Lionel

Creative Director
• Patrick Kenyatte

Correspondents
• Darek Liam
• Patrick Kenyatte
• Kazim Abdul

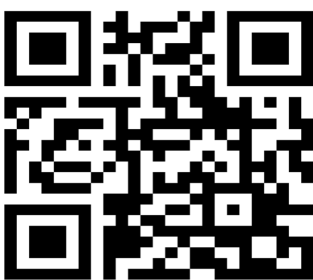
Publisher
Lionstar Technologies

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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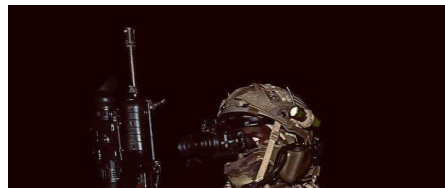
Nigeria Takes a Leap Towards Self-Sufficiency in Ammunition Production

The project is expected to reduce Nigeria's reliance on foreign imports, create a sustainable supply chain for the armed forces

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Nigeria Takes a Leap Towards Self-Sufficiency in Ammunition Production



By producing ammunition domestically, Nigeria can minimize its exposure to global supply chain disruptions, price fluctuations, and potential embargoes that could jeopardize its national security. This will enhance the country's strategic autonomy and resilience.

STAFF WRITER

In a significant stride towards enhancing its military capabilities and reducing dependence on foreign arms suppliers, Nigeria has embarked on a strategic initiative to establish a domestic ammunition production factory. The National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Defence and the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect.

The partnership aims to leverage Nigeria's scientific and technological expertise to develop a robust military industrial complex

(MIC). This initiative is seen as a national imperative, not only to bolster the country's defense capabilities but also to stimulate economic growth and create jobs.

NASENI, with its extensive experience in research, development, and manufacturing, will play a pivotal role in establishing the MIC. The new facility will serve as a hub for the production, maintenance, and development of military equipment, ranging from small arms to advanced defense systems.

The project is expected to reduce Nigeria's reliance on foreign imports, create a sustainable supply chain for the armed forces,

and foster the growth of local industries. By investing in domestic ammunition production, Nigeria can ensure a reliable and cost-effective source of essential military supplies.

Reducing Dependence on Foreign Imports

One of the primary objectives of establishing a domestic ammunition production facility in Nigeria is to reduce the country's reliance on foreign imports. By producing ammunition domestically, Nigeria can minimize its exposure to global supply chain disruptions, price fluctuations, and potential embargoes that could jeopardize its national security. This will enhance the country's strategic autonomy and resilience.

Creating a Sustainable Supply Chain

A domestic ammunition production facility will create a sustainable supply chain for the Nigerian Armed Forces. This will ensure a consistent and reliable supply of essential military supplies, eliminating the risks associated with relying on external sources. A domestic supply chain will also facilitate better coordination and planning, allowing the military to optimize its logistics and inventory management.

Fostering the Growth of Local Industries

The establishment of a domestic ammunition production facility will have a ripple effect on the growth of related industries in Nigeria. It will create demand for raw mate-

rials, components, and services, stimulating economic activity and job creation. Additionally, the development of a domestic defense industry can foster technological innovation, enhance skills development, and promote industrial competitiveness.

Ensuring a Reliable and Cost-Effective Source of Essential Military Supplies

By investing in domestic ammunition production, Nigeria can guarantee a reliable and cost-effective source of essential military supplies. Domestic production can potentially reduce costs associated with transportation, tariffs, and foreign exchange fluctuations. Moreover, a domestic industry can be more responsive to the specific needs of the Nigerian Armed Forces, ensuring that the ammunition produced is tailored to their requirements.

The government's commitment to this initiative is evident in the recent signing of the DICON Act 2023, which provides a legal framework for the corporation's operations and empowers it to expand its manufacturing capabilities. Additionally, the government has pledged significant investments in DICON to ensure its success.

With the establishment of the ammunition production factory, Nigeria is taking a major step towards achieving self-sufficiency in military hardware. This initiative has the potential to not only strengthen the country's defense capabilities but also position it as a regional leader in defense technology.

L-R: Executive Vice Chairman, National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASeni), Mr. Khalil Suleiman Halilu; Minister of State for Defence, Dr Bello Mohammed Matawalle; Minister of Steel Development, Prince Shuaibu Abubakar Audu, and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Dr. Ibrahim Abubakar Kana, at the MoU signing in Abuja to establish an ammunition production factory at the Defence Industries Corporation (DICON).



A locally-made rocket launch system produced by the Nigerian Airforce Institute of Technology (ASSOCIATED PRESS photo)



Nigeria advances in indigenous weapons systems production

STAFF WRITER

The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) is set to significantly bolster the country's armament capabilities, with negotiations for a technology transfer agreement with Serbia's Zenith Prom now reaching an advanced stage. The acquisition of 57mm rocket technology from Zenith Prom is expected to enhance Nigeria's ability to manufacture advanced rocket systems domestically.

Since 2021, the Nigerian Air Force has put to combat use the aerial rocket system wholly designed and developed by its engineers. Apparently, the rocket launcher has been patented by the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) is as good and effective as any other made by foreign companies.

During the Defence and Services Transformation and Innovation Branches of the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN) Seminar, hosted by the NAF

in Abuja, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar emphasized the imperative of innovation in addressing evolving security challenges. He highlighted ongoing initiatives aimed at boosting the NAF's operational capabilities, noting the branch's focus on cutting-edge technology development, operational process modernization, and fostering a culture of innovation across all levels.

In a statement by Group Captain Kabiru Ali, Deputy Director Public Relations and Information, the NAF revealed collaborations with UA Vision of Portugal to operationalize the Tsaigumi Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) within Nigeria. This partnership is anticipated to enhance the NAF's surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, thereby enabling more effective national airspace monitoring.

Additionally, the NAF is working on the devel-

opment of the Tactical Mobile Combat Smart Helmet, an advanced protective gear designed to improve situational awareness in combat. Further initiatives include the local production of General-Purpose Machine-Gun ammunition links and 250kg bomb impact fuses, reflecting a broader strategy to enhance self-reliance in armaments.

Major General Abudulsalam Abubakar, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 3 Division and Commander of Operation Safe Haven, articulated the concept of the “smart soldier” as central to the Nigerian Army’s transformation. He underscored the importance of staying ahead of technological trends and equipping soldiers with artificial intelligence, smart devices, and wearable technology to enhance communication, situational awareness, and decision-making in combat scenarios.

Moreover, last November, President Bola Tinubu’s signing of the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) Bill, 2023, marked a pivotal moment for the nation’s defence industry. The bill, sponsored by Babajimi Benson, Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Defence, introduces several reforms and innovations aimed at making DICON more accountable, transparent, and efficient. Key provisions include empowering DICON to operate and maintain subsidiaries and ordnance factories, establishing a research and development institute, and attracting private capital to facilitate production and innovation.

In line with these initiatives, President Tinubu also approved a \$1 billion deal with India in September 2023 to modernize DICON’s facilities and increase local production of defence

equipment to 40% by 2027. This deal is set to provide DICON with the necessary funding and expertise to produce advanced products, such as drones, missiles, and radars, thus further cementing Nigeria’s stride toward self-sufficiency in defence manufacturing.

Meanwhile, the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federal Ministry of Defence and its manufacturing enterprise, the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) for the establishment of an ammunition production factory.

This partnership is a unique opportunity for Nigeria to strengthen its defence infrastructure through indigenous innovation and technological advancement. NASENI Director of Information, Olusegun Ayeoyenikan, explained after the signing of the MoU in Abuja on 13 August.

According to Halilu, “NASENI’s track record in research, development, and manufacturing positions the agency as a key player in the establishment of the MIC. The new Military Industrial Complex will serve as a hub for the development, production, and maintenance of military equipment, ranging from small arms to advanced defence systems.”

He also explained that the aim of the project was to create a robust ecosystem that supports the needs of the Nigerian Armed Forces while fostering the growth of local industries, thereby reducing reliance on foreign imports.

“This MoU represents the beginning of a long-term collaboration aimed at enhancing our defence capabilities through innovation and indigenous pro-

duction,” he continued.

“Our goal is to ensure that our military is equipped with the best tools to defend our nation, and through this partnership, we will lay the foundation for a self-reliant defence industry that will also contribute to Nigeria’s economic growth,” he added.

“Introducing the BAT A-1 Specialised Assault Rifle and its production line will address small arms proliferation issues while equipping our security operatives with modern fighting capabilities.

“The proposed state-of-the-art micro motherboard processing facility will be the backbone of robotics and artificial intelligence innovations, leveraging resources from our newly inaugurated lithium development plant in Nasarawa State,” he said.

In February, DICON Director-General, Major General Aniedi Edet, said DICON had resumed the production of ammunition and delivered four million rounds to the Nigerian Army in January as it embarks on an ambitious expansion drive.

The Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria was established in 1964. It operates an Ordnance Factory in Kaduna, where it makes small arms and ammunition, including assault rifles, machine guns and sub-machine guns (in 2018 it secured an agreement with Poland’s PGZ to manufacture Beryl assault rifles locally). Its Special Vehicle Plant is carrying out the refurbishment and upgrade of armoured vehicles, and has manufactured locally developed Ezugwu mine-resistant, ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles for the Nigerian Army.

Bell Helicopter's leadership explains plans and prospects for Africa



[Up] Lynette Loosen
[Down] Scott Sims



Bell Helicopters

In an exclusive interview with Military Africa, Lynette Loosen, Regional Sales Manager (Africa) at Bell Helicopters, and Scott Sims, Director of the H-1 Program at Bell Helicopters, shared their insights and strategic vision for the African market. They discussed the company's ambitious plans to enhance military, security, and civilian aviation capabilities across the continent. This conversation delves into Bell Helicopters' commitment to supporting Africa's evolving defense needs, their innovative solutions tailored for the region, and the potential impact of its advanced technologies on the future of African aviation.

1. Market Expansion:

Q: How does Bell Helicopters plan to expand its presence in the African market, considering the growing demand for both military and civilian rotorcraft?

A: Bell is excited to showcase its amazing aircraft's capabilities and performance in Africa. We have many aircraft flying here locally, but we are particularly thrilled about the recent procurement by the Nigerian Air Force. Bell is working hard not only to extend its product range in the region but also to provide invaluable ser-

VICES to its operators. Equipping users to fly and maintain their aircraft will enhance the customer experience and ensure they remain mission ready.

2. Military capabilities:

Q: What specific military capabilities do Bell’s helicopters offer that make them well-suited for African defense forces?

A: Bell’s helicopters are renowned for their versatility, reliability, and cutting-edge technology, making them exceptionally well-suited for African defense forces. Our iconic Bell AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom helicopters offer robust commonality of components, unmatched in any other aircraft duo, while fully integrating overmatch capabilities, including long-range air-to-air, precision ground strike, close air support, troop and logistics transport, and medical evacuation. They are designed to operate in diverse environments and austere conditions where logistic tails must be kept short. The aircraft maintain their state-of-the-art avionics, advanced weaponry, and survivability enhancements that give them a competitive edge over adversaries.

3. Security applications:

Q: How do Bell aircraft support operations such as anti-piracy operations, border surveillance, and disaster response?

A: Bell helicopters can be used in counter piracy and border operations by providing critical surveillance over vast areas with the added benefit of hovering when needed. They are also ideal to reach vessels rapidly and support boarding teams.

Their versatility allows them to provide relief and support to remote areas in times of crisis. Bell Helicopters are vital for casualty evacuations with their ability to quickly access hard-to-reach areas and provide rapid transport to medical facilities as well as evacuate multiple casualties simultaneously.

Q: Are there any customized security solutions tailored for African countries?

A: Every country and operator presents its own unique requirements based on mission(s). This is exactly what makes Bell Special Missions Aircraft (SMA) such a great option. The series offers the ability to pick from an established line of civil helicopters and then customize their configuration

to support specific security issues, while also combining versatility with cost efficiency.

4. Civilian market opportunities:

Q: What civilian applications (e.g., emergency medical services, oil and gas, tourism) do Bell see as promising in Africa?

A: Bell sees significant potential for its helicopters in various civilian applications across Africa. Our helicopters are ideal for emergency medical services (EMS), offering rapid and reliable patient transport in remote and urban areas. In November 2023, Bell delivered the first Bell 429 for offshore operations in Cameroon and supports the regional oil and gas industry by providing essential transportation for personnel and equipment to offshore platforms. Additionally, the tourism sector can benefit from our aircraft, enabling scenic tours and safari expeditions. The versatility and reliability of Bell helicopters make them a valuable asset for enhancing operational efficiency and safety in these critical sectors. There has also been an increase in demand for our helicopters in the corporate sector and with utility operators.



[Up] Bell 505.
Down] BELL GXi helicopter



Q: How does Bell adapt its helicopters to meet the unique requirements of African civilian operators?

A: Our customers are the core of our business, and we pride ourselves on listening to their challenges and being responsive. Bell hosts safety symposiums to connect regional operators and share best practices from Bell's safety culture. We also have customer support engineers who can provide 24-hour support to our customers and assist them with any technical challenges.

5. Local partnerships:

Q: Does Bell have plans to establish local manufacturing or maintenance facilities in Africa to enhance support and reduce operational costs?

A: Bell has a strong and well-established network of approved Independent Representatives and Customer Support Facilities strategically located in Africa to support its customers.

6. Technology advancements:

Q: Can you share any insights into Bell's latest technological advancements, especially those relevant to African operations?

A: Bell continuously invests in technological advancements to enhance the performance, safety, and capabilities of its helicopters. The Bell 505 delivers superb visibility and panoramic views through its glass cockpit, aided by comfortable stadium seating where the rear rows are elevated slightly above the front. The enhanced visibility enables the aircraft to serve as an ideal platform for private flight, pilot training or aerial utility missions. The Bell 407GX_i is an IFR-certified platform, enabling flight through low cloud ceilings. With this Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) single-engine certified aircraft, helicopter emergency medical services (HEMS) businesses can maximize their uptime and answer more calls despite fog or low cloud ceilings.

7. Sustainability and environment:

Q: How does Bell address environmental concerns related to helicopter operations in Africa, such as noise reduction and fuel efficiency?

A: In February 2023, the Bell 505 became the first-ever single engine helicopter to fly with 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Showcasing a single engine aircraft's flight capabilities with 100% SAF signals Bell's commitment to alternative fuel usage and builds on its sustainability practices in its flight operations. We are always working on reducing noise and improving



fuel efficiency across our helicopter platforms – for example: our aircraft incorporate advanced blade designs and engine technologies that minimize noise footprints and enhance fuel economy. Bell also focuses on the sustainment and upgrades of existing platforms to extend their lifecycle and improve their environmental performance. But these are just some of our initiatives that demonstrate our commitment to responsible aviation practices in Africa and beyond.

8. Training and skill development:

Q: What initiatives does Bell have to train local pilots, technicians, and maintenance crews in Africa?

A: Through our Bell Training Academy, we have training facilities located in Fort Worth, Texas, Valencia, Spain and Singapore, Asia. Customers are also able to request training at their facilities in Africa.

9. Competitive landscape:

Q: How does Bell differentiate itself from other helicopter manufacturers operating in Africa?

A: Bell differentiates itself through a combination of innovation, reliability, and customer-centric support. Our helicopters are known for their versatility, advanced technology, and robust performance in diverse environments. We prioritize customer relationships, offering tailored solutions and exceptional service that meet the specific needs of African operators. Bell's global network ensures that our customers receive timely support, maintenance, and training. Additionally, our commitment to sustainability and continuous improvement sets us apart, ensuring that we deliver cutting-edge solutions that address both current and future operational requirements.

10. Q: What advantages does Bell offer in terms of reliability, safety, and cost-effectiveness?

A: Bell helicopters are engineered for reliability, with a proven track record of performance in challenging conditions. Our rigorous testing and quality assurance processes ensure that our aircraft meet, and generally exceed, the high-



est safety standards. We incorporate advanced safety features, such as crash-worthy fuel and redundant systems, to protect both crew and passengers. In terms of cost-effectiveness, Bell helicopters offer low lifecycle costs due to their efficient design, ease of maintenance, and availability of interchangeable parts. Our focus on innovation and customer support further enhances the overall value proposition. And finally, as we've already discussed, it's our customers that drive our business, so by listening to them, we understand their priorities and make them our own.

Earlier conversation with Bell Helicopter

Similarly, in 2020, Sameer Rehman the Managing Director for Africa and Middle East spoke to us about the prospect of Bell's products in Africa, their challenges and how operations in servicing the helicopter market in the continent. Sameer explained that, "Bell's longstanding investment in Africa spans over many decades and has several partners on the continent who help us service and support our customers. Bell's legacy can be witnessed doing important work to support the economies of Africa and this, coupled with our industry-leading service and support has been key to us meeting the needs of our customers in the emerging countries of Africa."



SKIFTECH



TACTICAL ENGAGEMENT SIMULATION SYSTEMS

TRAINING OF THE FUTURE

ADVANTAGES OF SIMULATORS IN TACTICAL TRAINING

SKIFTECH's laser simulators continue to provide significant advantages for Ukrainian military personnel in their training. The primary benefit of these systems is the ability to simulate two-sided combat scenarios, where each soldier gains a realistic combat experience. Notably, the simulators allow for real-time data collection and analysis of soldiers' actions, ranging from shooting accuracy to tactical movements.

RESOURCE AND AMMUNITION SAVINGS

In addition to improving the level of combat training, the use of laser simulators allows for significant resource savings. Through simulations that don't require live ammunition, thousands of dollars can be saved at each training stage. For example, training a single platoon using blank-fire technology can save up to \$30,000.

APPLICATION IN REAL COMBAT CONDITIONS

Application in real combat conditions SKIFTECH simulators have repeatedly proven their effectiveness on the battlefield. During the full-scale war, Ukrainian military personnel have used these systems to train for a variety of scenarios—from reconnaissance and ambushes to large-scale offensive or defensive maneuvers. With the rapid adoption of innovations and direct combat experience, SKIFTECH has become one of the leaders in developing tactical training systems, enabling soldiers to effectively counter the enemy.

MODERN LASER TECHNOLOGIES

in the tactical training of Ukrainian military personnel

One of Ukraine's biggest breakthroughs has been the introduction of advanced training systems for military personnel, such as the tactical simulators from SKIFTECH. These simulators combine realism with cutting-edge analytical capabilities, helping soldiers adapt to modern combat conditions.

The ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war continues to emphasize the role of advanced military technologies. This conflict has become a testing ground for modern systems such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and precision weaponry, forcing constant improvement of tactical approaches.

EXPANDED SKIFTECH SIMULATOR RANGE

Since 2023, SKIFTECH has significantly expanded its range of military training simulators. Among the company's new products are simulators for weapons like the Stinger man-portable air-defense system (MANPADS), RPG-7 anti-tank grenade launcher, and AGS-17 automatic grenade launcher.

STINGER MANPADS SIMULATOR

The Stinger MANPADS simulator is designed to train soldiers in the algorithm of weapon readiness and enhance their skills in detecting aerial targets using a Stinger mock-up. The system allows for simulating combat conditions, including countering UAVs, helicopters, and cruise missiles, providing a high level of realism in training.

The Stinger MANPADS two-sided fire contact simulator consists of several key components: a mock-up Stinger, a hit detection device, a quadcopter, a radio coverage kit, a control tablet, and a charger. Each of these elements plays a crucial role in simulating real combat conditions.

RPG-7 SIMULATOR

The RPG-7 anti-tank grenade launcher simulator helps soldiers develop precise targeting skills and effectively destroy enemy armored vehicles. Conditions that closely mimic real combat allow soldiers to better prepare for engagements with enemy tanks and armored units.

AGS-17 SIMULATOR

The AGS-17 automatic grenade launcher simulator is another new product from SKIFTECH, enabling soldiers to train under realistic combat conditions, simulating long-range fire on targets. The simulator develops and reinforces gunners' skills in detecting and identifying targets, determining target characteristics, aiming, firing, and evaluating shooting results. It also allows for teamwork training in an environment close to real combat.

With a positioning module built into the mounted unit, which collects all necessary data (coordinates, azimuth, altitude, angle of sight) during simulated fire and sends them to the server for calculating the projectile's impact point, AGS-17 training exercises can be conducted without using live ammunition.

Once the hit is calculated, the server sends a hit command to other simulators in the impact area (as long as all simulators are within the radio coverage zone). The instructor, using a tablet with installed software, can see the projectile's landing point on a map and adjust the operator's actions if needed.



Nigerian Army determined to adopt “Smart Soldier” concept

EKENE LIONEL

The Nigerian Army says it is determined to leverage on advanced technologies to improve personnel operations and effectiveness.

Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Taoreed Lagbaja stated this at a seminar on “Digital Transformation and Smart Soldier Concept” organised by the Army Headquarters Department of Army Transformation and Innovation, held at the headquarters of 3 Division in Jos, Plateau State.

Speaking on behalf of the Army chief, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 3 Division, and Commander of Operation Safe Haven, Major General Abudulsalam Abubakar, revealed that the concept of the “smart soldier” is at the heart of the desired transformation of the Nigerian Army, hence the need for the Nigerian Army to stay ahead of technological trends, equip soldiers with the knowledge and tools including artificial intelligence, smart devices and wearable technology, to improve communication, situational awareness, and decision-making in combat scenarios that allow them to operate effectively in a digitized environment.

“The seminar is thus critical, considering the challenges bedeviling our dear nation, which requires focused leadership, operational effectiveness, and sound administration, which are the pillars of my command philosophy. It must, however, be noted that transformation is not merely adopting new technologies; rather, it is about fostering a culture of innovation and encouraging adaptability in a rapidly changing operating environment. The success of this transformation will then largely depend on our ability to seamlessly integrate new technologies with the human elements to ensure that soldiers remain agile, informed, and prepared,” he said.

Technological advancement is shaping the way things are done in every sphere of human endeavor, in Modern warfare cutting-edge technology can make the difference between winning and losing.

It is against this backdrop that the Nigerian Army in its bid to keep up with modern trends organized the seminar for middle and junior officers.



Deputy Head of the Army Department of transformation Major General Adetoba said the Nigerian army aims to leverage Modern technology for effective operations.

Nigerian Army Smart Soldier Concept

Following the lessons learned while fighting Boko Haram, the Nigerian Army began a series of technology-driven initiative to provide troopers with sophisticated equipment to defeat the enemy.

Realizing that an incorrectly structured army, utilizing an ineffective and outdated doctrine and equipment, gives any threat-force an advantage whilst placing itself at a disadvantage, the Nigerian Army Chief of Army Staff; General Tukur Buratai unveiled the new Nigerian Army smart uniform which can send signals to the Command and Control network when an individual soldier is in danger.

Also, in order to provide better situational awareness, drones are being tethered to squad-sized troops to enables rapid battlefield decision making and adds to the initiative of junior commanders.

For enhanced lethality, the FB Beryl rifle chambered on the 7.63 x 39mm is being inducted. An innovative auto-aim rifle technology is also being developed by Nigerian Army engineers. Improved ballistic armour protection is also given to the Nigeria soldiers on the frontlines.

India offers modernized T-72 tanks for export, Africa included



Ajeya MK1 (Unconquerable) – Indian version of the T-72M1. In parallel with buying various T-72M off the-shelf from the Soviet Union, India also launched its domestic production at Heavy Vehicles Factory. Ajeya MK2 – Indian version of the T-72M1 with ERA and banks of 6 smoke grenade-launchers on each side.

India has embarked on a significant defence initiative to modernize its fleet of Russian-origin T-72 tanks, aiming to export these upgraded models to international markets. The primary targets for these exports include countries in Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia.

The modernization process will be conducted in India, leveraging the expertise of both Indian and Russian technical experts. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to retire the T-72 tanks from the Indian Army's service and replace them with more advanced models. The Indian Army currently operates approximately 2,500 T-72 tanks, which have been the backbone of its armored forces since the 1970s.

There is strong demand for these tanks, particularly from countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. Nations such as Egypt, Nigeria, Morocco, and Algeria already possess T-72 tanks and may be interested in acquiring modernized versions to enhance their combat capabilities. In the

Middle East, countries like Iraq and Syria could also benefit significantly from these upgrades.

The Heavy Vehicles Factory in Avadi, near Chennai, which has been producing T-72 tanks since the 1980s, will serve as the base for this modernization effort. This facility has a history of producing upgraded T-90 tanks and is well-equipped to handle the modernization of T-72 tanks for export.

While Russia remains a significant player in the global tank market, India's modernization initiative could face challenges due to geopolitical pressures. Western nations have imposed economic sanctions on Russia, which could influence India's arms transfer policies. However, India has previously navigated similar challenges in the energy sector, becoming a major intermediary for Russian oil and gas exports.

The T-72 tank is renowned for its reliability and durability. It is equipped with a 125 mm main gun, an anti-aircraft gun, and a machine gun. The tank can

reach speeds of 60 km/h on roads and 35 km/h off-road, and it is capable of fording rivers up to 1.2 meters deep. Notably, during the 2020 tensions with China, India deployed T-72 tanks to the high-altitude region of Ladakh, demonstrating their versatility in challenging terrains.

India has been strategically enhancing its presence in the global arms trade, aiming to compete with established powerhouses such as Russia and China. This ambition has led India to focus on exporting its domestically produced weapons to African militaries, which frequently face budget constraints that make Western-made equipment unaffordable. Building on its initial successes in this sector, India is now poised to expand its influence and establish itself as a significant player in African arms deals.

Unfortunately, there have been no actual weapons sales from India to any African recipient after more than a year.

Ghana Air Force modernization efforts hindered by Russia-Ukraine war and funding issues



Ekene Lionel

The Ghana Air Force's modernization plans have hit a major roadblock due to sanctions imposed on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine. The sanctions have severely disrupted the supply chain for spare parts, putting a strain on Ghana's fleet of Soviet and Russian-origin aircraft.

Impact of Sanctions and Funding Challenges

The Ghanaian air force operates several Soviet/Russian aircraft, including six Mi-17/171 helicopters and four Mi-35 Hind assault helicopters. However, the Mi-35s remain undelivered due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. These aircraft, operated by 3 Squadron and based at Accra AFB, play crucial roles in various operations, including gas pipeline and powerline patrols, coastal fishery patrols, and ambulance flights.

Negotiations with Rosoboronexport for the Mi-35s began a few years ago. Initially, a need for gunships was identified, but financial constraints led to a decision to exchange the planned Mi-35s for Mi-171s. Despite the ongoing conflict, this deal remains in the pipeline.

In 2021, Czech Republic's Lom Praha successfully carried out the overhaul of an Mi-171Sh helicopter belonging to the Ghanaian Air Force.



This is yet another indicator of how the Russia-Ukraine war is impacting African militaries, and forcing them to look elsewhere for critically needed spare parts to keep their military equipment in working order.

Russia-Ukraine crises may disrupt Africa's military supply chain

The Mi-17 and Mi-171 helicopters, used for troop transport, have been equipped with features such as night vision and a hoist, and can be armed with an AKS74 gun on a swivel. While the aircraft are NVG-capable, there are no plans to upgrade their systems due to the immediate operational needs.

Air Vice Marshal Maxwell Mantserbi-Tei Nagai, the Ghana Air Force's chief of air staff, highlighted the challenges: "Suggestions have been made to configure them into some more sophisticated weapons system. But that means we have to ground them, pack them and send them off for maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO), which would take a lot of time. And we need the aircraft now."

In 2021, Czech Republic's Lom Praha successfully carried out the overhaul of an Mi-171Sh helicopter belonging to the Ghanaian Air Force. Also, in 2019, the Czech company also overhauled an Mi-8MTV-5 (GHF690) for Ghana.

Despite having a capable but small air force, Ghana faces limitations in supporting international missions. Air Vice Marshal Nagai noted that the UN has requested Ghana's support for

helicopter operations in Mali. However, due to internal demands and the current fleet's state, Ghana is unable to fulfill these requests.

Nagai added, "We have been getting requests from the UN to support, mainly with the helicopter operations in Mali, but, right now, we are not in position to do so. Possibly, when we get new acquisitions, like Mi-35s, then we can consider supporting the UN again. But, for now, we have too much work meeting our own internal demands."

The ongoing geopolitical situation and funding challenges continue to hamper the Ghana Air Force's modernization efforts, affecting their operational readiness and international commitments.

Also, Ghana's intention to buy six L-39NG Albatros light attack and trainer aircraft from Czech Aero Vodochody has stalled due to funding constraints.

Ghana's defence minister on 2 August, 2021 sought parliamentary approval for the procurement of six L-39NG aircraft, in a deal that is reportedly worth EUR111 million (\$132 million) and which covers associated products and services and a ground-based training system as well as the six aircraft.

The acquisition was reviewed and approved by Ghana's parliament's Defence and Interior Committee on 17 December 2021.

The ongoing geopolitical situation and funding challenges continue to hamper the Ghana Air Force's modernization efforts, affecting their operational readiness and international commitments. (Credit: Ghana Air Force)



DR Congo in talks with HAL for Tejas jet



India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas is considered the most compact 4.5 generation warplane in the world.

Sarah Lesedi

The Democratic Republic of Congo's air force (FAC) is actively seeking to modernize its fleet, and India has become a focal point in their quest for advanced military aircraft. In August, a high-profile delegation from the FAC visited New Delhi to engage in discussions about the potential acquisition of the Tejas Mk1 multi-role aircraft. This visit marks a significant step in DR Congo's efforts to replace its ageing fleet of Soviet-origin aircraft, including the Sukhoi Su-25s FrogFoot.

The Congolese air force chief, alongside other defence officials, held extensive talks with representatives from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), including notable aviation engineer Kota Harinarayana. The discussions centered around the performance and capabilities of the Tejas Mk1, and its potential to serve as a long-term replacement for the FAC's existing Sukhoi Su-25s.

The FAC currently operates a diverse array of aircraft, including the Sukhoi Su-25, MiG-23, and Mil Mi-24 helicopters. The introduction of the Tejas Mk1 would represent a significant upgrade, bringing in more advanced technology

and enhanced combat capabilities. This shift is seen as crucial for DR Congo to maintain a robust and modern air force capable of addressing contemporary security challenges.

The security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is volatile. Conflict between government forces and armed groups in the east is ongoing.

Furthermore, according to the United Nations, Uganda is backing M23 rebels fighting across its border in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The UN also warns that a rapidly escalating crisis "carried the risk of triggering a wider regional conflict".

The Rwandan army is supporting M23 rebels in eastern DR Congo, using sophisticated weapons such as surface-to-air missiles. In January last year, Rwanda's defense force shot at a Democratic Republic of Congo Sukhoi Su-25 ground attack jet with man portable air defence weapon (MANPAD) that allegedly violated its airspace, as tensions between the neighboring countries escalate.

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With the T129s, the Nigerian Air Force will be better equipped to tackle the country's evolving security challenges.

Nigeria takes delivery of second batch of T-129 ATAK

Ekene Lionel

The Nigerian Air Force has significantly enhanced its combat capabilities with the arrival of two TAI T129 ATAK attack helicopters from Turkey. This marks the second batch of the highly advanced aircraft, following the delivery of two units in November 2023.

The T129 ATAK is a twin-engine attack helicopter designed for armed reconnaissance and attack missions in challenging environments. Equipped with state-of-the-art features such as electro-optical FLIR systems, advanced electronic warfare and countermeasure systems, and the ability to carry a variety of armaments, the T129 is a formidable addition to the Nigerian Air Force's arsenal.

The helicopters were transported to Nigeria by a Turkish Air

Force A400M cargo plane and landed at the Headquarters Tactical Air Command in Makurdi in September 2024. The arrival of these aircraft is expected to significantly bolster Nigeria's counterinsurgency efforts, particularly in the face of ongoing threats from various non-state actors.

The acquisition of the T129 ATAK helicopters is a testament to the growing defense partnership between Nigeria and Turkey. The two countries have been strengthening their bilateral ties in recent years, with Turkey emerging as a key supplier of military hardware to Nigeria. This strategic partnership is expected to continue, with Nigeria set to receive additional Turkish-made defense equipment, including Bayraktar TB2 drones and armored vehicles.

The T129 ATAK helicopters are equipped with a range of advanced weaponry, including UMTAS anti-tank missiles and CIRIT 70mm missiles. These capabilities will enable the Nigerian Air Force to effectively target enemy forces and infrastructure, providing essential support to ground troops.

The acquisition of these attack helicopters is a significant investment in Nigeria's national security. By enhancing the Air Force's capabilities, the Nigerian government is demonstrating its commitment to protecting the country's sovereignty and ensuring the safety of its citizens.

The Nigerian Air Force now operates a total of four T129 ATAK helicopters, solidifying its position as a key player in regional security efforts.

Nigeria completes repair of Benin navy warships



The ship would be deployed to fight insecurity on the waterways. Nigeria and Benin are in the same Zone E

The Nigerian Naval Dockyard Limited (NDL) have completed the repair and refurbishment of the first of six naval warships belonging to the Benin Navy. The vessel has been handed over to Benin.

Abolaji Orederu, NDL admiral superintendent, spoke in Lagos during the handover ceremony on Wednesday that the ship that was repaired and refurbished is the Benin Navy ship (BNS) PENDJARI 900.

Goussanou Bernard, the chief of operations of the Benin Navy, said the ship would be deployed to fight insecurity on the waterways.

“We intend to deploy it to our maritime space. Nigeria and Benin are in the same Zone E, and we are facing the same threats. So, we need all ships to tackle insecurity,” the cap-

tain said.

Bernard noted that the relationship between both countries is rooted in a strong foundation, adding that the initiative would cement the bond.

This March, in a landmark move to bolster maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, the Nigerian Navy entered into an agreement with the Benin Republic Navy (BRN) to undertake the refurbishment of six BRN warships. This initiative is set to significantly enhance the naval capabilities of Benin and contribute to the safety and security of the crucial maritime region.

The agreement, which encompasses the docking and repair of the Beninois navy ships, was formalized at the

Sarah Lesedi

Naval Dockyard Limited (NDL) in Victoria Island, Lagos. The signing ceremony took place at the BRN Naval Headquarters in Cotonou, marking a historic moment for both nations.

The Admiral Superintendent of NDL, Rear Admiral Abolaji Orederu, highlighted the significance of the agreement, stating that the warships—BNS PENDJARI, BNS OUEME, BNS ALIBORI, BNS ZOU, BNS MATELOT BRICE KPOMASSE, and BNS COUFFFO—had already set sail from Cotonou to Lagos. The refurbishment process is expected to span 10 months, during which the NDL will apply its expertise to restore the vessels to their optimal condition.

As at 2012 the Benin Navy has a strength of approximately 200 personnel. It operates two ex-Chinese patrol boats, which are designated the Matelot Brice Kpomasse class. In 2020, the United States supplied two Safe Boats vessels to better protect the Port of Cotonou and Gulf of Guinea coastline rife to increasing maritime insecurity.

Kamaz to produce trucks in Senegal

A plant of the Russian truck producer Kamaz will be opened in Senegal soon, Foreign Minister of Senegal Yassine Fall said at a joint press conference with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow late last month.

“Various Russian investors contribute to development of Africa,” she said. “The Kamaz plant will also be situated in the territory of Senegal in the near future,” she noted.

Earlier, in July 26, 2023, at a meeting with the head of Russia’s Tatarstan region, then-Senegalese President Macky Sall stated that his country has a huge demand for cooperation with the Russian automaker.

Kamaz, which stands for “Kama Automobile Plant” in Russian, is a Russian manufacturer of trucks, buses, and engines headquartered in the Republic of Tatarstan. Founded in 1969, the company is mostly known for its cab-over trucks. Kamaz is the largest truck producer in Russia and the post-Soviet space, producing over 53,000 trucks a year.

Back in April 2022, Heads and representatives of the largest companies of the republic, including KAMAZ, visited Senegal as part of a representative delegation led by the Head of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov. Prospects for strengthening cooperation in the field of mechanical engineering and other areas were discussed.

One of the main points of the business program was participation in the forum “Tatarstan – Senegal”. Welcoming the participants, Rustam Minnikhanov spoke about Tatarstan’s interest in cooperation with

Senegal. “We arrived in Senegal with the aim of expanding trade and economic cooperation, establishing new business contacts.

Representatives of KAMAZ, who spoke about the wide opportunities of KAMAZ in the production of trucks and readiness for the development of partnership, continued the topic of prospects for cooperation with Senegal in the field of mechanical engineering.

Senegal is one of the important export markets for KAMAZ. 167 KAMAZ vehicles have been delivered to the country. Mainly among the delivered trucks are KAMAZ-5460 truck tractors for container transportation from the port of Dakar. In addition, in 2021, training of Senegalese drivers and mechanics was organized at the customer’s premises and at the KAMAZ training center in Naberezhnye Chelny.

Typhoon MRAP

The automaker also produces the Kamaz Typhoon MRAP vehicle since 2014—personnel carriers protected from shelling and landmine explosions. The MRAP has a 6×6 all-wheel drive, independent hydro-pneumatic suspensions on all wheels, and bulletproof tires with an air inflation system.

Russia has already offered the vehicle to African militaries who wants to upgrade their legacy armoured vehicles.

Typhoon MRAP offered to African customers to enter service with Russian Airborne Forces Typhoon-VDV belongs to the large Typhoon-K MRAP vehicles family, which, as Military Africa reported in 2020, is particularly aimed at the African customers.

Sarah Lesedi



Protection is provided by combined armor made of ceramics and steel, as well as 13 cm thick bulletproof glass. The passenger compartment of the vehicle can accommodate up to 16 people. The Typhoon is equipped with an eight-cylinder KAMAZ-740 diesel engine or a six-cylinder YaMZ-536, both developing 450 hp. The gearbox is a six-speed automatic Allison.

Kamaz trucks are already actively used in the Senegalese military, supplied under an agreement signed in 2019 at the first Russia-Africa summit. Kamaz vehicles have also been supplied to countries such as Libya, Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Mali, Ghana, Togo, and Angola over the years.

Despite increased sanctions pressure from the West, Kamaz continues to work with partners in Africa, the company said in a statement in 2023 when it participated in the Second Russia-Africa Summit.

The company is interested not only in supplying trucks and spare parts but also in organizing a support service network. Kamaz specialists are ready to provide technical assistance and collaborate to create the necessary infrastructure for servicing trucks,

Rosoboronexport at AAD 2024: all for enhancing security in Africa



Rosoboronexport

In September Rosoboronexport, part of Rostec State Corporation, presented Russian defence products that are in demand on the African continent at the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) 2024 expo in South Africa.

“Rosoboronexport has been successfully co-operating with more than 40 countries in Africa and is steadily expanding its footprint on the continent, including through active participation in exhibitions. We help our partners in the region to strengthen their defence capabilities and sovereignty, adequately respond to today’s security threats related to organized crime and terrorism. In addition, joint projects and transfer of Russian technologies give an impetus to the development of industry in African countries,” said Alexander Mikheev, Director General of Rosoboronexport.



Rosoboronexport organized a single Russian exhibit at AAD, which comprised 250+ military, dual-use and civilian products. Most of the exhibit items had been successfully used in the battlefield and now are being modernized to meet the realities of today’s combat operations. Capabilities of Russia’s wheeled armored vehicles to transport mechanized units, provide fire support, as well as evacuate the wounded and provide first aid were among the focuses of Rosoboronexport’s exhibit. The company presented the Typhoon-K, ZA-SpN Titan, 3-STs Akhmat, Spartak, Tiger mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles as well as the upgraded Linza protected ambulance vehicle, assembled entirely from Russian components under the import substitution program.



Recent military conflicts demonstrated the need to additionally protect armored vehicles from new threats, namely reconnaissance and attack UAVs. For the first time on the African continent

Rosoboronexport exhibited advanced armored vehicle protection systems. Among them - are the Nakidka radio-absorbing material, which heavily reduces the thermal and radar signature of hardware, add-on slat armor and explosive reactive armor (ERA) kits for tanks and light armored vehicles.

For Air Force delegations the modern Russian military transport and combat aircraft and helicopters, as well as the Yak-130 combat trainer, a modernized version of which was presented in 2024 for global marketing, were on display, too.

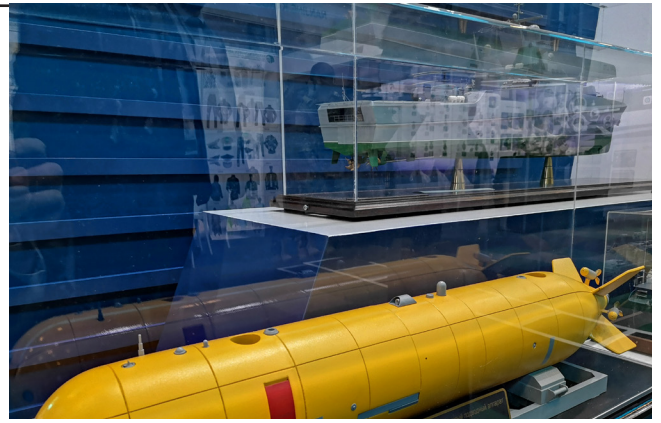
In the UAV segment, the Russian exhibit featured the Orion-E reconnaissance/strike UAV, Orlan-10E and Orlan-30 reconnaissance UAV systems, S-350 Skat UAV and the Kub-E loitering munition.

At its booth, Rosoboronexport offered a wide range of small arms to equip army, special and police units, including Kalashnikov AK-200 series, AK-15, AK-308 and AK-19 assault rifles. Visitors to the company's exhibit also were able to get acquainted with Russian Chukavin and Dragunov sniper rifles (with folding buttstock), MPL, PLK, MPL-1, Viking pistols and PPK-20 submachine gun.

The Russian defence industry's capabilities to design and manufacture small arms systems comprising a firearm, a munition and a sighting system were showcased during live demonstrations of small arms. As part of the concept, Rosoboronexport presented a variety of thermal and optical sights.

The company offered law enforcement agencies a wide range of non-lethal weapons: PB-4SP Osa non-lethal pistol, multifunctional riot shields, stun, smoke, aerosol and irritating hand grenades. For delegations from African countries with access to the sea Rosoboronexport demonstrated the Project 22160 patrol ship, Type BK-10, BK-16 high-speed multipurpose, assault and amphibious assault boats.

During the business program of the exhibition Rosoboronexport held negotiations with the representatives of all services of the armed forces and security agencies of African countries. The company also continued to strengthen ties with local defence companies to develop industrial partnerships in the region.



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Nigér to acquire Turkish Karayel combat drones

Niger is set to strengthen its military capabilities with an imminent order for five Turkish-made Lentatek “Karayel-SU” drones and associated equipment, valued at \$87.5 million. This move by the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) highlights Niger’s strategic partnership with Turkey in defense technology.

The Karayel-SU drones are a highly capable addition to Niger’s arsenal, boasting technical specifications similar to the Bayraktar TB2 drones already in use. The CNSP had initially considered purchasing additional TB2 drones but found the contract terms to be overpriced. The search for cost-effective alternatives led them to the Karayel-SU, which provides comparable capabilities at a more reasonable price.

The Vestel Karayel is a tactical-level Medium-Altitude, Long-Endurance (MALE) combat / non-combat Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) originating from Lentatek of Turkey. The aircraft is currently (2022) in active use with the armed forces of Turkey (where it originates) and Saudi Arabia (where it is marketed under the INTRA Defense Technologies, Ltd brand label).

In their quest for advanced drones, the CNSP also approached the UAE-based EDGE Group. However, the negotiations did not progress favorably. The EDGE Group, unwilling to sell to a government



perceived as a putschist regime, presented a heavily overpriced offer, which the CNSP deemed too high. This further solidified Niger’s decision to pivot towards Turkish defense technologies.

Niger’s interest in Turkish defense technologies is part of a broader trend observed across Africa. Turkish drones have gained popularity due to their reliability and effectiveness in various combat and surveillance operations. For countries like Niger, Turkey presents a strategic alternative with flexible approaches and competitive defense products.

This deal is not Niger’s first venture into Turkish military technology. Previously, Niger has shown interest in other Turkish defense products, including the Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) and the Hurkus light attack aircraft, produced by Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI). In 2021, Turkey announced Bayraktar TB2 drone order from Nigér.

In 2022, TAI confirmed that Niger had ordered two Hurkus air-

craft, with deliveries completed by the end of that year.

Niger faces severe security threats from jihadist insurgencies linked to groups like Boko Haram and Islamic State affiliates, particularly in its southeastern region bordering Nigeria. The acquisition of the Karayel-SU drones is part of an ongoing effort to modernize Niger’s military and enhance its capabilities to combat these challenges.

The “Karayel-SU” is a variant of the Karayel family line, given extended mainplanes for improved stability and enhanced fuel economy while being cleared to carry attack munitions or even mission-specific equipment by way of a pair of hardpoints (resulting in four hardpoints in all). The aircraft can, therefore, be fielded with Precision-Guided Munitions (PGMs) including missiles, guided bombs, guided rockets, and air-launched mortars. The UAV is also capable of providing real-time rolling SATCOM (SATellite COMmunications) if modified as such.

Wagner operating Kub loitering munition in Mali



Kazim Abdul

Russian mercenary Wagner PMC have been seen fielding Zala Aero KYB loitering munition (KUB).

Zala KYB-UAV, also known as KUB-BLA (Cube), is a new loitering munition system developed and manufactured by Russian defence company Zala Aero, a subsidiary of Kalashnikov Group.

It was built based on the combat experience of Russian armed forces in Syria between 2015 and 2018. The key advantages of the system include high precision, hidden launch, and simple and silent operation.

In Mali, the KUB-BLA are being utilized for ISR missions, besides their use as kamikaze drones.

Two of the types were spotted abandoned by Wagner on 13th July in Inazarraf region after a fierce clash with Tuareg rebel

groups.

This military-grade drone is capable of delivering a variety of weapon payloads with high precision, either through manually set target coordinates or image-based target guidance. It can function as a suicide or kamikaze drone to effectively neutralize small targets on both land and sea.

This military-grade drone is capable of delivering a variety of weapon payloads with high precision, either through manually set target coordinates or image-based target guidance. It can function as a suicide or kamikaze drone to effectively neutralize small targets on both land and sea.

Sporting a wide triangular-wing design, this unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) is crafted for stealthy launches and silent missions. It targets enemy infrastructure and lightly armored assets with ease. Measuring

1.21 meters in wingspan, 0.95 meters in length, and 0.165 meters in height, it supports intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR), and direct target engagement missions.

With the Russo-Ukraine war still ongoing, Russia continues to fulfil its international commitments, particularly in Africa, where it enjoys extensive patronage.

Moscow has earlier supplied aircraft to the Mali, as the efforts to strengthen its military capacity continues in the face of mass exodus of foreign troops in the Sahelian country.

Also, Mali recently took delivery of a large number of Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drone.

Mali has indeed been facing a protracted struggle against Islamic insurgency, with the situation posing significant challenges for the country and its people.

Swarm drones in Sudan



Sarah Lesedi

The ongoing conflict in Sudan is turning into a proving ground for advanced drone technologies, particularly swarm drones, loitering munitions, and unmanned warfare. Initially, the Rapid Support Force (RSF) utilized drones primarily for surveillance and reconnaissance missions. This scenario changed dramatically when the United Arab Emirates supplied the paramilitary group with Serbian-made attack UAVs in early 2023.

A drone swarm involves a group of drones operating together autonomously to accomplish specific tasks. These swarms represent an advanced form of drone technology with the potential to revolutionize military and urban surveillance operations. By leveraging collective intelligence and sensory capabilities, drone swarms can execute coordinated actions with impressive efficiency.

On September 8, 2024, Sudanese Armed Forces soldiers and their allies faced a significant attack in Al-Fashir, the capital of North Darfur. A large swarm of small drones, deployed as improvised loitering munitions, targeted them. This attack marked a new level of escalation in the Sudanese battlefield, as the use of a swarm of small drones in this manner had not been documented before. Additionally, a considerable number of reconnaissance UAVs were also deployed during this operation.

In response, the Sudanese army has begun operating improvised kamikaze drones, likely based on commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) UAVs. These drones, appearing to be FPV quadcopter-type, represent an adaptation to the evolving battlefield.

Earlier in 2023, Sudan's Military Industry Corporation (MIC) introduced the Kamin-25 loitering munition, designed to be launched from unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Unveiled at the IDEX 2023 show in Abu Dhabi, the Kamin-25 is currently undergoing tests with the Sudanese Air Force's Z3-M UAVs, with final acceptance tests scheduled for May. Each Z3-M can carry two Kamin-25s, which can be launched with their wings rotated 90° along their bodies.

To counter this new threat, forces allied with the Sudanese Armed forces are fielding two Chinese-made anti-drone jammer to fight off unmanned systems operated by the Rapid Support Force (RSF).

One is the SkyFend Hunter C-UAS, and the second, the Ching Kkng anti-drone jammer.

The Sudan conflict is showcasing the transformative impact of swarm drones and loitering munitions on modern warfare.



Burkina Faso opens drone training centre to bolster security

Burkina Faso has taken a significant step towards enhancing its security and technological capabilities with the inauguration of a new drone pilot training center. This pioneering facility is set to revolutionize Africa's capacity for drone technology, providing specialized training to equip military personnel with the skills needed to safeguard communities and protect natural resources.

The establishment of this training center addresses Burkina Faso's growing demand for skilled drone operators. By developing local talent, the center supports various critical areas, including:

Border Security and Counter-Terrorism Efforts: Enhancing the ability to monitor and secure borders against threats.

Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Response: Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of aid delivery and disaster management.

Sustainable Development and Resource Management: Utilizing drones for environmental monitoring and resource management.

This initiative strengthens Burkina Faso's position as a hub for innovation and security in West Africa, embodying the continent's commitment to self-sufficiency and security.

To further bolster its security and counter-terror-

ism efforts, Burkina Faso has recently acquired five Bayraktar TB2 drones from Turkey. These medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) drones are capable of performing intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and strike missions. With a range of 150 km and an endurance of 24 hours, the Bayraktar TB2 can carry up to four laser-guided missiles.

In addition to the Bayraktar TB2, Burkina Faso has also acquired the Akinci long-range combat drone. This advanced UAV has a maximum takeoff weight of over 5.5 tons and can carry a payload of over 1,350 kg. Equipped with two turboprop engines, electronic support and ECM systems, dual satellite communication systems, air-to-air radar, collision avoidance radar, and advanced synthetic-aperture radar, the Akinci UCAV is a formidable addition to Burkina Faso's arsenal.

The opening of the drone pilot training center and the acquisition of advanced UAVs underscore Burkina Faso's commitment to security and self-sufficiency. By investing in homegrown expertise and cutting-edge technology, Burkina Faso is taking significant steps toward safeguarding its people, resources, and future. These efforts are expected to provide a strategic edge over Islamist militants who have been causing unrest in the region, contributing to a more secure and stable West Africa.

Nigeria, Nigér discuss security cooperation



Nigeria’s top military commander has met Niger’s army chief to strengthen security cooperation as violence from a Sahel jihadist war worsens following a series of coups in the region.

Relations between Nigeria and its northern Sahel neighbor Niger have been tense since the military took over in Niamey in 2023 and broke away from the regional bloc ECOWAS.

Nigeria’s President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who is head of the Economic Community of West African States, initially took a hardline but has since been trying to persuade the three junta-led states Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso to return to the group.

Nigeria’s chief of defense staff, General Christopher Musa, on Wednesday 28 August, met in Niamey with General Moussa Salaou Barmou to discuss security cooperation, a Nigerian military statement said.

“Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to resuming and strengthening collaboration, with a view to ensuring regional stability and security,” it said on Thursday.

The statement said Niger’s chief of staff would visit Nigeria to finalize cooperation, and a Niger advisory group would be created to improve communication between the two militaries.

“Niger affirmed its readiness to resume active participation in security cooperation under the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJT),” the statement said.

The task force, involving Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, and Chad, has been key in battling jihadists active along the border areas of the four countries.

Niger’s military government is battling jihadists linked to the Islamic State group, Al-Qaeda, and Boko Haram in the western Tillaberi region and in the southeastern Diffa area near Nigeria.

ECOWAS has unsuccessfully tried to return democracies in these countries. Their best shot with now-lifted economic sanctions resulted in the three coup-hit countries withdrawing their membership and opening more windows for Russian mercenaries in the region.

Defense chiefs of West Africa on Thursday, June 27 proposed a plan to deploy a 5,000-strong “standby force” to fight the region’s worsening security crises.

The plan, which will cost \$2.6 billion annually, was proposed to heads of state at a meeting of defense officials in Nigeria’s capital of Abuja. The plan was also aimed at preventing further coups following a string of military takeovers that have destabilized the region, Nigeria’s Defense Minister Mohammed Badaru said.



RESECURITY'S CYBER INTELLIGENCE SOLUTIONS STRENGTHEN AFRICA'S DEFENSE AGAINST EMERGING DIGITAL THREATS

Africa is experiencing unprecedented growth in digital adoption, driving economic and social development across the continent. However, with this rapid transformation comes an equally significant cybersecurity challenge. Governments, military organizations, and critical infrastructure in Africa are increasingly at risk from cyberattacks, making the need for robust cybersecurity solutions more urgent than ever.

Resecurity (USA), a global leader in cyber intelligence, has been at the forefront of addressing these threats, supporting key African government agencies with advanced, actor-centric intelligence solutions. As experts highlight, Africa's threat landscape is particularly diverse, ranging from terrorism to state-sponsored cyberespionage, demanding a more proactive and comprehensive defense strategy.

Africa's Unique and Diverse Threat Landscape

According to cybersecurity experts, Africa's digital ecosystem is uniquely exposed to a broad array of cyber threats. These threats are not limited to the traditional cybersecurity challenges seen in other parts of the world. Instead, the continent faces a combination of **terrorism, cyberespionage, and organized cybercrime**. These threats target key sectors, including government institutions, defense networks, and critical infrastructure such as energy, finance, and telecommunications.

The origins of these threats are equally diverse. Terrorist organizations, particularly in regions like the Sahel and East Africa, have increasingly leveraged cyberspace to coordinate attacks, spread extremist propaganda, and recruit followers.

Meanwhile, **state-sponsored hackers and cyberespionage groups** are using Africa as a strategic battleground, exploiting the continent's digital vulnerabilities to conduct espionage, steal intellectual property, and disrupt economic activity.

Africa's wealth in **natural resources** and increasing foreign investment from global powers competing for influence have also made the region a target for **cyber offensive activities**. These attacks threaten to destabilize governments, compromise sensitive data, and undermine trust in digital systems.

The Current Cybersecurity Landscape in Africa

The **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024** reveals significant disparities in cybersecurity preparedness across Africa. Countries such as **Mauritius, Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, and Tanzania** rank in Tier 1, demonstrating advanced legal, technical, and organizational frameworks that enable them to defend against cyber threats.

In contrast, the majority of African countries, including

Burundi, Central African Republic, Eritrea and Guinea-Bissau are positioned in **Tier 5**, where cyber defense infrastructure is minimal or non-existent. These countries are particularly vulnerable to cyberattacks, as they lack the necessary legal frameworks, technical measures, and trained personnel to defend against both basic and advanced cyber threats.

This imbalance presents a significant security risk for the continent, as attackers can use poorly protected regions as entry points to launch broader cyberattacks against other nations. The diversity and complexity of the threats African countries face make it essential for governments to adopt more sophisticated, proactive solutions.

The Growing Threat of Cyber Espionage and Terrorism

In addition to the general challenges of cybersecurity, Africa has become a prime target for **state-sponsored cyberespionage and terrorist activity**. Terrorist groups use cyberspace to plan attacks, recruit members, and disseminate propaganda, while cyberespionage groups target govern-

ment and military networks to steal sensitive data.

The **African Union** and individual nations have taken steps to strengthen cybersecurity, but gaps remain in detection, response, and recovery capabilities.

A notable example is **South Africa**, which despite its leadership in cybersecurity on the continent, suffered a crippling cyberattack in 2022 that disrupted its logistics and critical sectors. This incident highlights the fact that even the most advanced African nations remain vulnerable to cyber threats.

Resecurity Solutions: The Key to Combating Cyber Espionage and Terrorism

In the face of these evolving threats, African governments must adopt comprehensive cybersecurity intelligence solutions that can address both the immediate dangers of cyberattacks and the long-term risks posed by cyberespionage and terrorism. **Resecurity** offers a suite of cutting-edge tools designed to detect, prevent, and anticipate cyberattacks through **threat intelligence and monitoring solutions**.



Resecurity

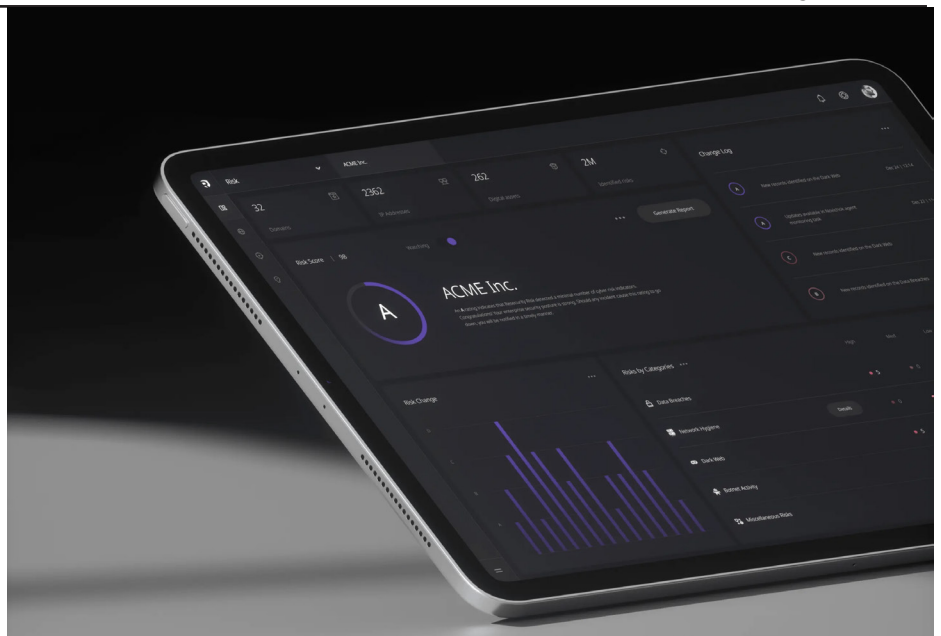
Resecurity's solutions provide African governments with critical capabilities, including:

- **Proactive Threat Detection:** Leveraging AI-powered threat intelligence, Resecurity enables governments to predict and neutralize threats before they escalate into full-scale attacks.
- **CIRT Support:** Resecurity helps establish and enhance Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs), enabling governments to quickly contain and mitigate cyber incident.
- **Cyber Drills and Training:** Regular simulations of cyberattack scenarios ensure that military and government personnel are prepared to handle real-world threats, from ransomware attacks to cyberespionage attempts.
- **Intelligence Sharing:** Resecurity facilitates cross-border and inter-agency intelligence sharing, which is critical in addressing transnational threats like terrorism and cybercrime.

Why Cyber Intelligence is Vital for National Security

For African nations, adopting cyber intelligence solutions like those offered by **Resecurity** is crucial for protecting not just data but also national sovereignty. Military communications, government networks, and critical infrastructures such as energy and telecommunications are prime targets for both cybercriminals and nation-state actors.

Resecurity has seen a growing demand for its **Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI)** and **Social Media Monitoring and Intelligence (SOCMINT)** solutions across Africa. Governments are increasingly recognizing



the need for these specialized tools to counter the sophisticated tactics used by terrorist organizations and cyberespionage groups.

Nations like **Kenya and Ghana**, which have integrated cyber intelligence into their national defense frameworks, serve as role models for the continent. By embracing proactive solutions, these countries have strengthened their ability to protect critical infrastructure and bolster national security.

Resecurity: Strengthening Africa's Cyber Defense

Resecurity plays a pivotal role in strengthening Africa's **C4ISR** (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) capabilities. By providing real-time intelligence, proactive threat detection, and cutting-edge monitoring systems, Resecurity equips African governments with the tools they need to secure their digital assets and national infrastructures.

As cyber threats continue to evolve, African nations must invest in comprehensive, intelligence-driven solutions that protect against both cybercrim-

inals and the more insidious threats posed by cyberespionage and terrorism. Resecurity's tailored solutions offer a clear pathway for nations looking to secure their digital futures and strengthen their defenses against a wide array of digital adversaries.

Conclusion

In today's rapidly digitizing world, cybersecurity has become a national security priority for African governments. The continent's unique threat landscape—ranging from terrorism to state-sponsored cyberespionage—demands robust, proactive cybersecurity measures.

With solutions like Resecurity, African nations can better defend themselves against these growing threats and ensure the security of their military, government, and critical infrastructures.

By adopting advanced cyber intelligence solutions today, Africa can secure its future, protect its national assets, and maintain sovereignty in an increasingly competitive and digital global arena.



**Your Innovation
Our Audience:
A Powerful Alliance**