

Defense Update



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India first missile defense system

India to Deploy Missile Defenses at Delhi and Mumbai

Delhi and Mumbai, India's two major metropolitan areas have been selected by to host the first two Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system being developed by the country's Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO). The strategic planning has already begun to install the BMD system in the two cities and the final proposal will be put before the government after detailed analysis of the entire project and the program currently awaits green light by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). The DRDO has not publicly committed as to when such capability will become Operational Capable but said an enhanced version could be available by 2016...

Japan Bound MV-22 to be Grounded Until August

The US DoD decided to proceed with the shipment of MV-22 aircraft, as a replacement for the CH-46 currently operated by the Marine Corps. The aircraft will arrive at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni for unloading in late July. Following concern expressed by Japanese officials after the April 11, 2012 MV-22 mishap in Morocco, and June 13, 2012 CV-22 mishap in Florida.

Based on preliminary conclusions that determined there were no mechanical or safety issues with the aircraft, DOD decided to continue with the deployment of Ospreys to Japan. However, in close coordination with the Government of Japan and in recognition of the remaining concerns of the Japanese government about the safety of the aircraft, the Marine Corps will refrain from any flight operations of the MV-22 in Japan until the results of the investigations are presented to the Japanese government and the safety of flight operations is confirmed.

The Defense Department anticipates presenting this information to the Japanese government in August. During this period, Japan will be the only location worldwide where the United States will suspend MV-22 flight operations. The United States will

continue uninterrupted flight operations of the MV-22 and CV-22 elsewhere around the world, including over the continental United States. ([Pentagon Announcement](#), Full article on Page 5)

India to Strengthen Border Guards along Nepal, Bhutan borders

India announced the deployment of additional eight battalions (8,000 troops) along its northern borders with Nepal and Bhutan by next month, to ensure effective patrolling at these frontiers. The units deployment is expected to complete this month. The forces will support the 40,000 strong Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) which guards the 1,751-km Indo-Nepal and 699-km Indo-Bhutan borders. SSB Director General (DG) Pranay Sahay. At present, the SSB maintains about 450 Border Outposts along the Indo-Nepal border, at 4.5 kilometer intervals. The new deployment will create more outposts to fill some of the gaps.

"We would be deploying about eight fresh battalions between both the borders that we guard. The deployment will largely be achieved by July. The rest will be put in place over few months from then," SSB Director General (DG) Pranay Sahay said.



TECH TRANSFER

Samsung Thales (STC) Licenses Radar Processing Technology

Samsung Thales Corporation (STC) has signed a technology transfer agreement with UK based Cambridge Pixel, for implementing Cambridge's SPx product family, including radar scan converter, radar video simulator and network video distribution, for the enhancement of Korean naval radar systems. SPx software libraries offer ready-to-run software products for radar visualization, radar video distribution, plot extraction and target tracking.

[Official Release](#)

Japan-Korea ratify GSOMIA Seoul Puts Off Intelligence Pact with Japan

Japan and South Korea put on hold an intelligence sharing pact less than an hour before it was to be formally signed Friday, in a major embarrassment for both countries forced by a political outcry in Seoul.

The bilateral defense agreement was to be the first since Japan's occupation of the Korean Peninsula ended in 1945. The General Security Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) agreement called for sharing secret intelligence about North Korea, and its nuclear and missile programs. Seoul interest lied with the technological and intelligence gathering capabilities developed by Japan, which deployed several spy satellites, surveillance aircraft, naval vessels and signals intelligence assets in the region.

The new agreement would have signaled the growing concern shared by the two countries, over the North Korean military programs. The agreement also lays the ground for improved trilateral collaboration between the military forces of South Korea, Japan and the U.S.

Warming relations between Seoul and Tokyo faced significant opposition among the South Korean population, since the Japanese occupation has left scars that have not healed in the past 60 years.

Military Chiefs of Japan and Russia Meet in Moscow

On his visit to Moscow last week (26-28 June) the Chief of Joint Staff of Japan Self Defense Force General Shigeru Iwasaki met chief of Russia's Armed Forces General Staff, Gen. Nikolai Makarov.

Tigers in Trouble Down Under Australia Suspends Tiger Helicopters - Again

The Army fleet of Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters (ARH) has been suspended again from flying operations as a safety precaution, less than a month after lifting a two-week restriction due to unexplained smoke in the cockpit. The current decision came after precautionary landing of an aircraft at the Shoalwater Bay training area on 25 June, after the aircraft's two-man crew detected fumes in the cockpit again. The

aircraft landed safely with no injuries to the crew, or further damage to the aircraft.

In May 2012 the Australian Army grounded all 22 Tigers after fumes were detected in the cockpit of one of the aircraft. Following that incident the Army grounded the helicopters for two weeks. While the Tigers received Operational Airworthiness Authority clearance following a detailed assessment of the problem, the recent event immediately triggered the grounding of the helicopters once again.

Australia's army has 22 Tigers, of which 19 are in a "fully capable configuration". The remaining three are being retrofitted to raise them to the same standard, the DoD says, and will return to the fleet later this year. The type has yet to become fully operational in Australian service. Final testing of the type is planned for late 2012.



TANK FIRED GUIDED MISSILE

3UBK20 (MANGO) AT-11

The 3UBK20 weapon system uses the 9M119F guided missile (AT11), fired from the 2A46M smooth bore 125mm tank gun. Loaded with a tandem HEAT warhead, this missile defeats up to 700 mm of standard and reactive armor at ranges up to 5,000 meters. For guidance the missile uses 'jam-resistant' semi-automatic, modulated laser-beam-riding guidance system.

Defense Update

Gun-Fired Missiles for Indian T-90s Russia Nears Tank Ammo Deal With India

Russia is nearing a deal with India on the delivery of advanced 125mm gun-launched guided ammunition for the T-90 Main Battle Tank (MBT), Rosoboronexport said on Friday, June 29. "The first round of negotiations on the delivery of 3UBK20 (Mango) tank ammunition has been completed and the second round - on its licensed manufacture in India - will start on Monday," company deputy head Igor Sevastyanov said. India is also planning to equip the indigenous Arjun Mk II tanks with gun-fired laser-guided missiles it has acquired from Israel Aerospace Industries.

Russia has already started building a joint venture in India to manufacture rockets for Smerch multiple rocket launch systems, he said. Another Rosoboronexport official, Viktor Komardin, earlier said Russian arms sales to India could be worth an estimated \$3 billion a year. (Novosti)

Better Arjun Coming Arjun MkII MBT Begins Field Trials

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has started developmental trials of the new Arjun Mark II Main Battle Tank (MBT) at Pokhran field firing range in Rajasthan, India on June 29, 2012.

If successful, the trials will provide DRDO with approval for production of 124 Arjun mark II at its heavy vehicles factory in Avadi, to add to the 124 Arjun Mark I MBTs currently in service with the Indian Army. The follow-on order is conditional upon 93 improvements to the Arjun Mk I MBT, including the 19 major modifications currently being tested.

At the centerpiece of this upgrading is the introduction of the panoramic tank commander's thermal imaging (TI) night sight, which replaces the day only sight in the earlier version. Another new capability is the missile-firing capability against long-range targets, containerisation of the ammunition, improved ammunition with better penetration and additional ammunition types, introduction of explosive reactive armour, advanced air-defence weapon

station, capable of engaging helicopters. The tank can also carry a mine plough.

Night operation is also improved with the addition of a Driver Thermal Viewer and improved navigation system. An auxiliary power was added, almost doubling the Arjun's power generation capability, the improved gun barrel, a new final drive, track and sprocket.

The new variant of Arjun features an improved long-range missile-firing capability (firing the Israeli laser-homing LAHAT missile), a new panoramic sight with night-vision, explosive reactive armour, advanced air-defence gun to engage helicopters, land navigation system and a threat warning system that triggers the deployment of countermeasures such as smoke screen, as countermeasures against enemy laser guidance. ([Times of India](#))



JAPAN SAYS NO TO OSPREY

US DOD tells Japan: the MV-22B Osprey is Safe

planned deployment of US Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor transport aircraft to Okinawa has run into some rather intense opposition from local Japanese officials and created new headaches for Japanese Prime Minister Toshihiko Noda. Two Japanese prefectural governors, along with local community leaders, have adopted a stance of direct opposition to the planned deployment of the Osprey.

Richard Dudley reports

The original deployment plan called for the Ospreys to be assembled and undergo flight testing at the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) in Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture before being sent on to MCAS Futenma in Okinawa. On 19 June, Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima met with Foreign Minister Koichiro Genba and Defense Minister Satoshi Morimoto to ask the central government to encourage the Pentagon to cancel deployment of the twenty-four Ospreys to Futenma.

Responding to pressure from city mayors and prefectural governors in Okinawa, following the CV-22B crash in Florida on 13 June, Japan's newly-appointed Minister of Defense, Satoshi Morimoto representing the Japanese government, requested the Pentagon provide a detailed briefing to explain the causes of the Florida accident and the 22 April crash of the Marine MV-22B in Morocco. Japanese national leaders are under unrelenting pressure to assure community leaders and the general public that the Osprey can be operated safely in Japan.

Pentagon officials and military officers meeting the Japanese delegation reassure the Japanese that the MV-22B's

safety record equals that of any active aircraft in the military's inventory. During the high-level meeting, held in a Washington suburb, Defense Department representatives defended the safety record of the Osprey and shared preliminary investigation findings concerning the two most recent Osprey accidents with their Japanese counterparts.

Department of Defense (DoD) Press Secretary George Little told reporters that the Pentagon takes the inquiries made by the Japanese government very seriously but the Pentagon stands behind its decision to deploy the MV-22B to Okinawa and insists that there are no plans in the works to cancel this deployment.

As a tiltrotor aircraft capable of vertical/short take-off and landing (VSTOL) operations, the Bell Boeing V-22 was designed to integrate the features of a conventional helicopter with those of a turboprop aircraft. This innovative combination of functionality gives the Marine Corps a long-range, high-speed aircraft that outperforms existing medium-lift helicopters currently in active service. The Osprey is able to carry as many as 24 combat-loaded Marines at twice the speed and five times

the distance of operational helicopters of comparable lift capacity.

The MV-22B is a medium-lift transport aircraft and has been employed as a combat transport in a battlefield environment in both Iraq and Afghanistan since 2007. Having encountered both shoulder-launched missiles and anti-aircraft fire on combat-lift missions, not a single aircraft has been lost to enemy fire. In the early stages of development the V-22 was plagued by a series of technical difficulties, glitches the Marine Corps says were little more than initial teething problems that have since been identified and corrected. Since the Osprey became operational in 2007, six people have died in three accidents and several others were injured. It is this safety record, a media favorite and always accorded front-page coverage, which has rattled Japanese leaders and inflamed an already tense situation with respect to the US military presence in Japan, especially among the Okinawan populace.

While it is not necessary for local communities to approve of the Osprey move, the hostile opposition the plan has generated represents a serious loss of face for the national government and Prime Minister Noda. The opposition also



SOUTH KOREA

C-130H HERCULES TO GET ISRAELI GLASS COCKPITS

“The recent win marks a new milestone in company’s collaboration Korean Air Force and Korea Aerospace Industries. Shmueli said the experience the company have gained in performing previous C-130 upgrades in South Korea and Romania, as well as the upgrading of the Brazilian C-95 Brazilian C-95 transport aircraft, position it in a favorable position to win similar projects evolving with the growing demand for transport aircraft upgrades.”

Yoram Shmueli, Co-General Manager of Elbit Systems’ Aerospace Division

complicates the Pentagon’s ongoing project to upgrade Marine Corps air assets. The MV-22B/C is projected to replace the aging fleet of CH-46 Sea Knight medium-lift helicopters now operational with an estimated completion date of 2019.

The last Marine CH-46 pilot completed training this year and no additional pilot training is scheduled. The Marine Corps is committed to the Osprey and, barring any extraordinary developments, it is the transport of the future. No alternative aircraft are available to replace the Osprey and it is not practical to believe that production could be increased on a conventional helicopter model to perform the Marine’s transport mission.

Should the Marines in Japan be denied the Osprey, it would deprive them of a critical component in their warfighting capabilities, power projection abilities, and would cripple their humanitarian relief efforts. Unit and personnel rotation from other regions of the world would be rendered impossible since the CH-46 will be retired and the Marines already have twelve squadrons flying the MV-22. Simply put, without the Osprey the Marines will be unable to

perform their mission from Japanese installations. Either the Japanese accept the Osprey or the Marines may be forced to begin looking for another base of operations, a time-consuming and extremely difficult option.

As a hybrid, the MV-22B features the maneuverability, speed, and range of a turboprop transport while offering the VTOL capabilities of a conventional helicopter. It gives the US Navy and Marines a medium-lift capability that can be launched against a hostile shore from a greater distance to enhance the survivability of amphibious assault shipping, a consideration that may become a significant concern in the Asia-Pacific region. ([Defense-Update](#))

Upgrading & Modernization Korean C-130H to get Israeli Glass Cockpits

Elbit Systems announced it has been awarded a contract valued at US\$62 million to upgrade the Korean Air Force C-130 transport aircraft. Under the four year contract, the C-130 aircraft will be installed with advanced electronic systems replacing part of the existing, mechanical-analog cockpit instrumentation. The modernized system

will use electronic, digital multifunction displays in a “Glass-Cockpit” style, using Elbit Systems’ cutting-edge digital flight displays and integrated computers.

The Israeli company will deliver the project over four years, in cooperation with Korea Aerospace Industries Ltd. (KAI), who is the leading local aircraft manufacturer in Korea.

The Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) currently operates 12 C-130H Hercules transport aircraft, along with 20 Airbus Military C-235. In 2010 Korea has ordered four new C-130J from the USA, and is expecting to receive these aircraft by 2014.

These new ‘Super Hercules’ tactical transport planes will offer improved range, speed and increased payload capabilities with higher reliability over the existing H models. However, in avionic terms, the upgraded and new aircraft will have similar (though not common) features. With the upgraded C-130H and new C-130Js, ROKAF expects to maintain a fully modernized tactical transport fleet by 2016. ([Defense-Update](#))

New Success for the Golden Eagle Philippines Orders South Korean TA-50 Jets

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has decided to acquire twelve South Korean TA-50 trainer/fighter jets. The total acquisition package will reportedly cost US\$590 million (about \$29.8 million per aircraft). This purchase is part of a Filipino modernization program estimated to cost a total of \$1.5 billion. The package will also include training, logistics and technical support. A firm contract was expected to be finalized by the end of 2012 with delivery of the twelve aircraft to be completed by the end of 2013. Seoul has not confirmed the news from Manila.

At the present time, Filipino neighbor Indonesia is the only other export customer destined to receive the TA-50, but Seoul has hopes that the TA-50 will eventually prove to be a very attractive buy because of its performance and affordability.

In recent months the Philippine government lobbied extensively in Washington, to buy used F-16 aircraft from the United States but these efforts have so far failed to receive the required export clearance. The plan to buy used F-16s has now pretty much been dropped in consideration of the high cost of reconditioning and maintenance that would be required. In April, Manila requested US assistance in creating a “minimum credible defense” through the acquisition of upgraded aircraft, radar systems, and patrol boats. In May, President Benigno Aquino announced that his government was looking at obtaining jet aircraft from sources other than the United States, affordable aircraft that could be delivered quickly.

In purchasing the TA-50, the Philippines will be able to restore jet combat capability to the PAF that has been mostly lacking since the nation’s ten F-5 jets were retired from active service in 2005. The Vietnam-era F-5s were expensive to maintain and no real match against modern aircraft.

Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin told ABS-CBN news that modernizing the PAF’s air defense

capabilities is an urgent priority in light of recent territorial disputes with China and is needed to polish the nation’s international image.

Renewed tensions with China have arisen in recent months over territorial disputes that have served to highlight weaknesses in the Philippine’s self-defense capabilities creating a heightened unease in the minds of the Filipino leadership. This unease has spurred Filipino leaders to shop around for affordable military hardware to modernize the island nation’s military forces.

The Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) TA-50 Golden Eagle is a combat-capable version of the T-50 jet trainer. It is a light fighter/attack aircraft of supersonic speed equipped with a 20 millimeter automatic gun and the ability to carry as much as 4.5 tons of missiles and bombs. The aircraft was designed to serve as a lead-in fighter trainer and light fighter attack. When fitted with the Israeli EL/M-2032 radar, the TA-50 can carry a variety of precision-guided munitions, air-to-ground missiles, and air-to-air missiles as well as electronic warfare and reconnaissance pods on external hardpoints. ([Defense-Update](#))

Missile Defense in India Indian Missile Defense Systems to Protect Delhi, Mumbai

Delhi and Mumbai, India’s two major metropolitan areas have been selected by to host the first two Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system being developed by the country’s Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO). The strategic planning has already begun to install the BMD system in the two cities and the final proposal will be put before the government after detailed analysis of the entire project and the program currently awaits green light by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). After the successful induction of these two sites is completed the deployment of additional assets in other regions will be considered, to protecting major Indian cities. sites for installing radars to track enemy missiles and storing

counter-attack projectiles will be determined during the planning stage. These sites are expected to maintain the BMD radars, missile interceptors and air defense assets, protecting the strategic site itself from aerial or missile attacks.

The Indian BMD incorporates two types of interceptors – an Exo-Atmospheric Prithvi Air-Defence (PAD) missile and Advanced Air-Defence (AAD) Endo-Atmospheric missile interceptors, designed to engage ballistic missiles fired from a distance of up to 2,000 km, at different phases of their flight trajectory. Each system will maintain its own early warning and fire control radar and battle management center. The BMD system will maintain a high degree of automation in target tracking and countermeasure (decoy) identification, therefore leaving the human operators with decision and control about actual interception or mission abort, in case missiles are already launched.

The ballistic missile shield has undergone a series of successful tests since 2006, demonstrating successful interception of ballistic missiles by BMD derivatives of the Prithvi missile. DRDO plans to enroll an enhanced BMD system by 2016, extending its defensive capability to take on ballistic missiles fired from ranges of 5,000 km. India is currently the fourth country having operational missile defense capability, after Russia, the US and Israel. France and Italy have also developed a version of the Aster 30 missile capable of intercepting ballistic missiles, but this system has not been operational yet. South Korea has also entered a similar program, scheduled for deployment through the decade.

Briefs

Indian Naval Force Buildup

New Dry Dock at Mumbai to dock the Indian Aircraft Carrier INS Vikramaditya

The Indian Navy (IN) has started the construction work of a new Dry Dock at the Mumbai Naval Dockyard. The new facility is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012, and be ready to accommodate and anchor the arrival of INS Vikramaditya in 2013.

INS TEG, a Russian Modified Krivak III Frigate Built for India, Arrives in Mumbai

INS Teg arrived in Mumbai on June 22, after a voyage that began in the Russian Baltic Sea port of Kaliningrad. Teg is the first of three Modified Krivak III Class guided missile frigates being built by the Yantar Shipyard under a US\$1.6 billion contract signed in 2006. The Teg is a 3,970 ton vessel that incorporates stealth technologies to reduce its radar and thermal signature while at sea. The vessel is armed with the supersonic anti-ship Brahmos missile developed under a joint venture between India and Russia.

Indian Type 209 Submarines to get US Harpoon Anti-Ship Missiles

The Indian Navy is planning to fit the four Shishumar class submarines (German Type 209 designs) with tube-launched Harpoon anti-ship missiles. These submarines are currently equipped with torpedoes and mine-laying equipment. The first two subs to get the new missiles under their planned overhaul are the INS Shalki and Shankul. The two remaining Type-209 class subs will get the missiles at a later stage.

Hypersonic Brahmos Missile to be Ready by 2017

Russia and India are planning to test a prototype of the hypersonic version of the Brahmos 2 missile by 2017. The missile will be able to fly at speeds of up to Mach 7. According to Sivathanu Pillai, CEO of Brahmos Aerospace, Brahmos 2 will be developed into three distinct configurations – a surface launched (naval), air-launched and ground launched missiles. The current version of Brahmos, a supersonic anti-ship and surface attack missile, has a speed of 2.8 Mach and a range of 290 km. It can carry a warhead at a weight of 300, both parameters are within the range and warhead weight allowed for export by the MTCR agreement. The missile is currently available in the ground and surface launched (naval) configurations, first test flights of the airborne version are expected this year. The Indian Air Force plans to equip 40 Su-30MKI fighters with these missiles.

Indian Navy to Induct 24 Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft

The Indian Navy will acquire 12 additional Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR) aircraft in addition to the 12 Boeing P8-I already ordered. According to Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Nirmal Verma the Navy was satisfied with the progress of the first eight Indian P8-Is being built by Boeing under a 2009 order and that the second order for four more aircraft was being processed to be placed within the current fiscal ending March 2012. The Government had cleared these 12 aircraft already as requested by the Navy, and at a later date, it was being planned to acquire 12 more LRMRs for offshore surveillance and protection of the Indian waters and interests, bringing the total to 24. Verma added.

India India to commission INS Sahyadri next month

The Indian Navy will officially commission INS Sahyadri (F49) on 21 July. The indigenously built Shivalik-class (Project 17) frigate is the third and last of the Project 17 class frigate R210bn (₹173.6 million) program built at the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) since 1999. INS Sahyadri was launched in 2005 and the commissioning marks the completion of the original 12 year contract. India has plans to procure seven additional Shivalik-class warships under the follow-on Project-17A. commission INS Sahyadri next month.

Dogfight

Asian Fighter Programs News Highlights

Boeing Completes Wind Tunnel Tests on Silent eagle Conformal Weapons Bay

The Boeing company announced the completion of the wind tunnel tests on the Silent eagle Conformal Weapons Bay (CWB). "We are now testing production-representative hardware as we continue to validate our affordable and low-risk design." said Roger Besancenez, F-15 Program vice president for Boeing. These wind tests were aimed to assess enhancements made to the initial CWB designed and confirm the modeling analysis. More detailed tests planned for later this year will focus on the aerodynamic effects of multiple weapons loads, as well as opening and closing the upper and lower CWB doors. The CWBs are an integral element in the company's plan to turn the F-15 into an adaptable and balanced survivability configuration based on partly stealthy platform.

EADS Proposes Joint Production of Eurofighter Typhoon in South Korea

EADS is proposing Seoul to jointly produce the Eurofighter Typhoon multirole fighter planes. The proposal was aired this week as part of a move sweetening EADS' bid to win Seoul's multi-billion US\$ tender for the supply of 60 advanced fighters. The aircraft is currently produced by a European four-nation consortium owned by Germany, France, Italy and Spain. The Typhoon faces Boeing's F-15SE and Lockheed Martin's F-35A Joint Strike Fighter in a competition to win the FX-3 program, estimated at US\$8.6 billion. South Korea is expected to announce its decision in October 2012.

Vietnam Fighters Get More New Missiles

The Vietnam People's Republic Air Force has acquired an undisclosed number of Kh-25M air-to-ground guided missiles for its Su-27, Su-22 and MiG-21 fighters. Tactical Missile Corporation (KTRV), the company that produces these missiles confirmed the transfer of Kh-25ML semi-active laser-guided missiles, Kh-25MP/MPU radar homing missiles (anti-radar) and Kh-25MR operating INS/MMW guidance; the weapon is capable of attacking land and naval targets under for all-weather conditions. Besides Vietnam, the same missiles were transferred to Russia for patrons such as India, Algeria and Turkmenistan. Vietnam is already operating the Kh-33 UranE (3M24E) missile received from Russia since 2009

India's Tejas Completes Bombing Trials From Uttarlai

Undergoing the second phase of initial operational clearance (IOC-2) and final operational clearance (FOC) the Tejas, India's Indigenous Combat Aircraft (LCA) has completed a two-day weapons trial test series at the desert field firing range in Pokhran, Rajasthan. The trials involved three Tejas aircraft (LSPs 2, 3 and 5) deploying a various weapons, including 1000-lbs laser-guided bombs and unguided bombs.

Light Combat Helicopter prepares for sea trials

India's Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) began a week of sea-level trials early Saturday, June 30 at Tambaram, on the outskirts of Chennai. A prototype of the LCH landed at Tambaram on Thursday along with a chase helicopter. The trials will include speed calibration and maneuverability tests. The flights which could stretch over ten days will include generic performance and handling at sea-level (Bangalore is at 3,000 feet above sea level), calibration of the LCH's air speed measurement system and measurement of forces in terms of stress on various components of the platform.



Regional Hotspot:

Military Buildup at the Yellow Sea

Russian-Chinese Exercises in the Yellow Sea to Counter Balance US Expansion

Continue Russia intends to develop its military alliance with China, by increasing joint exercises in the Asia Pacific area, a move that follows the US plan to step up its presence in the region. In a recent visit to Beijing, President Putin mentioned the recent exercise Russian and Chinese forces held in the Yellow Sea and committed to continue these activities. The recent operations included anti-submarine and anti-piracy operations. The Russians deployed four vessels and the Chinese navy deployed 16 ships and two submarines.

Seoul to Spend US\$36 Million Building a New Naval Base Near the North Korean Border

Korea plans to establish a small naval base in the Baengnyeong Island by 2014. This island is one of five islands located in a disputed area in the Yellow Sea border, near the border with North Korea. The new base will provide docking facilities for small patrol boats patrolling the disputed sea area. The new base will accommodate about 100 troops.

China to set up new military base in South China Sea

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is likely to create a base in the newly established city of Sansha in the South China Sea. The plan, announced last week, will administer a group of islands locked in dispute with Vietnam and other countries. According to Chinese officials, China might set up local military command organization in prefectural-level city of Sansha, to administer the

Xisha (Paracel), Zhongsha and Nansha (Spratly) island groups - all three are under dispute - and their surrounding waters in the South China Sea, in an area located in potentially resource-rich area of the region. to create a base in the newly established city of Sansha in the South China Sea. The plan, announced last week, will administer a group of islands locked in dispute with Vietnam and other countries. According to Chinese officials, China might set up local military command organization in prefectural-level city of Sansha, to administer the Xisha (Paracel), Zhongsha and Nansha (Spratly) island groups - all three are under dispute - and their surrounding waters in the South China Sea, in an area located in potentially resource-rich area of the region.

Canada is Looking for an Asian Hub

Canada is considering locations for a new 'hub' to support operations in Asia. Canada plans to have about 1,400 personnel, supporting naval and air-forces operations and exercises in the Pacific Rim and Asia. Canadian Defense Minister Peter MacKay conducted a visit to several Asian countries earlier in June, attending the Shangri-La dialogue, which brought together southeast Asian defense ministers with other Pacific nations like the United States, Australia, and China. Canada is signaling the importance of Asia-Pacific by its strong presence at the RIMPAC 2012 exercise planned for this summer. Five ships, a submarine, 15 planes, including fighter jets, surveillance planes, refueling aircraft and helicopters, dive teams, and 150 infantry soldiers will take part in the exercise.

DEFENSE UPDATE EXECUTIVE EDITION

This newsletter edition of the leading website Defense-Update provides defense professionals with a concise and focused briefing highlighting the important and relevant topics that made news recently, or are considered by our editorial team as worth reading.

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