

OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WATCH



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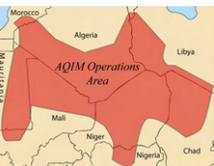
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The Arab Spring has basically forced Turkey to “pick sides,” and shown that it is not feasible to pursue good relations with all its neighbors, which include such undemocratic states like Syria and Iran. When faced with this dilemma, Turkey has chosen to stand with the West, democracy, and the people of the Arab countries.



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Though it has long been known that AQIM – which likely numbers no more than 1,000 – is spread throughout this region of Africa in other countries such as Niger, Chad, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Algeria, little attention is paid to the group’s movement between countries.



20 Evolving Military Trends in China

China has been incorporating a strategy that puts information operations at the forefront, in a high-tech, joint battlefield. Experts within the country believe that a successful operation can no longer be conducted by just the army, or the navy, or the air force, but rather a combination of all forces, plus space forces



25 Problems with Russian Weapon Procurement

With fossil fuel prices at record high levels, concerns have been expressed that major exporters like Russia will use these windfall profits to strengthen their offensive military capability.

Turkey and the Arab Spring

14 May 2011



Source: Alpay, Şahin. "Arap Baharı Ankara'yı Yenilgiye mi Uğrattı? (Did the Arab Spring Defeat Ankara?)," Zaman (Time), 14 May 2011. <http://www.zaman.com.tr/yazar.do?yazino=1133988>

Protestors supporting the ouster of Gadhafi. By B.R.Q [CC-BY-2.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0)], via flickr.com

Did the Arab Spring Defeat Ankara?

If you take a look at the Western press these days, you will see that most of the commentaries on Turkey focus on the argument that Turkey's foreign policy based on "zero problems with its neighbors" has been defeated as a result of the Arab Spring (the wave of deep democratization to hit the Middle East after the end of the Cold War).

The argument goes as follows: Since coming to power, the Justice and Development Party (AKP) has established close diplomatic and trade relations with all of its neighbors and the Arab countries. Thanks to its increasing prestige, it brought together sides to seek resolutions to problems in the Middle East. It won the sympathy of Arab nations due to its principled approach to the Gaza issue. During the initial stages of the Arab Spring (in Tunisia and Egypt), an environment which was conducive for Turkey to spread its influence took shape, and everyone started talking about the "Turkish model" for the Middle East.

However, the developments in Libya, and then Syria have shown that Turkey's "zero problems" policy was indexed to the status quo. The changing of the status quo has shown that this policy has been defeated. Opposition forces in Libya, who want democracy, burned the Turkish flag due to Turkey's initial reluctance to support the NATO intervention. Ankara was not only late to call for Qaddafi to step down; it was also delayed in taking a position against Bashar al-Assad. The Egyptian government was the one who brought about reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah. As a result, Turkey's claim to emerge as a regional leader was shattered. Some observers claim that the Arab Spring will prompt Turkey to act with its Western allies again.

There are a few points that I'd like to remind those who make the above analyses: 1) If we are talking about an Arab Spring today, Turkey's actions under the leadership of the AKP in developing political, economic and cultural relations with all the countries in its region including the Arab countries, has a huge role. Turkey, by facilitating the lifting of visa restrictions, developing trade and cultural relations, and exporting its television programs, has shown the Arab people that a Muslim-majority country can be modern, democratic, and developed; and can say "no" to Israel's mistakes, even as it is part of the Western alliance. Even if Turkey is not a "model" for the new regimes that will emerge in the Arab world, it will certainly be a source of inspiration.

2) Ankara has learned the lessons from the interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq much better than its Western allies. Therefore, it should be readily accepted that Turkey will be extremely careful to prevent any bloodshed during the regime changes which are taking place, without the need for any external intervention. What is so hard to understand about Turkey wanting to prevent a civil war in its neighboring or regional countries, which would severely damage its own security; and to protect its citizens' life and property?

3) Even if Egypt was the one to bring Fatah and Hamas together, what could Turkey possibly lose from this? At the end of the day, the entire world, including Turkey, will benefit from the unification of the Palestinians; Egypt's opening of its Gaza border.

4) Just as Turkey has played an important role in the unfolding of the Arab Spring, it will contribute to the establishment of democratic stability, something which will be very hard to achieve, but is inevitable. In fact, the Turkey's relations with the Arab world are based more on permanent relations with the peoples, not with their authoritarian regimes.

FMSO Commentary: Ever since the Justice and Development Party (JDP) came to power in 2002, Turkey has been following a new foreign policy called the "zero problems with our neighbors" policy. According to this vision, Turkey should strive to achieve zero problems with its neighbors and pursue "pro-active peace diplomacy" in its surrounding regions, including the Balkans, the Middle East, the Caucasus, and the Gulf. In addition, this vision asserts that Turkey has long denied its Ottoman past and cultural ties with neighbors, leading the country to become isolated from those neighbors.

This new policy claims that Turkey needs to be at peace with its all of its neighbors (i.e. Muslim, Ottoman, European, Central Asian), and use its multifaceted identity as an advantage. The idea is that Turkey can talk to Damascus and Jerusalem, Tehran and Washington. In this vision, Turkey would be an effective arbiter and peacemaker in the Middle East, the Caucasus and the Balkans. The policy also foresees increasing trade relations between Turkey and its neighbors, thereby creating more economic interdependency, which would, in turn promote peace. As such, Turkey has improved relations with Iran, Iraq and Syria, along with all its other neighbors, causing some concern in the West that Turkey has been "turning east."

The Arab Spring, particularly events in Libya and Syria have forced Turkey to take a stance against those regimes and call on their leaders to stop cracking down on their citizens. In light of recent developments, it has become clear that it is impossible for Turkey, a democratic country, to have good relations with Syria and Libya. Turkey's criticism of Syria has also soured relations with Iran, bringing the whole "zero-problems" policy into question. The Arab Spring has basically forced Turkey to "pick sides," and shown that it is not feasible to pursue good relations with all its neighbors, which include such undemocratic states like Syria and Iran. When faced with this dilemma, Turkey has chosen to stand with the West, democracy, and the people of the Arab countries. The below article summarizes this situation, but also discusses Turkey's role as an example and source of inspiration for those Arab countries. End FMSO Commentary (Kaya)

FMSO Commentary: Ever since the flotilla incident of May 2010, when a Gaza bound Turkish flotilla got intercepted by Israeli Defense Forces, resulting in the death of nine Turkish citizens, relations between Turkey and Israel have been strained. Turkey claims that the flotilla was humanitarian aid to the Palestinians, while Israel claims that the flotilla's goal was to break Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, which is under the control of Hamas.

Though Turkey was the first Muslim country to recognize Israel in 1948, the two countries have had a unsettled relationship. During the early 90's the two countries enjoyed very good relations; but things started changing in 2002, when the Islamic-rooted Justice and Development came to power. Relations got particularly bad with Israel's Operation Cast Lead against Gaza in late 2008, early 2009; after which the Turkish Prime Minister started harshly criticizing Israel, resulting in increasing anti-Semitism in Turkey. This was the environment in which the flotilla incident took place, bringing relations to a complete standstill; with Turkey demanding a formal apology for the nine Turkish citizens; and Israel refusing.

As the Arab Spring has created much uncertainty in how things will unfold in the region, Israel is finding itself in a very precarious and isolated position. Turkey was seen as Israel's only ally in the Middle East, where Israel is surrounded by enemies. It is unclear whether Egypt, which was formerly supportive of the peace process, will take a different approach on this issue when a new government forms. Thus, Israel is looking to revive its relations with Turkey, given Turkey's importance and its good relations with many countries in the region, its status as a stable democracy, and its formerly good relations with Israel.

Turkey remains Israel's third largest trading partner, where bilateral trade actually increased by 25 percent between 2009 and 2010, and rose by 40 percent in the first quarter of this year. And although Turkey pulled its ambassador from Israel following the flotilla deaths, the Israeli Ambassador to Turkey never left Ankara. The below article demonstrates Israel's current position regarding Turkey, with the Israeli Defense Minister expressing how important it is for Israel to restore relations with Turkey. End FMSO Commentary (Kaya)

Turkey-Israel Relations in Light of the Arab Spring

4 July 2011



Source: "Barak: Türkiye ile İlişkiler çok Önemli (Barak: Relations with Turkey are Extremely Important)," Zaman (Time), 4 July 2011. <http://www.zaman.com.tr/haber.do?haberno=1154469&keyfielid=737572697965>

Israel's Defense Minister Ehud Barak — Photo by NATO (http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_48973.htm?selectedLocale=en)

Barak: Relations with Turkey are Extremely Important

Israel is looking to revive its relations with Turkey, given Turkey's importance and its good relations with many countries in the region, its status as a stable democracy, and its formerly good relations with Israel

Israel's Defense Minister Ehud Barak claimed that Turkey is still the most important country in the region and highlighted that [Israel's] relations with Turkey are very important."

During a speech that Israel's Defense Minister made at his Independence (Atzmaut) party's group meeting, he said, "Turkey is a very important country. It is undoubtedly one of the four key countries in the region along with Israel." Barak, who also named Saudi Arabia among those countries, with whom he said relations were not bad, claimed, "In reality, we do not have any relations with the Saudis." Barak said that Israel and Iran were enemies and that despite the fact that Egypt and Israel have a peace agreement; Egypt was currently facing some difficulties.

Barak said, "We are determined to correct our relations with Turkey." Barak, who also discussed Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's criticism about the Israel's closing of the Gaza border crossings, said, "Israel has closed those borders because it has no other choice." Israel's Defense Minister also emphasized that "Turkey is still the most important country in the Middle East," and said that "We are determined to leave behind the things that happened between the two countries and move forward."

Barak also said that the Palestinians were seeking to declare a Palestinian state at the UN's September meeting, and that this would create a very complicated situation for Israel. Barak accused the Palestinians for obstructing talks with Israel and said that, as the Israeli side, they continued to seek an environment that would enable political talks. Barak also said that they expected all European countries and other big countries to understand that the Palestinians are to blame for the lack of political talks.

A New Secretary of Defense after Nine Years

7 July 2011



Source: “Source: “Eski Savunma Bakanı Vecdi Gönül, Yaptığı Yazılı Açıklamaya Veda Etti (Former Secretary of Defense Vecdi Gönül Issues Farewell Statement),” Haberturk (Turkish News), 7 July 2011. <http://www.haberturk.com/gundem/haber/646520-eski-bakan-gonulden-veda-mesaji>

Secretary of Defense İsmet Yılmaz. Photo by NATO (www.nato.int)

Vecdi Gönül, the former Secretary of Defense Issues Farewell Statement

Former Secretary of Defense Vecdi Gönül said that during his time as the Secretary of Defense, he has made important progress in the defense industry, brought Turkey up to the same standards as some of the most technologically advanced countries, leading projects on A-400M’s and F-35’s, and becoming a hub for modernizing F-16’s, after a 10 year period of complete stagnation.

In a written statement from the Department of Defense, Gönül issued a farewell statement. Gönül, who said that he had resigned from his position which he held for three JDP terms, starting on 19 November 2002. In his message, he said that “I have a responsibility to the public to account for the time I served as the Secretary of Defense, and as the longest serving Secretary of Defense in the history of our Republic.”

“During my term, our department has held great relations with the Parliament; and achieved many successes in fields ranging from purchasing of technology, re-organizing our military service, to construction and budgeting. In the last 8,5 years we have facilitated the passing of 185 bills which were previously stuck in Parliament. We have reduced the duration of military service, improved services to families of veterans, revised the regulations for military service for policeman, athletes, and those over the age of 42. We have reduced the involvement of civilians in military courts, opened military hospitals to civilians, created an e-government to manage military attendance, and created new service centers.”

“We have cleared obstacles standing in the way of many important projects, increased the number of projects from 69 to 269; growing our industry from one of \$5.5 billion to \$45.3 billion. We have reduced our dependence on foreign military technology, focused on domestic production, or at least joint production within Turkey, and chosen the option of import only as a last resort. Our import of final products has decreased by %10. Turkey used to be in sixth place in the world in importing defense technology; compared to 13th place now. In contrast, we have moved from 27th place to 21st place in the export of defense technology. We have increased research and development funds from \$58 million to \$666 million.”

“Just 10 years ago, Turkey didn’t have the technology to even modernize F-4’s and was dependent on foreign countries. Today, Turkey is among the top countries in the world in developing A-400Ms and F-35s. It has become a hub for modernizing F-16s. This year, we will see the first domestic training flights and ATAK helicopters. Turkey is now competing with Israel and the U.S. in pilotless planes.”

Reminding the public that his period of service saw the signing of defense agreements with 44 countries, he said, “Thanks to our military personnel and our engineers, Turkey is now able to domestically produce radars, night vision goggles, and has even started exporting tanks, air defense systems, rocket systems, simulators, coast guard security ships, military communication systems, command control systems and software.”

“These have been possible thanks to our government programs, our visionary Prime Minister, the freedom he has given us to pursue our goals, the trust and cooperation of our Armed Forces, our sub-departments, and the hard work and sacrifices of companies who have provided funding. I express my deep gratitude to them and say farewell.”

FMSO Commentary: The June 12, 2011 general elections brought victory for the Justice and Development Party (JDP) for the third time. (They first came to power in 2002 and won re-election in 2007.) A new government has been formed, and many names in the cabinet have changed. One of the new names is İsmet Yılmaz, who replaces the former Secretary of Defense Vecdi Gönül, who had held the position for nine years. (In Turkey, the Secretary of Defense is part of the executive branch of government and is different than the Chief of the General Staff, who is the Head of the Turkish Armed Forces. Though there is cooperation between the two, they are separately accountable to the Prime Minister. Turkey is quite unique in this regard; due to its organization structure where the Army is not under the Department of Defense.)

Gönül had held this position since the Justice and Development first came to power in 2002, making him the longest serving Secretary of Defense in Turkey’s history. He is known for his success in making Turkey more self-dependent in weapons and defense technology, modernizing Turkey’s defense industry, and pushing through with several important defense projects. He has also placed great importance on international relations and signed agreements with 44 different countries.

The new Secretary of Defense, İsmet Yılmaz, has a legal background and has worked in the private sector for 31 years before becoming a Maritime Undersecretary in 2002. He has also served as the Secretary of Transformation and Secretary of Culture and Tourism. He is a member of the Justice and Development Party. End FMSO Commentary (Kaya)

FMSO Commentary Social media – particularly Facebook and Twitter – played an important role in organizing and galvanizing Tunisia’s protests earlier this year. These tools continue to be used for popular organizing and at times fuel rumors based on misinterpreted information. Such was the case with a Facebook rumor of a Franco-Tunisian agreement to build a military base in Gafsa and which required an official denial from Tunisia’s defense ministry spokesperson. In his statements, he also took the opportunity to dispel rumors of NATO basing arrangements in the country.

Although Libyan instability has been difficult on its smaller neighbor, some areas near the border have partially benefitted from the unrest. The Tunisian port of Zarzis is a major launching center in the booming market for smuggling refugees to the Italian island of Lampedusa. Resorts in the country’s south-east have in part been kept afloat by wealthy Libyan refugees, including Qaddafi regime spies and officials. The rebel-controlled southernmost border crossing between the countries serves as a pipeline for supplying fighters in Libya’s Nafusa Mountains south of the capital Tripoli.

For the most part, though, Libya’s unrest has put a strain on Tunisia’s transition to democracy. The army has been forced to intervene in clashes near the border, first when refugees fleeing Libya (mostly from Eritrea, Somalia and Ivory Coast) fought with local residents at a refugee camp in Zarzis, Tunisia after the refugees blocked a road to protest their conditions. In early July, clashes took place in Ben Gardane, a hub of informal trade on the Tunisian side of the border, between local supporters of Qaddafi and those favoring the rebels.

Tunisia has attempted to remain neutral regarding the Libyan conflict in part because of its own delicate internal situation. Closer involvement with NATO’s Libya campaign could easily upset this balance. That said, projects that create employment and further professionalize the armed forces are generally accepted. Many Tunisians remain suspicious of French motivations, particularly given its offers of assistance to ben Ali early in the protests; nonetheless, the building of a military training center in Gafsa is not particularly controversial. The Gafsa center is to open in September 2012 and will serve 250 trainees. It is the thirteenth such center in Tunisia, with German and Italian assistance in some of the other centers. *End FMSO Commentary (Winter)*

Dispelling Rumors in Tunisia

18 June 2011



Map based on World Map Blank by User: vigi veranda [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Source: “There will be no French military base in Gafsa,” La Presse de Tunisie, 18 June 2011, <http://www.lapresse.tn/17062011/31509/il-ny-aura-pas-de-base-militaire-francaise-a-gafsa.html>

No French Military Base in Gafsa

Tunisia has attempted to remain neutral regarding the Libyan conflict in part because of its own delicate internal situation. Closer involvement with NATO’s Libya campaign could easily upset this balance.

“There will be no French military base in Gafsa and there is no place for NATO in Tunisia. Tunisian soil will not serve as the staging point for a ground attack on Libya.” The words of Lieutenant Colonel Mokhtar Ben Nasr, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense, were clear, transparent and precise. He qualified the information related to establishing a military base in Gafsa as “false and baseless,” clarifying that in reality it referred to the “signing of a partnership agreement with the French Interior Ministry in order to build a professional training center in Gafsa in coordination with the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training.

It is not the first such center established by the Defense Ministry with friendly countries. “We already have 12 training centers for recruits and others that were launched in collaboration with foreign countries, such as the centers in Béja and Oued Ellil (with France) and in Gabès (with Italy).”

Some analysts believe that the transfer of refugee camps on the Libya-Tunisia border is a prelude for preparing a NATO ground attack against Libya.

Shutting Down Suez Canal?

10 July 2011



Source: Reem Abdellatif, "Shutting down Suez Canal would be a serious economic, say experts," Daily News Egypt, 10 July 2011, <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/economy/shutting-down-suez-canal-would-be-a-serious-threat-say-experts-dp3.html>

Map based on World Map Blank by User: vigi veranda [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Trouble in Suez

Fear that protesters in Suez will disrupt the flow of maritime traffic in the Suez Canal were dispelled Sunday by director of the Suez Canal Authority Ahmed Al Manakhly in a phone in to a state TV program, when he said that despite demonstrations and sit-ins, traffic in the waterway is moving regularly, Egynews net reported. He added that the authority is working around the clock in cooperation with the armed forces in order to ensure that operations continue unaffected. According to Al Manakhly, the constant threats worry ship owners and could cause them to take alternative routes, which in turn threatens the "national security" of the country.

Revenue from Egypt's Suez Canal rose 16 percent year on year to \$445.2 million in June, up 2 percent from a month earlier, a government portal showed on Sunday. The Suez Canal is the highest generator of foreign currency, along with tourism and gas exports, as well as remittance from Egyptians living abroad.

But with the country's foreign investments and tourism revenues plummeting sharply, experts say the affects of such strikes on the country's economy could be disastrous. "Canal revenues constitute about 3 percent of GDP, and are a significant earner of foreign currency, this is key at a time when foreign currency reserves have fallen from \$36.6 billion in December to \$26.6 billion in June," said Mike Millar, head of research at Naeem Holding.

In just one month, Suez Canal Shipyards Co., one of the most important revenue generators for the waterway lost LE 30 million, about \$5 million, as workers continue striking, according to Khalid Saleh, a representative speaking on behalf of the Suez Canal Shipyard's Workers' Union. "We don't want these losses, nobody wants them because they affect us all, but this is the option we have had to resort to," said Saleh.

Until the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) and the Suez Canal Authority give the workers a clear timeline stating when and how their demands will be met, the union will continue affecting productivity in an "open" sit-in, Saleh said. Their requests included an immediate 40 percent salary increase, better working conditions, and better life and health insurance plans. After their meeting with Admiral Ahmed Fadel, the head of the Suez Canal Authority, Saleh said that he was optimistic that their demands would be met very soon.

Among the demands of the workers is for their detained colleagues who participated in previous sit-ins to be released. Just last week, military police arrested five workers at companies affiliated with the Suez Canal Authority who had been on strike since June 14. Aside from workers' sit-ins, thousands of Suez residents have been demanding justice for the injured and the families of those killed during the early days of the January 25 Revolution.

This Friday, July 8, protesters called for open strikes and sit-ins until the demands of the revolution are met, accusing the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) of violating victims' rights and calling for the overthrow of the head of SCAF and Egypt's de facto president, Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawy. About 50 ships cross the canal daily, which constitutes about eight percent of global transport and \$1.2 billion annually in revenues for Egypt.

FMSO Commentary: Egypt's new revolution day is January 25 (also National Police Day), the first day of protesting that would eventually overthrow the Mubarak regime. During the approximately two weeks that it took for Mubarak to resign, the world's eyes were focused on Cairo's Tahrir Square, where millions protested largely peacefully. The eyes of many Egyptians, however, were focused on the town of Suez.

On January 25, clashes erupted in Suez between protesters and police. Around 350 people were injured that day, mostly by rubber bullets and tear gas, in addition to an undisclosed number of casualties and mass arrests. On February 11, the day of Mubarak's resignation, protesters in Suez torched several police stations in response to the killing of protesters in the earlier clashes. When the Mubarak regime fell, so did many of his local administrators, and the security director of Suez and various officers were among those put on trial for killing protesters. On July 4, to the anger of victim families, several of the accused officers were released on bail. The following day the families gathered in central Suez's Arbeen Square and began a sit-in. On Friday July 8, thousands joined them in the square. The army intervened to disperse them the following day.

Added to these popular protests is labor unrest, which has been a constant in Suez since the overthrow of the regime. Although the Canal continues to operate normally, local residents are becoming increasingly impatient with the slow pace of reform and the perceived return to a culture of impunity. Their economic and political demands may become increasingly difficult for the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) to meet. With the tourist industry still recovering, the national economy is at present especially dependent on revenues from the Suez Canal. Ensuring that operations continue to flow smoothly will become increasingly difficult if local residents feel they are being excluded from the decision-making process. End FMSO Commentary (Winter)

FMSO Commentary: A short, awkwardly phrased article in the African press regarding 13 teenagers arrested by Al Shabaab in Somalia for watching inappropriate videos at first glance may seem rather innocuous in relation to global security. However, in conjunction with similar reports, it provides significant insight into the situation in Somalia, a strategically located nation whose adjoining Gulf of Aden is regularly trafficked by large numbers of oil tankers.

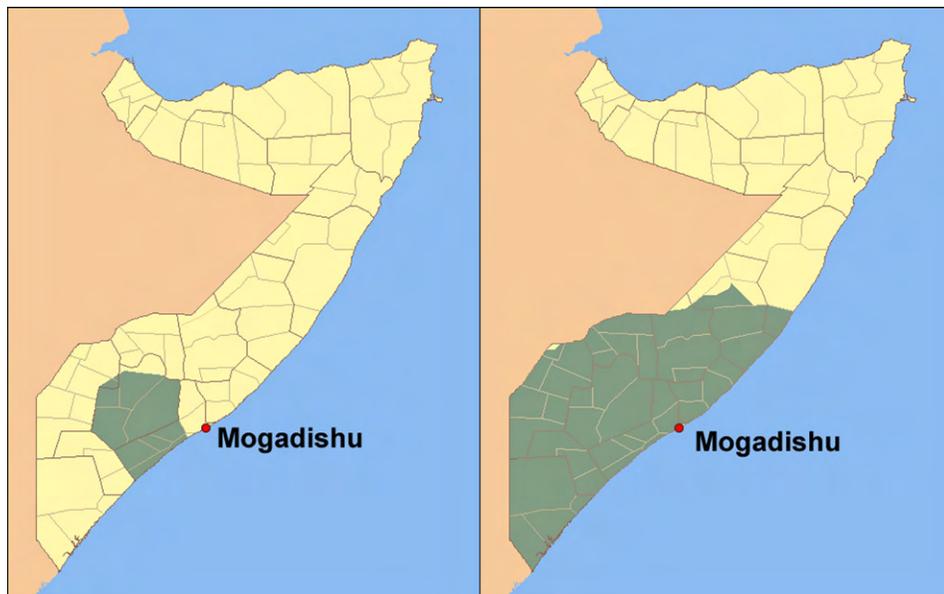
Perhaps first and foremost, this action shows that Al Shabaab (an insurgent group fighting to overthrow the internationally recognized Transitional Federal Government) is having a difficult time controlling what people watch. That these were teenagers is significant, since Al Shabaab has devoted a great deal of effort to sway youth to choose a more extremist version of Islam than the traditional version.

The article also points out the difficulties a radical group has in attempting to control the distribution and dissemination of information in an age of modern technologies. Despite the chaos that has reigned in much of Somalia for the past two decades, the country still has a rather advanced telecommunications network, replete with internet connections, cellphones, and apparently the capability to download videos. Al Shabaab's desire to impose Sharia has proved no match for Somalia's interests in tasting the forbidden fruits of foreign cultures. Areas of Somalia often listed as "under control" by Al Shabaab are thus not fully under their control, especially among some of the youth. It is unclear whether Al Shabaab will be able to consolidate its hold over Somalia when such readily available technologies undermine their teachings. End FMSO Commentary (Feldman)

Al Shabaab's Attempt in Somalia to Impose Sharia Struggles Against Modern Technologies

5 July 2011

Source: "Somalia: Al Shabaab Arrest Teenagers in South," Shabelle Media Network, 5 Jul 2011, <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107050985.html>



Map showing territorial gains made by al-Shabaab from January 31, 2009 when the civil war with Sharif Ahmed started to December 2010 — Map based on Shababgains2010 by Kermanshahi [Public Domain] via Wikipedia.org

Al Shabaab Arrest Teenagers in South

Al Shabaab's desire to impose Sharia has proved no match for Somalia's interests in tasting the forbidden fruits of foreign cultures.

Lafole — Al shabaab movement on Tuesday apprehended more than 13 teenagers after crackdown in the village Lafole just outside of Mogadishu.

The arrested teenagers were accused by Al shabaab fighters of watching discipline films on mobile phones.

Al shabaab intends to impose its harsh Wahabiyah based version of Shari-a throughout war-ravaged horn of African nation.

Al Qaeda linked Al Shabaab Lifts Then Reinstates Ban on Aid Agencies

7 July 2011

Source: “Somalia: Elders, IDPs Welcome Al Shabaab’s Move to Lift Ban On Aid Agencies,” Shabelle Media Network, 7 Jul 2011, <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/201107070144.html>

IDPs in Taleh area of Mogadishu wait for assistance, Photo by Mohamed Amin Jibril/IRIN via www.irinnews.org



Elders, IDPs Welcome Al Shabaab’s Move to Lift Ban on Aid Agencies

This action sends an interesting message to the Somali people: the West, which is often denounced and whose aid workers were previously attacked, is now being allowed to help.

Mogadishu — Mogadishu’s Hawiye traditional elders and drought-displaced people on Wednesday welcomed the move of Somalia’s Al Qaeda-linked group to lift the ban on relief organizations.

Ahmed Diriye Ali, the spokesman of Hawiye traditional elders, describe the move as step forward that could help alleviate suffering and affliction in drought-hit areas under Al Shabaab control.

“Thus, the relief agencies are needed to urgently respond [to] the humanitarian catastrophe in Mogadishu and other south-central Somalia regions,” Ali said.

Sheikh Ahmed Abdi Dhi’isow, the chairman of the Somali religious assembly, called for Al Shabaab militants to assure the security and safety of humanitarian personnel when aid activities start, saying that it is important because nothing can be done if there is no security.

On Tuesday, Sheikh Ali Mohamoud Rage, the spokesman of the militant group, said anyone, ‘whether Muslim or non-Muslim’ can provide urgent assistance in the areas they control as long as they have “no hidden plan.”

FMSO Commentary: Al Shabaab, an insurgent group in Somalia, as described in the article decided to reverse its previous ban on foreign aid groups in the country. Though allowing the starving people in areas under its control to be fed may stave off riots and grassroots rebellions, it also demonstrated the group’s inability to meet the basic needs of the masses. It was an interesting message to the Somali people that the West, which is often denounced and whose aid workers were previously attacked, was now being allowed to help. Unfortunately, Al Shabaab then decided to reinstate the ban, allowing only the non-Western, non-Christian NGO’s already present in that country to assist. With millions at risk of starvation, limiting aid to only those NGO’s is probably a death sentence for countless individuals.

It’s important to note that Al Shabaab, while linked to Al Qaeda, is not itself Al Qaeda. Indeed there are several factions within Al Shabaab, some more radical than others, and these reversals might represent power struggles and bickering among the groups. There have already been a number of defections to the Transitional Federal Government of Al Shabaab members who disagreed with the more violent, and often foreign, fighters who are pushing a more radical vision for Somalia than many Somalis feel comfortable embracing. It will be interesting to see if these numbers increase in the wake of Al Shabaab’s refusal to allow adequate aid into the country.

The drought that has hit Somalia, the worst in 60 years, is causing large scale upheaval, including mass streaming of refugees into Mogadishu, Somalia’s capital, as well as neighboring countries. Already this dire lack of water has caused an unusual turn of events, with Al Shabaab reversing its course on accepting aid from the West, then reversing itself again. With an estimated 12 million people in the Horn of Africa expected to be impacted by the drought, it appears most likely the region will suffer further instability and insecurity, and probably some additional geopolitical maneuvering by governments and insurgent groups as well. End FMSO Commentary (Feldman)

FMSO Commentary: The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a US State Department designated terrorist group originally from Uganda but which now haunts the eastern portion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has struck again, killing 26 civilians and kidnapping 21, including 10 children. Led by the cult-like figure of Joseph Kony, the LRA is notorious for its barbaric acts, including cutting off people's lips, ears and limbs; forcing kidnapped boys to serve as soldiers and kidnapped girls to serve as sex slaves; and having children kill their parents. Despite years of effort by the Ugandan army, Kony and his forces survive.

The LRA's diminished numbers as well as its move from Uganda to the DRC appears to have reduced some of the international media attention paid to the group. Cutbacks in many news bureaus' African offices are probably another reason for the reduced LRA coverage. However, though partially out of the spotlight, the brutal attacks continue, as well as the inevitable and, after 20 years, almost tired sounding claims by Kony's opponents, that he will soon be killed or brought to justice.

Though the peace accords of 2003 were supposed to end the Second Congo War, fighting still continues in the eastern part of the country as various nations and groups vie for the country's rich mineral resources. Already strained by this fighting, as well as a host of other problems including poverty and corruption, the DRC's fragile government has not been able to apply the necessary resources to neutralize the LRA. Thus, Kony and his forces continue their rampage, and innocent people of eastern Congo suffer the brutal consequences. End FMSO Commentary (Feldman)

Lord's Resistance Army Kills 26 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



7 July 2011

Source: "26 civilians are killed by Lord's Resistance Army forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo," Newstime Africa, 7 July 2011, <http://www.newstimeafrica.com/archives/21073>

A UN Monusco peacekeeper in Dungu, Oriental Province, keeps watch over Linakofu, a camp of 1359 internally-displaced people (IDPs), all of whom have fled attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) – Photo by Zahra Moloo/IRIN via www.irinnews.org

More Killed by Lord's Resistance Army forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo

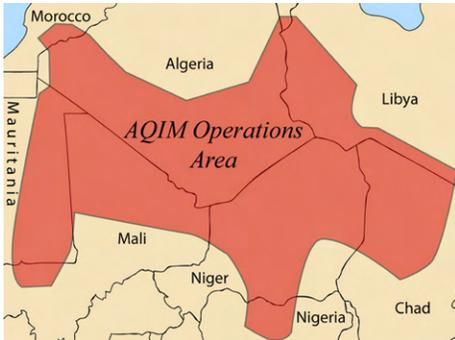
Led by the cult-like figure of Joseph Kony, the LRA is notorious for its barbaric acts, including cutting off people's lips, ears and limbs; forcing kidnapped boys to serve as soldiers and kidnapped girls to serve as sex slaves; and having children kill their parents.

26 civilians were slaughtered by Lord's Resistance Army forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo in June alone, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has reportedly said." The attacks by the Uganda-born rebel group — which has been terrorising civilians in several neighbouring countries in recent years — took place in the DRC's northeastern Orientale province.

OCHA explained that the LRA's modus operandi was to conduct lightning raids during which they loot food supplies and kidnap residents. According to OCHA, tens of thousands of people were displaced by LRA attacks in the area since the start of the year, worsening a humanitarian situation which the UN describes as one of the worst in the world. Kony, now wanted by the International Criminal Court, appears to have dropped any national political agenda and in recent years his marauding troops have sown death and destruction in Sudan, DR Congo and the Central African Republic.

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb: Future Considerations in West Africa

6 July 2011



Source: Jean Claude Kongo, "AQIM-Mauritanie: Escalade ou simple baoud [sic] d'honneur?" (AQIM in Mauritania: Escalation of Attacks or Brief Reprisal of Vengeance?), *L'Observateur Paalaga*, 6 July 2011, <http://www.lobservateur.bf/index.php/regard-sur-lactualite/1035-aqmi-mauritanie-escalade-ou-simple-baoud-dhonneur>

Map based on World Map Blank by User:vgi veranda [Public domain], and GSPC_map by Orthuberra [CC-BY-SA (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)] via Wikimedia Commons

Escalation of Attacks or Brief Reprisal of Vengeance?

On the 5th of July, soldiers from Al-Qaeda from the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) attacked a Mauritanian military based in the southeast of the country before fleeing toward Mali, as they were pursued by Mauritanian forces that, visibly, were expecting them.

The communiqués from the two sides diverged, with AQIM speaking freely of bitter defeat inflicted on the Mauritanian army, with 19 soldiers killed, dozens of soldiers hurt, and – key for them – the destruction of five vehicles that were otherwise in a good state. For its part, the Mauritanian claimed that it killed twelve assailants in the AQIM camp.

Beyond this war of communiqués, it might be said that the offensive was almost predictable. It happened as retaliation for the attack led by the Mauritanian army on the 24th of June 2011, against the Wagadou camp in West Mali and that caused the death of a dozen AQIM combatants.

This offensive from the nebulous branch of the Maghreb group therefore raises an important question: was it the outcome of a simple desire for brief vengeance, or should it be understood as the start of an “escalation” announcing the coming of future vicious attacks?

Mauritania – which has decided to put itself on the front line in the merciless war against the octopus of AQIM – seems to have opted for tit-for-tat responses to AQIM. Instead, all of the states in the zone should become part of it. It would be wrong to believe that a single state could be fit to achieve the task of eradicating an octopus as dangerous as AQIM, which buries itself in the sands of the desert, and hits hard and in impromptu ways when and where it wants.

This merciless fight will either be shared or it won't be at all.

Westerners too should be inspired to involve themselves in a more concrete manner than what they have thus far done. Supposing that Westerners feel wanted, the help that they could bring in logistics, information, as well as in arms, will be without doubt determinant in the fight against this octopus of the desert, with its tentacles, as numerous as deadly. Because after all, they are numerous, the returning Western citizens, Americans, French, English, Italians, who have known the agony of captivity in some secret AQIM hideouts. Certain among them have even been coldly executed.

One can see, the fight against AQIM in this part of West Africa needs coordination and synergy of actions. It is yet to be known if the states concerned can hear with a good ear. And yet, it is very much in their interest that this amorphous grouping is flushed out completely. If not, the day will come, and maybe it is closer than one dares to believe, where, in this part of the black continent, it will be almost impossible to put one's nose outside without the being threatened with some bayonette held by an affiliate of Al Qaeda, who won't care to distinguish in the treatment between blacks and white, Africans, and westerners, or between natives and foreigners.

FMSO Commentary: It was a 'tour de terrorisme,' with affiliates of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb first having been attacked in Mali on June 24, retaliating against a Mauritanian base on July 5, then fleeing the next day back to Mali. In situating these skirmishes within the larger context of AQIM in West Africa, the author of the article raises a number of salient points concerning the dynamics of curbing the group's activities.

The first trenchant insinuation is the highly transnational security threat that AQIM poses across Saharan and Sahelian West Africa. Though it has long been known that AQIM – which likely numbers no more than 1,000 – is spread throughout this region of Africa in other countries such as Niger, Chad, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Algeria, little attention is paid to the group's movement between countries. As the author points out, the fight against AQIM will require a region-wide effort, and cannot be pursued by one country alone. As he sagely asserts, it will either be shared amongst the countries, or won't be fought at all.

Second, the article is useful in that it brings to light one of the more vexing issues of dealing with AQIM: how to incorporate the military and security acumen of Western allies without making partnering African countries even more susceptible to attacks because of their affiliations with such security partners. Indeed, because the object of AQIM's attacks are most frequently symbols of the African state – such as military bases and police headquarters – and not simply innocent civilians, states' calculi of their vulnerability is inextricably linked to the extent that they engage with the object of AQIM's discontent: the West. Yet, increasingly, AQIM seems not to be willing to distinguish between the two. End FMSO Commentary (Warner)

FMSO Commentary: Move over MEND. Boko Haram is Nigeria's newest security threat.

The Boko Haram Muslim sect, whose name means 'Western education is a sin,' has all but overtaken the northern third of Nigeria. In the past two months alone, it has unleashed dozens of large and small-scale attacks across the country, killing Nigerians in the towns of Gamboru-Ngala and Kankara, killing 25 in a beer garden in Maiduguri, as well as orchestrating an embarrassing bombing of the Nigerian national police station in Abuja. Yet, as the article below suggests, Nigerian security experts see no role for the army in dealing with Boko Haram. Instead they prefer to focus on the underlying issues of Boko Haram's discontent, a goal for which the military is not particularly well suited.

The question remains: if the Nigerian army cannot take on Boko Haram, who can? Local police from the northern parts of the country are amongst the most under-funded and under-trained in the country, which already suffers from a lack of security capacity. For its part, the United States and other allies can offer only limited assistance. On one hand, they might very well address the fight against Boko Haram in the context of their Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Initiative (TSCI), which is seeking to patrol the Sahara and neighboring Mauritania, Mali and Niger for radical elements therein. Yet the fact that Boko Haram is operating in Nigeria – Africa's most populous country and one known for harboring a fiercely independent, can-do attitude of a would-be African hegemon – makes that possibility unlikely.
End FMSO Commentary (Warner)

Boko Haram in Nigeria: A Non-Traditional Security Threat

8 July 2011

Source: Sheriff Balogun and Michael Olugbode, "Obasanjo: Why Soldiers Can't Tackle Boko Haram," This Day, 8 July 2011, <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107081291.html?page=2>

Why Soldiers Can't Tackle Boko Haram

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo has warned that the deployment of military is not the solution to the Boko Haram upsurge in parts of the North. He canvassed what he called "deep" intelligence on the group.

"Asking the military to deal with them (Boko Haram), we need to know that the military are trained in a static way. The group should be known and identifiable when they are captured. In this way, the military would know how to deal them," he said.

Advancing more arguments to buttress his point, the former president said: "But when a man is on okada with a gun and kill people along the road, how do you deal with such person? We have to find out why they became so bloody. There is so much to know and so much to find out before you can deal with them."

Obasanjo, who spoke with newsmen after receiving a Grand Peace Legend award from the African Peace Foundation (APF), said Nigeria should not take Boko Haram for granted, saying if care was not taken, life of everyone might be endangered by the group.

For this reason, he said: "A lot of information needs to be obtained from the group: should they be talked to and if they should be talked to, how should they be talked to and if they are to be dealt with, what means? Should it be stick and carrot approach or what?"

He, however, advised Nigerians to be circumspect in pushing for amnesty as it was important to know "what you are giving amnesty for; you should know the people you're giving amnesty to and you should know their grievances".

The former president explained that he was neither against the amnesty package nor was he advocating that it should be ruled out, stressing that, "let us look at what we are faced with; suppose you give out amnesty, there will be more to be given out later at what time. We must get to the root of the problem before providing the solution."

Pushing for the intelligence gathering option, Obasanjo said: "You may not necessarily know the reasons for their actions but you should find out why they are doing what they are doing. We need intelligence approach along with people who will find out what is happening both internally and externally. Also, fish out the people behind the scene and how do they become a menace to the society."

He added that, "I believe if a man or group of people are not insane and believe that those who found themselves in Boko Haram are not insane, they must have reasons for doing so."

Meanwhile, the Borno State government has banned all motorcycles popularly called okada from plying the roads and streets of the state capital, Maiduguri, and its neighbouring Jere Local Government Area.

Governor Kashim Shettima, who announced that the ban took immediate effect at a press conference yesterday, disclosed that the decision, though difficult, became imperative as a result of the insecurity challenges of protecting people's lives and property.

The governor said: "We are facing a lot of security challenges that must be overcome to end the serial attacks and killings; and protect the lives and property of citizens."

He added that the state government was, however, equal to the task of sitting atop of the insecurity situation by authorising the ban on motorcycles for private and commercial uses in the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) and Jere council area of the state.

He however claimed that as the state government was "responsible and responsive" to protecting people's lives and property, his administration was not unmindful of the sufferings the ban would cause to residents and commuters.

Speaking on how to end the serial attacks and killings, he said: "Peace and dialogue are the only panacea to the Boko Haram crises," adding that the door-to-door dialogue was still very much open to the sect and its members.

Shhh!: The Quiet Politics of French Intervention in Senegal

7 July 2011



Source: Georges Nesta Diop, "Appel à l'intervention de l'armée française - Robert Bourgi enfonce Karim," (Call for Intervention from the French Army – Robert Bourgi jabs Karim), Walf Fadjri, 7 July 2011, <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107081291.html?page=2>

Map based on World Map Blank By User:vigi veranda [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Call for Intervention from the French Army

Contrary to the denial of Senegal's Embassy in Paris and the spokesperson for the President, Karim Wade panicked during the events of June 27th and called Robert Bourgi to ask for an intervention by the French army. The confirmation is straight from Bourgi himself.

Yesterday, lawyer Robert Bourgi, remonstrated Karim Wade and all those who still publicly declared that the head of state's son hadn't solicited France's intervention in the events of last Monday, June 27th. Interviewed yesterday on RFM, the lawyer delivered an extensive account of his conference call with Karim Wade.

Said Bourgi: "On the night of June 27th, during which time the tragic events in Dakar were unfolding, I was awoken at 2:40 am by Karim Wade who told me this, which I am reliably quoting. He said to me: 'Uncle Dakar and Senegal are on the brink of an insurrection. The administrative buildings are burning. Tension surrounds us. There are mass amounts of protestors. They have burned and ransacked three Ministers homes. People have taken to the streets. Things are very, very bad.'"

Robert Bourgi claims to have immediately stopped Karim Wade, declaring, "I am not a political figure of authority. I am a barrister lawyer from Paris."

"But you can alert your friends, our friends," added Karim Wade. "I replied emphatically: 'I'm not doing anything. This is an

affair that concerns the people of Senegal."

"Presuming that the interests are threatened, I have no authority to give you any response whatsoever." The French lawyer reports that Wade's son told him: "But alert them at least."

The Senegalese Embassy in Paris promptly refuted these disclosures saying, "The French press, in an article dated June 28th 2011 and signed by Ms. Christine Holzbauer, issued a statement claiming that Mr. Karim Wade, Minister of State and son of the President of the Republic of Senegal, had requested intervention by French troops based in Senegal. The Senegalese Embassy in Paris firmly denies this false information and groundless accusation," reads the press release.

One source, who believes the claims are propaganda intended to manipulate public opinion with misinformation, said the following: "At no time, before, during or after the protests of the past few days, has Senegal's government or any other authority solicited intervention from French troops, or any other foreign army."

Yesterday, before Robert Bourgi's news broke, the spokesperson for the President of the Republic of Senegal repudiated the alleged statement that neither the Senegalese police nor the Senegalese gendarmerie, much less the army, were overwhelmed by the protestors to the point of requesting an intervention from the French army.

FMSO Commentary: Long regarded as West Africa's beacon of democracy, Senegal's untarnished credentials have recently lost their sheen.

For months, Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade has been attempting to change the country's constitution in what many believe to be an attempt to fast track his son, Karim Wade into his presidential post. Mass protests against Wade's bill followed, engulfing Senegal's streets for several days as rioters clashed with police. Though Wade eventually withdrew the proposal to mollify protesters, the most fascinating undercurrent of the story is outlined in the accompanying article – namely, that Karim Wade made a call to Paris to request that the French army intervene to stop the impassioned protests against his father.

Given France's history of colonialism in West Africa, the question of French military intervention there has always been a touchy subject. After questionable French interventions throughout francophone Africa – in Chad, Rwanda, Zaire, and most recently, Cote d'Ivoire and Libya – a French intervention in Senegal, particularly to suppress civil society uprisings in support of democracy, would have been a dismal move on the parts of both France and Senegal.

As such, if the Wades did indeed call Paris to ask for security assistance, it would be a call that the Wade administration would need to unequivocally deny, particularly in the face of his already declining popularity. Whether or not Senegal actually made the alleged call is beside the point. Of utmost importance is that the old policy of Françafrique – in which France quietly supported even African deplorable rulers – is on its way out the back door. End FMSO Commentary (Warner).

FMSO Commentary: The Yemeni province of Abyan has been a hotbed of Islamic militancy for some time. With national politics in disarray, heavy fighting has broken out in the province between the Yemeni Army and armed Islamists. The fighting has displaced over 50,000 people in the province. Last March, the important town of Jaar fell into the hands of militants. In May, the provincial capital Zinjibar temporarily fell out of government hands and remains contested. There are reports that armed Islamists are taking control of some parts of nearby Aden, the fall of which would be highly destabilizing.

The armed Islamists call themselves the "Shari'a Partisans" although in international media they are referred to as al-Qaeda. Their links to the organization are unclear. The opposition claims that the government has intentionally allowed the Islamists to take over parts of Abyan in order to shift focus away from popular protests elsewhere while also drawing international support out of fears of an al-Qaeda takeover. The only unit defending Zinjibar, the Yemeni Army's 25th Mechanized Brigade is under siege. It is unclear whether this brigade has defected to the side of the protesters. More generally, it is difficult to know how divided the Yemeni army is as a whole, although statements by the dissident forces indicate they are attempting to divide the forces.

Yemen is on the brink. There are ongoing fuel shortages and food rationing. Violence has increased both in Abyan and the protester stronghold of Taiz in the country's center. The north has largely fallen out of central government hands. The Republican Guard remains loyal to the president but the regular army has begun to split and could soon dissolve. Events in Abyan – whether due to government complicity or inability – are worrisome. The following article is written from the opposition's perspective, increasingly the viewpoint of most Yemenis. End FMSO Commentary (Winter)

Abyan, al-Qaeda and the Domestic Politics of Yemen

5 July 2011

Yemen is on the brink. There are ongoing fuel shortages and food rationing.

Source: "The 'Pro-Revolution Army': Saleh Regime Helps Terrorists Control Abyan and Refuses to Order his Forces to Fight," al-Ahali, 5 July 2011, <http://alahale.net/details.asp?id=6586&catid=23>

Saleh Regime Helps Terrorists Control Abyan

Armed groups took control of Abyan province over a month ago suddenly and without warning. Central Security Forces, police and provincial authorities withdrew without confrontation and handed over the province to armed groups which are said to number no more than two hundred.

From the moment the province fell, Saleh's family has attempted to portray events in the province as al-Qaeda taking over the province by force; however, local testimonies point to official complicity between the government and armed groups that receive assistance from Sanaa. The goal of this is to blackmail foreign countries by using the terrorism card, and it appears the United States and its allies have fallen for this story.

The opposition Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) and the leadership of the pro-peaceful revolution army condemned what occurred in Abyan, warning that playing with security in this way could have disastrous consequences. The pro-revolution army last Saturday also stated that President Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime helps terrorists control southern Yemen's Abyan province, supplies them with weapons, and refuses to use its loyalist forces to engage the gunmen in battle.

The pro-revolution army issued a statement saying that Saleh's regime "creates, nurtures and embraces terrorism. After seeing that all of its other reckless methods are of no use in suppressing the peaceful revolution, it uses the terrorism card, which it has used in its foreign affairs and is now using both domestically and internationally." According to the statement, the regime refused to order its military units in the province of Abyan, districts of Lawdar and Mukayras, to help pro-revolution troops fight the gunmen, even though these military units are closest to the fighting arena.

The statement held the remnants of the regime fully responsible for any developments in favor of the terrorists in Abyan. At the same time, it appealed to Gulf States and the international community to stand in the face of this irresponsible behavior, which it says will lead the country, the region and the world into a situation that no one wants.

The statement said that the regime's use of the al-Qaeda card comes after the failure of its new repressive method of laying siege to the people by cutting electricity and water day and night, blocking deliveries of fuel, keeping petroleum products and necessary food products from the markets, and forcing factories to cease production.

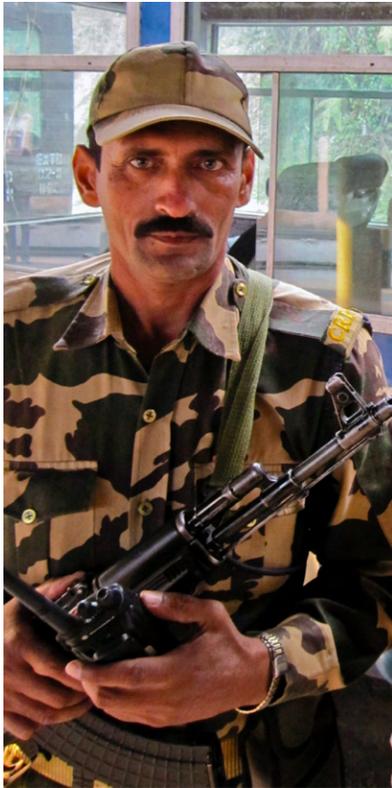
The 25th Mechanized Brigade alone fought gunmen calling themselves "Shari'a Partisans" in Zinjibar before they were joined by the 119th Brigade, whose commander (General Faysal Ragab) announced his support for the peaceful revolution. The 25th Mechanized Brigade refused orders from the Southern Command and the Defense Ministry to withdraw from the area of Zinjibar and leave the city and the bases to gunmen. Were the brigade to fall to the hands of the gunmen it would have allowed them to seize its equipment and head toward Aden. The Southern Area Command and Defense Ministry plotted against the 119th Brigade, according to sources, by helping gunmen attack forced led by Ragab from the rear, forcing him to withdraw and retreat to a rear position. Military and civilian leadership also distributed around five thousand guns in Aden and other provinces, most of them going to armed groups.

Meanwhile, the 25th Brigade, under siege at its base ever since gunmen seized control of neighboring towns, asked for assistance on Sunday, saying it was in need of troop reinforcements, weapons and water.

Naxalite – Maoist Menace: Government of India Sends Troops and Treasure

14 July 2011

Source: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1110419/jsp/jharkhand/story_13871833.jsp



CRPF Soldier by Ben Beiske [CC-BY-NC-ND-2.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0)], via Flickr.com



BSF Soldier by Jovianeye [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons

The Telegraph: New CRPF battalions in Jhumra, Dumka

Our Special Correspondent

Bokaro, 18 April 2011: A second battalion of the CRPF will keep extra vigil in the Maoist stronghold of Jhumra in Bokaro while Dumka in Santhal Paragan, where the rebels have gained a toehold of late, will get its first paramilitary sentinels.

Announcing the two new battalions of the force at a news meet in Chas today, CRPF inspector-general (IG) Alok Raj said reinforcement had become necessary because the jawans were not just fighting the CPI(Maoist) in these places, but also splinter outfits like PLFI, TPC and JPC.

Currently, the CRPF has 13 battalions and

two COBRA units in the state.

“Even six years ago, the police did not dare to enter the Saranda forests in fear of Maoists. But in the past year, the CRPF entered the zone four times. The continued presence of paramilitary forces in Jhumra, which was once the training hub of Maoists, has dealt a severe blow to the rebel outfit,” Raj said.

“While we have strengthened our base, the same has been done by rebels in Chatra, Latehar, Palamau, Khunti and Dumka. So, the need to raise more battalions,” he added.

At present, the CRPF has camps at Rahanwan and Jhumara in Bokaro and Churchu and Ghat in Hazaribagh.

FMSO Commentary The government of India is executing a two prong strategy of stick and carrot to address the growingly disruptive Naxalite – Maoist movement. As state governments enter into talks and negotiations, the central government is committed to bolstering the paramilitary forces already engaged in the “Red Corridor.”

The nations Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has carried the brunt of the attack over the past several years. Exact numbers are difficult to surmise, but some 40,000 to 70,000 CRPF personnel are operating in the Naxal affected states. A CRPF Battalion numbers over 1000 jawans (private or constable) and is armed with rifles. The CRPF has also organized specially trained and armed Battalions specifically for dealing with the naxal insurgent threat. These COBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) units are especially aggressive in searching out insurgents.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has augmented the CRPF with battalions from the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). These forces are organized, equipped and trained as light infantry.

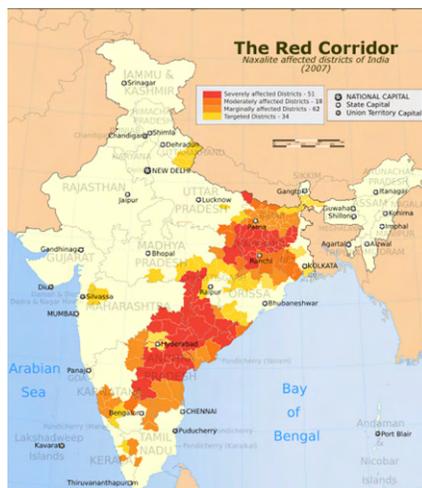
In addition the central government has authorized and funded the raising of 37 India Reserve Battalions in the nine leftwing extremist effected states. These battalions recruit from the local area, so providing opportunity for economic and security improvement. The Central Government has also sanctioned an additional 12,000 Special Police Officers (SPOs) to the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. This program is under some controversy in the courts, yet is very popular with the Central and state governments. These officers are drawn from local tribes and villages that have intimate knowledge of the areas involved.

The next three articles provide a snapshot of current paramilitary operations in the Naxal affected areas of India. First article is from *The Telegraph*, a leading Indian English-language daily in Calcutta, West Bengal, India. This article was published in its Jharkhand edition. It points to the presence and commitment of Central Government paramilitary forces. End *FMSO Commentary* (Welch)

FMSO Commentary: The next article is from India Today an English-language weekly news magazine published in Mumbai, India. It is also printed in Hindi.

The state of Orissa has responded to demands made by the Maoist insurgency after the negotiated release of a government official held by the Maoists. This is of significant concern to the central government of India and neighboring states. Many see this as a sign of weakness that will allow insurgence a safe haven.

Central forces remain vigilant in Orissa and seek to provide security during these political maneuvers. End FMSO Commentary (Welch)



India_Red_Corridor_map.png: *derivative work: By Hunnjazal India_Naxal_affected_districts_map.svg: w:user:Planemad derivative work: Gagan11111 (India_Red_Corridor_map.png) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0) , via Wikimedia Commons

Troops Deployed for Anti-Maoist Operations

14 July 2011



Source: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/site/story/naxalism-forces-to-stay-in-orissas-maoist-hit-areas/1/131292.html>

Map based on GADM data [CC-BY-NC-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>), via gadm.org

India Today: Forces to stay in Orissa's Maoist hit area

Though Orissa government has stopped combing operations against the Maoists, it has no plan to withdraw central para-military forces or police from areas dominated by the red rebels, official sources said on Wednesday.

This was decided at a meeting chaired by chief minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday evening.

The state government would not withdraw forces though it announced to halt combing operations since February 20 following abduction of Malkangiri district collector R Vineel Krishna and junior engineer Pabitra Majhi, a senior home department official said.

Though there had been poster campaigning by ultras in many parts of the state, including Koraput and Malkangiri, no untoward incident was reported during the past 10 days, he said.

He added that the government had decided to adopt a policy of "wait and watch" before taking any further step.

"According to commitments made to the mediators, the state government will not take any coercive step till peace prevailed," chief secretary B K Patnaik said earlier.

Besides 12 battalions of central para-military forces (7 battalions of CRPF and 5 battalions of BSF, adequate number of Orissa police's elite anti-Naxalite force - special operation group (SOG), India Reserve Battalion (IRB), District Voluntary Force (DVF) and special police officers (SPOs) were also deployed for anti-Maoist operations.

Now with the state government deciding not to execute green hunt operation, these forces would keep a watch on the movement of Maoists and their activities, the official said.

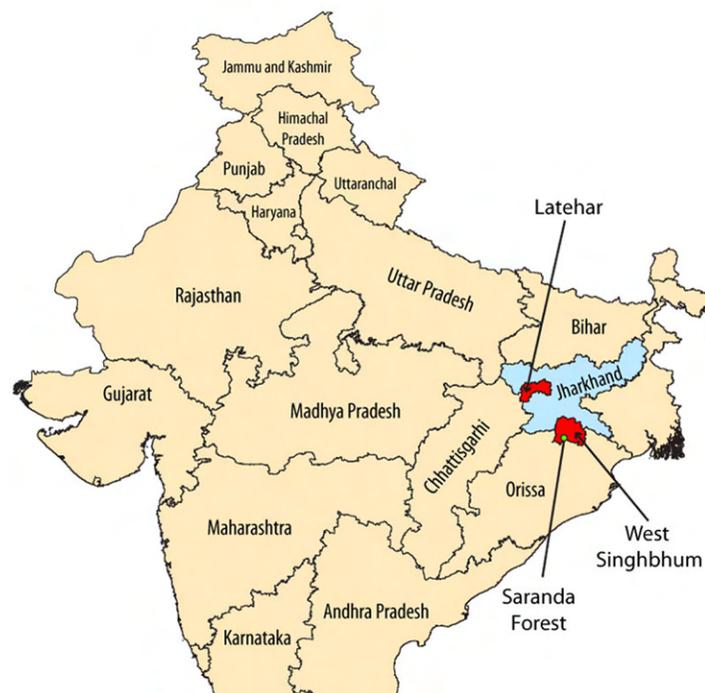
"Presence of BSF and CRPF in naxal-hit areas is itself an indication that the state government will act if required," he said.

Kumar: Inter-State Border Areas Are a Matter of Concern

14 April 2011

Source: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-07-12/ranchi/29764496_1_crpf-personnel-crpf-dg-bijupada

Map based on GADM data [CC-BY-NC-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>)], via gadm.org



The Times of India: CRPF DG hints at more Jharkhand operations

TNN Jul 12, 2011,

RANCHI: Lauding the coordination between Jharkhand police and para-military forces, CRPF director general K Vijay Kumar said the mutual understanding that existed between the two forces was one of the best in the state and more anti-Naxalite operations would be launched soon.

During his three-day tour, Kumar visited several frontal CRPF camps in the state at Lodhai village in the dense Saranda forest of West Singhbhum and Churchu in Hazaribag.

He appreciated the efforts of jawans and officials who were involved in the operation which busted the headquarters of Koel Sankh zone of CPI (Maoist) in Latehar last week.

“The Latehar operation was the one of the best coordinated ones with the district police that led to huge success. More similar operations will be carried out in other parts of the state,” said Kumar.

On a question about Saranda forest, which is one of the Maoist-hit areas, Kumar said security forces would keep conducting operations there frequently. He, however, refused to divulge any specific details.

Kumar also refrained from answering about the four CRPF battalions to be deployed in the state. “Inter-state border areas are a matter of concern but security forces are effectively trying to counter the Maoist presence in those areas,” added Kumar.

FMSO Commentary: The next article is from the Times of India an English-language daily newspaper in India that has the largest circulation among all English-language newspapers in the world. Reports of Maoist actions are printed almost daily in the “Cities” section of the paper.

The Maoist insurgency will see more pressure from central forces in states such as Jharkhand. Jharkhand was under President’s Rule (adminstrated directly from the ruling government in New Delhi) before the election of the current Bharatiya Janata Paryty (BJP) government in September of 2010. Current Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Arjun Munda recently said, “the government has chalked out an integrated programme under which state police, central paramilitary forces, central and state intelligence agencies are working in tandem.”

End FMSO Commentary (Welch)



Director General Vijay Kumar by Central Reserve Police Force, via <http://crpf.nic.in>

FMSO Commentary: On 22-23 June 2011, Guatemala hosted the Central American Integration System (SICA) conference, headed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. The main focus of this conference was a discussion on regional security strategy due to rising levels of crime and violence, primarily a byproduct of illicit trafficking operations anywhere from South America's Andean Ridge, up through Central America, and into Mexico.

Of the three main points that President Calderon addressed during the conference (listed in the article), it was evident that two were primarily focused at the U.S.: reducing drug consumption and prohibiting the sale of assault weapons to the region. Although he did not specifically address the U.S. as the root of these problems during the conference, he has spoken freely on the matter and has pointed the finger at the U.S. many times before in the Mexican media. Although U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that Washington was committed to fighting transnational crime in the region, the nearly \$300 billion pledged in aid (up from \$260 billion in 2010) was seen as disappointing by recipient countries.

Based on the most recent 2005 UN figures, 44% of drug sales were in North America and 33% in Europe. Even with Europe's sales only 11% below North American levels, the conference focus was still on U.S. aid. With this truly becoming an international problem, it was interesting to note that European support was not directly highlighted. Conference members also proposed other options for aid, stating that a "fine" could be imposed on international drug consuming nations, with fine amounts based on the amount of illegal narcotics seized by the SICA nations, and the burden shared (paid) by the consuming nations. With the weak international economy, it was apparent that the countries seeking aid were disappointed in the total \$1.8 billion dollar level of international support, especially of that offered by the U.S.. However, given the current state of the U.S. debt, it would be nearly impossible to meet the demands of the some \$35 billion that President Calderon claims would be needed to adequately counter these transnational criminal organizations in the region. End FMSO Commentary (Scheidel)

More International Aid Requested for 'War on Drugs'



President Felipe Calderón-Hinojosa by World Economic Forum [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0)], via Flickr.com

22 June 2011

Source: Hector Alvarez Fernandez, "Demanda Calderón apoyo internacional equivalente a venta de drogas," Notimex (www.notimex.com.mx), 22 Jun 2011

Mexico's Calderon Demands International Aid Equal to Drug Sales

Mexican President Felipe Calderon Hinojosa affirmed that international aid to fight drugs should equal the flow of money in dollars that the criminals receive to organize. "If cocaine sales constitute a market grossing \$35 billion in the United States, according to estimates, and a large share of those billions of dollars tends to fuel criminal gangs here, then international aid should be at least equal to the flow of money in dollars that the criminals receive here to organize and kill," he declared.

Participating in the International Conference in Support of the Central American Security Strategy, the president stated that international cooperation should be increased, "not in a symbolic way, because it is not a matter of quantities," but rather, in a real way in order to neutralize the strength of the criminals.

Addressing the presidents of the six Central American countries and Colombia, as well as U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Calderon advocated revising the paradigms for drug policy. Such action should be taken before our peoples suffer any more violence and death, and "before the lords of death end up taking possession of our societies." He pointed out that if Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico were not on the "drug route" and, specifically, the route taken by cocaine, then "our reality would be very different, and our lives would be far less violent and our countries far safer."

The Mexican federal executive listed three essential points for fighting transnational organized crime: 1) reducing drug consumption; 2) prohibiting the sale of assault weapons to the region; and 3) revising the paradigms underlying the policy for handling drugs. He emphasized the "urgent" need to review issues relating to drugs themselves, noting that we cannot postpone imposing controls on illegal trafficking of arms to the region.

Calderon Hinojosa declared that this First International Conference of Support for the Central American Security Strategy is "a milestone" and represents a very important, far-reaching step in solving a problem that the countries share. He emphasized that the nations in question cannot present a "disorganized front" in facing organized crime. Rather, they must close ranks and respond as one in a united, organized way.

The Mexican president indicated that the lack of security has become the main obstacle to development and the welfare of people, "and consequently, in order to be able to enjoy well-being, in addition to a strong social and economic growth policy, we must also achieve the core objective of security." He noted that Mexico has resolved to face crime with determination, because it suffers enormously from the problem, as does all of Central America.

Calderon also mentioned that the best legacy that can be left to future generations is a country of laws and institutions, tranquility and peace with justice, freedom, and democracy. He noted that more than a war against narcotrafficking, Mexico's struggle is for security, a strategy to have a country of laws, with values and the full rule of law. He revealed that in four years, 53,000 land vehicles, over 500 aircraft of all types, from jets to small planes used to cross the border, nearly 12 million cartridges, and 112,000 weapons, 60 percent of these being assault rifles, and 78 to 80 percent of them sold in the United States, have been confiscated in Mexico. Calderon added that this story is accompanied by a "tragic" loss of human lives, thousands of them Mexicans and even Central Americans, in Mexico.

Those that attended the conference were the leaders of Mexico, all of the Central American countries (except Nicaragua), and Colombia, as well as U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Turf War in Michoacan

21 June 2011

Source: "Captura del capo de La Familia abre la disputa por una zona estratégica," EFE (<http://www.efeamerica.com>), 21 Jun 2011

Arrest of 'La Familia' Cartel Leader Threatens To Spark Turf War

According to analysts, the 21 June 2011 capture of Jesus "El Chango" Mendez, the drug kingpin of the La Familia Michoacana Cartel, opens a series of questions about the future of the criminal organization and of the strategic state of Michoacan, an area receiving shipments of designer drug precursors and cocaine.

"El Chango" Mendez, whose forces had been weakened since early June 2011 in clashes with federal police and an internal war with another faction of La Familia, called The Knights Templar, was arrested in the central state of Aguascalientes, in an operation without gunfire.

In announcing the arrest, Alejandro Poire, technical secretary of the National Security Council, said at a press conference that the "command structure of this criminal organization was destroyed" with this blow.

The kingpin shared the leadership of La Familia, a pseudo-religious gang that emerged in 2006, with Nazario Moreno, alias "El Chayo," until he was killed by federal agents in late 2010, although his body was never found.

Security expert Jose Luis Piñeyro, a professor at the Metropolitan Autonomous University, told EFE that his arrest is in accordance with Mexican President Felipe Calderon's strategy of beheading cartels "under the assumption that they will fragment, weaken, and be less violent."

"But so far that has not happened. Mexican cartels have reassembled and there are still six or seven large ones," Piñeyro said.

The cartels of Sinaloa, Gulf, Los Zetas, Juarez, La Familia, and other less powerful ones such as the Arellano Felix and the Beltran Leyva operate in Mexico.

The specialist said that after the capture of "El Chango" it remains to be seen if La Familia dissolves or if it is rearticulated with other cartels to control a key region for drug trafficking.

Michoacan, on the Pacific coast and with

illegal marijuana and poppy fields, is an important recipient of South American cocaine and precursors for elaborate designer drugs in laboratories nestled in mountain areas, from where tons of these drugs are sent to the demanding US market.

In 2009, a criminal arrested at one of these laboratories revealed how lucrative this illegal business is: for every \$75,000 invested in the production of these designer drugs he got \$225,000 for its sale, which is a 200% profit.

La Familia extended its influence from Michoacan to the states of Guerrero (south), Jalisco (west), Guanajuato (center), and the State of Mexico (center).

Press sources in Michoacan told EFE that the group that might take the place left today by "El Chango" Mendez is the one led by Servando Gomez, "La Tuta," and his ally Enrique Placarte, alias "La Chiva," who in March formed the organization called "The Knights Templar."

In fact, "The Knights Templar" were fighting "El Chango" Mendez to the death for the leadership of La Familia following the death back in December of Nazario Moreno. The same sources indicated that "El Chango" Mendez, who in recent weeks had sought an alliance with the violent Los Zetas Cartel, has two children, but because of their young age they could not lead La Familia.

According to Piñeyro, the question after this arrest is whether this weakens drug trafficking and ensures the safety of the population that in shock has witnessed the sight of dozens of bodies dumped in the streets of Morelia, the capital of Michoacan, and in municipalities like Lazaro Cardenas (on the Pacific coast), Sahuayo, Jiquilpan, and Paracho.

The expert said that Calderon's strategy "is unconvincing" because what we are seeing is the capture of drug kingpins, but not of "white collar" lords, those who launder the profits from drug trafficking or of the front-

FMSO Commentary Formed in the 1980s with the purpose of bringing civil order to the Mexican state of Michoacan, La Familia Michoacana (LFM) emerged onto the main cartel scene in November 2006 as one of the most ruthless, independent drug trafficking organizations. They earned their reputation after a particularly grisly crime in Uruapan, Michoacan. After attacking a nightclub, and sending everyone to the floor with heavy gunfire, they then tossed numerous severed heads onto the dance floor, leaving with the heads the following infamous narco message "La Familia does not kill for pay, does not kill women, or the innocent. The only dead are those that should die. Let it be known to all that this is divine justice". With the premise of protecting and helping the people of Michoacan, especially the poor, LFM has somewhat of a cult-like organization, where followers were obligated not to use drugs and stay faithful to a bible of sorts, created from the teachings of LFM leader Nazario Moreno González, aka El Chayo or El Más Loco. The basis of this "bible" was the preconceived notion that their organization possessed the divine right to eliminate its enemies.

Following the death of LFM leader Nazario Moreno in December 2010, the organization fell victim to internal conflict that slowly divided the group. On 10 March 2011, Los Caballeros Templarios (The Knights Templar) left narco banners throughout the state of Michoacan, officially splitting from LFM as its own faction. The narco banners left throughout Michoacan read as follows, based on the same principles on which LFM was originally founded "The Knights Templar To all the people from Michoacan, from now on, we will take over the activities previously conducted by La Familia Michoacana. We are at the service of the people from Michoacan. We are committed to safeguarding your lives, providing order, and preventing kidnappings, robberies, extortions. We will also protect the state from rival organizations. Sincerely, Los Caballeros Templarios." Since the 21 June 2011 capture of LFM faction leader Jesus "El Chango" Mendez, The Knights Templar have gained power and control in the region, which looks to spark a fierce turf war for control of Michoacan, and especially the coastal city of Lazaro Cardenas, which is a gold mine for cartels who receive multi-million dollar shipments of cocaine and precursor chemicals from the port located there. In August 2010, LFM joined forces with the Gulf Cartel to fight against Los Zetas, in the state of Tamaulipas, for access to the lucrative ports of entry into Texas, especially those at Nuevo Laredo with access to the mainline artery of U.S. Interstate 35. Once former rivals, recent indications exist that LFM looks to form a pact with Los Zetas to regain control of the Lazaro Cardenas port region, as well as the "plaza" for shipping these products north through Mexico and into the insatiable U.S. market. With the illicit drug trafficking market creating profits for cartels in Mexico up to an estimated \$40 billion dollars per year, some sort of armed conflict is sure to arise in the fight for this disputed territory. End FMSO Commentary (Scheidel)

FMSO Analysis: There has been mounting concern circulating among Western experts and scholars about China's growing military capability. According to the Department of Defense 2008 Annual Report to Congress on the Military Power of the People's Republic of China, China "has the greatest potential to compete militarily with the United States and field disruptive military technologies that, over time, could offset traditional U.S. military advantages."

Studying Western fought wars, such as the Gulf War and Kosovo War, Chinese military thinkers and leaders have been gradually reshaping the country's military strategy.

The following article, which was disseminated as part of a directive issued by the Central Military Commission and general headquarters to spread knowledge about joint operations throughout the Chinese military, sheds light on how the People's Liberation Army perceives an effective military strategy and therefore has been reshaping its military. China has been incorporating a strategy that puts information operations at the forefront, in a high-tech, joint battlefield. Experts within the country believe that a successful operation can no longer be conducted by just the army, or the navy, or the air force, but rather a combination of all forces, plus space forces. The article entitled "Analyzing Special Plans for Joint Operations Knowledge," was based on an interview with Major General He Lei, Chief of the Academy of Military Science's Department of Operation Theories and Doctrine Studies.

Throughout the article, Major General He often sites U.S. and NATO led wars, such as the Gulf War and Kosovo War, to explain the direction in which China should go and is going. End FMSO Analysis (Hurst)

Evolving Military Trends in China

19 September 2010



Source: <http://www.lzgd.com.cn/news/news.asp?ID=381112>, 19 September 2010

Emblem of the People's Liberation Army [Public Domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Evolving Military Trends in China, Using the United States and NATO Operations as Examples

China has been incorporating a strategy that puts information operations at the forefront, in a high-tech, joint battlefield. Experts within the country believe that a successful operation can no longer be conducted by just the army, or the navy, or the air force, but rather a combination of all forces, plus space forces.

Evolving Military Trends in China, Using the United States and NATO Operations as Examples

For years, the army, navy, and air force independently dominated their respective battlefields. Over time, and in the future, there hasn't been another military service to coordinate them, and it was difficult for any service to rule the battlefield "fighting alone." Just as Chairman Hu (Jintao) pointed out, "Limited wars under informatized conditions are confrontations with systems fighting against systems. The basic form is integrated joint operations."

Joint operations are the basic form of operations in informatized warfare, and the characteristics of systems confrontation are unusually clear. No single service can dominate the battlefield, transcend itself; there is no fighting without joining together, and there is no winning

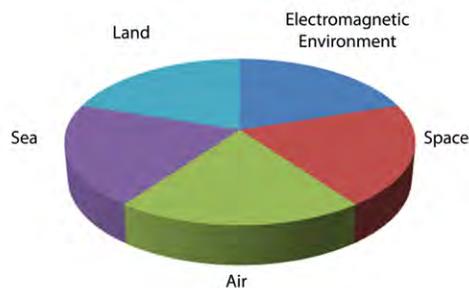
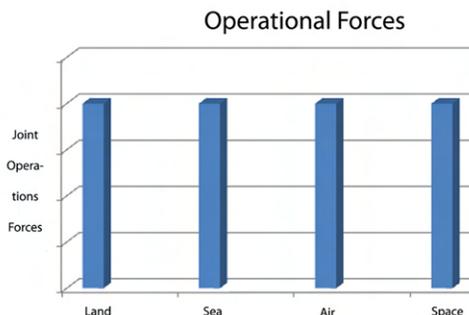


Chart and graph based on information from www.lzgd.com.cn



without joining together. In future joint operations, all forces will be scientifically and rationally organized into groups to create a system of joint operations forces with complementary functions that are joined together in an organic system, rely on networked information systems, focus on the same operational objective, and provide intense resistance in a multidimensional land, sea, air, space, and electromagnetic battlefield.

Ever since warfare came into existence, humankind has ceaselessly pursued advanced operational measures and methods, and has relentlessly applied society's advanced technologies in warfare. As Engels said, when technological progress can be used for military goals, and is already being used for military goals, it immediately and almost compulsorily sets of a change or even revolution in methods of operations.

Along with the endless advances in military technology, joint operations are becoming the basic form of operations, and they exhibit many new characteristics compared to traditional operations. At present, this staff reporter is paying a special visit to the chief of the Academy of Military Science's Department of Operation Theories and Doctrine Studies, doctoral student guide Major General He Lei, who, through typical examples of remarkable joint operations, analyzes and lifts the veil on joint operations under informatized conditions. (End of direct quotation)

The rest of the article was written in a question-answer format, addressing the following concepts:

- **It Is Difficult for Any Single Military Service to Dominate the Joint Battlefield**
(The gist is recent wars, such as the Gulf war and Kosovo war demonstrate that victory in war can be won only if all forces of all services and arms form a joint operations system, working under informatized conditions.)
- **Four Main Pillars Form a New Military Strength for Joint Operations**
(Major General He categorizes the basic four services necessary for conducting joint operations as operational forces on land, operational forces at sea, operational forces in the air, and operational forces in space. The force systems for joint operations are mutually dependent on information network systems, command information systems, and overall support systems.)
- **The New Joint Operations Battlefield Consisting of Five-Dimensional Space**
(The gist is that the Iraq War gives evidence that in joint operations under informatized conditions, the battlefield space has already expanded from the traditional land, sea, and air to multi-dimensional space that includes space, networks, and the electromagnetic environment. The space battlefield is invisible and provides the other battlefields with reconnaissance, monitoring, communications, positioning, navigation, early warning, and command support. It also deploys certain weapons systems.)
- **New Trends in Six Major Characteristics Prominent in Joint Operations**
(The gist is that, through analysis of previous Western fought wars, Major General He views six characteristics that are becoming apparent in joint operations under informatized conditions as: 1. The multiple dimensions of battlefield space are integrated; 2. Information systems are interconnected and communicate with each other; 3. Participating forces are multiple units fused together; 4. Command and control are precise and highly effective; 5. Operational actions are completely interlocked; 6. And comprehensive support is precise and intensive.)

FMSO Analysis: Some analysts believe that China's military does not pose an immediate threat. Over the past decades, China has been struggling to keep up with technology. In doing so, its efforts have focused on such strategies as reverse engineering and espionage efforts to steal foreign military technologies.

According to Dr. Dieter Ernst, Senior Fellow, East-West Center, who testified before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, "the U.S. retains a strong lead in overall innovative capacity, and China still has a long way to go to close the innovation gap." However, the United States can never let down its guard. Should the rate of progress and development of U.S. military strategy and technologies ever falter too much and China continues to adopt proven strategies, some of which could counter those of the United States and its allies, it could change the playing field.

One final point worth making is that not only is China striving to adopt proven strategies, with Chinese characteristics, it is also adopting ways to counter U.S. strategies. As a result, it would behoove U.S. military planners to learn all the ways U.S. forces can be countered. In doing so, China's next move can easily be predicted. End FMSO Analysis (Hurst)

ⁱ "Testimony of Dr. Dieter Ernst," East-West Center Website, June 15, 2011, <<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/news-center/east-west-wire/testimony-of-dr-dieter-ernst>>.

FMSO Commentary: Activity and attacks by extremist and terrorist groups in Central Asia have largely taken place in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. The recent bombings in Kazakhstan, on May 17 in Aktobe and on May 24 in Astana, came as a surprise and proof that attacks are not limited to countries bordering Afghanistan or with weak state and security structures. It is still unknown what, if any, association the perpetrators behind the bombings have with various groups operating across Central Asia.

While there was little news coverage of the recent bombings, (the government released very little official information and referred to the bombings as acts by criminals, not terrorists or extremists) there was some attention given to a recent trial in northern Kazakhstan. The following article is a good look at how Kazakhstan is not isolated from terrorism and extremism. There may have been more people in Kazakhstan aware of the trial than the author states, but her evidence demonstrates that there have been more Kazakh connections to terrorism in Central Asia than previously known. The following is a summarized version of the article. End FMSO Commentary (Stein)

Jihad in Kazakhstan

24 March 2011

Source: Galina Vybornova, "Ordinary jihad," Vremya Online 24March 2011
<http://www.time.kz/index.php?module=news&newsid=20724>



Map based on GADM data [CC-BY-NC-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>)], via gadm.org

Ordinary Jihad

The recent bombings in Kazakhstan, on May 17 in Aktobe and on May 24 in Astana, came as a surprise and proof that attacks are not limited to countries bordering Afghanistan or with weak state and security structures.

The verdict on Erbol Kadyrsizov passed by Zhambyl Region's specialized inter-district criminal court entered legal force last week. The trial of the 30-year-old native of [eastern city of] Semipalatinsk who had been hiding from justice for six years before his detention last year passed off quietly and unnoticed, without spectators and reporters. However, it was one of the biggest trials of the year.

Would you agree that it's not every day that we have a trial of someone accused of participation in the activities of a terror group, propagating terrorism and calling for terror attacks, premeditated murder with particular cruelty of three men, along with robbery as a member of an organized group - all out of ethnic, racial, religious hatred. The verdict was based on the three above said crimes and three more articles of the Kazakh Criminal Code - attempted murder, robbery and acquiring, transfer, storage and transportation of firearms and ammunition. For all these deeds Kadyrsizov was given 24 years in a high security colony with confiscation of his property.

Judge Galymzhan Nurlykulov said that it was his first case of such scale, involving so many counts, and of such importance. His job was made easier by the existence of a previous sentence by Zhambyl Regional Court on 6 December 2005. At the time 16 members of the terror organization Mojahedin Jamoat Islamic Jihad, which had been active in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and been liquidated in 2004 through joint efforts of the two countries' special services, received prison terms ranging from seven to 25 years, and the only woman among them was given a suspended sentence.

"Today it is quiet in the neighboring country [Uzbekistan]. It's quiet in Kazakhstan. But who can guarantee that the people who think they have the right to kill, are not planning to seize new territories and souls?"

Russian Suspicions over US Presence in Central Asia

8 June 2011

Source: Viktoriya Panfilova, "Manas Will Remain American for a Long Time: The United States Is Ready to Redeploy the Troops for Redeployment from Afghanistan to Central Asia," Nezavisimaya Gazeta Online, 8 June 2011 http://www.ng.ru/cis/2011-06-09/6_manas.html

Manas Will Remain American for a Long Time

Washington and Bishkek have resumed negotiations on an extension of the lease of the American military base called the Manas Transit Center at Bishkek Airport. Experts believe there will be a longer presence than determined by the 2009 agreement specifying a five-year term.

Dwight Soanes, outgoing director of the Manas Transit Center, introduced his replacement Colonel Jake Jacobson at a news conference in Bishkek on Wednesday and spoke about Washington's plans regarding the base. Specifically, he announced that negotiations with the leadership of Kyrgyzstan on an extension of the lease agreement were being conducted via the US Embassy and that he himself personally does not "communicate with the Kyrgyzstani authorities directly." The details, he says, are being reconciled at this time. Soanes believes that the negotiations will conclude successfully since "the government of Kyrgyzstan has an interest in the presence of the Manas Transit Center in the republic since it supports stability in the region."

Aleksandr Knyazev, senior associate of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Oriental Studies, believes that the negotiations between Washington and Bishkek, it is a question not so much of an annual extension of the agreement as of a longer-term presence of the American base in Kyrgyzstan. "The United States is changing its overall Afghanistan strategy. It is a question of it intending a presence in this country for as long as possible, regardless of the situation. At the present time, as far as I know, talks are taking place between Kabul and Washington on the formation of permanent American military bases in Afghanistan," Knyazev told NG. He says that the Americans (and NATO to some extent) intend to leave the south of the country while retaining the key bases at Shindand — in the Iranian direction — Kabul — for preservation of influence on the country's authority — and Kandahar — owing to its strategic importance. "And the main ground forces will be moved north and to the republics of Central Asia — Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. Everything is being done for the execution of this plan, and this means not only the building of an enormous base at Mazar-e Sharif and the creation of other infrastructure in Northern Afghanistan, but also the spread of 'alarmism' in political circles and public opinion of regional countries to justify their move north," the expert observed. As far as Kyrgyzstan is concerned, he believes that "it could be a question in the new agreement both of an expansion of the military base and of a change in its functions."

"It could be said that the Americans are, on the whole, expanding their presence throughout the region. I was in Afghanistan recently and, leaving via Khayraton-Termez, I saw with my own eyes American military personnel at the Afghan border post—they feel at home there since it has already been decided that it is the Americans that will be assuming security of the Uzbek section of the border. They have been given carte-blanche. American subunits crossing the border in Tajikistan in the course of business, so to speak, are not isolated instances. Everything is already prepared for the deployment of a new American base in Kyrgyzstan's Batken," Aleksandr Knyazev told NG.

Ravshan Dzheynebekov, member of the Kyrgyz parliament, confirmed for NG that the Manas Transit Center negotiations between the leadership of the United States and Kyrgyzstan are taking place: "This may be judged even by the number of high-level officials of the US State Department and the Obama administration visiting Bishkek. From the political and economic perspective, this is pretty good for Kyrgyzstan since today our country is in need of the support both of the United States and Russia and the EU." He confirmed Knyazev's opinion concerning the "personal benefit of Kyrgyz politicians." "We were forced to begin an investigation in terms of a study of the situation surrounding payments by the Transit Center and uncovered middlemen companies, to which millions of dollars are being remitted for services. What the result of the parliamentary inquiry will be is not yet known. But Kyrgyzstan is today open, we will learn, therefore, who has 'walked off' with the money and how. It is not inconceivable that government officials formed companies for the execution of corruption arrangements or lobbied for someone's interests," Dzheynebekov told NG.

FMSO Commentary: The Manas Transit Center just outside of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan has proven to be logistically very important for ongoing U.S. operations in Afghanistan. The extension of the current lease agreement is essential, as the following summarized article mentions, since operations could continue past the current five-year agreement. However, the article makes an interesting, if not puzzling, connection between extending the lease agreement of Manas to a permanent U.S. military presence in Central Asia.

In the spring of 2010 the U.S. government announced that it would open a military training center in the Batken Province of southern Kyrgyzstan. The proposed center would provide advanced training for Kyrgyzstan's military, but would not be a base for U.S. forces. The announcement fueled speculation that the U.S. would be opening several bases in Central Asia. It is apparent from this article that speculation continues, despite evidence to the contrary. U.S. forces were stationed at Kharshi-Khanabad (K-2), Uzbekistan starting in 2001, but left in 2005 following various disagreements with the government of Uzbekistan.

Since then, there have been no negotiations with the government of Uzbekistan to again host U.S. forces. There has also been no negotiation on expanding the current presence in Kyrgyzstan or establishing a base in Tajikistan, although with the latter the U.S. has air-space and refueling privileges. Outside of Manas, the largest U.S. military involvement has been transporting non-lethal supplies through Central Asia to Afghanistan on the Northern Distribution Network. Regardless, the Russian view continues to be suspicious of the U.S. presence in Central Asia.

End FMSO Commentary (Stein)

FMSO Commentary: Last year, Kyrgyzstan's and Tajikistan's security forces struggled with internal conflicts. The June 2010 violence in Osh and Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan, and the September-October clash in the Rasht Valley, Tajikistan demonstrated that each country, while ultimately successful in restoring peace, needs to continue developing its internal security forces.

China's official response to these conflicts was as typical; they saw them as internal matters of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and hoped for a quick end to the fighting. Unofficially, China does not want to see either country become a security problem to their west. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have likely looked to China for help in gaining experience with these kinds of conflicts. China has experience with internal conflicts, most recently in Xinjiang in July 2009. A lack of training was cited as one of the main problems last year, for Kyrgyzstan it was the local police in Osh and for Tajikistan it was the ambushed National Guard unit in the Rasht Valley. This joint exercise could be considered a good start, but it will take much more training (joint or otherwise) to improve overall capabilities. The following is a summarized version of the article.

End FMSO Commentary (Stein)

China, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan Conduct Joint Anti-Terror Drill

7 May 2011

Source: Xinhua, 7 May 2011 http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2011-05/06/c_13862763.htm

SCO Countries by Seiogo [Public Domain], via Wikimedia Commons



■ Member States ■ Observer States ■ Dialogue Partners

Joint Anti-Terror Drill

China, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, all member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Friday conducted a joint anti-terror drill in Kashi of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

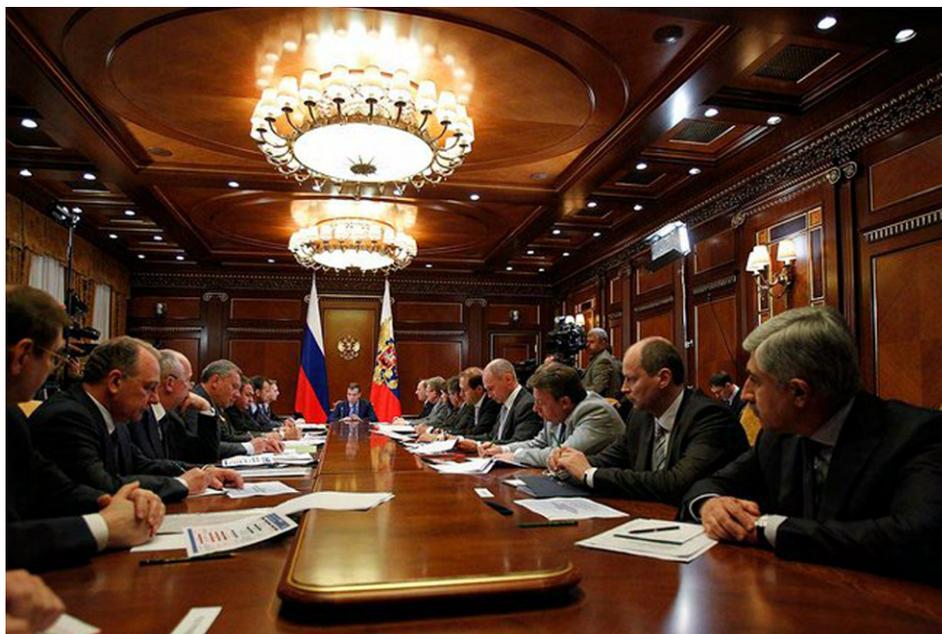
Code-named "Tianshan-II (2011)," the exercise featured how law enforcers and security personnel from the three countries have coordinated efforts to locate and crack down on "terrorists" in the border region. The anti-terror exercise consisted of three parts, namely decision-making and command, freeing abductees by force, and cleanup operation at designated venues.

Aiming to improve the countries' ability to respond to terrorism in all forms, the drill was organized as the "three evil forces" of terrorism, splittism (sic) and extremism have been colluding with the "East Turkistan" terrorist forces to involve in cross-border activities in recent years, waiting for opportune moments to start up disturbances, which have remained a common threat to SCO member states, said a spokesman for the national counter-terrorism office of China.

While heralding Friday's joint drill a success, Meng Hongwei, chair of SCO's regional anti-terror agency council and China's deputy minister of public security, said the drill demonstrated the resolution and capability of the three countries and the SCO in combating the "three evil forces" of terrorism, splittism and extremism in the region. Meng added China is willing to further the exchanges and cooperation with other SCO member states and their law-enforcement and security departments to ensure the security and stability of all SCO members and the region as a whole.

Problems with Russian Weapon Procurement

25 May 2011



President Medvedev meeting with OPK about procurement of military equipment – Photo by kremlin.ru [CC-BY 3.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)], via www.kremlin.ru

Source: Vladimir Leonov and Aleksandr Chuykov, “Rearmament Bubble,” *Argumenty Nedeli* <http://argumenty.ru/>, 25 May 2011

Col-Gen (Ret) Sitnov on Armed Forces Rearmament, State Defense Order

President Medvedev severely berated the government recently for disruption of the gosoboronzakaz [State Defense Order]. After this the heads of directors of defense production flew, and epaulets in the Defense Ministry as well. But even more significant amounts were at stake – the Armed Forces Rearmament Program up to 2020 with a price tag of R23 trillion. Will the Russian defense establishment manage to use such ambitious sums, if of course [the sums] reach it? What will happen with the gosoboronzakaz? Will the long-awaited Russian Armed Forces rearmament take place? AN [Argumenty Nedeli] asked former (up to 2000) Chief of Armed Forces Armaments, Deputy Head of RSPP [Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs] Commission on the Defense-Industrial Complex Colonel-General (Retired) Anatoliy Sitnov about this.

[AN] Anatoliy Petrovich, the past year’s disruption of the gosoboronzakaz is the reason for the imperial anger. The president accused enterprise directors and Defense Ministry officials, but who really is at fault?

[Sitnov] Let’s leave aside the opinion of incompetent people. Fulfillment of the gos-

FMSO Commentary: With fossil fuel prices at record high levels, concerns have been expressed that major exporters like Russia will use these windfall profits to strengthen their offensive military capability. Some point to the August 2008 conflict with Georgia as evidence of Russia’s resurgent military strength. While the military has been allocated greater funds over the past decade, just how this money has been spent is not altogether clear.

Confusion over military reform and wide-scale corruption have been major obstacles in translating greater defense expenditures into actual military power. Despite frequent pronouncements that new systems of fiscal accountability have been established, a significant percentage of defense allocations are poorly spent or simply misappropriated. The Russian penchant for secrecy (particularly concerning security matters) aggravates the situation. Systemic problems like the lack of competition among defense firms and minimal, long-term capital investment have further weakened the ability of the Russian military-industrial complex to deliver top-notch weapon systems at a fair price..

A former high-level Russian defense official (Col-Gen Sitnov) in the summarized interview below, discusses some of the problems in the current weapon procurement system. He advocates a return to either a tsarist or soviet model of weapons procurement, intimating that there was less corruption and inefficiency under an ultra-centralized system. Recent pronouncements about defense industry consolidation would appear to support this thesis. However, whether these changes result in greater fiscal accountability within Russia’s defense industry remains to be seen. End FMSO Commentary (Finch)

Problems with Russian Weapon Procurement

boronzakaz is above all the government's prerogative. Its instrument is the Military Industrial Commission. The Defense Ministry orders the arms needed today and in the future based on Armed Forces development plans. It forms the list and quantity of arms with an eye to the financial resources. Then the gosoboronzakaz is considered in Minfin [Finance Ministry], in Minekonomrazvitiya [Ministry of Economic Development and Trade], and in the government. After this it is tossed to the State Duma, where the amounts of its funding are determined. Only after this is the Defense Ministry given the right to conclude contracts.

[AN] That is, the rearmament program also will be disrupted?

[Sitnov] This is entirely a bubble! Simply a ballyhoo. Absolutely all economic relationships have been destroyed and system-forming institutions are in a stage of transformation. There are no KBs [design bureaus] or head institutes; production essentially has been destroyed.

At one time the Soviet Union's armament program was written for two five-year periods ahead. I personally participated in drafting the program for topics of the GRAU MO [Defense Ministry Main Missile and Artillery Directorate], and in parallel the industry was creating a program for developing the VPK [defense-industrial complex]. All this was linked, otherwise any military system, even the most effective one, will remain in the form of blueprints.

And when there are no tasks for the future, organized chaos results. We change time zones and introduce fishing permits, i.e., we divert attention in every way possible from the important thing.

[AN] It remains to go and sing: "All is lost, all is lost"?

[Sitnov] There are a number of measures which will permit turning the situation around.

First — immediately restore the entire system of head institutes for sectors: aviation, Navy, missile technology, and so on. They must be responsible for developing technologies, creating new materials, training cadres, and for the regulatory legal base. But now there is no legislative base for development and formation of the armament system. Second: a law must be adopted on mandatory fulfillment of the gosoboronzakaz by all enterprises and organizations regardless of forms of ownership. A five-year plan for production of armament systems definitely must be adopted that will enable manufacturing military articles with a lengthy production cycle. And work on them must be extended for another five years. Then it is possible to plan development, get long-term credit, and create a uniform production technology. It is impossible to work in a "start-stop" mode.

Third. The rearmament program must have underlying base documents: OPK restructuring and development; development of the scientific-test, regulatory-legal, and legislative base; creation

of new specialties; training of new engineers; and development of applied mathematics systems. We must have our own production of means of production, including machine tool building.

[AN] But there is also a mess in the Defense Ministry itself. No one knows what the Armed Forces should be like and what systems of armaments are needed. The example of CINC Ground Troops Postnikov, who declared that it is better to procure three German tanks than one T-90, is indicative.

[Sitnov] We have to restore the system of orders that existed in czarist Russia and the Soviet Union; then one can create new models quickly and with good quality and can rearm. Back in 1984 the London Institute for Strategic Studies admitted in its materials that they had to study the system of orders specifically of the Soviet Union, where expenditures were optimized for development, production, and procurement of arms.

But the Defense Ministry is doing everything exactly the opposite. They destroyed the apparatus of the chief of armaments and ruined the system of orders in Defense Ministry central supply agencies. GRAU (Main Missile and Artillery Directorate) existed only as a main directorate from 1862 (at that time the Main Artillery Directorate). Now everything has been destroyed right down to the archives. And in other main directorates all archives were destroyed after reduction. We are destroying our history with our own hands.

For 300 years the Army was delegated the right to represent the state in the defense order. A precise, adjusted system of gosoboronzakaz fulfillment operated back since czarist times by means of head institutes, KBs, and military representative offices. This must be restored.



Realistic-Ballistic Missile Defense?

6 July 2011



Integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System



Source: Rossiya 24, 6 July 2011. <http://www.newstube.ru/media/rogozin-potencial-peregovorov-po-pro-eshhe-ne-ischerpan>

BMD promotion slide, via MDA.mil

Russia's NATO Envoy Accuses U.S. of Hampering ABM talks

Some members of US President Barack Obama's team are determined not to give Russia any guarantees that the planned missile defense system in Europe would not be used against it, Russia's permanent representative to NATO, Dmitry Rogozin, has said in an interview on state-owned Russian news channel Rossiya 24 on 6 July 2011. He said that if no agreement with NATO is reached on European missile defense, Russia would have to seek a "military-technical response," although he did acknowledge that the talks between Russia and NATO on this issue have not yet been exhausted.

When asked by the presenter whether the media were correct in saying that Russia and NATO had failed to come to any agreements on European missile defense, Rogozin said: "It can't be the case that during one event all the sides changed their positions. We will not change our positions because we are next to a red line. If an American missile defense grouping is deployed on our Western border with the ability to neutralize and cancel out our strategic potential, we cannot cross this red line. Therefore our partners need to understand that if they want to guarantee their own security, they have their own zone of responsibility. They can do anything they want there, but they should not creep towards us. They should not have the opportunity for their missile defense weapons to shoot down any ballistic targets over our territory, or over third countries".

Talking about the nature of the negotiations, Rogozin said: "The talks are taking place in diplomatic and military fields. We have separate diplomatic tracks and negotiating processes: between the Pentagon and our Defense Ministry, and accordingly between our Foreign Ministry and the [US] State Department. This is how the talks went before the [G8] summit in Deauville [on 26-27 May 2011], but there suddenly it was not possible to agree upon quite a neutral, not a very profound document. And I think that the most interesting thing is that the Americans still cannot give us an answer on why the document, which had in effect already been drawn up and agreed upon by the American side, was not signed in the end.

"This gives the impression that there are quite influential forces within the US president's entourage who do not want to give Russia the slightest guarantees that this system will not be used

FMSO Commentary: Next month (August, 2011), will mark the 20th anniversary of the failed coup attempt, where Kremlin hardliners tried to use force to hold the USSR together. One of the proximate causes that led leaders like Gorbachev to try and reform the Soviet Union's political and economic systems dealt with the question of 'modernization.' Specifically, in order to compete with the west (particularly in the realm of military technology), the Soviet leadership needed to find a more effective way to motivate workers. New political and economic freedoms, however, weakened the communist party's control over society, which ultimately led to the collapse of the USSR. Therefore, some historians and analysts, in both Russia and the west, point to initiatives like Reagan's Space Defense Initiative (SDI) as being partially responsible for ending the Cold War.

While the Cold War ideological battlefield is now quiet, ballistic missile defense (BMD) still remains a contentious issue between Russia and the U.S. Some in the U.S. have argued that it won't be long before a 'rogue nation' or a terrorist group develops the capability to launch a ballistic missile (perhaps armed with a nuclear warhead). The U.S. and some NATO countries continue to work on a phased approach toward the development of a system designed to protect Europe and the U.S. from a ballistic missile threat. Russian leaders appear less concerned about this danger, and have interpreted this new BMD system as possibly neutralizing Russia's nuclear retaliatory capability (at least their land-based, strategic rocket forces).

Over the past couple of years, various proposals have been discussed whereby NATO and Russia would cooperate on developing a joint BMD system. These plans, however, have been stymied over questions of mutual suspicion, command and control, and incompatibility issues. Russia's representative to NATO, Dmitry Rogozin, recently gave an interview to Russian TV describing the current status of the negotiations. Rogozin has gained a fierce reputation for his defense of Russian security interests and willingness to confront rather than cooperate with NATO/US proposals. As the extract from the interview below makes clear, Russian leaders like Rogozin are working hard to convince their European neighbors that this type of missile defense is not in their best interests. End FMSO Commentary (Finch)

Realistic-Ballistic Missile Defense?

against us. Well, if this is the case, we will have to look for a military-technical response, unfortunately. This will cost money, but we will have to go down this path, because we cannot risk our sovereignty or our strategic nuclear potential in any way," he said.

When asked by the presenter whether there was any timeframe for these negotiations, Rogozin said: "Now I have been authorized by the president to meet with heads of states and governments on the basis of the message which the president sent to the entire NATO leadership. I have flown in to Moscow for a few days, and then I will head off around the capitals. These are tough conversations, I have already been to several capitals, but nevertheless I can see that among the European NATO countries there is an understanding that they themselves will be isolated from the actual missile defense program.

"It will be an American thing, American technology and an American product, and the defense industries of European giants such as France and Germany will not get anything out of it, and this is really irritating them. And secondly, they will not receive the key to this missile defense. In actual fact, European countries could become a target for terrorists who would like to deal with this missile defense system, and it will all be deployed on European soil, but the Europeans will not even have the freedom and opportunity to influence this system.

"Therefore the talks we are having are quite difficult, but we have time before the end of the year to come to some sort of agreement or lack of agreement, on the other hand. And I think that the decisions which are taken in approximately a year's time will be extremely important, they will be taken at the NATO summit in Chicago in May 2012. A final decision will be taken there on how the missile defense architecture will look. If we do not see ourselves there, we will have to slowly prepare our response," he said.

When asked whether the dynamic of the talks could change if there were new leaders in Russia and the USA after the upcoming presidential elections, Rogozin said: "The American side, including the president's entourage and the US president himself, have said that they cannot give us legal guarantees because they have a difficult situation in the Senate, where the Republicans have strong representation and would apparently not let any treaty pass. So the US president is talking now about his own very narrow room for maneuver in the dialogue with Russia on missile defense.

"As regards the Russian side, it is a bit simpler for us. I can say for certain that whoever the Russian president may be, in 2012 and 2018, a liberal or someone with left-wing or right-wing, conservative views, the situation is such that we will have to take necessary measures. Either we cooperate and enter into deep cooperation and create a really unique project, which is profoundly technological and has a profound political meaning, which will change our relations with the West as a whole, or if this does not work out, consequently we, meaning any Russian president, will have to take measures for a military-technical response,"

he said.

In answer to a question by the presenter on whether this could have an impact on Russia's involvement in the START treaty with the USA, Rogozin said: "The START treaty says in black and white that there is an interdependence between the development of defensive and offensive systems. To put it bluntly, we cannot further reduce the ceiling, the number of strategic nuclear missiles at a time when the number of missile interceptors increases, and they will be able to overtake Russia's strategic missiles. Therefore, at a certain stage a situation could arise when we will have to leave the START-3 treaty.

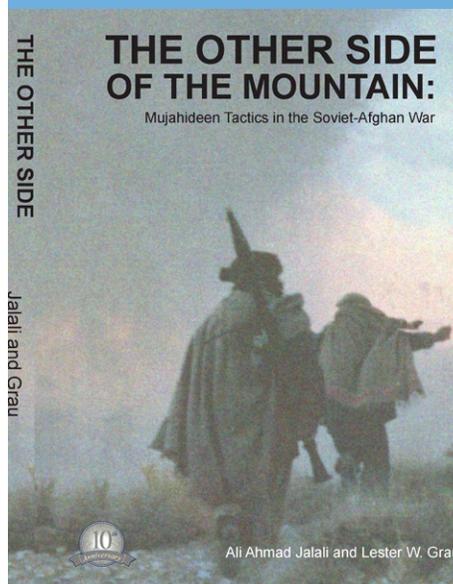
"But I want to say once again that there are many discussions going on, including in the media, in an alarmist and uneasy manner. But as the head of the interagency working group within the presidential administration on interaction with NATO on missile defense, and as the president's special representative, I can say with authority that our potential from the talks has by no means been exhausted. I think that in one form or another we will manage to ensure that no threats emerge by our Western borders," Rogozin said.

What General Petraeus is reading

The Boston Globe's H.D.S. Greenway finally tells us, after a whole lot of throat clearing, what the U.S. commander in Afghanistan is reading these days:

“Thomas Barfield's *Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History*; *Ali Ahmad Jalali and Lester W. Grau's The Other Side of the Mountain: Mujahideen Tactics in the Soviet-Afghan War*; Greg Mortenson's *Three Cups of Tea*; and Sir Winston Churchill's *The Story of The Malakand Field Force*, about frontier fighting in the late 19th century. In Churchill's time there was a similar tremendous debate about Britain's "Forward Policy," whether to really go in and build up civil institutions, pacifying

the Pashtuns, or whether to maintain a lesser footprint, punishing the frontier tribes when necessary; the 19th century equivalent of drone attacks and special-ops, nicknamed "butcher and bolt."



Thomas E. Ricks,
Foreign Policy
www.ricks.foreign-policy.com

Training to Handle Internal Disasters

30 May 2011



Banner showing the different tasks entrusted to the EMERCOM (Emergency Situations Ministry – MChS) of Russia by Fdutil [Public Domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Source: “The Army Alone Is Not Enough for the General Staff,” Nezavisimaya Gazeta Online, <http://www.ng.ru/>, 30 May 2011.

Army’s Role in Natural, Public Order Emergency

The Military Commanders’ Club, which is headed by General of the Army Anatoliy Kulikov, a former minister of internal affairs, last week held a scientific practice conference on the subject of the coordination of the security structures’ [silovyye struktury] operations during emergency situations. This public organization, which brings together eminent generals and marshals, from time to time offers expert-level proposals on questions relating to support for the country’s defense and security. On this occasion Gen Kulikov came out with an unexpected initiative: recommending to the president and the government the creation of a General Staff-based standing agency to coordinate security structures’ operations in emergency situations.

Meanwhile, when it comes to emergency situations — industrial and natural catastrophes, fires, accidents, that is to say — the Emergency Situations Ministry [MChS] is the body responsible on a national scale for preventing and tackling the aftermath of emergency situations. Anatoliy Kulikov, however, is proposing the creation of an overarching management agency that will organize the work of the MChS, the Ministry of Defense, the MVD [Internal Affairs Ministry] and such like in the event of an emergency. The general declared at the conference that some time back Russia’s Security Council (SB) had become the coordinating agency for the security structures, but the coordination of operations was in fact only implemented in accordance with decisions made by the country’s president. “From our viewpoint, there is something missing here. The coordinating agency has to be a permanent body, like the National Antiterrorist Committee,” Kulikov said. In the opinion of the leader of the Military Commanders’ Club, the General Staff has already agreed to the establishment on its basis of an Operations Headquarters (OSH) under a Security Council coordination committee. “And in that eventuality the General Staff will be performing its primary function not only in the defense sphere but in the security sphere also,” Kulikov believes. “The General Staff has the ideal capabilities for coordination of the security structures’ operations in this way, including information gathering, intelligence data processing, mission assignments, and communications support.”

Kulikov is proposing the creation of an Operations Headquarters for emergency situations under a Security Council coordination committee. But there is no such committee in the Security Council. So what are we talking about here?

FMSO Commentary The great Russian general, Alexander Suvorov is credited with coining the phrase, ‘difficult in training, easy in war.’ This aphorism applies to many other situations and professions, and most certainly to how a state responds to a major domestic crisis. Whether hurricane, tsunami, large-scale fires, or a major hostage incident, the questions surrounding command and control in responding to a crisis are of paramount importance. A rapid, effective state response to these types of disasters requires training and working out solutions to questions like ‘who is responsible for what?’

One key issue in handling a domestic crisis revolves around the coordination and use of military and various security forces. Complicating the state’s reaction are restrictions regarding the role military forces can play in restoring order in a democratic society. While the recent tsunami and nuclear accident in Japan illustrate how defense forces can help in disaster recovery, the issue becomes more complex when military forces must use lethal force to restore law and order. This is a particularly sensitive issue within the Russian context. Despite claims to the contrary, the Russian military has been used (most notably in 1993, and again in the recent Chechen conflicts) to resolve internal political disputes.

During the past decade, Russia has invested heavily in strengthening its domestic security services (MVD, FSB, Emergency Situations etc...) to handle internal challenges. However, as the massive fires of summer 2010 indicated, even with this investment, Kremlin authorities still had to rely on the military for much needed assistance. Questions remain over how best to employ internal and traditional military forces to handle a domestic crisis.

In the extracted article below, the former Minister of Internal Defense (MVD), A. Kulikov, suggests using the military’s General Staff structure to help coordinate efforts in a domestic crisis. Such an approach makes sense on paper, but given Russia’s recent history, the endemic corruption, and parochial interests within much of the security bureaucracy, such a proposal is unlikely to be adopted. Regardless, as history continues to demonstrate, General Suvorov’s aphorism remains pertinent in disaster planning. End *FMSO Commentary* (Finch)

Training to Handle Internal Disasters

Seven interdepartmental commissions (MVK) operate within the Security Council framework, one of which — on military security — has been led by a current opponent of the military department, General of the Army Yuriy Baluyevskiy, former head of the General Staff and now deputy secretary of the Security Council. If an Operations Headquarters for emergency situations is to be created under the MVK, then by law the coordinating role will remain all the same with the Security Council, not the General Staff. And everything is in order here — if nothing else, what was approved by the president’s Edict #590 is starting to function.

Meanwhile, Kulikov’s concern is understandable. He deplores the lack of proper coordination of operations among security departments at the federal level. “Regrettably, whereas this is somehow being achieved at the lower level, among units and subunits, coordination at the federal level is only a dream,” Kulikov said. He views the problem of emergency situations far more broadly than as mere occurrences that result from catastrophes and fires. In the words of the army general, the creation of an Operations Headquarters for emergency situations as a standing agency is particularly necessary in conditions of the growing number of emergency situations — which include, he says, not just industrial and natural emergencies but crimes, too.

The former MVD chief cited data demonstrating a six- to eight-fold increase in crime over the last 30 years. To the subtext of this reasoning may also be added possible disturbances among the population similar to those on Manezh Square last December. If the country is swept by such disturbances, then individually neither the MVD nor the MChS will be able to cope here, of course. But what has this got to do with the General Staff, which — as we know — plans operations to repulse external aggression?

Essentially, Gen Kulikov is proposing that the General Staff, and consequently the entire army, perform extrinsic functions for which the MVD, MChS, and other structures that support the country’s environmental and public safety are currently answerable. And, according to him, the General Staff agrees with this. An intriguing situation, of course, but it seems to be not at all in keeping with the transformations now under way in the area of the organization of global defense and security (including environmental security) in the country.

Foreign Military Studies Office (FMSO.leavenworth.army.mil)

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