REPORT ON SPECIAL FORCES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

SP's nAi

AN SP GUIDE PUBLICATION

ISSN 2229-9468

RS. 55.00 (INDIA-BASED BUYER ONLY)

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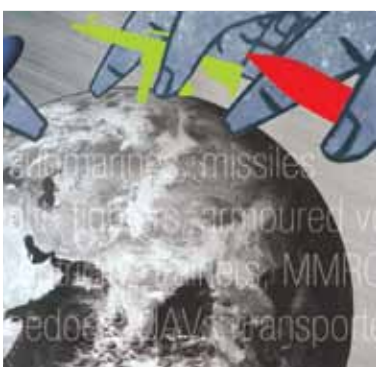
MILITARY
AEROSPACE
INTERNAL SECURITY

www.spsmai.com

March 16-31 • 2011



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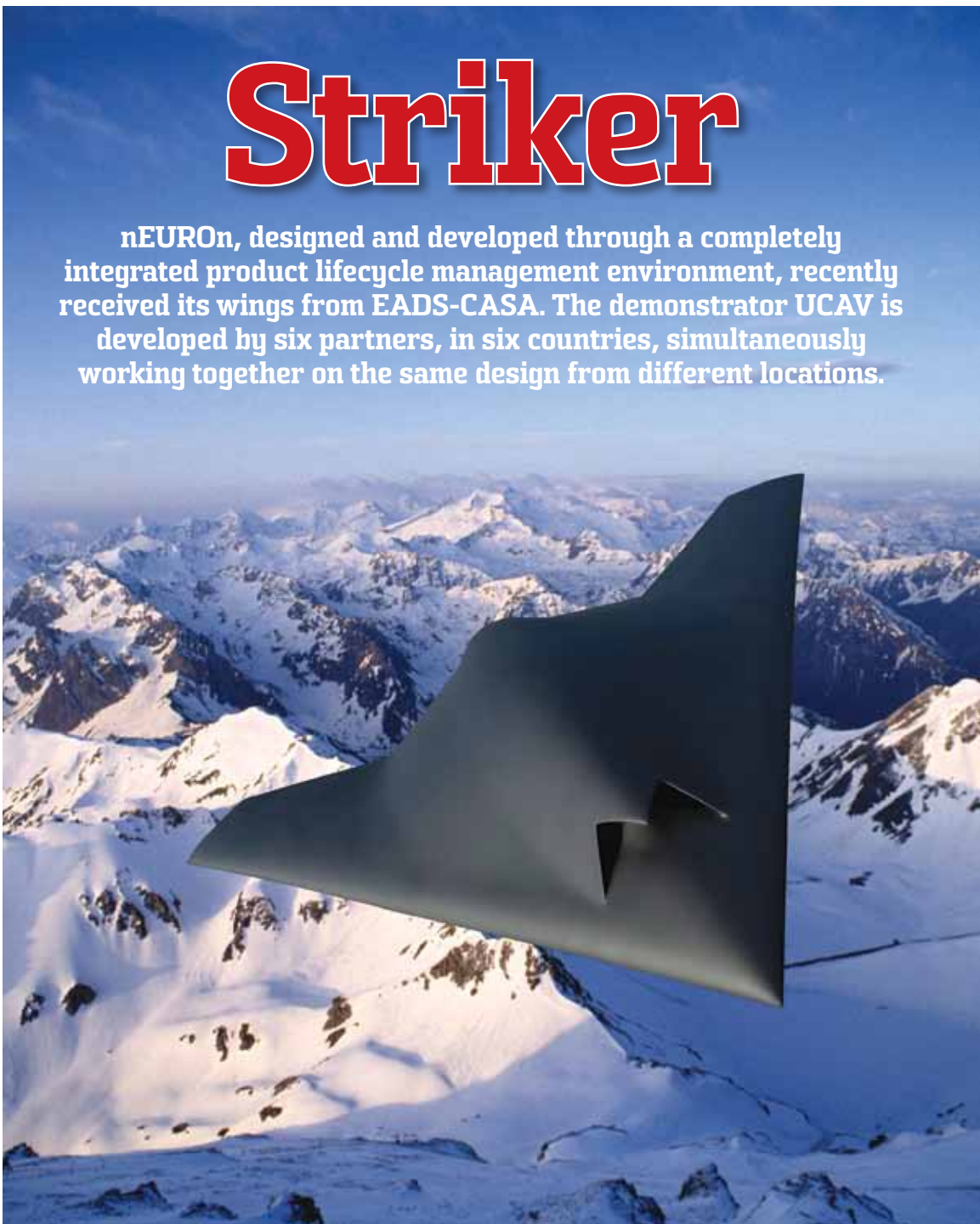
Striker

nEUROn, designed and developed through a completely integrated product lifecycle management environment, recently received its wings from EADS-CASA. The demonstrator UCAV is developed by six partners, in six countries, simultaneously working together on the same design from different locations.



Cover:
nEUROn, the European UCAV demonstrator, received its wings recently. Designed and manufactured by EADS-CASA, the wings have been delivered to Dassault Aviation, prime contractor of the programme.

Photograph credit: Dassault

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
Inland: ₹1,150 • Foreign: US$ 325

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Owned, published and printed by Jayant Baranwal, printed at Kala Jyothi Process Pvt Ltd and published at A-133, Arjun Nagar (Opposite Defence Colony), New Delhi 110 003, India.

SP GUIDE PUBLICATIONS
www.spguidepublications.com

"Junoon" that safeguards the nation

SP Guide Publications in partnership with the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS) organised a seminar titled "Employment of Special Forces: Challenges and Opportunities for the Future" on March 10 and 11. SP's Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Jayant Baranwal presenting a memento to the chief guest, Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee, Air Chief Marshal P.V. Naik.

Baranwal, in his vote of thanks, expressed that India required a well-laid out national policy on Special Forces, a vital element in the security of the nation.

First, the seminar which SP Guide Publications jointly organised with the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS) threw up interesting viewpoints on Special Forces – on how they had to have the "junoon" (fanatical mindset) to quell forces which are inimical to the nation's interests. National security is primary and by supporting the seminar we are making a statement – no compromise whatsoever when it comes to securing not just our borders but also the hinterland. The seminar got different perspectives from experts from within and outside the country, including Israel which is known for a no-nonsense approach to dealing with terrorists.

In this issue, the report of the seminar proceedings highlight how various speakers were on the same page when it came to having a national policy for Special Forces and also to have a joint operations command of the tri-services Special Forces. There are two interviews of former Army Generals of the United Kingdom and Germany giving an insight on how the Special Forces function in their respective countries.

While the Special Forces need all the backing, political as well as military, the government has no doubt increased its defence spend considering the threats that exist in the neighbouring region. The Stockholm International Peace Research Initiative (SIPRI) has reported that India is the world's largest arms importer according to a new data on international arms transfers. India received nine per cent of the volume of international arms transfers during 2006-10, with Russian deliveries accounting for 82 per cent of Indian arms imports.

In the backdrop of the devastating nature's fury in Japan and the fallout of the nuclear facilities there, the Indian Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, while expressing support for relief operations has assured that the nuclear reactors in India were safe, but nevertheless audits would be done to ensure further safety.

In this issue, we have analysis of the wars in Afghanistan from US and Canadian generals by Sergei DeSilva-Ranasinghe, defence writer and senior analyst at Future Directions International, a strategic think-tank based in Australia. He has talked about counter-insurgency operations in Afghanistan and how the NATO forces have to coordinate with the local forces to bring about peace and also reduce the war of attrition.

The regular sections give an update on what the industry is offering to the military and homeland security forces across the world. We do look forward to your feedback. SP

Jayant Baranwal
Publisher and Editor-in-Chief

India is world's largest arms importer: SIPRI

India received nine per cent of the volume of international arms transfers during 2006–10, with Russian deliveries accounting for 82 per cent of Indian arms imports. "Indian imports of major conventional weapons are driven by a range of factors. The most often cited relate to rivalries with Pakistan and China as well as internal security challenges," states Siemon Wezeman of the SIPRI Arms Transfers Programme. "As an importer, India is demanding offsets and transfers of technology to boost its own arms industry, and, in order to secure orders, major suppliers are agreeing to such demands."

Supplier competition

"There is intense competition between suppliers for big-ticket deals in Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and Latin America," states Dr Paul Holtom, Director of the SIPRI Arms Transfers Programme. The Eurofighter consortium (comprised of Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK), France, Russia, Sweden and the USA are competing for combat aircraft orders in these regions, with notable competitions in Brazil and India. France, Germany, Italy and the UK are competing for orders for naval equipment from Algeria.

Mark Bromley, European expert of the programme, adds that 'European producers in particular are seeking export opportunities and are benefiting from government assistance with export promotion activities'. This can be seen with government support for British, French, Italian and Swedish companies in the competition for billion dollar orders from Brazil for combat aircraft and warships, although newly elected Brazilian President Dilma Rouseff has delayed awarding contracts for these systems.

Middle East and North Africa

The states of the Middle East and North Africa have been regarded as potentially lucrative markets for arms exporters thanks to the resource revenue windfall of recent years. Interstate and internal tensions provide drivers for demand as well as give cause for concern.

During 2006–10, arms imports were particularly high in the United Arab Emirates, Israel, Egypt and Algeria. Based on existing orders and known procurement plans, Saudi Arabian and Moroccan arms imports are expected to rise significantly in the coming years.

Notable developments

- The major recipient region in 2006–10 remained Asia and Oceania (43 per cent of all imports), followed by Europe (21 per cent), the Middle East (17 per cent), the Americas (12 per cent) and Africa (7 per cent).
- The four largest importers of conventional weapons in 2006–10 are located in Asia: India (9 per cent of all imports), China (6 per cent), South Korea (6 per cent) and Pakistan (5 per cent). These states have imported, and will continue to take delivery of, a range of major conventional weapons, in particular combat aircraft and naval systems.
- The USA remains the world's largest exporter of military equipment, accounting for 30 per cent of global arms exports in 2006–10. During this period, 44 per cent of US deliveries went to Asia and Oceania, 28 per cent to the Middle East and 19 per cent to Europe. SP

ILLUSTRATION: Anoop Kamath

DRS Defense Solutions awarded US contract for integrated vision systems

DRS Defense Solutions, LLC a wholly-owned subsidiary of DRS Technologies, Inc., announced that its Sensors & Targeting Systems business unit was awarded a $32.5 million IDIQ contract to provide integrated vision systems (IVS) for the US Army assault breacher vehicle (ABV).

DRS Sensors & Targeting Systems (STS) received the five-year contract for up to 106 systems from the US Army tank and automotive command (TACOM). An initial order valued at $5.7 million has already been received. Deliveries are slated to begin in July 2011 and continue through December.

The units will be manufactured at the DRS Sensors & Targeting Systems operations in Cypress, California. The unit had previously delivered 76 IVS' for the U.S. Army and Marine Corps under a separate contract.

The Assault Breacher Vehicle is a tracked combat engineer vehicle designed to breach minefields and complex obstacles while providing in-stride breaching capability in order to manoeuvre forces. It is equipped with an IVS that allows operators to remain under the protection of armour while conducting their mission. The ABV IVS also includes a two-axis stabilised gimbal sensor that provides 360-degree continuous vision with image intensified TV (I2TV), infrared (IR) and a laser range finder.

"DRS is dedicated to mission success by equipping soldiers and marines with enhanced situational awareness systems while reducing their exposure to enemy fire," noted Bob Viviano, Vice President and General Manager of DRS Sensors & Targeting Systems.

"This award reflects success in our strategy to be the US Army's preferred supplier for these products," said DRS Defense Solutions President and CEO Richard S. Danforth. "It also underscores the critical role that DRS Defense Solutions plays in support of our country's armed forces." SP

Harris Corporation bags order from Australian Department of Defence

Harris Corporation has received an $11 million order from the Australia Department of Defence (DoD) for Falcon III tactical radios as part of a networked battlefield communications system in Army vehicles.

Harris is supplying Australia with Falcon III RF-152(C) handheld radios along with RF-300M trim-line vehicular adapters for installation into a variety of army vehicles including Army Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles. The Harris equipment provides interoperable tactical voice and data communications for both ground-to-ground and ground-to-air applications.

"The AN/PRC-152(C) handheld and vehicular radio system links vehicles and soldiers into the larger battlefield network, enabling seamless communications while on the move," said Andy Start, President, international business unit, Harris RF Communications.

The Falcon III® RF-300M-TV trimline Vehicular Amplifier (TVA) is a low-profile, single-channel power amplifier, with a single AN/PRC-152(C) serving as the dismountable handheld transceiver. The TVA is streamlined to fit into vehicles where space is at a premium. Providing increased communications reliability in long-range applications, the TVA supplies 50 watts from 30 to 90 MHz, 20 watts 90 to 512 MHz, and 50 watts for satellite communications. Separate VHF, UHF, and SATCOM ports with automatic port switching allow users to switch between ground, ground-to-air, or SATCOM communications by simply selecting the required network on the radio. SP

PHOTOGRAPH: Wikipedia

Prime Minister assures on nuclear safety

The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has stated that the government was giving utmost importance to nuclear safety in the background of the disaster that has hit some of the nuclear power plants in Japan. The Government of India is in constant touch with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Japanese Atomic Industrial Forum, and the World Association of Nuclear Operators.

The Prime Minister informed the Parliament that India currently operates 20 nuclear power reactors and 18 of these are the indigenous pressurised heavy water reactors. "Two reactors at Tarapur, TAPS-1 & TAPS-2 are boiling water reactors of the type being operated in Japan. A safety audit of these reactors has been completed recently. Indian nuclear plants have in the past met their safety standards. Following the earthquake in Bhuj on January 26, 2002 the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station continued to operate safely without interruption. Following the 2004 tsunami, the Madras Atomic Power Station was safely shutdown without any radiological consequences. It was possible to restart the plant in a few days after regulatory review. "

The Department of Atomic Energy and its agencies including the Nuclear Power Corporation of India have been instructed to undertake an immediate technical review of all safety systems of our nuclear power plants particularly with a view to ensuring that they would be able to withstand the impact of large natural disasters such as tsunamis and earthquakes. Work is underway in the Department of Atomic Energy towards further strengthening India's national nuclear safety regulatory authority. SP

Counter-insurgency and the US Army

[By **Sergei DeSilva-Ranasinghe**]

The US Army has evolved to become one of the world's most experienced practitioners in modern counter-insurgency. According to General Peter Chiarelli, the US Army's Vice Chief of Staff, after nearly a decade of military intervention in the Middle East and Central Asia, many hard-earned lessons have been learnt and applied in relation to tactics, operations, transformation, training, coalition interoperability and modernisation.

General Peter Chiarelli

Lessons in counter-insurgency (COIN)

The conflict in Iraq has been a defining experience for the US Army, which has markedly transformed its approach to counter-insurgency war fighting. "Since the Iraq conflict we have totally reshaped the force from a division centred force that was at the time built around a divisional headquarters," explained General Chiarelli. "In contrast, today the Brigade Combat Team is the centrepiece of the US Army."

Another example of the US Army's process of transformation has been the growing cooperation with US Government agencies to achieve non-kinetic objectives as demonstrated by the whole-of-government approach. "The whole-of-government approach is absolutely critical today and that is a huge lesson we have learnt from these conflicts. In counter-insurgency it is not just the armed forces that are needed. The whole government needs to be involved with a team of professionals who are available to an operational commander that go in and look at non-kinetic effects that can be applied."

"These are critical to winning the trust and confidence of the people. I always say 'trust and confidence' as opposed to 'hearts and minds'. Trust and confidence is what we try to gain."

Strategy in Afghanistan

"In the last six months conditions have improved in Afghanistan. The 'surge' of additional forces has played a role, which has allowed us to live with and protect the population, and give the opportunity for non-kinetic effects to take hold. That is an important move in the right direction in Afghanistan today.

"In Afghanistan the campaign takes on a whole-of-government approach. One of those non-kinetic effects is training the Afghan Army. In fact, there are huge contributions being made by Australia and other nations in training the Afghan Army and Police."

The importance of reserves

In order to augment troop strength for the 'surge' strategies in Iraq and Afghanistan, much of the burden was shouldered by the US Army, particularly its reserve units, which have made an important contribution. "Key to our ability to increase troop strength has been our capacity to operationalise our reserve components. The US Army has about 5,69,000 active component soldiers, but this increases to over 1.1 million when we count our reserve components. "As a consequence, what we have is a much more highly trained force than we ever had before. Before there was only 39 days of training in every year and a lot of that was spent on state missions."

Coalition interoperability

A major aspect of the campaign in Afghanistan has been the requirement to manage coalition partners that have deployed troop contingents and the US Army has a key supporting role in mentoring and training multinational coalition forces. "For example, with IEDs the US Army helps to prepare coalition forces to come up against a threat that they have never previously experienced. We also have helped them with tactics, techniques and procedures, and with different kinds of equipment and enablers," said General Chiarelli.

"There have been times when those who have joined in the alliance with us have asked for assistance. I remember in Iraq, night vision was considered a key piece of equipment for many of our allies, which we often provided. Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) is another thing where we have had a quantitative and possibly qualitative edge for a while, and the product of that ISR is something that we have provided to the alliance whenever possible."

Modernisation

The US Army is presently engaged in a process of modernisation and transformation with the introduction of the revolutionary concept known as 'The Network', which streamlines and disseminates electronic intelligence from the tactical to the strategic level, and vice versa, in real time. "When we speak of 'The Network' we are just not talking about the tactical and operational level of forces during combat. It will be a network that is not only found in theatre with individual soldiers, both at the tactical and operational and even strategic level, but when they are training back home to be deployed," stated the General. SP

The author is a defence writer and senior analyst at Future Directions International, a strategic think-tank based in Australia.

Canada draws down from Afghanistan

[By **Sergei DeSilva-Ranasinghe**]

After a sustained and difficult deployment which originally commenced in early 2002, the Canadian Army is now in the process of drawing down its military commitment to the NATO-led International security assistance force in Afghanistan. According to Major General Alan Howard, the Canadian Army's Deputy Commander, the de-escalation and handover to US troops by the end of this summer leaves in its wake a credible Canadian war effort.

Campaigning in Afghanistan

Over the years the Canadian Army's approach to counter-insurgency gradually developed through the hard fought campaigns against the Taliban in the war-ravaged Kandahar province, which killed 154 Canadian soldiers and wounded close to 1,900. "When we first arrived in 2006 we were almost the only military force that was in the whole province. Now there are literally thousands more. We have seen a large surge of Americans into southern Afghanistan so now there are more NATO soldiers serving than ever before," he said.

Major General Alan Howard

"In Kandahar province the new regional Command Headquarters is American. There is good synergies and agreed approach on how things are done. In a counter-insurgency campaign the principal aim is to win local support and that can only be done by the soldiers on the ground. It is not so much about fighting; rather it is more about creating the conditions for security and development and for the Afghan people to take command. We have learnt that as a military we need partners, as we can only do so much of it. Specialists that have expertise in governance and development are absolutely essential. If they are not there, we will be unable to progress on key issues."

"Canadian soldiers have earned a lot of respect from the local population in Kandahar and have improved the security situation there. We are trying to ensure that the Taliban do not re-establish their presence," the General explained.

"We have learnt that in a counter-insurgency environment the key is to be adaptable on a daily basis, because the Taliban have been very adaptable and have tried many different things against us."

The NATO-led counter-insurgency and exit strategy is heavily dependent on the sustainment of viable proxy-Afghan security forces, such as the Afghan Army and Police which are deployed in increasingly larger numbers against the Taliban. "Building capacity is the ultimate solution here, not more NATO troops. What we want to see is more Afghan security forces in the Kandahar Province.

"Although the insurgents think that the people are unhappy and that they can provide better solutions, we have to show them that the Afghan government has better solutions. In this context the three pillars that work hand-in-hand are governance, development and security. The three are interrelated in order to defeat an insurgency. After all, ultimately it is the Afghan people who have to defeat the Taliban," he said.

Conversely, while counter-insurgency operations are steadily intensifying in 2011, Canada will commence a phased process of troop withdrawals which, by the end of this summer, will effectively end its expeditionary force commitment to the NATO-led war effort in Afghanistan.

"The Canadian Government have told us that Canadian troops will be withdrawing from Kandahar this year. However, right now our focus is on current operations and we have a long winter period where we can still do some work. During periods of reduced insurgent momentum we take advantage to consolidate and intensify the training that we are providing to the Afghan Army and Police."

New priorities

The Canadian Government has also recently announced its intention to reinforce the NATO training mission. In this capacity a contingent of around 900 personnel of the Canadian forces will continue to operate in Afghanistan for the foreseeable future in a mentoring and training role.

Major General Howard said, "Taking care of things at home and prioritising domestic crises is increasingly key on our list. The sovereignty of Canada is important, which is why we have adopted 'Canada First' as our strategy to make sure that our homeland defence is secure and that our sovereignty is maintained on all fronts."

"We have set up architecture – Canada Command – that has a regional headquarters and the ability to respond. If someone tells us to go up north, we need to be ready to do that in a limited capacity." Having developed capabilities for medium-weight expeditionary operations, the Canadian Army, which has considerable experience in counter-insurgency operations, is emphatic about retaining its force projection capacity.

"We need to look to the future to ensure that our training and readiness levels, which will involve humanitarian, peacekeeping and combat operations, are exactly what Canada requires," stated Major General Howard. SP

Weapons of mass disorder need to be dealt by Special Forces: Experts

[By **R. Chandrakanth**]

In the context of sub-national, national, regional and international dimension of terrorism, the role of Special Forces (SF) has undergone a paradigm shift, but it is still not well recognised and not well understood with powers that be, said Lt. Gen (Retd) Sir Graeme Lamb, former Head of Special Air Services and Commander of the British Field Army.

Talking to *SP's M.A.I.* on the sidelines of a seminar on "Employment of Special Forces: Challenges and Opportunities", organised jointly by SP Guide Publications and the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies in Delhi, Sir Lamb said: "India's needs are huge and diverse, considering the various threats that exist from outside and within. I understand that the Special Forces in India are good, dealing with various threat scenarios."

Asked what model India should adopt to have an effective Special Forces body, Sir Lamb said: "The decision rests with India and it can only decide what model suits its needs. I have seen the Special Forces over here and they are good, but there is no end to learning from different models. I am here to understand the working of the Indian Special Forces and also see how we can contribute to effective operations."

The maxim for Special Forces, he said, is a simple one – find, fix and strike and with asymmetric threats this maxim has been turned on its head. The problem is how to find the threat and then comes the more complicated "fix". It calls for increased levels of intelligence interfaced with technology in the goal to "find" the target to be struck.

Sir Lamb said that industrial violence is no longer the monopoly of nation states. "One individual can use WMD which stands for Weapons of Mass Disorder and we are seeing that happen at regular intervals. The power of one can bring fear across large groups of population. One suicide bomber is all that is required to create terror and with the mass media communicating this the fear percolates down to a larger population group."

In this scenario, he advocates increasing use of Special Forces which can detect transnational and sub-national threats. "Now it is terror without borders and criminality without frontiers." Underlining the importance of "going before" than "after" in an operation, the Special Forces need to be a "thinking force", Sir Lamb added.

Lt. Gen (Retd) Sir Graeme Lamb

Brig Gen (Retd) Hans-Christoph Ammon

Sir Lamb has had an illustrious army career. He stepped down as Commander of the Field Army in July 2009 and returned to Afghanistan at the direct request of General David Petraeus and General Stanley McChrystal of the US Army to scope a programme designed to repeat the success in Iraq whereby insurgents are persuaded to give up their arms. In Iraq he was instrumental in convincing his US colleagues to adopt the principle of a process requiring "patience, subtlety, and a willingness to accept that Iraqis own proclivities were going to drive much of the war's outcome" and the need to talk to the insurgents leading to a strategic engagement initiative that reduced violence.

German perspective

Echoing similar views on what model India had to adopt, Brig Gen (Retd) Hans-Christoph Ammon, former Commander, German Army Special Forces, affirmed, "Unlike Germany where there is no external threat, India has and the Special Forces have to deal with them firmly."

The German Army Special Forces, he said, are deployed to deal only with hostage situations or in war theatres outside of Germany. "The Interior Ministry deals with any internal threat and they too have Special Forces called the GSG9." The former Commander said there was a move to reorganise the German Armed Forces in the next two years and hoped that the Special Forces too are overhauled.

On India, he said that the threat levels were high as cross-border terrorism and also internal disturbances were affecting the fabric of the nation. "It calls for understanding the enemy, his or her movements and to strike before they strike. For that to happen, not just the Special Forces but also the law and order machinery has to percolate to various levels to gather intelligence. Getting help or information from within is a crucial element in the operation of Special Forces."

General Ammon was appointed Commander of German Army Special Forces in 2007 and held the post till September 2010 when he finished his military career after 40 years of service. SP

PHOTOGRAPHS: SP Guide Pubns

National policy on Special Forces imperative: Seminar

Jayant Baranwal greeting Vice Admiral D.K. Joshi, Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman COSC; (right) Maj Gen (Retd) K.B. Kapoor, Director, CENJOWS, Vice Admiral D.K. Joshi, Air Chief Marshal P.V. Naik, Jayant Baranwal and Lt. Gen (Retd) Amarjit Singh Kalkat, Director Emeritus, CENJOWS

A national vision with regard to deploying the Special Forces in the country is imperative and the Indian model had to be its own. This was the outcome of the two-day seminar on "Employment of Special Forces: Challenges and Opportunities for the Future", organised jointly by SP Guide Publications and the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS) in Delhi.

Special Forces experts from within the country and outside who participated were categorical that terror threats in India were on the rise and the model to deal with such asymmetric threats had to be totally "home-grown" with learnings from other countries.

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal P.V. Naik underlined the urgency of strengthening the Special Forces as asymmetric warfare by transnational elements were on the rise. Both the political and military leadership had to understand that there would be "fewer wars and more conflicts" and only a well-trained and thinking force could deal with such threats. He called for a national vision with regard to deploying the 10,000 plus Special Forces in the country.

The effectiveness of the Special Forces would depend on detailed intelligence, intimate command and control, mobility and counter-mobility, survivability and excellent communication network. Planning is as important as execution. Calling for integrated joint operations base of the tri-services, the Air Chief opined that once decided there has to be extensive training. "Special Forces capabilities cannot be built overnight, political will can be."

Vice Admiral D.K. Joshi, Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Commitees, said the overriding requirement of Special Forces would be interoperability and above all a mindset to overcome overwhelming odds. They have to have a *junoon* (fanatical kind of mindset) to serve in the Special Forces branch. The force has to be "lean and hungry", fleet-footed and above all dynamic.

Experts from the UK, Germany, France and Israel gave insight into how the Special Forces operated in their countries, while all of them endorsed that India had to have its own model of Special Forces based on its requirements. Brigadier General Eyal Eizenberg, Commander, Gaza Division, Israel Defence Forces, said the need to understand the behavioural pattern of the enemy helped substantially in countering terrorism. The Special Forces in Israel were trained in this. However, he said that the difficulty in defining the enemy from the crowd had increased, hence the need to have a thinking force. Nowadays, it was easy to buy arms without any difficulty and one of the routes has been the Internet.

Colonel Landicheff Philiippe of the French Air Force said it was difficult to control information as the terrorists used different modes such as Internet, satellite phones, etc. The use of Special Forces was a politico-military decision and the latter should impress upon the political leadership as and when to deploy the forces.

Lt. Gen (Retd) P.C. Katoch, former Director General Information Systems, Indian Army, talked about how cross-border terrorism was State-sponsored and needed to be dealt with firmly. He also mentioned of the nexus between terrorists across the border, the Somali pirates and the LTTE and their movements should not only be monitored but also curbed.

Lt. Gen (Retd) H.S. Lidder, former Chief of Integrated Defence Staff; Air Marshal L.K. Malhotra, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations); Maj Gen (Retd) O.P. Sabharwal, former GOC, 6 Mountain Division, Indian Army; Air Commodore Rajesh Isser, Principal Director, Operations (Helicopters), Indian Air Force; Vice Admiral Shekar Sinha, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff; Commodore R.S. Dhankhar, Principal Director of Special Operations & Diving, Indian Navy, were among the speakers who underscored how Special Forces would play a key role in determining fourth generation warfare. Bharat Karnad of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, recommended establishment of a Special Forces Command and encouragment from higher authorities is essential to boost the morale of the personnel.

Lt. Gen (Retd) A.S. Kalkat, Director Emeritus, CENJOWS and Maj Gen (Retd) K.B. Kapoor, Director, CENJOWS, said the recommendations from the seminar would be submitted to the government as to strengthen the internal security environment. SP

PHOTOGRAPHS: SP Guide Pubns

Lockheed Martin gets contract for work on US Air Force's ICBM system

Lockheed Martin has received a $12.5 million, one-year subcontract from Northrop Grumman Corporation for refurbishment of re-entry vehicle arming and fusing assemblies for the US Air Force's Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) system.

Under this subcontract, Lockheed Martin Space System's Valley Forge facility in King of Prussia will replace components, refurbish and test the assemblies. The subcontract includes an option for a second year.

"Lockheed Martin is committed to providing the US Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center and the Air Force Global Strike Command user with our re-entry systems domain expertise and high-quality engineering in support for the operational ICBM force," said Doug Graham, Vice President of Advanced Programs, Strategic and Missile Defense Systems, Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company. SP

Rolls-Royce forecasts global demand for 16,900 new turbine helicopters

Rolls-Royce, the global power systems company, has forecast long-term growth in demand for new turbine helicopters. Over the 10-year period beginning 2011, total helicopter deliveries are predicted to be more than 16,900 units as the market responds to improving economic fundamentals and the world's military operators continue to require increased vertical lift capability. In both segments, demand for replacement of retired and aging helicopters will combine with new technology offerings to enhance civil and military market demand.

Patricia O'Connell, Rolls-Royce, President, Customer Business Defense, North America, said: "While the market has not returned as quickly as the industry desired, basic indicators, such as emerging market demand and access to favourable financing terms, are beginning to support a positive environment for civil rotorcraft. Likewise, defence rotorcraft requirements, particularly for humanitarian and theatre transport, continue with increased importance on hot and high operations."

Rolls-Royce projects deliveries of more than 16,900 new turbine helicopters valued at $140 billion during the 2011-20 period. These helicopters will require approximately 27,000 new turbine engines valued at more than $12 billion.

Military original equipment manufacturer (OEM) deliveries are predicted to total approximately 6,070 new military helicopters during the 10-year period, with an airframe value of approximately $106 billion and an associated installed engine value of around $7.8 billion. SP

Russia to launch new module for ISS in 2012

Russia plans to launch a new lab module for the International Space Station (ISS) in 2012, according to Roscosmos Head Anatoly Perminov. "We are in process preparing new Russian lab module for launch in 2012," Perminov said.

The first ISS element, the Russian Zarya module, was put into orbit in November 1998.

Other modules in the Russian segment of the ISS include, Zvezda service module (SM), docking compartment (SO)/ Mini-Research Module-2 (MIM2), mini-research module (MIM1), FGB-2/multipurpose laboratory module, node module and stowage and docking module (MSS).

The space station is a joint project between Russia, Europe, Canada, Japan and the United States. It is likely to remain in operation until 2020. SP

PHOTOGRAPHS: USAF & NASA

Northrop Grumman sensors for quick action

With the goal of reducing the sensor-to-shooter timeline to just minutes and expanding airborne ground surveillance command and control, Northrop Grumman Corporation has completed the installation and testing of a multispectral intelligence sensor housed in a new keel beam accessory bay (KAB) on a modified E-8C joint surveillance target attack radar system (Joint STARS) aircraft.

"Once it is delivered, our combat commanders and joint forces will have a powerful new capability to track identified targets throughout the battle space and free up other sensors to support operational needs," said Mike Mos, Director of Joint STARS' architectures and concept demonstrations for Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems.

The installation and test examined the use of the MS-177 camera, a 500-pound multispectral intelligence sensor on the all-weather Joint STARS weapons system. The goal was to see how the sensor enhances combat identification in support of Joint STARS' continued role as a valued battle manager providing eyes in the sky for boots on the ground. While in test flights off the coast of Florida, Joint STARS operators tasked the MS-177 sensor to collect information and streamed it into the battle management system already in place—producing very strong results. Joint STARS operators were able to simultaneously exploit ground moving target indication (GMTI) and high-resolution imagery which expanded situational awareness. Images were also transmitted to off-board SIPRNET elements using its beyond-line-of-sight (BLOS) satellite communications system capabilities.

The 17-aircraft Joint STARS fleet is the only all-weather, long-range, real-time, wide area surveillance and battle management and command and control weapons system in the world. SP

Arianespace to launch Argentina's Arsat-2 satellite

ARSAT has once again selected Arianespace for its commercial launch services – this time to orbit the Argentinean satellite operator's second satellite, Arsat-2.

Participating in this week's Satellite 2011 conference in Washington, D.C., Arianespace announced that it has signed a launch service & solutions contract with Argentine operator ARSAT (Empresa Argentina de Soluciones Satelitales Sociedad Anonima) to orbit its Arsat-2 satellite by the second half of 2013.

Weighing about 2,900 kg at launch, Arsat-2 will be placed into geostationary transfer orbit by an Ariane 5 or Soyuz launcher from the Guiana Space Center, Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana.

Arsat-2 will be fitted with 26 Ku-band (2 beams) and 10 C-band (hemi beam) equivalent transponders. It will offer a wide range of telecommunications, data transmission, Internet and television services, primarily across the Americas from Argentina to Canada.

The satellite is being built by the Argentine company INVAP, with Astrium and Thales Alenia Space as leading equipment suppliers. Arsat-2 will be the third Argentine satellite launched by Arianespace, following Nahuel 1A orbited in 1997 and Arsat-1 to be launched in mid-2012.

"We are very pleased with our selection of Arianespace to launch our second geostationary satellite built in Argentina," said Pablo Tognetti, Chairman and CEO of Arsat. "Once again, price, excellence in space transportation and mission success ratio were critical in our decision." added Tognetti. SP

PHOTOGRAPH: PIB

Successful launch of Dhanush and Prithvi missiles

Ship launched Dhanush missile was successfully test fired from the Indian Naval ship INS Suvarna off the coast of Orissa, on March 11. Dhanush is a ship launched missile against surface and sea targets. The flight test was perfect like a textbook trajectory with the missile reaching the target point with high accuracy of less than few metres.

The surface-to-surface Prithvi (P-II) missile was also successfully flight tested from LC-III, ITR, Chandipur within one hour of the Dhanush missile test. The trajectory of the missile was also monitored by all the telemetry, radars and electro optical systems all through the flight. Prithvi (P-II) reached the designated target with accuracy of few metres, which can be achieved by very few missiles in the world.

Both Dhanush and Prithvi missiles were launched by the Strategic Force Command as part of the regular user training exercise. The two missiles were test fired within five days of the successful demonstration of Ballistic Air Defence Missile System by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The launch operations were monitored by Director, DRDL, P. Venugopalan; Director, ITR, S.P. Dash; Programme Director, V.L.N. Rao and a number of scientists of DRDO. Dr. V.K. Saraswat Scientific Adviser to MoD, witnessed both the launches from ITR, Balasore. SP

nEUROn receives its wings

The nEUROn programme which was launched at the Le Bourget airshow in 2003 received its wings recently. Designed and manufactured by EADS-CASA (Spain), the wings have been delivered to Dassault Aviation, prime contractor of the programme. Transported to Istres, where nEUROn final assembly takes place, the wings will be assembled with the fuselage in the coming days.

Saab Aerospace had handed over the fuselage section of unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) technology demonstrator during a ceremony at Linköping in Sweden on January 25.

The main contract of the nEUROn project was notified to the prime contractor on February 8, 2006. The industrial partnership contracts were signed concurrently and the first flight of the technological demonstrator is being planned for 2012.

The demonstration goals UCAV demonstrator are: performing an air-to-ground mission, inserted in a network-centric warfare; designing a stealth platform (radar cross-section and infrared) and weapon delivery from an internal bay with stringent tempo constraint.

nEUROn will only be a technological demonstrator. Its aim is not to perform military missions, but to demonstrate maturity and effectiveness of technical solutions. Of course, this technological demonstrator will use all the command, control, communication, coordination and information technologies for unmanned air vehicle, integrated in tomorrow's network-centric warfare. nEUROn will be the first large size stealth platform designed in Europe.

Technological challenge

Building on the experience gained from recent projects, for the first time in a military project, it will be designed and developed within the frame, a completely integrated PLM (product lifecycle management) environment, through a virtual development

nEUROn UCAV specifications

Version: nEUROn
Manufacturers: Dassault, SAAB, HAI, RUAG, EADS-CASA, Alenia
Countries: European Union (France, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Greece)
Roles: Unmanned combat aerial vehicle/Demonstrator
Powerplant: 1 engine (type unknown)
Thrust: n/a
Length: 33ft 10m
Height: n/a
Wingspan: 40 ft 12m
Weight (empty): 11,000 lbs (5,000 kg)
Speed: Mach 0.8
Range: n/a
Ceiling: n/a
Crew: unmanned
First deployment: Not confirmed
Total programme cost: €400 million ($555 million)

PHOTOGRAPHS: Dassault, EADS-CASA & Northrop Grumman

platform, allowing Dassault Aviation and its five partners, in six countries, to simultaneously work together on the same design, from different locations.

The main technological challenges to be addressed during the design are the shapes of the vehicle (aerodynamic, composite structure, internal weapon bay), higher reliance on electrical systems and advanced conditioning system, the insertion of this type of aircraft within the airspace, the high-level algorithms necessary to develop automated processes, as well the place of the human factor within the mission loop. The last but certainly not the least important technology to be demonstrated is the capability to carry and to deliver weapons from an internal bay. Today, European aircraft have external loading capabilities for bombs and missiles. At a later stage, it is envisaged also to implement various carrying capabilities inside the internal bay such as reconnaissance equipments or others.

Partners

In accordance with the guidelines defined by the Director General of Armament, Dassault Aviation has entrusted about 50 per cent of the work value to European partners, which in this case means non-French industrials. They are: Alenia (Italy) which, among others, contributes with a new concept of internal weapon bay (smart weapon bay), the bay doors and their mecanisms, as well as by the design and development of the electrical power and distribution system, the air data system and the ground and flight tests; SAAB (Sweden), is entrusted with the general design, the equipped fuselage, the avionics, the fuel system and part of the flight testing; Hellenic Aerospace Industry (HAI) is responsible for the rear fuselage, the exhaust pipe and the test rig; EADS (Spain) will bring its experience for the wings, the ground station, and the data link integration; RUAG (Switzerland) is taking care of the wind tunnel tests, and the weapon interface. In addition to being the design authority, Dassault Aviation takes care of the general design and architecture of the system, the flight control system, the final assembly and the ground tests as well as the flight tests. SP

Mid-air refuelling of UAVs

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and NASA Dryden Flight Research Center took a major step towards demonstrating autonomous aerial refuelling between two unmanned, high altitude aircraft, an operation never before performed.

In a key risk reduction flight test, Northrop Grumman's Proteus test aircraft and a NASA Global Hawk flew as close as 40 feet apart at an altitude of 45,000 feet, an industry-setting record.

The flight test was conducted in the challenging high altitude environment required for refueling of high altitude long endurance (HALE) unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Wake turbulence between the two aircraft as well as engine performance and flight control responsiveness in the stratosphere were evaluated. Simulated breakaway manoeuvres were also conducted. The January flight was key to reducing risks as the programme prepares for autonomous aerial refuelling of two Global Hawks in the spring of 2012.

"Demonstrating close formation flight of two high altitude aircraft, whether manned or unmanned, is a notable accomplishment," said Geoffrey Sommer, KQ-X Programme Manager at Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems. "When you add autonomous flight of both aircraft into the mix, as we will do later in the KQ-X programme, you gain a capability that has mission applications far beyond just aerial refuelling."

The $33 million DARPA KQ-X programme will demonstrate autonomous fuel transfer between two Global Hawks, enabling flights of up to one week endurance. KQ-X is a follow-on to a 2006 DARPA autonomous aerial refuelling demonstration (AARD), in joint effort with NASA Dryden, which used an F-18 fighter jet as a surrogate unmanned aircraft to autonomously refuel through a probe and drogue from a 707 tanker.

Northrop Grumman supports the operation of the two Global Hawks used in the KQ-X programme under the terms of a Space Act Agreement with its NASA Dryden partner and is responsible for all engineering design, as well as modification of both aircraft. SP

DRS gets "Superior" security rating by US Defense Security Service

DRS Technologies announced that its corporate headquarters in Parsippany, New Jersey and Arlington, Virginia and the headquarters of its wholly owned subsidiary, DRS Defense Solutions, located in Bethesda, Maryland, have each been awarded a "Superior" security rating by the US Defense Security Service (DSS).

The Defense Security Service administers the national industrial security programme on behalf of the Department of Defense and 23 other federal agencies within the executive branch by partnering with over 12,000 contractor facilities. Through its oversight mission, the DSS supports US National Security and warfighters by validating industry's ability to safeguard classified information. DSS assigns a security rating to contractor facilities at the conclusion of each security review, with superior being its highest possible rating.

Compared with other contractors of similar size and complexity, DRS demonstrated full implementation of all national industrial security programme requirements in a very effective and consistent manner. DRS also demonstrated the absence of any serious security issues and its ability to practise a sustained and high level of management support for the security programme. Only four per cent of industry garner a superior rating.

"The rating we received from DSS not only demonstrates our strict compliance in safeguarding sensitive information, but reflects the high level of trust the United States Government places with us," said Mark S. Newman, Chairman and CEO of DRS Technologies. "The recognition of this collective success illustrates our employees' absolute dedication to national security."

"There is no greater responsibility than securing and protecting information that is crucial to the mission of those who serve our nation," added Newman. "As security is the consummate team activity, the tireless governance of our security programme is due to the vigilant efforts of our security professionals and each of our resident employees. Each one of us can be counted upon to ensure a zero margin of error." SP

Indian Navy intercepts pirate vehicles

The Indian Navy has nabbed 61 pirates and rescued 13 crew and neutralised the pirate mother vessel Vega 5 recently. INS Kalpeni intercepted the pirates in the Arabian Sea about 600 nautical miles.

A Dornier aircraft of the Navy, while responding to a call from MV Vancouver Bridge under pirate attack, located Vega 5 a pirate mother vessel in the area. Seeing the naval aircraft, the pirates immediately aborted their piracy attempt and the mother vessel attempted to escape from the area. Whilst IN maritime patrol aircraft continuously tracked the pirate mother vessel Vega 5, INS Khukri (a missile corvette) and INS Kalpeni (a water-jet fast attack craft) already deployed for anti piracy patrol, were diverted to intercept Vega 5.

PHOTOGRAPHS: DRS & PIB Mumbai

On the night of March 12, INS Kalpeni closed Vega 5. In the darkness, the pirate mother vessel launched two skiffs which fired at Kalpeni which responded with limited firing. Thereafter it was observed that a fire had broken out on Vega 5 (mother vessels are known to carry additional fuel drums to fuel the skiffs). Personnel were also seen jumping overboard. INS Kalpeni in conjunction with INS Khukri recovered 74 personnel comprising 61 pirates and 13 members of the original crew of the fishing vessel. Preliminary investigations revealed that the pirates were carrying about 80 to 90 small arms/rifles and a few heavier weapons (likely to be RPGs).

Vega 5, a Mozambique flagged fishing vessel was hijacked on December 28, 2010 and has thereafter been used as 'mother vessel' for piracy operations. This vessel had been a risk to international shipping for the last four months and has carried out several attacks. SP

Cassidian boosts global security electronics business

Cassidian, the defence and security division of EADS, boosts its global security electronics business by entering into an agreement to acquire the majority shareholding in South African electronic warfare specialist company, Grintek Ewation (GEW), Pretoria.

Cassidian will increase its 45 per cent share in GEW to 87.4 per cent by acquiring the 42.4 per cent share of SAAB South Africa. A 12.6 per cent share is held by Kunene Finance Company. The increase of local shareholding remains a priority to be addressed in the near future. The transaction which is valued at a two-digit million Euro sum is subject to formal approval from South African competition authorities.

"Grintek Ewation capitalises on outstanding competencies in the fields of communications electronic warfare," explained Bernd Wenzler, CEO of Cassidian Electronics. "These are complementary to our existing skills in governmental intelligence and electronic protection, and therefore give us an excellent basis to grow this business vigorously." SP

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National cyber security policy imperative

Digital information is multiplying more than tenfold every three to four years. Cyber warfare has become one of the best and easiest asymmetric battlefields where low priced, anonymity, asymmetrical vulnerability, swiftness of attack and ease in achieving targets implies smaller actors have more capacity to exercise hard and soft power in cyberspace than in traditional forms of attack.

While information communication technology (ICT) has contributed tremendously in development, cyber domain is also a volatile man-made environment that has vulnerabilities in abundance. The ease with which critical infrastructure of a country can be harmed or destroyed through cyber attack proves that as the global information age progresses, more and more things are happening outside the control of even the most powerful states. Look at the horrendous nuclear emergency in Japan in the aftermath of the tsunami and earthquake. The real reason for the nuclear reactor meltdown was shutdown of the cooling system courtesy prolonged power breakdown – something that can also be achieved through cyber attack especially if precisely timed with already unfolding disaster.

As complexity of cyber threats multiply exponentially, measures of information assurance including cyber security need to be enhanced commensurately. Information assurance leading to information dominance will assist India's rise as a global power. Comprehensive cyber security measures are required right from the national apex down to every data centre operator, network administrator and computer professionals.

We need to adopt a double pronged approach at the international and national levels. Internationally India should join hands with suitable cyber coalitions to establish global norms for cyberspace behaviour, legislating information exchange, including system of punishing violators and provision of protection of networks and computer systems. Nationally, information must be recognised from the strategic viewpoint as a mission critical resource essential to the survival and success of the nation and not treated like any other asset. The complexity and criticality of information assurance and its governance demands that it be elevated to the highest organisational levels. India needs to put in place security consciousness, security measures to overcome existing voids and requisite organisational structures. We need a comprehensive approach involving the entire nation – the government, military, research and development, industry, business sectors, academia and population as a whole.

A comprehensive national cyber security policy must be coined forthwith. It is tempting for policymakers, especially for those with distaste for technology and with understanding of traditional military threats better than virtual enemies, to view cyber warfare as an abstract future threat but we must find ways to get over such fixation. From this should flow out a national cyber security strategy while the Ministry of Defence should define a comprehensive cyber security policy for the Armed Forces.

The organisational structures to cope with cyber warfare should include establishment of a national cyber command and a Joint Services cyber command/military cyber command. Immediate review of protection of existing data centres and networks is mandated including examining financial support required by private sector including banks, stock exchanges, etc for installing adequate cyber security measures.

The Services must institute early comprehensive measures to graduate from cyber security to holistic information assurance. A full-fledged tri-service information assurance agency needs to be established. An information security and assurance programme (ISAP) must be developed and tailored to specific organisational mission, goals and objectives. We need a fundamental shift from individual entity to central overview, control and assessment of security measures. If we want India to continue to grow globally then a proactive approach is required for defensive and offensive cyber warfare capacity building as total cyber security will continue to remain a myth. SP

We need a fundamental shift from individual entity to central overview, control and assessment of security measures

Study states US organisational cost of data breach $7.2 million

Symantec and the Ponemon Institute have released the findings of the 2010 Annual Study: US Cost of a Data Breach, which reveals data breaches grew more costly for the fifth year in a row. The average organisational cost of a data breach increased to $7.2 million and cost companies an average of $214 per compromised record, markedly higher when compared to $204 in 2009.

The study also found that for the second straight year organisations' need to respond rapidly to data breaches drove the associated costs higher. The sixth annual Ponemon Cost of a Data Breach report is based on the actual data breach experiences of 51 US companies from 15 different industry sectors. SP

New Android trojan

Symantec has discovered a new Android trojan that is a repackaged version of the recently released Android market security update released by Google. The trojan, which is being distributed via third party Android app stores, is a malware injected version of the security update released by Google to remove DroidDream malware from infected Android devices.

Symantec's Mario Ballano has said "On March 6, 2011, Google published the application Android market security tool, a tool designed to undo the side effects caused by Android.Rootcager. This application was automatically pushed to devices of users who had downloaded and installed infected applications. Symantec has identified suspicious code within a repackaged version of the Android market security tool. This package was found on an unregulated third-party Chinese marketplace. This threat seems to be able to send SMS messages if instructed by a command-and-control server." SP

Home Ministry states SIM cards a security risk

The Home Ministry is of the view that the mobile SIM card could be a threat to national security, as the imported ones may have malevolent embedded software. India has over 700 million mobile users.

The Home Ministry is in touch with the Telecommunications Ministry on how to replace all such imported SIMs. Presently, about 30 per cent of the SIM cards are imported. According to experts, the embedded software in the SIM card can be transformed into a minicomputer which in turn could be misused. The Home Ministry has also suggested that the telecom companies could reduce the risk by personalising the SIMs. SP

World Cup cricket, cyber crooks lurking

The World Cup cricket is on with a feverish pitch. Tickets for these matches in the subcontinent are in heavy demand, thus opening up a market for racketeers using the Internet. Innocent Internet users tend to fall prey to such tricksters and the International Cricket Council (ICC) has already warned of this.

The Cricket World cup along with FIFA World Cup and the Olympics are some of the most sought after sports events for which ticket sales are invariably brisk. There are reports already that a spam e-mail campaign is doing the rounds, trying to lure cricket fans into freebies which may not exist.

In a statement issued earlier, the ICC said, "We wish to place on record that neither we conduct nor authorise any such sweepstakes or prize promotions, nor do we appoint any third-parties to do so." SP

IT Secretaries to keep tab on cyber crimes

The Union Government has decided to empower the Secretaries of Information Technology in all the States to function as Adjudicating Officers in the Cyber Appellate Tribunal. Presently, the state police is looking at all cyber crime related cases.

The Cyber Appellate Tribunal was set up as per the Information Technology Act, under the aegis of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) and includes a presiding officer.

The idea is to try and prevent cyber crimes including phishing, cyber frauds, malware, denial of service, cyber espionage, identity theft, data theft and cyber terrorism.

The Adjudicating Officers will be responsible for conducting field enquires in cyber crimes or in cyber offences registered under the Information Technology Act, 2000. SP

DRS Technical Services launches website to assist contract customers

DRS Technical Services Inc., a business unit of DRS Defense Solutions, has launched a new website that will assist customers in using the Rapid Response 3rd Generation (R2-3G) contract, an expedited technical acquisition process to provide critical equipment and technical support services to government system, platform, and item managers around the globe. The new site can be accessed at *http://www.r2-3g.com*.

"Government agencies operate in a very dynamic environment. CECOM's R2-3G contract allows customers to quickly obtain DRS' comprehensive expertise virtually anywhere in the world," said Dr. Mitchell Rambler, President of DRS Technical Services and Senior Vice President of DRS Defense Solutions. "We believe this website will help the customer further accomplish its goals for mission success."

R2-3G is the US Army Programme Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command's follow-on contract to the current Rapid Response (R2) vehicle. DRS Technical Services was a prime contractor under the R-2 contract. SP

New head of A400M programme appointed as industrial go-ahead reached

Airbus Military has given the green light to the industrial launch of the A400M airlifter and approved the start of series production. This follows a thorough review of all aspects of the programme which demonstrated that all readiness criteria were fulfilled. This means that the first four series aircraft will be produced in 2012 and the production rate will gradually be ramped up to 2.5 aircraft per month by the end of 2015.

"The industrial launch is a very important milestone for the programme. It is also excellent news for the suppliers and workforce who depend on the programme and who can now look forward to producing the A400M in the years ahead," said Airbus Military CEO Domingo Ureña.

Having reached this key milestone, Rafael Tentor, who has led the programme for four years, is handing over responsibility to Cédric Gautier, currently President and Chief Executive of EADS Sogerma, who will, from April 2011, lead the programme to certification, delivery and entry into service of the aircraft with the launch customers.

As of April 1, Rafael Tentor (53) is becoming Head of Airbus Military aircraft programmes, covering the Light & Medium C212, CN235 and C295, as well as the A330 MRTT and all other conversions. He will replace Javier Matallanos (61) who will be assigned special projects by the Airbus Military CEO. SP

Rolta wins FICCI award

Rolta has bagged the award for 'Excellence in Science, Technology and Technological Innovation' for the year 2009-10 from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The award recognises Rolta's innovative software products and solutions to solve real-world problems of business enterprises and government agencies, and especially their relevance to India's inclusive-growth aspirations.

Rolta has transformed its business from a services centric model into one that is solutions oriented, with a large repository of Rolta's own intellectual property (IP). Rolta's IP comprises numerous software products and industry-specific solution templates. Rolta has developed three flagship solutions frameworks that provide insightful business intelligence – Rolta Geospatial Fusion for enterprise-level integration of spatial and non-spatial data; Rolta OneView for near-real-time monitoring of key performance indicators in the process and power industries; and Rolta iPerspective as a platform for integration and management of heterogeneous IT infrastructure of an enterprise.

K.K. Singh, Chairman and Managing Director of Rolta, said, "At Rolta, we are committed to developing world class solutions that leverage our domain expertise in select verticals, and Rolta's IPR. I am very pleased, and indeed proud, that our endeavours have merited recognition by the apex body of Indian industry for their innovative character, and their relevance to businesses and governments." SP

SECURITY EVENTS

Cyber Security Conference
16-18 March
Holiday Inn Rosslyn, Arlington, VA, USA
www.ttcus.com

Defence Logistics Europe 2011
21-23 March
Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow, London
www.defencelogistics.org/Event.aspx?id=421342

Air Surveillance and Reconnaissance 2011
21-23 March
America Square Conference Centre, London, UK
www.asarcevent.com

Future Artillery
23-25 March
Olympic Conference Centre, London
www.future-artillery.com

Network Centric Warfare 2011
29-30 March
National Convention Centre, Canberra, ACT, Australia
http://www.networkcentricwarfare.com.au/Event.aspx?id=410802

Adriatic Sea Defence & Aerospace
29-31 March
Split, Croatia
www.adriaticseadefense.com

Offshore Patrol Vessels Asia-Pacific
5-7 April
Grand Hyatt Singapore, Singapore.
www.offshorepatrolasia.com

SMES – Security Middle East Show
7-9 April
BIEL, Beirut, Lebanon
www.smesbeirut.com

9th Annual Maritime Homeland Security Summit
11-14 April
Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland, USA
www.maritimehssummit.com

MRO Military 2011
12-13 April
Miami Beach Convention Centre, USA
www.aviationweek.com/events/current/mil/index.htm

LAAD 2011
12-15 April
Riocentro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
www.laadexpo.com

Greenpeace activists enter nuclear reactor facility

Greenpeace activists entered a nuclear reactor compound in eastern Spain last month, protesting the use of nuclear power. The activists entered the Cofrentes nuclear power plant and painted the word "peligro," which means "danger". According to a government spokesperson, a plant security guard sustained minor injuries and was treated at the plant medical facility.

Greenpeace activists said on their website that six of them scaled the 125-metre refrigeration tower, thus causing the breach. Cofrentes, one of eight nuclear reactors in Spain, started operations in 1984. But its current 10-year operating licence expires next March 20, Spain's nuclear regulatory body, the Nuclear Security Council, said on its website. SP

US military and government data breached over 100 times in 2010

A study in the US has revealed that military and government agencies inadvertently exposed the personal data of thousands of citizens in at least 104 incidents in 2010, up from 90 such data breaches the previous year.

The Identify Theft Resource Center, a non-profit body, found that there were 662 breaches reported nationwide in 2010. The center defines a breach as an event in which an individual's name and other identifying information, such as a social security or driver's licence number, banking or medical data, are put at risk in electronic or paper format. Of the 622 total breaches reported in 2010, 15.7 per cent involved data handled by state and federal agencies and the military. Sixty-two per cent of all breaches resulted in the exposure of social security numbers. One of the biggest breaches involved the exposure of 2,07,000 records of Army Reservists in Colorado. SP

Student hacks into Sarah Palin's account

David Kernell, a college student who was found guilty of hacking into Sarah Palin's Yahoo account, has run into trouble and may land in prison. Kernell hacked in by guessing the answers to Palin's password hint questions based on her high school and birth date – information normally put on Facebook accounts.

In 2005, Paris Hilton's T-Mobile phone was hacked in a similar way when someone was able to provide her Chihuahua's name to a "favourite pet" security question. Her address book went public and her celebrity friends were inundated with phone calls. SP

PHOTOGRAPHS: Green Peace & Wikipedia

Obama helicopter security lapse

Tiversa company that monitors peer-to-peer file-sharing networks has discovered a potentially serious security breach involving President Barack Obama's helicopter recently. Tiversa reportedly found engineering and communications information about Marine One at an IP address in Tehran, Iran.

Bob Boback, CEO of Tiversa confirmed having found a file containing blueprints and avionics package for Marine One, which is the President's helicopter. The company was able to trace the file back to its original source. Tiversa also found sensitive financial information about the cost of the helicopter on that same computer.

Someone from the company most likely downloaded a file-sharing programme, typically used to exchange music, not realising the potential problems, Boback is reported in the media. SP

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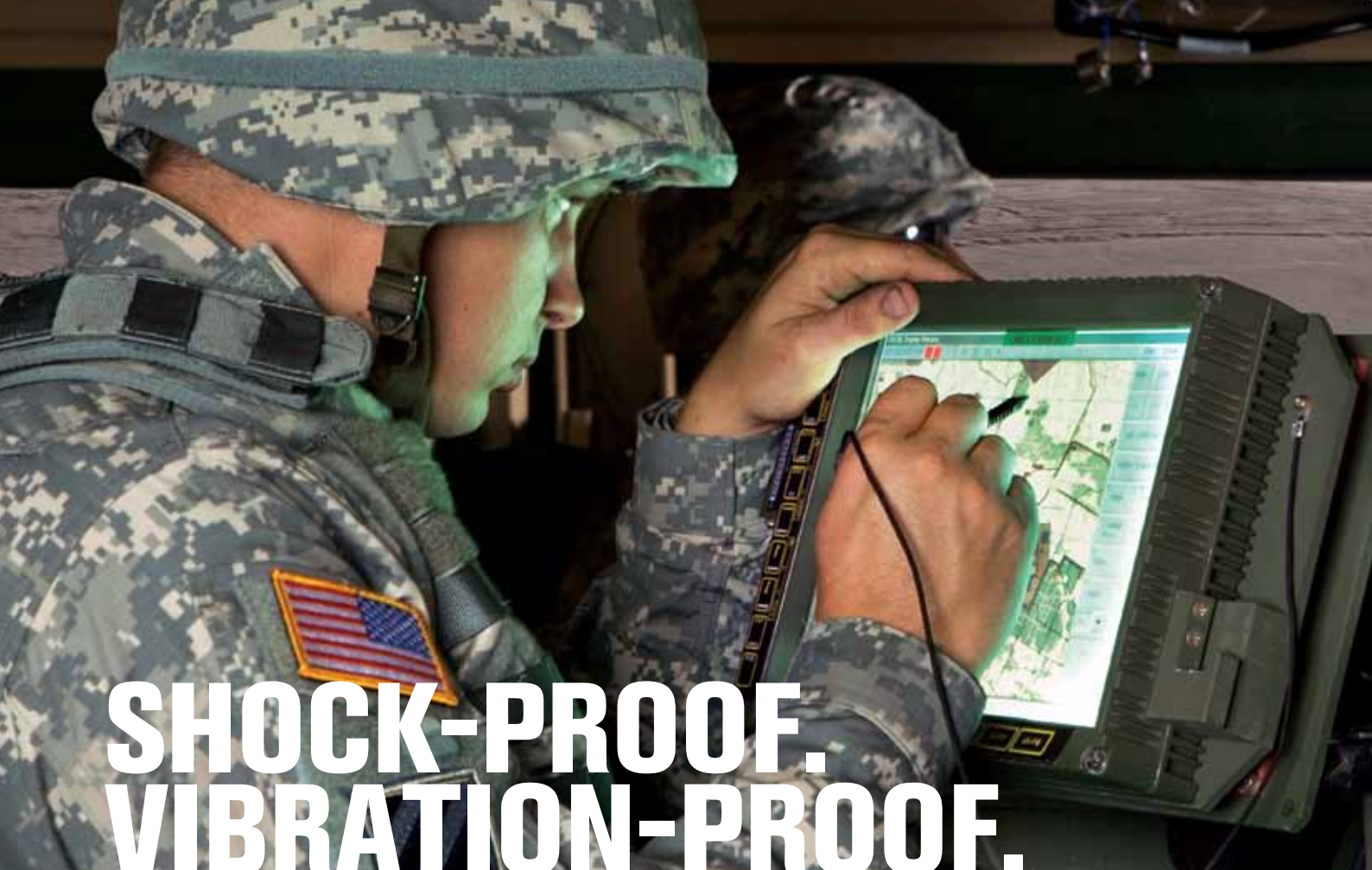

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