

# African Security

AFRICA'S BIMONTHLY DEFENCE, DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND SECURITY MAGAZINE

ISSUE: September – October

VOL 11 No 9-10



**EURONAVAL**  
4 NOVEMBER  
7 2024  
29<sup>th</sup> edition  
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**AFRICAN SECURITY** is an international tri-service bimonthly defence magazine, published by DBDC International Defence Publications & Events Ltd, covering security, defence and defence industrial issues in the African Continent. No material may be reproduced without the recent content of the editor.

**Annual Subscription rate:**

\*Print + Digital \$120 (Air mail surcharge is included)

\*Digital \$60



**DBDC INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS UK LTD**

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## AFRICAN NAVIES

### ★ GHANA NAVY



**Rear Admiral Issah Yakubu Chief of the Ghana Naval Staff**

The Ghana Navy provides coastal defence as part of its Core Mandate in insulating Ghana's coast from seaborne invasion including providing security on the Volta Lake. It also focuses on tackling threats from illegal fishing, piracy, illegal oil bunkering and drug trafficking as well as protection of offshore installations, gas pipelines and submarine cables. This is achieved by dominating Ghana's maritime space through constant patrols at the country's anchorages and EEZ including riverine patrols and beach combing. In addition, Ghana Navy deploy its Special Boat Service to conduct maritime interdiction operations and beach combing.

©Ghana Navy/ Snake-class patrol vessel GNS Chemle P-36



The Naval Dockyard was refurbished and recommissioned in 2012, alongside four new ships built in China. Additionally, two ex-German Navy Fast Attack Crafts were acquired and commissioned in the same year. Plans are underway to acquire more ships to augment the fleet. In addition, the Government signed a contract to construct a Forward Operating Base near the Western corridor to enhance the Navy's ability to respond to incidents at the oil fields near the Western boundary. The impact of training on the performance of an institution cannot be overstated. To enhance and facilitate training in the Navy, a Naval Training Command was established in 2014 to integrate all training institutions under a unified command. A suitable site for the new Command has been identified, which will also serve for training the newly established Special Boat Squadron. Currently, personnel from this Squadron are being trained in Nigeria, the USA, Portugal, and other countries. The Ghana Navy has significantly improved its maritime domain awareness capabilities with the establishment of Maritime Operations Centres at the Naval Headquarters and two operational bases in Sekondi (Western Naval Command) and Tema (Eastern Naval Command), as well as two surveillance centres at Aflao and Newtown on the eastern and western borders, respectively. These centres maintain constant communication with other MOCs, MMCC, and CRESMAO to enhance networking and information sharing across the sub-region. Several batches of the Special Boat Squadron have completed basic training at the Nigerian Navy Special Forces Training School. Some personnel from the SBS have received further training in Portugal, the USA, and other countries, developing significant capabilities to address piracy and emerging threats in our maritime domain. We have also intensified joint training with the Ghana Air Force in areas such as maritime surveillance and the rappelling of SBS teams onto ships during opposed boarding scenarios. The Ghana Navy has experienced substantial infrastructural development. The establishment of the new training command at Nutekpor in the Volta Region, which is being developed into a world-class training facility. In line with my vision, once completed, it will be open to all navies in the sub-region as well as various maritime agencies in Ghana. Ghana's Navy Naval Headquarters building was commissioned in 2016, and Ghana's first-ever naval barracks was commissioned in Tema last year. These developments will greatly improve the working and living conditions of our staff, who are the Navy's primary and most important resource. The Vision of the Chief of the Ghana Navy to develop, project, and sustain a highly professional, well-trained, credible, and dependable naval force capable of deterring aggression and maintaining total freedom at sea, which is critical to Ghana's maritime security and economic prosperity while upholding the time-tested traditions of the Navy.



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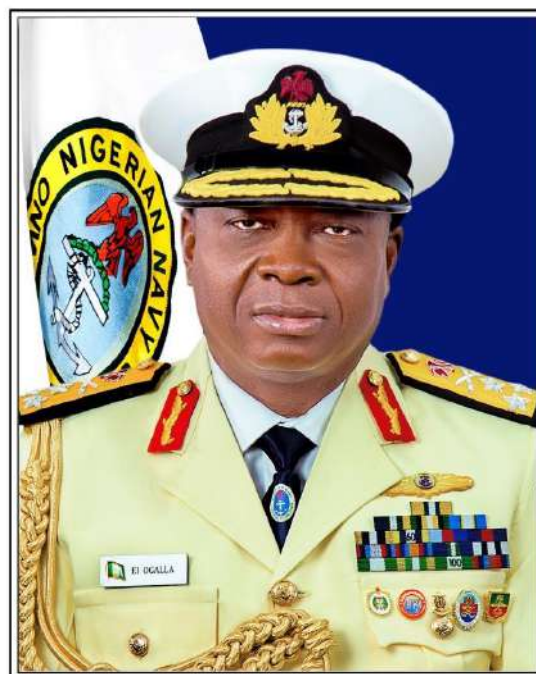
The overarching goal of Ghana Navy's future plans is to enhance the security of Ghana's maritime domain. The intention is to position the Navy to continue conducting operations across the spectrum of its roles and responsibilities within the context of constantly evolving maritime threats. These operations include, but are not limited to, anti-piracy operations, anti-smuggling, protection of offshore maritime infrastructure, fisheries protection, peace support operations, search and rescue, and disaster relief. The Ghana Navy must sustain an increased operational tempo and maintain the capability to respond to any call to duty. To achieve this, attention will be paid to the following, among others: Total surveillance coverage of Ghana's maritime domain, including a presence at sea with ships of high endurance. Development of world-class training institutions. Enhancement of operational availability of ships and well-trained crews. Collaboration with land and air forces as well as civil authorities. Strengthening cooperation with regional and international partners. Ghana Navy's defence posture, which is closely linked to that of the Ghana Armed Forces, has mainly been towards building a credible naval force for national development whilst contributing to regional maritime security. This is in line with the strategic objectives of Ghana's Defence Policy and further broken down in my vision for the Ghana Navy. Currently, the posture of the Ghana Navy and that of the Nigerian Navy in terms of maritime security are largely drawn from the ECOWAS

Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS) due to the nature of threats in the maritime domain of the ECOWAS sub-region. These threats are mainly transnational organized crimes including but not limited to piracy, armed robbery, IUU Fishing, illicit trafficking, fuel thefts, etc.

There is therefore the need to use cooperative and collaborative efforts to combat these crimes as no one Navy or state can fight them alone. Both Navies therefore need to align their postures and bring aboard the other navies/coastguards in the sub-region to implement the provisions of the EIMS and the Yaoundé Code of Conduct for the repression of transnational organized crimes in the entire Gulf of Guinea region.

### ★ NIGERIAN NAVY

The Nigerian Navy (NN) is the naval branch of the Nigerian armed forces. With more than 70 warships, it is categorised as the fourth strongest navy in Africa (after South Africa, Egypt, Algeria and Morocco). It is considered well-trained and has participated in several peacekeeping missions.



**Vice Admiral EI OGALLA AM GSS psc fdc(+) BSc MSc  
CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF**

The NN is currently structured into 9 Branches at the Naval Headquarters, 6 commands and a number of autonomous units. The 6 commands are made up of 3 operational commands – Western Naval Command, Central Naval Command and Eastern Naval Command with headquarters located at Apapa, Yenagoa and Calabar- as well as the Training, Doctrine & Logistics Commands with headquarters at Apapa and Oghara respectively. Each of the 5 commands is headed by a Flag Officer of the rank of Rear Admiral.

On 3 September 2018, in an official ceremony held at the Naval Dockyard in Lagos, the Nigerian Navy commissioned six new Ocea fast patrol boats and ten new small boats. The patrol boats include two FPB 110 MKII hulls – Nguru (P 187) and Ekulu (P 188) delivered earlier this year by France's Ocea Shipbuilding company – and four smaller FPB 72 MKII hulls – Shiroro (P 185), Ose (P 186), Gongola (P 189), and Calabar (P 190). All vessels were delivered between late 2017 and April 2018.

© The launching ceremony of first of Nigerian Navy OPV 76 Offshore Patrol Vessels Has Been Completed at Dearsan Shipyard





# Foreseeing Your Naval Needs



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The six new Ocea fast patrol boats came on the heels of a Two new Ocea FPB 110 MK II Fast Patrol Boats delivered to the Nigerian Navy. Ocea has previously delivered 7 units of the FPB 72 MK II boats in three batches: three in 2012, one FPB 98 in 2013, two in 2017 and two in January of this year. The FPB 72 and FPB 98 were ordered by the Nigerian Port Authority but handed over to the Nigerian Navy.

In October 2018, Paramount Maritime Holding, a South African-based defense company revealed that the Nigerian Navy has placed an order for 15 new build Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIB). The order which comprises 8.5 metre and 9.5 metre Guardian fast patrol boats amongst others would also include training for the Nigerian Navy and maritime personnel.

On 8 September 2018, the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency handed over its AgustaWestland AW139 Search and Rescue helicopter to the Nigerian Navy.[25] In December 2019, the Navy ordered 4 Units of ARESA 1700 IPC Inshore Patrol Vessels to the Spanish shipbuilder ARESA SHIPYARD. These units achieve speeds of 40 Knots and can transport up to 18 naval personnel inside is armoured cabin and has been used since his delivery for the protection of strategic facilities along the Nigerian coastal area.

On 10 December 2021, Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari commissioned 118 newly acquired ships and boats, including a helicopter, as part of his administration's drive to boost the capacity of the Nigerian Navy.

The Nigerian Navy has been undergoing significant modernization since the beginning of the last decade in response to the criminal activities occurring in its area of responsibility in the Gulf of Guinea. Presently in possession of the Nigerian Navy is a MEKO 360 Type H1 frigate, NNS Aradu, which completed a refit in 2020 and will undergo refurbishment at Dearsan Shipyards in Turkiye. The NNS Aradu will serve as a combat training ship for Nigeria's acquisition of a new light frigate from

Dearsan Shipyards. Dearsan Shipyards has also been contracted with the construction of 2x Dearsan OPV 76 and a Tuzla class patrol vessel. Other pending acquisitions of the Nigerian Navy include 3x 46metres patrol vessels from Poly Technologies in China, 1x 35metres Offshore Survey Vessel and from Ocean Shipyards in France, 2x 46metres Seaward Defence boats from Naval Dockyard Limited, Nigeria and a second LST-100 from Damen Shipyards in UAE. Nigeria's mid- and long-term acquisition plans aim to fill some of these capability gaps. For example, the keel for a Damen LST-100-class landing ship for amphibious operations and force projection has been laid.

### ★ SOUTH AFRICAN NAVY



**Vice Admiral Monde Lobese,  
Chief of the South African Navy**

The main role of the SAN is to prepare and conduct naval operations as part of the defence of South Africa. During peacetime the Navy plays a supporting role for different national objectives – these include search and rescue, marine / maritime protection and sea transport.

They maintain the role of a military deterrent and participate in counter-piracy operations and uphold maritime law enforcement.

The SAN has a mixed force of warships, submarines, patrol craft and auxiliary vessels. According to sources that are in the public domain, the SA Navy at the moment has three submarines, four frigates, one multi-mission inshore patrol vessel (with another to be commissioned in the near future, and a third under construction), one survey ship (with a new one under construction), one combat support ship, and a number of smaller craft (most of them in reserve).

The government needs to gradually increase defence spending from the present less than 1% of GDP to at least 1.8%, which is what countries globally on average spend on defence. That will enable the navy to increase training opportunities, send more ships out to sea, and perhaps even acquire much-needed larger offshore patrol vessels.

© Damen - The first of three new multi-mission inshore patrol vessels (MMIPVs) built under Project Biro was handed over to the South African Navy (SAN) on Wednesday 18 May2022 in Simons Town.





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South Africa is a maritime state, given that all its borders are on the ocean bar its northern one. The country needs a small but well-equipped navy that can defend it, underpin its diplomatic efforts, and assist other state departments in various ways.

In 2021, it was announced that the aging Warrior-class OPVs would undergo phased decommissioning as the new Warrior-class IPVVs come online.

First laid down in February 2019 at Damen Shipyards Cape Town (DSCT), the timeline of delivery to the SA Navy of all three vessels is March 2022, June 2023 and September 2024 respectively.

Armcor, the state acquisition agency, has an option from DSCT to purchase additional inshore patrol vessels at the same price the original three were bought for.

The second future acquisition program for the SA Navy falls under Project Hotel, the replacement of the sole hydrographic survey vessel SAS Protea. The construction of this new vessel, currently being built by Durban-based Sandock Austral Shipyard, will represent a major upgrade in capability for the Navy.

Whilst SAS Protea was built in 1972, her replacement will be based on Vard Marine's VARD 9 105 science vessel, specifically adapted for South African service and 'incorporates the latest hydrographic and oceanographic sensor suite. The ship will be an evolution from the Vard Marine designed HMS Echo and HMS Enterprise which have been in Royal Navy service since 2002.

As part of Project Hotel, the SA Navy will receive two next-generation survey motorboats, one sea boat, and another inshore survey motor boat to be kept ashore in reserve, as well as upgrading shore-based hydrographic infrastructure.

## ★ EGYPTIAN NAVY

The Egyptian Navy, or Egyptian Naval Force (ENF), is a crucial part of Egypt's military infrastructure, safeguarding over 2,000 kilometers of coastline along the Mediterranean and Red Seas.

As the largest navy in the Middle East and Africa, it ranks sixth globally by vessel count. Established with significant Soviet support in the 1960s, it has since diversified its fleet, incorporating ships from China and Western nations in the 1980s.

The navy's main objectives include protecting vital maritime routes, especially those leading to the Suez Canal, and enhancing its operational capabilities to support the army. Currently, the navy is undergoing restructuring into two distinct fleets, one for the Mediterranean and another for the Red Sea, reflecting the growing importance of maritime security in these waters.

The navy's headquarters is located in Alexandria, with additional bases at Port Said and Mersa Matruh on the Mediterranean coast. On the Red Sea, it operates from bases in Hurgada, Safaga, Berenice, and Suez. This strategic positioning underscores its role in maintaining regional stability and securing vital shipping lanes.



**Vice Admiral Ashraf Ibrahim Atwa Megahed  
Commander of the Egyptian Navy**

The Egyptian Navy is structured into two different fleets, one for the Mediterranean Sea and the other for the Red Sea. This in a context where the safety of shipping in the Red Sea is becoming increasingly important. The Egyptian Navy is the largest navy in the Middle East and Africa. Since 2013, the Egyptian Navy made a modernization project in which new vessels were acquired from western sources such as the United States, Germany, Italy and France.

Current and future ships:

- Submarines (8)
- Helicopter Carrier (2)
- Frigates (17)
- Corvettes (3)
- Fast Attack Craft (31)
- Patrol vessels (23)
- Landing crafts (15)
- Mine warfare vessels (17)
- Fuel tankers (8)
- Support ships (6)

Recent Deliveries:

On 24 March 24 by Fatima Bahtić US company Swiftships received notification for an additional seven coastal patrol craft (CPC) award to the existing six contract that was awarded in 2022 from the Egyptian Navy.

In March 2023, the Egyptian Navy officially accepted delivery of three US Cyclone-class patrol boats during a special ceremony in Alexandria. The transfer ceremony, during which the Egyptian flag was raised on the boats to mark their entry into service, followed a program of training and professional exchanges designed to improve cooperation and joint initiatives between the two countries' naval forces.





# TÜRKİYE'S LEADING DEFENCE AND AEROSPACE EXHIBITION

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© tkms- Handover ceremony for “AL-QADEER” on 15 December in Bremerhaven

In December 2023, Egypt’s naval capabilities received a significant boost with the acquisition of the new German-made MEKO-A200 frigate, Al-Qadeer, which arrived Sunday at a base in Alexandria, the Egyptian military announced. This advanced warship, built by Germany’s ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS), completed its delivery procedures in Bremerhaven, Germany, in mid-December before its journey to Egypt.

On 14 October 2022, thyssenkrupp Marine Systems today handed over the first-of-class MEKO® A-200 EN to the Navy of the Arab Republic of Egypt. A total of four ships were ordered, with the first three units produced in Germany and the fourth vessel built by Alexandria Shipyard in Egypt. The frigate “AL-AZIZ” was accepted by the Egyptian Navy after only 38 months of the contract becoming effective. Besides the handover ceremony, the celebrations included the naming of a second MEKO® A-200 EN frigate for the Egyptian Navy. The Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Navy, Vice Admiral Ashraf Ibrahim Atwa, named the warship “AL-QADEER”.

### ★ KENYA NAVY

The Kenya Navy is the naval branch of the Kenya Defence Forces. It is headquartered in Mombasa. Kenya Navy has two major bases for its fleet with it being headquartered in Mtongwe base in Mombasa and Manda Bay (part of Lamu Archipelago) being the second naval base.

The navy also operates naval stations in Shimoni, Msambweni, Malindi and Kilifi. The Kenya Navy fleet is organized into two fighting squadrons and a logistical support squadron, namely the pioneer 66 Squadron, the 76 Squadron and the 86 Squadron all supported by a Special Operations Squadron, the Fleet Maintenance Unit and a newly formed elite Marine Ranger Regiment.

Current Vessels:



KNS Shujaa and KNS Nyayo during India's International Fleet Review



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**MAJ GEN P O OTIENO EBS 'ndc' 'psc' (K)**  
COMMANDER KENYA NAVY

- **Jasiri Class** survey ship and offshore patrol vessel

- P3124 KNS *Jasiri*

Built as an oceanographic survey vessel but later fitted with armament at the navy's Mkunguni dock yard.

Commissioned into the navy on 29 August 2012. It currently is the largest vessel in the fleet.

- **P400 Class** offshore patrol vessel
  - P3134 KNS *Harambee II*

Former French P400 class patrol vessel *La Rieuse*. Donated by France for anti-piracy patrols

- **Shupavu Class** large patrol boats, Gondan shipyard Spain.
  - P6129 KNS *Shujaa*
  - P6130 KNS *Shupavu*

Built to civilian standards in 1997 and entered service in 1997. Armed with a 76mm and a 30mm gun in Kenya.

- **Nyayo Class** missile boats
  - P3126 KNS *Nyayo*
  - P3127 KNS *Umoja*

Built by Vosper Thornycroft, these are similar to the Omani Province class, and were delivered in 1987.<sup>[7][8]</sup> Armed with 4 Otomat SSM, 1 76 mm OTO DP, 1 dual 30 mm AA, 2 20 mm machine guns<sup>[9]</sup> From March 2009 to July 2011 these ships underwent an extensive refit at Fincantieri Muggiano shipyard in northern Italy, during which their surface-to-surface missile (SSM) systems were removed, effectively reducing the vessels to an OPV configuration.

- **Madaraka Class** small missile boats
  - P3100 KNS *Mamba* – classed as **Mamba Class**
  - (For three other boats see retired Madaraka Class boats below)

Delivered from 1974–1976 (*Mamba* was delivered in 1976) and built by Brooke Marine along with three others of the class. KNS *Mamba* has a non-functioning missile system and is currently used as an OPV.

- **Galana Class/River Class** medium landing ship (LSM) /coastal logistics ships

- L39 KNS *Tana*
- L38 KNS *Galana*

Built by Construnaves-CEN, Gondan, Spain and delivered in December 1993 from Spain and entered service in 1994.

- **Archangel class** RHIB (jet boat)
  - 1 – 12-metre IPV

Built by SAFE Boats International and donated by the USA in 2006 to reduce gun and drug running.

- **USGS Defender Class** RHIB with outboard motors<sup>[14]</sup>

- 5 – 7-metre IPVs were built by SAFE Boats International and donated by the USA in 2006 to reduce gun and drug running.

- **P101 Class** IPVs

- P943
- P944
- P945
- P946
- P947

These ex-Spanish Navy patrol boats were built by ARESA (Arenys del Mar, Barcelona) from 1978 to 1982 and procured by Kenya in 1995. Each is 12m long, with a top speed of 16kts, and armed with a 12.7mm machine gun.

- **Personnel Tenders**

Two were built by Cowes in 1998. Each can carry 136 passengers.

- **YTB Harbour Tug**

- KNS *Ngamia*

Built by James Lamont, Port Glasgow in 1969 for Mombasa Port Authority and transferred to the navy in 1983.

Kenya Shipyards Limited, announced the successful floating of the KNS *Shupavu* after undergoing extensive refit work.

## ★ ROYAL MOROCCAN NAVY

The Royal Navy of Morocco, known as the Royal Moroccan Navy, is a vital component of the country's military, tasked with conducting naval operations to protect Morocco's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Under the administration of the Ministry of Defence, it is effectively commanded by King Mohammed VI, who also serves as the commander-in-chief of the Moroccan Armed Forces.

The navy's primary mission includes safeguarding Morocco's extensive coastline of 2,952 kilometers and overseeing its 81,000-square-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone. Given its strategic location at the entrance to the Strait of Gibraltar, the Royal Moroccan Navy plays a crucial role in maintaining the security of this





The Moroccan Navy Floreal-class frigates, Muhammed V (FFGHM 611) and Hassan II (FFGHM 612) conduct maneuvers with the ships assigned to the USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) Expeditionary Strike Group. The two Moroccan frigates will escort the strike group through the Strait of Gibraltar, the gateway of the Mediterranean Sea. Kearsarge and embarked 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit are on a regularly scheduled deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Christopher J. Newsome.

critical international waterway, collaborating with Spain and the United Kingdom to ensure maritime safety and control. This involvement highlights Morocco's significance in regional maritime security and its commitment to protecting its maritime interests.

On September 6, 2024, the Navantia San Fernando Shipyard marked a significant milestone with the keel laying of the offshore patrol vessel being constructed for the Royal Moroccan Navy. The event was attended by Major Colonel Mohammed Sallouh of the Moroccan Navy and key Navantia officials, including President Ricardo Domínguez, Operations and Business Director Gonzalo Mateo-Guerrero, and Corvette and BAM Business Director Alberto Cervantes.

The keel laying took place at the third bay of the San Fernando Shipyard, where a block was positioned using cranes, signifying the official start of construction. This momentous occasion saw participation from the Navantia working team. The patrol vessel, designated as Navantia's 565th construction, will measure 87 meters in length and 13 meters in width, accommodating a crew of 60.

Morocco's Royal Moroccan Navy has recently received four "52 Fearless Super Interceptor" speedboats from American manufacturer Metal Shark. These boats are designed for patrols and interception of criminal activities, reinforcing the ongoing military cooperation between the US and Morocco, as reported by defense-focused website Military Africa. Supplied by Metal Shark, known for custom vessels for commercial, defense, and law enforcement, these powerful multi-purpose crafts are set to enhance Morocco's naval capabilities in combating maritime crime. This delivery follows an earlier acquisition in March 2022, when Morocco received an initial set of ten Metal Shark boats. The transfer is part of a ten-year agreement aimed at strengthening security and military collaboration. The speedboats are equipped with twin 1,650-horsepower MAN 12-cylinder diesel inboard

engines, connected to Arneson ASD14 surface drives via ZF transmissions, allowing them to reach speeds of up to 70 knots.

In 201, the Royal Moroccan Navy received a new hydrographic and multi-mission vessel from French shipbuilder PIRIOU. The RMNS Dar Al Beida, measuring 72 meters in length, is based on Kership's B2M multi-mission ships currently being constructed for the French Navy. The vessel was officially delivered to Morocco during a ceremony held on October 26 in Concarneau, France.

### ★ TANZANIAN NAVY

The Tanzania Naval Command, the marine branch of Tanzania's armed forces, was established in 1971 with assistance from China. While it may not be the largest navy, it is recognized for its advanced armaments and capabilities. The fleet includes 4 Hunchuan-class torpedo boats, 2 Ngunguri-class warships, and 2 Shanghai II patrol craft, among other weapons and ammunition. The command's headquarters are located in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam. The Tanzanian Navy has also played a role in various defense efforts, including participation in the Democracy War.

### ★ ANGOLA NAVY

The Angolan Navy, officially known as the Forças Armadas Angolanas (FAA) Marinha de Guerra, is steadily enhancing its strength and capabilities. As a coastal nation in Southern Africa, Angola has several naval bases and operates a diverse fleet that includes frigates, corvettes, patrol boats, and amphibious vessels.

The primary responsibilities of the navy include safeguarding Angola's territorial waters, monitoring maritime traffic, combating piracy, and conducting search and rescue operations. In recent years, Angola has invested significantly in modernizing its naval capabilities, acquiring new vessels and equipment. Additionally, the Angolan Navy has participated in joint exercises with other African nations and has been active in regional maritime security initiatives.

### ★ SENEGAL NAVY

Senegal has established a formidable navy and is recognized as one of Africa's leading naval forces. The Senegalese Navy is tasked with ensuring maritime security, protecting the country's economic resources, and supporting international efforts against piracy and illegal fishing. Its fleet includes a diverse array of vessels, such as corvettes, frigates, and patrol boats, alongside aircraft designed for surveillance and reconnaissance missions. Personnel in the Senegalese Navy undergo rigorous training in various areas, including search and rescue operations, maritime law enforcement, and anti-terrorism strategies. In recent years, Senegal has actively collaborated with regional partners, including France and the United States, to enhance its maritime capabilities and effectively counter security threats in the Gulf of Guinea.





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# SUPPORTING AFRICAN SECURITY

OPV 80 class offshore patrol vessel

## Effectively protecting African values

NVL Group understands the growing importance of the geostrategic aspects of the African continent in respect to natural resources and protecting the sovereignty, integrity, economy and wealth of the various African nations. The company has a strong reputation and expertise in tailor-made concepts and solutions for coastal defence and maritime security.

## Maintaining security

Today's navies face a broad spectrum of challenges in maintaining security in a fast-changing maritime environment. These geostrategic aspects mean that

nations require affordable, versatile and fast platforms to operate successfully in territorial waters and to protect against traditional threats. Whether the mission is protecting economic resources, countering criminal activity or safeguarding life at sea, a flexible and effective response is essential. At NVL Group, we recognise the importance of building vessels that are easy and economical to operate yet still deliver superior levels of performance.

## Customised platforms for any naval requirement

NVL Group provides state-of-the-art patrolling solutions for every kind of

challenge and threat, such as patrol boats, offshore patrol vessels, corvettes, frigates, minehunters or naval support vessels.





• **Territorial sea (<12 nm)**

Offering high speeds of over 40 knots, NVL Fast Patrol Boats can quickly respond to challenges. High performing and with excellent seakeeping characteristics, these boats are ideally suited for interception and patrolling territorial waters.

• **Contiguous zone (<24 nm)**

No matter how long a coastline is, contiguous zones are best patrolled by NVL Patrol Boats, which are characterised by their speed, performance and versatility. The proven design guarantees maximum reliability and endurance.

• **Exclusive Economic Zone (200 nm)**

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is best patrolled by offshore patrol vessels built

by NVL Group. Their multirole and multimission platforms provide permanent maritime security in the operational area due to their endurance and excellent seakeeping capabilities.

**Strong support for cost-efficient naval vessel operations**

Whatever the requirement, NVL Group works in partnership with its customers to establish the right solutions. We offer the option to build vessels at one of our NVL Group shipyards, or we can transfer both our knowledge and technology to develop our partner's maritime industry. In all cases, we focus on delivering technically advanced, high-quality ships that balance a navy's operational needs with its available budget. NVL Group also provides

sustainability support for existing fleet structures in the form of upgrades, spare parts supply, training, technology and knowledge transfer, and other services to maximise the potential of any navy vessel.

**Your naval solution**

NVL Group provides you with feasible and economical solutions to fulfil the tasks of today and overcome the challenges of the future. We aim to ensure each ship entrusted into our care remains mission-ready at every stage of its operational life. NVL Group maritime patrolling solutions offer reliable and versatile multi-mission performance, providing a cost-effective yet comprehensive means of meeting maritime security needs across the seven seas.



The maritime zones (from left to right): territorial sea, contiguous zone, EEZ



NVL Group works closely with the customer to enable local build and the transfer of knowledge and technology



FIB 25 fast interceptor boat



NVL Group is a privately owned group of renowned Northern German shipyards and related companies, formerly known as Lürssen Defence. Customers can rely on the company to consistently provide tailored, smart and cost-effective naval solutions that keep navies mission-ready around the world. With deep roots in shipbuilding, NVL Group delivers high-quality naval and coastguard vessels, as

well as comprehensive services throughout the entire life cycle of their fleets. Construction at NVL Group's shipyards is supplemented by licensed manufacture at customer facilities worldwide under technology transfer arrangements. As an independent enterprise, the company remains flexible to market changes and operates a dynamic, safe and future-oriented business.

**More about NVL Group's naval solutions:**

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**N·V·L**

THE DNA OF SHIPBUILDING

### Introducing the Mini SHALDAG: Israel Shipyards' Custom Solution for River and Lake Defense

As the threats to inland waterways grow more complex, Israel Shipyards continues to lead in providing custom-made maritime defense solutions, culminating in the latest addition to its renowned SHALDAG family: the Mini SHALDAG. Explicitly designed for river and lake defense (in addition to “brown water” challenges), this compact yet powerful vessel delivers unmatched agility, speed, and firepower, making it a crucial asset in addressing evolving security challenges.

The Mini SHALDAG builds upon the success of the SHALDAG MK II and SHALDAG MK V, two vessels that have proven effective across multiple global scenarios. These established designs now lend their legacy of excellence to the Mini SHALDAG, tailored for high-speed interception and rapid response in tight, shallow waters. In this editorial, we explore how the Mini SHALDAG represents the next step in Israel Shipyards' commitment to offering innovative solutions for maritime defense, specifically in the often-overlooked realm of river and lake security.

Israel Shipyards has long understood that riverine and lake environments present unique security challenges, from hidden terror groups, piracy, and smuggling to illegal fishing and environmental violations.



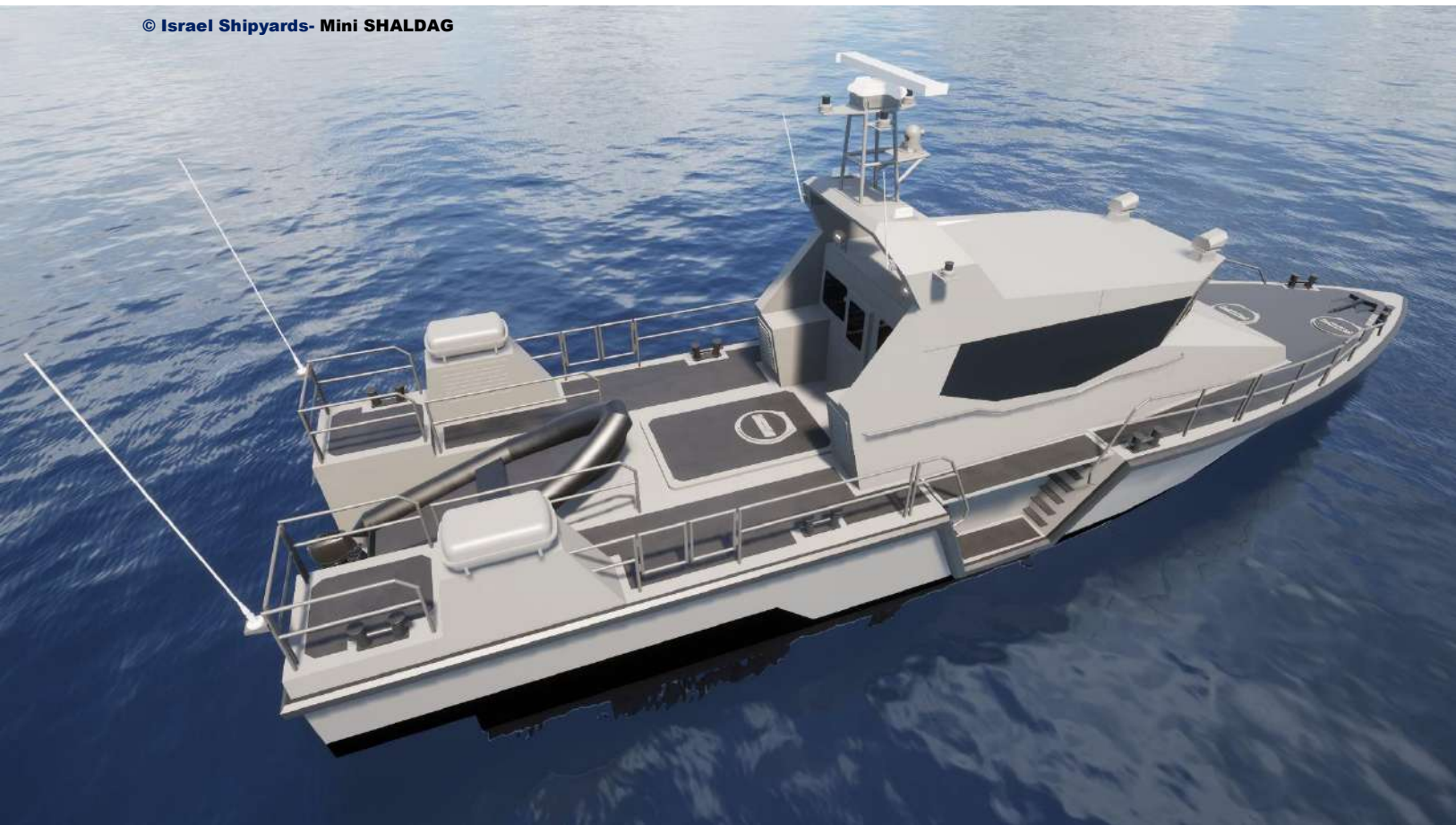
#### Mini SHALDAG: Designed for Evolving Threats

In response to these growing threats, Israel Shipyards designed the Mini SHALDAG, which excels in the fast-paced, narrow, and shallow waters where larger patrol boats would struggle to operate.

The Mini SHALDAG is crafted to handle these challenges with speed and precision. At 19.95 meters long, this all-aluminum vessel boasts a top speed of over 40 knots, allowing it to intercept threats in real-time. Its shallow draft makes it ideal for shallow water operations. It is critical for nations like Latin America, with its vast Amazon River network, or African countries with mega-rivers and huge lakes such as Victoria or others. Equipped with advanced armament systems, including a 12.7mm remotely controlled heavy machine gun and optional aft-mounted guns, the Mini SHALDAG offers superior firepower for a vessel of its size.

Israel Shipyards designed the Mini SHALDAG to meet the evolving security demands of river and lake environments while maintaining operational flexibility. Whether tasked with law enforcement, reconnaissance, or search and rescue, the Mini SHALDAG is a versatile asset that ensures rapid response and sustained defense.

© Israel Shipyards- Mini SHALDAG







© Israel Shipyards- SHALDAG

### **The SHALDAG MK II and MK V: Proven Success that Inspires the Mini SHALDAG**

The introduction of the Mini SHALDAG is built on the proven success of Israel Shipyards' larger vessels, particularly the SHALDAG MK II and SHALDAG MK V. These vessels have served in various maritime theaters around the globe, showcasing Israel Shipyards' expertise in designing custom solutions for security challenges.

The SHALDAG MK II, for example, has excelled in Africa, where it has been deployed to secure significant rivers. Its high-speed capabilities and shallow draft make it an ideal platform for riverine patrols, ensuring that illegal activities like smuggling and piracy are swiftly intercepted. Another notable success story is the deployment of the SHALDAG MK II in Argentina's La Plata River basin. This challenging environment, characterized by complex waterways and persistent border security threats, has significantly benefited from the MK II's agility, speed, and operational flexibility in tackling smuggling and illegal trafficking. The MK II's effectiveness in these diverse regions demonstrates how Israel Shipyards' vessels can be tailored to address specific regional needs, a philosophy that extends to the Mini SHALDAG's design.

Similarly, the SHALDAG MK V has played a vital role in securing larger bodies of water, such as lakes and wide rivers. Its larger size, combined with its ability to maintain speeds over 40 knots, allows the MK V to provide an extended range of operational support, from EEZ defense to swift interdictions. By leveraging the proven capabilities of the MK V, Israel Shipyards has ensured that the

Mini SHALDAG can deliver similar performance in smaller, more confined environments like rivers and lakes.

These vessels highlight Israel Shipyards' dedication to customizing maritime defense solutions for specific operational contexts. While the SHALDAG MK II and MK V have succeeded in global naval operations, the Mini SHALDAG applies this expertise to the pressing needs of inland waterways.

### **Addressing River and Lake Security: Mini SHALDAG's Custom-Made Solution**

Rivers and lakes are becoming increasingly strategic battlegrounds in the fight against illegal activities, environmental damage, terror, and piracy. Israel Shipyards recognized that a smaller, more agile vessel was needed to secure these vital inland waters, leading to the development of the Mini SHALDAG. This new vessel is designed to meet the unique challenges of these waterways, providing a custom-made solution for riverine and lake defense.

For example, in South America, the Amazon River is a critical transportation route and a hotspot for smuggling and terror activities. The Mini SHALDAG's speed, maneuverability, and advanced weaponry allow it to intercept fast-moving threats along the winding river passages. Similarly, in Africa, where lake systems such as Lake Tanganyika are essential to local economies, the Mini SHALDAG's ability to operate in shallow waters

ensures that vital resources and ecosystems are protected from illegal exploitation.

The Mini SHALDAG's versatility extends beyond its military capabilities. With the option to equip non-lethal weapons and advanced surveillance systems, the vessel is also well-suited for law enforcement, humanitarian missions, and environmental protection. This adaptability is crucial in ensuring the Mini SHALDAG can meet a broad spectrum of operational needs.

### The Future of River and Lake Security

As the global security landscape continues to evolve, the need for specialized vessels capable of operating in riverine and lake environments will only grow. With its legacy of maritime innovation, Israel Shipyards has positioned the Mini SHALDAG as the ultimate solution for these challenges. By drawing on the proven success of the SHALDAG MK II and MK V, the Mini SHALDAG offers a tailored solution that addresses the specific security needs of inland waterways.

Moreover, Israel Shipyards' commitment to providing custom-made solutions extends beyond just the design and production of the Mini SHALDAG. The company offers comprehensive training programs to ensure local navies and law enforcement personnel can fully leverage the vessel's capabilities. This emphasis on knowledge transfer and capacity building further cements Israel Shipyards as a partner in long-term maritime security.



### Conclusion: A New Era in Inland Water Defense

The Mini SHALDAG represents a new era in river and lake defense, offering nations a compact yet highly capable vessel to meet the unique challenges of inland water security. Backed by the legacy of the SHALDAG MK II and MK V, the Mini SHALDAG demonstrates Israel Shipyards' ongoing commitment to providing custom-made solutions that address evolving threats.

Whether securing the Amazon River, protecting Africa's lakes, or safeguarding critical waterways worldwide, the Mini SHALDAG is poised to become a cornerstone of maritime defense for years.

© Israel Shipyards-SHALDAG MK V





### **Nigeria's Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ogalla Participation in the 14th Trans-Regional Sea power Symposium in Venice, Italy**

On 8 October 2024, the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ogalla delivered a paper titled **"PRESERVING THE UNDERWATER THE SECURE & SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE UNDERWATER"**.

In his speech, the CNS highlighted the African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) which recognizes that the underwater holds enormous resources crucial for advancing Africa's Blue Economy. He also stated that Nigeria's maritime Area of Interest encompasses Nigeria's internal waters, territorial sea, the Exclusive Economic Zone and the entire Gulf of Guinea. The area has enormous underwater resources and serves as a medium of Sea-Borne trade which accounts for over 85% of Nigeria's trade volume while having varieties of aquatic species and a reservoir of non-living natural resources including over 36 billion barrels of crude oil and 182 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves.

Furthermore, the CNS stated that in line with the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, about 60% of the oceans are outside the National jurisdiction which implies shared responsibility for preserving and securing the underwater. The interconnectivity of the sea also compels collectivism in global strategies for enhanced maritime security to preserve underwater resources for safe and sustainable use. This is why AIMS sought to foster increased wealth creation from Africa's seas by developing a thriving blue economy in an environmentally stable manner, while preserving underwater resources in the secure environment. Similarly, the vision of the Economic community of West African states (ECOWAS) Integrated Maritime Strategy is a prosperous, safe and peaceful ECOWAS maritime domain that will allow preservation of underwater resources for environmentally sustainable development and national prosperity.

During the 14th Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium in Venice, Italy, Nigeria's Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ogalla held bilateral talks with the American Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Admiral Lisa Franchetti on Tuesday 8 October 2024.



© 2024 Nigerian Navy - Nigeria's Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ogalla held bilateral talks with the American Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Admiral Lisa Franchetti on Tuesday 8 October 2024, during the 14th Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium in Venice, Italy.

During their meeting the two naval leaders discussed their enduring partnership, how U.S Navy ship visits and collaboration demonstrate shared commitment to security and stability in the region, and opportunities to increase maritime cooperation and counter piracy efforts in the Gulf of Guinea. Admiral Franchetti thanked Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ogalla for Nigeria's leadership in promoting maritime cooperation during exercises such as OBANGAME Express. The United States and Nigeria remain strong partners committed to fostering regional stability and enhancing collective security efforts.

Lastly, the CNS had Bilateral discussions with the Chief of the Italian Navy, Admiral Enrico Credendino.



### Naval Systems Development and Integration: Atech showcases its solutions at Euronaval

#### Brazilian company brings high technology to the leading global sector fair

Atech, an Embraer Group Company, will showcase its portfolio of defense and security solutions, as well as demonstrate its expertise in the development and integration of complex naval systems at Euronaval 2024. The fair, considered one of the most significant in the segment worldwide, will take place from November 4 to 7 in Paris Nord, Villepinte (France).

Atech is one of the few Brazilian companies present at Euronaval. It is recognized and certified as a Strategic Defense Company (EED) by the Brazilian Ministry of Defense, with over 40 years of experience developing technologies for various national and international projects.

These technologies are well-established in strategic projects of Brazilian Navy, making Atech an important player for new partnerships both within and outside the country. The high-technology solutions are employed in major Brazilian Navy programs, such as the PFCT (Tamandaré Class Frigate Program), LABGENE (Nuclear Power Generation Laboratory), and the H225M/H-XBR helicopters (Naval Tactical Data Management System).

In all the programs mentioned, Atech plays a key role by providing innovative solutions for the development and integration of complex naval systems. For the frigates, that includes the CMS (Combat Management System) and the IPMS (Integrated Platform Management System). In the PFCT, Atech participates in the noble mission of protecting Blue Amazon resources, a 5.7 million km<sup>2</sup> area of waters under Brazilian jurisdiction. The company is part of the SPC (Special Purpose Company) "Águas Azuis," which also includes thyssenkrupp Marine Systems and Embraer Defense & Security. This program involves the production of modern ships with high technological complexity and significant combat power. The first frigate was launched in August of this year and is expected to be delivered to the Brazilian Navy in 2025.

Atech is present with its solutions in South America, India and North Africa. The Brazilian company has well-established expertise to expand further and support other nations in coastal and border surveillance and vessel traffic management solutions, among other types of projects, through cooperation initiatives.

Constantly pursuing innovation, Atech has been developing and implementing Artificial Intelligence (AI) concepts and tools across various sectors. These include Simulation Systems (replace human pilots in simulator controls, interacting via voice); Air Traffic Flow Management Systems (using machine learning for 4D trajectory prediction); Naval Wargame Systems; Cybersecurity Systems; and other initiatives. Atech's approach to AI is focused on meeting client needs, making its solutions more effective and precise.

"With a visionary and forward-looking approach, we create innovative solutions that ensure the successful execution of Atech's projects. Our strong presence in both domestic and international markets reinforces the trust in the quality and expertise of the services we provide," says Rodrigo Pérsico, CEO of Atech.



# Tamandaré Class Frigates

Combat and Platform  
Systems





At Euronaval, Atech will be at booth i42. The organization expects 500 exhibitors from at least 30 countries. The estimated audience is 25,000 people, and 150 official delegations have been invited to attend the event.

**Visit us at booth at  
EURONAVAL Booth i42**

### About Atech

Atech is a member of the Embraer Group widely recognized as Brazil's Defense System House and Air Traffic Management Solution Provider. Driven by a commitment to innovation and cutting-edge technology, Atech stands out for its unmatched expertise in critical systems engineering and situational awareness technologies. Operating to the highest international standards, Atech develops advanced solutions across multiple domains, including command and control

systems, instrumentation and control, embedded systems, air traffic management and simulators. The Arkhe Integrated Systems portfolio exemplifies Atech's contributions to defense and public safety, offering comprehensive solutions such as command and control systems, intelligence and data analysis tools, incident management platforms, drone control and jamming systems, and robust cybersecurity technologies.

**More information at [www.atech.com.br](http://www.atech.com.br)**



**Brazilian command and control center**

### NAF PARTNERS NASBIT AND ELTA TO STRENGTHEN CYBER DEFENSE CAPABILITIES



© NAF

The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) is set to enhance its cyber defense capabilities through a strategic partnership with NASBIT Systems and Services Ltd and ELTA Systems Ltd, a subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). This collaboration was discussed during a visit on 27 August 2024 by teams from NASBIT and ELTA Systems, led by NASBIT's Managing Director and CEO, Air Vice Marshal (Dr) Aliyu Bello (Rtd), to the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar, at NAF Headquarters in Abuja. AVM Bello (Rtd) highlighted ELTA Systems' expertise in delivering cutting-edge solutions across sectors such as homeland security, unmanned aerial systems, Intelligence Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance (ISTAR). He noted that these capabilities are vital to NAF's ongoing innovation efforts and commended the CAS for the achievements recorded under his leadership. He emphasized that the partnership aims to advance Nigeria's defense capabilities, ensuring that the NAF remains at the forefront of technology and security in a digital world.

In his response, Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar expressed enthusiasm for the partnership, emphasizing NAF's commitment to maintaining a robust defense posture in the evolving domain of cyber warfare. He acknowledged the collaboration with NASBIT and ELTA Systems as a significant opportunity to enhance NAF's capabilities in critical areas, leveraging innovative solutions to address the challenges of modern warfare. The delegation from NASBIT Systems included AVM Nazif Aliyu (Rtd), AVM Sule Lawal (Rtd), and Mr Sanusi Bello, along with ELTA Systems representatives Mr Dror Shrem and Mr Lior Frumkez.

### ASELSAN RANKED 42ND IN DEFENSE NEWS TOP 100

ASELSAN, an African Armed Forces supplier company, has made a significant leap in the annual "TOP 100 Defence Companies List" of Defense News climbing to 42nd position in this year, up from 47th in the last year's list with its defense revenue of nearly 3 billion USD with almost 30% growth in 2023. The company's total turnover reached 3.2 billion USD, where defense accounts for 94% of the total. The company's remarkable progress is attributed to its development of cutting-edge solutions and export performance. In 2023, ASELSAN secured new export contracts worth 601 million USD, expanding its global footprint to 88 countries and total backlog of the company to 11.1 billion USD. With a strategic focus on export-oriented growth in frame of its aselsaneXt2030 vision, ASELSAN aims to be among the Top 30 in the Defense News Top 100 by 2030.

### UNITED STATES DELIVERS ADVANCED RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT TO TUNISIAN AIR FORCE



© US Embassy in Tunisia

On 9 September 2024, the U.S. government donated four Textron C-208EX aircraft to the Tunisian Air Force in a ceremony at Al Aouina Air Base in Tunis. High-ranking officials from both Tunisia and the United States attended the event, including Tunisian Minister of Defense Khaled Sehili, U.S. Ambassador Joey Hood, Chief of Staff of the Tunisian Air Force General Mohammed Hajem, and Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of the U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Ricky Mills.

The delivery of these four aircraft, valued at a total of 165 million Tunisian dinars (\$54 million), including long-term training and maintenance, represents a significant enhancement to the Tunisian Air Force's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.

These versatile aircraft are equipped for a variety of missions, including border security, counter-terrorism operations, response to natural disasters. The donation of these aircraft illustrates the U.S. Government's commitment to increasing the capacity and capability of the Tunisian Air Force to pursue shared objectives. Ambassador Hood remarked, "This investment underscores the enduring strategic partnership between our two nations, as well as our mutual commitment to promoting security and stability within the region."

The U.S. and Tunisia have enjoyed strong diplomatic relations for over 200 years. Since 2011, the U.S. Government has invested over \$1 billion in security cooperation with Tunisia, including more than \$160 million in 2023. This support has enabled Tunisia to participate in UN Peacekeeping Operations, engage in humanitarian missions, and become an exporter of security by serving as a training hub for partners across the continent.





### United States Donates GHC 78 Million Mobile Field Hospital to Ghana Armed Forces



© US Embassy in Ghana - Ambassador Virginia Palmer handing over a U.S. Government donated field hospital to Ghana's Defense Minister Dominic Nitiwul, on behalf of the Ghana Armed Forces on September 5, 2024 in Tamale.

The Office of Security Cooperation, United States Department of Defence, has handed over the Level II Plus Hospital to the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) on Thursday 5 September 2024 at Nyesie, Tamale.

The 60-bed mobile field hospital is equipped with an intensive care unit, two surgical operating rooms, an x-ray machine, a laboratory, a morgue, an emergency room, and two power generators, providing full medical and operational support for up to 60 patients. This mobile hospital combines humanitarian with military assistance, providing essential services and protection to Ghana's civilian population, as well as the Ghana Armed Forces. In 2021 and 2022, the United States supplied Ghana with a 30-bed field hospital equipped with negative pressure isolation facilities and a five-bed ICU/supply facility and a U.N. Level 1 urgent care facility valued at over GhC28 million or \$1.8 million U.S. dollars.

At the handing-over ceremony, the Minister for Defence and Guest of Honour, Hon Dominic Nitiwul, on behalf of the Government and GAF, expressed gratitude to the US government and the US Ambassador to Ghana for the generous donation. He stated that this contribution would enhance the delivery of quality healthcare to personnel of 6 Garrison and the civilian population in the region.

The Minister added that the facility would also strengthen the health sector's capability to achieve universal health coverage in the region, with the aim of becoming a major trauma hospital in the Northern Sector.

The US Ambassador to Ghana, Her Excellency Virginia Palmer, expressed pride in the long-standing security partnership between the United States and Ghana. She noted that the US Government is committed to supporting Ghana through regional security cooperation, long-term development investments, and the protection of democratic institutions.

The Deputy Chief of Staff (Medical), Major General Raymond Ewusi, also expressed sincere gratitude to the US government, the Ambassador, and the team for their tireless efforts towards this donation. He emphasised the strong bond and shared values of service, sacrifice, and compassion between the two nations.

### SUCCESSFUL HANDOVER OF SENTINELS TO BENIN



AutoGyro GmbH

AutoGyro GmbH, the world-leading gyroplane manufacturer from Germany, handed over three Cavalon Sentinels and two Calidus Sentinels fully equipped with a unique package of law enforcement systems and camera-ready to the Benin Government. The first batch of aircraft are already deployed in Cotonou, from where these AutoGyro aircraft will support border monitoring and aerial surveillance in rural and urban areas. AutoGyro also provided a turn-key package of pilot training, with the first four Beninese pilots already exploring the capabilities of these aircraft in service. The training program extends into 2025 to cope with the number of pilots and skills required, including night and mountain operations.

### GHANA ARMED FORCES WELCOMES UNMISS GHANBATT 11

The Ghana Armed Forces has officially welcomed the troops of Ghana Battalion 11 on 9 October 2024, following the successful completion of their mission with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. The Mission Accomplishment Parade, held at the 5 Infantry Battalion Parade Square in Burma Camp, marked the end of the Unit's duty tour. On behalf of the Military High Command, the Reviewing Officer, Deputy Chief Staff Officer, Operations and Training at the Army Headquarters (DCSO OPS&TRG), Brigadier General Kwaku Dankwa Hagan, congratulated the battalion for a successful mission and urged them to take pride in their achievements. Brigadier General Hagan acknowledged the battalion's exceptional operational performance, including their humanitarian support, which strengthened their relationship with the Defence Forces of South Sudan. He also informed the troops of upcoming internal operations and encouraged them to remain prepared for future assignments, while cautioning against misconduct during deployments.



### U.S. and Egyptian Naval Forces Conducts Inaugural Eagle Defender Exercise in Red Sea



USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) sails with the Egyptian navy during exercise Eagle Defender 24 in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo)

U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard forces joined the Egyptian Naval Force in executing Exercise Eagle Defender in Safaga, Egypt, and in the Red Sea, September 8-20. For the first time, U.S. and Egyptian naval forces integrated unmanned systems in a bilateral maritime exercise to uphold the international rules-based order while ensuring maritime security in the Red Sea. Scenarios included: explosive ordnance disposal, mine countermeasures, harbor defense, and the integration of unmanned systems. The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) sailed alongside Egyptian Navy ships during the exercise while several other units also participated. This is one of many exercises the U.S. military participates in every year with partner nations in the Middle East to enhance partnerships and strengthen interoperability. The combined exercise is designed to broaden levels of cooperation, support long-term regional security, and enhance Egyptian Naval Force interoperability with U.S. naval forces.

### Newly appointed German Defence Attaché to Ghana, Lieutenant Colonel Gerstenecker, pays a courtesy call CDS

Head of the Department for Bilateral Military Cooperation at the German Ministry of Defence, Colonel Holger Leukert has introduced the newly appointed German Defence Attaché to Ghana, Lieutenant Colonel Gerstenecker, to the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) on Wednesday 9 October 2024. The Chief of the Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Issah Adam Yakubu, received the delegation on behalf of the CDS Lieutenant General Thomas Oppong-Peprah. The visit aimed to strengthen bilateral cooperation and enhance security collaboration between the two institutions.



### The Role of the Nigerian Navy in Combating Maritime Crimes and Advancing Nigeria's Blue Economy"



© Nigerian Navy

On Friday 30 August 2024, the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ogalla delivered a lecture titled "The Role of the Nigerian Navy in Combating Maritime Crimes and Advancing Nigeria's Blue Economy" at the Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies (IPSS) University of Ibadan. The lecture was the 3rd Distinguished Personality Lecture hosted by the Institute in recognition of alumni who had distinguished themselves in their various careers. During the lecture, the CNS highlighted the recent and numerous successes of the Nigerian Navy (NN) in combating maritime crimes which directly influence the positive potential for exploration of Nigeria's Blue Economy. He also reminded the audience that the NN had kept Nigerian waters piracy free since 2021 thus improving the economic outlook of maritime shipping to and from Nigeria. Finally, he requested speedy prosecution and disposition of maritime crimes because the Judicial delays are challenging the progress of arresting maritime offenders. The lecture was well received and engendered a robust interactive session. The atmosphere was both academic and convivial with the University faculty excited to receive one of their products in the person of the CNS.

Subsequently, the CNS was inducted as a Distinguished Fellow of the Institute. Additionally, retired senior officers of the NN domiciled in Ibadan made a presentation to the CNS. In return, the CNS thanked both the University and the retired senior officers for their recognition and presence which had clothed him with humility. He encouraged all to keep working together for the good of the nation.

### Africa is increasingly becoming a target for drone exports

Africa is increasingly becoming a target for drone exports from countries like Turkey, China, and Israel. With growing military interest in UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), nations such as Turkey are leveraging drone sales not just for profit but to establish long-term political ties and influence on the continent. Like China and Israel, its two main competitors in the African combat drone market, Turkey is benefiting from the growing appetite of the continent's militaries for UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles).



### GHANA NAVY RECEIVES TWO BOATS, STORAGE FACILITY FROM US

The Ghana Navy has significantly enhanced its maritime capabilities with the donation of two Defender-class boats and a state-of-the-art storage facility from the United States (US).

The donation, valued at over 1.5 million US dollars, aims to strengthen the Ghana Navy's ability to combat maritime threats and ensure regional security.

At a handing-over ceremony, held at the Naval Training Command (NAVTRAC), Nutekpor on Friday 27 September 2024, the US Ambassador to Ghana, Her Excellency (HE) Virginia E Palmer said, the US takes immense pride in the long-standing partnership with Ghana, a partnership she described as rooted in shared commitments to security, democracy and prosperity. "This ceremony is more than just a handover, it symbolizes our joint efforts to ensure the Ghana Navy is well-equipped to safeguard its waters and sustain these critical assets," she stated.

HE Virginia Palmer added that the donation is the latest embodiment of the tangible benefits of a robust US-Ghana security partnership. She commended Ghana's role as a peace exporter and regional leader, with nearly 2,800 military and police personnel deployed across eight United Nations peacekeeping missions. As Ghana and the US approach presidential elections, the Ambassador called for collaboration to ensure the elections are peaceful, free from intimidation and reflect of the people's will.

The Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Rear Admiral Issah Adam Yakubu in his address, paid glowing tribute to his forebears for conceiving the idea of establishing NAVTRAC and the progressive developments that have taken place throughout their tenures.

The CNS revealed that the donations are part of the numerous equipment and facilities the US Government under the trilateral agreement, promised to donate to the Ghana Navy to enhance her Special Boat Squadron's capabilities and operational reach. He added that within the past two years, the US government has donated four 38-foot boats with maintenance spares as well as communication sets, Visit Board Search and Seizure equipment, weapons and ammunition among others.

He extended his appreciation and that of the Minister for Defence, Hon Dominic Nitiwul to the Government of the US for their trust and confidence in the Ghana Navy's ability to provide leadership within the region in the pursuit of safe and secure seas.

The Flag Officer Commanding NAVTRAC, Commodore Solomon Asiedu-Larbi conveyed the deepest gratitude of the command to the US Navy Seabees from the U.S. Navy's 22nd Naval Construction Regiment and Marines from the Hershel Woody Williams Marine Detachment

Engineer Platoon for their high sense of professionalism and the cordial relationship that transpired with the command throughout the construction of the storage facility.

The two Defender-class Boats were named "GNS ISSAH YAKUBU", after the current CNS and "GNS DAVID HANSEN", after the first CNS in recognition of their contributions to maritime security.

© Ghana Navy



### Zambia Air Force celebrates introducing new helicopters into service

On 25 March 2024, Zambia Air Force (ZAF) welcomed two newly delivered Enstrom 480B turbine helicopters into its fleet. Enstrom representatives joined ZAF personnel for an induction ceremony in Lusaka, featuring speeches, food, photos, and traditional entertainment.

“The induction ceremony was amazing!” said Enstrom Senior Tech Representative Bayard duPont. “It included amazing dance choreography, courtesy of the Air Power Cultural Dance Troupe, and that was truly special.”

Enstrom representatives finalized the sale in February 2023 with the Zambia Ministry of Defence. South Africa Safomar Aviation Group assisted in managing logistics, specifications, and helicopter configuration. Safomar operates a regional MRO and a flight school, helping maintain Enstrom helicopters throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

ZAF Commander, Lieutenant General Oscar Msitu Nyoni, said the Air Force will use these helicopters for training and utility missions.

Enstrom CCO Dennis Martin said, “We are very excited to be partnering with the Zambian Air Force. Beyond just typical uses like flight training or utility operations, these versatile helicopters will be used for missions like anti-poaching and public safety. They are going to be productive assets for the Zambian people.”

The 480B, with its high-level performance and quick reconfiguration options, will offer the ZAF a level of efficiency and flexibility that other light helicopters cannot. Each helicopter is equipped with the latest in Garmin avionics and glass panels. One helicopter will feature a full glass panel, the other, an analog hybrid, allowing student pilots to gain experience with both.

As part of the contract, Enstrom hosted Zambian mechanics in October 2023 for a week of maintenance training. “They took their studies very seriously,” said Martin. “We made it clear, they will always have our support, but given the distance between Menominee and Lusaka, we believed it essential for local Zambians to understand all the subtle nuances of an Enstrom’s inner workings without having to rely on experts seven time zones away.”

On 11 September 2023, the United States announced an \$80 million (1.6 billion Kwacha) grant to Zambia that will supply four Bell 412EP helicopters to the Zambia Air Force with three years of service, parts, and training for the helicopters. During a press conference, Zambia Air Force Major General Oscar Nyoni thanked the U.S. government for the donation, noting that this grant will enable the Zambia Air Force to better support the domestic needs of Zambia, regional security, and UN peacekeeping missions abroad.

Commander of U.S. Africa Command General Michael Langley made the announcement at the Africa Senior Enlisted Leaders Conference (ASELC), which the United States and Zambia co-hosted from September 10-13. This annual conference convened senior enlisted leaders from approximately 30 African countries to discuss mutual challenges and opportunities, including crisis response, rule of law, protecting natural resources, addressing instability, and strengthening security cooperation. Zambia is the first African nation to host the ASELC.

© Enstrom





During his two-day visit to Zambia, General Langley met with Zambian Minister of Defence Ambrose Lufuma to discuss strengthening the U.S.-Zambia security partnership. He also met members of the Zambia Defence Force (ZDF) to discuss women, peace, and security efforts in the Zambian military and to learn how the ZDF has been so successful in integrating women into all ranks and career fields. Additionally, General Langley visited a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) “Stop Gender-Based Violence” program at Munali Boys Secondary School to learn how the project is empowering boys and men to be champions against gender-based violence using the “Coaching Boys into Men” activity.

The United States and Zambia share the goal of promoting peace and stability. We commend the Zambian military for its outstanding commitment to UN peacekeeping missions, as well as serving as a global model for integrating women into its military.



© U.S. and Zambian military officers in front of one of the helicopters donated to Zambia by the U.S. government.

The United States looks forward to partnering with Zambia to strengthen bilateral security cooperation that benefits the Zambia Defence Force, the Zambian people, and the region.

## Egypt: The Newest C-130J-30 Operator

The worldwide Super Hercules fleet is growing with the news that Egypt will acquire two C-130J-30 tactical airlifters. This announcement was shared by the Egyptian Armed Forces on Sept. 5 at the Egypt International Air Show in El Alamein.

Lockheed Martin will deliver two C-130J-30s to the Egyptian Air Force through a Foreign Military Sale with the U.S. Air Force. Egypt is the 23rd nation to join the worldwide Super Hercules operating community. As the most advanced and proven tactical airlifter in the world, the C-130J-30 delivers enhanced capability, additional versatility and increased power to EAF crews.

Egypt operates one of the world's largest C-130H fleets, which has a significant presence in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region, supporting military, peacekeeping,

humanitarian and natural disaster response mission requirements. Egypt joins seven MENA operators that have chosen the C-130J as a preferred medium-sized tactical airlifter and tanker.

"Egypt is a distinguished C-130 operator, flying its Hercules fleet to support some of the most challenging mission requirements," said Rod McLean, vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin's Air Mobility & Maritime Missions line of business. "With these new C-130J-30s, the Egyptian Air Force's tactical airlift presence will deliver unmatched capabilities and aligned force amplification to serve Egypt, North Africa and the world."

Lockheed Martin teammates welcomed an Egyptian Air Force C-130H crew to the Super Hercules fleet during the Egypt International Airshow. Lockheed Martin teammates (far right) welcomed an Egyptian Air Force C-130H crew to the Super Hercules fleet during the Egypt International Airshow, where it was announced that Egypt will acquire two C-130J-30s.



© Lockheed Martin teammates (far right) welcomed an Egyptian Air Force C-130H crew to the Super Hercules fleet during the Egypt International Airshow, where it was announced that Egypt will acquire two C-130J-30s.



### Langley, the commander of U.S. Africa Command Emphasizes Partnership with African Nations

By Jim Garamone, DOD News |

The U.S. strategy on the continent of Africa is firmly rooted in a whole-of-government approach that emphasizes listening to allies and partners, said Marine Corps Gen. Michael Langley in a recent interview.

Paratroopers leap from a military aircraft over Morocco. Langley, the commander of U.S. Africa Command, said that while there is a security aspect to almost every challenge in Africa, anything his command does has to be in concert with diplomats and development experts at the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

It must also be done in consultation with nations on the continent. "They will decide how to address their challenges, and their way ahead to be able to leverage their opportunities," the general said. "Those efforts must be African-led, and we'll see what we can do to help them achieve shared objectives and shared goals for stability."

Africa is a huge and diverse continent, and strategy must be flexible to embrace all the differences. The countries of West Africa each saw the use of a whole-of-government approach, but each with different nuances, Langley said.

They worked "to address some of the instabilities in some previously ungoverned regions, and working with civil society, [and] working with the local governance to be able to increase growth in the economy, reducing violence or conflict, or building resilience to changing weather patterns," he said.

A number of the West African countries saw that with violent extremist organizations, the most enduring solution would be interdicting them from happening in the first place, the general said.

An example comes from the nomadic Fulani people who — for centuries — have moved herds to pastures. But with the burgeoning populations of Africa, this movement stokes conflict with the farmers who own the land. "The Fulani herds are stressed, but also the farmers crop yields are reduced," Langley said. "Climate change plays a part in this, and scarcity breeds conflict.

"USAID and the development programs in these local communities came up with a solution of vaccinating herds and trying new methods of farming that are resistant to some of the effects of climate change," he continued. "Those are positive programs that reduce conflict. That's the solution. That's the intervention."

The challenges in Africa are complex and may require years to address. Patience is often in short supply, and this may contribute to pressures on governments. "That's what you have around these coup d'etat countries," the general said.

© Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kathleen LaCorte // Soldiers conduct combat casualty care training during a multi-day exercise at Cooperative Security Location, Kismayo, Somalia, July 21, 2024.





The militaries in those countries saw the military age youth in these regions "taking and accepting this false ideology of Islamic extremists and becoming jihadists and causing instability and preying upon the rest of the populations in these areas," Langley said. In countries where there have been recent coup d'etats, the militaries thought the sitting government was not doing enough, so they assumed the governmental role.

"Those are the ill effects of those layered threats that galvanizes instability across time and exacerbates the growth of those on the other side of these organizations that stokes even more instability across that region," the general said. "We have seen modicums of success right in the Lake Chad region."

In that area, USAID helped build some stabilization programs, which allowed the governments to go into those areas and stop the recruitment into jihadist organizations, Langley said. The governments also funded education programs and provided economic infusions that helped stabilize the region. "How do we integrate our activities and investments together with the lead of that country, to be able to do stabilization operations?" the general said.

He is seeing this process work in Somalia. In Somalia, the leaders have the will to build a credible stabilization force, Langley said. African nations are helping train the Somali military and they are achieving results." The people have started believing in the federal government of Somalia and their local governance," he said." This reinforces success. There's that proof of principle and proof of concepts that the people believe in."

So, after the liberation of a particular Somali area from al-Shabaab, the government works quickly to bring in services for the local governance and the local leadership being accountable for stabilization efforts, the general said. "That model works, but it does take time to get full buy-in by the community," he said.

People everywhere are impatient, and people want to see this process work faster. "When it's not working fast enough, that's an opportunity for malign activities through the information space," he said. Misinformation and disinformation are problems, Langley said.

"It's an opportunity for malign actors to scapegoat," he said. "These actors stoke instability and disbelief in the sitting government." "You have to have security in order for the economy to improve," Langley said. "That's a conundrum. So, it's a continuous investment in helping these countries lead their way out of it."

Countries like Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin and even Ghana have to deal with this. "They all call it something different, but they are all together," said Langley. "But each one, it's subtly different too. It's not all about kinetics. It's not all about building up your own military. These countries understand that."

And again, this takes time. "Part of the attraction of a country like China or Russia is the fact that they can do something quick," Langley said. He also added that they can bring in a lot of money and Russian mercenaries.

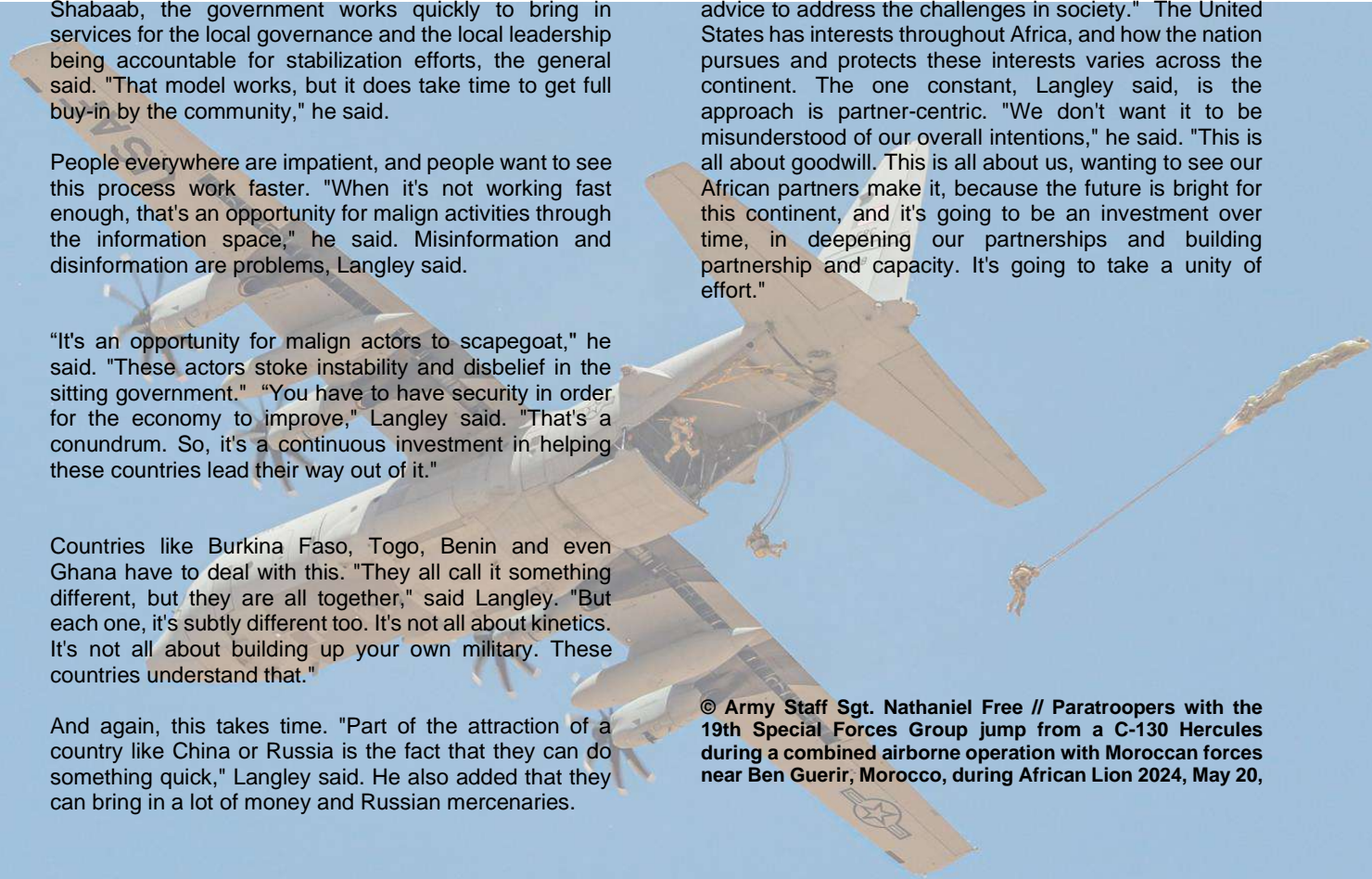
Across Africa, China and Russia are "exploitative where possible and coercive as necessary," the general said.

They have proved this in Central Africa Republic, Libya, Mali and Burkina Faso. They have so far been unsuccessful in replicating the U.S. security construct offered to countries that want to build institutional capacity in their militaries. "[China and Russia] want to replicate what we do in international military education and training," he said. "They want to replicate what we do as far as our security cooperation initiatives, whether it be materials or equipment, or how they try to do advise and assist."

Langley recently participated in the first African chiefs of defense conference on the continent of Africa in Botswana. It was a chance for almost 40 chiefs of defense "to share ideas, address challenges and talk about possibilities of working together, especially in regional constructs," Langley said. "What we did is encouraged everyone to lay out the challenges across the African continent on the table, ... and they started putting some things out on the table that were kind of uncomfortable, but they still wanted to talk about it and start solution sets on their own with input from other regions. They were discussing their regional challenges, or even their country challenges, and getting them to address the issues together for an African solution."

"That exchange of ideas [in] Botswana was very beneficial for everybody there," he continued. "It was not just terrorism — we did talk about disinformation. We talked protecting networks and other domains. We talked about the opportunity to go forward that would enhance their security and ... as chiefs of defense, how they fold into civilian-led governments and give their best military advice to address the challenges in society." The United States has interests throughout Africa, and how the nation pursues and protects these interests varies across the continent. The one constant, Langley said, is the approach is partner-centric. "We don't want it to be misunderstood of our overall intentions," he said. "This is all about goodwill. This is all about us, wanting to see our African partners make it, because the future is bright for this continent, and it's going to be an investment over time, in deepening our partnerships and building partnership and capacity. It's going to take a unity of effort."

© Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Free // Paratroopers with the 19th Special Forces Group jump from a C-130 Hercules during a combined airborne operation with Moroccan forces near Ben Guerir, Morocco, during African Lion 2024, May 20,



## Egypt to acquire additional Stinger Missiles

On 24 September 2024, the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Egypt of Stinger Missiles and related elements of logistics and program support for an estimated cost of \$740 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

The Government of Egypt has requested to buy seven hundred twenty (720) Stinger missiles for vehicle-based use on existing Avenger systems, including twenty (20) Product Verification Flight Test (PVFT) munitions. The following non-MDE items will also be included: spare and repair parts; testing equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost is \$740 million.

This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic growth in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Egypt's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing Egypt's ability to defend itself against regional malign actors and improve interoperability with systems operated by U.S. forces and other regional security partners. Egypt's continued investment in its defensive capabilities is crucial to protecting its borders, transportation infrastructure, and its residents. Egypt will have no difficulty absorbing Stinger missiles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region. The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.



© Photo credit: US Army

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Egypt. There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

The Stinger® missile is a lightweight, self-contained air defense system that can be rapidly deployed by ground troops. Combat proven in four major conflicts, the weapon has more than 270 fixed- and rotary-wing intercepts to its credit. It's deployed in 19 nations and with all four U.S. military services.

### RMP variant

The Stinger-Reprogrammable Microprocessor, or RMP, missile has a greater than 90 percent success rate in reliability and training tests. Its supersonic speed, agility and a highly accurate guidance and control system give the weapon an operational edge against cruise missiles and all classes of aircraft. The system is also used on Apache helicopters for air-to-air engagements.

### Counter-UAS

In 2019, the U.S. Army began retrofitting its Stinger missiles with proximity fuzes, which allow missiles to destroy unmanned airborne systems with direct hits or by detonating near them. A pair of Stinger missiles intercepted two drones using proximity fuzes during an Army test in 2017. The modified missile offers ground troops better defense against small, agile threats.





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## Aero Vodochody returns to Africa

AERO Vodochody AEROSPACE, a leading Czech aircraft manufacturer, is targeting the African continent with its new Aero L-39NG aircraft. Aero has been operating in Africa for a long time and has extensive experience there. After the successful delivery of the first six Aero L-39NG aircraft to the Vietnamese Air Force and the upcoming delivery of the first units to the domestic company LOM PRAHA, Aero is now focusing on African customers. The company is actively participating in the prestigious Egypt Airshow with the L-39NG, where it intends to present its modern and versatile aircraft to a wide international audience.

Viktor Sotona, Chairman of the Board and President of AERO Vodochody AEROSPACE, explained the reasons for this move: "Egypt is a strategically located country with an important role in regional security and defense. We have historical ties with Egypt going back to the 1960s when Egypt was a user of several generations of our aircraft. Today's growing demand for modern trainer aircraft and Egypt's ambition to remain a leader in the region make our continued cooperation ideal."

The L-39NG, the modern successor to the legendary L-39 Albatros, is an ideal solution for Egypt and other African countries to modernize their training programs. With its versatility and cost-effectiveness, the L-39NG has quickly become an attractive option for countries seeking modern trainer aircraft. "The L-39NG is the only advanced trainer that can offer both Western and Eastern avionics platforms, allowing for easy transition between these systems," said Filip Kulštrunk, Executive Vice President, of Aero.

The L-39NG fulfills several key roles. Primarily serving as an advanced trainer, it is also capable of light combat roles against ground and air targets, including close air support. With its flexibility and ability to carry a variety of weapon systems, including guided and unguided bombs, missiles, and machine guns, the L-39NG is able to respond effectively to a wide range of operational needs. In addition, the aircraft is capable of operating for up to four hours, making it ideal for ISR (intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) missions such as border and coastal patrols and also aerobatics.

Aero Vodochody plans to work closely with the Egyptian Air Force to implement pilot training programs. The company offers L-39NG aircraft as the backbone of Egypt's training programs and seeks to support the development of a robust and modernized training program for Egyptian pilots at minimum costs. "We are also considering the possibility of establishing a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) center directly in Egypt. This center would not only support the L-39NG fleet but also enhance local capabilities and provide faster and more efficient services to our customers in the region," added Viktor Sotona.

Aero Vodochody offers solutions tailored to the specific operational and environmental needs of Egypt and other African countries, including avionics customization and munitions compatibility. The L-39NG is an ITAR (International Traffic in Arms Regulations) unencumbered aircraft, allowing for unrestricted global operations and a simplified aircraft procurement process. The aircraft also supports both Eastern and Western weapon systems, facilitating the transition from Eastern to Western weapons.

Filip Kulštrunk emphasizes that the L-39NG perfectly meets Egypt's requirements for a modern and cost-effective trainer aircraft. The L-39NG platform enables the transition to modern fourth and fifth-generation fighters such as the F-16, MiG-29, or Rafale. The L-39NG offers a cutting-edge hybrid training solution that reduces overall training time and cost. The L-39NG stands out for its combination of advanced technology, cost efficiency, and operational versatility. Aero Vodochody is ready to support users at the local level and, based on previous experience, offer the local industry to build a hub and MRO base.

AERO Vodochody AEROSPACE thus sees Egypt and the African continent as an important opportunity for further development and strengthening of cooperation in this area, where it has historical experience and long-standing cooperation. In doing so, the L-39NG is a key product that combines modern technology with historically proven reliability to offer unparalleled value to its users.

© Aero Vodochody





## Israel Shipyards Presents at EURONAVAL 2024 Unveiling the Future of River and Lake Defense



Israel Shipyards, a global leader in maritime defense solutions, proudly announces its participation in the EURONAVAL 2024 exhibition. Held in Paris from November 4-7, the event will spotlight the company's commitment to maritime innovation, strategic collaborations, and solutions that address evolving defense challenges on rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.

### Introducing the Mini SHALDAG: A New Era in Riverine Defense

At EURONAVAL 2024, Israel Shipyards will introduce the newest member of its renowned SHALDAG Fast Patrol Craft (FPC) family—the **Mini SHALDAG**. Specifically designed to meet the unique demands of river and lake environments in addition to “brown water” challenges, the Mini SHALDAG combines speed, agility, and advanced firepower, offering a custom-made solution for inland waterway security. Whether tasked with high-speed interception, reconnaissance, or law enforcement, the Mini SHALDAG excels in tight, shallow waters where larger vessels often cannot operate effectively.

### Showcasing Leading Maritime Solutions

At EURONAVAL 2024, Israel Shipyards will present three leading vessel families, all operationally proven, mission-ready, and in service with naval and law enforcement forces worldwide:

The Renowned **SHALDAG Fast Patrol Craft (FPC) Family**: Including **SHALDAG MK V** and **SHALDAG MK II**, these vessels are proven solutions for intercepting seaborne terrorism, combating illegal activities, enforcing coastal law, and protecting Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).

**The Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Family** Features the OPV S-45 and OPV S-62, cost-effective vessels designed for open sea patrolling, surveillance operations, and protecting strategic assets.

**The Corvette Family**: Including the **S-80**, based on the “Reshef” class vessels, equipped with cutting-edge capabilities designed to meet the demands of future combat scenarios.

Furthermore, Israel Shipyards will highlight its **Transfer of Technology (ToT)** programs, which enable partner nations to build and maintain their vessels, ensuring self-reliance and long-term operational readiness.

Join us to explore opportunities for collaboration and learn more about Israel Shipyards' cutting-edge technologies and proven maritime defense solutions. Our experts will be available to discuss solutions designed to address evolving threats on inland waterways and coastal regions.

**Visit Israel Shipyards  
at Booth F59**

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### Otokar wins multi-million deal in Romania for Cobra II armoured vehicles

According to the Turkish media the Turkish defense manufacturer Otokar, has officially confirmed its sale of 1,059 COBRA II armored vehicles to Romania, valued at over \$934 million. This contract, stemming from a recent tender win, includes the production and delivery of the vehicles, along with integrated logistics support.

The deal entails significant industrial cooperation, with the first 278 vehicles to be produced in Turkey, while the remaining units will be assembled in Romania. This initiative aims to bolster Romania's defense capabilities amidst rising regional security concerns, particularly influenced by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The COBRA II, a modernized 4x4 armored personnel carrier, is designed for versatility in combat. It features a powerful diesel engine, advanced chassis control, and various armament options, including machine guns and anti-tank systems. The vehicle's operational history showcases its effectiveness across different terrains and conflict scenarios, making it a valuable asset for military operations.

Exhibited at BSDA, COBRA II is actively used in more than 20 end-users in the world. It offers high level of protection, payload capacity, and large internal volume. In addition to its superior mobility, COBRA II provides high protection against ballistic, mine, and IED threats. With high power to weight ratio COBRA II delivers high performance. The combat proven vehicle is operated by many armies in different parts of the world on toughest terrain and climate conditions.

Being suitable for the integration of wide range of weapon and mission equipment options, COBRA II is successfully in service for border protection as well as internal security and peacekeeping missions in different users. The modular structure of COBRA II also makes the vehicle a flexible platform to be used as a personnel carrier, anti-tank weapons platform, Reconnaissance & Surveillance, CBRN reconnaissance vehicle, command control vehicle, recovery and medical evacuation.

COBRA II 4x4 Tactical Wheeled Armored Vehicle is a modular platform with superior technical and tactical characteristics. Besides outstanding mobility, COBRA II provides higher ballistic and mine protection, increased payload capacity and internal volume.

COBRA II offers high level of protection and payload capacity and large internal volume. In addition to superior mobility, COBRA II also comes with high protection against ballistic, mine and IED threats. Delivering high performance in the toughest terrain and climate conditions, COBRA II is optionally available with an amphibious version, adapting perfectly to different missions as needed.

With its wide range of weapon integration and mission equipment options COBRA II can serve various types of missions including urban and peacekeeping missions. The vehicle provides a remarkable performance in a wide range of challenging terrains and climatic conditions.

Romania's Minister of National Defense, Angel Tîlvăr, underscored that this acquisition aligns with the country's military modernization efforts and its commitment to enhancing local defense production capabilities. The move reflects a strategic approach to strengthen national security while fostering domestic industry.

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## Otokar Aims to Increase Its Exports in Africa

Türkiye's global land systems manufacturer Otokar participates in Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) on September 18-22, in City of Tshwane, South Africa. During the five-day exhibition, Otokar will display a scaled model of its tactical wheeled armored vehicle COBRA II from its broad range of armored platforms. Visitors of Otokar stand will have chance to have detailed information about Otokar's superior capabilities on land systems and also its own design and production of armored military vehicles family along with its turret systems.

Stating that Otokar is a listed NATO and United Nations supplier, Sedef Vehbi, Otokar Military Cluster Head, said, "Today, more than 33 thousand Otokar military vehicles are actively in service in more than 40 countries and more than 60 end users in different climates and geographies around the world. Currently, Otokar vehicles are actively used in five continents, including Africa. We stand out in global defense industry with our ability to respond quickly to ever-changing requirements and needs of our users"

Underlining COBRA II's successful performance in Africa, Vehbi continued, "Our vehicles are widely used by peacekeepers in the African continent. Otokar COBRA II is a combat proven vehicle with its exceptional performance suitable for conventional and asymmetric warfare conditions. COBRA II is actively used in more than 20 end-users worldwide. We are indeed proud of our vehicles' success with several United Nations and African Union peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions. We aim to increase our exports to Africa in the coming years"

### COBRA II

COBRA II offers high level of protection, payload capacity, and large internal volume. In addition to its superior mobility, COBRA II provides high protection against ballistic, mine, and IED threats. With high power to weight ratio COBRA II delivers high performance. The combat proven vehicle is operated by many armies in different parts of the world on toughest terrain and climate conditions.

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Otokar was established in 1963 at a time when industrialization and modernization initiatives were being launched in Turkey. Operating at its plant with 552,000 sqm of production area in Arifiye, Sakarya with over 3,500 employees, Otokar offers solutions tailored to the needs of its customers using its own technology, design and applications. Otokar designs and produces various types of 4x4, 6x6, 8x8 tactical wheeled armored vehicles, tracked armored vehicles, unmanned vehicles and turret systems in the defence industry. Otokar, which is among the military vehicle suppliers of NATO and the United Nations, has more than 33 thousand military vehicles in the inventory of more than 60 users in more than 40 friendly and allied countries.

© Otokar





## The Armed Forces of Senegal

The Armed Forces of Senegal consists of about 17,000 personnel in the army, air force, navy, and gendarmerie. The Senegal military force receives most of its training, equipment, and support from France and the United States. Germany also provides support but on a smaller scale.

Military noninterference in political affairs has contributed to Senegal's stability since independence. Senegal has participated in many international and regional peacekeeping missions. Most recently, in 2000, Senegal sent a battalion to the Democratic Republic of Congo to participate in MONUC, the United Nations peacekeeping mission.

Senegal also agreed to deploy a United States-trained battalion to Sierra Leone to participate in UNAMSIL, another UN peacekeeping mission. The training operation was designated Operation Focus Relief and involved U.S. Army Special Forces from 3rd Special Forces Group training a number of West African battalions, including Nigerian ones. The Army currently consists of two divisions, the Operations Division and the Logistic Division.

The Gendarmerie is a military force which provides policing and security. It includes a Territorial Gendarmerie with general policing duties, and a Mobile Gendarmerie for special tasks and serious public disorder.

The navy is responsible for securing Senegal's Atlantic coastline which is strategically located on the extreme west of the African continent. The navy was created in 1961.

The Navy is divided into three branches known as "groupings":

1. The Operational Naval Grouping which is divided to:
  - The High Seas Patrol Boats
  - The Coastal Surveillance
  - The Fast Coastal Boats
  - The Transport Group
2. The Naval Support Grouping is responsible for ports, repairs, training, and logistics.
3. The Fluvial-Maritime Surveillance Grouping.

The air forces orientated towards providing support for ground forces and resembles an army aviation corp. It has no air-to-air combat aircraft but possesses Mil Mi-24 gunship helicopters, transport helicopters and reconnaissance helicopters.

### ■ Defence Procurements

In 2019, The Ministry of Armed Forces of Senegal and the PIRIOU group have just signed a contract to purchase three offshore patrol vessels dedicated to the Senegalese navy.

The OPV 58 S (Offshore Patrol Vessel) is a 62m versatile, with high endurance and rededicated to missions such as surveillance and law enforcement at sea.





### Main characteristics

Length overall: 62.2m

Breadth: 9.5m

Max. draft: 2.9m

Speed: 21 knots

Autonomy: 25 days, 4,500 NM @ 12 knots

Hull: superstructure steel / aluminum

Accommodation: 48

Including crew: 24

Including special personnel: 24

The weapons suite of the OPV 58 S appears to consist of:

- A 76mm main gun by Leonardo
- 4x anti-ship missiles placed forward
- 2x 12.7mm manned machine guns on the bridge wings
- 2x 20mm remote weapon stations at the back of the bridge
- Surface to air system



- NEXEYA supplied its LYNCEA PATROL product to OCEA, the company building the LE FOULADOU patrol boat (OPV) for the Senegalese navy. The system on board this 58m patrol vessel, makes it possible to group together the different on-board sensors (RADAR, AIS, ADS-B, GPS and EO) with a 30mm cannon and also to share tactical data with the commando units deployed on the 2 fast, semirigid RHIBs thanks to the LYNCEA MOBILE tablet.
- In 2018 Senegal acquired Thales helicopter training systems to be used for the training of the Senegalese Armed Forces Mi-35 attack helicopter and Mi-17 transport helicopter aircrews for collective and tactical operations leveraging Thales's expertise in training and simulation.

- In 2018, The Senegalese gendarmerie has awarded a contract to Turkey's private defence company Nurol Makina to supply Ejder Yalcin 4x4 armoured vehicles and Ejder Toma riot control vehicles.
- In addition, Arquus Bastion armoured personnel carriers (APCs) have been seen during the military parade marking Senegal's 59th anniversary of independence on 4 April 2019, considered as being new acquisitions.
- The U.S. military recently has donated 23 American High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), commonly known as the Humvee to the Senegalese Armed Forces. (Photo U.S. Embassy)
- U.S. Africa Command delivered a three-week long vehicle maintenance and recovery course in Dakar, in which U.S. Army advisors from Fort Benning in March 2020 provided training on recovering the M36 Puma armored personnel carrier -- was designed to prepare the Senegalese Armed Forces as they support United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.





### Armed Forces of Liberia



**Brig Gen Geraldine J. George (Rtd)**  
**Minister of National Defense**  
**Republic of Liberia**

The mission of the Ministry of Defense (MOD) is to provide the military forces needed to ensure the protection of Liberia's national interest and territorial integrity, and to protect the citizens and residents within the borders of Liberia from internal and external aggression and in extremis, to respond to natural disaster.

The Minister of National Defense is the principal administrator of the Ministry. He is assisted by two deputy ministers, administration and operations, respectively. The Chief of Staff is the one who is responsible for all units of the Armed Forces of Liberia. There are three assistant ministers within the Ministry of National Defense. They are Assistant Ministers for Public Affairs, Coast Guard Affairs and Civil Works.

The Vision of the MOD is to ensure preparedness of a viable and sustainable Armed Forces of Liberia that can address the threats posed to Liberia's national security.

In order to ensure that the national security interests and values of Liberia are preserved, the Ministry of National Defense objectives will be guided by the following principles:

- Safeguarding of the integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Liberia's land, sea and airspace and the resources therein; showing similar respect for other countries, especially in the sub-region;
- Promotion of global peace and security through bilateral and multilateral cooperation and institutions to meet the trans-national security threats and challenges requiring international collaboration;
- Full participation of Liberia's new armed forces in international peace and security arrangements including, the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF), African Union Standby Force (ASF), UN Peacekeeping and others to contribute to global peace and security;

The aims of the Ministry of national Defense are:

- Defeat our Adversaries, Deter War, and Defend the Nation
- Sustain a Ready Force to Meet Mission Needs
- Strengthen and Enhance the Health and Effectiveness of the Total Workforce
- Reform and Reshape the Defense Institution

The Ministry of National Defense objectives are:

- Build capacity for counterterrorism efforts and retain robust capabilities for direct action
- Improve the effectiveness of the Ministry's support to civil authorities
- Remain alert regarding national vulnerabilities to established and new military threats posed by internal and external agents
- Maintain readiness to deliver, position and sustain forces from any point of origin to any point of employment
- Ensure that service members separating from Active Duty are prepared for the transition to civilian life
- Nurture workforce initiatives that ensure employees are trained, engaged and benefiting from a quality work life
- Maintain a professional military and civilian workforce shaped for today's and tomorrow's needs
- Achieve efficiencies and effectiveness to redirect resources to direct support of combat, combat support, and combat service support elements of the MOD
- Ensure improved financial processes, controls and information through audit



**Peace keeping unit returns home**





**Maj/ Gen. Prince C. Johnson, III.**  
Chief of Staff  
Armed Forces of Liberia

### **MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE/ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA SECURES OVER TWENTY MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS WORTH OF LOGISTICS EQUIPMENT FROM THE AFRICAN UNION**

On 7 October 2024, the Ministry of National Defense / Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) announced the securing of a donation over \$20 million United States Dollars' worth of essential logistics equipment from the African Union (AU). This major contribution marks a critical step in boosting the AFL's operational capacity, reinforcing both Liberia's national security, its regional commitments to peace and stability in West Africa and the world at large.

This achievement is the result of long-term diplomatic and military efforts, beginning in 2018 when Brigadier General Davidson F. Forleh, now Chief of Staff of the AFL, served as Liberia's Defense Attaché and also chairman, Military Staff Committee on the Peace and Security Council at the AU. His persistent advocacy for logistical support culminated in the AFL being selected for this substantial assistance. The equipment, originally donated to the AU by the Chinese Government, is stored at the AU Continental Logistics Base in Douala, Cameroon.

At the 38th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of States in February 2024, held in Addis Ababa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honorable Madam Sara Beysolow Nyanti, representing His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, President and Commander-in-Chief of the AFL, was informed about the AU's intent to supply Liberia with both lethal and non-lethal equipment stored at the Continental Logistics Base in Douala, Cameroon. This commitment was further solidified during the 16th Ordinary Session of the AU's Specialized Technical Committee on Defense, Safety, and Security, held in June 2024. During session, the Chief of Staff, had a side meeting with Dr. Sarjo Bah, Director of Conflict Management of the Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security of the AU Commission and follow up on the logistical equipment and capacity building for the AFL was made.

Today, it is pleasing to announce that the African Union has approved Liberia's request and the AFL is set to receive the logistics package, which includes a wide range of military-grade assets valued at Twenty Million Six Hundred One Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-nine Dollars and Forty-six Cents (US \$20,601,529.46). Among these are cargo trucks, military protective assault vehicles, armored personnel carriers, combat jeeps, bulldozers, cranes, fuel tanks, fire truck, along with mounted weapon systems, spare parts and other materiel. This equipment will greatly enhance the AFL's ability to perform troops' transportation, field operations, disaster relief, and international peacekeeping missions, thus advancing Liberia's contributions to regional security.

Brigadier General Forleh expressed deep gratitude for the AU's support, stating, "this vital contribution will greatly improve AFL's logistical capabilities, enabling us to better fulfill our mandate of protecting Liberia's sovereignty, contributing to international peacekeeping efforts, and responding effectively to national emergencies."

The Honorable Minister of National Defense, Brigadier General Geraldine J. George (Retired), commended the efforts behind this achievement, stating, "this is a milestone for the AFL, made possible by the strong commitment of our government and the African Union. I want to especially thank His Excellency the President and Commander-in-Chief, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, for their pivotal roles in ensuring the AFL receives this vital equipment, which will bolster our national defense and readiness."

AFL representatives, led by Brigadier General Forleh and accompanied by officials from the Ministry of National Defense, are expected to travel to Cameroon to inspect the equipment. The Government of Liberia is responsible to ship the equipment to Liberia. The AFL anticipates the delivery of the logistics package to Liberia within two months, where it will be strategically distributed across AFL Bases to enhance readiness and operational efficiency.

This significant partnership among the AFL, the African Union, and the Government of Liberia reaffirms Liberia's role in regional security. The AFL remains committed to strengthening its capabilities through ongoing collaboration with international and regional partners.





### **OSHKOSH TO BUILD HET A1 TRACTORS FOR MOROCCO**

On 11 September 2024 Oshkosh Defense, LLC, an Oshkosh Corporation business, announced today that it received a direct commercial sales (DCS) order to supply Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) A1 tractors and 635NL trailers to Optimum Vehicle Logistics, LLC (Milwaukee, WI). The HET A1 systems will be fielded to the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces. The HET A1 tractor provides line haul, local haul, and maintenance evacuation of the heaviest mission-critical equipment including tanks, armored vehicles, and recovery vehicles.

“We are pleased to work with Optimum Vehicle Logistics, our exclusive distributor in the Kingdom of Morocco, to supply the Kingdom with additional heavy tactical wheeled vehicles in support of its M1 Abrams modernization efforts,” said Pat Williams, chief programs officer for Oshkosh Defense. “This award reinforces our dedication to partnering with our international partners to strengthen their capabilities and improve interoperability.” Delivery of the HET A1 systems is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2025.

The Oshkosh Defense Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) A1 is purposely designed to provide rapid movement of mission-critical equipment, including tanks, armored vehicles, and recovery vehicles. The U.S. Army has trusted production, technology enhancements and sustainment of the HET to Oshkosh Defense since 1976. Proven worldwide, the HET A1 and Global HET navigate the most challenging terrains to ensure equipment reaches its destination when and where it is needed.

The HET is designed to transport heavy and oversized equipment, boasting a high payload capacity that allows it to move a wide range of mission-critical equipment.

With superior engineering and advanced suspension systems, the HET offers exceptional maneuverability, enabling it to navigate rough terrains and challenging landscapes with ease.

#### HET A1 Mobility Features:

- 700 hp Caterpillar® C18 engine
- Allison® 4800SP transmission
- Single-speed Oshkosh 30000 Series transfer case
- Two 55,000 lbs. (24,948 kg) winches

Oshkosh Defense is known for its commitment to producing rugged and dependable military vehicles, and the HET is no exception, ensuring consistent performance in demanding conditions. Equipped with advanced safety features, such as Long-Term Armor Strategy (LTAS) attachments, the HET ensures maximum protection for personnel and equipment during operations.

#### HET Protection Features:

- 6-person, air-conditioned cab
- LTAS-compliant

Oshkosh Defense is a global leader in the design, production and sustainment of best-in-class military vehicles, technology solutions and mobility systems. Oshkosh develops and applies emerging technologies that advance safety and mission success. Setting the industry standard for sustaining fleet readiness, Oshkosh ensures every solution is supported worldwide throughout its entire life cycle.

Based in Milwaukee, WI, Optimum Vehicle Logistics (OVL) is an authorized distributor of U.S.-manufactured wheeled and tracked vehicles, logistics support equipment as well as spare parts for armed forces worldwide. With over a decade of trusted partnership with Oshkosh Defense, OVL is well-positioned to deliver high-value service to its customers.

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REACH THE GOAL"**



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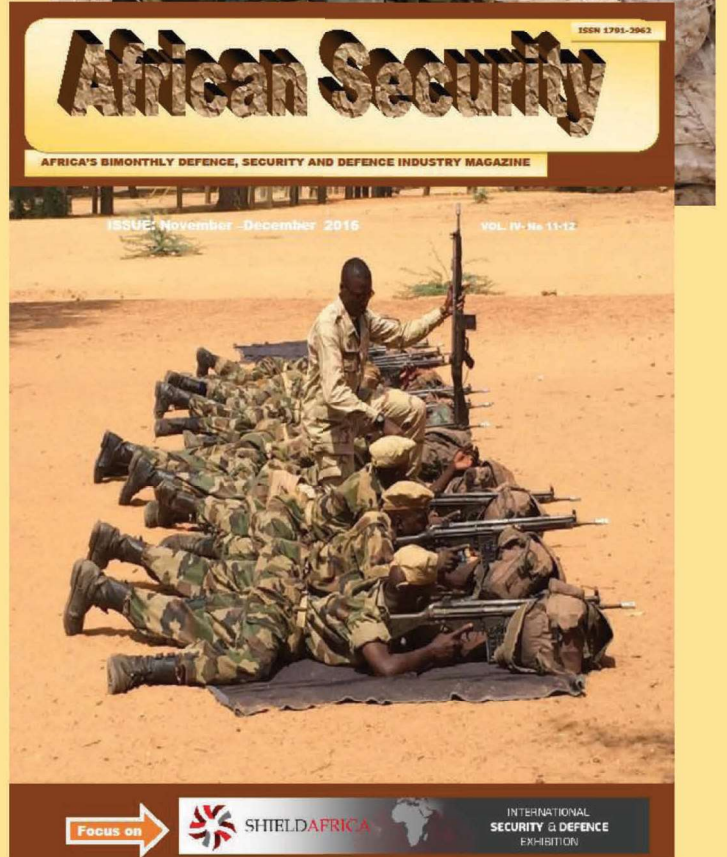
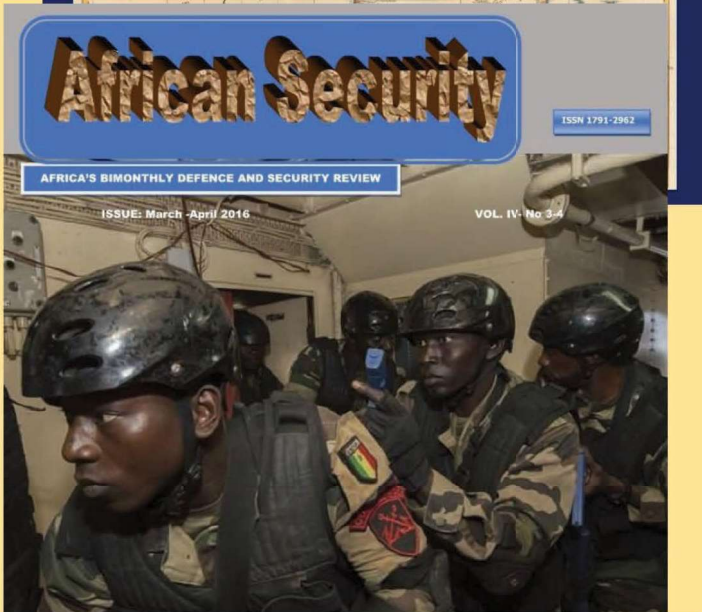
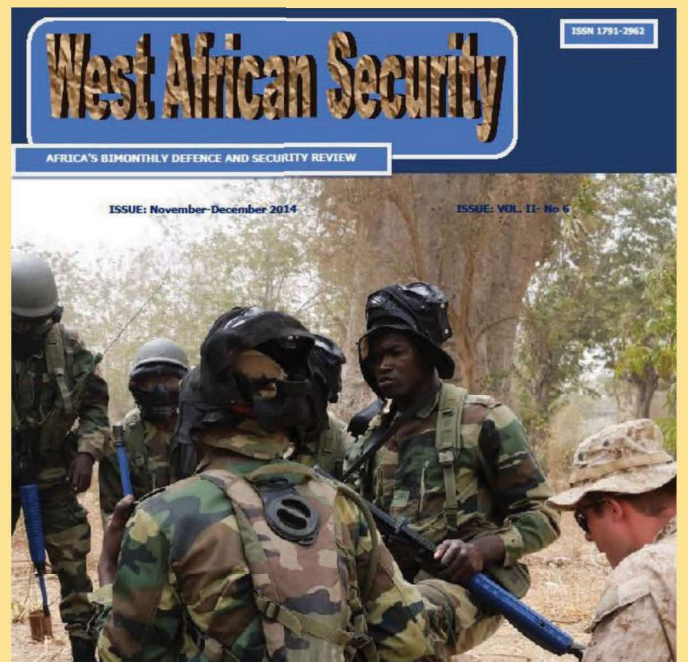
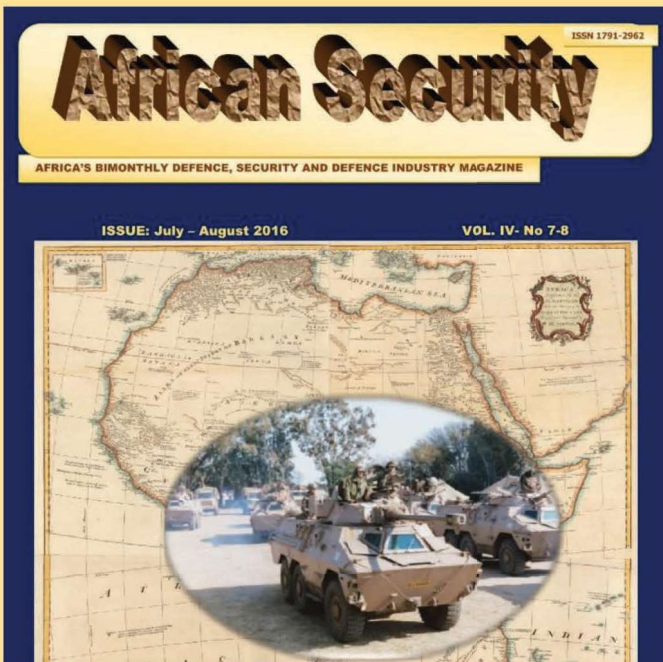
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ISSN 1791-2962

# African Security

AFRICA'S BIMONTHLY DEFENCE, DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND SECURITY MAGAZINE



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