

# Control Arms India Update

A Monthly Newsletter from Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI)

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*Control Arms Foundation of India, formerly known as India Working Group on Arms Control was established on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2004 in New Delhi. The Foundation functions at an all India level and consists of noted academics, lawyers, journalists, former military personnel and human rights activists. The aim of the Foundation is to address issues of control arms, small arms light weapons proliferation, women and disarmament and conducting research on India's defence policies and military expenditure. The Foundation aspires to create a movement in the sub-continent where defence and military issues no longer remains a department where the public has no say.*

*The Control Arms India Update brings news, views and analyses on issues pertaining to SALWIEDS - meaning small arms, light weapons and IEDS and will also cover issues on gun running, human rights violations due to arms by both state and non-state actors, arms transfers, military expenditure and defence policies pertaining to Indian sub-continent. This is the third issue of the newsletter. The first was launched in the Week of Action on 12th June 2005*

## **United Nations Small Arms Light Weapons Prepcom, 9 – 20 January 2006**

Since 1995, special attention has been devoted to the issue of Small Arms and Light Weapons, which have been the weapons of choice in recent conflicts on the UN's agenda. From 9-20 July 2001, the United Nations held a Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The Conference produced a Programme of Action with recommendations at the national, regional and global levels. The First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the PoA was held from 7 to 11 July 2003 in New York and the second Biennial Meeting of States was held in 2005.

The Preparatory Committee (Prepcom) in preparation of the 2006 Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects will take place in New York from 9 to 20 January 2006 at the United Nations.

Source : <http://disarmament.un.org>

## **Lockheed Martin eyes new opportunities in Indian arms market**

Armaments major Lockheed Martin, in the race to supply 126 combat jets to India, is eyeing several other opportunities to sell aircraft and hardware worth billions of dollars to the country's armed forces. The US firm will bid for an Indian Navy proposal to acquire some 30 submarine hunter helicopters, the Indian Air Force (IAF)'s plan to buy 80 medium-lift helicopters and an Indian Army programme to acquire tactical missiles.

Lockheed Martin is also pitching its C-130J Hercules, one of the most successful military transport aircraft, to the IAF and will be responsible for maintenance and product support if the Indian Navy goes ahead with a plan to acquire used P3C Orion reconnaissance aircraft from the US Navy. The firm also makes the missiles used in the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile defence system that the US has offered to India. The chief of the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency flew to India in September to make a classified presentation on the system to the country's military top brass.

Caplinger, who heads Lockheed Martin's new Indian office in New Delhi admitted the burgeoning defence ties between the US and India had opened up new doors for American armament firms.

Lockheed Martin is one of four military aviation majors short-listed for India's programme to buy 126 frontline jets, and Caplinger believes the F-16 Fighting Falcon jets offered by his firm stand a good chance even though they are pitted against France's Mirage 2000 and Russia's MiG-29 - both already in service with the IAF.

The fourth jet in the race is Sweden's JAS-39 Gripen. The US government has also unilaterally offered the F-18 jet made by Boeing for the programme. "The Indian government's request for proposals should be issued before the end of the year and we are anxious to get on and compete. We have a team standing by and the US government is preparing as well," Caplinger said.

"The IAF has the Mirage and MiG-29 in its inventory and likes them but the F-16 represents the latest and greatest that the US has to offer. The platform may be old but the technology, weapon systems and cockpit are the latest." When it is concluded, the 126-jet purchase will be one of the largest defence buys by India, which has spent billions of dollars over the past few years to acquire a refurbished Russian aircraft carrier, six French Scorpene submarines, six Il-78 midair refuellers from Uzbekistan and three Phalcon spy planes from Israel.

The US government has been aggressively pitching the F-16 and F-18 to India, and the US Air Force has sent an F-16 squadron from Japan for the Cope India 05 wargame currently under way with the IAF at a base in West Bengal. During the exercise at Kalaikunda airbase, IAF pilots will fly in the F-16s to get a feel of the aircraft. Noting that the F-16 was in service with 24 countries, Caplinger said Lockheed Martin would have "no problems" with offering co-production of the jets in India. "We are trying to be pro-active about this deal and have already visited Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to look at their (production) facilities," he said.

By choosing the F-16, Caplinger said, India would also get "on the path" to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter currently being developed by Lockheed Martin. Lockheed Martin has tied up with Sikorsky to offer the MH-60 helicopter for an Indian Navy programme to replace its ageing Sea King submarine hunter helicopters. Lockheed Martin is also offering its shoulder-fired anti-armour Javelin missile to the Indian Army and patrol vessels and helicopters to India's Coast Guard, Caplinger said.

Source : New Delhi, November 12, 2005 (IANS)

### **Govt to ascertain details of 155mm/52 caliber gun: Pranab**

The government has decided to ascertain the details of 155mm/52 calibre wheeled Self Propelled (SP) guns in the global market and Request for Information (RFI) has been issued for the same, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said. No definite timeframe has been fixed for procurement of the gun, Mukherjee said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

Replying to another question, he said the US has agreed in principle to sell a Landing Platform Dock (LPD) to India, which could provide Indian Navy enhanced amphibious capability, besides being deployed for disaster relief operations. It can also function as a "command and control platform" during mishaps at sea like offshore oil installation fires and maritime air accidents, he said and added that no LPD of this capability has so far been constructed in India.

The defence minister also informed the Upper House that contracts for the indigenous construction of six French Scorpene class submarines at Mazagaon Dock Limited, Mumbai were signed on 6th October, 2005.

Space: There were 25 cases of violation of Indian airspace since December, 2004, Mukherjee informed the House and said out of these 20 were from Pakistan, three from Bangladesh, while two were from Nepal.

Helicopters: Minister of State for Defence Production B K Handique said that Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has been trial evaluated by the Chilean Authorities.

HAL has supplied two ALH to the Royal Nepalese Army in 2004, he said.

Source : New Delhi, December 21, 2005 (PTI)

### **India worried over China, Pak arms supply to Nepal**

Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee acknowledged that the reported supply of arms and training to Kathmandu by China and Pakistan was a concern and that the government was addressing it through its missions in both countries.

“A problem is there. We have taken it up diplomatically. Let us see how it can be resolved,” Mukherjee said this evening, when asked about the UPA government’s opinion on Beijing’s reported supply of arms and ammunition and Islamabad’s offer to King Gyanendra of training of personnel.

After a virtual embargo of arms by New Delhi, there has been furious military-diplomatic activity among Nepal, China and Pakistan. After an October visit to Beijing where he is understood to have closed a deal for certain weapon systems from China, Nepal’s Army chief General Pyar Jung Thapa returned from Islamabad on Saturday where it is learnt that he was offered comprehensive training capsules for RNA soldiers. Today, he hosted a four-member military delegation from China.

Source : [www.defenceindia.com](http://www.defenceindia.com)

### **India, Russia have agreement on military cooperation**

India and Russia have an agreement on a long term programme of military and technical cooperation for the period upto the year 2010, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee informed the Rajya Sabha .The agreement signed on December 21, 1998 provides an institutional mechanism for discussion on defence cooperation with the Russian Federation in the form of "India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation," he said in a written reply. Co-chaired by Mukherjee, the fifth meeting of the commission was held in Russia on November 15-16, 2005, which reviewed the progress of the ongoing bilateral defence cooperation and discussed various issues of mutual interest in the areas of defence and security. Both sides had expressed satisfaction at the ongoing level of defence exchanges and cooperation between the two countries, he said.

Source : New Delhi, December 21, 2005 (PTI)

### **Kalaikunda gets ready for another air exercise**

THE American F-16s will be back at Kalaikunda Air Force base in West Midnapore district, about 200 km from Kolkata, for the second time in less than two months. It’s time for yet another joint air exercise, this time between India and Singapore. The Singapore Air Force will be bringing in eight F-16s and 130 personnel for the exercise at Kalaikunda. The exercise, to begin from January 3, will continue for 18 days, according to Wg Cdr R K Das, the official spokesman for the Ministry of Defence in Kolkata.

A similar exercise between India and the United States Air Force (USAF) at Kalaikunda in November had triggered a massive protest rally from the CPI(M) and other Left parties. Nearly 60,000 people had assembled outside the air base to lodge their protest against such joint military exercise with US forces.

The Left leaders had then complained that the Centre was compromising India’s sovereignty and security concerns. Their cadres also burnt effigies of American President George Bush.

Like the Indo-US exercise, the Indo-Singapore air exercise is also going to be an elaborate one. A similar exercise between the two forces was held in Gwalior, this one is the second in the series. In 2004, the IAF had deployed the Surya Kiran formation aerobatic team and the helicopter display team, Sarang, at Singapore during their annual air show.

The defence officials said that such exercises are aimed at “fostering and developing” better relations with friendly foreign countries through fruitful interaction in operational, technical and administrative practices”.

The Indian Air Force has already increased the level of cooperation with Air Forces of friendly countries like USA, France, South Africa, UK, China and Russia, the officials claimed.

The infrastructure at the Air Force station at Kalaikunda has been upgraded to host such bilateral exercises with foreign Air Forces, the defence official said. Singapore has a versatile Air Force and operates modern aircraft and weapon system, it was stated.

Source : Kolkata, December 23, 2005 (Express News Service)

### **Weapon Detecting Radar Developed**

India has developed a surveillance central acquisition radar and is also working on a weapon locating radar according to officials of electronics and radar development establishment (LRDE) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). Director of Bangalore-based LRDE, a DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) lab, S Varadarajan said LRDE has developed the Multibeam 3D Surveillance central acquisition radar at the group level for Akash missile system.

The weapon locating radar based on the phased array Rajendra radar technology and airborne maritime patrol radar for naval advanced light helicopter, is in advanced stage of joint development with BEL, a defence public sector undertaking. "It (weapon locating radar) is in the final stage of evaluation. Once evaluation is complete, we will deliver it to armed forces," chairman and managing director of BEL, Y Gopala Rao, told reporters on the sidelines of the international radar symposium India-2005 being held here.

Varadarajan said other important radar systems under development include 3D medium range surveillance radar for ship-borne and ground-based air defence and transportable low-level lightweight radars for air defence. "A major programme has been launched in the area of airborne surveillance radar for early warning and control," he told the symposium.

Source : New Delhi, December 04, 2005, (The Telegraph)

### **Govt wings at odds on Brahmos**

A joint Indo-Russian venture to export the Brahmos cruise missile to "friendly countries" has run into diplomatic hurdles and the defence ministry has now urged the ministry of external affairs to add ballast to its effort.

The Brahmos — named after the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers — is being inducted into the Indian Navy, seven years after the joint venture was formed. Last month, defence minister Pranab Mukherjee was told in Moscow that Russia was working on fitting the missiles to some of its warships.

Russia and India have identified countries in Latin America and Africa to whom the missile can be sold, said Sivathanu Pillai, chief controller of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and head of the Brahmos programme.

"I cannot disclose the names. But the list has been drawn up carefully after studying the diplomatic considerations of both India and Russia. We were told in Moscow by (Russian defence minister) Sergei Ivanov's team that they were very interested in exporting it. The export consideration has been part of the Brahmos programme since the agreement was reached in 1998," Pillai said.

Pillai has himself been at the head of efforts to promote the missile. But the response of Indian missions abroad was not encouraging. On a visit to a Southeast Asian nation, for instance, the Indian ambassador had to be coaxed to attend the DRDO's stall at an exhibition when a military delegation from the host nation was scheduled to visit.

Pillai and his team are promoting it as the only missile in its class. The Brahmos is a supersonic cruise missile. Launched from a ship, it flies at 2 mach (twice the speed of sound, making it supersonic) with a conventional warhead weighing up to 200 kg. It is said to have a range of 290 km, a little less than the Missile Technology Control Regime ceiling of 300 km. It can be fired from multiple platforms (ship, land, submarine and air).

The Indian naval ship, INS Rajput, has been equipped with the missile. The Russians and Indians are now working out the techniques to arm Amur (diesel) submarines with it. The Indian Army will induct a road and rail mobile version by 2007 and a short air force version will arm the Sukhoi 30 fighter aircraft by that year.

But despite the defence establishment's belief that the Brahmos can be a starting point for the Indian defence industry to probe the global military market, the foreign ministry has been less than encouraging so far. Delhi does not want to be seen as a proliferator of weapons, goes the argument.

But Pillai countered by saying India has an impeccable record and it has its own laws against arms proliferation. Besides, the Brahmos is a corporatised entity that enjoys more flexibility than Indian ordnance factories.

DRDO officials are now visiting international military hardware exhibitions equipped with slide shows and audio-visual presentations to demonstrate the missile's efficacy.

Source : [www.defenceindia.com](http://www.defenceindia.com)

### **For Gorshkov, Navy pilots head to US for training**

By the time Russian-built aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov arrives in 2008, the Navy will have a contingent of 32 pilots, trained in specialised deck-based fighter operations at the US Navy training command in Pensacola, Florida. With the first batch of four Lieutenant-rank officers already under training there, the next is scheduled to go in March.

The selection of venue for training to operate Russian-built MiG-29K fighters off the Gorshkov may seem strange but the government was compelled to accept the Pentagon's offer because Russia has no facilities for intermediate deck-based flight training. The US Navy training school in Pensacola trains Naval F/A-18 Super Hornet pilots.

The first batch of four at Pensacola, led by training coordinator and seasoned Harrier pilot, Cdr Rohit Gupta, is currently training on the T-45 Goshawk (a variant of the British Hawk AJT) single engine trainer after completing a capsule on the T-34 Turbomenter propeller trainer.

They are scheduled to begin actual deck-qualifying from January. All eight batches of four pilots each will spend six months at the training command in US.

After this, each batch of four pilots will be sent to Russia for training on the MiG-29K, 16 of which would be operated off the Gorshkov. The MiG-29K is likely to be an option for the Air Defence Ship (ADS) being built in Kochi as well, alongside the Naval version of the LCA Tejas. Operating conventional jets off carriers will be a first for the Navy—it has so far used only Harrier jump-jets.

Source : Delhi, December 23, 2005, (Indian Express)

### **Netcentric Warfare**

India will have to be "selective" in inducting futuristic network-centric warfare capabilities as transition to this cutting-edge technology is proving to be a "forbiddingly high-cost affair", according to Naval chief Admiral Arun Prakash.

Asserting that the country had no other option but to induct this frontline technology, Prakash said: "We will have to pick and choose on what technology we need at what time."

Delivering the valedictory address at the first-ever tri-Service joint seminar on the ways for the Indian Armed Forces to turn network-centric, the Naval chief said though earlier estimates had put the cost at around Rs 300-400 crore, the Navy had already spent Rs 1,000 crore.

"Now, the new estimates put the figure at Rs 6,000-7,000 crore to make the Armed Forces network centric, which is steep. So we will have to be very selective in inducting network-centric system," he said.

"There can be no transplantation. We must take as much or as little of networking as we can absorb, suited to our own peculiar conditions and to our genius," he said.

Describing future wars as short, intense and technology-driven conflicts, the Naval chief said network-centric technology would give the country's armed forces a decisive edge in such confrontations.

He said network-centric operations would impact all levels of war -- strategic, operational and tactical. "So network-centric operations will necessitate changes in not only the weaponry but also in the way we train our personnel."

Source : New Delhi, December 21, 2005 (PTI)

### **Hi-tech vigil along borders**

After an in-depth analysis over the past 18 months, Delhi has agreed to import a hi-tech sensor system from the US for surveillance purpose. The system will ensure a more effective vigil along the country's western and eastern borders.

A senior official of the Border Security Force (BSF) has disclosed that New Delhi was happy with reports of the effectiveness of the sensor system. The reports are based on studies undertaken from time to time by the senior officials of the Union home, defence, science and technology and finance ministries.

The source said the first assessment of the sophisticated gadget was carried out by defence ministry officials at the manufacturer's plant in New Mexico. It was followed by a series of appraisals by officials of the home and other ministries.

Sources in the BSF said the gadget was an invention of Sandia Laboratories in New Mexico. It is now effectively used along the US-Mexico border.

Sources added that such customised sensors had become highly effective in detecting movements of illegal entrants. The infra-red cameras embedded in such systems accurately take snap-shots of persons moving about within 30 metres on either side of the border. Another advantage of this device is its capability to detect persons sneaking across porous border and then draw his full apparition on the basis of his or her photographs.

This is the second major initiative undertaken by New Delhi to check infiltration into this country.

The first step was the installation of floodlights mounted on high posts along the border. That idea was mooted by the BSF to prevent infiltrators from sneaking across at night.

The BSF confirmed that the second phase of construction of fencing along 71.5 km stretch on the Indo-Bangladesh border in Assam, at the cost of Rs 133.4 crore, is expected to be over by early 2007.

A slew of construction agencies including the Engineering Projects India Limited, Central Public Works Department and National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) have been asked to erect the 8.5-foot iron fences along the border in this state.

Source : Silchar, December 19, 2005 (The Telegraph)

### **Civil Society Work on Small Arms Control**

On 24 December, the **Manipuri Women's Gun Survivors Network** celebrated its founding day. The Network was founded in Manipur on 24 December 2004 and it consists of women of Manipur whose families have been victims of gun violence that has become a sad hallmark of Manipuri society. The network vowed to continue its work of sensitising the region on the impact that massive proliferation of small arms and light weapons are having on the region. The network also started the **Gun Free Childhood Movement** and has embarked on buying up advertising hoardings in Imphal, Manipur's capital city and write on them the enormous everyday gun killings that are happening in the region. The network also forged alliance with numerous women writers of Manipur and write stories of gun killings so that society and government take up committed steps to save many a human lives in the region.

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