

ARMED FORCES

Armed forces of the future : going green?/ Zoe Stanley Lockman

RSIS Commentary:

25 October 2017, No 200 (F31)

The three advantages outlined are consistent with transformation plans that several militaries are undertaking to modernise their forces for the battlefields of 2030 and beyond.

ASEAN

ASEAN during the life of the Pacific review : a balance sheet on regional governance and community building/ Helen E S Nesadurai

The Pacific Review:

Vol.30, No.6, November 2017, pp. 938-951 (103)

The article expand analysis to explore how transnational issues and problems maybe functionally governance outside of formal regional institutions involving non-state actors in key roles.

ADMM - plus: can it do 'cues in the South China Sea?/ Tan See Seng

RSIS Commentary:

26 October 2017, No 201 (F31)

The article highlights on the ADMM-plus whose membership includes Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia the United States and the 10 ASEAN countries, multilateral security cooperation has gone farther and deeper.

ASEAN minus X : should this formula be extended/ Ralf Emmers

RSIS Commentary:

24 October 2017, No 199 (F31)

ASEAN should enhance its ability to respond to challenges involving regional security.

ASIA PACIFIC

Russian warships for the Asia Pacific region/ Vladimir Karnozov

Defence Review Asia:

November-December 2017, Vol. 11, No. 6, pp.18-23 (146)

Russian origin naval assets are found in India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia and North Korea. Classes include aircraft, carriers, destroyers, frigates, corvettes, anti-submarine ships, minesweepers, and missile, torpedo and patrol boats.

Asia-pacific region artillery/ Geoff Slocombe

Defence Review Asia:

November-December 2017, Vol. 11, No. 6, pp.27-30 (146)

This article will endeavour to cover the main artillery inventories and projects throughout the Asia pacific region.

The best of all worlds: amphibians in the Asia Pacific/ Guy Martin

Asia-Pacific Defence Reporter: Vol.43, No.8, October 2017 pp.97-100 (9)

Most of the world's large amphibious aircraft have been developed in the Asia Pacific and another is about to take off in China.

ASIAN

Theorising the international relations of Asia : necessity or indulgence? Some reflections/ Amitav Acharya

The Pacific Review:

Vol.30, No.6, November 2017, pp. 816-828 (103)

This essay argues that Asia offers an opportunity to IR theory for broadening itself and shed its hitherto western centrism especially at a time of a global turn in IR (global IR)

Asia's new long march : bottling conflicts and managing political turbulences/ Chung Min Lee

The Pacific Review :

Vol.30, No.6, November 2017, pp. 843-856 (103)

This paper explores the probable causes and consequences of an Asian paradox or the highly incongruous structure of Asia within the broader international system at once the engine of global economic growth while at the same time the repository of all the world's outstanding security threats and challenges.

CHINA

China's great white fleet/ Chen Chuanren

Defence Review Asia:

November-December 2017, Vol. 11, No. 6, pp.14-16 (146)

PLAN warships travelled over 10,000 nautical miles across the globe to the Baltic Sea for exercise joint sea 2017 with Russian navy.

CHINA

Power transitions and great power management : three decades of China-Japan-US relations/ Rosemary Foot

The Pacific Review :

Vol.30, No.6, November 2017, pp. 829-842 (103)

This article compares and contrasts US responses to two shifts in relative power with the aim of elucidating how changes that portend a power transition are understood and how great powers attempt to manage the security order at times disruption.

Compelling reasons for the expansion of Chinese military forces/ Cindy Hurst

Military Review :

November-December 2017, pp. 28-37 (81)

This article provides some possible insights into China's perception of its transitioning role and what to expect in the future based on its involvement in overseas evacuations over the several decades.

Networking security in Asia/ Richard Fontaine

The Washington Quarterly:

Fall 2017, Vol.40 No.3, pp.45-62 (108)

Asian security networking is premised on the notion that US allies themselves are increasingly capable, networking seeks to link Asian allies both with each other faith non-allied partners.

CHINA

Russia's lasting influence in central Asia/ Morena Skalamera

Survival :

Vol.59, No. 6, December 2017-January 2018, pp.123-142 (106)

China and Russia have managed to reach a tacit understanding over their respective roles in central Asia.

China heads for a step change in naval warfare capabilities/ Andrew Tate

IHS Jane's International Defence Review: December 2017, Vol.50, pp.46-50 (120)

There have been a number of indicators that China's military technology is entering an era of innovation, this article considers developments within the naval environment and looks at future projects.

Signal Boost - China integrates long-range surveillance capabilities/ Andrew Tate

Jane's Intelligence Review: Vol.29, Issue 12, December 2017, p.6 (123)

As China seeks to expand its control over its maritime approaches and to operate further afield, it has developed its space-and ground-based long-range surveillance capabilities. This article looks at these assets and considers their current capabilities, as well as potential future developments.

CYBER

We need cyberspace damage control/ Damien Dodge

Proceedings US Naval Institute : November 2017, pp.61-65 (86)

Three paradigms are increasing the urgency to adopt cyberspace damage control practices: the U.S military anticipates cyberspace to be a heavily contested domain, the navy is advancing concepts where highly networked, platforms, sensors and weapons are dispersed, naval units are undergoing an electronic and computational metamorphosis.

MINDEF Library & Info Centre

CYBER

Cybersecurity of the future : the way for the communications MOSSs/ William W Hess

Marine Corps Gazette :

Vol.101, No.3, March 2017, pp.72-75 (71)

The marine corps cybersecurity technicians install, operate and maintain security controls to support international network operations.

Automated defence systems/ Nicola Whiting

Intersec:

June 2017, pp.26-28 (69)

The article argues that governments look to automated defence systems to combat the rise in cybercrime groups and nation state hackers using automated tools to launch attacks.

Facing up to cyber threats/ Simon Davies

Intersec:

July/August 2017, pp. 34-36(69)

The article highlights the 21st century life is critically dependent on the internet, but it remains inherently insecure and there will always be the malicious users eager to exploit weaknesses to launch cyber-attacks.

The end of cyber norms/ Alex Grigsby

Survival :

Vol.59, No.6, December 2017 - January 2018, pp.25-36 (106)

The article discusses some significant progress over the years on cyber norms the disproportionate attention given to them has overshadowed an equally important tool that could make cyberspace more stable.

CYBER

The challenge of getting responsible behaviour in cyberspace/ Eugene EG Tan

RSIS Commentary:

06 October 2017, No 184 (F31)

The inability of a United Nations group of experts to produce a consensus report on setting norms of behaviour in cyberspace seems to have brought norm development to a temporary halt.

Expanding Scope - Cyber operations poised to take centre stage in US/ Tanner Johnson

Jane's Intelligence Review:

Vol.29, Issue 11, November 2017, pp.50 - 53 (123)

US President Donald Trump announced on 18 August the elevation of the United States Cyber Command to a full combatant command. This article examines the implications of the elevation for the US intelligence community, and the opportunities and challenges that the new status will bring.

ELECTION

Scenarios, Old tricks - DRC president maneuvers/ Jordan Anderson

Jane's Intelligence Review:

Vol.29, Issue 11, November 2017, pp.18 - 21 (123)

President Joseph Kabila's efforts to hold on to power in the Democratic Republic of Congo are raising the risk of violent opposition to his rule. This article examines three scenarios for the country's overdue elections and their impact on state stability.

INDONESIA

Political clouds to gather in the run-up to 2019 elections

Asia Monitor South East Asia Vol.2 :

Vol.28, Issue 12, December 2017, pp.8-9 (49)

The political risks in Indonesia to continue to rise in the run-up to the 2019 general elections as hard line Islamic groups will likely attempt to undermine the government repeatedly in order to push for a greater political role for Islam in the country.

INSURGENCY

Frozen out - Low-level conflict shows no sign of abating in eastern Ukraine/ Jonathan Spyer

Jane's Intelligence Review:

Vol.29, Issue 11, November 2017, pp.36 - 40 (123)

Low-level conflict between Ukrainian government and separatist forces continues in the Donbass provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk. This article reports from the front line as US policy on support to Ukraine continues to evolve.

INTELLIGENCE

Capacity Building - Insurgent groups seek to improve intelligence capabilities/ Michael Horton

Jane's Intelligence Review:

Vol.29, Issue 11, November 2017, pp.26 - 29 (123)

As insurgent groups grow and evolve, they naturally progress towards more sophisticated intelligence capabilities. This article analyses a range of groups' intelligence collection and counter-intelligence activities, and how these capabilities are likely to evolve.

ISIS

News in Asia : Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines come together in effort to tackle ISIS

Intersec:

July/August 2017, pp.34-36 (69)

The South East Asian nations of Malaysia Indonesia and Philippines have joined forces to carry out trilateral naval patrols against ISIS inspired terror groups operating in the region.

Whither ISIS? Insights from insurgent responses to decline/ Paul Staniland

The Washington Quarterly:

Fall 2017, Vol.40 No.3, pp.29-43 (108)

This article explores the trajectories of fifteen major insurgent organizations in South Asia following unambiguous military setbacks examining what happens to groups after a significant loss of control or influence over territory or a broader loss of momentum and support.

Cooperating with Iran to combat ISIS in Iraq/ Ariane Tabatabai

The Washington Quarterly:

Fall 2017, Vol.40 No.3, pp.129-146 (108)

The article highlights a number of reasons why the US and Iran should cooperate to attain their goal of defeating ISIS.

ISLAMIC STATE

Close quarters - Islamic State faces imminent collapse in Raqqa/ Derek Henry Flood

Jane's Intelligence Review:

Vol.29, Issue 11, November 2017, pp.32 - 35 (123)

As forces rally across Iraq and Syria to retake territory from the Islamic State, the 'militant' capital of Raqqa is set to fall. This article reports from the SDF-held areas of the city on the state of the battle and the security outlook once liberation is complete.

ISLAMIC STATE

Armed influenced - the Russian and US interventions in Syria/ Tim Ripley

IHS Jane's Defence Weekly:

Vol.54 Issue 47, 22 November 2017, pp.24-30 (122)

During the past two years, operations by Russia and the United States in Syria have intensified as Moscow and Washington have sought to bolster their allies in the region. This article assesses the progress of these rival operations.

JAPAN

Abe's big win in Japan gives him time to make history/ Ian Bremmer

Time:

Vol 190, No.14, 06 November 2017, p.8 (135)

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan is poised to become his country's strongest and most successful leader in the postwar era.

The Japanese constitutional amendment: national defense or a return to Japanese militarism/ Esteban Flores

Harvard International Review :

Vol.XXXVIII. No 4, Fall 2017, pp.10-13(67)

The amendment is more symbolic than anything. Claims about the alleged unconstitutionality of the JSDF have in no way impeded its operations.

JAPAN

Cherry blossoms : defence for and from Japan/ Robert Czulda

Naval Forces:

Vol.XXXVIII, No.III, 2017, pp.58-61 (41)

Japan characterised by complete, unquestionable pacifism and neutralism has ended up with the conservative Shinzo Abe as prime minister. He has been trying to transform Japan into a more active actor in the region particularly in military and security posture.

MALAYSIA

A first -class five-class navy

Naval Forces:

Vol.XXXVIII, No.III, 2017, pp.64-65 (41)

On the opening day LIMA 2017 exhibition on Langkawi island, Kuala Lumpur, naval forces correspondent George Mader had the opportunity to ask some questions to the commander-in-chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) concerning the Chinese LMS .

MALAYSIA

Najib's United States visit : what is going on/ Chan Xin Ying

RSIS Commentary:

11 October 2017, No 191 (F31)

Najib's three day visit to Washington featured a high profile meeting with President Donald Trump and signing of several intriguing deals.

MIDDLE EAST

Construction under way on UAE naval base in Somalia/ Jeremy Binnie

IHS Jane's Defence Weekly:

Vol.54 Issue 47, 22 November 2017, p.18 (122)

The article highlights the construction of a UAE naval base near Berbera in Somaliland that has begun by May. It is part of a wider project to establish a permanent military presence in the Gulf of Oman and the Red Sea. The UAE also has permission to use Berbera's airport.

Lebanese prime minister announces resignation after 'threat of assassination' as regional tension continues

Jane's Intelligence Review:

Vol.29, Issue 12, December 2017, p.6 (123)

Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced his resignation on 4 November, claiming that he had been warned of an assassination plot against him. His father, Rafik - a former Lebanese prime minister was killed in a car bombing in 2005.

MILITARY HELICOPTER PILOT

Idiopathic syringomyelia in a military helicopter pilot/ Anthony Schiemer

Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance:
Vol 88, No. 10, October 2017, pp. 962-965 (62)

This case highlights several issues involved with the incidental finding of a syringomyelia. Studies have identified minimal radiological progression in cases of idiopathic syringomyelia with fewer individuals displaying neurological deterioration.

NORTH KOREA

From strategic patience to strategic uncertainty : Trump, North Korea, and South Korea's new president/ Leif Eric Easley

World Affairs:

Summer 2017, pp.7-31 (55)

This article considers the prospects of the United States in leveraging - 'all options on the table' while recognizing the contradictions in China's role and in South Korea's domestic politics.

North Korea policy : changed Regime/ James Minnich

Military Review :

November-December 2017, pp. 39-53 (81)

The objective of a changed regime policy is the establishment of conditions that success fully encourage Seoul and Pyongyang to pursue an agreement that permits both to coexist peaceably

Provocative Strategy: North Korea bargains with nuclear diplomacy/ Karl Dewey, Alison Evans, Robert Kelley and Markus Schiller

Jane's Intelligence Review:

Vol.29, Issue 11, November 2017, pp.6-13 (123)

The pace and rhetoric of North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes have shifted the uneasy status quo of security in Northeast Asia. This article examine Pyongyang's strategy amid rising regional tensions and North Korea's 'H-bomb' claims.

Threat trajectory

Jane's Intelligence Review:

Vol.29, Issue 11, November 2017, pp.30 - 31 (123)

North Korea's increasingly frequent missile tests have served to convey an improving deterrence capability and to apply pressure on the US and its allies, most notably Japan and South Korea. This article shows the image of North Korea's missile tests' trajectory.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Nuclearised Northeast Asia : why including Japan, South Korea may work/ Graham Ong Webb

RSIS Commentary:

23 October 2017, No 198 (F31)

The article discusses accommodating a nuclearized Northeast Asia will require a revolution of its own the re-education of current adjustment of present geopolitical and institutional arrangements.

ORGANISED CRIME

Joining the dots - Social network analysis offers tool for law enforcement/ Sanaz Zolghadriha

Jane's Intelligence Review:

Vol.29, Issue 11, November 2017, pp.42 - 45 (123)

Social network analysis is a useful tool for law enforcement operations against organised crime. This article examines the fundamentals of the technique and how it may offer a bridge for greater co-operation between academia and the law enforcement community.

PHILIPPINES

Philippines and Australia agree to enhanced counter terrorism cooperation

Defence Review Asia:

November-December 2017, Vol. 11, No. 6, p.8 (146)

The article highlights the Australian defence force will expand its assistance to the armed forces of the Philippines to strengthen its long term ability to combat terrorist threats and prevent the spread of Daesh to the region

PHILIPPINES

The Philippine navy meeting symmetric and asymmetric threats

Naval Forces:

Vol.XXXVIII, No.III, 2017, pp.66-67 (41)

LIMA 2017 in Langkawi flag officer in command of the Philippine navy gave an interview to naval forces correspondent George Mader.

PROCUREMENT

Sustainment threatening F-235 ramp-up/ Leigh Gingreco

Flight International:

07 - 13 November 2017, p.21 (65)

US Government Accountability Office report highlights long backlogs for repairs and parts procurement that kept aircraft grounded 22% of the time.

SINGAPORE

Singapore's innovative littoral mission vessels/ Mike Yeo

Asia-Pacific Defence Reporter:

Vol.43, No.8, October 2017 pp.104--106 (9)

The RSN currently operates eleven fearless-class 55 metre patrol vessels as its primary vessels for sea patrols. The new vessels will be equipped with enhanced combat systems and integrated communications suite that enable the RSN to undertake a wide range of maritime security operations.

SINGAPORE

Beyond a balanced fleet : a sharper, smarter and stronger republic of Singapore navy beyond 2017/ Collin Swee Lean Koh

Naval Forces:

Vol.XXXVIII, No.III, 2017, pp.4-5 (41)

The article highlights present and in the foreseeable future the navy is anticipated to remain focused on its immediate region Southeast Asia and its adjacent waters in the Western Pacific while continuing to also function as a robust instrument of Singapore's foreign policy which includes contribution to international security.

Keeping watch on terror/ Ong Hong Tat

Pioneer:

May 2017, pp.10-11

Singapore's security agencies work together to respond swiftly to terror attacks.

Singapore commissions two more Littoral Mission Vessels(LMV)/ Ridzwan Rahmat

IHS Jane's Defence Weekly:

Vol.54, Issue 47, 22 November 2017, pp.17 (122)

The Republic of Singapore Navy has commissioned two more locally built LMVs named RSS Sovereignty and RSS Unity with pennant numbers 16 and 17 respectively. It was commissioned on 14 November at RSS Singapura - Changi Naval Base.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Habits of peace : long term regional of cooperation in Southeast Asia/ Aarie Glas

European Journal of International Relations:
Vol. 23, Issue. 4, December 2017, pp.833-856 (26)

This article builds on the emerging international relations literature on habits and practice in interstate relations. It explores in depth analysis of the regional response to the 2011 Preah Vihear crisis between Cambodia and Thailand.

Liberation of Marawi : implications for Southeast Asia/ Jasminder Singh

RSIS Commentary:
19 October 2017, No 197 (F31)

The article highlights on jihadists in Southeast Asia are already talking of training the next generation of mujahidins in the region. A pro ISIS posting warned Marawi is just the beginning and the new cubs and soldiers will be trained to fight the crusader forces.

TERRORISM

Terrorism & Insurgency, Data Digest, JTIC Global Attack Index - August 2017

Jane's Intelligence Review:
Vol.29, Issue 11, November 2017, pp.14 - 15 (123)

Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre presents its Global Attack Index, a monthly summary of worldwide attacks by non-state armed groups, collected from open sources.

Terrorism & Insurgency, Militant web watch, Monitoring militant activity online – September and October 2017

Jane's Intelligence Review:
Vol.29, Issue 11, November 2017, pp.16 - 17 (123)

Jane's examine online activity by militant groups during September - October, as activists and supporters reacted to international events. Excerpts are sourced from a range of social media platforms.

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THAILAND

Election announcement credible but return to civilian rule less so

Asia Monitor South East Asia Vol.1 :
Vol.28, Issue 12, December 2017, pp.4-5 (49)

The article highlights the return of elections will not mean a return to full civilian rule as the military will maintain a dominant role in government regardless of which party comes into power. The new proportional voting system more democratic will make it harder for the larger parties to win.

TRAINING

An air force power/ Luca Peruzzi

Flight International:
14-20 November 2017, pp.38-40 (65)

Equipped with advanced jet aircraft, exotic simulators, networking technology and ideal all-year flying conditions, the Italian air force sees itself as a leader in fighter pilot training. More in this article.

UNITED STATES

Continental drift - Fight against Islamist militancy takes priority for US in Africa/ Duncan Woodside

Jane's Intelligence Review:
Vol.29, Issue 11, November 2017,
pp.22 - 25 (123)

US President Donald Trump's pledges to put 'America first', reduce financial contributions to the UN, and step up operations against Islamist terrorism have raised the spectre of changes to US policy on Africa. This article examines the changing outlook for US foreign policy across the region.

UNITED STATES

Pacific alliance - US military trade ties in the Asia Pacific/ Jon Grevatt

IHS Jane's Defence Weekly:

Vol.54, Issue 45, 08 November 2017, pp.22-28 (122)

Despite differing views about the success of US President Donald Trump's administration in engaging with US allies in the Asia-Pacific region, US military trade and technology ties in the region seem to be gaining in strength. The article reports.

US conducts three-carrier strike force exercises with South Korea and Japan/ Ridzwan Rahmat

IHS Jane's Defence Weekly:

Vol.54, Issue 47, 22 November 2017, pp.08 (122)

Following recent missile tests in North Korea, a US Navy strike force comprising three aircraft carrier strike groups has concluded a series of coordinated exercises (11-14 November) in the Western Pacific with regional partners.

Active Protection Systems: US and UK vehicle defence projects kick off/ James Bingham and Robin Hughes

IHS Jane's International Defence Review:

December 2017, Vol.50, p.40-45 (120)

Active protection systems have received substantial investment in countries such as China, Israel and Russia, but in recent years the UK and US have lagged behind. However, these two countries are now investing in near and long term capabilities. More in this article.

Military freefall - From on high: Special operations freefall/ Andrew White

IHS Jane's International Defence Review:

December 2017, Vol.50, p.51-55 (120)

As Special Forces continue to evolve their clandestine insertion methods, this article examines the latest parachute technologies and tactics that are being developed.

UNITED STATES

Data seized during US raid that killed former Al-Qaeda leader Bin Laden released by CIA

Jane's Intelligence Review:

Vol.29, Issue 12, December 2017, p.7 (123)

On 1 November, the CIA made available online an archive containing files seized from the compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, where former Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was killed by Navy Seals in 2011. In a disclaimer, the agency noted that 'this material was seized from a terrorist organization', highlighting the risk that the files could contain malware and might breach copyright.

WARFIGHTING

The corps must refine : warfighting/ James Skeffington

Proceedings US Naval Institute :

November 2017, pp.32-35 (86)

After 16 years of counterinsurgency the Marine Corps has captured many lessons from Iraq and Afghanistan. Current doctrine proved successful in the wars in Iraq.

All journal articles listed in this bulletin are available at MINDEF Library & Info Centre

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