

Weekly Intelligence Brief

A Chanticleer Intelligence Brief Project



The Russian Military is Looking to Expand its Strength in Numbers

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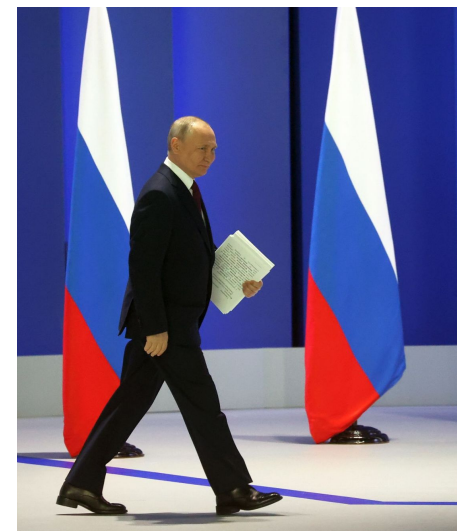
The Russian Federation's annual spring military draft commenced on 01 April 2023. This year's draft implemented a decree signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin declaring that 147,000 men are to be selected to serve their obligatory year of service. The decree shows an eight percent increase in draftees from previous years. Additionally, the Russian leadership proposed that the draft age be increased from its current draft range of 18 and 27 years of age to between 21 and 30 years of age. The goal is to increase the size of the Russian Army from 1.15 million soldiers to 1.5 million total soldiers.

Furthermore, the Russian army aims to recruit roughly 400,000 new contract

soldiers to fight in the Russo-Ukrainian war. Given this, President Putin and Russia's Defense Ministry have rejected speculations that another mobilization is in effect. To recruit these additional soldiers, President Putin is putting out a marketing campaign. The goal of the campaign is to win over more young men and convince them to serve on a contract basis.

We can assess with high confidence that President Putin is looking to strengthen the Russian military for the long term. The decision is almost certain to be influenced by the ongoing war with Ukraine. Instead of implementing another mobilization and forcing unwilling men to go to war, it is highly likely that the men who want to fight will sign a service contract. The free will of the Russian soldiers who want to sign a contract to serve would be highly

significant to the ongoing conflict. This is likely to boost morale amongst the current line of defense, leading to a potential victory in the distant future.



Finland Follows in the Greek Footsteps for the Purchase of Israeli Defense Systems

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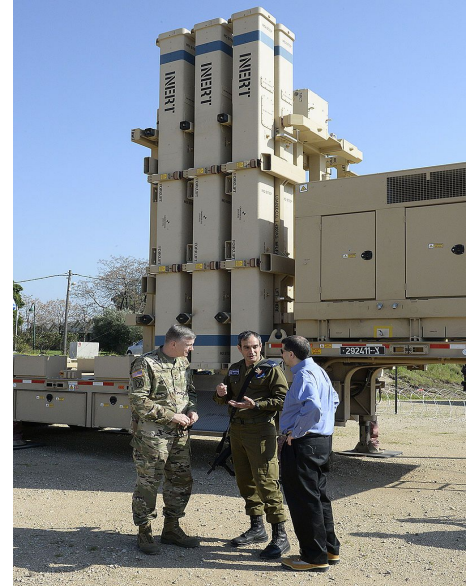
On 29 MAR 2023, the Israeli Defense Ministry stated that they signed a \$400 million deal to sell Spike-NLOS anti-tank missiles to Greece. The Spike-NLOS is a guided anti-tank missile manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, an Israeli state-owned defense firm utilized by numerous European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member states. According to the Israeli Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant, the arrangement will strengthen military ties between Israel and Greece.

What is more, since Finland formally joined NATO on 04 APR 2023, Israel and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems announced that they will provide the

Finnish with an advanced air-defense system known as “David’s Sling.” The air-defense system, “David’s Sling,” is an Israeli Defense Force system being developed jointly with the United States’ defense contractor, Raytheon. “David’s Cling” is designed to intercept enemy planes, drones, tactical ballistic missiles, medium- to long-range rockets, and cruise missiles fired at ranges between 25 and 190 miles. In a \$345 million arrangement, Finland will obtain the “David’s Cling” air-defense system for future operations, however, United States approval is needed to finalize the agreement.

It is with moderate confidence, we can state that the United States will approve the Finnish as future operators of the “David’s Cling” air-defense system. Moreover, we can state with moderate confidence that Russia and Türkiye will

likely view these defense deals as a sign of aggression in their respective regions.



United States Provides Update on Weapons Seizure

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On 31 MAR 2023, the United States Department of Justice filed a forfeiture complaint with the United States District Court against a massive cache of ammunition that was intercepted by the United States enroute from Iran to Yemen. The ammunition cache was seized in the Gulf of Oman by the United States Navy 5th Fleet operating under the direction of the United States Central Command back in DEC 2022.

Within the ammunition cache were one million rounds of 7.62mm ammunition; 25,000 rounds of 12.7mm ammunition; nearly 7,000 proximity fuses for rockets; and over 4,600 pounds of propellant used to launch rocket-propelled grenades. Moreover, 13 individuals were detained

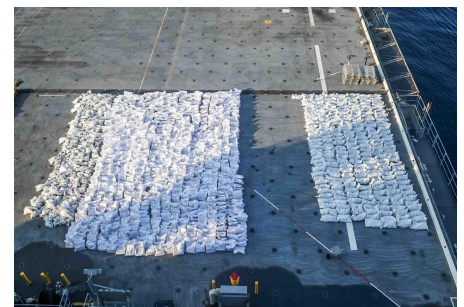
for violating the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216 and international law.

The Department of Homeland Security’s Investigating and Defense Criminal Investigative Services has stated that the shipment of ammunition was the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ (IRGU) attempt to supply the Houthi Movement in Yemen.

Attorney General Merrick Garland stated that the Department of Justice “will hold those accountable who break our laws and threaten our national security.” Furthermore, Commander of United States Naval Forces Central Command, United States 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces, Vice Admiral Brad Cooper noted that “[United States] naval forces remain focused on deterring and disrupting

dangerous and irresponsible maritime activity in the region.

With this, we can state with high confidence that the United States Naval Forces will continue to fight against illicit arms trafficking. What is more, it is with high confidence we can state that the IRGU will continue to support illicit trafficking activities that threatens the United States’ interests and national security.



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