

Selected Abbreviations	
AA	Anti aircraft
AAFCE	Allied Air Forces Central Europe
AAM	Air-to-air missile
AB	Airborne
ABM	Anti-ballistic missile
A/C	Armoured car / Aircraft
ACD	Arms Control and Disarmament
ACV	Air Cushion Vehicle
ADC/NORAD	Air Defense Command / North American Air Defense Command
AEV	Armoured Engineering Vehicle
AGSS	Auxiliary Research Submarine
AEW	Airborne Early Warning
AFV	Armoured Fighting Vehicle
AGM	Air-to-ground missile
AIFV	Armoured Infantry Fighting Vehicle
ALCM	Air-Launched Cruise Missile
ALOC	Air Line of Communications
ANG	Air National Guard
AOP	Airborne Observation Post
APC	Armoured Personnel Carrier
ASM	Air-to-surface missile
ASSW	Anti-Surface Ship Weapons
ASW	Anti-submarine Warfare
ATGM	Anti-tank Guided Missile
ATGW	Anti-tank Guided Weapon
ATK	Anti-tank
AWACS	Airborne Warning and Control System
Bde	Brigade
BMEWS	Ballistic Missile Early Warning Station / System
CAS	Close Air Support
CCC (C')	Command, Control and Communications
CENTAG	NATO Central Army Group
CG	Cruiser, Guided Missile
CGN	Guided Missile Cruiser (Nuclear)
COIN	Counter-insurgency
COS	Chief of Staff
CV	Conventional Powered Aircraft Carrier
CVA	Attack aircraft carrier
CVN	Nuclear aircraft carrier
DD	Destroyer
DDG	Guided Missile Destroyer
DEW	Distant Early Warning
Div	Division
DoD	Department of Defence (US)
ECM	Electronic Countermeasures
ECCM	Electronic Counter Counter measures
EFA	European Fighter Aircraft
ELF	Extremely Low frequency (submarine) communications system
ELINT	Electronic Intelligence
EW	Electronic Warfare
FAC	Forward Air Controller / Fast Attack Craft
FB	Fighter Bomber
FBS	Forward Based System
FF	Frigate
FFG	Guided Missile Frigate
FGA	Fighter, Ground Attack
FY	Fiscal Year
GW	Guided Weapon
Hy	Heavy
ICBM	Intercontinental Ballistic Missile
ICV	Infantry Combat Vehicle
IFF	Identification, Friend or Foe
IFV	Infantry Fighting Vehicles
IR	Infra-red
IRBM	Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff (US)
JSS	Joint Surveillance System
LCA	Landing Craft, Assault
LCC	Landing Craft, Command
LCAC	Landing Craft, Air Cushioned
LCM	Landing Craft, Mechanised
LCU	Landing Craft, Utility
LCT	Landing Craft, Tank
LCV	Landing Craft, Vehicles
LHA	Landing Helicopter Assault (ship)
LKA	Amphibious Attack Cargo Ship
LPD	Landing Platform, Dock
LPH	Landing Platform, Heli
LRCM	Long-range Cruise Missile
LRP	Long-range Patrol (aircraft)
LSD	Landing Ship, Dock
LSM	Landing Ship, Medium
LTA	Lighter Than Air (aircraft)
LST	Landing Ship, Tank
LVTP	Landing Vehicle, Tracked, Personnel
MAD	Magnetic Anomaly Detection, Mutually Assured Destruction
MARV	Manoeuvrable Re-entry Vehicle
MCM	Mine Countermeasures
MCMV	Mine Countermeasures Vessels
MGB	Motor Gunboat
MICV	Mechanised Infantry Combat Vehicle
MIRV	Multiple Independently-targetable Re-entry Vehicle
MLRS	Multiple Launch Rocket System
MR	Maritime Reconnaissance
MRBM	Medium-range Ballistic Missile
MRV	Multiple Re-entry Vehicle
MTB	Motor Torpedo Boat
NAADC	North American Aerospace Defence Command (US and Canada)
NADGE	NATO Air Defence Ground Environment
NBC	Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (warfare)
NORAD	North American Aerospace Defence Command (US and Canada)
OCU	Operational Conversion Unit
OMG	Operational Manoeuvre Group
PGM	Precision Guided Munitions
RCL	Recoilless rifle
Rece	Reconnaissance
Regt	Regiment
R&D	Research and Development
RDF	Rapid Development Force (US)
RF	Reconnaissance (Fighter)
Rkt	Rocket
RL	Rocket Launcher
RPG	Rocket-Propelled Grenade
RPV	Remotely Piloted Vehicle
RV	Re-entry Vehicle
SAC	Strategic Air Command (US)
SACEUR	Supreme Allied Commander, Europe
SALT	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
SAM	Surface-to-air missile system
SAR	Search and Rescue
SATCOM	Satellite Communications
SES	Surface Effect Ship
SHAPE	Supreme Headquarters, Allied Power in Europe
SLEP	Ship Life Extension Programme
SLBM	Submarine-launched Ballistic Missile
SLCM	Sea-launched Cruise Missile
SOW	Stand-off Weapon
SP	Self-Propelled
Squadron	A formation of aircraft numbering between 4 and 30 (depending on the country and the type of aircraft)
SRBM	Short-Range Ballistic Missile
SS	Submarine
SSBN	Ballistic Missile Submarine (Nuclear)
SSGN	Nuclear-Powered Cruise Missile Submarine
SSM	Surface-to-surface Missile Submarine (Nuclear)
START	Strategic Arms Reduction Talks
SWATH	Small Water Plane Area Twin-Hull Aircraft Carrier
TA	Tactical Air organisations, support or operations
TAC	Tactical Air Command
TACAIR	Tactical Air Force
TAVR	Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve (UK)
TGSM	Terminally Guided Sub-Munition
Tk	Tank
USAFE	US Air Force Europe
USAREUR	US Army Europe
VLS	Vertical Launch System
VSS	V/STOL Support Ship
V/STOL	Vertical / Short Takeoff and Landing aircraft

MILITARY TECHNOLOGY

Special Issue

World Defence Almanac

Editorial: Ready for Cold War Two? 15
Dr. Ezio Bonsignore

Regional Data

- **North America**
- National Security Strategy of the United States** 17
- **Central and South America**
- Latin America's Space Programmes: Geopolitical Considerations** 43
W. Alejandro Sanchez
- **Europe**
- "A Resolute Guardian of the International Order"** 91
Jens Stoltenberg
- **Commonwealth of Independent States**
- Military Doctrine of the Russian Federation** 191
- **North Africa and Middle East**
- Immortal Monarchies?** 213
Yoel Guzansky
- **Sub-Saharan Africa**
- The 2014 South African Defence Review – An Analysis** 254
Dr Jakkie Cilliers
- **Asia and Far East**
- New Asian Security Concept for New Progress in Security Cooperation** 303
Xi Jinping
- **Oceania**
- "Creating One Defence"** 356

The WORLD DEFENCE ALMANAC is the most up-to-date study of defence forces in the world. As a reference, it provides a comprehensive review of force structures, organisation and inventories. The editorial closing date for this issue was 22 June 2015, apart from major political developments up to 10 June 2015. Any new data received after this date will be included in a subsequent issue.

Important Note on Financial and Defence Expenditures Data

The WDA not being a financial publication, the data about the economy of the various countries are inserted for the sole purpose of enabling a broad assessment on their respective "financial muscle" in relative terms, i.e. in relations with each other. For this reason, the figures for the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are expressed in terms as Purchasing Power Parity (so-called Parkinson formula). While this approach is useful for our purposes, readers must be aware that it results in values, that can be markedly different than presented by official bodies, or calculated by independent agencies, and then transformed into US\$ at the official exchange rate. Our Purchasing Power Parity GDP figures tend to be lower than the official exchange rate ones in the case of countries, with advanced economies and high standards of living, and higher in the case of developing countries.

Also, some readers have questioned our defence budget figures being often at variance with the data as provided by other agencies or organizations, that report on global defence spending issues. There are two main reasons for this discrepancy.

First, some of the above agencies and organizations follow their own peculiar criteria, whereby they conflate into a broader "defence spending" category not only the regular budget of the Ministry of Defence and other allocations for the defence forces, but also many other forms of state expenditures, that they chose to regard as being of military significance (e.g., militarized police, coast guard, border security, SAR, pensions and medical care for military and security personnel, etc.). For our part, we reject these procedures as potentially misleading - the more so, in that the resulting final figure is often presented in US dollar or Euro rather than in the national currency, which makes it nearly impossible to reconstruct the real situation. Of course, however, when the defence budget proper is supplemented by allocations for other sources (e.g., US nuclear weapons being under the Department of Energy's budget, Italy's major procurement programmes being funded by the Ministry for Economic Development, Chile's "Copper Law", etc.), these are properly reported.

Second, and even within the above limits, it is self-evident that the real measure of a country's investment in defence would be provided not by the budget estimates (plus any extra-budgetary allocations) as approved in advance for the next financial year, but rather by the balance sheet on actual expenditures during that year - whereby the latter might be either higher than the former, because of the emergence of unforeseen urgent requirements, or lower due to savings and spending cuts becoming necessary. Due to their very nature, however, such statistical data only become available with a considerable delay. Most studies and analyses on global defence expenditures are based on balance sheet figures, and are thus unavoidably backward-looking - which is perfectly acceptable for historical documentation purposes. The WDA being a yearly publication, however, we reckon that our readers would be much more interested in knowing how much countries intend to invest in defence in the current fiscal year, rather than being presented marginally more accurate figures on how much they did actually spend two, three or four years ago. **Editor**