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This newsletter has a Spanish version.

Editorial

Mozambique is on fire. In the first article of this issue, our senior analyst, Guadi Calvo, will take us there to find out about the complex situation in that African country.

In the second contribution of Guadi, we will know the horrible condition in which the Akhdam live in Yemen. While Yemenis in general are experiencing severe hardship in their fight against Saudi aggression, the Akhdam (servants) are having a harder time as they are despised by their own compatriots.

We return to Mozambique, to read another preview of the situation, we will learn through this writing, the role of the South African mercenary company Dyck Advisory Group (DAG), and other similar ones, dedicated to defending private interests and fighting insurgency, replacing the State forces, which have been shown to be insufficient and ineffective. But, in addition, we will review how, as occurs in other countries, violence, poverty, and lack of opportunities, leads many people to consider war as a job opportunity.

This edition ends with a note referring to the Engesa EE-9 Cascavel armored vehicles in the Colombian Army.

We thank our kind readers for their loyalty, and we ask them to distribute this material among their friends and relatives, in order to continue promoting the safety culture.

Know to win!

Douglas Hernández

Editor



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TRIARIUS

Imagine that an unexpected event occurs that cuts off the drinking water supply to your city. Do you have stored water to supply yourself during the emergency? Do you have a reserve of purifying agents such as vinegar or hypochlorite? If the answer is no to any of the two questions, then you are neglecting your family, if the answer is negative to both questions, then they are in danger of not surviving situations that are increasingly likely. If your city runs out of drinking water supply, have you identified the alternative source from which you will be supplied? Or will you perhaps move to another place to protect yourself during the crisis? When you finish reading the magazine, grab a pen and paper, schedule a family meeting, and make a plan.

On cover, **Norwegian Command.**

In this edition, we review the Norwegian Armed Forces. See more information at the end of the magazine.

TRIARIUS privileges freedom of expression, however, the responsibility for what is said in the articles is exclusive to their authors.

Very special thanks to the international analysts who have sent us their articles for this issue free of charge.

Mozambique: War sets the north on fire

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



The French have many interests in Mozambique. The French oil company Total is there.

For almost a week, members of the Forças Armadas de Defesa de Moçambique (FADM) have been waging an important battle against the militiamen of Ahlu Sunnah Wa-Jamaa (Followers of the Traditional Path or Defenders of Tradition), tributaries of Daesh, for the strategic city of Palma, 1,800 kilometers from Maputo, in the province of Cabo Delgado, in the extreme north of Mozambique, very close to the Afungi peninsula, where the French company Total is building a liquefied natural gas plant, with an investment, in 2019, of 4 billion dollars, for 26.5 percent, with a horizon of 15 billion, which is absolutely stagnating for what they expected to start shipments in 2024, but the deterioration of security is making that goal unattainable. In the Cabo Delgado gas area, more investments are being negotiated

with six other international groups, in addition to Total, including the Italian ENI and the American ExxonMobil. Project that becomes one of the most important undertakings on the continent, which could fall apart if terrorist operations continue.

The assault on Palma, which began last Wednesday 24 hours after the French company announced the resumption of work, which had been suspended last January due to the terrorist attacks, has already generated hundreds of deaths, some sources report. that both in the streets of Palma and on its beaches hundreds of corpses are observed, many of them decapitated, a distinctive feature of the Mozambican mujahideen.

The attack on the city was initiated after weeks of terrorist operations, which managed to

isolate it from the rest of the province by blocking its access routes, so the only means of supplying its 75,000 inhabitants have been reduced to the airport, which has already been attacked by insurgent rockets, and the port.

At the beginning of the assault, about a hundred terrorists managed to reach the center of Palma, where they robbed several banks and took over a hotel, in which at least two hundred people have been held.

The government of President Filipe Nyuss, who had established a "special security" radius of four kilometers around the Total plant, Palma being two kilometers from that limit, is being overwhelmed by the situation since the actions of the helicopter gunships that are attacking the terrorists seem not to make a dent in their ranks.

Little can be known about what is happening inside the city since the takfiristas have managed to cut communications with Palma and its surroundings, although some residents have managed to communicate through satellite phones, so it is known that many residents have fled into the surrounding forests, while hundreds of foreign workers, mostly South Africans, British and French, have taken refuge in different hotels that are being besieged by insurgents, since according to some local reports government forces, They have abandoned the city, so it could be taken over by fundamentalists, as happened last August with the port city of Mocimboa da Praia, fifty kilometers south of Palma.

It is believed that some two hundred people have taken refuge in the Amarula Hotel alone, while on Friday government helicopters tried to create a security corridor to rescue them. While the militants advanced towards him to prevent it. The information does not confirm whether the "guests" were finally released, although there are some versions that insist on affirming that, among them, there have been several casualties, precisely this last Sunday at least seven were murdered. On Friday also, some seventeen military vehicles, with foreign workers, tried to reach a place on the coast to be rescued, but given the intense fire to which the convoy was subjected, only seven would have reached the beach, without knowing the fate of the remaining ten. While on Sunday, it was learned that a boat with 1,400 people, who managed to

escape from the Afungi site the night before, arrived in Pemba, the capital of Cabo Delgado, about 200 kilometers away, including foreign workers and residents of Palma. , while other smaller vessels such as private sailboats and even canoes continue to arrive loaded with refugees at the same port.

Heroin

President Filipe Nyusi isn't sure how much foreign aid he wants, but he's sure he doesn't want "foreign boots on the ground," says Raymakers. That suits Western powers like Portugal and France, which are sure they don't want to send them.

The looting of small towns that includes kidnapping and mass murder, such as what happened in April 2020 in the village of Xitaxi, in which fifty of its inhabitants were executed. Something similar happened last November, when a group of adolescents of fifteen children, accompanied by five older ones, were surprised by a terrorist khatiba, when they were practicing an initiation ceremony in the wooded area of the Muidumbe district, after which they were all killed. With more than 3,000 dead and nearly a million displaced, the takfirists have become a new scourge for the already severely punished Mozambican population.

Particularly in Cabo Delgado, with a population of almost 2.5 million people, a quarter of them have had to abandon everything and retreat to safer areas. This situation, according to Amnesty

International analysts, the climate of terror that has settled in the population, is causing a true "epidemic" of mental illness, rooted in the trauma derived from the experiences of violence to which they have been subjected. Since, according to some complaints, not only do the mujahideen commit actions against the civilian population, but on many occasions it has been known that the regulars of the Forças Armadas de Defesa de Moçambique (FADM) have also committed abuses against civilians, in many cases for pure authoritarianism and in others for being suspected of collaborating with terrorists. So there are cases of extreme anguish, after witnessing how a loved one has been dismembered alive, or women who have had to choose between one child or another to be incorporated into the ranks of the militiamen.

Within the framework of the Ahlu Sunnah Wa-Jama expansion campaign, it was learned that for six days the rebels have been waging a fierce battle against FADM troops for control of the strategic city of Palma, where dozens of civilians already have died and the streets of the city. The fate of dozens of foreign energy workers was also unknown.

Cabo Delgado received little government attention or development until the discovery of gemstones and gas reserves in 2009. In January, French energy company Total suspended operations at the Afungi gas project in Cabo Delgado over security concerns.

Image Source:
<https://www.larepublica.ec/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/total-petrolera.jpg>

Guadi Calvo

(Argentina) Argentine writer and journalist. International Analyst specialized in Africa, Middle East and Central Asia.



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Yemen: The Akhdams, the stigma and the war

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



The Akhdams, poor among the poor, and marginalized in a country at war.

The constant advances of the Yemeni resistance, led by the Ansarullah (Followers of Allah) or Houthi front, by its founder Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, are forcing the Saudi Kingdom to modify its strategy, and what began in 2015 almost like a military parade, to reinstate the resigning Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi, again in the presidency, it is sinking the most fractious absolutist monarchy in the world, in a rugged swamp.

Weeks ago, no doubt under pressure from the new US administration, which no longer knows how to cover up the crimes of its main partner in the Arab world, Riyadh, offered the Yemeni resistance a ceasefire agreement, which was flatly rejected, until the air and sea blockade is lifted in order to receive food shipments that cover 80% of their needs, which is wreaking havoc on the Yemeni people. In this direction, Joe Biden's decision to remove the Houthis from the list of terrorist organizations allows some NGOs to manage to arrive with help, to

somewhat alleviate the monumental crisis.

As a sign that Ansarullah is not going to negotiate, beyond the tragedy to which his people are being subjected, and he has not only rejected that call, but is in absolute offensive. In recent days it became known that, in a new air attack last Sunday, in the framework of the battle for the strategic city of Marib, Brigadier General Saleh al-Abab, chief of operations of the special forces of the kingdom, along with dozens of mercenaries. Marib could somehow seal the fate of the Saudi Coalition. At the same time, a series of drone and missile attacks were reported against Riyadh, and the cities of Abha and Jamis Mushait in the south of the kingdom.

Beyond the already very presumable victory of the resistance, the six years of war have caused a humanitarian disaster in Yemen, the poorest country on the Arabian Peninsula.

According to the evaluations of last December carried out by the UN, it indicates that there are

pockets of absolute famine or phase 4, the last step to reach the condition of total hunger. This situation affects 3.6 million people and it is estimated that it could reach five million in the coming months. Of the almost 27 million inhabitants, about twenty need humanitarian aid. Two million minors suffer from moderate malnutrition and another 400 thousand, severe malnutrition. The number of dead and the destruction of infrastructure is so far practically impossible to estimate.

After the start of the Saudi operations against Yemen, the shares of US military technology companies such as Raytheon Technologies Corporation, Boeing and General Dynamics, had a very significant rise in March 2015. It is known that Riyadh Since 2015, it has increased its purchases of North American weapons by hundreds of billions, according to some sources it would be about 60 billion dollars. Although there are also other beneficiaries such as the war industry in the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Germany.

Beyond these massive investments and the 266,510 air strikes against Sana'a, the Yemeni capital under Houthi control since 2014, they have not been able to dislodge them.

Clean your plate...

Although the tragic situation of the Yemeni people would seem to be terminal, and it could not be worse, there are sectors of that same society that suffer much more than the rest, of society, they are known as Akhdam (servants) or Muhamasheen (outcasts).) an Afro-Yemeni, Muslim, Arabic-speaking group that apparently descends from the Abyssinian (Ethiopia) troops of the al-Ahbash tribe, who invaded the southern Arabian peninsula around 525 AD, who would later be defeated and enslaved by the Arab tribes. Despite having been in the country for about 1,500 years, they have never been integrated into society and are considered declassified. Outside the tribal order, they lack any right or instance to which they can appeal against the arbitrary actions that they experience every day of their lives. So they represent exactly the same as the Dalits (untouchables) of India. They also link this group with the Somalis, qualifying them as muwalid (mestizo).

Although the caste system in Yemen was abolished, along with slavery, by the 1962 constitution, in fact, it has endured, so the Akhdam are prohibited from marrying members of another class, they do not even have documents, In addition to being factually prohibited from accessing jobs within state

structures and receiving some type of education, and when they do, it is elementary. Reason that the Muhamasheen themselves recognize as the origin of their postponements. They only achieve low-quality work such as street cleaning or waste collection. The Yemeni state, while it existed as such, in March 2015, the year in which Saudi Arabia began the escalation, had never registered this group, although some sources say that they represent ten percent of the country's total. Other estimates mention random figures ranging from 500,000 to 3.5 million. The Akhdam, are also found in Gulf countries, Somalia, Ethiopia, Egypt, Eritrea and Madagascar, where they are known as Midgans and do not live much better than in Yemen.

This stigmatization is so rooted in civil society that not even hard and poorly paid jobs are considered genuine tasks, so workers do not have rights to compensation, vacations, or withdrawals. Their salaries are practically at the will of the person who hires them, without any law that regulates them. Nor are they taken into account, beyond being devout Muslims, on the days of el-Aid al-Fitr (Feast of the End of the Fast) with which Ramadan closes, one of the most important religious festivals in Islamic tradition.

Yemeni culture, like so many others in the world, has imposed the issue of color as a determinant of its social and moral values, so that every black is an Akhdam and getting out of them is impossible, a popular saying says: "Don't look the beauty of the Akhdam, the sins are in his bones".

Displaced from the southern lands, more than sixty years ago, when they worked in agriculture, they have been herded into small slums on the outskirts of large cities such as Sana'a, Hodeida Adén, Ta'iz, Lahj, Abyan, and Mukalla. Shortly before the war, the Muhamasheen, after years of struggle, achieved some progress in their recognition, having managed to occupy a seat, out of 565, in the National Dialogue Conference, created to legislate the regionalization of the country after the revolution. of 2011, but the current situation not only surpasses them, but the rest of the country.

Despite this reality, Ansarullah leader Abdulmalik al-Houthi, son of the movement's founder, urged "black people" to join the Houthis, whom he called "descendants of Bilal," who He also promised that with the victory a true integration into society. So there are not a few Muhamasheen who have joined the resistance. Bilal ibn Rabah, considered to be the first African to convert to Islam. He was a black slave originally from Habasha (Ethiopia), he was one of the first followers of the prophet Muhammad, who had a long participation with him in the struggles that the new religion waged in its early years.

Joining the Ansarullah front and fighting alongside the rest of the Yemenis may be a way to find integration in a new Yemen and to be able to forget the times when it was said: "Clean your plate if a dog has touched it, but break it if it has touched an Akhdam".

Image Source:
<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/>



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Mozambique: War as a job opportunity

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Extreme poverty, lack of opportunities, and neglect by the State push many to war.

According to official statements, the Forças Armadas de Defesa de Moçambique (FADM), on Sunday, April 4, would have finished the operations for the total reconquest of the city of Palma, province of Cabo Delgado, in the north of the country, taken last March 24 by the Daesh affiliate in that nation, known as Ahlu Sunnah Wa-Jamaa (Followers of the Traditional Path or Defenders of Tradition) or Islamic State of Central Africa (ISCA). (See: Mozambique: The war burns the north.) Khatiba, which since 2017, has been occupying nine districts of that province, in a strip of 250 kilometers from north to south along the coast and up to 100 kilometers inland. . Inhabited by the Mwani, a tribe historically linked to Zanzibar, from whom they have inherited their Muslim faith. After the start of the independence war with Portugal, 1964-1974, the Mwani quickly joined the FRELIMO (Mozambican Liberation Front) troops, which they paid for with the lives of many. After independence, the Mwani were ignored by the leadership of the triumphant FRELIMO, so that Cabo

Delgado became the marginalized province, where since then the highest rates of poverty, inequality and illiteracy have been recorded, generating in the following generations high levels of resentment and separatist will.

The version, about the reconquest of Palma, which was also confirmed by the president of Mozambique, Filipe Nyuss, is opposed to that of Lionel Dyck, creator and head of Dyck Advisory Group (DAG), the South African company dedicated to the military "item". (mercenaries), who stated: "that he considered it unlikely that the Mozambican army had taken over Palma". DAG, which has been operating in the province of Cabo Delgado, since April 2020, and whose contract expired on April 6, had been summoned by the Nyuss government, along with several of the gas companies that are developing ventures in that province. billionaires, to fight against the Takfirist insurgency that, since 2017, has been in a sharp increase in its actions, until the recent takeover of Palma, a city

of 75,000 inhabitants, which has meant its largest operation.

Although the number of civilians killed in the fighting will be, as almost always in these cases, concealed by some and increased by others, and given the impossibility of reaching the area of journalists and first responders, it only remained to trust the accounts of many of the civilians who were rescued from Palma, in the midst of the fighting, who agreed that: "the corpses of police, military and civilians littered the streets of the city." Version that later, after communications were restored, was confirmed by the images shown by local television, in which bodies were observed lying in the streets, houses and buildings, attacked and looted, such as banks, the central hospital and the prosecutor's office, in addition large number of burned vehicles. The television showed a significant number of neighbors, in search of food, along with many heavily armed soldiers. Military sources also reported a significant number of terrorist casualties during the counter-offensive.

President Nyuss, who called on the international community to fight against terrorism, last Monday, after reporting the reconquest of Palma, said: "that beyond having expelled the terrorists from the city, it was too early to ensure victory" and that the only safe area was the Afungi peninsula, about twelve kilometers southeast of Palma, where the facilities of the French Total, the largest operator of the gas exploitation project, are located, which had informed its decision to suspend operations. operations and evacuate all its personnel.

The actions in Palma, which were waged for almost two weeks, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), forced some eleven thousand people to join the almost one million displaced by the war that began in 2017. These recent displaced people from Palma They did it irregularly in different directions, although most did it towards Pemba, the provincial capital and towards the border with Tanzania about 80 kilometers away. The fate of some 20,000 people who fled amid the chaos of fighting and indiscriminate killings caused by the attacks is unknown. It is believed that many of them remain hidden in the surrounding forests, which is why several army parties and volunteers have gone out in search of them.

The security forces have asked Maputo to send a forensic team to identify the bodies as a matter of urgency. It has been known that a dozen bodies were found, buried and decomposing, near the Amarula Lodge hotel, where some 200 foreigners had taken refuge. Regarding the corpses, which could not be identified, it has been known

that they are all white, possibly foreigners, who had their hands tied behind their backs and had been decapitated. From the Amarula Lodge, in the first days of combat, a convoy of seventeen vehicles had left for the port of Pemba, where only seven arrived, until now the fate of the rest of about sixty foreigners was unknown, although the vehicle was found on fire. body of British citizen Philip Mawer, which could herald a greater tragedy.

While an Amnesty International report speaks of war crimes committed, such as extrajudicial executions and bombing of civilians, blaming both the Armed Forces and the DAG mercenary groups, for its part, Save the Children reported that two women have denounced that their children, one of them 11 years old, had been beheaded by the terrorists.

Beyond good wishes.

With the need to give an answer, which is undoubtedly urgent, to the issue of terrorism in southern Africa, in Maputo, last Thursday, the presidents of six of the sixteen nations that make up the Southern African Development Community met (SADC), so the leaders of Malawi, Tanzania, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe arrived in the Mozambican capital, who were received by President Nyuss. Although all agreed to take urgent measures, given the high levels of corruption and the constant economic crises that affect them, any "good intention" that is taken in that direction will undoubtedly fail, since the funds necessary for these operations are always few and never fully reach their destination.

Nyuss offered Mozambicans who have joined the takfirists to leave their ranks, granting them a broad amnesty and assuring them that Mozambique: "is ready to receive them and reintegrate them into society."

Both Portugal, as a former metropolis, which has maintained strong ties with its former colony and the United States, have committed to sending sixty commandos, the former and Washington, a dozen Green Berets (Green Berets) to train the Mozambican marines during the next few months.

There is certainty that the attackers, displaced from Palma, have retreated to the areas surrounding Mocimboa da Praia, a city of 30,000 inhabitants and a strategic port seventy kilometers from Palma, which the mujahideen have controlled since August last year. which they have declared as their capital, where it is believed that the emir of the Abu Yasir Hassan organization would be found.

During the latest analyzes of the different intelligence services operating in Mozambique, it has been concluded that the alliance between Ahlu Sunnah Wa-Jamaa and the global Daesh is still a formalism, since its militants are not imbued with spirit and mysticism, which his "brothers" from other khatibas, not only from Syria and Iraq, but also from those operating from the Sahel to the Philippines, have shown in their long years of struggle. These militants have been driven to take up arms by the eternal postponement that the province of Cabo Delgado has suffered, denying them the possibility of personal progress and finding only one job opportunity in war.

Image Source:
<https://cdnuploads.aa.com.tr/>



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Engesa EE-9 Cascavel in the Colombian Army

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



The Engesa EE-9 Cascavel armored reconnaissance vehicle, of Brazilian origin, is the main armored medium of the Colombian Cavalry. It is worth noting that the Colombian National Army does not have tanks or any other vehicle equipped with a cannon. So the EC-90 cannons mounted by the Cascavel are the most powerful tubular weapon of the cavalry of that country.

The Cascavel have been in service in Colombia for decades, accompanied by the EE-11 Urutú. Its simplicity of operation and maintenance, as well as the fact of using commercial spare parts, have allowed the vehicles to continue operating despite the fact that its manufacturing company, Engesa, has disappeared years ago.

The experience accumulated with these vehicles is very

important. On several occasions, repowering or modernization processes have been developed in Colombia for the Cascavel, as well as for the Engesa EE-11 Urutú transport.

There are annual programs for the acquisition of spare parts and supplies, which allow vehicles to be kept in the best possible conditions. For example, wheels (rims, they say in Colombia), batteries, filters, and also lubricants are bought cyclically, all of which keeps operational readiness high.

The Cascavels of the *Brazilian Army* are coming out of active service, being replaced by the new Iveco Guarani, which are being manufactured in Brazil by the hundreds. Despite this, some companies in that country have launched very interesting proposals

to modernize Cascavels and extend their useful life. Also in Colombia, modernization proposals have been presented, which include improvements in the engine plant, electronics, optics, weapons, and even armor.

Since in Colombia there are usually many political difficulties in acquiring military material, it is necessary to conserve what is currently in possession, in the best possible conditions, including armored material. But, in addition to this consideration, it must be taken into account that if war tanks are acquired, they would probably be so few units, that the most sensible thing would be to keep the Cascavel operational, in order to continue counting on their cannons. Hence, the slogan is to keep them operational, and improve them.

The improvements to the Cascavel can start with the acquisition of more and better ammunition for their 90 mm guns. improve targeting and night vision systems, modernize their communications systems, optimize all their mechanical and electrical systems, and perhaps apply tactical terminals to improve situational awareness of crews, as well as integrate cavalry units, with each other and with supported units, within the framework of the combined arms maneuver.

There is a tendency to classify any weapon system as "obsolete" when new developments appear in the world arms market, which can do the job better or more forcefully, however, the previous system does not necessarily remain unused. Some examples that can give clarity on this matter could be, thinking that the bow is obsolete as a weapon of war, when in fact they are still used as a silent weapon by commandos from all over the world; or think that cavalry on horseback is obsolete, when in fact equines are still fully valid, for some specific operations in difficult terrain; or believe that in the face of so much technological development, human intelligence (HUMINT) is obsolete, when in fact it is more relevant than ever.

On the contrary, examples of real obsolescence would be that of castles and other fortifications, before the arrival of cannons, and anti-bunker bombs; or the use of

brightly colored uniforms in combat, in the style of the 19th century, which today is completely anti-tactical; or a warship of wood and sails, which is completely obsolete for modern naval warfare. And yet, castles and fortifications retain some practical utility, colorful uniforms a ceremonial utility, and wooden ships and sails are used to train cadets in the seafaring arts. None of that is completely useless. How to think that the Cascavel should be discarded, without considering all their benefits and military usefulness?

The EE-9 Cascavel is basically a 90mm cannon. mounted on a fortified mobile base. A support that every soldier wishes to have in different tactical situations.

In Colombia, armored vehicles M-1117 of American origin were acquired, to equip the cavalry, and complement the old Cascavel and Urutú. It turns out that the "Pegaso" as the M-1117 is called in Colombia, are equipped only with 12.7 mm (.50') machine guns and/or 40 mm Mk-19 grenade launchers. Hence, there is still no replacement for the firepower that constitutes the Cascavel's 90mm cannon. Because of that, and by logical deduction, although the American vehicles are more modern, changing the Cascavel for the M-1117 would be a step backwards instead of an advance. The rattlesnakes must be kept operational for many more years. Even if war tanks are

purchased, there will always be tasks for which the Cascavel will be useful. Possible jobs for these vehicles could be:

Providing air base security and defense units, where a unit of eight vehicles per air base (two platoons), would significantly improve the chances of defending the facilities against ground, airborne or landed attacks.

Equip mobile coastal defense units of the Marine Corps. Platoons of four Cascavel, located in strategic places near beaches that the enemy could use to land, would allow the Marine Corps to react quickly and hinder or prevent the enemy amphibious landing. Rattlers could fire on enemy troops that have made landfall, landing craft, enemy amphibious vehicles on land or while still sailing to shore, and could even fire on enemy LST or nearby vessels. to shore, within the maximum range of the EC-90 guns.

If more modern tanks and equipment are purchased, the Cascavel would be considered "surplus" or second line equipment. Precisely, under such conditions, they could be used in the interior, to protect supply lines, critical points and areas, bridges, and vital installations for the war effort. It will always be more difficult for the enemy to take or destroy an objective, if they find four Rattlesnakes there ready to defend it.

World Anti-Terrorist Forces

Audentes Fortuna iuvat



Norway

Armed forces

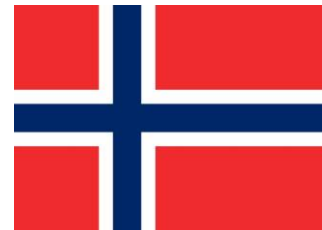
The Norwegian Armed Forces (Norwegian: Forsvaret) have about 30,000 employees, including civilian employees. The number of the armed forces during a total mobilization is approximately 100,000 combatants. The Norwegian Armed Forces are subordinate to the Norwegian Ministry of Defense. The Commander-in-Chief is King Harald V.

Under the Constitution, the Minister of Defense is responsible to the Stortinget for all activities carried out by the agencies under his or her authority. This means that the minister, as part of the executive branch of government, is responsible for supervising the activities of his subordinate agencies, including through general supervision of his functions.

The largest military exercise in which the Armed Forces of Norway participate is *Cold Response*, carried out annually with all NATO member countries and their guests.

Organization

Under the Norwegian Constitution, all able-bodied male citizens over the age of 19 are required to perform military service for a minimum of 12 months. This responsibility lasts until the age of 44. Depending on the operational needs of the Norwegian Armed Forces, the number of conscripts required is established. In 2009, the Norwegian Parliament passed a new Military Service Act stating that female candidates have to fulfill the examination, classification and other requirements for military service, just like men.



The Ministry of Defense is, since 2003, a structure made up of civilian and military personnel. Subordinate to the Ministry of Defense are the Military Organization of the Armed Forces, as well as three civilian agencies: The National Security Agency, the Norwegian Defense Research Foundation, and the State Defense Agency.



Norwegian soldier on maneuvers

Military branches:

- Norwegian Army
- Royal Norwegian Navy
- Royal Norwegian Air Force
- Norwegian National Guard
- Norwegian Cyber Defense Force
- Norwegian Special Operations Command (NORSOCOM) (established January 2014)

In addition, the Armed Forces have a number of common services that support operational needs, and the Defense Logistics Organization is the most important of them. Its area of responsibility includes acting as a center of professional competence and the provision of engineering services, acquisitions, investments, supply, information and communications technology services, as well as maintenance, repair and material storage.

Main Army Materials

Battle tanks:

52 Leopard 2 A4NO 120mm

Armored vehicles:

300 M113 12.7mm

50 Homeland Pasi 12.7mm

104 hp 90 40mm

170 Iveco LMV

10ATF Dingo

Artillery:

14 M109-A3GN 155mm

Air defense:

RBS 70 rockets

Anti-tank weapons:

NM142/TOW II 149mm

TOW I/II 127/149mm missile system



Norwegian Army troops on maneuvers.

Main materials of the Navy

4 Fridtjof Nansen-class frigates

6 Ula-class submarines

6 Skjold-class corvettes



Fridtjof Nansen frigate, initial ship of the class.



Skjold corvette p960

Major Air Force Materials

- 22 F-35As
- 57 F-16 fighter jets
- 6 Hercules C-130 transport aircraft
- 3 DA-20 Falcon Jets
- 18 Bell 412 SP helicopters



Norwegian Air Force F-35A 5th generation fighter



The first Royal Norwegian Air Force (RNoAF) P-8A Poseidon makes its maiden flight



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