

# CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

JANUARY 2008

## KFOR TO REMAIN IN KOSOVO

THE NATO MILITARY ALLIANCE recently announced that the KFOR peacekeeping force will remain in Kosovo. This decision was made at a meeting held in Brussels about the future status of Kosovo. NATO decided that the KFOR force level will remain unchanged, but that a reserve of soldiers will remain on standby.

KFOR has been present in the province since 1999, when KFOR was sent to Kosovo to stop the humanitarian catastrophe.

Today, KFOR is committed to building a secure environment in which citizens, of all ethnic origins, can live in peace. KFOR will provide security and public order for ethnic minorities, and ensure stability in the region. NATO has promised to act against any group seeking a return to violence in the Balkans.

Western governments agree that it is time to settle the issue of Kosovo's status. Kosovo may soon be recognized by the United States and most European Union countries as an independent Balkan state.

## RFID TAGS MONITOR MOVEMENT

RADIO-FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION TAGS are virtually everywhere nowadays. They are used to track everything from prisoners to equipment. The RFID tag is a small electronic chip attached to a small antenna. It is a type of automatic identification method: when the device hears a particular radio signal, it broadcasts the number in its chip. For example, radio-frequency identification can help robots "see" what is around them. The RFID tag then makes this image visible to computers.

The technology is not new, nor is it complex. In addition, it is fairly inexpensive. However, RFID tags are extremely useful devices. The U.S. military in Iraq uses radio-frequency identification to track equipment. RFID tags can be used to track the number of rounds fired from weapons. Additionally, the tags are implanted in U.S. passports, credit cards and cash-free highway tolls. Even casinos use RFID tags in their chips. If human implantation of the tags is approved, RFID could be used to store medical information, or track kidnap victims.

## UPGRADING THE FLEETS

THE JAPANESE DEFENCE MINISTRY says that it is developing a fighter jet that can cruise at supersonic speeds. The Japanese are developing their own stealth fighter jet to replace their fleet of F-4s and F-15s. This will be launched next April.

This new design will make it very difficult for them to be detected by radars. Additionally, it will be highly manoeuvrable, and fitted with advanced technology. The test flight of the new "Shinshin" (spirit) is set for March 2014. "We need fighters that are fitted with highly advanced technology" said the ministry in a statement recently.

Russia too is modernizing and restructuring its military. The Russians are currently developing a fifth-generation attack fighter. They will have advanced integrated avionics systems and give pilots a complete picture of the aerial battlespace.

China already has the J-10, one of the most advanced fighters in the world. The Chinese are reportedly developing upgraded models with stealth capabilities.

## SAUDI OILFIELD SECURITY

SAUDI ARABIA is safeguarding its oil facilities against terrorist attacks. Oilfield security has been a priority in Saudi Arabia since terrorist attacks in 2004. The country produces about 9 million barrels of oil per day, and Saudis know that their oil facilities are a likely target for terrorists.

The Saudis recently established a Petroleum Facilities Force (PFF) to guard the country's oil facilities. The joint force is made up of soldiers, sailors, and police officers. It will protect the pipelines, the oil fields and the processing plants.

In the future, the PFF plans to include a helicopter force to guard the pipeline and to prevent aircraft and missile attacks.

Bos, Stefan. NATO to Stay in Kosovo *VOA News*, December 7, 2007

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-12-07-voa39.cfm>

Grossman, Lev. Tag, You're It, *TIME*, November 5, 2007

Yamaguchi, Mari. Japan to Develop Stealth Fighter, *The Boston Globe*, December 7, 2007

[http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2007/12/07/japan\\_to\\_develop\\_stealth\\_fighter/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2007/12/07/japan_to_develop_stealth_fighter/)

Landers, Jim. Saudi Arabia Works to Protect Oil Fields from Terrorism, *The Dallas Morning News*, December 9, 2007

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/world/story/52B964645BA5AA7B862573AB00242E10?OpenDocument>

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## Student Worksheet

### Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to the definitions on the right.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1 to commit    | a) to insert in living tissue                             |
| 2 to ensure    | b) to protect   |
| 3 to settle    | c) a factory that produces a particular product           |
| 4 to broadcast | d) to fix or resolve                                      |
| 5 to track     | e) to promise or agree to do something                    |
| 6 to implant   | f) to make public by means of radio or television         |
| 7 fleet        | g) to follow  |
| 8 to fit       | h) a number of warships under a single command            |
| 9 to safeguard | i) to make sure, certain, or safe                         |
| 10 priority    | j) to equip   |
| 11 plant       | k) something that needs more attention than anything else |

### Task 2: comprehension check

Complete the following sentences with one or two words:

- 1 KFOR's role in Kosovo is to provide \_\_\_\_\_ and prevent \_\_\_\_\_ in the region.
- 2 Kosovo is trying to gain \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 The RFID tag is an \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 RFID technology allows physical objects to be seen as images by a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ is illegal in most countries.
- 6 Japan, China and Russia are currently developing their \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 The Saudis are taking actions to \_\_\_\_\_ their oil facilities.
- 8 The new force will protect oil facilities from \_\_\_\_\_.

### Task 3: discussion

The second story in this month's Campaign News Digest focuses on surveillance technology. Do you think technology protects us or invades our privacy? Your teacher is going to divide you into groups to debate the 'pros' (positive aspects) and 'cons' (negative aspects) of surveillance technology. Some of you will defend the use of surveillance technology for security, while some of you will oppose it. Use this website to help you: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RFID>

### Task 4: writing

Many soldiers write about their military experiences and publish them on the Internet. This is called 'blogging.' Two of the stories in this month's CND talk about technology. Your teacher will give you a few military blog websites about RFIDs and stealth fighter jets. Choose three blogs that interest you and respond to each blog in about 100 words.

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## Teacher's Notes

### *Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary*

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to a definition on the right. Encourage students to try to deduce the meaning of the words from the context using clues from the text.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1 to commit    | e) to promise or agree to do something                    |
| 2 to ensure    | i) to make sure   |
| 3 to settle    | d) to fix or resolve                                      |
| 4 to broadcast | f) to make public by means of radio or television         |
| 5 to track     | g) to follow  |
| 6 to implant   | a) to insert in living tissue                             |
| 7 fleet        | h) a number of warships under a single command            |
| 8 to fit       | j) to equip   |
| 9 to safeguard | b) to protect   |
| 10 priority    | k) something that needs more attention than anything else |
| 11 plant       | c) a factory that produces power or processes chemicals   |

### *Task 2: comprehension check: short answer questions*

Complete the following sentences with one or two words:

- 1 KFOR's role in Kosovo is to provide security and prevent violence in the region.
- 2 Kosovo is trying to gain independence.
- 3 The RFID tag is an electronic chip.
- 4 RFID technology allows physical objects to be seen as images by a computer.
- 5 Human implantation is illegal in most countries.
- 6 Japan, China and Russia are currently developing their fighter jets
- 7 The Saudis are taking actions to guard/safeguard/protect their oil facilities.
- 8 The new force will protect oil facilities from terrorist attacks.

### *Task 3: discussion*

Although surveillance technology may be a useful tool for law enforcement and security, the issue raises a great deal of controversy. Many people believe that advances in technology are a threat to civil liberties and personal privacy. This is particularly true for RFID tags because it is possible to gather sensitive data about an individual without consent. Tags pose a threat to both personal location privacy and military security.

This exercise aims to practise speaking fluency skills and the use of argument strategies. You may want to review the language of politely agreeing, disagreeing, interrupting, and expressing personal opinion before you start the debate.

As a lead-in, ask your students if they think technology protects us or invades our privacy. Brainstorm, as a class, ways that RFIDs could be used against private citizens. You can use this website for background information:

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RFID>.

Help your students divide into two groups to debate the 'pros' and 'cons' of RFIDs. The 'pros' group will defend the use of surveillance technology for security, while the 'cons' group will defend the protection of privacy. You can use this website to help you organize the debate.

<http://www.debating.org/whatwedo.php?index=rules>.

For further information about the uses of RFIDs, you could look at the following website:

[http://www.sixwise.com/newsletters/06/04/05/rfids\\_the\\_pros\\_and\\_cons\\_every\\_consumer\\_needs\\_to\\_know\\_about\\_radio\\_frequency\\_identification\\_tags.htm](http://www.sixwise.com/newsletters/06/04/05/rfids_the_pros_and_cons_every_consumer_needs_to_know_about_radio_frequency_identification_tags.htm)

To extend this activity, you could set a writing task for homework. Ask your students to write about the potential uses of RFIDs in the future. You may want to review the future tense as well as first and second conditionals. Encourage your students to use their imaginations.

## ***Task 4: writing***

The aim of this exercise is to familiarize students with informal writing skills. Introduce the differences between formal and informal writing with your students. You can use these websites to help you:

<http://ezinearticles.com/?The-Difference-Between-Formal-and-Informal-Writing&id=594208> and

<http://www.geneseo.edu/~writing/?pg=topics/formalinformal.html>

As a lead-in, you could briefly discuss new genres of informal writing, such as emails and blogs. Then direct your students to the following websites:

<http://www.rfid-weblog.com/> (about RFIDs)

[http://www.rfid-weblog.com/50226711/us\\_army\\_using\\_rfid\\_for\\_tracking\\_rounds\\_fired.php](http://www.rfid-weblog.com/50226711/us_army_using_rfid_for_tracking_rounds_fired.php) (about RFIDs)

[http://nctimes.com/articles/2007/12/09/military/15\\_09\\_2212\\_7\\_07.txt](http://nctimes.com/articles/2007/12/09/military/15_09_2212_7_07.txt) blog on stealth fighter (about stealth fighter jets)

<http://www.defensetech.org/archives/003844.html> (about stealth fighter jets)

Ask your students to choose three blogs of interest and to use these as examples for their responses. If you do not have the Internet in your classroom, you could bring in some printed examples of blogs from websites. Ask your students to respond to these blogs in about 100 words.

To extend this activity, students could create a blog of their own about something that interests them. Encourage your students to write blogs frequently. It is a fun way to practise writing skills. They can update their blogs, and respond to any eventual comments. You may want to remind your students to use reputable websites.

[Information on](#) how to create your own blog can be found at:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Start-a-Blog>

Additional military blogs can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.soldiersperspective.us/>

[http://www.defensetech.org/archives/cat\\_gadgets\\_and\\_gear.html](http://www.defensetech.org/archives/cat_gadgets_and_gear.html)

<http://www.milblogging.com/index.php>

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