

# CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

JUNE 2008

## FRANCE CUTS BACK ON TROOPS

FRENCH DEFENCE MINISTER HERVE MORIN recently told the French parliamentary committee that France plans to cut back on the number of troops it deploys to active theatres of war.

However, until the end of 2008, France is committed to deploying up to 50 000 troops into theatre. France has also committed to supplying naval and air force hardware, as well as logistical back-up until that time. There are currently about 11000 French troops are serving in countries including Afghanistan, Lebanon and Chad.

This month, the French government is meeting to discuss new military policies. The defence budget will be first on the agenda. It is likely that some 6000 military and civilian defence employees will lose their jobs over the next seven years, according to Morin. Additionally, the French army could cut back on military construction projects for large-scale armaments.

## INDIA TO HOST U.N. EXERCISE

INDIA'S COLLEGE OF DEFENCE MANAGEMENT is holding a multinational exercise next week in New Delhi. Senior military officers from 17 countries will participate in this computer-based exercise.

The aim of the training is to facilitate the planning and conduct of U.N. multinational peace support operations.

The project follows a joint Indo-U.K. command post exercise held in 2005, India's most advanced military exercise to date, which was aimed at building a military coalition.

Military activity between India and the UK has become much more frequent in recent times. There are more joint-exercises, exchanges, and training courses conducted, and high-level visits are increasingly more frequent.

India's military frequently operates with other defence forces. Indian soldiers have participated in 43 United Nations peacekeeping operations. Currently, there are about 8000 Indian troops participating in peacekeeping operations around the world.

## NEW CYBER DEFENCE CENTRE

NATO formally established the Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence earlier this month. Seven NATO countries participated in the event which was held in Estonia. The centre will help NATO defend itself from threats in the area. Additionally, it will help NATO members to protect key information systems.

The centre will employ about 30 staff members from countries including Estonia, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Spain. These staff members will be responsible for conducting research on cyber warfare, as well as training.

The centre was established as a result of last year's attack on public and private institutions in Estonia. Following the attack, NATO decided to assess its own cyber defence. Consequently, Allied Defence Ministers developed a NATO cyber defence policy in 2007, which led to the establishment of the cyber defence centre.

## NUCLEAR WATCHDOGS AT WORK

A TEAM OF EXPERTS from the International Atomic Energy Agency are inspecting nuclear power plants in Russia.

The team is made up of experts from the Operational Safety Review Team program. This includes countries such as Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, the U.S., France, China and Italy. At present, the team is inspecting the Balakovo nuclear power plant in southern Russia. The team will check if the plant complies with international operational safety standards.

This plant is one of ten nuclear power plants today in Russia. It produces 25% of the electricity in the Volga Federal District. The plant also produces one-fifth of the total electricity produced by Russian nuclear power plants.

Official: France to Cut Active Overseas Troops, *DefenseNews*, May 14, 2008

<http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3529488&c=EUR&s=TOP>

Raghuvanshi, Vivek India to Make First Appearance at Berlin Air Show, *DefenseNews*, May 23, 2008

<http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3544513&c=ASI&s=TOP>

NATO Opens New Centre of Excellence on Cyber Defence, *NATO*  
<http://www.nato.int/docu/update/2008/05-may/e0514a.html>

UN Nuclear Watchdog Starts Inspection of Plant in South Russia,  
RIA Novosti., *Russian News and Information Agency*, May 20, 2008  
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/russia/2008/russia->

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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 cut back   | a) important, fundamental   |
| 2 committed     | b) to decide about the importance of something                          |
| 3 agenda        | c) a factory that produces power or chemicals                           |
| 4 to facilitate | d) up to the present moment   |
| 5 to date       | e) a plan or a list of all things that need to be done or thought about |
| 6 key           | f) to obey laws or regulations  |
| 7 to conduct    | g) to carry out or manage something                                     |
| 8 to assess     | h) to be dedicated to doing something                                   |
| 9 plant         | i) to decrease in number, size, or amount                               |
| 10 to comply    | j) to make it easier for something to happen                            |

### *Task 2: comprehension check*

Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 France is going to deploy additional troops overseas next year to provide logistical backup.
- 2 A lot of new positions are opening up for French civilian defence employees.
- 3 India is training with the U.K. and other countries so that they can cooperate on peace support missions.
- 4 India will no longer deploy its troops to peacekeeping operations overseas.
- 5 NATO information systems around the world crashed after a cyber attack last year.
- 6 The Cyber Defence Centre will help NATO members to protect their information systems .
- 7 A team of experts from around the world are inspecting Russian nuclear power plants.
- 8 The inspectors ordered Russia to shut down a plant in Balakovo because it did not comply to the standards.

### *Task 3: discussion*

The last article in this month's Campaign News Digest talks about nuclear power plants. Recently, the debate on the use of nuclear energy has intensified. You are going to divide into groups to debate the pros and cons of producing nuclear energy.

### *Task 4: writing*

Two articles in this month's CND involve cooperation with foreign defence forces. Your commanding officer wants to organize a joint-exercise in your place of work. You are on the organizing committee. Write a letter to the commanding officer of the Indian regiment inviting the regiment to take part in a joint-training exercise in your country. Describe the exercise, include specific information about program, times, dates and requirements, and request confirmation.

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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.

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|-----------------|---|
| 1 to cut back   | i) to decrease in number, size, or amount                               |
| 2 committed     | h) dedicated to doing something   |
| 3 agenda        | e) a plan or a list of all things that need to be done or thought about |
| 4 to facilitate | j) to make it easier for something to happen                            |
| 5 to date       | d) up to the present moment   |
| 6 key           | a) important, fundamental   |
| 7 to conduct    | g) to carry out or manage something                                     |
| 8 to assess     | b) to decide about the importance of something                          |
| 9 plant         | c) a factory that produces power or chemicals                           |
| 10 to comply    | f) to obey laws or regulations  |

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

Decide if the following sentences are true or false.

- 1 False France is going to cut back on troops.
- 2 False France is cutting back on defence jobs.
- 3 True
- 4 False Indian troops are serving around the world on peacekeeping missions.
- 5 False Estonian institutions were attacked last year so NATO wants to protect itself from similar threats.
- 6 True
- 7 True
- 8 False The article does not discuss the results of the inspection.

### *Task 3: discussion*

The aim of this exercise is to practice speaking fluency.

As a lead in, tell students that the debate on the use of nuclear energy has recently intensified in Europe. Italy now plans to build new nuclear power plants after a 20-year ban, while a bomb scare in Sweden has caused alarm.

For a general idea of this issue, ask your students to look at this website.  
[http://www.eurotopics.net/en/presseschau/archiv/archiv\\_dossier/DOSSIER28340-A-new-debate-on-nuclear-energy](http://www.eurotopics.net/en/presseschau/archiv/archiv_dossier/DOSSIER28340-A-new-debate-on-nuclear-energy)

Alternatively, you could print the press review for them and give each group a print out.

Ask students what they think Europe's energy policy should be. Then tell them they are going to have a debate on nuclear energy.

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Divide the class into two groups: the 'pros' (for the use of nuclear energy) and the 'cons' (against the use of nuclear energy)

If your students need some input, give them the prompts below.

'Pro' group:

climate change

world oil production/ oil dependency

increased energy demand

electricity for battery powered cars

cost of nuclear energy

cost of renewable energy

new, upgraded technology

green solution

'Con' group.

cost of nuclear power

dangers of nuclear power

threat of terrorism

wind and solar sources of energy

storage of radioactive waste

You may want to review discussion techniques (agreeing, disagreeing, interrupting politely) before starting the debate.

If you would like further ideas and suggestions on how to organize your debate, have a look at this website:

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

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

The aim of this activity is to practise writing formal professional letters. This is not an easy task because many of us no longer write letters even in our own language. Therefore, you will probably want to help your students develop letter writing skills such as convention, text organization, tone, etc.

These websites provide lots of information to help students write letters:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/bitesize/standard/english/lit\\_form/letter\\_rev3.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/bitesize/standard/english/lit_form/letter_rev3.shtml)

<http://www.usingenglish.com/resources/letter-writing.html> (only layout, content and rules)

<http://www.eltnewsletter.com/back/January2001/art472001.htm>

Remind students not to focus on minor details of the format as different organizations use different letter format. You may want to give them examples of formal professional letters that they can use as a model for their writing.

Remind students that in formal letter writing contracted forms are not used and phrasal verbs are avoided where possible.

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