

AIR POWER**Cheaper options for ground attack/ Alan Warnes**

Asian Military Review: Vol.27, Issue 7, November 2019, pp.10-16 (60)

Aircraft with lower operational costs but still maintains and armed with high technology is what most military hoped for especially in fighting insurgents or terrorists for example in countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. Hence the article highlights that there is now a wide range of options for the military to choose for their ground attack aircraft without compromising their defence budget.

Air power in 2025/ Tim Mahon

Military Technology: Vol. XLIII, Issue 11, 2019, pp.16-19 (38)

The article highlights that due to the advancement of weapons technologies and modernised aircraft designs, it leads to the implementation and commissioning of these up to 20 years and leads to the emerging of new capabilities such as China.

ASEAN**After Jokowi's first term - Indo-Pacific or Pacindo: does it matter?/ René L Pattiradjawane**

RSIS Commentary : No. 209, 18 October 2019 (F31)

Indonesia has been one of the earliest proponents of the idea of Indo-Pacific, expanding the long-standing Asia Pacific regional outlook towards the Indian Ocean. As President Joko Widodo enters his second term, what is the future of Pacindo, the Indonesian iteration of the idea?

Russia and the West: towards normalisation? / Chris Cheang

RSIS Commentary : No. 198, 8 October 2019 (F31)

A number of recent developments presages the beginning of a process that might lead to normalisation of Russo-Western relations and impact on ASEAN.

ASEAN**ASEAN's digital economy: getting the house in order/ Amalina Anuar**

RSIS Commentary : No. 196, 7 October 2019 (F31)

Thailand's ASEAN chairmanship in 2019 saw the kingdom laying down several blueprints to unleash the oft-touted US\$240 billion potential of ASEAN's digital economy. This included, among others, the Digital Integration Framework Action Plan (DIFAP). This digital framework built upon last year's dual ratification of the ASEAN e-Commerce Agreement and ASEAN Framework on Digital Data Governance (FDDG). As 2019 nears its close, what progress has ASEAN made so far in realising its digital ambitions, and how can the grouping move forward from here?

Papua New Guinea seeks to re-engage Southeast Asia: role of disaster preparedness/ Alistair D. B. Cook and Foo Yen Ne

RSIS Commentary : No. 145, 18 July 2019 (F31)

Following the recent political turmoil in Papua New Guinea, the new Prime Minister James Marape signalled a shift in its foreign policy away from traditional partners to re-engage Southeast Asia. How can ASEAN help PNG develop its national capacity, such as in disaster preparedness?

The idea of Indo-Pacific: ASEAN steps in/ Nazia Hussain

RSIS Commentary : No. 143, 17 July 2019 (F31)

The ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) is an initial step towards formally incorporating ASEAN Centrality in the evolving Indo-Pacific concept. The AOIP has been much anticipated as different powers assert their conceptions of the Indo-Pacific region in which ASEAN claims a key role. What does this mean for sub-regional cooperation?

ASIA PACIFIC

'Blue boats' and 'reef robbers': a new maritime security threat for the Asia Pacific?/ Andrew M. Song

Asia Pacific Viewpoint : Vol.60, No.3, December 2019, pp.310-324 (8)

The article examines whether the small blue-colored fishing boats belonging to the Vietnamese are posing any maritime, food and human security threat. The boats' activities have alarmed the Oceanic countries including Australia which have called a strengthened coordination of surveillance efforts while pressuring Vietnam diplomatically.

CHINA

Anti-access strategies in the Pacific: the United States and China/ Sam J. Tangredi

The US Army War College Quarterly Parameters: Vol. 49, No.1-2, Spring-Summer 2019, pp.5-20 (83)

The article highlights the elements of anti-access strategies that might be used by China against the United States to project their power in the South China Sea region.

Global changing of the guard: which drum beat to follow?

RSIS Commentary : No. 232, 14 November 2019 (F31)

The struggle for global hegemony is not confined to military power, but involves many other areas. Most of all the US-China competition will be a vindication of which political system will thrive.

China's quest for stability: images and realities

RSIS Commentary : No. 229, 12 November 2019 (F31)

The article highlights China's move in their defence diplomacy by pursuing to political messaging and pragmatic signalling. However, China can enhance this exercise by addressing some external security concerns about the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

CHINA

Combatting the Belt and Road Initiative beyond 2019/ Thomas J. Shattuck

Orbis: Volume 63, Issue 4, 2019, pp.505-519 (44)

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was infamous as a source of corruption, financial instability and debt trap diplomacy. However in 2019 Xi Jinping attempted to right the BRI by promising significant reforms and transparency and has created opportunity for other power such as the US to implement their own strategy which created competition with China.

Hong Kong's 2019 turmoil: a dismal future?/ KB Teo

RSIS Commentary : No. 197, 07 October 2019 (F31)

The turmoil currently sweeping Hong Kong is driven primarily by four main causes. One, fear of Beijing's growing control. Two, concern over the erosion of its "freedoms and autonomy". Three, the very high costs of living. Four, Western interference. As Hong Kong's political crisis deepens, what are the options open to Beijing and what are the priority issues for the Hong Kong leadership?

CLIMATE CHANGE

Yet another haze crisis: how now?/ Johan Saravanamuttu and Khor Yu Leng

RSIS Commentary : No. 194, 3 October 2019 (F31)

Three main factors cause the Southeast Asian transboundary haze; weather, peatland management and people. The acrid smog may have cleared for now but unless the underlying issues are addressed the recurring haze will have grave implications for health and climate change.

CYBER

Cyber's become physical

Professional Security : Vol, 29/12, December 2019, pp.22-23 (91)

Cyber has become embedded in our life and society is becoming digital hence criminals is becoming agile and innovate the way they do their crimes.

CYBER SECURITY

Healthcare: a critical information infrastructure/ Pauline C. Reich

RSIS Commentary : No. 204, 15 October 2019 (F31)

As we rely more and more on networked data and devices with the advent of the 5G networks, there are more Internet-connected devices entering the medical marketplace worldwide. What are the cyber security risks to the healthcare sector?

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Combating marine debris: what after the Bangkok declaration?/ Julius Cesar Imperial Trajano and Lina Gong

RSIS Commentary : No. 136, 8 July 2019 (F31)

The Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris reaffirms ASEAN's commitment to protect the marine environment and strengthen regional cooperation in addressing marine debris issues. The declaration must now be complemented with sustainable national and regional actions involving multi-stakeholder participation.

EUROPEAN UNION

Networked cooperation: how the European Union mobilizes peacekeeping forces to project power abroad/ Marina E. Henke

Security Studies : Vol.28, No.5, October-December 2019, pp.901-934 (118)

The article discusses the role of European Union (EU) in recruiting troops and police to serve in EU peacekeeping missions and how they use social and institutional networks in convincing member states to provide the forces needed.

INDO PACIFIC

Deepening interoperability/ Capt Eli J. Morales

Marine Corps Gazette: Vol.103, No.12, December 2019, pp.8-12 (71)

This article is a study based on the position of United States within the Indo Pacific region. Regions in the Indo Pacific needed coalition partners and allies within the regions itself and outside power such as the United States in order to protect and maintain security.

INDONESIA

The politics of defence/ Andrew Drwiega

Asian Military Review: Vol.27, Issue 7, November 2019, pp.38-40 (60)

The article highlights a move made by the Indonesian president Joko Widodo in making his presidential opponent Prabowo Subianto as the new Minister of Defence who lost in the presidential election. Hence the question arises of whether Prabowo will use his new position to modernise Indonesian armed forces or will he use it for his political gains?

INDONESIA

TNI's 2019 joint exercise: adding more fire power/ Sigit S. Nugroho

RSIS Commentary : No. 235, 20 November 2019 (F31)

Recent joint exercises of the Indonesian military demonstrate the institution's increasing focus on interoperability, network-centric warfare capability, and improvement of combat support roles.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

After the International Conference on Cohesive Societies - building social cohesion: committing to a participatory approach/ Stephanie Neubronner

RSIS Commentary : No. 149, 24 July 2019 (F31)

While discussing ways to build social cohesion is important, how do we move beyond such conversations and motivate everyday individuals to take action?

ISLAMIC STATE

Trump, Syria and the betrayal of the Kurds/ Adrian Ang U-Jin

RSIS Commentary : No. 201, 10 October 2019 (F31)

What are the political and diplomatic implications of the US decision to withdraw its forces from northeastern Syria?

Syria: Uzbekistan's approach to IS detainees/ Nodirbek Soliev

RSIS Commentary : No. 199, 9 October 2019 (F31)

Following IS' demise in Syria, the international community has grappled with several complex challenges, including how to deal with women and children who joined IS in the Iraq-Syria conflict zone and are seeking to return home.

JAPAN

Defence from and for Japan/ Robert Czulda

Military Technology: Vol. XLIII, Issue 11, 2019, pp.54-56 (38)

The article discusses Japan's military fleet from its navy, air and land and how they increase their defence capabilities due to constant changes in security environment.

The dual-layer security system and the role of the Japan coast guard/ Kentaro Furuya

Naval War College Review : Vol 72 No 4, Autumn 2019, pp. 27-51 (F22)

Maritime borders is considered as the top priority for the Japanese government and it is the responsibility of the Japan's coast guard to ensure this as to avoid military confrontation especially with China's bold moves in the area.

Expansion of the Prime Minister's power in the Japanese parliamentary system/ Harukata Takenaka

Asian Survey: Vol.59 No.5, December 2019, pp.844-869 (12)

This paper shows the evolution of the institutional reforms since the 1990s that has transformed the relationship of the Japanese prime minister with others in the parliamentary system and has since expanded his power.

JIHAD

The strategic logic of women in jihadi organizations/ Hamoon Khelghat-Doost

Studies in Conflict & Terrorism: Vol.42, No 10, 11, 12, October, November, December 2019, pp.853-877 (114)

The article highlights the involvement of women in jihadi organizations in order to enhance their organizational success; the tactical advantages that women provide to these organizations.

KOREA**Kim, Trump maintain hope for nuclear talks**

Arms Control Today: Vol.49, No. 7, September 2019, p.31 (5)

The article discusses the talks between North Korea and United States of America with regards to their nuclear negotiations which had been stalled despite North Korea's active missile launch activities.

Exploring North Korea's asymmetric military strategy/ Mirko Tasic

Naval War College Review : Vol 72 No 4, Autumn 2019, pp. 53-71 (F22)

The article highlights the strategy made by the North Korean over the years thus increasing their military capabilities and force structure. This poses the argument that the North Korean is engaging in an offensive nature rather than defensive move.

LAOS**Benefits and risks of stronger relations with China**

Asia Monitor South East Asia Vol.2 : Vol.31, Issue 1, January 2020, pp.14-16 (49)

Strengthening relationship with China has proven to be beneficial to Laos in terms of their development and diplomatic benefits. However, with the benefits also comes risks to Laos; the Chinese debt trap.

LEADERSHIP**30 seconds decision makers/ Capt Jason K. Mahuna**

Marine Corps Gazette: Vol.103, No.12, December 2019, pp.13-17 (71)

The article highlights that leaders at all levels must be able to think alike yet independently, for organizations to implement decentralized command and work towards common objectives. In another term leaders must be able to analyze and synthesize.

MALAYSIA**RM15.6 bilion untuk bajet pertahanan 2020/ Syahirah Fuad**

Perajurit : November 2019, p.3 (133)

Sebanyak RM15.6 bilion telah diperuntukkan kepada Kementerian Pertahanan Malaysia semasa belanjawan 2020 yang telah dibentangkan pada Oktober 2019. Kenaikkan ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan tahap kesiapsiagaan dan mobiliti Angkatan Tentera Malaysia.

Penghantaran kumpulan pertama MALBATT 850 - 7

Perajurit : November 2019, p.56 (133)

Anggota Tentera Malaysia (ATM) dan anggota dari Angkatan Bersenjata Diraja Brunei (ABDB) telah dihantar untuk melaksanakan misi di bawah Pasukan Interim Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (PBB) selama setahun di Lubnan bertujuan untuk memberi bantuan kemanusiaan kepada negara yang memerlukan.

Malaysia: ringgit to weaken into 2020 amid trade war

Asia Monitor South East Asia Vol.2 : Vol.30, Issue 12, December 2019, pp.1-3 (49)

The article highlights the impact of the US-China trade war to Malaysian ringgit and it will expected to continue in 2020.

MALAYSIA

Terror threat in Malaysia: warning signs/ Kevin Fernandez and Greg Lopez

RSIS Commentary : No. 152, 31 July 2019 (F31)

Since the beginning of 2019, Malaysian Police had arrested several individuals, both Malaysian citizens and foreigners residing in the country, for suspected links with Islamic State (or "Daesh"). Effective and efficient as they are, Police will continue to face significant challenges in counter-terrorism efforts due to wide-ranging developments in domestic politics, as well as regional and international settings.

MARITIME

Eyes in the sky - military maritime patrol aircraft overview/ Jon Lake

Military Technology: Vol. XLIII, Issue 11, 2019, pp.36-46 (38)

With the increasing maritime threats it is crucial for nations to maintain their maritime patrols and monitoring. Aircraft is used for this purpose as they have the ability to cover relatively large areas. Hence the article highlights the latest and types of aircraft used.

MARITIME SECURITY

ASEAN-US maritime exercise 2019: maintaining ASEAN neutrality/ Olli Pekka Suorsa

RSIS Commentary : No. 195, 4 October 2019 (F31)

The ASEAN-US maritime security exercise took place on 2-6 September 2019 - following a similar exercise ASEAN held with China in October last year. While this signified growing Sino-US competition in Southeast Asia, it is also an ASEAN attempt to adapt and maintain its relative neutrality amid intensifying great power play.

MILITIAS

Not whether, but when? government's use of militias in war/ Caitlin Ambrozik

Security Studies : Vol.28, No.5, October-December 2019, pp.870-900 (118)

The article highlights the move made by the government in using militias as their battlefield assistance although it has the ability to undermine the state's authority.

MYANMAR

Arakan Army: Myanmar's new front of conflict/ Iftekharul Bashar

RSIS Commentary : No. 140, 12 July 2019 (F31)

The Arakan Army (AA) is a relatively new addition to conflict in western Myanmar, a region that has seen much unrest in recent years. Singapore's 10 July 2019 announcement of the arrests of AA supporters raises questions about the outfit and its support among Rakhine Buddhists in confronting the Myanmar authorities.

NUCLEAR

Will the Saudis go nuclear?/ Perter A. Wilson

The National Interest : November-December 2019, No 164, pp.52-60

The article discusses of whether the Saudis being led by their Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will go for nuclear weapons despite oppositions from other countries.

PEACEKEEPING

How UN peacekeeping operations can adapt to a new multipolar world order/ Cedric De Coning

International Peacekeeping: Vol 26, No 5, November 2019, pp.536-539 (96)

The article discusses on how the changes at the global systems will have on UN peacekeeping operations and how they are adapting to these changes. There are three themes highlighted; strategic political coherence, the employment of force and the outer limits of peace operations.

Peacekeeping is not counterinsurgency/ Lise Howard

International Peacekeeping: Vol 26, No 5, November 2019, pp.545-548 (96)

This paper focus on the commonly misused term of peacekeeping to that of counterinsurgency (COIN) and blurring the lines between these two is not a winning strategy.

Humanitarian military interventions: conceptual controversies and their consequences for comparative research/ Matthias Dembinski

International Peacekeeping: Vol 26, No 5, November 2019, pp.605-629 (96)

The article looks at the debate on humanitarian military interventions, the significant humanitarian purposes and the important role of government.

SINGAPORE

Defending Singapore against foreign interference/ Muhammad Faizal Bin Abdul Rahman

RSIS Commentary : No. 171, 3 September 2019 (F31)

Foreign interference is the invisible hand of foreign states seeking to undermine a target state's national interests. It affects the target state from the inside by infiltrating its national institutions and people. It is a threat that smaller states like Singapore must defend against while navigating an increasingly contested world.

SOUTH KOREA

Overlooked: South Korea's naval shipbuilding/ Richard A. Bitzinger

RSIS Commentary : No. 135, 5 July 2019 (F31)

South Korea's sea trials of new indigenous submarine demonstrate that the country's naval shipbuilding industry is entering a new phase of proficiency. This will mean a more capable blue-water South Korean navy, as well as promising to make Korea a major player in the global arms market.

TERRORISM

Terrorism watch lists, suspect ranking and decision-making biases/ Peter J. Phillips and Gabriela Pohl

Studies in Conflict & Terrorism: Vol.42, No 10, 11, 12, October, November, December 2019, pp.898-914 (114)

The article examines the relevance of the decision making processes and biases when ranking and monitoring any individuals' names that has been placed on a terrorism watch list.

THAILAND

Recognizing health security: Thailand's leadership ambitions in mainland Southeast Asian Disease Control/ Clare Wenham

Contemporary Southeast Asia: Vol 40, No. 1, April 2018, pp. 126 - 151 (19/DA)

Thailand has learnt the security threat posed by diseases such as HIV/AIDS and SARS and has thoroughly invested on country's disease control infrastructure. The article shows how Thailand has been able to dominate the normative processes of sub-regional disease control and through which, strengthening its own economic and national security.

THAILAND**Royal Thai air force/ Alan Warnes***Military Technology: Vol. XLIII, Issue 11, 2019, pp.52-53 (38)*

The article highlights on Thailand's air force and their capabilities especially with threats coming from their south and along the Malaysian border.

TRADE WAR**RSIS high-level trade policy meeting - looking into the trade abyss/ Evan Rogerson***RSIS Commentary : No. 203, 14 October 2019 (F31)*

With the outbreak of large-scale trade wars around the world, and the pressures nationalist governments have applied on the World Trade Organisation (WTO), there is an urgent need for an in-depth evaluation of the perils and possibilities for trade policy.

US**Power, structural power, and American decline/ Nicholas Kitchen***Cambridge Review of International Affairs: Vol.32, No.6, December 2019, pp. 734-752 (93)*

The study examines the debate on the concept of power based around relative capabilities that is not fit for purpose. Obstacle to rising powers is the structure of the system which they seek to rise; technological conditions, patterns of behaviour, norms of conduct, regimes and institutions that have ordered international relations.

VIETNAM**The nuclear taboo/ Joseph Dragovich***History Today: Vol 69, No. 12, December 2019, pp.22-25 (78A)*

The article highlights the reason for the US not to use their nuclear power in Vietnam in the 1960s amidst tensions in Vietnam was largely due to the fear of nuclear taboo and the political damage it would cause.

Next ASEAN Summit: how will Vietnam lead?*RSIS Commentary : No. 228, 11 November 2019 (F31)*

The article discusses on how will the recently concluded ASEAN Summit pave the way for multilateral initiatives under the next chair, Vietnam?

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