

1. Military Policy: Foreign Military Bases in the Ukrainian Territory

On 9 February 2010, the President of Ukraine, Viktor Yuschenko, forwarded to the Constitutional Court a formal request regarding official interpretation of provisions of Paragraph 14, Section XV of Transitional Provisions of the Constitution in systemic connection with Section 7, Article 17 of the Constitution.

Comment: Paragraph 14, Section XV of Transitional Provisions stipulates that usage of existing military bases in the Ukrainian territory for temporary stationing of foreign military units can be done on terms of lease according to procedures established by Ukraine's international agreements that have been ratified by the Supreme Council. Section 7, Article 17 of the Constitution stipulates that the Ukrainian territory may not be used for stationing of foreign military bases. The President of Ukraine, Viktor Yuschenko, considers the Russian Black Sea Fleet based in the Ukrainian territory to be a destabilizing factor.

On 11 February 2010, 50 people's deputies addressed a similar request to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

At the same time, the future stationing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in the Crimea will depend largely on internal political situation in Ukraine. For instance, Viktor Yanukovich is willing to concede that the Russian Black Sea Fleet may stay on in the Crimea after 2017 on the condition of increased rental payment.

2. Personnel Policy: the UAF Manning Meeting

A meeting presided over by the Chief of the General Staff – Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Colonel-General Ivan Svyda, is scheduled for 17 February 2010. The aim of the meeting is discussion of the UAF manning issues.

Comment: According to the plans, the issues to be discussed at the meeting include manning of the UAF with private soldiers and NCOs. One of the main challenges still faces by the UAF is manning with contract servicemen. The only achievement of the UAF leaders in 2009 is preservation of the contract manning level that had been reached in 2008, namely approximately 52% of the total UAF personnel. At the same time, servicemen's attitude to the UAF manning system is somewhat equivocal which was confirmed by the DSPC's survey "Challenges of the UAF's Transition to Contract-based Service" conducted in October 2009. Ukrainian servicemen's plans for the future, that is after their contracts expire, do not evoke any optimism. See Annex to IAR DN № 6/2010 for detailed data.

3. Collective Training: Operational Assembly in Military Command and Control Structures

From the 9th till 12th of February 2010 an operational assembly was conducted in military command and control structures of the Services.

Comment: The assembly was conducted in Army Corps of the Ukrainian Army, Air Commands of the Ukrainian Air Force, Maritime Operations Centres and coastal units of the Ukrainian Navy. The aim of an operational assembly is to rehearse a common methodology for training of command and control structures throughout the yearlong training cycle. In the course of the assembly commanders (chiefs) are briefed on training requirements for military command and control structures, units and formations. Representatives of main directorates of the General Staff were also engaged in the operational assembly in order to provide assistance.

4. Collective Training: Inspection of the Ukrainian Navy

On 9 February 2010 a visiting committee from the MoD's Main Inspection started its work in Sevastopol.

Comment: the chief aim of this visit is to inspect readiness of Navy communications and information systems for operating according to their intended purpose. The visiting committee is headed by the Chief Inspector of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, Admiral Mykhailo Yezhel. In the course of the inspection the committee will identify the state of Navy communications systems and the possibility of their integration into the national communications network.

The main challenges of the Navy communications as well as those of other Services is transition to digital equipment and automation of command and control processes in the framework of establishment of the UAF Integrated Automated System. Underfunding of the UAF in 2009 decelerated the pace of these processes and activities to some extent.

5. International Cooperation: Command-Post Exercise of the Ukrainian and Russian Air Force and Air Defence Troops

According to the statement made by the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Air Force, Colonel-General Alexander Zelin, at a meeting of Air Defence Coordinating Committee at the CIS Defence Ministerial Council a bilateral command-post exercise of the Ukrainian and Russian Air Force and Air Defence troops will be conducted in the autumn of 2010.

Comment: The Ukrainian Delegation at the meeting of the Air Defence Coordinating Committee at the CIS Defence Ministerial Council was headed by the Ukrainian Air Force Commander, Colonel-General Ivan Rusnak.

The Committee Chairman, Alexander Zelin, informed that a methodology assembly would be conducted in the third quarter of this year for top personnel of flight security agencies and CIS military specialists responsible for combat employment of the integrated state radar identification system "Parol". Another activity planned for this period is a combined command-post exercise "Rubezh-2010" in the Central Asian collective security region.

6. International Cooperation: Ukraine-Romania Relations

On 8 February 2010 a meeting was held between the Chief of the Ukrainian General Staff, Colonel-General Ivan Svyda, and the newly appointed Romanian Defence Attaché Lieutenant Colonel Mircha Vasile Zhugurianu.

Comment: The aim of the meeting was to discuss a number of bilateral military cooperation issues. In the course of the meeting the parties also did some preliminary discussion of preparation and organization of the official visit to Ukraine by the Romanian Chief of the General Staff, Admiral George Marina scheduled for the spring of 2010.

Until the appointment of Colonel Zhigurianu, Romania had not had a military representative office in Ukraine. On 5 March 2009 Ukraine declared the Romanian Defence Attaché to Ukraine Philip Rada persona non grata. This was done in response to the similar actions taken by the Romanian leaders with regard to the Ukrainian Military Attaché to Romania Sergii Il'nytskyi and his assistant who were forced by the Romanian Government to leave the country in the early March on suspicion of espionage.

7. NATO-Ukraine: Evaluation of Ukrainian Military Transport Aviation Crews

An expert team from the NATO CC-Air stationed in Izmir (Turkey) is currently working in the Ukrainian Armed Forces to facilitate Level II self-evaluation of Ukrainian Military Transport Aviation crews.

Comment: *Ukrainian Military Transport Aviation Crews are the first in Ukraine to undergo evaluation. Foreign experts provide advice and consultations to the leadership of two transport aviation brigades of the Ukrainian Air Force as well as An-26 "Vita" and Il-76MD crews to assist the Ukrainian military personnel in their Level II self-evaluation. The evaluation will be carried out in several phases. It begins with self-evaluation up to a certain level followed by evaluation. One aircraft An-26 "Vita" and two Il-76MD along with their respective crews have already undergone Level I evaluation. Consultations are currently underway to conduct the next phase, that is Level II self-evaluation of the aforementioned aircraft and their crews. According to the plans for the late summer of 2010, the crew of the medical evacuation aircraft An-26 "Vita" is to participate in the multinational air exercise "Bold Avenger" in Turkey.*

The surgery and resuscitation aircraft An-26 "Vita" is the only hospital aircraft which enables evacuation of gravely ill patients and perform emergency surgery and resuscitation in flight, if necessary.

8. NATO-Ukraine: NATO International Week

On 8 February 2010, the 10-th NATO International Week commenced in the National Defence Academy in Kiev.

Comment: *This year's event is dedicated to development of the Alliance's new strategic concept. The new strategic concept is designed to establish clear-cut areas and directions of development for the Alliance as well as defence structures and capabilities of its member states that will enable them to rise successfully to challenges and threats of the 21st century. Development of the new Strategic Concept is contributed to not only by members but also partner states in the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the Mediterranean Dialogue, the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative as well as the Alliance's partners from around the world and international organizations. Experts from non-governmental domain also partake in the discussions. The first phase (September 2009 – February 2010) provides for wide discussions of challenges faced by the Alliance. These discussions will be attended by a team of experts from NATO member states, with broad scientific and practical experience, headed by the former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. During the second phase (February-August 2010), the expert team will conduct a number of consultations in each of the member states. Based on the results of the expert team's work, the Secretary General will draft the Strategic Concept (autumn of 2010) to be endorsed at the NATO Summit.*

9. The Ukrainian Armed Forces and Society: Flights Safety during Military Parades

The Cabinet's Enactment No104 of 03.02.10 prohibits aircraft descending below safe altitude during military parade manoeuvres.

Comment: *The Enactment specifies that during military parades in population aggregates aircraft are permitted to fly at safe altitude only, and any manoeuvre-related descend is prohibited. Corresponding changes have also been made by the Government to preparation and conduct of potentially dangerous public events involving military personnel, weapons and equipment. In 2009 the Cabinet permitted use of aviation in the Independence Day parade in Kiev. During parades aviation flights above the public is prohibited.*

The air shows ban was imposed in Ukraine after the notorious Sknyliv air display that took place on 27 July 2002 in the vicinity of Lviv. 77 people (including 28 children) were killed and 250 people injured by fighter Su-27 that crashed on a crowd of spectators during the show. The number of casualties makes this crash the biggest accident in the history of air shows.

**Servicemen's view
on the most expedient UAF manning system**

	Options	Professional contract-based army	Mixed manning system	Conscription
1	Contract servicemen:	34,2%	43,6%	22,2%
	Army	33,7%	42,3%	24,0%
	Air Force	54,8%	31,0%	14,3 %
	Navy	20,6%	58,8%	20,6%
	Forces Support Command	28,3%	47,8%	23,9%
2	Officers:	38,9%	43,4%	17,7%
	Army	40,1%	38,8%	21,1%
	Air Force	48,4%	41,9%	9,7%
	Navy	26,5%	58,8%	14,7%
	Forces Support Command	36,5%	48,1%	15,4%

Ukrainian servicemen's plans after the expiration of their contracts

	Options	UAF	Army	Air Force	Navy	Forces Support Command
1.	Army service, A new contract	35,4%	35,2%	43,9%	44,1%	23,4%
2.	Retirement, Provided another job is available	30,8%	26,8%	34,1%	26,5%	46,8%
3.	Retirement, at the expiration of the contract in any event (regardless of availability of another job)	19,9%	23,5%	9,8%	11,8%	19,1%
4.	Early termination of the contract, on any conditions	4,6%	6,1%	2,4%	2,9%	2,1%
5.	Other	9,3%	8,4%	9,8%	14,7%	8,5%