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1. Military Policy: UAF Financing in 2010

According to the Ukrainian Defence Minister, Mykhailo Yezhel, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry is planning to get an additional 785 million UAH at the expense of the Stabilization Fund.

Comment: *the Defence Ministry is planning to spend this money on covering arrears of payment for utilized energy resources, designing of new weapons and military equipment, catering and ammunition disposal, explosion and fire prevention measures at arsenals, storages and depots. There will also be additional financial allocations for training of the Ukrainian Armed Forces to prepare them for providing security during "Euro 2010" championship. Thus the Ukrainian MoD is expecting to get approximately 1 billion UAH of extra allocations.*

At the same time, under Article VI of the Final Provisions of the Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2010" the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, subject to results of the budget fulfilment in January-August 2010, has been entrusted with the task to submit a proposal for consideration by the Supreme Council on increase in state budget allocations for sustainment and development of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

2. Personnel Policy: A New Appointment in the President Administration

M.I. Gavryluk has been appointed Head of the Ukrainian President Administration Main Directorate for Defence Policy and Law Enforcement.

Comment: *Mykhailo Ivanovych Gavryluk was born in 1958 in the Khmelnytskyi region. Upon graduation from the Kharkiv Law Institute (now – the Ukrainian Law Academy named after Yaroslav the Wise) in 1983, he worked as investigation officer at the Khust District Public Prosecutor's Office (Transcarpathian region); Prosecutor at the Investigation Cell, Regional Public Prosecution Office; Mizhghiria and Tiachiv District Prosecutor; First Deputy Prosecutor of the Transcarpathia region; Chief of Department at the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine; Ternopil, Poltava and Odessa Regional Prosecutor. Legal Counsellor of State Class II.*

Kay tasks of the Main Directorate for Defence Policy and Law Enforcement is expert, analytical, advisory, informational and organizational support to the President of Ukraine as the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces as he exercises his authority in controlling activity of the UAF, the State Border Service of Ukraine and other military formations established in compliance with Ukrainian law.

3. UAF Development: 2010 – Stabilization Year

In view of limited financing of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, 2010 was declared a year of the UAF stabilization.

Comment: *General Staff experts take the view that the "stabilization" year's end-state must be to retain combat potential and lay foundations for the UAF development in years to come. The key tasks must be as follows: retain the cadre potential; ensure training standards for both individuals and military organizations; prevent decrease in equipment operability; facilitate military team-building; ensure observance of service regulations; preserve life and health of personnel; social security; create conditions for further development in years to come.*

According to the former Defence Minister, Oleksandr Kuzmuk, the state's key task in the existing conditions should be keeping of the officer corps, putting aside such issues as even weapons and military equipment. The first batch of officer contracts signed in 2005 is expiring in 2011 and mass retirement of officers can be observed today. Oleksandr Kuzmuk also stressed that no less that 21 billion UAH must be allocated for the UAF from the budget. He takes the view that the budget, first and foremost the Special Fund, must be revised based on the results of the first six months.

4. Combat Training: Practical Training at Sea for Ukrainian Navy Cadets

06.05.10. The Ukrainian Navy training boat "Nova Kahovka" left Sevastopol with 25 first-year cadets of the Nakhimov Naval Academy on board. During one week the cadets will be undergoing practical training at sea and perform various combat training tasks.

Comment: *The boat will go from Sevastopol to Nova Kakhovka and back to Sevastopol. In the course of this voyage the cadets will gain practical seafaring experience, practise use of technical ship steering equipment, master navigation, hydrographical and hydrometeorological aspects of seafaring. In the course of the training week, each cadet will be performing tasks pertaining to his chosen speciality.*

5. Peacekeeping: Restated Tasks of Ukrainian Peacekeepers in Kosovo

The KFOR Command redistributed Areas of Operations and tasks among multinational units operating in Kosovo.

Comment: *Under the order issued by the Commander of the Battle Group "East", Brigade General Al Dohrmann, the Ukrainian peacekeeping contingent stopped patrolling and situation monitoring in the Shtriptse municipality and commenced performing these tasks in the municipalities of Ranilug and Kosovska Kamianytsa in the north-east of Kosovo. In addition, the "East" Command tasked the Ukrainian peacekeepers with monitoring of the situation along the administrative demarcation line between Kosovo and Serbia. The Ukrainian peacekeepers were also engaged in the operation "Eastern Knight of Mount Goles".*

In the course of this operation, servicemen of the Ukrainian peacekeeping contingent provide security for the KFOR communications centre "Mount Goles" situated not far from the Slatina airfield at 1020 metres above sea level.

6. Ukraine-EU: Meeting of the EU Military Committee

04.05.10. A meeting of the EU Military Committee at the Chiefs of Defence level took place in Brussels. The meeting was attended by a Ukrainian military delegation headed by the Chief of the General Staff – Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, General of the Army Ivan Svyda.

Comment: General of the Army Ivan Svyda briefed meeting attendees on the UAF development priorities and transformation processes currently underway in the Ukrainian Army. Since 2007, Ukrainian military delegations have annually been taking part in EUMC meetings. Ukraine is the only non-EU country participating in these meetings. The Military Committee is a structural unit of the Council of the European Union. It deals with issues of general security of European countries. The Committee is composed of chiefs of defence from 27 European countries. It is responsible for developing recommendations on military aspects for the EU Foreign Policy and Security Committee. The Chairman of the EUMC is Swedish General Håkan Syren who up until 2009 has been Commander of the Swedish Armed Forces. His tenure expires in 2012.

7. Ukraine-NATO: Implementing the Annual National Programme

05.05.10. A meeting of the Ukraine-NATO Military Committee was held in the NATO HQ in Brussels. In the course of the meeting, the Chief of the General Staff – Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, General of the Army Ivan Svyda apprised the attendees that all international commitments undertaken in the Annual National Programme will be met by the Ukrainian side.

Comment: The Annual National Programme remains the main tool with which Ukraine and NATO implement their partnership. The military aspect of the Programme's implementation focuses on the three key areas: defence planning, development of operational capabilities and participation in crisis response operations.

The Annual National Programme preparing Ukraine for NATO membership replaced Ukraine-NATO Annual Target Plans (7 plans, all told). The first Annual National Programme was approved by the Ukrainian President's Decree on 7 August 2009. Implementation of the second ANP (enforced by Presidential Decree № 92/2010 of 03.02.2010) is currently underway.

8. Ukraine-NATO: a Meeting of the NATO Military Committee

05.05.10. Ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, the Turkish General Staff and the SHAPE on air situation data exchange took place in the NATO HQ in Brussels.

Comment: Under the signed Memorandum, air situation data exchange will be carried out between the Command Post of the Ukrainian Air Command "South" and the Control and Warning Centre of the Turkish Air Force located in Erzurum. Mutual exchange of air data will facilitate transparency of air traffic, minimize its disruption, reduce the number of international air incidents and, in general, will serve as a tool for combating air terrorism.

A similar memorandum is already in force between Ukraine and Hungary (signed in 2008). Under this memorandum the information exchange is done between the Command Post of the Ukrainian Air Command "West" (Lviv) and the Control and Warning Centre (Veszprem, Hungary).

The NATO Air Situation Data Exchange Programme was approved by the North Atlantic Council in January 2001 as the first step of cooperation with partner states in the air defence domain. In late August 2009, an implementation algorithm was developed to extend the ASDE system to the south of Europe.

9. The UAF and the Society: Celebrating Victory Day

On 04.05.10 and 06.05.10 dress rehearsals of the parade marking the 65th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War took place in Kiev.

Comment: On 9 May parades will take place in Kiev, Sevastopol, Odessa, Kerch and Mykolaiv. The Commander of the Ukrainian Army, Colonel-General G.Vorobiov will be commanding the parade in Kiev; the First Deputy Chief of the Navy Staff, Rear Admiral Yu.Ilin – in Sevastopol; the Commander of the Southern Operational Command of the Ukrainian Army, Lieutenant-General P.Lytvyn – in Odessa; the Deputy Chief of the Coastal Defence Troops Centre of the Ukrainian Navy, Colonel S. Pasichnyk.

6108 servicemen, some 60 pieces of equipment and 9 ships are engaged in the parades taking place in the four hero cities and the city of Mykolaiv. 5 ships of the Russian Black Sea Fleet will be taking part in the naval parades along with Ukrainian seamen. Over 1000 servicemen from the Russian Federation and 130 servicemen from the Republic of Belarus will take part in the parades.

In addition, in a number of towns where military units are stationed local authorities arranged for servicemen of these units to march in columns ceremoniously as part of the festivities. According to the plans, over 16000 military personnel and 350 pieces of equipment, all told, will be engaged.

Information on the overall parades expenditures is provided in the Annex to the IAR DN 18/2010.

