User Manual

militaryperiscope.com

Your trusted source for weapons, armed forces, defense companies, and worldwide military news.

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1. Overview

Military Periscope is an open-source military intelligence database providing up-to-date information on weapons systems and platforms, nations' armed forces, defense companies, militant organizations, and worldwide military news. It is designed for defense analysts, researchers, journalists, government personnel, and anyone requiring reliable, comprehensive military reference data.

What's inside

- Weapons Systems — illustrated profiles of over 7,500 weapons, systems, and platforms across nine equipment categories
- Armed Forces — order-of-battle, force structure, and procurement data organized by world region and country
- Defense Companies — profiles of manufacturers and contractors in the global defense industry
- News — current worldwide military and defense news, filterable by date and country
- Editorial — in-depth analysis covering global defense & security, defense technology, and U.S. defense policy
- Militant Organizations Archive — historical profiles of non-state armed groups organized by region

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2. Getting Started

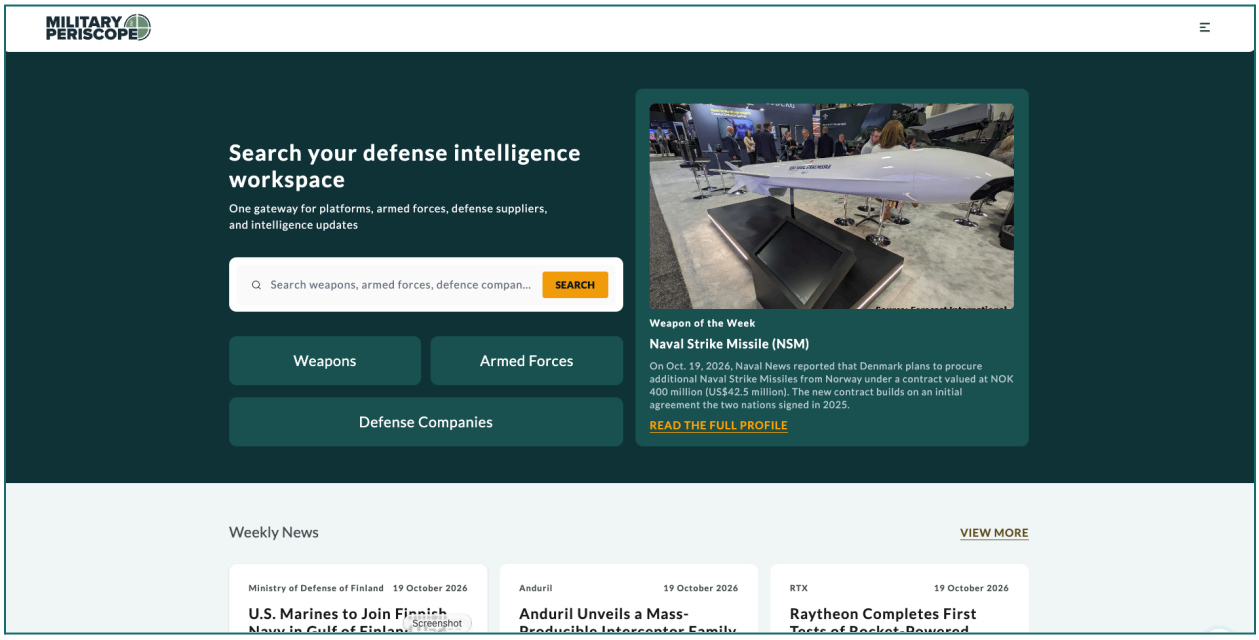
Logging in

1. Navigate to militaryperiscope.com.
2. Click Login in the top-right corner of the homepage.
3. Enter your username and password, then click Sign In. Once authenticated, the Login button is replaced by a Logout option, confirming you have an active session.

> **Tip:** *If you don't yet have an account, click Try it Free on the homepage to start a no-cost trial.*

The Dashboard

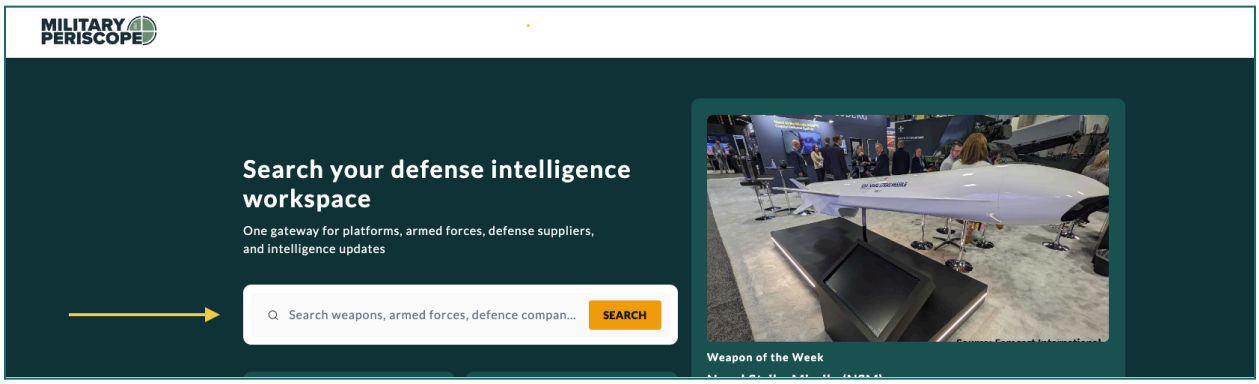
After you log in, you'll see the main dashboard. A large search bar sits at the center of the page, with three category tabs directly below it: Weapons, Armed Forces, and Defense Companies.On the right side of the page is the Weapon of the Week, and directly below it is the Weekly News. Both are updated every Monday.



3. Searching

Global search

The search bar on the dashboard accepts free-text queries across all content types. Type a weapon name, country, company, or keyword and press Enter. Results are grouped by category so you can quickly identify whether your query matched a weapon record, a news article, a country profile, or another content type.



Section-specific search

Each section has its own search bar in the header that limits results to that category. When browsing Weapons Systems, for example, the header shows "Search in weapons" with an active Weapons filter chip. News and Editorial also include a Date Range filter to narrow results by time period. The Editorial section additionally offers a subcategory filter dropdown.

> **Tip:** *Use section-specific search when you know the category — it returns faster, more targeted results than the global search.*

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4. Home Page Features and Navigation

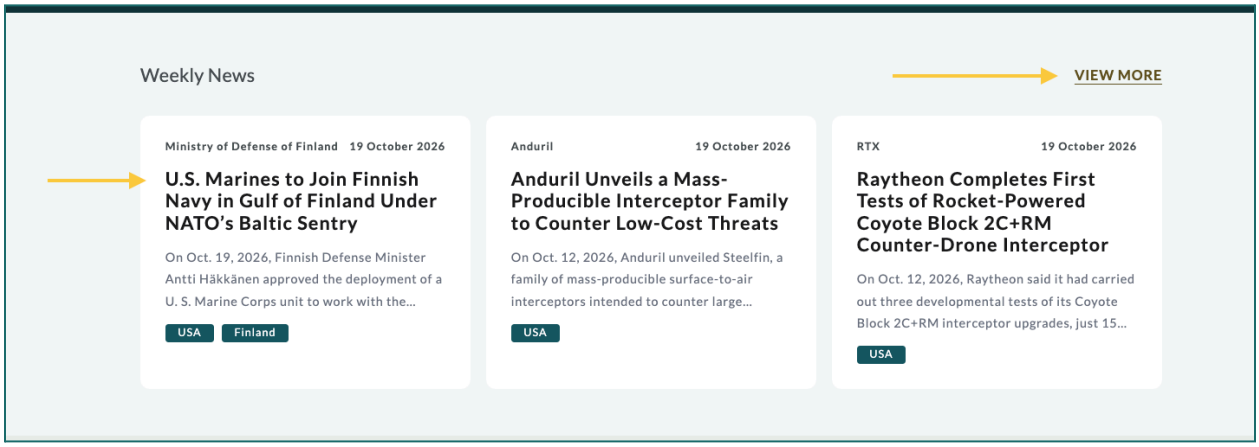
Everything displayed below the search bar is designed to help you stay informed about the latest developments in weapon systems, defense industry news, and military insights.

Weekly News

The Weekly News section features the three most recent news articles during the current week. This section is updated every Monday to ensure that the latest developments are readily available from the home page.

You can also access the complete archive of news articles through the News section in the navigation menu. For more information on this, review Section 9 of this manual.

To read a news article, select the title of the desired article. You may also select the View More heading to view all news articles for the current week, then choose a specific article to open and read in full.



Editorial

The Editorial section provides access to our in-depth reports and analysis. Editorial content can be accessed directly below Weekly News or through the site's navigation menu.

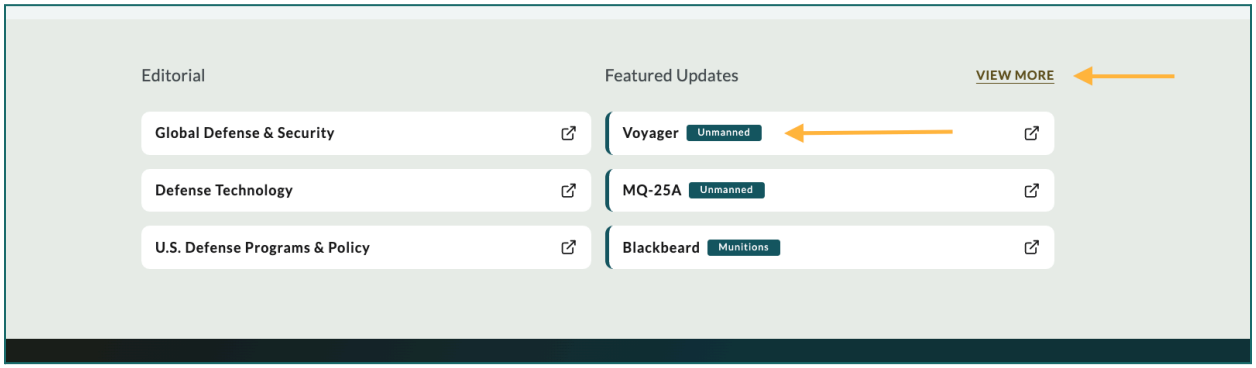
For detailed information about the Editorial section, refer to Section 10 of this manual.

Featured Updates

The Featured Updates section highlights weapon records that have received significant recent updates. While our records are updated regularly, this section highlights the most noteworthy changes each month, helping you stay quickly informed about important news and updates.

To navigate this section, you can:

- Select any of the featured weapon records displayed.
- Select View More at the top of the section.



These options will take you to the complete list of featured records, where you can view the weapon name, image, and a summary of the latest update. To access the full weapon record and additional information, select the weapon name.

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5. Navigation Tips

Breadcrumbs

Every record page shows a breadcrumb trail at the top (e.g., Weapons > Aircraft > Attack > record name, or Armed Forces > Eurasian Republics > Belarus). Click any level of the breadcrumb to jump back up the hierarchy without using the browser back button.

Table of contents panel

Weapon profiles, country profiles, and company pages all display a Table of Contents panel on the right side of the page. Click any section heading in this panel to jump directly to that part of the page. The panel stays visible as you scroll.

Print

A Print button appears in the top-right corner of all record pages. Click it to open a printer-friendly version of the current page.

Menu

The Menu button in the top-right corner is available on every page and provides quick access to all major sections, as well as account and support links.

Cross-references

Throughout the database, blue hyperlinks connect related records. A weapon profile may link to the companies that built it; a country's Force Structures tab links to individual weapon system profiles. Follow these links to move efficiently between related records without returning to the search bar.

Logging out

Click Logout in the top-right corner from any page. Your session will end and you will be returned to the public homepage.

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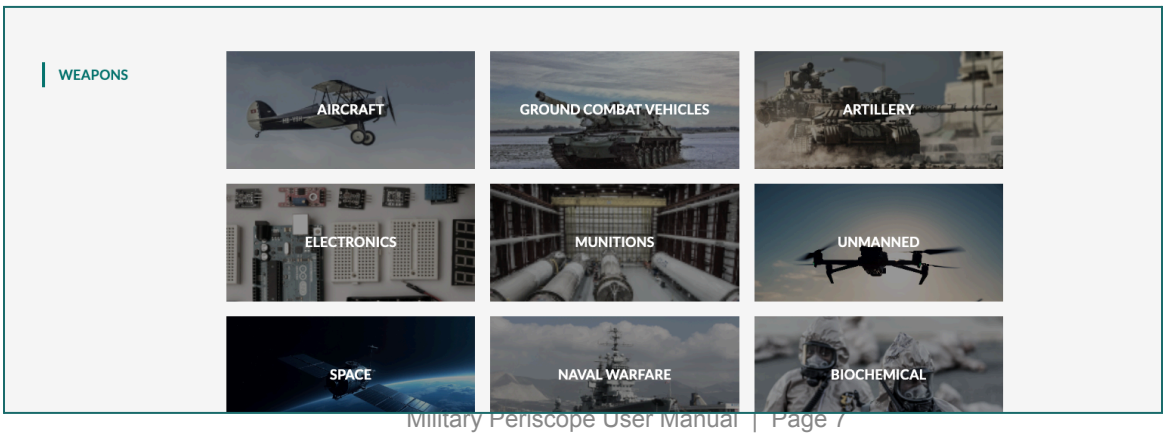
6. Weapons Systems

Browsing by category

Click Weapons Systems from the dashboard tabs or the main menu. You'll see a grid of nine weapon categories, each illustrated with a photo:

- Aircraft
- Ground Combat Vehicles
- Artillery
- Electronics
- Munitions
- Unmanned
- Space
- Naval Warfare
- Biochemical

Click any category tile to enter it.



Browsing subcategories

Inside each category, a subcategory list refines your browse further. Aircraft, for example, breaks down into subcategories including: Aerostats, Attack, Bomber, Experimental, Fighter, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, Logistics, Rotary, Tanker, Trainer, Utility, Wing-in-Ground (WiG) Effect Vehicles. Click any subcategory link to view the records within it.

The alphabetical list view

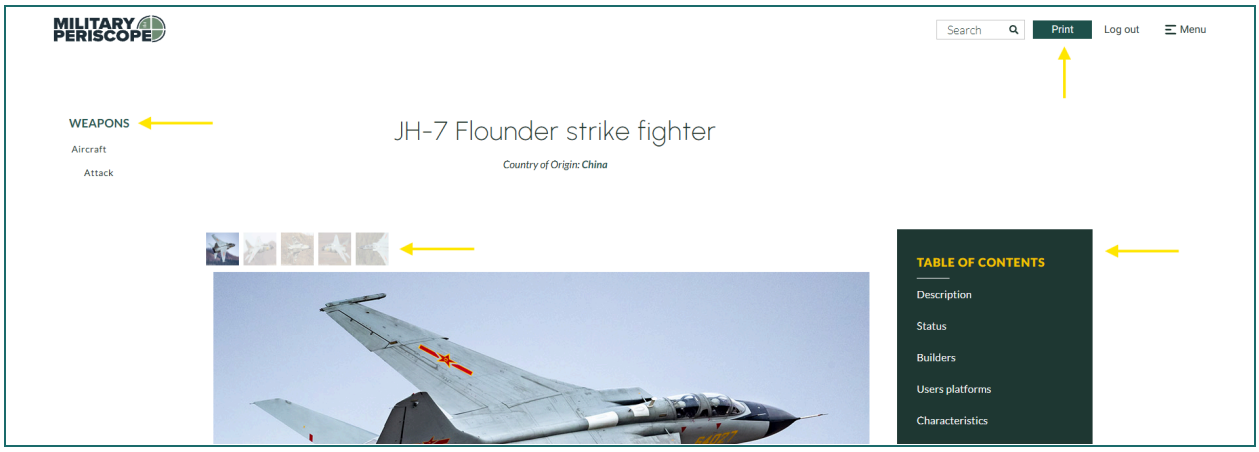
After selecting a subcategory, records are displayed alphabetically. Two tabs appear at the top of the list: Active and Historical. Active shows currently operational systems; Historical shows retired or legacy systems. Each entry is a clickable link that opens the full record.

Reading a weapon profile

A weapon profile page opens with a breadcrumb trail at the top (e.g., Weapons > Aircraft > Attack > JH-7 Flounder strike fighter) so you always know where you are. A photo gallery appears at the top left, with a table of contents panel on the right for quick navigation. Common sections include:

- Description — technical overview, design details, and operational role
- Status — current operational status (e.g., In service, Retired)
- Builders — manufacturer and country of origin
- Users / Platforms — nations or forces that operate the system
- Characteristics — specifications such as dimensions, weight, speed, range, and armament
- Variants — sub-variants and derivative models with brief descriptions
- Issues and Notes — known problems, accidents, or notable incidents
- Variants Alternative — related or replacement systems

> **Tip:** *Click any item in the Table of Contents panel to jump directly to that section. A Print button in the top-right corner produces a printer-friendly version of any profile page.*



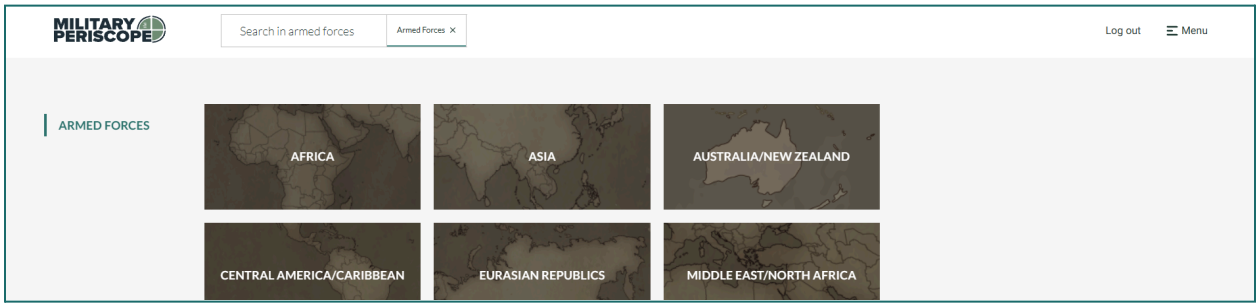
7. Armed Forces

Browsing by region

Click Armed Forces from the dashboard or menu. You'll see a grid of twelve regional tiles:

- Africa
- Asia
- Australia / New Zealand
- Central America / Caribbean
- Eurasian Republics
- Middle East / North Africa
- Non-Aligned Europe
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- South America
- Southeast Asia
- United States of America
- International Organizations

Click a region to browse the countries and organizations within it, then click a country name to open its full profile.



Country profile tabs

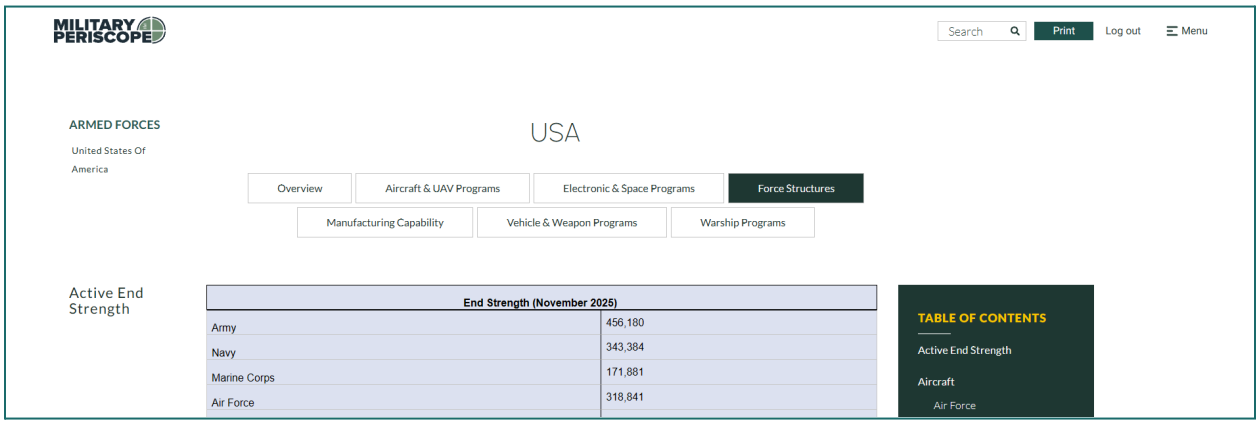
Each country profile is divided into three tabs:

Overview

Provides broad context about the country's military. Sections include Country Info (geographic and political background), Political and Security Environment (government structure, leadership, and security posture), Military Posture (strategic doctrine and alliances), Military Budget, Manufacturing Capability, and Infrastructure. A country map and national flag are displayed on the right side of the page.

Force Structures

Contains detailed order-of-battle data. An Active End Strength table at the top shows personnel numbers by branch (Army, Air Force, Special Operations, Paramilitary, Reserves, and Total Force). Below this, equipment inventories are organized by category — Aircraft, Warships, Vehicles, Missiles, Ordnance, and Electronics — with model names, current inventory counts, and notes on operational status.



Programs

Covers ongoing procurement and future requirements. Each equipment category (Aircraft, Missiles, Vehicles, Ordnance, Electronics) has a section describing current programs, upgrade efforts, acquisition plans, and the broader arms market context for that country.

> **Tip:** *All three tabs share the same Table of Contents panel on the right, which updates to reflect the sections available in whichever tab is active.*

8. Defense Companies

Browsing the directory

Click Defense Companies from the dashboard or menu. Unlike Weapons Systems and Armed Forces, this section presents a single alphabetical directory — there are no category tiles. Companies are listed A–Z with clickable links to their individual profiles. Use the "Search in defense companies" bar in the header to find a specific company by name.

Reading a company profile

Each company profile page includes:

- Headquarters — full mailing address, telephone number, and website link
- Company history and background — a narrative description of the company's founding, acquisitions, and evolution
- Product Area — a description of the company's capabilities, product lines, and services, often accompanied by a corporate org chart showing subsidiary and divisional structure

> **Tip:** *Company profiles often contain hyperlinks to related weapon system records. Click these to cross-reference a company's products with their detailed technical profiles in the Weapons Systems database.*

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9. News

Browsing and filtering

Click News from the dashboard or menu. Articles are displayed in reverse chronological order. Each article card shows a country tag (e.g., Germany, Taiwan, USA), a headline, a short excerpt, the source organization, and the publication date.

Two filters are available in the header bar:

- Search in news — free-text search to find articles by keyword, country, or system name
- Date Range — filter articles by time period (defaults to All)

Click any article headline to read the full text.

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10. Editorial

Browsing by category

Click Editorial from the dashboard or menu. Three category tiles are displayed:

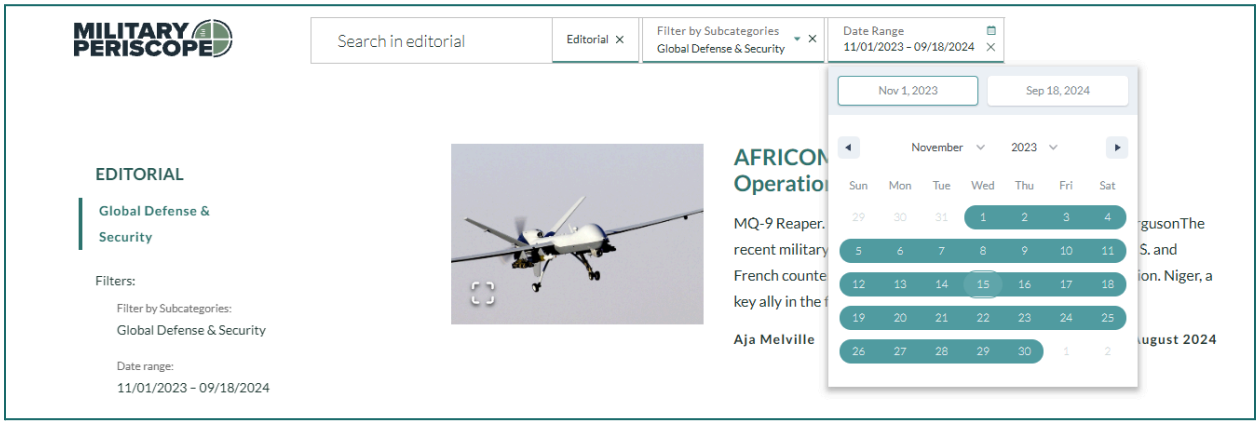
- Global Defense & Security — geopolitical analysis, alliances, regional conflicts, and strategic trends
- Defense Technology — coverage of emerging and established military technologies and capabilities
- U.S. Defense Programs & Policy — analysis of American defense budgets, procurement decisions, and policy developments

Click a tile to browse articles within that category.

Filtering editorial content

The Editorial header bar provides three controls: a section search bar, a Filter by Subcategories dropdown to narrow within a category, and a Date Range filter. Use these in combination to find specific topics or time periods.

Editorial content is written by subject-matter experts and updated regularly. It is best used to contextualize data found in the Weapons Systems and Armed Forces databases.



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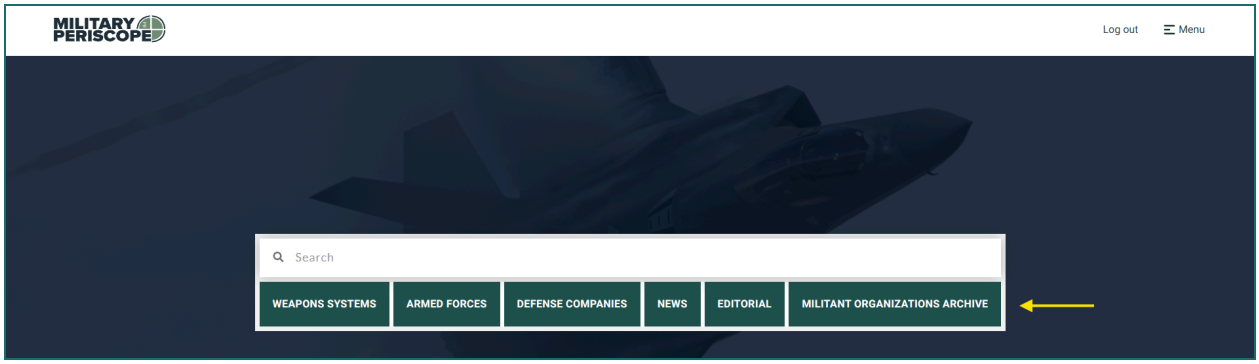
11. Militant Organizations Archive

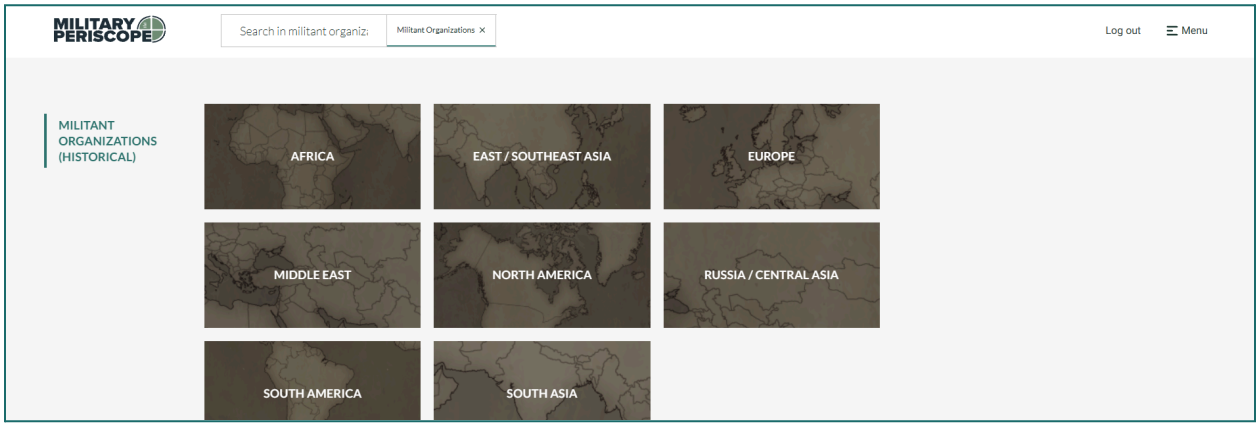
Browsing by region

Click Militant Organizations Archive (or Militant Archive) from the dashboard or menu.



The section is labeled as historical and presents a regional grid of eight tiles:

- Africa
- East / Southeast Asia
- Europe
- Middle East
- North America
- Russia / Central Asia
- South America
- South Asia



Click a region tile to browse the militant organizations documented within it. Use the "Search in militant organizations" bar to find a specific group by name.

Organization profiles typically cover group history, ideology, areas of operation, leadership, known equipment, and current or historical status. This archive is most useful for threat analysis and for providing context alongside the Armed Forces and Weapons Systems databases.

12. Account & Support

Free trial

Visitors who have not yet subscribed can click Try it Free on the homepage to access a limited trial. Trial users can explore the interface and sample content before committing to a full subscription.

Contact

For account questions, technical support, or licensing inquiries, reach the Military Periscope team at:

Email: customerservice@militaryperiscope.com
Address: GovExec, 600 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 510, Washington DC, 20037, USA

FEDLINK information

Military Periscope is available through the Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK). Service ID: UC. Contract Number: LCFDL24D0002.

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13. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How often is the information updated?

The database is continuously refreshed to ensure our users have access to the most contemporary and significant open-source military intelligence available.

Who typically subscribes to Military Periscope?

Our user base is diverse, supporting a wide array of professional requirements. Current subscribers include:

- National governments and embassies
- Intelligence and defense agencies
- Military libraries and command structures
- Defense contractors and industrial partners
- Academic and educational institutions
- Media and news organizations
- Private individual researchers

What does a subscription to Military Periscope include?

An active subscription provides comprehensive access to several key modules:

- Weapons Systems — illustrated profiles across nine categories
- Armed Forces — regional order-of-battle and force structure data.
- Defense Companies — profiles of over 100 global contractors
- Editorial — expert analysis and special reports
- Militant Organizations Archive — historical non-state actor profiles

What makes Military Periscope better than the competition?

Our clients repeatedly highlight the strategic advantages of our intelligence service:

- Efficiency — Consolidate your research efforts with a single point of access for global defense data.
- Currency — Monitor global militant activity and scan daily news abstracts to stay ahead of emerging trends.
- Utility — Navigate seamlessly through integrated hyperlinks and section-specific search tools.
- Value — Benefit from flexible subscription models tailored to your organization's specific needs.

If I use Military Periscope as a source, what is the proper citation format?

For academic or professional attribution, we recommend identifying Military Periscope as the source and GovExec as the publisher. For example:

> *"ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG-51) class." Military Periscope, GovExec, [DATE ACCESSED], www.militaryperiscope.com/weapons/ships/destroyers/arleigh-burke-ddg-51-class.*

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Worldwide Sales and Customer Service

Military Periscope Headquarters USA

600 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 510,

Washington DC, 20037, USA.

(+1) 202-450-3967

Giovanna E. Pergola
Director of Worldwide Sales

Phone: 202.227.2928

Mobile: 732.610.3988

Email: gpergola@govexec.com LinkedIn Profile

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