



# AMS CHRONICLE

## IPMS DENVER ROB WOLF CHAPTER DECEMBER 2018

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<b>NEXT MEETING:</b>  02JANUARY 2019 1900	Uncharted Waters	Subjects representing the first use of a design concept or technology
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### **EDITOR RAMBLINGS FROM THE BUNKER**

And the cutthroat gift exchanges are over. For Rob Wolf I picked a 1/48 F-14 which was stolen, DARN, so I ended up with a 1/35 STRYLER variant I did not have, YEA. At Centennial I stole a new 1/35 PLA SPA (from AL who I was sitting with) which was stolen from me and I picked a 1/35 T-44M. After the exchange the plan is to exchange a ship model to a ship guy for a 1/35 Soviet T-18. Since I just ordered one, now I have 2. Bob Benko just built one if I need pointers.

I am facilitating my Russian Civil War class at the East campus in the winter and just got the go-ahead for spring at the Central campus. I will do it at West in the fall.

Still debating next class to create, probably more Russian wars (Turkish, Japanese, Poles). I have a new book on the history of Poland on hold and that could be an interesting class if I include Lithuania and Ukraine I know most of us get interested in a period of history for a time and then get interested in another one. I can tell I do by looking at my library, stash, and wargames. For some reason this time Eastern Europe and Russia have stuck a lot longer. I may even take an online Russian language class.

What is that about always learning to avoid dementia?

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Nikto ne Zabyt  
Nichto ne Zabyto

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well the year has ended and a new one starts. I want to thank each and everyone of you for the effort and hard work that was put into making 2018 a success. I have little doubt that 2019 will be as successful. This year's Cutthroat Gift Exchange was well attended and I'm sure everyone had a great time and the brown bag exchange was also well receive with about eight people exchanging bags. It will be interesting to see how each model comes together without decals or instructions. Remember those brown bag models will be judged in May 2019 at the Rob Wolf contest.

Just as a reminder January 2019 the theme is **Uncharted Waters**: Subjects representing the first use of a design concept or technology.

That's all from me. From my family to yours, I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bob Pridemore

## MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

No business or presentation, just picking and stealing gifts.

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## ...2019 MONTHLY CONTEST THEMES

Month	Theme	Description
<b>January</b>	<b>Uncharted Waters</b>	<b>Subjects representing the first use of a design concept or technology</b>
February	At Least a Dozen	Any subject with engine(s) of 12 or more cylinders. 2 engines with 6 cylinders does not count.
March	Twins	Any subject with 2 major design elements. Examples: F-82 Twin Mustang, ZU-23 twin gun anti-aircraft.
April	Club Kit Auction	Get rid of your trash and buy my treasure!
May	Club contest: Special Theme: NAFTA Special Category: Grab Bag	Theme: Any Canadian or Mexican subject. May be manufactured in either country or in national markings. Category: Entries from the December Grab Bag Exchange
June	Recon	Any subject specifically designed or used for reconnaissance
July	The Eagle Has Landed	In honor of the 50 year anniversary of the moon landings, any real space subject
August	In Memoriam	Remembering the departed through kits or subjects from departed members / friends / family
September	Worst Kit Ever!	The worst kit you have tried to build, finished or not. <b>Must be at least 50% built</b> + must explain reason why it's the worst kit
October	Tank Killers	Any subject with the primary role of destroying tanks, <b>but not a tank itself</b> . A/C designed with a primary anti-tank mission.
November	Monochrome	Any subject where the majority of the color scheme is black and/or white.
December	Cut Throat Gift Exchange	It's better to give than receive, but even better to steal what someone was given!

## DECEMBER COMBAT GIFT EXCHANGE



The table



Matt and John conspiring to steal my STRYKER

## MISSILE GUIDANCE SIMPLIFIED

The following are excerpt from a report explaining in simplified terms, the operation of a typical missile guidance system.

" . . . The missile knows where it IS at all times. It knows this because it knows where it ISN'T. By subtracting where it IS from where it ISN'T, it obtains a difference or deviation. The typical guidance system uses deviations to generate corrective commands to drive the missile from a position where it IS, to a position where it ISN'T; arriving at the position where it WASN'T, it now IS. Consequently, the position where it IS is now, the position where it WASN'T, and it follows that the position where it WAS is the position where it ISN'T. In the event that the position where it now IS is not the position where it WASN'T, the system has acquired a variation caused by external factors. The variation is the difference between where the missile IS and where the missile WASN'T. If variation is considered to be a significant factor, it too may be corrected for by use of a controlled variable system; however, the missile must know where it WAS also. The 'thought process' is as follows: Because a variation has modified some of the information which the missile has obtained, it is not sure where it IS. However, it is sure where it ISN'T (within reason) and it knows where it WAS. It now subtracts where it SHOULD be from where it WASN'T and by differentiating this, then obtaining the algebraic difference between where it SHOULDN'T be and where it WAS, it knows where it ISN'T. It is now able to obtain the difference between its deviation and its variation, which is called error. This allows the missile to know where it SHOULD BE and where it WASN'T; where it SHOULDN'T BE and where it WAS, thus it knows where it ISN'T, the factor necessary to know where it IS . . . "

**ED NOTE:**I am sure Matt can explain this to anyone who has questions.

## CHINA CONFIRMS WORK ON NEW-GENERATION' AIRCRAFT CARRIER

*PTI | Beijing November 26, 2018 15:30 IST*

China on Monday officially confirmed that it is building its third aircraft carrier which is stated to be "bigger and mightier" than the other two warships, a move by Beijing to bolster its blue-water navy capability to operate far from its shores.

A late entrant into aircraft carrier-led naval battleship formations, China launched its first aircraft carrier, Liaoning, in 2012, which was a refit of the former Soviet vessel bought from Ukraine.

Though Liaoning was operationalised and led trial expeditions into the Taiwan Straits, it was widely regarded as an experimental vessel used for mastering technologies, especially to operate the newly built J-15 planes from its deck.

Subsequently, China launched its domestically-built second aircraft carrier and commissioned it for sea trials last year. The yet to be named ship is expected to be put into service by 2020.

China has launched work of building its third aircraft carrier, official news agency Xinhua reported on Monday.



Sailors transfer a J-15 fighter jet into the hangar bay during a training exercise on the Chinese aircraft carrier Liaoning | Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China

A "new-generation carrier" is being constructed at the shipyard as per schedule, the state-run China Daily reported quoting Xinhua.

The Xinhua article, which was intended to mark the sixth anniversary of the first take-off and landing by a Chinese fighter on the country's first aircraft carrier CNS Liaoning, the report said, without elaborating about the programme of the "new-generation carrier".

The Xinhua article is the first official confirmation that China is building a third aircraft carrier, it said.

The China Daily report referred to the speculation that the China State Shipbuilding Corp's Jiangnan Shipyard Group in Shanghai is building a "bigger and mightier" than the Liaoning and the second carrier.

An official at the China State Shipbuilding Corp's headquarters in Beijing, however, refused to comment on the issue.

Also, information officers of the People's Liberation Army Navy could not be reached, the report said.

China has been secretive about the construction of its aircraft carriers, though the official media periodically releases sketchy reports.

Officials say the rapid acquisition of aircraft carriers by China is of concern to India too, as the Indian Navy, which is operating aircraft carriers since 1961, is currently operating only INS Vikramaditya. The home-made INS Vikrant expected to launch sea trials in 2020.

China is in a hurry to acquire the aircraft carriers as it rapidly expanded the navy coupled with the acquisition of naval bases abroad to back up its growing influence abroad, especially in the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea (SCS).

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan in the South China Sea, and with Japan in the East China Sea. Both the areas are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources. They are also vital to global trade.

China claims almost all of the South China Sea. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims over the area.

The US has been conducting regular patrols in the South China Sea to assert freedom of navigation in the area where Beijing has built up and militarised many of the islands and reefs it controls in the region.

It has already operationalised its base at Djibouti in the Indian Ocean and acquired Sri Lanka's Hambantota port on a debt swap. China is developing the Pakistan's deep water Gwadar port in the Arabian Sea.

Early this month, China clinched a deal to build a multi-billion dollar port at the strategically important Kyaukpyu in Myanmar, located in the Bay of Bengal.

China's aircraft carrier programme, involving billions of dollars, also faced problems such as corruption scandal and other issues related to the functioning of J-15 planes.

Sun Bo, General Manager of the state-run China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation, which built the second aircraft carrier, has been detained and investigated for corruption in June this year.

According to media reports in July, in a major setback to China's fast paced aircraft carrier programme, Chinese navy scrambled to build a new fighter jet to operate from the deck of an aircraft carrier after the present J-15 planes met with mechanical failures and crashes.

## **ORDER PUT FOR 100 TURKISH-INDONESIAN MEDIUM BATTLE TANKS".**

**Hurriyet Daily News ^ | September 08 2018**

The Philippines and Bangladesh have put an order for the 100 KAPLAN medium tanks which are co-produced by Turkish defense contractor FNNS and Indonesia's PT Pindad, Windu Paramata, the head of the medium tank project at Pindad, has said.

Paramata said the two countries had expressed willingness to buy 40 to 50 units each.

"In October, we will be demonstrating medium tanks there, as a condition for the procurement of defense equipment in their countries," Paramata told state-run Anadolu Agency on Sept. 7.

Paramata said the Indonesian Defense Ministry also mulled purchasing the KAPLAN tanks but the ministry was still evaluating the number of units to be procured.

Paramata said the Indonesian army's research and development agency had certified the medium tank earlier this year.

Paramata praised the Turkish-Indonesian battle tank as featuring the most recent technology in the global defense industry.



Poland followed suit in producing a similar tank, Paramata said, adding, however, that the country was still at the concept stage.

Paramata said the medium tank is suitable for use in countries with only two seasons in Southeast Asia, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines as well as in four-season countries as it can operate at a maximum temperature of 50 degrees Celsius, and at a minimum temperature of -30 degrees Celsius.

#### KAPLAN MT medium-weight tank

The tank's prototype was first exhibited at the 13th International Defense Industry Fair held last May.

A CMI Cockerill 3105 tower - equipped to fire high-pressure 105mm shells - provides the tank's firepower.

Diesel-engine powered, the tank has a fully automatic transmission and is able to carry three crew members - a driver, shooter and commander.

With a maximum speed of 70 kilometers per hour (43.4 miles per hour), the vehicle travels distances of up to 450 kilometers (280 miles).

Ballistic guards protect the tank's body and the vehicle has add-on armor. In addition, the tank's belly is guarded against mines.

It also has a secondary weapon in the shape of a 7.62mm coaxial machine gun.

# JAPAN TO HAVE FIRST AIRCRAFT CARRIERS SINCE WORLD WAR I

By [Brad Lendon](#) and Yoko Wakatsuki, CNN CNN's Zachary Cohen contributed to this report.

Updated 7:40 AM ET, Tue December 18, 2018

**Tokyo (CNN)** Japan is poised to put its first aircraft carriers to sea since World War II, refitting its Izumo-class warships to carry US-designed F-35B fighter jets, the government announced Tuesday.

In its 10-year Defense Program Guidelines, Tokyo said it will buy 42 of the stealthy F-35Bs, which are designed for short-run take offs and vertical landings. Those planes will be available for deployment aboard two flat-top ships, the JS Izumo and JS Kaga, which at more than 800 feet long and displacing 27,000 tons are the largest ships in the Japanese fleet.

"Under the drastically changing security environment around Japan, the government will take all possible measures to protect the lives and assets of Japanese people," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Tuesday in announcing the plan.

"The review of the new defense guideline is extremely meaningful to show the Japanese people and the world what is truly necessary in our defense to protect the people and to serve as the cornerstone of the future (for the Japan Self-Defense Forces)."

The new guidelines listed China, North Korea and Russia, as well as the United States and NATO, as entities with massive military capabilities with which Japan must concern itself.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Japan's Air Self-Defense Forces' new F-35A jet fighter arrives at Misawa Air Base on the northern end of the main island of Honshu in January.

The Izumo and Kaga have been carrying helicopters designed for anti-submarine warfare since entering service over the past three years. They will need to have their decks reinforced to accommodate the heavier F-35Bs, as well as the heat and force from the jets' thrusters when they land vertically. Japan will also increase its order for F-35A jets, which take off and land on conventional runways, to 105, the government said. Forty-two of those jets are in service or were part of earlier Japanese orders. Those planes will replace the Japan Air Self-Defense Force's aging F-15J fighters.

The purchases will be spread over 10 years, with 27 of the F-35As and 18 of the F-35Bs to be acquired, as well as the two warships to be refitted, in the first five years.

Total spending over the first five years is pegged at \$282.4 billion and will include creating cyber defense and naval transportation units that operate across Japan's three military branches, the Ground, Air and Maritime Self-Defense Forces.

### An eye on China

Carl Schuster, a former director of operations at the US Pacific Command's Joint Intelligence Center, said the new aircraft carriers would give Tokyo the ability to mount territory defenses farther out from its main islands.



FETTU/OFFICER 3RD CLASS KRYZENTIA WIELEMANN/U.S. NAVY

Japan's JS Izumo steams with a US Navy destroyer in the South China Sea in 2017.

It comes after a Japanese defense white paper in August highlighted concerns about China.

"China's rapid modernization of the People's Liberation Army, enhancement of operational capabilities, and unilateral escalation of activities in areas close to Japan are generating strong security concerns in the region and international community, including Japan," the paper said.

Analysts said Beijing would be forced to pay attention to the carrier capability.

"It further complicates the projection of Chinese military power into the southwestern maritime domain around Japan's Ryukyu islands," said Corey Wallace, an Asia security analyst at Freie University in Berlin.

However Wallace and Schuster both cautioned that the Japanese carriers are small and cannot carry many aircraft -- especially compared to the US Navy's massive 90,000-ton Nimitz-class carriers or even China's 58,000-ton Liaoning carrier.



SPC WILLIAM TOMACCHIO/U.S. NAVY

Sailors and distinguished visitors watch an F-35B Lightning II aircraft conduct vertical takeoff and landing flight operations aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp in May 2015.

When rumors of the Japan's carrier plans surfaced last month, China urged Tokyo to be cautious. An [article in the state-run Global Times newspaper](#) said the refit of the Izumo-class ships, and the purchase of the F-35Bs, "essentially changes the warships' nature from a defensive to offensive one."

"Japan must not forget its infamous history of invading countries and regions in the Asia-Pacific region during WWII," it added.

At the outset of World War II, Japan fielded one of the world's largest and best fleets of aircraft carriers. It was from those that the attack on Pearl Harbor was launched. But the fleet was decimated in the war, and the post-war constitution put strict limits on Tokyo's forces that allows them to act only in a defensive role.

### A defensive plan

In announcing the spending plan Tuesday, Japan stressed it is designed to buttress those defenses. The plan realizes the need to drastically strengthen Japan's defense and expand its role while the security environment around the country changes rapidly, the Defense Ministry said.

Choosing an expanded F-35 fleet enmeshes the Japanese Self-Defense Force with US and allied militaries around Asia, experts say. The US, South Korea and Australia also are part of the F-35 program. The planes come with software suites which in theory allow them to communicate in real time in battle. The US Marine Corps also operates F-35Bs off the US Navy's amphibious assault ships.

Wallace said the future could conceivably see US F-35s operating from Japanese ships and/or Japanese F-35s flying off American ones. Buying more F-35s also helps Japan curry favor with US President Donald Trump.

Trump has publicly touted international sales of the aircraft as a victory for his administration and praised foreign leaders who have purchased them. The main assembly point for the F-35 is Fort Worth, Texas, but the jets are also put together in Nagoya, Japan, and Italy. Japanese government officials said all the planes in the new order will be imported.

## UKRAINE'S NEPTUN MISSILE CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL FIRST LAUNCH

[AIN online ^](#) | August 28, 2018 | Peter Dunai



Ground and sea launches are accomplished with a jettisonable rocket booster. After firing, the Neptun deploys fold-out wings. (Photo: RNBO)

UkrOboronProm (UOP), the head organization of the Ukrainian defense industry companies, has announced that the country has successfully conducted a trial launch of the new Neptun cruise missile. Developed by the lead contractor, the State Kiev Design Bureau "Luch," the cruise missile hit a maritime target at a distance of 100 km (62 miles). The principal supporting contractors are Motor Sich (engine), Radioniks (guidance), and the Kharkiv Aviation Factory (airframe).

"We continue to strengthen the defense capabilities of our armed forces," Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko commented on the national news.

The secretary of the National Security and Defense Council (RNBO), Oleksandr Turchinov, noted that the creation of a new cruise missile was an essential element and a significant increase in the effectiveness of coastal defense, which will receive weapons capable of attacking the enemy at long range. He stressed that the new capability provides reliable defense of the Black Sea and Azov Sea coasts, adding, "If necessary, even the home bases and ports of the enemy vessels could be hit by the new weapon system."

It is worth noting that in 2018, tension between units of the Russian Black Sea navy and the Ukrainian naval forces dramatically increased. Russia accused Ukraine of seizing its ships, which Kiev strongly denied. Completing the bridge that connects Kerch on the Crimea Peninsula with the Russian mainland also heightened tension in the region. Russia deployed additional naval assets to the Black Sea, as did NATO countries responding to the threat.

As regards Neptun, it is a subsonic weapon developed to hit maritime targets, but can also be deployed against land targets, said Ukrainian defense expert Serhiy Sguretz. "The trajectory is standard for a cruise missile, the cruising flight altitude is 10 to 30 meters (33 to 100 feet), and in the final approach phase, it descends to four to five meters. The missile is equipped with a high-explosive fragmentation warhead. Guidance system details have not been published, but it is

capable of hitting different targets, including enemy radar stations. When attacking maritime targets, Neptun has a range of approximately 280 km, increasing to 300 km when launched against land targets. "With a little help, it could fly up to Moscow," added Sguretz.

The cruise missile is scheduled to be built in three different versions—sea-launched, land-launched, and air-launched—targeting sea and land objects. A picture published by the RNBO shows that the Neptun's mobile transporter-erector-launcher (TEL) has some similarity to that of the S-300 Soviet/Russian air defense system.

Neptun could be integrated onto not only the Ukrainian air force's Soviet/Russian aircraft but on some NATO aircraft. There is no information on scheduling serial production. Anonymous Ukrainian sources told AIN that some components, as well as help to build the Neptun, came from "friendly countries," but declined to elaborate.

Neptun, as well as the Korshun-2 cruise missile development of which was completed in 2014 (developed and manufactured by the South-Pivdenne-Design Bureau), is part of the Ukrainian Missile Shield program that was launched after the 2014 Russian occupation of the Crimea.

## ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT GARDEN! WWI EXPERT TURNS HIS YARD INTO TRENCH SYSTEM TO SHOW WHAT LIFE WAS REALLY LIKE ON THE FRONT LINE

By [Stephanie Lanning for MailOnline](#)

**Published:** 04:14 EST, 14 August 2014 | **Updated:** 08:21 EST, 14 August 2014

- Andrew Robertshaw, 58, built the 60ft trench with 30 volunteers in a field behind his former home in Surrey
- Spent a month shifting 200 tons of earth to build dugout, which features officers' mess and soldiers' quarters
- Hopes to teach people more about the horrific living conditions endured by British troops during the Great War
- The historian said that films and TV shows often offer a simplistic and inaccurate view of life on the front line
- Hosts open days and educational visits to the trench, which was designed based on war time diary descriptions

Surrounded by barbed wire, sandbags and mud, this 60ft trench is barely distinguishable from those occupied by British soldiers fighting in the First World War a century ago.

The enormous dugout has been painstakingly recreated by an ex-history teacher in the field behind his former house in Surrey, and the dedicated 58-year-old has even spent time living in its confines with a team of volunteers as part of his efforts to experience life as a WWI soldier.

First World War historian Andrew Robertshaw and 30 volunteers - including a detachment of troops returning from Afghanistan - spent a month shifting 200 tons of earth to build the enormous three-room trench, which he hopes will teach people more about the horrific living conditions endured by British troops during the Great War.



© Eddie Mitchell

Life on the front line: Andrew Robertshaw's 60ft trench, surrounded by barbed wire, sandbags and mud, snakes through a field behind his former home in Surrey



© Eddie Mitchell

Andrew Robertshaw, dressed in military uniform from the First World War, looks out from the trench, which he spent months building with 30 volunteers



© Eddie Mitchell

Cramped conditions: Perched on a small wooden crate at one end of the snaking trench, Mr Robertshaw eats his meal from a tin can

Video and lots of pictures at the link. Good research for WW1 diorama. I suspect he does not belong to an HOA.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2723673/WWI-expert-turns-yard-trench-life-really-like-line.html>