ESTADO MAYOR DE LA DEFENSA

OPERATIONS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

No 61



ON MAY 30TH WAS THE 2026 ARMED FORCES DAY

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY AGENDA



THE CHIEF OF DEFENCE WELCOMED HIS ITALIAN COUNTERPART ON HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO SPAIN

During his stay, General Luciano Portolano held a working meeting with Admiral López Calderón and visited the Headquarters of the Legion Brigade in Almería.

This visit strengthened cooperation ties and the exchange of experiences between allied nations, with the aim of effectively addressing current defence and security challenges.



THE FRIGATE 'VICTORIA' ESCORTED THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS 'GERALD R. FORD' IN THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR

This operation was conducted by the Joint Operations Command, through the Maritime Operations Command. The participation of a Spanish frigate during the passage through the Strait of Gibraltar provided the added value of expert knowledge of the local environment and direct, seamless coordination with national civil and military authorities, essential factors in ensuring the safe and controlled transit of the strike group.

NATO MISSION IRAQ



LIEUTENANT GENERAL RAMÓN ARMADA VÁZQUEZ TOOK COMMAND OF THE NATO MISSION IN IRAQ

Spanish Lieutenant General Ramón Armada Vázquez has assumed command of the NATO mission in Iraq (NMI) for the coming year.

The ceremony was presided over by Admiral George Wikoff, head of the Naples Headquarters, and was attended by Lieutenant General José Antonio Agüero Martínez, Commander of the Joint Operations Command, as well as the Spanish Ambassador to Italy, Miguel Ángel Fernández Palacios.

FLF. SLOVAKIA



'STRONG LINEAGE 26': NATO MULTINATIONAL BRIGADE'S STRATEGIC DEPLOYMENT IN SLOVAKIA CAME TO AN END

The unit, led by Spain, brings together more than 2,600 allied military personnel, who are taking part in the main verification exercise in Slovakia and Hungary.

Forces from Spain, Portugal, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia and Turkey took part in this operation, comprising more than 2,600 military personnel and a significant land and air capabilities.

PERSISTENT EFFORT



THE SPANISH AIR DEFENCE UNIT DEPLOYED IN LATVIA LED 'LATVIAN SHIELD I-26'

The exercise consisted of four phases: the planning and site survey, the deployment of the unit to the town of Rēzekne and its integration with the Air Defence System, the defence of critical infrastructure against ABT, rotary-wing and missile threats, and the return to the unit's home airbase.

The "Latvian Shield" exercise reaffirms the commitment of the Spanish NASAMS Air Defense Artillery Unit to the host nation and the other allied countries





More photos on Estado Mayor de la Defensa | Flickr .....*CLICK HERE*

ESTADO MAYOR DE LA DEFENSA

UAMAM-UCRANIA



OVER 9,000 UKRAINIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TRAINED IN SPAIN

In the words of the mission's deputy head, Colonel Victor Amalio Samaniego Palacios, 'the EUMAM operation continues to place high demands on our personnel and requires a great deal of flexibility, in order to provide training tailored to the target audience, we are engaged in ongoing coordination with Ukrainian armed forces personnel to ensure we can achieve this objective'.

The Spanish Armed Forces have extensive experience in training missions for the armed forces and security forces of other countries, such as Iraq, Mali or Somalia, amongst others.

EU NAVFOR – ATALANTA



THE FRIGATE 'CANARIAS' CALLED AT THE PORT OF ANTSIRANANA, MADAGASCAR

The Canarias's commander made several official visits to key local authorities. These included the Prefect of Antsiranana, the Commander-in-Chief of the region's Land Forces, and the Commander of the Malagasy Navy's Naval Base. Additionally, several Spanish residents came on board the frigate.

These institutional meetings have helped to strengthen ties of cooperation and mutual trust between the two countries.

COORDINATED MARITIME PRESENCES



THE OPV FUROR STRENGTHENED MARITIME COOPERATION THROUGH SEVERAL ACTIVITIES IN GULF OF GUINEA

OPV Furor took part in the multinational exercise Obangame Express 2026 (OE-26), organised by United States Africa Command (AFRICOM). The objectives of the exercise are to strengthen regional maritime cooperation, improve maritime domain awareness and enhance the implementation of the Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime Security.

In this fifteenth edition, more than 30 nations have participated.



FOREIGN OPERATIONS
CLICK AND GO TO THE MAP

ESTADO MAYOR DE LA DEFENSA

More photos on Estado Mayor de la Defensa | Flickr .....*CLICK HERE*



BRILIB XLV HAS TAKEN COMMAND OF THE EASTERN SECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN LEBANON

Brigadier General Antonio Ortiz Martínez, commander of the 'Roncesvalles' Mountain Troops Command and commander of the 45th Infantry Brigade, has taken over from Major General Antonio Ramón Bernal Martín, commander of the 44th Infantry Brigade.

The Transfer of Authority ceremony took place at the 'Miguel de Cervantes' base and was presided over by the UNIFIL Commander, Italian Major General Diodato Abagnara.

@more info at EMAD and UNIFIL websites

Spanish Armed Forces Deployment Map

