

The Times of India, 7 March 2008

156 HIV+ jawans sent home between 2004-06

PUNE: The armed forces have invalidated 156 personnel with full-blown HIV-AIDS between 2004 and 2006. Although figures for 2007 are yet to be compiled, senior officers at Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) hope the number will reduce. Of the 156 personnel, 141 were from the army, nine from the navy and six from the air force

The Hindu, 9 March 2008

The case to support the indigenous LCA programme

There have been several articles in the press critical of projects of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in general, and specifically the programme relating to the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), now named Tejas, and the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme. Indeed, whenever a significant event that involves indigenous R&D, particularly defence-related, occurs, or a crucial decision is set to be taken, articles originating from within the defence 'system' or from vendors who see their business prospects threatened, appear. The real facts relating to the programme need to be put in context

The Indian Express, 13 March 2008

IAF says no need for woman officers, but retains male officers

Defence Minister A K Antony may have assured Parliament on Wednesday that he will "re-examine" the case for granting permanent commission to women officers, but the Indian Air Force (IAF) seems to have a contradictory stand on the issue. On one hand, the IAF has refused to grant premature retirement to male officers citing a "severe shortage" of manpower, but in an ongoing court case filed by a lady officer, it has said that there is "no requirement" for granting permanent commission to short service officers who wish to stay on with the Force.

The Indian Express, 15 March 2008

Delhi HC quashes three IAF pilots' pleas for premature retirement

Smelling a rat in the intentions of three senior Air Force pilots seeking premature discharge to take care of their "sick and aged parents", the Delhi High Court on Friday dismissed their pleas in support of stricter measures to stem the "exodus" of pilots from defence services

The Asian Age, 16 March 2008

MiG offer of aviation secrets with deal

Russia is ready to hand India military aircraft engineering secrets in a bid to win a \$12 billion aviation contract tender, Interfax agency reported on Friday. "If the Indian government decides to buy the MiG-35 (fighter), we will transfer to India the key technologies used in these aircraft, including fifth generation technologies," manufacturers MiG said in a statement

The Asian Age, 17 March 2008

CAG questions IAF security breach

A report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has indicted the Indian Air

Force for violating "canons of financial propriety and disregarded security safeguards by allowing a private company to erect an antenna on a defence asset" and has recommended a probe in the case

The Indian Express, 18 March 2008

Defence Ministry seeks explanation from IAF over security breach

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has sought an explanation from the Indian Air Force (IAF) over an alleged security breach at the sensitive Race Course Air Force Station due to "unauthorised" installation of a booster antenna by a private telecom company. Days after the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) pointed out that the booster antenna was set up without adequate clearances, the Ministry has asked the IAF to probe the issue and "fix accountability" over the lapse. It has also instructed the Force to take "adequate" action against the erring officials

The Asian Age, 19 March 2008

Missile delay worries IAF chief

Indian Air Force chief F.M. Major on Tuesday said that he was "concerned" about the delay in acquisition of Spyder air defence missiles from Israel following recent CBI investigations into defence deals. Air Chief Marshal Major made the comments on the sidelines of a function in the capital on Tuesday. Confirming the expression of "concern" by their chief, IAF official sources pointed out that the acquisition of the Spyder missiles from Israel had been delayed

The Indian Express, 19 March 2008

No security breach due to new antenna, says Air Chief

Denying that there was a security breach at the Prime Minister's residence due to the installation of a booster antenna at the Race Course Air Force station, Air Chief Marshal F H Major said permission for the same was granted by the Ministry of Communication. Reacting to the latest Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report that asked for a probe into the issue, he said the antennae was located a good distance away from the PM's residence

The Hindu, 21 March 2008

Pokhran comes alive with war-games

In one of the biggest war manoeuvres in recent years, the Army and the Indian Air Force showcased their combat prowess, by effectively engaging the latest array of weaponry in a joint air-land battle setting, 75 kilometres from the India-Pakistan border in the Thar desert in Rajasthan

The Indian Express, 21 March 2008

Three killed in firing accident at joint Army-Air Force war game, probe ordered

It was meant to showcase India's military might to observers from over 60 countries, but "Brazen Chariots" - a joint Army-Air Force war game exercise conducted at the Pokhran firing ranges on Wednesday - turned into a tragedy after three soldiers died in a firing accident during the event

The Hindu, 21 March 2008

U.S. team in India to locate missing soldiers

A team from the Pentagon has arrived here on an unusual mission - to locate the wreckage of 90 U.S. military aircraft believed to have crashed in the dense jungles of the North-East during World War II. The planes were among the thousands that flew countless air sorties to China during the battle between the Allied and Axis forces. At least 430 airmen in these planes have been reported Missing in Action (MIA)