

# TASK ONE

You are going to read **two texts**. For questions **1 to 6** choose the answer **(A, B or C)**, which fits best according to the texts.

## Text One

### Fix the M4 Carbine Now

In the defense industry, innovation is the necessity. Defense firms compete with each other to develop equipment advancing warfare capabilities. That essential driving force is absent in the U.S. Army's approach to the most important battlefield tool, the rifle. After the summer firefight in which nine troops died at Wanat, a tiny outpost in Afghanistan, there were some objections to soldiers' M4s. Although this carbine has proven prone to jamming because of dust and overheating, the Army insists that its replacement is unnecessary now as it is serving quite well.

The problem had already been well-documented. It was the subject of last year's congressional inquiry, which revealed the necessity to order an update to the Army's carbine requirements and hold a competition. The resulting document is now under Army review but the service will not start a competition until the requirement is approved by the Defense Department's Joint Requirements Oversight Council. It will probably be at least four years until the Army selects a new carbine and several more before fielding it. With 150,000 soldiers at war, that is unreasonable and the entire initiative must definitely be accelerated.

The M4 does have its defenders. Some statistics say that it has a soldier-approval rating of more than 90 percent. However, recently it finished last in reliability tests against three other carbines. In response to it, the Army plans to make fixes to all M4s – some 400,000. Those upgrades would include everything from a heavier barrel to an improved trigger pull. A special "operated product team" will evaluate the improvements and decide which, if any, to adopt. The effort will bring good results on condition that the proposed overhaul is not a pretext for cancelling the replacement. It just has to be a temporary measure to address problems with the M4 until a new more reliable carbine is introduced.

**1. From the Army's point of view, soldiers' present rifles ....**

- A. require immediate replacement
- B. are considered to be good enough
- C. are inadequate for Afghan conditions

**2. In the author's opinion, ...**

- A. the replacement process should be speeded up
- B. more time should be given to update the carbine
- C. a new carbine should come into use in four years

**3. The Army's plan will be effective if it finally ....**

- A. prevents the withdrawal of the M4
- B. leads to complete M4 modernization
- C. results in the replacement of the M4

## **Text Two**

### **New Hellfires Offer More Capability for U.S.**

A new variant of the Hellfire antitank missile allows U.S. Army and Air Force aircraft and UAVs to hit targets more quickly, thanks to a new seeker head. The Hellfire II P missile has a new guidance system with an inertial measurement unit that allows it to look for a laser spot in a much wider arc.

Earlier Hellfires have a more limited ability to find a laser-designated target after launch. They are programmed to fly to a point in space; are given a direct, high or low trajectory; and begin looking for the laser energy. The P2's seeker can find the laser reflections in a 180-degree arc, much wider than the 40-degree arc of earlier Hellfires. Now it is able to find a spot anywhere around it, allowing a Hellfire-armed UAV to destroy a target it has already flown by.

Hellfire missiles have primarily been used against vehicles and buildings. But the Army decided during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars that it needed an anti-personnel variant. "If you have insurgents emplacing IEDs, aviators should be able to use the Hellfire weapons system to engage them," said Doug Terrell, a Lockheed director of business development for tactical missiles. The solution is: take the Augmented High-Explosive Antitank Hellfire II, set a fuze that explodes immediately on impact and add a metal sleeve which breaks into pieces like a shrapnel. "With this improvement, although we lose a bit of effectiveness with penetration, what we gain is the damaging power of thousands of high-velocity shards sprayed wide in different directions," Terrell adds.

The Army, which generally arms only aircraft with Hellfires, is looking at giving them to ground troops. Norway and Sweden are among the countries that fire land-based Hellfires on tripods, and Lockheed has test-fired a Hellfire from a Pandur armoured personnel carrier. American industry officials also plan to test a tripod-launched Hellfire in coming weeks, whereas in older tests, Hellfires have been launched from warships and C-130 aircraft.

**4. In comparison with earlier Hellfire missiles, the P2 variant ....**

- A. must be programmed more precisely
- B. has much greater power of penetration
- C. enables a UAV to hit a target behind it

**5. Doug Terrell says that because of the metal sleeve ....**

- A. a larger area can be affected
- B. the missile explosion is quicker
- C. the missile loses some precision

**6. In their next tests Americans plan to try out ...**

- A. land-based Hellfire system missiles
- B. the Scandinavian land launchers
- C. land vehicles for Hellfire launchers

## TASK TWO

*You are going to read an interview with Gen. Martin Luther Agwai Commander of the new joint United Nations-African Union (UN-AU) peacekeeping mission in Darfur. Choose from questions A to H the one which you think fits best each paragraph 7 to 13. There is an extra question which you do not need to use.*

7. \_\_\_\_ I know 10 AU soldiers were killed in the ambush. But I am the commander of the UN-AU mission so for my force there are no consequences. I just hope that when my troops arrive, such incidents will take no place.
  8. \_\_\_\_ We are to have 26,000 troops. The resolution itself stated that in August we would know all the troops contributors, and now in September we still don't know. The whole program is running behind schedule. And my biggest challenge now is to be able to perform the task that is expected of us.
  9. \_\_\_\_ I can't sit here and apportion blame because I don't know what is happening behind the scenes. I don't know what challenges other people are facing, and I am only looking at this from my own perspective. I just hope that we will be able to resolve and find an answer to those challenges.
  10. \_\_\_\_ The resolution that created this operation is not a secret document, so many people know that the force is to have 26,000 troops. Different organizations called me to congratulate me on this high number. Unfortunately, as I said before, we don't even know the contributors so how can we talk about actions? Those people who are calling me will feel disappointed that nothing is happening on the ground. That is why I have already cautioned people not to expect too much.
  11. \_\_\_\_ Definitely. I am very concerned. I accepted the job because I wanted to give it my best, and I can only do my best and be judged by the world depending on the resources available to me. And the resources are not forthcoming. So it is not that things are changing too slowly I'd say they are not changing at all.
  12. \_\_\_\_ That is another big challenge because we are here as peacekeepers, and right now, there is no peace to keep. So it has become another Herculean task to see that people are protected. We hope the talks in Libya result in an acceptable, comprehensive peace agreement for us and for every party involved.
  13. \_\_\_\_ If it were my younger days, maybe I would have been very worried, but I have taken some courses in stress management and, instead of crying over spilt milk, I look at tomorrow and what I can achieve.
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- A. Whom do you hold responsible for the delays?
  - B. How did a small rebel group manage to ambush AU soldiers so successfully?
  - C. Are you feeling very stressed out these days?
  - D. Why have you warned the international community not to set its expectations so high?
  - E. What are you most worried about right now?
  - F. So are you saying things aren't changing fast enough?
  - G. What are the implications of the recent ambush of the AU soldiers for your force?
  - H. How can you be expected to provide security when there's no peace deal?

## TASK THREE

*You are going to read a newspaper article. For questions 14 to 20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D), which fits best according to the texts.*

### The Kursk Memorial

Ten years after the tragedy, Moscow still wants to forget the episode. So far the Russian government has said little about the Kursk nuclear submarine since it sank in the Barents Sea on Aug. 12, 2000, leaving 118 sailors dead. Then President Vladimir Putin waited five days while vacationing on the Black Sea to comment. When friends and relatives of the dead unveiled a monument in Moscow on the second anniversary of the disaster, not a single senior government official attended. This is not surprising. The Kursk sank when one of its torpedoes blew up. Remembering this sort of self-inflicted tragedy would conflict with Soviet – and post-Soviet – myth-making about the power and glory of the Russian military. Naturally, alternative theories were immediately put forward; however, none of them freed the Russians from blame for the tragedy.

But last March, after months of searching, Tatyana Abramova, a reporter at the newspaper Murmanskij Vestnik, came across the deck cabin of the Kursk hidden in a dump just a few miles from the headquarters of the Northern Fleet, outside Murmansk. "It was like seeing people who had died," Abramova says, of her finding the section that once wrapped around the central nervous system of the submarine.

The discovery of the cabin sparked a furor in Murmansk; at a town-hall meeting, locals said they wanted it turned into a memorial. Regional governor Dmitry Dmitriyenko pledged his support and the city has set aside a small plot overlooking the harbor and next to another memorial, a lighthouse dedicated to all sailors who died in peacetime. This memorial also mentions the Kursk sailors, but Vitaly Poborchiy, a local businessman and member of the regional branch of the pro-Kremlin United Russia party, says people want a monument dedicated exclusively to the Kursk.

There is a surprising contradiction here. The people initiating the memorial are Kremlin loyalists who do whatever Moscow tells them to do, while the memorial they are building appears to conflict with Kremlin interests. Poborchiy nicely captures this inconsistency. At 51, he admires Putin, who may no longer officially run the Kremlin but is assumed to orchestrate every move of his successor, Dmitry Medvedev.

But Poborchiy is also convinced that Putin conceals the truth. He believes the thesis advanced by a 2005 French documentary that disproves the official version of events. The French put the blame on a US submarine which, they claim, intentionally torpedoed the Russian crew. Another theory alleges that while performing its tests with torpedoes, the Kursk was being observed by two US submarines in the region. It went down because of a series of unfortunate mistakes which led to a collision with one of them. Whatever the reason, Poborchiy says, the new memorial will ensure that the men who died will never be forgotten.

This is the kind of remembering the Kremlin has yet to embrace. Memorials in Soviet times were monuments to national greatness: towering monoliths like Alyosha, the 35-meter statue of a soldier down the road from the future Kursk memorial. These Soviet-era monuments were designed to convey belief in the regime. Like his Soviet predecessors, Putin is unwilling to acknowledge weakness or tragedy. "In the Russian mentality," says Anna Kireeva of the environmental group Bellona, which investigated the Kursk sinking out of concern that nuclear waste might seep from the submarine, "there is a joke: Rule 1 is the boss is always right. Rule 2 is, if the boss is wrong, see Rule 1. Erecting this memorial would be a revolutionary step forward."

Kireeva suggests a possible explanation for local politicians supporting the kind of memorial that Moscow rejects: political pragmatism. "Putin has the least support in the whole country in Murmansk," she says. For him, the Kursk crisis was not only a human tragedy, it was a personal PR catastrophe. Twenty-four hours after the submarine's disappearance, as Russian naval officials made bleak calculations about the chances of the 118 men on board, Putin was filmed enjoying himself at his holiday villa. "The United Russia party is aware of the outrage it provoked with people. A little remembering might be the price the government needs to pay to keep the power in Murmansk," Kireeva concludes.

**14. The author says the Russian government makes the Kursk accident less significant as ...**

- A. it made the Russian military weaker
- B. Russians feel innocent of the tragedy
- C. President Putin refuses to talk about it
- D. the Russian military image suffered

**15. The deck cabin of the Kursk submarine ...**

- A. was hidden by people from the Northern Fleet
- B. has already been transformed into a memorial
- C. was accidentally found by a Murmansk reporter
- D. was only a part of the discovery made in a dump

**16. Vitaly Poborchiy says the new monument ...**

- A. is going to be dedicated to all sailors
- B. is torpedoed by the United Russia party
- C. has little support of the local authorities
- D. is expected to commemorate only the Kursk

**17. The author is surprised with the local politicians' behaviour because they...**

- A. show more support of Medvedev
- B. seem not to believe Putin any more
- C. demonstrate loyalty to the Kremlin
- D. seem to act against Kremlin interests

**18. According to the French, the Kursk sank because of ...**

- A. the accident with a torpedo on board
- B. an accidental crash with a US submarine
- C. an attack carried out by the Americans
- D. the mistakes made by the Russian crew

**19. Anna Kireeva thinks that building the Kursk memorial ...**

- A. may cause some local environmental problems
- B. would be a breakthrough in Russian mentality
- C. brings the belief in Russian power back to life
- D. resembles the erection of Soviet monuments

**20. Kireeva suggests that the real intention of the Murmansk politicians is to ...**

- A. suppress political protests in the region
- B. increase local support for Vladimir Putin
- C. express their opposition towards Moscow
- D. demonstrate their criticism of Vladimir Putin