A USAF General Dynamics/ Lockheed Martin F-16CJ Viper Weasel air defence suppression aircraft is about to be loaded with a pair of AGM-88B missiles. Australia has recently ordered a batch of these weapons.

command post. Finally, the TVS is designed for installation on vehicles to provide a mobile node linking disparate tactical radio networks to other deployed echelons.

NPO Angstrem has provided *AMR* with details regarding its Azart R-187-P1E tactical radio which is equipping Russia's armed forces. This V/UHF (27MHz to 520MHz) handheld system provides communications security through frequency hopping rates of 20000 hops-per-second, according to the company's official literature. In VHF, the radio has channel spacings of one kilohertz, 6.25KHz and 8.33KHz (VHF) and 25KHz (UHF). Offering ranges of up to four kilometres (2.5 miles), the radio can carry 256 kilobits-per-second (kbps) of data when operating in an encryption-free mode. This reduces to 28.8kbps when operating in a frequency-hopping mode and thence to 7.2kbps when transmitting using the radio's encryption mode. In terms of waveforms, the firm continues that it offers simplex, half duplex and full duplex voice communications, and can receive information across the Russian GLONASS and US Global Positioning System geolocation satellite constellations. The firm has told *AMR* that it is already planning a number of enhancements to the radio which will include extending its frequency band and the radio's output power so as to extend its range. More waveforms are also in the offing alongside increased data transfer speeds and the ability to host a larger number of users on a single network than the radio handles at present.

In mid-March, Rheinmetall and Rohde and Schwarz announced that they had partnered for two major German armed forces communications programmes known as MOTAKO (Mobile Tactical Communications) and MOTIV (Mobile Tactical Information Network). In a written statement provided to *AMR*, Rohde and Schwarz stated that both programmes were intended to: "modernise and digitise the communications and networking" of the *Heer* (German Army). The MOTAKO initiative, the statement continued, will extend IP capable communications to the lowest tactical level, chiefly to infantry troops using handheld radios. The MOTIV initiative, the statement continued, is intended to provide the software and networking necessary for the MOTAKO network, and also to ensure the necessary integration *vis-à-vis* German Army vehicles to allow them to access MOTAKO. Ultimately, the MOTAKO network will be rolled out across individual troops, vehicles and deployed command posts, the firm added. Rohde and Schwarz continued