

and export.<sup>77</sup>

**Pakistan** has developed the Anza Mk II, a system based on both Chinese and American technology.

Other countries producing these portable systems, including those actively seeking export markets, are Bulgaria, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, the USA, France and Sweden and the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

### **Remotely Controlled Weapons and Platforms**

A combination of advances in technology, military downsizing, a desire to limit one's own troop casualties and constraints on certain weapons systems such as anti-personnel mines have encouraged the development of remotely controlled weapons and weapons platforms. Remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs) or drones have been in the inventories of the armed forces of several militarily advanced states for some years, and have been used primarily for tactical reconnaissance roles (including real time imaging). There has recently been a move to arm RPVs.<sup>78</sup> From a SALW perspective, such platforms should not be of much concern as they are expensive and require significant technical expertise to operate and maintain.

In the realm of remotely controlled or unmanned ground weapon systems the US Army is testing a remotely controlled robotic platform that can aim and fire weapons as basic as a rifle up to a heavy machine gun.<sup>79</sup> It can be operated by physical controls from a distance of up to 1,000 metres – and beyond, via a radio frequency link. The system uses a video camera with variable optics for sighting. As it is mechanically fired, human error through physical or mental lapses is reduced, thus making the weapon system more accurate. It is intended to be used as a platoon or section weapon. Its current cost is about US \$50,000. An interesting facet of the system is its use of lasers in order to warn someone approaching the weapon's field of fire. Among its many potential roles, it would be suitable for surveying gaps normally covered by anti-personnel minefields. This system is an excellent example of how countries with large military budgets can compensate for the tactical military disadvantages created by the Anti-Personnel (AP) Mine Ban Convention.

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<sup>77</sup> For details see Christopher Foss, "New Chinese surface-to-air QW-2 system to enter production soon," *Jane's Defense Weekly* (23 September 1998), 15.

<sup>78</sup> The information on this system was taken from Damian Kemp, "USN advances on next generation of UAVs," *Jane's Defense Weekly* (21 October, 1998), p. 11.

<sup>79</sup> See George Seffers, "US Army to Test TRAP Remote Control Gun Platform," *Defense News* (29 June-5 July 1998), p. 25.