

have involved tandem-shaped charges. Both the 27 and 29 are in production and are being offered for export.⁷³

The United States has also continued to improve on its venerable 66 mm M 72 light anti-armour weapon (LAW). This disposable tube launcher system has been enhanced over the years through a number of model improvements, and like the Russian equivalent, most of the improvements center around the rocket and the warhead in order to enhance range and armour piercing capability.⁷⁴

The United Kingdom is in the process of defining its next generation LAW requirements. It is looking at potential systems produced by several consortiums and contractors. Over 100,000 of its current LAW 80s were produced by Royal Ordnance for home and export markets.⁷⁵

Portable Surface-To-Air-Missiles (SAMs)

These too are being replaced and as is the case with anti-armour weapons the primary SALW concern should be the proper disposal of older stocks. Unlike small arms firing ball ammunition, these systems are not attractive to retain as war reserves because of the training required to use them and the generally finite shelf life of the propellant and/or warhead. Instead, resale is generally considered the more attractive option. The likelihood of manufacturing states ensuring more stringent export controls on these types of weapons are greater as such uncontrolled sales can come back to haunt the selling country – typically in the form of a threat against its own aircraft (in the context of a limited war or as a terrorist action). In this regard, developed countries have more to lose materially in the uncontrolled sale of such systems. According to Jane's, replacement sales for this type of weapon are constrained by cost and military downsizing.⁷⁶ Many of the replacement versions can launch multiple warheads and are capable of all-weather and night engagements. R&D is also taking place with regard to the development of hypervelocity missiles. A number of countries have developed such systems.

China has developed the QW-2 SAM, a portable shoulder fired fire-and-forget missile, with a passive infrared homing capability and an effective slant range of 6,000 metres, for home

⁷³ *Jane's Infantry*, p. 357.

⁷⁴ *Ibid*, 374

⁷⁵ For further details see: Christopher Foss, "UK set to choose anti-tank weapon," *Jane's Defense Weekly*, 7 Oct 98, 16

⁷⁶ Forward To *Jane's Land Based Air Defence 1998-99* (CD Rom Version).