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State-of-the-art protection systems at sea and on land

Modern naval forces operate not only on the high seas, but also in littoral waters and even on lakes and rivers. Rheinmetall offers the right protection from conventional and asymmetric threats for every naval scenario.

Multi-Ammunition Softkill System (MASS)

Rheinmetall's "Multi-Ammunition Softkill System" (MASS) is a fully automatic means of protecting ships on the high seas and in coastal waters from symmetric and asymmetric threats.

When MASS detects an incoming threat, it takes into account the azimuth, altitude, distance, number and sequence of missiles before launching appropriate countermeasures at precisely the right moment. The company's new programmable omnispectral decoys – 32 per launcher – provide reliable protection in all relevant wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum (radar, infrared, laser, EO and UV). There is thus no need for the vessel to take evasive action.

MASS can be installed on board any type of ship, and operate either in standalone mode or as an integral part of the ship's networked C4I and weapon engagement systems. Moreover, MASS offers a whole host of tactical, operational and logistical advantages, and is specifically designed to meet the changing requirements of modern navies, with abundant scope for future technological growth.

The system has proven highly effective in various international trials, and is ideally suited to navies with global responsibilities. The procurement statistics bear this out. For example, the Canadian Navy has equipped its Halifax-class frigates with MASS, and recently placed an order to outfit additional units with the system. The navies of 11 nations now deploy MASS, with some 186 launchers installed on board 22 different classes of vessel.

Bullfighter decoys

The latest generation of Bullfighter decoys reliably protects ships up to the size of frigates from anti-ship missiles equipped with radio frequency (RF) and infrared (IR) seekers. They can be used in existing Super Rapid Bloom Offboard Countermeasures (SRBOC) and other 130mm systems.

Bullfighter generates a radio cross-section (RCS) density six times greater than that of other systems. Moreover, its IR payload replicates a typical ship signature in all IR wavelengths. This assures Bullfighter's effectiveness – demonstrated in numerous trials – against all conventional infrared seekers, including two-colour IR seekers and electronic counter-countermeasures (ECCM).

Bullfighter is already in service with the navies of Germany, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Malaysia.

ROSY Land and ROSY Sea smoke/obscurant systems

Rheinmetall's 360° Rapid Obscuring System (ROSY) is designed for protecting land vehicles and small naval craft. ROSY counters the threat from TV-, EO-, IR-, IIR-, laser- and SACLOS-guided weapons. Unlike conventional smoke-obscurant systems, ROSY not only produces an instantaneous, large-scale, multispectral interruption of the line of sight in a fraction of a second, but also generates a dynamic wall of smoke/obscurant, capable of providing vehicle on the move with sustained protection from multiple attacks.

In addition to the ground vehicle version, another is available for fast attack craft, rigid hull inflatable boats (RHIB) and similar small units. ROSY Sea creates a 1,000 square-metre wall of multispectral smoke/obscurant in just 0.4 seconds. This helps to protect sailors, coast guards and special operations forces units operating in coastal waters and on rivers.

Ballistic protection modules

Visitors to FIDAE can also learn about Rheinmetall's innovative Mobile Modular Protection System (MMS). Whether the task at hand is reinforcing mobile checkpoints, hardening shelters in forward operating bases, or protecting portholes or machine gun positions on board ships – MMS provides fast, extremely flexible protection that can be quickly set up in all climate zones, including in rough terrain, in full accordance with STANAG 4569.

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