



PRINTABLE TRACKING CHEATSHEET

The Defence System News Tracker

Use this one-page guide to turn “latest military equipment news” into a dated, evidence-based status update. Track what changed, where the system sits in its programme, and what the change means in practice.

Au sommaire

- 1 Before adding an item to your watchlist
- 2 Translate headlines into programme status
- 3 A five-step verification routine
- 4 Fields to keep in your tracker

Before adding an item to your watchlist

Identify the equipment precisely

Record the system name, operator or customer, manufacturer, variant, and related programme family.

Define its mission

Note whether it affects strike, sensing, survivability, mobility, logistics, command networks, or force readiness.

Record both dates

Separate the publication date from the date of the latest confirmed programme milestone.

Assign a precise status

Use labels such as announced, demonstrated, tested, contracted, delivered, deployed, or disputed.

Capture the evidence

Prefer contracts, budgets, test records, official releases, and traceable imagery.

Check the production position

Distinguish planned quantities from completed deliveries and available units.

Assess operational meaning

Look for evidence of training, sustainment, integration, or real mission use.

Translate headlines into programme status

Status label	What it establishes	What it does not establish
Announced	An authority or company has presented an intention, concept, partnership, or requirement.	That a usable system exists or will definitely enter service.
Demonstrated	A mock-up, exhibition model, laboratory article, or technology demonstrator has been shown.	That the design has completed operational testing.
Tested	The system has undergone a recorded ground, flight, firing, sea, network, or environmental trial.	That it has been accepted, delivered, or deployed.
Contracted	A procurement award or signed agreement establishes planned acquisition.	That the planned quantity has been produced or delivered.
Delivered	Equipment has physically reached the customer or receiving force.	That an identified unit can use it operationally.
Deployed	An identified unit or force has used or stationed the system for an operational mission.	That every variant or ordered unit has the same status.
Disputed	A claim exists, but the equipment identity, event, operator, or evidence remains unresolved.	That the claim should be treated as confirmed.

A five-step verification routine



1 Start with the change

Write one sentence answering: what changed, and at which programme stage?

2 Separate the dates

Record when the report was published and when the underlying announcement, test, contract, delivery, or deployment occurred.

3 Check the identity

Confirm the system, variant, customer, operator, and programme family. Treat an export order, upgrade, renamed programme, and new design as separate entries.

4 Test the evidence

Give priority to traceable documentation and imagery. Mark unresolved claims as disputed rather than upgrading them to confirmed status.

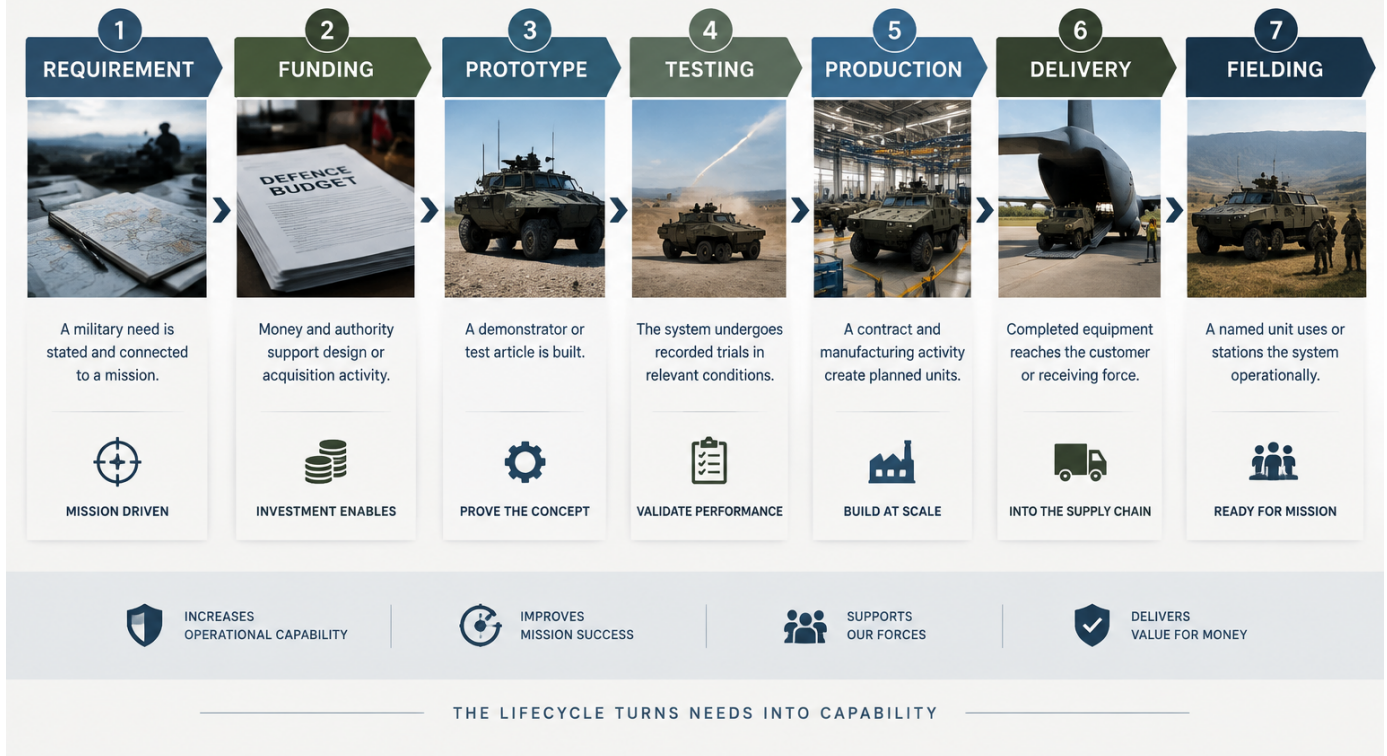
5 Explain the operational meaning

State whether the development changes availability, integration, sustainment, training, or real mission capability.

MILITARY EQUIPMENT LIFECYCLE

FROM CONCEPT TO OPERATIONAL USE

RIGHT EQUIPMENT / RIGHT TIME / RIGHT FORCE



PROGRAMME MAP Use the development path from requirement to operational fielding to locate each news item before judging how current or significant it is.

Fields to keep in your tracker

- | | |
|---|--|
| System name and variant | Customer, operator, and manufacturer |
| Mission or capability affected | Publication date |
| Latest confirmed milestone date | Current status label |
| Evidence type and confidence note | Production position: planned, completed, delivered, or available |
| Training, sustainment, integration, or mission-use evidence | Related programme or variant changes |

! Do not flatten the headline

“Unveiled,” “ordered,” “delivered,” and “operational” are not interchangeable. One system may be contracted in a new variant while an earlier version is already deployed, so record the status for the specific variant and event.

Use this guide to organize and assess reporting; verify important claims against current, traceable evidence before treating them as confirmed.