



Before the end of 2005, the aim of this programme is to have the total strength of the Ukrainian Armed Forces further reduced to 375,000, of which 295,000 are military personnel. A further 22,000 military personnel will be replaced by civilians. It has been decided to

*This pair of 'Hinds' from the 3rd Brigade comprises a cannon-armed Mi-24P 'Hind-F' (foreground) and an Mi-24R (Mi-24RKhR) 'Hind-G1'. As well as their primary tasks, the 'Hinds' at Brody also maintain an air defence alert for use against errant light aircraft.*

reduce five aviation divisions, and to reform five mechanised divisions into four separate mechanised brigades and one storage base for armament and military vehicles.

It is also planned to withdraw 400 tanks, 289 aircraft, 189 helicopters, 11 ships and vessels of various classes from the inventory. The costs and expenses from maintaining this equipment (more than 100 million hryvnia annually) will be spent on updating advanced weapons and military equipment.

The State Programme furthermore envisions the establishment of a Rapid Reaction Corps within the Ground Forces by late 2005, as well as an Aviation Group in the Air Force and a Combined Squadron in the Navy, capable of operating both independently and in a combined formation, under a unified command and in close co-operation with each other.

Until now, the Ukrainian government was orientated towards North Atlantic integration and the restructuring and development of the

