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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

Iranian Drones Annihilate Simulated Targets During Massive Drills

Fars News Agency, January 1, 2023

Iranian Unmanned aerial vehicles practiced destroying various mock-up targets using state-of-the-art weapons during the large-scale wargames underway across a zone stretching from the Eastern side of the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf to the Northern part of the Indian Ocean. As Zolfaqar 1401 military exercise continues in Southern Iran, different types of Iran-made drones – namely Arash, Bavar, and Ababil 5 – took off from the board of Sahand destroyer and successfully shot the simulated targets at the coast. Different combat, reconnaissance and intercepting drones were reportedly used in the operation and it was finally the Ababil 5 combat drone that shot and destroyed the targets. Ababil 5 drone has recently joined the Iranian Navy and was used in the annual drills of the Iranian Army for the first time.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011011000197/Iranian-Drones-Annihilate-Simulated-Targets-During-Massive-Drills>

Iran simulates attack on Israeli naval base: Report

Tehran Times, January 1, 2023

An Israeli media outlet claimed that in the recent large-scale military drills conducted by the Iranian Army, a homegrown Iranian explosive-laden drone was utilized to target an alleged mock version of an Israeli Navy base. The Iranian Army's combat drones conducted on Saturday close air support (CAS) operations and launched ground attacks during the major stage of the Zolfaqar 1401 joint drills. Based on footage punished on the social media, the Hengam-

class landing ship IRIS Lavan launched an Ababil suicide drone onto selected targets, dubbed the "simulated naval base" by Israeli media. Israeli media cited open-source intelligence-gathering Twitter accounts, highlighting that the fake facility was created with a similar architectural plan to the Eilat Naval Base in the Red Sea coast city of the same name.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480324/Iran-simulates-attack-on-Israeli-naval-base-Report>

Iran's Air Defense Systems Tested Successfully in Military Exercises

Fars News Agency, January 1, 2023

The Iranian Army's Air Force units intercepted and destroyed an aerial target with advanced homegrown air defense systems during the large-scale drills underway in the Southeast of the country.

The massive military exercise began early on Friday with the key motto of “self-confidence, power, sustainable security” in an area stretching from the Eastern sector of the strategic Strait of Hormuz to the Northern tip of the Indian Ocean. Iran’s Army put to test its advanced missile defense systems, which successfully intercepted and destroyed intruding aircraft on the third day of large-scale wargames off the country’s Southern coasts. In the early hours of Sunday, the third day of ‘Zolfaqar 140’ maneuvers, the radars of the Mersad air defense system detected a hostile drone approaching the Iranian territory and successfully shot it down at an altitude of 25,000 feet and 150 kilometers from the country’s airspace.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011011000488/Iran's-Air-Defense-Systems-Tested-Successfully-in-Military-Exercises>

Iranian Submarine Fires Indigenous Torpedoes for First Time

Fars News Agency, January 1, 2023

The Iranian Navy submarines annihilated underwater targets by firing domestically-manufactured torpedoes for the first time during the massive military exercises underway in the country's Southeastern waters. Iran's Army began large-scale drills across a zone stretching from the Eastern side of the Hormuz Strait in the Persian Gulf to the Northern part of the Indian Ocean on Friday. On Sunday, the Iranian Kilo-class Tareq attack submarine launched Mi'ad torpedoes for the first time to hit designated naval targets. Qadir submarines also detonated various naval targets with homegrown smart and high-speed Valfajr torpedoes during the wargames. Iranian Army's Sikorsky SH multi-mission helicopters also launched aerial torpedo into the water, which propelled itself to the target and destroyed it.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011011000904/Iranian-Sbmarine-Fires-Indigens-Trpedes-fr-Firs-Time>

Revenge for Gen. Soleimani inevitable: IRGC

Tehran Times, January 2, 2023

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a statement on Monday affirming that retaliation against those responsible for the assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani is inevitable. "Martyr Hajj Qassem is an enduring legend not only for Iranians but also for those who are supportive of the Resistance Front throughout the globe," the statement said as Iran is marking the martyrdom anniversary of the anti-terror

commander. The spread of the ideas of General Soleimani's school of thought throughout Iran and the region is one of the IRGC's ineluctable strategies, the IRGC underlined in the statement. Based on the statement, the global language of resistance and anti-arrogance has fully bloomed in the three years since General Soleimani's martyrdom.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480372/Revenge-for-Gen-Soleimani-inevitable-IRGC>

Lead Negotiator: Iran to Continue Cooperation with IAEA

Fars News Agency, January 3, 2023

Iran's Chief Negotiator Ali Baqeri Kani said that Tehran will keep working with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to resolve all issues between the two sides. "As an effective and responsible member of the Agency and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and as a country possessing nuclear capabilities, nuclear knowledge, and nuclear technology, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always cooperated seriously and effectively with the Agency and will definitely keep up that cooperation," Baqeri Kani told reporters on Monday. The senior diplomat also reacted to recent claims by Germany and the US that negotiations on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), are not important to them anymore. Bagheri Kani, who is also Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, stated that "the negotiations constitute a continuous process, which has been ongoing".

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011013000129/Lead-Negiar-Iran-Cnine-Cperain-wih-IAEA>

Iran FM holds talks with Pakistani counterpart

Tehran Times, January 7, 2023

The top diplomats of Iran and Pakistan spoke over the phone on Friday to discuss a range of issues, including the recent insulting cartoons published by the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. In their conversation, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held talks over the latest developments in bilateral ties and some regional and international issues, the Iranian foreign ministry said. Amirabdollahian said he was pleased with the growing trend of bilateral ties, especially the holding of the joint economic commission of the two countries in Pakistan. He also underlined the importance of implementing the agreements concluded at the commission.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480568/Iran-FM-holds-talks-with-Pakistani-counterpart>

Commander: Iranian Army's Drones Can Confront All Threats

Fars News Agency, January 8, 2023

Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force Brigadier General Kioumars Pourheidari underlined that the country's drones are capable of confronting any kind of threat. "The Iranian Army's Ground Force has managed to use new tactics and techniques, particularly in the fields of drones and aviation, during the Zolfaqar 1401 joint drills, which were held earlier this month in an area spanning from the country's Southern ports and waters to the Northern tip of the Indian Ocean," Brigadier General Pourheidari said. He

pointed out that the military units carry out exercises throughout the year to increase their preparedness in the face of any threat and become aware of their points of weakness and strength.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011018000585/Cmmander-Iranian-Army's-Drnes-Can-Cnfrn-All-Threas>

Iran determined to set up a joint military working group with Pakistan: top general

Tehran Times, January 8, 2023

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri has announced Iran's determination to establish a joint working group with the Pakistani army. General Baqeri made the announcement in a phone call with General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC) of Pakistan's army. In the call, the Iranian general congratulated General Mirza on his appointment as the head of the JCSC. He pointed out the good relations between the armed forces of the two countries from the past to the present and the trend towards the development of defense and security cooperation, especially in enhancing the security of the common border. Major General Baqeri announced the full readiness of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran to speed up the proposal of General Nadeem Raza, the former head of JCSC, to establish a joint military task force between the two countries.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480612/Iran-determined-to-set-up-a-joint-military-working-group-with>

Military Chief: Iran to Continue Strategy of US Expulsion from Region

Fars News Agency, January 8, 2023

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri underlined that Iran's strategy to expel American terrorist troops will continue until achieving practical results. General Baqeri made the remarks on the third anniversary of Iran's missile attack on the biggest US troops' airfield in Iraq named Ain Al-Asad, which came a few days after the martyrdom of Iran's anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani by the US troops. The Iranian missile attack on the US base was named "Operation Martyr Soleimani." "In the morning of January 3, 2020, the US terrorist government martyred the national and Islamic world hero, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, and a group of his companions in the Resistance Front at the Baghdad airport in a drone attack," the top Iranian military commander said in his message on the anniversary of the occasion of the missile attack on the US base.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011018000499/Military-Chief-Iran-Continue-Strategy-f-US-Expulsion-fm-Region>

Human Rights Chief: Iran to Issue Indictment in Connection with Nuclear Scientist's Assassination

Fars News Agency, January 8, 2023

Iran's Deputy Judiciary Chief and Human Rights Headquarters Head Kazem Qaribabadi announced that an indictment will be issued in connection with the assassination of Iran's martyred nuclear

scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh who was assassinated by Israeli agents in early 2020.

Qaribabadi said a court in Iran will soon issue a verdict over the murder, adding that the Judiciary will not let justice fail in the case. He said two court sessions were recently held at the judicial organization of the armed forces and the trial will continue. Fakhrizadeh was assassinated on November 27, 2020 near Tehran. Iran has blamed the Israeli regime's spy agency Mossad, for the murder.

[https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011018001025/Human-Rights-Chief-Iran-Issue-Indictment-in-Connection-with-Nuclear-Scientist's](https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011018001025/Human-Rights-Chief-Iran-Issue-Indictment-in-Connection-with-Nuclear-Scientist's-Assassination)

Iran planning to extend area of operation to Panama Canal: Navy chief

Tehran Times, January 11, 2023

Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said on Wednesday that Iran is planning to extend its area of operation to the Panama Canal that divides South and North America. Speaking at a navy ceremony on Wednesday, Irani said, "Today, we have a great opportunity in the sea area for the development of the country, and we can turn this gift from an economic capacity into a civilizational capacity by using the maritime capacity properly. Today, the use of the sea is a geopolitical advantage for us, and those who do not have this capacity are suffering from geopolitical suffocation." The Iranian navy is planning to expand its scope of operations, he said.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480749/Iran-planning-to-extend-area-of-operation-to-Panama-Canal-Navy-chief>

IRGC Chief Reminds France of Salman Rushdi's Fate

Fars News Agency, January 11, 2023

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami strongly condemned the insulting act by the Charlie Hebdo magazine in publishing caricatures of the country's top religious authority, and called on people who insult the Islamic sanctities to remember the destiny of Salman Rushdie. Maj. Gen. Salami made the remarks in reaction to recently published cartoons by the Charlie Hebdo which insulted the Iranian and Muslim values.

"Despaired and disappointed of their recent plots, the enemies are seeking to disturb the peace of mind of the Muslims by insulting their sanctities," the top commander said. He advised the insulters not to "play with the Muslims", noting that Salman Rushdie was punished more than thirty years after he insulted the Holy Quran and the Prophet of Islam.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011021000213/IRGC-Chief-Reminds-France-f-Salman-Rshdi's-Fae>

Iranian Army using drones equipped with smart weapons

Tehran Times, January 14, 2023

A senior Iranian Army official has said that the Army uses drones equipped with smart weapons to strike distant targets. The official, Mehdi Hadian, who is deputy commander of the Iranian Army's Air Force, said the Army has boosted its combat capabilities by using drones that are equipped with smart and precision-guided weapons. "In the combat organization of the Army Air Force, the use of UAV

capabilities has a significant place. Especially, these systems have successfully performed combined operations with the Air Force fighters and have shown significant functions in the designed missions," he said, according to Iran's official news agency IRNA. He added, "In general, the implementation of combined operations has played a major role in improving the combat power of the Air Force. UAV systems, while collecting information and providing appropriate electronic warfare functions, prepare the environment for the implementation of the Air Force fighter operations in combat conditions."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480830/Iranian-Army-using-drones-equipped-with-smart-weapons>

Raisi trip to Beijing will help implement comprehensive plan: Boroujerdi

Tehran Times, January 14, 2023

Ala'eddin Boroujerdi, chief of the Iran-China Friendship Association, has underlined that the future trip by President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran to China will help speed up the implementation of the 25-year Iran-China Cooperation Plan, IRNA reported on Saturday. So far, no date has been given about Raisi's visit to China. Boroujerdi said that the association under his leadership is not satisfied with the current pace of the cooperation plan, urging the two countries' officials to accelerate the process. The 25-year plan for comprehensive partnership between Iran and China was finalized in March 2021. "The authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran expect that China, as a friendly country with considerable capabilities, to take important steps to enhance ties," Boroujerdi said, according to the website linked to the

friendship assassination. He urged China to invest in the development projects in Iran to improve the tourism industry in the Islamic nation.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480839/Raisi-trip-to-Beijing-will-help-implement-comprehensive-plan>

Commander: Iranian Army in Possession of Precision-Striking Drones

Fars News Agency, January 14, 2023

Iranian Air Force Deputy Commander for Coordination Brigadier General Mehdi Hadian hailed the country's high capability in production of various military equipment, and said that the Iranian Army's Air Force has been supplied with Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) equipped with pin-point precision-striking missiles. General Hadian said on Saturday that the Iranian Army Air Force gives importance to the use of drones in combat operation, as the UAVs can conduct hybrid warfare along with warplanes successfully and show remarkable performances. "The drone systems are able to gather information and be used to in combat operation in order to pave the ground for the combats of the fighter jets," the commander noted. "The Iranian Army's Air Force makes use of drones equipped with smart and pinpoint weapons to annihilate distant targets," the military official declared.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011024000580/Cmmander-Iranian-Army-in-Pssessin-f-Precisin-Sriking-Drnes>

Iran to get Sukhoi Su-35 aircraft in spring: MP

Tehran Times, January 15, 2023

A lawmaker has anticipated that Iran will receive a number of Sukhoi Su-35 fighter

jets from Russia early in the upcoming Iranian year, which begins on March 21. Speaking with Tasnim, Shahriar Heidari, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, underlined that Iran has ordered Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia, and they will arrive in the country in early 1402. The lawmaker pointed out that Iran has additionally ordered from Russia a number of other pieces of military hardware, including air defense systems, missile systems, and helicopters, the majority of which will be delivered soon. Based on media sources, Iran would obtain 24 of the fourth-generation twin-engine, super-maneuverable fighter planes used largely for air superiority operations. Tactical Air Base (TAB) 8 of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF), located in the city of Isfahan in central Iran, is expected to house some of the combat aircraft.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480850/Iran-to-get-Sukhoi-Su-35-aircraft-in-spring-MP>

Iraq

MOD, PMF discuss joint cooperation to eliminate terrorism

Iraqi News Agency, January 5, 2023

Minister of Defense, Thabet Muhammad Saeed Al-Abbasi, and the head of the Popular Mobilization Forces, Faleh Al-Fayyad, discussed on Thursday, joint cooperation to eliminate terrorism. The Ministry of Defense-MOD- said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "Defense Minister Thabet Muhammad Saeed Al-Abbasi met, today, in his office at the ministry's headquarters,

the head of the Popular Mobilization Forces, Faleh Al-Fayyad."

<https://ina.iq/eng/23989-mod-minister-and-pmf-authority-discuss-joint-cooperation-to-eliminate-terrorism.html>

The Israeli Spy Mission to Torpedo Iraq's Nuclear Project

Haaretz, January 5, 2023

One day in mid-1976, a small, booby-trapped envelope exploded at the entrance to a house in a town outside Rome. The front door was only slightly damaged, but the noise of the blast brought the occupants rushing to the site. Minutes later, there was a knock at the same door. The family, who thought that police or neighbors had arrived on the scene, were surprised to find two strangers there. The two men asked politely to speak with the home's owner; they told him details about his place of work that only he could have known.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-01-05/ty-article-magazine/.highlight/the-israeli-spy-mission-to-torpedo-iraqs-nuclear-project/00000185-8399-d9f4-abf7-83fbb5fa0000>

Air Force Commander reveals 2023 armament plan

Iraqi News Agency, January 7, 2023

The Air Force Commander, Lieutenant General Shihab Jihad, revealed on Saturday, the plan for armament in 2023. Jihad told the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "first of all, I extend my congratulations to all the Iraqi people and the military leadership on the 102nd anniversary of founding the Iraqi army," pointing out that "the plan of the Air Force Command during the year 2023 depends on the nature of the situation and the war

against terrorism." He explained, "The allocations will be to preserve the existed resources, modernizing and developing the armaments in order to maintain the momentum of the current battle against ISIS terrorist gangs."

<https://ina.iq/eng/24030-air-force-commander-reveals-2023-armament-plan.html>

The Council of National Security undersecretaries agrees to conclude a memorandum of understanding between the Iraqi and Egyptian ministries of interior

Iraqi News Agency, January 10, 2023

The Council of National Security Deputies announced today, Tuesday, the approval of the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministries of Interior in the Republic of Iraq and Egypt. The media office of the National Security Adviser said in a statement that "The Council of National Security Agents held the first session for the year 2023, headed by the National Security Adviser, Qasim Al-Araji." The statement added, "The council discussed the topics on its agenda, and took the necessary recommendations and decisions in this regard." "The topic (national procedures for transporting hazardous materials in Iraq) was presented and discussed, and the council decided to agree the approval of these contexts and circulate it to act accordingly, provided that the National Center for Joint Planning in the National Security Adviser undertakes the task of evaluation and follow-up, in order to overcome difficulties and obstacles that may arise during its implementation." According to the statement.

<https://ina.iq/eng/24101-the-council-of-national-security-undersecretaries-agrees->

[to-conclude-a-memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-iraqi-and-egyptian-ministries-of-interior.html](https://ina.iq/eng/24121-al-araji-iraq-is-the-worlds-first-response-to-the-threat-of-terrorism.html)

Al-Araji: Iraq is the world's first response to the threat of terrorism

Iraqi News Agency, January 11, 2023

National Security Adviser Qassim Al-Araji stressed on Wednesday, the need for Iraq to share its experience in the field of rehabilitating its nationals coming from Al-Hol camp, stressing at the same time that Iraq is the first response to the threat of terrorism in the world. The media office of the National Security Adviser said in a statement, received by the Iraqi News Agency, (INA): "Al-Araji chaired the first meeting of 2023 of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee, which discussed the topics on the agenda, and took the necessary decisions and recommendations regarding them."

<https://ina.iq/eng/24121-al-araji-iraq-is-the-worlds-first-response-to-the-threat-of-terrorism.html>

Interior Minister: We are to tighten security measures at the Zurbatiya border port

Iraqi News Agency, January 12, 2023

Minister of Interior, Abdul Amir Al-Shammari, affirmed Thursday the ministry's keenness to tighten security measures at the Zurbatiya border port. Al-Shammari told the reporter of the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "We discussed with the governor of Wasit, during our visit to the province, all security plans," noting that "our tour will include inspecting the security departments in the province." Al-Shammari added, "We will review the work of the traffic and Iraqi national ID departments and direct the facilitation of

procedures for citizens' paper work," stressing that "we are keen to tighten security measures at the Zurbatiya border port."

<https://ina.iq/eng/24134-interior-minister-we-are-to-tighten-security-measures-at-the-zurbatiya-border-port.html>

UNITAD visits Kirkuk to Investigate ISIS terrorist crimes in Iraq

Iraqi News Agency, January 12, 2023

The International Investigation Team to Investigate ISIS terrorist crimes in Iraq (UNITAD) visited, yesterday, Wednesday, the Kirkuk Governorate, headed by the head of the Evidence Management Office in the mission, Anis Ahmed, and the official of the forensic team, Caroline Parker. The governor of Kirkuk, Rakan al-Jubouri, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "The visit of the United Nations International Investigation Team (UNITAD) to investigate ISIS terrorist crimes in Iraq to Kirkuk is the first to the province.". Al-Jubouri added, "After the events of 2014, ISIS gangs occupied more than half of the area of the governorate, and the people in the occupied areas were subjected to heinous crimes, the effects of which included the destruction of residential areas, sites, and archaeological hills in the south of the governorate."

<https://ina.iq/eng/24143-unitad-visits-kirkuk-to-investigate-isis-terrorist-crimes-in-iraq.html>

High-level Security delegation visits Kirkuk

Iraqi News Agency, January 14, 2023

A high-level security delegation arrived in Kirkuk on Saturday, to oversee the security situation in the province. The reporter of the

Iraqi News Agency (INA) said that "the Chief of Staff of the Army, Lieutenant General, Special Forces, Abdul Amir Rashid Yarallah, and the Deputy Commander of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Qais Khalaf Al-Muhammadawi, accompanied by a number of leaders and officers, arrived at the Kirkuk operations sector to oversee the security situation in the province."

<https://ina.iq/eng/24182-high-level-security-delegation-visits-kirkuk.html>

Capturing the second official of the so-called Diwan al-Hisba of ISIS in Kirkuk

Iraqi News Agency, January 14, 2023

The Directorate of Military Intelligence-DMI announced on Saturday, capturing the second official at the so-called Diwan al-Hisbah of ISIS terrorist gangs in Kirkuk Governorate. The Directorate stated, in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that "Based on accurate intelligence information of the Division (Intelligence and Security) of the 14th Division, and in cooperation with intelligence and a force from the Ninety-sixth Brigade, an ambush was set up in Al-Zab district of Al-Hawija."

<https://ina.iq/eng/24185-capturing-the-second-official-of-the-so-called-diwan-al-hisba-of-isis-in-kirkuk.html>

Iraq PM backs continued US troop presence

Arab News, January 15, 2023

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani defended the open-ended presence of US and other foreign troops in his country, in an interview published Sunday. "We think that we need the foreign forces," Sudani told The Wall Street Journal in his

first US interview since taking office in October. US and NATO forces have been training Iraqi soldiers on how to fight the Daesh group. "Elimination of Daesh needs some more time," Sudani added. His comments are significant because the parties that back him and control parliament are aligned with pro-Iranian factions and very hostile to the United States. Iraq also depends on Iran for natural gas and electricity.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2232826/middle-east>

Israel

IAI's ERS-C3 satellite begins space mission

Israel Defense, January 1, 2023

Israel Aerospace Industries' (IAI) EROS-C3 satellite was launched on Friday, December 30th, using a SpaceX Falcon 9 launch-vehicle, from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, USA. After launch, the satellite entered its planned orbit around the Earth and began transmitting data to the ground station. IAI engineers have begun a series of preplanned calibrations and tests to validate the satellite's performance, and complete the preplan test prior to full operation soon. The EROS-C3 is one of the most advanced observation satellites in the world, thanks to pioneering technologies which enable very high-resolution images and for the first time using multi spectral camera. "The men and women of Israel Aerospace Industries, and their managers, have yet again shown that, for them, the sky is not the limit," said Chairman of IAI's Board of Directors, Amir Peretz.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56768>

Colombia to purchase Barak MX missiles from IAI

Israel Defense, January 2, 2023

Colombia is about to purchase Barak MX missiles manufactured by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). According to Info Defensa the missiles, worth 131.2 million dollars, are intended for the air defense system of the Colombian army. At the end of last week, an agreement was signed between the Colombian Air Force and the Israeli company, after last May the Colombian Army approved the purchase of the Israeli systems. The delivery of the missiles is expected to take place by the end of September 2026. The website mentions that MX and Barak 8 missiles were offered by IAI to the Colombian Navy already in 2017.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56788>

Netanyahu says he'll revert to 'openly' opposing Iran deal, names security cabinet

The Times of Israel, January 3, 2023

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that he would change Israel's strategy toward countering Iranian nuclear ambitions, promising to bring the fight back to the court of public opinion. Speaking at a cabinet meeting, Netanyahu said that it was still a "possibility" that Western powers would resuscitate efforts to sign a nuclear deal with Iran and that he would apply public pressure to prevent it. Tuesday's meeting was the first with official business since the government was sworn in on Thursday.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-warns-iran-deal-still-possible-vows-to-revert-to-openly-opposing-it/>

Israel, US to conduct joint Air Force drills this week

Israel Defense, January 3, 2023

Six F-15 fighter jets from the US Air Forces Central Command (AFCENT) landed yesterday at the Nevatim air force base in southern Israel, as part of an Agile Combat Employment (ACE) which is scheduled to take place during the week. According to the Israel Air Force (IAF), during the deployment the six F-15 jets will conduct joint drills with Israeli F-15 F-35 fighters, as well as with the intelligence-gathering Gulfstream G-500/G-550 ("Nachshon"). The aerial forces are expected to practice joint flights and simulate attacks against targets deep in enemy territory.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56796>

L3Harris, IAI teaming to deliver fire detection systems to Australia's combat vehicles

Israel Defense, January 4, 2023

L3Harris Technologies, a global aerospace and defense technology innovator which provides advanced defense and commercial technologies across space, air, land, sea and cyber domains announced that it entered into a teaming agreement with Israel's ELTA Systems, an Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) group, to deliver a sophisticated fire detection and response capability for Australian armored fighting vehicles. The new system will enable a combat vehicle, when it encounters live fires, to immediately detect incoming rounds and initiate self-defense responses, which include a combination of electronic warfare measures and kinetic effects.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56809>

Peruvian army to restore its Spike-LR anti-tank missiles

Israel Defense, January 4, 2023

Peru is planning on restoring the operational capabilities of its military's Spike-LR anti-tank missiles. According to the Spanish website Defensa, the Peruvian Armed Forces Purchasing Agency (ACFFAA) allocated 2.4 million dollars to Israeli Rafael to recover the operational capabilities of the missiles operated by anti-tank unit No. 3 "Cazadores" and which reached the end of their operational life cycle, which is 10 years long, already in mid-2020. The evaluation, calibration and update service process will take at least one year and will be performed at the Center for Training and Maintenance (CEMAT) located in Fort Arica. The process includes a review, maintenance and repair of the missile launcher systems - each of which consists of a command and launch unit (CLU - Command Launch Unit), a thermal sight and a tripod - and of the missiles themselves (the number of which is unknown), which are in the anti-tank unit No. 3 "Cazadores" and in the warehouses of the Peruvian army.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56810>

Rafael's SPYDER now offering counter TBM capabilities

Israel Defense, January 4, 2023

Rafael's combat-proven SPYDER air defense system is now enhanced with a sophisticated Counter-TBM (tactical ballistic missiles) capability. The introduction of this feature is the product of Rafael's Counter-TBM SPYDER program, which involved researching and analyzing the lessons learned from recent and ongoing armed conflicts involving extensive use of

tactical ballistic missiles. The program has brought about a practical upgrade to the SPYDER system which is equipped for implementation. In response to urgent operational requests from several existing customers throughout the world, the program will extend the capabilities of the SPYDER's effectors as well as the implementation of various Counter-TBM derivatives across the system.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56812>

Tel Aviv University launches new nanosatellite, another step towards demonstrating quantum communication from space

Israel Defense, January 5, 2023

A new technological achievement for Tel Aviv University: in less than two years TAU launched three nanosatellites into space. The third, TAU-SAT3, was launched yesterday on SpaceX's launch vehicle Falcon 9, from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. According to the researchers, TAU-SAT3, developed at the Center for Nanosatellites of TAU's Fleischman Faculty of Engineering, represents a scientific breakthrough, paving the way toward demonstration of optical and quantum communication from space via nanosatellites. The researchers: "TAU leads Israel's effort to create satellite communication channels based on optical and quantum technologies. To implement long-distance quantum communication over hundreds of kilometers or more we need to go into space. TAU-SAT3 is designed to pave the way toward demonstrating quantum communication via a quantum nanosatellite, to be built in the future at TAU."

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56824>

Elbit to supply 120 mm ammunition for the Ariete main battle tank of the Italian army

Israel Defense, January 6, 2023

Israeli Elbit Systems will supply 120 mm ammunition for the Ariete main battle tank of the Italian army. The German website esut.de reports that the Israeli company won a contract worth 10.5 million euros to supply M339 ammunition. The M339 is a multi-purpose high-explosive ammunition (HE-MP-T) for combating fortifications, light and medium armored vehicles and against infantry. In addition, the associated practice ammunition M303 (Target Practice, TP-T) should be delivered.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56822>

US Army wants Israeli “Iron Fist” system by 2025

Israel Defense, January 8, 2023

Elbit Systems' Iron Fist Light Decoupled Active Protection System achieved further improved performance in recent U.S. Army live-fire testing on the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle. The U.S. Army announced that the testing completed in October 2022 demonstrated improvements in both durability and system effectiveness from previous testing. "The Army is very pleased with the improved performance of this system," said Maj. Gen. Glenn Dean, the Army's program executive officer for Ground Combat Systems. "The software improvements since 2018 are more consistent and stable. We see continued future growth opportunities for the system, but this active protection system better protects our soldiers and vehicles on the battlefield."

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56835>

Rafael's Spike missile deal with Greece expected to be signed next month

Israel Defense, January 10, 2023

The deal for the supply of Rafael's Spike NLOS missiles to the Greek army, first reported last month, is expected to be signed at the beginning of February 2023. This, according to Greek Minister of Defense, Nikos Panagiotopoulos, who spoke with local media a few days ago. Panagiotopoulos was asked about the implementation of the plan to be equipped with spike missiles, and replied that complex and slow-moving negotiations are still underway for the weapon systems, that will be mounted both on ground army vehicles and on ships and helicopters.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56866>

Elbit Systems to provide new mission training center for Israel's F-16 fleet

Israel Defense, January 10, 2023

The Israel Ministry of Defense signed an agreement today (Tuesday) with Elbit Systems to expand the Mission Training Center (MTC) at the Hatzor Air Force Base, which contains flight training simulators for F15 and F16 aircrafts. The new Mission Training Center will be added to the existing MTC, that will be upgraded as part of the contract. Both MTCs will improve the quality of aircrew training, doubling the number of training sorties for the IAF's F-16 and F-15 aircrew. The deal's value is estimated to be about \$180 million (NIS 400 million), and about \$80 million in aid funds. The contract will be delivered over a three-year period, with an additional fifteen-year period that will include operation and maintenance services.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56876>

US Marines developing aerial defense system partially based on Israel's Iron Dome

Israel Defense, January 10, 2023

The US Marine corps has approved continuing the development of a mobile aerial defense system, based in part on the Israeli Iron Dome, by Rafael. This announcement was made following a Corps' Milestone Decision Authority meeting last month, and approved the Medium-Range Intercept Capabilities (MRIC) program. This year, a decision will be made regarding the development of a prototype system, similar to Iron Dome, and designed to intercept rockets, artillery shells and mortars launched from a maximum range of 72 km.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56880>

Report: South Korea interested in Rafael's anti-aircraft system

Israel Defense, January 11, 2023

The South Korean military is looking into acquiring an Israel-made system to improve its small drone detection and interception capabilities, against the threat of North Korea. A source in the Ministry of National Defense in Seoul told a local website that they are looking into the Sky Spotter, manufactured by Rafael, which is designed for the early detection and monitoring of aerial threats, including UAVs, drones, observation balloons and kites – all tools used by terrorist organizations. According to the source, the ministry intends to make a quick purchase, following a decision on how to deal with drone/UAV threats from the north in the coming weeks. The new system would complement South Korea's

current thermal observation and radar systems.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56889>

Smartshooter's IWOO system successfully passed live-fire tests in USA

Israel Defense, January 12, 2023

SMARTSHOOTER, an Israeli designer, developer, and manufacturer of fire control systems, announced this week (Wednesday) that it moved past the final milestone on U.S. Department of Defense ASD SO/LIC IWTSD's Individual Weapon Overmatch Optic (IWOO) program using the SMASH advanced Fire Control System.

In February 2020, ASD SO/LIC's Irregular Warfare Technical Support Directorate (IWTSD) selected SMARTSHOOTER, to develop the solution for its Individual Weapon Overmatch Optic (IWOO) project.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56899>

Lebanon

Report: Lebanon urging Hezbollah to prevent local Hamas cell from attacking Israel

The Times of Israel, January 7, 2023

Lebanese security officials are concerned over plans by the Palestinian Hamas terror group to carry out an attack against Israel from southern Lebanon, local media reported Saturday. The Beirut Observer news site published a list of Hamas members who were allegedly involved in planning attacks without the involvement of the Hezbollah terrorist organization, which controls much of southern Lebanon. The Hamas operatives were named in the

report as Samir Fendi, Hassan Farhat, Nadim Dawabsha and Ahmed Hamdan Abdullah. The Beirut Observer said Lebanese security officials criticized “Hezbollah’s lack of action... because the implementation of any operation against Israel at this particular time will endanger Lebanon and add a new tragedy to its tragedies.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-lebanon-urging-hezbollah-to-prevent-local-hamas-cell-from-attacking-israel/>

Encircling Israel with missiles was General Soleimani's idea, says Hezbollah official

Press Tv, January 15, 2023

Iran’s martyred anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani was behind the idea of surrounding the Israeli regime with missiles, and he succeeded in finalizing and implementing his plan, says a senior member of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah. Mahmoud Qamati, a member of the Political Council of Hezbollah, said if the Lebanese resistance movement is ready to go to war with Israel and relies on its own missiles and drones, it is because of the great efforts made by General Soleimani. “Martyr Soleimani’s idea was to encircle Israel, and he managed to do so in practice. It was Martyr Soleimani who made plans for the missiles of Lebanon and Gaza, as well as Iraq and even Yemen,” Iran’s Tasnim news agency on Sunday quoted Qamati as saying. General Soleimani, the commander of the Quds Force of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), was assassinated in a US drone strike authorized by former US

president Donald Trump near Baghdad International Airport on January 3, 2020.

<https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2023/01/15/696386/Soleimani-was-behind-encircling-Israel-missiles-Hezbollah>

Syria

Israeli Missile Strikes Put Damascus Airport Out Of Service

Outlook, January January 2, 2023

Israel's military fired missiles toward the international airport of Syria's capital early Monday, putting it out of service and killing two soldiers and wounding two others, the Syrian army said. The attack, the second in seven months to put the Damascus International Airport out of service, caused material damage in a nearby area, the army said, without giving further details. Israel has targeted airports and ports in government-held parts of Syria in an apparent attempt to prevent arms shipments from Iran to militant groups backed by Tehran, including Lebanon's Hezbollah.

<https://www.outlookindia.com/international/israeli-missile-strikes-put-damascus-airport-out-of-service-news-250117>

Netanyahu warns Iran, Hezbollah of ‘red lines’ ahead of war games on Lebanon border

The Times of Israel, January 10, 2023

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday warned Iran and its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah of Israel’s “red lines” on the buildup of militant forces or weapons to its north, as the Israel Defense Forces prepared to hold an artillery drill on a contested hill on the border with Lebanon and Syria. Netanyahu toured the military’s

Northern Command headquarters in the city of Safed along with Defense Minister Yoav Gallant Tuesday, striking a defiant tone despite the relatively quiet period on the border. “The main enemy we are facing is the terror regime in Iran and its satellites in Syria and Lebanon,” Netanyahu said in remarks provided by his office.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-warns-iran-hezbollah-of-red-lines-ahead-of-war-games-on-lebanon-border/>

Saudi Arabia

Yemen’s Ansarullah says will strike deep inside Saudi Arabia, UAE as no option left

Press Tv, January 8, 2023

Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement says the Saudi-led coalition has exploited a UN-sponsored truce to tighten the brutal blockade against the war-racked country, stressing that it won't allow the status quo to persist, and will inevitably launch missile strikes against the Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Ansarullah announced in a statement that even with the six-month truce that expired on October 2 last year and two rounds of negotiations to extend the ceasefire and lift the blockade on commercial airports and entry ports, the Riyadh-led alliance reneged on the terms of the ceasefire and did not honor previous agreements. “The Saudi-led coalition’s main goal out of the truce was to stop the Houthi Ansarullah forces from carrying out retaliatory military operations against targets deep inside Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the crippling sea, land and air blockade on Yemen has created a humanitarian disaster in the country,” the statement read.

<https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2023/01/08/695924/Ansarullah--We-are-left-with-no->

[option-but-to-strike-depths-of-Saudi-Arabia,-UAE](#)

Saudi Arabia to study increasing investments in Pakistan to \$10 billion

Arab News, January 10, 2023

Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has directed to study increasing the Kingdom’s investments in Pakistan to reach \$10 billion. He also directed the Saudi Fund for Development to study increasing the Saudi deposit to Pakistan’s Central Bank to reach \$5 billion. The investments in Pakistan were previously announced in August. The Saudi deposit to the central bank was extended in December. Prince Mohammed’s directives come to affirm the Kingdom's position in supporting the economy of Pakistan and its people, the Saudi Press Agency said early Tuesday.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2229536/saudi-arabia>

IAEA Supporting the Enhancement of Saudi Arabia’s National Nuclear Legal Framework

IAEA, January 11, 2023

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is looking to add nuclear to its energy mix and the IAEA is assisting its efforts in developing laws and legislative frameworks that would support the implementation of its nuclear energy programme in a safe, secure and transparent manner. To this aim, from 12 to 14 December 2022 the IAEA together with Saudi Arabia’s nuclear regulatory body, the Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Commission (NRRC), held a National Workshop on Nuclear Law in Riyadh. Attended by about 20 officials from the Ministry of Energy, the Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of

Justice, the Bar Association, the Public Prosecution and Imam University, the event focused on the different elements of a comprehensive national legal framework and on the country's obligations arising from the international legal instruments in the areas of nuclear safety, security, safeguards and civil liability for nuclear damage.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-supporting-the-enhancement-of-saudi-arabias-national-nuclear-legal-framework>

Arms supplied by UK, U.S. killed civilians in Yemen, report says

PBS, January 11, 2023

Weapons supplied by the United Kingdom and the United States and used by a Saudi-led coalition fighting in war-torn Yemen killed at least 87 civilians and wounded 136 others in just over a year, a new report said Wednesday. The report by the Oxfam charity found that the Saudi-led coalition used weapons supplied solely by the U.K. and the U.S. in hundreds of attacks on civilians in Yemen between January 2021 and the end of February 2022. Britain is the second-biggest supplier of weapons to Saudi Arabia, after the U.S. Yemen's war began when the Iran-backed Houthis seized the country's capital, Sanaa, in September 2014 and forced the internationally recognized government into exile. A Saudi-led coalition — armed with U.S. and U.K. weaponry and intelligence — entered the war on the side of Yemen's exiled government in March 2015.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/arms-supplied-by-uk-u-s-killed-civilians-in-yemen-report-says>

Saudi Arabia plans to use domestic uranium for nuclear fuel

Reuters, January 11, 2023

Saudi Arabia plans to use domestically-sourced uranium to build up its nuclear power industry, energy minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said on Wednesday.

He added that recent exploration had shown a diverse portfolio of uranium in the Gulf Arab state, the world's top oil exporter. Saudi Arabia has a nascent nuclear programme that it wants to expand to eventually include uranium enrichment, a sensitive area given its role in nuclear weapons. Riyadh has said it wants to use nuclear power to diversify its energy mix. It is unclear where its ambitions end, since Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in 2018 that the kingdom would develop nuclear weapons if regional rival Iran did.

"The kingdom intends to utilise its national uranium resources, including in joint ventures with willing partners in accordance with international commitments and transparency standards," Abdulaziz bin Salman said.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/saudi-arabia-plans-use-uranium-entire-nuclear-fuel-cycle-minister-says-2023-01-11/>

Oil, human rights, security: Here's what's in store for U.S.-Gulf relations in 2023

NPR, January 12, 2023

As the war in Ukraine grinds on, the United States is looking internationally to partners to weaken Russia's influence. It's also seeking to blunt China's growing reach. In

the Mideast, President Joe Biden has reached out to Gulf allies like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar in an attempt to align interests. While visiting Saudi Arabia last summer, he tried to reassure Arab leaders of U.S. commitment to the region's security. But Gulf nations aren't rushing to side with Washington. Here's a look at key issues affecting U.S.-Gulf ties into 2023. The Saudi-led Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has stuck to a pandemic-era pact with Russia to curb production and keep oil prices up. The agreement has helped Russia retain some of its spending power despite Western sanctions in response to the war in Ukraine.

<https://www.npr.org/2023/01/12/1147818054/saudi-arabia-gulf-nations-us-relations>

Saudi-US partnership to develop clean and nuclear energy

Zawya, January 15, 2023

The partnership framework for Clean Energy Development between the two countries has identified the cooperation fields in which KSA and the US will work to enhance, in order to achieve their ambitions in spreading clean energy and climate action. The governments of Saudi Arabia and the United States intend to enhance cooperation between the two countries, in accordance with their respective national laws, through the Partnership Framework for Clean Energy Development. The partnership framework for Clean Energy Development between the two countries has identified the cooperation fields in which KSA and the US will work to enhance, in order to achieve their

ambitions in spreading clean energy and climate action.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/gcc/saudi-us-partnership-to-develop-clean-and-nuclear-energy-v2ji0cu4>

Qatar

Qatari-Turkish joint Higher Military Committee holds fifth meeting

The Peninsula, January 11, 2023

Doha: The Ministry of Defense has hosted the fifth meeting of the Qatari-Turkish Joint Higher Military Committee.

The Qatari side was led by the Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces Staff H E Lieutenant General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad bin Aqeel Al Nabit at the meeting, while the Turkish side was led by the Chief of the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces H E General Yasar Guler. The meeting dealt with a number of issues on the committee's agenda related to strengthening the existing cooperation between the two countries in various military and security fields.

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/11/01/2023/qatari-turkish-joint-higher-military-committee-holds-fifth-meeting>

United Arab Emirates

Somalia, UAE strike security deal in push to mend fences

Middle East Monitor, January 5, 2023

Somalia and the UAE have signed an agreement to bolster military and security ties, along with cooperation in anti-terrorism efforts, as the two countries work to improve strained relations, *Anadolu News Agency* reports.

The deal was inked on Wednesday evening in Abu Dhabi by Somali Defence Minister, Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur and his counterpart, Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Bowardi. The agreement will enhance "institutional capacity-building of Somalia's security forces and support ongoing efforts to eradicate Al-Shabaab from Somalia," Nur said in a statement. The Al-Shabaab terror group is an Al-Qaeda affiliate that has claimed thousands of lives in a deadly campaign against the Somali government and international forces since at least 2007. Somalia's President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, has declared "all-out war" against the group as it continues to mount violent attacks in the country.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2023/01/05-somalia-uae-strike-security-deal-in-push-to-mend-fences/>

President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed receives Pakistan Chief of Army Staff COAS Gen. Asim Munir in Abu Dhabi

Gulf News, January 9, 2023

President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, received Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. At the beginning of the meeting, which was held at Qasr Al Shati Palace, Sheikh Mohamed congratulated Munir on his appointment as Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, wishing him luck in his new duties to serve his country and people. For his part, Pakistani Chief of Army Staff Munir expressed his thanks and appreciation to Sheikh Mohamed for congratulating him. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed cooperation relations and joint work between the UAE and Pakistan in defence and military affairs, as well as ways to

strengthen them to serve the common interests of the two friendly countries.

<https://gulfnews.com/uae/government/president-sheikh-mohamed-bin-zayed-receives-pakistan-chief-of-army-staff-coas-gen-asim-munir-in-abu-dhabi-1.1673290112118>

Syria

Turkiye agrees to withdraw military from northern Syria, following tripartite reconciliation talks

Middle East Monitor, January 1, 2023

Turkiye has agreed to fully withdraw its military from northern Syria following tripartite talks it held with the Syrian regime and Russia, in a drastic foreign policy change. According to Syrian newspaper *Al-Watan*, which quoted an anonymous source in Damascus, the tripartite talks between Turkish, Syrian, and Russian defence ministers this week resulted in "Turkiye's consent to completely withdraw its troops from the Syrian territories that it occupies in the north of the country." Ankara agreed to a number of other demands, including to respect Syrian sovereignty and fully open the M4 highway in northern Syria running through Aleppo to Latakia. Damascus and Ankara also agreed that the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and its affiliated militias in north-east Syria are agents of the United States and Israel, and that those Kurdish groups pose the greatest danger to both Turkiye and Syria.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2023/01/01-turkiye-agrees-to-withdraw-military-from-northern-syria-following-tripartite-reconciliation-talks/>

Damascus Airport strike puts spotlight back on Iran and Syria -analysis

The Jerusalem Post, January 2, 2023

Syria blamed Israel for an airstrike on Damascus International Airport overnight between Sunday and Monday, which put the airport briefly out of service. This was the second attack on the airport since June.

Iran uses airports in Syria to transport weapons, often moving them to Syria or to Hezbollah in Lebanon. "Syria state media has confirmed that Damascus International Airport has suffered major damage – including to runways – following an Israeli missile attack," Al Jazeera reported in June. "The Syrian Transport Ministry said in a statement on Saturday that runways remained out of service at the capital's airport following the attack on Friday, the state-run Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported."

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-726413>

Two Rockets Target US Army Base in Eastern Syria: CENTCOM

The Defense Post, January 4, 2023

Two rockets were fired Wednesday at an army base in eastern Syria hosting a US-led anti-jihadist coalition, causing no casualties or damage, the US military said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, accused pro-Iranian groups of the attack a day after Iranians marked the third anniversary of the killing of a top general in a US drone strike. At a commemoration in Tehran on Tuesday, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi vowed "revenge" for the assassination of Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force, the foreign operations arm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The US

military's Central Command (CENTCOM), in a statement that avoided accusing any perpetrators, said "two rockets targeted coalition forces at Mission Support Site Conoco" in the eastern Deir Ezzor province "today at approximately 9 am (0600 GMT)."

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/01/04/rockets-us-base-eastern-syria/>

Türkiye, Russia may establish joint patrols in northern Syria, says Turkish defense chief

Anadolu Agency, January 4, 2023

Türkiye and Russia may establish joint patrols in northern Syria, according to the Turkish national defense minister on Wednesday. Speaking to a group of reporters at the Turkish parliament, Hulusi Akar commented on Türkiye's recent tripartite meeting with Syria and Russia in Moscow. "Our goal is the defense of our country and nation. For this, the fight against terrorism is a very important element," he said. Noting Türkiye's successes in its counterterror efforts, Akar said that he told his counterparts at the tripartite meeting in Moscow that it is not possible for Türkiye to accept more refugees. He expressed hope that the tripartite talks will continue "reasonably, logically, and successfully."

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkiye/turkiye-russia-may-establish-joint-patrols-in-northern-syria-says-turkish-defense-chief/2779581>

Syria Opposition Uneasy after Turkish, Syrian Defense Ministers Meet

Asharq Al-Awsat, January 4, 2023

Syria's political and armed opposition are urging their decade-long backer Türkiye to

reaffirm its support for their cause, after the highest-level talks in public between Ankara and the Damascus government since the Syrian war began in 2011. Türkiye has provided steadfast support and a home base for political opponents of the regime of President Bashar al-Assad while training and fighting alongside armed opposition factions against Syrian government troops. But the Turkish and Syrian defense ministers met in Moscow on Dec. 28, with migration and Kurdish militants based on Syria's border with Türkiye on the agenda, according to a Turkish official. That has prompted unease within Syria's armed and political opposition.

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/4080556/syria-opposition-uneasy-after-turkish-syrian-defense-ministers-meet%C2%A0>

Turkish defense chief warns Syrian rebels against 'provocation'

Al-Monitor, January 6, 2023

As Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan eyes a meeting with his Syrian counterpart, the Turkish defense chief on Friday warned the Syrian armed groups backed by Turkey against "provocations," in response to the opposition groups' protests against the recent Ankara-Damascus rapprochement. Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar reiterated that Turkey would not "say yes to any decision or a meeting that would be against or would harm, trouble or violate the rights [of the Syrian opposition]." "Our Syrian siblings should steer away from any kind of provocations and not fall for games," he said speaking in Turkey's northern province of Tokat.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/01/turkish->

[defense-chief-warns-syrian-rebels-against-provocation#ixzz7sryNaLqj](#)

Report: Iran steps up air defense deployment in Syria in bid to curb Israeli strikes

The Times of Israel, January 11, 2023

Iran has invested millions of dollars in an effort to ramp up the deployment of an advanced air defense network in Syria, amid repeated attempts by Israel to target Iranian sites and shipments of weapons to its regional proxies, according to a Tuesday report. Citing an unnamed intelligence source from a nation allied with the United States, Newsweek reported that Iran over the past two years has been "promoting the deployment of aerial defense capabilities on its behalf in Syria at a cost of tens of millions of dollars in order to deal with the Israeli airstrikes." The source said the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Aerospace Force, Brig. Gen. Fereydoun Mohammadi Saghaei, is leading the air defense project.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-iran-steps-up-air-defense-deployment-in-syria-in-bid-to-curb-israeli-strikes/>

Turkey

Baykar plans to make supersonic variant of unmanned fighter jet Kızılelma

Daily Sabah, January 4, 2023

Turkish drone magnate Baykar plans to make a supersonic variant of its unmanned fighter jet, the Bayraktar Kızılelma, the chief technology officer (CTO) of the company said. Selçuk Bayraktar was speaking on the features of Kızılelma, Türkiye's first indigenously developed and produced unmanned fighter aircraft, during a broadcast. Kızılelma will be able to fight against warplanes, Bayraktar said, besides,

its cruising time is several times longer compared to Baykar's latest drone, the Akıncı unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), he said. "We even plan to make a supersonic variant," Bayraktar noted. The National Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle System (MIUS), named Kızılelma (Red Apple), with low detectability and hypersonic speed, is an extremely critical and strategic project by Baykar whose battle-proven combat drones already attract great attention worldwide.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/baykar-plans-to-make-supersonic-variant-of-unmanned-fighter-jet-kizilelma>

Turkish defense industry sets \$6B export target for 2023

Daily Sabah, January 8, 2023

Türkiye's defense industry has exceeded its export target in 2022 and is looking forward to reaching \$6 billion (TL 112.53 billion) in 2023, which "can also be much higher," Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) head Ismail Demir said while speaking at the "Defense Industry 2023 Goals" news conference held in Teknopark Istanbul. "Today, the Turkish defense industry continues its efforts to meet the needs of our security units with domestic resources, with project activities carried out under the supervision of our Presidency, from design to mass production, from R&D and innovation to industrialization policies, and various ecosystem coordination studies that will ensure financing and sustainability," said Demir, noting that the upright stance and determination in the defense industry accelerated domestic projects against embargoes.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-industry-sets-6b-export-target-for-2023>

Growing interest helps Turkish missile makers expand into Far East

Daily Sabah, January 13, 2023

Interest in Turkish defense industry products and the demand for those especially used by the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) has been growing worldwide, with ammunition, missiles and rockets being no exception. Roketsan, a leading missile manufacturer that developed the smart ammunition fired from Türkiye's world-renowned combat drones, is now expanding into the Far East with its missiles developed with national resources. Murat İkinci, Roketsan's general manager, told Anadolu Agency (AA) that they signed a contract for two major projects in Indonesia. One of them was signed for the export of the Khan weapon system, which is the international version of the Bora missile. He said that the Khan weapon system is "one of the largest ballistic systems of our country at the moment."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/growing-interest-helps-turkish-missile-makers-expand-into-far-east>

North Macedonia buys 18 Turkish-made howitzers

Daily Sabah, January 13, 2023

North Macedonia, which became NATO's latest member, ordered three batteries with a total of 18 "Boran" howitzers from Türkiye, according to local media. Local reports said the move comes as part of the North Macedonian Army rearming its artillery divisions. "The army of North Macedonia is undergoing a major modernization drive. Through American and German military assistance, it is rearming itself with new combat systems

from technology, largely a legacy of the Cold War acquired from Ukraine in 2001. In the artillery, it will be 'Boran' howitzers, for the infantry they will acquire American combat vehicles 'Stryker' and 'JLTV,' for air defense the French missile system 'Mistral 3,'" said the reports. The first battery of six Boran howitzers will arrive in two years, while the remaining two batteries will be delivered in the period from 2029 to 2031.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/north-macedonia-buys-18-turkish-made-howitzers>

Biden to ask US Congress to approve F-16 sale to Türkiye

Daily Sabah, January 13, 2023

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration is planning to ask Congress to approve a \$20 billion sale of F-16 fighter jets to Türkiye, a report said Friday. The sale "is larger than expected" and includes 40 F-16 fighters and modernization kits for 79 of the warplanes already in Ankara's possession, the Wall Street Journal newspaper reported, citing anonymous officials familiar with the matter. Ankara requested the F-16s and modernization kits in October 2021 in what was previously estimated to cost \$6 billion.

Congressional notification of the deal is expected to take place next week when Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu pays a visit to Washington. In addition to the warplanes and updated equipment, the agreement is slated to include 900 air-to-air missiles and 800 bombs, the newspaper reported.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/biden-to-ask-us-congress-to-approve-f-16-sale-to-turkiye>

Türkiye vows to boost domestic ballistic missile's range to 1,000 km

Daily Sabah, January 15, 2023

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Saturday cited ongoing global crises, stressing that Türkiye not only survived troubling times but is also moving forward on its path to further strengthen its defense industry. During a visit to the southwestern Muğla province, Erdoğan recalled that Türkiye's external dependence in the defense industry dropped to 20%, from 80% some two decades ago when his ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) came to power. "National matters are above politics and should remain so. If we have achieved gains in the Mediterranean, the Aegean and the Black Seas, we must protect this together, without exception," he said. Erdoğan particularly stressed the ongoing tests of domestic missiles, which he said are "scaring" Greece.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-vows-to-boost-domestic-ballistic-missiles-range-to-1000-km>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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