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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

Iran, Saudi Arabia discuss military cooperation

Tehran Times, December 1, 2023

Saudi and Iranian military officials, including Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman Al Saud and Iran's Chief of Staff Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, discussed proposals to enhance military ties. General Bhageri expressed Iran's readiness for stronger military relations, commended Saudi Arabia for an OIC session on Gaza, and discussed urgent issues in the Muslim world. President Raisi's historic visit to Saudi Arabia for an OIC summit emphasized the need for decisive action on Gaza. The nations, following diplomatic ties resumed in March, underscored respect for sovereignty. Plans for a naval coalition and a military attaché swap were revealed in subsequent month.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492027/Iran-Saudi-Arabia-discuss-military-cooperation>

Iran space industry on right track: minister

Tehran Times, December 1,2023

Iran's Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Issa Zarepour, has highlighted the positive trajectory of the country's space industry. The 10-year development document for the space industry, approved last year, outlines plan for satellite construction, infrastructure, ground station, and launches. Zarepour mentioned progress in stabilizing launchers and building satellites, anticipating the launch of five satellites by the end of the year. He emphasized the coordination of space activities by the

Supermen Space Council and expressed confidence in Iran achieving its rightful status through empathy, coordination, and cooperation.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492039/Iran-space-industry-on-right-track-minister>

Iran rebuts European claims on Fattah-2 missile development

Tehran Times, December 1,2023

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Nasser Kanaani, dismissed recent statements from France, Germany, and the UK regarding Iran's Faattah-2 missile program. He caeled the European claims misleading, politically motivated, and lacking legal grounding. Iran insistes its missile program is for peaceful purposes and aligns wih international law. Kanaani urges fair dialogue, emphasizing Iran's commitment to peaceful and defensive measures. He clarified that, according to the 2015 nuclear deal timetable, all missile restrictions on Iran should have been lifted by October 17, 2023. The European allies' sanctions, citing Iran's noncompliance, include restrictions on ballistic missile development and asset freezes linked to nuclear and missile programs.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492036/Iran-rebuts-European-claims-on-Fattah-2-missile-development>

Iranian Navy pursuing defense diplomacy at highest level: Navy chief

Tehran Times, December 1,2023

Iran's Navy Chief, Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, emphasizes the significance of defense diplomacy and international relations. The Iranian Navy's progress, attributed to diplomatic knowledge and

human resources, is showcased in the Caspian Sea with the Deylaman destroyer. Admiral Irani highlights global flag presence, mentioning security efforts in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea. He praises Iranian youth for contributing to national strength and emphasizes the Navy's role in securing the sea-based economy.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492038/Iranian-Navy-pursuing-defense-diplomacy-at-highest-level-Navy>

Emphasizing the resumption of nuclear negotiations

Tehran Times, December 2, 2023

In recent commentaries, Shargh addressed Rafael Grossi's call for nuclear negotiations, emphasizing the failure of Iranophobic efforts and political propaganda against Iran's peaceful nuclear program. Grossi urged a minimum international consensus, stating JCPOA framework might not be sufficient. Iran, having fulfilled commitments post-US withdrawal, faces claims based on questionable Israeli documents. Meanwhile, Iran newspaper discussed de-Americanization in the region. Ham Miham analysed Iran's stance on Gaza war, highlighting controlled tensions with the U.S. and Israel. Arman-e-Melli covered the British Royal Navy's deployment, rejected by Iran, citing it as a security measure against a perceived unstable world.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492073/Emphasizing-the-resumption-of-nuclear-negotiations>

Iran builds drones for underwater operations.

Tehran Times, December 2, 2023

The Islamic Republic of Iran Navy showcased a range of locally designed and

produced naval technologies, including a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) capable of independent naval activities and a vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drone named Chamroshp-4. The drone, equipped with cost-effective technology, can operate on navy warship decks and perform designated duties. The ROV demonstrated the capability to identify, locate, and detonate naval mines, offering mine clearance support. An Iranian-made UUV with a 24-hour endurance and 200-meter descent capacity was also exhibited. The event featured seaborne weaponry, anti-ship missile systems, electronic warfare, and surveillance systems. Notable officials, including Army Commander Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi and Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, attended the exhibition, showcasing Iran's progress in defense capabilities despite sanctions. President Ebrahim Raisi emphasized self-sufficiency and border defense during the delivery of strategic missiles.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492075/Iran-builds-drones-for-underwater-operations>

Iran, Russia, China to stage joint naval drill in Persian Gulf

Tehran Times, December 2, 2023

Naval forces from Iran, Russia, and China are preparing for joint maritime exercises in the Persian Gulf as part of the 2024 Marine Security Belt naval war game, announced by Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani. Military divisions will participate with observers invited from Pakistan, Brazil, Oman, India, South Africa, and Caspian Sea littoral states. The main phase will launch in Jask during the Ten-

Day Dawn celebrations, featuring heavy-lift vessels deployed by the end of the Iranian calendar year in March 2024. Plans for an expanded maritime zone in Konark were discussed, and optimism surrounds the Caspian Sea littoral states' response to the new 1,200-ton Daylaman destroyer, aimed at boosting Iran's commercial sector and showcasing military self-sufficiency.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492080/Iran-Russia-China-to-stage-joint-naval-drill-in-Persian-Gulf>

A powerful military alliance of Iran, Russia, China is being formed

Tehran Times, December 3, 2023

Kayhan's analysis delves into the upcoming joint military manoeuvres of Iran, Russia, and China in the Persian Gulf, characterizing their defence cooperation as a formidable military alliance and potentially forming a new anti-NATO coalition. The Iran newspaper addresses U.S. and Israel's provocation actions, highlighting resistance group's independent operations against American military bases while emphasizing Iran's non-involvement. Javan underscores the importance of de-escalation with Iran, suggesting a grand deal involving Saudi Arabia and regional cooperation. Hamshahri criticizes the West's hypocrisy, pointing out its focus on Iran's nuclear program amid Israel's military actions in Gaza, questioning the true motives behind diverting attention from the tragic events in Gaza.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492128/A-powerful-military-alliance-of-Iran-Russia-and-China-is-being>

Iran's Military Chief Calls on Iraq to fully Disarm Terrorists Along Common Borders

Fars News Agency, December 4, 2023

The Iranian Armed Forces, particularly the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), have conducted military operations against what they term as terrorist groups in Iraq's Kurdistan region. These actions were taken after armed teams linked with Kurdish terrorist groups illegally entered Iranian border cities. The operations aim to eliminate anti-Iran separatist and terrorist outfits along the Northwestern border. The IRGC has warned of continued attacks until these groups surrender. The Iranian government has reached a security pact with Iraq to disarm and relocate such groups.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020913000227/Iran's-Military-Chief-Calls-n-Ir-Flly-Disarm-Terriss-Alng-Cmmn>

Iranian Navy chief in Baku to strengthen military links

Tehran Times, December 5, 2023

Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, Commander of the Iranian Navy, visited Azerbaijan to discuss strategies for enhancing military cooperation between the two nations. This follows a meeting of the Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Military Commission held in Baku in September. In August, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri praised the growing collaboration between the armed forces of Iran and Azerbaijan during a phone conversation with Azeri Defense Minister Colonel General Zakir Hasanov. The recent visit underscores the

commitment to regional peace and security through cooperation between neighbouring countries. In a diplomatic exchange on November 18, both nations emphasized the importance of regional dialogue without the intervention of trans-regional countries.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492203/Iranian-Navy-chief-in-Baku-to-strengthen-military-links>

Iran successfully launches new bio-space capsule

Tehran Times, December 6,2023

Iran achieved a significant milestone in its space program by successfully launching a 500-kilogram bio-space capsule into orbit. Launched 130 kilometres from Earth's surface, the capsule, developed by Iran's Aerospace Research Institute, aims to test various space technologies crucial for human missions. The indigenous launcher, named Salman, showcases advanced features in propulsion, aerodynamics, and control fields. Suborbital tests of the bio-capsule are forthcoming, bringing Iran closer to its goal of sending humans into space. Despite Western sanctions, Iran continues to make substantial progress in its civilian space program.

<https://irannewsdaily.com/2023/12/iran-successfully-launches-new-bio-space-capsule/>

Iran integrates Karrar Drones into Army's Air Defense Force

Tehran Times, December 10,2023

Iran achieves a major milestone with the integration of home-grown Karrar drones armed with air-to-air Majid missiles into its Army's Air Defense Force. The unveiling,

led by Major General Seyyed Abdolrahim Mouvasi, marks a groundbreaking advancement for national defense capabilities. Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard applauds the drones' deployment success, highlighting their economic advantages over manned aircraft. Recent exercises demonstrate the drones' exceptional tracking, interception, and destruction capabilities at a significantly lower cost, establishing Iran's global prominence in drone technology and showcasing military self-sufficiency.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492396/Iran-integrates-Karrar-Drones-into-Army-s-Air-Defense-Force>

IRGC Ground Force holds extensive drill in western Iran

Tehran Times, December 11,2023

The IRGC Ground Force conducted a comprehensive drill along the Kermanshah border, focusing on countering anti-Iran terrorist plots. The exercise included electronic warfare training, testing indigenous radar and communication systems, and precise reconnaissance operations. Heliborne operations showcased the effectiveness of sophisticated weaponry. Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour highlighted the need for a coordinated response to security threats, while Brigadier General Ali Shadmani addressed challenges from the U.S., emphasizing Iran's commitment to defending its borders. The drill also featured public assistance initiatives, contributing to regional peace and tranquillity.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492241/IRGC-Ground-Force-holds-extensive-drill-in-western-Iran>

Mass production of Yasin jet to kick off soon: defense chief

Tehran Times, December 12,2023

Iran's Defense Minister, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiyani, visited Yasin jet's flight test stages, announcing the imminent mass production of this jet trainer fully supported by the Ministry of Defense. The Yasin's primary mission is to enhance pilot training, reducing duration and elevating quality. General Ashtiyani emphasized the significance of improving pilot training for mastery of various fighter planes and highlighted that Yasin-trained pilots would be proficient in flying new-generation fighters. The Yasin aircraft is equipped to use weapons with optical and thermal guidance, particularly in close air support missions.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492487/Mass-production-of-Yasin-jet-to-kick-off-soon-defense-chief>

Iran to produce domestically developed helicopters: Defense Minister

Tehran Times, December 13,2023

Iran's Defense Minister, Brigadier General Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani, announced the start of homegrown helicopter production at Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company (HESA). He also discussed the replacement of G3 rifles with advanced Masaf rifles, emphasizing the Ministry of Defense's role in creating weapons. Ashtiani highlighted the significance of Yasin jet trainers for training and combat missions, including close air support. Ongoing efforts were mentioned for homegrown hypersonic ballistic missiles, with upgraded and new systems gradually being revealed. These advancements underscore Iran's commitment to enhancing

national defense capabilities, with a firm stance on the non-negotiable nature of defense capabilities in diplomatic discussions.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492538/Iran-to-produce-domestically-developed-helicopters-Defense-Minister>

Iran's Defense Ministry advances 'Sarir' satellite launcher for space exploration program

Tehran Times, December 13,2023

Iran's Defense Ministry aims for a significant stride in space exploration with the 'Sarir' satellite launcher, targeting geostationary orbit. Spokesperson Ahmad Hosseini Mounes highlighted Sarir's completed design and ongoing subsystem construction, emphasizing the Defense Ministry's pivotal role in space technology development and engineering self-sufficiency. Differentiating between Simorgh and Salman launchers, he revealed a directive for the next launcher to carry a 1.5-ton payload. Hosseini Mounes outlined Sarir's capabilities for geostationary orbit and stressed the importance of coherent space governance under the Supreme Space Council. He also noted strategic developments in launch bases, including the Imam Khomeini Spaceport, and plans for a Chabahar base.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492525/Iran-s-Defense-Ministry-advances-Sarir-satellite-launcher-for>

Iran dismisses U.S. foolish plans to launch naval task force in Red Sea

Tehran Times, December 15,2023

Iran's Defense Minister, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani, rejects U.S. plans for Red Sea marine task force,

deeming it "foolish" and warning of complications. This follows Yemeni attacks on ships, promoting the Pentagon's consideration of a maritime task force. Ashtiani emphasizes there's no space for foreign presence in the region and expresses confidence that the U.S. would not engage in such actions. Yemen's Ansarullah resistance mentions having "stinging" pressure leverages. Iran's Foreign Ministry rejects British accusations related to Red Sea attacks, labelling them baseless and politically motivated.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492570/Iran-dismisses-U-S-foolish-plans-to-launch-naval-task-force>

Iraq

Iraq, France discusses the development of combat capabilities

Iraqi News Agency, December 12, 2023

Lieutenant General Qais al-Mohammadawi, JOC deputy commander, discussed combat capabilities with the Lieutenant General Pierre Schell, Chief of Staff of French Land Forces. They emphasized joint French-Iraqi cooperation in training and combat preparations, acknowledging Iraq's progress and victories against territories. The French official praised Iraq's development and expressed support, concluding the meeting with appreciation for French forces' contribution to Iraq's security victories.

<https://ina.iq/eng/30542-iraq-france-military-talks-to-develop-combat-capabilities.html>

Israel

IAI in joint venture with Germany's FFG for land sector products

Israel Defense, December 3, 2023

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has entered a partnership with German FFG Flensburger Fahrzeugbau Gesellschaft to establish a joint venture named FTS (Flensburg Technology Systems). The new company aims to develop and promote land sector products, focusing on the fusion of FFG's vehicle systems with IAI's expertise in areas such as robotics, autonomous capabilities, artificial intelligence, digitalization, networks, radar, SIGINT, electronic warfare, and situational awareness. FFG is recognized for its specialization in vehicle maintenance, repair, overhaul, and development, particularly in tracked armoured personnel carriers and combat support engineering vehicles for both civilian and military applications.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60480>

Indian Special Forces uses SmartShooter's SMASH X4 sight

Israel Defense, December 3, 2023

SMARTSHOOTER's SMASH X4 sight, enhancing small arms' accuracy, is used by the special forces of the Indian Army's 15 Corps in Srinagar. The SMASH X4, with a 4x magnifying optic scope and unique fire control capabilities, extends detection and lethality ranges. The Indian Navy, in 2020-21, procured SMASH 2000 rifle sights from

SMARTSHOOTER for protection against drone attacks, highlighting the effectiveness of SMARTSHOOTER's technologies in improving operational shooting accuracy.\

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60482>

IDF Allocates Millions for continued procurement of JLTV Light Tactical Vehicles

Israel Defense, December 4, 2023

The IDF continues its procurement of JLTV light tactical vehicles, with Oshkosh Defense receiving a second order from the Israeli Ministry of Defense for Dozens more JLTVs. The initial order of 75 vehicles, valued at over \$21 million, was part of the US State Department's Foreign Military Sale program. Oshkosh Defense recently secured orders totalling \$209 million for JLTVs, trailers, and kits for the US Army, USMC, and USAF, followed by a \$160 million order for several countries, marking a successful month for the company.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60493>

Hundreds of Emtan "Ramon" Pistols sold to Peruvian Police

Israel Defense, December 4, 2023

Israeli small arms manufacturer Emtan is expanding its presence in South America, securing a \$472.5 million contract with Peru's Joint Command of the Armed Forces to supply 540 9x19 Ramond pistols for the National Police. This follows Emtan's summer deal with the Ecuadorian Police for 1,752 MZ-4P assault rifles and 30 MZ10 sniper rifles worth \$4.5 million. The company, known for providing firearms to various Latin American countries,

expressed its commitment to delivering high-quality weapons to government agencies globally. The Peruvian army conducted pre-acceptance exams on the Ramon pistols based on the NATO AC225 standard.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60498>

In the shadow of combat: How the IDF artillery corps operates in Gaza

I24 News, December 5, 2023

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) provided insights into its artillery operations in the Gaza Strip during an expanded ground offensive following a temporary truce. The IDF emphasized the crucial role of artillery in advancing ground operations, particularly in urban combat scenarios like Sheyaja in Gaza City. The report highlighted instances where artillery played a pivotal role, such as massive shelling targeting terrorists to support ground forces. One incident involved the 282nd fire brigade aiding the Golani brigade in carrying out an attack mission. Another highlighted the 215th fire brigade assisting the Givati brigade caught in an ambush, firing hundreds of shells to rescue troops and eliminate terrorists. The IDF revealed firing over 100,000 shells during the ground offensive.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1701765571-in-shadow-of-combat-how-idf-artillery-operates-in-gaza>

Gilat Wins U.S. Army Contract to Sustain Satellite Connectivity

Israel Defence, December 6, 2023

Gilat Satellite Networks, an Israel provider of satellite-based broadband communications, has been awarded a nearly

\$20 million contract by the U.S. Army through its U.S. based subsidiary, Wavestream. The contract aims to sustain anytime, anywhere satellite connectivity, utilizing Wavestream's ruggedized solid-waste power amplifier (SSPA). Designed to withstand challenging environments, the SSPA supports satellite transportable terminals, providing a reliable "Communications-on-the-Pause" solution for diverse climates globally. Bob Hauffman, Wavestream's General Manager and Gilat's Senior VP, emphasized the field-proven performance of the Wavestream 50 W ka SSPA in meeting the Army's communication needs for war fights in harsh environments.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60526>

Israeli Navy Launches first Shaldag MK5 Vessel

Israel Defense, December 10, 2023

Israel Shipyards has launched the first MK5 patrol ship for the Israeli Navy, part of a four-vessel deal valued at approximately NIS 100 million for coastal defense. The Shaldag MK5 vessels, known for their speed and versatility, are in demand globally, with recent shipments to the Phillipines marking the fifth and sixth vessels in an \$145 million, eight- vessel deal. In 2020, Israel SShipyards supplied a Shaldag MK5 to the Senegalese Navy as part of a broader agreement. The Israeli Ministry of Defense's procurement plan aligns with ongoing efforts to enhance coastal defense capabilities.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60550>

Good News for the Israeli Defense Industries: Australia to Purchase 129 Redback IFVs

Israel Defense, December 11, 2023

Australia has signed a \$2.6 billion agreement with South Korean company Hanwha Defense to acquire 129 RedBack infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs) for the Australian army. The production of these IFVs will occur in Australia, with delivery scheduled for 2027-28. The RedBack, part of the LAND 400 program, incorporates various Israeli systems, including Rafael's Spike anti-tank missile launchers, Elbit's Iron Fist active protection system, MT30 Mk2 turret, and Electro-optic devices, along with Plasan's armor protection. This development signifies a significant win for Israeli defense industries, contributing to the RedBack's advanced capabilities.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60564#:~:text=תירבע-.Good%20News%20for%20the%20Israeli%20Defense%20Industries,to%20Purchase%20129%20Redback%20IFVs&text=The%20Australian%20government%20has%20Signed,billion%20to%20the%20Australia n%20army>.

Kuwait

Saab to supply Double Eagle underwater Mine disposal Drone to Kuwait

The Defense Post, December 13, 2023

Saab clinches a deal to supply Kuwait Naval Force with a Double Eagle undersea mine disposal drone under the US Navy's foreign military sales program. The Semi-Autonomous Remotely Operated Vehicle

(SAROV) will handle detection, classification, and identification in anti-mine operations. Development and production will occur in Linköping, Sweden, with Saab's Autonomous and Undersea Division in Rhode Island contributing components. The SAROV variant provides versatility for underwater tasks, contributing to enhance mine disposal capabilities.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/12/13/kuwait-double-eagle-underwater-drone-saab/>

Oman

Strait of Hormuz: Iran and Oman's joint sea exercise

FSI and Security, December 1, 2023

Iran and Oman conducted a joint maritime rescue and relief drill in the northern Indian Ocean and the Strait of Hormuz to enhance combat readiness. The exercise involved the Iranian Army's naval wing, IRGC naval forces, and the Omani Navy, showcasing coordination and capabilities. Iranian-made destroyers, helicopters, drones, and reconnaissance aircraft were deployed. Plans for further naval collaboration were announced, including joint exercises with international forces and a naval war game in the Indian Ocean.

The Iran-Oman alliance extends beyond the military, with Oman mediating to ease tensions in the region.

<https://www.defsecme.com/defence/sea/strait-of-hormuz-iran-and-omans-joint-sea-exercise>

Qatar

Chief of Staff takes part in Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism coalition meeting

Gulf Times, December 13, 2023

Qatar's Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Salem bin Hamad bin Aqeel al-Nabit, recently attended the second Chiefs of Staff meeting of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition in Riyadh. The meeting focused on strengthening the coalition's counter-terrorism initiatives and contributing to international peace and security.

<https://www.gulf-times.com/article/673557/qatar/chief-of-staff-takes-part-in-islamic-military-counter-terrorism-coalition-meeting>

Saudi Arabia

Defense minister inaugurates HMS Jazan in Jeddah

Saudi Gazette, December 5, 2023

Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman inaugurates 'His Majesty's Ship Jazan,' the fourth vessel of the Sarawat project, at King Faisal Naval Base in Jeddah. This marks the first ship under the Sarawat project to complete system construction and acceptance trials on Saudi lands and waters. The ship's defensive capabilities, including the "Hazm" battle management system, were localized, reflecting the Kingdom's Vision 2030. All ships in the Sarawat project feature a 100 percent Saudi battle management system. The ceremony was attended by senior Saudi

and Spanish officials, emphasizing the collaborative nature of the project.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/638371/SAUDI-ARABIA/Defense-minister-inaugurates-HSM-Jazan-in-Jeddah>

Defense minister and US counterpart discuss defense cooperation

Saudi Gazette, December 7, 2023

Ministry of Defense Prince Khalid bin Salman received a phone call from US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. They discussed enhancing bilateral relations in defense, addressing current regional and international developments, and collaborative efforts to address challenges.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/638490/Saudi-Arabia/Defense-minister-and-US-counterpart-discuss-defense-cooperation>

Dassault CEO talks Saudi interest in Rafale, takes a shot at F-35 and reveals FCAS details

Breaking Defense, December 14, 2023

Dassault CEO Eric Trappier confirms Saudi negotiations for 54 Rafale aircraft and plans for a Rafale deal with India for 26 navy jets. Trappier emphasizes the independent nature of the Saudi request amid regional conflicts, questions F-35 interoperability, and discusses ongoing projects. Dassault is working on the F5 version for the French Air Force in 2030 and provides insights into the Future Combat Air System (FCAS) project, highlighting the need for a compromise between aerodynamic and stealth. The navy's NGF version will match the air force design, adapted for carrier landings. Trappier also discusses aircraft needs in state-against-state conflicts and

ongoing competition with Airbus for a French procurement agency contract. Dassault offers the Falcon 10X, emphasizing experience and collaboration with Thales.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/12/dassault-ceo-talks-saudi-interest-in-rafale-takes-a-shot-at-f-35-and-reveals-fcas-details/>

SAMI, Embraer to co-operate on C-390 for Saudi Arabia

World Defense Show, December 14, 2023

Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI) and Embraer have signed an MOU to promote the C-390 Millennium transport aircraft in Saudi Arabia. The collaboration seeks to expand both companies' operational presence in Saudi Arabia, emphasizing the C-390's capabilities and supporting the kingdom's Ministry of Defense. SAMI and Embraer will explore maintenance capabilities, a Regional Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) Hub, a final assembly line for the C-390, and mission system integration in Saudi Arabia, aligning with the Saudi Vision 2030 initiative.

<https://www.worlddefenseshow.com/media/news/article-list/sami-embraer-to-co-operate-on-c-390-for-saudi-arabia/>

Türkiye

Türkiye's defense exports log fresh record even before year-end

Daily Sabah, December 3, 2023

Türkiye's defense and aviation industry has outpaced its earlier annual export record. It is now left with a month to build on what is about to go into history as a new milestone. Shipments rose by more than a third from January through November to \$4.8 billion

(TL 138.72 billion), according to Turkish Exporters Assembly (TIM) data. The capabilities of Türkiye's vehicles, spearheaded by its combat drones, triggered unprecedented demand that saw its defense exports peak at more than \$4.4 billion in 2022. The 12-month rolling sales have reached \$5.5 billion, according to the TIM data, bringing the figure closer to the \$6 billion that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said they hope to achieve this year.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-defense-exports-log-fresh-record-even-before-year-end>

Türkiye drives Mideast arms revenues as output woes hit global sales

Daily Sabah, December 4, 2023

Numerous Western arms companies encountered challenges in scaling up production in 2022 despite a significant surge in the demand for weapons and military equipment, a watchdog group said Monday, noting multiple output issues that had been further compounded by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In its Top 100 of such firms, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said the arms revenue of the world's largest arms-producing and military services companies last year stood at \$597 billion – a 3.5% drop from 2021.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-drives-mideast-arms-revenues-as-output-woes-hit-global-sales>

Armored vehicle ARMA 8x8 enters Turkish Armed Forces' inventory

Daily Sabah, December 10, 2023

Produced domestically by defense giant Otokar, the ARMA 8x8 tactical wheeled

armored vehicle has been recently added to the inventory of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK), Anadolu Agency (AA) reported Saturday. In the dynamic landscape of the Turkish defense industry, manufacturers of armored vehicles are spearheading innovation with the introduction of cutting-edge solutions, meticulously developed both domestically and internationally. These solutions are seamlessly integrated into the Turkish Armed Forces through various projects, skillfully coordinated by the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB).

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/armored-vehicle-arma-8x8-enters-turkish-armed-forces-inventory>

'No explanation': Türkiye lashes out at Germany amid Eurofighter row

Daily Sabah, December 11, 2023

Türkiye Monday harshly criticized Germany for not approving Ankara's request to acquire Eurofighter Typhoon jets that the country seeks to refresh its air force amid a prolonged process over the purchase of F-16 warplanes from the U.S. Türkiye announced last month it was in talks with Britain and Spain to buy 40 Eurofighter jets, though Germany has objected to the idea. The warplanes are produced by a consortium involving Germany, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom. "We are a NATO member, yet another member opposes us buying these aircraft, Defense Minister Yaşar Güler said. "There cannot be an explanation for an ally saying, 'I won't give you the aircraft,'" Güler told an interview with private broadcaster NTV.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/no-explanation-turkiye-lashes-out-at-germany-amid-eurofighter-row>

Türkiye's Bayraktar TB2 completes 750K flight hours for new record

Daily Sabah, December 12, 2023

The Bayraktar TB2, Türkiye's first domestically-produced unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), which made many achievements in the Turkish aviation industry, has successfully completed 750,000 flight hours, its manufacturer Baykar said Monday. In this way, the Bayraktar TB2 also became the first indigenous aerial vehicle to spend the longest time in the Turkish skies, approaching 1 million hours of service. Developed by Baykar and globally recognized in terms of technical specifications and being a decisive factor in operations, the Bayraktar TB2 entered the inventory of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) in 2014.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-bayraktar-tb2-completes-750k-flight-hours-for-new-record>

United Arab Emirates

World leaders declare support for tripling global nuclear capacity to reach net zero

Khaleej Times, December 3, 2023

World leaders at COP28 endorsed the "Declaration to Triple Nuclear Energy Capacity by 2050," emphasizing nuclear power's role in achieving net-zero emissions. Heads of State from nine countries supported the initiative, recognizing nuclear energy as a clean and reliable source. The declaration encourages partnerships and innovations for substantial expansion, addressing the importance of decarbonizing energy systems in combating climate change. The ceremony occurred at

the Rove Hotel in Dubai, acknowledging expert analyses and aiming to meet global climate goals.

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/energy/world-leaders-declare-support-for-tripling-global-nuclear-capacity-to-reach-new-zero>

US OKs \$582M Spy plane upgrade for Saudi, \$85M Radar for UAE

The Defense Post, December 7, 2023

The US State Department approved \$582 million for upgrading Saudi Arabia's RE-3A surveillance aircraft, enhancing mission readiness. The package includes GPS security devices, communication intelligence sensors, and an identification friends-or-foe system. It aims to improve patrol capabilities, counter regional threats, and enhance interoperability. Additionally, the UAE received clearance for an \$85 million deal to purchase AN/TPQ-50 radar, reinforcing military installations against artillery and drone threats.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/12/07/us-spy-plane-saudi/>

UAE announces first women in Nuclear Middle East chapter

Khaleej Times, December 8, 2023

The UAE has unveiled the first Women in Nuclear Middle East chapter, making a significant step in promoting gender diversity and inclusion in the nuclear industry. The initiative aims to empower women professionals, foster collaboration, and advance opportunities in nuclear-related fields in the Middle East.

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/uae-announces-first-women-in-nuclear-middle-east-chapter>

Yemen

Commercial ships hit by missiles in Houthi attacks in Red Sea, US warship downs 3 drones

Arab News, December 3, 2023

Three commercial ships in the Red Sea were struck by ballistic missiles fired from Houthi-controlled Yemen and a US warship shot down three drones in self-defense during the assault. Houthi rebels, backed by Iran took the responsibility. The attack marked an escalation in a series of maritime attacks in the Middle east linked to Israel-Hamas war, as multiple vessels found themselves found themselves in the crosshairs of a single Houthi assault for the first time in the conflict.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2419476/middle-east>

Yemen's Houthis say they launched ballistic missiles at Israel

Arab News, December 7, 2023

Yemen's Houthi group targeted military posts in Eilat with ballistic missiles, according to their spokesperson. A US destroyer intercepted a drone from Houthi-controlled Yemen, with no reported injuries or damage. This marks the sixth incident in the Red Sea since the Israel-Hamas conflict began on Oct. 7.

Houthi vows to continue operations against Israel and restrict its ships in support of Palestinians. Global concerns rise as commercial vessels face attacks, prompting warnings from UKMTO. Pentagon suggests Houthi strikes may not specifically target

US warships. The situation unfolds amid heightened tensions in the region. Stay tuned for updates.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2421491/middle-east>

Yemeni coastguard on high alert to counter Houthi attacks

Arab News, December 13, 2023

Houthi rebels intensify attacks on Red Sea ships bound for Israel, prompting Human Rights Watch to accuse them of war crimes for seizing civilian vessels. Yemen's government, anticipating Houthi actions under an anti-Israel pretext, puts its Red Sea coastguard on high alert. VP Tareq Mohammed Saleh warns of the threat from Iran-backed groups, while Houthi official Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti vows retaliation against those hindering attacks on Israeli ships.

The situation is tense, with international calls for support to Yemen's coastguard. Yemen denies a reported US offer for coalition support, and Human Rights Watch urges the release of the Galaxy Leader ship's crew, emphasizing the imperative for peace. Stay tuned for updates on this unfolding Red Sea crisis.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2424986/middle-east>

Suspected Houthi missiles target commercial ships in the Red Sea

Arab News, December 15, 2023

Houthi rebels issued warnings for cargo ships to avoid routes towards occupied Palestinian territories in the Red Sea. A

ballistic missile from rebel-held Yemen targeted the Liberian-flagged cargo ship MSC Palatium III, following an earlier assault on the Al-Jasrah. The attacks, linked to the Israel-Hamas conflict, raise international concerns. Hapag-Lloyd's Al-Jasrah suffered a projectile hit, causing a fire on deck. UKMTO confirmed the incidents, urging caution. Houthi missile assaults on Red Sea shipping have surged,

with vessels narrowly escaping in recent days. The strategic Bab El-Mandeb Strait faces increased risk, impacting global shipping routes. Stay tuned for updates on this evolving situation.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2426206/middle-east>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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