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# SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

**FOCUS, NUCLEAR, MISSILES & OTHER  
SECURITY ISSUES IN WEST ASIA**

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## IRAN

### **Iran: IAEA informed about moving centrifuge parts to Isfahan**

Tehran Times, February 3, 2022

Iran's decision to produce centrifuge parts in a new complex in Isfahan instead of the Tesa complex in Karaj is done with the knowledge of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and now the UN nuclear watchdog would be able to adjust its regulatory and monitoring standards accordingly, Iran's acting ambassador to the IAEA said late on Monday. "The IAEA report is a regular update which provides the latest technical information on Iran's nuclear activities to its members," Mohammad Reza Ghaebi explained. He continued by saying that according to the report, Iran has informed the Agency that it intends to produce centrifuge parts in a new complex in Isfahan instead of the Tesa complex, which has not yet begun its work, and the IAEA will be able to meet regulatory standards. "However, information about this monitoring will remain with Iran and the IAEA will not have access to it until Iran resumes its nuclear obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)," he explained.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/469776/Iran-IAEA-informed-about-moving-centrifuge-parts-to-Isfahan>

### **Iran's nuclear R&D achievements can't be restricted by any deal: top official**

Tehran Times, February 5, 2022

A top Iranian security official has underlined that Iran's achievements with respect to nuclear research and development (R&D) can't be limited by any deal. Ali Shamkhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said on Twitter that Iran's right to move ahead with its nuclear R&D activities should be

protected in case a deal was reached in the Vienna talks aimed to revive a 2015 nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "Iran's legal right to continue research and development and to maintain its peaceful nuclear capabilities and achievements, along with its security against supported evils, cannot be restricted by any agreement," the top security official tweeted on Saturday.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/469834/Iran-s-nuclear-R-D-achievements-can-t-be-restricted-by-any-deal>

### **IRGC Declares Production of New "Strategic Missile"**

Fars News Agency, February 8, 2022

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh announced development of a new "strategic missile" by Iranian experts, saying that it will be unveiled soon. "The strategic missile will be unveiled in the near future," General Hajizadeh said, addressing in a ceremony held on Monday to commemorate the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, on the 43rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. General Hajizadeh added that the missile has been built for quite some time and is currently part of the IRGC's combat capability.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001119000224/IRGC-Declares-Prdcin-f-New-%E2%80%9CSraegic-Missile%E2%80%9D>

### **Amir Abdollahian says Vienna talks proceeding based on a new text**

Tehran Times, February 8, 2022

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian stresses that Iran will not have direct negotiations with the Americans in Vienna and that Tehran will try to lift as many sanctions as possible, according to a member of the National Security and

Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian parliament. The announcement by Ebrahim Rezaei comes as the parliament held a closed-door session on Tuesday with Amir Abdollahian. "The foreign minister said in this session that the negotiations and talks have proceeded according to the new text," Rezaei told the Mehr news agency. He added that the chief diplomat stressed that the parliamentary ratification on lifting sanctions and protecting the rights of the Iranian people is the Islamic Republic's red line in the negotiations.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/469961/Amir-Abdollahian-says-Vienna-talks-proceeding-based-on-a-new>

### **Iranian Scientists Break US Monopoly in Production of Electron Accelerators**

Fars News Agency, February 9, 2022

Iranian scientists succeeded in breaking the US monopoly in producing electron accelerators, Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said. "I am very happy that the US monopoly on production of electron accelerators was broken by the Iranian scientists and the brave Iranian youth once again brought another honor for the dear Iran," he added. The US was previously the only country that could produce the electron accelerators. Eslami pointed out that the electron accelerators have been fully indigenized by Iranian experts and are on the way to the industrial stage.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001120000205/Iranian-Scieniss-Break-US-Mnply-in-Prdcin-f-Elecrn-Accelerars>

### **Iran unveils Kheibar Shekan missile with 1,450 KM range**

Islamic Republic News Agency, February 9, 2022

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) on Wednesday unveiled new missile called "Kheibar Shekan" with 1,450

Kilometers range. The unveiling ceremony of Kheibar Shekan missile was held in the presence of Chief of Staff of Iranian Armed Forces Major-General Mohammad Bagheri and IRGC Commander of the Aerospace Force Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh. The new strategic long-range missile, which uses solid fuel, is classified among the third generation of the IRGC missiles, and is unique in terms of weight and firing. Kheibar Shekan missile's weight is reduced by one-third in comparison to similar ones and the time needed to launch it has been reduced by six times.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84644953/Iran-unveils-Kheibar-Shekan-missile-with-1-450-KM-range>

### **2 New Advanced Drones Join Iranian Armed Forces**

Fars News Agency, February 13, 2022

The Iranian defense ministry in a ceremony unveiled two home-made state-of-the-art and sophisticated drones. The achievements of Aviation Industries Organization of the defense ministry in building drones were unveiled on Saturday in the presence of Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani. "Undoubtedly, drone industry is considered as one of the outstanding and reliable points in increasing authority and defense power of the Islamic Republic of Iran," General Ashtiani said during his visit to the Exhibition of Achievements of Aviation Industries Organization.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14001124000191/2-New-Advanced-Drnes-Jin-Iranian-Armed-Frcses>

### **Commander: Iranian Army Investing in Smart Long-Range Weapons**

Fars News Agency, February 13, 2022

Commander of the Iranian Army Ground Force Brigadier General Kiomars Heidari underlined investment in automatic and

smart long-range and precision-striking weapons. Today, the Army is investing in automated and smart long-range weapons with pinpoint accuracy, General Heidari said on Sunday. He also announced formation of the missile unit in the Army Ground Forces, and said that the Ground Force has been provided with necessary sources to be able to upgrade its equipment. The new equipment is proper for rapid reaction forces and will replace the old ones, General Heidari added.

[https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/1400112\\_4000610/Cmmander-Iranian-Army-Invesing-in-Smar-Lng-Range-Weapons](https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/1400112_4000610/Cmmander-Iranian-Army-Invesing-in-Smar-Lng-Range-Weapons)

### **Iran Unveils Different Missiles, Military Equipment**

Fars News Agency, February 13, 2022

The Iranian defense ministry on Sunday unveiled several upgraded missiles, defense systems and other military equipment in a ceremony participated by Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani. The unveiled weapons and military equipment included various types of surface-to-air missiles, helicopter carriers, UAVs with various specifications and coordinates to suit the defense requirements, as well as artillery and mortars' long-range smart ammunition with precision-striking power. Increased range and accuracy in the destruction of targets is one of their main specifications.

[https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/1400112\\_4000668/Iran-Unveils-Differen-Missiles-Miliary-Eipmen](https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/1400112_4000668/Iran-Unveils-Differen-Missiles-Miliary-Eipmen)

## **IRAQ**

### **Air force strike kills 7 terrorists in Saladin**

Iraqi News Agency, February 2, 2022

Ministry of Defense announced on Wednesday, that seven terrorists were

killed in an air force strike in Saladin, Iraq. "The heroes of the Air Force, after following up through the thermal cameras of the Commandos of the Saladin Operations Command, carried out a precise air strike," stated the ministry in a brief statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). "The air strike killed seven terrorists in the Suabaiat, Saladin Governorate," included the statement.

<https://ina.iq/eng/17264-air-force-strike-kills-7-terrorists-in-saladin.html>

### **Biden announces the death of ISIS leader**

Iraqi News Agency, February 3, 2022

US President Joe Biden announced today, Thursday, the killing of the leader of ISIS terrorist gangs during an operation in Syria. Biden said in a tweet on his Twitter account, which was followed by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), "Last night, and based on my instructions, the US military forces successfully carried out an anti-terror operation in the Syrian city of Idlib." "Thanks to the courage of our armed forces, the leader of ISIS, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Quraishi, was killed and removed from the battlefield," he added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/17280-biden-announces-the-death-of-isis-leader.html>

### **US official: ISIS leader blew himself up during the landing operation in Idlib**

Iraqi News Agency, February 3, 2022

A US official said today, Thursday, that the leader of ISIS terrorist gangs blew himself up during the landing operation in Idlib. The US official said in a press statement distributed to the media, that "it cannot be disclosed now if there were bodies taken from the site of the operation," noting that "the leader of the terrorist gangs of ISIS blew himself up during an American operation.". He added: "We blew up a

helicopter used in the landing operation after it malfunctioned.".

<https://ina.iq/eng/17281-us-official-isis-leader-blew-himself-up-during-the-landing-operation-in-idlib.html>

### **30 terrorists were killed within 10 days in Iraq**

Iraqi News Agency, February 3, 2022

Today, Thursday, the Army Staff Operations Command announced the killing of 30 terrorists through air strikes and operations within 10 days and is working to establish a second front line behind the border to prevent infiltration once and for all. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army for Operations, Lieutenant-General Qais Khalaf Rahima, said in a statement distributed to the media, which was followed by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "more than (30) terrorists were killed during the last ten days in retaliation for the souls of the heroic martyrs," stressing that "Operations are still going on.".

<https://ina.iq/eng/17283-30-terrorists-were-killed-within-10-days-in-iraq.html>

### **Iraq seeks to develop its air capabilities**

Iraqi News Agency, February 12, 2022

Iraq plans to strengthen its defense capabilities in the airspace and land by moving to buy fighter jets, drones as well as tanks and cannons and acquire several defense systems from various sources. In this regard, a senior security source told the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "There are plans to increase the number of tanks and increase divisions and battalions in order to increase the capabilities of the Iraqi army," noting that the forces are currently using American Abrams tanks and Russian T-90 tanks. "Iraq intends to send a high security delegation to Russia, France and Pakistan to buy advanced drones and tanks," he said.

<https://ina.iq/eng/17471-iraq-seeks-to-develop-its-air-capabilities.html>

### **ISRAEL**

#### **Israel takes part in naval exercise with Saudi Arabia, Oman**

Al-Monitor February 2, 2022

Israel is participating in a US Navy-led maritime exercise with Saudi Arabia and Oman, despite lacking diplomatic relations with both countries. The International Maritime Exercise (IMX) is the largest in the region, with 60 countries and some 9,000 personnel participating this year. IMX kicked off Monday at the US 5th Fleet's headquarters in Bahrain, and the exercise will take place across the Arabian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and North Indian Ocean. A US Navy spokesperson described high levels of cooperation among the exercise participants, telling Reuters, "Here in the region we have had nothing but positive results in terms of planning efforts."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/02/israel-takes-part-naval-exercise-saudi-arabia-oman#ixzz7Kzsoiks8>

#### **Israel to operate laser-based defense system within year**

Anadolu Agency, February 2, 2022

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Tuesday that the nation's army will deploy a laser air defense system to intercept drones, missiles and UAVs within one year. Bennett made the announcement in an address at the annual international conference of the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), according to the official Israeli KAN news channel. He said the new system will be deployed first in the south to tackle rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip and the technology will be offered to Israel's friends in the region against what he

said are threats from Iran and its proxies. The Israeli Defense Ministry said in January 2020 that it developed a laser interception system against rockets after decades of failed attempts.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/israel-to-operate-laser-based-defense-system-within-year/2491400>

### **Israel signs security cooperation agreement with Bahrain**

Al-Monitor, February 3, 2022

In a first official visit to Manama, Defense Minister Benny Gantz signed a memorandum of understanding with his Bahraini counterpart Abdullah Bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, formalizing the security relationship between the two countries. After the signing, Gantz met with Bahraini Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and then with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. A statement issued by the office of Gantz said the agreement will help advance intelligence coordination, providing a framework for exercises and cooperation between the countries' defense industries.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/02/israel-signs-security-cooperation-agreement-bahrain#ixzz7KzsKOWcy>

### **Israel said to fear restored Iran deal will leave breakout time of only a few months**

The Times of Israel, February 6, 2022

Israel fears that reviving the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers may leave Tehran only a few months away from having enough fissile material for an atomic bomb, Israeli television reported Saturday.

The Kan public broadcaster did not specify who in Israel was concerned by the possibility that Iran's so-called breakout time would be significantly shorter under a restored nuclear agreement. But American

sources quoted in the report appeared to acknowledge such a prospect. "It is better to have a distance of a few months and not just weeks, as would happen if no agreement is signed," the sources said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-to-fear-restored-iran-deal-will-leave-breakout-time-of-only-a-few-months/>

### **IDF: Syrian anti-aircraft missile explodes over Israel, no interception needed**

The Times of Israel, February 9, 2022

An anti-aircraft missile fired from Syria exploded in the air over northern Israel early Wednesday morning, setting off warning sirens in the town of Umm al-Fahm and communities in the northern West Bank, the army said. Residents reported hearing a loud explosion in the area. There were no immediate reports of casualties. "A launch was identified from Syrian territory toward Israel. The missile exploded in the air and as such there was no need to carry out an interception," the Israel Defense Forces said. Shrapnel landed near the Homesh outpost, causing a small fire, according to Rescuers Without Borders, a Jewish emergency service operating in the West Bank

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/rocket-warning-sirens-sound-near-umm-al-fahm-northern-west-bank/>

### **Soldiers fire on IDF drone on Lebanon border due to mistaken identification**

The Times of Israel, February 13, 2022

Israeli soldiers fired at a drone on the Lebanese border on Sunday afternoon, only to then realize it belonged to the military. The soldiers initially suspected the drone had crossed from Lebanon into Israeli airspace, the Israel Defense Forces said. They fired at it due to a "mistaken identification." The drone was not damaged

in the incident, the military said. It added that a further investigation would take place.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/soldiers-fire-on-idf-drone-on-lebanon-border-due-to-mistaken-identification/>

### **Israel, Morocco agree \$500m defence missile deal**

Middle East Monitor, February 14, 2022

Israel and Morocco have agreed a \$500 million deal that will see Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) supply the African country with the Barak MX air and missile defense system, *Globes* reported yesterday.

Morocco, *the Globes* said, initially made enquiries about Israel providing these and other systems when Israeli Minister of Defence Benny Gantz visited the country in November. During his visit, Gantz signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) about defence collaboration between the two countries, the site added. Reporting defence sources, *the Globes* said that Morocco spoke with Israel about its needs and Israel proposed several options including the Barak system was chosen because of its flexibility and capabilities in various areas. IAI CEO Boaz Levy visited Morocco secretly and presented the missile defence systems' capabilities and closed the deal.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2022-02-14-israel-morocco-agree-500m-defence-missile-deal/>

### **Israeli jets escort American bomber in message to Iran**

The Times of Israel, February 14, 2022

Israeli F-15 fighter jets escort an American B-52 bomber as it made its way through Israeli airspace en route to the Persian Gulf in an apparent show of force to Iran amid lingering tensions in the region. "The flight was held as part of close cooperation with

the US military, which represents a significant element in ensuring the security of the State of Israel's airspace and the Middle East," the Israel Defense Forces says in a statement.

[https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/israeli-jets-escort-american-bomber-in-message-to-iran/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/israeli-jets-escort-american-bomber-in-message-to-iran/)

### **Israel torpedoed sale of Iron Dome to Ukraine, fearing Russian reaction — report**

The Times of Israel, February 15, 2022

Israel halted an attempt by the US to transfer several batteries of the Iron Dome defense system to Ukraine over worries it would damage its relations with Russia, the Ynet news site reported on Tuesday. According to the report, the defense system's capabilities — especially during the 2021 Gaza war — piqued the interest of Ukrainian officials. The country's representatives began working vigorously in Washington last year to persuade US lawmakers to initiate a transfer of the rocket and mortar defense system to them. According to the report, Israeli officials made it clear to the US administration in informal talks that it wouldn't agree to the transfer of Iron Dome batteries to Kyiv, fearing it would hurt its relations with Russia, especially in light of Moscow's influence over Syria.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-torpedoed-sale-of-iron-dome-to-ukraine-fearing-russian-reaction-report/>

### **US Navy eyes Israeli robot boats for Middle East ops as Bennett visits Bahrain**

Alarabiya News, February 15, 2022

The US Navy is considering adding unmanned Israeli boats to its joint Middle East operations, a US official said, a move that could deepen Israel's growing role in

regional military arrangements as it normalises ties with former foes in the Gulf.

Bahrain, home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet and several international naval task forces, is hosting a visit by Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, the first by any Israeli leader following the 2020 normalisation of ties between the two states.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2022/02/15/US-Navy-eyes-Israeli-robot-boats-for-Middle-East-ops-as-Bennett-visits-Bahrain>

## JORDAN

### US approves \$4.2 billion F-16 sale to Jordan, air defense systems to Gulf

Al-Monitor, February 4, 2022

The Biden administration notified Congress on Thursday of a planned sale of \$4.21 billion worth of 12 F-16 C/D fighter jets to Jordan, as well as command-and-control systems and HAWK surface-to-air missiles to upgrade air defenses in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, respectively. The sales come as the UAE has come under unprecedented attacks by ballistic missiles and drones claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels. Though most of the attacks missed their targets or were shot down, one strike last month killed three people in Abu Dhabi.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/02/us-approves-42-billion-f-16-sale-jordan-air-defense-systems-gulf#ixzz7KztVi3IF>

## LEBANON

### Israel sanctions Lebanese companies aiding Hezbollah missile project

The Times of Israel, February 6, 2022

Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Sunday signed a series of administrative orders to seize the assets of three Lebanese companies that Israel accuses of supplying

materials to advance Hezbollah's efforts to manufacture precision missiles. "Hezbollah is endangering the citizens of Lebanon and the State of Lebanon. We will continue to offer humanitarian assistance to the citizens while acting resolutely in the face of the Iranian precision [missile] project operating from the heart of Lebanon," Gantz said in a statement issued by his office.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-sanctions-lebanese-companies-aiding-hezbollah-missile-project/>

### Lebanon, Israel ‘narrowing gaps’ towards a maritime border deal after 10 years of talks

Ya Libnan, February 10, 2022

Lebanon and Israel are at a moment of “narrowing” gaps towards reaching a deal on their disputed maritime borders, a senior US diplomat said on Wednesday. “I think after 10 years of these discussions, it’s time for moving on to a deal. I came here in November. I was in Israel. And now we’re at a stage where I understand the parties’ positions, and I think that we’re at the moment of narrowing those gaps towards a deal,” the State Department’s senior advisor for global energy security, Amos Hochstein, said. But progress seems to have been made, building off former US diplomat David Schenker’s successful efforts to get Lebanese and Israeli officials in the same room for indirect talks.

<https://yalibnan.com/2022/02/10/lebanon-israel-narrowing-gaps-towards-a-maritime-border-deal-after-10-years-of-talks/>

### Lebanon’s Navy to receive multipurpose boats from Italy, patrol boats from United States

DefenseNews.com, February 14, 2022

Lebanon’s Navy is expected to receive this year multi-purpose boats from Italy and

Protector-class coastal patrol boats from the United States, but the country still hopes to revive frigate negotiations with Italy. Last month, the Lebanese Navy received a donation from Italy of a 12-meter-long multi-purpose boat known as a Rigid Inflatable Boat, an 8000-liter fuel tanker and two 20-passenger vans.

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2022/02/14/lebanons-navy-to-receive-multipurpose-boats-from-italy-patrol-boats-from-united-states/>

## SAUDI ARABIA

### US okays F-16 sales to Jordan, air defense boosts for Saudi Arabia, UAE

The Times of Israel, February 4, 2022

The US State Department approved potential sales of fighter jets and air defense systems to Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to help stabilize the region and counter Iran, Washington said Thursday. The proposed sales include fighter jets, munitions and other equipment for Amman, with a price tag of \$4.21 billion; \$23.7 million in upgrades to Saudi Arabia's missile defense systems; and \$65 million in spare parts for missile defense systems deployed by the UAE, according to the US Defense Department, which announced the approvals.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-okays-f-16-sales-to-jordan-air-defense-boosts-for-saudi-arabia-uae/>

### Biden pledges US support against Houthi attacks to Saudi king

Aljazeera, February 9, 2022

Joe Biden has reaffirmed the United States' "commitment to support" Saudi Arabia against attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels, the White House said, as the US president spoke by phone with Saudi King Salman

bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Wednesday's call came as the Houthis have intensified drone and missile attacks against Saudi Arabia and have begun directly targeting the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Riyadh's key ally in the region. "The president underscored the US commitment to support Saudi Arabia in the defense of its people and territory from these attacks and full support for UN-led efforts to end the war in Yemen," the White House said in a statement describing the talks.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/9/biden-pledges-us-support-against-houthi-attacks-to-saudi-king>

### Shrapnel wounds 12 as Saudi defences blow up drone near airport

Aljazeera, February 10, 2022

At least 12 people have been injured by shrapnel after Saudi air defences intercepted and destroyed a drone close to the kingdom's southern border with Yemen. In comments carried by the Ekhbariya news channel, the Saudi Arabia-led military coalition battling Yemen's Houthi rebels said on Thursday travellers and workers of various nationalities were wounded by the falling debris in the vicinity of Abha international airport. Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said the group hit a military target at Abha airport with a Qasef 2 drone. Shrapnel from the drone attack at midday fell inside airport grounds and some glass facades were damaged, it said. Light injuries were sustained by two Saudi nationals and citizens of Bangladesh, Nepal, India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/10/saudi-arabia-intercepts-drone-attack-12-injured>

## SYRIA

### Terrorist organizations leaders plan to carry out attacks in Syria, Russian MoD warns

Syrian Arab News Agency, February 9, 2022

The Russian Ministry of Defense has warned that leaders of terrorist organizations plan to carry out terrorist operations in Syria. Deputy Commander of Russian Coordination Center in Hmeimim, Rear Admiral, Oleg Zhuravlev, said in a statement that the information received by the center show that leaders of terrorist organizations are planning to carry out terrorist acts targeting "employees and facilities" in Syria. "The last three days have witnessed 10 terrorist attacks and subversive operations in those areas, killing 18 people and wounding 25 others," Zhuravlev said.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=263142>

### Russian Defense Ministry: MiG-31K interceptors and Tu-22M3 bombers land at Hmeimim base to participate in naval drills

Syrian Arab News Agency, February 15, 2022

Russian long-range MiG-31K interceptors and Tu-22M3 strategic bombers, carrying hypersonic Kinzhal missiles, have landed at Hmeimim airbase in Syria, the Ministry of Defense said in a statement on Tuesday. The aircrafts are set to take part in massive naval exercise in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea. Since September 2015, Russia, along the Syrian Arab Army, has been participating in the war on terrorism upon a request by the Syrian Arab Republic.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=263767>

## TURKEY

### Turkey, UAE discuss improving defense, military cooperation

Daily Sabah, February 1, 2022

Officials from Turkey and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday discussed the prospects of developing their bilateral defense and military cooperation. The UAE's minister of state for defense affairs, Mohammad bin Ahmed Al Bowardi, met the Turkish Ambassador to the UAE Tugay Tunçer in Abu Dhabi, the official Emirates News Agency reported. Al Bowardi stressed "the profound ties between the two friendly countries in all areas most notably in defense." They "discussed ways of strengthening their defense and military cooperation to serve the interest of both countries."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkey-uae-discuss-improving-defense-military-cooperation>

### Turkish army receives new Bayraktar TB2s with local electro-optical system

Daily Sabah, February 6, 2022

The Turkish defense industry has made new deliveries of Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAV) to the Turkish Land Forces Command, the top defense body's head said Saturday. In a Twitter statement, Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) Chairperson Ismail Demir said the SSB had successfully delivered the Baykar-made combat drones. He noted that the newly delivered drones are equipped with the leading defense firm Aselsan-developed Common Aperture Targeting System (CATS). CATS is a high-performance electro-optical reconnaissance, surveillance and targeting system designed for fixed-wing and rotary-wing airborne platforms, including

unmanned air systems (UASs), helicopters and aircraft.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-army-receives-new-bayraktar-tb2s-with-local-electro-optical-system>

### **Turkey extends troop mandate in Gulf of Aden, Somalia, Arabian Sea**

Daily Sabah, February 7, 2022

A motion extending the deployment of Turkish troops in the Gulf of Aden, Somalia and the Arabian Sea until Feb. 10, 2023 was published in Turkey's Official Gazette early Saturday. The naval elements are deployed to ensure the effective protection of Turkish flagged vessels and commercial vessels linked to Turkey sailing in the region and to participate in joint operations against piracy, armed robberies and terrorism at sea, according to the motion that was approved Wednesday. It added that supporting humanitarian aid activities in this field helps increase the operational efficiency of the naval elements of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) and its experience in the region.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkey-extends-troop-mandate-in-gulf-of-aden-somalia-arabian-sea>

### **Greece set to ratify major arms agreement with France**

Daily Sabah, February 15, 2022

The Greek parliament is expected to approve the 3 billion euro (\$3.4 billion) agreement for three new French-made frigates amid ongoing tensions with Turkey. Lawmakers are also debating on Tuesday whether to add six new Rafale fighter jets to an existing order for 18 planes – six of them newly built and 12 that were previously in service in the French air force. Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and French President Emmanuel Macron finalized the frigate deal last year along

with an enhanced defense cooperation agreement between their countries. Made by France's Naval Group, two warships are due to be delivered in 2025 and the third the following year, with an option to add a fourth frigate to be ready in 2027. Turkey has often warned Greece against indulging in an arms race, offering instead to resolve all outstanding issues, including in the Aegean, Eastern Mediterranean and Cyprus, through dialogue.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/eu-affairs/greece-set-to-ratify-major-arms-agreement-with-france>

### **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

#### **UAE intercepts and destroys 3 hostile drones**

Saudi Gazette, February 3, 2022

Three hostile drones were intercepted over the United Arab Emirates at dawn on Wednesday, the country's defense ministry said. The drones managed to penetrate Emirati airspace but were destroyed away from populated areas, the ministry said on Twitter. It's unclear to whom the drones belonged. Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, a possible culprit, have not claimed responsibility. The Houthis have launched a series of attacks on the Emiratis, beginning with a January 17 drone strike that killed three foreign workers in the capital, Abu Dhabi. The Saudi-led coalition responded with a weeklong offensive in Yemen.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/616683/World/UAE-intercepts-and-destroys-3-hostile-drones>

#### **US to help UAE replenish missile defence interceptors: General**

Aljazeera, February 10, 2022

The United States will help replenish the United Arab Emirates's missile interceptors after a slew of attacks by Yemen's Houthi

rebels targeting the Gulf country, a top US general has said. “We will help with replenishment of interceptors. And we’ll do everything we can to assist [the] UAE in defending themselves,” Frank McKenzie, head of the US Central Command which oversees the Middle East, told the Reuters news agency in an interview after a trip to Abu Dhabi. Reuters cited an anonymous source as saying that the UAE had requested US replenishment of its THAAD and Patriot missile defence systems.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/1/0/us-to-help-uae-replenish-missile-defence-interceptors-general>

### **US F-22 fighter jets arrive in UAE after attacks by Iran-backed rebels**

The Times of Israel, February 12, 2022

US F-22 fighter jets arrived in the United Arab Emirates on Saturday, part of an American defense response to recent missile attacks by Yemen’s Houthi rebels targeting the country. The Raptors landed at Al-Dhafra Air Base in Abu Dhabi, which hosts some 2,000 US troops. American soldiers there launched Patriot interceptor missiles in response to the Houthi attacks last month, the first time US troops have fired the system in combat since the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq. American officials declined to say how many F-22s were deployed or the number of airmen supporting the aircraft, citing operational security.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-f-22-fighter-jets-arrive-in-uae-after-attacks-by-iran-backed-rebels/>

# **NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE**

*Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Mr Kushal Agrawal  
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