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# SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

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

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MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

## Iran

### Iran kicks off construction of new nuclear plant

Tehran Times, February 2, 2024

Iran has begun to build a new nuclear power plant in the southern coastal province of Hormozgan with an investment of \$15 billion, according to the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

During a visit to the Hormozgan province, Mohammad Eslami, at the behest of Iranian President Ebrahim Raesi, announced the commencement of construction of the new nuclear plant in Hormozgan.

The president launched the project via video call. He emphasized the significance of the power plant as a vital infrastructure for the country's economy and development, praising the efforts of skilled Iranian experts and expressing hope that the project would bring prosperity to the Iranian people.

Eslami highlighted that the project called "Iran-Hormoz", is part of the country's national plans to develop its nuclear industry over the next two decades.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/49445/2/Iran-kicks-off-construction-of-new-nuclear-plant>

### Iran unveils upgraded version of its Shafaq missile system

IRNA, February 3, 2024

At the unveiling ceremony on Saturday, General Mousavi also unveiled a night-vision device called Yusuf.

Shafaq is a long-range smart precision missile system that can hit the target in a radius of 20 kilometers.

The airborne and anti-armor missile systems and the Yusuf night vision device have been designed and made by experts in Iran's Aerospace Force.

Shafaq missiles are of the fire-and-forget type. They are also capable of carrying out operations in extreme weather conditions and during day and night. The missiles can also be installed on the Iranian Army's various types of helicopters.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85374673/Iran-unveils-upgraded-version-of-its-Shafaq-missile-system>

### Isfahan research reactor project reaches key milestone

Tehran Times, February 5, 2024

The head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) announces the commencement of concrete pouring for the country's fourth research reactor, located in the city of Isfahan.

AEOI head Mohammad Eslami hailed Isfahan as "one of the pillars of Iran's nuclear industry" while celebrating the achievement.

He described the start of construction as "an extraordinary value chain."

Eslami further emphasized the project's importance by highlighting its connection to critical medical applications.

He said that the reactor's main function will be to produce tellurium hexafluoride, a key material for generating iodine-131, a

radiopharmaceutical used for diagnosing and treating thyroid conditions.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/494584/Isfahan-research-reactor-project-reaches-key-milestone>

### **Iran Navy to hold joint exercise with Russia, China: Cmdr.**

IRNA, February 5, 2024

“Iran's joint naval exercise with Russia and China will be held by the end of the year, although other countries have also been invited to participate in this exercise,” Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said on Monday.

Irani said preserving and protecting the interests and economic resources of the Islamic Republic is the most important mission of the Iranian Navy.

“This exercise will be carried out with the aim of protecting the security of the region and common interests,” he added.

The commander further said that the Navy, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces, plans to add several ships to its naval fleet by mid-March.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85377721/Iran-Navy-to-hold-joint-exercise-with-Russia-China-Cmdr>

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<https://en.irna.ir/news/85377721/Iran-Navy-to-hold-joint-exercise-with-Russia-China-Cmdr>

### **Iran's Alborz destroyer returns home after Red Sea deployment**

IRNA, February 10, 2024

The Iranian Navy's 94th flotilla of warships, which includes the Alborz destroyer, was welcomed by Navy commanders in the 1st Naval Region based in Bandar Abbas, the southern Hormozgan Province, on Saturday.

Rear Admiral Farhad Fattahi, a senior navy commander in the 1st Naval Region, welcomed the flotilla and its staff.

“The presence of the Navy's strategic naval fleets in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea...brings pride to the great nation of Iran and is a thorn [in the side] of the humiliated enemies of the Iranian nation,” the commander said.

The flotilla was deployed to the Red Sea amid rising tensions in the region over the Israeli regime's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85382878/Iran-s-Alborz-destroyer-returns-home-after-Red-Sea-deployment>

### **Iran's nuclear chief warns of 'enemy conspiracies'**

Tehran Times, February 11, 2024

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami, issued a defiant message to "enemies" on Sunday, vowing that Iran's development, including its nuclear program, will continue unabated despite attempts to hinder it.

Speaking at the Bahman 22 rally, Eslami congratulated Iranians on the Fajr decade, a period commemorating the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and accused enemies of using "countless accusations" to slow down the country's progress.

He emphasized the importance of nuclear technology for national development, arguing it is crucial for advancements in various scientific, technological, and industrial fields.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/494753/Iran-s-nuclear-chief-warns-of-enemy-conspiracies>

### **IRGC test-fires long-range ballistic missile from warship: Commander**

IRNA, February 12, 2024

"A long-range ballistic missile was successfully fired from a warship in a joint work by the IRGC Aerospace Force and the IRGC Navy," said Major General Hossein Salami on Monday.

Salami said the test-firing was a significant boost to IRGC's combat capacities as it enables the elite force to hit any target around the world because its ocean-cruising warships can sail to any location in international waters.

Iran has expanded its missile program in recent years in a bid to improve its deterrence power against threats it is facing in the region and around the world.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85385019/IRGC-test-fires-long-range-ballistic-missile-from-warship-Commander>

### **IRGC fires ballistic missile from warship for first time**

IRNA, February 13, 2024

A Zolfaqar-class ballistic missile was launched from Shahid Mahdavi aircraft carrier on Monday and hit its designated target in a desert in central Iran, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

With a range of 750 kilometers, Zolfaqar is the latest joint achievement of the IRGC Navy and the IRGC Aerospace Force.

The IRGC warships will now be capable of carrying different types of ballistic missiles with a range of up to 1,750 kilometers.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85385874/IRGC-fires-ballistic-missile-from-warship-for-first-time>

### **The slanted approach of IAEA toward Iran**

Tehran Times, February 14, 2024

The International Atomic Energy Agency, under Grossi's leadership, adopts an ineffective approach towards Iran, fostering a sense of mistrust between Tehran and the UN nuclear watchdog.

In a recent report by The Associated Press, the head of the UN's nuclear watchdog sounded the alarm over Iran's alleged lack of transparency regarding its nuclear program. Speaking at the prestigious World

Governments Summit in Dubai, Rafael Mariano Grossi emphasized that Iran's disclosures are insufficient, marking a concerning trend in the global effort to monitor nuclear activities.

Iran is "presenting a face which is not entirely transparent when it comes to its nuclear activities. Of course, this increases dangers," Grossi added.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/494909/The-slanted-approach-of-IAEA-toward-Iran>

## Iraq

### **Maj. Gen. Rasoul confirms US strikes in Al Qaim and border areas of Iraq**

Iraqi News Agency, February 3, 2023

The spokesperson for the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Yahya Rasoul, reported that the cities of Al-Qaim and the Iraqi border areas were subjected to American air strikes, while he considered these strikes a violation of Iraqi sovereignty. "The cities of Al-Qaim and the Iraqi border areas are being subjected to air strikes by United States aircraft, as these strikes come at a time when Iraq is striving to ensure the stability of the region," Major General Rasoul said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

<https://ina.iq/eng/31209-majgen-rasoul-confirms-us-strikes-in-al-qaim-and-border-areas-of-iraq.html>

### **Attacking a Popular Mobilization vehicle is obviously aggressive and a breach of sovereignty: SMC**

Iraqi News Agency, February 8, 2024

The US targeting of a vehicle associated with the Popular Mobilization Forces was

deemed by the Security Media Cell to be an obvious act of aggression and a breach of Iraqi sovereignty. Major General Tahseen Al-Khafaji, the cell's leader, stated in a statement obtained by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that "this new aggression weakens all understandings, after it was confirmed that the United States targeted a vehicle belonging to the Popular Mobilization Forces through an American drone, which led to the martyrdom of its leaders."

<https://ina.iq/eng/31300-attacking-a-popular-mobilization-vehicle-is-obviously-aggressive-and-a-breach-of-sovereignty-smc.html>

## Israel

### **Elbit Showcases Rock 6x6 UGV at UMEX 2024**

Israel Defense, February 1, 2024

Israeli Elbit Systems showcased At the UMEX 2024 exhibition held in Abu Dhabi, a week ago, the Rook Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV), Developed in partnership with the Israeli company Roboteam.

Armyrecognition.com website tells that the Rook UGV was introduced to the public in November 2021. It is part of the Legion-X family of UGVs and leverages the operational experience gained from Roboteam's Probot UGV, which is currently employed by several military forces. The Rook UGV is a robotic unmanned ground vehicle designed with an open architecture, facilitating easy integration of different payloads and ensuring compatibility. One of its notable features is its integration with the Legion-X

system, enabling it to operate autonomously or as part of a coordinated swarm of multiple unmanned vehicles. The Rook offers dual operational modes, allowing for teleoperation or fully autonomous and beyond-line-of-sight (BLOS) operations.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61112>

### **Iron Waves: Israel's Missile Boat Flotilla in Action**

Israel Defense, February 8, 2024

The Israeli Navy defines three missions for its missile boat flotilla, known as the Flotilla 3 (“Shayetet 3” in Hebrew): to fight the enemy at sea, to prevent a naval blockade on the State of Israel, and to assist ground forces in sea-based attacks.

The missile boats fulfilled the third mission from the outset of the Swords of Iron War, and the task has not yet been completed. They are still at sea, patrolling off the Gaza Strip’s shores – as well as off Israel’s northern coast and the Red Sea. Lieutenant Colonel Steven, a division commander in Flotilla 3, prepared to celebrate the holiday of Simchat Torah with his family on October 7th, but then the phone rang at 06:45 am. He hurried to the flotilla’s naval base and set sail, initially with two out of the five ships in the flotilla he commands. His unit comprises four Sa’ar 4.5-class missile boats and a detection ship tasked with underwater threat detection and maritime rescue missions.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61170>

### **Estonia to Receive Israel Aviation Industry Assault Missiles**

Israel Defense, February 11, 2024

The Estonian Ministry of Defense has approved the adoption of the BLUE SPEAR anti-ship missile system. Blue Spear missiles are a fifth-generation version of the "Gabriel" missile, known to have been developed and manufactured in cooperation between Israel Aviation Industry (IAI), Proteus, and ST Engineering.

These missiles are designed to target naval vessels within a range of 290 kilometers for both sea and shore targets. The system is expected to significantly enhance Estonia's defense capabilities and cover the entire Baltic Sea.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61184>

### **Dutch Court Orders Netherlands to Stop Delivery of F-35 Parts to Israel**

Israel Defense, February 12, 2024

A Dutch appeals court ordered the government to block all exports of F-35 fighter jet parts to Israel within seven days, citing concerns of inappropriate usage by Israel during its ongoing war with Hamas. According to the court, “It is undeniable that there is a clear risk the exported F-35 parts are used in serious violations of international humanitarian law,” the court said.

The case against the Netherlands was brought before the court in November 2023 by several human rights organizations, including the Dutch branches of Amnesty

International and Oxfam. The appeal was submitted after a local court rejected the petition.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61204>

### **Israeli Defense Ministry to Purchase Hundreds of Armored Vehicles**

Israel Defense, February 13, 2024

The Israeli Ministry of Defense embarked on the procurement process of over 200 armored security vehicles for the local defense forces in the Gaza periphery area, northern Israel, and Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), for a total of approximately NIS 150 million.

According to the official government statement, this procurement follows the request of the Home Front Command, and is intended to strengthen the resilience of the communities and rapid-response units by enabling them to patrol the areas they are defending and provide a rapid response in times of security incidents.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61214>

### **Report: Spike SR Anti-Tank Missile Systems Enter Estonian Army's Arsenal**

Israel Defense, February 13, 2024

The Estonian media reports that the Baltic country's army has begun receiving Spike SR anti-tank missile systems. At this stage, the process of training the Army's system instructors by instructors from the Eurospike Company began. In the spring of this year, they will begin training and instructing end-user units in the army.

The Spike SR is a lightweight, shoulder-launched, fully operational Fire and Forget (F&F) anti-tank missile with an effective range of up to 2000 meters. The Spike SR replaces the Estonian Defense League's 90mm towed anti-tank systems.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61209>

### **Robotican to Distribute Ghost Robotics' Vision 60 Quadruped Unmanned Ground Vehicle in Israel**

Israel Defense, February 13, 2024

Robotican, an Israeli innovator in autonomous technology, announced its collaboration with Ghost Robotics, a renowned name in the field of robotics. Robotican has become the exclusive distributor of Ghost Robotics' products, particularly the Vision 60 Quadruped Unmanned Ground Vehicle (Q-UGV), in Israel.

According to Robotican, the Ghost Robotics V60 Q-UGV is not just a robotic platform; it is designed to contribute to army efforts on the battlefield and beyond. Its features, including the ability to enter dangerous places and minimize human casualties, make it an invaluable asset on the modern battlefield. In an evolving warfare environment, blending high-tech solutions with traditional methods is crucial, and the V60 excels at bridging that gap.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61210>

### **Report - Czech Republic Urging Israel to Complete 3D Air Defense Radar Contract**

Israel Defense, February 14, 2024

The Czech Republic Ministry of Defense (MoD) urges Israel to complete 3D Air Defense radars contract. Army-technology.com website reports that during a visit to Israel last week, the Czech Defense Minister Jana Černochová pressed her Israeli counterpart, Yoav Galant, to deliver the capability for the eight 3D radars her country purchased five years ago.

Although all eight 3D radars are currently in the Czech Republic, “the project has seen a delay caused primarily by technical problems on the supplier side,” the MoD recently stated.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61227>

### **Qatar**

#### **Qatar Defense Procurement Hits a Political Roadblock in Germany**

Geopolitical Monitor, February 6, 2024

In spite of its relatively small size, Qatar has emerged as a potent force on the global stage. Boasting significant gas resources and a proficiency in effective influence, the nation assumes a pivotal role as a de facto mediator in the ongoing Gaza crisis. Historical disagreements with neighboring countries have intensified Qatar’s focus on bolstering its military capabilities. In this pursuit, the country is strategically diversifying its arsenal, notably through burgeoning ties with Germany, signaling a

fresh chapter in its defense strategy that hinges on German cooperation.

<https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/qatar-defense-procurement-hits-a-political-roadblock-in-germany/>

#### **South Korea, Qatar defence ministers agree to boost military ties -Seoul**

Reuters, February 7, 2024

The defence ministers of South Korea and Qatar have agreed to expand joint military training and strengthen bilateral cooperation, Seoul's defence ministry said on Wednesday, amid a push by Seoul to boost global arms sales. Seoul's defence minister Shin Won-sik met his counterpart Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah in Qatar on Tuesday where they also signed an agreement to hold regular ministerial-level talks and establish a foundation for bilateral defence cooperation, the ministry said in a press release. Shin embarked on a seven-day trip to the Middle East last week, during which he also travelled to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, where he attended the World Defense Show. Shin's trip comes as South Korea seeks to become one of the world's largest arms suppliers.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/south-korea-qatar-defence-ministers-agree-boost-military-ties-seoul-2024-02-07/>

#### **Indonesia scraps plan to buy Mirage fighter jets from Qatar**

Reuters, February 11, 2024

Indonesia has ditched a controversial plan to buy 733 million euros (\$790 million) worth of Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets previously used by Qatar, the defence



ministry spokesperson said late on Saturday.

"There is no purchase of Mirage jets. Even though it was planned, it has been cancelled ... meaning there is no active contract," spokesperson Dahnil Anzar Simanjuntak said in a statement, but did not elaborate.

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Last month, the ministry said the deal to purchase the 12 fighter jets was delayed due to fiscal constraints and that the military would order a retrofit for its existing Sukhoi and F-16 aircraft instead.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/indonesia-scraps-plan-buy-mirage-fighter-jets-qatar-2024-02-11/>

## Saudi Arabia

### Saudi Arabia to manufacture parts of Lockheed missile defense system

Reuters, February 5, 2024

U.S. weapons maker Lockheed Martin (LMT.N) has signed agreements for Saudi Arabian companies to manufacture parts of its missile defense system, as the U.S. continues to conduct military operations in the Middle East against Iran-backed groups. The sub-contracts for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system will enhance manufacturing capabilities in Saudi Arabia and transfer expertise to strengthen the country's defence industry, Lockheed said in a statement on Monday. The deal was announced on the sidelines of the World Defense Show in the capital Riyadh. State-owned Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI) signed 11 agreements at the event,

according to the country's state news agency.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/saudi-companies-make-parts-lockheeds-thaad-defense-system-2024-02-05/>

### Seoul's arms deal with Saudis clinched but giant Polish sale hangs in the balance

Washington Times, February 6, 2024

South Korean defense contractor LIG Nex1 will export its Cheongung mid-range surface-to-air missile system to Saudi Arabia in a deal valued at \$3.2 billion, Seoul's Ministry of National Defense announced Tuesday. The second Middle Eastern sale for the system, following a 2022 deal with the United Arab Emirates, marks another win for South Korea's fast-rising arms industry. Elsewhere, though, the industry is running into headwinds over joint programs and — more ominously — questions over its ability to fulfill a massive, highly touted arms order to Poland.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/feb/6/seouls-arms-deal-with-saudis-clinched-but-giant-po/>

### Munitions India Limited Secures \$225 Million Defense Deal with Saudi Arabia

IDRW, February 7, 2024

Munitions India Limited (MIL), a leading Indian defense manufacturer, has secured a significant contract worth \$225 million to supply artillery ammunition to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This milestone agreement was facilitated by MIL's partner, Nadrah Company.

The signing ceremony was graced by distinguished guests, including His Excellency Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Ohali, Governor of the General Authority of Military Industries (GAMI) of Saudi Arabia, and the Honorable Raksha Rajya Mantri (Minister of State for Defence) of India, Shri Ajay Bhatt.

<https://idrw.org/munitions-india-limited-secures-225-million-defense-deal-with-saudi-arabia/>

### **China Grabs Spotlight With Major Presence at Saudi Weapons Show**

Bloomberg, February 7, 2024

A Chinese-made J-10 fighter aircraft soared into the sky as part of a showcase at Saudi Arabia's annual arms exhibition, demonstrating the growing defense ties between the Asian power and the world's fifth-biggest weapons spender.

While US companies like Boeing Co. and Lockheed Martin Corp. dominated the World Defense Show in the Saudi capital of Riyadh this week, China's presence dwarfed that of most other countries.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-02-07/china-grabs-spotlight-with-major-presence-at-saudi-weapons-show>

### **LIG Nex1 inks \$3.2 bn missile defense deal with Saudi Arabia**

Korea Economy Daily, February 7, 2024

South Korea's major defense system developer LIG Nex1 Co. has clinched a \$3.2 billion deal to export its latest missile interceptor to Saudi Arabia, raising expectations for more similar Korean

weapon exports to the Middle East given its push to deter growing militia threats. South Korea's and Saudi Arabia's defense ministries on Tuesday revealed that LIG Nex1 signed a \$3.2 billion contract with the Saudi Ministry of Defense in November to deliver its missile interceptor system called Cheongung II in Korean, meaning "heaven's bow," to the Middle Eastern country.

<https://www.kedglobal.com/aerospace-defense/newsView/ked202402070006>

### **Saudi Arabia Unveils New SAMI 8x8 155mm Howitzer**

Israel Defense, February 11, 2024

New Saudi Arabian Howitzer unveiled. The Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI) presented an 8x8 155mm self-propelled howitzer at the World Defense Show 2024 that took place at Riyadh last week.

While the name of the new self-propelled howitzer remains under wraps, SAMI's representatives have disclosed that the vehicle is currently undergoing rigorous trials with the Saudi Armed Forces. Armyrecognition.com website tells that the Saudi Army and the National Guard, both integral components of the Saudi Armed Forces, currently operate the French-manufactured CAESAR, a 155mm 6x6 self-propelled howitzer. The CAESAR models serving the Saudi forces are mounted on two different chassis: a 6x6 Sherpa truck for the army and a Unimog chassis for the National Guard.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61188>

## Saudi Arabia to Purchase Attack Drones from China

Israel Defense, February 12, 2024

The China Export and Import Corporation of Defense has announced that the Chinese-made drone WING LOONG-10B will soon enter service with the Royal Saudi Air Force. The drone was showcased at the WDS Defense Exhibition in Riyadh (February 4-8). A representative from the manufacturing company conveyed to Jane's that this drone and another version of it are already in service with the Chinese military. The Chinese displayed several types of munitions intended for their drones, including air-to-air missiles, laser-guided bombs, anti-ship missiles, and small guided bombs. The WL-10 is a High-Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) drone with a single turbo-solenoid engine. The drone is equipped with a highly high-frequency communication antenna and data transmission channel (U-VHF). The engine's air intake is installed on the back of the vehicle.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/61198>

## Türkiye

### Türkiye maintains interest in Eurofighters despite US F-16 progress

Daily Sabah, February 2, 2024

Türkiye maintains its interest in buying Eurofighter Typhoon jets, according to a Turkish Defense Ministry official, despite the fact that the United States has proceeded with the sale of its F-16 warplanes to Ankara.

A prolonged process of Türkiye's request to buy F-16 jets, which tested ties between Ankara and Washington, led the nation to begin discussions to buy Eurofighters.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-maintains-interest-in-eurofighters-despite-us-f-16-progress>

### Türkiye agrees to provide combat drones, other tech to Egypt

Daily Sabah, February 5, 2024

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on Sunday said Türkiye agreed to provide its increasingly popular drones to Egypt, as the two countries add momentum to the rapid restoration of normal diplomatic relations after a decade of strained ties.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is set to travel to Egypt on Feb. 14 to meet his counterpart Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, in his first visit since Ankara and Cairo upgraded relations by appointing ambassadors last year.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-agrees-to-provide-combat-drones-other-tech-to-egypt>

### Turkish drone magnate Baykar begins to build plant in Ukraine

Daily Sabah, February 7, 2024

Turkish defense firm Baykar has commenced building a factory near Kyiv that would employ around 500 people, where it is expected to manufacture either its famed Bayraktar TB2 drone model or its new TB3 drone, the company's chief executive said on Tuesday.

Turkish-made Bayraktar drones have gained prominence globally after helping to swing conflicts in multiple countries including Ukraine, where they played a pivotal role in countering Russian forces early into Moscow's invasion.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-drone-magnate-baykar-begins-to-build-plant-in-ukraine>

### **F-16 sale to Türkiye considered final as Congress review ends**

Daily Sabah, February 11, 2024

The sale of F-16 fighter jets to Türkiye is considered final as the review and objection process in the U.S. Congress ended on Saturday.

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration on Jan. 26 formally notified Congress of its intention to proceed with the sale of 40 Lockheed Martin F-16s and nearly 80 modernization kits to Türkiye. The move in a prolonged process that tested Washington's ties with Ankara came after Türkiye fully completed ratification of the NATO membership of Sweden.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/f-16-sale-to-turkiye-considered-final-as-congress-review-ends>

### **Safety of Turkish UAVs fortified with Türksat satellite control**

Daily Sabah, February 12, 2024

Türkiye's national unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) will be able to be controlled with Türksat satellites, starting with Türksat 5B, according to a senior

official, who also said it would no longer be possible to intervene in the control of these devices from outside.

"We will be able to keep UAVs under control all over the world with all Türksat satellites, especially Türksat 5B. These will be able to communicate uninterruptedly with extended range and coverage," Transport and Infrastructure Minister Abulkadir Uraloğlu said in a written statement on Monday, emphasizing they would remain safe thanks to satellites.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/tech/safety-of-turkish-uavs-fortified-with-turksat-satellite-control>

### **Türkiye, Greece intend to join European Sky Shield Initiative**

Daily Sabah, February 15, 2024

Defense Minister Yaşar Güler and Greek Defense Minister Nikos Dendias signed a letter of intent to take part in the European Sky Shield Initiative.

The document was signed at a ceremony hosted by German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius in Brussels. At the ceremony, Güler said: "This initiative, led by Germany, is an important step toward fulfilling NATO's requirements while ensuring the interoperability and integration of allies. As Türkiye, we are ready to contribute to this initiative with our wide range of national capabilities."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkiye-greece-intend-to-join-european-sky-shield-initiative>

# NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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