



Arab Defense Industry Papers News Bulletin

Volume 1, Number 2

9 October 2016

About the ADIP News Bulletin

The Arab Defense Industry Papers (ADIP) is a new professional series focusing on the role of the defense industry in Algeria Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. The focus of the series is on the establishment of national defense industrial bases in these countries and joint collaborative defense projects as well as defense exports. The ADIP News Bulletin complements the analytical papers by providing information about current and upcoming developments relevant for the Arab defense industrial establishment. The ADIP News Bulletin is available by subscription. ADIP and the ADIP News Bulletin are joint initiatives of Borchert Consulting & Research AG and Verocy. For more information about ADIP, see: <http://www.arabdefenseindustry.com>.



The Big Picture.....	2
Baghdad asks for long-term partnership with NATO	2
First Turkish military base Africa opened	2
No Russian Su-25s in Syria at present	2
U.S. Congress puts Washington on confrontation course with Saudi Arabi.....	2
Sudan's military said to use chemical weapons.....	3
North Korean-Iran missile cooperation in doubt.....	3
Are Arab countries arming Syrian rebels as a result of truce breakdown?	3
Sisi defends Egyptian army role economy	4
Defense Industry	4
Turkish universities cooperate on turboshaft technology.....	4
Turkey and Azerbaijan have developed a new anti-tank missile	4
ITEAC Group and Denel Dynamics eye anti-tank missile for Saudi Arabia	4
Havelsan to patent submarine subsystems.....	4
Dubai Aerospace Enterprise takes stake in Jordan Aircraft Maintenance.....	5
Defense Exports	5
Soldier-carried robots contract for Israeli startup.....	5
Turkey to complete T-300 Kasirga delivery to Azerbaijan.....	5
Defense Modernization and Support	5
Turkey to test missile defense system against IS attacks.....	5
Pakistan to export Hushshak trainers to Turkey	5
Belarus offers Jordan Osa air defense upgrade	6
New long-range missile IRGC Navy Iran.....	6
Houthi missiles hit UAE logistics vessel	6
New Iranian drone unveiled	6
IRGC will soon receive Zolfagar missiles and could target Israel.....	6
Al Raha Group to modernize Saudi F-15 fleet	7
Defense Procurement	7
U.S. supplies helicopter missile warning system to Egypt.....	7
Saudi Arabia to receive Eight Utility Helicopters Sikorsky.....	7
Saudi Arabia sees Canadian arms deal as friendship act	7
GCC naval spending increased by regional tensions	7
Tunisia, Taiwan slated to receive UH-60M Black Hawk Choppers	8
White House clears jet sales to GCC and helps keep LM's F-16 production line open	8
Final Russian delivery of S-300 to Iran by end 2016.....	8
Tacitcle vehicle and trailer contracts for Oshkosh	8
170 Russian T-72 to be delivered to Sudan.....	9
Military Cooperation and Training	9
Saudi Arabia launches Exercise Gulf Shield 1.....	9
Russian-Egyptian military exercise.....	9
Military mandate for Turkish operations in Syria and Iraq extended	9
Azerbaijan and Turkey strengthen defense ties.....	9
Italy and Iran stage naval wargames Persian Gulf.....	10
Cybersecurity and Space	10
UAE tables proposal to advance civil aviation cyber security	10
Saudi Arabia stepping into the digital age.....	10
Daesh hiring cyber mercenaries	10

The Big Picture

Baghdad asks for long-term partnership with NATO

(1 Oct 2016) The Iraqi government has reiterated its political ambition to forge a long-term relationship with NATO to support the stability of Iraq and its government structures.

Currently Iraqi security forces are trained at the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center (KASOTC) near Amman, Jordan, under NATO and American programs for the defense capacity building of various Iraqi defense structures. The main target is to prepare forces to fight ISIS in Iraq and support the recapture of Mosul (Kurdistan).

As NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow explained on 26 September 2016, the NATO Warsaw Summit decided to "expand the program and capacity building to Iraq itself." Until the end of October 2016, KASTOC will train 350 Iraqi officers with a focus on Counter-improvised explosive devices (IED), military medicine and civil-military planning. Efforts in Iraq will begin in 2017. For NATO the current approach is of the utmost importance, as threats from ISIS, the negative impact of the Arab Spring, but also Russia's aggressive moves in the MENA region, can be seen as a threat to NATO members' security.

<http://bit.ly/2dFJ6lk>

First Turkish military base Africa opened

(30 Sept 2016) Turkey is increasing its pan-regional military footprint internationally and has opened the first military base in Somalia. The Turkish military base in Somalia will soon operate under a deal to enhance defense cooperation with this African country. On 25 January 2015 both countries have signed a defense cooperation agreement. Turkey has pledged to build up a national army for the Somalian state. The deal has been subsequently approved by the United Nations.

The new Turkish base, called African Horn, will open in Mogadishu for Somalian troops to have training and to handle weapons in order to drive al-Qaeda linked al-Shabaab from their homes. It is planned to train more than 10,000

Somali troops and other African countries at the Turkish base. The new base will house 200 military experts. Turkey will also deploy enforcement to ensure security of the military camp.

The strategic rationale for a base in Somalia is obvious as the country is seen as a gateway to the Red Sea, borders the Gulf of Aden to the north and the Indian Ocean to the east. Populated with more than 10 million people, the country serves as a transit point onto Arabian Peninsula through Yemen. Somalian authorities are currently fighting Al-Qaeda-aligned Al-Shabab terrorists. Shabab has also posed a security threat for the Turkish mission in Somalia.

The Somali base follows the current international military strategy of Turkey. The latter already has built another military base abroad in Qatar. The military base in Qatar is expected to be operational in two years and will house around 3,000 people, including ground troops, special operations forces and military trainers.

<http://bit.ly/2dq1XDD>

No Russian Su-25s in Syria at present

(30 Sept 2016) Airbus Defence and Space satellite imagery shows that the Russian Air Force has not redeployed Su-25 ground attack aircraft to its main base in Syria after the withdrawal in March 2016. Russia's RT news network prompted speculation that they had returned when it released footage on 24 September 2016 showing a two-seat Su-25 in a Russian color scheme apparently supporting a Syrian military offensive against rebel forces in a mountainous area of Latakia province.

<http://bit.ly/2dFM9N2>

U.S. Congress puts Washington on confrontation course with Saudi Arabi

(29 Sept 2016) The U.S. Congress has voted to override President Barack Obama's veto of the so-called Justice for State Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) or 9/11 Bill. The latter makes it possible for victims to take legal action against perceived sponsors of terrorism. The votes by the House and Senate were overwhelming with the Senate approving the bill 97-1 and the House approving the bill with 348-77 votes. White

House officials called the Senate's override the "single most embarrassing thing the Senate has done since 1983," referring to the last time the Senate overrode a veto by such a large margin.

It is said that the current position of the U.S. Congress is largely based on the growing antipathy for Saudi Arabia in the United States. Analysts have warned that the vote is not only a rebuke of the President, but will also put the already very weak relationship between Washington and Riyadh under severe pressure and the very moment that Saudi Arabia itself is vulnerable due to the financial impact of low oil prices, ongoing military operations in Syria and Yemen, and the radical transition plan outlined by the new Vision 2030.

Some analysts also have warned that it is not only possible for U.S. citizens to sue foreigners or foreign governments in American courts. The same also applies to the U.S. government, as non-U.S. citizens could sue U.S. military service members and diplomats in the United States. The Obama administration has tried to convince the Congress of the fact that enacting JASTA into law will neither protect Americans from terrorists attacks nor improve the effectiveness of US response to such attacks. John Brennan, CIA Director, openly stated that the bill would negatively affect US national interests and security. Saudi Arabia, and all its allies in the Middle East, supported by Turkey, already has made harsh remarks about the JASTA bill. Possible negative repercussions are to be expected soon, from Saudi Arabian funds being retracted from the U.S. to a reorientation of Saudi international relations.

<http://cnnmon.ie/2dhSoWP>

Sudan's military said to use chemical weapons

(29 Sept 2016) According to Amnesty International Sudan's military has repeatedly used chemical weapons (CW) in the country's eastern region of Darfur. In a report on 29 September 2016, AI indicated that the claims have been based on interviews with 52 residents in the Jebel Marra area in Darfur, where military and allied forces have been attempting to suppress a faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) rebel group. All residents have been showing

symptoms that Amnesty said were consistent with the use of CW agents. On this basis, Amnesty concluded that at least 32 villages have been attacked with CW since January and estimated that between 200 and 250 people – many of them children – had been killed due to exposure to the agents.

<http://bit.ly/2dGPiiz>

North Korean-Iran missile cooperation in doubt

(27 Sept 2016) International analysts doubt the co-development of missiles and satellite launchers by Iran and North Korea. The 38 North website reported on 22 September 2016 that while the countries may share test data on a limited basis, "there is little evidence to indicate the two regimes are engaged in deep missile-related collaboration, or pursuing joint-development programs." The rumors popped up after North Korea's ground test of a powerful, liquid-fuelled engine on 20 September 2016. The latter was increased even after the launch of three modified-Scud missiles, which renewed speculation that Pyongyang and Tehran may be collaborating on ballistic missile development.

<http://bit.ly/2dFG0Ot>

Are Arab countries arming Syrian rebels as a result of truce breakdown?

(27 Sept 2016) U.S. officials are warning that Gulf Arab countries could decide to arm Syrian rebels as a consequence of the collapse of the Syrian truce. U.S. officials indicated that GCC countries could decide to deliver Syrian rebels shoulder-fired missiles to defend themselves against Syrian and Russian warplanes.

Gulf Arab states and Turkey already have indicated that they could step up arms supplies to rebel factions, including shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, something the U.S. has largely prevented until now. Until now, the U.S. has kept large numbers of such man-portable air defense systems, or MANPADS, out of Syria by uniting Western and Arab allies behind channeling training and infantry weapons to moderate opposition groups while it pursued talks with Moscow. The current situation however could lead to a move by GCC states or

wealthy individuals to supply MANPADS to opposition groups.

<http://bit.ly/2dGSAO8>

Sisi defends Egyptian army role economy

(26 Sept 2016) Egypt's president Abdel-Fattah Sisi openly rejects criticism that the military is being distracted from its core duties by further involving itself in the economy. The president has dismissed suggestions of military mismanagement on 26 September 2016, saying he and Egypt's defense minister personally approve all spending. In a reaction to criticism of the strength and capabilities of the Egyptian army, the president reiterated that the country's military could deploy across the entire country in six hours if necessary. Since 2013 Egypt's military has broadened its economic role by supervising massive infrastructure projects as well as its retail network, which distributes food at discounted prices.

<http://fxn.ws/2dq4cXm>

Defense Industry

Turkish universities cooperate on turboshaft technology

(5 Oct 2016) In a move aimed at further strengthening Turkey's indigenous defense technologies, the Anka University of Technology and Kharkov Technical University have joined forces on developing turboshaft engines, news reports indicated. The Turkish government is supporting the university cooperation agreement under the umbrella of the national Turboshaft Engine Development Program led by TEI (Tusas Engine Industries, Inc.)

<http://bit.ly/2daP2FX>

Turkey and Azerbaijan have developed a new anti-tank missile

(27 Sept 2016) The 2nd Azerbaijan International Defense Exhibition (ADEX 2016) in Baku served as a platform for Turkey and Azerbaijan to present the new co-developed anti-tank missile systems comprising the Mizrak-U missile mounted

on a BRDM-2 personnel carrier. Roketsan has developed the missile based on the company's MIZRAK-O missile. The new missile is available with and without laser guidance and can be used as an Air-to-Surface and Surface-to-Surface anti-tank missile.

<http://bit.ly/2doGkq5>

ITEAC Group and Denel Dynamics eye anti-tank missile for Saudi Arabia

(27 Sep 2016) On 16 September 2016, Saudi company ITEAC Group and South Africa's Denel Dynamics have signed an MoU to jointly market Denel's Ingwe anti-tank missile to the armed forces of Saudi Arabia. The partnership should be seen in light of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 that foresees the future local sourcing of 50% of the country's defense acquisitions.

Denel has signed cooperation agreements with the King Abdulla Centre for Science and Technology (KACST) and Military Industries Corporation (MIC). But according to Defence Web, "these were very small scale ventures". ITEAC Group provides information and communication technology systems and has not yet been involved in the missile segment.

<http://bit.ly/2cyLOse>

Havelsan to patent submarine subsystems

(21 Sep 2016) Submarines have been among the few systems where the Turkish defense industry has remained critically dependent on foreign suppliers. This seems about to change as news reports indicate that Havelsan has applied for patent rights on submarine subsystems for torpedo fire control, submarine information distribution, situational target motion analysis, and online performance analysis. News reports do not reveal to what extent Havelsan has developed genuine IP with regard to these systems, but Ahmet Hamdi Atalay, Havelsan's General Manager, said the company had invested around \$27 million of its own money in respective R&D efforts.

<http://bit.ly/2dzYCmf>

Dubai Aerospace Enterprise takes stake in Jordan Aircraft Maintenance

(21 Sep 2016) Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE) is taking over an 80% stake in Jordan Aircraft Maintenance (Joramco) from The Abraaj Group, press reports indicated. Joramco provides maintenance, repair, and overhaul services to different clients operating Airbus, Boeing, and Embraer aircraft in the Middle East, Europe, South Asia, Africa, Russia and in CIS countries. By its own account, DAE holds an aircraft leasing portfolio of close to 80 aircraft worth around \$4 billion.

<http://bit.ly/2cKpBh1>

Defense Exports

Soldier-carried robots contract for Israeli startup

(2 Oct 2016) Israeli startup company Roboteam, together with its US-based subsidiary, have captured a \$25 million award from the US Air Force. Now the company has teamed up with DRS Technologies to go for the Pentagon's \$400 million program to provide some 4,000 soldier-carried systems across the US Army.

The RFPs for the US Army's Common Robotics System – Individual (CRS-I) are due out early next year. Roboteam stated that its operationally proven Micro Tactical Ground Robot (MTGR) meets all requirements published by US Army Contracting Command earlier this year.

The US Army's Robotic Systems Joint Project Office in Warren, Michigan, is looking for a COTS robotic system for missions like chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) detection; lower level reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition; remote clearing of danger areas; explosive obstacle countermeasure operations; and explosive ordnance disposal operations from a standoff distance. The system should also not weight more than 20 pounds.

<http://bit.ly/2cPQ5fz>

Turkey to complete T-300 Kasirga delivery to Azerbaijan

(21 Sept 2016) Turkey's Aselsan has completed the delivery of the T-300 Kasirga artillery system to Azerbaijan, the company stated on 20 September 2016. Azeri forces have received training in operating the tactical weapon system, which is capable of firing four rockets at a range of 100-120 km. A Kasirga battery also includes command and control vehicles in addition to the launcher vehicles. MAN has supplied the vehicles.

<http://www.azernews.az/nation/102564.html>

Defense Modernization and Support

Turkey to test missile defense system against IS attacks

(4 Oct 2016) According to Turkey's Defense Minister Fikri Işık, Turkey is close to developing a new missile defense system to prevent rocket attacks on its cities. According to press reports the new Turkish system seems to resemble Israel's "Iron Dome" system. The Turkish system, which was developed by Aselsan, can fire up to 1,100 rounds per minute against incoming rockets fired from distances of 4 to 70 kilometers.

<http://bit.ly/2donpst>

Pakistan to export Hushshak trainers to Turkey

(4 Oct 2016) LtGen (ret) Abdul Qayyum, Chairman of the Pakistani Senate's Standing Committee on Defence, told Associate Press of Pakistan on 4 October 2016 that Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) would supply turkey with 100 Super Hushshak trainers. In 2013, the Turkish Air Force issued a requirement for 52 basic trainers that PAC won. News reports indicate that the trainer would be partly produced in Turkey, but no details have been revealed so far. The Super Hushshak is a substantially upgraded and locally manufactured version of the MFI-17 originally manufactured by Saab.

<http://bit.ly/2cRsITd>

Belarus offers Jordan Osa air defense upgrade

(3 Oct 2016) Belarus has offered to upgrade the Jordanian Armed Forces' (JAF) 9K33 Osa (SA-8 'Gecko') mobile short-range air-defense systems. Jordanian defense sources stated that the JAF has had the Osa in service since 1982 and currently has 52 systems deployed with four brigades. Belarus has offered the same upgrade previously supplied to Georgia's Osa system. This would involve the full digitization of the systems for \$2 million a unit, a price that does not include new vehicles. "The JAF is considering two options currently," the source said. The offer has been submitted by Belarusian company Tetraedr, and includes two options. The baseline is the 9K33-1T Osa-1T, which is an extensive modernization of the system and can involve remounting it on a new 6x6 MZKT-69222 wheeled chassis. A customer can also purchase new T382 two-stage missiles for the Osa-1T, which effectively turns the existing system into a new system called T38 Stilet.

<http://bit.ly/2cQbqkv>

New long-range missile IRGC Navy Iran

(2 October 2016) Iranian news sites reported that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy (IRGCN) has been supplied with a new long-range coast-to-sea missile capable of hitting different sea targets. The missile, displayed during the September 21 annual military parades in Iran, is named as 'Qamar-e Bani Hashem'. Lieutenant Commander of the IRGCN General Alireza Tangsiri stated that the missile is currently fired from coastal launchers, but they may also be mounted and fired from vessels in the near future. Some months ago, Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan announced the country's plan to produce supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles in the near future.

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13950711000281>

Houthi missiles hit UAE logistics vessel

(1 Oct 2016) The HSV-2 Swift logistics ship leased by the UAE Navy from the Abu Dhabi-based National Marine Dredging Company was attacked by Houthi rebels near Bab Al-Mandeb.

Press reports indicated that Chinese made C-802 anti-ship missiles previously obtained by the Yemeni Presidential Guard severely damaged the ship. According to the UAE ministry of foreign affairs, the vessel "did not have any military capability."

<http://bit.ly/2e4tg99>, <http://bbc.in/2dtoLmq>

New Iranian drone unveiled

(1 Oct 2016) Iran's IRGC Aerospace Force has unveiled its latest drone. IRGC Commander Aerospace Force Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, told the press that the Simorgh (Phoenix) class drone "enjoys the capability to simultaneously strike at four targets with smart bombs that have pinpoint precision-striking capability in far distances". The Simorgh class of drones is currently being developed into a family of UAVs with reconnaissance, surveillance, combat and bombing capabilities. According to earlier reports, Simorgh drones are equipped with an autopilot capability that brings them back to their airbase if operators lose control or are disconnected from the pilotless aircraft. The Simorgh has been reversed engineered from the US drone RQ-170, which was downed by Iran in 2011. However, caution is at place as the new drone is not yet operational.

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13950710001061>

IRGC will soon receive Zolfaqar missiles and could target Israel

(27 Sept 2016) Iran's Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Force Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh stated that the IRGC would soon receive a large number of various types of Zolfaqar missiles. Asked if Iran has any plans to develop missiles to hit targets more than 2,000km in range, he said: "Our target is Israel and we don't need missiles with a range of more than 2,000km."

The mass production of Zolfaqar missiles able to reach targets within 700km has already been started. In March 2016, the IRGC fired two home-made 'Qadr H' ballistic missiles from the Eastern Alborz Mountains at a target in Iran's Southeastern Makran seashore some 1,400km.

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13950706000479>

Al Raha Group to modernize Saudi F-15 fleet

(21 Sep 2016) Saudi Arabia's F-15 fleet will be supported by the Al Raha Group for Technical Services. The company has been awarded a \$355 million firm-fixed-price contract by the U.S. Air Force.

<http://bit.ly/2d8Mxld>

Defense Procurement

U.S. supplies helicopter missile warning system to Egypt

(7 Oct 2016) U.S. Congress has been notified about the possible sale of 67 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) for AH-64E Apache, UH-60 Blackhawks, and CH-47 Chinook Helicopters and related equipment, the Defense Security and Cooperation Agency reported on 7 October 2016. The deal is worth \$82.4 million with BAE Systems and DynCorp acting as prime contractors.

<http://bit.ly/2d2nUoW>

Saudi Arabia to receive Eight Utility Helicopters Sikorsky

(1 Oct 2016) American defense giant Sikorsky Aircraft has been awarded a \$91 million contract for exercising an option for eight utility helicopter aircraft to Saudi Arabia. The work is slated to be completed Dec. 31, 2017. Fiscal 2010 and 2016 other funds in the amount of \$91,832,211 were obligated at the time of the award. Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, is the contracting activity, US department of defense said in a statement Friday.

Since the beginning of 2016 Sikorsky has an agreement with Saudi Arabia's Taqnia Aeronautics to explore helicopter production opportunities in the Kingdom. It was stated that the agreement could lead to direct involvement in the assembly of Sikorsky S-70 BLACK HAWK helicopters in the Kingdom. Sikorsky is under contract to deliver SEAHAWK helicopters via

the U.S. Government's Foreign Military Sales program to the Ministry of Defense.

<http://bit.ly/2dtMfWY>

Saudi Arabia sees Canadian arms deal as friendship act

(30 Sept 2016) Saudi Arabian officials say the controversial CAD15 deal to supply Riyadh with weaponized armoured vehicles should be seen as a goodwill gesture by the Islamic kingdom to cement its friendship with Canada. Saudi Arabia also has denied reports showing older Canadian-made combat vehicles taking part in the Yemeni war. Saudi officials have indicated to Canadian media that the General Dynamics LAV contract, personally approved for export by Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion in April 2016, is an act of friendship. The motive behind Riyadh awarding deals such as the one Ottawa brokered, which is the largest advanced manufacturing export contract in Canadian history, has however been questioned by experts, including one of Dion's top advisers.

Canada's export-control rules for weapons shipments are supposed to require Ottawa to restrict arms exports to countries such as Saudi Arabia, that have "poor human-rights records."

<http://bit.ly/2cQdo47>

GCC naval spending increased by regional tensions

(29 Sept 2016) According to the U.S. Department of Commerce 2016 Defense Markets report, UAE defense expenditure in 2016 is expected to increase by 7.4 per cent to reach about \$23.5bn, from \$21.8bn in 2015. The main focus is on high-tech naval, air power and surveillance, and missile products and systems. The Air Force traditionally receives the lion's share of the UAE's total defense procurement with land forces second, followed by Special Operations and the Navy. The Critical Infrastructure & Coastal Protection Authority, which is tasked with protecting key infrastructure, such as water desalination plants, oil and gas platforms, pipelines, and the Barakah nuclear site, is also expanding rapidly. In addition, the market report also sees naval opportunities in Qatar due to the growth of the Coast Guard.

http://www.trade.gov/topmarkets/pdf/Defense_Middle_East.pdf

Tunisia, Taiwan slated to receive UH-60M Black Hawk Choppers

(29 Sept 2016) US defense company Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. has won a \$187 million Department of Defense contract for 10 UH-60M 'Uniquely Configured' Black Hawk choppers, six to Taiwan and four to Tunisia. The Tunisian part, considered to be worth around \$38,286,000, is slated to be a modification foreign military sales contract (Tunisian) for four UH-60M uniquely modified aircraft in support of the Tunisian Ministry of National Defense. Work will be performed in West Palm Beach, Florida, with an estimated completion date of April 30, 2020.

<http://bit.ly/2dpZfh5>

White House clears jet sales to GCC and helps keep LM's F-16 production line open

(28 Sept 2016) The US has approved a long-pending fighter jet sales to Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. Bob Corker, chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has confirmed the deals which entails 72 Boeing F-15E Strike Eagles for Qatar and up to 40 Boeing F/A-18 E/F Super Hornets for Kuwait. Bahrain's package includes Lockheed Martin F-16 fighters.

A formal notification still needs to be given by relevant committees. The Pentagon and State Department had already cleared the sales. The sales were requested by Kuwait and Qatar already in 2014. However, U.S. lawmakers have had a keen interest in the sales, and leading politicians said earlier this month that they would go through following the consummation of the US-Israel memorandum of understanding. Israeli officials were concerned with preserving its qualitative military edge, which the US is legally mandated to protect.

The F-15 sale to Qatar is slated to be worth about \$4 billion to Boeing's defense business if all options are exercised. Qatar requested 36 fighters with the option to purchase an additional 36. The F/A-18 part of the package, which is expected to consist of 28 Super Hornets

and an option for 12 more, could be worth about \$3 billion if all options are exercised.

For Lockheed Martin the Bahraini F-16 purchase could keep the production line open for the next three to five years. The F-16V comes with the AN/APG-83 active electronically-scanned array (AESA) radar. Bahrain is expected to order 19 F-16V for \$2.8 billion probably including air-to-air and/or air-to-surface munitions alongside the requisite maintenance and logistics support package. An upgrade package for Bahrain's existing 21 F-16C/Ds worth \$1 billion is also reportedly in the cards. With the sale Bahrain will be the first user of the new-built F-16Vs and the first F-16 user outside of East Asia to upgrade its F-16C/Ds to V-standards.

<http://bit.ly/2dGRQsi>, <http://bit.ly/2du7fNt>

Final Russian delivery of S-300 to Iran by end 2016

(27 Sept 2016) The contract for the delivery of the S-300 air defense systems to Iran is expected to be fulfilled this year, Interfax reported quoting Russian foreign ministry sources. Both countries signed a contract for the delivery of five battalion sets of S-300 PMU1 air defense missile systems in 2007. Iran displayed the first S-300 air defense missile system imported from Russia in April 2016. A battalion of the S-300 missile defense system was showed off in military parades in Tehran. The first cargo of missiles special to the Russian S-300 missile defense system arrived in Iran in July 2016. Iran has also deployed S-300 air defense missile systems at the country's Fordo nuclear site, a senior commander announced late August 2016.

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13950706000669>

Tactical vehicle and trailer contracts for Oshkosh

(26 Sept 2016) Oshkosh Defense has landed several contracts with clients in the Arab world. Cameroon, Iraq, and Somalia have placed orders worth \$378 for a total of 1,543 tactical vehicles to be delivered until July 2015. In addition, Oman, Jordan, and Iraq have awarded a \$17 million order to the company for 635NL trailers, spare

parts and manuals. The estimated completion date is April 2018.

<http://bit.ly/2dsEiSu>, <http://bit.ly/2dq31Y5>

170 Russian T-72 to be delivered to Sudan

(22 Sept 2016) Russian news sites report that Russia and Sudan have agreed the delivery of 150 T-72 tanks at an early date. The remaining 20 are supposed to be delivered as a source of spare parts for the first batch. Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD) sources stated that Khartoum would get excess, combat-ready T-72 MBTs. The relevant works on the preparation of the combat vehicles delivery to Sudan have already started. This deal has been under discussion since 2011. A final agreement was signed in September 2016 at the 2016 Russian Army Military-Technical Forum in Moscow. Russian defense analysts have stated that the Sudanese armor units are not weak. In 2010-2013, the country's Armed Forces took the delivery of 130 T-72AV and 60 T-55A MBTs supplied by the Ukrainian SpetsTekhno-Eksport company.

<http://bit.ly/2dq3V6W>

Military Cooperation and Training

Saudi Arabia launches Exercise Gulf Shield 1

(4 Oct 2016) Saudi Arabia has started Exercise Gulf Shield 1 on 4 October 2016 involving naval ships, aircraft, marines, and special units, Saudi media reported. Maneuvers are also taking place around the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman. According to Saudi officials, the exercise will also include the live shooting tests. Experts have warned that the exercise comes at a critical moment in bilateral relations with Iran and could easily aggravate the already tense situation should unforeseen events occur.

<http://bit.ly/2dQnAQ3>,

Russian-Egyptian military exercise

(3 Oct 2016) For the first time units of the Russian Airborne troops bringing along hardware and armament are participating in a joint international exercise held in Egypt. This exercise

will be one of the first opportunities to hold joint exercise on African territory, according to Russia's MoD. Representatives of more than 30 countries will attend the international exercise.

Russian military servicemen are taking part in the exercise under agreements signed with Egypt and in accordance to the plan on international activity of the Russian Defense Ministry.

<http://english.almanar.com.lb/51632>

Military mandate for Turkish operations in Syria and Iraq extended

(1 Oct 2016) The Turkish parliament has extended the mandate for Turkish military action in Syria and Iraq. A motion has been passed allowing military action against terror organizations in neighboring Syria and Iraq for one more year. The current mandate would have ended on 2 October 2016. Under the new motion, the Turkish government is authorized to use military action in Syria and Iraq to fight any group threatening the country. The measure will be in effect until 30 September 2017.

In an earlier reaction to the decision Turkish Defense Minister Fikri Isik said the mandate would enable Turkey to take all kinds of necessary measures against terrorist threats and security risks covered by international law. Officially, these operations are mainly targeted against terrorist threats originating from Daesh and PKK.

<http://aa.com.tr/en/todays-headlines/turkey-extends-military-mandate-in-syria-iraq/656430>

Azerbaijan and Turkey strengthen defense ties

(27 Sept 2016) The existing Turkish-Azeri defense cooperation shall be strengthened. Turkish Defense Minister Fikri Işık has called for further enhancement of the bilateral defense ties. While visiting Baku, Işık stated: "Many more steps are needed. We have to cooperate more to counter the threats our sister country faces." The Turkish official was attending the opening ceremony of the International Defense Industry Fair (ADEX 2016) along with his counterparts from Azerbaijan, Djibouti, Serbia, Belarus and United Arab Emirates. Turkey is participating with 42 companies.

<http://aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/turkey-looks-to-boost-defense-ties-with-azerbaijan/653725>

Italy and Iran stage naval wargames Persian Gulf

(27 Sept 2016) As a sign of increased openness to Iran, after the partial lifting of sanctions, the Iranian and Italian naval forces have held joint exercises in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. Iran reported that the joint PASSEX drills were staged to display peace and friendship between the two countries with the participation of a number of Iranian warships and helicopters and the Italian warship, 'Euro', which had berthed in Iran's Southern port city of Bandar Abbas. The drill zone stretched from Langargah region along the coasts of Iran's Southern port city of Bandar Abbas to the warm waters of the Strait of Hormuz. Earlier this month, a delegation from the Italian army visited different units of the Iranian Armed Forces.

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13950706001053>

Cybersecurity and Space

UAE tables proposal to advance civil aviation cyber security

(3 Oct 2016) The UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) proposed establishing a global framework for cyber security in the civil aviation sector in a part paper submitted to the 39th Triennial Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The proposal also suggests individual action to address and mitigate cyber risks and to advance information sharing and the exchange of best practice among civil aviation security agencies. The UAE proposal could foreshadow a new security industrial focus of the UAE, which is among the world's leading operators of a most modern fleet, vibrant air transport hubs, and is stepping up local cyber security capacities.

<http://bit.ly/2dOdIpW>

Saudi Arabia stepping into the digital age

(3 Oct 2016) Saudi Arabia has kicked off an ambitious new initiative to implement Industry 4.0, Arab News reported with reference to a workshop held at the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) on 27 September 2016. The workshop, which was organized in cooperation with Siemens, and the Industry 4.0 initiative are part of the National Transformation Plan under Vision 2030. According to Prince Turki bin Saud Al-Saud, KACST president, KACST will in particular invest in capacities to support local and medium-sized companies.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/993091/saudi-arabia>

Daesh hiring cyber mercenaries

(29 Sept 2016). Islamic extremist group Daesh (ISIS) is currently hiring cybercriminals. EU police agency Europol stated that criminals are being offered services to provide means for Daesh militants to attack Europe. Europol's latest "Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment" report pointed out that militants are exploiting the so-called Darknet taking advantage of computer experts offering crime "at your service". "The volume, scope and material cost of cybercrime all remain on an upward trend and have reached very high levels," the report concluded. Criminals and militants using latest encryption technologies such as TOR networks are hard to track for law enforcement agents who are at the end of an email address or chat username, Jake Hockley, the Director of Marclay Associates, a cybersecurity firm said.

<http://bit.ly/2dFExrz>