



Arab Defense Industry Papers News Bulletin

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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>.

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The Big Picture	2
U.S. missiles and Russian air defense in Syria	2
Oman and Iran discuss broadening of defense cooperation	2
Use of UK weapons by Saudi Arabia in Yemen causes controversy	2
UAE and Moroccan military leaders meet	2
Iran's Navy wants to redeploy to the Atlantic	3
Saudi King meets President of Azerbaijan	3
UK Chief of Staff tours the Gulf	3
CEO of Lockheed Martin meets Bahrain's Minister of Foreign Affairs.....	3
Jihadists in Syria said to use T-90 tank in attack	3
Defense Industry.....	3
BAE Systems appoints new general manager in Oman.....	3
Turkish Altay MBT gets Ukrainian engine	3
Elbit's Seagull successfully passes operational tests.....	4
Russia and Iran sign helicopter JV.....	4
Aselsan showcases C-UAV jammer at LIMA2017.....	4
Defense Exports.....	4
ADSB landing craft for Kuwait.....	4
Golcük Shipyard and tkMS pitch Type 214 submarine for Indonesia.....	4
Elbit Systems to supply radios to British Army	4
Undisclosed Asian customer buys IAI targeting and surveillance pod	5
Defense Modernization and Support	5
Iran shows new military jet trainer and single seat fighter jet.....	5
Taiwanese C-UAV system spotted in Mosul	5
Hürkus jets and Atak helicopters can both strike with UMTAS missile	5
Modernization of Kuwait's Al Mubarak Airbase	5
Successful test flight of Saudi-Ukrainian AN-132 airplane	5
U.S. Army asks Dyncorp International for aviation field maintenance in Egypt	5
Defense Procurement.....	6
BMC lands big contract in Qatar	6
Husky 2G C-IED vehicle cleared for sale	6
Turkey's SSM to issue tender for new aerostat.....	6
UAE seems interested in Russian helicopters	6
White House clears F-16 sale to Bahrain	6
Saudi Arabia buys undisclosed military equipment from Australia.....	6
Denel could supply missile system to Iran	6
Military Cooperation and Training.....	6
Iraq receives U.S. pilot training.....	6
Saudi Arabia and Sudan conduct first air exercise.....	7
Eagle Resolve exercise concluded in Kuwait.....	7
Qatar launches Citadel 3 exercise	7
U.S., Iraq, and Kuwait engage in trilateral exercise.....	7
Cybersecurity and Space.....	7
UAE National Space Program launched	7
Aselsan bags \$125M EW contract.....	7

The Big Picture

U.S. missiles and Russian air defense in Syria

(18 Apr 2017) In the early morning of 7 April 2017, USS Porter and USS Ross destroyers fired a total of 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles against the Shayrat air base in Homs, Syria. Among other things, the attack has prompted a controversy over the effectiveness of Russian air defense systems S-400 and S-300 reportedly deployed to Syria since late 2015. Reports and analyses covering the incident suggest three noteworthy aspects:

1. Despite the limited reach of Russian air defense missiles, reports speak of a range of 40km while S-400 radars can cover up to 400km, their presence might have affected U.S. mission planning. According to Aytech Bizhev, former Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Air Force, the missiles' flight path was "set to bypass" the missile defense system. This, Roger McDermott wrote for *Eurasia Daily*, is in line with other reports suggesting that the "strikes were conducted at sufficient distance from the Syrian coast" and might even have entered Lebanese airspace before hitting the Syrian target.
2. Electronic warfare (EW) seems to have played a role, too. McDermott quotes Russian analyst Nikolai Novichkov saying that U.S. EW-18G Growler aircraft were used to provide "EW cover for the attack." Other sources, by contrast, also suggest the use of Russian EW means in Syria to divert incoming Tomahawk missiles.
3. Finally, both aspects reinforce the need for a much more nuanced discussion about anti-access and area denial (A2AD) capabilities. This particular case suggests, that Russian A2AD capabilities over Syria might indeed have created pockets difficult to penetrate, but this does not suggest that these pockets could not be circumvented. In light of what we know so far, the implicit assumption that a fully-fledged A2AD umbrella might have covered Syria seems unsustainable. This, however, does not discard the option that Moscow might have opted "not to activate"

its air defense systems, as an undisclosed source told *Radio Free Europe*.

<http://bit.ly/2pwjNJz>; <http://bit.ly/2oQZh8B>

Oman and Iran discuss broadening of defense cooperation

(11 Apr 2017) According to *Fars News Agency*, senior Omani and Iranian military officials met in Muscat on 9 April 2017 to discuss ways to broaden bilateral defense cooperation. Both sides have underlined the need to expand naval cooperation and announced that joint drills in the Indian Ocean were under preparation.

<http://bit.ly/2on4D7q>

Use of UK weapons by Saudi Arabia in Yemen causes controversy

(10 Apr 2017) Following renewed calls by Oxfam, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch, the British government expressed deep concern concerning the use of UK weapons by Saudi Arabia in Yemen, *Arabian Aerospace* reported. So far, the UK has been a strong supporter of Saudi Arabia's defense build up in general and its military operations in Yemen in particular. UK Defense Minister Michael Fallon responded to Parliament by outlining in detail the types of UK weapons used in Yemen, such as MBDA's Storm Shadow and Brimstone, for example. Special controversy arose over the claim by Abdulaziz bin Habtour, leader of the rebel Houthi government, Britain had committed war crimes by supplying cluster bombs to Saudi Arabia. However, according to *Arabian Aerospace*, "evidence of the use of BL-755 (cluster bombs) is sketchy, and there have been suggestions that the single bomb bound by Amnesty International could have been left over from a previous conflict since the last delivery of this weapon to Saudi Arabia was in 1989."

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

UAE and Moroccan military leaders meet

(10 Apr 2017) General Abdel Fattah Warraq, Inspector General of Morocco's Royal Armed Forces, received LTG Hamad Mohammed Thani Al Rumaithi, Chief of Staff of the UAE Armed

Forces, during the latter's visit to Morocco on 10 April 2017. According to *WAM*, both military leaders "discussed ways of furthering ties and cooperation in military and defense spheres."

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

Iran's Navy wants to redeploy to the Atlantic

(6 Apr 2017) The Iranian Navy will redeploy to the Atlantic in the near future. This was announced by RADM Habibollah Sayyari during a meeting at the Navy Central Command in early April 2016, *Ahamd Majidiyar*, who leads the IranObserved Project at the Middle East Institute, reported. According to him, RADM Sayyari also "unveiled plans to further develop Karan coasts in the southeast of Iran and ensure Iran's intelligence superiority in regional and international waters."

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

Saudi King meets President of Azerbaijan

(6 Apr 2017) Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud met with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev on 2 April 2017 and Azerbaijan's Minister of Defense General Zakir Hasanov on 5 April 2017, *Al Defaiya* reported. According to the *Saudi Press Agency* bilateral defense relations were on the agenda.

<http://bit.ly/2oos8Nk>

UK Chief of Staff tours the Gulf

(5 Apr 2017) Admiral Sir Philip Jones, First Sea Lord and Chief of the UK Naval Staff, toured the Gulf in early April 2017. On 5 April 2017 he met with RADM Ibrahim Salim Mohammad Al Musharrakh, Commander of the UAE Naval Forces, and with MG Ghanim bin Shaheen Al Ghanim, Qatar's Chief of Staff, on 4 April 2017. Both meetings served to discuss bilateral relations in the field of military cooperation with a focus on maritime issues.

<http://bit.ly/2pMmB4h>

CEO of Lockheed Martin meets Bahrain's Minister of Foreign Affairs

(28 Mar 2017) Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with Marillyn Hewson, President and CEO of Lockheed Martin, in late March 2017 in Washington, DC. According to the *Bahrain News Agency*, Hewson in particular "asserted Lockheed Martin's keenness to reinforce all aspects of cooperation with the Kingdom of Bahrain and to supply what it needs to help maintain its security and stability."

<http://bit.ly/2oH65mS>

Jihadists in Syria said to use T-90 tank in attack

(22 Mar 2017) The online news agency *Russia Insider* posted Twitter pictures by a user named @QalaatAlMudiq, suggesting that a captured T-90 tank had been used in the latest offensive against the city of Hama, Syria. According to this report Tahrir al-Sham, a coalition of jihadists, used the tank. Using a tank would be quite different from jihadi tactics known so far. However, a lot of details remain unclear, not least when and where members of Tharir al-Sham were trained to use these tanks.

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

Defense Industry

BAE Systems appoints new general manager in Oman

(7 Apr 2017) Ian Lane is the new general manager of BAE Systems Oman, *Arabian Aerospace* reported on 7 April 2017. Before assuming the local company's top leadership position, Lane had been Vice President of Offset and Industrialization since joining the company in 2011. Given this function it would be no surprise to see BAE Systems engage in future activities to develop the Omani defense ecosystem.

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

Turkish Altay MBT gets Ukrainian engine

(2 Apr 2017) The Prime Ministers of Turkey and Ukraine seem to have agreed that Turkey will

have access to Ukrainian diesel engines for the Altay Main Battle Tank, *C4Defence* reported. Key to the deal is a company called Delta Defence Ltd, the representative of Ukroboronprom in Turkey.

In an interview with *C4Defence* Serdar Özyurt, general manager of Delta Defence Ltd, revealed that joint teams with Turkish and Ukrainian engineers will be established to work on 200 off-the-shelf engines. Interestingly, joint work will not only focus on the Altay engine, but also on the Firtina Howitzer engine, Özyurt said. Referring to the Altay Engine, Özyurt also forecasted future exports of these engines to allied countries. "We think one of them would be Pakistan," he added.

<http://bit.ly/2pJzix5>

Elbit's Seagull successfully passes operational tests

(30 Mar 2017) Seagull, an unmanned surface vessel (USV) developed and produced by Elbit Systems, has successfully passed operational tests, *AUVSI News* reported at the end of March 2017. Among others, the USV can use dipping sonars and torpedoes for anti-submarine operations. In addition, the USV can also be used for counter-mine, anti-diver and maritime security missions.

<http://bit.ly/2pu8Jwm>

Russia and Iran sign helicopter JV

(28 Mar 2017) The Iranian Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO) and Russian Helicopter are to collaborate in the field of civilian helicopters. Both organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding to assemble Russian light civilian helicopters in Iran and upgrade Iran's helicopter field. "Russian Helicopters said it also intends to explore potential for cooperation with IDRO to develop business in the Middle East," the press statement indicated.

<http://bit.ly/2oG00sA>

Aselsan showcases C-UAV jammer at LIMA2017

(24 Mar 2017) On the occasion of the LIMA 2017 defense exhibition in Langkawi, Malaysia, Aselsan displayed its shoulder-held C-UAV sys-

tem Ihasavar. The system will jam the UAV radio frequency, thereby building on the Kirpi man-pack jammer, *ShepherdMedia* reported. According to a company spokesman, Aselsan had developed the system in six months in order to meet an urgent operational requirement by Turkey's Armed Forces.

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

Defense Exports

ADSB landing craft for Kuwait

(18 Apr 2017) According to *Al Defaiya*, Abu Dhabi Ship Building (ADSB) has handed over a 64m landing craft to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense. Based on an agreement signed between both parties in 2015, ADSB has already delivered five landing ships and a landing vessel earlier this year.

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

Golcük Shipyard and tkMS pitch Type 214 submarine for Indonesia

(13 Apr 2017) According to *Jane's Navy International* Golcük Shipyard has submitted an offer for the Type 214 submarine to the Indonesian Navy. Officials of thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (tkMS) and Golcük Shipyard have been in Indonesia since early 2017 for meetings and presentations. All parties are also expected to meet at the upcoming International Defence Industry Fair (IDEF), which will take place from 9-12 May 2017 in Istanbul.

<https://goo.gl/7SSq91>

Elbit Systems to supply radios to British Army

(12 Apr 2017) The British Army is about to field test the new Mercury family of radios in late April 2017, *Jane's International Defence Review* reported. Elbit Systems has manufactured the radios to be supplied as part of a £7.3M contract with UK company Drumgrange.

<http://bit.ly/2pw2AzL>

Undisclosed Asian customer buys IAI targeting and surveillance pod

(28 Mar 2017) ELTA Systems, a subsidiary of IAI, has landed a new contract to supply targeting and surveillance pods to the Air Force of an undisclosed Asian customer. The contract is said to be worth \$200M, *C4Defence* reported.

<http://bit.ly/2oi3WgC>

Defense Modernization and Support

Iran shows new military jet trainer and single seat fighter jet

(17 Apr 2017) On the occasion of a ceremony attended by Hassan Rouhani, Iran's President, Iran has unveiled Kowsar, the latest locally produced jet trainer. According to *Arabian Aerospace*, the ceremony was held on 15 April 2017 at the Iran Helicopter Support and Renewal Company, and also included the demonstration of additional equipment like the Mojahr-6 tactical UAV for reconnaissance, patrol, and combat operations. Additional anti-ship cruise missiles and air-to-air missiles were also on display.

At the same event, Iran also demonstrated the Qaher-313 single-seat stealth fighter in a taxi test. According to *Defence Blog*, the Qaher jet was indigenously developed and produced by the Iran Aviation Industries Organization, which belongs to the Ministry of Defense, and the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF).

<http://bit.ly/2pJbXLR>; <http://bit.ly/2oPt11Z>;
<http://bit.ly/2pcrMhQ>

Taiwanese C-UAV system spotted in Mosul

(13 Apr 2017) The RAYSUN MD1 counter-UAV system developed by Taiwan's Jiun-An Technology Company was spotted near Mosul, Iraq, *Defence Blog* revealed on 13 April 2017. The RAYSUN MD1 C-UAV system is a shoulder rifle that can jam the radio frequency of drones and allows operators to take control of the drone's GPS signal.

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

Hürkus jets and Atak helicopters can both strike with UMTAS missile

(7 Apr 2017) Hürkus jets by Turkish Aerospace Industries are now ready to strike, after successfully launching Roketsan's L-UMTAS, a laser-guided anti-tank missile, *C4 Defence* reported. The successful test from the Hürkus fixed-wing platform opens the door for use on UAVs, the journal wrote.

Prior to this test, UMTAS missiles were successfully test-fired from Atak helicopters on 15 March 2017. Atak helicopters use these missiles for anti-tank missions.

<http://bit.ly/2on2fxA>; <http://bit.ly/2pJJ7el>

Modernization of Kuwait's Al Mubarak Airbase

(6 Apr 2017) The Kuwaiti Al Mubarak Airbase will be modernized with the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the *Defense Security Cooperation Agency* announced. Work will include "a main operations center, hangars, training facilities, barracks, warehouses, support facilities, and other infrastructure required for a fully functioning airbase." The estimated total cost is \$319M.

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

Successful test flight of Saudi-Ukrainian AN-132 airplane

(3 Apr 2017) General (ret.) Humammad bin Saeed Aiyash and a team of Ukrainian pilots and technicians conducted the first 40-minute test flight of the AN-132 lightweight multi-purpose airplane, *Arab News* reported on 3 April 2017. The test flight took place in Ukraine. The AN-132, a joint program, will soon fly to Saudi Arabia.

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

U.S. Army asks Dyncorp International for aviation field maintenance in Egypt

(28 Mar 2017) Dyncorp International will provide aviation field maintenance work in Egypt on behalf of the U.S. Army, *Arabian Aerospace* reported at the end of March 2017. The contract, which also covers maintenance work at other

sites is worth \$14.4M and runs until the end of 2017.

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

Defense Procurement

BMC lands big contract in Qatar

(15 April 2017) Qatar has reportedly ordered 1,500 new Amazon 4x4 armored vehicles from Turkey's BMC in order to equip the Qatar Armed Forces and the country's police. According to *Defence Blog*, a first batch of 35 vehicles will be delivered in April 2017. The remaining vehicles shall be supplied within two years.

<http://bit.ly/2ptCf5c>

Husky 2G C-IED vehicle cleared for sale

(6 Apr 2017), Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia are to receive the Hsuky 2G Protected Payload Delivery Vehicle for C-IED missions. As *C4Defense* reported, the Department of Defense had cleared the sale worth \$132M on 30 March 2017.

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

Turkey's SSM to issue tender for new aerostat

(2 Apr 2017) Turkey's Undersecretariat for the Defense Industry SSM is about to launch a new tender for a cable-guided aerostat, *C4 Defense* reported. The Turkish Armed Forces shall use the system for reconnaissance, surveillance, targeting, and communication. The tender is for national companies only, as foreign companies "are not allowed to participate", the journal wrote.

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

UAE seems interested in Russian helicopters

(31 Mar 2017) According to Andrei Boginsky, CEO of Russian Helicopters, the UAE is interested in buying Kamov Ka-226 and Ansat light helicopters, *C4Defense* reported. The Emirates' interest needs to be seen in context with earlier reports indicating that Arab investors had taken a 12% stake in Rostec (ADIP News Bulletin no.

3, page 6). According to *Intelligence Online*, Mubadala is one of these investors.

<http://bit.ly/2pr3yjq>; <http://bit.ly/2on6xVK>

White House clears F-16 sale to Bahrain

(30 Mar 2017) According to *Reuters*, the U.S. Congress has been informed by the White House about a proposed sale of 19 new-built F-16 fighter jets for Bahrain. The package is said to include 23 engines and additional equipment and could be worth up to \$3bn.

<http://reut.rs/2nCNoll> ;

<http://usat.ly/2p9TOuk>

Saudi Arabia buys undisclosed military equipment from Australia

(30 Mar 2017) Last year, the Australian Department of Defense seems to have approved four defense export contracts to Saudi Arabia, *Al Defaiya* reported at the end of March 2017 quoting a statement by the Australian DoD. So far, the Australian DoD has not provided further information about the companies involved or the equipment delivered to Saudi Arabia.

<http://bit.ly/2nXI7qh>

Denel could supply missile system to Iran

(24 Mar 2017) Iran could soon receive Denel's Umkhonto mobile surface-to-air missile system that provides all-round defense against different targets, *Defence Blog* reported quoting to a story published by South African news agency *Netwerk24*. According to this report, The UN Security Council will need to decide on a request of South Africa to sell missiles worth R1.5bn to Iran.

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

Military Cooperation and Training

Iraq receives U.S. pilot training

(12 Apr 2017) The State Department has okayed a pilot and maintenance training program for Iraq, the *Defense Security Cooperation Agency* announced. Worth around \$1.06bn, Iraq will re-

ceive training along with logistics support for C-172, C-208, and T-6 aircraft for up to five years. The contract also includes contractor aircraft modification as well as repair and spare parts.

<http://bit.ly/2pa1f17>

Saudi Arabia and Sudan conduct first air exercise

(10 Apr 2017) Saudi Arabia and Sudan conducted the first bilateral air exercise in early April 2017, *Arab News* reported. The 12-day drill ended on 9 April 2017 with a ceremony at Meroe Air Base, 350km north of Khartoum. Sudan sent MiG-29 and Sukhoi jets for the drill, while Saudi Arabia was present with F-15 jets and Eurofighter Typhoons.

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

Eagle Resolve exercise concluded in Kuwait

(9 Apr 2017) Military forces from across the GCC and the U.S. have jointly concluded the military exercise Eagle Resolve on 9 April 2017 in Kuwait, *Al Defaiya* reported. The exercise started on 19 March 2017 and involved more than 3,000 forces training different missions such as air defense, border security, counterterrorism, and consequence management.

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

Qatar launches Citadel 3 exercise

(7 Apr 2017) From 2 to 27 April 2017, Qatar's Armed Forces conducts exercise Citadel 3, *Al Defaiya* reported. According to official information provided by Marine BG Mubarak bin Rashid Al Sulaiti, director of the exercise, Citadel 3 is a "tactical command center exercise" aimed at training leaders on "changing tactics, planning, control, command work, and coordination" among different units participating in the exercise. Two field exercises will take place in the second half of April 2017 involving the air force, infantry units, special forces, military policy, and border guards.

<http://bit.ly/2oH3kSE>

U.S., Iraq, and Kuwait engage in trilateral exercise

(4 Apr 2017) In the first trilateral exercise since 2011, U.S., Iraqi, and Kuwaiti naval forces trained cooperative approaches to defend "the maritime domain in the Northern Arabian Gulf," *Al Defaiya* reported. In total 11 ships participated in the exercise with the USS Mahan, a guided-missile destroyer, "playing an integral part of the exercise by acting as the command and control ship."

<http://bit.ly/2oorJe0>

Cybersecurity and Space

UAE National Space Program launched

(14 Apr 2017) Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan have launched the UAE National Space Program. According to *WAM*, the program will be "executed by young Emirati cadres" and is "part of the UAE's ambitious space program as it aims reaching Mars in 2021 and building first settlement on the Red Planet in 2117."

<http://bit.ly/2prj92O>

Aselsan bags \$125M EW contract

(20 Mar 2017) In a move to further nationalize electronic warfare (EW) capabilities, government-controlled Turkish companies STM and Aselsan have signed a contract to develop and produce EW suites. According to *Defense News*, the contract is worth \$125M, but no further details were given.

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