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# Arab Defense Industry Papers News Bulletin

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## The Big Picture

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### Egypt

*Daily News Egypt, 25 September 2017.* Egyptian President Abdel Fattah **Al-Sisi** has arrived for a two-day visit in **Abu Dhabi** where he was received by Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan. Both sides underlined the strategic importance of the bilateral relationship. The press quoted President Al-Sisi saying that “the security of the Gulf states is an integral part of Egypt’s national security”. Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed, in turn, called Egypt “a cornerstone of security and stability in the Arab world” and confirmed to “stand firmly with Egypt in its war against terrorism”. This was President Al-Sisi’s second visit to the UAE in 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2fOan8V>).

*Associated Press, 12 September 2017.* “Egypt’s defense minister during a visit to South Korea announced that his country has **cut military ties with North Korea**, according to a report by South Korea’s Yonhap news agency. There was no immediate confirmation from the Egyptian government of the agency’s report, but Cairo has come under mounting pressure in recent weeks to sever ties with North Korea as the U.S. seek to curb Pyongyang’s efforts to develop long-range nuclear weapons” (<http://bit.ly/2wg1efG>).

### Israel

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 19 September 2017. On 18 September 2017, the Israel Defense Forces announced that “the **first permanent US military facility** has been established in Israel”. The facility at the Aerial Defense Academy of the Israeli Air Force will provide “a space for the IAF and American task force to improve detection, interception, and deployment in aerial defence” (<http://bit.ly/2hsiOqz>).

### Iran

*Daily Sabah* 23 September 2017. On 23 September 2017, Iranian state television broadcasted the **Khoramshahr ballistic missile launch**. The missile had been on display at a military parade the day before. During the military parade, President Hassan Rohani also said on television that Iran would go ahead and strengthen the country's missile capability and its air, land, and naval forces (<http://bit.ly/2fgogMm>; <http://bit.ly/2wN81gf>).

### Israel

*Defense News*, 8 September 2017. “**We cannot fight Iran alone,**’ Maj. Gen. Yair **Golan**, a **candidate** to become the next **Israel Defense Forces chief of staff**, told a gathering” at the Washington Institute. “They can affect us; we can affect them. It’s all about attrition. But if you want to gain something which is deeper, we cannot do it alone. This is a fact of life. It’s better to admit that” (<http://bit.ly/2xEZuA1>).

### Saudi Arabia

*UK Ministry of Defence*, 19 September 2017. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom have signed a **new military and security cooperation agreement**. The agreement will help “Saudi Arabia better protect her national security, including counter-terrorism, intelligence, training and education, medical services and logistics.” The announcement came only two days after the UK government and Qatar had signed a letter of intent on the Eurofighter Typhoon (<http://bit.ly/2xuu5jq>).

*Arab News*, 8 September 2017. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, and Egypt argued in a joint statement, that the Anti-Terror Quartet “**never considered military escalation against Qatar.**” The statement should be seen in relation to controversial media reports indicating that military options had been considered amid warnings by the U.S. administration (<http://bit.ly/2fGKxn1>; <https://bloom.bg/2ynlRrF>).

### Syria

*Defence Blog*, 14 and 24 September 2017. **Russia** continues to use Syria as a weapon systems **test lab**. On 24 September 2017, Russia sent “pontoon bridges based on KAMAZ-63501 military trucks and PMM-2M self-propelled ferry vehicles to Syria to help the Syrian troops to cross the Euphrates in the Deir ez Zor area.” In mid-September, the Russian Ministry of Defense started deploying four of the latest MiG-29SMT fighter jets

to Syria. These jets are equipped with high precision air-to-air and air-to-surface weapons (<http://bit.ly/2wMBhbL>; <http://bit.ly/2hrLyDj>).

### Turkey

*Al Bawaba*, 28 September 2017. Under a new draft law, Turkey wants to **boost defense spending by \$2.2bn**, Finance Minister Naci Agbai indicated. "It is a priority to increase the deterrent power of the Turkish Armed Forces, to meet the need for modernization urgently and to meet the costs of domestic and foreign security operations," he said. The funds come from tax revenues (<http://bit.ly/2k3SVBI>).

*Defense News*, 25 and 26 September 2017. Nurettin Canikli, Turkey's Defense Minister, has accused the **U.S. and Germany** (see below) of implementing a "**covered arms embargo** on Turkey." It seems that Turkish requests for systems and subsystems needed "in the fight against terror organizations" have not been addressed by Berlin and Washington, DC, *Defense News* quoted a Turkish diplomat. Britain and France could replace German and U.S. defense products, another European industry source said. One day after Canikli's statement, the **U.S. State Department denied** accusations (<http://bit.ly/2xCbqCg>; <http://bit.ly/2xEUU2C>).

*TASS*, 12 September 2017. According to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan Turkey has paid a **deposit** to Moscow for the purchase of the **S-400** missile defense system (<http://tass.com/world/965090>).

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 12 September 2017. "**German defence exports** to Turkey were already **frozen** before Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said during a panel discussion, organised by the financial daily *Handelsblatt*, they were on hold on 11 September. A German defence industry source told *Jane's* at DSEI on 12 September that companies already knew before the minister's statement that any requests for government export approval to Turkey will be rejected. The only exceptions are for exports based on government approval or for vehicles rather than weapons, Gabriel reportedly added" (<http://bit.ly/2wR3RnF>).

## Defense Industry

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### Egypt

*ArabFinance*, 9 September 2017. Despite the primarily commercial nature of the decision, it is worth noting that Chinese company FAW in cooperation with Egypt Geyushi Motors will build a **new truck factory** in the 10th of Ramadan City, Egypt's Trade and Industry Minister Tarq Qabil said. No further details were given (<http://bit.ly/2xmabb3>).

### Israel

*Defence Blog*, 22 September 2017. Israeli company Meteor Aerospace has presented the **RAMBOW** armed unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) at this

year's AUS&R Unmanned Systems Air Show. The UGV is powered by an electric drive system and can carry up to 700kg (<http://bit.ly/2jVBqn7>).

*Defence Blog*, 18 September 2017. Israel Shipyards has launched a new **OPV for the Navy of Cyprus**. The OPV, which was ordered in December 2015, shall be delivered by the end of this year (<http://bit.ly/2yAiDkx>).

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 5 September 2017. Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) is said towards additional alliances in **India** that complement existing partnerships with companies like Wipro, Kalyani Group, Dynamatic Technologies, and Taneja Aerospace (<http://bit.ly/2wRGfPr>).

### Iran

*Fars News Agency (FNA)*, 1 and 5 September 2017. According to General Yousef Qorbani, Iranian Army Airborne Commander, the Army Airborne unit is cooperating with local research centers to develop **night vision systems and long-range missile systems**, Iran's FNA reported on 5 September 2017. Earlier, FNA quoted BG Farzad Exmayeeli, Commander of the Khatam ol-Anbia Air Defense Base saying that the country had been working on **three new defense systems**: Sama, a dual-use system for defense and meteorological tasks; Samet 1, an electronic system to trace air, ground, and sea-based targets; Sami'e, to track and trace targets in mid-altitude (<http://bit.ly/2y3LjvP>; <http://bit.ly/2yogdEO>).

### Morocco

*Arabian Aerospace*, 8 September 2017. Thales creates a global center of expertise specializing in **metal additive manufacturing (3D printing)** in the Micparc zone in Casablanca. The center is said to support Morocco's ambition in strengthening the local aerospace sector (<http://bit.ly/2xqfuUj>).

### Saudi Arabia

*Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Washington, DC*, 4 September 2017. Upon touring the site of Lockheed Martin's Missiles and Fire Control (MFC) site in Grand Prairie, Texas, Prince Kahlid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the U.S., underlined MFC's key role in establishing a "localized defense industry within the Kingdom (...). His visit provided a key opportunity to reaffirm **Lockheed Martin's strategic partnership with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** as well as our commitment to Vision 2030," Rick Edwards, Executive VP of MFC said (<http://bit.ly/2y41m6u>).

### Turkey

*Quwa*, 27 September 2017. According to Temel Kotil, General Manager of Turkish Aerospace Industries, the company has **started working on different new aviation programs**: "1) a heavyweight variant of the T129 ATAK with a maximum take-off weight (MTOW) of eight tons; (2) HürJet advanced jet trainer; (3) 10-ton utility helicopter; and a (4) lightweight geo-

synchronous equatorial orbit (GEO) communication satellite (SATCOM)" (<http://bit.ly/2xIIIRnz>).

### United Arab Emirates

*Arabian Aerospace*, 28 September 2017. **Tony Douglas**, until recently CEO of the Defense Equipment and Support business of the UK Ministry of Defense will start as the new Group CEO of **Etihad** in January 2018. He has already worked in Abu Dhabi as the CEO of Abu Dhabi Airports Company and CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports Company (<http://bit.ly/2yvmeiY>).

## Defense Exports

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### Israel

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 31 August 2017. An undisclosed country in the **Asia-Pacific** region has contracted Elbit System to **upgrade** its **F-5 light fighter jet** fleet. The contract worth \$93M includes "modernized cockpit, radars, weapon delivery, and navigation systems" (<http://bit.ly/2frzIZh>).

### Turkey

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 12 September 2017. Roketsan is eyeing defense export opportunities in **Eastern Europe**. The company wants to leverage its role as key supplier to Patriot ground-based air defense (GBAD) systems. Poland is a market much sought after by Roketsan (<http://bit.ly/2y3wKSD>).

### United Arab Emirates

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 14 September 2017. In addition to targeting Central European defense markets, UAE-based **NIMR Automotive** also seems to have set sail for the **Baltic states**. At the 2017 DSEI defense exhibition in London the company announced to conduct live-fire demonstrations with the Ajban 440A 4x4 vehicle for military officials of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in Lithuania in April 2018 (<http://bit.ly/2hsk7FZ>).

## Defense Modernization and Support

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### Egypt

*Defence Blog*, 12 September 2017. The **President-S self-defense system** seems to have been integrated on Mi-17V-5 medium transport helicopters of the Egyptian Air Force, *Defence Blog* reported with reference to helicopters spotted during the Bright Start 2017 military exercise. The President-S system "automatically identifies missile launches aimed at the helicopter, jams missile heads, and creates false heat targets" (<http://bit.ly/2htjR9F>).

### Saudi Arabia

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 7 September 2017. "**Lockheed Martin** will be awarded a contract to help the Royal Saudi Air Defence Forces (RSADF) **develop** their Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (**THAAD**) **requirement**, it was announced on 5 September." Services are to include "technical assistance to support requirement definition pertaining to the facilities design, system test, material fielding, training, system operations, maintenance, and sustainment concepts for RSADF THAAD" (<http://bit.ly/2wfUiiF>).

## Defense Procurement

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### Bahrain

*Defense Security Cooperation Agency*, 8 September 2017. Bahrain is to receive major new military equipment and equipment upgrades from the U.S. The recent order includes **upgrades of 20 F-16 Block 40** aircraft with equipment worth \$1.082bn, **19 new F-16V aircraft** with equipment worth \$2.785bn, TOW missiles, equipment and support worth \$27M, and two 35 Meter Fast Patrol Boats worth \$60.25M (<http://bit.ly/1gB0cMk>).

### Egypt

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 22 September 2017. Egypt has received the first of four **Gowind 2500 Corvettes** that was delivered 36 months after the order had been placed (<http://bit.ly/2xvqGiv>).

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 19 September 2017. "Egypt will receive **at least one South Korean naval vessel**, the Egyptian Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced on 15 September. (...) The MoD did not identify the vessel, but released a photograph showing Sobhi on a Po Hang-class corvette docked at Jinhae Naval Base" (<http://bit.ly/2wRtcxx>)

*Arabian Aerospace*, 29 August 2017. Egypt will receive **15** of a total of 46 **KA-52 helicopters this year**, Andrea Bognisky, head of Russian Helicopters Holding, told *Russia 24*. According to him, 30 pilots and 70 technicians of the Egyptian Air Force have started training programs in August 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2fHAKH4>).

### Qatar

*Financial Times*, 17 September 2017. The governments of Qatar and the United Kingdom signed a letter of intent to purchase **24 Eurofighter Typhoon** from BAE Systems. The announcement came as a surprise to most observers and has been interpreted as a clear statement vis-à-vis Saudi Arabia (<http://on.ft.com/2wbYFev>).

### Syria

*Sputnik*, 19 September 2017. According to Alexander Shevchenko, Chief of the Main Automotive-Armored Tank Directorate in the Russian Ministry of Defense, **Israel and Syria** are among the countries that have shown interest

in Uralvagonzavod's new **tank support combat vehicle**, called "Terminator". The new vehicle is based on the T-72 battle tank chassis and comes with different configurations (<http://bit.ly/2wNsDKh>).

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## **Military Cooperation and Training**

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### **Bahrain**

*BNA, 22 September 2017.* Field Marshal Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander in Chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, received **General Joseph Votel**, Commander of the U.S. Central Command, to discuss bilateral issues (<http://bit.ly/2yok1WL>).

*BNA, 21. September 2017.* LTG Sheikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, Bahrain's National Guard Commander, met with LTG Naveed Mukhtar, Director General of the **Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence agency** (ISI) to discuss areas of joint cooperation and the exchange of intelligence information (<http://bit.ly/2jV1O0k>).

### **Iraq**

*Stratfor, 25 September 2017.* **Iraqi and Turkish forces** have launched a large-scale military exercise on the shared borders, the Ministry of Defense in Baghdad announced on 25 September 2017 "after voting ended for the Kurdish independence referendum" (<http://bit.ly/2wQRFYP>).

### **Lebanon**

*Al Defaiya, 27 September 2017.* French President Emmanuel Macron has re-confirmed France's defense support for Lebanon. After a meeting with Lebanese President Michel Aoun, Macron said: "France's goal is to confront the dangers that undermine peace in Lebanon by **strengthening the capabilities** of the army so the Lebanese government can take control of the entire territory." Among other things, Macron also promised to organize a **conference to aid the Lebanese Army** in coordination with Italy and the United Nations (<http://bit.ly/2xDzanV>).

### **Oman**

*Arabian Aerospace, 25 September 2017.* **India** and Oman have completed "Easter Bridge," a reciprocal series of joint **Air Force** exercises. For Eastern Bridge IV the contingent of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) arrived on 14 January 2017 in India, the first time that RAFO F-16 fighter jets participated in a military exercise outside the GCC. The Eastern Bridge series was kicked-off in October 2009 (<http://bit.ly/2wQU1lw>).

*DefPost, 19 September 2017.* "Indian Navy's diesel-electric **attack submarine** INS Shishumar (S44) has entered the Port of **Duqm** in Oman for an Operational Turn Around, the service announced on Twitter. The submarine was escorted by Navy's guided-missile destroyer, INS Mumbai which

is also on operational deployment in the northern Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden” (<http://bit.ly/2ftFdXo>).

### Qatar

*Al Defaiya*, 18. September 2017. “A **French frigate** has arrived at Hamad Port to participate in a number of **maritime exercises** with the Qatari navy.” According to the Directorate of Military Training of the Qatari Armed Forces the exercises “come within the framework of the joint military cooperation between Qatar and France to combat terrorism and extremism” (<http://bit.ly/2wNB4Fj>).

### Saudi Arabia

*Arab News*, 21 September 2017. “**Gulf of Peace**”, a joint Gulf sea exercise involving the Saudi Border Guards and the Coast Guard of Bahrain and Kuwait, was concluded on 21 September 2017. The exercise focused on “search and rescue operations, weapons and human trafficking, armed robbery, sea security, fighting terrorism, piracy and organized crimes on the high seas” (<http://bit.ly/2xuSqp6>).

### Turkey

*Reuters*, 20 September 2017. Turkey conducted a military exercise near the Habur border gate to **Iraq** on 20-29 September 2017. The exercise involved around 100 military vehicles, mostly tanks (<http://bit.ly/2fsP2ET>).

*Defence Blog*, 18 September 2017. **Azerbaijan** and Turkey conducted the “TurAz Qartali – 2017” exercise from 18 to 30 September 2017, which involved up to 30 aircraft (<http://bit.ly/2wfmYDs>).

### United Arab Emirates

*Asharq Al-Awsat*, 25 September 2017. U.S. and UAE **ground forces** have kicked off exercise “Iron Union 5” on 16 September 2017. The exercise serves to “train, plan, execute, and manage joint operations between different units of land forces” “Iron Union 5” is an extension of the “Iran Claw” exercise series (<http://bit.ly/2yBrBya>).

*WAM*, 19 September 2017. “Pilot Staff-Major General Sheikh Ahmed bin Tahnoun bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the National and Reserve Service Authority, led a delegation from the UAE Armed Forces on a visit to the **Singapore Ministry of Defense** to learn about the country’s National Service” (<http://bit.ly/2xAA8CX>).

*WAM*, 14 September 2017. “The President of the Federal Republic of **Somalia**, Mohamed Abdullahi “Farmajo”, visited the UAE Military Training Center in Mogadishu, where he was received by Mohammed Ahmed Al Othman, the UAE Ambassador to Somalia (...). The Somali President toured the center and viewed its facilities, which were built and supported by the UAE to train the Somali National Armed Forces. He also met with

the Emirati team and the military personnel responsible for the training of soldiers” (<http://bit.ly/2xFfJ03>).

WAM, 13 September 2017. UAE’s Minister of State for Defense Affairs, Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi, received General Rajendra Chhetri, Chief of the **Nepalese Army Staff**, in Abu Dhabi. They discussed bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues (<http://bit.ly/2wfdQbu>).

WAM, 1 September 2017. “Serbian Minister of Defense Aleksandar Vulin has received Juma Rashid Saif Al Dhaheri, UAE Ambassador to the **Republic of Serbia**, to discuss military cooperation and issues of common concern” (<http://bit.ly/2ftfj5Y>).

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## Cybersecurity and Space

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### Israel

*Jane’s Defence Weekly*, 19 September 2017. “Elbit Systems is turning its cyber security subsidiary, Cyberbit, into a pure-play commercial company, Elbit announced on 19 September. **Cyberbit’s existing defence work will be moved into Elbit’s C4I unit**, with Cyberbit continuing to offer cyber security primarily for the financial sector and critical infrastructure” (<http://bit.ly/2y3eJUI>).

### Iran

*Spacewatch Middle East*, 20 September 2017. Faholla Ommi, head of the Astronautics Research Institute in Iran, said the country was “conducting research to **send a man to space**.” After a pause, Iran wants to be “able to act on this research within **eight years**” (<http://bit.ly/2wlf8LG>).

### Morocco

*Spacewatch Middle East*, 4 September 2017. Morocco’s **first high-resolution Earth observation satellite** is ready for launch on an Arianespace Vega space launch vehicle in early November 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2wcvMii>).

### Saudi Arabia

*Al Bawaba*, 17 September 2017. With **Mishaal Shemimry the first Saudi woman is joining NASA**. Before joining NASA, she has been CEO of MISHAAL Aerospace, a company working on small satellites. Prior to this she worked at the Aerodynamics Department of Raytheon Missile Systems (<http://bit.ly/2jTNZiL>).

### Tunisia

*Spacewatch Middle East*, 7 September 2017. Sfax Technopole, Tunisia, Telnet-INC and Airbus Safran Launchers have signed a partnership agreement to construct a **microsatellite integration, assembly and testing center** in Tu-

nia. The agreement had already been signed in mid-August 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2fGWedB>).

### United Arab Emirates

*TASS, 25 September 2017.* The UAE and **Roscosmos** have signed an agreement on space cooperation. According to Sergey Krikalev, Executive Director for Manned Space Flight Programs at Roscosmos, the “partnership **may involve manned programs** (as the) Arab side is interested in creating its own cosmonaut team” (<http://tass.com/science/967366>).

*Spacewatch Middle East, 22 September 2017.* “The Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), the entity in charge of designing, implementing and supervising all the phases of the Emirates Mars Mission-Hope mission under the supervision of the UAE Space Agency, has announced the launch of the second edition of its **Explore Mars Competition**. (...) the students will need to propose an innovative mission design to Mars and highlight a novel approach in either engineering design or in the science mission” (<http://bit.ly/2xvw8U2>)

*Arabian Aerospace, 6 September 2017.* “A UAE Space Agency delegation, led by chairman Dr. Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, met with the President of the **International Astronautical Federation**, Dr. Jean-Yves Le Gall, to discuss a range of opportunities for collaboration in space science, research and education” (<http://bit.ly/2xYR8UT>)

#### 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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