

## Armed drones on the European media

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# DRONES AND THE NEW COLD WAR

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## **Moscow accuses the US of attacking its base in Syria with drones**

25 Oct 2018

**Xavier Colás, El Mundo, Spain**

According to the Russian defense ministry, thirteen US armed drones attacked the Russian base of Jmeimim in Syria in January. According to Dimitri Peskov, Vladimir Putin's spokesman, the circumstances of the attack will be discussed in the meeting between Putin and US President Donald Trump, scheduled for 11 November.

► <https://www.elmundo.es/internacional/2018/10/25/5bd1b62cca4741f94d8b46b7.html>

## **Sino-Pakistani drones against Russian-Indian S400**

12 Oct 2018

**Luigi Medici, Agc communication, Italy**

Pakistan will buy a batch of military drones from China. The two countries will produce together 48 Wing Loong 2 UcaV, the drones made by Chengdu Aircraft Industry Group. According to the Global Times, for China it is the largest arms deal of this kind. Meanwhile, India announced the purchase of five S-400 air defense systems from Russia, despite warnings from the US not to buy Russian military equipment.

► <https://www.agcnews.eu/pakistan-droni-sino-pakistani-contro-s400-russo-indiani/>

## **U.S. attacked Russia's Syria base with drones, Defense Ministry claims**

25 Oct 2018

**RT France, France**

Russia's deputy defense minister on Thursday accused the U.S. of coordinating a drone attack on Russia's Khmeimim Airbase in Syria in January 2018. "Thirteen drones moved according to common combat battle deployment, operated by a single crew. During all this time the American Poseidon-8 reconnaissance plane patrolled the Mediterranean Sea area for eight hours," Alexander Fomin told the Beijing Xiangshan Forum on security, according to the Russian state-run TASS news agency.

► <https://francais.rt.com/international/54894-syrie-avion-surveillance-americain-controlait-drones-attaque-hmeimim-moscou>

## **Drone attacks on Russian base in Syria were controlled by the United States**

25 Oct 2018

**Steven Derix, Nrc, The Netherlands**

The drones which attacked the Russian airbase Khmeimim in Syria, were sent by the United States. That claim was made by the Russian Ministry of Defence last Thursday on a Defense forum in Beijing. Syrian fighters have often tried to use drones to bomb the base. On the 6th of January however, 13 drones were used for the first time to simultaneously carry out one attack. Control of the drones was carried through satellite communication,

according to Russia. This is not technology which ISIS fighters have access to.

- ▶ <https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2018/10/25/drone-aanvallen-op-russische-basis-in-syrie-werden-aangestuurd-door-de-vs-a2752740>

## **Putin is worried. Russian bases in Syria allegedly under US drone attack**

25 Oct 2018

### **Lidové noviny, Czech Republic**

Kremlin accused United States of a massive drone attack on its military bases in Syrian Hmeimim and Tartus in early January. A total of 13 attacking drones were allegedly controlled from American spy plane. This incident might be discussed on a top level during the Trump-Putin meeting in Paris on November 11.

- ▶ [https://www.lidovky.cz/svet/kreml-obvinil-letoun-usa-z-podilu-na-utoku-proti-ruskym-zakladnam.A181025\\_121033\\_ln\\_zahranici\\_mha](https://www.lidovky.cz/svet/kreml-obvinil-letoun-usa-z-podilu-na-utoku-proti-ruskym-zakladnam.A181025_121033_ln_zahranici_mha)

## **Flir launches new system for surveillance drones**

8 Oct 2018

### **Reuters, United Kingdom**

Flir Systems Inc launched a vehicle-mounted case, that holds several tiny surveillance drones to help soldiers and first responders to gauge their surroundings without exiting vehicles. The Black Hornet Vehicle Reconnaissance System is designed for military and government agencies. Flir this year already launched the nano Black Hornet 3 drone.

- ▶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-flir-systems-drones/flir-launches-new-system-for-surveillance-drones-idUSKCN1MI18Y>

## **Spain and eleven other Nato countries agree to develop maritime drones**

3 Oct 2018

### **La Vanguardia, Spain**

Twelve member countries of NATO, including Spain, signed an agreement to develop drones with submarine safety applications and improve these unmanned maritime systems. Sources from the Spanish ministry of defense informed that this is a first step for collaboration between allied countries, with the aim of developing these systems “just as it has been done with aerial drones”.

- ▶ <https://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20181003/452160520809/espana-y-otros-once-paises-de-la-otan-acuerdan-desarrollar-drones-maritimos.html>

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## Water drones to spot submarines in Nato project with Danish support

3 Oct 2018

### Ritzau, Politiken, Denmark

Denmark is cooperating with 11 other NATO states on a project to develop unmanned underwater drones to undertake marine surveillance and defence. To date, the Danish military does not have underwater drones, and it is not yet decided whether this is something to acquire. The US has experience with underwater drones, and experiences with air drones will also be useful for drones in water. As all NATO members are stretched on funding and equipment, focusing on military drones makes sense.

- ▶ <https://politiken.dk/indland/politik/art6743736/Vanddroner-skal-spotte-ub%C3%A5de-i-Nato-projekt-med-dansk-st%C3%B8tte>

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# DRONE GAMES IN EUROPE

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## Belgrade buys Chinese armed drones

14 Oct 2018

**Analisi Difesa, Italy**

Serbia and China agreed on a 3 billion dollars military purchase. Among other things, Belgrade will acquire six military drones from the Chengdu Aircraft Industry Group, two of which will be armed and probably assembled in Serbia. These are the first remote controlled aircraft of the Male category (medium altitude long autonomy) to enter service in Serbia.

► <https://www.analisdifesa.it/2018/10/belgrado-acquista-droni-armati-wing-loong-2-cinesi/>

## Airbus tests the air combat system of the future

3 Oct 2018

**Bruno Trevidic, Les Echos, France**

For the first time, under a Franco-German project, Airbus co-piloted five Do-DT25 drones and a military device. This experimentation of a Mut (manned-unmanned teaming) flight is an anticipation of the future of air combat: in which an aircraft will be joined by drones with the aim of increasing the ability to attack the enemy's defenses, reducing the exposure of pilots.

► <https://www.lesechos.fr/industrie-services/air-defense/0302346339244-airbus-teste-deja-des-briques-du-futur-systeme-de-combat-aerien-2210538.php>

## Formation flight over the Baltic Sea

4 Oct 2018

**Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany**

Airbus tested a drone escort system over the Baltic Sea. Drones will support the aircraft by enlightening, disturbing enemy radar and communication. They can also fight targets if armed, but it is controversial. "This was the first real test and it was a success," said the project leader Thomas Gottmann. In June the Luftwaffe has its first unmanned aircraft, which can also carry weapons.

► <http://www.faz.net/aktuell/wirtschaft/unternehmen/airbus-testet-drohnenschwarm-im-formationflug-ueber-die-ostsee-15821632.html>

## Atonov's combat drone's first flight

11 Oct 2018

**Juliusz Sabak, Defence24, Poland**

The Antonov aircraft and manufacturing company from Ukraine presented the design of the An-188 UAV during the Arms and Security 2018 exposition in Kiev. The vehicle is capable of staying airborne for 24 hours while carrying 1000 kg of munition and observation and reconnaissance systems (another 400 kg). This type of machines is being developed for data collection, reconnaissance missions and electronic combats.

► <https://www.defence24.pl/as-2018-pierwszy-dron-bojowy-antonowa-analiza>

## **Drones in a battle formation: Airbus tested the squadron of the future**

9 Oct 2018

**František Novák, Euro, Czech Republic**

Airbus tested drone warplanes flying in a squadron formation. For the first time in Europe, the company tested a use of combat drones assisting fighter aircraft in a combat situation. Drones can be used to detect land targets, confuse enemy radars and even attack targets. By 2025 the accompanying drones should be ready to be integrated into European air forces.

- ▶ <https://www.euro.cz/byznys/airbus-otestoval-prvne-v-evrope-letku-dronu-ktera-chrani-bojove-piloty-1423996>

## **Kick-off to the future French aircraft carrier**

24 Oct 2018

**Anne Bauer, Les Echos, France**

On 23 October 2018, the Minister for the Armed Forces, Florence Parly, officially launched the aircraft-carrier renewal programme. After refurbishment, France's only aircraft carrier, the "Charles de Gaulle", will be ready to go back into operational action in the first quarter of 2019. By 2013, the aircraft carrier should be ready to accommodate armed drones.

- ▶ <https://www.lesechos.fr/industrie-services/air-defense/0600022314854-coup-denvoi-au-futur-porte-avions-francais-2216246.php>

## **Belgium will not be part of new European defense**

29 Oct 2018

**Jean Quatremer, Libération, France**

On October 25th, the Belgian government officially announced that it had selected the US F-35 fighters to replace its ageing fleet of F-16. This decision has important strategic implications for the future of the European continent. Belgium's decision to side with the US comes at a time when the European Union is starting to realise that its salvation depends on greater autonomy from an increasingly unreliable American ally.

- ▶ [https://www.liberation.fr/planete/2018/10/29/defense-la-belgique-ne-volera-pas-europeen\\_1688325](https://www.liberation.fr/planete/2018/10/29/defense-la-belgique-ne-volera-pas-europeen_1688325)

## **Belgium to invest 369 million in European defense project**

25 Oct 2018

**Frédéric Delepierre, Le Soir, Belgium**

Belgium renews its defense with the American F-35 and two Reaper drone systems and with a partnership for the purchase of French 442 armored land vehicles. According to Belgian prime minister Charles Michel, this allows a saving of 647 million of euros. A part of this amount will be invested in a European defense project.

- ▶ <https://www.lesoir.be/186531/article/2018-10-25/la-belgique-investira-369-millions-dans-le-projet-de-defense-europeenne>

## Polish drones to promote the industry in Israel

11 Oct 2018

### **TVP Info, Poland**

The Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH) will open a stand during AUS&R conference to promote Polish drones abroad. Entrepreneurs will have an opportunity to explore new solutions and expand their businesses. The PAIH expert Dariusz Werschner claims that Polish UAV systems are developing and its value keeps going up. According to him, Poland has one of the most modern regulations concerning drones, and nearly 100,000 devices are operated.

▶ <https://www.tvp.info/39415822/polskie-drony-poleca-do-izraela-promowac-branze>

## Deadly Reaper drones and Fokker

31 Oct 2018

### **Martin Broek, Ravage webzine, The Netherlands**

The Dutch producer of aircraftparts, Fokker, participates in installing parts of armed drones for the US government. Why does the Dutch government agree with this? The Dutch airforce is purchasing four General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper drones, including ground stations to control them. Fokker is awarded for this purchase by getting its share in the production process of the Reapers.

▶ <https://www.ravage-webzine.nl/2018/10/31/dodelijke-reaper-drones-en-fokker/>

## Army to buy combat drones

11 Oct 2018

### **E15, Czech Republic**

On a gathering with potential suppliers, the Czech military command has reiterated its plans to acquire combat drones in near future. By 2025, the Army should buy a multipurpose unmanned instrument weighting up to 600 kilograms with the ability to use sophisticated reconnaissance optoelectronic and radar sensors, electronic combat system, interconnection systems including the possibility of installing weapon systems.

▶ <https://www.e15.cz/domaci/armada-poridi-bojove-drony-ma-pripravenou-miliardu-1352257>

# NO MORE GOOGLE DRONES

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## Google drops out of bidding for \$10 billion Pentagon data deal

9 Oct 2018

**Paresh Dave, Reuters, United Kingdom**

Alphabet Inc's Google said it was no longer vying for a \$10 billion cloud computing contract with the U.S. Defense Department, in part due to the company's new ethical guidelines. This year thousands of Google employees protested use of company's technology in warfare or in ways that could lead to human rights violations, so released principles for use of its AI tools.

▶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-alphabet-google-pentagon/google-drops-out-of-bidding-for-10-billion-pentagon-data-deal-idUSKCN1MI2BZ>

## Google withdraws from \$10bn Pentagon JEDI contract contest

9 Oct 2018

**Richard Waters, Financial Times, United Kingdom**

Google waives the contract that could be worth 10 billion dollars offered by the US Department of Defense for the cloud sharing of military data. After its employees protests, Google do not expressly rule out working with the military but does not support "weapons or other technologies whose main purpose or implementation is to directly cause or facilitate injuries to people". The Jedi contract can be won by a single bidder. However, Google supports the idea of sharing work on it and it would submit bids on those terms.

▶ <https://www.ft.com/content/5d680566-cb46-11e8-b276-b9069bde0956>

## DANGEROUS FUTURE

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### **Unmanned: a video game about the unseen horror of drone warfare**

9 Oct 2018

**Sara Elsam, The Guardian, United Kingdom**

The drone pilot protagonist of 2012's free indie game Unmanned is a more accurate representation of a modern soldier: a man who plays video games with his son and who has also killed countless foreigners from a grey-walled cubicle in Nevada. Unmanned explores the tedium of war, where triumphant bloodshed is replaced with long periods of waiting and dumb errors.

▶ <https://www.theguardian.com/games/2018/oct/09/unmanned-video-game-drone-warfare>

### **Artificial intelligence: when humans coexist with robots**

9 Oct 2018

**Richard Waters, Financial Times, United Kingdom**

Military drones show how AI can make humans more effective without robbing them of control. But there are no technical barriers to turning them into fully autonomous systems. US prepare an unmanned plane against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and according to Stuart Russell, professor at University of California, it would be a short and easy step in a national emergency to remove the human drone operator from the loop.

▶ <https://www.ft.com/content/bcd81a88-cadb-11e8-b276-b9069bde0956>

### **Will killer robots be banned soon?**

10 Oct 2018

**Vincent Bürgy, Le Courrier, Switzerland**

Bonnie Docherty, senior research fellow of Humans right watch, is interviewed on fully autonomous letal armed systems. Next step toward armed drones, these weapons could appear in few years and raise problems on international security, contravening military and humanitarian laws. Some experts ask for an immediate interdiction agreement but until now Austria was the only country that took this stance.

▶ <https://lecourrier.ch/2018/10/10/les-robots-tueurs-bientot-interdits/>

### **New ways of committing terror are made possible when anyone can buy and fly a drone**

1 Oct 2018

**Ulrik Dahlin, Information, Denmark**

[subscription only article, can't read full] While the danish intelligence agency investigates a network within Denmark, which has supplied Islamic State with advanced drone technology, concerns rise over the consequences, if those drones are used against Europe.

▶ <https://www.information.dk/indland/2018/09/aabner-nye-muligheder-begaa-terror-naar-enhver-kan-koebe-styre-drone>

## **Virgin atlantic calls for tougher drone regulations after terrifying near miss**

23 Oct 2018

**Helen Coffey, The Independent, United Kingdom**

Virgin Atlantic calls for tougher drone regulations around airports after one of its aircraft on 25 June was involved in one of the closest ever near-misses to happen in the UK. The drone's pilot broke the law introduced in July 2018 that restricts all drones from flying above 400ft or within one kilometre of airport boundaries. The legislation followed an increase in the drone incidents with aircraft, with 93 reported in 2017.

▶ <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/virgin-atlantic-drone-near-miss-tougher-regulations-flights-airports-a8597181.html>

## **FBI chief says threats from drones to U.S. are 'steadily escalating'**

10 Oct 2018

**David Shepardson, Reuters, United Kingdom**

FBI director Christopher Wray said the threat from drones "is steadily escalating" and they "will be used to facilitate an attack in the United States against a vulnerable target, such as a mass gathering". His comments are made after Trump signed into law legislation that gives the Department of homeland security and the FBI new powers to disable or destroy drones believed dangerous. The American Civil Liberties Union criticized intensely the drone provision.

▶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-drones-security/fbi-chief-says-threats-from-drones-to-u-s-steadily-escalating-idUSKCN1MK22J>

## **U.S. Senate approves legislation to oversee U.S. air traffic, drones**

4 Oct 2018

**David Shepardson, Reuters, United Kingdom**

The new US air traffic legislation gives the Department of justice and homeland security new authority to disable or destroy drones if they pose a threat to government facilities. In May Departments secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said that "Isis has used armed drones to strike targets in Syria, and we are increasingly concerned that they will try the same tactic on our soil".

▶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-aviation-congress/u-s-senate-approves-legislation-to-oversee-u-s-air-traffic-drones-idUSKCN1MD29Z>

## Counter terrorism: a new breed of warriors

2 Oct 2018

**Alfred de Montesquiou, Paris Match, France**

Little armed drones can be lethal in a few moments. Against them “golden eagles are the only effective means”, said the French colonel Cédric Gaudillière. The animal greatest strength is his vision: it can detect a moving UAV at about 5 kilometers and it spots it within 2 kilometers. The military could use the animals during major events.

► <https://www.parismatch.com/Actu/Societe/Contre-terrorisme-une-nouvelle-race-de-guerriers-1577779>

# EUROPEAN DRONES IN THE WORLD

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## French army carries out air strikes in Burkina after Islamist attack

4 Oct 2018

### Le Monde, France

France carried out air strikes in northern Burkina Faso after Islamist militants attacked a police unit at a local gold mine, the latest incident to underscore rising insurgency in the West African region. The Burkinabe Ministry of Security said one gendarme was killed and another wounded in an attack on police on Wednesday at the Inata gold mine in the northern Soum region carried out by a large group of heavily armed terrorists.

- ▶ [https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2018/10/04/raid-aerien-de-l-armee-francaise-contre-des-djihadistes-au-burkina-faso\\_5364816\\_3210.html?](https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2018/10/04/raid-aerien-de-l-armee-francaise-contre-des-djihadistes-au-burkina-faso_5364816_3210.html?)

## WB Electronic Group conquers the world

24 Oct 2018

### Zbigniew Lentowicz, Rzeczpospolita, Poland

WB Electronics, the manufacturer of battlefield management systems and UAVs, conquers the world. Recently, the company has conducted a €23.1 million worth contract with a North African country. WB has also sold their Fly Eye UAVs to Malaysia for a total of €30 million. Their products are exported to 15 countries around the world. Adam Bartosiewicz, one of the co-founders, attributes this success to their own technological solutions.

- ▶ [https://serwisy.gremimedia.pl/rzeczpospolita/app/1etap/PPlus/day?utm\\_source=www&utm\\_medium=pasek\\_push&utm\\_campaign=20181022\\_niezalogowany](https://serwisy.gremimedia.pl/rzeczpospolita/app/1etap/PPlus/day?utm_source=www&utm_medium=pasek_push&utm_campaign=20181022_niezalogowany)

## Drones to speed up mine clearance operations in Chad, a Belgian project

26 Oct 2018

### Rtbf, Belgium

The humanitarian organization Handicap International Belgium obtained a budget of about 1.5 million euros to test the use of drones to facilitate and speed up demining activities in Chad. A team will be sent on 2019, while research continues in Brussels to try to combine the drones with a technique of ground penetrating radar, to locate mines and explosive remnants.

- ▶ [https://www.rtbf.be/info/societe/detail\\_des-drones-pour-accelerer-les-operations-de-deminage-au-tchad-un-projet-belge?id=10057343](https://www.rtbf.be/info/societe/detail_des-drones-pour-accelerer-les-operations-de-deminage-au-tchad-un-projet-belge?id=10057343)

## **French army carries out air strikes in Burkina after Islamist attack**

4 Oct 2018

**Sophie Louet, Reuters, United Kingdom**

France carried out air strikes in northern Burkina Faso after Islamist militants attacked a police unit at a local gold mine. France's army said in statement that at the request of the local authorities its forces intervened to hunt down the attackers. It dispatched a Reaper drone and two Mirage fighter jets from a base in neighboring Niger.

► <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-burkina-security-france/french-army-carries-out-air-strikes-in-burkina-after-islamist-attack-idUSKCN1ME27P>

## IRAN DRONES

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### **Iran fires missiles at militants in Syria over parade attack**

1 Oct 2018

**Reuters, United Kingdom**

Iran said it fired missiles at Islamic State militants in Syria it blames for an attack on its soil on 22 September 22. Seven drones were also used to bomb militant targets during the attack. Tehran has accused U.S.-backed Gulf Arab states of attacking a military parade in southwestern Iran and killing 25 people, nearly half of them members of the elite Revolutionary Guards.

- ▶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-syria-missile-attack/iran-fires-missiles-at-militants-in-syria-over-parade-attack-idUSKCN1MB1ET>

### **Iran says its land-to-sea missiles can now travel 700 km**

16 Oct 2018

**Reuters, United Kingdom**

On the occasion of the extension of the range of the Iranian missiles to 700 km, the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' air space division Amirali Hajizadeh said that short-range missiles were used over the past two years in the Syrian civil war and more than 700 drone attacks were conducted against the bases of the militants of the Islamic state.

- ▶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-military-missiles/iran-says-its-land-to-sea-missiles-can-now-travel-700-km-idUSKCN1MQ102>