

Armed drones on the European media

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EUROPE AND DRONES: A LOVE STORY

Annual Nato military exercise take place in Portugal

26 Nov 2019

Público, Portugal

More than 1.300 troops and 180 military vehicles from five Nato countries took part to Orion 19, a major military exercise organized by Portugal. In this occasion the Portuguese military presented his new fleet of drones that will be used for both national and international operations.

- ▶ <https://www.publico.pt/2019/11/26/politica/noticia/exercicio-orion-1300-militares-180-viaturas-portugal-1895106>

First NATO AGS dronjes lands at Sigonella Base in Italy

26 Nov 2019

Manlio Dinucci, Il Manifesto, Italy

The first of five NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) aircraft landed in Sigonella, on November 21. The first AGS ferry flight from the United States to Italy marks the implementation of a multinational project regarding this technology. AGS is being developed with contributions from 15 Allies - Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the United States.

- ▶ <https://ilmanifesto.it/italia-in-prima-linea-atterra-a-sigonella-il-primo-drone-nato/>

NATO superdrone services. The eyes and ears of the Allies are also paid by the Czechs

26 Nov 2019

Lubomír Světnička, iDnes, Czech Republic

The Allies have received the first of five large reconnaissance RQ-4D Global Hawk drones that shall start next year their first missions and serve as NATO's eyes and ears. Sophisticated interconnection of ground-based sensors, radars, satellites, AWACS early warning planes and the world's most powerful Globak Hawk unmanned drones, shall collect pieces of intelligence, reconnaissance and intelligence information to compose a mosaic of digital battlefield in a real time.

- ▶ https://www.idnes.cz/zpravy/nato/dron-global-hawk-nato-sigonella-ags-aliance-bezpilotni-awacs.A191126_160453_zpr_nato_inc

How UK technology fuelled Turkey's rise to global drone power

27 Nov 2019

Dan Sabbagh and Bethan McKernan, The Guardian, Uk

Turkey was able to circumvent a US export ban on killer drones with the help of a missile component first developed in the UK, allowing Ankara to become an emerging power in the lethal technology, which experts warn is dangerously proliferating. The vital assistance from a factory in Brighton has helped Turkey on its way to become the second

biggest user of armed drones in the world – one of a number of countries emulating methods first used by the US in its “war on terror”.

- ▶ <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/nov/27/revealed-uk-technology-turkey-rise-global-drone-power>

Parliament Wants To Know If Armed Drone Is Necessary

7 Nov 2019

ANP, Netherlands

The Ministry of Defence needs to consider whether the new unmanned aerial systems of the armed forces should start carrying weapons. A majority of the parliament supported this motion submitted by governing-parties CDA and VVD. The drones are currently unarmed, though they can be. The Ministry of Defence has said that there is no need for armed drones as of this moment.

- ▶ https://www.dvhn.nl/binnenland/Kamer-wil-weten-of-bewapende-drone-nodig-is-25002442.html?harvest_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F

“Detect targets, direct missiles.” Reports of drones over the Kaliningrad Oblast

5 Nov 2019

Tvn24, Poland

According to the Izvestia daily, the armed forces in the Kaliningrad Oblast were equipped with the Forpost UAV unit. These UAVs are to patrol the Baltic Sea area, and in the event of an armed conflict, identify targets and guide aviation and coastal defence. Built under license from the Israeli company IAI, they can fly for up to 17,5 h at a speed of 200 km per hour and reach an altitude of 5 km.

- ▶ <https://www.tvn24.pl/wiadomosci-ze-swiata,2/rosja-drony-forpost-wzmocnily-system-obrony-obwodu-kaliningradzkiego,983109.html>

Russia: A military drone almost hit a home

19 Nov 2019

Andrzej Łomanowski, Radar, Poland

The latest UAV Orion broke to pieces near apartment blocks in Listvyanka.

- It crashed during the test flight - said Sergei Bubniev who investigates the accident.

At the airstrip near Listvyanka various UAVs are tested. Luckily, nobody was killed.

This is not the first time a drone lands in a garden in this way. Previously one fell in the neighbouring village of Salkovo - wrote a netter from Ryazan.

- ▶ <https://radar.rp.pl/swiat/rosja/15403-rosja-wojskowy-dron-omal-nie-uderzyl-w-dom>

DRONE MENACE IN LIBYADRONES

Libya is ground zero: drones on frontline in bloody civil war

27 Nov 2019

Dan Sabbagh, Jason Burke and Bethan McKernan, The Guardian, Uk

The use of lethal drones was once an area dominated by the US, but has spread rapidly, drawing in new conflicts and causing more civilian casualties as warfare is revolutionised. The principal battleground is Libya, where both sides in the ongoing civil war are trying to gain air superiority with cheap Chinese-made craft run by the United Arab Emirates on one side, and equally inexpensive Turkish-made drones on the other.

▶ <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/nov/27/libya-is-ground-zero-drones-on-frontline-in-bloody-civil-war>

Ordinary Libyans bear brunt of seven-month siege of Tripoli

17 Nov 2019

Heba Saleh, Financial Times, Uk

According to a UN report, the three nations “routinely and sometimes blatantly supplied weapons with little efforts to disguise the source” in Libya. Other reports say Gen Haftar, who controls most of the oil-rich country, gets sophisticated arms from the UAE, including drones used to strike targets in the capital. The Tripoli government, although formally the legitimate authority in the country, has little actual power and relies on militias for its defence. It is backed by Qatar and Turkey, which is believed to supply it with drones and armoured vehicles.

▶ <https://www.ft.com/content/deefa000-0608-11ea-9afa-d9e2401fa7ca>

Civil war in Libya: the threatening drone hum

23 Nov 2019

Mirco Keilberth, Der Spiegel, Germany

An armistice in the Libyan civil war is not in sight. While peace talks in Berlin failed, the enemy militias deployed drones, jets and troops from the allied countries.

▶ <https://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/libyen-buergerkrieg-mit-drohnen-und-flugzeugen-a-1297529.html>

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NEW SCARY DRONES

Killer drones: how many are there and who do they target?

18 Nov 2019

Dan Sabbagh, The Guardian, Uk

From lightweight surveillance devices to heavily armed attack weapons, pilotless aircraft are rapidly becoming a favoured tool of warfare. But are they accurate? Ethical? Here to stay?

- ▶ <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/nov/18/killer-drones-how-many-uav-predator-reaper>

Drones, a new security threat

19 Nov 2019

Anne Bauer, Les Echos, France

Recreational, professional and military drones are upsetting the control of the skies and forcing State services to rethink the fight against drones. A new technological race begins for the fear of a proliferation of armed drones, called the “poor man’s missiles”.

- ▶ <https://www.lesechos.fr/industrie-services/air-defense/les-drones-nouvelle-terreur-securitaire-1148913>

Attack drones seek out targets on their own

7 Nov 2019

Karel Berkhout, Nrc, Netherlands

Turkey has introduced the “Kargu”, a suicide-drone which can autonomously navigate, select targets, and destroy airports, ships, or tanks. It can fly in a swarm of twenty to thirty to attack its targets. It is a watershed moment, according to peace-organisation PAX.

The international peace organisation has been lobbying for a ban on lethal autonomous weapons for years, as is the case with chemical weapons and clustermunitions.

- ▶ <https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2019/11/10/aanvalsdrones-zoeken-zelf-het-slachtoffer-uit-a3979795>

U.S. Air Force experts have developed a stealth reconnaissance drone RQ-180 in secret

4 Nov 2019

Stanislav Mihulka, Vtm, Czech Republic

Northrop Grumman has developed in secret a new large reconnaissance drone RQ-180 for US Air Force designed for long flights in high altitudes. Unlike other reconnaissance aircraft, it uses stealth technology. According to available information, the RQ-180 is very similar to the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, as well as the new B-21 Raider stealth bomber, primarily with its “flying wing” design.

- ▶ <https://vtm.zive.cz/clanky/odbornici-us-air-force-v-utajeni-vyvinuli-pruzkumny-stealth-dron-rq-180/sc-870-a-201009/default.aspx>

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DRONES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Unidentified foreign drone shot down in Iran

8 Nov 2019

Patrick Wintour, The Guardian, Uk

The Iranian army has shot down an unidentified foreign drone near the port of Bandar-e Mahshahr on the Gulf coast, according to reports from the country's news agencies. The unmanned aircraft was downed over Iranian territory with domestically manufactured Mersad surface-to-air missiles. The seriousness of the latest episode will largely depend on the ownership of the drone, and whether it was for military or civilian purposes.

- ▶ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/08/unidentified-foreign-drone-shot-down-in-iran-state-news-agencies>

Iranian media announces downing of unidentified drone

8 Nov 2019

France 24, France

Iranian forces shot down a foreign drone over the port city of Mahshahr in its southern Khuzestan province, state news agency IRNA reported. "The downed drone definitely belonged to a foreign country. Its wreckage has been recovered and is being investigated," Khuzestan Governor Gholamreza Shariati said.

- ▶ <https://www.france24.com/en/20191108-iranian-media-announces-downing-of-unidentified-drone>

Israel is a mini-superpower in drones

28 Nov 2019

Le Temps, Switzerland

As early as 1969, the Israeli military developed drones very similar to the current models. Faced with competition from the United States and China, the Hebrew State takes advantage of the experience of its military to sell its drones.

- ▶ <https://www.letemps.ch/monde/israel-minisuperpuissance-drones>

Autonomous killer drones. China exports them to the Middle East

11 Nov 2019

Mateusz Czerniak, Wp Tech, Poland

China is selling autonomous killer drones to the Middle East, said Mark Esper, US Secretary of Defence. The Blowfish A3 drone that can independently conduct complex combat missions resembles a helicopter and is equipped with a machine gun. Its producer - the Ziyang company - is currently negotiating the sale to the governments of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The Chinese government is also involved.

- ▶ <https://tech.wp.pl/autonomiczne-drony-zabojcy-chiny-eksportuja-je-na-bliski-wschod-wideo-6444981352040577a>

The drone case: Three men found guilty of several charges of terror **28 Nov 2019**

METTE MAYLI ALBÆK and LOUISE DALSGAARD, Dr, Denmark

Three people found guilty of terror through supporting a terror organisation by sending drone parts to Islamic State over the course of four years. They were not, however, found guilty of committing a terror attack and thus violating the law on direct terror, which could give up to life time in prison. The judge argued that drones and cameras are not directly applicable to committing murder and violence. But the court found it proven that the accused had supported IS in general by supplying drone equipment. They will each get up to six years in prison.

► <https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/indland/dronesagen-tre-maend-kendt-skyldige-i-flere-anklager-om-terror>