

Armed drones on the European media

March 2020

Sources

De Correspondent, Netherlands
Defence24, Poland
iRozhlas, Czech Republic
Le Monde, France
Le Temps, Switzerland
Les Echos, France

Les Echos Investir, France
Niezalezna, Poland
Osel, Czech Republic
Reuters, United Kingdom
The Guardian, United Kingdom

Coronavirus can't stop drones in the Middle East

Turkey launches military offensive in Syria, two planes shot down

2 Mar 2020

Le Temps, Switzerland

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the 1st of March nineteen Syrian soldiers were killed by a Turkish drone. In the meanwhile Ankara maintains pressure on Europe by letting thousands of migrants pass to Greece.

<https://www.letemps.ch/monde/turquie-lance-une-offensive-militaire-syrie-deux-avions-regime-abattus>

Massive drones attack. Turkish "Spring Shield" operation

8 Mar 2020

Marcin Gawęda, Defence24, Poland

During "Spring Shield" in Syria, the Turkish army unprecedentedly used armed drones on a large scale. Thanks to the UAVs, the Turkish Armed Forces were more efficient in their military operations. This new concept consisting of contactless clashes involves an indiscriminate use of Bayraktar TB2 and Anka-S drones. Its new key aspect is a coordinated UAV strike.

<https://www.defence24.pl/zmasowany-atak-dronow-turecka-operacja-wiosenna-tarcza-analiza>

Turkey is opting for drones

14 Mar 2020

Mateusz Zielonka, Defence24, Poland

Turkey intends to build an unmanned aircrafts control center similar to Anka and Bayraktar. The new military infrastructure will be erected in the Eastern Anatolia region and will help the Turkish Armed Forces to fight the Kurdistan Workers' Party. It could also be used to carry out missions outside the country.

<https://www.defence24.pl/tunezja-kupuje-tureckie-drony-sprawdzone-w-libii>

Turkish combat drone attacked Syrian troops in Idlib before the ceasefire agreement. Military equipment destroyed

6 Mar 2020

iRozhlas, Czech Republic

Armed Turkish drone attacked Syrian government troops in Idlib province early in March, destroying their military equipment and "neutralizing" the troops. The raid happened shortly before Turkey and Russia announced that a ceasefire in Idlib negotiated between Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

https://www.irozhlas.cz/zpravy-svet/turecko-idlib-provincie-vojaci-armada-vojenska-technika_2003060842_tef

Saudi intercepts missiles in attacks claimed by Yemen's Houthis

28 Mar 2020

Reuters, Uk

Saudi Arabia said its air defenses intercepted two ballistic missiles on Saturday night in an attack that Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group on Sunday said they had launched towards the capital Riyadh and southern areas near the Yemeni border. Yemen's Houthis battling the Saudi-led coalition have launched hundreds of missiles and drones across the border, mostly at nearby military and civilian targets but also at Riyadh. The last attempted strike on the capital was in June 2018.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-saudi-riyadh-rockets/saudi-intercepts-missiles-in-attacks-claimed-by-yemens-houthis-idUSKBN21FOXJ>

Tunisia buys Turkish drones. They proved efficiency in Libya

17 Mar 2020

Niezalezna, Poland

The Tunisian MoD signed a 240M \$ agreement with Turkish Aerospace Industries for the delivery of six MALE Anka-S unmanned aircrafts and three monitoring stations. This type of machines have been and still are used by the Turkish army supporting the Libyan government in the fight against the Libyan National Army. The contract also includes a technology transfer and the ramp-up of a local assembly line.

<https://niezalezna.pl/316796-turcja-stawia-na-drony>

Black drone down

Drone Volt goes down on the stock market, production hampered by coronavirus

6 Mar 2020

Les Echos Investir, France

The company Drone Volt produces the drones in France but imports the electronic components from China. With longer lead times because of the new coronavirus, sales will be lower than expected in the first quarter.

<https://investir.lesechos.fr/actions/conseils-avis-experts/nouveau-plus-bas-en-bourse-pour-delta-drone-dont-la-production-est-freinee-par-le-coronavirus-1898263.php>

US military loses a drone in north of Niger

3 Mar 2020

Le Monde, France

The United States has built a base for drones in Agadez to monitor the entire Sahel and support the anti-jihadist struggle. The command of the American army in Africa said on Twitter that an US drone crashed due to "mechanical failure" in the region, in the middle of the desert of the northern Niger.

https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2020/03/03/l-armee-americaine-perd-un-drone-dans-le-nord-du-niger_6031636_3212.html

The new Air Force

Reaper's successor: U.S. Air Force plans to replace the famous MQ-9 Reaper drone

26 Mar 2020

Stanislav Mihulka, Vtm, Czech Republic

The time of MQ-9 Reaper combat drones, the backbone of the US Air Force drone fleet, is coming to an end. U.S. Air Force wants to replace the Reapers with new drones that would do better in combat conditions as these are not very well protected and are basically easy to shoot down. Reaper's successor should have stealth technology, not to be an easy target for radar-guided missiles. It is quite possible that it will be a wing structure, similar to the B-2 bomber.

<https://vtm.zive.cz/clanky/nastupce-reapera-us-air-force-planuji-nahradit-popularni-dron-mq-9-reaper/sc-870-a-203007/default.aspx>

The new US Air Force strategy: Valkyrie in containers

9 Mar 2020

Stanislav Mihulka, Osel, Czech Republic

Kratos Defense manufacturer adjusts their Combat Jet Drones XQ-58A Valkyrie for deployment in containers. This brings a range of benefits as these war machines hidden in containers could be stored almost anywhere. For example, they could intervene on small islands in the Pacific, where a conflict with China could break out. Drones, which can be armed with precision-guided ammunition and air-to-air missiles could be immediately ready for action in large numbers and can take off on missions deep in the enemy's territory.

<http://www.osel.cz/11068-nova-strategie-us-air-force-valkyry-v-kontejnerech.html>

Everything You Need to Know About Armed Drones

23 Mar 2020

Lennart Hofman, De Correspondent, Netherlands

Armed drones can be piloted by pilots at the other side of the world. They can be used to observe enemies, sometimes days in a row, before dropping a bomb. When that happens, a room full of people watch through screens. Analysts and soldiers alike agree that drones will continue to change war. In essence, they are about minimising cost and risks, both financially and in terms of soldier's lives. They do not win wars, but resemble 'mowing the lawn' - effective at culling, but the grass will come back.

<https://decorrespondent.nl/11040/alles-wat-je-moet-weten-over-militaire-drones/942127633920-17023f98>

Drones in our skies**MoD put pressure on regulators to delay drone safety warnings, documents reveal**

9 Mar 2020

Mark Harris and Rob Evans, The Guardian, Uk

The Ministry of Defence put pressure on regulators to delay safety warnings about a new drone it planned to fly over British skies to avoid tipping off protesters, according to official documents obtained by the Guardian. They reveal how the ministry was embroiled in a behind-the-scenes row with British safety regulators over the US-built drone, which was being flown from North Dakota to a military base in Gloucestershire.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/09/mod-regulators-drone-safety-warnings>

Parrot drones improve their profitability

19 Mar 2020

Florian Dèbes, Les Echos, France

After the headwinds of 2018, the French drone manufacturer congratulates itself for maintaining its cash flow in 2019 beyond the target it had set, at 116 million euros, against 100 million euros targeted. The restructuring of Henri Seydoux's business and particular attention to the pricing policy are starting to pay off.

<https://www.lesechos.fr/tech-medias/hightech/les-drones-parrot-ameliorent-leur-rentabilite-sur-fond-de-restructuration-1186840>