

Armed drones on the European media

June 2020

Sources

Avvenire, Italy	Ouest-France, France,
BBC, United Kingdom	Reuters, United Kingdom
Destak.pt, Portugal	Sabado, Portugal
Europa Press, Spain	Sardegna Oggi, Italy
Faz.net, Germany,	Sassate, Italy
Infodron.es, Spain	Slate.fr, France
Le Figaro, France	Tagesspiegel, Germany
Le Monde, France	The Telegraph, United Kingdom
Metro, United Kingdom	Welt, Germany
Monza in diretta, Italy	

The next war

The war of drones: a market in continuous expansion

7 June 2020

Monza in diretta, Italy

The conflict in Georgia had shown, at the end of the last decade, that the Russian armed forces were lagging behind in the area of combat drones, both in terms of system development and the equipment of its forces. Most of these weapons were designed in the 1980s. Ten years later, first the Syrian conflict, then the one in Libya, confirmed that a major turnaround is taking place.

<https://monzaindiretta.it/societa/la-guerra-dei-droni-un-mercato-in-continua-espansione/>

Conflicts by proxy, a new military reality

8 June 2020

Giuseppe Morabito, Emanuela Locci, Sardegna Oggi, Italy

In the last period, the use of technological armaments, such as drones, in current conflicts is increasingly noted at military and strategic level. In the following we will analyse all the war scenarios in which they are used.

[http://www.sardegnaoggi.it/Politica/2020-06-08/40654/I conflitti per procura una nuova realta militare.html](http://www.sardegnaoggi.it/Politica/2020-06-08/40654/I_conflitti_per_procura_una_nuova_realta_militare.html)

Chinese drones will fight the next African war

11 June 2020

Francesco Palmas, Avvenire, Italy

On the continent, the models that cross the skies are multiplying: they allow for fewer victims and can be used in risky missions. Beijing is the leader in supplies.

<https://www.avvenire.it/mondo/pagine/i-droni-cinesi-combatteranno-la-prossima-guerra-africana>

How TB2 drones of Turkey revolutionize the war

5 June 2020

Boris Kalnoky, Welt, Germany

The mood in the country is as if Turkey had a new silver bullet. On May 8th, media close to the government brought out a message in breathless tone that would not be the case in other countries: With the "latest delivery of three TB2s", the fleet of these drones has now increased to 107.

<https://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/plus208082407/>

[Ruestung-Die-Tuerkei-auf-dem-Weg-zur-Drohnen-Grossmacht.html](#)

"The robotization of our equipment will accelerate"

21 June 2020

Pascal Simon, Ouest-France, France

Reaper aerial drones deployed in the Sahel, marine mine warfare drones developed in Brest, mechanical "mules" under test for land forces... The robotization of the French armed forces is launched. For what purposes? With what limits? The analysis of Gérard de Boisboissel, research engineer at the Saint-Cyr-Coëtquidan military school research centre.

<https://www.ouest-france.fr/monde/armees-la-robotisation-de-nos-equipements-va-s-accelerer-6877368>

"Ninja bomb" could increase use of drone strikes, warn military experts

19 June 2020

Dominic Nicholls, The Telegraph, United Kingdom

The Hellfire R9X missile has no explosive, just six lethal steel blades. Will this mean it is used more? And is that a good thing?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/19/new-ninja-bomb-could-see-drone-strikes-used-regularly-warn-defence/>

United States of drones

The U.S. Air Force is creating a drone aimed at winning air combats with manned fighters

26 June 2020

Defence24, Poland

The U.S. Air Force researchers are designing an autonomic AI-driven aircraft intended to win air combats against manned fighters. The first clash is expected on July 2021. The Air Force tend to run artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms for everything, from maintenance activities to battle planning software. They would be able to make key decisions faster and more accurately.

<https://www.defence24.pl/azerbejdzan-zainteresowany-tureckimi-dronami-efekt-sukcesow-w-libii-i-syrii>

Combat drone to compete against piloted plane

5 June 2020

Paul Rincon, BBC, United Kingdom

The US Air Force will pit an advanced autonomous aircraft against a piloted plane in a challenge set for July 2021. The project could eventually lead to unpiloted fighter aircraft that use artificial intelligence (AI).

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-52933958>

Exclusive: Trump aims to sidestep another arms pact to sell more U.S. drones

12 June 2020

Mike Stone, Reuters, United Kingdom

The Trump administration plans to reinterpret a Cold War-era arms agreement between 34 nations with the

goal of allowing U.S. defense contractors to sell more American-made drones to a wide array of nations.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-usa-arms-trump-exclusive/exclusive-trump-aims-to-sidestep-another-arms-pact-to-sell-more-u-s-drones-idUKKBN23J1I>

US Air Force to pit autonomous combat drone against top gun pilot

8 June 2020

Jeff Parsons, Metro, United Kingdom

The American air force is planning to match up an autonomous combat drone against a human pilot to find out who's the best of the best. The aerial match-up is scheduled for 2021 and will potentially pave the way for unmanned combat fighter jets flown by artificial intelligence (AI) in the future.

<https://metro.co.uk/2020/06/08/us-air-force-pit-autonomous-combat-drone-top-gun-pilot-12819764/>

Europe and drones, a love affair

British drones swarm project is gaining momentum

29 June 2020

Paweł Behrendt, Konflikty, Poland

British Ministry of National Defence announced that the swarming drone squadron program launched in 2019 is running smoothly. A technology demonstrator might take off in 2022. The project is not intended to transform into a mass-produced drone, but to allow the

development and testing of tactical and technical assumptions. The RAF expects it to increase efficiency, reduce risk of losses and costs.

<https://www.konflikty.pl/aktualnosci/wiadomosci/brytyjski-program-roju-dronow-nabiera-rozpedu/>

UK acknowledges that it conducts secret drone killing missions outside Iraq and Syria

7 June 2020

Europa Press, Spain

The British Ministry of Defence has admitted after a request for official information that it is carrying out selective assassination missions with Reaper drones beyond those so far confirmed in Iraq and Syria.

<https://www.europapress.es/internacional/noticia-reino-unido-reconoce-realiza-misiones-secretas-asesinato-selectivo-drones-fuera-irak-siria-20200607143655.html>

Why did France choose American rather than French drones?

14 June 2020

Samuel B. H. Faure, Slate.fr, France

Why, in August 2013, did Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian sign a purchase contract with the United States to import 16 MALE ("medium altitude, long endurance") category Reaper drones, when negotiations have been under way for several years to develop a European drone and when, in 2011, Defence Minister Gérard Longuet chose to develop the Franco-Israeli MALE IN drone?

<http://www.slate.fr/story/191382/armee-ministere-defense-armement-drones-reaper-etats-unis-male-in->

[europe](#)

Defense-Aerospace: the prototype of the P1HH crashes into the sea, but the P2HH is already designed; the only one taking off is Vecciarelli (3rd episode)

3 June 2020

Guido Paglia, Sassate, Italy

On March 29 2016, the Council of Ministers, at the proposal of Minister Pinotti, appointed General Vecciarelli Chief of Staff of the Air Force, surpassing the more titled Maurizio Lodovisi, commander of the Air Squadron. As soon as it was time to take up his new prestigious post, bad luck fell on the "watchdog". On 31 May, one of the two prototypes of the legendary P1HH crashed into the sea, off the air base of Trapani Birgi.

<https://www.sassate.it/difesa-aerospace-il-prototipo-del-p1hh-si-schianta-in-mare-ma-gia-si-progetta-il-p2hh-lunico-che-decolla-e-vecciarelli-3-puntata/>

The French Army envisages future "state-to-state" clashes

17 June 2020

Nathalie Guibert, Le Monde, France

A "hardened" French army, equipped with the full range of cyber weapons, drones, guns, tanks. For what purpose? Its new chief of staff, General Thierry Burkhard, who has been in post since July 2019, explained it to the press for the first time. His "strategic plan" for the next ten years was made public on Wednesday 17 June.

https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2020/06/17/la-france-se-prepare-a-endurcir-l-armee-de-terre_6043162_3210.html

SPD signals approval for armed drones

28 June 2020

Faz.net, Germany

The SPD defense politicians have set up criteria for the use of armed drones by the Bundeswehr. “We are open to the question of arming drones. But only if strict conditions are met will we support the decision ” said vice-chair Gabriela Heinrich.

<https://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/spd-signalisiert-zustimmung-fuer-bewaffnete-drohnen-16836410.html>

SPD under "strict conditions" for use of armed drones

28 June 2020

Von Hans Monath, Tagesspiegel, Germany

The SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag is ready to agree to the use of armed drones by the Bundeswehr , provided that strict guidelines are followed. “We are open to the question of arming drones. But only if strict conditions are met will we support the decision”, said deputy parliamentary group leader Gabriel Heinrich.

<https://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/ausrustung-der-bundeswehr-spd-unter-strengen-bedingungen-fuer-einsatz-bewaffneter-drohnen/25954174.html>

Drones are everywhere

The Venezuelan Navy equips its units with DJI Mavic Air drones

19 June 2020

Carlos E. Hernandez, Infodron.es, Spain

The Venezuelan Navy has equipped its operational units with remotely manned aircraft Mavic Air, a product of the Chinese company SZ DJI Technology Co. (DJI). It also carried out a training process for the personnel that will operate the drones, which was in charge of Captain Plinio Camacho Matheus.

<http://infodron.es/id/2020/06/19/noticia-armada-venezuela-unidades-drones-mavic.html>

Anti-Huthis Coalition announces it has destroyed 'drones' and missiles targeting Riyadh

23 June 2020

Destak.pt, Portugal

The Saudi Arabia-led military coalition in Yemen announced today that it has intercepted and destroyed 'drones' and missiles fired by Huthis rebels, including a ballistic missile targeting the capital Riyadh.

<http://www.destak.pt/artigo/427701>

Pakistan claims to have shot down Indian espionage drone

28 June 2020

Sabado, Portugal

Pakistan's military forces announced today that they shot down a small spy drone from India flying over the Pakistani-administered Kashmir region.

<https://www.sabado.pt/mundo/detalhe/paquistao-diz-ter-abatido-drone-de-espionagem-da-india>

Turkey's military "Show of Force" in the Eastern Mediterranean

12 June 2020

Le Figaro, France

Turkish warships and fighter jets have carried out large-scale maneuvers in the eastern Mediterranean, the Defense Ministry said Friday in an apparent show of force linked in particular to the conflict in Libya.

<https://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/demonstration-de-force-militaire-de-la-turquie-en-mediterranee-orientale-20200612>

Libyan and Syrian successes are paying off. Turkey will make money on war drones

7 June 2020

Adam Szabelak, Kresy, Poland

Azerbaijan's National Defence Minister, Zakir Hasanov, announced in Azerbaijani national television he is planning to acquire Turkish combat drones which "have shown their effectiveness in Syria and Libya". No machine name was given, but Azerbaijan will probably become the next buyer of Bayraktar TB2 after Ukraine and Qatar.

<https://kresy.pl/wydarzenia/sily-powietrzne-usa-tworza-drona-ktory-ma-wygrywac-z-w-walce-powietrznej-z-zalogowymi-mysliwcami/>