

# Armed drones in the European media

## August 2020

### Sources:

Agenzia Italia, Italy

Aktualne, Czech Republic

Cyfrowa, Poland

Defense 24, Poland

EuroZprávy, Czech Republic

Handelsblatt, Germany

Kolumna 24, Poland

La Stampa, Italy

Le Figaro, France

Le Matin, Switzerland

Le Temps, Switzerland

Neues Deutschland, Germany

Osel, Czech Republic

Repubblica, Italy

The Guardian, United Kingdom

## Us drones everywhere

### Lask has been designated as the seat of a squadron of UAVs of the United States Air Force

6 Aug 2020

#### Kolumna 24, Poland

A political agreement on enhanced defense cooperation between Poland and the US has been reached. Poland would cover the costs of preparing adequate infrastructure for American soldiers. The MQ-9 Reaper would be used in Poland. It is an unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) used mainly by the USAF and the RAF. This first hunter-killer is larger and better equipped than the earlier MQ-1 Predator.

<https://kolumna24.pl/blog/news-lask.siedziba.eskadry.bezzalogowcow.sil.powietrznych.stanow.zjedn-11569.html>

### The US Army is developing a “pocket” swarm of UAVs

26 Aug 2020

### **Juliusz Sabak, Defense 24, Poland**

The US Army is developing UAVs that will be fired from combat helicopters as part of the new reconnaissance and attack machine FARA program. A swarm of such UAVs labeled ALE (Air Launch Effects) will provide support, reconnaissance, electronic warfare and loitering munition. While the USAF is betting on an expensive, unmanned wingman, the army sees the future in a swarm of engines fired massively.

<https://www.defence24.pl/us-army-rozwija-kieszonkowy-roj-bojowych-bezzalogowcow-analiza>

### **Aquiline Project: The US have been developping nuclear intelligence drones**

15 Aug 2020

#### **Stanislav Mihulka, Osel, Czech Republic**

Aquiline nuclear bird was one of the unrealized US Cold War projects that consisted of a radioisotope-powered reconnaissance drone that was supposed to resemble a large bird and thus, as a slow-flying object would escape the attention of radars and human guards. With radioisotope propulsion, the Aquiline could fly for 1 month or cover a distance of 58,000 kilometers. It was supposed to carry photographic and spy equipment.

<https://www.osel.cz/11322-projekt-aquiline-spojene-staty-vyvijely-vyzvedne-jaderne-drony.html>

### **Unprecedented military contract: Americans offer Taiwan its top drones, China is angry**

7 Aug 2020

#### **Martin Novák, Aktualne, Czech Republic**

The United States is negotiating the sale of at least four

of its large sophisticated SeaGuardian spy drones that can last in the air for forty hours at a time and would allow Taiwan to monitor China's military activities deep inland. The drone is one of the weapons that the US provides only to NATO member states and its closest allies. Since last year, Taiwan has been modernizing the army in fear of China, which is sending its vessels and aircraft as part of military maneuvers close to the Taiwanese coast.

<https://zprawy.aktualne.cz/zahranici/tchaj-wan-koupi-drony-ktery-mi-nahledne-hluboko-do-vnitrozemi/r~1d04b16ed89a11ea842f0cc47ab5f122/>

## But other countries are trying to catch up

**An invisible super drone with 6 tonnes of bombs. Russia is playing all-in**

15 Aug 2020

**Urszula Lesman, Cyfrowa, Poland**

The Sukhoi S-70 Ochothnik stealth drone might debut a year ahead of schedule and become the first active high-performance combat drone designed for large-scale conventional warfare. It is about 20 tonnes with a max. speed of 1000 km/h and a range of 4,000 km. It has an optoelectronic and radio-technical reconnaissance equipment and will be able to carry bombs with a total weight of 5.8 tonnes.

<https://cyfrowa rp.pl/technologie/51167-niewidzialny-super-dron-z-6-cioma-tonami-bomb-rosjanie-ida-na-calosc>

## Ready to kill

3 Aug 2020

**Von René Heilig, Neues Deutschland, Germany**

In November, the first "Heron TP" drone is to be delivered to the German Bundeswehr and stationed at a military airport near Tel Aviv. The German Ministry of Defense has ordered a total of five "Heron TP" from the armaments company Israel Aerospace Industries.

<https://www.neues-deutschland.de/artikel/1139979.drohnen-und-bundeswehr-in-jedem-fall-verdammt.html?sstr=drohnen>

## New drones on display

28 Aug 2020

**Von René Heilig, Neues Deutschland, Germany**

The arms trade fair "Armija 2020" was held in Moscow. Various drones were on display. Particularly striking are the "Orion" and the "Helios" with 16 and 20 metres wingspan. The "Orion" can patrol the air for up to 24 hours, carrying guided bombs and missiles up to 250 kilograms.

<https://www.neues-deutschland.de/artikel/1140995.vorbei-geschossen-doch-das-ziel-erreicht.html?sstr=drohnen>

## Take down the drone

**The mysterious flight of drones over the largest nuclear power plant in the United States**

4 Aug 2020

**Francesco Russo, Agi, Italy**

In September of 2019, for two consecutive nights, a flock of unmanned aircraft flew over the Palo Verde nuclear generating station. We still don't know what their target was and who sent them. The incident highlighted the vulnerability of a strategic national infrastructure: the plant provides electricity to San Diego, Los Angeles, Phoenix and Tucson.

<https://www.agi.it/estero/news/2020-08-03/droni-sopra-maggiore-centrale-nucleare-usa-9325109/>

## **Brazil's modernist palaces could soon be disfigured by anti-drone systems**

6 Aug 2020

**Emiliano Guanella, La Stampa, Italy**

President Jair Bolsonaro's security chiefs are cooking up plans that could radically disfigure three of the modernist palaces at the heart of Oscar Niemeyer's masterpiece. Brazil's Institutional Security Office (GSI) is planning to place a 1.5-metre antenna on top of the Planalto Palace and five-metre antennas on the Alvorado and Jaburu palaces in Brasília to protect the area from drones.

<https://www.lastampa.it/topnews/primo-piano/2020/08/06/news/antenne-antidrone-sui-palazzi-di-brasilia-bolsonaro-vuole-proteggere-i-vertici-dello-stato-da-attacchi-nemici-1.39166575>

## **Pentagon to launch task force to investigate UFO sightings**

15 Aug 2020

**Le Figaro, France**

The Pentagon is forming a new task force to investigate UFOs that have been observed by US military aircraft.

Officials have expressed concerns about the appearance of the unidentified aircraft that have flown over US military bases, and many of them believe that China could use drones for spying operations.

<https://www.lefigaro.fr/international/le-pentagone-cree-une-unite-d-etude-des-ovnis-20200815>

## **The "drone hunter" is here**

24 Aug 2020

**Filippo Massara, La Stampa, Italy**

A new system developed in Galliate, in the Italian region of Piemonte, is the latest advancement in the field of counter terrorism security. This tool, called A3Tube, is able to detect the presence of a drone and to follow all of its movements. The project was awarded the certificate of excellence by the Ministry of Defence.

<https://www.lastampa.it/topnews/edizioni-locali/novara/2020/08/24/news/nasce-in-un-azienda-di-galliate-il-cacciatore-di-droni-hi-tech-potra-essere-usato-nel-campo-della-difesa-1.39223386>

## **Game of drones in the Middle East**

**Israeli army lost its drone in Lebanon, Hezbollah reports its downing**

23 Aug 2020

**EuroZprávy, Czech Republic**

Israeli army announced that it had lost a drone over Lebanese territory near the common border. Its downing was claimed by the Lebanese radical movement Hezbollah. Army declared that there is no danger of classified information leaking from the machine. Israelis

lost an unmanned aircraft in Lebanon already at the end of July. Israel regularly launches its drones over Lebanon, primarily to monitor Hezbollah's activities.

<https://eurozpravy.cz/zahranicni/blizky-vychod/izraelska-armada-ztratila-dron-nad-libanonem-hizballah-hlasi-jeho-sestrel.49209514/>

## **Australian pilots drafted to help fly UK drones over Syria and Iraq**

19 Aug 2020

**Dan Sabbagh, The Guardian, United Kingdom**

Australian airforce pilots and private contractors are being drafted in to help fly UK armed Reaper drones over Syria and Iraq amid shortages in RAF crew and concern over the stresses of piloting deadly unmanned aircraft. Their presence helps plug the crew shortages that are deemed to be the greatest risk to the UK's £1.1bn future drone programme.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/19/australian-pilots-drafted-to-help-fly-uk-drones-over-syria-and-iraq>

## **German defence industry involved in Turkish drone program**

24 Aug 2020

**Handelsblatt, Germany**

Despite the Turkish military's offensive in Syria, German arms giants continue to supply the NATO partner.

German companies helped build the Turkish drone fleet with components and equipment for 12.8 million euros.

<https://www.handelsblatt.com/politik/international/ruestungsexporte-deutsche-ruestungsindustrie-an-tuerkischem-drohnen-programm-beteiligt/26121136.html>

## Armasuisse drone crashes in Israel

6 Aug 2020

### Le Matin, Switzerland

A Hermes 900 HFE drone intended for the Swiss military crashed in the Israeli desert during a test flight. An investigation has been opened to determine the cause of the accident. The device is completely destroyed. No injuries or other damage to third parties is to be deplored, indicates the Federal Armaments Office (armasuisse).

<https://www.lematin.ch/story/un-drone-destine-a-armasuisse-s-ecrase-en-israel-874245825311>

## Tensions rise between Baghdad and Ankara after the death of two high-ranking Iraqi officials

12 Aug 2020

### Le Temps, Switzerland

A Turkish drone killed two high-ranking Iraqi officers in northern Iraq, where Ankara believes it is within its rights by bombing positions of the PKK, the Kurdish opposition in Turkey. Since Ankara launched its "Tiger Claws" operation in Iraqi Kurdistan in June, Turkey and Iraq have been exchanging attacks.

<https://www.letemps.ch/monde/tensions-montent-entre-bagdad-ankara-apres-mort-deux-hauts-grades-irakiens>

## Drones and jets: how Erdogan tries to control the Mediterranean sea

14 Aug 2020

### Marco Ansaldo, Repubblica, Italy

An incident near Rhodes between a Turkish warship and a Greek one led to fears that a war might erupt

between Ankara and Athens. The circumstances of the incident are not clear. Emmanuel Macron sent a couple of planes and the frigate La Fayette into the Mediterranean to support the Greek armed forces. Erdogan responded with Turkish drones, which began to fly over the island of Rhodes for the first time.

[https://rep.repubblica.it/pwa/generale/2020/08/14/news/droni\\_e\\_jet\\_la\\_corsa\\_alle\\_trivellazioni\\_di\\_erdogan\\_che\\_vuole\\_prendersi\\_il\\_mediterraneo-264679735/](https://rep.repubblica.it/pwa/generale/2020/08/14/news/droni_e_jet_la_corsa_alle_trivellazioni_di_erdogan_che_vuole_prendersi_il_mediterraneo-264679735/)