

Armed drones on the European media

September 2020

Sources:

Africa, Italy
Aktuálně, Czech Republic
Analisi Difesa, Italy
CzechCrunch, Czech Republic
Defence24, Poland
Expresso, Portugal
Financial Times, United Kingdom
Komputer Świat, Poland
Independent, United Kingdom
Junge Welt, Germany
Le Figaro, France
Les Echos, France
Neues Deutschland, Germany
Publico, Portugal
Reuters, United Kingdom
Taz, Germany
The Guardian, United Kingdom
Vtm, Czech Republic
Wired, Italy
Wp Tech, Poland

A new theatre for drones

Armenia, Azerbaijan fight for 4th day over separatist region
30 Sept 2020

The Independent, United Kingdom

Heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh has entered a fourth straight day in the biggest escalation of a decades-old conflict in years that killed dozens and left scores wounded. Armenian officials alleged that Turkish drones and F-16 fighter jets were being used. Turkey has denied supplying Azerbaijan with arms, and Azerbaijan said it didn't have any F-16 jets.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/armenia-azerbaijan-fight-4th-day-over-separatist-region-azerbaijan-nagornokarabakh-yerevan-armenia-turkish-b715893.html>

Armenian machinery on fire. Azerbaijan boasts HD footage of drone attacks

30 Sept 2020

Aktuálně, Czech Republic

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense publishes new high-resolution footage of drone attacks on Armenian combat equipment on its YouTube channel every day in order to boost morale of its population after the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict broke out again late September. Armenians claim that the drones, mainly Israeli and Turkey-built, also hit civilian targets.

<https://zpravy.aktualne.cz/zahranici/armenska-technika-v-plamelech-azerbajdzan-se-chlubi-hd-zaber/r~d078f54c032011ebb408ac1f6b220ee8/>

A drone race in Europe

Leonardo delivers the Orcus anti-drone system to RAF

4 Sept 2020

Analisi Difesa, Italy

The Italian company Leonardo has delivered the first of four complete baseline counter-drone systems to the Royal Air Force in support of the next stage of its Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS) research and development programme. The ORCUS system is now playing a key role in a wide-ranging testing and evaluation campaign which will improve the Air Force's understanding of how it can employ technology in response to the threat posed by hostile drones.

<https://www.analisdifesa.it/2020/09/leonardo-consegna-alla-raf-il-sistema-anti-drone-orcus/>

Portuguese navy acquired a new drone. It doesn't work

30 Sept 2020

Espresso, Portugal

The Portuguese navy wanted to add a drone VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) to its arsenal. The negotiations began last year and consisted of several contracts by direct agreement. In total, 858,000 euros have already been spent on a single aircraft, which is still not yet able to land and take off. The same happened with a similar effort by the Air Force.

<https://expresso.pt/sociedade/2020-09-30-Marinha-comprou-o-mesmo-drone-que-a-Forca-Aerea.-Tambem-nao-funciona>

Defence secretary admits UK is behind adversaries

14 Sept 2020

Financial Times, United Kingdom

The UK's defence secretary Ben Wallace has admitted Britain's military is racing to catch up with its adversaries' successes in technological warfare, as he warned: "Our enemies have studied our vulnerabilities and adapted far more quickly than us". Upcoming defence review will mark a switch from traditional to technological warfighting.

https://www.ft.com/content/24f32f31-cc29-4d8d-a800-7c1c45d6e3d1?accessToken=zwAAAXUcHrGYkc8k8y8xzCINjdOoAHwcRdbj0Q.MEUCID-NucFWI400qtazxGE4D10vd8JaW9SEBKBAUMrJrpz7AiEA08OtZyKqLNR6ddp_Y9DLeY7RoYkm5EFZvTp8tol9CDE&sharetype=gif?token=2ca90877-4ef1-4f16-b284-38be554db76a

Defence: 200 million for hypersonic gliders or wave weapons

9 Sept 2020

Anne Bauer, Les Echos, France

The minister of the Armed Forces announced the creation of a new fund (200 million euros) to provide support to companies in the defence sector that are looking for the equipment of tomorrow's army. To reach this goal, according to the Military planning act, the ministry of Defence must increase its budget by 25 per cent, bringing the total budget to one billion by 2022.

<https://www.lesechos.fr/industrie-services/air-defense/defense-200-millions-pour-les-planeurs-hypersoniques-ou-les-armes-a-ondes-1240702>

Defence: France and Germany create their first joint squadron

17 Sept 2020

Anne Bauer, Les Echos, France

Florence Parly, French Armed Forces Minister, and Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, German Defence Minister, laid the foundation for the future French-German tactical transport team at Evreux Air Base. This is an important step because will give birth to the first French-German military since the Second World War.

<https://www.lesechos.fr/industrie-services/air-defense/defense-l>

[a-france-et-lallemagne-creent-leur-premier-escadron-commun-1243329](#)

The war in the Caucasus is an important lesson for Poland. But we forgot our homework

15 Sept 2020

Paweł Krzyżanowski, Komputer Świat, Poland

The war in Caucasus shows the importance of UAV combat systems. According to Gen. Róžański, Poland is late with the introduction of these weapons. The two most important programs are still pending: Zefir comparable to MQ-9 Reaper that was to be completed in 2020 and Gryf - medium-range UAVs to be delivered in 2018-2022. This program has been classified and it is not known what happens there.

<https://www.komputerswiat.pl/aktualnosci/nauka-i-technika/nowy-dron-bojowy-general-atomics-ma-zastapic-budzacego-postrach-mq-9-reaper/6fxbbcw>

Polish drones on offer of the NATO Support and Procurement Agency

8 Sept 2020

Defence 24, Poland

The FlyEye system developed by Polish WB GROUP is offered on the armament market by NSPA. FlyEye consists of a ground control and data analysis station, antennas, several UAVs with various equipment (e.g. observation and microphone sets, radio transmitters increasing communication range by up to 100 times) and video reader. The system can be carried by two persons in specially designed backpacks.

<https://defence24.pl/polskie-drony-w-ofercie-agencji-nato>

The rest of the world is not wasting time

Washington tries to expand its drones operations in Kenya

18 Sept 2020

Africa, Italy

The U.S. military's Africa Command is pressing for new authorities to carry out armed drone strikes targeting Qaeda-linked Shabab fighters in portions of eastern Kenya, expanding the war zone across the border from their sanctuaries in Somalia. The push for the expanded authorities traces back to a Shabab attack in January on a military base in Kenya that housed United States troops. The attack on the airfield at Manda Bay killed three Americans and caused millions of dollars in damage.

<https://www.africarivista.it/gli-usa-droni-operativi-anche-in-kenya/173311/>

From drones to t-shirts, Kalashnikov is diversifying

25 Sept 2020

Alain Barluet, Le Figaro, France

The Kalashnikov Group, Russia's largest producer of small arms, is adapting to US sanctions by expanding its range. The Russian group presented its tracked ground drones, clothing lines and Huska-10 hovercraft at the Army 2020 exhibition in Moscow at the end of August.

<https://www.lefigaro.fr/societes/du-drone-au-t-shirt-kalachnikov-se-diversifie-20200925>

China's expanded export controls pose fresh challenge to global tech industry

11 Sept 2020

Josh Horwitz, Reuters, United Kingdom

The latest additions to China's list of controlled technology exports could upset a broad range of industries and raise the possibility that some global tech giants might have to split off their Chinese operations. In addition to recommendation algorithms such as those used by ByteDance-owned TikTok, the new list of "partially restricted exports" includes drone and cybersecurity technology.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN2620JW>

Iran flew surveillance drone over US aircraft carrier near Persian Gulf

23 Sept 2020

The Guardian, United Kingdom

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard force has managed to fly a surveillance drone over the US Nimitz aircraft carrier. The semi-official Tasnim news agency, which is considered close to the paramilitary Guard, published images of the Nimitz, saying they were taken by Iranian-made drones, and showing fighter planes parked on the carrier's deck.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/23/iran-drone-us-aircraft-carrier-report>

The new General Atomics Aeronautical Systems combat drone is to replace the feared MQ-9 Reaper

29 Sept 2020

Bolesław Breczko, Wp Tech, Poland

General Atomics (GAAS) presented the visualisation of a new combat UAV / IRS which is to replace its very effective MQ-9 Reaper. It will be able to operate much longer than the current

generations of drones. It will use autonomous technologies, artificial intelligence, technologically superior drive and many other advanced technologies. It will be also an integral part of the communication system.

<https://tech.wp.pl/wojna-na-kaukazie-to-wazna-lekcja-dla-polski-ale-zapomnielismy-o-pracy-domowej-6559316566035328a>

Pentagon successfully tested a second gremlin, the X-61 Gremlins drone

4 Sept 2020

Stanislav Mihulka, Vtm, Czech Republic

Dynetics X-61 Gremlins is a US experimental UAV, which is supposed to serve as a cheap and reusable military drone that would fly in flocks on missions accompanying a command plane. The second gremlin drone was successfully tested in Utah and flew in close formation with its Lockheed C-130 Hercules parent aircraft. With a length of 4.2 meters and a wingspan of 3.5 meters, the drone is powered by a turbocharged engine with an output of 3.1 kN.

<https://vtm.zive.cz/clanky/pentagon-uspesne-otestoval-druheho-gremlina-dron-x-61-gremlins/sc-870-a-205659/default.aspx>

A scary future

Reduced inhibition threshold for war missions

17 Sept 2020

Daniel Lücking, Neues Deutschland, Germany

For years the Bundeswehr has been looking to add combat drones to its military potential. Now the German army is preparing to introduce these vehicles and is looking for drone

operators. "You will carry out training and mission flights together with a weapons systems officer," says the job advertisement released by the Bundeswehr. Critics of armed drones fear that the German armed forces are preparing for dangerous scenarios.

<https://www.neues-deutschland.de/artikel/1141930.bundeswehr-hemmschwelle-fuer-kriegseinsaetze-sinkt.html?sstr=drohnen>

Mercenaries from all over the world

15 Sept 2020

Akram Kharief, Taz, Germany

In the Libyan civil war, private military companies are involved on both sides. They are financed by foreign states. The country has become a playground for mercenaries from all over the world. The government in Tripoli was also able to count on the support of Turkey. Their Bayraktar TB-2 combat drones gave them a certain air advantage in May 2020.

<https://taz.de/Aus-Le-Monde-diplomatique/!5714005/>

What will the future of war be like?

21 Sept 2020

Andrea Daniele Signorelli, Wired, Italy

Autonomous weapons, swarms of drones and new balances: technological innovation is already changing the war scenario today, but soon the landscape will be completely transformed. In the future, the protagonists of the battlefields could be fleets of armed drones, remotely operated, cheap, light, expendable and even capable of shooting down a fighter jet or aircraft carrier.

https://www.wired.it/attualita/tech/2020/09/21/come-sara-futuro-guerra/?refresh_ce=

Flying ghost with dangerous accuracy. The creator of Oculus showed a new drone that will change military operations

11 Sept 2020

Filip Houska, CzechCrunch, Czech Republic

New Ghost 4 drones from the American startup Anduril would be able to target and identify enemy troops without anyone hearing them and pass on important information to the command base without anyone intercepting it. According to its specifications, it should last up to 100 minutes on a single charge in flight, while it can also be run in "autopilot" mode. It would also be able to transport loads weighing up to 15 kilograms to the required locations.

<https://www.czechcrunch.cz/2020/09/letajici- Duch-s-nebezpecnou-presnosti-tvurce-oculusu-ukazal-noveho-drona-ktery-zmeni-vojenske-operace/>

Drones and warships against refugees in the Channel

4 Sept 2020

Christian Bunke, Junge Welt, Germany

United Kingdom and France are escalating their military against refugees in the English Channel. The British side is increasingly relying on reconnaissance drones and warships. Even though there is a constant crunch between London and Paris, at the end the two countries are on the same side when it comes to fight refugees. Last summer almost 6,000 refugees left Calais in inflatable boats trying to reach Dover.

<https://www.jungewelt.de/artikel/385674.abschottung-am-ärmel-kanal-mit-kriegsgerät-gegen-flüchtlinge.html?sstr=drohnen>