

Armed drones on the European media

October 2020

Sources:

Armádní noviny, Czech Republic
Ceo Magazine, Poland
Die Zeit, Germany
E15, Czech Republic
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany
Gazeta Wyborcza, Poland
Kresy, Poland
iDnes, Czech Republic
Le Matin, Switzerland

Le Monde, France
Le Temps, Switzerland
Les Echos, France
Radio France Internationale, France
Reuters, Uk
Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany
The Guardian, Uk
The Times, Uk
Vtm, Czech Republic

Drone time in Nagorno-Karabakh

Armenian air defense against Azerbaijani drones

5 Oct 2020

Jan Grohmann, Armádní noviny, Czech Republic

Azerbaijan is massively deploying combat and kamikaze drones in the ongoing military clash with Armenia. It is for the first time that two state actors, who are militarily on par with each other, and have relatively modern weapons, show a massive and media-covered deployment of combat drones. The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict is thus an opportunity to study the deployment of drones against modern air defense.

<https://www.armadninoviny.cz/valka-armenskych-a-azerbajdzanskych-dronu.html>

Baku prefers new drones to old diplomacy

7 Oct 2020

Emmanuel Grynszpan, Le Temps, Switzerland

Unable to obtain concessions from Armenia for three decades, the Azerbaijani president opted for force, with the blessing of Ankara. A meeting is held in Geneva, but without confrontation between the parties.

<https://www.letemps.ch/monde/bakou-prefere-nouveaux-drones-vieille-diplomatie>

Kamikaze drones, Baku's media blitz

6 Oct 2020

Le Matin, Switzerland

Azerbaijani propaganda videos praise the strikes of its armed drones in Nagorno-Karabakh against Armenian tanks and anti-aircraft systems. But while drones offer a tactical and communications advantage, the real impact of these devices on the outcome of the battle must be put into perspective.

<https://www.lematin.ch/story/les-drones-kamikazes-latout-mediatique-de-bakou-282422645397>

Nagorno-Karabakh: Armenia and Azerbaijan accuse each other of breaking fresh truce

18 Oct 2020

The Guardian, Uk

Armenia and Azerbaijan accused each other on Sunday of violating a new humanitarian ceasefire in fighting over the mountain enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, hours after it was agreed. Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been

under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a war there ended in 1994. The latest fighting that began on 27 September has involved heavy artillery, rockets and drones, killing hundreds in the largest escalation of hostilities between the South Caucasus neighbours in more than a quarter-century.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/17/nagorno-karabakh-armenia-and-azerbaijan-announce-new-truce-plan>

It's a drone time. The sky over Karabakh shows the future of the war

11 Oct 2020

Adam Hájek, iDnes, Czech Republic

Security analysts from around the world are observing with interest the current conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, in which drones play an extraordinary role as Azerbaijan uses Israeli and Turkey-made drones. The conflict in Karabakh reminded that state-of-the-art drones are no longer the prerogative of the world's most advanced armies. Today, in addition to the USA, Israel and Turkey, powerful military drones are also operated or developed by Russia, China, Iran, Pakistan and Poland.

According to analysts, the Czech army should also learn from modern trends and purchase drones such as the Israeli Hero or SkyStriker. According to some, it is quite possible that the elite 601st Special Forces Group already has some kamikaze drones at its disposal.

https://www.idnes.cz/zpravy/zahranicni/nahorni-karabach-armenie-azerbajdzan-drony-bezpilotni-letedla-turecko-bayraktar-tb2.A201007_135846_zahranicni_aha

Nagorno-Karabakh War: Turkish drones are destroying the

Russian equipment. Moscow is enforcing their forces stationed in Armenia

21 Oct 2020

Wacław Radziwinowicz, Gazeta Wyborcza, Poland

Despite the ceasefire declarations of their governments, Armenia and Azerbaijan are still fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh. Military Russian experts estimate that, without the help of Russia, Armenia doesn't stand a chance against the Azerbaijan army. Moscow is deeply concerned by the fact that Turkish drones, used by Azerbaijan, are able to destroy their S-300 anti-aircraft system supposedly invincible.

<https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26418985,wojna-w-karabachu-to-dla-rosji-test-ich-ubzrojenia.html>

A drone race in Europe...

The army will buy combat drones for 1.5 billion crowns

6 Oct 2020

E15, Czech Republic

The Army has set aside 1.5 billion crowns (60 million euros) in its 2023- 2027 budget for the purchase of tactical multipurpose drones that would be able to carry weapon. The army already uses large ScanEagle and small Raven RQ-11B reconnaissance drones. The new drones will be operated by the recently created 533rd Unmanned Systems Battalion based in Prostějov that will be fully operational by 2020.

<https://www.e15.cz/domaci/armada-nakoupi-bojove-drony-za-1-5-miliardy-korun-1373872>

When will the Polish army have drones? General Rozanski

: “The Nagorno-Karabakh War is teaching us an important lesson”

3 Oct 2020

Adam Szbelak, Kresy, Poland

According to General Rozanski, the current conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan shows us the significant role of drones in armoured warfare. The battle of Kursk is not to happen anymore. This is a strong signal that the Polish army should invest in such unmanned systems. The two main current projects – Gryf and Zfir (Medium Altitude – Long Endurance) are lagging behind.

<https://kresy.pl/wydarzenia/kiedy-drony-dla-wojska-polskiego-gen-rozanski-wojna-w-gorskim-karabachu-stanowi-wazna-lekcje/>

Serbia tests Chinese drones, Russian jets at major exercise

10 Oct 2020

Reuters, Uk

Russian-made jet fighters, helicopter gunships and tanks fired at ground targets while Chinese combat drones flew overhead on Saturday at the desolate Pester training ground in Serbia’s westernmost region in a show of revamped military power.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-serbia-military-idUSKBN26V0OA>

Diodon launches the first inflatable drone for the French army

12 Oct 2020

Les Echos, France

Diodon Drone Technology has designed an all-terrain and

amphibious military observation drone, thanks to its fully inflatable structure. After an experimental phase, the start-up is launching a second more powerful version with stabilized images.

<https://business.lesechos.fr/entrepreneurs/idees-de-business/0604003336741-diodon-lance-le-premier-drone-gonflable-pour-l-armee-francaise-340180.php>

UAVs, the flagship of the Turkish defense industry

16 Oct 2020

Marie Jégo, Le Monde, France

The production of UAVs is the flagship of Turkey's booming defense industry. The private company Baykar, headed by Selçuk Bayraktar, Erdogan's son-in-law and husband of his youngest daughter, Sümeyye, produces most of the armed and unarmed drones for the Turkish army. With this production, Turkey equips part of its troops and ensures some export outlets. Recently, Ukraine declared its intention to acquire some of it.

https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2020/10/16/les-drones-fleurons-de-l-industrie-turque-de-defense_6056260_3210.html

The sky over Stadelheim

14 Oct 2020

Julian Hans, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany

Prison guards in Bavaria are using a launch device to intercept drones that are supplying inmates with drugs, cell phones or weapons. However, it is not easy to reliably identify the aircraft.

<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/muenchen-ja-drohnen-abschuss-1.5068621>

A chance for drones

21 Oct 2020

Alan Posener, Die Zeit, Germany

Should the Bundeswehr receive armed drones? No, say the opponents of an acquisition: such weapons lower the inhibition threshold to kill. But it is not that simple.

<https://www.zeit.de/politik/deutschland/2020-10/bundeswehr-bewaffnete-drohnen-toeten-hemmschwelle>

Eva Högl for armed drones

20 Oct 2020

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany

Eva Högl, the SPD parliamentary commissioner for the armed forces, has spoken out in favor of arming the new Bundeswehr drones. She very much hopes that a decision on the acquisition will be made before the end of this legislative period.

<https://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/inland/wehrbeauftragte-eva-hoegl-fuer-bewaffnete-bundeswehr-drohnen-17010585.html>

...and in the rest of the world

Wary of security issues, Japan's government moves to shut China out of its drone supply chain

Oct 30 2020

Kaori Kaneko and Izumi Nakagawa, Reuters, Uk

Japan may effectively shut off China from supplying drones to its government to protect sensitive information, according to six people in government and the ruling party familiar with the matter, as part of a broad effort to bolster national security.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/japan-china-technology/wary-of-security-issues-japans-government-moves-to-shut-china-out-of-its-drone-supply-chain-idINL4N2HH066>

White House advances drone and missile sales to Taiwan fresh truce

12 Oct 2020

**Mike Stone, Patricia Zengerle and David Brunnstrom,
Reuters, Uk**

The White House is moving forward with more sales of sophisticated military equipment to Taiwan, telling Congress on Tuesday that it will seek to sell Taipei MQ-9 drones and a coastal defensive missile system, sources familiar with the situation said.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-taiwan-arms/exclusive-white-house-advances-drone-and-missile-sales-to-taiwan-sources-idINL1N2H417P>

China launches swarm of ‘suicide’ drones from the back of a lorry (video)

16 Oct 2020

The Times, Uk

China is developing swarms of “suicide” drones packed with explosives to target troops, tanks and other armoured vehicles. Drone swarm technology has become one of the most sought-after battlefield advances, and a demonstration by China last month of its ability to launch a multiple drone attack has shown that its military may be in the forefront of the aerial combat tactic. Video of the exercise showed a formation of drones being released from a box-shaped launcher with 48 tubes mounted on the back of a lorry.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/china-launches-swarms-of-explosive-suicide-drones-hcvtvwk0r>

New, scary technologies

The new Kamikaze drone Switchblade 600 is more efficient than its predecessors

13 Oct 2020

Vtm, Stanislav Mihulka, Czech Republic

AeroVironment has recently introduced its latest kamikaze drone, the Switchblade 600. It is a larger and more efficient successor of the Switchblade 300 drone used by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is controlled via tablet and its operator can guide the kamikaze drone to the target by tapping the finger on the screen. It can attack both light armored vehicles and fortified stationary targets from places out of direct sight and with great accuracy.

<https://vtm.zive.cz/clanky/novy-kamikadze-dron-switchblade-600-je-ucinnejsi-nez-jeho-predchudci/sc-870-a-206381/default.aspx>

Drones are the future of military. They carry out ground recognition and communicate with the soldiers in real time

15 Oct 2020

Ceo Magazine, Poland

Drones are a perfect alternative to manned military aircrafts : they're much cheaper, safe and performant. They can be used to lure the enemy, to perform combat missions and to oversee the battlefield. Currently 95 countries worldwide are using them. Their role is changing. Thanks to artificial intelligence, they can

communicate with the soldier on the ground to help their decision-making.

<https://ceo.com.pl/drony-to-przyszlosc-wojskowosci-potrafia-rozpoznawac-teren-i-namierzac-cele-oraz-komunikowac-sie-z-zolnierzami-w-czasie-rzeczywistym-44658>

‘Machines set loose to slaughter’: the dangerous rise of military AI

15 Oct 2020

Frank Pasquale, The Guardian, Uk

Autonomous machines capable of deadly force are increasingly prevalent in modern warfare, despite numerous ethical concerns. Is there anything we can do to halt the advance of the killer robots?

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/oct/15/dangerous-rise-of-military-ai-drone-swarm-autonomous-weapons>

The not so recent history of armed drones in conflicts

11 Oct 2020

Radio France Internationale, France

UAVs, a type of air armament that is widely used, especially by the Americans, is in full development in the armies of many countries. France, which uses this technology, has been arming its drones since December 2019 and is using them in its war in the Sahel. Another way of fighting that raises many questions.

<https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20201011-usage-drones-armes-aviation-defense-guerre-sahel-reaper>