

Armed drones on the European media

November 2020

Sources:

Business Insider, France
Defence 24, Poland
El Mundo, Spain
IDnes, Czech Republic
Konflikty, Poland
Les Echos, France
Le Matin, Switzerland
Le Temps, Switzerland

Natoaktual, Czech Republic
Reuters, Uk
Seznam Zprávy, Czech Republic
Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany
Tech, Poland
The Independent, Uk

United States spreading drones everywhere...

US approves armed MQ-9B drones purchase by Taiwan

3 Nov 2020

Lucas De la Cal, El Mundo, Spain

The Trump administration has notified Congress that it approved the sale of \$600 million in armed MQ-9B drones and related equipment to Taiwan, the latest in a series of arms transfers for the island. The State Department said Tuesday it had Ok'd Taiwan's purchase of four "weapons ready" remotely piloted aircraft and related equipment. After the announcement, China vowed Wednesday that it will make a "proper and necessary response" if the U.S. proceeds with the sale.

<https://www.elmundo.es/internacional/2020/11/24/5fbce2a1fc6c>

[83fd308b4686.html](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/us-approves-taiwan-drone-purchase-as-arms-sales-escalate-taiwan-sale-us-administration-sale-b1570971.html)

US approves Taiwan drone purchase as arms sales escalate

3 Nov 2020

The Independent, Uk

The Trump administration has notified Congress that it has approved the sale of \$600 million in armed drones to Taiwan the latest in a series of arms transfers for the island. The State Department said Tuesday it had Ok'd Taiwan's purchase of four "weapons ready" remotely piloted aircraft and related equipment. The move is likely to infuriate China, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province and has reacted angrily to previous weapons sales announcements to the island.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/us-approves-taiwan-drone-purchase-as-arms-sales-escalate-taiwan-sale-us-administration-sale-b1570971.html>

Trump administration advances \$2.9 billion drone sale to UAE

6 Nov 2020

Mike Stone and Patricia Zengerle, Reuters, Uk

The U.S. State Department gave Congress notification it plans to sell 18 sophisticated armed MQ-9B aerial drones to the United Arab Emirates in a deal worth as much as \$2.9 billion, people briefed on the notification said. This would mark the first armed drone export since the Trump administration reinterpreted a Cold War-era arms agreement between 34 nations to allow U.S. defense contractors to sell more drones to allies.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-emirates-drones->

[exclusive-idUSKBN27M06L](#)

USA fits military drones with AI

20 Nov 2020

Bolesaw Breczko, Tech, Poland

It's a 93-million-dollar contract: the goal is to study, develop and build a testing platform and to evaluate a new intelligent sensor for drones. General Atomics, the company that obtained this contract specialises in building unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) such as MQ-9 Reaper i MQ-1 Predator. These weapons proved their efficiency used during middle east conflicts in the last years.

<https://tech.wp.pl/usa-wyposaza-drony-uderzeniowe-w-sztuczna-inteligencje-6577633206467424a>

...Europe looking for more drones...

Ukraine is looking for allies against Russia. It has chosen Turkey and is buying its drones

6 Nov 2020

Milan Šíma, Seznam Zprávy, Czech Republic

As Ukraine is locked in conflict with Russia, it is looking for strong regional allies. The country has established cooperation with Turkey and plans to buy more Turkish Bayraktar TB2 combat drones to create its own combat drone squadron of 48 machines. Ukraine, in turn, is helping Turkey with the development of the Bayraktar Akinci drone, an effective combat system that can be used for both reconnaissance and combat operations.

<https://www.seznamzpravy.cz/clanek/ukrajina-hleda-spojence-proti-rusku-vybrala-si-turecko-kupuje-od-nej-drony-127775>

Lasers, drones, robots: The army will focus on the next phase of modernization

24 Nov 2020

Natoaktual, Czech Republic

After completing key purchases of infantry combat vehicles, air defense systems and artillery, the army will focus on the next phase of modernization, which will cover the latest technologies, including drones, robots or the use of artificial intelligence, concluded the annual Czech Armed Forces Command Assembly. Defense Minister Lubomír Metnar has highlighted that the country should not lag behind as the most recent Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has shown the importance of modern technology and drones.

https://www.natoaktual.cz/zpravy/metnar-opata-zeman-drony-armada-modernizace-bvp-babis-rozpocet-obrana.A201124_121038_na_zpravy_m00

New lasers above the power plant distinguish the bird from a possible attacking drone

28 Nov 2020

Ilona Zelníčková, IDnes, Czech Republic

The invisible net of laser beams strengthened the airspace protection in Dukovany and Temelín nuclear power plants. The aim of the new security system is to secure the airspace against drones as the intelligent system can easily distinguish these from birds. Detectors shoot laser beams at different angles into space at the speed of light, collect information from the environment, and as soon as it encounters an obstacle, it returns to the detector.

https://www.idnes.cz/jihlava/zpravy/elektrarna-jadro-dukovany-temelin-bezpecnost-hrozba-dron-system-laser-vysocina.A201125_582726_jihlava-zpravy_mv

New bayraktars for Ukraine

29 Nov 2020

Andrzej Pawlikowski, Konflikty, Poland

According to general Rusan Khomchak, Ukraine is planning to purchase five more Turkish Bayraktar Tactical Block 2 (TB2) unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The Bayraktar TB2 and Javelin were tested during drills that were conducted with combat fire. Operators also tested the BM-27 rocket launcher. So far, Kyiv owns already 6 units of Bayraktar (out of 12 ordered). Relations between Turkey and Ukraine developed rapidly during the last years.

<https://www.konflikty.pl/aktualnosci/wiadomosci/kolejne-bayraktary-tb2-dla-ukrainy/>

... and drones are active in Africa, too

Ethiopia resists mediation as it bombs Tigray capital

6 Nov 2020

Giulia Paravicini and David Lewis, Reuters, Uk

Ethiopia resisted international pressure for mediation in a war in the country's north on Monday as its air force bombed the Tigrayan capital Mekelle, according to diplomatic and military sources. Debretsion Gebremichael, leader of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), said at least two civilians had been killed and a number wounded. He said in a text message

to Reuters that while Mekelle had been bombed, the town of Alamata in southern Tigray had been hit by a drone attack.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ethiopia-conflict-idUSKBN27W0LB>

Chinese drones will look after Nigeria's natural resources

13 Nov 2020

Jacek Raubo, Defence 24, Poland

The Nigeria air force received a batch of China's Wing Loong II armed reconnaissance drones. Chinese drones will look after Nigeria's natural resources in order to protect them. They will probably be also useful to fight against Islamic militants and groups that currently operate in the northwest of the country. So far, the United Arab Emirates was the only country outside of beside China to operate Wing Loong II drones.

<https://www.defence24.pl/chinskie-drony-beda-strzegly-bogactw-naturalnych-nigerii>