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About the ADIP News Bulletin

The Arab Defense Industry Papers (ADIP) is a new professional series focusing on the role of the defense industry in Algeria Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. The focus of the series is on the establishment of national defense industrial bases in these countries and joint collaborative defense projects as well as defense exports. The ADIP News Bulletin complements the analytical papers by providing information about current and upcoming developments relevant for the Arab defense industrial establishment. The ADIP News Bulletin is available by subscription. ADIP and the ADIP News Bulletin are joint initiatives of Borchert Consulting & Research AG and Verocy. For more information about ADIP, see: <http://www.arabdefenseindustry.com>.

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The Big Picture

GCC and UK announce renewed "strategic partnership"

(9 Dec 2016) On 6-7 December 2016, Theresa May was the first UK Prime Minister to attend a meeting of the six Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC). On the occasion of the meeting the parties published a lengthy statement announced a new "strategic partnership" building on enhanced cooperation in the fields of security, counter-terrorism, cyber security, and defense in general. The statement underlined military cooperation would aim at developing "GCC defense capacity, capability, and interoperability, including for humanitarian and peace support operations" as well as maritime and border security.

The UK seems to speed up its return to "east of Suez" that already began about two years ago with the announcement the establish a permanent naval base in Bahrain. In addition, the UK is also establishing a new army base in Oman.

According to press reports, Prime Minister May underlined the strategic relevance of the partnership by arguing that "Gulf security is our security." Without going into details, she also pledged to invest more than £3bn in defense spending in the region in the next decade.

<http://bit.ly/2hmTOz2>

Egypt interested in defense cooperation with Pakistan

(9 Dec 2016) Egyptian President Abdel Fatah el-Sisi told Pakistan's Minister of Defense Production Rana Tanveer Hussain that Egypt would like to cooperate with Pakistan on defense production initiatives, online news agency Quwa reported on 9 December 2016. According to the Associated Press of Pakistan Egypt has expressed its interest in the Pakistani-Chinese JF-17 Thunder multi-role fighter jet.

<http://bit.ly/2gsUNAd>

Russia receives full payment for S-300 from Iran

(1 Dec 2016) Iran has made full payments for the deliveries of S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems

to Russia. "We have just completed the deliveries of S-300 systems. The contract has been implemented in full, and the Iranian side has made payments and withdrawn its lawsuit on the contract," Russian presidential aide for military and technical cooperation Vladimir Kozhin told Russian news agency TASS. Russia signed a \$900M contract with Iran in 2007 for the delivery of S-300 air defense systems to the Islamic Republic. But it was suspended after the adoption of UN Security Council sanctions on Iran in mid-2010.

<http://bit.ly/2hmiw3P>

New report suggests Iran is supplying arms to conflicts in Yemen and Somalia

(30 Nov 2016) The British arms-tracking organization, Conflict Armament Research (CAR) reports that thousands of weapons entering the conflict-ridden countries of Yemen and Somalia may be coming from Iranian backed companies and individuals.

Entitled "Maritime Interdictions of Weapon Supplies to Somalia and Yemen," the CAR report documents evidence found onboard captured dhows. The dhows were presumably transporting weapons in the Arabian Sea, and were captured by the warships HMAS Darwin, FS Provence, and USS Sirocco, operating as part of the multinational CMF. Due to the significant quantity and nature of the military materiel found on board the vessels, the international community immediately suspected their origin to be Iran, with a final destination set for the war-torn countries of Somalia and Yemen.

CAR was able to obtain documentation from two out of three of the dhows, and began analyzing and documenting the impounded materiel. CAR was also able to gain access to seized military equipment that United Arab Emirate forces – operating as part of the anti-Houthi coalition in Yemen – had reportedly captured. Found to be linked were weapons tracked in Yemen, with some of the weapons found in the cargo hold of one of the dhows. Further investigation proved that a significant quantity of the weapons found in Yemen, and in the dhows, were Iranian-manufactured and believed to have originated from Iranian stockpiles.

An Iranian shipbuilding corporation, Al Mansoor, was also found to have manufactured two out of the three dhows. There are some indications that Al Mansoor is involved in these operations beyond the role of being a mere manufacturer of the vessels. CAR found that Al Mansoor has been involved in previous gun running operations in Somalia, from supplying local markets, to accessing Somalian ports and transferring arms between vessels heading to other destinations in the region. "Analysis of the weapons suggests that at least two of the three deliveries were probably supplied with the complicity of Iranian security forces," the report states.

According to records acquired through the Iranian Registry for Personal and Deed Organizations, Al Mansoor is headquartered next to an Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps facility. IRGC is the military arm of the Iranian religious leadership, and its Ayatollahs.

<http://bit.ly/2gocMI5>

CSIS blames Iran for Gulf militarization

(28 Nov 2016) Regional terrorism and the influence of Iran over countries such as Iraq, Syria and Lebanon have led to increased militarization in the region, according to a new report. The report entitled "Iran and the Gulf Military Balance" written by Anthony Cordesman, CSIS, says Tehran poses a growing missile threat to maritime traffic in the Arabian Gulf and the flow of petroleum exports. This has led to "a de facto military alliance between the US, key Arab states and European power projection forces that is critical to deterring Iran and limiting the risk of war", said Cordesman. He argues the military balance in the Gulf was also "shaped by internal conflicts and divisions in Iraq, Syria and Yemen and the impact of 'failed state wars' on the relative strategic influence of Iran versus other Arab states and the US".

Gulf states have long criticized Iran for stirring turmoil in the region, leading them to press the US to take a stronger line against Tehran. But even the most successful military and counter-terrorism efforts can only deter and contain the threats from Iran, extremist groups and regimes

such as that of president Bashar Al Assad in Syria, the report said.

Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, chairman of the Arab Council for Social Sciences, said that in terms of defence spending the region was more militarized than at any other time in its history. "Iran has always pushed the envelope further," Mr Abdulla said. "It has been the initiator and the instigator of new rounds of an arms race in the region." Iran has not only militarized the Gulf, but also added a nuclear element to this arms race, which "once set in motion, the chances for conflict and clashes increase, making everybody less secure". Dr Albadr Al Shateri, professor of politics at the National Defence College, said the report indicated that both parties were locked in positions of distrust.

<http://bit.ly/2hBeO5n>

Saudi appoints powerful lobbyist to address Trump Administration

(23 Nov 2016) Saudi Arabia has contracted another lobbying heavyweight: former California Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon. Between 2011 and 2015, he was the chair of the House Armed Services Committee, which oversees the Department of Defense and its Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program, including supplies to Saudi Arabia. According to data from the Center for Responsive politics, McKeon was among the top five recipients of defense contractor money in the U.S. House of Representatives.

During his time in government, McKeon was a reliable ally of the Saudis and the defense industry. Security Assistance Monitor tracks U.S. foreign military assistance, and its data shows that during McKeon's tenure as head of the House Armed Services Committee, the U.S. signed off on \$10 billion in military sales to Saudi Arabia.

The former congressman now runs the McKeon Group, which registered earlier this month to represent Saudi Arabia. McKeon will be working in a partnership with Democratic-aligned lobby shop the Glover Park Group, alongside 17 other firms and individuals the Kingdom has hired to guard its interests in D.C.

<http://bit.ly/2gkOXBk>

Putin move to win a military base in Libya

(28 Nov 2016) Libyan Gen Khalifa Haftar arrived in Moscow on 26 November 2016 with a request for Russian arms and military support for his army. He was welcomed in Moscow, which saw an opening for Russia to gain its first military base in North Africa. According to DEBKAfile's military and intelligence sources, President Vladimir Putin began to envision a second Mediterranean base on the coast of Benghazi, twin to Hmeimim in Syria's Latakia. This one would accommodate Russian naval as well as air units and be located 700km from Europe.

The U.S.-born Haftar heads a powerful group that was once backed by the U.S. But since refusing to recognize the government established by the UN in Tripoli, he relies mainly on the support of Egypt and some of the Gulf emirates for his eastern Libyan Benghazi stronghold. Egypt and the UAE provide Haftar's army with air support from Egyptian bases in the Western Desert. It was their leaders who urged him to accept the Russian invitation to Moscow and bid for military assistance.

Haftar was in Moscow in June 2016 and met with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and National Security Adviser Nikolai Patrushev. Then, the Kremlin was wary of extending military aid to the maverick Libyan general. U.S, Italian and British special forces were at the time pressing a major offensive to drive ISIS out of the key Libyan port of Sirte. However, this offensive has still not achieved its goal. Putin is now offering Haftar's army jet fighters, attack helicopters, armored vehicles and assorted missiles as well as air support for fighting the Islamic State.

<http://bit.ly/2gP3zGD>

Wilayat Sinai militants kill 12 soldiers North Sinai

(28 Nov 2016) At least 12 soldiers were killed and 12 others were wounded when suspected Wilayat Sinai militants attacked a checkpoint with four vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs) in an unspecified location in Egypt's North Sinai governorate on 24 November, Reuters reported. A military statement said that three militants were also killed during the

attack, although it was unclear from reports whether the militants were suicide attackers or killed by security forces.

<http://bit.ly/2gArThR>

Qatar to arm Syrian rebels

(27 Nov 2016) Qatar will continue to arm Syrian rebels even if Donald Trump ends U.S. backing for the multinational effort, Doha's foreign minister said in an interview, signaling its determination to pursue a policy the U.S. President-elect may abandon. Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said Qatar would not "go solo" and supply shoulder-fired missiles to the rebels to defend themselves against Syrian and Russian warplanes. While the rebels needed more military support, any move to supply "Manpad" anti-aircraft weapons to them would have to be decided collectively by the rebels' backers, the minister, a member of Qatar's royal family, told Reuters.

<http://bit.ly/2gOYFt7>

Austrian military embargo slammed by Ankara

(25 Nov 2016) Ankara has criticized an Austrian military supplies embargo on Turkey. Speaking in Ankara, Defense Minister Fikri Isik told reporters: "I am sure that these types of implementations will give us [Turkey] more serious motivation in developing national and indigenous weapons in Turkey's defense industry." The Austrian parliament has adopted a motion, which imposed an arms export embargo against Turkey. The decision came the same day the European Parliament voted to approve a non-binding motion urging the EU to halt accession talks with Ankara. Isik said the U.S. had imposed a much more severe embargo on Turkey in 1975 -- something which sparked the "birth" of Turkish military supplier, ASELSAN. Isik said Turkey would not be affected by Austria's decision in practice but added that the decision had revealed Austria's attitude.

<http://bit.ly/2hB0Noi>

Head of the Libyan National Army calls for end of UN arms embargo

(23 Nov 2016) Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, head of the Libyan National Army, argued that the UN arms embargo prevents Libya from defeating Daesh. In an interview with French TV Channel 16 he described the arms embargo as unjust and something that could not be accepted. "If the embargo remains, if the world remains in the position of a spectator, we too will [be forced to] remain just spectators of Daesh."

Russia is the only state sympathetic to ending the embargo in order to defeat Daesh in Libya; however the majority of the UN Security Council is in favour of maintaining the embargo stating that it will end once the Government of National Accord is approved and in full control of the Libyan military. Haftar's demand comes in light of his force's recent gains in Benghazi's Gwarsha district.

<http://bit.ly/2hjaJ6D>

Iranian destroyers heading to the Atlantic

(22 Nov 2016) Iran has deployed Alvand and Bushehr destroyers in the Atlantic Ocean as part of its plans to expand naval presence in the international waters. "For the first time, the 44th flotilla comprised of Alvand and Bushehr destroyers could sail around the African continent and enter the Atlantic Ocean," Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari was quoted.

"The Iranian Navy will definitely be present in the Atlantic Ocean in the near future," Admiral Sayyari said during his meeting with foreign military attaches in Tehran at the time. Recently, Iran's Navy has been increasing its presence in international waters to protect naval routes and provide security for trade vessels and tankers. The Iranian Navy has also been conducting anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since November 2008, when Somali raiders hijacked the Iranian-chartered cargo ship, MV Delight, off the coast of Yemen.

<http://bit.ly/2hBdHTa>

Turkey supporting increased technology cooperation among NATO members

(20 Nov 2016) A Turkish official has used the recent meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Istanbul to ask for more technology cooperation among allies. Turkish Science, Industry and Technology Minister Faruk Ozlu Ozlu talked about Turkey's research and development programs and developments in the defense industry. He underlined Turkey's support for international cooperation and argued that there should be more technological collaboration among NATO nations. "Are we really open to share technology among NATO members? Are we ready and eager to support each other in the field of technology?" he asked. He also put emphasis on cyber security. "We believe that NATO members should share more technology, including in cybersecurity."

<http://bit.ly/2gAoLCu>

Defense Industry

IDF to upgrade Segev UGV with remote weapon station

(1 Dec 2016) The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is set to upgrade the Segev unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs) it currently operates on the border with the Gaza Strip with a remote weapon station and an autonomous navigation capability, according to the commander of the Unmanned Surface Vehicle Company.

Segev was introduced in mid-2016 and replaced the Guardium platform. Both UGVs were manufactured by G-NIUS, an IAI-Elbit joint venture that was discontinued earlier in 2016. The Segev is now maintained by Elbit Systems. Based on a Ford F-350 truck, the Segev is much larger than the original Guardium, which used the chassis from the Tomcar off-road utility vehicle. Segev can be operated in manual and semi-automatic mode. The fully automatic mode is about to be introduced in two months.

<http://bit.ly/2hjbrko>

Turkey works on new air and space systems

(30 Nov 2016) Turkey is working on developing a military aircraft, passenger airliner and a satellite, Turksat 6A. "We continue to work on the creation of national military and passenger aircraft," Turkey's Science, Industry and Technology Minister Faruk Ozlu said. Speaking at the Global Satshow2 conference in Istanbul, Ozlu also mentioned successfully implemented projects like the ATAK strike helicopter, Hurkus training aircraft, as well as the Anka, Bayraktar and Karayel UAV.

<http://bit.ly/2gAowqS>

Turkish ATAK helicopters to be equipped with long range anti-tank missiles from Roketsan

(25 Nov 2016) Turkey will equip ATAK helicopters with domestically produced long-range, anti-tank UMTAS and laser guided UMTAS missiles. The missiles manufactured by Rocketsan will be used on helicopters manufactured by Turkey. UMTAS can hit targets five kilometers away with full precision.

<http://bit.ly/2hsjI8H>

Iran about to test prototype Shafaq jet

(24 Nov 2016) According to IHS Jane's, Iran's long-running programs to develop a military jet trainer/light attack aircraft will achieve significant milestones in the coming months, officials from the Aerospace Industries Organisation (AIO) told the news magazine during the Iran Air Show held on Kish Island on 16-19 November 2016. The two programs are the Shafaq and the Borhan that derive of a design concept jointly developed by Iranian designers and a team from Russia's Mikoyan Design Bureau from 2002 to 2010. Prototype testing is starting at present, while first flight is expected sometime in 2017. According to AIO, the aircraft that will be tested this year will have the Shafaq-style configuration with a twin, outwardly canted vertical tail.

<http://bit.ly/2hB2LoC>

Turkish military receives guided missile system from Roketsan

(21 Nov 2016) In the second half of November 2016 Turkey's defense firm Roketsan delivered the 303 mm Guided Missile System, also known as KASIRGA (Hurricane), to the Turkish military. According to Turkish Defense Minister Fikri Isik KASIRGA was "developed entirely by Roketsan and has an extreme accuracy up to 120-kilometer range." The system can intensively and effectively fire critical point targets from 30 kilometers to 120 kilometers, thanks to its high striking and destroying capability.

<http://bit.ly/2gt1DHu>

Defense Modernization and Support

Algerian MEKOs to test Umkhonto air defense in 2017

(1 Dec 2016) A press statement issued by South Africa's Denel group on 30 November 2016 suggests that Algeria's MEKO A200 frigates will undergo through extensive testing with the Umkhonto air defense systems in 2017. The company also said that acceptance trials of the second frigate were completed in October 2016 and the manufacturing of infrared-guided Umkhonto missiles for the program will be completed in January 2017.

<http://bit.ly/2gpe8PD>

Israeli AFs GBTS Center Completed

(29 Nov 2016) Israeli company Elbit Systems announced that it has completed the delivery of the Ground Based Training System (GBTS) center for the M-346 "Lavi" trainer aircraft. The GBTS shall qualify pilots and Weapon Systems Operators (WSOs) to progress directly to fourth and fifth generation fighter aircraft (F-16, F-15 and F-35). For this purpose the GBTS enables flight academy cadets, as well as graduate pilots and WSOs, to practice unusual and in-flight emergency procedures, and at a more advanced level, to simulate complex combat scenarios, acting as a solo pilot or as part of a formation. Embedded Tactical Training System (ETTS) provides live training within the GBTS as well as in

the real aircraft. The Center's simulators employ a real-image 360° display system, equipped with simulation models of actual weapons systems and high-fidelity Computer Generated Forces (CGF), which, working together, generate a wide range of immersive virtual combat environments.

<http://bit.ly/2gP9xXT>

Iran accelerates Navy build up

(23 Nov 2016) Iran is putting renewed emphasis on building up its naval bases while also entering new waters. Iranian Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari stated in Tehran that “we are building two naval zones and three naval bases on Makran coasts, and this is in line with our policy of making a return to the sea”. Sayyari also announced the Iranian navy would be equipped with homegrown surface-to-surface missiles, sea-based drones, and Low Probability of Intercept radars.

<http://bit.ly/2giPNiu>

Multimillion upgrade contract GD Iraqi M1A1 Tanks

(23 Nov 2016) U.S. defense company General Dynamics was awarded a \$65M contract for logistic support and training for Iraqi M1A1 tanks and M88A2 recovery vehicles. Work will be performed in Iraq and Sterling Heights, Michigan, with an estimated completion date of 31 December 2017, the U.S. Department of Defense said in a statement.

<http://bit.ly/2hmsMJw>

Defense Procurement

Massive U.S. defense sales to GCC

(9 Dec 2016) On the final days in office the U.S. administration has pushed the door wide open to enable defense sales to several GCC countries. The Defense Security and Cooperation Agency has informed U.S. Congress about the following possible sales:

- 28 AH-64E remanufactured and nine new AH-64E Apache attack helicopters including

additional components, training, and support services worth \$3.5bn for the UAE

- 48 CH-47F Chinook cargo helicopters including additional components and logistics support worth \$3.51bn for Saudi Arabia.
- 72 F-15QA multi-role fighter aircraft including weapons packages, training and logistical support worth \$21.1bn for Qatar.
- 32 F/A-18E aircraft including additional components, weapons packages, training, and logistics support for \$10.1bn for Kuwait.
- Continued logistics support for eight C-17 aircraft to Qatar worth \$700m.

<http://bit.ly/1gB0cMk>

Iraq looks into buying Patria AMV 8x8 vehicles

(9 Dec 2016) Iraq seems to consider buying Patria AMV 8x8 armored vehicles for its army, Defence Blog reported on 9 December 2016. Baghdad seems to have an interest in several hundred AMVs in different configurations.

<http://bit.ly/2hfbnCD>

Iran has an eye on Russia's Su-30 fighter jets

(30 Nov 2016) Iran considers purchasing a batch of Sukhoi Su-30 jet fighters from Russia to modernize its air force. Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan said the purchase was on the ministry's agenda. He also said Russia had agreed Tehran's terms on “joint investment and supplying technology” for the purchase of Russian-made Sukhoi Su-30 fighter jets." For the deal to get through, Russia and Iran will need to work on the UN Security Council as it needs to approve the sale, which is also likely to affect Moscow's relations with Israel, Saudi Arabia and the U.S.

<http://bit.ly/2gP8CGN>

Irak seeks HQ-9 long-range SAMs

(30 Nov 2016) Iraqi sources have stated that Baghdad is in the process of finalizing a \$2.5bn U.S. purchase of HQ-9/FD-2000 long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems from China Precision Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CPMIEC). According to Mawazin, the purchase will be financed with Chinese credits

requiring Iraq to repay the credit volume in installments of \$833M.

China is about to become one of Iraq's leading suppliers, in particular with regard to weapon systems that are hard to acquire for non-NATO countries such as CH-4 UAV and long-range SAM. With the HQ-9 SAM Iraq is for the first time considering the purchase of a weapon system to engage targets outside its territorial borders. For the time being, Iraq has mainly focused on systems designed assure national defense and conduct domestic counterinsurgency operations

<http://bit.ly/2gpgMOo>

Ukraine sells SAR and EW aircraft to Saudi Arabia

(29 Nov 2016) The Saudi armed forces are expected to procure a minimum of six An-132s, four of which would be configured for search-and-rescue (SAR) operations and two for electronic warfare (EW) operations. Ukroboronprom's Antonov division has recently completed the assembly of its first An-132 light multi-mission transport aircraft.

Pratt & Whitney Canada (P&WC) was selected to power the An-132 through its PW150 turboprop engine. The An-132 will be able to carry a maximum payload of up to 8,400 kg. The Ukraine Today reports that the An-132 is expected to roll out of its hangar for tests in December.

<http://bit.ly/2gP9Rpv>

Israeli orders an additional 17 F-35s

(29 Nov 2016) On 27 November 2016 the Israeli security cabinet seems to have approved the purchase of an additional 17 Lockheed Martin F-35s, according to multiple reports. With this purchase Israel will increase its total order to 50 aircraft. Israel's decision comes in the wake of Canada's decision not to procure F-35. Thus it remains to be seen how this is going to affect unit prices.

<http://bit.ly/2hdIrgm>

Dutch delivery of 15 F-16 fighter jets to Jordan delayed

(28 Nov 2016) Netherlands has delayed the delivery of 15 additional Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf) F-16AMs to Jordan after request for specific hardware and software updates. In 2013, the Netherlands and Jordan agreed on the transfer of 15 RNLAf F-16 to the Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJAF) as a follow up on the delivery of six former Dutch jets in 2009. Delivery of the latest batch was at first planned for 2015 and then rescheduled for 2016. Now it is likely to be pushed back to 2017.

<http://bit.ly/2gtbsVZ>

Morocco to replace defensive aids of F-16 fighter jets

(24 Nov 2016) The Royal Moroccan Air Force (RMAF) has decided to replace the Raytheon Advanced Countermeasures Electronic System (ACES) installed on its Lockheed Martin F-16 Block 52 multirole fighters with the Harris AN/ALQ-211 Advanced Integrated Defensive Electronic Warfare Suites (AIDEWS). The RMAF's decision to order the AIDEWS was announced by the US Department of Defense (DoD) on 18 November, when it said that Harris Corp had been awarded a USD91M contract to deliver an unspecified number of AN/ALQ-211s to Morocco.

<http://bit.ly/2hB3INI>

M109A5 howitzers delivery Morocco

(24 Nov 2016) Morocco seems to have taken delivery of 155 mm M109A5 self-propelled howitzers, news reports suggest. Pictures published in the local press showed at least 12 M109s that had been unloaded at Casablanca's port. Morocco seems to have requested 70 surplus M109A5 according to the U.S. Excess Defense Articles database. Morocco is already an M109 user, having imported 42 M109A2 howitzers from Germany in 2008, as well as three M109A3s and a single M109A4 from the U.S. in 2013.

<http://bit.ly/2gpwdwJ>

Babcock finalizes Oman's Duqm docking facilities

(23 Nov 2016) Engineering company Babcock announced on 21 November that it had finalized a joint venture (JV) with the Oman Drydock Company (ODC) to enhance Oman's naval docking facilities at the Omani port of Duqm. The facility will initially support vessels from the Royal Navy of Oman, Royal Oman Police Guard, the UK Royal Navy (RN), and the UK's Royal Fleet Auxiliary. In the future, the port of Duqm aims to support a range of international naval vessels operating in the region.

<http://bit.ly/2gP4nv9>

52 Super Mushak deal between Turkey and Pakistan

(23 Nov 2016) The Turkish Undersecretariat of Defence Industries has agreed to purchase of 52 MFI-395 Super Mushshak screening trainers from Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC). This sale marks PAC's largest (in terms of volume/units) export order. Pakistani news stated that PAC also signed contracts with Telec Electronics and Machinery and STI to provide engine maintenance and repair services and two simulators, respectively, for the Super Mushshak.

The MFI-395 is an upgraded and locally manufactured variant of the Saab MFI-17 Supporter, which Pakistan procured from Sweden in the 1980s. The Saab Supporter was assembled at PAC. Saab stopped manufacturing the Supporter and Safari, and in 1995, PAC began developing the Super Mushshak.

The first locally manufactured Super Mushshak rolled-off the production line in 2000 and then conducted its maiden test flight in 2001. Ever since, the Super Mushshak has been acquired by customers in Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Oman, and others.

<http://bit.ly/2hjdM1k>

Morocco awards \$91M defensive EW suite contract to Harris

(19 Nov 2016) US based Harris Corp has been awarded a \$91M contract for all functions required to support Advanced Integrated Defensive Electronic Warfare Suite (AIDEWS) re-

quirements for Morocco. This entails the production of the AN/ALQ-211(V)4/8/9 AIDEWS systems, software, and associated support equipment for Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program customers. This effort also provides the AN/ALE-47 countermeasures dispensing systems for AIDEWS (V)4 users; ALE-47 threat adaptive countermeasure dispensing systems for AIDEWS (V)8 users; and the associated support equipment. The work shall be completed by 18 November 2019. The first order involves foreign military sales to Morocco.

<http://bit.ly/2hBbtDu>

Military Cooperation and Training

Egypt and Greece conduct joint exercises

(9 Dec 2016) Greece hosted a joint military exercise with Turkey from 8 to 12 December. "Medusa 2016" included Air Force and Navy units of both nations' armed forces to train for naval inspection operations, SAR operations as well as air control operations, press reports indicated.

<http://bit.ly/2gH7mIJ>

UAE and South Korea to increase military cooperation

(28 Nov 2016) Defense chiefs of South Korea and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have discussed measures to further promote bilateral military ties that have been enhanced with the dispatching of troops to the Middle East country. South Korean Defense Minister Han Min-koo had a meeting with his UAE counterpart Mohammed Al-Bawardi in Seoul to discuss the operations of the Akh Unit sent to the UAE for peacekeeping and other military support duties, the defense ministry said in a statement. At present, there are four South Korean military units operating overseas – the Hanbit Unit in South Sudan, the Dongmyung Unit in Lebanon, the Akh Unit in the UAE and the naval Cheonghae Unit that is stationed off Oman's coast – for peacekeeping, restoration, anti-pirate and training missions. The 150-strong Akh (Brothers) Unit has been dispatched to the UAE to help train the coun-

try's special forces and protect South Korean residents there since January 2011. The defense ministry has made a request to the National Assembly for an extension of the Akh Unit's operations in the UAE, which ends in December 2016.

<http://bit.ly/2gP27nK>

PT Dirgantara Indonesia to maintain Saudi air systems

(28 Nov 2016) As of 2017, Indonesia's state-owned aircraft manufacture PT Dirgantara Indonesia (DI) will maintain Saudi Arabian military helicopters and aircraft. "We are still processing the contract," Brig. Gen Jan Pieter Ate, the Defense Ministry's director of the defense industry and technology, told The Jakarta Post. Jan said DI was among different defense companies in Indonesia ready to offer maintenance services for foreign military helicopters and airplanes.

<http://bit.ly/2hBcEmd>

Pakistan and Turkey plan to step up defense cooperation

(17 Nov 2016) During the visit of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Pakistan, the Turkish Chief of General Staff (CGS), General Hulusi Akar, and Pakistan Army Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif, met to discuss "matters of mutual interest" and potential areas of further bilateral defence collaboration and relations. President Erdogan also agreed to President Mamnoon Hussain proposal of a formal long-term "Framework Agreement for Defence Cooperation."

This move reflects the recent strengthening of defense industrial ties, as illustrated by the decision of the Pakistan Navy to award a contract to modernize three Agosta 90B submarines to Turkey's STM. STM is also in talks with Pakistan over the prospect of selling four surface warships based on the STM Ada-class corvette. Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) had marketed the T-129 attack helicopter, Anka UAV, and Hürkuş trainer to Pakistan.

<http://bit.ly/2hdJ4GL>

Cybersecurity and Space

New Shamoon computer attack on Saudi Arabia

(1 Dec 2016) U.S. cybersecurity firms have revealed that a version of computer virus Shamoon was being employed in mid-November to attack computers in Saudi Arabia and other regions. Shamoon wipes the master boot records used to start up computers. Four years ago the same virus attack had caused damage to tens of thousands of computers across Middle Eastern energy companies, Reuters reported.

CrowdStrike, Palo Alto Networks Inc and Symantec Corp. warned of the new attacks but they did not name any victims of the new version of Shamoon. However, the firms did not disclose the extent of damage caused nor identified the hackers. FireEye said in a blogpost that its Mandiant unit "has responded to multiple incidents at other organizations in the region." A spokesman refused to identify the countries or organizations.

The reappearance of Shamoon is significant as there have only been a handful of other high-profile attacks involving disk-wiping malware, including ones in 2014 on Sheldon Adelson's Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Sony Corp's Hollywood studio. Now the recent hackers (Shamoon 2) also left a calling card. It was a disturbing image of the body of three year-old Syrian refugee Alan Kurdi, who drowned in the Mediterranean last year, researchers said.

<http://bit.ly/2hmo1Q4>