

# Regional Insights: July 3rd, 2020

Africa, South & Central Asia	Americas & Australasia	East & Southeast Asia
<p><b>Pandemic will boost pan-African cooperation as global players look inwards – <a href="#">Control Risks</a></b></p> <p>Many of Africa’s traditional partners are looking inwards as they seek to bring the pandemic under control in their own countries, and in the absence of clear global leadership to combat COVID-19, the bolstering of African leadership and pan-African cooperation could emerge as the main benefit of the pandemic for the continent. African governments have largely come together in efforts to tackle COVID-19. This political will and co-operation could outlast the pandemic and bode well for initiatives to accelerate regional integration and increase trade, growth and development across the continent in the coming years.</p> <p><b>UN Accuses Multiple Countries of Quietly Sending Arms to DR Congo – <a href="#">The Defence Post</a></b></p> <p><b>Morocco has signed for 24 Apache helicopters – <a href="#">Janes</a></b></p> <p><b>China’s proxy battle with India in Nepal – <a href="#">ORF</a></b></p> <p><b>Pakistan Stock Exchange attack, false flag or flagged movement? – <a href="#">ORF</a></b></p> <p><b>Another mass grave discovered in recently reclaimed Libyan town, Tarhuna – <a href="#">The Defence Post</a></b></p>	<p><b>A 10% cut to the US military budget would help support struggling Americans – <a href="#">The Guardian</a></b></p> <p>At this unprecedented moment in American history – a terrible pandemic, an economic meltdown, people marching across the country to end systemic racism and police brutality, growing income and wealth inequality and an unstable president in the White House – now is the time to bring people together to fundamentally alter our national priorities and rethink the very structure of American society.</p> <p><b>Military spending needed more now than ever, top defence official says – <a href="#">CTV News</a></b></p> <p><b>Royal New Zealand Navy’s training exercise involving ‘protesters’ at Kauri Point sparks controversy – <a href="#">New Zealand Herald</a></b></p> <p><b>Australia releases weapons wish list amid defense spending boost – <a href="#">Defense News</a></b></p> <p><b>Facing political instability, Brazil’s Bolsonaro says military exists to defend democracy – <a href="#">Global News</a></b></p> <p><b>The military is drawing down its U.S.-Mexico border mission. Sort of. – <a href="#">Military Times</a></b></p>	<p><b>US, Vietnam and Philippines accuse Beijing of ‘unlawful maritime claims’ with five-day drill in South China Sea – <a href="#">South China Morning Post</a></b></p> <p>The United States, Vietnam and the Philippines have lashed out at China, accusing it of coercion as Beijing launches a military drill in a disputed part of the South China Sea. China scheduled five days of drills from Wednesday near the Paracels. Vietnam has overlapping claims with China over the Paracels.</p> <p><b>Explainer: Strike capability, other military options on table after Japan’s Aegis U-Turn – <a href="#">Reuters</a></b></p> <p><b>Indonesia signals potential major increase in defence spending – <a href="#">Jane’s</a></b></p> <p><b>China’s Defence Ministry says recent border clash caused by India – <a href="#">Straits Times</a></b></p> <p><b>Thailand proposes 2021 defence budget reduction – <a href="#">Jane’s</a></b></p> <p><b>Taiwan military holds rehearsal drill ahead of 36th Han Kuang exercise – <a href="#">Taiwan News</a></b></p>
Eastern Europe	Middle East	Western Europe & The Nordics
<p><b>US says Bulgaria can pay in instalments for future military acquisitions – <a href="#">The Sofia Globe</a></b></p> <p>The US Department of Defence’s Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DCSA) has written to Bulgaria’s Defence Ministry saying that Bulgaria has been included in the list of countries that will be able to pay in instalments for new military acquisitions.</p> <p><b>Greece awards contract to Israel’s Defense Ministry for lease several heavy drones – <a href="#">Defence Blog</a></b></p> <p><b>90 Canadian troops to leave for Ukraine as military looks to resume mission - <a href="#">CBC</a></b></p> <p><b>Belarus develops unmanned air defense system – <a href="#">Defence Blog</a></b></p>	<p><b>Pandemic Politics: Fighting Extremist Groups During COVID-19 – <a href="#">Brookings</a></b></p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has sparked a debate over how to deal with extremist groups in the Middle East that are capitalizing on global instability to expand their power. Radical groups have adopted varying strategies. The Islamic State (ISIS) is advancing militarily in Iraq and Syria. Yemen’s Houthis, by contrast, have established clinics in their territories, testing centres, and a help hotline. In doing so, the armed group is attempting to deflect attention from its role in escalating the war while blaming the Saudi-led coalition for allowing the virus to spread. Meanwhile, Hezbollah in Lebanon is offering medical facilities and services that other government factions have failed to provide.</p> <p><b>Exploring Gulf Responses to COVID-19 – <a href="#">IISS</a></b></p> <p><b>Risk Perception and Appetite in UAE Foreign and National Security Policy – <a href="#">Chatham House</a></b></p> <p><b>Iran issues warrant for Donald Trump over killing of top general - <a href="#">Reuters</a></b></p>	<p><b>New European Defence Agency boss warns against ‘rash’ budget cuts by EU – <a href="#">Defence News</a></b></p> <p>The new head of the European Defence Agency, Jiří Šedivý, has thrown down the gauntlet to European Union member states, telling them: “It is up to you to deliver” and states that the onus is on EU countries “to use the EDA to its full extent”.</p> <p><b>The European Defense Industry Just Got €205 Million In Funding – <a href="#">Forbes</a></b></p> <p><b>Johnson says more optimistic than Barnier on post-Brexit deal – <a href="#">Reuters</a></b></p> <p><b>Germany warns new US sanctions endanger Nord Stream 2 pipeline – <a href="#">Financial Times</a></b></p> <p><b>US Army training resumes in Europe amid pandemic and the threat of troop cuts – <a href="#">Defence News</a></b></p>

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