

Regional Insights: September 25th, 2020

Africa, South & Central Asia	Americas & Australasia	East & Southeast Asia
<p>A new normal for India–China tensions? – IISS</p> <p>Indian-Chinese bilateral ties are at their worst level since 1962, with fresh tension rising owing to renewed military signalling in the Pangong Lake area. As militaries start preparing for the possibility of months-long face-offs through the harsh Himalayan winter, Pangong Lake may serve as a useful barometer of the overall level of bilateral border tensions. The November G20 summit may present an opportunity to defuse tensions, however, despite successive rounds of military-led talks diplomatic efforts so far have not kept pace with the risks.</p> <p>What Are India’s Plans for Directed Energy Weapons? – The Diplomat</p> <p>Turkey will keep supporting Libya’s GNA despite Sarraj plan to quit – Reuters</p> <p>MBDA to supply VL-MICA surface-to-air missiles for Meko A-200 frigates of Egyptian Navy – Navy Recognition</p> <p>MONUSCO to “demilitarise and close offices” – Defence Web</p>	<p>US to ‘significantly’ downsize military presence in Afghanistan – Defense Connect</p> <p>The US Department of Defence has revealed that it expects fewer than 5,000 troops to remain in Afghanistan by the end of November. David Helvey, the US Assistant Secretary for Defense, Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, has told the national security subcommittee of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform that between 4,000 and 5,000 military personnel will remain in Afghanistan following a partial withdrawal of troops over the coming months</p> <p>Canada needs an Arctic defence strategy as Russia, China eye the north – Global News</p> <p>Did the US Marine Corps give up on a big ship-based surveillance drone too soon? – DefenseNews</p> <p>Australian defence force needs more funding to juggle national disasters and military role, inquiry told – The Guardian</p> <p>First Brazilian Gripen arrives in-country – Janes</p>	<p>Threat of war over Taiwan leaves superpowers on edge – The Times</p> <p>The world has long fretted about the outbreak of a catastrophic war on the Korean peninsula, but the real danger may lie some 1,000 miles away in the Taiwan Strait, where the largest army on the planet is flexing its increasing might against a democratic island of 24 million people. Recently, jets of China’s PLA have repeatedly crossed the midpoint of the strait that separates the mainland and Taiwan triggering intercepts by the island’s frontline fighters.</p> <p>China now has the world’s largest fleet, alarming its Pacific rival – The Economist</p> <p>Nobuo Kishi, Abe’s younger brother, seeks to carve out new role as Japan’s defense chief – Japan Times</p> <p>Singapore, US officials discuss strengthening defence ties – Straits Times</p> <p>South Korea, Indonesia renegotiate KF-X project – Janes</p> <p>In a US-China war, whose side is Southeast Asia on? – SCMP</p>
Eastern Europe	Middle East	Western Europe & The Nordics
<p>Bulgaria opens tender for 2.1 mn euro deal for overhaul of five T-72 tanks – SeeNews</p> <p>Bulgaria’s defence ministry said on Monday that it has launched a tender for a contract for the overhaul of five T-72 tanks, worth an estimated 4.2 million levs (\$2.5 million/2.1 million euro), VAT excluded. Only candidates which have overhauled at least two armoured vehicles in the past five years will be eligible to participate in the tender, the defence ministry said in a notice.</p> <p>Polish UAV Systems Offered by the NATO Support and Procurement Agency – Defence 24</p> <p>Pompeo to Head to Eastern Europe to Discuss Troop Moves – Defence Post</p> <p>US must remain committed to NATO and the Baltic States – Atlantic Council</p> <p>Lithuanian defense minister: pandemic highlights need to maintain military readiness – Baltic Times</p> <p>Military Tension Increases in the Baltic Sea Region – ICDS</p> <p>Defense Minister asks US to station troops in Latvia – LSM</p> <p>MiG-21 military jet crashes near Serbia’s border with Bosnia, one pilot dead – The Economic Times</p>	<p>Palestine quits Arab League role in protest over Israel deal – Al Jazeera</p> <p>Palestine has quit its current chairmanship of Arab League meetings, the Palestinian foreign minister said on Tuesday, condemning as dishonourable any Arab agreement to establish formal ties with Israel. Palestinians see the deals that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed with Israel in Washington a week ago as a betrayal of their cause and a blow to their quest for an independent state in Israeli-occupied territory. Earlier this month, the Palestinians failed to persuade the Arab League to condemn nations breaking ranks and normalising relations with Israel.</p> <p>Trump ‘No problem’ selling F-35 jets to UAE – Defense News</p> <p>China’s plan to dominate the Middle East centres around Iran – Middle East Institute</p> <p>Marginalization Cost: Regional disparities fuelling Lebanon’s fragility – Carnegie Middle East Center</p> <p>Israel bombs Gaza after rocket fire follows UAE, Bahrain deals? – Al Jazeera</p> <p>Turkey eyes new markets for exports – DefenseNews</p> <p>Fincantieri Launches First Offshore Patrol Vessel For Qatari Emiri Navy – Naval News</p>	<p>Germany tries to forge a deal on who can play ball in Europe – Defense News</p> <p>Time is ticking for Germany to find a compromise on letting American, British and other non-European Union countries tap into the bloc’s emerging defence cooperation scheme. The government of Chancellor Angela Merkel has taken on the task of sorting out the issue by the end of the year, when Germany’s six-month term at the helm of the European Council concludes. “It is an important issue to solve, particularly for close NATO partners,” Karl-Heinz Kamp, special envoy of the political director at the German Ministry of Defence, said during a panel discussion at the annual Defense News Conference this month.</p> <p>Belgian Defence sends F-16 fighter jets to Middle East again – Aviation24</p> <p>European Parliament demands new sanctions mechanism for future arms export violations – Janes</p> <p>German, French defence ministers push for Eurodrone progress – Global Defence News</p> <p>Greece looks to France for new arms amid Turkey spat – Defense News</p> <p>Sweden halts trainer aircraft procurement citing no suitable candidates – Janes</p>

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