

# Regional Insights: February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Africa, South & Central Asia	Americas & Australasia	East & Southeast Asia
<p><b>India-Saudi Security Ties Getting Stronger – <a href="#">The Diplomat</a></b></p> <p>India's energy security requirements have led to a long cordial relationship with Saudi Arabia, however, in recent years both sides have indicated a shift away from the traditional stance, in which Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir were significant sticking points. The last decade has seen an increase in high-level political visits between the two countries. The armies are reportedly planning to hold a joint exercise for the first time and the first-ever joint naval exercises are planned for 2021. Saudi armed forces also regularly attended training programs at Indian military institutions.</p> <p><b>Violence still raging in South Sudan despite peace deal – <a href="#">Reuters</a></b>  <b>Sudan and Ethiopia trade accusations in border conflict – <a href="#">Reuters</a></b>  <b>France to Meet Sahel Leaders as It Mulls Troop Drawdown – <a href="#">The Defence Post</a></b>  <b>Egypt requests \$200 million RIM-116C RAM missile sale – <a href="#">Defence Web</a></b></p>	<p><b>US Defense Chief Reassures Allies and Seeks More Spending in NATO Debut – <a href="#">Wall Street Journal</a></b></p> <p>Austin aims to soothe allies after tensions with Trump administration but maintain pressure on spending. The Biden administration kicked off a round of high-level diplomacy with its European allies at a NATO meeting where it sought to soothe allies bruised by former President Donald Trump's criticism and snap decision-making.</p> <p><b>US launches air strikes against Iranian-backed groups in Syria – <a href="#">Financial Times</a></b>  <b>Canada's chief of defence staff steps aside amid military police probe – <a href="#">Global News</a></b>  <b>Colombia appoints Diego Molano as defense minister – <a href="#">Nasdaq</a></b>  <b>New Zealand lashes at Australia in citizenship row over terror suspect – <a href="#">BBC</a></b>  <b>Australian Defence department renews storage deal with Global Switch, years after Government vowed to ditch Chinese-owned firm – <a href="#">ABC News</a></b></p>	<p><b>Chinese-Russian ballistic missile cooperation signals deepening trust – <a href="#">East Asia Forum</a></b></p> <p>Russia-US relations after Biden's accession to power have had one positive development — the United States has agreed to extend the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) for another five years. Despite this, the outlook for Russia-US relations remains bleak. The reality of Russia-China defence cooperation is complicated. A working and effective military alliance can be formed quite quickly if the need arises. But current foreign policy strategies make such a move unlikely unless there is real and imminent danger of military conflict with the United States.</p> <p><b>Japan: Defense Spending At Fiscal Crossroads – <a href="#">Eurasia Review</a></b>  <b>South Korea to begin work on light aircraft carrier in 2022 – <a href="#">Janes</a></b>  <b>Indonesia to arm up with Rafale, F-15 fighter jets – <a href="#">Asia Times</a></b>  <b>Vietnam to take 12 Aero Vodochody L-39NGs – <a href="#">FlightGlobal</a></b>  <b>China vs America: the struggle for south-east Asia – <a href="#">The Spectator</a></b>  <b>Growing protest movement defies Myanmar – <a href="#">Financial Times</a></b></p>
Eastern Europe	Middle East	Western Europe & The Nordics
<p><b>Czech Republic turns to War-Games to Build Cyber Defences – <a href="#">The Financial Times</a></b></p> <p>Prague's work with corporate sector to strengthen critical industries has drawn attention of NATO allies. The Czech Republic is carrying out war-gaming exercises with companies to strengthen its critical industries against cyber-attacks, supply chain disruption and ownership bids by hostile state. The war-games, thought to be the first contingency exercises in the world, have drawn the attention of NATO allies seeking to protect themselves from aggression in the so-called 'grey zone' between peaceful relations and formal armed conflict.</p> <p><b>In Central Europe, Biden can build on Trump's record – <a href="#">World Politics Review</a></b>  <b>China's Eastern Europe strategy gets cold shoulder – <a href="#">Politico</a></b>  <b>Germany's bridges to Russia split open Europe – <a href="#">The Financial Times</a></b>  <b>The Tartu Peace Treaty and Estonia's Eastern Border – <a href="#">ERR</a></b>  <b>Coronavirus cases in Eastern Europe Surpass 10 million – <a href="#">Reuters</a></b></p>	<p><b>US' Biden orders strike on Iran sites in Syria - <a href="#">Middle East Monitor</a></b></p> <p>Biden directed US military air strikes in eastern Syria against facilities belonging to what the Pentagon said were Iran-backed militia, in a calibrated response to rocket attacks against US targets in Iraq. It was not immediately clear if there were casualties, but the strikes destroyed multiple facilities at a border control point used by a number of Iranian-backed militant groups, including Kata'ib Hezbollah and Kata'ib Sayyid Al-Shuhada (KSS).</p> <p><b>Israel freezes plan to send vaccines to foreign allies - <a href="#">Al Jazeera</a></b>  <b>World Bank threatens to cut Lebanon's vaccine aid over line-jumping - <a href="#">Reuters</a></b>  <b>Israel chooses to buy Lockheed's CH-53K over Boeing's CH-47 - <a href="#">Defense News</a></b>  <b>Oman extends COVID-19 safety measures, closes parks, beaches, leisure areas indefinitely - <a href="#">Arab News</a></b>  <b>U.N. aid chief urges Gulf states to step up to avert Yemen famine - <a href="#">Reuters</a></b></p>	<p><b>Collective Collapse or Resilience? European Defense Priorities in the Pandemic Era – <a href="#">Germany – DGAP</a></b></p> <p>When the pandemic reached its cities, Europe was already under severe internal and external stress. By throwing the continent and the world into an unprecedented economic crisis while security challenges abound, the pandemic has exposed Europe to a risk of irreversible loss of capacity for collective action, hampering its influence and control over its regional areas of interest.</p> <p><b>The transatlantic cavalry rides again – <a href="#">Politico</a></b>  <b>EU seeks defence, space, and civil synergies – <a href="#">Janes</a></b>  <b>Saab heads EU industry push for a drone collision avoidance kit – <a href="#">Defense News</a></b>  <b>Negotiations on Franco-German fighter jet stuck – <a href="#">Reuters</a></b>  <b>France launches third generation SSBN submarine programme – <a href="#">Navy Technology</a></b>  <b>Does size matter for Britain's shrinking Army? – <a href="#">BBC News</a></b></p>

# Global Think Tanks Report: February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## ASPI (Australia)

- [Leaping across the ocean: The port operators behind China's naval expansion](#)
- [Nuclear warfare or cyber warfare: which is the bigger threat?](#)
- [Mid-year defence budget update shows big spending still on track](#)
- [Has Biden caused a wind of change to blow in the Middle East?](#)
- [Australian Army's new attack helicopters must be based and sustained in Darwin](#)
- [Japan and UK move towards partnership to develop combat-aircraft systems](#)
- [The Quad's future as a collaborative defence arrangement](#)
- [Does the Royal Australian Navy need Tomahawk missiles?](#)
- [What would it take for Australia to walk away from the French submarine deal?](#)
- [Firming up Australia's soft power in Indonesia](#)
- [Australia must embrace water as a national security priority while the rain is falling](#)
- [The five-domains update](#)
- [The threat spectrum](#)

## ATLANTIC COUNCIL (USA)

- [Experts React: US airstrike in Syria targets Iran-backed militias](#)
- [FAST THINKING: Biden's first bombing](#)
- [Russia's collective punishment of the Crimean Tatars is a war crime](#)
- [How the next National Defense Strategy can get serious about emerging technologies](#)
- [Russia's nuclear activity in 2019: Increasing strength and pressure](#)

## BELFER CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (USA)

- [How Not to Leave Afghanistan](#)
- [The Iran Deal is Fragile — Here's What the Biden Administration Can Do](#)
- [Reviving the Nuclear Deal Gives the U.S. More Leverage Over Iran](#)

## BROOKINGS (USA)

- [A Pentagon strategy for elevating the space mission](#)

## CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE (USA)

- [New EU defence initiatives for old political problems](#)

## CLINGENDAEL (Netherlands)

- [European Defence Fund: The Real Test is Yet to Come](#)

## CNAS (USA)

- [Biden seeks common front with Europe to counter China, Russia](#)
- [The Air War Against the Islamic State](#)
- [Stemming the Flow: The United States Needs a Strategy to Address China's Strategic Exportation of Digital Authoritarianism](#)
- [Economic defence alliances may help deter economic warfare](#)
- [Sharper: National Security's Next Generation](#)

## HERITAGE FOUNDATION (USA)

- [Rebuilding America's Navy for Great-Power Competition](#)
- [Want to Shed Older Weapons? You Need a Solid Plan](#)
- [US Naval Power: Myths and Misconceptions](#)
- [Rebuilding America's Military: The United States Navy](#)
- [Dangerous Nuclear Policy Idea No. 2: A U.S. Policy of No First Use or Sole Purpose](#)
- [President Biden Should Keep US Troops in Europe](#)
- [Congress, Stop Making it Hard to Save Defense Department Dollars](#)

## HUDSON INSTITUTE (USA)

- [Testimony: Near-Peer Advancements in Space and Nuclear Weapons](#)
- [Competing in Time: Ensuring Capability Advantage and Mission Success through Adaptable Resource Allocation](#)
- [The Hypersonic Missile Debate](#)
- [How to Handle the Growing China Space Threat](#)
- [The Pentagon Needs Budget Agility to Compete with China](#)
- [Why Are Hypersonic Weapons So Important for America's Security?](#)

## IISS (UK)

- [Moscow dusts off decades-delayed 'dogfight' missile](#)
- [Global defence-spending on the up, despite economic crunch](#)
- [UK's Carrier Strike Group: beginning to come together](#)
- [New START extension and next steps for arms control](#)
- [SolarWinds attack underlines importance of US cyber-security upgrades](#)
- [Can the UAE emerge as a leading global defence supplier?](#)
- [North Korea–Iran missile cooperation is reason for ambitious diplomacy](#)
- [Biden, climate change and defence: coming in from the cold](#)

## INSS (Israel)

- [The Global Risk Map and Implications for Israel](#)

## RAND CORPORATION (USA)

- [U.S. Allied and Partner Support for Taiwan: Responses to a Chinese Attack on Taiwan and Potential U.S. Taiwan Policy Changes](#)
- [Japanese Public Needs to Know SDF to Appreciate It](#)
- [The Role of U.S. Airpower in Defeating ISIS](#)

## RUSI (UK)

- [Failure to Lift Off: The UK's Space Launch Ambitions](#)
- [On the Quest to Revive the Iran Nuclear Deal](#)
- [Russia in 2020: The Kremlin's Increasing Apprehensiveness](#)
- [Iran's Shifting Nuclear Debate and the Shrinking Space for Diplomacy](#)