

Regional Insights: March 25th, 2022

Africa	The Americas	Indo-Pacific
<p>US to supply F-15's to Egypt - Janes</p> <p>The commander of US Central Command (USCENTCOM), General Frank McKenzie, revealed the deal during a session of the Senate Armed Service Committee in Washington, DC. "In the case of Egypt, I think we have good news in that we are going to provide them with F-15's" the general said, noting that it had been a "long, hard slog" to finalise the sale. Although the general provided no further details the aircraft are likely to be the latest Advanced Eagle variant that has previously been sold to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, USAF, and Indonesia.</p> <p>Gunmen kill 34 in attack in Northwest Nigeria - TheDefensePost</p> <p>Algeria recalls ambassador to Spain for consultations - Reuters</p> <p>Sudanese march again over worsening economic crisis after coup - Reuters</p> <p>More than 100 civilians killed in Mali in recent months - TheWashingtonPost</p> <p>Ramaphosa Defends South Africa's Neutral Stance on Russia's War - Bloomberg</p>	<p>Pentagon scrambles to replenish weapons stocks sent to Ukraine - Politico</p> <p>The Pentagon is rushing to replace thousands of U.S.-made Javelin and Stinger missiles pulled from European and American stockpiles for use in Ukraine. But the multibillion-dollar effort is still waiting on the military and defense industry to figure out how to ramp up production quickly. Congress has declared it's all-in on the restocking effort, forking over \$3.5 billion to the Pentagon this month alone as part of a \$1.5 trillion government spending package.</p> <p>U.S. weighs engagement with Venezuela, a Russian foothold in America's backyard - Washington Post</p> <p>Canada is eyeing a defence spending boost. Here's where experts say extra cash should go - Global News</p> <p>N. Korea says it test-fired biggest ICBM, US adds sanctions - The Independent</p> <p>The first millennial left-wing president, Chile's Gabriel Boric - Lowy Institute</p>	<p>Spectre of 'Indo-Pacific Nato' accelerates China's decoupling from the west - Financial Times</p> <p>For weeks Chinese officials and analysts have endorsed Russia's claims that NATO's expansion into Europe triggered its invasion of Ukraine. Now they are pointing to a new specter to justify their support of Russia's war: an "Indo-Pacific NATO" that could ultimately force China to decouple from the west and achieve self-sufficiency in everything from food to semiconductors. Ever since Xi Jinping and Joe Biden refused to budge from their opposing assessments of the conflict during a two-hour phone call on March 18, Chinese diplomats have gone on a rhetorical offensive, arguing that US-led alliances are as much a threat to Beijing as they are to Moscow.</p> <p>Taiwan's defence expenditure hits 12% CAGR in 2022 - APDR</p> <p>Australia to expand defence personnel by a third by 2040 - AI Jazeera</p> <p>US, UK commit to enhanced India ties in Indo-Pacific talks - The India Economic Times</p>
Eastern Europe	Middle East	Western Europe & The Nordics
<p>NATO set to boost forces on its eastern flank, chief says - Politico</p> <p>NATO is set to agree to reinforce its eastern flank with a major new deployment of combat-ready troops to Central and Eastern Europe. Speaking ahead of a gathering of NATO leaders in Brussels, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg stressed that the alliance does not want a direct conflict with Russia. Even so, allies are likely to commit to a substantial increase in forces in Eastern Europe for the long term, he said.</p> <p>NATO members to pledge support for Ukraine against potential chem-bio attacks- DefenseNews</p> <p>Germany aims to be nearly free of Russian oil and coal by year's end - Politico</p> <p>Ukraine war turns Poland into America's 'indispensable' ally- Politico</p> <p>NATO, G7, EU raise stakes for Russia, pledge new aid for Ukraine- AlJazeera</p>	<p>Egypt, UAE, Israel leaders meet for first ever three-way summit - Al-Jazeera</p> <p>Leaders of Egypt, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates have met for a three-way summit, the first of its kind since the UAE normalised relations with Israel, with the aftermath of the invasion of Ukraine, as well as the Iran nuclear deal, on the agenda. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi hosted the talks on Tuesday at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and the UAE's de facto ruler, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.</p> <p>Ukraine to feature heavily in Blinken travel to Middle East, North Africa - Reuters</p> <p>Turkey vows to continue efforts to maintain peace in Black Sea - MEMO</p> <p>Ukraine war allows UAE to bring Syria's Assad in from the cold - Al-Jazeera</p>	<p>NATO to develop defence and deterrence options across all domains - Janes</p> <p>NATO defence ministers met in Brussels on the 16 March, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, have tasked their military commanders with developing defence and deterrence options across all domains for approval by a summit of allied leaders at the end of June. Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told a press conference after the meeting, "On land, our new posture should include substantially more forces in the eastern part of the alliance, at higher readiness, with more prepositioned equipment and supplies."</p> <p>Germany to buy F-35 warplanes for nuclear deterrence - Defence New</p> <p>British budget outlook touts weapon deliveries for Ukraine's defense - Defence News</p> <p>Ajax programme viability remains in limbo - Shepherd Media</p> <p>Finland to review security policy as it mulls joining NATO - Reuters</p> <p>Warm weather alters Norwegian exercise logistics - Janes</p>

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