

# Regional Insights: April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Africa	The Americas	Indo-Pacific
<p><b>The United Nations Security Council has voted unanimously to endorse the African Union's new mission – <a href="#">Al Jazeera</a></b></p> <p>This approval is for a transitional mission in Somalia and also authorises the African Union to take action against Al-Qaeda and armed groups allied to ISIS. The African Union will also conduct a phased handover of security responsibilities to the Somali Government. The transitional mission represents a significant change from the original mission due to the large changes in the security situation.</p> <p><b>Bandits attacked a train in central Nigeria carrying 970 passengers leading to 8 dead and 168 being kidnapped - <a href="#">ISS</a></b>  <b>On the 30<sup>th</sup> of March Mali received two Mi-24P attack helicopters from Russia - <a href="#">Defencenews</a></b>  <b>Uganda's military has stated they have killed 309 people in 8 months during an anti-cattle rustling operation - <a href="#">Reuters</a></b></p>	<p><b>Joe Biden announces US, UK and Australia co-operation on hypersonic weapons – <a href="#">Financial Times</a></b></p> <p>The US, UK and Australia will co-operate on the development of hypersonic weapons, expanding a trilateral security pact designed to help Washington and its allies counter China's rapid military expansion. US president Joe Biden said in a statement with Australian prime minister Scott Morrison and UK prime minister Boris Johnson that the allies would enhance co-operation in several areas, including hypersonic weapons as part of their commitment to "a free and open Indo-Pacific".</p> <p><b>Biden requests \$813B for national defense – <a href="#">Politico</a></b>  <b>Canadian military budget will grow by \$8bn as policy review seeks to reset defence vision; spending remains below NATO target – <a href="#">Global News</a></b>  <b>Canada picks the F-35 in fighter replacement competition – <a href="#">Defense News</a></b>  <b>Bulgaria approved for additional F-16s – <a href="#">Janes</a></b></p>	<p><b>US stresses renewed commitment to Indo-Pacific, defence partnership in 2+2 ministerial with India – <a href="#">News India</a></b></p> <p>The United States has stressed its "commitment to a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region" while announcing next week's 2+2 ministerial meeting of Indian and American defense and diplomacy leaders. The Pentagon said that the US and India will "continue to chart an ambitious course in the bilateral defense partnership" that will aim "to meet the challenges of the 21st century". This year's event will celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and the US, the State Department said.</p> <p><b>Biden proposes USD 1.8 billion for Indo-Pacific strategy as part of annual defence budget – <a href="#">The Hindu</a></b>  <b>Japan, Philippines to aim for new defense cooperation pact – <a href="#">Nikkei Asia</a></b>  <b>Australia announces new 'Space Command' defence agency – <a href="#">BBC News</a></b></p>
Eastern Europe	Middle East	Western Europe & The Nordics
<p><b>Europe set to ban Russian coal, but struggles on oil and gas – <a href="#">Independent</a></b></p> <p>The European Union is poised to ban Russian coal in the first sanctions on the vital energy industry over the war in Ukraine, but it has underlined the 27 nations' inability to agree on a much more sweeping embargo on oil and natural gas that would hit Russia harder but risk recession at home. The coal ban, which is expected to be approved in a new package of sanctions this week, would cost Russia \$4 billion a year, said the European Commission, the EU's executive arm. Energy analysts and coal</p> <p><b>Poland offers fighter jets to US in plan to help Ukraine- <a href="#">Independent</a></b>  <b>NATO to bolster ranks, help Ukraine counter chemical attacks- <a href="#">Independent</a></b>  <b>NATO leaders approve four new battlegroups in Eastern Europe- <a href="#">Janes</a></b>  <b>UK to send armoured vehicles to aid Ukraine- <a href="#">The Times</a></b></p>	<p><b>Yemen's warring parties agree to two-month truce, UN says – <a href="#">Al-Jazeera</a></b></p> <p>The warring sides in Yemen's seven-year conflict have agreed to a two-month nationwide truce, starting with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the United Nations envoy has said. The UN-brokered deal on Friday between a Saudi-led coalition and the rebel Houthi group aligned with Iran is the most significant step yet towards ending a conflict that has killed tens of thousands and pushed millions into hunger. The last coordinated cessation of hostilities nationwide was during peace talks in 2016.</p> <p><b>Yemen president cedes powers to council as Saudi Arabia pushes to end war – <a href="#">Reuters</a></b>  <b>Iraqi MPs fail for third time to elect new president – <a href="#">Al-Jazeera</a></b>  <b>Turkey to appoint ambassador to Egypt after years of diplomatic fall out, official says – <a href="#">MEMO</a></b>  <b>Tense Ramadan nights at Jerusalem Gate stir escalation worries – <a href="#">MEMO</a></b></p>	<p><b>Nordic ground forces increase integration in 'Cold Response' - <a href="#">Janes</a></b></p> <p>The recent Norwegian-hosted NATO exercise 'Cold Response' provided a rare but important opportunity for Nordic ground forces to improve integration. The exercise included for the first time two Nordic brigades integrating as the defending land force. 'Cold Response' took place in the second half of March 2022, and trained and demonstrated NATO amphibious capability in and around Norway's northern fjords. The Norwegian and Swedish-Finnish brigades provided the defending force, countering an attacking force consisting of marines from the US Marine Corps (USMC), the UK Royal Marines commandos, the Netherlands Korps Mariniers, and the Italian Navy's San Marco Marine Brigade.</p> <p><b>Italy aims to reach NATO defense-spending target by 2028, four years late - <a href="#">Defence News</a></b>  <b>German Air Force banks on Israel's Arrow-3 for national missile shield – <a href="#">Defence News</a></b></p>

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