

# Regional Insights: April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

Africa	The Americas	Indo-Pacific
<p><b>The US has approved the sale of \$1Bn worth of Attack Helicopters to Nigeria – <a href="#">Defensepost</a></b></p> <p>The US State Department has approved the sale of 12 Viper attack helicopters including guidance systems, night vision systems, and training to Nigeria. The delivery of this equipment aims to “better equip Nigeria to contribute to shared security objectives, promote regional stability and build interoperability with the US and other Western partners” stated the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency</p> <p><b>The ISWAP has claimed responsibility for an explosion in Nigeria that killed or injured 30 people on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April - <a href="#">Aljazeera</a></b>  <b>A joint military force from Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon said it had killed more than 100 Islamist insurgents, including 10 commanders, in the past few weeks - <a href="#">Reuters</a></b>  <b>Severe flooding in South Africa’s has killed 435 people - <a href="#">Reuters</a></b>  <b>A “Russian adviser” operating with a Malian army unit has been killed by an IED - <a href="#">Aljazeera</a></b></p>	<p><b>America discourages India from relying on Russia for defence – <a href="#">Business Standard</a></b></p> <p>The US is discouraging India from relying on Russia, its largest defence supplier, for its defence needs, citing the crippling impact the Western sanctions will have on Russian military-industrial complexes after Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine, top American officials have said. The remarks of the top Biden administration officials this week came amid growing disquiet in Western capitals over India’s refusal to directly condemn the Russian aggression in Ukraine and its decision to procure discounted Russian oil.</p> <p><b>US defence chief speaks for first time with Chinese counterpart – <a href="#">Al Jazeera</a></b>  <b>Airbus’ ‘new baby’ makes splash in Latin America – <a href="#">FlightGlobal</a></b>  <b>US begins training Ukrainians on howitzer artillery – <a href="#">Al Jazeera</a></b>  <b>Canada plans new \$1-billion radar to protect North American cities – <a href="#">Ottawa Citizen</a></b>  <b>How the UAE conquered Brazilian military technology – <a href="#">The Brazilian Report</a></b></p>	<p><b>UK-Indonesia Partnership Roadmap 2022 to 2024 – <a href="#">UK Government</a></b></p> <p>The Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, met on 19 April 2022 in London. During the meeting, Foreign Secretary Truss and Foreign Minister Marsudi reaffirmed their shared commitment to elevate the UK-Indonesia partnership to new heights, both bilaterally as well as through various multilateral settings including by supporting Indonesia’s G20 Presidency in 2022 and its forthcoming ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023.</p> <p><b>US jabs China as it backs India as 'defence industry leader in Indo-Pacific' – <a href="#">Hindustan Times</a></b>  <b>'Geopolitical powder keg' Asia jacks up global military spending – <a href="#">Nikkei Asia</a></b>  <b>UK and India ink Indo-Pacific defense agreement – <a href="#">DW</a></b>  <b>Ukraine war has consequences for Asia, EU chief tells India – <a href="#">France24</a></b></p>
Eastern Europe	Middle East	Western Europe & The Nordics
<p><b>US pledges extra \$713m for Ukraine war effort and to weaken Russia – <a href="#">The Guardian</a></b></p> <p>Russia should be “weakened to the point where it can’t do things like invade Ukraine”, the US defence secretary, Lloyd Austin, said after he and the secretary of state, Antony Blinken, visited Kyiv and pledged a further \$713m to help Ukraine in its war effort. The direct comment came a few hours after the two senior US figures met Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy – and was followed by Russia making an official diplomatic complaint about American arms supplies.</p> <p><b>Russia is no longer the dominant power in Eastern Europe – <a href="#">The Telegraph</a></b>  <b>New arms purchases for Eastern Europe – <a href="#">DefenseNews</a></b>  <b>Nato needs more eastern bases, says US general – <a href="#">The Times</a></b>  <b>Estonia increases defense spending to buy air defense systems, more weapons – <a href="#">DefenseNews</a></b>  <b>US pledges to make Polish army “one of the most capable in Europe” amid talks on new arms deals – <a href="#">NFP</a></b></p>	<p><b>Turkey launches new offensive against Kurdish rebels in Iraq – <a href="#">Al-Jazeera</a></b></p> <p>Turkey has launched a new air and ground offensive against Kurdish fighters in northern Iraq, defence minister Hulusi Akar said. Commando units and special forces, backed by unmanned aerial vehicles and attack helicopters involved in Operation Claw-Lock, are targeting Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) hideouts in the Metina, Zap and Avashin-Basyan regions of northern Iraq, Akar said on Monday.</p> <p><b>‘Food diplomacy’: EU plans to counter Russia in MENA, Balkans – <a href="#">Al-Jazeera</a></b>  <b>Yemen swears in presidential body after Hadi stepped aside – <a href="#">Independent</a></b>  <b>Arab League urges Israel to stop Jewish prayers at Al-Aqsa mosque – <a href="#">Reuters</a></b>  <b>Israeli fighter jets attack Gaza for second time in a week – <a href="#">Al-Jazeera</a></b></p>	<p><b>Germany’s military muddle over Ukraine – <a href="#">The Spectator</a></b></p> <p>The reluctance of chancellor Olaf Scholz to provide heavy weapons to Ukraine is now coming under increasing fire from abroad and within Germany itself. Prominent politicians from the liberal FDP and the Greens, the coalition partners of Scholz’s Social Democrats in Berlin, have criticised the chancellor for his lack of leadership, and complain that Germany is lagging behind other major western powers in supplying weapons. Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, the flamboyant chairwoman of the defence committee in the German parliament, hit out at the chancellor’s ‘deafening silence’ on the subject.</p> <p><b>Is Ireland funding the military adventures of its European neighbours? – <a href="#">The Irish Times</a></b>  <b>Divisions risk undermining windfall for Europe’s defence industry – <a href="#">Financial Times</a></b>  <b>Weaponising Europe: Why EU should buy arms for its states – <a href="#">EU Observer</a></b></p>

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