

Regional Insights: August 14th, 2020

Africa, South & Central Asia	Americas & Australasia	East & Southeast Asia
<p>India announces ban on 101 imported arms. Who benefits, and who loses out? – Defense News</p> <p>To bolster self-reliance for its defense industrial base, India on Sunday 9th August released a list of 101 weapons and platforms that will be banned from import over the next seven years. The list incorporates major armaments such as artillery guns, assault rifles, corvettes, sonar systems, transport aircraft, ammunition, radars, conventional diesel-electric submarines, communication satellites and shipborne cruise missiles.</p> <p>Libya sovereign fund to ask UN for freedom to invest billions - Reuters</p> <p>Mass Defection of Boko Haram Fighters in Cameroon – CFR</p> <p>A New U.S. Policy Framework for the African Century – CSIS</p>	<p>Congress has secretly blocked US arms sales to Turkey for nearly two years – Defense News</p> <p>Four key members of Congress, either individually or collectively, have quietly frozen all major U.S. arms sales to Turkey for nearly two years in a move to pressure Ankara to abandon its Russian-built S-400 air defense system, Defense News has learned. The legislative action, which has not been previously reported, is another sign of the deeply fractured relationship between the two NATO allies, a disruption that has already led to Turkey's expulsion from the F-35 joint strike fighter program.</p> <p>Canada's military launched operation to "shape" opinion amid pandemic – WSWS</p> <p>Bolsonaro and the generals: will the military defend Brazil's democracy? – Financial Times</p> <p>Second OPV ARA Piedrabuena of Argentinian Navy has entered the water for the first time – Navy Recognition</p> <p>Australia releases industrial capability priority implementation plan – Army Technology</p>	<p>China holds military exercises near Taiwan in warning to US – Financial Times</p> <p>Tensions mount in region as Taipei announces 10% increase in defence budget.</p> <p>China's military said on Thursday it conducted exercises near Taiwan "to safeguard national sovereignty" in the face of rising US diplomatic exchanges with Taipei, underlining mounting tensions in the region.</p> <p>NIMBYs and pacifists thwart Japan's military plans – The Economist</p> <p>South Korea announces plans for an aircraft carrier as tensions rise in the Indo-Pacific – The Telegraph</p> <p>South China Sea: why did Duterte bar Philippine military from US exercises? – South China Morning Post</p> <p>Cambodia, Malaysia boost military ties – Phnom Penh Post</p> <p>Singapore Navy frigate takes part in group sail with five ships – Naval Technology</p> <p>Taiwan to raise defence spending as China details combat drills – Reuters</p>
Eastern Europe	Middle East	Western Europe & The Nordics
<p>Turkey Seeks to Boost Presence in Montenegro- Balkan Insight</p> <p>Ankara and Podgorica announced plans to boost diplomatic, defence and economic relations as Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu visited Podgorica as part of efforts to increase Turkey's involvement in the Balkan country.</p> <p>Balkan States Find Prosecuting Terrorism a Challenge – Balkan Insight</p> <p>Ukrainian Army takes delivery of BTR-4E armoured personnel carriers – Defence Blog</p> <p>Belarus mobilizes 3,000 soldiers over invasion concerns – Defence Blog</p> <p>Ukraine plans to buy three batteries of Neptune coastal missile system – Defence Blog</p>	<p>Israel and UAE strike historic deal to normalise relations – BBC</p> <p>Israel and the United Arab Emirates have reached a deal to normalise relations, with Israel agreeing to suspend its controversial plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank. In a surprise statement by US President Donald Trump, who helped broker it, the countries called the accord "historic" and a breakthrough toward peace. Until now Israel has had no diplomatic relations with Gulf Arab countries. But shared worries over Iran have led to unofficial contacts between them.</p> <p>Lebanon parliament approves sweeping powers for the army – Al Jazeera</p> <p>Iraqi Kurdistan in the US-Iraq strategic dialogue: Re-evaluating security sector reform – Middle East Institute</p> <p>Armenia-Azerbaijan Tensions - MEMRI</p> <p>Pompeo acted properly in Saudi arms sale – Defense News</p>	<p>France reinforces military presence in Eastern Mediterranean – Janes</p> <p>France is temporarily increasing its military presence in the Eastern Mediterranean, with two Rafale combat aircraft deployed to Souda, Crete, soon to be followed by the helicopter carrier Le Tonnerre following recent Turkish exploratory drilling in an area between Cyprus and Greece.</p> <p>German defense minister: Planned US troop withdrawal 'regrettable' – Military Times</p> <p>Spain's Indra gets a key role in new Eurofighter radar development – Defense News</p> <p>Netherlands to Buy Raytheon AMRAAM – European S&D</p> <p>Covid-19: Finland announces delay to HX acquisition process – Janes</p> <p>Saab prepares GlobalEye bid for South Korea – Janes</p>

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