### Africa, South & Central Asia

**India's Brahmos missile: an added target in the air?** – **IISS**

Brahmos Aerospace, the Russia-Indian joint venture, is reportedly developing a variant of the Brahmos, anti-ship missile to engage airborne early-warning and control aircraft. The development would provide a cost-efficient response to an opponent’s capacity to generate an airborne radar-based picture of friendly and hostile aircraft. The end of 2020 could see entry it’s into service, with integration on the Su-30MKI fighter/ground-attack (FGA) aircraft.

**Indian government unveils new defence acquisition procedure, says it encourages FDI – business-standard**

India likely to produce next generation fighter jets in a private sector-led joint venture – **Economic Times**

Mozambique insurgency: a port at the centre of a storm – **IISS**

Sudan and major rebel groups to formalise peace deal – **Reuters**

US, Bulgaria sign 10

### Americas & Australasia

**With DoD’s fleet of 2045, the US military’s chief signals he’s all-in on sea power** – **DefenseNews**

The U.S. Navy must rapidly grow its attack submarine force, field smaller manned and unmanned combatants and examine changing the role of aircraft carriers in the coming decades as part of a massive expansion of the fleet to maintain American dominance on the seas, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said Tuesday. To compete with China’s plans to be a first-rate military power by 2049, the United States must grow its fleet to more than 500 ships by 2045, and more than 355 ships by the mid-2030s, Esper announced, confirming a report last month from Defense News.

**Australia and South Korea Can and Must Deepen Defense Industry Cooperation – The Diplomat**

French shipyard Kership has completed hull and superstructure of second OPV for Argentine Navy – **Naval Recognition**

‘Hostage diplomacy’: Canada asks NATO to track China moves in South China Sea – **Hindustan Times**

### East & Southeast Asia

**Japan reveals record high budget request eyeing hypersonic tech, F-35s and more** – **DefenseNews**

Japan is set to continue its recent trend of setting new records for its annual defense budgets, with the country continuing to cast a wary eye on China’s military modernization and nuclear-armed North Korea’s missile program. The latest budget request issued by Japan’s Ministry of Defense is seeking $55 billion for fiscal 2021, which begins in April 2021. The amount is an 8% increase from the previous year, and makes it the eighth consecutive year of new record highs.

**Defending Taiwan is growing costlier and deadlier – The Economist**

South Korean military aiming to speed up acquisition of light aircraft carrier – **Janes**

Japan should enhance defence capabilities in cyber, space security – **Strait Times**

With eye on China, US opens its arms to Indonesia’s Prabowo – **SCMP**

### Eastern Europe

**Europe’s military mobility, a game-changer for regional infrastructure projects?** – **EURACTIV**

Rail Baltica, a 870-kilometer-long high-speed rail line from Tallinn via the Baltic states to Poland, is one of the most touted EU infrastructure projects and new thinking could see the project gain support as a result of its civil-military value. Beyond civil transport usage, the route is expected to allow greater military mobility to ensure rapid transfer of troops and material to the Russian border in case of crisis. Military mobility has been hailed as one of the EU’s flagship defence initiatives and Rail Baltica may support this, and alleviate regional disparities.

**US, Bulgaria sign 10-year road map for military cooperation – The Sofia Globe**

Macron calls on Europe to quit dependency on US arms – **Politicus**

Bulgaria becomes the world’s 40th AMRAAM user – **Global Defence News**

Polish Minister of Defence presents details of the procurement reform, armament agency to be established – **Defence24**

Czech MOD selects Rafael’s SPYDER air defence system – **Janes**

NATO launches latest Bulgarian air policing – **United Press International**

### Middle East

**Sheikh Meshaal sworn in as Kuwait’s new crown prince – Al Jazeera**

Following the death of Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Sabah on the 29th September, Sheikh Nawaf al-Sabah (previously Kuwait’s crown prince) was made Emir of Kuwait. On the 8th October, after an unanimous vote by Kuwait’s parliament, Sheikh Meshaal was sworn in as the new crown prince. Sheikh Meshaal, previously the Deputy Chief of the National Guard, has a very close relationship with the new Emir and has good relations with neighbours such as the KSA and the UAE. For this reason, foreign policies are unlikely to change under the new leadership and focus is likely to be made on COVID-19, the drop in oil prices and parliamentary elections due this year.

**Yemen: UN calls for ceasefire as clashes resume in Hodeidah port** – Al Jazeera

Israeli defense giant picks five startups to develop future tech – **Defense News**

Anadolu Shipyard Launches Firdt Training Ship For Qatari navy – **Naval News**

Iran Warns Azerbaijan and Armenia Over Fighting Near Border – **Bloomberg**

Pakistan’s Israeli dilemma – **Middle East Institute**

### Western Europe & The Nordics

**Despite pressure from lawmakers and pandemic, French defence budget to remain unchanged – Defense News**

Despite calls from French lawmakers for the defence industry to receive additional support to counter the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, the 2021 defence budget will remain unchanged at €49.7 billion. Armed Forces Minister Florence Parly stated that this represents “the third year in a row that we have followed the military programme law to the letter: with an additional €1.7 billion or so every year”

**Germany eyes space satellite launchpad in North Sea – BBC**

Indra and Spanish Navy test AI system for vessel maintenance – **Naval Technology**

Switzerland approved for potential F-35, F-18, Patriot buys worth billions – **Crows**

Israel, Italy swap helicopters and missiles in new arms deal – **DefenseNews**

We make the rules, Portugal tells U.S. after China threats – **Reuters**

Belgian Navy F930 Leopold I frigate to take part in Joint Warrior naval exercise in Scotland – **Naval Recognition**

**Asian wrongdoers will face consequences if they cross the line – SCMP**

**F-35A deployment to Turkey will be a burden – Global Times**

**US defence chief’s rare Algeria visit points to Sahel region threats – Defence Web**

**Europe’s military value. Beyond civil transport usage, the route is expected to allow greater military mobility to ensure rapid transfer of troops and material to the Russian border in case of crisis. Military mobility has been hailed as one of the EU’s flagship defence initiatives and Rail Baltica may support this, and alleviate regional disparities.**
Global Think Tanks Report: October 9th, 2020

ASPI (Australia)
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- Snapshots of a shadow war in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict
- Azerbaijan’s ultimatum on Nagorno-Karabakh leaves little room for de-escalation
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- After Abe: Where to for Australia’s quasi-alliance with Japan?
- Defence supply chains and anti-submarine warfare in the Indo-Pacific
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- New urgency to get to space fast
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- The threat spectrum
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- What an ‘October surprise’ from North Korea might actually look like

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CHATHAM HOUSE (UK)
- Whatever Trump says, Kim will keep his nuclear option

CNAS (USA)
- Sharper: America’s Next Defense Strategy
- Are Chinese Drones a National Security Threat or Required for the National Interest?
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HERITAGE FOUNDATION (USA)
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- Wishful Thinking? Drone Warships are Vital But Not a Perfect Path to a 355 Ship Navy
- In Defense of Mark Esper
- Are the Days of Manned Fighters REALLY Numbered?
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- Germany to receive new anti-ship missiles
- India’s Brahmos missile: an added threat in the air?

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- Could Try to Make It Happen
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- The Integrated Review Should Prioritise Understanding

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