

Regional Insights: January 15th, 2021

Africa, South & Central Asia	Americas & Australasia	East & Southeast Asia
<p>How Qaeda-Friendly GSIM Became the Sahel's Leading Jihadists – The Defence Post</p> <p>Following 8 years of successful French-led campaigns against the Islamic State offshoot ISGS, a jihadist group GSIM has emerged as the region's new major threat. In 2017, several jihadist groups merged to form GSIM, becoming one of Al-Qaeda's most active affiliates, with membership estimated at 1,000+. Anxious to avoid becoming mired in a long Afghan-style conflict, France is hoping to reduce troops in the region and rely on local and EU partners to take up the slack, along with being open to including some jihadist elements in peace talks, excluding leadership.</p> <p>Bullets and panic: rebels attack Central African Republic capital – Reuters</p> <p>Ethiopia warns Sudan it is running out of patience over border dispute – Reuters</p> <p>Gulf of Guinea confirmed as world piracy hotspot – Defence Web</p> <p>India's New Maritime Theatre Command: A Quantum Leap – The Diplomat</p>	<p>Biden taps Trump appointee Norquist to be his temporary Defence secretary – Politico</p> <p>President-elect Joe Biden is tapping current Deputy Defence Secretary David Norquist to temporarily run the Pentagon while the new team works to confirm a permanent DoD chief, according to four people familiar with discussions. Norquist, the Pentagon's No. 2 since July 2019, will take over after the inauguration and be in charge until the Senate confirms Biden's preferred selection, retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin, for the position.</p> <p>Trump administration puts Cuba back on 'sponsor of terrorism' blacklist – The Guardian</p> <p>Acting DHS Chief to leave, stoking pre-inauguration safety chaos – Bloomberg</p> <p>Congress overrides Trump veto of defence bill – Defense News online</p> <p>Leonardo helicopters makes fresh Latin America inroads – AIN</p> <p>Hanwha Defense officially launches Redback IFV in Australia – Jane's</p>	<p>Defence allocation and China threat: In this budget, FM will have to bite the bullet – The Economic Times</p> <p>The unexpected new front opened by China in Ladakh in 2020 has multiple repercussions for India – from the tactical to the strategic level. However, the sharpest short-term impact will be it straining the already stretched defence budget of the three armed forces. The year gone back has brought massive operational challenges that led to the army and air force resorting to emergency purchases for things ranging from ammunition to winter weather clothing and small arms.</p> <p>Japan aims to deploy unmanned fighter jets in 2035 – Financial Times</p> <p>South Korea developing submarine-launched ballistic missile, says report – Janes</p> <p>Indonesia arms maritime force to deter Chinese, Vietnamese fishing vessels from entering Natuna seas – SCMP</p> <p>Taiwan Claims China Made Record 380 Incursions In 2020, Says 'tensions Now At Highest' – Republic World</p> <p>Developing Singapore's next-generation military – East Asia Forum</p>
Eastern Europe	Middle East	Western Europe & The Nordics
<p>Russia to withdraw from Open Skies defence treaty – Financial Times</p> <p>Russia has said it will withdraw from a defence treaty that allows member nations to make unarmed surveillance flights over each other's territory, following the US decision to exit the pact last year. Moscow's decision effectively cripples the 2002 treaty, which was drawn up as a confidence-building measure following the cold war, and allowed Russia and NATO members to use observation flights to monitor each other's military facilities and troop deployments.</p> <p>UK quietly shifts away from promise of deep foreign and security links with the EU – The Guardian</p> <p>US Eastern European Security Act passed by Congress, authorising the President to make direct loans to countries who joined NATO after 1999 – Library of Congress</p> <p>IBCS in Poland: yesterday, today, tomorrow – Defence 24</p> <p>In Eastern Europe, flawed Cybersecurity is a ticking time bomb for NATO – Foreign Policy</p> <p>Poland's Defence Minister: COVID-19 is forcing the military to re-examine its role – Defence News</p>	<p>Saudi-Qatar deal to end blockade is close, say reports – Middle East Eye</p> <p>A deal between Saudi Arabia and Qatar to end the almost four-year blockade of Qatar could be close. Senior Advisor to US President Jared Kushner, who began a visit to Qatar on Wednesday, is expected to tackle the Gulf crisis and push for progress before the Trump administration leaves office. In June 2017, Riyadh, along with Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt cut all ties with Qatar. The boycotting countries closed their airspace, land borders and sea channels to Qataris and vehicles registered in Qatar.</p> <p>Displaced people in Iraq left with no refuge as police shut camps – Al Jazeera</p> <p>Israel receives its most advanced warship as Iran tensions rise – Reuters</p> <p>Kissing the ground, hundreds of Ethiopian immigrants welcomed to Israel – The Times of Israel</p> <p>Israel, US planning to attack Iran during Trump's final days – Middle East Monitor</p>	<p>Future Combat Air System: Too Big to Fail – Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik</p> <p>The development of the Future Combat Air System (FCAS) is Europe's most important defence project. Both technologically and militarily, the project has the potential to set new standards and revolutionise the use of air power. Politically, the multinational project is a litmus test for the extent to which Europe is capable of cooperating on security policy, developing its own capabilities and putting national interests to one side for this purpose. The success of the project rides to a great extent on Germany and France. However, the different perspectives and procedures of these two countries place FCAS at risk of collapse.</p> <p>Germany Begins Planning Military Drone Infrastructure – The Defence Post</p> <p>Saab nabs \$1 billion deal for two more GlobalEye planes to the United Arab Emirates – Defence News</p> <p>Italy, UK and Sweden sign MoU on development of Tempest – Janes</p> <p>Sea Control and Power Projection: France's Choice of a Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carrier – RUSI</p>

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