

# Regional Insights: February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Africa, South & Central Asia	Americas & Australasia	East & Southeast Asia
<p><b>Aero India 2021 – <a href="#">Aero India</a></b></p> <p>Aero India 2021 show in Bangalore, lasted three days and concluded 5 February. It provided an opportunity for B2B, B2G and G2G dialogues and a platform for stakeholders in Aerospace &amp; Defence (A &amp; D) industry to interact and rebuild the supply chain. The event saw 128 MoUs, 19 ToTs, 4 Handing Overs, 18 Product Launches and 32 major Announcements. The first ever Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers’ Conclave was held, attended by ministers and delegates from 26 countries. Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) believes this will lead to higher level of cooperation amongst IOR countries on peace and security in the future.</p> <p><b>British Army Troops in Mali Use Grenade Launcher-Fired Mini-Drones – <a href="#">Defence Post</a></b></p> <p><b>India, China begin troop withdrawal from contested border – <a href="#">AP News</a></b></p> <p><b>A Transatlantic Approach to Address Growing Maritime Insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea – <a href="#">CSIS</a></b></p>	<p><b>Biden announces Pentagon-run China task force – <a href="#">Defense News</a></b></p> <p>President Joe Biden on Wednesday announced at the Pentagon a review of how the military is postured to deter China in the Pacific region. Biden, who was joined by Vice President Kamala Harris as he made his first visit to the department since taking office, said the review will help “chart a strong path forward on China-related matters.”</p> <p><b>Secretary of Defense orders all military to pause and review handling of extremism in ranks – <a href="#">CNN</a></b></p> <p><b>President Biden cancels funding for Trump border wall – <a href="#">BBC</a></b></p> <p><b>Canada declares the Proud Boys a terrorist group – <a href="#">Washington Post</a></b></p> <p><b>Argentine Air Force approaches Russia after offer of MIG-29 and SU-30 fighter jets - <a href="#">Infodefensa</a></b></p> <p><b>Cuba warns Colombia of possible ELN rebel attack – <a href="#">Reuters</a></b></p> <p><b>Australia awards ten new Defence Innovation Hub contracts – <a href="#">Army Technology</a></b></p>	<p><b>US admiral says Chinese military activity is rising in S China Sea – <a href="#">Financial Times</a></b></p> <p>Chinese military activity in the South China Sea has risen “steadily” in recent months, according to the commander of the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier strike group. Rear Admiral Doug Verissimo said the US navy had seen an expansion of Chinese activity in recent months. He was speaking after the USS Theodore Roosevelt conducted a rare dual aircraft carrier exercise with the USS Nimitz. “We’re seeing larger number of aircraft, larger number of ships available to the Chinese military being utilised on a daily basis. So the capacity has clearly increased,” Verissimo told reporters via phone from aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt.</p> <p><b>With Japanese sub damaged in collision, where does maritime readiness stand? – <a href="#">DefenseNews</a></b></p> <p><b>South Korean helicopter deal raises case for Asdia defence shit – <a href="#">Financial Times</a></b></p> <p><b>Airbus Helicopters, TAI sign sale and support deal – <a href="#">Janes</a></b></p>
Eastern Europe	Middle East	Western Europe & The Nordics
<p><b>Finding a Compromise on Nord Stream 2 – <a href="#">Centre for Strategic &amp; International Studies</a></b></p> <p>The Nord Stream 2 pipeline presents an early foreign policy test for the Biden administration. The new administration is, on the one hand, eager to reset a frosty relationship with Europe and to find common ground on climate and other issues. There is also significant opposition in places like Poland and Ukraine, important U.S. partners in Europe. How can the new administration navigate around these constraints? The key will be whether the Biden administration can work develop a comprehensive and coherent transatlantic strategy on Russia which includes leaders across Western and Eastern Europe.</p> <p><b>Poland: a valuable ally for America – <a href="#">The Heritage Foundation</a></b></p> <p><b>Greece will need to upgrade its Navy to keep up with Turkey’s – <a href="#">Forbes</a></b></p> <p><b>Nord Stream 2: Is Russia’s ‘bad deal for Europe’ also a done deal? – <a href="#">Radio Free Europe</a></b></p> <p><b>Xi pitches vaccine to Eastern Europe in bid to revive ties – <a href="#">Bloomberg</a></b></p>	<p><b>France, Russia urge restraint as Iran produces uranium metal - <a href="#">Al Jazeera</a></b></p> <p>France and Russia have urged Iran to show restraint after it started producing uranium metal in a new breach of limits laid out in Tehran’s 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. The warnings came after the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) verified the production of 3.6g of uranium metal at a plant in Iran. Iran claimed it was researching uranium metal production, a sensitive issue because uranium metal can be used as a component in nuclear weapons</p> <p><b>Arab coalition intercepts Houthi drone launched toward Saudi Arabia - <a href="#">Arab News</a></b></p> <p><b>Oman content with current Israel relationship, foreign minister says - <a href="#">Reuters</a></b></p> <p><b>Lebanese Inflation Hits Record High as Food Prices Soar 400% - <a href="#">Bloomberg</a></b></p> <p><b>More younger Israelis now being hospitalized for COVID than those 60-plus - <a href="#">The Times of Israel</a></b></p> <p><b>Qatar working to revive Iran nuclear deal – <a href="#">Al-Monitor</a></b></p> <p><b>UAE announces cabinet reshuffle - <a href="#">Arab News</a></b></p>	<p><b>Franco-German Defence and Security Council discusses defence industrial co-operation and European defence – <a href="#">Janes</a></b></p> <p>French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel discussed defence industrial co-operation and the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) during a virtual meeting of the Franco-German Defence and Security Council on 5 February. Discussions included the MALE RPAS, FCAS/SCAF workshare and IP as well as the next phase of the Franco-German MGCS.</p> <p><b>Rethinking our Defense in the Face of 21st Century Crises – <a href="#">Institut Montaigne</a></b></p> <p><b>European strategic autonomy: from misconceived to useful concept – <a href="#">DIIS</a></b></p> <p><b>The EU-MENA partnership: time for a reset – <a href="#">Egmont</a></b></p> <p><b>German Defence Ministry punts key US defense-cooperation projects to the next government – <a href="#">Defense News</a></b></p> <p><b>Navantia and Naviris sign a MOU for the European Patrol Corvette program – <a href="#">Navy Recognition</a></b></p>

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