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Wissenswertes aus dem Bereich Militärluftfahrt und Luftkriegsführung

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		Sicherheitspolitik Schweiz und Air2030
leitung@ombudsstelle- srgd.ch 16.12.2021	Beschwerde Jürg Kürsener	<p>Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren</p> <p>Am Freitag, 10. Dezember 2021 hat das neutrale und mit der Schweiz in vielen Belangen vergleichbare Finnland, Mitglied der EU, unter sozialdemokratischer Führung entschieden, 64 neue Kampfflugzeuge F-35A «Lightning II» des US Herstellers Lockheed-Martin im Umfange von etwa 13 Mia USD zu beschaffen. Damit sollen die veralteten F/A-18 im Verhältnis von etwa 1 : 1 ersetzt werden. Die F-35A hat offenbar mit deutlichem Abstand die Evaluation (u.a. mit der F/A-18, dem Gripen und der Rafale) gewonnen. Finnland scheint kein Problem damit zu haben, dass der ausgewählte Flugzeugtyp nicht europäischer Herkunft ist.</p> <p>Das war und ist bisher dem Fernsehen und Radio SRF keine Zeile bzw Wort der Erwähnung wert. Man stelle sich vor, Finnland hätte die französische «Rafale» bestellt. A propos Rafale: Als vor etwas mehr als zwei Wochen die Vereinigten Arabischen Emirate 80 Kampfflugzeuge des französischen Typs «Rafale» bestellt haben, war dies sehr wohl Gegenstand der Berichterstattung von SRF, sogar im «Echo der Zeit» vom 3.12.021 wurde ein spezieller Beitrag dazu gesendet.</p> <p>Gerade angesichts der Brisanz der Flugzeugbeschaffung in der Schweiz ist dieses Thema wichtig. Fernsehen und Radio berichten fleissig über Negativmeldungen der F-35A, die es wie bei anderen Flugzeugtypen auch gibt. Mit positiven Meldungen tun sich die gleichen Sendeanstalten offenbar schwer, wie dieses Beispiel Finnland deutlich zeigt. Beides gehört gleichermassen zur Meinungsbildung des Bürgers. Hier haben Radio und TV eine grosse Verantwortung, die sie im vorliegenden Fall nicht wahrgenommen haben.</p> <p>Der Verdacht steht im Raum, dass Schweizer Fernsehen und Radio diese Meldung gezielt unterschlagen haben, um den Befürwortern des von der Schweizer Regierung ebenfalls ausgewählten F-35A Kampfflugzeuges nicht allzu viel «Rückenwind» zu verschaffen. Dies schon gar nicht in einer Zeit, da die GSoA Unterschriften gegen dieses Flugzeug sammelt.</p> <p>Dieses offensichtlich nicht zufällige Unterschlagen einer wichtigen Meldung kommt indirekt einer Manipulation der öffentlichen Meinung gleich. Oder es ist schlicht redaktionelles Unvermögen. In beiden Fällen wird der Öffentlichkeit eine wichtige Meldung zur F-35A Beschaffung vorenthalten. Dagegen lege ich Beschwerde ein. Radio und Fernsehen haben ihre Informationspflicht krass verletzt. Ich erwarte eine Klärung bzw Korrektur durch die Ombudsstelle.</p> <p>Freundliche Grüsse Jürg Kürsener</p>

<p>blick.ch 15.12.2021</p>	<p>Nationalrat entscheidet Armee erhält Cyber- Kommando und Militärluftfahrtbehörde</p>	<p>Der Nationalrat will ein Cyber-Kommando und eine neue Militärluftfahrtbehörde schaffen. Er hat am Mittwoch als Erstrat die entsprechenden Gesetzesänderungen gutgeheissen. Darin werden auch die Armeeeinsätze für zivile Anlässe gesetzlich geregelt.</p> <p><i>(Vollständiger Bericht abrufbar unter: https://www.blick.ch/politik/nationalrat-entscheidet-armee-erhaelt-cyber-kommando-und-militaerluftfahrtbehoerde-id17070280.html)</i></p>
<p>mns 14.12.2021</p>	<p>Weshalb wird die Beschaffung von 64 Kampfflugzeugen F-35 durch Finnland in den Schweizer Mainstream Medien totgeschwiegen?</p>	<p>(MNS-Stellungnahme 2021-11 abrufbar im Anhang zu diesem NACHBRENNER 2021-25)</p>
<p>info@allianzsicherheit.ch 13.12.2021</p>	<p>Newsletter Allianz Sicherheit Schweiz - Neuigkeiten aus Finnland</p>	<p>Liebe Mitglieder und Interessierte</p> <p>Neuigkeiten aus Finnland: ein weiteres europäisches Land setzt auf die F-35. Der finnische Entscheid, 64 F-35 zu bestellen, ist ein weiterer Beweis, dass der bundesrätliche Entscheid zugunsten der F-35 der Richtige ist. Mit der Schweiz setzen nun acht weitere Länder aus Europa auf die F-35 (Italien, England, Norwegen, Belgien, Niederlande, Dänemark, Polen und Finnland).</p> <p>Mit viel Unverständnis musste die interessierte Gemeinschaft feststellen, dass kein Schweizer Medium über den finnischen Entscheid berichtete. Andere Beschaffungen (bspw. der Vereinigten Arabischen Emiraten) wurden hingegen breit aufgenommen, um Stimmung gegen die F-35 zu machen. Dabei wäre insbesondere bemerkenswert, dass Finnland von einer rot-grün dominierten Koalitionsregierung und einer sozialdemokratischen Ministerpräsidentin regiert wird.</p> <p>Die Geschichte zeigt: die Medien sind uns nicht wohl gesinnt. Unsere Mitgliederstärke und unsere Kanäle sind die einzige Möglichkeit, womit wir das ausgleichen können. Gerade deshalb muss die Allianz Sicherheit Schweiz weiterwachsen. Dazu sind wir auf Ihre Mithilfe angewiesen, denn es wird ohne unser aller Engagement nichts passieren. Wir dürfen nicht nur die Faust im Sack machen. Machen Sie jetzt Ihr Umfeld auf die Allianz Sicherheit Schweiz aufmerksam. Auch sind wir Ihnen dankbar, wenn Sie unsere Inhalte auf Social Media weiter so aktiv teilen (Facebook, linkedin und Instagram).</p>

<p>swiss-f35.ch 12.12.2021</p>	<p>Das ohrenbetäubende Schweigen der «Schweizer Mainstream Medien»</p>	<p>Die Schweizer «Mainstream Medien», normalerweise nie verlegen den Beschaffungsentscheid des Bundesrates für das amerikanischen Kampfflugzeuges F-35A Lighthning II bei jeder Gelegenheit zu diskreditieren, hüllte sich nach der Bekanntgabe des finnischen Verteidigungsdepartementes in ohrenbetäubendes Schweigen.</p> <p><i>(Vollständiger Artikel von Peter Bosshard, Präsident Forum Flugplatz Dübendorf, abrufbar im Anhang zu diesem NACHBRENNER 2021-25)</i></p>
<p>mns 11.12.2021</p>	<p>FIN: Auswahlverfahren</p>	<p>Finnland und die Schweiz evaluierten ihren F/A-18 Hornet-Ersatz auf der Basis von im Ansatz unterschiedlichen Auswahlverfahren. Beide Techniken resultierten jedoch im gleichen eindeutigen Ergebnis. Die F-35 gewann beide Bewertungen überzeugend! Das belegt eindrücklich, dass die in der Schweiz von GSoA, SP und Grüne Schweiz sowie den Mainstream Medien an unserer Evaluation geübte Kritik unredlich und unberechtigt ist. Im Übrigen darf darauf hingewiesen werden, dass der Entscheid zur Beschaffung des F-35 vom finnischen Regierungskabinett unter Leitung der sozialdemokratischen Premierministerin Sanna Marin (SDP) einstimmig getroffen wurde.</p> <p>Im Gegensatz zur Schweiz machte ein Sprecher der finnischen Luftstreitkräfte Ilmavoimat auch Angaben über die Rangfolge des HX-Auswahlverfahrens. Bei einem möglichen Punktetotal von 5 erreichte der F-35 4,47 gefolgt vom F-18E/F- und Gripen E-Angebot mit je 3,81. Die Wertungen für die im Rahmen des HX-Auswahlverfahrens ebenfalls evaluierten Typen Rafale und Eurofighter wurden nicht bekanntgegeben.</p>
<p>ilmavoimat.fi 10.12.2021</p>	<p>FIN: The Lockheed Martin F-35A Lightning II is Finland's next multi-role fighter</p>	<p>The Government of Finland has 10 December 2021 authorised the Finnish Defence Forces Logistics Command to sign a procurement contract with the Government of the United States on Finland's next multi-role fighter. The fighter replacing the Hornet fleet's capability is the Lockheed Martin F-35A Lightning II. The procurement contains 64 F-35A Block 4 multi-role fighters, substantial and versatile weaponry tailored for the operating circumstances, required training and sustainment solutions, other related systems as well as sustainment and maintenance services until the end of 2030.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information yle.fi vom 11.12.2021: In the final round there were three candidates: the US F-35s and Super Hornets and Sweden's Gripen. The Eurofighter Typhoon and France's Rafale fell before the final hurdle. Finland's current fighter jets, the McDonnell-Douglas-made Hornets, will be retired starting in 2025. They will mostly be scrapped, according to Kivinen.)</i></p> <p><i>(Vollständige Medienmitteilung abrufbar unter: https://ilmavoimat.fi/en/-/the-lockheed-martin-f-35a-lightning-ii-is-finland-s-next-multi-role-fighter)</i></p>

		<i>(Finnisches Fact sheet F-35 abrufbar unter: https://ilmavoimat.fi/documents/1951206/2016335/Ilmav_HX_F-35_factsheet_20211210.pdf/e0dfe486-ee1d-e583-f210-97960aefda67/Ilmav_HX_F-35_factsheet_20211210.pdf?t=1639138766771)</i>
mns 10.12.2021	Stellungnahme 2021-10: HX Fighter Programm: Auch Finnland beschafft den F-35 Lightning II	Wenn es noch eines weiteren Beweises bedurft hätte, dass der bundesrätliche Entscheid zu Gunsten des F-35 der Richtige ist, das neutrale, mit uns befreundete und in vielen Wesenszügen vergleichbare Finnland liefert ihn. <i>(Vollständige MNS-Stellungnahme abrufbar im Anhang zu diesem Nachrichtenblatt NACHBRENNER 2021-10)</i>
ar.admin.ch 08.12.2021	Verifikationsschiessen mit Luft-Luft-Lenk Waffen AIM-120C-7 AMRAAM in Schottland erfolgreich abgeschlossen	Vom 15. November bis 3. Dezember 2021 führte armasuisse und die Schweizer Luftwaffe ein Verifikationsschiessen mit scharfen Luft-Luft-Lenk Waffen auf den Hebriden in Schottland durch. Die beiden abgeschossenen Lenk Waffen erfüllten ihre Anforderungen vollumfänglich. <i>(Vollständige Medienmitteilung abrufbar unter: https://www.ar.admin.ch/content/ar-internet/de/home.detail.nsb.html/86330.html)</i>
gs-vbs.admin.ch 03.12.2021	VBS-Antworten GSOA-Argumente Air2030	Neu erstellte ausführliche Version der VBS-Antworten auf die GSOA-Argumente zu Air2030. <i>(Vollständiges Dokument abrufbar im Anhang zu diesem Nachrichtenblatt NACHBRENNER 2021-25)</i>
ukdefencejournal.org.uk 03.12.2021	Swiss Air Force training over England	The Swiss Air Force is conducting air exercises at RAF Leeming to enable the country's F-18 Hornet pilots to achieve important day and night-flying, say the Royal Air Force. "An initial contingent of 20 aircrew will be using the exercise to hone advanced skills, whilst the second will be conducting night flying training over the sea. The third element and a first for this year, is a Swiss detachment that include Cougar helicopters, using time in the UK to train at the Electronics Warfare Tactics facility at RAF Spadeadam." <i>(Vollständiger Artikel abrufbar unter: https://swiss-air-force-training-over-england/)</i>
nzz.ch 02.12.2021	Französischer Botschafter zur Europapolitik: «Die Schweiz muss sich	Botschafter Frédéric Journès sieht die Beziehungen zur EU in einer Negativspirale. Bei der Beschaffung des Kampfjets hätten die Schweiz und Frankreich eine Chance verpasst, sagt er. Ein gemeinsames Grossprojekt hätte die Beziehungen auf eine neue Stufe gehoben.

	bewusst sein, dass wir ein Problem haben»	(Vollständiges registrierpflichtiges Interview abrufbar unter: https://www.nzz.ch/schweiz/franzoesischer-botschafter-zur-europapolitik-die-schweiz-muss-sich-bewusst-sein-dass-wir-ein-problem-haben-ld.1658142)
Aviation Media AG Hansjörg Bürgi	Schweizer Luftwaffe Jahrespublikation 2022	Mit unter anderem einem Interview mit Divisionär Peter Merz, Kdt der Schweizer Luftwaffe «Air2030 ist ein wichtiger Schritt für die gesamte Armee» (Bestellung Jahrespublikation 2022 über info@skynews / www.skynews.ch)
vbs.admin.ch 24.11.2021	Bundesrat verabschiedet Ziele für die Sicherheitspolitik	Bern, 24.11.2021 – Die Welt ist in den letzten Jahren unsicherer geworden. Es wird wieder stärker auf Machtpolitik gesetzt und internationale Spannungen sowie Instabilität haben zugenommen. In seinem neuen sicherheitspolitischen Bericht analysiert der Bundesrat diese Entwicklungen und zeigt auf, wie er dem rauer gewordenen Umfeld begegnen will. Der Bericht, den der Bundesrat am 24. November 2021 verabschiedet hat, definiert neun Ziele für die Schweizer Sicherheitspolitik der nächsten Jahre, darunter ein verstärkter Schutz vor Cyberbedrohungen und Desinformation, aber auch die Stärkung von Resilienz, Versorgungssicherheit und internationaler Zusammenarbeit. (Vollständiger SIPOL-Bericht nach Einarbeitung der Ergebnisse seiner Vernehmlassung abrufbar unter: https://www.vbs.admin.ch/content/vbs-internet/de/sicherheit/die-schweizer-sicherheitspolitik/die-sicherheitspolitische-berichte-der-schweiz/der-sicherheitspolitische-bericht-2021-der-schweiz.detail.nsb.html/86056.html) (Anmerkung Redaktion: Pro Militia fordert, dass der Sicherheitspolitische Bericht verbindlich werde! Die Redaktion des NACHBRENNER teilt diese Haltung vollumfänglich)
		Luft- und Marineluftstreitkräfte sowie strategische und weitere luftgestützte Einsatzmittel
janes.com 16.12.2021	CHN: Shenyang produces first catapult-capable J-15	China's Shenyang Aircraft Corporation (SAC) – a subsidiary of the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) – has completed the production of its first catapult-capable variant of the J-15 carrier-borne multirole fighter aircraft, according to images released by AVIC. The aircraft has likely been produced for the People's Liberation Army Navy's (PLAN's) third aircraft carrier, which is thought to feature an electromagnetic

		<p>catapult system. The images, which were published on AVIC's Weixin social media account on 14 December, show an unnumbered J-15 in People's Liberation Army Naval Air Force (PLANAF) markings being pulled by an aircraft tug.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Informationen globaltimes.cn vom 16.12.2021: China recently revealed an upgraded version of the J-15 ship-borne fighter jet that has just wrapped up test flights, with reports saying the new aircraft received enhancements in its missile pylons, the infrared search and track system, the radar and the wings. The upgraded J-15, potentially capable of operating with catapults, will play key roles on both China's old and new aircraft carriers, experts said on Thursday. The photo also shows that the infrared search and track systems in front of the cockpit and the front of the wings were changed, which could mean the avionics systems of the new J-15 were improved, eastday.com said. Another major change is the difference in the radar, as the lightning diverter stripes on the new radome are not the same as the old one, the report pointed out. This may mean that the upgraded J-15 could have switched to an advanced, active electronically scanned array radar system, which enables the use of China's most advanced PL-15 beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile, eastday.com said.)</i></p>
romania-insider.com 16.12.2021	ROU: US transfers a C-130 Hercules transport aircraft to the Romanian Air Force	A C-130 Hercules aircraft, variant H, was transferred, free of charge, from the surplus of the United States Government to the Romanian Air Force. The military transport aircraft landed on Tuesday, December 14, at Bucharest's Baneasa Airport. According to the Romanian Ministry of Defense (MAPN), the plane was brought to Romania by a crew of the 120th Airlift Wing unit of the Montana Air National Guard, which has owned and operated the aircraft to date. It will now enter the endowment of Romania's 90th Air Transport Base - the 901 Strategic Transport Squadron. The Romanian Air Force now has six C-130 Hercules aircraft.
lakenheath.af.mil 15.12.2021	USAFE: RAF Lakenheath welcomes first 5th Generation F-35	RAF Lakenheath received its first delivery of F-35A Lightning II aircraft December 15. This is the result of a force posture adjustment that has been six years in the making. Announced in 2015, the long-anticipated arrival of the F-35 marks RAF Lakenheath as the first base in United States Air Forces in Europe to receive the new fifth generation aircraft. RAF Lakenheath was selected in 2015 to host the first U.S. F-35A squadrons in Europe based on very close ties with the RAF, existing infrastructure, and combined training opportunities. The U.K. is a critical component in training and combat readiness for Air Forces in Europe due to its excellent airspace and F-35 program partnership. The aircraft will belong to the 495th Fighter Squadron, which was nicknamed the "Valkyries" during a voting contest in 2020. The new F-35 squadron will consist of 24 aircraft, delivered in a phased approach.
janes.com 15.12.2021	ESP:	The Spanish government has approved the procurement of 20 new Eurofighter Typhoon combat aircraft under Project Halcon (Falcon), as well as a mid-life upgrade (MLU) for a portion of the country's existing fleet. Announced as part of a wider raft of governmental approvals on 14 December, the move paves the way for a

	Spain approves Eurofighter buy, upgrades	Project Halcon contract to be signed with Airbus for the Tranche 4 Eurofighters that will replace the Spanish Air Force's (Ejército del Aire Español: EdAE) Boeing EF-18 Hornets based on the Canary Islands. It also sets in motion a planned MLU for the service's existing Eurofighter Tranche 3 airframes.
saabgroup.com 15.12.2021	SWE: Saab and FMV Sign Contract for new Gripen E Equipment	Saab has received an order from the Swedish Defence Material Administration (FMV) regarding new equipment for Gripen E. This is a supplementary contract to the original Gripen E contract from 2013. The order value amounts to approximately SEK 1.4 billion. The original contract, regarding development and modification of Gripen E, signed in February 2013, was based on the terms that certain equipment from the existing Gripen C/D fleet within the Swedish Armed Forces should be reused. Instead of reusing equipment from the Gripen C/D, new equipment is acquired for a part of the total Swedish order of 60 Gripen E aircraft. This approach secures the availability of the Swedish Gripen C/D fleet in service, while Gripen E is being delivered and introduced to the Swedish Armed Forces.
defensenews.com 15.12.2021	KWT: Kuwait gets its first two Eurofighters	The first two of 28 Eurofighters ordered by Kuwait have been delivered to the Gulf state, Italy's Leonardo announced on Tuesday. The two aircraft flew from Italy, where they were assembled, with refueling escort provided by two Italian air force KC-767 tankers while two Italian Eurofighters also provided escort. Italy has managed the sale of Eurofighters to Kuwait and test-flown the new electronically scanned radars mounted on the aircraft. Known as the Eurofighter Common Radar System Mk 0, the radar is also due to equip Qatar's 24 Eurofighters and is built by the Euroradar consortium teaming Leonardo Italy, Leonardo UK, Spain's Indra and Germany's Hensoldt. The four original Eurofighter partners have now ordered 510 aircraft, with Saudia Arabia buying 72, Austria 15, Oman 12, Kuwait 28 and Qatar 24 for a total of 661 aircraft.
air.defense.gouv.fr 14.12.2021	FRA: Air Base 125 welcomes its 6 th A330 Phoenix	A 6th A330 MRTT Phoenix was delivered to the Air and Space Force at Istres Air Base (BA) 125 on Thursday, December 9, 2021. Gradually, it will carry out the missions of four fleets of the Air Force and Space in the process of withdrawal from service (A340, A310, KC-135RG and C-135FR). Its carrying capabilities, air-to-air refueling capabilities and its extension multiply the immediate intervention capabilities for power projection and force projection.
reuters.com 14.12.2021	ARE: UAE threatens to pull out of \$23 bln F-35, drone deal with U.S.	The United Arab Emirates is threatening to pull out of a \$23 billion deal to buy American-made F-35 aircraft, Reaper drones and other advanced munitions, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday. The Gulf ally complained that U.S. security requirements were too onerous, the report said, citing American officials. The

		<p>UAE signed an agreement with the United States to purchase 50 F-35 jets and up to 18 armed drones, people familiar with the situation told Reuters in January.</p> <p>The UAE, one of Washington's closest Middle East allies, had long expressed interest in acquiring the stealthy F-35 jets made by Lockheed Martin, and was promised a chance to buy them in a side deal when it agreed to normalize relations with Israel in August 2020. On Dec. 4, a UAE defence ministry official said that a deal to purchase French Rafale fighter jets would complement the Gulf country's planned deal to buy the F-35 warplanes and was not a replacement for them.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information reuters.com vom 15.12.2021: The United States is prepared to move forward with the sale of F-35 fighter jets and drones to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday, after reports the UAE intended to suspend discussion of the deal. A UAE official on Tuesday told Reuters that it had informed the United States that it would suspend discussions to acquire F-35 fighter jets, part of a \$23 billion deal that includes drones and other advanced munitions.)</i></p>
<p>alert5.com 12.12.2021</p>	<p>JPN: Japan to allocate budget for F-15JSI next year</p>	<p>Japan has decided to proceed with the F-15JSI (Japan Super Interceptor) upgrade program by allocating funds for the program in next year's budget. NHK reports that the final price of the program is now agreed at \$3.5 billion after negotiations with the Americans. Tokyo will drop the integration of the LRASM on the Japanese Eagle in order to reduce costs. The project run into a road block back in 2020 due to rising costs and Tokyo did not allocate money for the project in the fiscal 2020 budget nor did the Ministry of Defense seek money for the project in the fiscal 2021 budget. The upgrade was suppose to be completed in 2027. Along the way, Japan had to switch from buying the ALQ-239 Digital Electronic Warfare System (DEWS) to the new Eagle Passive Active Warning Survivability System (EPAWSS) instead.</p>
<p>globaltimes.cn 12.12.2021</p>	<p>CHN: China ramps up J-20 stealth fighter production after domestic engine switch</p>	<p>The maker of the J-20, China's most advanced stealth fighter jet, revealed that it recently broke records in terms of aircraft delivery due to high demand, with experts saying on Sunday that the J-20 has entered a mass production phase after it solved the last missing piece of the puzzle, the domestically developed WS-10 engine. Out of nine photos attached to the statement, seven depict test flights of the J-20, one shows a test flight of the J-10, and one shows the work of staff members.</p> <p>Now that there is no limitation caused by the import of engines, and the homemade WS-10 engine has been tested on other aircraft like the J-10, J-11 and J-16, the J-20 is in a position to start mass production, Fu Qianshao, a Chinese military aviation expert said.</p>

		<p>This could be an indication that the production of the J-20 is being ramped up, , told the Global Times on Sunday. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force displayed J-20s equipped with domestically developed engines at Airshow China 2021. The switch to domestically made WS-10 engines from imported ones has made mass production possible, Fu said, noting that other systems on the J-20, including the avionics system, radar system and weapons systems, were already domestically developed. It is good to see the industry is busy, because this means the J-20 has started entering service in large numbers, Fu said. "In a short time, we will be able to see J-20s operated by all eastern, southern, western, northern and central theater commands, and become the main force to safeguard China's sovereignty and territorial airspace security," Fu predicted.</p> <p>For the next step, the J-20 will continue to evolve, for example, by switching to use more advanced engines, Fu said.</p>
defence-blog.com 12.12.2021	ROU: Romania to buy 32 more F-16s for \$514 million	<p>Romanian Defense Minister Vasile Dyncu has sent an official letter to the Romanian parliament asking for official approval of the acquisition of the aircraft from the Norwegian Royal Air Force, according to Digi 24. The aircraft are all more than 40 years old, according to the Norwegian government. The total price of the transaction is 454 million euros (\$514 million). Some 354 million euros is for the aircraft and 100 million euros is for the logistic support and necessary modernization which will be carried out in the U.S. The minister said Romania had discussed buying secondhand F-16s from a number of NATO members states including, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Portugal and Greece. To date, Romania bought a total of secondhand 17 F-16 Block 15 Mid-Life Upgrade (MLU) fighter jets from Portugal.</p>
ekathimerini.com 12.12.2021	GRC: First six Rafale jets to arrive in January	<p>The first batch of French-made Rafale jets will be delivered to the Hellenic Air Force in January, at the 114th Combat Wing in Tanagra. The first six, out of a total of 24 French fighter jets to be acquired by the Hellenic Air Force, will be able to immediately cover operational needs, as their pilots have already completed their training with them in France. The delivery of the remaining 12 Rafales that have already been purchased will take place over the next two years. Meanwhile, in the next few days, the procedures for the purchase of an additional six fighters of the same type are expected to begin so that the total number of Rafales become a full squadron of 24 aircraft.</p>
ukdefencejournal.org.uk 10.12.2021	GBR: Britain planning to order second tranche of F-35 jets	<p>Jeremy Quin, Minister for Defence Procurement, stated: "The 2021 Integrated Review confirmed our ambition to continue the growth of the UK Lightning Force beyond 48 aircraft. We are currently undertaking period of detailed analysis to evaluate scale and timeline for procurement of our second tranche of F35B Lightning aircraft together with associated infrastructure and support requirements. The United Kingdom recently made it "absolutely clear" that it will be purchasing more than 48 F-35 jets."</p>

<p>yle.fi 10.12.2021 13:55</p>	<p>FIN: Finland picks Lockheed Martin for fighter jet purchase</p>	<p>Minister of Defence Antti Kaikkonen (Cen) announced on Friday that Finland will purchase 64 new F-35A Lightning II fighter jets from US manufacturer Lockheed Martin to replace an ageing fleet of Hornet planes. That confirmed an earlier report by news agency Reuters. Prime Minister Marin said that the cabinet decision had been unanimous. He said that the new planes would operate and ensure Finnish security into the early 2060s. There has been a long tendering process for the planes, with five possible options but the American F-35 always the favourite. The public debate has focused on whether or not the allocated maintenance funding of 250 million euros per year will be sufficient to keep the planes in the air.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information latribune.fr vom 10.12.2021: The American F-35 fighter jet is unfortunately the favorite aircraft of Europeans (Norway, United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands, Denmark, Poland, Belgium and Switzerland). Incomprehensible when we know the technological and technical setbacks and the dizzying maintenance costs of this device and that there is really an offer from European manufacturers (Eurofighter, Gripen and Rafale). Despite these findings, Finland selected the F-35 to replace about sixty old versions of the F/A-18 delivered in the late 90s.)</i></p>
<p>breakingdefense.com 09.12.2021</p>	<p>USAF: The Air Force's top civilian wants a drone wingman for the B-21 bomber</p>	<p>The Air Force wants to give the secretive Northrop Grumman B-21 Raider stealth bomber a drone sidekick, Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall announced today. "The B-21 is a very expensive aircraft. It has a certain payload and range. We'd like to amplify that capability it has to penetrate, which is valuable," Kendall said during a Defense One event. "What we want is something that can go operate with it," he said. "I won't say accompany it — the tactics are very much to be determined. But we're going to sort that out and think about unmanned combat aircraft and how to network them together under the control of an operator of the B-21, to operate as a formation in some loose sense."</p>
<p>minister.defence.gov.au 09.12.2021</p>	<p>AUS: First F-35As arrive at RAAF Base Tindal</p>	<p>Four F-35A Lightning II aircraft have touched down at RAAF Base Tindal after the base was certified ready for F-35A operations. The F-35A, which will be permanently based in the Northern Territory has replaced the F/A-18A/B Classic Hornet that was operated by No. 75 Squadron for 33 years. Defence Minister Dutton: "The Morrison Government is continuing to invest in RAAF Base Tindal in order to increase the reach of our Air Force capabilities in the Indo-Pacific. By the time the Air Force is scheduled to declare F-35A Final Operational Capability in December 2023, sixteen of the fifth-generation multi-role fighters will be based at Tindal, and they will be well practiced at operating with our partners in the region."</p>
<p>airforce-technology.com 08.12.2021</p>	<p>NER: USAFE-AFAFRICA delivers second C-130H Hercules to Nigerien Armed Forces</p>	<p>US Air Forces in Europe – Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA) has formally transferred the second of the three USAF C-130H Hercules to the Nigerien Armed Forces. The aircraft delivery ceremony was conducted on 7 December at the Nigerien Air Base 101 in Niamey, Niger.</p>

<p>defense-aerospace.com 08.12.2021</p>	<p>KWT: Kuwait Receives First Two Eurofighters in Italy</p>	<p>Kuwait Air Force received on Tuesday the first batch of two Eurofighter Typhoons from Italy's Leonardo Group. Kuwait has ordered 28 Eurofighters, and its aircraft are the first to be fitted with an AESA radar.</p>
<p>af.mil 07.12.2021</p>	<p>USAF: AMC approves 4th KC-46A Pegasus ICR milestone</p>	<p>Gen. Mike Minihan, commander of Air Mobility Command, approved a fourth Interim Capability Release (ICR) mission set for the KC-46A Pegasus, Dec. 6. This ICR decision allows the KC-46A to refuel the AC-130J Ghost Rider, HC-130J Combat King II, MC-130J Commando II, C-5M Super Galaxy and E-3G Sentry during U.S. Transportation Command-tasks missions. The KC-46A can now support nearly 70% of all receiver aircraft that request air refueling support from USTRANSCOM. The KC-46A ICR plan allows the Pegasus to conduct operational taskings that would otherwise be filled by the KC-135 Stratotanker and KC-10 Extender, increasing the force's air refueling capacity and further seasoning total force Pegasus aircrews with operational missions.</p> <p>On July 9, the first ICR decision approved the KC-46A Pegasus to refuel aircraft using its Centerline Drogue System. The second ICR decision, which approved the KC-46A to refuel the B-52H Stratofortress, C-17 Globemaster III and other KC-46 aircraft using its boom, was made Aug. 5. Approved on Oct. 15, the third decision allowed the KC-46A to refuel all variants of the F-15 Eagle and F-16 Fighting Falcon.</p> <p>Despite existing restrictions and deficiencies, the KC-46A continues to demonstrate its growing operational capabilities. The Pegasus has completed over 6,000 missions, offloading more than 37.8 million pounds of fuel, and making 28,000 boom and 1,900 drogue contacts since January 2019. On Nov. 9, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey welcomed its first two KC-46As, bringing the total number of KC-46As in the Air Force inventory to 50. The KC-46A currently operates out of McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas.; Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina.; Pease Air National Guard Base, New Hampshire; and Altus AFB, Oklahoma.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende information flightglobal.com vom 08.12.2021: The service has been restricting the tanker's usage due to problems with its refuelling boom, including too much stiffness and a camera system that distorts images. The USAF has said it expects to receive from Boeing a new boom camera kit – dubbed Remote Vision System 2.0 – in fiscal year 2024. A fix for the overly stiff refuelling boom is expected in calendar year 2024.)</i></p>
<p>bloomberg.com 06.12.2021</p>	<p>FIN: Finland Is Reported to Pick F-35 Jets in \$11 Billion Tender</p>	<p>Finland is set to pick Lockheed Martin Corp. F-35 fighter jets as part of a 10 billion-euro (\$11.3 billion) tender to replace soon-outdated war planes that are key to defending the Russian border, according to a report in local media. A fleet of F-35s will be acquired due to their capability and expected long lifespan, newspaper Italehti said, citing a number of defense and security sources it didn't identify. The Defense Forces made the proposal to the Defense Ministry, which backs the motion along with top foreign-policy makers, the newspaper said on Sunday. Lauri Puranen, a director at the defense ministry who is responsible for procurement, declined</p>

		to comment when contacted by another local newspaper, Helsingin Sanomat. Finland has spent the past five years selecting a new fighter with air-to-surface and air-to-sea capabilities to defend a 1,300-kilometer (800-mile) border with Russia, seeking to deter any aggression from its eastern neighbor. The jets will replace 64 Boeing Co. F/A-18 Hornets that will be retired in stages between 2025 and 2030, with the new aircraft set to be in service until the 2060s.
latribune.fr 06.12.2021	FIN: Finland would fly in F-35 and discard the three European aircraft (Eurofighter Gripen and Rafale)	Decidedly European countries, especially those in the North (Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Belgium) prefer to buy American than European in terms of combat aviation. As part of the HX program (10 billion euros), Finland seems not to want to deviate from this rule while three European aircraft are competing: Eurofighter (BAE Systems, Airbus, Leonardo), Gripen (Saab) and Rafale (Dassault Aviation). Finland is due to decide by the end of the year which aircraft will be chosen to replace its 64 F-18 C/D fighters, of which 55 aircraft are still in service. The devices are expected to be delivered from 2025.
globaltimes.cn 05.12.2021	CHN: PLA's new-type bomber practices island bombing, mine-laying in S.China Sea	The H-6J, the latest type of bomber to enter service with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, recently participated in a live-fire exercise in the South China Sea, practicing bomb dropping on islands and sea mine-laying, which analysts said on Sunday displayed the aircraft's traditional bombing capability in addition to its standoff strike competence. Affiliated with the Naval Aviation Force under the PLA Southern Theater Command, a regiment based in South China's Hainan Province organized a drill involving the actual use of high-explosive aerial bombs and sea bottom mines, China Central Television (CCTV) reported on Friday. Several bombers took off at night, formed aerial formations and reached the designated sea area at daybreak under complex weather conditions, including heavy clouds. The aircraft first laid the sea mines, then proceeded to drop the bombs, which are characterized by their fast speed and large blast radius, CCTV reported. After the first wave of bombing, the bombers returned to base, received thorough checks and were resupplied with munitions and fuel before taking off again for the second air raid. Also carrying YJ-12 anti-ship missiles under its wings in addition to bombs and sea mines in its belly, the H-6J bomber took part in the drill, according to the CCTV report.
airforcemag.com 03.12.2021	Can a Service Contract Save the F-35? - Chronically high operating costs might be tamed with a new deal.	The Air Force is pleased with the F-35's performance in combat, and plans on it being the "cornerstone" of the fighter fleet over the next 30 years. The jet's high operating costs —\$36,000 per hour—threaten the program, though, and the Air Force only plans to buy minimal numbers of the fighter until those costs close on what was originally planned: \$25,000, by 2025, in 2012 dollars. A new sustainment contract between the F-35 Joint Program Office (JPO) and Lockheed Martin, inked in September, will give the company a chance to bring down operating costs over the next three years. If it can, it stands to earn even bigger contracts and be the sole-

		<p>source provider of future F-35 sustainment services over decades. If it can't, F-35 users could bring the sustainment work in-house, performing the work themselves, or potentially bringing in other contractors.</p> <p><i>(Vollständiger Beitrag abrufbar unter:</i> https://www.airforcemaq.com/article/can-a-service-contract-save-the-f-35/<i>)</i></p>
<p>reuters.com 03.12.2021</p>	<p>FRA/ARE: Cementing ties, UAE buys 80 French-made Rafale warplanes</p>	<p>The United Arab Emirates ordered 80 Rafale fighter jets on Friday, the largest order ever for the warplane, a multi-billion dollar arms contract that deepens economic and political ties with France. The deal, which could be worth at least \$15 billion, is the biggest bulk purchase of the Dassault-made Rafale, other than by the French army, and comes after deals in Greece, Egypt and Croatia this year. Defence sources said the Rafale would replace the Mirage 2000 fleet and is unlikely to displace the American F-35 as the UAE continues to hedge its security with two major suppliers, France and the United States.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information dassault-aviation.com vom 03.12.2021: The Rafale to the F4 standard, of which the Uae Air Force will be the first user outside France, will provide the UAE Armed Forces with an indisputable tool of sovereignty and operational independence. The result of a total mobilization of Dassault Aviation alongside the Uae Air Force, this contract is the culmination of more than 45 years of a relationship of trust between the United Arab Emirates and our company through the Mirage family of fighter jets, including the Mirage 2000-9 whose modernization was launched two years ago.)</i></p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information latribune.fr vom 03.12.2021: 2 billions for the armaments provided by MBDA (Mica NG air-to-air missiles and Black Shaheen cruise missiles, An Emirian variant of the French Scalp). It is also not excluded that the UAE will also buy Saffron's AASM guided bombs in the coming months.)</i></p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information reuters.com vom 05.12.2021: Major General Ibrahim Nasser Al Alawi, commander of the UAE Air Force and Air Defence, said in a statement on state news agency WAM late on Saturday that the Rafale jets would replace the UAE's French-built Mirage 2000 fleet. "This deal is not considered as an alternative for the forthcoming F-35 deal, it is rather a complementary deal ... as we develop our air force capabilities," Alawi said, adding the UAE had for some time been looking to replace its Mirage fleet. The sale of 50 F-35 warplanes made by Lockheed Martin (LMT.N) to the UAE has slowed amid concerns in Washington over Abu Dhabi's relationship with China, including use of Huawei 5G technology in the country.)</i></p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information latribune.fr vom 05.12.2021: Three reasons allowed the Rafale to finally land in the United Arab Emirates: the maturity of the French fighter jet; the F-35, an aircraft of dependencies and the privileged relationship between France and Abu Dhabi.)</i></p>

		Hubschrauber und Kipprotor-Flugzeuge
janes.com 15.12.2021	POL: Poland buys further Black Hawks for special forces	Poland has finalised the procurement of a further four Lockheed Martin S-70i Black Hawk helicopters to add to the four already received. The Polish Ministry of National Defence (MND) signed for the additional Black Hawks on 15 December, saying that the PLN666 million (USD162.5 million) deal has been concluded with Polskie "Zakłady Lotniczy (PZL) Mielec which domestically builds the helicopters. "The purchase of helicopters for special air operations results from the need to further develop the capabilities of the special forces in the scope of fulfilling obligations related to the membership of the Republic of Poland in NATO," the MND said. "Further helicopters will increase the mobility of special forces subunits in the area of responding to asymmetric and hybrid threats, and a uniform fleet of aircraft will reduce the costs of the training process and logistic security".
defenseindustry-daily.com 15.12.2021	MAR: H225M Caracal	The Royal Moroccan Air Force is reportedly planning to buy 8 H225M Caracal helicopter from France. Morocco is currently negotiating with Airbus for eight H225Ms, as per reports.
flightglobal.com 14.12.2021	QAT: Qatar takes first NH90 troop transport helicopter	Qatar has received its first of 28 NH Industries NH90 helicopters from a €3 billion (\$3.4 billion) contract dating from 2018. The NH90 was transported to the Middle East from its production line in Marignane, France in a Qatar Emiri Air Force Boeing C-17. Qatar is taking 16 NH90 TTHs and 12 of the NFH naval variant, with the latter assembled in Tesserà, Italy at the facilities of Leonardo Helicopters, which is the prime contractor for the Qatar deal. Doha's initial NFH rotorcraft is complete and it is understood this will be delivered shortly.
tass.com 13.12.2021	RUS: Trials of Ka-226T helicopter with Russian engines to start in 2023	Flight tests of the cutting-edge VK-650V engine on the light multirole helicopter Ka-226T will start in 2023, chief designer of the VK-650V engine in UEC-Klimov Anastasia Solovyova told reporters on Monday. In 2019, UEC-Klimov announced the start of developing the new gas-turbine turboshaft engine VK-650V. This power plant is intended for Ka-226T and Ansat helicopters.
minister.defence.gov.au 09.12.2021	AUS: Strengthening Army's helicopter capability	The Morrison Government has taken steps to strengthen the Australian Army's helicopter capability by formally requesting advice from the United States Government on the acquisition of up to 40 UH-60 Black Hawk to potentially replace the MRH90 Taipan helicopter. Minister for Defence the Hon Peter Dutton MP said the MRH90 Taipan is currently used by the Australian Army as its utility helicopter, including support to Special Operations, and provides a maritime support capability for the Royal Australian Navy. "Defence uses its helicopters to support a range of operations. This includes humanitarian aid and disaster relief domestically and in the Indo-Pacific region, and to support our troops in combat operations," Minister Dutton said. The

		MRH90 helicopter fleet has not met contracted availability requirements nor the expected cost of ownership ahead of its planned withdrawal from service in 2037. "The performance of the MRH90 Taipan has been an ongoing and well-documented concern for Defence and there has been a significant effort at great expense to try to remediate those issues," Minister Dutton said.
pzmielec.pl 09.12.2021	ROU: Romanian Ministry of Interior Orders Six S-70M Black Hawks	PZL Mielec, a Lockheed Martin company, has received an order for six new-generation S-70M Black Hawk utility helicopters from Romania's Ministry of Internal Affairs. This first order follows the recent signing of a four-year framework agreement that will see up to 12 Polish-built S-70M Black Hawks supplied to Romania over the next four years. The first six aircraft, three configured to support maritime and three to support land operations, will be delivered in co-operation with Romaero and DELTAMED during 2023.
news.bellflight.com 08.12.2021	IDN: Bell Delivers Two Bell 505 Helicopters to the Indonesian Navy	Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE:TXT) company, announced the successful sale and delivery of two Bell 505 helicopters to the Indonesian Navy. The newly acquired helicopters will be utilized as basic helicopter trainers. This delivery brings the Indonesian Navy's Bell fleet to five aircraft, which already includes three Bell 412 helicopters. More than 100 Bell helicopters are operating in the military and commercial segments in Indonesia.
pna.gov.ph 07.12.2021	PHL: Gov't allots P62-B for more 'choppers	The government has allocated a total of PHP62 billion for the acquisition 32 more Polish-made S-70i "Black Hawk" combat utility helicopters for the Air Force. The Philippine Air Force (PAF) earlier completed the acquisition of 16 "Black Hawk" helicopters from Polish company PZL Mielec worth USD241 million (about PHP11.5 billion).
defense.gov 06.12.2021	USN: CH-53K	Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. is awarded a not-to-exceed \$35,288,184 firm-fixed-price contract to procure long lead items for full-rate production, Lot 7, CH-53K aircraft. Work is expected to be completed in December 2022.
defenceweb.co.za 06.12.2021	MLI: Mali officially takes delivery of Mi-171 helicopters	Mali's military has officially taken into service the four Mi-171 helicopters it received from Russia at the end of September. The four helicopters, along with weapons and ammunition, arrived in Mali from Russia on 30 September as part of a December 2020 contract. The aircraft were officially handed over to the armed forces at a ceremony on 26 November at Air Base 101. The rotary wing acquisition follows on from four Mi-35 attack helicopters acquired by Mali from Russia in recent years.
pna.gov.ph 06.12.2021	PHL: New 'Black Hawk' choppers boosts PAF's lift capability	The lift and transport capabilities of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) got a significant boost as it recently received five brand-new Polish-made Sikorsky S-71i "Black Hawk" combat utility helicopters. "Five brand new Sikorsky 70i BlackHawk helicopters were welcomed into our air fleet last 03 December, completing the delivery of 16 units. The PAF has an order of 16 S-70i helicopters from Polish company PZL Mielec worth USD241 million

		(about PHP11.5 billion). One unit from the initial six units delivered in the country crashed last June 24 while on a night-flying exercise.
flightglobal.com 03.12.2021	GBR: First NMH delivery could take place in September 2024 under Puma replacement plan	Prospective bidders for the UK's New Medium Helicopter (NMH) requirement have until 9 December to submit their initial responses to the Ministry of Defence. RAF's Puma fleet will be replaced by NMH. Between 36 and 44 helicopters are to be acquired to replace the Royal Air Force's fleet of 23 Puma HC2 helicopters, plus three other rotorcraft types operated by the British Army. The full value of the contract could run to £1 billion (\$1.3 billion). A winner should be selected by January 2023, with business case approval following in May and a contract awarded that July. That process will lead to the delivery of the first helicopter in September 2024. No details of the MoD's preliminary requirements have been disclosed. However, FlightGlobal understands that based on the initial performance characteristics Airbus Helicopters and Leonardo Helicopters will offer their respective H175M and AW149 platforms.
marines.mil 03.12.2021	USMC: Marine CH-53KS partner with the Navy to test future force operating concept	In a first for the Marine Corps, Marines from Marine Operational Test & Evaluation Squadron One conducted over-the-horizon heavy lift and troop transport ship-to-shore operations aboard CH-53K King Stallions over the Atlantic Ocean, Nov. 19-21. These exercises are a critical component of the Marine Corps' future force operating concepts, such as expeditionary advanced base operations and distributed operations. VMX-1 is evaluating the King Stallion's ability to meet program specification for the over-the-horizon heavy lift evolution tested the King Stallion's capability to transport a 27,000 lbs. light armored vehicle from the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima to a landing zone ashore. While the troop transport evolution evaluated the King Stallion's ability to move troops over-the-horizon to a location ashore and return to ship without refueling—covering as much as 220 nautical miles on their roundtrip.
economictimes.com indiatimes.com 03.12.2021	IND: India to push back on \$1 billion Russian helicopter deal	India won't go ahead with building Russian helicopters locally under a \$1 billion deal. Instead, there might be off-the-shelf purchases of some of the Ka-226T military choppers as the Indian Air Force needs to make immediate replacements to its fleet of over 320 aging helicopters. The military is currently fortifying its western and northern borders as tensions with China fester. India initially inked the deal in 2015 with the Russians for 200 of the Kamov twin-engine utility helicopters. Of this, 60 choppers were to be imported and the remaining would be manufactured locally under a venture between the Bengaluru defense public sector unit, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Russian Helicopters.
reuters.com 03.12.2021	ARE: 	Abu Dhabi also ordered 12 Caracal helicopters. It is the French code name for the H225M, the multirole military version of the Super Puma. The deal is worth 1 billion, the official said.

	UAE places \$19 billion order for warplanes, helicopters	
janes.com 03.12.2021	AUT/ITA: Italy and Austria sign G2G agreement for 18 AW169 helicopters	Italy and Austria have entered into a government-to-government (G2G) agreement for the sale and procurement of 18 Leonardo AW169 multirole helicopters for the Austrian Armed Forces (Bundesheer). Signed on 2 December at the Italian Ministry of Defence in Rome between Defense Minister Lorenzo Guerini and Austrian Defense Minister Klaudia Tanner, the implementation phase of the agreement paves the way for a formal contractual agreement by 20 December and acquisition signature in mid-January 2022. Austria has earmarked between EUR300 million (USD340 million) and EUR400 million for the programme. According to the Italian National Armaments Directorate (ARMAERO), the contract will cover six helicopters in the AW169B configuration, as well as up to 12 potentially armed AW169MA helicopters. Spares, training, support, and other items will be included in the sale. The agreement also includes an option for a further six AW169Bs and a further 12 AW169MAs; however, it was not said for how long this option will remain valid.
news.defence.gov.au 02.12.2021	AUS: New Army Aviation Command established	The Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Rick Burr, AO, DSC, MVO, today announced the establishment of a new Army Aviation Command. Lieutenant General Burr said the formation of the Army Aviation Command was a significant achievement for the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force. "The alignment of Army's aviation capability under its own command optimises Army Aviation to better support land, amphibious and special operations," Lieutenant General Burr said. As of the 2 nd December, 2021, 16th Aviation Brigade and the Army Aviation Training Centre will transfer from Army Forces Command to Aviation Command. Army's aviation capability provides aviation reconnaissance, firepower support, air assault, and battlefield support and surveillance, in combined, joint and interagency environments. Army operates various types of aircraft including the Boeing CH-47F Chinook, Eurocopter Tiger armed reconnaissance helicopter, NH Industries MRH90 Taipan multi-role helicopter and leased civil light utility helicopter.
honeywell.com 01.12.2021	US ARMY: Honeywell Successfully Begins Testing Next-Generation T55 Engine For U.S. Army Chinook Helicopters	Honeywell has reached a significant milestone with the U.S. Army by being the first engine to test (FETT) as part of its Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) for the next-generation engine for Chinook helicopters. This is an essential next step for the U.S. Army to test the new T55-GA-714C engine capability for its latest CH-47 Chinook helicopters. With 6,000 horsepower, Honeywell's upgraded engine is 23% more powerful and consumes 8% less fuel than the current T55, even in the most demanding operating conditions. New modifications also make the next-generation T55 easier to maintain with lower operating costs, delivering increased readiness for the warfighter.

		Honeywell first delivered the T55 engine to the U.S. Army in 1961 at 2,200 shaft horsepower on the CH-47A helicopter. Since that time, the engine's power has nearly tripled to 6,000 shaft horsepower. Each performance increase on the T55 is accompanied by reduced fuel burn, increased reliability and decreased maintenance hours. The T55 engine is the world leader in powering heavy lift helicopters. Over 900 CH-47 helicopters are operated today by various militaries around the world.
		Unbemannte Luftfahrzeuge (UAV) und Robotik
tass.com 14.12.2021	RUS: Russia rolls out first flight prototype of state-of-the art Okhotnik heavy strike drone	The first flight prototype of Russia's state-of-the-art S-70 'Okhotnik' ('Hunter') heavy strike drone was rolled out at the Novosibirsk Aviation Enterprise and preparations are underway for the drone's debut flight, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexey Krivoruchko said on Tuesday. The S-70 'Okhotnik' drone developed by the Sukhoi Design Bureau features stealth technology and the flying wing design (it lacks the tail), which reduces its radar signature. According to the data of open sources, the drone has a take-off weight of 20 tonnes and can develop a speed of around 1,000 km/h. The drone's serial deliveries to the troops are due to begin from 2024. As the UAC earlier told TASS, the latest drone would be capable of operating in conjunction with Su-57 fifth-generation fighters. The Okhotnik drone will be able to strike aerial and ground targets as part of network-centric interaction with the fighter, it specified.
northropgrumman.com 13.12.2021	USAF: Northrop Grumman Global Hawk to Expand Participation in SkyRange Program for US DoD	Northrop Grumman Corporation has been issued a task order to support the Department of Defense Test Resource Management Center (TRMC) to begin engineering and planning work to reconfigure four United States Air Force EQ-4 Block 20 Global Hawk aircraft for use in the SkyRange fleet of testing vehicles. The SkyRange program will equip the four high-altitude, long-endurance EQ-4 aircraft with sensors to demonstrate an alternative data collection support system to support testing U.S. hypersonic systems. Modifications of the Block 20 jets are expected to occur at Northrop Grumman's Grand Sky facility near Grand Forks, North Dakota.
leidos.com 13.12.2021	USAF: U.S. Air Force Selects Leidos for Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Contract	Leidos today announced it has been awarded a prime contract by the U.S. Air Force to support the service's counter-small unmanned aerial system (C-sUAS) efforts. "The complex and rapid proliferation of small, unmanned aircraft systems by adversaries presents new risks and challenges for our armed forces," said Will Johnson, Leidos Senior Vice President, Logistics and Mission Support. Through this contract, Leidos will support the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center and enhance the air base defender's capability to detect, identify,

		track and defeat small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS). This will take place through a wide range of system and software maintenance, development, and deployment tasks.
dailysabah.com 13.12.2021	TUR/UKR: Ukraine, Turkey to jointly produce new-gen armed drones	Turkey's Anka medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV)-type combat drones will be built in the new Ukrainian-Turkish plant being established in the ex-Soviet country, according to several news sites. Russia-based Izvestia newspaper reported the news, citing remarks made on Dec. 11 by Alexei Arestovich, an external adviser of the Ukrainian president's office. He was cited as saying that the combat drones will be effective against air targets, including other drones and even manned aircraft. The drones will be equipped with Ukrainian engines and Turkish avionics, Arestovich was said to have told Ukraine's Radio Svoboda. Commenting on the main features of the Anka, Arestovich noted that it is a new generation of drones. The first batch of UCAVs are expected to be produced by the plant by the end of next year, Arestovich added.
dailysabah.com 10.12.2021	TUR/IND: Multirotor mini UAV by Turkish company ready for export to India	Amultirotor mini-UAV model developed by Ankara-based Zyrone Dynamics is ready to be exported after the company attracted international investment. Zyrone Dynamics is preparing for the first product delivery to India. Zyrone Dynamics will carry out the first export of the mini multi-rotor UAV platform ZCQM before the end of the year, and will continue to deliver in batches in 2022. The company is expected to deliver nearly 100 vehicles next year. The company will also make demo flights for the defense tenders in India in March 2022. Zyrone Dynamics has completed the international military certification processes for the ZCQM platform, which was tested in different weather conditions such as desert, sandstorm, arctic cold, heavy showers and snowstorms etc., and met the requirements of international military certification (MIL-STD-810G). The ZCQM has increased its flight time by 10 minutes to 80 minutes by breaking its own record by reaching an altitude of 1.2 kilometers (.7 miles) above the ground.
ga-asi.com 09.12.2021	GA-ASI Announces New Mojave UAS - Next Step in UAS Capability Evolution Includes STOL and Unmatched Payload Capacity	General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. is unveiling a new UAS called Mojave, named for one of the harshest and most austere areas the world, where deadly rattlesnakes and horned lizards adapt to survive the extreme forces of nature. Mojave is based on the avionics and flight control systems of MQ-9 Reaper and MQ-1C Gray Eagle-ER but is focused on short-takeoff and landing (STOL) capabilities and increased firepower. It features enlarged wings with high-lift devices, and a 450-HP turboprop engine. Mojave provides options for forward-basing operations without the need for typical airport runways or infrastructure. It can land and takeoff from unimproved surfaces while also retaining significant advantages in endurance and persistence over manned aircraft. These innovations make Mojave the perfect UAS to perform armed overwatch, attack and armed reconnaissance missions. A prototype aircraft first flew this summer and is continuing to demonstrate exceptional short-field performance and other unique qualities.

dailysabah.com 02.12.2021	AZE: Azerbaijani Air Force conducts drill using Turkish drones	The Azerbaijani Air Force used unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) made by Turkey's drone magnate Bayraktar in their recent military drill, the country's Defense Ministry said Thursday. The drill, which included live-fire training flights, aimed to improve the Azerbaijani Air Force's combat skills. "During live-fire training flights, the aerial reconnaissance was conducted in cooperation with units of other types of troops, and the coordinates of the imaginary enemy's land-based targets were determined," the ministry said in a statement. The state-of-the-art drones helped Turkey's ally Azerbaijan defeat Armenia-backed occupying forces in Nagorno-Karabakh.
usni.org 02.12.2021	USN: MQ-25A Unmanned Prototype Now on Carrier George H.W. Bush for At-Sea Testing	<p>The prototype for the Navy's unmanned refueling tanker is now aboard a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier ahead of at-sea testing. The tests for the Boeing-built MQ-25A Stingray are the next steps in providing a capability for the service to operate at longer ranges in regions like the Indo-Pacific, as it adjusts to a strategy focused on conflict with peer competitors like China and Russia. The prototype – which Boeing originally built for the Unmanned Carrier Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike (UCLASS) program that was later retooled into a tanker – has already performed overland tests refueling an F/A-18F Super Hornet, an E-2D Advanced Hawkeye and an F-35C Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter. The USN expects that the MQ-25A Stingray to be able to pass around 15,000 pounds of gas 500 miles away from the carrier.</p> <p>While the Navy is currently focused on the refueling requirement, the service sees a future for the MQ-25 program to perform more missions like intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. Tim Walton, a fellow at the Hudson Institute's Center for Defense Concepts and Technology, said a future variant of the MQ-25 could help the Navy have an aircraft aboard its carriers that can operate at longer ranges and perform other missions. "The MQ-25 has a great deal of potential not only for ISR, but also for other missions such as strike or airborne electronic attack," Walton, who recently co-authored a report about aerial refueling, told USNI News. Walton's report argued that the U.S. military needs to invest more money in the aerial refueling mission to remain competitive against China in the Indo-Pacific. For example, the Navy would need "far more" MQ-25 tankers or help from the Air Force if it were operating an aircraft carrier outside the range of China's DF-26 missile – which is reportedly 4,000 kilometers – with four F-35Cs, according to the report.</p>
		Bewaffnung und weitere Nutzlasten
janes.com 16.12.2021	USAF:	The US Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC) at Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida, in association with Raytheon Missiles & Defense, is preparing for a series of air-launched guided live-fire trials of the new

	<p>USAF, Raytheon ready AIM-120D-3 for guided live-fire test campaign</p>	<p>variant AIM-120D-3 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM). “The live-fire test campaign will begin in February 2022 with the work-up missions,” a Raytheon spokesperson told Janes . “There are five live fires as part of this campaign and these are scheduled for Q2–Q4 2022, with current planning to shoot from the [US Air Force] F-15E Strike Eagle and [US Navy] F/A-18F [Super Hornet] platforms.” The AIM-120D-3 delivers a significant capability upgrade through the Form, Fit, Function Refresh (F3R) programme – a comprehensive AMRAAM Diminishing Manufacturing Sources and Material Shortages project, designed to mitigate systemic hardware obsolescence issues in the AIM-120D's guidance section, and sustain AMRAAM missile production beyond Lot 32, awarded in March 2018.</p>
<p>australiandefence.com.au 15.12.2021</p>	<p>FIN: Joint Strike Missile gains third customer</p>	<p>When Finland selected the Lockheed Martin F-35A Lightning II as its new fighter on 10 December, the country also became the third customer so far to select the Kongsberg Joint Strike Missile (JSM) as its maritime strike weapon of choice. Besides the JSM, the Finnish weapons package includes Raytheon AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air to Air Missiles (AMRAAM) and AIM-9X Sidewinder missiles, as well as Small Diameter Bomb (SDB) I and II, Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) and the Lockheed Martin AGM-158B extended range Joint Air to Surface Strike Missile (JASSM-ER).</p> <p>A spokesperson for Kongsberg said the JSM will be the first maritime strike and land attack weapon to reach operational status and is the only one so far to be specifically designed for internal carriage in the F-35A’s weapons bay. Besides Finland, Japan and Norway have selected the JSM for their F-35A’s and, as ADM noted recently, Australia is considering the missile as its future maritime strike weapon for the RAAF’s F-35As.</p>
<p>acc.af.mil 13.12.2021</p>	<p>ACC: Gunfighters’ first shots with new smart bomb, StormBreaker</p>	<p>The 391st Fighter Squadron became the first operational unit to use the GBU-53/B, the Air Force’s new small diameter bomb known as StormBreaker, Nov. 2 at the Utah Test and Training Range. Four F-15Es from the 366th Fighter Wing had the opportunity to employ this new capability as part of WSEP (Weapon System Evaluation Program). The evaluation involved multiple aircraft targeting and engaging four ground-based vehicles with four StormBreakers. Despite all of the vehicles being moving targets and this being a relatively new munition, all four were successfully hit. The StormBreaker measures at 69 inches long, 6-7 inches in diameter, weighs 204 pounds and carries a 105 pound warhead. By using a combination of millimeter wave active radar homing, semi-active laser guidance, infrared homing, GPS coupled inertial guidance and data-link, the bomb is proven to strike stationary targets at 69 miles and moving targets at 45 miles. Because of the small size of these new munitions, the F-15E Strike Eagle can carry up to 28 GBU-53/Bs. The ability to carry more munitions is critical in situations where there exists a high number of ground targets that require a high level of accuracy as offered by the StormBreaker.</p>

		(Vollständiger Report abrufbar unter: https://www.acc.af.mil/News/Article/2871447/qunfighters-first-shots-with-new-smart-bomb-stormbreaker/)
economictimes. indiatimes.com 11.12.2021	IND: India flight-tests helicopter-launched stand-off anti-tank missile	India on Saturday successfully flight-tested indigenously developed helicopter-launched stand-off anti-tank (SANT) missile in Rajasthan's Pokhran firing ranges. The defence ministry said the flight-testing, carried out by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force, was "successful" in meeting all the mission objectives of the missile. The weapon, developed for the IAF, can neutralise targets in a range up to 10 km. The ministry said the missile is equipped with a state-of-the-art MMW seeker which provides high precision strike capability from a safe distance. The SANT missile has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad. in coordination with other DRDO labs and participation from industries.
jpost.com 09.12.2021	USA: Is US threat to consider striking Iran for real? - analysis	Leaks to the media indicated that Washington was developing a new, more powerful bunker-buster bomb. This was important because Iran's Fordow facility is deep underground and cannot be destroyed by standard missiles. More updated versions of the bunker-buster would include a delayed fuse, upgrades to the bomb's guidance system and electronics to stop jammers from sending it off course. And it was noted that two bombs would be dropped for good measure. These leaks gave exact dates and locations for when the bunker busters had been tested to make sure they were fully operational and up to the task of wiping out any Iranian nuclear facilities, no matter how deep underground.
pib.gov.in 08.12.2021	IND: Air version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile successfully test-fired from Sukhoi 30 MK-I off Odisha coast	Air version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired from the supersonic fighter aircraft Sukhoi 30 MK-I at 1030 hrs from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on December 08, 2021. In this copy book flight, the missile launched from the aircraft followed the pre-planned trajectory meeting all mission objectives. The launch is a major milestone in the BrahMos development. It clears the system for the serial production of air-version BrahMos missiles within the country. Major airframe assemblies which form the integral part of the Ramjet Engine are indigenously developed by Indian Industry. These include metallic and non-metallic air frame sections comprising Ramjet fuel tank and pneumatic fuel supply system. During the test, the structural integrity and functional performance have been proven. The air version of BrahMos was last flight tested in July 2021.
reuters.com 08.12.2021	USA/SAU: U.S. Senate backs sale of missiles to Saudi Arabia	The U.S. Senate rejected a resolution on Tuesday that would have prohibited the proposed sale of advanced medium range air-to-air missiles, missile launchers and other weapons and support to Saudi Arabia. The weapons package, which was approved by the State Department as well as leaders of the Senate and House

		foreign affairs committees, would include 280 AIM-120C-7/C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM), 596 LAU-128 Missile Rail Launchers (MRL) along other equipment and support.
navair.navy.mil 06.12.2021	USMC: Marines complete maritime tests for AGM-179 JAGM next-gen air-to-ground missile	<p>The Marines recently completed Joint Air-to-Ground Missile (JAGM) operational testing on the AH-1Z Viper at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, demonstrating its maritime targeting capability. The team conducted multiple live-fire events in November testing all modes of the missile against realistic operational threats. AH-1Z pilots tested JAGM off the coast of Florida, hitting moving target boats up to seven kilometers away, using both laser and radars sensors for guidance. All of the launches were successful under planned test conditions.</p> <p>Over the next few weeks, the team will conduct land-based operational testing to support JAGM's use on the AH-1Z at Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona. The air-to-ground, precision guided missile is designed with a seeker that replicate and combine capabilities of the existing Hellfire missile variants. It combines a semi-active laser guidance and millimeter wave radar and is intended to hit vehicles and enemy combatants in the open. "The addition of MMW capability to the seeker allows a true fire and forget capability and increased flexibility for the operator on the battlefield," said Maj. Chuck Smith, the Marines' H-1 department head at Pax River who supported testing. AGM-179 JAGM has achieved initial operational capability on Army's AH-64E Apache and is planned to reach this milestone on the Marines' AH-1Z in 2022.</p>
defense.gov 03.12.2021	USN: F-35 Lightning II	<p>Lockheed Martin Corp. is awarded a \$77,847,256 modification (P00002) to a previously awarded, cost-plus-incentive-fee contract (N0001921C0040). This modification adds scope to provide for the integration of indigenous weapons into an F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter air system for a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) customer. Work is expected to be completed in December 2025.</p> <p><i>(Anmerkung Redaktion: Israel oder Grossbritannien?)</i></p>
flightglobal.com 03.12.2021	USMC: F-35B stealth fighter drops SDB II for first time	<p>A US Marine Corps F-35B stealth fighter has dropped a Raytheon GBU-53/B StormBreaker precision glide bomb for the first time. In addition to testing safe release of the bomb, the demonstration, which took place at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland was intended to show that the weapon could be networked. The Department of Defense is interested in networking bombs and missiles so that the weapons can autonomously coordinate attacks. A weapon that can communicate might also be able to be guided to its target by sensors on multiple aircraft, perhaps giving the munition more precise coordinates or backup information if its data link with one aircraft is lost.</p>

		<p>The StormBreaker is a precision guided bomb with a pair of wings that allow it to glide up to 35nm (64km) after being released from an aircraft. The ability of the weapon to glide to its target is intended to help keep the fighter out of reach of an adversary's weapons, for instance, surface-to-air missiles. The 93kg (204lb) bomb gets its name from its ability to fly through bad weather, darkness, smoke or dust. It is able to hit a moving target despite poor visibility by relying on an infrared sensor, millimetre-wave radar and semi-active laser, as well as GPS and inertial navigation system guidance, says Raytheon.</p> <p><i>(Technische Beschreibung StormBreaker Smart Weapon SDB II abrufbar unter: https://www.raytheonmissilesanddefense.com/capabilities/products/stormbreaker-smart-weapon)</i></p>
energy.gov 02.12.2021	NNSA/USAF: NNSA Completes First Production Unit of B61-12 Life Extension Program	<p>The U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) successfully completed the B61-12 Life Extension Program (LEP) First Production Unit (FPU) on November 23, 2021. The B61-12 LEP helps modernize America's nuclear weapons stockpile and sustain the Nation's air delivered nuclear deterrent capability. The nuclear security enterprise, in close coordination with the U.S. Air Force, worked together to deliver the B61-12 FPU after more than nine years of design, development, qualification, and component production. The B61 nuclear gravity bomb, deployed from U.S. Air Force and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) bases, has been in service for over 50 years. Many modifications have been made to improve the B61's safety, security, and reliability since the first B61 entered service in 1968, and four B61 variants remain in the stockpile: the 3, 4, 7, and 11. The B61-12 will replace the B61-3, 4, and 7. The B61-12 LEP refurbishes, reuses, or replaces all of the bomb's nuclear or non-nuclear components to extend the service life by at least 20 years. The B61 LEP will also continue to assure the weapon's safety, security, and effectiveness. NNSA anticipates starting full-scale production in May 2022 and completing all needed production in FY 2026.</p>
breakingdefense.com 02.12.2021	USN: With missile upgrade, P-8A Poseidon brings capacity, complexity to China fight: Analysts	<p>The Navy in November announced it will award Boeing a contract next year to begin work on integrating the service's premiere anti-ship missile AGM-158C LRSAM onto the P-8A Poseidon. By the Navy's definition, the Poseidon is a multimission aircraft with surveillance capabilities as well as weapon systems. But why equip it with an upgraded, longer-range missile designed for and first put on strike fighters and bombers? Analysts told Breaking Defense the choice is about the military's capacity to sustain a fight in the Indo-Pacific and to complicate plans for a peer adversary like China.</p> <p>The P-8A Poseidon, which has ISR, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare capabilities, will be the third plane to receive the Long Range Anti-Ship Missile, a weapon developed and manufactured by Lockheed Martin in response to an urgent operational need from US Pacific Fleet in 2008. The first two aircraft to get it were combat-focused planes: the Navy's F/A-18 Super Hornet and the Air Force's B1 bomber.</p>

		Air Power
taiwannews.com.tw 17.12.2021	TWN/CHN: 4 Chinese fighter jets enter Taiwan's ADIZ	<p>Four Chinese military planes briefly entered Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) on Thursday (Dec. 16), marking the 14th intrusion this month. Four People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) Shenyang J-16 fighter jets flew in the southwestern corner of Taiwan's ADIZ, according to the Ministry of National Defense (MND). In response, Taiwan sent aircraft, broadcast radio warnings, and deployed air defense missile systems to monitor the PLAAF planes.</p> <p>Fifty-five Chinese planes have been tracked in Taiwan's ADIZ so far this month, comprising 34 fighter planes, 2 bombers, and 19 turboprops. Chinese military aircraft have been spotted in Taiwan's identification zone every day this month except for on Dec. 5 and 12.</p>
reuters.com 16.12.2021 09:24 PM CET	AFG: Drone strike on Pakistani Taliban leader fails to explode, Taliban sources say	<p>A drone strike hit a house just inside Afghanistan's border with Pakistan, apparently targeting a senior member of the Pakistani Taliban, but the missile failed to explode, Pakistani Taliban sources said on Thursday. One of the Taliban officials said the drone fired a missile at a hujra, or guesthouse on the compound of Maulvi Faqir Mohammad, a senior leader of the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan movement (TTP). The apparent attempt to kill him in a drone strike came after talks to agree a permanent ceasefire between the TTP and the Pakistani government broke down last week after the militant movement refused to extend a 30 day truce.</p>
jpost.com 16.12.2021 12:03	USA/SYR: US intercepts drone at American Al Tanf outpost in Syria	<p>The US military intercepted a small drone at the American Al Tanf outpost in southeastern Syria on Tuesday, with Iranian or Iran-backed forces suspected of launching it, NBC News reported on Thursday. Capt. Bill Urban, spokesman for US Central Command (CENTCOM), stated that two drones entered the airspace around Al Tanf on Tuesday evening, with US forces shooting one of the drones down as it demonstrated "hostile intent." A military official told Fox News that the drone was shot down in an air-to-air strike. The second drone left the area. No casualties or damage were reported in the incident.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information alarabiya.net vom 16.12.2021 09:10 PM GST: The drone shot down over a military base housing US troops in Syria this week was destroyed by British troops, the UK revealed Thursday. On Monday, it was reported that two drones had targeted the Al-Tanf base. But reports suggested that one drone had turned away after Coalition forces destroyed the first. "This unprecedented event was the first operational air-to-air engagement conducted by an RAF Typhoon, and also the first RAF air-to-air missile firing during Operation SHADER – the UK's contribution to the Global Coalition against Daesh," a statement from the ministry read. Thursday's statement noted that the downed drone came several weeks after the RAF "successfully eliminated a known terrorist threat in Syria using a remotely piloted Reaper armed with Hellfire missiles.")</i></p>

taiwannews.com.tw 16.12.2021 09:55	TWN/CHN: 2 Chinese military spotter planes enter Taiwan's ADIZ	Two Chinese military turboprops flew into Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) on Wednesday (Dec. 15), marking the 13th intrusion this month. A People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) Shaanxi Y-8 anti-submarine warfare plane and a Shaanxi Y-9 electronic warfare plane entered the southwest corner of the ADIZ, according to the Ministry of National Defense (MND).
reuters.com 16.12.2021 01:08 AM CET	SYR/ISR: Syrian soldier killed in Israeli missile attack on southern area - state media	<p>Syrian air defences confronted an Israeli missile attack targeting the southern area and a Syrian soldier was killed, state news agency (SANA) said on Thursday citing a military source. The air defences downed most of the missiles, and the attack caused some material losses, SANA added.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information jpost.com vom 16.12.2021 01:58: A military cargo flight from Tehran reportedly landed in Damascus earlier on Wednesday. Israeli airstrikes often take place after flights between Tehran and Damascus, as the flights often carry military equipment to Syria meant for pro-Iranian militias in Syria and Hezbollah in Lebanon. The latest airstrike comes just over a week after an alleged Israeli airstrike targeted containers at the Latakia port in northwestern Syria. The Latakia area is a stronghold for Russian forces in Syria, with the Russian Khmeimim Air Base located near Latakia. Iran has begun deploying advanced anti-aircraft missile batteries to the region in an attempt to challenge Israeli jets.)</i></p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information aljazeera.com vom 16.12.2021: "At around 12:50am (23:50 GMT Wednesday), the Israeli enemy carried out an air raid with several missiles in the direction of the occupied Syrian Golan and targeting several positions in the south," according to a military source quoted by SANA.)</i></p>
taiwannews.com.tw 15.12.2021 07:45	TWN/CHN: 5 Chinese military planes enter Taiwan's ADIZ	Five Chinese military planes flew into Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) on Tuesday (Dec. 14), marking the 12th intrusion this month. Two People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) Chengdu J-10 fighter jets, one Shaanxi Y-8 electronic warfare plane, one Shaanxi Y-8 anti-submarine warfare airplane, and one Shaanxi Y-9 electronic warfare aircraft entered the southwest corner of Taiwan's ADIZ, according to the Ministry of National Defense (MND).
taiwannews.com.tw 14.12.2021 08:16	TWN/CHN: Chinese military turboprop enters Taiwan's ADIZ	A Chinese military aircraft entered Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) on Monday (Dec. 13), marking the 11th intrusion this month. A single People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) Shaanxi Y-9 electronic warfare plane flew into the southwest corner of Taiwan's ADIZ, according to the Ministry of National Defense (MND).
ynetnews.com 13.12.2021	ISR/SYR:	Israel attacked two chemical weapons facilities in Syria over the past two years, the Washington Post reported Monday. Israeli fighter jets bombed chemical weapons facilities this June and March 2020 as the Assad regime

	<p>Israel attacked chemical weapons facilities in Syria</p>	<p>is believed to try to rebuild its chemical weapons capabilities. "It is a strategic weapon for the regime," said a Western intelligence official.</p> <p>This year on June 8 Israel attacked chemical arms facilities in Syria. The facilities were used by the Bashar al-Assad regime to manufacture chemical weapons, and according to intelligence reports, the attack was intended to thwart a Syrian attempt to resume the production of nerve gas. The attack included three targets that were bombed in Damascus and Homs area, killing seven Syrian soldiers, including a senior colonel. The aircraft fighters that took part in the attack were deep within Syrian soil, near the border with Turkey.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information timesofisrael.com vom 13.12.2021: It is not clear whether Israel's strikes were successful in disrupting Assad's efforts. The strikes were preemptive in nature, eliminating Syria's chemical production capabilities before the weapons are made, Western intelligence officials told The Post. A strike on operational chemical weapons would risk unleashing them into the surrounding areas.)</i></p>
<p>ekathimerini.com 13.12.2021 16:48</p>	<p>GRC/TUR: Pair of Turkish fighter jets fly over Greek Aegean islets</p>	<p>A pair of Turkish F-16 fighter jets flew over the central Aegean islets of Kalogeroi at 3.31 p.m. on Monday. The flyby took place at an altitude of 28,000 feet.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information ekathimerini.com vom 14.12.2021 18:20: «Ankara pushes narrative with overflights» abrufbar unter: https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1173710/ankara-pushes-narrative-with-overflights/)</i></p>
<p>defence-blog.com 11.12.2021</p>	<p>UKR/USAF: US RC-135W spy plane flies from UK into Ukrainian air space</p>	<p>A U.S. Air Force RC-135W Rivet Joint aircraft flew from the United Kingdom into Ukrainian air space, according to the global flight tracking service Flightradar24. A U.S. spy plane was seen flying over Ukrainian airspace on Saturday morning, local time, according to the flight tracking service. The aircraft is an extensively modified C-135. The Rivet Joint's modifications are primarily related to its on-board sensor suite, which allows the mission crew to detect, identify and geolocate signals throughout the electromagnetic spectrum. The mission crew can then forward gathered information in a variety of formats to a wide range of consumers via Rivet Joint's extensive communications suite.</p> <p>Several sources say that the reason for the appearance of the American reconnaissance aircraft over Ukraine was the activation of Russian Buk systems along the border. A Russian Buk surface-to-air missile system was moved to a new location near the village of Maslovka near Voronezh, a short distance from its border with Ukraine.</p>

nato.int 10.12.2021	NATO: NATO Air policing protects North Macedonia's airspace	A ceremony to mark the inclusion of the Republic of North Macedonia in the NATO Air Policing system was held on 9 December 2021 at Skopje airport. Two Hellenic Air Force F-16 jets executed a simulated intercept of a Republic of North Macedonia government Learjet.
taiwannews.com.tw 10.12.2021 20:43	TWN/CHN: China sends 13 military planes into Taiwan's ADIZ	China sent 13 military aircraft into Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) on Friday (Dec. 10), according to the Ministry of National Defense. On Friday, China's People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) sent six J-16 fighter jets, two J-10 jets, two H-6 bombers, a Y-8 anti-submarine warfare plane, a Y-8 electronic warfare aircraft, and a KJ-500 airborne early warning and control plane into the ADIZ. The bombers and the electronic warfare plane appeared southeast of Taiwan's main island, while the other aircraft flew into the southwest sector of the ADIZ.
taiwannews.com.tw 10.12.2021 08:13	TWN/CHN: 5 Chinese military planes enter Taiwan's ADIZ	Five Chinese military planes entered Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) on Thursday (Dec. 9), marking the eighth intrusion this month. Four People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) Shenyang J-16 fighter jets and one Shaanxi Y-8 anti-submarine warfare plane flew into the southwest corner of Taiwan's ADIZ, according to the Ministry of National Defense (MND).
aljazeera.com 09.12.2021	TUR: Turkey hits PKK targets in Iraq after three of its troops killed	At least three Turkish soldiers have been killed in an attack in northern Iraq launched by outlawed Kurdish fighters, prompting a retaliatory air attack, according to the Turkish defence ministry. Turkish fighter jets hit suspected PKK posts to "neutralise" six fighters, a statement on the ministry website said, adding that a military offensive was under way in the region. "Neutralised" is commonly used to mean killed. Turkish forces routinely conduct military attacks against PKK hideouts in the mountains of northern Iraq, causing strains in its relations with the central Iraqi government in Baghdad. Turkey launched its latest major air and ground offensive in April, targeting rear bases Kurdish fighters have used to wage a decades-long armed rebellion against the Turkish state.
defense.gouv.fr 09.12.2021	FRA: First Long-Distance Projection by the A400M for Parachute Troops	On December 1, 2021, an A400M dropped the paratroopers of the 8th Marine Infantry Parachute Regiment (RPIMa) in Côte d'Ivoire after a non-stop flight from France. After taking off from Toulouse-Franczal airport and after 7 hours of non-stop flight, the 80 paratroopers jumped into the sky of Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast. The A400M made four rotations allowing 20 paratroopers to perform their jump through the two side doors simultaneously under the responsibility of the chief dropper. The unit of the 8th RPIMa then continued their ground exercise. This exercise shows the capacity of a rapid projection of an intervention force from France on territories more than 4,000 kilometers away. Led by the 11th Parachute Brigade, the EAP Michel relies on the capabilities of the A400M. It represents the longest projection of Airborne Troops (TAP) conducted from France.

		In particular, the modernization of strategic lift aircraft has made it possible to increase their carrying and elongation capacity.
taiwannews.com.tw 09.12.2021 09:52	TWN/CHN: Chinese military turboprop enters Taiwan's ADIZ	A Chinese military spotter plane entered Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) on Wednesday (Dec. 8), marking the seventh intrusion this month. A single People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) Shaanxi Y-8 anti-submarine warfare (ASW) plane flew into the southwestern corner of Taiwan's ADIZ, according to the Ministry of National Defense (MND).
tasnimnews.com 09.12.2021 08:51	YEM: Yemeni Forces Shoot Down Saudi 'Spy Combat Drone': Spokesman	The Yemeni air defenses targeted a CH-4 combat drone in Marib, Brigadier General Yahya Saree announced on Wednesday, describing the aerial vehicle as a "spy combat drone." The aircraft was brought down using an "undisclosed surface-to-air missile," he added. The Chinese-made CH-4 drone has a 3,500- to 5,000-kilometer range and a 30- to 40-hour endurance. It is also capable of carrying six missiles and a payload of up to 250 to 345 kilogram. The unmanned aerial vehicle can fire air-to-ground missiles from altitude of 5,000 meters, therefore it can stay outside of effective range of most anti-aircraft guns. Earlier in the day, the spokesman announced downing of US-made ScanEagle spy drone, which was "carrying out hostile acts" over the same province.
tass.com 08.12.2021 15:13	RUS/FRA: Russia's Su-27 jets escort French fighters and aerial refueling tanker over Black Sea	Russia's Su-27 fighter jets were scrambled to escort two tactical fighter jets - a Mirage 2000 and a Rafale, and a C-135 aerial refueling tanker belonging to the French Air and Space Force over the Black Sea, the National Defense Management Center said on Wednesday. After the foreign warplanes made a U-turn from Russia's state border, the Russian fighter jets safely returned to their home airfield," the statement said. There was no unauthorized incursion into Russia's airspace, the center added.
taiwannews.com.tw 08.12.2021 07:32	TWN/CHN: 9 Chinese military aircraft enter Taiwan's ADIZ	Nine Chinese military planes entered Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) on Tuesday (Dec. 7), marking the sixth intrusion this month. Six People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) Chengdu J-10 fighter planes, two Shenyang J-16 fighter jets, and one Shaanxi Y-8 electronic warfare plane entered different areas within the southwestern corner of Taiwan's ADIZ, according to the Ministry of National Defense (MND).
taiwannews.com.tw 07.12.2021 08:27	TWN/CHN: 4 Chinese military planes enter Taiwan's ADIZ	Four Chinese military planes entered Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) on Monday 06.12.2021, marking the fifth intrusion this month. Two People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) Shenyang J-11 fighter planes, one Shaanxi Y-8 anti-submarine warfare plane, and one Shaanxi Y-8 reconnaissance airplane flew into the southwest corner of the ADIZ, according to the Ministry of National Defense (MND).

<p>reuters.com 07.12.2021 08:10 PM CET</p>	<p>SAU/HOUTHİ: Saudi coalition bombs Sanaa in tit-for-tat violence with Houthis</p>	<p>The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen said on Tuesday it bombed military targets in the capital Sanaa after the Iran-aligned Houthis launched ballistic missiles and armed drones into Saudi Arabia, including at Aramco oil facilities in Jeddah. The tit-for-tat violence has escalated dramatically over the last months despite efforts by the United States and the United Nations to engineer a ceasefire in the seven-year-old war that has caused a dire humanitarian crisis. The coalition conducted "precision strikes on legitimate military targets in Sanaa" and in the last 24 hours also struck Houthi targets in Marib and Jouf, a coalition statement said.</p>
<p>jpost.com 07.12.2021 04:08</p>	<p>SAU/HOUTHİ: Two ballistic missiles launched towards Riyadh, intercepted by Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>A ballistic missile was launched towards Saudi Arabia's capital of Riyadh on Monday, Saudi state TV reported. The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen reportedly said Saudi defenses intercepted the missile. Minutes later, a second missile was intercepted above Riyadh, according to Saudi state TV. The missiles, reportedly fired from Yemen, comes as Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis stepped up cross-border attacks on Saudi Arabia using armed drones. Over the past 24 hours, the Saudi coalition had carried out 47 airstrikes against Houthi targets in Marib.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information @ELINT news vom 07.12.2021: Houthis say they fired multiple ballistic missiles and 25 drones against military and vital targets in Riyadh, Jeddah, Taif, Jizan, Najran and Asir in Saudi Arabia.)</i></p>
<p>reuters.com 07.12.2021 03:06 AM CET</p>	<p>SYR/ISR: Syria says fires extinguished at Latakia's port following Israeli 'aggression'</p>	<p>Fires caused by an Israeli "aggression" at Syria's Latakia port on Tuesday had been extinguished, leaving material damage, but the status of any casualties was unclear, Syria's state media reported. Five explosions rocked the port city after an Israeli "aggression" hit the port's container yard, sending fire trucks racing to the site, Syrian state TV said. Israel has mounted frequent attacks against what it has described as Iranian targets in Syria, where Tehran-backed forces including Lebanon's Hezbollah have deployed over the last decade to support President Bashar al-Assad. The Mediterranean port of Latakia is the country's main port, through which food and other crucial supplies flow into war-torn Syria, and is close to Russia's main air base of Hmeimim.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information timesofisrael.com vom 07.12.2021 03:06: It was a rare attack on the port of Latakia, a vital facility where much of Syria's imports are brought into the war-torn country. Syrian state TV reported that five explosions were heard in the port and a huge fire erupted in the containers area and fire engines have rushed to the port.)</i></p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Informaation jpost.com vom 07.12.2021 04:16: A military source told SANA that Israeli aircraft fired several missiles from the direction of the Mediterranean towards the container yard at the commercial port in Latakia. A number of shipping containers caught on fire due to the airstrike and no casualties were caused, according to SANA. In video reportedly showing the fire, explosions could be heard in the background.)</i></p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information debka.com vom 07.12.2021: The London-based Syrian opposition adds that the attack targeted an arms delivery for pro-Iranian militias and took the form of missiles fired from the sea to the west.)</i></p>

		<i>(Ergänzende Information thedefensepost.com vom 07.12.2021: The Israeli raid "directly targeted an Iranian weapons shipment in the container yard," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The Observatory, a UK-based organization with a wide network of sources on the ground across Syria, said the raid triggered a series of explosions. It reported "huge material losses" but added there were no immediate reports of casualties.)</i>
ekathimerini.com 06.12.2021 16:33	GRC/TUR: Turkish fighter jets fly over Panayia	A pair of Turkish F-16 fighter jets flew over Panayia at an altitude of 27,000 feet on Monday at 3.33 p.m.
english.alarabiya.net 05.12.2021 04:30 PM GST	SAU/HOUTHİ: Arab Coalition destroys 14 vehicles, kills more than 115 Houthis	The Arab Coalition announced it has destroyed four drones launched by the Iran-backed Houthi militia targeting the southern region, adding that it had also conducted 19 targeted strikes on Marib and al-Jawf during the past 24 hours. During the recent operations, 14 military vehicles were also destroyed alongside the killing of more than 115 Houthi militants, pointing out that the launch of the drones coincided with the launch of four ballistic missiles towards Marib. On Sunday, the Houthi militia renewed its attacks on the Yemeni governorate of Marib by firing several missiles. According to Al Arabiya's correspondent on the ground, the militias fired three missiles in the space of an hour targeting Marib, one of which landed at the airport. This Houthi attack came after the Yemeni army and resistance forces had made advances in the past few days in the strategic governorate, inflicting heavy losses on the militias. Over the past few days, the coalition announced it had conducted dozens of airstrikes and raids which targeted the Houthi militia sites and vehicles.
taiwannews.com.tw 04.12.2021 19:33	TWN/CHN: Two Chinese J-16 fighter jets enter Taiwan's ADIZ	Two Shenyang J-16 fighter jets from the China's People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) intruded into Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) on Saturday (Dec. 4), according to the Ministry of National Defense. As on most previous occasions, the intrusions occurred in the zone's southwest section, between Taiwan's main island and the disputed Taiwanese-held South China Sea islands of Dongsha and Taiping. <i>(Ergänzende Information reuters.com vom 04.12.2021: U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Saturday said Chinese military flights near Taiwan look like "rehearsals" though he did not indicate that he expected Beijing actually to carry out such operations. "I don't want to speculate, but certainly ... it looks a lot like rehearsals," Austin said while speaking at a conference in California.)</i>
reuters.com 04.12.2021 08:50 PM CET	IRN: Iran holds unannounced air	Iranian air defences fired a missile as part of an exercise on Saturday over the central town of Natanz, which houses nuclear installations, state TV reported, after local residents reported hearing a large blast. The TV said air defence units fired the missile to test a rapid reaction force over Natanz. Iranian news agencies earlier reported a large explosion in the sky above Natanz, but said there was no official explanation of the incident.

	defence drill over nuclear town Natanz	<p>The semi-official Fars news agency quoted its reporter in nearby Badroud as saying a short blast was heard which was accompanied by an intense light in the sky.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information timesofisrael.com vom 04.12.2021 08:11 PM: The explosion was heard in the skies over the Iranian city of Badroud, just 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the nuclear plant, the official IRNA news agency reported. "Badroud residents heard the noise and saw a light which showed an object had just blown up in the skies over the city," a witness told IRNA. Several media outlets including Nour News, a website linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards, said the explosion was not an attack, but rather was caused by a missile as part of a test of air defenses' response to a potential attack. Some of the reports said a drone was shot down.)</i></p>
reuters.com 04.12.2021 02:01 PM	RUS/NATO: Russia says airliner had to lose height to avoid NATO spy plane	<p>A Russian Aeroflot airliner flying from Tel Aviv to Moscow was forced to change altitude over the Black Sea because a NATO CL-600 reconnaissance plane crossed its designated flight path, Russia's state aviation authority said on Saturday. The state airline said flight SU501 carrying 142 passengers had had to drop 2,000 feet on Friday after air traffic control told it that another aircraft had crossed its path. The crew were able to see the other plane when they passed in the sky, it said in a separate statement. It did not say which NATO member the reconnaissance aircraft belonged to. Russia's Defence Ministry said on Friday it had scrambled fighter jets to escort two U.S. military reconnaissance planes over the Black Sea. Rosaviatsia said an increase in flights by NATO aircraft in the region was creating risks for civilian planes and that Moscow planned to lodge a diplomatic complaint over them.</p> <p>International tensions have been rising over Ukraine and the Black Sea region. Kyiv and NATO powers accuse Russia of building up troops near Ukraine, sparking fears of a possible attack. Moscow denies any such plan and accuses Kyiv of building up its own forces in its east, where Russian-backed separatists control a large part of Ukrainian territory.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information tass.com vom 03.12.2021 19:16: "A Su-30 and a Su-27 fighter jets from the Southern Military District's air defense quick reaction alert forces were scrambled to identify and intercept the targets. The crews of the Russian fighter jets identified them as an RC-135 and a CL-600 Artemis reconnaissance planes of the US Air Force, and escorted them over the Black Sea," the Center said.)</i></p>
scmp.com 02.12.2021	CHN/USA: US spy planes made record number of sorties near China last	<p>The US military carried out a record number of close-up reconnaissance flights over the South China Sea near the Chinese coast last month, according to data compiled by a Beijing-based think tank. American spy planes made 94 of these sorties in November, the South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative (SCSPI) said in a post on its official Weibo account on Wednesday. That represents an increase of nearly 30 per cent from the previous high of 75 US reconnaissance flights logged by the think tank in February. It began reporting the data</p>

	month, Beijing think tank says	in June 2019. The SCSPI said most of the November activities – nearly 80 per cent – involved the P-8A anti-submarine patrol aircraft. Other planes used for the missions were the MQ-4C unmanned reconnaissance aircraft and the E-8C air-to-ground surveillance aircraft.
air.defense.gouv.fr 29.11.2021	FRA: FFEAU – Raid Air of November 14, 2021	<p>On November 14, the French Forces stationed in the United Arab Emirates (FFEAU) conducted a deep deployment and strike exercise. The forces participating in the "Raid Air" maneuver were able to take advantage of the presence of an A330 Phoenix, engaged in the "Advanced tactical leadership course" (ATLC) exercise. The day before, two Rafale and an A330 Phoenix took off from Al Dhafra Air Base (BA) 104 (BA 104) for a deployment exercise on Djibouti's BA 188. A deep strike training raid was conducted the next day. Departing from Djibouti, this maneuver pitted a force composed of two Rafale, two Mirage 2000-5, the A330 Phoenix, as well as the Air Defense Frigate (FDA) Chevalier Paul against two Rafale from Al Dhafra (BA 104). This large-scale training made it possible to test France's power projection capacity in the region.</p> <p>This complex deployment saw the contribution of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ the space segment, responsible for identifying the objectives and then validating their achievement; ◦ the air part, responsible for the destruction of targets by Scalp cruise missiles (Rafale) and the protection of the raid (M2000-5), ◦ the naval part, responsible for the control of the air and maritime space (FDA Chevalier Paul). <p>This rehearsal also demonstrated the ability to mobilize the various French support points in the region, through the deployment of a light air device on a French air base abroad. The success of this training shows the credibility of the French forces, their ability to conduct a mission of such complexity in autonomy, while coordinating a complete and efficient air and naval system.</p>
		Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance
reuters.com 06.12.2021	MDA:	The Pentagon completed military construction and will begin testing a long-range radar for a homeland missile defense system that can track intercontinental ballistic missiles as well as next generation threats such as hypersonic weapons, the Pentagon said on Monday. The 2015 U.S. Defense Department plan was to deploy a

	Pentagon fields long-range radar in Alaska for missile threats	new long-range radar in central Alaska that would help the U.S. missile defenses better discern potential enemy missiles launched by Iran or North Korea and increase the capacity of interceptors in the ground in Alaska and California. "Once fully operational, LRDR will provide unparalleled ability to simultaneously search and track multiple small objects, including all classes of ballistic missiles, at very long ranges," the agency said in a statement. The prime contractor on the system was Lockheed Martin Co.
		Cyber- und Electromagnetic Warfare
baesystems.com 15.12.2021	Advancing F-35 electronic warfare capabilities	<p>BAE Systems received a \$493 million contract modification from Lockheed Martin to significantly upgrade and modernize the electronic warfare (EW) system for the F-35 Lightning II, enabling the fifth-generation fighter to quickly detect and address evolving electromagnetic threats in contested battlespaces. Under the contract, BAE Systems will deliver enhanced and highly capable core hardware for the F-35's high-performance EW mission system, known as AN/ASQ-239, and will provide engineering support services and test infrastructure. The upgraded system will improve superior situational awareness and electromagnetic attack and countermeasure capabilities with new sensors and more powerful signal processing.</p> <p>"The capabilities we will deliver in this contract are foundational and will be leveraged to other platforms to ensure all warfighters have the most advanced EW capability at the ready," said Lisa Aucoin, vice president of F-35 Solutions at BAE Systems. "The highly adaptable mission system will allow our warfighters to outpace evolving threats and defend democracy around the globe."</p> <p>The enhanced electronic warfare system's robust design will enable rapid future upgrades, aligning with the U.S. Department of Defense's strategy for continuous capability development. The system's modular architecture will also allow for efficient hardware upgrades that reduce lifecycle and retrofit costs, and support faster software updates across the global F-35 fleet.</p>
defenseindustrydaily.com 16.12.2021	USN: The USA's NGJ Strike Jammers: Raytheon's Mid-Band Win	Raytheon won a \$13.9 million deal to procure contractor logistics support maintainers and engineering reach back support of the AN/ALQ-249(V)1 Next Generation Jammer-Mid Band (NGJ-MB) during development, test and evaluation. The AN/ALQ-249(V)1 Next Generation Jammer Mid-Band system is part of a larger NGJ system that will augment, and ultimately replace the legacy ALQ-99 Tactical Jamming System currently used on the EA-

		18G Growler aircraft for Airborne Electronic Attack. Work will take place in Maryland and California. Estimated completion date is in June 2023.
defense.gov 14.12.2021	USN: ALQ-167 and ULQ-24C pods	Global Technical Systems is awarded an \$84,680,504 firm-fixed-price, indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract. This contract procures one lot of ALQ-167 and ULQ-24C pods, associated hardware for pod modifications, and technical data in support of electronic attack/electronic warfare threat simulation for weapons development, test, and evaluation, fleet training, and target applications for the Department of Defense. Work is expected to be completed in December 2026.
voanews.com 10.12.2021	TWN/CHN: How China Could Cyberattack Taiwan	China has the means to launch a disabling cyberattack against political rival Taiwan ahead of any military invasion, experts say, as the technology is already targeting the island's political leadership. <i>(Vollständige Analyse abrufbar unter:</i> https://www.voanews.com/a/how-china-could-cyberattack-taiwan/6349594.html <i>)</i>
timesofisrael.com 09.12.2021	ISR: Israel leads 10-country simulation of major cyberattack on world markets	Israel led a 10-country, 10-day-long simulation of a major cyberattack on the world's financial system by "sophisticated" players, with the goal of minimizing the damage to banks and financial markets, the Finance Ministry said on Thursday. The Finance Ministry led the scenario with help from the Foreign Ministry, and said the "war game" was the first of its kind. The exercise simulated several scenarios, including sensitive data surfacing on the dark web alongside fake news, leading to global financial chaos. Participants included representatives from the US, UK, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Thailand, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
pib.gov.in 03.12.2021	IND: Cyber Warfare	A framework for enhancing the Cyber posture of Defence Forces was approved by the GoI/MoD in 2018. Defence Cyber Agency and Army, Navy and Air Force Cyber Groups have been established with specific charter to protect and defend the Defence Forces Information and Communication Technology assets, and deter adversary's attempts at cyber warfare. These Organisations have contributed significantly to enhance the 'Cyber Security posture' of the Defence Forces including: (i) Increased synergy between cyber groups and National cyber agencies. (ii) Improved defensive measures in place to protect data using hardened technology, effective monitoring, safe practices, improved user awareness, standardized processes and audit measures. (iii) Better preparedness to respond to cyber warfare, with cohesive response for incidents using centralized threat databases, libraries and incident records.

baesystems.com 01.12.2021	USAF: U.S. Air Force collaboration on leading-edge enhancement to Compass Call Platform	The U.S. Air Force has collaborated with BAE Systems to cross-deck the company's advanced Compass Call electronic warfare system onto its next-generation electronic warfare aircraft. It is a critical upgrade for the EC-37B Baseline 4 platform that comes on the 40th anniversary of Compass Call, and is facilitated by BAE Systems' Small Adaptive Bank of Electronic Resources (SABER) technology. The SABER system transitions from hardware to software-based electromagnetic spectrum warfare capability on Compass Call. The system is built on a suite of software defined radios using an open system architecture and will provide the backbone of the EC-37B's operating system. Compass Call is an airborne tactical electromagnetic attack weapon system that disrupts enemy command and control communications, radar, and navigation systems. The sophisticated mission system, developed and produced by BAE systems, has provided key jamming capabilities on the EC-130H since 1981 and will leverage that technology for the upgraded EC-37B platforms.
		Boden- und seegestützte Luftverteidigungssysteme
alert5.com 16.12.2021	SGP: RBS 70 NG in service with RSAF	A new video published by the Singapore Ministry of Defense has confirmed that the Saab RBS 70 New Generation (RBS 70 NG) man-portable air-defense system (MANPADS) has been delivered to the island.
thedefensepost.com 15.12.2021	PAK: Pakistan Navy Conducts Live-Fire Surface-to-Air Missile Test	The Pakistani Navy successfully demonstrated its Ground Based Air Defense (GBAD) surface-to-air missiles in a live-fire test in the port city of Karachi last week. The joint exercise, carried out by the country's air defense units and navy, showcased the combat readiness of the armed forces. A spokesperson of the Pakistan Navy said that the missiles were successful in hitting their targets. Video of the live-fire exercise showed the missiles being fired from the ground, tracking the target and destroying it, followed by debris and flames in the air.
tass.com 13.12.2021	IND: India may be first foreign buyer of Russia's advanced S- 500 air defense system	India may be the first foreign buyer of Russia's most advanced S-500 'Prometei' anti-aircraft missile system, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov told the RBC TV Channel on Monday. Russia's Defense Ministry announced on July 20 that the S-500 air defense system conducted a successful test-launch against a fast-moving ballistic target at the Kapustin Yar proving ground. The test-launch confirmed the S-500's stated operational characteristics. The S-500 anti-aircraft missile system is designed to strike all existing and future aerospace attack weapons of a potential enemy at all altitudes and speeds. Russia has been training specialists to operate the S-500 since 2017. The Prometei is set to replace the S-400 'Triumpf' surface-to-air missile system.

<p>en.yna.co.kr 10.12.2021</p>	<p>KOR: S. Korea's homegrown guided missile passes key performance test</p>	<p>South Korea has successfully conducted key performance tests of a homegrown ship-based guided missile ahead of its deployment next year, the state-run defense quality assessment agency and Navy officials said Friday. The Defense Agency for Technology and Quality (DTaQ) said that the missile, called the Haegung, hit the intended target in two tests, one conducted on Wednesday and one Friday. Haegung means sea bow in Korean. The missile is designed to intercept incoming missiles or shoot down hostile aircraft. Its development was completed in 2018 under an acquisition project led by the state-run Agency for Defense Development (ADD). The Navy plans to deploy the weapons system to its key warships, such as frigates, landing ships and mine layer ships, the DTaQ said.</p>
<p>defence-blog.com 09.12.2021</p>	<p>RUS/UKR: Russia deploys Buk air defense system near Ukrainian border</p>	<p>A Russian Buk surface-to-air missile system was moved to a new location near the village of Maslovka near Voronezh, a short distance from its border with Ukraine. The Buk missile system is a family of self-propelled, medium-range surface-to-air missile systems developed by the Soviet Union and its successor state, the Russian Federation, and designed to counter cruise missiles, smart bombs, fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, and unmanned aerial vehicles.</p>
<p>aljazeera.com 07.12.2021</p>	<p>SAU: Saudi pleads with US for missile defence resupply</p>	<p>Saudi Arabia has appealed to the United States and its allies in Europe and the Gulf for resupplies of ammunition it uses to defend the kingdom against drone and missile attacks, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday (paywall), citing US and Saudi officials. Riyadh has been using its Patriot surface-to-air missile system over the past several months to thwart weekly ballistic missile and drone attacks launched by Houthi rebels based in Yemen, the officials told the WSJ. But the kingdom's stock of Patriot missiles to intercept aerial attacks has run dangerously low. Though the US is expected to approve the Saudi request for more Patriot interceptors, Saudi officials told the Journal they are concerned that insufficient stocks could result in a successful missile or drone attack, costing lives in the kingdom or harming the Saudi economy by damaging its critical oil infrastructure.</p> <p>In 2019, a swarm of missiles and drones successfully evaded Saudi's air defenses and temporarily knocked out half of the kingdom's oil production. That attack was claimed by Houthi fighters, but the US and Saudi Arabia have said Iran, which is aligned with the Houthis, was directly behind the offensive. US and Saudi officials told the Journal that the kingdom was attacked by drones more than 50 times during October and November and suffered more than 20 ballistic missiles attacks across the same period.</p>
<p>economictimes. indiatimes.com 07.12.2021</p>	<p>IND: DRDO successfully test-fires VLSRSTA Missile;</p>	<p>India Tuesday successfully flight tested the indigenously developed new Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile from Odisha coast here. The DRDO-developed quick reaction surface-to-air-missile was test launched from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur near here at about 3.08 pm, an official of the organisation said. The missile has an operational range of 50 to km distance and features mid course inertial</p>

	will strengthen Indian Navy	guidance through fiber optic gyroscope and active radar homing in terminal phase, he said. The DRDO in its official twitter post said, "Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile for @IndianNavy was flight tested from ITR Chandipur. The missile was tested against an electronic target at a low altitude. The weapon is planned for integration onboard naval ships."
army.mod.uk 06.12.2021	GBR: Sky Sabre air defence system for the British Army	<p>The Royal Artillery has accepted into its arsenal the Sky Sabre air defence system, providing a step change in the British Army's medium range air defence capability and with it, unprecedented speed, accuracy, performance and target acquisition. Sky Sabre, as the name implies, is very much at the cutting edge replacing its venerable predecessor Rapier which recently entered its fifth decade of operation with British Forces. The new system is operated by 16 Regiment Royal Artillery, part of 7 Air Defence Group, based at Baker Barracks on the South Coast's Thorney Island. The Regiment is currently rolling out an extensive training package to transition from Rapier to the new system, and what a system that is. Sky Sabre is so accurate and agile that it is capable of hitting a tennis ball sized object travelling at several times the speed of sound. In fact, it can control the flight of 24 missiles simultaneously whilst in flight, guiding them to intercept 24 separate targets. In the battlespace they would be expected to operate at distances of up to 15km apart.</p> <p>First of all, there are the eyes and ears of the system and for Sky Sabre that is the Giraffe Agile Multi Beam 3D medium-range surveillance radar. Its radar rotates atop an extending mast which allows it to be elevated above tree lines and other obstructions to identify low flying intruders. The Giraffe can see a full 360 degrees out to a range of 120km. It is a tried and very much trusted system that has seen numerous upgrades since it first entered service.</p> <p>The second component lies at the very heart of the whole system; it is, of course, the Battle Management and Intelligence suite. In essence, the command and control centre. This capability that links up the radar with the missiles and sends them to their targets. It also provides what is known as Link 16; this is a tactical datalink that allows Sky Sabre to share its information with Royal Navy vessels, the Royal Air Force, and our allies. It means that the system can be integrated wholly and contribute fully with joint, combined, or NATO operations.</p> <p>Finally, we get to the sharp end; the third component is the Land Ceptor intelligent launcher and missile itself. At 99 kg each, the missiles are double the weight of the Rapier it replaces and have three times the range. This is the Common Anti-Air Modular Missile (CAMM) that reaches speeds of 2300mph and can eliminate fighter aircraft, drones, and even laser-guided smart bombs. They are housed in eight silos mounted on the rear of their mobile launcher and when fired they launch in a unique omni-directional manner that significantly reduces its signature making it less of a target for enemy counter measures. When exhausted,</p>

		<p>the Land Ceptor launcher can be replenished with a new set of eight CAMMs in less than half the time that it took to re-arm Rapier.</p> <p>Sky Sabre's CAMM is the same missile that is used on board ships (Sea Ceptor) and shares components with the Royal Air Force munitions (ASRAAM). This commonality across all services brings with it huge logistical efficiencies as well as significant cost savings.</p>
<p>economictimes. indiatimes.com 04.12.2021</p>	<p>IND/RUS: Two S-400s systems shipped to India ahead of Vladimir Putin's visit</p>	<p>Ahead of Monday's Indo-Russian summit, Russia has shipped two units of the S-400 missile defence systems, which are expected to reach here by the middle of this month, ET has learnt. The deployment of the missile systems - with support from Russian specialists - is expected to take place over the next two-three months, ET has learnt. One of the systems could be deployed along the country's Western borders. The remaining three of the total five S-400 systems that India has purchased is expected to arrive by September 2022.</p>
<p>pib.gov.in 03.12.2021</p>	<p>IND: S-400 Triumf Missile System</p>	<p>A contract has been signed on 05 October 2018 for delivery of S-400 system from Russia. Government is aware of all developments that may impact procurement of Defence Equipment. Government takes sovereign decisions based on threat perception, operational and technological aspects to keep the Armed Forces in a state of readiness to meet the entire spectrum of security challenges. The deliveries are as per contractual timelines. The S-400 Missile is a potent system in terms of its operational capability to provide continuous and effective air defence system to a very large area. With the induction of this system, air defence capability of the nation will be significantly enhanced.</p>
<p>tass.com 02.12.2021</p>	<p>SRB: Serbia to buy Russia's new Pantsyr air defense systems</p>	<p>Serbia will buy new Russian-made Pantsyr anti-aircraft missile/gun systems, Serbian Interior Minister Aleksandar Vulin announced on Thursday. "We have received the Kornets [anti-tank missile systems]. We have received tanks, armored personnel carriers and are purchasing new Pantsyrs," Vulin said during talks with Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu.</p>
		<p>Boden- und seegestützte Einsatzkräfte, Strategische Kampfmittel und Space Forces</p>
<p>mbda-systems.com 14.12.2021</p>	<p>MBDA'S Marte ER has successful final test firing</p>	<p>MBDA's new Marte ER anti-ship missile successfully completed its final test firing at the end of November 2021. Carried out at an Italian test range in Sardinia, the firing was a key milestone in the validation process of Marte ER. It provided extra confidence in the performance level and reliability of this new missile. Using its mission</p>

		<p>planning software, the missile carried out a long range sea skimming flight. It made three main turns and a pop-up / dive manoeuvre during the last turn. A straight segment then followed up to the RF seeker activation point. Target identification, selection and tracking was extremely fast and proportional guidance started soon after. During its terminal phase, the missile successfully performed its anti-Close-in Weapon Systems manoeuvre, hitting the target just above the water line at high transonic speed. This confirmed the outstanding effectiveness of Marte ER's terminal guidance with its new solid state RF Seeker. This firing was the last one in the development path of Marte ER, which will enter into operation early next year.</p>
<p>defence-blog.com 07.12.2021</p>	<p>US ARMY: US Army to receive 110 next-gen PrSM missiles in 2022</p>	<p>Army is expected to receive more new surface-to-surface, precision-strike, guided missiles for initial operational test and evaluation. The U.S. Army has requested \$166 million in fiscal year 2022 for 110 next-generation Precision Strike Missiles. The Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) is the Army's next-generation surface-to-surface missile that replaces and improves upon Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) capabilities. According to the request, the new missile has a maximum range of 499km. A Launch Pod Missile Container (LPMC) holds two PrSM missiles, survivability in a threat environment, and compatibility with the existing launcher platforms (M270A2 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)). Also noted is that PrSM will meet cluster and insensitive munition requirements and is being designed with an open system architecture that provides the capability for future growth to counter new and emerging threats.</p>
<p>globaltimes.cn 07.12.2021</p>	<p>CHN: PLA's first amphibious assault ship passes multidimensional landing combat assessment</p>	<p>The Hainan, the PLA Navy's first Type 075 amphibious assault ship recently passed an assessment focusing on multidimensional landing combat that features the integration of sea, land and air units, with experts saying on Tuesday that the vessel is rapidly reaching operational capability shortly after its commissioning a few months earlier, at a time when deterrence is needed against "Taiwan independence" forces. A CCTV report footage and a video clip posted on the social media account of the PLA Navy earlier this month show that the Hainan now has the Z-18J early warning helicopter and the Z-9 anti-submarine helicopter at its disposal besides the previously revealed Z-8C transport helicopter. The PLA Navy has launched three Type 075s as of 2021. The first ship, the Hainan, was commissioned on April 23. The second is expected to join naval service soon, and the third recently held a sea trial, indicating its smooth construction, according to media reports.</p>
<p>en.yna.co.kr 03.12.2021</p>	<p>KOR: Navy set for launch of light carrier project, spurred by budget passage</p>	<p>South Korea's Navy looks set to embark on a long-cherished project next year to secure a light aircraft carrier, as the National Assembly passed a 7.2 billion won (US\$6.1 million) budget for the project Friday in a reversal of an earlier move to slash it. The overall process to develop a new naval vessel consists of three stages -- the conceptual design, basic design and detailed design. The country already conducted the conceptual-stage process from October 2019 to December last year. The Navy has been pushing for the carrier acquisition to</p>

		respond to a wide range of maritime threats, including those from North Korea, and the potential security challenges beyond its shores in a region surrounded by major maritime powers, such as China and Japan.
		Geo- und Sicherheitspolitik, militärische Übungen
thedefensepost.com 17.12.2021	CHN: China Holds Nuclear, Chemical, Biological Warfare Exercises	China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has conducted a combat exercise involving anti-nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in Tibet. Including commandos and armored assault groups, the 24-hour drill was reportedly held "on a snowy plateau" amid heightened border tensions with India.
reuters.com 15.12.2021	UKR/RUS: Ukraine sees no sign of Russia withdrawing troops from border	Russia has made no move to withdraw troops it has amassed at the border with Ukraine but there is no sign that a Russian invasion is imminent, a senior Ukrainian security official said on Wednesday. Oleksiy Danilov, Secretary of Ukraine's Security and Defence Council, told Reuters in an interview that Russia had 92,000 troops at the frontier but would need many more if it were to invade Ukraine. He said Russia would need at least 500,000-600,000 soldiers at the border "in order to keep the situation under control in the event of an offensive." Danilov said Russia could increase troop numbers very quickly and at any moment, but would need more than 24 hours to bring enough troops to the border to mount an invasion. Kyiv hoped the West would help it with weapon supplies in such an event, he said. Russia, which annexed the Crimea region from Ukraine in 2014, denies planning an attack but accuses Kyiv and the United States of destabilising behaviour.
asia.nikkei.com 15.12.2021	JPN: Japan's 5-year defense budget to hit record \$264bn	The Japanese government is planning to set aside its biggest five-year defense budget from fiscal year 2023 to top 30 trillion yen (\$264 billion) for the first time, Nikkei has learned. The budget will be part of the government's Midterm Defense Program, which Tokyo is aiming to revise by the end of 2022. This is part of Japan's strategy to lay the groundwork for stronger relations with the U.S. in the face of China's military expansion. The budget is based on a per year spending of around 6 trillion yen -- the sum of the 5.4 trillion yen in the fiscal year 2022 budget plan, the largest ever, plus 770 billion yen that was included in the 2021 supplementary budget plan. The increase in defense spending will mainly be used to acquire new equipment, deploy troops to the southwest islands near China and Taiwan, and strengthen missile defense. Japan needs to maintain naval vessels that will replace the Aegis Ashore ground-based interceptor missile system, and to pay for the

		development of the next generation of fighter jets to be deployed around 2035. The government also plans to acquire P1 maritime patrol aircraft, C2 transport aircraft, and cover the cost of ammunition ahead of schedule in the fiscal 2021 supplementary budget plan.
tass.com 15.12.2021	Russia has world's second largest military aviation fleet — research	The armed forces of Russia have the world's second largest fleet of military aircraft, according to the World Air Forces 2022 research, published by the FlightGlobal journal and obtained by TASS. In accordance with the research, Russia has 4,173 military aircraft, or 8% of the total number worldwide. US tops the list, with 13,246 aircraft (25%). China is third, having 3,285 military planes and helicopters in service. The top five also includes India (2,182, or 4%) and South Korea (1,595, or 3%). Further down the list are Japan (1,449, or 3%), Pakistan (1,387, or 2%), Egypt (1,062, or 2%), Turkey 1,057, or 2%) and France (1,055, or 2%). Other states have 22,781 aircraft in total, or (43%). As of December 2021, a total of 53,271 military planes and helicopters are in service worldwide.
nato.int 13.12.2021	NATO: NATO Air policing: securing NATO airspace	NATO Air Policing is a peacetime mission, which aims to preserve the security of Alliance airspace. It is a collective task and involves the continuous presence – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – of fighter aircraft and crews, which are ready to react quickly to possible airspace violations. <i>(Vollständiger Report abrufbar unter: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_132685.htm)</i>
airforcemag.com 13.12.2021	USAFE: USAFE Watchful, But Operating Normally, as Tensions Build Between Russia, Ukraine	U.S. Air Forces in Europe hasn't changed the way it operates even though Russia is massing forces on the Ukraine border, but U.S. and NATO allies are keeping a close watch on the tensions, USAFE commander Gen. Jeffrey L. Harrigian said Dec. 13. "We're largely focused on ... how we ensure our team is ready, our posture is where it needs to be, and we're working that in cooperation" with allies and regional partners, Harrigian said, indicating no change in the posture of USAFE in light of Russia's movements.
reuters.com 13.12.2021	RUS: Russia says it may be forced to deploy mid- range nuclear missiles in Europe	Russia said on Monday it may be forced to deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe in response to what it sees as NATO's plans to do the same. The warning from Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov raised the risk of a new arms build-up on the continent, with East-West tensions at their worst since the Cold War ended three decades ago. Ryabkov said Russia would be forced to act if the West declined to join it in a moratorium on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) in Europe - part of a package of security guarantees it is seeking as the price for defusing the crisis over Ukraine. Lack of progress towards a political and diplomatic solution would lead Russia to respond in a military way, with military technology, Ryabkov told Russia's RIA

		<p>news agency. "That is, it will be a confrontation, this will be the next round," he said, referring to the potential deployment of the missiles by Russia.</p> <p>Intermediate-range nuclear weapons - those with a range of 500 to 5,500 km (310 to 3,400 miles) - were banned in Europe under a 1987 treaty between then-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan in what was hailed at the time as a major easing of Cold War tensions. By 1991, the two sides had destroyed nearly 2,700 of them. Washington withdrew from the pact in 2019 after complaining for years of alleged violations revolving around Russia's development of a ground-launched cruise missile that Moscow calls the 9M729 and NATO refers to as the "Screwdriver".</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information reuters.com vom 14.12.201: NATO is not planning to deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe, the Western military alliance said on Tuesday, rejecting Russian accusations and a call by Moscow for a moratorium on this kind of weapons in Europe. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters in Brussels that Russia itself had violated the meanwhile demised INF treaty for years by deploying new intermediate range nuclear capable missiles in Europe, adding that NATO did not aim to mirror Moscow's behaviour. "The proposal from Russia on a moratorium is not credible because we had a ban and they violated that ban," Stoltenberg said. "So unless Russia in a verifiable way destroys all its SSC-8 missiles, which are those missiles that violated the INF treaty, then it is not credible when they now propose a ban on something they actually have already started to deploy.")</i></p>
<p>debka.com 13.12.2021</p>	<p>IRN: Tehran prepares to launch space satellite, maybe can mount effective warhead on a 2,000-km range ICBM</p>	<p>On Monday, while its emissaries pursued nuclear talks with world powers in Vienna, Tehran released images of heightened activity at its underground spaceport where one of four satellites, the low-orbit imaging Zafar 2, was said to be "in the final stage of preparation."</p> <p>Since 2016, all four launch attempts by the Simorgh rocket have failed to put an Iranian satellite into orbit. Some experts believe that Iran's engineers may have since mastered missile stage separation and are using both liquid and solid propellants. DEBKAFfile's military sources say that if the Iranians can pull off a successful space launch this time, that assessment would be confirmed. It would also indicate that Iran may be closer than believed to the ability to mount a nuclear warhead atop an ICBM missile with a range of 2,000km. US and Israeli intelligence sources' estimate hitherto is that the Iranians were at least two years away from developing the necessary technology for this critical stage in weaponizing its nuclear program.</p> <p>According to Iranian sources, the space satellite is to be launched again by the Simorgh rocket, which has a range of 4,000km, from the Imam Khomeini Spaceport. This underground site is located outside the town of Katamaran in Kermanshah province and near Haj Abad in the province of Hormozagan. Haj Abbad was Iran's first missile base and is now set aside for solid-fuel ballistic missiles.</p>

<p>ynetnews.com 13.12.2021</p>	<p>ISR/USA: Israeli request for speed up delivery of refueling jets rejected by U.S.</p>	<p>The Biden administration has rejected Israel's request to expedite delivery of two KC-46 refueling jets out of four purchased, which would facilitate IAF flight to attack Iran, Ynet has learned. The Boeing jets would allow dozens of Israeli bombers to remain airborne for up to 12 hours at a range of over 11,000 kilometers (6835 miles). They are critical to any operation against Iran – which is more than 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) away from Israel's borders. They are due to be delivered in four years and replace the IAF's 50-year old planes.</p> <p><i>(Ergänzende Information jpost.com vom 13.12.2021: The US State Department approved the possible sale of up to eight KC-46 tanker aircraft and related equipment to Israel for an estimated cost of \$2.4 billion last March, marking the first time that Washington has allowed Jerusalem to buy new tankers. Israel was set to receive two of the Boeing-made planes by late 2023, and during former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's last visit to Washington, he raised the issue that two of the eight tankers be supplied in the next year.)</i></p>
<p>reuters.com 12.11.2021</p>	<p>RUS: Russia leads the world in hypersonic missiles tech, Putin says</p>	<p>Russia is the global leader in hypersonic missiles and, by the time other countries catch up, is likely to have developed technology to counteract these new weapons, President Vladimir Putin said. Russia and the United States have an approximate parity when it comes to the number of warheads and their carriers, Putin said in comments aired on Sunday as part of a documentary film called "Russia. New History". "But in our advanced developments, we are definitely the leaders," Putin said, adding that Russia is also No. 1 in the world by the scale of upgrades of its traditional weapons. The president said that in the future, other world powers would possess similar hypersonic weapon technology.</p>
<p>jpost.com 09.12.2021</p>	<p>SYR/IRN/PRK: Syrian opposition claims Iran helping Syria build nuclear reactor</p>	<p>Syrian opposition member and former parliamentary member Mohammad Barmo claimed that North Korea and Iran were helping develop a nuclear reactor in Syria, the latest in a series of similar reports in recent years, in an article published in the Saudi Okaz newspaper on Monday. Barmo claimed that Syria is working on a reactor project in the Al-Ghab plain in northwestern Syria. He additionally joined warnings that Iran is continuing to enhance its nuclear capabilities, stressing the dangers of being lenient with Iran. This is not the first time in recent years that Syrian opposition sources and other informants have claimed that the Assad regime continued to work on a nuclear program after Israel bombed its nuclear reactor in the Deir Ezzor region of eastern Syria in 2007.</p> <p><i>(Vollständiger Report abrufbar unter:</i> https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/syrian-opposition-claims-iran-helping-syria-build-nuclear-reactor-688275?ga=2.116813446.1620562528.1638701287-1229034299.1617710680&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Israel+returns+looted+antiquities+to+Egypt&utm_campaign=December+9%2C+2021+Night<i>)</i></p>

<p>tass.com 09.12.2021</p>	<p>RUS: Russia's Aerospace Force builds up combat potential with air defense systems, new aircraft</p>	<p>Russia counters potential threats in the aerospace by perfecting the combat potential of its Aerospace Force, Chief of the Russian General Staff Valery Gerasimov said at a briefing for foreign military diplomats on Thursday.</p> <p>"Another satellite of the single space system has been put into orbit to build up the aerospace defense capabilities of timely detecting and warning of a missile attack. Efforts continue to build over-the-horizon radar stations that make it possible to control the airspace at a distance of up to 2,000 km from our border," Gerasimov said. The Russian Aerospace Force is outfitting its units and formations with advanced and upgraded aircraft, surface-to-air missile systems, radar stations and complexes of various designation, Russia's military chief said. "Priority is given to such armaments as the Su-57, Su-35S and Su-34, and also the S-400, S-350 and Pantsyr-S surface-to-air missile systems," the chief of the Russian General Staff said. "Unmanned aviation is developing further. New reconnaissance/strike platforms with unmanned aerial vehicles successfully tested in combat conditions on the territory of Syria have been delivered to the troops. The capabilities of conducting electronic warfare, delivering precision strikes and boosting the range and duration of flights are also expanding," Gerasimov stressed.</p>
<p>timesofisrael.com 09.12.2021</p>	<p>USA/ISR: Israel, US to discuss military drills to prep for worst-case Iran scenario, US says</p>	<p>Israeli and American military leaders are set to discuss possible military drills to practice destroying Iranian nuclear facilities in a potential worst-case scenario, a senior US official said on Wednesday. The comment came as the faltering nuclear talks were set to resume on Thursday in Vienna, and as Defense Minister Benny Gantz flew to Washington for meetings with top US military leaders. US and European representatives at the nuclear talks voiced pessimism and frustration over Iran's demands last week. The possible military drills would prepare for a scenario with Iran in which negotiations fail and US and Israeli leaders request a military strike, the US official told the Reuters news agency. Ahead of takeoff for the US, Gantz said, "Iran is a threat to world peace and seeks to become an existential threat to Israel."</p>
<p>timesofisrael.com 08.12.2021</p>	<p>ISR: Israel to launch major exercise this spring simulating strike on Iran</p>	<p>The Israel Defense Forces will hold a large-scale exercise over the Mediterranean in the spring with dozens of aircraft simulating a strike against Iran's nuclear program, according to a report Wednesday. The unsourced report from the Kan broadcaster came as Israeli officials have stepped up their rhetoric against the Islamic Republic, including threatening to take unilateral action against Tehran. According to the Kan report, the drill will be one of the largest ever held by the Israeli Air Force and will include dozens of aircraft, including the F-15, F-35, and F-16 fighters, Gulfstream G550 spy planes, and refueling jets. The planes will conduct the exercise far out over the Mediterranean Sea to simulate the distance — over 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) — that the aircraft would need to travel in a strike against Iran's nuclear facilities. This would not be the first time that the IAF has conducted exercises at these distances. Earlier this year, Israeli jets took part in a Greek-led exercise over the Mediterranean Sea.</p>

<p>economictimes. indiatimes.com 07.12.2021</p>	<p>IND/RUS: Next big deal could be for Igla-S man-portable air defence system: Dmitry Shugaev</p>	<p>A key focus of the bilateral summit with Russia was the defence partnership. In an interview with Manu Pubby, Russian Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FSMTC) chief Dmitry Shugaev speaks on the AK 203 deal, possibility of an additional 50 SU 30MKI fighters and joint exports of the Brahmos missile. Excerpts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° We are now seeing the results of our first and successful cooperation with India. The BrahMos company is planning to start exporting missiles to third countries, which is an indisputable proof of success. ° We are discussing the further licensed production of the Su-30MKI in India. It's about an additional 50 fighters. Russian Federation is present in almost all areas of arms exports to India that includes ground, naval, armored, air, air defense equipment and much more. ° One of the important contracts that we expect to sign soon is for the supply and licensed production of Igla-S man-portable air defense missile systems in India. This means that we transfer the production licence and supply the necessary components to the Indian side.
<p>tass.com 06.12.2021</p>	<p>RUS: Russian Navy aircraft deliver missile strikes in drills as US warship deploys to Black Sea</p>	<p>Pilots of the Russian Black Sea Fleet's naval aviation kicked off their first flights in the winter training period, practicing notional enemy warship tracking and missile strikes against naval targets, the Fleet's press office reported on Monday. "The crews of aircraft accomplished bombings against a target field, firings of rockets against coastal and naval targets and practiced the combat training tasks of hunting down and tracking mock enemy submarines and surface ships in the Black Sea in the course of their combat training," the press office said in a statement. The exercise involved over 20 aircraft, including Su-30SM multirole fighters, Su-24M frontline bombers, Be-12 and An-26 planes and Mi-8 and Ka-27 helicopters, the press office specified.</p>
<p>timesofisrael.com 06.12.2021 00:49 AM</p>	<p>ISR/USA: Israel to urge US to act militarily against Iran amid stalled nuke talks</p>	<p>Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Mossad chief David Barnea will push during their meetings this week in Washington with senior Biden administration officials for the United States to carry out a military strike on Iranian targets, Israel's three main TV news broadcasts reported Sunday night. According to the reports, which did not cite sources, Gantz and Barnea will urge their American interlocutors to develop a "Plan B" vis-a-vis Iran, seeing the stalled nuclear talks in Vienna as an opportunity to press the US to take a more aggressive stance toward the Islamic Republic. Along with calling for tougher sanctions, the Israelis will reportedly ask the US to take military action against Iran. Channel 12 news said the target of a US potential attack would be not a nuclear facility in Iran, but rather a site like an Iranian base in Yemen. The aim of such a strike would be to convince the Iranians to soften their positions at the negotiating table.</p>
<p>ekathimerini.com 04.12.2021</p>	<p>GRC/US ARMY: More US equipment arrives at Alexandroupolis</p>	<p>US helicopters and vehicles arrived in Alexandroupoli on Friday in what Greek and American officials described as the largest deployment of US forces through the northern Greek port to the Black Sea and Eastern Europe. This week alone 73 helicopters and 995 pieces of equipment moved through Alexandroupoli, with the total number reaching 2,000 units at an operational cost to the US Armed Forces of an estimated \$4.5 million. Fifteen</p>

		Apaches, nine Black Hawks and personnel are headed to Stefanovikeio in Central Greece, where the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade will conduct its winter training. US Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt cited the expanding strategic role and importance of Alexandroupoli port for Greece, the US and the region.
raf.mod.uk 04.12.2021	RAF/FRA: UK and French fighters in Eastern Mediterranean mission success	This week, Typhoons from 903 Expeditionary Air Wing in Cyprus conducted joint training with Rafale multi-role fighter jets flown by the French Air and Space Force based in the Middle East. Carrying out bilateral air-to-air combat training over the south east Mediterranean, the fighters were supported by air-to-air refuelling from an RAF Voyager, also from 903 Expeditionary Air Wing. The aircraft practiced simulated long-range missile employment based on radar tracks of the opposing fighters before closing to do visual combat training (dog fighting). The RAF Voyager tanker provided air-to-air training to extend the time on task for the fighters so they could repeat the training to further improve proficiency.
edition.cnn.com 03.12.2021	RUS/UKR: Russia positions more forces, supply lines as fears rise of potential Ukraine invasion	Russian forces have capabilities in place along the Ukraine border to carry out a swift and immediate invasion, including erecting supply lines such as medical units and fuel that could sustain a drawn-out conflict, should Moscow choose to invade, two sources familiar with the latest intelligence assessments told CNN. The new details about the Russian buildup underscore US officials' heightened alarm over the movements. The current levels of equipment stationed in the area could supply front-line forces for seven to 10 days and other support units for as long as a month, according to one source familiar with the matter.
timesofisrael.com 03.12.2021	ISR: War: What Israel talks about when it talks about striking Iran's nuclear program	Israeli officials have regularly called for a 'credible military threat' against Tehran's nuclear facilities, but less discussed is the major conflict that's almost sure to follow. <i>(Vollständige Analyse abrufbar unter:</i> https://www.timesofisrael.com/what-israels-talking-about-when-it-talks-about-striking-irans-nuclear-program-war/ <i>)</i>
tass.com 03.12.2021	RUS: New air defense unit armed with Pantsyr missile systems set up in Russia's Far East	A new air defense unit armed with the latest Pantsyr short-range anti-aircraft missile/gun systems will assume combat alert near Khabarovsk in the Russian Far East, the press office of the Eastern Military District reported on Friday. The new air defense unit will shield key military and industrial facilities, military units and formations in the Eastern Military District. In addition, it will bolster the air defense force tasked with providing air defense from massive air strikes by precision weapons and drones at low and extremely low altitudes, the statement says.

		Analysen, Studien, Reports, Fact Sheets, Infographics, Podcast und Videos
defence.gov.au 2022	AUS: Defence Projects	(Übersicht der wichtigsten Beschaffungsprojekte für die australischen Streitkräfte abrufbar unter: https://www.defence.gov.au/projects)
defense.gouv.fr 2022	FRA: Projet de loi de finances - Loi de programmation Militaire année 4 2022	EIN MUST! Près de 41 milliards d'euros. C'est un budget historique au service de la remontée en puissance de nos armées. C'est un budget au service des Français et des intérêts de la France. (Vollständiges Dokument abrufbar unter: file:///C:/Users/Standard/Downloads/Projet%20de%20loi%20de%20finances%202022%20-%20LPM%20ann%C3%A9e%204.pdf) (Anmerkung Redaktion: Sehr gut gemacht, leserfreundlich und für jedermann verständlich!)
jpost.com 15.12.2021	ARE: Would the UAE really walk away from prestigious F-35 deal?	The UAE wants the F-35s but not at a cost that would mean it can't use them as it wants. (Vollständige Analyse abrufbar unter: https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/would-the-uae-really-walk-away-from-prestigious-f-35-deal-analysis-688797?_q&_q=2.94373020.1600092604.1639308773-1229034299.1617710680&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=One+wrong+move+%3A+Tehran+Times+reveals+Iran+s+targets+in+Israel&utm_campaign=December+15%2C+2021+Day)
jpost.com 13.12.2021	ISR: Israel's endless saga of KC-46 refuelers and Iran	Israel's acquisition of long-range tanker aircraft has always taken place in the shadow of potential conflict with Iran. (Vollständiger Report abrufbar unter: https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/israels-endless-saga-of-kc-46-refuelers-and-iran-688647?_q&_q=2.63309099.526225871.1639507354-1969581575.1579377799&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Iran+satellite+launch+would+be+knife+in+US+s+back&utm_campaign=December+14%2C+2021+Night)

news.usni.org 13.12.2021	USN: USNI News Fleet and Marine Tracker: Dec. 13, 2021	These are the approximate positions of the U.S. Navy's deployed carrier strike groups and amphibious ready groups throughout the world as of Dec. 13, 2021, based on Navy and public data. In cases where a CSG or ARG is conducting disaggregated operations, the chart reflects the location of the capital ship. <i>(Infographic abrufbar unter: https://news.usni.org/2021/12/13/usni-news-fleet-and-marine-tracker-dec-13-2021)</i>
nato.int 10.12.2021	NATO: Safe skies: 60 years of NATO Air Policing	Across Europe, NATO fighter jets are on duty around the clock, ready to scramble in case of suspicious or unannounced flights near the airspace of our Allies. NATO calls this activity Air Policing, which has been an essential part of NATO Integrated Air and Missile Defence for 60 years (since 1961). Explore this page to learn more about NATO's five special air policing arrangements to ensure the integrity of NATO's airspace and protect our almost one billion citizens. <i>(Gesamtdarstellung mit Video abrufbar unter: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_185683.htm)</i>
jpost.com 09.12.2021	ISR: Israel's war-between-wars campaign in Syria most precise operation	Less than 50 civilians have been killed in Syria during Israel's eight-year-long war-between-wars campaign targeting Iranian military infrastructure, making it one of the most surgical offensives ever, Airwars has found in a new report. According to Airwars, which tracks all civilian harm by all foreign actors in Syria since 2014, between 14-40 civilians have been killed by airstrikes blamed on Israel, making the rates of civilian casualties in strikes by the Israeli Air Force by far the lowest compared to other foreign actors in the war-torn country. <i>(Vollständiger Report abrufbar unter: https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/israels-war-between-wars-campaign-most-precise-operation-in-syria-688267)</i>
flightglobal.com 09.12.2021	World Air Forces directory 2022	EIN MUST! (Abrufbar unter: https://www.flightglobal.com/download?ac=83735)
nato.int 30.11.2021	NATO: Hybrid Warfare – New Threats, Complexity, and 'Trust' as the Antidote	One can argue that the nature of international security and conflicts remains the same. States are—as always—embroiled in zero-sum military and economic competitions, armed conflicts still seem inevitable, security dilemmas and balancing take place unremittingly, and so on and so forth. However, the modus operandi is no longer the same. Conflicts are fought in new, innovative, and radically different ways. With the advent of modern hybrid warfare, they are less and less about lethal or kinetic force.

		<p>(Vollständige Analyse abrufbar unter: https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2021/11/30/hybrid-warfare-new-threats-complexity-and-trust-as-the-antidote/index.html)</p>
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<p>Zielsetzung NACHBRENNER</p>	<p>Der NACHBRENNER hat zum Ziel eine am Thema Militärluftfahrt und Luftkriegsführung interessierte Leserschaft zeitnah über</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° Die Fähigkeiten und die Schlüsselfunktion von Air Power, ° die zentrale Bedeutung einer integrierten Luftverteidigung, ° die Weiterentwicklung von Luftstreitkräften mit einem besonderen Fokus Europa, ° Entwicklungen und Entwicklungstendenzen in der 3. Dimension sowie ° die möglichen verheerenden Folgen eines ungeschützten schweizerischen Luftraums für unsere Bevölkerung und Souveränität im Frieden, bei Terrorangriffen aus der Luft sowie im Konfliktfall <p>zu orientieren.</p> <p>Dafür werden offene staatliche und Firmen-Quellen sowie die Tages- und Fachpresse ausgewertet und in primär englischer Sprache thematisch und chronologisch zusammengeführt.</p>
<p>Ausgewählt und bearbeitet von MILITÄRPOLITISCHE NACHRICHTEN SCHWEIZ (MNS) Konrad Alder Hermann Hiltbrunner-Weg 1 Tel. 044 926 39 36 <i>konrad.alder@bluewin.ch</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° Fact and Figures ° Science and Technology ° Entwicklungstrends ° Beschaffungsprogramme ° Luftkriegseinsätze ° Militär- und geopolitische Entwicklungen
<p>Beilagen im Anhang zum Versandmail NACHBRENNER 2021-25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° MNS Stellungnahme 2021-10: HX Fighter Programm: Auch Finnland beschafft den F-35 Lightning II ° Eidg. Volksinitiative «Gegen den F-35(Stopp F-35)»: Argumente der GSoA und Antworten VBS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° Schweigen Schweizer Mainstreammedien zum F-35 Entscheid Finnlands ° Weshalb wird die Beschaffung von 64 Kampfflugzeugen F-35 durch Finnland in den Schweizer Mainstream Medien totgeschwiegen?
Verbunden in einem Informationsnetzwerk mit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° Peter Bosshard – Forum Flugplatz Dübendorf – www.forum-flugplatz.ch ° Thomas Bosshard – Pro Schweizer Luftwaffe – thomasbosshard@bluewin.ch ° Dr. Peter Forster – Das Bulletin Nr. 1 – https://bulletin-1.ch/ ° H.U. Helfer – Informationsgruppe Pro Kampfflugzeuge – helfer@presdok.ch ° Daniel Hildinger – Verein Schweizer Armeefreunde - www.chaf.ch ° Christoph Vollenweider – Gruppe Luftverteidigung – www.lilienberg.ch
Neuabonnement NACHBRENNER	<p>Für eine regelmässige, kostenlose Zustellung des NACHBRENNER übermittelt man seine Mailadresse an konrad.alder@bluewin.ch.</p> <p>Auf die gleiche Art erfolgt die Annulation des Abonnements.</p>

Eidgenössische Volksinitiative «Gegen den F-35 (Stopp F-35)»: Argumente der GSoA und Antworten des VBS

3. Dezember 2021

Einleitung: Am 27. September hat die Schweizer Bevölkerung dem Projekt Air2030 nur mit einer hauchdünnen Mehrheit zugestimmt. Dieses knappe Resultat zeigt den grossen Unmut in der Bevölkerung gegenüber den Milliarden-Ausgaben für neue Luxus-Kampffjets. Nun hat der Bundesrat am 30. Juni 2021 entschieden, 36 F-35A Lightning II von Lockheed Martin in der Höhe von über 5 Milliarden zu beschaffen und hat damit klar gezeigt, dass er nicht bereit ist, auf die grösstmögliche Minderheit von 49.9 Prozent zuzugehen.

Klar ist: Auch knappe Resultate gehören zur Demokratie und müssen akzeptiert werden. Hätte aber die Schweizer Bevölkerung nicht über einen wolkigen und undemokratischen Planungsbeschluss, sondern über die konkrete Beschaffung eines spezifischen Kampffjettypen abgestimmt, wäre das Resultat wohl anders ausgefallen. Gerade die beiden US-amerikanischen Typen taten sich dabei klar als die kontroversesten hervor. Darum gilt es nun, den Super-GAU zu verhindern und der Bevölkerung das Recht zu geben, sich auch zu einem konkreten Beschaffungsprojekt äussern zu können. Ein im Unterhalt ultrateurer US-Tarnkappenkampffjet wie der F-35 kommt nicht in Frage. Beim F-35 sitzt zudem die CIA immer mit im Cockpit und die Schweiz erhält nicht einmal den vollen Zugang zu den Quellcodes der Programme. Die Schweiz kann also diese Kampffjets nicht autonom betreiben.

Aus Sicht der Trägerschaft des Kampffjetreferendums sind sämtliche Kampffjet-Typen vehement abzulehnen.¹

Antwort VBS:

Die Wahl des F-35A beruht auf einer systematischen, gründlichen und objektiven Evaluation. Der F-35A ist im Betrieb und Unterhalt das klar günstigste der evaluierten Kampfflugzeuge, unter anderem weil das Flugzeug in sehr grossen Stückzahlen produziert und betrieben wird, woraus sich Spareffekte für alle Betreiber ergeben. Zudem zeichnet sich der F-35A durch ein modernes Unterhaltskonzept aus. Mit dieser Wahl erhält die Schweiz am meisten für ihr Geld. Luxus wäre, ein anderes Flugzeug zu beschaffen, das gleichzeitig mehr kostet und weniger leistet.

Die Schweiz strebt bei ihren Kampfflugzeugen möglichst viel Autonomie an. Eine vollständige Unabhängigkeit vom Herstellerunternehmen und -land ist in einer globalisierten Welt unmöglich; das gilt für alle Bewerber. Die Schweizer Industrie wäre nicht in der Lage, ein eigenes

¹ Argumente der GSoA vom 5. August 2021

Kampfflugzeug samt allen Komponenten wie zum Beispiel Elektroniksysteme oder Sensoren zu produzieren.

Beim F-35A entscheidet alleine die Schweiz, wie und wann dieser eingesetzt wird. Die Schweiz bestimmt selbst, welche Daten sie mit wem austauscht und welche logistischen Daten an den Hersteller zurückgemeldet werden. Der F-35A hat zudem eine hohe Cybersicherheit. Und: Der Betrieb und Unterhalt des F-35A erfolgen in der Schweiz durch die Luftwaffe und die RUAG Schweiz.

Zu teuer, zu gross: Wieso ein Kampffjet für die Schweiz mit der Tarnkappentechnologie ausgestattet sein muss, wie dies beim F-35 der Fall ist, leuchtet wenig ein. Zudem ist vorhersehbar, dass diese Technologie in den nächsten Jahren aufgrund neuer Detektionsverfahren obsolet werden wird.

Der F-35 ist ein massiv überteuertes, überdimensioniertes Luxus-Spielzeug für ein paar Armeeoffiziere. Dieser Ansicht ist auch der höchste Offizier des US-Luftwaffe Charles Brown, der den F-35 einen Ferrari nannte, der völlig falsch eingesetzt werde.² Andere hochrangige Mitglieder der US-Streitkräfte bezeichnen den F-35 sogar als irrelevant.³ Es ist ein überdimensionierter Jet, der einzig und allein für den Kampfeinsatz konzipiert wurde und nicht für luftpolizeiliche Aufgaben, die unbestrittenermassen zu erfüllen sind. Wird dieser Luxus-Jets aber für die alltägliche Luftpolizei eingesetzt, so nutzt sich das Material viel zu schnell ab. Die Schweiz schlittert somit in eine unglaublich teure Kostenfalle, die wir uns nach Corona schlicht nicht leisten können. Es macht einfach keinen Sinn, für verirrte Passagier-, Transport- und Sportflugzeuge gigantische Kriegsjets wie den F-35 in die Luft zu schicken, deren Betrieb und Upgrades in die Milliarden geht. Dafür genügen leichte Kampffjets, deren Beschaffung wir stets unterstützt haben.

Antwort VBS:

Die Schweiz braucht Kampfflugzeuge für die normale Lage, bei erhöhten Spannungen und bei einem bewaffneten Angriff auf die Schweiz. Eine Luftwaffe, die nur für den Luftpolizeidienst ausgerüstet wäre, würde die Bevölkerung gerade dann im Stich lassen, wenn sie am meisten bedroht wäre.

Als Mehrzweckkampfflugzeug eignet sich der F-35A auch sehr gut für den Luftpolizeidienst: Er kombiniert eine sehr gute Steigleistung und Beschleunigungsfähigkeit mit einem grossen

² <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2021/02/23/the-us-air-force-just-admitted-the-f-35-stealth-fighter-has-failed/?sh=5cd633501b16>.

³ <https://www.avweb.com/insider/is-the-f-35-irrelevant/>

Treibstoffvorrat. Dies ermöglicht eine lange Einsatzdauer, um luftpolizeiliche Massnahmen durchzuführen. Zudem ist der F-35A mit sehr guten Sensoren für das Erfassen und Identifizieren von anderen Flugzeugen – bei Tag und bei Nacht – ausgestattet. Entsprechend wird der F-35A bereits heute durch europäische Luftwaffen für Luftpolizeidienstaufgaben eingesetzt.

Alle bis ans Lebensende der Flotte geplanten (Luftpolizei-) Missionen und damit verbundenen Belastungen sind in die ausgewiesenen Betriebskosten einberechnet. Diese sind beim F-35A im Vergleich zu den anderen evaluierten Typen am tiefsten.

Derzeit ist auf dem Markt kein leichtes Kampfflugzeug erhältlich, das die Minimalanforderungen auch nur für den Luftpolizeidienst erfüllen würde: Je nach Typ fehlt die Fähigkeit zu Überschallgeschwindigkeit, die Steigleistung oder das Beschleunigungsvermögen. Leichte Kampfflugzeuge wären nicht in der Lage, Flugzeuge innerhalb der vorgegebenen Zeitverhältnisse zu erreichen. Leichten Kampfflugzeugen fehlt außerdem die Fähigkeit, allwettertaugliche Luft-Luft-Lenk Waffen zu tragen. Ein Flugzeug, das seine Waffen bei schlechten Sichtverhältnissen – in der Wolkendecke oder bei Nacht – nicht einsetzen kann, kann auch keine luftpolizeilichen Aufgaben erfüllen.

Kampfflugzeuge der fünften Generation wie der F-35A werden in den nächsten Jahrzehnten auf der ganzen Welt bestimmend sein. Sie besitzen dank modernster Informationstechnologie hochgradig vernetzte, umfassende und leistungsfähige Sensoren. Zudem sind sie aufgrund physikalischer Gegebenheiten (Stealth) – unabhängig von weiterentwickelten Technologien – durch andere Waffensysteme sehr schwer zu erfassen. Dass dieses Konzept über Jahrzehnte relevant bleiben wird, wurde auch in anderen Staaten erkannt. So zum Beispiel in China und Russland, welche eigene Kampfflugzeuge der fünften Generation entwickeln. Auch Europa will mit den Projekten Future Combat Air System (FCAS) unter Führung der Hersteller Dassault und Airbus und mit der britischen Tempest mindestens gleichziehen. Italien, Schweden und Spanien sind dabei als Partnernationen eingebunden.

General Charles Q. Brown jr., Generalstabschef der US-Luftwaffe, lässt keinen Zweifel an der Bedeutung des F-35, wenn er sagt: «To be clear, the F-35 will be the cornerstone of the U.S. Air Force fighter fleet for decades⁴.» Im Budgetentwurf der USA für das Jahr 2022 sind wiederum 85 F-35 zur Beschaffung vorgesehen. Der F-35 wird darin als "Rückgrat" der US-Kampfflugzeugflotte bezeichnet.⁵

⁴ https://www.stripes.com/branches/air_force/2021-07-16/airforce-f35-fighter-expensive-2167847.html

⁵ https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/FY2022/FY2022_Budget_Request_Overview_Book.pdf, page 2.8

Hohe «Life Cycle Costs»: Beim F-35 zeigen diverse Bericht aus dem Ausland, dass die Schweiz im Falle der Beschaffung dieses US-Tarnkappenkampffjets mit immensen Lebensdauererhalten rechnen müsste. Eine Flugstunde des F-35 kostet die US Air Force aktuell USD 44'000, obwohl Lockheed Martin seit Jahren eine Reduktion auf USD 25'000 bis 2025 verspricht.⁶ Die kanadische Regierung hat bei der renommierten Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft KPMG eine Studie erstellen lassen, die zum Schluss kommt, dass der F-35 bei einem Beschaffungsvolumen von 9 Milliarden kanadischer Dollar über die gesamte Lebensdauer über 45 Milliarden kanadischer Dollar kosten würde.⁷ Dies entspricht einem Faktor von 1 zu 5 im Verhältnis zum reinen Kaufpreis.

Umgerechnet würde das für die Schweiz bei einem Beschaffungspreis von fünf Milliarden Franken totale Kosten in der Höhe von sagenhaften 25 Milliarden Franken bedeuten. Der ehemalige Chef der Armee André Blattmann rechnet mit jährlichen Kosten von 12 Prozent des Anschaffungspreises, was über 30 Jahre hinweg Lebenszykluskosten in der Höhe von 23 Milliarden Franken zur Folge hätte.

Auch das norwegische Verteidigungsministerium, das F-35-Kampffjets gekauft hat, rechnet mit dem Faktor 3,75. Für die Schweiz würde dies totale Kosten von 18,75 Milliarden Franken bedeuten, was deutlich über der Schätzung des VBS liegt, das für die neuen Kampffjets mit Kauf- und Lebensdauererhalten von 15,5 Milliarden Franken ausgeht. Kosten in dieser Höhe während der gesamten Lebensdauer der neuen Kampffjets würden entweder andere Bereich der Armee unter massiven Sparzwang setzen oder den Bundesrat zwingen, das Armeebudget noch deutlicher zu erhöhen, was zu Sparprogrammen in anderen Departementen führen würde.

Auch Spanien und Japan kämpfen stark mit den hohen Kosten des F-35 bei luftpolizeilichen Einsätzen.⁸ Spanien setzt dabei schon auf ein leichteres Flugzeug. Grundsätzlich gilt: Für luftpolizeiliche Einsätze Super-Kampffjets zu verwenden, ist wie wenn man mit Kanonen auf Spatzen schießen würde. Es ist aber nicht nur völlig absurd, sondern würde auch den Verschleiss

⁶ [https://www.flightglobal.com/fixed-wing/lockheed-martin-defends-value-of-f-35-as-usaf-programme-under-new-pressure/142501.article](https://www.flightglobal.com/flightglobal.com/fixed-wing/lockheed-martin-defends-value-of-f-35-as-usaf-programme-under-new-pressure/142501.article)

⁷ <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/equipment/next-generation-fighter-capability-annual-update-2014.html>

⁸ <https://defence-blog.com/news/airbus-unveils-concept-of-future-light-combat-aircraft.html> und <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2021/04/02/japan-is-about-to-waste-its-f-35s-shadowing-chinese-planes>

von hunderten Millionen Steuerfranken mit sich bringen. Dieser Irrsinn muss verhindert werden.

Antwort VBS:

Für die Schweiz gilt: Der F-35A erzielte in der Evaluation die tiefsten Beschaffungs- und Betriebskosten – bei einem mit Abstand höchsten Nutzen. Die vorteilhaften Beschaffungs- und Betriebskosten des F-35A basieren unter anderem darauf, dass das Flugzeug in sehr grossen Stückzahlen produziert und betrieben wird, woraus sich für alle Betreiber Spareffekte ergeben. Die Gesamtkosten (Beschaffungs- und Betriebskosten) betragen beim F-35A über 30 Jahre gerechnet rund 15,5 Milliarden Franken. Damit dürften die über 30 Jahre aufgerechneten Betriebskosten etwa doppelt so hoch ausfallen wie die Beschaffungsausgaben. Diese Erkenntnis stützt sich auf die Erfahrungen beim Betrieb der heutigen Schweizer Kampfflugzeuge, im Besonderen der F/A-18-Flotte, und den Berechnungen aus dem Evaluationsprozess. Die Offerte für die Beschaffungs- und die beim Anbieter entstehenden Betriebskosten für 10 Jahre ist verbindlich. Allgemein gilt: Internationale Vergleiche sind unzuverlässig, wenn aufgrund von militärischer und kommerzieller Geheimhaltung nicht klar ist, welche Kosten eingerechnet oder nicht eingerechnet sind.

Können sie fliegen?: Der F-35 bleibt auch nach Jahrzehnten der Entwicklung das Sorgenkind der US-Luftwaffe und der Marine. Nebst amüsanten Zwischenfällen wie der Unfähigkeit, in einem Gewitter fliegen zu können, weist der Jet erhebliche technische Mängel auf:

- Theoretisch sollte das System von Lockheed Martin automatisch Ersatzteile nachbestellen. Diese Software ist aber ebenfalls mangelhaft, sodass Teile manuell nachbestellt werden müssen. Daraus resultierende Extrakosten rechnet Lockheed Martin den Kund*innen an.
- Ein Grossteil der Flotte der F-35 in den USA ist immer noch nicht einsatzfähig. Es existieren weiterhin über 800 bekannte Mängel - von diesen sind fast ein Dutzend derart gravierend, dass sie zum Absturz des Flugzeugs führen oder auf andere Weise lebensgefährlich für die Pilot*innen werden können.
- Die Triebwerke für das F-35-Programm der USA werden nicht schnell genug ausgeliefert, sodass allein aufgrund dieses Problems mit Ausfällen von bis zu sechs Prozent der Flotte zu rechnen ist.⁹ Die Bereitschaftsrate der F-35 liegt bei der US-Luftwaffe immer noch unter dem angestrebten Ziel. Das Verteidigungsdepartement hat sich zum

⁹ <https://www.defensenews.com/air/2021/02/12/an-engine-shortage-is-the-newest-problem-to-hit-the-f-35-enterprise/>

Ziel gesetzt, dass stets 80 Prozent aller F-35 in der Lage wären, mindestens eine Mission zu fliegen – aktuell ist dies nur bei 69 Prozent möglich. Für den F-35A, also für jenen Typen, den die Schweiz vertieft prüft, hat das Verteidigungsdepartement sich das Ziel von 70 Prozent gesetzt und auch erreicht, was aber ein sehr tiefer Wert ist. Bei 36 Flugzeugen würden in der Schweiz 11 am Boden stehen.

- Die Aussenschicht des F-35 wird regelmässig und sehr schnell beschädigt.¹⁰

Beim F-35 denken hohe US-Militärs offen darüber nach, statt in die Verbesserung der bestehenden Programme zu investieren, einen ganz neuen Jet zu entwickeln oder wieder verstärkt auf den F-16 zu setzen.¹¹ Jüngst erklärte beispielsweise gar der Generalstabschef der US-Luftwaffe, Charles Q. Brown, den F-35 für gescheitert.¹² Christoph Miller, kommissarischer Verteidigungsminister unter Trump, nannte den Jet gar ein «Stück Scheisse».¹³ Es stellt sich also die Frage, ob die Schweiz wirklich einen Jet kaufen sollte, der vielleicht bereits in wenigen Jahren nicht mehr für die USA produziert und weiterentwickelt wird.

Antwort VBS:

Heute stehen weltweit mehr als 700 F-35 im Einsatz. Mit diesen werden Luftpolizei- und Kampfeinsätze geflogen. Dereinst sollen über 3'000 F-35 eingesetzt werden. All die Betreiberstaaten – darunter zum Beispiel Belgien, Dänemark oder die Niederlande – tolerieren keine die Flugsicherheit gefährdende Mängel oder eine ungenügende Verfügbarkeit.

Das Führen von Mängellisten ermöglicht bei komplexen Systemen deren stete Verbesserung. Damit wird sichergestellt, dass die sich darauf befindenden Punkte lückenlos dokumentiert und systematisch abgearbeitet werden. Die Liste des F-35A beinhaltet keine flugsicherheitsrelevanten Einträge. Würden solche Mängel auftauchen, müssten diese sofort korrigiert werden, um die Zulassung des Flugzeugs aufrechtzuerhalten. Alle Einträge auf der Liste werden unter Führung des F-35 Programm Büros des US-Verteidigungsministeriums und von Lockheed Martin mit hoher Priorität bereinigt.

¹⁰ <https://www.defensenews.com/air/2021/01/20/the-defense-department-still-isnt-meeting-its-f-35-readiness-goals/>

¹¹ <https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/us-admits-f-35-failed-to-replace-f-16-as-planned-needs-new-fighter-jet-44483>

¹² <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2021/02/23/the-us-air-force-just-admitted-the-f-35-stealth-fighter-has-failed>

¹³ <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/2473893/press-gaggle-with-acting-secretary-miller-en-route-to-washington-dc/>

Die Verfügbarkeit des F-35A ist vertraglich vereinbart. Die bereits erreichten 70 Prozent sind ein Wert, welcher über der Verfügbarkeit der Schweizer F/A-18 liegt. Mit dem weiteren Erfahrungsaufbau wird die Verfügbarkeit zusätzlich verbessert werden.

Der F-35A hat bezüglich Gewitterflügen keine anderen Einschränkungen als andere Flugzeuge: Alle Flugzeuge sollten Gewitter wegen auftretendem Hagel und Blitz sowie sehr starken Auf- und Abwinden meiden. Dank seinem sehr guten Radarsystem kann ein F-35-Pilot Gewitterzellen auch bei Nacht oder eingebettet in einer Wolkenschicht erkennen.

Die Logistiksoftware ALIS hat bei der Evaluation in der Schweiz gut funktioniert, wird aber bis zur Einführung des F-35A in der Schweiz durch das neuere ODIN-System ersetzt. Mit dem Logistiksystem verbunden ist die vertraglich garantierte Verfügbarkeit. Sollte eine Ersatzteillieferung widererwarten manuell ausgelöst werden müssen, trägt Lockheed Martin die damit verbundenen Kosten.

Die Triebwerke werden für die neu hergestellten F-35 genügend schnell ausgeliefert. Zudem werden die Triebwerke der Schweizer F-35A dereinst in der Schweiz gewartet. Eine hohe Triebwerkverfügbarkeit ist also unabhängig von den USA gesichert.

Die Aussenschicht des F-35A ist robust und wird nicht regelmässig beschädigt. Dies hat sich auch anlässlich der Evaluation in der Schweiz gezeigt. Sollte trotzdem einmal ein Schaden entstehen, haben die Techniker effiziente Reparaturmethoden.

Befürworter*innen neuer Kampffjets betonen gerne, dass die Schweiz bzw. das Schweizer Militär auf alle Szenarien vorbereitet sein müsse, mögen diese noch so unwahrscheinlich sein. Im Falle eines Krieges, also der einzig anderen Einsatzsituation für Kampffjets nebst den luftpolizeilichen Aufgaben, sind Kampffjets aber völlig ungeeignet. Aktuelle Kriege wie der Berg-Karabach-Konflikt¹⁴ oder der Konflikt in der Ostukraine zeigen, dass Kampffjets eine untergeordnete oder gar keine Rolle im Kriegsgeschehen spielten. Stattdessen kamen günstigere Drohnen und Lenkwaffen vermehrt zum Einsatz. Ballistische Lenkwaffen vom Typ Iskander-M aus russischer Produktion, wie sie von Armenien eingesetzt wurden, haben eine Reichweite von bis zu 500 km. Diese würden innerhalb weniger Stunden durch die Zerstörung der Startpisten die gesamte Schweizer Luftwaffe lahmlegen.

¹⁴ <https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/fragments-of-iskander-missile-found-in-azerbajjans-karabakh-region-raise-serious-questions-2021-4-4-0/>

Antwort VBS:

In jedem neueren grösseren Konflikt hat die Fähigkeit, die Lufthoheit zu wahren, überragende Bedeutung. Deshalb plant die Schweiz, mit der Beschaffung neuer Kampfflugzeuge und bodengestützter Luftverteidigungssysteme einen sich ergänzenden Fähigkeitenmix aufzubauen, der möglichst das ganze Spektrum von Angriffswaffen und Plattformen abwehren kann. Insbesondere Angriffsdrohnen, wie sie beispielsweise im Konflikt um Berg-Karabach eingesetzt wurden, aber auch auf grosse Distanzen einsetzbare Lenkwaffen wie zum Beispiel Marschflugkörper können entweder mit Kampfflugzeugen oder mit bodengestützter Luftverteidigung bekämpft werden. Kampfflugzeuge und bodengestützte Luftverteidigung schützen zudem vor Angriffen gegnerischer Kampfflugzeuge und Helikopter. Mit Patriot – dem ausgewählten System der bodengestützten Luftverteidigung grösserer Reichweite – können auch ballistische Boden-Boden-Lenk Waffen kurzer und in beschränkter Masse auch mittlerer Reichweite bekämpft werden.

Diese Ansicht unterstützt auch der ehemalige Chef der Armee André Blattmann.¹⁵ Gemäss ihm seien Kampfflugzeuge auf einen Gegner ausgerichtet, den es in der Krise und im Konflikt im Schweizer Umfeld kaum mehr gebe.

Antwort VBS:

Zwischenstaatliche Konflikte sind nicht «weitgehend verschwunden»: Instabilität und Konflikte auch im Umfeld Europas haben zugenommen. Moderne Kampfflugzeuge sind auch in einem zunehmend von hybrider Konfliktführung geprägten Umfeld für Schutz und Sicherheit von Land und Bevölkerung unverzichtbar. Die Entwicklung der Bedrohungslage zeichnet sich dadurch aus, dass bewaffnete Konflikte verschiedene Formen annehmen können, wobei die Übergänge fließend sind. Um weiterhin den Luftraum über den täglichen Luftpolizeidienst hinaus über längere Zeit intensiv überwachen und im Fall eines Angriffs verteidigen zu können, braucht es neue Kampfflugzeuge und ein System der bodengestützten Luftverteidigung grösserer Reichweite.

Kampfdrohnen können Kampfflugzeuge heute nicht ersetzen: Solche Drohnen wurden bisher von einigen Staaten (vor allem den USA) zur präzisen Bekämpfung von Zielen am Boden eingesetzt. Ihre Verwendung zur Bekämpfung von Luftzielen ist noch nicht so weit entwickelt, dass sie Kampfflugzeuge ersetzen könnten. Kampfdrohnen wären zudem für den Luftpolizeidienst ungeeignet. 20 Kampfflugzeuge sind zu wenig, um alle Aufgaben zu erfüllen. Nur Systeme der bodengestützten Luftverteidigung einzusetzen, wäre zu teuer, einseitig und trägt den verschiedenen Bedrohungen nicht Rechnung. Die Diskussion über den richtigen Mix zwischen

¹⁵ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ms-pMdj4yS8chNZoXGSULkj3dMiTlrMq/view?usp=sharing>

vielfältig einsetzbaren Kampfflugzeugen und einem statischen System der bodengestützten Luftverteidigung wurde intensiv geführt: Es braucht beides, weil sie sich ergänzen und am effektivsten auch Drohnen und Marschflugkörper abwehren können. Ein Verzicht auf die Flexibilität, Mobilität und Reaktionsgeschwindigkeit von Kampfflugzeugen wäre der Sicherheit der Schweiz abträglich.

Welchen Einfluss hat die USA?: Bereits heute sind in Dübendorf zwei US-amerikanische Offiziere stationiert, die regelmässig die aus den USA gekauften Waffensysteme und Flugzeuge überprüfen. Grundlage dafür bildet die rigorose ITAR-Gesetzgebung der USA; demnach bleiben die USA weltweit allein zuständig, um besonders sensible technische Komponenten zu warten.¹⁶ Die Kontrolle über die Software des F/A-18 bleibt beim Hersteller Boeing. Für das Abschiessen von Kurzstreckenlenkwaffen muss die Schweiz die Erlaubnis aus Washington einholen. Auch das Navigationssystem funktioniert nur mithilfe von Codes, die einmal pro Monat aus den USA geliefert werden. Mit zunehmender technischer Komplexität begibt sich die Schweiz noch stärker in die Abhängigkeit der USA. Das im F-35 eingebaute System ODIN liefert beispielsweise nach jedem Flug Daten zum Flugeinsatz an Lockheed Martin. Offiziell soll dies die automatische Nachbestellung von Ersatzteilen garantieren, doch das System ist weit umfassender. Auf diesem Weg liefert die Schweiz dem US-Militär unter anderem auch detaillierte Informationen über ihre Einsätze.

Antwort VBS:

Die USA verfolgen mit den Exportkontrollvorschriften ITAR das Ziel, die Weitergabe und Verbreitung von Kriegsmaterial US-amerikanischer Herkunft zu kontrollieren. Die Schweizer Armee ist Endnutzerin des in den USA beschafften Materials. Die Schweiz entscheidet alleine, wie dieses Kriegsmaterial eingesetzt wird. Der Bundesrat erkennt in den ITAR-Kontrollen keine Einschränkung der Souveränität der Schweiz. Mit Hilfe von Exportkontrollvorschriften will die USA verhindern, dass Kriegsmaterial US-amerikanischer Herkunft nach dessen Verkauf unkontrolliert an Dritte weitergegeben wird. Das liegt auch im Interesse der Schweiz. Diese setzt sich auf internationaler Ebene ebenfalls dafür ein, dass Kriegsmaterial nicht unkontrolliert in Umlauf gebracht und verbreitet wird.

Beim F-35A entscheidet alleine die Schweiz, wie und wann dieser eingesetzt wird. Die Schweiz bestimmt selbst, welche Daten sie mit wem austauscht und welche logistischen Daten an den Hersteller zurückgemeldet werden. Der F-35A hat zudem eine hohe Cybersicherheit.

¹⁶ ITAR steht für «International Traffic in Arms Regulations». Siehe die Interpellation 21.3148, <https://www.parlament.ch/de/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaefft?AffairId=20213148>

Und: Der Betrieb und Unterhalt des F-35A erfolgen in der Schweiz durch die Luftwaffe und die RUAG Schweiz.

Die Schweiz erhält beim F-35A Zugang zur gesamten betriebsnotwendigen Software, der Zugang zu Quellcodes bringt der Schweiz hingegen keinen Mehrwert. Die Schweiz kann ihre Flugzeuge autonom mit Lenkwaffen beladen und diese auch autonom einsetzen. Dies geschieht täglich im Rahmen des Luftpolizeidienstes, im Konferenzschutz, aber auch bei den regelmässigen Testschiessen. Zudem bestimmt und kontrolliert die Schweiz selbst, welche Daten mit dem ODIN-System an Lockheed Martin geliefert werden. Es werden ausschliesslich logistische und keine einsatzrelevanten Daten weitergegeben. Der Austausch von logistischen Daten ist vorteilhaft für die Schweiz und wäre bei jedem Kampfflugzeug zur Sicherstellung der Lieferketten notwendig. Das Navigationssystem des F-35A funktioniert auch ohne das militärische GPS.

Es ist anzunehmen, dass die Schweiz ihre Lufthoheit gegen den Willen der USA nicht wahren könnte. Entweder würden die Jets aufgrund eingebauter Backdoors direkt am Boden bleiben, oder aber spätestens, wenn die Zulieferung von Ersatzteilen durch die Hersteller ausbleibt, vom Abheben gehindert werden. Wird diese Lieferkette unterbrochen, könnten die Jets innerhalb eines halben Jahres flugunfähig werden. Bei länger andauernden Einsätzen, vergleichbar mit dem Irakkrieg Anfang der 2000er-Jahre, könnte die Schweiz auf diese Weise dazu gezwungen werden, US-Kampfflugzeugen den Überflug zu gewähren.

Antwort VBS:

Beim F-35A entscheidet alleine die Schweiz, wie und wann dieser eingesetzt wird. Der Betrieb und Unterhalt des F-35A erfolgt in der Schweiz durch die Luftwaffe und die RUAG Schweiz. Ein Eingriff in die Elektronik zur Fernsteuerung oder Blockierung der Flugzeuge ist nicht möglich. Die Cybersicherheit wurde bei der Entwicklung des F-35 von Anfang an berücksichtigt. Sie wird zum Beispiel durch die Rechnerarchitektur, die Auswahl der an der Entwicklung beteiligten Lieferanten und die durchgängige Regelung des Umgangs mit Daten erreicht. Damit sind sensitive Daten der Schweizer Armee besonders gut geschützt. Der F-35A verfügt über das modernste System der vier evaluierten Kandidaten. Seine Cybersicherheit ist umfassend gewährleistet.

Die Schweiz hat neben ihrer normalen Ersatzteilbevorratung ein zusätzliches Paket, welches mindestens ein halbes Jahr auch bei geschlossener Grenze einen vollständig autonomen und intensiven Flugbetrieb möglich macht. Realistischerweise könnte die F-35A-Flotte in dieser Situation sogar viel länger betrieben werden, wobei einzelne Flugzeugausfälle in Kauf genommen werden müssten. Beim über 25-jährigen Betrieb der Schweizer F/A-18 und dem bald 45-

jährigen Betrieb der F-5 Tiger funktionierten die Lieferketten durchgehend. Die Regierung der USA und die US-Industrie waren für die Schweiz immer verlässliche Vertragspartner.

Der US-amerikanische militärisch-industrielle Komplex und die US-Streitkräfte sorgen dafür, dass die wirtschaftlichen und geostrategischen Interessen der Regierung und der Konzerne nötigenfalls auch mit Gewalt bzw. mit militärischen Interventionen gewahrt werden. Lockheed gehört zu den grössten Produzenten von militärischen Gütern. Der Konzern stellt Atomwaffen und geächtete Waffen her. Die Schweiz würde fünf Milliarden an einen Konzern zahlen, der Waffen produziert, die in der Schweiz verboten sind.

Das US-Militär macht keinen Hehl daraus, dass der Verkauf militärischer Güter auch der Förderung der eigenen Interessen dient. Mit der stark ausgebauten Kommunikation zwischen verschiedenen militärischen Systemen, besteht die Gefahr, dass die Schweizer Flugzeuge in Zukunft nicht nur zum Schutz des Schweizer Luftraums eingesetzt würden. Zu diesem Thema gibt es aus dem VBS bisher keinerlei Klarheit, obschon dies aus Perspektive der Neutralität zahlreiche Fragen aufwirft. Mit einem US-amerikanischen Kampffjet würde die Schweiz einen weiteren Schritt in Richtung NATO gehen. So wird gerade beim F-35 recht offen kommuniziert, was das eigentliche Ziel eines Verkaufs dieses Flugzeuges ist: Die Eingliederung aller Nutzer in eine gemeinsame Militärstruktur.¹⁷

Antwort VBS:

Die Schweiz ist völlig autonom, wie und wann sie ihre Kampfflugzeuge einsetzt. Das gilt seit eh und je für alle Kampfflugzeuge, unabhängig vom Herstellerland, und in den letzten 25 Jahren insbesondere auch für den F/A-18 aus US-amerikanischer Produktion.

Zum Beispiel bei der Beantwortung diverser Interpellationen¹⁸, welche direkt oder indirekt eine engere Zusammenarbeit mit Nachbarländern oder der NATO forderten, hat das VBS auf die Wichtigkeit dieser Zusammenarbeit, aber auch auf neutralitätspolitische Grenzen hingewiesen. Dies gilt unabhängig davon, welchen Flugzeug die Schweiz betreibt. Die Schweiz arbeitet mit

¹⁷ <https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/commentary/2020/12/16/the-f-35s-interoperability-tech-strengthens-us-alliances>

¹⁸ Antwort des Bundesrates vom 19. Februar 2020 auf die Interpellation von Nationalrätin Franziska Roth, <https://www.parlament.ch/de/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20194464>; Stellungnahme des Bundesrates vom 19. Februar 2020 auf die Interpellation von Nationalrat Pierre-Alain Fridez, <https://www.parlament.ch/de/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20194529>; Stellungnahme des Bundesrates vom 26. August 2020 auf die Interpellation von Nationalrat Pierre-Alain Fridez, <https://www.parlament.ch/de/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20203716>

anderen Staaten und Organisationen militärisch zusammen, dort, wo es für beide Seiten gewinnbringend ist.

Die Schweiz betreibt im Bereich der Luftwaffe schon lange eine gut etablierte, enge Zusammenarbeit, zum Beispiel im Bereich Training oder Luftpolizeidienst, mit Nachbarländern oder anderen befreundeten Staaten. Die Schweiz kooperiert mit ihren Nachbarstaaten zum Beispiel auch im Austausch von Luftlagedaten und wenn es darum geht, verdächtige oder nichtkooperative Flugobjekte zu identifizieren und diese beim allfälligen Überfliegen der Landesgrenzen an die Nachbarluftwaffen zu übergeben oder von den Nachbarn zu übernehmen. Diese Zusammenarbeit ist in bilateralen Verträgen mit Nachbarstaaten geregelt.

Interoperable Kommunikationssysteme, wie sie bereits heute auch auf dem F/A-18 der Schweizer Luftwaffe vorhanden sind, ermöglichen den für diese Zusammenarbeit im Luftpolizeidienst und Konferenzschutz notwendigen Datenaustausch. Die Schweiz bestimmt dabei immer selbst, welche Daten sie über Datenlinkverbindungen mit anderen Luftwaffen austauscht. Dies gilt natürlich auch für die Luftwaffen der Nachbarländer.

Beim Luftpolizeidienst über dem eigenen Territorium oder Luftverteidigungs-, Luftaufklärungs- und Luft-Boden-Einsätzen geht es aber um grundlegende Fragen staatlicher Souveränität. Fast alle Staaten nehmen diese Aufgaben selber wahr – selbst solche, die Bündnissen angehören. Die Überwachung und der Schutz des eigenen Luftraums sind zentrale Aufgaben und Verantwortungen eines Staates. Die Schweiz als neutraler Staat will diese Aufgabe auch weiterhin souverän wahrnehmen, genauso wie die meisten europäischen Staaten auch. Ein Verzicht auf Kampfflugzeuge in genügender Anzahl und mit genügenden Fähigkeiten läuft auf einen Verzicht auf Schutz und Verteidigung gegen Bedrohungen aus der Luft hinaus. Die Schweiz würde damit die bewaffnete Neutralität aufgeben und wäre auf den Schutz durch andere angewiesen.

Für weitere Informationen: www.vbs.ch/air2030

Weshalb wird die Beschaffung von 64 Kampfflugzeugen F-35 durch Finnland in den Schweizer Mainstream Medien totgeschwiegen?

Unvorstellbar die Reaktionen in den Schweizer Mainstream Medien und insbesondere SRF, wenn Finnland anstelle der F-35 einer europäischen Lösung den Vorzug gegeben hätte. Bundesrat, Luftwaffe und armasuisse wären buchstäblich «in der Luft» zerrissen worden! Und nun herrscht nach dem vom sozialdemokratisch angeführten Regierungskabinett Finnlands einstimmig gefällten Entscheid 64 F-35 als Ersatz für die veralteten F/A-18 Hornet zu beschaffen – von ganz wenigen Ausnahmen abgesehen - eisiges Schweigen. Der vom informellen Netzwerk armeekritischer, linker Journalisten in solchen Fällen immer ins Feld geführte «Informationsauftrag» gilt hier anscheinend für einmal nicht und es stellt sich deshalb die Frage, weshalb das so ist. Analysiert man die offiziellen finnischen Medienmitteilungen stellt man unschwer fest, dass die in Finnland im Rahmen der HX-Evaluation gewonnen Erkenntnisse die Argumente der politischen Gegner einer F-35 Beschaffung in unserem Lande, d.h. der GSoA, SP und Grüne Schweiz, weitgehend entkräften. Ihnen wird für ihre «Stopp F-35»-Kampagne im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes den Boden unter den Füßen weggezogen!

Einstimmiger Entscheid für den F-35 durch eine SP/Grüne geführte Regierung

Der Fakt, dass der Entscheid zur Beschaffung des F-35 vom finnischen Regierungskabinett unter Leitung der sozialdemokratischen Premierministerin Sanna Marin (SDP) einstimmig getroffen wurde, ist für unsere Linke nur schwer zu verkräften und zu begründen. Das hat unmittelbare Konsequenzen auf die Berichterstattung in unseren Mainstream Medien. «Was nicht sein darf, ist nicht» lautet deshalb in diesem Fall die Devise für die Sympathisanten in den Redaktionsstuben.

Qualität Auswahlverfahren

Finnland und die Schweiz evaluierten ihren F/A-18 Hornet-Ersatz auf der Basis von im Ansatz unterschiedlichen Auswahlverfahren. Beide Techniken resultierten jedoch im gleichen eindeutigen Ergebnis. Die F-35 gewann beide Bewertungen überzeugend! Das belegt eindrücklich, dass die in der Schweiz durch GSoA, SP und Grüne Schweiz sowie den Mainstream Medien an unserer Evaluation geübte Kritik unberechtigt und damit im Hinblick auf die uns bevorstehende Eidgenössische Volksinitiative «Gegen den F-35 (Stopp F-35)» als unlauter bezeichnet werden muss.

Bewertung der Mitwettbewerber

Im Unterschied zur Schweiz machte ein Sprecher der finnischen Luftstreitkräfte Ilmavoimat auch Angaben über die Platzierungen im HX-Auswahlverfahren. Bei einem möglichen Punktetotal von 5 und einer geforderten 4 erreichte der F-35 4,47 gefolgt vom F-18E/F- und Gripen E-Angebot mit je 3,81. Die Wertungen für die im Rahmen des HX-Auswahlverfahrens ebenfalls evaluierten Typen Rafale und Eurofighter wurden nicht bekanntgegeben. Hier darf ergänzend noch ausgeführt werden, dass Lockheed Martin bis heute alle Evaluationen an denen sie mit ihrem F-35 teilgenommen hat auf eine eindrückliche Art und Weise gewann. Mittlerweile haben weltweit 14 Staaten das Mehrzweckkampfflugzeug F-35 bestellt, über 730 Maschinen sind ausgeliefert und mit diesen akkumulierte man mehr als 463'000 Flugstunden.

Konklusion der finnischen HX Evaluation im Lichte der Hauptkritik am F-35 in der Schweiz

(kurz zusammengefasst und zwecks Vermeidung von Übersetzungsfehlern in englischer Sprache belassen)

«In the HX Fighter Programme evaluation of the tenderers' offers, the F-35 fulfilled the security of supply, industrial participation and affordability requirements of the decision-making areas. In the military capability assessment, the F-35 comprehensive system was the best. The F-35 combat, reconnaissance and survival capabilities were the best suited of the HX candidates. The F-35 operating and sustainment costs fit the allocated cost frame, and the aircraft development during the life cycle will be feasible with the normal resources of the Finnish Defence Forces. The F-35 solution fitted to

the allocated funding frame was the most cost-effective. The F-35 had the lowest procurement cost when considering all aspects of the offer. The operating and sustainment costs of the system will fall below the 254 million euro yearly budget. F-35 operations and lifespan development will be feasible with the Defence Forces' resources. No offer was significantly less expensive than others in operating and sustainment costs."

(Vollständige Medienmitteilung der finnischen Luftstreitkräfte Ilmavoimat «The Lockheed Martin F-35A Lightning II is Finland's next multi-role fighter und das dazugehörnde Fact Sheet abrufbar unter:

° <https://ilmavoimat.fi/en/-/the-lockheed-martin-f-35a-lightning-ii-is-finland-s-next-multi-role-fighter>

° https://ilmavoimat.fi/documents/1951206/2016335/Ilmav_HX_F-35_factsheet_20211210.pdf/e0dfe486-ee1d-e583-f210-97960aefda67/Ilmav_HX_F-35_factsheet_20211210.pdf?t=1639138766771)

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HX Fighter Programm: Auch Finnland beschafft den F-35 Lightning II

Wenn es noch eines weiteren Beweises bedurft hätte, dass der bundesrätliche Entscheid zu Gunsten des F-35 der Richtige ist, das neutrale, mit uns befreundete und in vielen Wesenszügen vergleichbare Finnland liefert ihn. Das Land im Norden Europas gab soeben bekannt, dass die Ilmavoimat ihre technisch überholte Flotte von 55 aktiven F/A-18 Hornet ab 2026 bis ins Jahr 2030 durch 64 neue Mehrzweckkampfflugzeuge F-35 Lightning II im Wert von rund 10 Milliarden Euro ersetzen wird. In diesem Zusammenhang besonders bemerkenswert ist der Fakt, dass Finnland von einer Rot/Grün dominierten Koalitionsregierung mit einer sozialdemokratischen Ministerpräsidentin an ihrer Spitze regiert wird.

Der finnische Entscheid müsste nun in unserem Land eigentlich dazu führen, dass

° die Wahl des F-35 durch unseren Bundesrat in der breiten Öffentlichkeit das Vertrauen und die Unterstützung gewinnt, die ihr basierend auf dem klaren Ergebnis unseres Auswahlverfahrens zu Recht zusteht und

° SP und Grüne Schweiz in der Angelegenheit Eidg. Volksinitiative «Stopp F-35» das mit der Gesellschaft für eine Schweiz ohne Armee (GSoA) geteilte «Lotterbett» verlassen und endlich wieder auf den Boden des sicherheitspolitischen Kernauftrags unserer Bundesverfassung zurückkehren.

Für die erste Schlussfolgerung darf man vorsichtig optimistisch sein. Mit der zweiten Wende ist - selbst im Lichte des beispielhaften F-35 Entscheids einer Rot/Grünen finnischen Regierung – bedauerlicherweise nicht zu rechnen. Unsägliche ideologische Scheuklappen, eine sträfliche Missachtung der Wehrartikel unserer Bundesverfassung sowie eine realitätsferne Vorstellung über die aktuelle Bedrohungslage verunmöglichen sie.