

Title : Kurdish Fighters Found Dead in Syria Jail Hit by IS: Monitor

Date : January 28, 2022



Kurdish-led forces in northeast Syria on Friday found the bodies of 18 fellow fighters inside a prison that the Islamic State group attacked last week, a war monitor reported. The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces said Wednesday that they had recaptured the sprawling complex in the city of Hasakeh following a January 20 IS jailbreak attempt that sparked days of clashes inside the facility and in surrounding areas. But mop-up operations are still underway in the Ghwayran prison where Kurdish forces say dozens of jihadists remain holed up. During a sweep on Friday, the SDF backed by Kurdish internal security forces “found the corpses of 18 fellow fighters killed by jihadists,” the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The war monitor, which relies on a network of sources inside Syria, also reported that an overnight air strike near the jail, carried out by the US-led coalition battling IS, killed seven jihadists. The death toll since January 20 now stands at over 260, including around 180 IS jihadists, 73 members of Kurdish-led forces and seven civilians, according to the Observatory. The extremists that remain inside the facility have barricaded themselves in “cellars that are difficult to target with air strikes or infiltrate on the ground,” the Observatory said. Kurdish forces “are looking to starve jihadists into surrendering”, said Observatory head Rami Abdul Rahman, adding that those holding out were diehard IS followers. An SDF official said around 60 IS fighters were holed up in a basement and a ground floor above it. “We believe there are no minors among them,” he told AFP on the condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to comment on the issue. The jihadists have been given a deadline to surrender and if no progress is made they will be dealt with “firmly,” he said, without specifying a time frame. The Ghwayran jail assault was the most high-profile IS attack since the jihadists lost their “caliphate” nearly three years ago. According to the SDF, around 3,500 inmates and IS attackers have surrendered to its forces since the start of operations to recapture the prison.

TagsIslamic State kurds SDF Syria

Title : Algeria Receives First C-130J Super Hercules Transport Aircraft

Date : January 28, 2022



The Algerian Air Force has received the first of four C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft ordered from American aerospace firm Lockheed Martin in 2018, the US Embassy in Algeria said in a press release. According to a report by Menadefense, the US-made transport aircraft took off from a factory in South Carolina, flew to Bangor International Airport in Maine, and arrived in Algeria at the air force's primary base for cargo aircraft. Regarded as the US Air Force's principal tactical cargo and personnel transport aircraft, the C-130J Super Hercules features digital avionics and a new propulsion system with a six-bladed propeller. The aircraft can take off from dirt airstrips and airdrop troops and equipment into hostile areas. Additionally, the transport aircraft can accommodate oversized cargo from utility helicopters to six-wheeled armored vehicles. It can also airdrop loads up to 42,000 pounds (19,050 kilograms). The C-130J is expected to support the Algerian military in performing a variety of missions, including border security, counter-terrorism, maritime patrol, responding to internal security threats, and medical evacuation. With the recent delivery, Algeria becomes the third customer in Africa to purchase the cargo plane after Tunisia and Egypt. Tagsaircraft Algeria C-130 Lockheed Martin United States

Title : Latvian Military to Acquire Avon FM50 Gas Masks

Date : January 28, 2022



The Latvian military has awarded a contract to British firm Avon Protection to supply an unspecified number of gas masks. In a press release, the company revealed that the Latvian armed forces specifically want the FM50 gas mask system, which includes filters, spare parts, and accessories. Avon vice president Steve Elwell remarked that the company is pleased to continue supporting NATO members to enhance their chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear (CBRN) protection and enable “greater interoperability.” “The growth of both new partners to the framework such as Latvia and increasing deployment of capability to existing partners demonstrates the continued confidence and reliance on Avon Protection to supply products of the highest quality and performance to protect armed forces around the world,” Elwell said. Potential Use The equipment will be used to protect Latvian defense personnel from a variety of CBRN threats often encountered in modern warfare, anti-terrorism, and peacekeeping operations. The FM50 mask features a twin filter conformal system, reportedly providing users with high protection and very low breathing resistance, making it comfortable to use during military missions. Additionally, the gas mask provides “outstanding vision” to soldiers due to Avon’s new wide panoramic flexible visor, which incorporates both visual clarity and integral durability. The contract makes Latvia the latest nation to order the FM50 gas mask system in addition to Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Norway, and the Netherlands. Tagschemical weapons Latvia

Title : US Army’s New Squad Vehicle ‘Ineffective for Combat’: Report

Date : January 28, 2022



The US Army's Operational Testing and Evaluation (OT&E) arm has released its latest assessment regarding the service's new Infantry Squad Vehicle (ISV) designed to support troops on long operations. In a report published this month, OT&E explained that the lightweight vehicle is not operationally effective for deployment on combat and engagement, security cooperation, and deterrence missions. It said that the 5,000-pound (2,267-kilogram) ISV is not suitable for various operations because of "poor" developmental test reliability and deficiencies in training, maintenance, safety, and human system integration. When the vehicle was tested in Arizona and North Carolina last year, OT&E noted that the ISV could not deliver effective fires or provide reliable communication and protection for infantry squads. The report disclosed that soldiers using the squad vehicle could not avoid enemy detection, ambushes, or engagements on most of their missions. "In order to traverse cross country routes and wooded terrain, the unit was forced to reduce their speed, resulting in slowed movement, or maneuvered on improved routes, negating any element of surprise," OT&E said. "The unit experienced numerous casualties, delaying mission accomplishment and degrading its combat power for follow-on missions." 'Ineffective Rapid Mobility' The recent OT&E assessment claims that the ISV is not effective at providing rapid mobility capabilities to infantry squads, citing a scenario in which a unit had to conceal the ISVs close to the objective and dismount eight soldiers to accomplish the mission. The scenario reportedly reduced the squad's combat force and exposed the ISVs and drivers to enemy attacks, increasing the risk of additional combat losses. The report concludes that the vehicle lacks ballistic armor, its design prevents easy access to personal weapons on the move, and affects soldiers' ability to quickly react to ambushes or other enemy actions. The OT&E recommends that the army address the issues with the new ISVs before deciding on full-rate production. Tagsland vehicles United States US Army

Title : Eurodrone Receives Green Light to Enter Production

Date : January 28, 2022



The Spanish government has given final approval to participate in a multinational project to produce Europe's next-generation drone. Airbus chief executive officer Michael Schoellhorn revealed that the country's council of ministers declared budgetary approval for the Eurodrone program earlier this week, officially signifying Madrid's participation in the project alongside Germany, France, and Italy. Spain will reportedly participate with a 23-percent share, with funding provided by the country's Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Tourism. In 2020, a draft contract for the Eurodrone project was signed by France. Germany also signed on to the program five months later despite budgetary concerns. Eurodrone project head Daniela Lohwasser said during an Airbus media briefing in November 2021 that Italy also agreed to be involved in the program. However, necessary approval by Spain was delayed for undisclosed reasons. The multinational program has been delayed by two years. Great news from Spain! Budgetary approval today by Council of Ministers for the #Eurodrone, which follows that of , & , paves the way for contract signature on this key collaborative programme, which strengthens Europe's strategic autonomy & sovereignty.#DefenceMatters pic.twitter.com/DTbU2sDFUO — Michael Schoellhorn (@SchoellhornMike) January 25, 2022 About the Eurodrone Described as "the first unmanned aerial system designed to fly in non-segregated airspace," the Eurodrone can perform intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance missions. Airbus said the next-generation platform would give Europe "unparalleled competencies" in unmanned systems and offer advanced strategic performance capabilities to help guarantee European sovereignty. Although the Eurodrone has received criticism because of the difficulties of facilitating a multinational project, the platform is expected to enhance European security and defense. It is meant to become an essential asset for future combat air systems. "Eurodrone is designed to become one of the main pillars of any future combat air system, prepared for real integration into civil airspace based on minimal restrictions and easy transportability due to its modular design," Airbus explained on its website. The four nations involved in the project have ordered a total of 20 systems, each comprising two ground stations and three unmanned aircraft. The first flight for the state-of-the-art drone is targeted for 2025, with initial deliveries expected in 2028. Eurodrone technology. Photo: Airbus Tagsdrones Eurodrone France Germany Italy Spain technology

Title : Six Rockets Target Baghdad Airport, Damaging Plane

Date : January 28, 2022



Six rockets were fired Friday at the Iraqi capital's airport, causing damage but no casualties, security sources said, the latest in a string of attacks the US blames on Iran-linked militias. The rockets hit Baghdad International Airport's runways or parking areas, one of the sources said. "One civilian plane has been hit and damaged," this source, based at the interior ministry, said. A second security source confirmed the attack consisted of six rockets that fell around civil installations at the airport, damaging a stationary plane. A third source identified the plane as a Boeing 767 belonging to the state-owned Iraqi Airways, noting that it was not in service and was undergoing repairs. The attack was not immediately claimed. Recent months have seen rocket and drone attacks target the US embassy in Baghdad's high-security Green Zone, a US diplomatic facility at the airport, and troops belonging to a US-led coalition stationed at Iraqi bases. The attacks are rarely claimed but are routinely pinned on pro-Iran factions, who demand that US troops who were deployed to help Iraqi forces fight the Islamic State group leave the country. The US-led coalition ended its combat mission in Iraq in December, four years after the Baghdad government declared victory over the jihadists. But roughly 2,500 American soldiers and 1,000 coalition soldiers will remain deployed in Iraq to offer training, advice, and assistance to national forces. On January 3, US forces downed two armed drones that targeted the coalition at Baghdad airport, according to a coalition source. On January 13, three people, including two children, were wounded by a rocket that hit a school in the Green Zone, while two other rockets fell inside the US embassy complex, without causing casualties. In September, an "armed drone" attack targeted Arbil international airport in northern Iraq's Kurdistan region, where a base hosts coalition troops. The more recent rocket and drone fire come amid a tense domestic political situation. An election in October saw Fatah (Conquest) Alliance, the political wing of pro-Iran ex-paramilitary coalition Hashed al-Shaabi, lose most of its seats. It claimed that the polls were rigged against them. A bloc

led by Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr, who once led an anti-US militia and who opposes all foreign interference, took the largest share of seats and is trying to form a coalition government that would include Sunni and Kurdish factions.
Tags:Iraq United States

Title : Tajikistan Says Two Dead After Clashes With Kyrgyzstan

Date : January 28, 2022



Tajikistan said Friday that two of its citizens were killed and 10 injured during overnight clashes at its contested border with Kyrgyzstan, where a ceasefire is now in place. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan said they had reached a ceasefire early Friday following the latest lethal flare-up at the pair's contested border. The violence that broke out Thursday evening was the bloodiest escalation between the countries since clashes that killed dozens last year. The Kyrgyz and Tajik frontier communities regularly clash over land and water supplies, with border guards often involved. As a result of the latest conflict, "10 people were injured on the Tajik side, of which six were servicemen and four were civilians," Tajikistan's national security committee said in a statement. Tajikistan added that the two dead were a man born in 1986 "killed by a mortar shell fired by Kyrgyz soldiers into his yard" and an ambulance driver born in 1964. Following the overnight clashes, Kyrgyzstan's national security committee said Friday that it had reached an agreement for "a complete ceasefire" with Tajikistan during a meeting at the border between provincial governors and border service representatives. The neighbors also agreed to withdraw forces, coordinate patrols of the frontier, and ensure the flow of traffic along a strategic road that passes between both countries. Tajikistan, a closed authoritarian country, confirmed the agreement several hours later. "At present, the situation on the state border of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan is stable, the causes and factors of the border conflict are being studied by a joint commission of the relevant structures of both parties," a statement from the Tajik national security committee said. Asia Plus, a private Tajik news agency, reported

that as many as 17 Tajiks had been injured. Kyrgyzstan's health ministry said Friday that at least eleven of its citizens were being treated for moderately serious injuries. Close to 1,500 Kyrgyz citizens were evacuated from villages near where the conflict took place at the intersection of Sughd province and Kyrgyzstan's southwestern Batken province, the emergencies ministry said. Last year's violence between the two militaries was unprecedented, leaving more than 50 people dead and raising fears of a wider conflict. Almost half of the pair's 970-kilometer-long border (600 miles) is disputed and progress on delimitation in recent years has been glacial. TagsKyrgyzstan Tajikistan

Title : Ukraine Separatists Urge Russia to Send Modern Weapons

Date : January 28, 2022



A Ukrainian separatist leader on Thursday urged Russia to send modern weapons to the breakaway statelets to help them defend themselves against Western-backed Kyiv forces. Denis Pushilin spoke after Russia's ruling party urged the Kremlin to start arming the separatist-held regions with tensions soaring between Moscow and the West. "First and foremost, we need to counter the Bayraktars," he told pro-Kremlin spin doctor Vladimir Solovyov in an online interview, referring to Turkish-made drones. Solovyov said Russia was capable of supplying separatists with next-generation weapons instead of Kalashnikov assault rifles and Soviet-era machine guns. Pushilin said: "We need to talk about the weapons you mean." Pushilin, the self-declared leader of the Donetsk People's Republic, accused Kyiv authorities of continuing to prepare for an offensive and stocking up on ammunition and fuel. On Wednesday, a senior member of United Russia, Vladimir Vasilyev, said the governing party had asked the country's leadership to start arming Ukraine's separatist-held regions. The United States and its EU allies accuse Russia of seeking to upend European stability by threatening an invasion of Ukraine, a former Soviet republic striving to join NATO and other Western institutions. Moscow denies plans to invade the country, where in addition to annexing Crimea, it has been backing separatist forces

in the east since 2014. The conflict has already claimed more than 13,000 lives. The West and Kyiv accuse Moscow of fuelling an insurgency by sending weapons and troops across the border. Russia has always denied such claims, but Wednesday's statement could mark a change in Moscow's official stance. There was no immediate official reaction from the Kremlin. TagsDonetsk Russia Ukraine

Title : IS Attack in Libya Kills 3 Security Personnel: Ministry

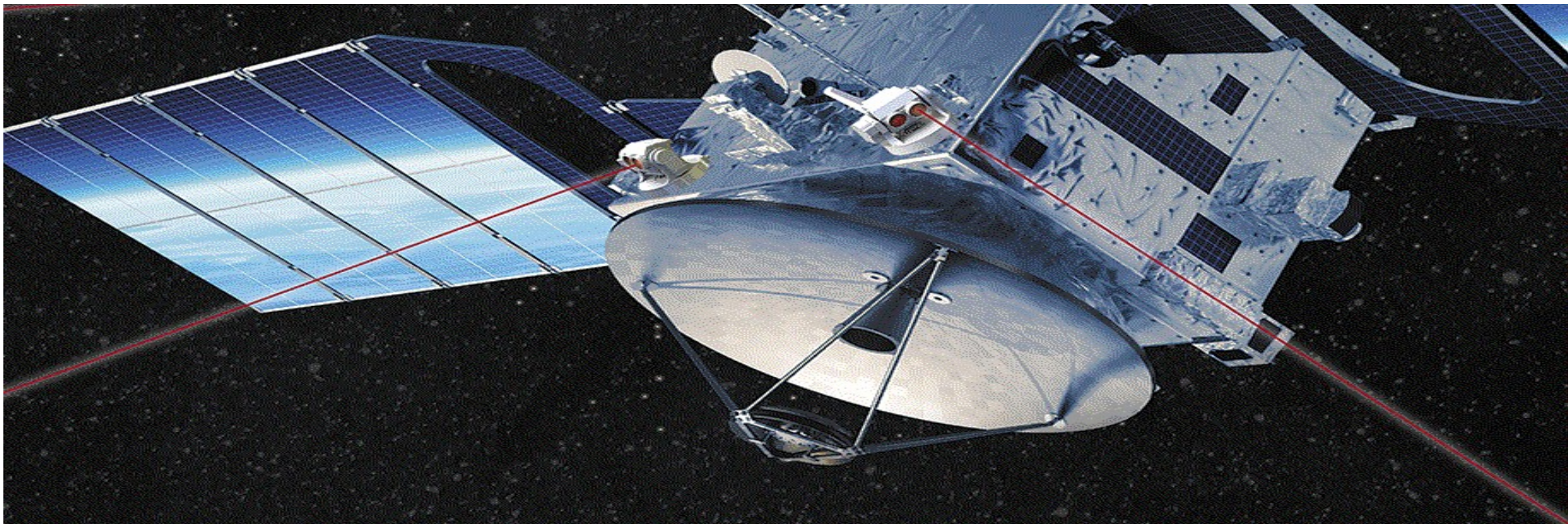
Date : January 27, 2022



Fighters linked to the Islamic State group have killed three Libyan security personnel in the country's southwest, the interior ministry said Thursday. The attack on Wednesday, in the desert some 700 kilometers (430 miles) south of Tripoli, "targeted a patrol of the Umm al-Aranib Martyrs' Brigade, killing three of its members," the ministry said in a statement. It added that government forces had "killed four members of Daesh (an Arabic term for IS) and destroyed their vehicle." It said a search was underway for other "terrorists" who had fled. It said the jihadists were attempting to "undermine stability and terrorize civilians." IS had on Monday claimed it had attacked the same brigade in the same area a week earlier, killing two members. The Umm al-Aranib Martyrs' Brigade is largely made up of members of the long-marginalized Tubu ethnic group. Libya has been roiled by lawlessness since the 2011 fall of despot Moamer Kadhafi, with an array of armed groups vying for control. IS, encouraged by victories in Syria and Iraq, took advantage of the chaos to seize parts of the country's north and east, but after a string of offensives saw it kicked out of its final bastion Derna in 2018. The group has continued to carry out small-scale attacks. TagsIslamic State Libya

Title : USAF Wants Laser Pods for Aircraft-Satellite Communications

Date : January 27, 2022



The US Air Force has contracted satellite subsystems manufacturer Space Micro to develop a laser communications pod enabling unhindered and secure communications between aircraft and orbital satellites. The challenge before the San Diego-based company is to overcome “atmospheric turbulence” that “scrambles transmitted information” during aircraft-satellite communication. To cancel out the atmospheric turbulence, the company is using Johns Hopkins University’s patented “dual-adaptive mirror technology” which uses deformable mirrors to transmit an unhindered laser signal. The university reportedly developed the technology for NASA. The company is also using Rhea Space Activity’s deep-space autonomous navigation capability, the Jervis Autonomy Module for “autonomous and accurate” aircraft-satellite linkup. Space News quoted Space Micro CEO David Strobel as saying that aircraft-satellite optical communication requires “some of the hardest pointing and navigating that you could possibly do, especially if we’re told that they need to maintain this uplink while they’re maneuvering.” Secure Communication Developers plan to develop a laser pod that sits underneath a fighter aircraft and “transmit up to 10 gigabits of data per second.” Astrophysicist and founder of Rhea Space Activity Shawn Usman said the technology will allow “US stealth aircraft to maintain secure high-bandwidth communications during combat operations.” Space News quoted aerospace engineer at Rhea Space Activity Beau Rideout as saying, “The idea is to use satellite-based communications to provide high-speed bandwidth so aircraft can receive and send data to other military users around the world.” Tag: laser weapons, optical Satellite, US Air Force