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Israel buys refueling tankers that will help it attack Iran's nuclear sites

September 1, 2022 jpost.com reported: "In seeking to further its reach as a nuclear deal between Iran and the United States looks more likely to be signed, the Israel Air Force has signed a contract with Boeing to purchase four multi-mission KC-46 refueling tankers in a deal valued at \$927.5 million.

The four new planes that will begin to arrive in 2025 are set to replace the IAF's aging fleet of Re'em Boeing 707 tankers, aircraft that have been flying in various guises for well over a half century.

The deal includes tanker services support, maintenance and repairs, logistics and spares. The planes, which are based on the veteran Boeing 767 widebody airliner, will be built by the company in Seattle.

"This contract further strengthens the US-Israel alliance and continues the decades-long relationship between Boeing and the Israeli Air Force," said Ido Nehushtan, president of Boeing Israel and a past commander of the IAF.

"The KC-46A will benefit Israel's efforts to ensure national security and regional stability," he said." ..."

Japan defence ministry asks for \$40 bn budget with eyes on Russia, China

September 1, 2022 spacewar.com reported: "Japan's defence ministry requested a \$40 billion budget on Wednesday, pointing to the war in Ukraine and warning that the world faces its 'toughest challenges' since World War II.

Japan's defence spending has risen almost annually over the last decade, but pressure has grown for more following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's growing pressure on Taiwan.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has promised sweeping upgrades, and his defence ministry unveiled a wishlist including armed drones and research on hypersonic missiles.

"The international community faces a period of the toughest challenges since World War II. The existing order faces serious challenges, as the world enters a new era of crisis," the ministry warned in its request..."

Taiwan vows to counterattack if China's forces enter its territory

August 31, 2022 jpost.com reported: "Taiwan said on Wednesday it would exercise its right to self-defense and 'counter-attack' if Chinese armed forces entered its territory, as Beijing increased military activities near the democratic island.

Beijing, which claims Taiwan as its own against strong objections by the government in Taipei, has held military exercises around the island this month in reaction to a visit to Taipei by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Taiwanese defense officials said China's 'high intensity' military patrols near Taiwan continued and Beijing's intention of making the Taiwan Strait separating the two sides its 'inner sea' would become the main source of instability in the region.

"For aircraft and ships that entered our sea and air territory of 12 nautical miles, the national army will exercise right to self-defense and counter attack without exception," Lin Wen-Huang, deputy chief of the general staff for operations and planning, told reporters at a news briefing..."

Xi: China's most powerful leader since Mao

August 31, 2022 spacewar.com reported: "Xi Jinping, who is soon expected to be anointed for an unprecedented third term in office as China's ruling Communist Party (CCP) holds its 20th Congress, has become his country's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong.

He joined the pantheon of Chinese leadership in 2012, two decades after bursting onto the scene as a graft-fighting governor.

The country's rubber-stamp parliament boosted Xi's considerable power in 2018 when it approved a constitutional amendment abolishing presidential term limits.



Japanese PM Fumio Kishida

The move allowed Xi, now aged 69, to remain in power for as long as he wishes, and is the latest feather in the cap of a Communist ‘princeling’ who is remaking China in his own image.

Xi has amassed seemingly unchecked power and a level of officially-stoked adulation unseen since Communist China’s founder Mao...”

Solomon Islands to ban US navy ships from ports

August 30, 2022 jpost.com reported: “The Solomon Islands government has told the United States it will place a moratorium on navy vessels entering its ports, the United States embassy in Canberra said on Tuesday.

The notice follows an incident last Tuesday when a US Coast Guard vessel, the *Oliver Henry*, was unable to enter Solomon Islands for a routine port call because the government did not respond to a request for it to refuel and provision.

The Solomon Islands has had a tense relationship with the United States and its allies since striking a security pact with China earlier this year.

‘On Aug. 29, the United States received formal notification from the Government of Solomon Islands regarding a moratorium on all naval visits, pending updates in protocol procedures,’ the embassy said in a statement...”

Iran Stages Armed Drone Exercises While ‘Reviewing’ Nuclear Deal Proposal

August 29, 2022 breitbart.com reported: “The Iranian military held two days of very aggressive armed drone exercises on Wednesday and Thursday, even as the regime ostentatiously ‘reviewed’ President Joe Biden’s desperate bid to revive the Obama nuclear deal — and signaled Biden is making concessions too slowly for Tehran’s taste.

Iran’s drone exercise involved over 150 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), operating everywhere from the Persian Gulf to the northern border.

Iran’s armed drones are a major source of concern for Western national security, as the despotic regime is planning to sell UAVs to everyone from Russia to its favorite Shiite terrorist gangs...”

‘Israel can’t hurt Iran, don’t jeopardize your lives by trying’

August 29, 2022 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Iran’s president made a thinly veiled threat against Israel Monday, as talks in Vienna inch closer towards a final agreement renewing the 2015 nuclear deal.

President Ebrahim Raisi spoke at a press conference Monday, dismissing Israel’s ability to carry out attacks on Tehran’s nuclear program, and threatening the Jewish state should it attempt any military operation against Iran.

‘Look at the gap between decision and action – if they decide to act against Iran, they won’t set a deadline to act. The gap between decision and action will show if there is anything left of [the Zionist] regime or not.’

‘The Zionist entity knows very well that it cannot attack Iran. And we warn them against making any rash decision which could jeopardize their existence.’...”



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi

Experts: Military Facilities Targeted by US in Syria Were Vital for Iran

August 25, 2022 voanews.com reported: “Targets in Syria hit by U.S. airstrikes earlier this week were critical facilities for Iranian-linked groups operating in the country, experts said.

The U.S. military said late Tuesday it carried out strikes in eastern Syria against ‘infrastructure facilities used by groups linked to Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps [IRGC].’

‘Today’s strikes were necessary to protect and defend U.S. personnel. The United States took proportionate, deliberate action intended to limit the risk of escalation and minimize the risk of casualties,’ U.S. Central Command Communication Director Colonel Joe Buccino said in a statement Tuesday.

The U.S. official added that the airstrikes in the province of Deir el-Zour were carried out to protect U.S. forces from attacks, including one on August 15 in eastern Syria, which the U.S. said involved a drone that targeted a compound run by U.S. troops and U.S.-backed Syrian opposition fighters.

The military has not said whether the strikes resulted in any casualties. Iran on Wednesday denied having any links to those targeted in the U.S. airstrikes in Syria...”

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