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➢ Egypt accuses Turkey of sending extremists to Libya

Turkey is deploying Islamic State and Al-Qaeda fighters to Libya to support the Government of National Accord (GNA), according to a letter submitted to the UN Security Council by Cairo's permanent representative to the UN. Released on 15 March, the letter said "evidence is abundant" that Turkey is deploying "foreign terrorist fighters" to Libya in violation of UN Security Council resolutions. It noted that Turkey was recruiting fighters from the Syrian rebel groups it supports, including the Sultan Murad Division and Al-Hamza Division, offering them monthly salaries of USD1,500-2,000 to go to Libya.

Source : **https://www.janes.com/** - 16/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

➢ Sweden's government proposes to send 150 troops and helicopters to Mali for Task Force Takuba

Swedish special forces would form part of planned 500-strong France-led multinational force to fight Islamic State and Al-Qaeda. The Swedish government plans to send up to 150 special forces personnel and helicopters to join a new multinational military mission in sub-Saharan Africa's troubled Sahel region, the Foreign Ministry said in release. "The government has decided to submit a bill to the Riksdag [parliament] proposing Swedish participation" in the France-led special operations Task Force Takuba in Mali, the Monday, March 16 release said. "The Swedish contribution is planned to consist of a helicopter-borne rapid reaction force of a maximum of 150 personnel."

Source : **https://thedefensepost.com/** - 16/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

➢ Niger says army kills 50 Boko Haram extremists after attack

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — Niger says its army has killed at least 50 Boko Haram extremists after an attack on a military post. The West African nation says the heavily armed Boko Haram fighters attacked the eastern Toumour post overnight into Sunday. The government says the army used air and ground forces to fight back, killing at least 50 fighters and destroying a large number of vehicles. One soldier was injured. Boko Haram is based in neighboring Nigeria. Its decade-long insurgency has focused on attacks inside that country, but the extremists also have staged attacks in Niger and Cameroon.

Source : **https://apnews.com/** - 17/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

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➢ AFRICOM cancels North Africa multinational training exercise Phoenix Express over COVID-19 concerns

United States Africa Command cancelled this year's run of Phoenix Express, a joint naval security exercise with African partners, as a precaution to limit the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

"After careful consideration with exercise participants and the host nation, Exercise Phoenix Express 2020 (OE20) has been cancelled for force protection considerations," AFRICOM said in a press release on Tuesday, March 17.

Source : **https://thedefensepost.com/** - 17/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

➢ Turkey's TAI sells six Anka-S drones to Tunisia

ANKARA, Turkey — Tunisia has awarded a contract to Turkish Aerospace Industries for the supply of six Anka-S drones, three ground control stations and an unspecified level of technology transfer. Turkish procurement officials said TAI had been awaiting a deal with the government there for more than a year to sell its Anka-S drone. Industry sources said the contract is worth $240 million. One TAI official said the company also is in talks with Tunis for the sale of armed Anka drones. TAI has long been thriving to penetrate the emerging North African market.

Source : **https://www.defensenews.com/** - 17/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

➢ 29 soldiers killed in attack on army post in northern Mali

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — Armed men attacked a Malian army camp in the Gao region in the north, killing at least 29 soldiers, the army said Thursday. The attack on the post in Tarkint also wounded at least five people, said an army spokesman, Lt. Col. Diarran Kone. This is the biggest attack on Mali's army in 2020. Though responsibility for the attack has not yet been claimed, it bears the marks of al-Qaida-linked groups in the region. A French-led military operation ousted jihadists from power in northern Mali in 2013, though they dispersed and regrouped. They have also been pushing farther south.

Source : **https://apnews.com/** - 19/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

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➢ Proposed UN resolution would support Sudan's peace efforts

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A proposed U.N. Security Council resolution would replace the joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan's restive Darfur region with a U.N. political and peace-building mission whose primary aim would be to support Sudan's fragile transition to democracy including in drafting a new constitution and preparing for elections. The draft resolution, obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, would basically eliminate the main mission of the U.N.-AU force known as UNAMID — the protection of civilians in Darfur.

Source : **https://apnews.com/** - 19/03/2020 (Lien article)

➢ Libya official says 5 women killed in shelling near Tripoli

CAIRO (AP) — Five women were killed and five others were wounded, including a child, when their houses were shelled near Libya's capital Tripoli, a health official with the U.N.-recognized government said Thursday. Mortar shells hit civilian houses late Wednesday in the towns of Ain Zara and Bin Ghahsir to the south of the capital, leaving exclusively female casualties, according to Amin al-Hashemi, the Tripoli-based government's health spokesman. Libya is divided between two governments, one in the east and another in the west.

Source : **https://apnews.com/** - 19/03/2020 (**Lien article**)

➢ US Africa Command misses opportunity to show value amid canceled exercises

In the sand and the rocky, mountainous terrain of the expansive Sahara Desert, it's not just terrorist groups that roam, plotting surprise attacks on military installations and imagining distant overseas targets. In southern Morocco this week, thousands of Moroccan, Senegalese, and Tunisian troops were scheduled to unite alongside U.S. soldiers for joint exercises. Live-fire rounds to train North African troops fighting the spread of terrorism across the Sahel were canceled. A B-52 flyover east of Agadir, Morocco, involving a dead drop was planned up until just days ago.

Source : **https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/** - 19/03/2020 (**Lien article**)

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➢ Tunisian Air Show develops aerospace and defense partnerships

Tunisia is a country that we have a close relationship with and an area where we are expanding our longstanding security cooperation." Military members from across U.S. Africa Command attended the inaugural Tunisia International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition (IADE) March 4-8. Participation in events like these demonstrated the United States' commitment to the region. U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Adrian White, Mobilization Assistant Director,Operations, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Air Forces Africa and U.S. Army Col. Ralph Radka, Future Operations Division Chief, U.S. Africa Command led the U.S. military contingent at the air show.

Source : **https://www.africom.mil/** - 20/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

➢ Security Council Press Statement on Attack against United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Central African Republic

The following Security Council press statement was issued today by Council President Wu Haitao (China) : The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the attack on 15 March 2020 by anti-Balaka elements against the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) in Grimari (Prefecture of Ouaka), in the centre of the Central African Republic, which resulted in the death of one Burundian peacekeeper.

Source : **https://www.un.org/** - 16/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

➢ Seven crew kidnapped off container ship near Gabon

The container vessel MSC Talia F has been attacked by pirates off the coast of Gabon, with seven crew abducted. The vessel was attacked on Sunday whilst halfway between Sao Tome and Libreville, Gabon. Apparently seven of the 17 Ukrainian crew were kidnapped. According to Dryad Global, this is the first incident within this area in 2020. Within 2019 there were four recorded incidents at Port Libreville and the Owendo Anchorage involving a spate of incidents in December 2019.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 23/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

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➢ At least 10 dead during Guinea referendum

Officials count votes are under way in Guinea after at least 10 people were killed in the violence as debris burns on the streets of Conakry, in the aftermath of clashes between police and protesters during a bitterly-disputed referendum on Sunday. Anti-government forces came under fire by security forces who "carried out massive arrests, fired blindly, and cruelly molested the people. The FNDC, grouping opposition parties and civil society organisations, called for fresh protests Monday and Tuesday. The authorities could not immediately be reached to confirm the casualty toll.

Source : **https://www.africanews.com/** - 23/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

➢ Another Ivorian Mi-24 crashes

An Mi-24 attack helicopter from the Ivory Coast's Air Force has crashed – the second in four months. The Mi-24D came down on 18 March at Felix Houphouet Boigny airport in Abidjan. It is not clear what caused the crash, but the aircraft sustained moderate damage, coming to rest on its side. Both pilots received minor injuries and could escape the helicopter by themselves. The Mi-24D was assigned to the Escadrille de Chasse (attack squadron) based at Base Aérienne de Abidjan/Port Bouet, according to Scramble Magazine.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 23/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

➢ Charges against five in Tek Base weapons theft case dropped

Withdrawal of charges against five of 12 suspects arrested in connection with the theft of weapons from the SA Army's Tek Base comes as no surprise to Kobus Marais, shadow defence and military veterans minister. "I know the theft took place over an 80 day period prior to the loss being reported (in December)," he told defenceWeb following a military court decision to drop charges against five suspects.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 16/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

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➢ SANDF missed a prime communication opportunity with the Wuhan Mission

The Wuhan Mission, as it will probably go down in South African history, was an excellent example of the best South Africans can offer. At the same time it, instead of being a public relations coup for those allegedly tasked with communication in the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), was treated almost as a non-event or mission. This impression was reinforced when the head of communications in the Department of Defence (DoD) told this publication it "is standard SANDF security policy not to announce or discuss matters related to security protocols for any operation".

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 18/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

➢ Malawi's military commander is sacked

The appointment of a new commander of the Malawi Defence Force (MDF) was announced on 17 March, ending the short tenure of General Vincent Nundwe. The office of president Peter Mutharika announced that Major General Peter Andrew Lapken Namathanga has been appointed as the new MDF commander and promoted to full general. The statement said Gen Nundwe and his deputy had been assigned to other duties, using the 'rtd' abbreviation after their ranks to indicate they had been retired.

Source : **https://www.janes.com/** - 18/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

➢ Somali National Army launches action to oust al-Shabaab from Janaale

Somalia's Federal Government said elements of the Somali National Army and elite Danab forces launched an operation to capture the town of Janaale from al-Shabaab militants at dawn on Monday. "Government forces have successfully taken over the Janaale bridge and drive[n] al-Shabaab from their strongholds in the city," the information ministry said in a Tuesday, March 17 statement.

Source : **https://thedefensepost.com/** - 17/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

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➢ Armed rebel groups still a major threat in the DRC – SANDF Major

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a volatile place that can change quickly and the threat of armed rebel groups attacking civilians is still very real, according to a South African National Defence Force (SANDF) Major stationed in the country. The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Monusco) was established on 1 July 2010 with the mandate to protect civilians, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders against the threat of violence by armed rebel groups.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 18/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

➢ Planning underway for Exercise Ibsamar in September

The pall of the COVID-19 coronavirus has not deterred planners from three navies putting heads together in anticipation of Exercise Ibsamar in September. According to a SA Navy statement "although all exercises have been cancelled until further notice, planning (for Ibsamar) continued as all members from participating countries were in Simon's Town when President Cyril Ramaphosa announced actions to be taken concerning the COVID-19 pandemic".

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 23/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

➢ Uganda strengthens its L-39 fleet

The Uganda People's Defence Air Force is operating a growing number of L-39 jet trainers, taking delivery of second hand examples and refurbishing its existing fleet. Seven of its L-39s were on display in November 2019 when President Yoweri Museveni visited Gulu Air Base for the graduation of 18 cadet pilots and 20 technicians. Uganda received its first three L-39ZO trainers from Libya in 1987 and, according to Air Forces Monthly, these are still in service. Some 15 years later, Uganda received four ex-Bulgarian Air Force L-39Zas, which were overhauled in the Ukraine in 2009/2010.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 18/03/2020
(**Lien article**)

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