



GRYPHON GROWL

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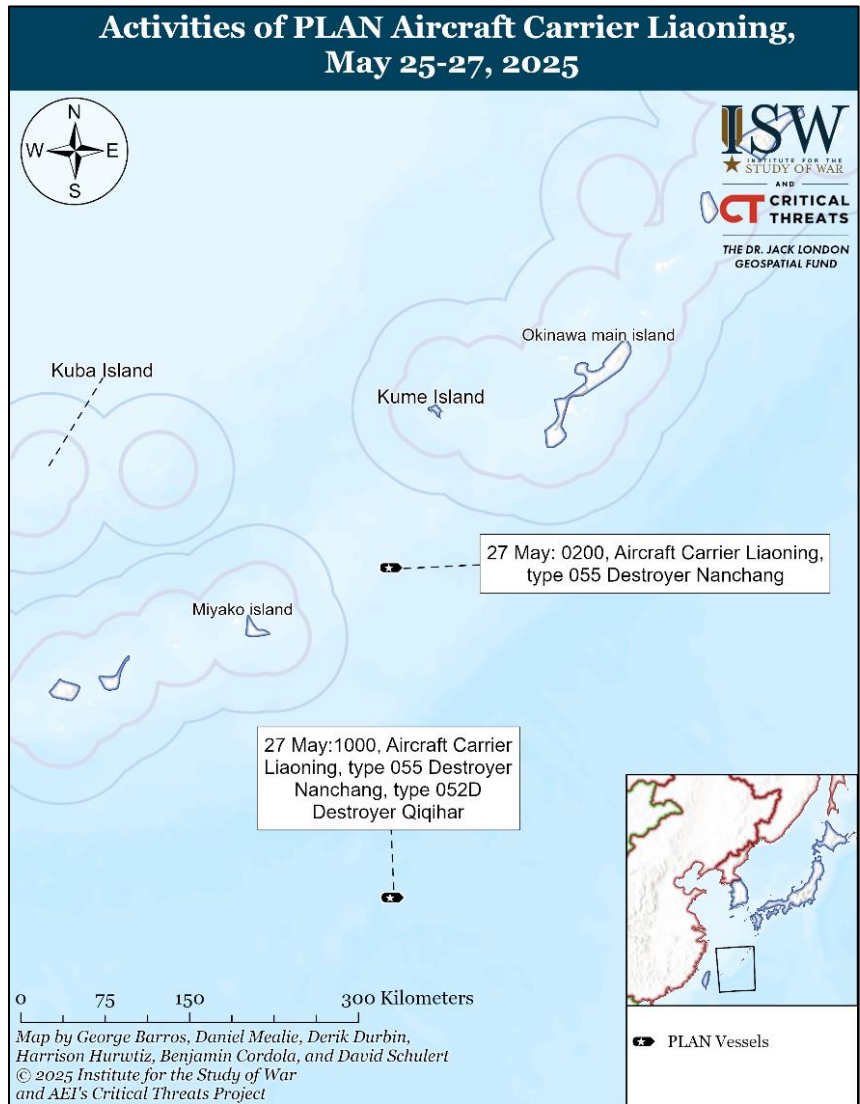
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INDOPACOM

ISW: CHINA-TAIWAN UPDATE

Key Takeaways:

- **PRC:** The PRC condemned the U.S. Golden Dome space defense project for undermining global stability, despite the fact that the PRC has similarly invested in developing its military capabilities in space. The PRC has continued to exploit U.S. tariffs to portray itself as a global champion of multilateralism and to build its own economic relations, including with major multinational blocs, such as the European Union.
- **Taiwan:** Taiwan's Coast Guard Administration (CGA) stated that an increase in illegal border crossings by PRC nationals may be a form of cognitive warfare to undermine Taiwanese confidence in its coastal defenses. Taiwan's plan to establish drone units is a significant step in its military modernization. Taiwan's development of denial-focused capabilities improves its overall ability to deter and repel a PRC invasion.
- **Japan:** A PLA Navy flotilla led by aircraft carrier Liaoning operated approximately 200 km north of the Senkaku Islands between 25-26 May. This is the first time that Japan has reported PLA carrier-based aerial operations in the East China Sea. The Japan Coast Guard (JCC) reported a PRC maritime research vessel conducting unknown activities within Japan's claimed economic exclusive zone (EEZ) around the Okinotori Island.



- **North Korea:** North Korea fired cruise missiles a day after its new destroyer sank to signal its military development and war preparedness despite the failed launch. South Korea arrested several North Korean defectors and South Korean nationals for espionage and money laundering for North Korea. North Korea exploits South Korean nationals and defectors to support its own foreign policy and economic interests.
- **South Korea:** Democratic Party (DP) candidate Lee Jae-myung remains the frontrunner of the South Korean presidential election set for 3 June. He is likely to pursue engagement with North Korea and cooperation with the PRC. The PLA obtained classified U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) operational plans through a PRC collaborator within the South Korean military between August 2024 and April 2025. The PRC declared no-sail zones within the PRC-South Korea provisional measures zone (PMZ) in the Yellow Sea. The PRC may be seeking to exercise full control over the surrounding waters.

TWZ: NEW KJ-3000 AEW&C AIRCRAFT SEEN IN DETAIL IN NEW IMAGE



New imagery has emerged of China's new heavyweight airborne early warning and control (AEW&C) platform, the KJ-3000. Based on the four-jet Y-20 cargo plane, the KJ-3000 is part of a fast-expanding and diversifying fleet of Chinese AEW&C aircraft, which also includes multiple iterations based on the four-turboprop Y-9 series of airlifters.

The latest imagery shows the KJ-3000 on the ground at an undisclosed airfield in China. The aircraft still wears a primer coat, and the serial number 7821 is clearly visible on the forward fuselage — as far as is known, this is the only example completed so far. Although the aircraft is partially obscured, we can see the

characteristic large circular radome on top of the rear fuselage. The KJ-3000 is also fitted with an aerial refueling probe mounted above the cockpit, and there is a prominent series of antennas arranged on top of the forward fuselage. Compared to the Y-20, the aircraft also features a very prominent intake at the base of the tailfin, likely a ram-air inlet to cool the extensive onboard electronics.

the KJ-3000, with its efficient engines and in-flight refueling capability, should offer plenty of advantages in terms of range, and on-station time be able to fly at higher altitudes to provide a better perch for its radar. This is very important, especially for providing 'look down' capability to spot and track low-flying aircraft and missiles that radars down below might not be able to 'see' due to terrain and other factors.

NEWSWEEK: U.S. ALLY LOOKS TO BUY CHINESE J-35 STEALTH JETS

Egypt, traditionally a U.S. ally, could be seeking to acquire Chinese J-35 fighter jets, according to aviation and defense outlets. Egyptian Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Abdel Gawad has reportedly shown interest in China's J-35 stealth fighter, according to the Belgian-based *Army Recognition Group*, which specializes in military analysis. Retired Egyptian Army Major General Sayed Ghoneim, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi-based Institute for Global Security and Defense Affairs (IGSDA), was seen inspecting a model of a J-35 during an event earlier this month marking 45 years of military ties with China.



This move could also be aimed at pressuring the U.S. to be more flexible with Egypt's requests for advanced fighter jets—especially given Washington's disregard for Egypt's security concerns during Israel's recent war on Gaza, and its insistence that its weapons not be used by any country against U.S. allies," Ghoneim told *Newsweek*.

Ghoneim said of possible moves to acquire J-35s: "could reduce the share of American weaponry in the Egyptian military—a shift that might ripple across other markets in the region and beyond, as Egypt is considered a key reference point for countries assessing the quality of global weapons systems. This was evident with Egypt's acquisition of the French Rafale, and especially in light of its openness to importing arms from other countries such as South Korea and Germany, as well as purchasing components from various other sources."

REUTERS: CHINA'S MOST ADVANCED BOMBERS SEEN ON DISPUTED SOUTH CHINA SEA ISLAND



Satellite imagery shows China landed two of its most advanced bombers in the disputed Paracel islands in the South China Sea this month - a gesture that some analysts described as Beijing's latest signaling of its growing military capabilities to rivals. The deployment marks the first time the long-range H-6 bombers have landed on Woody Island in the Paracels since 2020, and the movement of the now upgraded aircraft comes amid tensions with the Philippines, operations near Taiwan and ahead of the region's biggest defense forum this weekend.

Images provided to Reuters by Maxar Technologies show two H-6 bombers on a runway on Woody Island on May 19. Another Maxar image on the same date shows two Y-20 transport aircraft and a KJ-500 early warning plane.

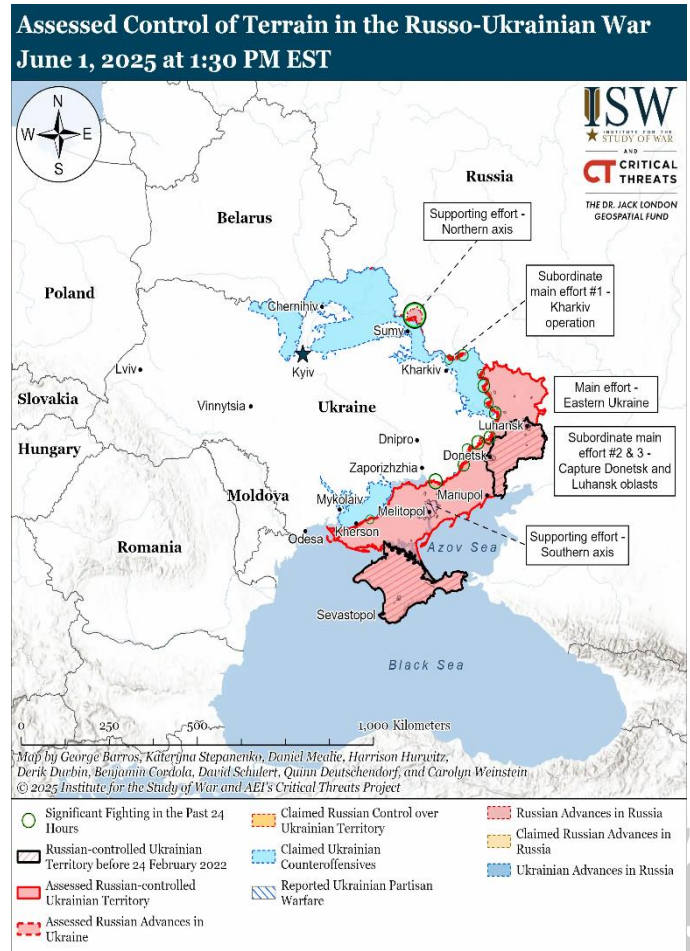
China's Southern Theatre Command, which covers the South China Sea, maintains two regiments of the bombers, according to the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies. The bombers are generally kept at heavily fortified bases on the Chinese mainland, where they would have more protection in a conflict from U.S. attacks in conflict scenarios.

EUCOM

ISW: RUSSIA-UKRAINE UPDATE

Key Takeaways:

- Ukraine conducted a large-scale and simultaneous series of drone strikes against multiple air bases in Russia on June.
- Ukraine continues to innovate its drone technology and tactics to achieve operational surprise and successfully target Russian military infrastructure in the rear.
- Ukraine's drone strike operation against strategic Russian aircraft may at least temporarily constrain Russia's ability to conduct long-range drone and missile strikes into Ukraine.
- Russia will likely struggle to replace the aircraft that Ukrainian forces damaged and destroyed.
- Russian officials and milbloggers continue to blame Russian leadership for failing to defend Russian military infrastructure from Ukrainian drone strikes — a widespread complaint throughout the war after successful Ukrainian strikes.
- Russian state media and milbloggers attempted to frame Ukraine's strikes against legitimate Russian military targets as undermining Russia's nuclear stability and as grounds



for a Russian nuclear response – mirroring the Kremlin's repeated nuclear saber-rattling throughout the war that has aimed to prevent Western support for Ukraine.

- Russian officials blamed Ukraine for the collapse of two bridges and subsequent train derailments in western Russia on 31 May, likely as part of efforts to justify the recent launch of Russian offensive operations in Sumy Oblast and the Kremlin's disinterest in peace negotiations to end the war.
- Russian forces conducted their largest combined drone and missile strike of the war that included over 400 drones against Ukraine on the night of 31 May to 1 June.
- Ukrainian Ground Forces Commander Mykhailo Drapatyi submitted his resignation following a Russian missile strike on a Ukrainian training unit on 1 June.
- Russian forces continue to adapt their strike packages in an effort to overwhelm Ukrainian air defenses.
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky established a delegation to participate in peace negotiations to end the war as Russian officials continue to flout their own proposed negotiation mechanisms.
- Russian forces recently advanced in Sumy Oblast and near Toretsk.

TWZ: RUSSIAN STRATEGIC BOMBERS DESTROYED IN WIDE-SCALE DRONE ATTACK



Ukraine carried out a massive drone strike at airbases across Russia on Sunday, claiming to have destroyed dozens of aircraft. There are also indications that Russia's Northern Fleet headquarters, home of Russian nuclear submarines, was attacked as well. The operation, codenamed "Web," targeted four key Russian airbases: Belaya, Diaghilevo, Olenya and Ivanovo. Overall, the attack was clearly aimed at Russia's most prized strategic aerial assets, which cannot be replaced quickly in any manner and doing so at all would be extremely expensive. "The Security Service of Ukraine is conducting a large-scale special operation to destroy bomber aircraft in the rear of the Russian Federation,"

The fires "have been extinguished," the MoD added. "There are no casualties among military personnel or civilians. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky "personally supervised the operation, and Vasyl Malyuk and the SBU team implemented the plan. "SBU drones have hit more than 40 aircraft, including A-50, Tu-95 and Tu-22 M3, causing damage of over \$2 billion."

One year, six months, and nine days from the start of planning to effective execution. Our most long-range operation. Our people involved in preparing the operation were withdrawn from Russian territory in time. The large-scale attack comes ahead of a scheduled meeting in Istanbul that is part of ongoing peace talks. "We are doing everything to protect our independence, our state, and our people," Zelensky said on X. "I outlined the tasks for the near term and also defined our positions ahead of the meeting in Istanbul on Monday. First – a full and unconditional ceasefire. Second – the release of prisoners. Third – the return of abducted children.

BBC: GERMAN CHANCELLOR PROMISES TO HELP UKRAINE PRODUCE LONG-RANGE MISSILES



Germany's new chancellor, Friedrich Merz, has told Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky that Berlin will help Kyiv produce long-range missiles to defend itself from Russian attack. Merz took office earlier this month, promising to beef up German support for Ukraine, and said this week that there were "no longer" any range restrictions on weapons supplied by Kyiv's Western allies.

The Kremlin has warned that any decision to end range restrictions on the missiles that Ukraine can use would be a quite dangerous change in policy that would harm efforts to reach a political deal. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov suggested on Wednesday that a date for further talks would be announced in the "very near future" but made clear that Moscow was looking to guarantee Ukraine's "neutral, non-aligned and non-nuclear status".

The war, now into its fourth year, has claimed tens of thousands of lives and left much of Ukraine's east and south in ruins. Moscow controls roughly one-fifth of the country's territory, including Crimea, which it annexed in 2014.

Zelensky has accused Moscow of delaying the peace process and said they are yet to deliver a promised memorandum of peace terms following talks in Istanbul. Peskov insisted the document was in its "final stages."

ARMYRECOGNITIONGROUP: UKRAINE STRENGTHENS ITS AIR DEFENSE WITH 4 NEW GERMAN IRIS-T SYSTEMS.

According to official information published on Telegram by the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense on 28 May, Ukraine has signed a strategic arms agreement with the German company Diehl Defense for the production and delivery of IRIS-T air defense systems, with a total value of 2.2 billion euros. The contract was signed in Berlin by Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov during the official visit of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Germany. The announcement was accompanied by a statement from the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, highlighting the importance of this agreement in the context of the ongoing conflict with Russia.

The contract includes the provision of four complete IRIS-T SL systems, which comprise launchers, multifunctional radars, command units, and associated missiles. The IRIS-T SL system, specifically in its medium-range SLM variant, has already become a key component of Ukraine's air defense network since its first deployment in 2022. Designed to counter a wide range of aerial threats, including fighter jets, cruise missiles, and drones, the system has demonstrated high operational effectiveness during large-scale attacks targeting critical infrastructure.



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Ukrainian armed forces report an interception rate nearing 99 percent for the deployed SLM systems, with performance confirmed in saturation scenarios. In one incident, an IRIS-T SLM battery reportedly neutralized 15 cruise missiles in a single engagement, highlighting both the system's multi-target capability and the reliability of its sensors and fire control software. These results, broadcast by Армія TV and corroborated by personnel operating the systems, led the Ministry of Defense to expand its procurement.

CENTCOM

ISW: CENTCOM UPDATE

Key Takeaways:

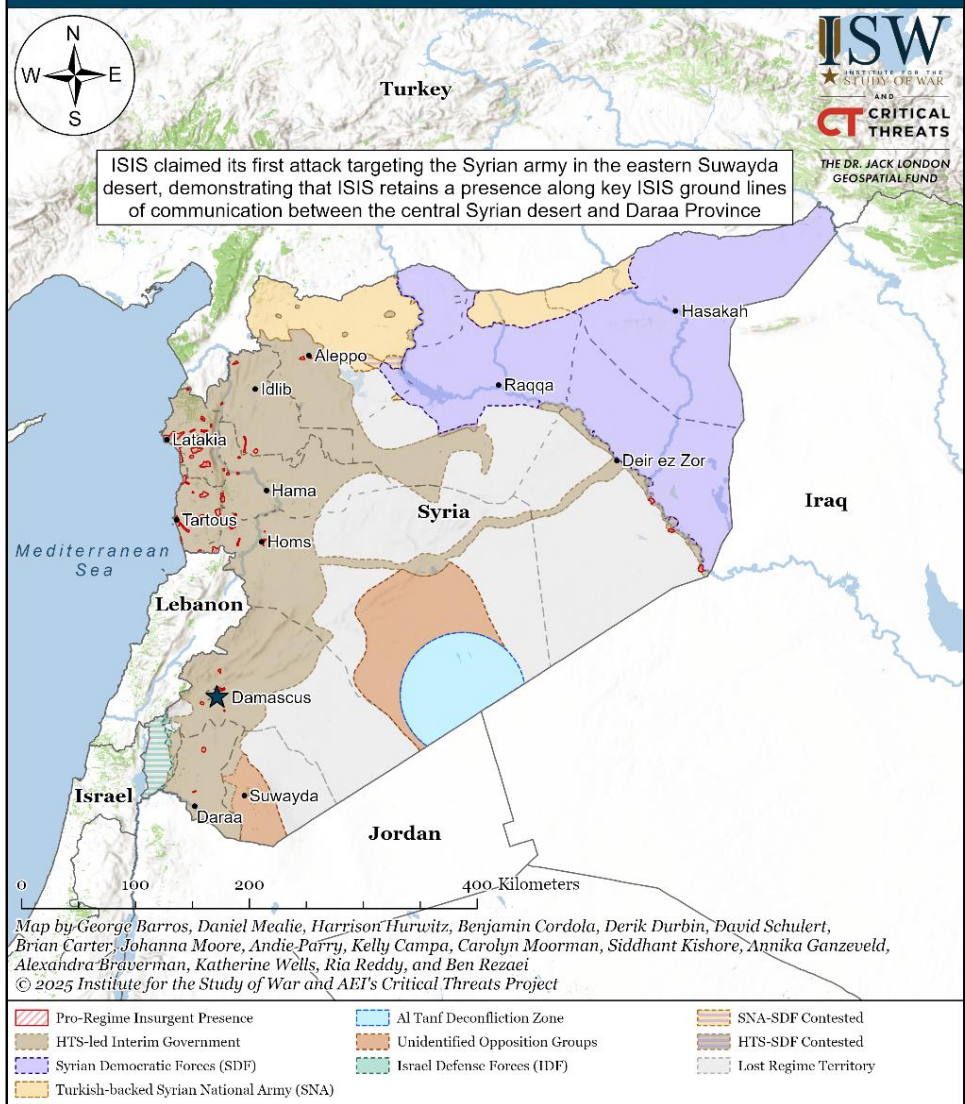
- ISIS Activity in Syria:** The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) conducted two attacks in late May 2025 targeting transitional government forces in eastern Suwayda Province, demonstrating that ISIS retains a presence along ground lines of communication (GLOC) between the central Syrian desert and southern Syria. ISIS fighters detonated improvised explosive devices (IEDs) targeting Syrian Ministry of Defense (MoD) vehicles in separate attacks in Tulul al Safa on May 22 and 28. These IED attacks are the first attacks that ISIS has claimed in southern Syria since 2023 and the first attacks that ISIS has claimed against the Syrian transitional government. ISIS has probably maintained attack cells in southern Syria and along the GLOCs leading to central Syria since 2023 despite the lack of attacks.

- Cooperation Between Iran, Russia, and China:** Iran continues to coordinate with China and Russia on nuclear and economic issues, which illustrates cooperation between major U.S. adversaries. Russia has opposed stated U.S. objectives in the nuclear negotiations by supporting Iran's "right" to enrich uranium.

Russian Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, stated on May 30 that the U.S.-Iran nuclear negotiations may "require" another round of trilateral deputy-level consultations between Iran, China, and Russia. The Iranian, Chinese, and Russian permanent representatives to the UN reportedly met on May 29 to coordinate positions on the U.S.-Iran nuclear negotiations.

- Gulf Countries' Concerns about Regional Escalation:** Gulf leaders are reportedly urging Iran and the United States to conclude a nuclear deal. Gulf countries likely support a U.S.-Iran nuclear agreement because they are concerned that the collapse of the U.S.-Iran nuclear negotiations could trigger a potential U.S. or Israeli strike on Iran, which could in turn prompt an Iranian retaliation against Gulf states or oil trade routes. Saudi, Emirati, and Qatari leaders reportedly urged U.S. President Donald Trump to prioritize a nuclear agreement with Iran and prevent military escalation during Trump's recent Gulf visit in mid-May, according to three sources speaking to Axios on May 29. Unspecified sources similarly told Reuters on May 30 that Saudi Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman told Iranian leaders in April 2025 to "seriously" consider Trump's proposal for a nuclear deal. Gulf countries may be concerned that Iran would attack U.S. bases or energy infrastructure in the Gulf or close the Strait of Hormuz in retaliation for a U.S. or Israeli strike on Iran.

Assessed Control of Terrain in Syria May 30, 2025 at 2:00 PM EST



ARMYRECOGNITIONGROUP: IRAN INTEGRATES THREE VTOL DRONES TO STRENGTHEN ITS MILITARY



The Iranian Army officially introduced three newly developed vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drones during a ceremony held on May 22, 2025, at the Army's drone and aviation base in the southeastern city of Zahedan. These drones, named Homa, Dideban (meaning "Watchdog"), and Shahin-1 ("Falcon-1")

The Homa drone is designed to operate at a maximum altitude of over 12,000 feet (3,657 meters). It is capable of carrying out various reconnaissance missions, particularly in electronic warfare environments. The Dideban drone is notable for its lightweight and portable construction specifically designed for reconnaissance and target acquisition missions while having the ability to operate in swarms, allowing multiple drones to monitor and engage different areas simultaneously.

Shahin-1, a first-person view (FPV) suicide drone characterized by high speed, maneuverability, extended flight endurance, and altitude adaptability depending on mission requirements. It is intended to strike both fixed and mobile targets quickly and accurately.

Iranian authorities have consistently reiterated that enhancing their military capabilities, including missile technology, remains a defensive priority and will not be subject to negotiation. The Iranian Army's acquisition of the Homa, Dideban, and Shahin-1 drones represents a significant step in advancing its technological self-reliance. By incorporating these modern platforms into its arsenal, Iran aims to develop weapon systems that meet current operational realities while reinforcing its commitment to defending national interests with domestically developed means.

NEWSWEEK: NATO ALLY GAINS GROUND WITH STEALTH JET RIVALING U.S.

Turkey's first homegrown fifth-generation fighter plane, KAAN, from Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI), is generating increased global attention and buying interest, according to defense publications. Turkey's exclusion from the F-35 program in 2019 over its purchase of Russian S-400s accelerated its drive for strategic autonomy and potential competition with the U.S.-made F-35 and F-22. Turkey is already becoming an increasingly important exporter of drones.

According to TAI's website, KAAN achieves air superiority with long-range strikes, internal weapons, supersonic speed, and artificial intelligence enhanced combat power. It performed its maiden flight in February 2024. Turkey's new fighter aircraft aims at replacing the Turkish Air Force's aging F-16s starting in the 2030s.



Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, and Indonesia have shown interest in the KAAN fighter jet program, Mehmet Demiroglu, CEO of Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI), announced said this week that both Saudi Arabia and the UAE have shown interest in the KAAN fighter jet project. While Saudi Arabia may be looking to acquire 100 jets, the UAE's interest lies in the program itself, with potential for joint platform development.

CYBERCOM

CYBERSECURITYNEWS: HACKERS ALLEGEDLY CLAIM AT&T DATA LEAK

A threat actor has allegedly leaked sensitive data belonging to telecommunications giant AT&T, claiming to possess 31 million customer records totaling 3.1GB of information available in both JSON and CSV formats. The alleged breach was posted on a prominent dark web forum in late May 2025, raising concerns about the security of customer data at one of America's largest telecommunications providers.

The compromised dataset allegedly includes full customer names, genders, dates of birth, tax identification numbers, device IDs, cookie IDs, IP addresses, complete physical addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.



Cybersecurity monitoring platform DarkEye detected the alleged breach and reported that the data is being distributed in structured formats commonly used for data analysis and exploitation by malicious actors. The combination of tax IDs, device identifiers, and personal information could enable identity theft, financial fraud, and sophisticated social engineering attacks.

CYBERSECURITYNEWS: IRIANIAN CYBER TOUFAN HACKERS TARGETING ORGANIZATIONS



CYBER TOUFAN

Politically motivated threat actors launching sophisticated campaigns against Israeli organizations and their international partners. Among the most prominent of these groups is Cyber Toufan, an Iranian-linked hacktivist collective whose name translates to “cyber storm” in Arabic, signaling their ideological alignment with regional tensions and their destructive intentions.

Since late 2023, Cyber Toufan has claimed responsibility for over 100 successful breaches across multiple sectors against government agencies, defense contractors, financial institutions, and critical infrastructure providers.

This group operates with clear political objectives designed to disrupt, destabilize, and inflict

reputational damage on entities connected to Israel's economy and security apparatus.

The group has demonstrated remarkable success by targeting organizations whose VPN or firewall infrastructure is managed by third-party service providers, particularly those using services from companies like Bezeq and Partner.

Cyber Toufan's reconnaissance phase involves comprehensive mapping of external attack surfaces, specifically targeting organizations with exposed servers, firewall interfaces, and VPN administrative panels. Once inside target networks, the attackers conduct systematic internal scanning to locate machines with exposed and unprotected SMB shares, often encountering configurations with no password enforcement or weak credential protection. The exfiltration phase operates with strategic timing, as stolen data is often extracted via SMB or remote administrative tools, staged in compressed archives, and transferred over encrypted channels.

THEHACKERNEWS: CHINESE APT41 EXPLOITS GOOGLE CALENDER

Google on Wednesday disclosed that the Chinese state-sponsored threat actor known as APT41 leveraged a malware called TOUGHPROGRESS that uses Google Calendar for command-and-control (C2). Google discovered the activity in late October 2024, said the malware was hosted on a compromised government website and was used to target multiple other government entities. "Misuse of cloud services for C2 is a technique that many threat actors leverage in order to blend in with legitimate activity,"

The latest attack chain involves sending spear-phishing emails containing a link to a ZIP archive that's hosted on the exploited government website. The ZIP file includes a directory and a Windows shortcut (LNK) that masquerades as a PDF document. The infection begins when the LNK file is launched, causing a decoy PDF to be presented to the recipient stating the species pulled from the directory need to be declared for export. However, it's worth noting that "6.jpg" and "7.jpg" are fake images."

The malware consists of three distinct components, each of which are deployed in series and are designed to carry out a specific function - PLUSDROP, the DLL used to decrypt and execute the next-stage in memory; PLUSINJECT, which launches and performs process hollowing on a legitimate "svchost.exe" process to inject the final payload; TOUGHPROGRESS, the primary malware that uses Google Calendar for C2. The malware is designed to read and write events with an attacker-controlled Google Calendar, creating a zero-minute event at a hard-coded date (2023-05-30) in order to store the harvested data in the event description.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



AFMC A2: World Threat Brief CAO: 16 April 2024

<https://usaf.dps.mil/sites/22244/SitePages/Command-Intel-Threat-Brief.aspx>



China Aerospace Studies Institute: CASI supports the Secretary of the Air Force, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other senior leaders of the Air and Space Forces. CASI provides expert research and analysis supporting decision and policy makers in the Department of Defense and across the U.S. government.

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/>



Research and Development Corporation (RAND): RAND is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization that provides leaders with the information they need to make evidence-based decisions.

<https://www.rand.org/>



Institute for the Study of War: The Institute for the Study of War (ISW) is a non-partisan, non-profit, public policy research organization. ISW advances an informed understanding of military affairs through reliable research, trusted analysis, and innovative education.

<https://www.understandingwar.org/>



Stockholm International Peace Research Institute: SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.

<https://www.sipri.org/>



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<https://worldview.stratfor.com/>



Defense Intelligence Agency Military Power Publications: an intelligence agency and combat support agency of the United States Department of Defense, specializing in defense and military intelligence.

<https://www.dia.mil/Military-Power-Publications/>



Perun: An Australian covering the military industrial complex and national military investment strategy.

<https://www.youtube.com/@PerunAU>



Task & Purpose: Chris Cappy is a former US Army infantryman and Iraq Veteran. I cover geopolitics, history, weapon systems and all things military related — I do this from a veteran's perspective.

<https://www.youtube.com/@Taskandpurpose>



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<https://www.csis.org/>



FRONTLINE examines the rise of Xi Jinping, his vision for China and the global implications. Correspondent Martin Smith traces the defining moments for President Xi, how he's exercising power and his impact on China, and relations with the U.S. and the world.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/china-the-u-s-the-rise-of-xi-jinping/>