



CARMA NEWS BRIEF

Defence Media Roundup

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Welcome to the first edition of CARMA's Defence Media Roundup. We bring you the top news in the defence industry, curated by our sector experts.

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Notable Stories

UK Defence Spending and the Role of Private Defence Firms



The media is presenting two contrasting perspectives on UK defence spending. One side emphasizes the necessity of defence spending, highlighting the UK Prime Minister's recent order for artillery shells and his call for increased NATO defence spending. The other side questions the efficiency of this spending, citing a thinktank report that suggests billions of taxpayer pounds are being used to subsidize private defence firms, which despite significant state support, have reportedly failed to deliver on government work. [Daily Mirror](#) , [The Guardian](#)

Why it matters

Media narratives on UK defence spending are twofold. One emphasizes the necessity of defence spending for security, highlighting recent orders and calls for increased NATO contributions. The other raises concerns about the efficiency and transparency of this spending, suggesting significant taxpayer funds are subsidizing private defence firms, which have reportedly underdelivered. This dichotomy underscores the complex debate surrounding defence spending and the role of private firms.

U.S, NATO, and Ukraine's Ammunition Challenge

Ukraine finds itself grappling with a significant ammunition challenge amidst a counter offensive against Russia. NATO and the US are grappling to meet Ukraine's demands for artillery ammunition, with the media spotlighting the decision to supply controversial cluster munitions. [CNN](#)



Why it matters

Media coverage highlights the challenges faced by the US and NATO in supporting Ukraine, with a focus on the ammunition shortage. This situation underscores the conflict's severity, potential implications, and the subsequent demand for defence products. It also emphasizes the difficulties in rapidly increasing production.

Escalation of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict and the Role of NATO



The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has taken a new turn with Moscow launching drone attacks on Kyiv. The media highlighted the meeting and discussions of the NATO-Ukraine Council attended by United States president Joe Biden, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at the NATO summit in Lithuania. [Al Jazeera](#)

Why it matters

The media spotlight on the NATO-Ukraine Council meeting underscores NATO's potential role in the conflict. The participation of key figures and comments from top officials indicate the issue's gravity at the highest diplomatic levels.

Notable Quotes & Commentary

" This multimillion-pound investment will enable us to significantly ramp up production and sustain vital sovereign capability to deliver cutting-edge munitions, whilst creating and sustaining highly skilled jobs across the UK." [BBC](#)

Charles Woodburn – CEO at BAE Systems

" As Anna Stavrianakis says in the piece: Arms companies are officially private companies, but they are supported by the state in a way no other sector is." [Twitter](#)

Khem Rogaly – Researcher at Common Wealth Think Tank

" Biden ultimately ordered the Pentagon to work rapidly to scale up the ability of the United States to produce all the ammunition we could ever need for any conflict at any time. " [CNN](#)

Jake Sullivan – United States National Security Advisor

" There is a slight word of caution here, which whether we like it or not, people want to see gratitude. " [Daily Mirror](#)

Ben Wallace – UK Defence Secretary, commenting on Ukraine's demand for weapons.

In Case You Missed It

BAE Systems' Innovation in Drone Technology

Designed by BAE Systems' subsidiary Prismatic Ltd, BAE Systems has successfully launched PHASA-35, a solar-powered drone capable of operating in the stratosphere for up to 20 months. The successful maiden voyage of PHASA-35 signifies a major advancement in drone technology. [Daily Mail](#)

The UK's Investment in Space Education and Industry

The UK's Department for Education recently announced a new Space Systems Engineer degree apprenticeship, developed in collaboration with the University of Leicester and leading businesses including Airbus. This initiative aims to equip students with the necessary skills to work in the UK's growing space sector without incurring tuition fees. [The Independent](#)

Defence Industry Contributions and Senator Jon Tester's Re-election Campaign

Democratic Senator Jon Tester of Montana, who is seeking re-election, has reportedly received over \$160,000 in campaign contributions from employees and committees representing the defence industry. This is despite his 2006 victory, which was partly based on criticizing his Republican opponent's close ties to lobbyists. [AP News](#)

Godrej Aerospace's Expansion Plans

Godrej Aerospace, an Indian company, is in talks to build aircraft parts for suppliers to Airbus and Boeing. This move comes as airlines place record jet orders, creating a need for increased supply chain capacity. [Reuters](#)

Changes in the US Space Defence Sector and Lockheed Martin's Involvement

The Space Force's plan to reduce the number of Next-Generation Overhead Persistent Infrared satellites has raised concerns among lawmakers. These satellites, built by Lockheed Martin, are crucial for identifying ballistic missiles from polar and geosynchronous orbits. [Defense News](#)

Thales' £169m Submarine Defence Contract

In Scotland, Thales Glasgow received a £169m contract to continue their century-long tradition of building periscopes for Royal Navy submarines. [BBC](#)

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