

US Navy tests aquatic and aerial drones in Bahrain

● US Navy intends to create a 100-vessel unmanned surface fleet by the end of next summer

● US will contribute 20 of the 100 such vessels, with the rest coming from regional allies

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Several unmanned boats sailed through waters off Bahrain yesterday carrying onboard aerial drones, which would eventually patrol the Middle East waterways, *Stars and Stripes* reported.

As boats with observers approached the drones out at sea, the vessels' artificial intelligence alerted contractors and sailors at Task Force 59's robotics operations centre at NSA Bahrain.

Some drone boats, the report said, can identify objects in the water and spot suspicious behaviour. This capability allows humans to focus on priority threats, Navy Capt. Michael Brasseur, the commodore of Task Force 59, said.



Unmanned ships with green boxes containing aerial drones. Courtesy of Stripes



Sailors with the Navy's Task Force 59 launch a drone boat



The unmanned vessel Ocean AeroTriton



The Seasats X3



An unmanned ship in Bahrain



A Saildrone Explorer

Stripes.com reports that the US Navy intends to create a 100-vessel unmanned surface fleet by the end of next summer.

The US will contribute 20 of the 100 such vessels, with the rest coming from regional allies.

Yesterday's sail was part of a three-week training event dubbed Digital Horizon, which started last week, and features 15 types of unmanned systems, 10

of which are new to the Navy in the region, *Stripes* report quoting service officials said.

"This is a notable influx of new systems that 5th Fleet hasn't worked with before, especially at one time," Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins, Naval Forces Central Command and 5th Fleet spokesman, said.

"This event, we haven't done something like this yet, but

we've been building up to it."

Reports had said that the US Navy aims to rely more on unmanned vessels to help patrol Middle East waterways, and for which created Task Force 59 last year to focus on integrating drones and AI into 5th Fleet operations.

Over the past year, Task Force 59 operated unmanned surface ships in the Middle East for

more than 25,000 hours, a Naval Forces Central Command statement said.

Some of the vessels known as Saildrone Explorers have operated at sea for as long as 220 consecutive days, the NAVCENT statement said.

The Digital Horizon exercise includes three aerial drones to be tested in the Middle East for the first time.



Iranian navy warship had pulled two US sail drones completely out of the water in September this year and then covered them with tarps. Iran initially denied having any US property before returning them to the US warships that converged on the scene

Aerovel's Flexrotor and Shield AI's V-BAT each have vertical takeoff and landing systems. The other is tethered on a cable and can operate in harsh environments, *Stripes* said, quoting a Navy statement.

One aquatic drone, the Ocean Aero Triton, can operate for eight days at a time as a submarine and three months as a surface vessel.

The Triton's sail rotated up and down Thursday as the company representative demonstrated how the drone could go underwater within minutes if it detects a threat.

Bahrain migrated 72 government agencies to cloud: iGA

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Bahrain migrated 70% of the operations and systems of

72 government agencies to AWS within three years, revealed Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA).

Bahrain, iGA Deputy CE, Operation & Governance Dr Khalid Almutawah said, has also completed the total migration of

operations for 23 governmental and non-governmental entities to the cloud.

The authority, he said, also helped four newly established government agencies launch their cloud-based technical infrastructure.

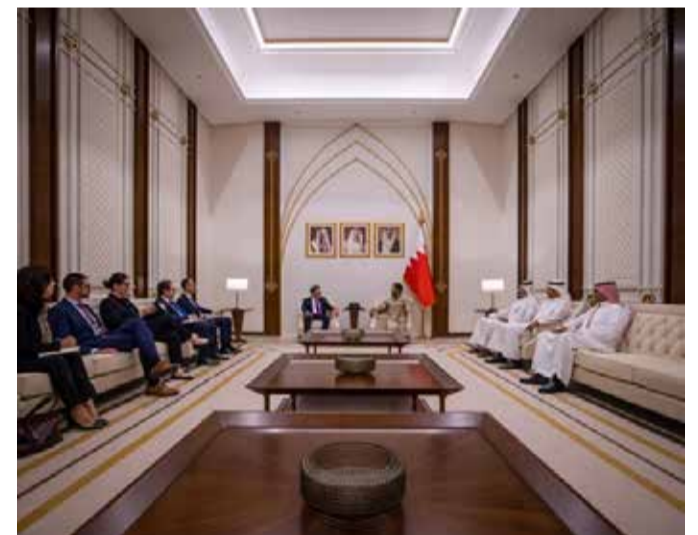
Dr Almutawah was speaking as he highlighted Bahrain's cloud migration experience at Amazon Web Services (AWS) 're:Invent 2022' conference, held in Las Vegas, USA, from November 28 to December 2, 2022. Director, Government Systems Support & Maintenance, Hesham Ebrahim Al-Hashemi was also present.

The event saw best practices and the latest cloud computing technologies discussed during more than 1,500 sessions.

Discussions focused on cloud architecture, data architecture, improving infrastructure operating methods, cloud migration methods, machine learning, and more.



iGA Deputy CE, Operation & Governance Dr. Khalid Almutawah



National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, Major-General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa received Counselor of the United States Department of State Chollet Derek. HH praised the level of cooperation between Bahrain and the United States and affirmed the effectiveness of the strategic partnership between the two countries as well as their commitment to consolidating the foundations of security and peace in the region.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received a letter from the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, pertaining to the friendship and cooperation relations between the two countries. Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, was handed over the letter by the Riyadh-resident Azeri Ambassador to Bahrain, Shahin Abdullayev. They discussed ways to bolster relations between the two friendly countries in order to serve common interests.

In accordance with Article 50 of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law promulgated by Law No, (64) of 2006, as amended, HSBC Bank Middle East Limited Wholesale Branch in the Kingdom of Bahrain licensed by Central Bank of Bahrain, registered under commercial registration number 10281-1 hereby declares its intention to stop providing wholesale banking services.

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