

US, UAE launch AI Military Task Force

● **Historic initiative aims to integrate advanced AI capabilities into military operations**

TDT | agencies

U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) announced an agreement with the United Arab Emirates to establish the first bilateral task force dedicated to accelerating the development and deployment of military artificial intelligence (AI) applications.

Named Task Force Talon Synapse, the initiative is expected to officially launch in the coming weeks. The Abu Dhabi-based team will include around 20 American and Emirati specialists with expertise in artificial intelligence, data technologies and cybersecurity.

"This will be a historic milestone as we work with one of our most capable regional partners to rapidly deliver evolving AI advancements to our warfighters," said Adm. Brad Cooper, CENTCOM commander.

He added that the United States and the UAE share a commitment to adopting AI technologies that promote innovation "at speed and scale."

The task force's formation follows discussions last year between Adm. Cooper and UAE National Security Advisor Shaikh Tahnoon bin Zayed



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- ADM. BRAD COOPER, CENTCOM COMMANDER

Al Nahyan on the possibility of creating a dedicated AI cooperation initiative.

CENTCOM officials also held discussions with artificial intelligence industry leaders and Emirati defence officials during a recent regional visit to advance the project.

The task force will focus on integrating AI solutions to support intelligence operations, strengthen the protection of critical infrastructure, and enhance monitoring of the regional security environment.

The initiative marks a significant step in expanding US-UAE defence cooperation and reflects growing efforts by both countries to leverage emerging technologies in military and security operations.



Boeing reports loss on costs from US presidential plane

AFP | New York, United States

Boeing reported a bigger-than-expected loss Tuesday fuelled by \$280 million in additional costs in outfitting two US presidential planes, but said broad-based revenue growth showed progress after several troubled years.

The US aerospace giant scored an eight percent increase in revenues to \$24.6 billion on increased commercial plane deliveries and higher volume in defense, space and security.

Boeing reported a second-quarter loss of \$428 million, smaller than in the year-ago period, but bigger

than projected by analysts.

The results included \$280 million in losses on the VC-25B program for the presidential plane, Air Force One, which has been beset by delays and cost overruns.

The latest Air Force One expenses are for "additional production and certification resources," Boeing said in its earnings press release. The original 2018 contract was to modify and outfit two 747-8 aircraft for presidential use.

Boeing described certification efforts for new 737 MAX and 777 planes as on track with US air regulators. Boeing has said the first of these planes -- the 737 MAX 7 -- as in the "last throes" of the process.

FIRES IN EUROPE: LATEST KEY UPDATES

1 SPAIN: TIDE TURNING

SPAIN ENDS SOME EVACUATION ORDERS
Spain has ended evacuation orders for 13 municipalities in two areas hit by wildfires, starting from 5:00 pm (15:00 GMT) yesterday, the interior ministry said.

SANCHEZ SAYS TIDE TURNING
Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Tuesday firefighters were starting to see "light at the end of the tunnel" in their battle against some of the worst forest fires in the country's history.

NEW SPANISH HEATWAVE
Spain's AEMET meteorological agency officially declared a new heatwave would begin on Wednesday, lasting until the end of the week.

2 FRANCE: CAUTIOUS RELIEF

SOME EVACUEES RETURN
People who had to flee the French villages of Haillan, Merignac and Eysines near Bordeaux because of a massive wildfire have been allowed to return home. But the authorities said they could only do so if they were prepared to leave again.

4,000 ORDERED OFF CAMPSITES
France earlier evacuated 4,000 people from campsites west of Bordeaux as a precautionary measure ahead of what officials termed a "weather event" in the afternoon.

WEATHER RISK REMAINS HIGH
National weather office MétéoFrance forecast a rise in temperatures inland up to 35°C later on Tuesday, with ocean winds from the west that could fan the flames. Wednesday is expected to bring temperatures of 40°C, with lighter, dry winds.

FRENCH FIRE STABLE, BUT ALERT
The huge fire raging in France's southwestern Gironde region has "stabilised... meaning it is not advancing", regional prefect Sophie Brocas told reporters. But she said officials have counted 14 blazes around it that have reignited.

3 EU & REGION: WIDER IMPACT

EU WARNS FIRE RISK SHIFTING
The European Union has deployed firefighting aircraft to France and Spain, but its crisis management chief told AFP that resources were stretched.

PORTUGAL FACES NEW FIRES
Yesterday, several fires broke out in northern and central Portugal, with over 1,000 firefighters and other professionals fighting the flames, supported by around 20 planes and helicopters, civil protection services said.

Netanyahu visits White House for first Trump talks during Iran war

● **The meeting is the eighth between the leaders since Trump's return to office in early 2025**

● **Upon arriving in Washington, Netanyahu attended a private memorial dinner.**

AFP | Washington, United States



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) meeting with US President Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington DC

Israel says US bombers used its bases

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli defence minister Israel Katz yesterday said that American warplanes used Israeli bases during their attacks on Iran, reiterating that his country was prepared to retaliate if targeted.

Fighting between the US and Iran has been paused since Friday after 13 nights of US strikes on the Islamic republic, after an April ceasefire collapsed.

Israel has not taken part in the latest round of hostilities in the war that began in late February with a wave of US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

"The fact is that, at the moment -- and this could change within an hour -- the Iranians are firing at everything in the region except one country: the State of Israel," Katz told Israel's right-wing Channel 14.

month as an April ceasefire collapsed.

The talks -- which the White House described as "positive and productive" -- lasted for about an hour and a half.

The meeting is the eighth between the leaders since Trump's return to office in early 2025 and comes ahead of key electoral tests later this year for both Netanyahu and the US president: national elections in Israel and midterm polls in the United States.

Upon arriving in Washington, Netanyahu attended a private memorial dinner on Monday evening in honour of the late senator Lindsey Graham, his office said.

He was also scheduled to attend the memorial service for Graham later Tuesday.

Relations between Trump and Netanyahu reached a low point in April during negotiations on the ceasefire with Iran, with Trump unleashing profanity-laced tirades against his Israeli ally.

Trump later described Netanyahu in an interview as a "very difficult guy."

Netanyahu downplayed the exchanges as "tactical disagreements," saying they were aligned on the goals of the war.

Cruise ship runs aground on the Danube due to low water levels

AFP | Sofia, Bulgaria

Bulgarian border guards yesterday began evacuating nearly 200 passengers from a cruise ship that ran aground on the Danube because of low water levels, the interior ministry said.

Europe has been hit by a succession of heatwaves this summer and the Danube -- the continent's second-longest river which flows through 10 countries -- has recorded low water levels in recent weeks that have hindered navigation.

The Swiss-flagged Viking Ullur ran aground at about 2:20 am (23:20 GMT Monday),



File picture

some 25 kilometres (15 miles) upstream of Vidin in north-east Bulgaria, the ministry said.

The incident happened at night, in reduced visibility and

"due to the low level of water in the Danube", a statement read.

For security reasons, the operation was carried out with the help of a border police speedboat and was expected to be completed

ed before nightfall, it added.

The ship, which plies a route between the Hungarian capital Budapest and Romania, was carrying 186 passengers, all of them European Union citizens, as well as 52 crew members and service staff.

It had been due to call at the port of Vidin to resupply and was also beginning to run short of drinking water, the ministry said.

Another ship was chartered by the shipping agent to take the passengers but was not able to get near the vessel that ran aground.