

Weekly Intelligence Brief

A Chanticleer Intelligence Brief Project



East African Nations Propose Anti-Piracy Task Force

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On 22 SEP, 11 African nations proposed a regional anti-piracy task force to protect ships in the Gulf of Aden and the Western Indian Ocean. These countries adhere to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC), a 2009 agreement under the International Maritime Organization to repress maritime crime in the Western Indian Ocean. This new proposal would involve information-sharing, joint operations, and legal cooperation to enhance interoperability in combating piracy across multiple African jurisdictions.

Notable signatories include Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Africa, and Tanzania. This force would include naval officers of the signatories, known as 'sea riders,' operating aboard participating vessels. The force's stated priority is the legal finish of arrests at sea, a process for putting maritime law enforcement actions through legal mechanisms under national laws to penalize criminals for their offenses.

A proposal draft was revealed on 17 AUG, the same day eight-armed Somali pirates boarded a Cameroon-flagged vessel four nautical miles off the Somali coast. DCoC workshops occurred SEP 7-9 in Kenya and OCT 4-7 in Oman. This

proposal comes amidst heightened insecurity off the East African coast, with 24 attempted or successful incidents of piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea between APR and JUL of 2026.

With a resurgence in piracy since 2023, East African nations face higher risks of economic instability due to higher security and insurance costs, slower transit schedules, and disruption of fishing industries. We can assess with high confidence that it is likely that East African nations will enhance multinational cooperation to protect their maritime interests off the East African coast.

Google Invests 15.2 Billion USD into AI Infrastructure in Finland

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On 28 SEP, Finnish President Alexander Stubb gave an interview to address Google's plans to invest 15.2 billion USD in digital infrastructure across Finland to capitalize on the global artificial intelligence (AI) boom. The investment was initially announced on 9 SEP, when it was originally reported that Google would invest at least 15.2 billion USD in AI infrastructure in Finland over the next two years, its biggest European investment, including a major deal for the supply of nuclear power.

This deal marks a major push for large technology companies in Europe, where colder climates and stable grids located

in the Nordics offer an attractive location for energy- and water-intensive data centers that use substantial amounts of energy to keep their computer servers cool. Freezing air can offer a cheaper and more efficient alternative rather than having to build a large radiator to cool the centers down. The Finland deal also includes a 22-year purchase agreement for up to 50% of the energy output of one of the country's two nuclear plants.

Stubb attributed Google's investment to Finland's abundant clean energy, advanced cybersecurity capabilities, and especially favorable temperatures for data infrastructure. He added that Google's expansion could signal continued interest from other major technology companies as demand for AI infrastructure grows. Stubb also

recognized Finland's other growing technological sectors, citing the country's advancements in quantum computing, telecommunications infrastructure, and satellite technology.

We can assess with high confidence that it is likely that Finland will continue to attract significant investment in AI and emerging technologies, given its favorable weather conditions and renewable energy infrastructure for advanced digital infrastructure.



Latvia Detains Couple for Espionage for Russia

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On 28 JUN, The Latvian State Security Service (VDD) and The Defense Intelligence and Security Service (MIDD) detained three unnamed Latvian citizens—a couple and one other person—on suspicion of espionage for the Russian Military Intelligence Service, the Glavnoye Razvedyvatel'noye Upravleniye (GRU). The investigation is still underway.

The couple had been under investigation on suspicion of espionage. After being detained, they were linked to three separate properties located in the Riga and Adazi municipalities. One of the suspects is reported to have performed aerial reconnaissance of the Latvian Air Base

in Adazi. Evidence recovered in the search by the MIDD and VDD includes various storage devices, photographs, documents, and notes. It is suspected they collected information on Radar systems, air base operations, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally activity on behalf of the GRU and possibly sabotage groups that currently operate in Latvia. The collection of intelligence on the Airbase, ranging from aerial reconnaissance, signals intelligence, day-to-day pattern of life, and troop movements of the Enhanced Forward Presence Mission in Adazi, poses a significant security risk to Lithuania, Ukraine, and NATO, which are supporting Ukraine's fight against Russia.

This could allow Russia's intelligence and its military the ability to develop tactics, techniques, and procedures to defeat radar systems, intercept signals, develop plans of attack, and contribute to the discovery of additional methods to compromise individuals and find ways to further-compromise intelligence.

We can assess with high confidence that it is highly likely that Russia has gathered intelligence on the Adazi airbase and will continue to pursue covert actions throughout the European theater.



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