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Briefing

ScanEagle completes 5,000 hours of service

Published: Sept. 25, 2007 at 5:09 PM

Boeing said Tuesday its ScanEagle system had clocked 5,000 hours of successful operation in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mercury to provide synthetic vision tech

Published: Sept. 25, 2007 at 11:35 AM

BAE Systems announced it has contracted Massachusetts-based Mercury Computer Systems Inc. for synthetic vision displays for helicopters.

ITT reaches milestone

Published: Sept. 25, 2007 at 11:33 AM

Virginia-based ITT Corp. announced its Night Vision division has achieved a major milestone delivering its 1 millionth Generation 3 image intensifier tube.

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Analysis

BMD Watch: Alaska 'home' ready for SBX

Published: Sept. 25, 2007 at 4:14 PM

The home port facilities for the giant Sea-Based X-Band Radar that is a crucial component of the U.S. Ground-based Mid-course Interceptor, or GBI, system in Alaska took a major leap forward last week.

Defense Focus: Wonder weapons -- Part 1

Published: Sept. 24, 2007 at 6:29 PM

Russia is not just using its windfall energy profits to beef up its existing nuclear and conventional armed forces, it is also seeking to develop sophisticated conventional submarine and systems and bombs that while non-nuclear, are in their own ways as formidable as nuclear systems could be.

Outside View: China shoots for the moon

Published: Sept. 24, 2007 at 9:26 AM

On Sept. 17, international reports confirmed the seriousness of Beijing's intention to put its own spacecraft in a lunar orbit before the end of this year.

Thompson Files: Air tanker dilemmas

Published: Sept. 24, 2007 at 9:20 AM

The oldest fleet of jets in the world isn't operated by Uzbekistan Airways. It is operated by the U.S. Air Force, which decided in the early 1950s to buy hundreds of Boeing 707s as the backbone of its

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Industry - Briefing

TSA draws fire from Sikh Coalition

Published: Aug. 27, 2007 at 3:20 PM

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NEW YORK, Aug. 27 (UPI) -- A recently revealed screening procedure drawing criticism from the New York-based Sikh Coalition.

At the beginning of August, the [Transportation Security Administration](#) a security checkpoint screening procedure that specifically identifies turban-wearing individuals as requiring a secondary screening. The largest Sikh civil rights organization, the Sikh Coalition, has come out in opposition to the new headwear screening procedures.

TSA officials say identifying turbans at the [United States'](#) 43,000 airport screening checkpoints is an example of the agency's headwear screening procedure also includes people wearing cowboy hats or berets among other headwear fashions. The turban is the only form of religious garb identified by the example of headwear that could lead to secondary screening.

"Telling screeners to search people in turbans is the same as telling them to search black people or Arabs or Muslims," said Amardeep Singh, executive director of the Sikh Coalition, in a statement. "The policy allows screeners to single out travelers on the basis of their religion. The message this sends to the public is that people who wear turbans are dangerous. That attitude is contrary to the spirit of religious pluralism on which our country was built."

Sikh Coalition officials say since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, there have been hundreds of Sikhs harassed, among other [civil rights](#) abuses because of the association of their turbans and beards with terrorism.

The headwear policy is an updated version of a screening procedure created by the TSA in November 2001. Formerly, TSA screeners were required to search Sikhs' turbans only when they had not successfully cleared a metal detector. The new procedures recommend physical pat-downs of the turban.

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aerial-refueling fleet.

Analysis: PLA eyes aircraft carriers

Published: Sept. 21, 2007 at 4:25 PM

In the event of conflict in the Taiwan Strait, if the United States were to send an aircraft carrier to the scene, it would likely remain in an area 800-1,000 kilometers from the spot of engagement. This is what happened in 1999 when China sent a series of air sorties over the island and the United States sent two aircraft carriers to the area as a warning. This distance poses very complicated and difficult challenges for detecting, positioning and tracking the target when aiming to strike the aircraft carrier with ballistic missiles.

Outside View: MiGs for India? -- Part 2

Published: Sept. 21, 2007 at 12:35 PM

Russia, as distinct from, say, the United States, which has never given anyone the right to make its planes, will be willing to help India to begin the manufacture of MiG-35s at Indian plants.

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