

Thursday Dispatch

02 January, 2020

# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

An Initiative by Indian Pugwash Society and Centre for  
Nuclear Issues and Arms Control (IDSA)



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY



INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE  
STUDIES & ANALYSES

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## **Nation's space industry set for active year**

Zhao Lei

China Daily, January 2, 2020

China's space industry is poised to embrace a super busy year in 2020 as about 50 launch missions are likely to take place this year, according to major contractors and sources from space industry circles. China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, the country's leading space contractor, said in a statement on Thursday that it will strive to carry out more than 40 launch missions to serve national space programs, such as the completion of the Beidou Navigation Satellite System, as well as demands from commercial satellite operators.

Sources inside the State-owned space giant who didn't want to be named told China Daily that the all of the 40-some planned missions will be carried out by the conglomerate's Long March-series carrier rockets, the nation's backbone rocket fleet, and do not include those to be made by the company's newly developed Smart Dragon solid-propellant rockets. This means the space magnate's actual launch number in 2020 will be even bigger.

"In 2020, all of our academy's operational rocket models, ranging from Long March 3A to Long March 5, will make flights, and four new types –the Long March 5B, Long March 7A, Long March 8 and Smart Dragon 2 – are scheduled to conduct their maiden mission," Said an employee at the company's China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology in Beijing, the biggest developer and maker of carrier rockets in the country.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202001/02/WS5e0de124a310cf3e3558224a.html>

## **Destroyer Xining completes China-Russia-Iran naval exercise**

Wu Ping and Li Yinchuan

China Military Online, January 2, 2020

The Chinese navy's guided-missile destroyer Xining (Hull 117) sailed out of the Chabahar Port in southern Iran on December 30, 2019, local time, after completing the four-day China-Russia-Iran joint naval exercise. The trilateral joint naval exercise was held in the waters of the Gulf of Oman from December 27 to 30, 2019. This was the first time that the three nations have conducted joint naval exercise. The exercise was divided into two stages: in-port and on-shore stage, and maritime operations stage. The participating forces were composed of 14 vessels of various types, including the guided-missile destroyer Xining (Hull 117) of the Chinese PLA Navy, the Neustrashimyy-class frigate "Yaroslav Mudry" attached to the Russian Baltic Fleet, and Iranian Navy frigate Alborz, along with four aircraft.

On December 27, the participating vessels of the 3 navies went into place and conducted preparation exchanges at the Chabahar Port.

On December 28, the vessels unmoored for the exercise waters, marking the beginning of the actual-combat maritime exercise. After the drill of light weapons shooting, the joint formation of the three navies completed the task of rescuing a simulated hijacked merchant vessel, under the support and cover of each other's air and surface forces, and also with the close coordination of the special operations soldiers. During the exercise, the naval vessels further carried out other subject training, including maneuver in formation, light signaling communication, and night navigation and steaming. On December 29, a fleet review of the participating vessels was held.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-01/02/content\\_9708537.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-01/02/content_9708537.htm)

### **Chinese troops return home after China-Pakistan "Warrior VII" drill**

Shan Chuanyang and Huang Zongxing

China Military Online, January 2, 2020

Over 100 Chinese service members participating in the "Warrior VII" China-Pakistan joint military drill boarded the homebound flight at Islamabad International Airport on December 30, 2019, and arrived at China's Kashgar Airport at around 2 p.m. on the same day. The one-month joint field drill was held at the National Counter Terrorism Training Centre (NCTC) in Pabbi, Punjab Province, Pakistan. The Chinese and Pakistani troops completed 11 training subjects under two themes including individual skills and team tactics.

"Through in-depth exchanges with the Pakistani armed forces and side-by-side practical training, the two sides learned from each other, jointly achieved improvements, and further enhanced their capabilities to respond to multiple security threats and perform diverse military tasks," said Wang Tianmu, deputy commander of the Chinese participating unit. Besides, they also focused on consolidating the traditional friendship between the two countries and the two militaries while upgrading their tactical skills. The Pakistani side invited Chinese service members to visit the Aquatic Training Center. On the day of the winter solstice, they also held a collective birthday party for Chinese soldiers.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-01/02/content\\_9708541.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-01/02/content_9708541.htm)

### **China delivers first littoral mission ship to Malaysia**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, January 2, 2020

China's shipbuilding giant has delivered the first of four littoral mission ships (LMS) to the Royal Malaysian Navy, marking the high-level military cooperation between China and Malaysia, analysts said on Wednesday. The Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group, under the China State Shipbuilding Corporation, delivered the ship, named Keris, to the Royal Malaysian Navy on Tuesday at a base in Qidong, East China's Jiangsu Province, according to a statement by the Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group on its official WeChat account. Wu Xiaoguang, deputy general manager of China State Shipbuilding Corporation said at the ceremony that the LMS project is the first large scale military equipment cooperation project between China and Malaysia.

The delivery of the ship highlighted a new phase in the cooperation between the company and the Royal Malaysian Navy, Wu said, noting that he hopes both sides will continue to expand their cooperation. According to the contract, China will build three more of these ships for the Royal Malaysian Navy, the Xinhua News Agency reported in 2018. Construction of the first ship began on July 31, 2018, and the second ship has been under construction since October 23, 2018, according to Xinhua. These vessels reportedly are 69 meters long with a displacement of more than 700 tons and a top speed of 22 knots. They can be armed with guns and used for patrols, anti-terrorism activities, rescue missions and protection of fisheries, reports said.

If Malaysia is satisfied with the Chinese-built ship, it could place additional orders for LMS or other types of warships that suit its needs, and China's shipbuilding industry will be fully capable of meeting that demand, a military expert who asked not to be named, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1175449.shtml>

### **Taiwan's top military leader among eight dead in Black Hawk chopper crash**

Sarah Zheng

South China Morning Post, January 2, 2020

Taiwan's military chief of staff and seven others were killed when a Black Hawk helicopter crashed in a mountainous region in the northern part of the island on Thursday morning, officials said. Taiwan's air force commander Hsiung Hou-chi confirmed the deaths of Chief of Staff Shen Yi-ming and seven others on Thursday afternoon, after the UH-60M craft carrying 13 military personnel force landed in New Taipei county's Wulai district earlier in the day.

Among the dead were two major generals – Political Warfare Bureau deputy director Yu Chin-wen and Hung Hung-chin, from the defence ministry's office of the deputy chief of the general staff for intelligence. Also killed were a lieutenant colonel, a captain, a major and two senior master sergeants. Taiwan's defence ministry said the location of the craft had been identified and that two Black Hawks and about 80 officers had been dispatched to the scene. Taiwanese media later released images of the rescuers surveying the crash site.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3044273/search-senior-taiwan-military-men-black-hawk-forced-landing>

## **Upgraded JF-17 fighter jet makes maiden flight, equipped with J-20 tech: report**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, January 1, 2020

The latest, powered-up version of the JF-17 fighter jet reportedly features technologies from China's top-notch J-20 fighter jet and made its maiden flight in December, as the warplane co-developed by China and Pakistan saw major upgrades in electronic devices that will significantly increase its combat efficiency, experts said. With the serial number "3000," the first JF-17 Block 3 prototype was taken into the skies for the first time in mid-December in Chengdu, Southwest China's Sichuan Province, the Aerospace Knowledge magazine reported in its Sina Weibo account on Tuesday.

According to photos circulated on the Chinese social platform, the aircraft is installed with many commercial off-the-shelf technologies from the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China, the report said. These include a new and larger holographic wide-angle head-up display and integrated cockpit display similar to the one used by the J-20, in addition to an advanced infrared missile approach warning system used by the J-10C, J-16 and J-20 fighter jets, the magazine reported. Wang Ya'nian, chief editor of Aerospace Knowledge magazine, told the Global Times that the JF-17's flight performance and airframe design have been proven in its past service, but it can quickly improve if equipped with advanced electronic devices.

"China has made a large amount of achievements in the development of the likes of the J-10 and J-20, resulting in many mature technologies and equipment... If they can be used on the JF-17, the pilot could enjoy a significant efficiency increase in flying, which will also boost its combat efficiency," Wang said. Analysts said the new additions to the JF-17 can give pilots more situational awareness, allowing them to focus more on combat instead of flying the aircraft.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1175376.shtml>