

03 February, 2020 (Weekly Dispatch)

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
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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China develops new gyroplane for border plateau operations

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 3, 2020

The latest gyroplane commissioned by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has increased plateau capabilities for a wider variety of missions and is expected to be deployed along China's southwestern border regions, experts said on Sunday.

Commonly known as the Falcon, the new Lieying gyroplane is equipped with three seats instead of two and has a more powerful engine with 135 horsepower. The gyroplane also has a longer rotor blade that stretches 8.8 meters and redesigned fuel tank, according to Ordnance Industry Science Technology, a Xi'an-based periodical focused on the national defense industry, on Thursday. Compared with the two-seat model, the three-seat issue has broader military applications as it can carry more personnel and weapons, transport wounded personnel, and conduct missions like two-person parachuting, the report said. Already proven in earlier tests, the latest model is also capable of operating in plateau areas with heavy loads. The three-seater can transport up to 630 kilograms and take off, fly, and land at an elevation of 4,200 meters, the magazine reported.

With sledges as landing gears, the gyroplane can take off and land on ice and snow surfaces, the report said, noting that it can also land and take off on water when equipped with floatation gear. The new Lieying edition is a practical choice for plateau operations in regions like Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, where the two-seat version might struggle, a military expert who asked not to be named told the Global Times on Sunday. The Falcon is adept at infiltrating hostile areas during stealth reconnaissance missions due to its agility, small size, and low noise output, the expert said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1178281.shtml>

PLA air force dispatches 8 transport aircraft to support Wuhan's coronavirus fight

Xinhua, February 3, 2020

Eight large transport aircraft dispatched by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) air force Sunday landed at Wuhan Tianhe International Airport, delivering 795 military medical staff and 58 tonnes of supplies to help the city fight against the novel coronavirus epidemic. Under the command of the Central Military Commission, the aircraft took off in the early hours of Sunday from a military airport and headed for the cities of Shenyang, Lanzhou, Guangzhou and Nanjing. Once loaded with the medical staff and supplies, the aircraft took off again and arrived in Wuhan between 8:55 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. successively.

It is the largest number of large transport aircraft dispatched by the PLA air force in non-combat military operations after its disaster relief efforts in the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake in Sichuan Province and the 2010 Yushu earthquake in Qinghai Province.

http://www.china.org.cn/china/2020-02/03/content_75667851.htm

Wuhan defies rising pressure

Global Times, February 3, 2020

Amid nationwide campaign in fighting the deadly virus, questions linger as to whether the Chinese government is capable of fighting the coronavirus battle, whether the shortage of medical supplies in Central China's Hubei Province - center of this battle - could be solved, does the country face significant inadequate medical services and how to support Wuhan residents who are mentally burned in such a huge crisis. As new coronavirus cases continued to surge on Sunday, for residents at the quarantined epicenter of the spreading contagion, the focuses are lack of medical supplies, flaws in local governance and fears of a worsening situation.

While in the last week, the whole country has been mobilized to implement stricter preventative measures and conduct various anti-virus measures in the hopes of containing its spread, the city of Wuhan remains at the frontline. For many residents living largely indoors since the city lockdown on January 23, the first thing they do in the morning is check their Chinese social media to see how many confirmed cases, dig out useful information and send supportive messages to friends and family members. The death toll in China on Sunday morning hit 304 with more than 14,000 confirmed cases. Digesting good and bad news, not to mention massive rumors, has been testing the psychological limits of people in Wuhan and the whole Hubei Province, especially those separated from infected family members who are receiving treatment under tight conditions. Hubei provincial Red Cross, which is under national spotlight for slow emergency response, provoked public outrage.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1178280.shtml>

China's lunar rover travels 367 meters on moon's far side

Xinhua, February 3, 2020

China's lunar rover Yutu-2 (Jade Rabbit-2) has driven 367.25 meters on the far side of the moon to conduct scientific exploration. Both the lander and the rover of the Chang'e-4 probe ended their work for the 14th lunar day on Saturday (Beijing Time), and switched to dormant mode for the lunar night, according to the Lunar Exploration and Space Program Center of the China National

Space Administration. During the 14th lunar day, Yutu-2 continued to move along the planned route. The scientific instruments on the lander and rover worked as planned.

The neutron radiation detector and low-frequency radio spectrometer on the lander worked normally and acquired first-hand scientific data. On the rover, the near-infrared spectrometer, panoramic camera, neutral atom detector and lunar radar carried out scientific exploration as planned.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/03/c_138752489.htm

Coronavirus hospital set to open in Wuhan with 1,400 military medical staff

Wendy Wu

South China Morning Post, February 2, 2020

China's military is boosting its medical team in Wuhan – epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak – to 1,400 personnel, on the direct orders of Chinese President Xi Jinping. They will staff the first completed temporary hospital which has been built from scratch in response to the crisis and is due to open on Monday. The PLA Air Force began airlifting medical personnel and supplies to Wuhan, in the central Chinese province of Hubei, on Sunday morning in what was described as its largest non-military transport operation since the 2010 Yushu earthquake. A defence ministry statement said the deployment had been personally approved by Xi. Eight IL-76 aircraft arrived at Wuhan's Tianhe airport on Sunday, carrying 58 tonnes of supplies as well as doctors and nurses to join the 450 military medical personnel already in the city.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3048592/coronavirus-hospital-set-open-wuhan-1400-military-medical-staff>

China's Type 055 warship larger, more powerful than expected

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, January 31, 2020

It has emerged that China's most advanced destroyer, the 10,000-ton-class Type 055, is larger than previously reported as the Chinese Navy recently revealed it has an actual displacement of more than 12,000 tons. Experts said on Friday that the difference between 10,000 and 12,000 tons could be huge and indicate the warship is even more powerful than expected. In an introduction video for Nanchang, the first ship of its type, released by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy during the Spring Festival holidays, the service confirmed the ship has a displacement of more than 12,000 tons.

The warship was previously only vaguely referred to as China's first 10,000-ton-class destroyer, without information of its exact displacement. "This has debunked some analysts' estimations that the Type 055's displacement is only a little more than 10,000 tons, and indicates the ship type could be even more powerful than expected," a military expert who asked not to be named told the Global Times on Friday. The 12,000-ton figure could refer to standard or normal displacement, so full displacement could potentially reach 13,000 tons, the expert estimated, noting that the Type 052D, a previous classification of Chinese destroyer, has an approximate displacement of just 6,000 to 7,000 tons. Displacement is an important indicator of a warship's combat capability in multiple aspects including firepower and its ability to sail in high seas, as a larger displacement results in higher stability, more fuel and ammunition, analysts said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1178106.shtml>

Xi orders military to contribute to winning battle against epidemic

Xinhua, January 29, 2020

President Xi Jinping has ordered Chinese military to keep its mission firmly in mind and shoulder responsibility to make contributions to winning the battle against the novel coronavirus epidemic. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in a recent instruction to the military on the prevention and control of the outbreak of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus. The military resolutely implemented the decisions and arrangements of the CPC Central Committee after the novel coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan of Hubei Province, Xi said, adding that the armed forces rapidly initiated the joint prevention and control mechanism and sent elite medical teams to combat the epidemic at the frontline.

Xi said the epidemic prevention and control remained grim and complex and demanded the armed forces shoulder their responsibility, fight the hard battle and actively assist local authorities in fighting the epidemic. The armed forces are tasked with treating patients in Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, which reflects the high level of trust that the Party and the people place in them, Xi said. To meet the expectations and fulfill the task, the military must strengthen leadership, enhance coordination with local authorities, adhere to scientific treatment, and pay attention to their own protection, Xi added.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/29/c_138741946.htm

US Tibet bill interference in China's internal affairs

Global Times, January 29, 2020

Chinese experts slammed the Tibetan bill that the US House of Representatives passed on Tuesday, which proposes sanctions on Chinese officials involved in the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama. They called the bill a gross interference in China's internal affairs under the guise of religious freedom which will not have any substantial influence on China. The US House approved "The Tibet Policy and Support Act of 2019" Tuesday afternoon, which was introduced by Massachusetts Democrat Jim McGovern. The bill claimed the succession of the 14th Dalai Lama should be decided solely by spiritual leaders without the "interference" of the Chinese government, and should take into consideration the 14th Dalai Lama's "instruction."

Lian Xiangmin, an expert with the China Tibetology Research Center in Beijing, told the Global Times Wednesday that per Tibetan Buddhism history, from the Second Dalai Lama to the current 14th Dalai Lama, the process of the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama starts only after the death of the previous Dalai Lama. There cannot be any precedent of "instruction" and "designation" when the incumbent Dalai Lama is still alive.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1177961.shtml>

Chinese air and naval forces expel US warship in South China Sea

Guo Yuandan and Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, January 28, 2020

Chinese air and naval forces expelled a US warship that sailed near the Nansha Islands in the South China Sea on Saturday, a Chinese military spokesperson said on Tuesday. The Montgomery, a littoral combat ship of the US Navy's 7th Fleet, sailed near the Nansha Islands in the South China Sea on Saturday in what was claimed to be the first "freedom of navigation" operation of 2020, the Japan Times reported on Tuesday. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command organized air and naval forces, tracked down and monitored the US vessel's course, verified and identified the vessel and expelled it, said Senior Colonel Li Huamin, a spokesperson of the PLA Southern Theater Command, on Tuesday. Saturday was China's traditional Spring Festival, and this is not the first time the US has sent warships to disrupt a Chinese festival. In 2019, the US also sent warships in the waters of Nansha Islands during the Spring Festival holiday, and a warship sailed into Chinese territorial waters off Xisha Islands during the traditional Mid-Autumn Festival in September.

Li, the Southern Theater Command spokesperson, said the US warship's intentional provocation during Spring Festival was done with ulterior motives, and is a flagrant attempt at navigation hegemony. China has undisputed sovereignty over its islands in the South China Sea and nearby

waters, and no US provocation will change that fact, Li said. The Southern Theater Command is always on high alert and will take all necessary measures to resolutely fulfill its duty, protect national sovereignty and security, and safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea, Li said. According to a statement released by the Southern Theater Command on Tuesday, two loaded fighter bombers of a Navy aviation brigade headed to the target area and conducted alert patrol missions on Saturday morning.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1177908.shtml>

China slams U.S. provocative acts in South China Sea

China Military Online, January 28, 2020

Chinese military monitored a U.S. warship that entered Chinese territorial waters without permission and warned it to leave on Saturday, senior colonel Li Huamin, spokesperson for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command, said in a statement on Tuesday. In response, the PLA organized naval and air forces to track, verify, identify, and warn the ships away, noted Li. "The Chinese military is determined to safeguard national sovereignty and security as well as maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea, no matter what tricks are played by U.S. ships," added the spokesperson.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-01/28/content_9726917.htm

China is estimated to be the world's second largest arms maker after US

Catherine Wong

South China Morning Post, January 27, 2020

New research suggests China is now the world's second largest arms producer – after the United States and ahead of Russia – and it is becoming less dependent on foreign weapons and military technology. In a report released on Monday, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) estimated total sales by China's arms industry had reached US\$70 billion to US\$80 billion in 2017.

That compares to US\$226.6 billion for the United States and US\$37.7 billion for Russia, according to the Sweden-based think tank's Top 100 list of the world's largest arms companies for that year. The annual list has not included Chinese companies in the past because of a lack of transparency. But newly available data on some Chinese firms meant four of them made the list and were ranked among the 20 biggest arms and military services companies in 2017, the report said. Under President Xi Jinping, China has expanded its arms industry and restructured the military as Beijing seeks to modernise its armed forces by 2035 so that they are "world class" by 2049.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3047814/china-estimated-be-worlds-second-largest-arms-maker-after-us>