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रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Xenophobia harms global fight against coronavirus: Chinese ambassador to U.S.

China Military Online, February 10, 2020

Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. Cui Tiankai warns xenophobia will harm the joint effort between China and the United States to fight the coronavirus. He made the remarks on a TV interview with American broadcaster Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS). Last week, U.S. Senator Tom Cotton (R.- Ark) suggested that Chinese officials misled the public on the origins of the coronavirus saying it may have come from China's biological warfare program, citing sources from U.S. intelligence.

Cui slammed the accusation, saying it is "very harmful to stir up suspicions, rumors and spread them to other people." He argued if we base our analysis on rumors, there are also groundless speculation that the virus comes from U.S. military labs. "How can we believe in these crazy things? I think it's totally crazy," the ambassador said. He added scientists around the world are still working to track down the source of the virus, saying initial research indicates it may come from certain animals. Cui said China welcomes American experts to join the medical group assembled by the World Health Organization. Some American media accused Beijing of "ignoring" the U.S. offer of assistance, which Cui denies. "I'm sure they are going to China very soon," Cui told the news host.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/10/content_9738265.htm

Experts call for epidemic evacuation zones, dedicated military unit to handle crises

Xu Keyue, Liu Xuanzun and Chen Qingqing

Global Times, February 9, 2020

A dedicated permanent military unit, big-city epidemic evacuation zones and a central information exchange platform were suggested by Chinese experts as they sought to learn and share the key lessons from the ongoing coronavirus crisis. The central government should order the setting up of epidemic evacuation zones equipped with hospitals, nursing facilities and medical equipment warehouses in cities with populations of more than 10 million and operate the zones on a regular basis in advance, Liu Zhiqin, a research fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University of China in Beijing, told the Global Times on Sunday.

The government of Wuhan, the epicenter of the virus outbreak in Central China's Hubei Province, has built two makeshift hospitals within about two weeks. Hospitals like Huoshenshan and Leishenshan should become a standard part of all urban construction, Liu said. China should build a central information exchange platform managed by competent central authorities, through which people from all walks of life can directly report emergencies to the government, Liu believed. Such

a platform would help China avoid formalism and bureaucracy by obtaining the most basic and newest data, Liu said. He suggested the country keep sufficient personnel in reserve, and make preparations for manufacturing necessary equipment and supplies, arranging logistics to address any further expansion of a crisis.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1178966.shtml>

China military conducts combat-ready patrol to address current security situation across Taiwan Strait

China Military Online, February 9, 2020

The Chinese PLA Eastern Theater Command organized naval and air forces to conduct combat-ready patrol on Sunday, said Air Force Senior Colonel Zhang Chunhi, Spokesperson for the Chinese PLA Eastern Theater Command, in a written statement. According to the spokesperson, multiple weapons and equipment including destroyers, frigates, bombers, fighter jets, and early warning aircraft had participated in the patrol in a bid to test the integrated combat capability of multiple services. Among them, the Air Force's aircraft had flown through the Bashi Channel and Miyako Strait and conducted targeted combat training.

The spokesperson said that Taiwan and its affiliated islands are the sacred and inalienable part of China's territory. The Chinese military's combat-ready patrol is completely legitimate and is the necessary action taken to address the current security situation across the Taiwan Strait and safeguard China's sovereignty. The spokesperson also stressed that troops of the PLA Eastern Theater Command have the determination and ability to thwart all separatist activities for "Taiwan independence", and will resolutely safeguard China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and maintain peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/09/content_9737641.htm

Taiwan scrambles jets as mainland Chinese air force flies around island

South China Morning Post, February 9, 2020

Taiwan's air force scrambled on Sunday to intercept jets from mainland China that flew around the island. Beijing said the flight was a "necessary action" under "current security situation across the Taiwan Strait". Taipei's defence ministry described the People's Liberation Army's patrol as a threat to regional peace and stability. Beijing has been flying what it calls "island encirclement" drills on and off since 2016 when Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen first took office. Beijing maintains that the self-governed island, which broke away in 1949 after the civil war, remains part

of China, and that Tsai, who was re-elected last month, wishes to push the island's formal independence. She says Taiwan is an independent country called the Republic of China, its official name. Chinese military aircraft fly close to Taiwan, island's defence ministry says

In a statement, the island's defence ministry said the mainland's J-11 fighters and H-6 bombers flew into the Bashi Channel to the south of Taiwan, then out into the Pacific before heading back to base via the Miyako Strait, located between Japan's islands of Miyako and Okinawa, to the northeast of Taiwan. "During this period, the national military appropriately used air reconnaissance aircraft and air defence forces in accordance with combat readiness regulations," it said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3049748/taiwan-scrambles-jets-mainland-chinese-air-force-flies-around>

PLA's patrol encircling Taiwan island sends stern warning to secessionists: source

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times. February 9, 2020

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Sunday organized warships and warplanes in a combat readiness patrol, with aerial forces crossing through the Bashi Channel and Miyako Strait, a move that an authoritative source said was sending a stern warning to Taiwan secessionists. The PLA's move at the moment also showed that mainland military capabilities were hindered not one jot by the ongoing novel coronavirus outbreak and its will to safeguard national unity has never been undermined under any circumstance, Chinese mainland analysts also said. Naval and aerial forces of the PLA Eastern Theater Command systematically organized warships, bombers, fighters and early warning aircraft in a patrol on Sunday in which the troops tested their joint operation capability, said Senior Colonel Zhang Chunhui, a spokesperson for the PLA Eastern Theater Command, in a statement released on Sunday. During the mission, the aerial forces cruised through the Bashi Channel and Miyako Strait and conducted real combat-oriented training, Zhang said.

Taiwan and its affiliated islands are inalienable parts of China, and the Chinese military's combat-readiness patrol was a completely legitimate and necessary action aimed at the current security situation in the Taiwan Straits and safeguarding national sovereignty, the spokesperson said. The troops were determined and capable of crushing any "Taiwan secessionist" activities, resolutely safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity and peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits, Zhang said. The straightforward comment from the spokesperson stating that the patrol targeted Taiwan secessionists is rather rare as usually the mainland military authorities may address such a move as a routine arrangement according to the annual schedule, analysts said. Zhang's statement came after the Taiwan defense authority said Sunday that the PLA sent J-11

fighter jets, H-6 bombers and KJ-500 early warning aircraft through the Bashi Channel into Western Pacific and then through the Miyako Strait, returning to their bases in a route that circled the island from its eastern side, according to Taiwan news website udn.com. An authoritative source who declined to be named told the Global Times that Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party has been increasingly colluding with the US, attempting with the US to confront the Chinese mainland, planning Lai Ching-te's US visit, seeking "independence," and the PLA action is a stern warning in response to that.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1178974.shtml>

China's military put to the crisis test in coronavirus call-up

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, February 9, 2020

The coronavirus crisis has prompted one of the Chinese military's biggest mobilisations of medical personnel in decades, putting its crisis management skills to the test. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has sent at least 3,500 medical staff to Wuhan, in Hubei province at the heart of the outbreak, in the past week. Many of the personnel were reportedly part of the responses to the severe acute respiratory syndrome (Sars) outbreak in 2003 and the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, among other crises. "It's the biggest military mobilisation of navy, ground and air forces, as well as medical staff from military-affiliated hospitals and medical students since China started its opening-up reforms in 1978," Beijing-based military expert Zhou Chenming said.

"This mission could be seen as a real test of the PLA's joint operation capability since the military was overhauled," Zhou said, referring to reforms in the last few years to streamline and modernise the PLA. In 2003, the PLA sent 1,200 medical staff to a temporary. A retired officer who was part of relief efforts in the aftermath of the 1976 Tangshan earthquake, said that at least 3,000 PLA medical staff had been sent to Wuhan to operate two temporary coronavirus hospitals, which together had a capacity for 2,500 people. But even that deployment was not enough.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3049672/chinas-military-put-crisis-test-coronavirus-call>

China issues new regulation on military organizational management

China Military Online, February 7, 2020

Chinese President Xi Jinping, also chairman of Central Military Commission (CMC), signed an order to issue the newly revised Regulation on Management of Military Establishment and

Organizational Structure (Trial). The new Regulation will enter into force from March 1, 2020. The newly revised Regulation has a total of nine chapters, including 45 articles. Adapting to the new establishment and functions of the Chinese military after the reform, it clarifies the mechanism and the assignment of responsibilities, systematically and comprehensively illustrates the objectives, contents, procedures, as well as the implementation and supervision of the military organizational structure management, and thus forms comprehensive and cohesive institutional measures. The new Regulation also strengthens supervision and accountability by proposing specific measures for review, overhaul, supervision and inspection, and accountability, in a bid to ensure that the management works are implemented without compromise.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/07/content_9735716.htm

Satellite maker plans mission to moon

Earle Gale

China Daily Global, February 6, 2020

A United Kingdom company plans to build a spacecraft that could play an important role in future missions to the moon. The company, SSTL from Guildford in England, says it will have the vehicle, which will be called Lunar Pathfinder, ready for use by the end of 2022. It will take telecommunications equipment into an orbit around the moon, and future missions to the moon will use it to relay messages back to Earth. The BBC reports that communications spacecraft already perform a similar function for Mars, where they orbit the planet and relay telemetry back to the Earth from surface rovers, but there is no such service for the moon. SSTL will finance the construction of the satellite and sell capacity to the European Space Agency, which is also known as the ESA. Other space agencies will also be able to buy capacity, as will private companies.

The UK satellite will be put into a highly elliptical orbit, ensuring it will pass over the lunar south pole; the destination of a manned NASA mission in 2024 called Project Artemis. Lunar Pathfinder will also be able to relay messages back from the far side of the moon, from where direct radio signals cannot reach Earth. China's lunar rover Yutu-2 (Jade Rabbit-2) completed its mission to the far side of the moon last month, where it conducted scientific exploration and drove almost 370 meters across the surface. China plans to launch the Chang'e-5 probe later this year to bring lunar samples back to Earth.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202002/06/WS5e3b6a21a31012821727552a.html>

India's actions should follow words on cybersecurity

Mu Lu

Global Times, February 6, 2020

China's tech giant 360 Security Technology announced on Wednesday that it had captured a cyberattack of advanced persistent threat (APT) launched by Indian hackers, who used the novel coronavirus as a lure to target China's medical sphere that is battling the epidemic. With over 560 million internet users, India is the world's second-largest online market, ranking only behind China.

India reported cyberattacks against its Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant and Indian Space Research Organization in 2019. It is sorry to see a victim of cyberattacks undermine cybersecurity. With suspected Indian background, a group called BITTER has launched continuous APT attacks since March 2019 targeting China's government agencies and Chinese organizations, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The group's main targets, as disclosed in 2016, are government, the arms industry, and nuclear industry. The attacks against China were listed as one of the deadly cyberattacks conducted by the most dangerous APT hacker group in 2019. At the crucial juncture of fighting the coronavirus, if such APT attacks have nailed it, the consequence would be disastrous: China's most advanced medical technology and data of our high-end medical equipment could be stolen and maliciously used. What's worse, those hackers with evil intentions could create more fear related to the virus, and thus disturb the social order.

This has warned us that cybersecurity is important at any time. Thanks to the secure cyberspace, the Chinese government can announce the latest updates in a timely manner about the coronavirus through the internet and thus help people upgrade their knowledge of prevention, which has contributed to the slowing spread of the virus. China needs secure cybersecurity to share new information and data with other countries without any delay, so that China can substantially assist the rest of the world in preventing and controlling the epidemic. China has been a main victim of APT attacks, with its cybersecurity under constant threats from the US, Europe, East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1178784.shtml>

PLA Air Force to perform in Singapore despite epidemic

Guo Yuandan and Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 6, 2020

An aerobatic team of the Chinese Air Force will perform at a Singaporean air-show as scheduled despite the coronavirus outbreak, while Singapore did not quarantine Chinese pilots who arrived in the country on Wednesday, a move shows its high level of trust in China's epidemic control measures. On the invitation of the Singaporean side, the Chinese Air Force's August 1st Air

Demonstration Team will perform at the 2020 Singapore Airshow from February 11-16, as nine aircraft, including seven J-10 fighter jets that will be featured and more than 100 personnel, arrived in Singapore on Wednesday, according to statements released by the Chinese Air Force and the Defense Ministry. Despite the ongoing coronavirus epidemic, which has seen 99 countries and regions including Singapore taking immigration control measures, no change was seemingly made to the Chinese flight performance plan.

After the Chinese pilots arrived on Wednesday, they started training for the performances without being quarantined, a source told the Global Times, noting that this showed Singapore's high level of trust in China's epidemic control measures, which runs in contrast to some Western countries' moves. Air defense expert Fu Qianshao told the Global Times that the Chinese military has taken stringent protective measures, especially for pilots.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1178794.shtml>

Postponement of military recruitment to have no impact on results: expert

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 6, 2020

China had to suspend its military recruitment program for this year due to the novel coronavirus outbreak, but the postponement will lead to no significant impact on the number or quality of the eventual recruits, an expert with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) predicted on Thursday. The PLA's heroics in battling the virus and helping people will encourage even more young people to sign up for the military, the expert said. China is facing a severe situation in controlling the epidemic, so the time for the physical examination phase of the 2020 military recruitment at various locations across China will be adjusted, according to a report by 81.cn, the PLA's official website, released on its WeChat public account on Wednesday.

One place to enact the decision is Hunan Province, which lies next to the virus outbreak epicenter, Hubei Province. The physical examinations originally planned for early February will be postponed until a later date because gathering of people during the event could risk cross-infection, Hunan Province's conscription office said on Tuesday. The postponement will not hinder the determination of hot-blooded youth who yearn to join the military, 81.cn said, citing comments online saying they can't wait to make their dream of becoming a soldier come true. Li Daguang, a professor at the National Defense University of the PLA in Beijing, told the Global Times on Thursday that the postponement is needed (to prevent the virus from spreading) and the postponement "should not have much effect on the number or quality of the eventual recruits." The Chinese military is actively taking part in the battle against the coronavirus, sending 1,400 military medical personnel to Wuhan.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1178794.shtml>

China's Long March-5B carrier rocket arrives at launch site

Xinhua, February 5, 2020

China's Long March-5B carrier rocket arrived at the launch site in southern China's Hainan Province Wednesday after a week of ocean and rail transport, according to the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation. The rocket will take part in a joint rehearsal with the prototype of the Chinese space station's core module at the Wenchang Space Launch Center. It is scheduled to make its maiden flight and launch the prototype of China's new manned spaceship in April.

The Long March-5B is a modified version of Long March-5 rocket and will be China's first 1.5-stage large carrier rocket, according to Wang Jue, chief commander of the Long March-5 rocket. The rocket is 53.7 meters long, with a diameter of five meters and a liftoff weight of 849 tonnes. It uses pollution-free propellant including liquid oxygen, liquid hydrogen and kerosene. It has a carrying capacity of more than 22 tonnes in low-Earth orbit. It has the largest carrying capacity in low-Earth orbit among all Chinese rockets.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/05/c_138758697.htm

Safety prioritized for aircraft carrier, fighter jet developers amid virus outbreak

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 3, 2020

China's second aircraft carrier sails through the Taiwan Straits into the South China Sea. Photo: screenshot from the Weibo account of the PLA Navy, Chinese armaments companies have postponed planned work in order to concentrate on controlling the risk of spreading the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), including those building the country's new aircraft carrier and fighter jets, as well as those in Wuhan, Hubei Province, the epicenter of the virus outbreak.

According to statements released by Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai, which is reportedly building China's third aircraft carrier, and Shenyang Aircraft Corporation, maker of the J-15 carrier-based fighter jet in Northeast China's Liaoning Province, in the past few days, the companies are extending the Spring Festival holiday to Sunday. They asked employees who traveled to other cities since the virus outbreak not to return to work until further notice, or quarantine themselves at home for 14 days, the reported latent period for the virus. This will likely result in delays in the

construction of the new aircraft carrier and the fighter jets it needs, observers said, noting that China is ushering in the building of a deep blue water navy, in which powerful aircraft carriers play a crucial role. Observers fear that in Wuhan, where the virus is believed to have originated, the impact could be even heavier.

Wuhan is home to many Chinese weapons and equipment design and manufacturing institutes, like Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group Co Ltd, which builds submarines, and the Naval University of Engineering, which is developing advanced naval technologies like the electromagnetic catapult, railgun, full electric propulsion, and submarine-related technologies, according to media reports. Xu Guangyu, a senior adviser to the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, told the Global Times Monday that while the virus will have an impact on China's weapons and equipment programs, it will be short-term, as the virus is expected to only last for a few months at worst. Prioritizing the health and safety of people is absolutely the right course to avoid fatalities, as well as mitigate any long-term impact, Xu said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1178366.shtml>