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China's Yun-20 large transport aircraft holds great potential

Chen Yu

China Military Online, June 30, 2020

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, China's domestically developed Yun-20 large transport aircraft has carried out missions abroad for many times, successively delivering anti-epidemic supplies to Pakistan, Thailand and other countries. Recently, it made its maiden flight to Russia to transport the PLA Guard of Honor to participate in the military parade staged in Moscow's Red Square. Military expert Chen Hong said that in the future, the Yun-20 transport aircraft is sure to significantly improve the combat capability of the PLA troops. In the modern warfare with wider war zones and faster war pace, countries all over the world are trying to strengthen the quick response and long-range delivery capabilities of their troops, to quickly transport their troops and weapons to areas in urgent need and save time for the reinforcement of follow-up troops. Under this situation, the armed forces of all countries are eager to equip large-scale heavy-duty transport aircraft.

According to the information from Tang Changhong, chief designer of the Yun-20, the maximum take-off weight of the aircraft is 220 tons, and the maximum loading capacity is 66 tons. "To build up a modern PLA Air Force with strong combat capability, it is quite necessary to equip large transport aircraft like Yun-20, the speed of which is more than three times that of high-speed rail trains and more than 20 times that of marine transportation. It can get the whole combat units rallied in the shortest time, greatly contributing to the rapid deployment of troops and enhancing combat capability", said Chen Hong.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-06/30/content_9843756.htm

China's new-generation fighter jet scheduled to make maiden flight in 2021: report

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, June 30, 2020

China's new-generation fighter jet is scheduled to make its maiden flight in 2021, an aviation industry report revealed on Monday. Analysts speculate that it will be China's new aircraft carrier-based fighter jet. A team at China Aero-Polytechnology Establishment under the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) has resumed work while fighting the COVID-19 epidemic with the aim of supporting the scheduled maiden flight of a new-generation fighter jet in 2021, according to a statement the Chinese Aeronautical Establishment released on its WeChat public account on Monday.

China is reportedly building its third and more advanced aircraft carrier at Shanghai's Jiangnan Shipyard, which is expected to be launched and commissioned in the 2020s. A more advanced fighter jet could greatly enhance the carrier's combat capability, analysts said. There has also been speculation online by military enthusiasts claiming the new fighter jet could be a drone fighter jet or a space fighter jet.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1193077.shtml>

The cheap, light howitzer China is rolling out in Tibet

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, June 29, 2020

China has deployed a new howitzer designed for rugged terrain to its border regions, as tensions mount with India in the aftermath of a deadly clash in the Himalayas earlier this month. Most of the country's five military jurisdictions, known as theatre commands, have been equipped with PCL-181 155mm vehicle-mounted howitzers, according to state media reports. The most recent recipient of the artillery is the Southern Theatre Command's 75th Group Army headquartered in Kunming, Yunnan province, which took delivery earlier this month.

According to footage aired on state broadcaster China Central Television, the weapon was put through its paces in January in a military exercise by the Western Theatre Command in Tibet, where China has a long disputed border with India. Since the border stand-off began in May, a number of the weapons were reportedly transported to the Tibetan Plateau, together with other weapons specifically designed for high elevations, such as Type 15 lightweight tanks. Howitzers are favoured in mountainous terrain because of the higher arc of the shells, and observers say the PCL-181 is likely to be the People's Liberation Army's light, quick and powerful gun of choice should a conflict arise on the plateau. The weapon is cheaper and, at 25 tonnes, lighter than tracked, self-propelled howitzers in the PLA's arsenal. It also has an edge in engine speed, endurance and flexibility over its predecessors, especially in the oxygen-depleted Himalayan border areas. The PCL-181 can move at up to 100km/h (62 miles per hour), while carrying 27 shells. It has a short, compact design for greater mobility on narrow and winding mountainous roads, with improved control and calibration and semi-automatic ammunition reload systems. The Chinese military has designed a range of 155mm ammunition applicable to the system, including laser-guided and satellite-guided bombs.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3090924/cheap-light-howitzer-china-rolling-out-tibet>

PLA to conduct military exercises in waters off Xisha Islands

China Military Online, June 29, 2020

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is going to conduct military exercises in waters off China's Xisha Islands from July 1st to 5th, according to a navigation warning released by the Hainan MSA Bureau on June 27 on the website of the Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) of the People's Republic of China. The No. 0059 Navigation Notice 'Military Exercise in Waters Around The Xisha Islands' reads that there will be military training exercises in the waters off the Xisha Islands from 0000 hours on July 1st to 2400 hours on July 5th Beijing time. During the period, no vessel shall be allowed to navigate within the above lines and all vessels have to follow the guidance of the commanding ship on site.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-06/29/content_9842749.htm

PLA army aviation brigade conducts live-fire exercise off China's southeast coast

Liu Xiaohong and Feng Fei

China Military Online, June 28, 2020

Recently, an army aviation brigade under the PLA 73rd Group Army organized a round-the-clock live-fire exercise off China's southeast coast with multiple types of aircraft and ammunition involved, aiming to improve the maritime all-dimensional penetration and strike capacities of the army aviation forces. In this live-fire exercise at sea, the pilots were required to plan attack routes, conduct reconnaissance and choose best attack time independently, which were much closer to actual combat and gave full play to the pilots' ability of making independent judgments and decisions.

At 8 a.m. on the training day, loaded with cannons, rockets and missiles, multi-type armed helicopters took off and entered the attack positions. Then, the pilots searched for fixed targets on islands and reefs, as well as the mobile targets at sea, and chose the best kind of ammunitions to carry out continuous firepower strikes. In the training event of cooperative attack on a single target by two choppers during the daytime, two new armed helicopters carrying a variety of ammunitions served to cover each other in the air, approached the target secretly in low altitude, locked on the target from different angles and carried out the strike simultaneously.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-06/28/content_9842369.htm

Prepare for India border row to escalate, Chinese strategists warn Beijing

Catherine Wong

South China Morning Post, June 27, 2020

Hawkish Chinese military strategists have called on Beijing to be better prepared for an escalation in its border dispute with India, saying the potential for armed conflict between the two nuclear powers is on the rise. Tensions between Beijing and New Delhi have grown since deadly clashes two weeks ago in the Galwan Valley between Indian-controlled Ladakh and Chinese-controlled Aksai Chin. The Indian Army said 20 of its soldiers were killed in hand-to-hand combat with Chinese soldiers. Both countries have accused each other of causing the skirmish and of breaking promises. A number of retired members of the Chinese military are calling for Beijing to prepare for further escalation, including granting its frontline troops more power to respond to an “intrusion” by Indian forces and deploying non-lethal hi-tech weapons such as laser guns along the border.

Qiao Liang, a retired air force major general and military theorist, said that while the possibility of an all-out war between the two countries remained low, China needed to prepare for an escalation into an armed conflict. “We should not overestimate India’s response, but we must also not let our guard down,” Qiao said in an article posted on his WeChat account.

China must “take the initiative” in case of a more serious military conflict along the border, he said. “If we must fight a war, we must strike quickly and contain the scale in a small and mid-sized war aimed at causing pain to our opponents and hence gaining respect via small wars,” he said, adding that such a victory would project China’s power to the United States and pro-independence forces in Taiwan.

“The Indian Army has repeatedly transgressed the border and destroyed Chinese camps, roads and other military facilities. If that happens again, the Chinese side should use more forceful measures to destroy the opposing side’s facilities and equipment,” he said. Wang also said that Chinese troops should prepare to deploy non-lethal weapons such as lasers, tear gas and stun grenades after reports that India had changed its rules of engagement in the area. He said that if the situation escalated despite last week’s military and diplomatic talks, China should make preparation for a possible military conflict a higher priority than further diplomacy.

Indian news outlets reported that the Indian Army had authorised field commanders to use firearms in case of “extraordinary” circumstances along the LAC and that the Indian government had ramped up armed forces funding for emergency ammunition and weapons. India’s foreign ministry said China had massed a large number of troops and weapons along the LAC in violation of bilateral agreements, and India had “to undertake counter deployments” because of the Chinese build-up. Indian ambassador to China Vikram Misri said China’s claim of sovereignty over the Galwan Valley in Ladakh was completely “untenable”, and the Chinese side should realise its

responsibility to de-escalate and disengage from the area. He told the Press Trust of India that it was “entirely the responsibility” of China to take a careful view of China-India relations and to decide which direction the relationship should move.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3090855/prepare-india-border-row-escalate-chinese-strategists-warn>

China urges Japan to just say no to hosting American missiles

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, June 25, 2020

China has urged Japan to resist striking a deal with the United States to host American intermediate-range missiles on its soil and instead maintain its defence-oriented policy. Beijing said on Wednesday it would not sit idly by if the US sought to deploy such missiles on its doorstep, but rather would take “all necessary countermeasures”. “In the meantime, China hopes Japan and other countries can take regional peace and stability into consideration, act prudently and say no to the US – which wants to deploy intermediate-range missiles on their land – so they don’t fall victim to a US geopolitical plot in the region,” defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian told a press conference.

In a separate press briefing, China’s foreign ministry urged Japan to maintain its “exclusively defence-oriented” policy as laid out in its constitution. “Because of historical reasons, Japan’s military security trends have always received the attention of the international community and its Asian neighbours. We urge Japan to earnestly learn the lessons of history,” ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said. Tokyo should “continue to follow the path of peaceful development with concrete actions”, he said. Relations between China and Japan would collapse if such missiles were deployed on Japanese soil. Lian Degui, Shanghai International Studies University. Beijing’s comments came in response to reports the US is considering deploying intermediate-range missiles in Asia after withdrawing from the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in August.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3090469/china-urges-japan-just-say-no-hosting-american-missiles>

Maintaining peace along China-India border requires common effort : Defense Spokesperson

China Military Online, June 24, 2020

For the recent China-India border tensions, India should severely punish those who are accountable for the clash on the evening of June 15, and work with China together to maintain the peace in border region, said Senior Colonel Wu Qian, a spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defense (MND) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), at a regular press conference on June 24. For the current situation in the border region between China and India, Wu stressed that China has sovereignty over the Galwan Valley region and the Chinese border troops have been patrolling and on duty in this region for many years. He introduced that since April this year, the Indian border troops have begun to unilaterally built facilities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Galwan Valley region, regarding which China has lodged representations and oppositions for many times.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-06/24/content_9840819.htm

China firmly opposes US deploying intermediate-range missiles in Asia Pacific region: Defense spokesperson

China Military Online, June 24, 2020

China is firmly opposed to the US deploying intermediate-range missiles in the Asian-Pacific region, said Senior Colonel Wu Qian, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense, at the regular press conference on the afternoon of June 24. "If the US insists on the deployment, it will be a provocation at China's doorstep. China will never sit idle and will take all necessary countermeasures," said Snr. Col. Wu. China hopes that Japan and other countries concerned can act cautiously with the big picture of regional peace and stability in mind, and don't allow the US to deploy medium-range missiles on their territories, so as not to fall victim to Washington's geopolitical ploys, Wu noted.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-06/24/content_9840873.htm

Chinese defense spokesperson slams US recent interference with Taiwan

China Military Online, June 24, 2020

Taiwan is an inseparable part of China and Taiwan affairs are purely China's internal affairs that allow no external interference, Senior Colonel Wu Qian, a spokesperson of China's Ministry of National Defense said on Wednesday at a regular press conference. Wu made the remarks when being asked to comment on the United States' close interactions with Taiwan in recent days. Wu pointed out that it would be a sheer pipe dream for the US to gradually endanger China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity by frequently playing the Taiwan card.

"The Chinese military has been on high alert, and has the firm resolve, full confidence and sufficient capabilities to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as to maintain peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," Wu stated.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-06/24/content_9840871.htm

China's answer to GPS complete as final BeiDou satellite launches

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, June 23, 2020

China launched the final satellite of its BeiDou navigation system into orbit on Tuesday, in what the system's designer said was a milestone in the country's quest to become a major space power. Completing the global navigation network that China has spent over two decades building, the satellite reached its designated orbit about 30 minutes after launch, according to the Chinese space agency. It was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre, in the southwestern Sichuan province, and was carried by a Long March 3B rocket, China's main rocket for putting communications satellites into orbit. Yang Changfeng, chief designer of the BeiDou System (BDS), told China's state broadcaster CCTV that the successful launch meant that China was "moving from being a major nation in the field of space to becoming a true space power".

The launch was originally planned to take place a week earlier, only for technical problems to be found during a routine check before lift-off, forcing it to be rescheduled to Tuesday morning.

According to People's Daily, the Communist Party's mouthpiece, the completion of the satellite system came six months ahead of schedule. Observers said that the fully fledged system could put China in a competitive position against the world's three other satellite navigation networks – the US-owned Global Positioning System (GPS), the European Union's Galileo and Russia's Glonass.

It could also expand China's international engagement and offer an alternative to other countries that had been reliant on US technology, they said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3090186/chinas-global-aspirations-lift-beidou-satellite-launches-orbit>

'Fake news': China dismisses Indian media reports it lost 40 soldiers in border fighting

Keegan Elmer and Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, June 23, 2020

Beijing has dismissed Indian media reports that at least 40 Chinese soldiers were killed in last week's border conflict, even as the two countries work to defuse tensions after their worst fighting for decades. China's foreign ministry on Tuesday described the reports as "fake news".

"I can tell you responsibly that it is false information," ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said.

Despite the rebuttal, Zhao said senior security officers from the two sides met in the border region on Monday for a "frank and in-depth" exchange of views and had agreed to take steps to improve the situation. "The meeting indicated that China and India are willing to appropriately handle the disputes through dialogue, manage the situations and lower tensions," he said.

"We also agreed to continue the dialogue and work together to promote peace and stability in the border areas."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3090315/fake-news-china-dismisses-indian-media-reports-it-lost-40>

China ignores US fears with strategy to use civilian tech for military

Matt Ho

South China Morning Post, June 22, 2020

China will ramp up joint military-civilian efforts to develop cutting-edge technologies, according to the fine print of a new document that answers some of the big questions in the country's long-term economic and security vision. The details were revealed in the just-released guide to the Chinese government's annual report and offered a clearer sign of Beijing's direction and priorities for its military-civilian fusion strategy, a central component of President Xi Jinping's grand vision for China's long-term development. The strategy was launched in 2015 in an effort to get the private sector and state-owned military-industrial players to work together on dual-use technology to help modernise the country's defence forces. Under the strategy, the private sector has been invited to help develop advanced maritime, aerospace and cyberspace technologies.

But the policy has alarmed the Trump administration, which worries that US research and technology could ultimately be funnelled to aid China's military modernisation. In April, the US announced new export controls on sensitive technology to Chinese companies, which will be enforced late this month. Last month, the White House also issued an order to block the visas of Chinese students and researchers deemed to have links with the fusion strategy.

Nevertheless, Beijing is pressing ahead with – and speeding up – its efforts to enlist the private sector to help modernise the military, a point underlined in the guide. "[We will] accelerate the pace of deep military-civilian fusion, deepen its work in key areas [of military-civilian fusion], so as to build an integrated national strategic system and capability," it said. "[We will] pivot on science and technological innovation to develop advanced technologies and armaments and boost the capability of indigenous innovation in defence technologies. "[We will also] strengthen the

development of critical core technologies, enhance the conversion of advanced research into applications, and promote variety and competition in defence technology innovation.”

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3089646/china-ramps-military-civilian-tech-ambitions>

China announces name of its deep-sea manned submersible

Xinhuanet, June 22, 2020

China has named its new deep-sea manned submersible "Fendouzhe," which means "striver" in Chinese. An expert panel chose the name from a shortlist of 10 nominees, which were voted by nearly 100,000 web users during an online campaign launched by state broadcaster China Media Group. The manned submersible for 10,000-meter deep-sea exploration recently completed tank experiments in a Wuxi-based research institute under the China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited. This 10,000-meter manned submersible project was launched in 2016 by scientists who previously developed manned submersibles Jiaolong and Shenhai Yongshi (Deep Sea Warrior). According to media reports, the new submersible is expected to dive in the Mariana Trench after the final experiments in Wuxi.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-06/22/content_9839169.htm

China joins Arms Trade Treaty for right reasons

Li Jie

Global Times, June 21, 2020

China's lawmakers on Saturday approved the decision to join the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) at a legislative session of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, running from Thursday to Saturday. The ATT is a multilateral treaty which attempts to regulate the trade of conventional weapons and crack down on illegal arms transfers. The treaty stipulates that arms cannot be sold to those who might facilitate terrorist attacks, gender-based violence, or violent and organized crimes. China's decision to join the treaty demonstrates its commitments to multilateralism and embodies its stance as a responsible major power.

China's participation can help better maintain safer standard of the global arms trade and international arms control. It is beneficial for every country across the world to have certain rules and regulations in the arms trade. Legal and normal arms trade can enhance national defense capabilities, boost regional and world peace and security. Suppressing illegal arms transfer will mitigate risks of weapons from falling into the hands of rampant terrorists and criminals. China sets an example to countries that haven't signed the treaty. The trade of weapons should be regulated and China's move to join the ATT displays its efforts to make contributions to world peace. On one hand, the Trump administration announced in April 2019 it would withdraw from the ATT signed by the US under the tenure of Barack Obama in 2013. On the other, the Trump administration is increasingly set on trying to bring Beijing into the nuclear arms negotiations between Washington and Moscow. What are its considerations?

When it comes to international organizations or international treaties, the primary concern of the US is whether they benefit or constrain US interests. The US disregards the well-being of people all around the world, which is in sharp contrast to China. This explains why the US has pulled itself out of a string of international organizations and treaties such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Paris Climate Agreement, the Iran nuclear deal, and so on.

The US wants to include China into the US-Russian nuclear disarmament talks. This is not because the US hopes to make greater peace with China. In fact, it aims to monitor and limit China's nuclear weapons' development by demanding China to be more transparent in its nuclear programs. It also wants to make sure that development of China's nuclear arms will be always far less than that of the US. The decision of China to join the ATT is out of benign intention to safeguard the world's peace and stability. Unlike China, the US hasn't acted in line with what a responsible big power is supposed to do. Major power competition, geopolitics and hegemony are top priorities of the US.

Pulling the US out of the ATT means the country is likely to act unscrupulously when it comes to arms deals. Weapons of mass destruction may fall into the hands of terrorists or criminal groups. This will bring greater threats to regional and world peace and harm the development and ultimately survival of people across the globe.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1192324.shtml>

China's nuclear power capacity to jump by 60% to 100 million kW by 2025

Global Times, June 18, 2020

China's nuclear power generating capacity will jump by 60 percent to 100 million kW by 2025 from the 2019 level, the nation's top nuclear industry body said. China's nuclear power industry is expected to maintain steady growth in the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25), and the nation is expected to add six to eight reactor units each year during the period, media reports said on Wednesday, citing a blue paper by China Nuclear Energy Association. As of the end of 2019, China has a total of 47 power-generating reactor units in operation, with a total installed capacity of 48.75 million kW, making China the third largest country in nuclear power generation trailing the US and France.

China led the world in nuclear power capacity building, with 13 reactors under construction as of 2019. Nuclear power accounts for 4.88 percent of China's primary energy source. The nuclear industry body predicts by 2025 China will have a total of 100 million kW of reactors in operation and under construction, a 60 percent rise from 2019 level. By 2035, the figure may double to 200 million kW. The association also expects China's homegrown Hualong One third-generation nuclear power plant's first overseas project in Pakistan to enter production in 2020.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1191981.shtml>